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February 2008 Issue 206





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HARBOUR SPIEL

The Independent Voice of Pender Harbour & Egmont since 1990

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Unless otherwise credited, all photos taken by Brian Lee.

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EDITORIAL

Job opening soon...



By Brian Lee

This month I filled some of the space between the ads with an interview with our Area A director, John Rees.

One of most common things I hear folks say about John is that even though you might not always agree with him, he knows his stuff and he works tirelessly.

Many would go so far as to declare him the best director Area A has ever seen.

It's hard to disagree.

If you could measure John's success as director in terms of the amount of outside funding plunked down in our community during his term, no one else is even close.

By channelling various levels of provincial and federal funding for projects like the Area A Water Master Plan and the sports field project, Area A has received millions of dollars that it otherwise wouldn't have.

You may have ideas about where those funds could be better spent, but because it's "found" money that otherwise would have been earmarked to another district or municipality, we've all benefited from his efforts.

The regional district has had its

challenges keeping up to the pace of growth on the Coast for the last few years and things aren't perfect down on Field Road but somehow we've made out OK.

And rightly so.

We're the richest area on the Coast and it looks like we will be for some time.

We lead all other areas in building permit applications and assessments which means we'll likely have more infrastructure requirements as our population — or at least the number of new homes — increases.

There's a lot of work yet to be done which makes it a little scary to consider who might fill John's shoes when his term is up in October.

On paper at least, the job's not that attractive.

The Area A director's lot is attending long and tedious meetings punctuated by the occasional conflict or even personal attack.

Add that kind of stress to the low pay and you begin to understand that the person interested in taking on this position is deeply motivated to improve — or protect — what we all think is a pretty good place to live.

And, if that's the measure of Rees' success, I think he could be the winner there too.



SPIEL PICKS

VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE AT THE LEGION - FEB. 9

Bring your sweetie to a Valentine's Day Dance at the Royal Canadian Legion #112 on Saturday, Feb. 9. Cocktails at 6 p.m. followed by a roast beef and chicken Neptune dinner. Come on out and support the Legion.

FUNDRAISER FOR THE P. H. PADDLERS - FEB. 9

A fundraiser to help buy Pender Harbour's first dragon boat featuring the "Demented Diva," Connie Smudge on Saturday, Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. at the Garden Bay Restaurant — unfortunately the same night as the Valentine's Dance at the Legion.

A WHITE EVENING: A SALUTE TO HOWARD WHITE - FEB. 9

On Feb. 9 at the Sunshine Coast Arts Centre (Trail and Medusa in Sechelt) at 8 p.m. It's a tribute to recent Order of Canada recipient Howard White and a fundraiser to help the Sunshine Coast Arts Council enhance its program of readings by authors from the Coast and beyond. The \$20 admission will include a glass of bubbly to toast Howard's health.

PENDER HARBOUR COMMUNITY CLUB AGM - FEB. 24

The Community Club/Hall needs some fresh ideas and input to restore the vibrant social culture of the past and this is the perfect place to sign on with yours. Sunday, Feb. 9 at 2 p.m. in the P. H. Community Hall.



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CHECK OUT:



Barry O' Hara assumes role of P. H. Jazz Fest director

There's a new director of the Pender Harbour Jazz Festival and he wants to make sure people know that it's back on.

The Pender Harbour Music Society recently announced the appointment of Barry O'Hara as manager and artisitic director of

O'Hara is a jazz musician — he plays tenor sax with the Bear Bay Trio — and has an extensive marketing background, working for comapnies such as Kraft and Colgate-Palmolive.

O'Hara took over his new post on Jan.1 and says he's been working closely with former chair Monty Rolston to acquaint himself with the details of the festival's operation and to formulate a plan to get this year's festival back on track.

"I'm structuring the Jazz Festival a different way," O'Hara says.

"I'm taking all of the things that Monty did all by himself and I'm breaking it down into job functions and I'm creating teams for each function of volunteers so it's not dependent on one person."

Because he's starting so late in the year, O'Hara is forced to play catchup and says that some of the long-term plans may have to wait in order to get the festival organized in time for this year.

"The good news is that I've got great support from the business com-

munity... so the money's there to pay for groups but I'm looking for more support from the community itself in terms of volunteers," he said.

"I have an urgent need for volunteers to pick up on some of these little jobs on a short-term commitment basis. It's kind of lonely over here!"

O'Hara needs immediate help with advertising and promotional duties and insists he has some great ideas but not enough help to follow through.

Volunteers are urgently needed to assist. Interested parties can call him at (604) 741-5272.

The 12th annual Pender Harbour Jazz Festival will take place Sept. 19-21.

Local emergency preparedness program taking shape

Recent power failures and road closures in Area A have again underscored the need for an emergency plan.

Bill Elsner, manager of the Sunshine Coast Emergency Program, has met with representatives of Area A to develop an emergency plan and network in our community.

This meeting included the Pender Harbour and District Health Centre, the B.C. Ambulance service (Madeira Park station), volunteer fire departments (Pender Harbour and Egmont), Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (Unit 61 Pender Harbour) and the Pender Harbour and District Marine Rescue Society.

Program volunteers hope to include the RCMP, SCRD (water) and other agencies that have responsibilities during a major emergency as the program evolves.

The initial focus of the Area A committee will be to appoint individuals who will have specific responsibilities if a disaster occurs — HAM radio operators (who will work with the Emergency Communications

person and the P.H. Fire Department), an Emergency Social Services (ESS) Chair (Cheryl Jensen) and an overall emergency contact person.

A suitable site for an operations centre has yet to be determined but could be the P. H. Health Centre.

The committee stresses that per-

sonal preparedness is the key element for this program.

Every household must have enough supplies (water, food, propane, gas for generators, medications and oxygen and any daily requirements) to be self-sufficient for one week.





Tourism networking session attempts to unite marketing efforts

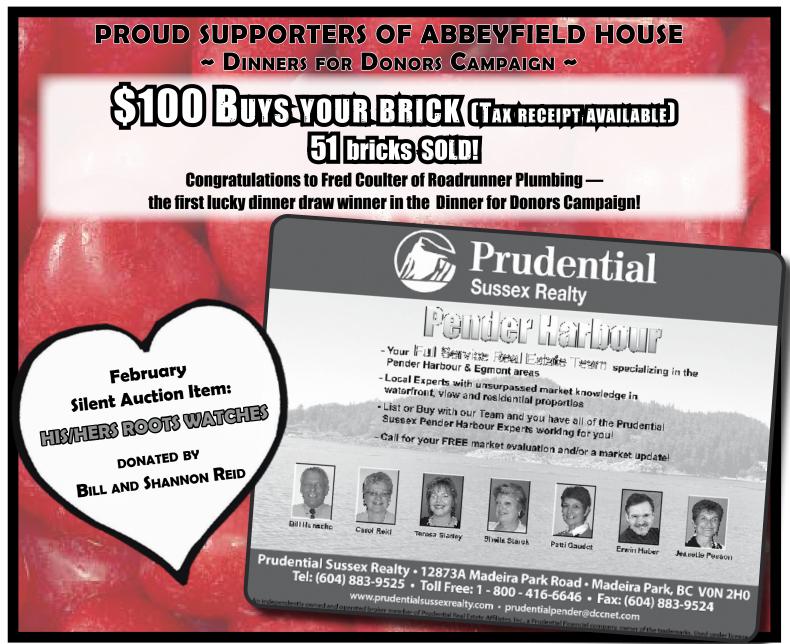
The tone was mostly upbeat at a networking evening for tourism operators on Jan. 15.

The event held at the Pender Harbour Legion intended to build ties between businesses involved with tourism and to promote the exchange of ideas.

Sponsored by the Pender Harbour Growth and Development Partnership and the Pender Harbour and Egmont Chamber of Commerce, the evening allowed plenty of time for informal discussions but also included a number of featured speakers.

These represented various associations with a stake in the local tourism industry including the P. H. Chamber of Commerce, the Madeira Park Visitor's Information Centre, Vancouver Coast and Mountain Tourism Region, the Sunshine Coast B & B Association, the Sunshine Coast Tourism Association and the P. H. Jazz Festival.

Some ideas and discussions focussed on the membership crisis in the local Chamber of Commerce, off-coast marketing efforts, the visitors information centre, the recent accommodation survey and the wellreceived news that the Jazz Festival is back on.



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Family loses belongings in Irvine's Landing house fire



David Twentyman photo

Much of Heather Brown and family's uninsured belongings were destroyed in this house fire in Irvine's Landing on January 18. The house is part of the otherwise vacant Irvine's Landing Pub and Marina property. The Pender Harbour branch of the Sunshine Coast Credit Union will be accepting donations for a fund to help replace lost items.

POLICE REPORT

DECEMBER /JANUARY

By P.H. Community Policing Volunteers

The past few weeks have seen an increase in property crimes in our area.

On July 24 a break and enter was reported at a home in the 12000 block of Lagoon Road in Madeira Park and on Aug. 8 a TV was stolen from a fifth-wheel trailer parked in the 11000 block of the Sunshine Coast Highway.

An outboard motor was stolen Aug. 5 from a boat moored at Irvine's Landing and, on Aug. 10, a dinghy was stolen from a larger boat moored in the Harbour.





Property information, mapping and photos now online

A new online system for accessing a variety of local information was announced recently by SCRD Chair Ed Steeves.

The new service will include maps, photos and reports that will help identify everything from addresses, zoning and legal descriptions to neighbouring environmental systems and recreation areas on the Sunshine Coast.

"The Property Information and Mapping System (PIMS) and Online Property Information Systems (OPIS) are like a stay-at-home shopping service for people buying, selling or just researching property information," said Steeves. "OPIS is free. All you have to do is type in the address and you can get a birds-eye view of the property, maps, and information on everything from the surrounding eco-system and topography to zoning, legal descriptions and various reports. People don't have to come into our offices to get this type of property information, but it will still be available from the office for those who don't have computer access."

The expanded PIMS service, which is available for \$300 a year, offers more detailed legal, land and mapping services and analytical tools, as well as allowing users to upload

and download information.

PIMS provides the internal mapping services for SCRD staff.

Free trial runs of the system were offered to Sunshine Coast residents during Dec. 2007.

Public response has been positive; users say the systems are easy to navigate and a good source of information.

The SCRD will use feed back from users to improve navigation and identify other features and data that should be included.

The maps are available at www. scrd.bc.ca/community_map_gateway. html

PENDER HARBOUR PADDLERS FUNDRAISING EVENT

An evening with the

Demented Diva: Conni Smudge

at the Garden Bay Restaurant

Join us for a night of Dragontinis, tapas and adult entertainment Feb. 9, 2008 at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$45 by advanced sale only. **883-3691 or 883-9907**

Backeddy Pub and Marina sold

Egmont's Backeddy Pub and Marina has changed ownership.

Former owners John and Margaret Mills have sold the business and property to Suzanne Allan and husband Peter Laurie who officially took over Jan. 1.

There are no immediate large-scale changes to the business or property and Allan is happy that Greg Mills has agreed to stay on as operations manager.

"Our plan for 2008 is to run the property as it is with an upgrade both

in service and appearance," Allan said.

"So we're looking to clean up the property and to get in and understand the business really, but no major renovations for now."

The couple brings experience to the Backeddy.

Laurie is the chief operating officer for the Elephant and Castle pub and restaurant group and Allan has an extensive background in leadership development.

Allan says they've always wanted to be in the resort business and her family has a long history on the Sunshine Coast.

