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Independent Voice of
Pender Harbour & Egmont
since 1990.*

HARBOUR SPIEL

DECEMBER 2009
ISSUE 228





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HARBOUR SPIEL



The Independent Voice
of Pender Harbour &
Egmont since 1990

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Next issue mails Jan. 4

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Brian Lee.

CONTRIBUTORS

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EDITORIAL

Petitions... what are they good for?



By Brian Lee

I just thought of an interesting sociology experiment.

What would happen if you passed a petition around Madeira that took an emotional stance against something?

Then wait a week before accosting shoppers again with a similar petition only this time it will support the opposite perspective.

Of course, both petitions would be cleverly worded so you'd be a heartless nincompoop not to sign.

"Should the beautiful mural at the Pender Harbour Aquatic Centre be destroyed?"

Or,

"Should aquatic society directors risk \$1.25 million of your tax dollars by compromising pool renovations to preserve a mural?"

Or I could just create a petition taking opposition to one of the many currently circulating through town.

I could start one to "Keep the dump open," or "Let's log the Bear Bay Forest" or "Stop the erection... of longboard signs on the highway."

Petitions have been around for a long time — did you know they started in imperial China?

I wonder if people appreciate the fact that, when they sign their name, they become part of a public record offering firm support to whatever cause is being pseudo-represented.

The issues are rarely simple and a petition expects an all or none response.

Whenever I see one, I always scan the list of names on it.

It's usually a mishmash of people whom I'd expect to have a reasonable grasp of the issue alongside the blissful-

ly ignorant who couldn't tell you the name of Francis Peninsula's mayor.

Either may have been coerced or perhaps they were just passing the time while buying gum.

And the problem lies with the very people who start them.

They're usually the most passionate champions of the cause and often prone to using their version of the facts in order to boost the signature count.

A petition's validity relies on the hope that every person on it (a) exists and (b) was sufficiently educated before signing.

Online petitions are the worst.

With no way to verify online identity, they only serve to satisfy a need for people to feel they are doing something.

Should it matter that Slovenian Anja Vimpolsek opposes logging a forest on Bear Bay Road?

At least she submitted her last name. Not everybody does.

The reason online petitions flourish is that they're easy.

Which make them easy for authorities to ignore.

So back to my experiment.

I hypothesize that, given enough federal grant money, I could prove that the majority could be induced to sign opposing petitions.

And once I had the results in hand I think I would have all the evidence I need to justify my next step:

I'm going to start a petition to ban all petitions.

Will you sign it?

↑
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SPIEL PICKS

ACOUSTIC SATURDAYS AT THE GARDEN BAY PUB - DEC. 5, 12, 19

The Garden Bay Pub announces a new event for musicians on the Sunshine Coast. Beginning Nov. 14, the GBP will have an acoustic jam every Saturday night from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Musicians of any calibre are encouraged to bring their acoustic instruments and join host Greg Slaunwhite of the Slow and White Band. They will explore the classics and new material and maybe make some things up as they go along. Bring your guitars, banjos, hand drums, shakers, harmonicas, lyrics and make some music — don't be shy. For more information, call the pub at (604) 883-2674.

MPES CHRISTMAS CONCERT - DEC. 10

A classic December tradition continues. The Madeira Park Elementary School is hosting two performances on Thursday Dec. 10. Each of five classes will perform one song before a three-song singalong. A finale performance of the John Lennon Christmas song "Happy Christmas (War is Over)." The concerts are at 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. in the gymnasium.

COMMUNITY POTLUCK CHRISTMAS DINNER - DEC. 13

Last year 180 people enjoyed the first Community Potluck Christmas Dinner. Come out on Dec. 13 at 5:30 p.m. to see why people had such a good time. Please bring your favorite potluck dish or a donation to the Food Bank.

This Christmas, stuff someone's stocking with the Harbour Spiel!

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Bear Bay Road cutblock auctioned for timber harvest

Despite an extensive effort by locals intent on preventing the logging of a cutblock near Bear Bay Road, it's happening anyway.

BC Timber Sales opened the 18-hectare cutblock for auction this fall and awarded the winning bid to Horsman Trucking in Gibsons on Oct. 28.

Fallers were at work only two weeks later, upsetting many of the stakeholders intent on preserving what they consider to be the only "old forest" ecosystem in Pender Harbour.

The timber sale came only weeks after an ecological assessment was completed by Bob Brett of the Whistler-based consultancy firm Snowline Ecological Research.

The report, commissioned by the Bear Bay Stewardship Alliance, outlined results of a three-day survey providing a "cursory ecosystem classification and coring of 29 trees."

Prior to the survey but after consultation with interest groups, BCTS modified the cutblock boundaries from 22.3 hectares to 18, excluding sensitive areas and portions containing old forest.

BCTS estimates the cutblock to contain 13,435 cubic metres of timber consisting mainly of Douglas fir (72 per cent) and smaller amounts of cedar and hemlock.