"My great-grandmother used to come up here on the Union Steamship boats... so she used to bring my grandparents up and my grandparents retired up here so we've had property in West Sechelt for years and years."

Allan said they weren't neccessarily looking to buy into a resort business right now but saw an opportunity when the Backeddy was listed.

"I would say the property called to us."

POSITION AVAILABLE - HEALTH CENTRE ADMINISTRATOR

A part-time position (3 days a week) is available March 1, 2008.

Duties include administration of the health care facility and management of the health centre employees.

Salary is negotiable and contingent upon qualifications and relevant experience.

Deadline for applications is February 20, 2008.

Interested applicants are urged to submit your resume to:

Evelyn McNee, Director of Hiring, PHHC E-mail: evelynmcnee@telus.net

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Abbeyfield gets \$5,000 — Coulter dinner for eight

Fred Coulter of Road Runner Plumbing is the first donor to win big in the Pender Harbour Prudential Sussex Dinners for Donors program.

Coulter receives a gourmet meal for eight to be cooked for him at a time and place of his choosing by the realtors of the Pender Harbour office.

Members of the board of Area A Seniors Housing gathered at the Prudential Sussex Realty office in Pender Harbour on Saturday, Jan. 12 to watch as realtors Patti Gaudet and Teresa Sladey drew the name.

Coulter had previously "bought a brick" by donating \$100 to the Abbeyfield House building fund through the Pender Harbour Prudential Sussex Dinners for Donors program.

For every 50 bricks sold, a name is drawn.

The realtors also run monthly silent auctions in their Pender Harbour office with the next to be held in February — a set of his and hers Roots watches donated by Bill and Shannon Reid. Bids will close on this item at 5 p.m. on Feb. 29.

This 50th brick represents a \$5,000 contribution to the Abbeyfield building fund.

The Prudential Sussex Realty Pender Harbour Team launched this fundraising campaign to assist the Area A Seniors Housing Project in their efforts to build an Abbeyfield House in Madeira Park.



Marg Penney photo

For every 50 bricks donated to the Abbeyfield Project via the Dinner for Donors campaign, someone gets a free dinner for eight — and Abbeyfield gets \$5,000. I. to r.: Area A Seniors Housing Project board members Rose Doepel, Gil Yard, and Louise Berg; Prudential realtors Teresa Sladey and Patti Gaudet; board members Jim Woodward and Anky Drost.

Their goal is to raise \$50,000, enough to build the foundation for the Abbeyfield House.

The Pender Harbour Abbeyfield House will provide rental accommodations (bed-sitting room with attached bathroom) for 10 elderly seniors who are not in need of full-time nursing care in a homey, non-institutionalized atmosphere.

The society has set its fundraising goal at \$1.5 million and hopes to break ground and start building in 2010.



Playing fields, incorporation and what comes next: An interview

By Brian Lee

In the fall of 2002 John Rees was elected Area A Director for the Sunshine Coast Regional District.

"At first I thought it was a matter of showing up to discuss Area A issues," Rees says from his sunroom overlooking Bargain Harbour.

"But I soon found out that you're a small part of a larger group."

Since his election, Area A (Middlepoint to Egmont) has been the fastest growing area on the entire Sunshine Coast in terms of development applications and property assessments.

The accompanying growing pains — and boost in the proportional tax support — have brought Area A issues into the forefront of SCRD directors and planners.

The director's workload has grown along with these changes ensuring that effective representation at the SCRD has never been more critical.

Rees' term is up at the end of

October and it is not yet clear who could replace him.

The job is tremendously rewarding but also very demanding, requiring attendance at up to 200 meetings per year, many of which require 100-plus pages of advance reading in the form of agendas and related material.

Those board meetings, standing committee meetings (infrastructure, community services, planning corporate services etc.), transport, policing, health board/watershed, public hearings, area planning committee and other public meetings have meant that some days Rees leaves home at 7 a.m. and doesn't return until 11 p.m.

For this he receives a salary of \$8,000 per year plus \$100 per meeting — Rees netted \$23,200 for 2007, of which one-third is tax-free.

Clearly it's a full-time job without full time pay.

"It's probably one of the most

interesting jobs I've ever had. It's very rewarding but it can also be very disappointing as well," Rees says.

"It's not as easy as having the position and simply going to the regional district and getting it done. There are so many procedures and there are so many other people involved that possibly have to share the cost so you have to sell your issue, you know?"

Rees cites a recent discussion regarding an upgrade to the Tetrahedron access road where he caught flak for referring to the users of the Tetrahedron as "an elite group" and opting Area A out of the funding.

He explains that, because the municipalities of Sechelt and Gibsons, (which have half of the population of the Sunshine Coast) don't pay into the regional parks department, the cost would be shouldered mainly by the people of Halfmoon Bay and Area A.

Director Rees: So it's not an issue that a senior citizen sitting in Garden Bay would like to be spending their tax dollars on because they're never going to get there.

So what you have to try to do is to identify areas where your community can share in the usage — Dakota Ridge is a classic example.

That is a regional function and I'm pleased that we're in it.

One day kids from here will be up there cross-country skiing.

The biggest example was when the major recreation projects came before the regional district.

All of the areas tried to get Area A into it. It cost \$22 million for the Sechelt Pool.

It's a gorgeous facility but we already have a pool.



LOCAL ISSUES

with Area A Director John Rees

Director Janyk (Gibsons) is always sniping at Area A and it's because we pay a larger portion of the overall tax base than they do.

For example: If all eight are in, Gibsons pays 10 per cent because their property assessment is \$650 million.

Our property assessment is \$1.1 billion and we pay 17 per cent.

Spiel: Then do you think this example justifies another look at incorporation or what are your thoughts on whether or not incorporation is feasible?

Director Rees: Yes it will be feasible but incorporation, the way it was approached last time, will not work.

If you only take Pender Harbour which is Madeira Park and Garden Bay and incorporate on that basis – you would have a very difficult time in making it.

The reason for that is you are cutting out probably 40 per cent of the tax base by cutting out Sakinaw Lake, Ruby Lake, Egmont and Middlepoint.

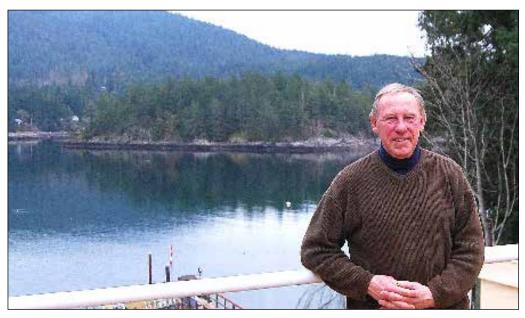
If you could have those areas included in incorporation – almost like a mini-regional district – then it would work.

But you would have to hang on to that tax base, otherwise the taxes would increase dramatically.

Sometimes I feel incorporation is the way to go but then when I look at the numbers I realize it would be too difficult.

Spiel: *Is it possible to include Ruby Lake, Sakinaw and Egmont?*

Director Rees: The provincial government would certainly have a say in it because they would have



Most would have a hard time believing that Area A Director John Rees was elected only 6 years ago — at the tender age of 29. Potential candidates to replace him should take note.

some concern whether or not a new incorporated area could manage those outlying areas.

But now that we have a better handle on water, I certainly feel that we could provide the services that the regional district could... maybe with one or two exceptions.

And those exceptions we would be buying from the regional district anyways.

For instance, we'd be buying the planning services because it would be too expensive to set up a planning department.

Gibsons buys all kinds of services from the regional district.

They buy landfill. They buy recycling. They buy transportation, recreation and a number of other issues that they, as a municipality, are not capable of providing.

A smaller community like Pender Harbour would be buying more services.

My concern is that when you're a municipality, you maintain all of

the roads. With less density and long roads, we would be up to here in road maintenance costs...

The problem we have is our geography and it really is against us as far as incorporation is concerned.

What I would like to see is the development of a satellite office here and I think that's extremely important. You could get all the regional district services through that office.

Our tax base is increasing all the time because of assessment — it increases faster than than anybody elses because of assessment — so there's more money coming out of Area A to support regional district functions and I think we should be offering more services to Area A.

For instance, Elphinstone has 4,000 people and they pay 7 per cent of the regional district budget. Area A, 2600 people, pays 17 per cent.

In essence, Area A pays as much as Elphinstone and Gibsons together

continued next page

LOCAL ISSUES

Interview with John Rees (cont.)

- that's 8,000 people. So Area A with 2,600 people pays the same and that's all because of assessment."

Spiel: Do you think we're getting an equitable share of the money we pay into the SCRD in terms of services etc.?

Director Rees: Basically, yes.

When I first went into the regional district, one of my goals was to get a sports field built in Pender Harbour.

I found out there was already a major playing field issue underway, the Shirley Macy field in West Howe Sound.

The function only has the capacity to build something like that one at a time so I found that I had to get in line. So I got in line and supported the completion of the Shirley Macy field and along the way, politically, looked for the support that we were next because there were others like Connor Park.

Another issue is the landfill where we lose money every year and that's picked up by the Sechelt landfill, so that is an equity switch.

Spiel: Looking back over the past six years, what would you say are your proudest accomplishments that have come through the Area A director's job?

Director Rees: When I was campaigning, I went up to Egmont and met with a few different groups... to get a feeling of the chemistry of the area.

One group told me that they'd like to get going with a fire department and another group were talking about the Skookumchuck Heritage Society and then another group wanted to try to do something about the drinking water.

Well, right at the moment, we have a fully financed fire department and I'm telling you that was a lot more difficult than I ever imagined it would be.

It entailed numerous, numerous meetings and legal issues. So now we have a fully trained staff and a fire hall nearing completion and we have some equipment.

Some wonderful things happened there. For instance, Dean Bosch turned around and donated oneacre of property.

Then Geoff Craig and his group needed support to try to get Crown land for the Skookumchuck Heritage Centre so there was a lot of work, to work through Crown land and the forestry department and then to support them for grant applications.

When I was first elected, one

of the campaign issues was the school district plan to sell off their properties.

We had three properties that concerned us in this community: Egmont, Irvine's Landing and Madeira Park.

Egmont now is a little park for the Egmont community... maintained by the regional district.

Probably by February, we'll sign the lease with the school district for the old Irvine's landing school as a community hall meeting place for the north shore, Irvine's Landing, Garden Bay and Daniel Point, for all those folks to get together and have a real community.

I don't know if you can recall but about three years ago, the provincial funding was withdrawn from the community school and it looked like that was it.

But we were able to put a package together to save them and in addition to that, I was able to convince the rest of the regional district to put in place some support funding for community schools – all five of the community schools.

So I think that really helped.

Another little issue is I arranged for sustainable funding for the Coast Guard Auxiliary and finally after years we have this little pilot transit project getting ready to go.

When I was first elected, the tourist information funding was not in place and I restored support funding for that through the Chamber of Commerce so that the information centre remained open and the public washrooms were maintained.

But above all is the Area A Water Master Plan. That's the achievement I'm probably most proud of.

Something to Squirrelaway?

SECURE, HEATED SELF-STORAGE to 5x10 ft. Central Madeira Park, next to Speed Bump Alley



SQUIRREL STORAGE

LARRY & LINDA CURTISS

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AREA	DIRECTOR	POPULATION (2001 CENSUS)	TAX CONTRIBUTIONS	TAX CONTRIBUTIONS (%)
AREA A - PENDER HARBOUR	John Rees	2,374	\$1,309,883	12.52%
AREA B - HALFMOON BAY	Garry Nohr	2,353	\$1,353,918	12.94%
AREA D - ROBERTS CREEK	Donna Shugar	3,090	\$1,324,084	12.65%
AREA E - ELPHINSTONE	Lorne Lewis	3,311	\$1,005,770	9.61%
AREA F - WEST HOWE SOUND	Lee Turnbull	1,971	\$2,773,739	26.50%
DISTRICT OF SECHELT	Ed Steeves	7,775	\$1,473,199	14.08%
SECHELT INDIAN GOVERNMENT DIST.	Marita Paul-Franke	795	\$146,155	1.40%
TOWN OF GIBSONS	Barry Janyk	3,906	\$1,078,757	10.31%

2006 TAX CONTRIBUTIONS BY SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT AREA

This table shows total contributions by area but may be misleading if one doesn't take into account the fact each area takes part in different service packages that may funded by all the areas or a portion thereof. If all areas take part in a function, Area A would pay 17 per cent. For instance, Area A pays into neither the recreation (Sechelt Pool) or transportation functions.

Spiel: What are some of the unfinished projects that your successor will inherit?

Hopefully the playing field will be finished but the acquisition of the new land that we have there will enable a possible recreation complex build-out... It think it's an opportunity.

It will be interesting to see how this transit pilot project goes because the results can be developed or cancelled depending on the community reception.

The future of the satellite local government office, more affordable housing opportunities...

Spiel: What qualities or experience did you possess coming into the job that helped most?

Well, I think there's no question the most important one and the one I use every day is my business experience and financial management.

Anybody who comes into this job should be able to read a financial statement and should be able to read the regional district budget and how the various contributions come togeth-

er for the various functions and understand function participation, function cost and relative tax impact.

The other thing that is really important is if you try to enter local governmental politics based on a philosophy, let's say an environmental philosophy, you'll go nowhere.

If you go based on an economic philosophy, you'll go nowhere.

You have to keep a completely open mind.

You might have your tangible goals but... the Sunshine Coast is extremely environmentally and politically aware. You have to be very, very careful. In other words, you walk down the middle of the road.

Spiel: As far as specific issues go, we've talked about incorporation but I'd also like to hear your thoughts on the Sechelt Indian Band and, specifically, the ad they took out in the Coast Reporter last week that seemed to vaguely threaten they were "putting all residents, businesses and governments within our territory on notice that we intend to continue to exercise, and defend, our Aboriginal Title and

Rights."

I'm wondering what you think the future holds for a relationship between Area A and the Sechelt Indian Band and where it's going to go from here?

Director Rees: Area A has a little bit more difficult relationship with the SIB than any other area on the Sunshine Coast and one of the reasons being is that, historically, the Sechelt Indian Band came from this area.

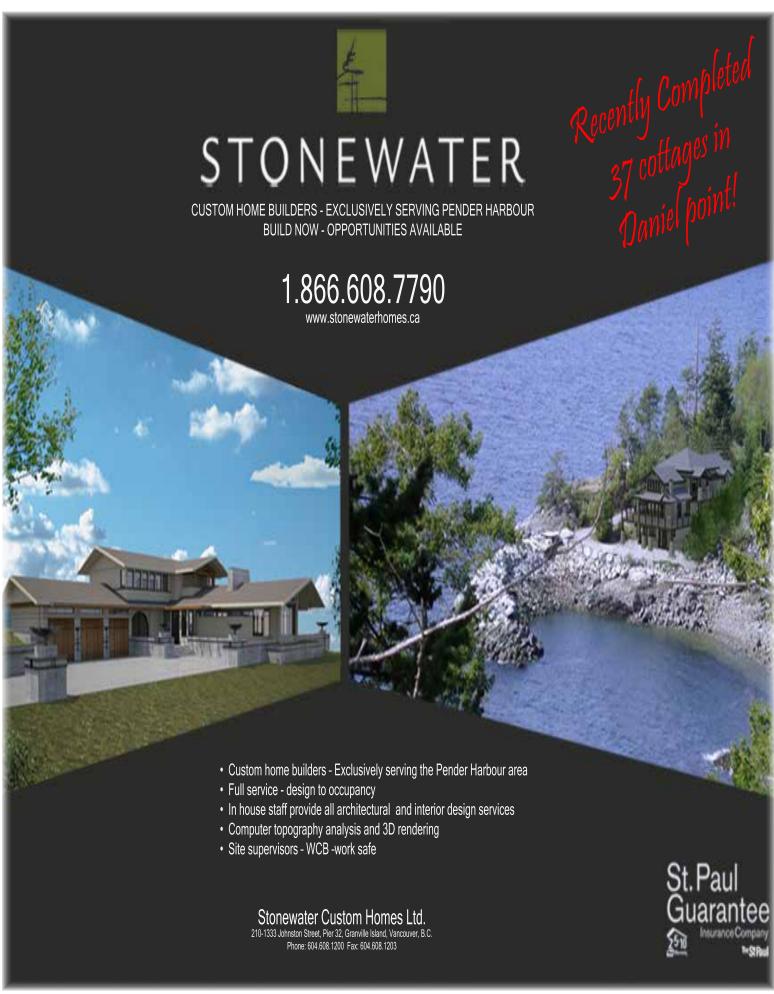
I have a great deal of respect for the Sechelt Indian Band and some sympathy to their cause.

I felt that, going back to the 1850s, they had a pretty rough deal.

The British surveyors... were offering 160 acres to English immigrants and they were putting 10 families on one acre if they were First Nations. So, they've been boxed in.

They are the first Indian government in the province of B.C. and they don't realize much on federal handouts as some of the other bands have over the years so they are trying to

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Interview with John Rees (cont.)

build an economic base. That means they need lands.

I don't think they ever had any intention of interfering in fee-simple land, but what I think they're looking for is some economic value for supporting a development issue. In other words they want their piece of the pie.

You can't blame any government for trying that.

I also feel that the Sechelt Indian Band is being a little bit overwhelmed with all of the referral information... they're being faced with coming from the pace of development.

Spiel: About a year ago the SCRD signed the Protocol Agreement with the Sechelt Indian Band and it was touted as a new age in relationships with regional governments and the SIB and a year later they seem to be saying "that's not enough." What happened?

Director Rees: One of my biggest disappointments and frustrations has been with negotiations and discussions with the Sechelt Indian Band and it began over four years ago with the foreshore applications issue.

There never has been a promise by them to come to grips with that.

To make some decision... they've communicated with the province on that issue and the province will not communicate with local government on that issue. We've been boxed out and can't get any answers.

But my most recent disappointment was when seemingly I had full support from the SIB on the sports field complex... but when we made an application for the additional piece of property and the province then sent the referrals out..., the SIB responded

with a 14-page objection to that based on the fact that it was historical hunting grounds for their community.

But recently the province has said, "We support your applications... providing that all of the referrals are positive." That is a disappointment.

The foreshore is a frustration because we can't get to it. When I was talking to the provincial government on the foreshore application they said 'Do you have a protocol agreement?'

So I researched all of the protocol agreements... and we did it! To me it was one of my best accomplishments.

I was chair of the board at that time and worked very hard to get that done. Well, it turns out that it's one-sided, right? They're not respecting the responsibilities that we have to our residents to do local government management and control.

What they wanted (from the SCRD) was all of the information on what was going on so they could identify possible archeolological sites — and when I say "Pender Harbour is under the gun" it's because this is where they all are.

There's very few in Halfmoon Bay and there's some in Sechelt but the rest of the Coast is under the Squamish Nation and they don't seem to give a s**t about that area at all.

So the problems start here and that's one of the difficulties. If it was the entire Coast you would have everybody come together and say we have to go to the government on this issue but right now it's only the Halfmoon Bay and Pender Harbour areas and part of Sechelt.

Spiel: What are your plans when you finally finish your term at the end

of October?

Director Rees: One of the plans is that we'll be able, for the first time in 10 years, to have a winter holiday.

I could never take a winter holiday because of the budgets that always come in January, February and March and I've chaired most of the budget meetings. It's a critical time — if you're not at the budget meetings your community is going to pay more taxes (laughs).

I've got lots of grandkids growing up and I noticed over Christmas how they go from that size to that size when you don't see them for awhile. And I'll just spend more time with my wife.

Spiel: So you don't have any plans to jump into another role or have any other political aspirations?

Director Rees: Nothing. I missed an opportunity three years ago to run for the province but ...

Spiel: Well that job could be available soon...

Director Rees: No, I'm too old now!

Now I know what to do – I'm too old — I'm finished.

Not that I haven't enjoyed it.

I've enjoyed the work and it's been a privilege for myself and for my family to represent the people in the community but enough is enough, you know?

It's time to bring on some new energy.

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT



1975 Field Road, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A1 www.scrd.bc.ca Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 - 4:30

(604) 885-6800 (tel) (604) 885-7909 (fax)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, February 4, 2008

• 9:30 a.m. Budget

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

• 9:30 a.m. Budget

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

• 9:30 a.m. Budget

Thursday, February 7, 2008

• 1:30 pm Infrastructure Services Committee

Friday, February 8, 2008

• 9:30 a.m. Budget

Thursday, February 14, 2008

• 1:30 pm Planning & Development Committee

• 7:30 pm Regular Board

Thursday, February 21, 2008

• 1:30 pm Community Services Committee

Thursday, February 28, 2008

• 1:30 pm Corporate & Administrative Services Committee

• 7:30 pm Regular Board

AREA A ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

The next meeting of the Egmont/Pender Harbour Advisory Planning Commission is scheduled for:

Wednesday, February 27, 7:00 p.m. Room 107, Pender Harbour High School.

DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Director John Rees is available to meet with residents to discuss local issues related to the Sunshine Coast Regional District government. He can be reached at home at (604) 883-9033 or by e-mail, jarees@dccnet.com.

Alternate Director Barrie Wilbee is now assisting Director Rees with Policing and Transportation issues and can be reached at (604) 883-2243.

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Sundays — CLOSED all day

For more information, visit: http://www.scrd.bc.ca/infrastructure_solidwaste.html

SCRD PHONES

If you are phoning any SCRD office, service or recreation centre you are going to dial 885 — even in the Gibsons or Pender Harbour areas.

The SCRD has a new phone system so all of our phone numbers along the Coast start with 885. When you dial 886-XXXX or 883-XXXX you are dialing someone's home phone.

PLEASE REMEMBER: 885 FOR SCRD

Recreation Phone Numbers are:

885-6867 - Gibsons Pool 885-6801 - Recreation Department

885-6820 - Gibsons Community Centre 885-6865 - Sechelt Pool

885-6866 - Pender Harbour Pool 885-6864 - Sechelt Arena

Page 16 Harbour Spiel

REES'S PIECE



By John Rees SCRD Director, Area A

When I first started to write this column in 2002, just af-

ter the local government elections, the then Harbour Spiel owner/editor Myrtle Winchester asked me to report on local issues only, if possible.

Over the years this has proved to be somewhat difficult since as much as 70 per cent of my time is taken up with regional issues, some of which have an indirect impact on Area A, and others have no bearing on residents of this area at all.

Classic examples would be the huge recreational developments in Gibsons and Sechelt, along with the SCRD transit system, the South Coast ports facilities, potential South Coast restructure, the Chapman Creek water system and the logging issues connected with it, to name a few.

The SCRD board, consisting of eight members, works essentially the same as a town council with regard to the operation of government, and quality of services provided to all residents of the Coast.

The one exception is that each of us also takes care to ensure that

our individual areas receive equity in required services and proposed taxation.

Share of taxation levels in each of the areas is established by the Provincial Assessment Authority.