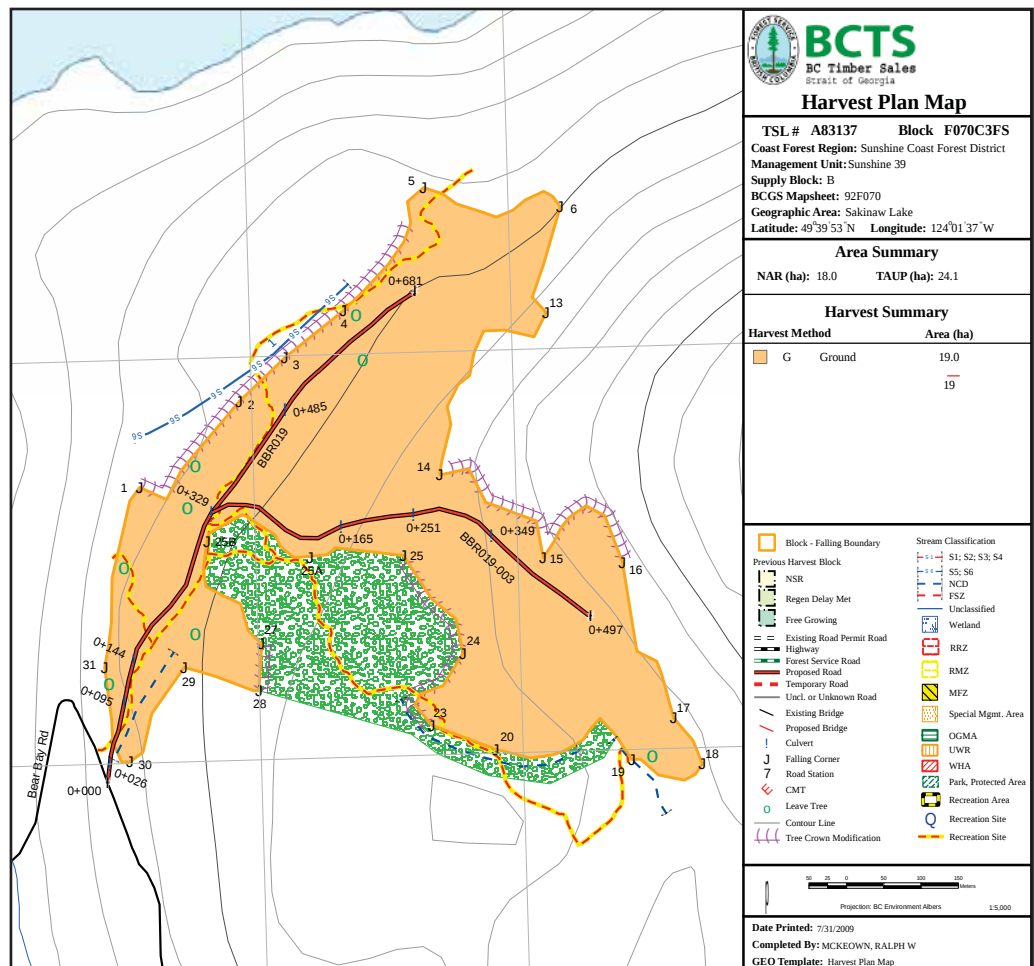
Various stakeholder groups and BC Timber Sales still disagree about effects logging the area will have on the surrounding ecosystem.

Critics point to the threatened sockeye salmon run that enters nearby Sakinaw Lake or the area's classification as an "old forest ecosystem" as reasons for halting the timber sale.

In an April 2009 letter responding to Stephanie Belich and Jeff



After receiving the winning bid to log what has become known as the Bear Bay Forest, Horsman Trucking Ltd. wasted no time in getting started.



map courtesy of BCTS

After a number of modifications to the boundaries, the cream coloured portion of this map shows the falling boundaries of the Bear Bay Road cut block.

(continued next page)

Bear Bay Road logging (cont.)

(continued from page 5)

Peterson, co-chairs of the Sakinaw Lake Community Association, Dave Peterson, asst. deputy minister for BCTS wrote:

"There are no water courses within the the proposed block or associated with the proposed road construction for this block that flow into Mixal Creek."

Peterson goes on to say degradation of spawning beaches would more likely be attributed to development of residential lots and construction of boating facilities along the lakeshore.

About claims of old forest destruction, Peterson wrote,

"BCTS field work identified that the more characteristic old forest is in fact located in the area northwest of

creek one, for which no harvesting is proposed."

But it's an all or none battle for the Bear Bay Stewardship Alliance which insists that if even a portion of the forest is removed, the rest will suffer.

"If the cut-block goes ahead, Bear Bay Forest is off the list as a hiking option for our tourism economy," BBSA director Ryan Logtenberg wrote in an e-mail.

"Our community will not be able to market 'Big Trees of Pender Harbour' in any current or future brochures or tourism marketing campaigns. It is the equivalent of removing Mount Daniel from our landscape. The trade-off is providing less than eight months of logging jobs for

roughly half a dozen people."

Gary Horsman, whose company won the bid to log the cutblock, says it has started falling the boundaries and expects logs to start leaving the site by early December.

If the weather permits, he hopes to be finished in three months.

"There really shouldn't be any issues," says Horsman.

"I know there are people that don't like it but there's people that don't like logging in the whole world."

When asked what what will happen if a confrontation does occur, Horsman was frank,

"I'd just phone the police."



PENDER HARBOUR AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTRE

HEALTH IN MOTION

PENDER HARBOUR WALKABOUT:

This informal walking group meets every Monday (mornings and 1x month afternoons) for a different walk/hike. If you would like to come walking please phone the pool and leave contact information.

Dec. 7: Hike Meet at the Petro Can or clinic at 12:30 p.m. Carpool to Triangle Lake on Redrooffs Rd. (by Sargeant Bay). Intermediate hike: 1-1.5 hours. Nordic walking poles are provided.

Instructor: Paola Stewart

Boot Camp, Hi/Lo Combo, Hip Hop Fitness, Tone 'n' Tighten, and FAB, Fitness Kickboxing and Osteofit will have a break over Christmas, beginning again week of January 4.

Funding received from Promotions Plus Girls and Women in Sport and Physical Activity has created an opportunity for a Girls' Running Club at MPES. Activity takes place Fridays during lunch. Thank you to community sponsors: Pender Harbour Branch of the Sunshine Coast Credit Union, Madeira Park IGA and the PH Aquatic & Fitness Centre.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND PATIENCE DURING THE RENOVATION PROCESS!
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE!**

Visit www.scrd.ca under Services.

For more information and to register (required for all programs), please phone the pool

(604) 885-6866

PHSS getting back to normal after battling flu bug

The absentee rate at the Pender Harbour Secondary School has dropped back to normal levels after a sharp spike last month.