The assessed value of all properties in Area A has now reached way over \$1 billion dollars, second only on the Coast to Sechelt.

Comparitively, Gibsons is at \$650 million.

As a result, our portion of SCRD taxes has grown over the last few years from 13 per cent to 16 per cent

- when we are all in a function
- without any additional value to reflect the increase.

The reason is that other areas on the Coast have not increased in values as much as our Area A.

Having said that, we do have the benefit of the additional taxes from new developments here meaning a larger tax base to share the load.

Our area has led all rural areas on the Coast in building permit applications for the last five years.

BUDGET 2008.

This process has already started. We did one full week in December and now two additional weeks in February and March before it will be ready to present to the public.

As of yet we have not had the entire assessment picture from the province but the trick is to keep the SCRD budget as low as possible.

In our own area we will be affected by a modest increase in the Health Centre budget and if the Alternative approval process is approved for the much-needed pool renovations, we will be looking at the first payment of a long-term financing schedule.

Other local improvements, namely the new playing field and a transit pilot project, are already funded and will not increase your taxes.

As in previous years — most of them as chair of the budget committee — my goal will be to bring the best possible value package to this community.

Keep in mind that you can have input into the budget process via a public hearing.

Watch the SCRD advertising in this and other coastal newspapers for dates, locations and times.

Normally this would take place in the second or third week in March.

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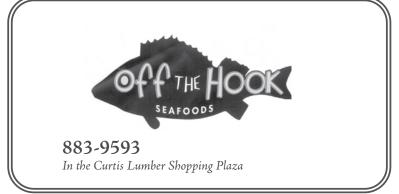
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HARBOUR GARDENING

Salubrity of climate...

by Jim Rutherford (with assistance from Nolan Sawatztky)

That was one of the catchphrases used in advertising to entice crofters in Scotland, England and Ireland to immigrate to the Canadian West Coast in the 1840s, '50s and '60s by the Hudson's Bay Company.

Well, now that we're all settled up let's list some top choices for our healthful, wholesome salubrious climate.

PIERIS JAPONICA

Forest Flame Flamingo Silver or Mountain Fire is a broad leaf evergreen shrub that is like cement to a building.

Pieris is a foundation plant for your garden and can be grown very successfully, even in a container.

It's suitable for our naturally occurring acid soil but keep it well drained with full sun to semi-shade.

Pruning lightly or severely is easily tolerated with quick recovery.

PAGODA BUSH

Pagoda Bush, or Red Bells, is a good companion plant, but not quite



so strong and can take more shade, perhaps the opposite of a blousy hybrid rhododendron.

Red Bells put on exceptional displays in both spring and fall -a bounty of bell-shaped flowers with red and in March and April.

Also, they yield bright yellow, orange and red leaves in autumn when sited in a sunnier spot.

VIBURNUMS

Viburnums and their kin come in deciduous and evergreen types.

Most moderate-sized gardens have room for at least two or three different kinds of viburnum, giving winter colour to fragment blooms in spring.

Summer Snowflake, introduced by the UBC Botanical Garden, is ideal for a low maintenance garden.

From April to May it covers itself with a full flush of white clover-shaped flowers with compact from and slow-growing habit.

V. davidii is a first rate ground cover, is well behaved and grows to two feet.

It has long, pointed glossy evergreen leaves and produces tiny metallic blue berries.

V. X bodorantesse (Pink Dawn) has fragrant pink flowers on bare branches in January and February and grows eight to 10 feet high but prunes easily for shape and height.

Viburnums thrive in full sun to dappled woodland shade and in good soil that stays moist but not marshy.

Some deer protection may be needed to get established.

ECHINACEA (PURPLE CONEFLOWER)

This always durable perennial has been developed into a wide range of colours: lime green, white, coral and yellow, so keep a lookout.

For flowers of exceptional duration on strong stems (July to September) plant in full sun and well-drained but moist soil.

ANEMONES

Japanese anemones, for a mid- to high-border perennial, are tough — at least in my experience.

Chinese anemones, (A. jupehensis) are very similar, but they are a slightly shorter flower, a little easier and are more compact.

Any moisture-retentive soil (summer mulching will help) will do, with full sun to partial shade.

Varieties are available in pink and white singles and doubles that are great for cut flowers.

TRUMPET VINE

Once established this climber is a true python, strong enough to tear apart a light trellis.

The Indian Summer variety says it all.

A hot sunny location is essential with fertile well-drained soil.

Choose your warmest microclimate of your garden and a trellis fence, arbor, carport or even a tree will do.

Living here in a "temperate rainforest" and learning from last summer, we sometimes don't get the extended hot dry periods that are needed for zinnias, California poppies, marigolds, stocks etc.

This is not the Prairies.

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PENDER PET PATTER

Allergies in pets

By Carole Logtenberg

An allergy is a condition of hyper-sensitivity of the immune system when exposed to a foreign substance called an allergen and it is just as common in cats and dogs as it is in humans.

Unfortunately, numerous substances can act as allergens.

For example, flea collars, tree and grass pollens, mold spores, dust mites, flea saliva and some medications can all cause adverse reactions in your pet.

The three most common types of allergy are by contact, inhalation and ingestion.

A contact allergy results from direct contact to an allergen.

Flea collars and wool bedding can both cause skin irritation and itching at the point of contact.

Flea bites are also considered a contact allergy.

Flea saliva transmitted to the skin through a bite can cause an exaggerated inflammatory response in a dog or cat with a flea allergy.

Severe itching at the bite site causes the pet to aggressively scratch or chew itself leading to open sores, secondary bacterial skin infections and hair loss.

A very successful treatment for flea allergy is strict flea control.

As flea collars can often cause allergic reactions it is best to apply a topical flea product on a monthly basis to kill fleas before they have a chance to bite your pet.

Inhalant allergens such as grass

and tree pollens, mold, mildew and house mites all have the potential to irritate the respiratory system causing coughing, sneezing and wheezing.

Nasal and eye discharge are also common symptoms.

It is now thought that some of these allergens can be absorbed through the skin and cause itching.

Hypoallergenic shampoos can provide temporary relief but if the problem persists it is best to visit your veterinarian for treatment.

Food allergy can be caused by almost any protein or carbohydrate component in food and can

develop at any age.

A food allergy can produce any of the symptoms listed above but most notably will cause vomiting and/or diarrhea.

It is important to identify the offending component(s) of the diet that are causing the reaction and eliminate them.

Test feeding your pet with a hypoallergenic diet is required.

You veterinarian can recommend a diet that is best suited for your pet and advise you on how to proceed.

If your pet is exhibiting unexplained itching, coughing, vomiting or diarrhea it is important to see your veterinarian for a proper diagnoses.

If an allergy is identified, the whole family will be required to participate in the treatment.

Following professional advice closely is key to achieving successful control of the problem.



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Pender Harbour Waterworks District

As of January 2008 the South Pender Harbour Waterworks District has officially amalgamated with the Sunshine Coast Regional District.

We are now under the supervision of the SCRD.

The office on Lagoon Road will remain open and will be here to serve your needs and questions.

Payments will still be accepted at the South Pender Harbour Waterboard Office located at 12828 Lagoon Road. Payments may also be made in person or by mailing to: **SCRD**, **1975 Field Road**, **Sechelt**, **BC VON 3A1**. Please make cheque payable to "Sunshine Coast Regional District".

All vendor invoices should be mailed to: **SCRD**, **1975** Field Road, Sechelt, BC **V0N 3A1**. (Payments for invoices from this date forward will be made by the SCRD Accounts Payable Department.)

Water Main Flushing

The waterworks crew will be conducting the Annual Water Main Flushing and Hydrant Maintenance Programs starting February 4 for the month. During this time, short periods of low pressure and discoloured water can be expected. Any discolouration is temporary and not a health hazard. To clear your water lines, turn on your cold water tap until the water runs clear. Thank-you for your co-operation.

New Billing Schedule

Now that SPHWD has amalgamated with the SCRD we will be following their billing schedule. Water toll bills will now be sent out the end of April and will be due on June 15, 2008. Water tax bills will now be included in your property taxes.

The Water Board Office is open

Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

In case of emergency after hours please call 1-866-303-5949 or 604-885-6800.

8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mon-Fri. 12828 Lagoon Road (604)883-2511 www.sphwd.ca

Page 20 Harbour Spiel

It's true - chamber music doesn't bite!

By Lori Rymes

What do cellphone ring tones, a Tom Hanks movie and a rabbi's wedding have in common?

These are some of the "hooks" which were used to "reel in" neophytes to the world of chamber music at the Chamber Music Doesn't Bite concert last August – and this particular concert highlights one of the things that makes the Pender Harbour Chamber Music Festival so special.

On the third weekend in August, world-class musicians from around the continent converge at the Performance Centre to create a memorable musical experience.

They actually arrive in Pender Harbour early in the week, in order to rehearse together and develop their own gift to the community — a free concert which demonstrates how we regularly listen to chamber music, without even being aware of it!

This concert, called "Chamber Music Doesn't Bite," always draws a packed house with children, parents and grandparents from up and down the Coast.

People throughout the Harbour open their homes to these musicians – and often members of their families as well — who come from all across the continent.

Other volunteers provide vehicles so the musicians are able to get to rehearsals and explore the area at their leisure.

Picnics, pizza parties and receptions ensure that everyone becomes acquainted on more than a professional level.

Community volunteers are everywhere during festival weekend – pre-



Bobby Cox photo

Virtuoso violinist Jonathan Crow and the festival's youngest volunteer, Maxime McLean, grand-daughter of festival Chair Lise Aylmer, hamming it up at last year's prefestival reception.

paring the venue, managing the stage, taking tickets, providing refreshments and looking after the musicians and Festival guests.

Many of these volunteers become "Friends of the Festival" providing monetary support as well.

To be outdoors and hear music wafting from the reading centre, the art gallery, the music school, and even people's homes, gives one a hint of what to expect at the weekend concerts.

The festival for 2008 will once again feature Alexander Tselyakov as

Artistic Director, as well as the Lafayette String Quartet from Victoria, Christie Reside (flute) and Yariv Aloni (viola), to name a few.

So mark your calendars for the third weekend in August — August 15, 16 and 17.

As in previous years, festival passes and tickets for individual concerts will be available in the spring.

If you would like to support our fund-raising campaign by becoming a "Friend of the Festival" please contact Lise Aylmer at 883-2130.



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LETTERS

Plenty of beds in nearby Egmont

Dear Editor,

In response to the article on the accommodation problem in the Pender Harbour for the Jazz Festival.

For the last five years now I have operated a B & B and cottages at North Lake on the Egmont Road and have very comfortable accommoda-

tion for 16-plus people.

In the five years that I have been in business I have never had one phone call regarding accommodation availability for the Jazz Festival or have anyone stay here that came for the Jazz Festival.

On years gone by I've had discussions with the persons taking the calls and have tried to promote this area.

One of the comments was that it is too far away.

Three years ago I called the 1-800 number on four different occasions and was told that there was no accommodation left in the area.

At the time there was a still a lot of accommodation left in the Ruby Lake/ Egmont are

In 2007 I was approached to join the Information Centre again and I did — as I was told that there would be a change in the way things were managed.

In 2007 I did not have one call about accommodation for the whole year from the Pender Harbour Information Centre.

If you tell enough people that there is no accommodation in the area they will start to believe it and then nobody will come here — think positive.

When you look at the driving time between the turn off at the Petro-Can Station to Garden Bay/Irvine's Landing or carrying on through to Ruby Lake or Egmont there is very little difference and it is a very scenic drive which people enjoy.

Do not forget that just about every one who comes to the coast visits the Skookumchuck in Egmont.

> Rob Murray A Lakeside Retreat

Advertisement

Why fix it now?

Very often after the dentist examines a patient's teeth and goes over the treatment options, the question is

"If it isn't broken right now, why fix it?"

While it may be true that there are no clinical symptoms at the present, there may be advantages to treating some teeth before they cause problems.

Your dentist can often predict which teeth will eventually fail.

By taking action now we are able to prevent dental emergencies and restorative complications.

Treatment can be scheduled at a convenient time.

The most obvious indication that a tooth will fail is the presence of decay.

Tooth decay is a slow progressive disease that does not always present symptoms until it is quite advanced.

Most new cavities occur on the biting surfaces or in between teeth and are easily diagnosed during a dental exam.

More difficult to diagnose but very common are cavities around old restorations.

Once the seal on a filling or crown is no longer intact, the tooth around the restoration may start to slowly

decay.

Intact (non filled) teeth are very strong and very resistant to fracture, however the strength of a tooth is dramatically decreased once a filling is placed.

In most cases a filled tooth is strong enough to function normally, but when over half the biting surface is filled the underlying tooth is prone to crack.

Continual flexing of the unsupported tooth creates small cracks that eventually lead to a fracture.

This usually occurs over a long period of time and for some reason the final fracture will happen while only eating bread or some other soft food!

A crown is the treatment of choice for teeth that have excessively large restorations.

The function of a crown is to hold the tooth together much like a casing.

Placing a crown on a tooth with a large filling or evidence of a crack before the tooth fractures will likely prevent the tooth from breaking.

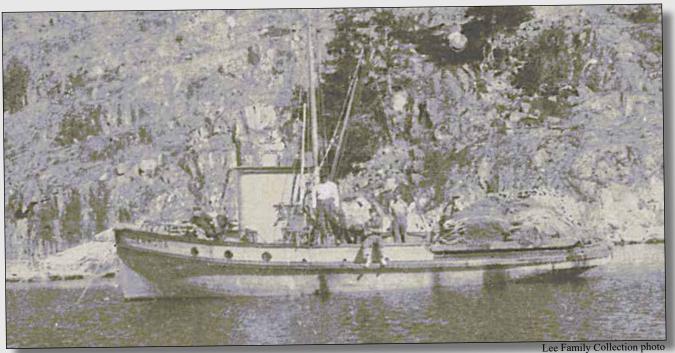
Waiting until the tooth breaks may cause more problems.

So even if you do not have symptoms, sometimes it is best to fix it even if it isn't broken!

Madeira Park Dental Office (604)883-2997

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PHOTOHISTORY



" Seine boat Hermosa at Iwine's Landing. Big Black Joe, Skipper - about 1919."

"[Joe Gonsalves]... owned a seine boat, 'the Hermosa,' which was skippered by a black man from the Azores. This large man, Joe Perry, was well liked by the settlers, especially the children who used to sit on his knee and listen to tales of far-away ports and islands. Besides running the boat, Perry was Joe's handyman, gardener, and bouncer. At the saloon, he enforced Joe's rules, discouraging drunken brawls and making sure the liquor stayed locked up after the men had had enough."

-Raincoast Chronicles First Five, Harbour Publishing



"Ole Lee, E. von Bibra (?), Cecil ____, Gilbert Lee, Big Black Joe (Skipper)"

IOTOJOURNA



photo submitted

Nope, this wasn't an imbalance with chemicals in the aquatic centre's hot tub but a carefully planned and supervised experiment to find how much fun a half a cup of dish soap will yield. Conclusion: "lots."



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: Area A representatives are working to develop an Emergency Program for our community. Cheryl Jensen has been appointed as the Emergency Social Services Chair (giving Lil Abbott a well deserved rest).

Our first project is to have volunteers work with Cheryl to develop Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Teams. This will involve keeping lists of the medically compromised, elderly, disabled or isolated residents who may need assistance in a disaster and a network of neighbours who will offer assistance immediately. Some of this group will also be at the PHHC to offer assistance to those needing warm. blankets, a place to stay or other help during the disaster. This will allow the first responders and health care workers to concentrate on medical emergencies.

Volunteer trainers are available to teach the public how to be prepared and we plan to arrange this training for the Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness teams Cheryl sets up.

For more information on preparedness or to volunteer for the Neighbourhood network or other volunteer groups listed above, please call: ESS Chair - Cheryl Jensen 604 740-1787 or PHHC - Rick MacDonald 604 883-2764

Page 28 Harbour Spiel

Jazz in the Rainforest Amphitheatre?

Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter in response to the article regarding the accommodation problem in Pender Harbour during the Annual Jazz Festival.

For the past 15 years I have operated Ruby Lake Resort and Restaurant and have supported the Jazz Fest every season by investing in advertisment packages.

Every year I phone the Jazz [Fest] staff member regarding accommodation availability at Ruby Lake, just 10 minutes north of the golf course (a 15 to 20-minute drive from Francis Peninsula/Madeira Park or Irvine's Landing/Garden Bay).

It is rare to get calls or have guests from the Jazz Festival, although we support art and music all the time.

Due to scheduling of events, parking, limited transportation for those choosing not to drive, our guests leave for the whole afternoon or at 5:30 p.m. for a 7 p.m. event, leaving no time for dinner here.

In most cases it's the scheduling of evening concerts that slows our restaurant business and all our local clients either go to the event or assume we will be sold out because of the festival so they stay home.

I just don't think this system works very well for Ruby Lake and Egmont.

I can see the major positive benefits for the community focus in Pender Harbour but I also recognize the logistic issue to expand out of Pender or Madeira.

We have tried very hard for the past three years to incorporate the Spirit of the Rainforest Amphitheatre as a majestic site for art and music Under the Stars.

With the support of the local community, this asset would add the opportunity to expand and open the areas around Pender to help other businesses.

I really hope the music will continue to play and that we can work together in a more positive way in support of progress in this area.

Let's have less politics and red tape and more fun.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Giorgio Cogrossi Ruby Lake Resort and Restaurant

${ m M_{CROWE}^{ICHAEL\,C.}}$

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Pender Harbour Sechelt



Public Reminder: Building Permits and Development Regulations

All property owners in the Sunshine Coast Regional District should be aware that **Building Permits** are required for the following:

- Construction of all buildings or structures over 10-sq. metres in area (buildings/structures under 10-sq. metres must still meet all zoning requirements). If there is no house on the property you cannot build any type of auxiliary building, of any size, in residential zones.
- All additions, renovations and alterations to existing buildings or structures (including decks, carports).
- Buildings or structures over 10 sq. metres in area (including mobile homes), that are moved to a property
- In-ground swimming pools exceeding 15 sq. meters in area and 1 metre in depth.
- Retaining walls 1.2 metres or more in height.
- Plumbing installations and alterations (including hot water heating and fire sprinkler systems).
- · Change of use of a building.
- Construction/installation of new wood burning stoves and chimneys.
- The construction of a concrete pad or foundation for mounting equipment that will be used for industrial or commercial purposes.
- Repair of a damaged building or structure.
- Demolition or relocation of a building or structure.

Permit Fees are Doubled when construction has started prior to obtaining a building permit. Call the SCRD Building Department at (604) 885-6803 if you need information or assistance. Or visit the website www.scrd.bc.ca

Other Activities Requiring Permits:

- All development, even when a building permit is not needed, must meet the requirements and policies set out in the relevant Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw.
- Some development, land alteration and tree removal may require a permit from the SCRD. To save time and cost please contact the Planning and Development Division at (604) 885-6804 or come to the SCRD offices on Field Road to discuss your ideas.

Page 30 Harbour Spiel

The Sunshine Coast Community Foundation

TYPES OF FUNDS

A donor can either make a general contribution to a Community Legacy Fund, any other of the established funds or establish a distinct endowment gift (see below).

ENDOWMENT FUNDS (UNDESIGNATED)

COMMUNITY FUND

Built by both small and large contributions, it is designed to have maximum flexibility in order to respond to changing community needs.

FIELD OF INTEREST FUND

This fund allows the donor to specify a field of interest to support the community.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS (DESIGNATED)

AGENCY FUND

A charitable organization may wish to create a fund with all income flowing directly to the organization.

DONOR ADVISED FUND

The donor has an opportunity to participate in the grant-making process through an involvement in the ongoing selection of charities.

DONOR DESIGNATED FUND

The donor has an opportunity to specify which charities they would like to benefit from their gift.

OPERATING FUND

A donor may wish to establish a permanent endowment to help pay for the operations of the SCCF.

FLOW-THROUGH FUND

The donor may designate funds to be paid out within a maximum of 2 years rather than becoming a permanent endowment.

OPERATING FUND (FLOW-THROUGH)

A contribution helps to pay for the operations of the SCCF.

By Elfie Hofmann

The Sunshine Coast Community Foundation provides stable, sustainable support to charitable organizations on the Sunshine Coast.

We create a way for individuals, families, corporations, businesses and groups to pool charitable giving into a single Community Capital Fund that will serve the needs and concerns of Sunshine Coast residents from Port Mellon to Egmont.

Officially registered as a Society in February of 2003, the primary purpose of the SCCF is to create permanent endowments and use the earnings to support the Sunshine Coast community in the form of grants to non-profit charities.

To this end, we have had another great year.

Our endowment asset base grew significantly again this year from \$284,000 to \$350,000 with 12 different endowment funds.

And the more the fund assets grow, the more we can grant annually.

Granting to the community is always a highlight for the foundation and SCCF grants contribute to a wide range of interests and ages.

In 2007 we completed our fourth year of operating as a philanthropic body on the Sunshine Coast and were

able to more than double the funds available to just over \$20,000.

Over the past year, we have granted to 16 diverse community projects including social services, the environment, education, sports and recreation, arts, culture and heritage and youth.

The foundation is also dedicated to community leadership.

We want to help charities be the best they can be and we were pleased to once again offer, in partnership with the Vancouver Foundation, our Grant Writing Workshop to over 60 participants.

Our youth committee, Youth SCOOP (Sunshine Coast Organization of Philanthropy), organized a very successful day engaging many of our youth in volunteer activities on the Coast.

We pride ourselves on being a totally volunteer organization made up of a board of directors and other community members that round out our committees.

Our volunteers possess a variety of skills needed to make the foundation function efficiently and effectively.

For more information on the foundation and how to contribute, please visit our website at www.sc-cfoundation.com.



GRIPS
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www.penderharbourhealth.com

Please check the website for current hours and information.

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- Injections
- Home Care Dressings Blood pressure
- Diabetic and Nutrition Counsellling

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Dr. Lisa Virkela - Linda Williams - Hygienist

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- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Restorative Dental Care Consulting
- Dentures
- Surgical Extractions

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• Women and Youth Health Services

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Tim Hayward - Adult Mental Health Cheryl Bate - Addiction Services

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Alcoholics Anonymous meets Monday and Wednesday evenings – Everyone welcome. Our board room is available for health related meetings or seminars. Please book in advance.

First-class health care for the people of the Pender Harbour area

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HARBOUR HEALTH

Health centre gets new logo

by Nancy Mackay, RN and Linda Szabados. RN

The design of the new logo of the Pender Harbour & District Health Centre (PHHC) was inspired by what we all enjoy in Pender Harbour: close proximity to the water as symbolized by the "wave", abundant plant life as symbolized by the "leaf" and the lifegiving power of the sun.