For one week in early November close to 40 per cent of students were missing from class with suspected flu symptoms.

Due to the volume of cases, few cases have been confirmed as the infamous H1N1 strain.

Normal levels are considered

fewer than 10 per cent and by mid-November students started returning in large numbers.

During the peak of the outbreak, principal Nancy Brindlay posted a flu update on the school's website.

It explained the rationale behind keeping the school open during such an outbreak:

"The public health stance continues to be to keep schools open. The thinking is that those of us who

have not got the flu may be carrying the germs. To release all of us out into the community presents a greater risk to the flu spreading than to keep us contained in the school."

During the outbreak students were encouraged to increase their washing of hands and extra custodial hours were provided to ensure the proper disinfecting of surfaces.

Middlepoint water service extensions discussed at SCRD

After years of enduring arsenic tainted well water, lower Middlepoint residents could soon receive regular water service connections — as long as they're prepared to pay for it.

At a Nov. 5 committee meeting, Joan Merrick, SCRD general manager of corporate services, presented funding options for extending water service to 49 Middlepoint properties.

The project would extend the Chapman Creek water supply system northward from Secret Cove where the service currently ends.

A SCRD staff report indicates the extension would require 4.4 kilometres of piping and a \$100,000-gallon reservoir costing approximately \$2.4 million.

Because of the small number of property owners who would benefit, Merrick said costs totalling about \$49,000 each would have to be shouldered by the property owner.

"Whether that's affordable or not would be up to the landowners," said Merrick.

"We wouldn't do service extensions without the anticipation of full cost recovery."

Merrick indicated there may be

a possibility of receiving grant funding to help pay for some of the costs but it's not guaranteed and any grants received might take away from other planned water projects.

Merrick said they are looking for a uniform plan and all parcels must be included for the project to proceed.

Residents will be presented with three financing options:

1. Full payment in advance.
2. Create a new service and

finance for 20 years with debt costs recovered through a parcel tax.

3. Combined method of option one and two.

The SCRD plans to present the three options to residents in upcoming public information meetings.

Proud Supporters of Abbeyfield House Dinners for Donors Campaign: 140 bricks sold!



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SCRD board defers decision on how to proceed with landfill

Residents of Area A may soon be surveyed about not only whether they want to keep the Pender Harbour landfill but whether they are willing to pay for costs required to expand it.

Or they may not.

Dion Whyte, manager of sustainable services, presented a staff report at an SCRD Infrastructure Services committee meeting Nov. 5 with recommendations for the next step in formalizing a plan as the Pender Harbour landfill approaches final capacity.

At an earlier meeting, the board indicated they favour shipping Area A garbage south but residents are still divided about whether to close the landfill and maintain a transfer station or expand the landfill portion of the Pender Harbour waste facility.

Whyte's report indicated there is still a large amount of confusion surrounding the issue.

The report cited a letter in a local paper in support of landfill expansion by Howard White "suggesting the SCRD is interested in centralizing waste disposal in Sechelt as a means of exploiting the tax base in Area A, thereby demonstrating a lack of understanding of how landfill services are funded.

"On the other hand, certain proponents of the transfer station option argue that the Pender Harbour Landfill leaches into Garden Bay Lake, thereby creating a risk to one of the area's primary drinking water sources.

"To the best of our knowledge this is not the case, as evidenced by

watershed maps of the area that clearly show the Pender Harbour Landfill is outside the Garden Bay Lake catchment area."

Sunshine Coast landfills are funded as a regional service through pooled tipping fees from both sites.

Since the Pender Harbour landfill already operates at a deficit, some board members argue that their residents shouldn't have to pay expansion costs.

Whyte's report said discussions with legal counsel about whether an option exists for establishing the Pender Harbour landfill as a separate service funded exclusively by Area A indicated that,

"The most practical option would be to retain Pender Harbour

A ► Fold over so A meets B



A ►

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Solid Waste (351) within the overall Regional Solid Waste Function and create a separate “top up” function for any service provided or costs incurred over or above the base service.”

In a phone interview with the Harbour Spiel after the meeting, Whyte stressed the discussions are very preliminary but says a separate top-up function would probably appear in the form of a parcel tax or some other form of direct taxation.

He says it’s likely that financing for future capital upgrades at the Sechelt site would be recovered through surplus tipping fees.

In order to move forward with a decision with regards to the landfill, the staff report presented four options:

1. Public presentations.
2. A mediated public debate.
3. A second questionnaire.
4. Professional survey.

Staff recommended the fourth option indicating it would be more costly (estimated at \$6,000 to \$7,000) but would provide a defensible and quantitative measure of support for both options from a representative cross section.

Gibsons Mayor Barry Janyk reacted passionately.

“My town will not pay one nickel

towards any sort of referendum or professional survey when the obvious information is staring us straight in the face and we have a responsibility to all of our communities to maintain that responsibility,” said Janyk.

A moment later he added, “I would prefer the method of explaining to your child why he needs a flu shot.”

Other directors said they favoured a more collaborative approach.

Lee Turnbull, director of Area F, West Howe Sound said it’s important to find out what the community wants but the survey should be clear,

“If it’s going to be the landfill, then Pender pays.”

The committee passed a recommendation (Director Janyk opposed) that the board direct staff to proceed with holding public information meetings prior to launching a survey to gauge support for the landfill options.

At the Nov. 12 board meeting, Area A Director Eric Graham moved to defer the discussion to the corporate and administrative services committee meeting on Nov. 26.

Graham said it will give board members another chance to discuss new information.

In a Nov. 20 telephone interview, Graham explained why he wanted to

put off making a decision about the survey:

“Wendie Milner presented a pack of petitions in favour of the transfer station,” he said.

“Then I received a letter from the Sakinaw Lake Community Association and they are 100 per cent in favour of the transfer station.”

Graham said he later attended the annual general meeting of the Sakinaw Lake Community Association in North Vancouver on Nov. 17 where he witnessed majority support for closing the Pender Harbour landfill.