As the three parts form a whole — the wave holds the leaf that cradles the sun — a new image unfolds, that of a tender hand cradling a human figure.

The symbiotic relationships that exist in nature evoke the concepts of nurturing and caring which is what the Pender Harbour Health Centre is all about.

On behalf of the PHHC Society and our community, the PHHC Board and staff would like to thank Edmund Arceo for his expertise and creativity that resulted in a wonderful logo for our health centre.

His donation is very much ap-



PENDER HARBOUR HEALTH CENTRE

preciated and this logo will enhance our stationary and new signs for the PHHC.

What a great way to celebrate the payment of the balance of our mortgage on December 31, 2007 and to thank all of you who made the "It's Ours" campaign such a success.

Thank you.

FEBRUARY IS HEART MONTH

February is heart month and for those of you who have had a cardiac event and are concerned about doing too little (lying on the couch) or doing too much (jogging the day after discharge), the nurses at the health centre have a program just for you. The cardiac care program is an educational program designed for those persons with newly diagnosed coronary artery disease, recent heart attack and those who require educational support with angiography or heart surgery.

The goal of the cardiac program is to prevent readmission to hospital and/or cardiac complications.

The nurses will give you a fiveweek follow-up either in the health centre or in your home.

The binder "Recovery Road" forms the basis of the teaching.

Phone 883-2764 to inquire about this program.

Pender Harbour Health Centre presents:

DIABETES: TAKE CONTROL AND EMBRACE THE NEW NORMAL Nancy Mackay RN CDE and Dianne Paulus RD CDE
Wednesday February 13
P. H. Music School, 1-3pm

No charge.

A SECRET SADNESS: WHY OLDER WOMEN EXPERIENCE DEPRESSION

Dr. Valerie Whiffen PhD R Psch Monday April 2

P. H. Music School, 1-3 p.m.

No charge

Some facts about your 2008 property taxes



By Alan Stewart

At this time of year I am inundated with phone calls from property owners concerned with their property assessments.

The most excited, as you can imagine, have come from some property owners on Sakinaw Lake who have seen their property values jump by 250 per cent!

Many waterfront homeowners were glad to see that their assessments were up by only three to five per cent as compared with the rapid rise of their values over the past few years.

According to BC Assessment Assessor Jason Grant, "most homes on the Sunshine Coast are worth more on this year's assessment roll than they were on the 2007 assessment roll. For example, increases of 10 to 25 per cent for single family homes and condominiums are very common."

Property assessment and taxation is a two part process.

First BC Assessment estimates the market value of a property as of July 1 each year using the ad valorem (Latin for "by value") assessment system, which they say ensures fair and uniform assessments.

If you feel that the assessed value doesn't accurately reflect the actual market value (the most probable price at which a property would sell in a competitive market) you need to contact the BC Assessment office indicated on your notice as soon as possible.

Apparently over 98 per cent of property owners accept their assessments without proceeding to a formal, independent Property Assessment Review Panel.

These panels are appointed and administered annually by the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue to hear formal complaints between February 1 and March 15.

The second part of the process happens in the spring when local taxing authorities (provincial and local) set tax rates that are applied to the

love grows here

property's assessed value to generate the property tax notice which is sent sometime May through July.

Depending on the budgets of local tax authorities, an increase in your assessment won't necessarily mean an increase in your tax burden.

There are some options for people struggling to cope with rising property taxes: if you are 55 or older or are living with a disability and you are a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident who has lived in BC for at least one year you may qualify to defer your property tax with a relatively low interest rate.

Speak with your financial advisor or accountant before making any decisions.

For more information on property taxes you can visit www.bcassessment.ca for news releases, a variety of information and frequently asked questions, along with their popular online tool called Assessments and Sales by Address.

This tool allows property owners to compare their assessment to similar properties and to properties that have sold in their neighbourhood.

This year property owners will be able to view detailed property information, including number of bedrooms, baths, and total square footage and, unlike past years where there was only a brief period to access the information, the tool will be available to the public year-round.

To offer suggestions for future real estate related column topics, e-mail alan@sunshinecoasthomes.com.

St. Andrew's Anglican Church

HOLY EUCHARIST

Priests-in-Charge The Rev. Celia Howard and The Rev. Dr. Bob Korth invite all in celebrating the Holy Eucharist. **Sundays, 10:30 am**

SOUP & SONG

An evening of soup, music and socializing in the Ceilidh tradition. Held every 3rd Saturday of the month. All talents welcome! (adults only event)

Saturday, February 16, 5:00 pm



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LOCAL ANTHROPOLOGISTS

A wilderness to which history just keeps on happening

By Jaime Yard

"There are some true wildernesses, some essentially untouched places... few people going to 'nature' go to them."

- Raymond Williams

It's an interesting thing really: Just how many BC tourism campaigns or people in casual conversation refer to the "pristine natural environments" offered by rural areas, especially ones that are close enough to the city to be a convenient weekend getaway.

Two summers ago, an advertisement for the Painted Boat Development was mailed to my parents' home in Burnaby.

I know that liberties are often taken in advertising, but the cover of this ad contained the following statement: "Follow us to a place that time has not yet reached, where peace and tranquillity reign."

There's no denying that the air is better in Pender Harbour than it is in Vancouver, the water too; that there are more trees around, more wild creatures, fewer streetlights, fewer chainstores, and in general a more reasonable pace of life.

But when I travel around the harbour I see signs of human interventions everywhere I look: Second growth forest, fishing vessels, rusting trailers, construction projects of various size and scope.

I think that the whole Coast would be better classified as a wilderness to which history just keeps on happening rather than "a place that time has not yet reached."

Although I just moved to Pender Harbour in November, I have had a lifetime of experiences here as a seasonal resident. I grew up in Burnaby. As a kid I spent a couple of weeks every summer at Silver Sands before my family pooled their resources with a bunch of friends in the mid-80s to buy the old Beaver Island Motel in Bargain Bay.

I was 10 years old then.

Now at 29 I have chosen to locate here for the year in order to complete research for my Ph.D. in cultural anthropology.

My Ph.D. project tries to understand the variety of ways that the natural environment in this region has been valued, both economically and personally, over time and by different groups.

I hope that by talking with people I can start to compose a history of the values that people attach to "nature" in this place.

As an anthropologist I am interested in culture.

My work investigates how cultural difference cannot be summed up by ethnicity, but are also defined by practices in, and beliefs about, the natural environment.

For example, there may be much cultural difference between people whose primary experience of and knowledge about nature have been formed through labour (fishermen, loggers, miners) and those formed primarily through recreation and consumption.

Pender Harbour has historically been a landscape and seascape of both work and leisure – the same places and natural "resources" informing very diverse attitudes and investments.

As cultural studies scholar Raymond Williams famously stated: "The idea of nature contains, though often unnoticed, an extraordinary amount of human history." I am looking for interviewees who are willing to share with me their interpretation of this local natural environment and what they value in it.

I am especially interested in talking to fishermen and loggers (both active and retired), property developers and realtors, members of families who have multiple generations of recreational residence here, and those who have chosen Pender Harbour as a place to retire.

What drew me to anthropology was a firm belief that there is no book substitute for knowledge gained through experience.

Fieldwork is a compulsory part of my education.

I have read a lot of books over the last decade about logging, fishing and environmental management, but I don't have the first clue what it is really like to live on a fishing and work on boat for months of the year.

Edith Iglauer's Fishing With John is about as close as I've been able to feel to that.

The Raincoast Chronicles is perhaps as close as I've ever been to a logging camp.

As the economy of B.C. continues to shift away from its traditional resource extraction base toward more intensive investment in the SupernaturalTM or BeautifulTM service industry, tourism and recreation, I think it is vital to note how these changes affect rural areas and residents.

If you have any questions about my project, would be willing to be interviewed, have a great contact for me, or just a few thoughts/opinions to share, please call or email me: 604-741-3004 or jdyard@yorku.ca.



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HARBOUR ALMANAC

THE DAYS

BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 01 ~ Randy Rayment and Earl

Feb. 02 ~ Mary Cochet, Jennifer Jones, Dootie Hille and Paola Stewart

Feb. 03 ~ Chloe Campbell

Feb. 05 ~ Rick Hartley and Roland Fritz

Feb. 06 ~ Lachlin Rand

Feb. 07 ~ **Reg Morton**

Feb. 09 ~ Joyce Garbers and Jackie Donna Campbell

Crowell

Feb. 10 ~ Wendel Welander and Eddie Smith

Feb. 11 ~ Cody Pantages, Scott Smith and Chris Garbers

Feb. 12 ~ Ab Haddock

Feb. 14 ~ Dolly Clayton, Steve Morton, Christine Fenn and Elsie Rennie

Feb. 16 ~ Irene Boyd and Betty Mc-Donald

Feb. 17 ~ Dot Farrell, Daniel Dore and Jessica Munro

Feb. 18 ~ Dr. Rick Smalley

Feb. 19 ~ Don & Joan McDougall

Feb. 20 ~ Roy Vickers

Feb. 21 ~ Ron Pratchett, Ryan Phillips, Helen LeBlanc and Cathy Silvey

Feb. 22 ~ Chelsea Scoular

Feb. 23 ~ Evelyn Cumming and

Feb. 24 ~ **Debbie Rand**

Feb. 25 ~ Bruce Haines

Feb. 27 ~ Neale Smith and Rick

Feb. 28 ~ Nolan Percival, Trevor Morin, Bob Walsh, Erin Fraser and **Sharlene Gamble**

FEBRUARY WEATHER

TEMPERATURES, MERRY ISLAND

Our average February daily high temperature is 7.5 C; average low is 3.4 C, giving us a mean daily temperature of 5.5 C. The highest February temperature recorded is 14.3 C (Feb. 27, 1986); the lowest is -10.1 C (Feb. 13, 1990).

PRECIPITATION, MERRY ISLAND

February should have about 85.7 hours of bright sunshine (the most since October), 16 days with measurable rainfall and one day with measurable snowfall. February should have a total rainfall of 97.9 mm and a total snowfall of 6.7 cm. The highest February daily rainfall recorded is 49 mm (Feb. 11, 1983); the highest February daily snowfall recorded is 22.9 cm (Feb. 15, 1983).

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IARBOUR ALMANAC

OF FEBRUARY

ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 6

In the Western Christian calendar, Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and occurs 46 days before Easter.

It falls on different dates from year to year, according to the date of Easter; it can occur as early as Feb. 4 or as late as March 10.

At masses and services of worship on this day, ashes are imposed on the foreheads (or tonsure spots, in the case of some clergy) of the faithful.

The priest, minister, or in some cases officiating layperson marks the forehead of each participant with black ashes, in the shape of a cross, which the worshiper traditionally retains until washing it off after sundown.

The symbolism echoes the ancient Near Eastern tradition of throwing ash over one's head signifying repentance before God (as related in the Bible).

The priest or minister offers the worshipper an instruction while applying the ashes. These are three examples:

Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return.

(Latin: Memento homo, quia pulvis es, et in pulverem reverteris.)

- God, Genesis 3:19

Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.

Jesus, Mark 1:15

Repent, and hear the good news.

- Jesus, Mark 1:15

[source: wikipedia.com]

FEBRUARY ASTROLOGY

AQUARIUS: JAN. 21 - FEB. 18

Aquarians are true humanitarians, possessing a deep social conscience. They are highly self-controlled, so they can appear cool and detached with a peppery aroma, a complex balance and a lingering tannic aftertaste.