“To do a professional telephone survey in January or February, you’re not going to get the people that don’t live here year-round and they’re taxpayers and they have a right to be (included).”

Graham said cost is another factor in deferring the decision to Nov. 26.

“I’m just trying to gather enough information from the public in order to make a decision without necessarily spending a great deal of money on it,” said Graham.

“There used to be a tremendous amount of people against the transfer station but I think the tide is changing.”

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Egmont to receive \$100,000 community package

Egmont should soon receive a cash injection of \$100,000 to be applied to various community needs.

At a Nov. 12 meeting, the SCRD board approved the first disbursement of a community benefit package negotiated with Jervis Inlet Resort and Spa.

The amenities agreement is part of the rezoning application for their Dark Cove development in Jervis Inlet.

The money is to be distributed as follows:

- \$25,000 to the Egmont Community Club for the new foundation to the community hall;

- \$20,000 to the Skookumchuk Heritage Society for the museum parking lot repairs and the housing of displays;

- \$10,000 to the Egmont Harbour Authority to stabilize, upgrade and beautify the pier entrance;

- \$40,000 to the Egmont District District Volunteer Fire Department Society to purchase the required appa-

ratus to satisfy the Fire Underwriters Survey;

- \$5,000 to the Area A grant-in-aid for 2010, designated for the use of the Egmont Harbour Authority (if needed) or for an applicant in Area A.

The developer's proposal includes such amenities as a spa and wellness centre, restaurants, 125 fractional ownership suites and 30 log homes. Infrastructure costs, including sewer, water and Hydro, are estimated at \$12 million.

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT



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(604) 885-6800 (tel)

(604) 885-7909 (fax)

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Thursday, December 3, 2009

- 1:30 p.m. Infrastructure Services

Thursday, December 10, 2009

- 1:30 p.m. Planning and Development Services
- 7:30 p.m. Board

Thursday, December 17, 2009

- 10:00 a.m. Special Infrastructure Services (Watershed)
- 1:30 p.m. Community Services

DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Director Eric Graham 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) 883-9061 or by email, ericgraham@dccnet.com.

AREA A ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

The December meeting of the Egmont/Pender Harbour Advisory Planning Commission is cancelled. If required, a meeting may be scheduled early in January 2010.

OFFICE HOURS – CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS

The SCRD Administration offices will be closed from Friday, Dec. 25 to Monday, Jan. 4, 2010.

LANDFILL HOURS – CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS

The Pender Harbour and Sechelt landfills will be closing at 3:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, 2009 and New Years Eve, Dec. 31, 2009. Both landfills will be closed on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, Boxing Day, Dec. 26 and New Years Day Jan. 1, 2010.

SCRD SATELLITE OFFICE HOURS OF OPERATION REDUCED: Effective Nov. 30, 2009

The hours of operation of the SCRD Satellite Office located at 12828 Lagoon Road, Madeira Park have been reduced.

NEW HOURS: 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Monday - Friday

Real estate sellers FAQs



By Alan Stewart

Q: I'm thinking of selling my house. How long should I expect it to take to sell?

A: For those houses which sold in Pender Harbour this year, it took on average 154 days to find a buyer.

However, it's always a matter of the value offered and the number of buyers interested in what you have to sell.

One home that sold this month was on the market for 854 days.

Another which sold in May was only on the market two weeks before selling.

Q: When I list my house for sale on the MLS, how much should I expect to negotiate off the asking price?

A: Again, this depends completely on the value offered in your original asking price.

The homes which sold this year in the harbour fetched on average 94 per cent of their asking price at the time of sale.

However, many of those homes had to adjust their prices through the selling period.

The average selling price was only 84 per cent of the original asking price of the homes.

Q: I'm really not in a hurry to sell. Why shouldn't I price it high and wait for offers?

A: Those houses which have sold on the Sunshine Coast this year within 14 days of being listed on the MLS have fetched 97.5 per cent of their original asking price.

Homes that sold in or around 115 days (the Coastwide average) fetched 91.3 per cent of their asking price.

Based on an average selling price of \$440,000, that's a difference of \$28,000.

Those homes which sold after being on the market for a year or more only achieved 80 per cent of their original asking price.

Q: What can I do to effect a quick sale for top dollar?

A: Prepare for the sale by having your house inspected by qualified inspectors and address any issues that may arise.

Present the house in its best light, both inside and out.

Finally, have a written appraisal done after you've resolved any issues and prepared the house for sale.

Appraisers and realtors can be

influenced by "unknowns" such as structural concerns or prospective repair costs (roofs, septic systems, mould), so maximize the value of your home by removing all the variables.



Q: Where are Pender Harbour buyers coming from?

A: While I can't speak for all the buyers on the Sunshine Coast, I can tell you that in the Pender Harbour deals we've completed this year, a surprising 50 per cent of the buyers have been from the Sunshine Coast.

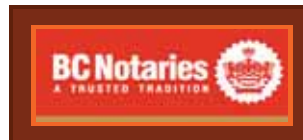
The rest, except for one international buyer, have been from the Greater Vancouver area.

Please send any suggestions for story lines to alan@sunshinecoasthomes.com.

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From stumps to dudes: 80 years of Malaspina Ranch



Kleindale's Malaspina Ranch as it looked in the 1930s.

Neil Laughlin photo collection

By Brian Lee

In 1930, staff at St. Mary's Hospital in Garden Bay were moving in furniture in advance of its opening that summer.

Portugese Joe Gonsalves was a spritely 73 years old and the land he would name Madeira and later donate to the community was still more swamp than park.

And at the head of the Harbour, a place now known as Malaspina Ranch was a log-booming ground.

A young couple named Heid had just purchased the land.

It probably wasn't considered the best piece of waterfront property available in Pender Harbour at the

time but it was likely cheap and had plenty of trees.