PISCES: FEB. 19 - MAR. 19

Pisceans have a boundless imagination and a natural aptitude for acting. They are sympathetic, highly tolerant and incurable romantics. Pisceans are often religious or mystical. Of all the astrological signs, Pisces make the best lovers. Get with one.

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- 2# Broccoli
- 2# BC Carrots
- 1 Celery 1 bunch Rainbow Chard
- Bulb of BC Garlic
- hand of Hawaiian Ginger bunch Purple Kale
- Romaine Lettuce
- 4 Yellow Onions
- 4# BC Yukon Gold Potatoes *This is a recent sample order of the Large Family bin. We deliver to Pender Harbour and Garden Bay every Wednesday. We would like to expand into Egmont if we have enough interest. We deliver the freshest, top quality organic fruits and vegetables, right to your door. Eat Well, Be Well.



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LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTORY

Alcoholics Anonymous (Thurs. @ 7 p.m.)	883-288
Aquatic Centre Society	883-261
Blues Society	883-264
Bridge Club	
Canadian Cancer Society	
Chamber of Commerce	
Christ the Redeemer Church	883-137
Coast Guard Auxiliary, Unit 61	
Community Choir	
Community Club, Egmont	
Community Club, Pender Harbour	
Community Policing	
Community School Society	883-282
Egmont Volunteer Fire Department	883-001
GRIPS (Recycling Society)	883-116
Garden Bay Sailing Club	883-268
Gardening Club	883-029
• P. H. Golf Club	883-954
Guides, Brownies, etc.	883-281
Harbour Artists	883-280
Harbourside Friendships (seniors, Thur. 10:30 -1 p.m.)	883-276
Health Centre Society	883-276
Health Centre Auxiliary	883-052
Hepatitis C Connection	883-001
• InStitches (1st Monday, 11 a.m., PH Health Centre)	883-074
Iris Griffiths Centre	883-920
• Ladies Auxiliary to Legion Branch 112 (1st Thurs. @ 1:30)	883-074
Lions Club, Egmont	
• Lions Club, Pender Harbour (1st & 3rd Wed)	883-136
• P. H. Music Society	
P. H. Paddling Society	883-367
Pender Harbour Choir (7:30 pm Tues)	883-230
Piecemakers (quilters, 1st & 3rd Wed. 9:30 a.m.)	
Power & Sail Squad (2nd Wed. Legion)	
Red Balloon Parent & Tot drop-in	
Reading Centre Society	
Rotary Club (noon Fri. Garden Bay Pub)	
Royal Cdn Legion 112	
Skookumchuck Heritage Society (Egmont Heritage Centre)	
St. Andrew's Anglican Church	
• St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary (2nd Wed. @ 1 p.m. Sept-June)	
Seniors' Housing Society (3rd Thur.)	
Serendipity Preschool	
Suncoast Players	
Sunshine Coast Community Based Victim Services	
Volunteer Fire Dept (Wed. evening)	
Wildlife Society (3rd Tues. PHSS)	
Women's Cancer Support	
Women's Connection (2nd & 4th Tue.)	
Women's Outreach Services	

~ ORGANIZATIONS ~

PENDER HARBOUR COMMUNITY CLUB AGM

The AGM will be held on Sunday, Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. Help is urgently needed to carry on the work of the community club.

Bingo will resume on Thursday, Feb. 7 at the community hall. If attendance doesn't improve the bingo will not be able to operate.

PENDER HARBOUR FALL FAIRE SOCIETY

The Pender Harbour Fall Faire Society is having their AGM on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 11:30 a.m. at the Legion in Madeira Park. Please come to our meeting or call Carol at 883-9844 if you can contribute some of your time, even if it's only helping us sell raffle tickets or on the day of the Faire itself.

WOMEN'S CONNECTION

On Tuesday, Feb. 12 the Women's Connection is celebrating their ninth birthday and Valentine's Day. Wear red or your rose corsage when you come to enjoy our special occasion. On Tuesday, Feb. 26 Maureen Wright will give us a presentation called "We Took Our Motor Home to Europe" where she will give us some insight into her two-year adventure in Europe with a Canadian motor home. Gatherings are at the School of Music in Madeira Park. Meetings start at 10 a.m. and go until noon.

WOMEN'S OUTREACH SERVICES

A free, confidential service for women who are being abused or are at risk for abuse. Counselling, non-judgmental listening, safety planning, referrals, advocacy and accompaniment, transportation, and education around the dynamics of the abuse of women in our society are some of the things this program provides. Women can access this program directly by calling (604)741-5246.

SUNSHINE COAST COMMUNITY BASED VICTIM SERVICES

A free, confidential service for survivors of violence in relationships, sexualized assault, criminal harassment, child abuse/assault, (both physical and sexual), adult survivors of childhood abuse (both physical and sexual), child witnesses and other forms of family violence. We provide court support, referrals and information to victims of crime on the Sunshine Coast from Langdale to Egmont. People can access this program either through the Police or by calling us directly at (604)885-0322.

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ORGANIZATIONS

Pender Harbour Choir

The Pender Harbour Choir has a history that spans three and a half decades.

In 1973 a group of interested singers came together under the direction of Les Fowler, and so began many years of choral singing on this part of the Sunshine Coast.

The choir, made up of men and women from across the Sunshine Coast, perform varied repertoire of sacred and secular music including popular, folk, Broadway and classical.

A new chapter has just begun for the choir with Joy McLeod as Choir Director.

Joy moved to the Sunshine Coast

over a year ago and is the founding director of Suncoast Singers.

In Victoria, Joy directed and accompanied numerous choral groups including Avalon Singers, Victoria Police Chorus, Allegra Choir, Crystal Singers and church choirs.

Her musical training culminated at Brandon University School of Music in 1994 when she graduated with a degree in voice and organ.

The choir is enthusiastic about working with Joy in upcoming seasons and is fortunate that Nancy Mackay will continue to support the choir with her piano accompaniment.

New members are encouraged to

join us at our rehearsals on Tuesdays at the Pender Harbour Music School from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Previous experience is always helpful to choristers, however we are more than willing to assist non-music readers to become comfortable singing their part in the choir.

As with most choirs, tenors are always at a premium but altos, sopranos and basses are also welcome.

Please contact Joy McLeod at (604) 885-3087 or Ann Barker at (604)883-2689 for further information.

P. H. Wildlife Society

The Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society will hold their meeting on Tuesday, Feb.19 and are very pleased to welcome Dr. Robert Handfield as their guest speaker.

Bob is President of the South Okanagan Naturalist Club in Penticton.

His club, through the Canada Parks & Wilderness Society, is actively promoting the establishment of a park in the Okanagan/Similkeen area to protect valuable and endangered flora and fauna.

Bob has travelled extensively working as a geologist.

He and his wife have volunteered the past two winters at Patagonia State Park in Arizona and have just returned from a bird-watching tour in Costa Rica.

The meeting is 7:30 p.m. at P.H.S.S. Non-members are welcome, there is no charge and refreshments will be served.

HARBOUR SEALS



Free and easy! Approvals or **disapprovals!**Send to: **editor@harbourpiel.com**.
You must include your full name and a telephone number for confirmation.

A huge Seal of Approval to **Doug** and Elaine Silvey of Egmont for ensuring we got home safely during the snowfall of Dec. 1, 2007. You saved the day for us and your kindness and generosity was appreciated very much. This ol' world's a better place because of folks like you. Thank you both.

Bill & Sharon Jones (& "Carma" too)

A Harbour Seal of Approval to all those who donated their IGA stickers and dish sets to Christ the Redeemer. Once the hall is completed we will be able to seat over 100 people for a meal. Thank you Pender Harbour community for your abundant generosity.

Rev. Barclay Mayo on behalf of the congregation of Redeemer Church The Rotary Club of Pender Harbour would like to offer a Seal of Approval to the **Sunshine Coast Credit Union** for all their support in the recent Rotary Club Calender sale. With their assistance, the Rotary Club was able to raise thousands of dollars that will be injected back into our wonderful community.

Alan Stewart Rotary Club of Pender Harbour

Many people, businesses and organizations have donated to the food bank this past year. Many individuals have donated items from birthday parties, given turkeys and cheques. We would like to acknowledge you and thank you very much for your generosity.

P. H. Food Bank volunteers

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BURNING ISSUES

You never know...



By Barry Ashley

In these increasingly uncertain times, there is something we can

be certain — and glad — about: fire departments everywhere are being called to fewer fires.

There are all sorts of reasons why: safer building materials, better building practices, the widespread use of smoke detectors and fire alarms, the increased awareness of fire prevention on the part of the public and so on.

Full-time departments have had to come up with some radical ideas for keeping their firefighters busy; some have retrained their firefighters to become paramedics and some are playing a bigger role in spreading the gospel of fire prevention.

Here in Pender Harbour, our problem is to maintain the morale of our unpaid volunteers, with a diminishing number of call-outs.

It's not easy to keep their enthusiasm at a high level when they get fewer opportunities to put their training to the test.

It's a fact that there's nothing like a real-life incident to lift the morale of a fire station.

To come away from such a call-out knowing you and your mates have done well is a great boost to the spirit, both individually and as a group.

The more often you do it, the stronger become the bonds that bind you together.

So, if we don't get the calls to keep

us sharp, we've got to find other ways to do it.

We socialize, we take part in community events, we do our annual fire prevention thing with the elementary school kids.

That all helps, but the big thing is training and that's where the training officer comes in.

It falls to him to devise realistic training including scenarios that constantly test the skills of the firefighters.

Madeira Park currently has Darcy Perry in this exacting role, while in Garden Bay it's Gary Grohs.

These two do a tremendous job in dreaming up, week by week, new and interesting situations involving fire suppression, auto extrication, lowangle cliff rescue and first aid.

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BURNING ISSUES

They'll sometimes combine their efforts so that both stations work together as they would at an incident.

It works — after a good training session, the guys' spirits are visibly lifted.

There's more laughing and joking and everyone knows they have done something useful, even if it wasn't for real.

They feel ready for the real thing. For firefighters have to train constantly to be ready to meet the situation they don't want to meet — another great truth about being a firefighter is that you never know what's just around the corner.

Here's a little (true) story that hopefully illustrates the point...

Back in 1975, a keen young man had just completed his first year of service on a retained fire station in England. (That's a station manned entirely by guys who have other jobs, and respond to call-outs by pagers; they are paid a retainer, and for training and callouts.)

He had joined with some misgivings, not the least of which was how he would react to seeing a dead person for there was no doubt he would.

There had been at least one fatal accident during that year but he hadn't been among the first eight men into the station when the pager went off, so he hadn't gone.

He felt uneasy that he still hadn't

faced his fears.

The Whitsuntide four-day long weekend was coming up, and as was the custom, the Station Officer divided the men into two shifts to cover two days each, so that everyone would get two days off.

Our KYM (keen young man) was on the Sunday-Tuesday shift.

The weekend passed uneventfully, but at 4 p.m. on a sunny Tuesday afternoon the pagers went off and the eight men on-call responded.

On arrival at the station, they found they were going to a road traffic accident involving a bus at a place called Dibbles Bridge in the Yorkshire Dales; about 15 miles away but still within their station area.

On the way, they heard that three other stations had been mobilized to this incident, a rare event indeed — they knew they were going to something potentially very big!

A bus taking a group of seniors on a day-tour of the Dales had started the descent of a two-mile long hill.

The road was straight but at the bottom it swung sharply to the right to cross a narrow stone bridge over the tiny River Dibb.

Part way down the hill, the driver found his brakes weren't working.

What went through his mind thereafter, we can only guess.