Louie Heid was a handlogger so the land probably suited him and his wife Pearl just fine.

Much of Pearl's family, the Laughlins, were settled nearby so they had plenty of help building their home on a cleared piece of land at the water's edge.

Louie and Pearl's nephew, Neil Laughlin, was born in Pender Harbour in 1932 and lived a short walk away.

Laughlin attended the one-room Kleindale school nearby and says that his family owned much of the land nearby.

"I had a huge family. My grandmother on my mother's side just lived

up the road farther and we lived in a house a little bit farther and I had aunts and another uncle that lived up there too."

Laughlin, who now lives in Surrey, recalls that his uncle's property wasn't much of a ranch back in the 1930s.

"The logging road went right up from his place," says Laughlin.

"He had a log dump right on his property and boomed logs out of it."

The Heids managed to clear the land of stumps, planted some fruit trees and built a nice house overlooking their booming grounds.

At first it could only be accessed by water but by 1936 a rough gravel road was pushed through to the hospi-



Neil Laughlin photo collection

Pearl Heid in front of the home she and husband Louie built at the head of Pender Harbour in the 1930s.

tal in Garden Bay.

The road was an extension of the first land connection (other than a telegraph trail built years earlier) between Pender Harbour and Sechelt.

It was largely constructed by relief camp workers, men thrown out of work by the Depression and stationed at Wood Bay and Silver Sands.

Earl Laughlin was Pearl's father and Neil Laughlin's grandfather.

He owned a home nearby and is buried in the small Kleindale cemetery on the other side of the road from the house.

A 1948 map of the area confirms at least two homes were still owned by the Laughlin family and another owned by a C. Heid.

The same map shows that, by this time, Malaspina Ranch and the home built by Louie and Pearl Heid were owned by George and Ivy Southwell.

George Southwell arrived in Canada from England around 1910.

He was already a renowned painter when he landed and was famous for a huge mural — three metres high and 80 metres long — portraying British industry, which he painted for the Brussels exhibition in 1908.

In 1932 Southwell was commissioned to paint eight murals to adorn the bare walls of the rotunda in the BC legislature in Victoria.

The four murals in the lower rotunda, painted directly on the walls, depict scenes in the province's colonial history and represent attributes deemed necessary for a successful province: Courage, Labour, Justice and Enterprise.

He later painted four more murals in the upper rotunda.

These were painted on canvas recognizing B.C.'s four core industries — agriculture, mining, lumbering and

fishing.

Southwell and his murals gained notoriety recently after the provincial government decided to look into complaints the murals were demeaning to BC aboriginals.

Native leaders have long taken offence at the portrayal of bare-breasted native women carrying lumber and fish in the building of Fort Victoria.

Another mural depicts a native man standing, some say subserviently, before Justice Matthew Baillie Begbie.

In 2001, an expert panel recommended that the murals be removed, as long as that removal would not damage the artwork.

In 2007 a parliamentary motion was passed to remove the four murals in the lower rotunda from the legislature.

That proved too expensive and

(continued next page)

Malaspina Ranch (cont.)

(continued from page 13)

might have damaged the murals so the provincial government opted to cover them up.

George Southwell was nearly 70 when he finished the murals but lived an active life for many years after, continuing to paint.

A painting he made of the Kleindale homestead sits in Robi Petraschuk's living room.

Her mother was a friend of the Southwells and had briefly visited the the home some years before.

She recalls the Southwells having a hard time fitting into the community of Pender Harbour.

George Southwell died in Pender Harbour in 1961 at the age of 90.

Later that same year, Robi's boss and husband Bill just happened to travelling up to Powell River on a boys' weekend.

Having heard about the homestead before, they stopped to take a look.

The house was a little rundown but they found it listed for sale.

"Bill loved it," Robi says. "George was gone by this time and I think Ivy had it listed for \$16,000."

The property had 30-plus acres and everything the Deep Cove couple with three kids needed to start a new life.

They bought it that year and moved in.

But their new dream was about to be shattered.

The year after they moved in, Robi and Bill had friends with kids visiting from Vancouver.

They left her sons Luke, Andy and Billy and their friend's kids with a babysitter, Dennis Dyer, to go to a party in Egmont.

Robi still remembers the evening clearly,

"We drove to the Roost (Pender Harbour Hotel) for a case of beer before driving past again on the way to Egmont."

Nothing was amiss.

When they arrived in Egmont a neighbour phoned and said their house was on fire and they should get back.

They arrived home to a parent's nightmare — the house was gone and all of the kids were missing.

They soon found them at a neighbour's house, all safe.

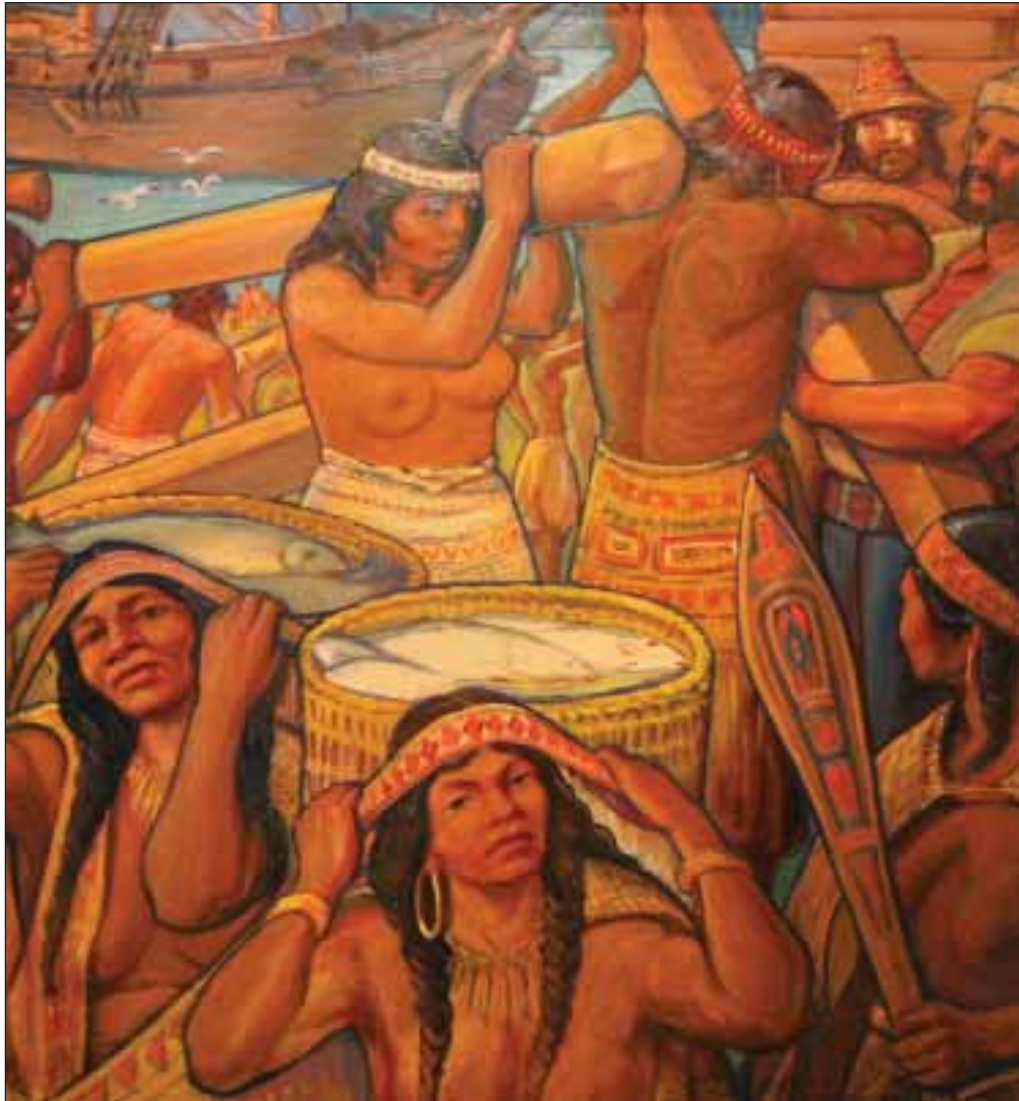
They were lucky but Robi says they almost lost her son Bill.

When the fire broke out, she says Bill became frightened and hid.

"Dennis got all the kids out and had to go back in to find him," she says.

"Eventually — luckily — he found him behind the curtains in the living room, scared."

They had just moved up from Deep Cove and with no house to live in, Robi decided that was enough and



CBC.ca photo

This Southwell mural painted on the wall of the lower rotunda in the BC Legislature building is titled 'Labour.' It depicts the bare-breasted building of Fort Victoria in 1843 and has been covered up because many feel it is demeaning to native people.



Malaspina Ranch today.

says she had no intention of staying.

But she was overwhelmed by people in the community they hadn't even met who came together to help them.

Not only did they raise money but also helped her and Bill build a temporary cabin while they rebuilt a permanent home.

It's why she decided to stay.

And it was a good thing too.

Robi has taught countless youngsters how to swim, first in the lakes and later at the Pender Harbour pool, a facility she was instrumental in getting built.

Besides aquatics, Robi's helped out with countless other fundraising events and performances over the years.

Bill passed away years ago but Robi still lives on the property and maintains an active ranch.

Robi's son Andy guides horse-back rides up the same trails Heid logged 80 years before.

Robi's daughter Mindy and husband Joe live across the road with their kids and are in the early stages of developing a vineyard they hope will one day enable them to produce local varieties of high quality wine.

Robi is in the midst of downsizing to a smaller home being built on the property by Joe but for now she lives in the house they built after the fire in 1962.

She's grateful she didn't act on her first impulse to leave and credits

the community for forcing a decision that changed her family's life.

"It's why I've always tried to do a lot for this community," she says.

"I can never repay them."

MYSTERY OF THEIR FAMILY NAME SOLVED

Locals may have long been confused by the dual surnames of the Peters/Petrashuk family. The Spiel asked Robi (Petrashuk) where this confusion stems from.

Prior to moving to Pender Harbour, Bill Petrashuk owned a number of TV stores in Vancouver. He and his brothers decided their name was difficult for people to spell and felt many did not trust the Ukrainian name so they decided to shorten it to Peters.

When the Petrashuks moved up to Pender Harbour, they were still in the process of legally changing their name to Peters.

Papers were lost when their house burned to the ground in 1962 and, afterwards, the name change became a low priority. Around the same time, Bill's grandfather came for a visit and impressed upon them that the name Petrashuk carried with it a lot of honour.

They decided to keep the name (the brothers didn't, they became Peters) but by this time kids were already enrolled in school under the new name.

So the kids — Luke, Andy, Billy and Mindy — became known as Peters and it's been a confusing and interesting part of their family history ever since.

Harrison questions anti-landfill group's motives

Dear Editor,

An e-mail petition is being circulated among residents who live near the Pender landfill and their friends.

I am disturbed by this appeal because it is so one-sided and fails to take the wider community interest into account.

The anti-landfill group have private reasons for wanting the landfill closed but can't admit them so they wrap themselves in environmental concerns.

The landfill does have some environmental impact, although hundreds of thousands have been spent to bring impacts in line with Ministry of Environment standards.

The trouble is, we are still at this point a waste-producing society and we have to do something with the garbage we produce.

Transferring it to Sechelt only transfers the problems to that site, which has its own environmental problems.

Also, closing the Pender landfill doesn't make it go away. Forty years of waste is already in the ground and whatever impacts it has will not be much changed whether we close it or not.

Each time the SCR D sets out to close the Pender landfill it seems to find a different reason.

Previously a big issue was groundwater contamination.