The coach didn't make it round the bend; it went straight through a wall

and dropped 20 feet into a garden, flipping onto its roof.

When the firemen got back to the station many hours later, weary and blood-stained, they were unaware that they had been to what was — and still is — Britain's worst road traffic accident.

The final death toll was 34, including the driver.

So there you are.

Even in a small town with no fulltime services like Pender Harbour, you can suddenly find yourself in the middle of something unimaginably big.

You just never know so you've always got to be ready.

Oh, I forgot about our KYM.

On Sunday, a fireman on the other shift had phoned to ask him if he would swap Tuesday for Monday.

He readily agreed, so Tuesday afternoon found our man off-call, walking with his family.

He jumped when his pager bleeped into life (he was keen, he carried his pager even if he was not on call because he wanted to know if he missed anything).

He cursed his luck that he'd missed the only call of the holiday period and then, minutes later, listened to the sound of distant fire engine sirens and idly wondered where his mates were going.



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PENDER GOLF

Holiday potluck and scramble a huge success

By Jan Watson

It seems people are always ready to burn off some of the turkey, stuffing and plum pie.

On Dec. 30 we had 40 golfers turn out to play in our usual Christmas Scramble and we lucked out as it was a beautiful sunny day after so many dull, cold and windy ones.

There were a couple of temporary greens due to some remaining frost but the rest were in great shape.

With 10 teams it proved to be a close battle except for the winners who had a hot hand scoring a remarkable 31. They were Blake Priebe, Rusty Ellis, his daughter Lee and her husband Rob Boyd.

Five teams tied with 37 and after going back to the 4th handicap hole second place went to Mickey McMillan, Joe Mueller, Liz Crewes and Jan

Watson. Two teams tied with 38 and the other two tied with 40.

The golf was followed by appetizers and happy hour before the potluck dinner when the ladies outdid themselves with an amazing variety of tasty dishes, plus lots of lovely desserts.

Many thanks go to Jay Deyman for looking after the bar and to all the people that cleaned up.

Hopefully we will have another pot luck and scramble on Feb. 9 or 16 so make sure you check with the pro shop.

In the last couple of weeks there has been a lot of wind and rain but, in spite of this, the course is in remarkably good shape.

Winter (reduced) rates are in effect and the driving range is open daily.

However, if it's frosty, be sure to phone the pro shop as there might be time delays for tee off.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Power carts must remain on the cart paths.

Please repair your ball marks on the greens and replace divots on the fairways.

Memberships are available; check out the five-year plan.

The golf course is a public course and everyone is welcome.

FROM THE 19TH HOLE...

It's good sportsmanship to not pick up lost balls while they are still rolling.

~ Mark Twain

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Clinic bassinett acts as its own archive

A quiet fragment of Pender Harbour history is slowly accumulating in a little shed behind the Pender Harbour Health Centre.

It's a baby bassinett built out of cedar and donated to the health centre by Ted Woodard of Nelson Island sometime in the mid-1980s.

Woodard says it's only useful for the first three months of a baby's life until they can roll over so it's been passed around a lot.

The bassinet is part of the health centre's loan cupboard — a free warehouse of crutches, wheelchairs and all manner of health related apparati for patients to borrow.

What makes this bassinett special is that, at some point, somebody started a tradition of writing their new little noisemaker's name on the wood under the mattress.

Woodard's niece, Sasha Gale,

born in July 1981 was the second baby to spend her first months in the wooden swing but has the first recorded

date.

Many of the inscriptions are listed without dates but you'll probably recognize some of the 28 names listed.

It's one of those seemingly inconsequential rituals we undertake daily that may someday become a sentimental treasure.

Thanks to Jack Dennis for the showing.

For more information on the loan cupboard call (604) 883-2764.



This bassinett, built and donated by Ted Woodard, is available for loan through the health centre loan cupboard program.



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TEAM	GP	WON	LOST	TIE	GF	GA PTS	,	
C.P.U		10	7	1	2	29	8	16
Halfmoon Sea Kayaks		10	7	2	1	30	15	15
Gibsons Pigs		10	6	3	1	25	16	13
Gibsons United		10	4	3	3	22	24	11
Pender Bananas		10	4	4	2	22	24	10
Sechelt Chiefs	10	2	6	2	11	22	6	
Xenichen Wolves		10	2	6	2	26	37	6
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• **NEED treadmill,** gauges unimportant. WANT trilight, HAVE microwave and range hood - Trade? (604) 883 0522. Leave message.

PHOTOHISTORY



photo submitted

While many were still shaking off the effects of ringing in 2008, these Pender Harbour Paddling Society members were just getting started on a new tradition — a New Year's Day Paddle in festive gear.

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THE LAST WORD

Don't tase me, bro?: 2007 words of the year



By Shane McCune

Is this the year when you will meet your *googleganger* in the flesh?

Or are you too busy *elder-proofing*

your parents' home so they can age in place?

Does your laptop have *cloud-ware* to filter out spam while admitting *bacn*? Does any of this make any sense to you?

If so you're a nabob of neologisms, because all the strange terms above were cited by various language monitors as nominees for 2007's Word of the Year.

Sometimes this annual exercise yields a revealing snapshot of popular culture. Sometimes it's twaddle.

Merriam-Webster determines its word of the year by website vote.

Thus the U.S. dictionary's word of the year for 2007 is *w00t*!

It's a computer gamers' exclamation that probably started as an acronym for "we owned the other team" but can simply mean "yay!"

And yes, it's supposed to be spelled with two zeroes instead of O's in the mannered orthography of the propellerheads who also gave us *bacn* to signify desirable junk email (as opposed to spam), such as ads for the latest version of another game they can play all night in mom's basement instead of getting a job or a date.

As for *cloudware* . . . oh, who cares.

Over at the New Oxford American Dictionary mid-level minions compile a short list of candidates from which the winner is selected by the, um, Dict-tator.

This system has its shortcom-

ings, too: The OAD's word of 2007 is *locavore*, which I'm betting won't live to see its fifth birthday.

Locavores are people who try to help the environment by eating only food that has been grown locally.

Thought you were banking karma by eating organic field tomatoes, untainted by pesticides or energy-guzzling hothouses?

Alas, the road to hell is paved, and you're leaving a big ecological footprint if those spotty Romas were trucked here from California. (And *footprint* in that context was the 2007 WOTY across the pond at Oxford's U.K. home office.)

Locavore was coined by removing the last letter of "local" and adding the suffix "-vore," meaning "eater" (carnivore = one who eats meat, herbivore = one who eats plants, hadthisbivore = one who eats in a cafeteria).

Some online sources claim "localvore" is an acceptable variant, but until normal people starting using either word the question is w00t, er, moot.

Oxford English Dictionary boffins have been picking WOTYs since 1906, and it's amazing how many are still in use, including that year's *muck-raking*, *cat burglar* (1907), *war zone* (1914), *T-shirt* (1920), *fuzz* meaning police (1929), *power politics* (1933), *big bang* (1950), *Big Mac* (1970), *ka-raoke* (1979) and *full monty* (1985).

Some buzzwords are older than you might think: *peace rally* (1919), *superstar* (1925), *genome* (1930), *male chauvinism* (1936) and *Generation X* (1952).

On the other hand, Oxford's American list of nominees for 2007 included *cougar*, a term for older and usually richer women chasing younger

men that I've heard on the West Coast for at least six or seven years.

Speaking of age, Oxford's runners-up included *aging in place* to denote growing older while living in one's own home instead of moving to a seniors' residence.

Another list included *elder-proof*, meaning to make a home safe for old people by installing handrails and such.

As usual the OAD list included terms from the past year's news: colony collapse disorder, a mysterious phenomenon that scatters honeybees from their hives; MRAP (mine resistant ambush protected) vehicles, designed to protect troops from IEDs (improvised explosive devices); and tase or taze, to stun with a Taser.

This was popularized last September by Andrew Meyer, the Florida heckler who famously (and vainly) pleaded with police, "Don't tase me, bro."

That line made it into the American Dialect Society's lists of top 2007 neologisms, along with *celebutard* (a particularly dim celebutante), *gorno* (really gory horror movie), *googleganger* (someone with your name who pops up when you Google yourself) and *toe-tapper* (homosexual, in reference to U.S. Sen. Larry Craig's footwork in an airport men's room).

What will be the Word of the Year for 2008?

I'm hoping to popularize *flabulous*, referring to the strange yet palpable allure of some middle-aged men of a certain size.

You could help. The trick is to rehearse it at home until you can say it with a straight face.

Then casually drop it into conversation and eventually we have ourselves a WOTY.

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Calendar listings are provided free of charge by the Harbour Spiel. Send information to editor@harbourspiel.com by the 15th of the month.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Sun. Feb. 3Super Bowl Sunday @ various locations
Mon. Feb. 4Food Bank pick-up - P. H. Community Church, 12 p.m.
Fri. Feb. 8Legion Quiz Night hosted by the MPES PAC - P. H. Legion, 8 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 9P. H. Paddlers fundraiser, Demented Diva: Connie Smudge - Garden Bay Restaurant, 8 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 9Valentine's Dance - Royal Canadian Legion #112, 6 p.m.
Sun. Feb. 10Joe Stanton - Garden Bay Pub, afternoon session
Tues. Feb. 12Women's Connection Meeting - P. H. School of Music, 10 a.m.
Wed. Feb. 13Diabetes: Take Control and Embrace the New Normal - P. H. Music School, 1 p.m.
Thurs. Feb. 142 For 1 Valentine's Swim - Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre, 6:30 p.m.
Fri. Feb. 15Splashin' Sneakers 'n Snacks Swim - Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre, 12 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 16Soup and Song - St. Andrew's Anglican Church, 5 p.m.
Sun. Feb. 17Gaetan and the French Connection - Garden Bay Pub, afternoon session
Sun. Feb. 17P.H. Music Society presents Pavel Egorov - P. H. School of Music, 2 p.m.
Mon. Feb. 18Food Bank pick-up - P. H. Community Church, 12 p.m.
Tues. Feb. 19
Wed. Feb. 20Fall Faire Society AGM - P. H. Legion, 11:30 a.m.
Wed. Feb. 20Ladies' Spa Night - Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre, 6:30 p.m.
Sun. Feb. 24
Sun. Feb. 24Steve Hinton - Garden Bay Pub, afternoon session
Tues. Feb. 26Women's Connection Meeting with Maureen Wright - P. H. School of Music, 10 a.m.
Wed. Feb 27APC meeting - PHSS Rm. 107, 7 p.m.



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Saltery Bay

*5:35 a.m.

7:25 a.m.

9:25 a.m.

11:25 a.m.

3:20 p.m.

5:25 p.m.

7:20 p.m.

9:15 p.m.



Dave Milligan & Alan Stewart

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Alan and Dave want to thank all their clients for their support. In return, they have faithfully supported the following GREAT local organizations & events through 2007: May Day Family Fun Run, Garden Bay Show & Shine, Pender Harbour Rotary Club, the Royal Canadian Legion, PH Jazz Fest, PH Blues Fest, PH Chamber of Commerce, PH Music Society, Young Documentary Filmmaker, Katherine Rowlands' Concerts ("It's Ours" and "Back the Cat"), PH Fire Fighters' Annual Fireworks, PH Power & Sail Squadron, PH Chamber Music Festival, April Tools, The PH Fall Fair, and more. At SunshineCoastHomes.com, we recognize the value of a vibrant, active and diverse community and we pledge to continue our support. Thanks again!

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Feb. 17 - Gaetan & the French Connection

Feb. 24 - Steve Hinton