When the community refused to fall for that, the SCR D hired a firm called Microbial Technologies to do a hydrological analysis of the site and install a sophisticated leachate control system.

Since then runoff has been within government drinking water standards, as regular testing shows.

This has not stopped the anti-landfill group from claiming the landfill threatens our watershed, but the claim is without scientific basis.

The SCR D is playing a new environmental card this time around: gas.

All landfills (along with all bogs) produce greenhouse gases but the Ministry of Environment does not require gas controls on landfills as small as Pender's.

Nevertheless, the SCR D says the Pender's gas emissions must be stopped and the only way to do that is to close it.

Of course, this would mean our gassy garbage would only be diverted to Sechelt — but guess what?

The gas problem at the Sechelt landfill can be solved without closing it.

Of course, this is just the usual SCR D propaganda.

Just as there turned out to be a solution to Pender's leachate problem,

there is a solution to the gas problem that the SCR D could implement at Pender if they really cared.

But there is a worse gas problem at the long-closed Gibsons landfill that the SCR D doesn't appear to care about, so one has to ask if the Pender gas scare is not just the latest handy excuse to close the Pender landfill.

So what is the real reason the SCR D is so determined to close Pender's landfill, even after spending hundreds of thousands of our tax dollars to bring it up to ministry standards?

Cost is always mentioned, but SCR D efforts to prove it's cheaper to landfill Pender waste after trucking it 50 km than to landfill it right where it's made, remain unconvincing.

Anyway, cost should not be an issue.

Essential services such as education, health and waste management are higher in Area A due to its low density but we have every right to demand them from regional government because we pay more taxes to the SCR D than any area except Port Mellon with its pulp mill.

There is another reason the SCR D wants to conscript Area A's garbage at this time, and that is because they have very costly expansion plans for the Sechelt facility and they need Area A's taxes as well as its added waste volume, which is needed to make a proposed methane power project viable.

But this does not serve the interests of Area A or the environment.

By far the best course for us is to remain masters in our own house and concentrate our own zero-waste approach. We can do it.

Joe Harrison
Kleindale

Harbour Spiel

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Let Area A decide

Dear Editor,

Being a close neighbour of the Pender Harbour landfill, the issue to expand the dump or turn it into a transfer station has my attention.

I've heard both sides of the issue.

The side that wants to expand the dump has brought forth some interesting and lucid points.

One of which is SCRD's ulterior motive to garner Area A's tax dollars to improve the Sechelt dump.

An Area A resident has also pointed out the democracy deficit in giving SCRD say over Area A's landfill services.

The other areas use the Sechelt dump, and consequently, want to keep

it going strong (read: more money).

I don't begrudge them their want, but in this case having them decide what is good for Area A is a serious conflict of interest.

I'd be happy to see an Area A referendum to settle this once and for all.

The ridiculous comments about community discord, environmental innuendo, half-truths, and obfuscation on this matter is worse than a snake oil salesman.

The environmental issues of the dump are here to stay, whether we close it or not.

It will be producing leachate long after we are all gone.

Whatever direction we take with the dump, I'd like to see Area A

residents decide it, not folks down the Coast, looking for a cash infusion into their dump.

I'd also like to see an Area A director be self-interested in Area A when it comes to matters such as this... maybe I get my spine out of joint, but it seems to me that we need someone to lobby tooth and nail for us, especially when the issue has nothing to do with the other districts.

Note: I see folks have a penchant for tacking on their laundry list of professional credentials... it still only counts as one vote.

Mellissa MacMillan
Garden Bay

Aquatic centre may open in March

Dear Editor,

Thirty years ago, community members had the vision to build the Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre.

The facility became a focal point and has contributed to the well-being of the community as a whole during.

Five years ago, staff and the Pender Harbour Aquatic Society board put a sustainability plan into action.

The aging facility would need work and, over the last five years, much effort was put into bringing this plan into reality.

Summer 2009 saw the start of the facility's renovation project.

It's an extensive project, basically requiring a rebuild of the entire facility.

It was time and the vision 30 years ago remains the same today — to give the community a facility to be proud of as well as providing another 30 years of opportunity.

December 2009

Staff and the current PHAS board are very excited about the changes and understand the importance of this facility to the community.

We thank you for all of your support and for your patience.

At the time of writing, a confirmed opening date is not known but we are looking at March.

We will post a confirmed date on the website very soon.

A renovation project is not without issues and these issues have resulted in adjustments to timeline.

Waiting on permits, fire rating the facility, hiring/scheduling of sub-trades, budget, receiving of federal funds grant which gave the ability to broaden scope of the project, have all contributed to additional time needed to finish.

Some highlights of the renovation are:

- Improved energy efficiency with mechanical system upgrades
- Decreasing operating costs with

improved building performance

- Family change room for increased convenience and accessibility

- Improved pool deck for safer slopes and renewed pool space

- Improved change room floors and renewed spaces

- Improvements to fitness and weight room spaces

- Bringing light deep into the space

- Improved lobby spaces at entry, reception and change room

- New landscaping to enhance pool entry and swimming experience

- Creating an inviting focal point for the community

Again, thank you for your support and patience. It will be worth the wait.

Please follow the progress on our website www.scrd.ca.

Deb Cole
Aquatic Centre Manager

Local family needs help

Dear Editor,

Abbie is a little girl in Grade 5 at Madeira Park Elementary School.

She was recently diagnosed with leukemia.

The news came very suddenly to family and friends.

Many people in the community have been asking how they can help the family.

A trust account in Abbie's name has been opened at the Sunshine Coast Credit Union (acct. #362269).

The funds collected will be greatly appreciated by the family as they try to adjust to their new situation.

The family is unable to all stay together as Mom (Emma) and Abbie need to be in Vancouver to be close to the hospital for Abbie's treatments and testing.

The rest of the family remains on the Coast.

Abbie likely won't be able to come back home to stay on the Coast for several months as she fights this disease.

This is a challenge for the family as they have only been on the Coast for a year and recently started up a new business (A & E Furniture) and have four other children to look after.

They are a wonderful family who

could use your support.

Please pass this information along to anyone you think might be interested in giving a helping hand.

The family would also really appreciate it if people could donate to the blood bank as Abbie has had a few procedures delayed due to a supply shortage.

There is a real need that can save a life. (Vancouver is the nearest location.)

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Paola Stewart and Jill Bennett

Szabados inspired me to get into nursing

Dear Editor,

The Pender Harbour Health Centre is a small clinic but it houses some of the best nurses I have ever met.

Linda Szabados, a recently retired RN, unknowingly sparked my interest in nursing when I was 17 through her caring presence and unwavering positive attitude.

I have known Linda all my life, and we became much closer about five years ago.

She is, undoubtedly, one of the reasons I chose nursing as a profession.

I am currently a second-year student at Thompson River University and I haven't looked back since my acceptance letter.

I think of nursing as not only a profession but also a way of living.

It teaches you life skills and makes you appreciate family dynamics.

I believe that it has already entirely changed my outlook on life.

My professors talk frequently about lifelong inspiration towards our patients and their families.

I hope that some day I will be an inspiration to someone as Linda has been to me.

I am truly grateful for having met a nurse and a friend like her.

I will continue striving to be as compassionate as Linda has been for her patients and family and as devoted to the nursing profession.

Congratulations on your retirement and thank you for everything.

Katie Struthers

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Friendly advice 'from one artist to another'

Dear Editor:

Apparently there is trouble brewing over the swimming pool's wall mural.

Please let me try to give some friendly educated advice if I may:

I can see how a young artist having his or her work removed would feel after putting so much into it.

I have 20 odd years in fabricating exhibits for the tech industry, science centres, schools, hospitals, and museums and I, too, have witnessed some demolitions of my own hard work.

Some pieces costing thousands of dollars that took me weeks or even months to build were simply taken down, stored away or resold and shipped off in trucks never to be seen again.

I have even seen one smashed apart with sledge hammers as a way to quickly remove a piece because it would have just cost too much to save it.

Maybe it doesn't fit their education content anymore or sometimes it's a very small but different direction a facility wants to take, but as an artist your piece sometimes isn't a part of that new direction.

Anyone doing work for institutions like schools, science centres, museums and community centres etc. must remember that changes to the structure are sometimes needed.

Directors and management change, there are constantly new budgets coming in, new sponsors and donations.

All come with their own new visions and changes will sometimes be a part of that new vision.

Yep, I've have seen this first-hand many times and not just with my own work.

Many talented people I have worked with over the years in these industries have produced art for just such places and have gone through this same type of thing — they learn to accept it as one reality of their chosen careers.

Sure it's sometimes hard to take for the creator.

Now, when I hear of something that I have given my best to build is getting the axe, I barely flinch.

I know it's not personal, it's just business.

I know this is something they don't teach at Emily Carr and sure it's tough to hear, but the reasons for all of this remain the same in the end — they are making way for change and this change must go on.

Private client work is much more stable in this way and less disruptive to an artist's ego, I find.

Anyway, after working in this business for all these years my advice

to you from one artist to another is:

Respectfully turn away while letting the production and evolution of a building go on.

And never forget you were a part of its history and be sure to look forward toward the next piece you do.

Because the art is in you waiting to come out, and no one can ever "tear that down" on you.

Steve Willgoose
Madeira Park

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At the end of the course you will be eligible for your lifetime PCOC card, your Power Squadron Boating Certificate and your first year's membership in the Squadron. You will also be a safer, more informed boater! Many insurance companies offer premium discounts to those who pass our course.

COST: \$200 per person (includes course material)

LOCATION: Pender Harbour High School. (Places strictly limited)

REGISTRATION: David Pearson, Squadron Training Officer:

E-mail: djpearson@dccnet.com Phone: 604-883-9313



Push to preserve Pender pool mural still afloat

Dear Editor,

The Save the Pender Pool Mural association met with the P. H. Aquatic Society on Nov. 9 in an appeal to preserve the beautiful undersea mural that is slated for imminent removal.

The community wants to keep the mural.

Professional artist Ken Walters submitted a detailed preservation proposal.

This mural belongs to our community and they have spoken.

Eighty per cent of respondents to the Coast Reporter Question of the week voted to keep the mural.

We easily found 200 people to sign our petition.

Over 300 people have joined the Facebook page Save the Pender Harbour Mural.

Going into the meeting we understood that the wall was mouldy and that the mural would be replaced with white tile, as was published in the Harbour Spiel just 11 days previously.

To our surprise we were informed instead that the mural wall would be ground down to bare, plain concrete and left at that.

The chosen wall treatment (or lack of) may have a valid understandable explanation, which could be described as “best practices” by some.

However, in support of the community’s opinion, the mural could be retained with another “second best practice” for at least a trial period.

It was clear from the meeting that this mural does not and would not create a health or safety concern.

Aquatic centre manager Deb Cole reassured us that there is no mould in

the wall.

The mould rumour appeared soon after Ms. Cole gave a tour of the pool renovation to her staff.

The rumour quickly spread through Facebook and was also published in the Harbour Spiel.

PHAS Board chair Gil Yard has stated that they have decided to destroy the mural because they want this renovation to leave the pool as good-to-go for the next 30 years.

Sadly this PHAS Board and the Shape Architectural firm will actually be known as the group that robbed the community of Pender Harbour of a beloved and iconic mural.

Kathy Gray
Egmont

(Gray is the mother of artist Emily Gray, who worked on the mural. — Ed.)

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Pets and the elderly



By John Wade

Hi John,

My mother is 80 and recently her Lhasa Apso died.

She is heart-

broken and needs another dog. She wants a puppy but we don't think she can house-train a puppy at her age.

She also has a severe visual impairment and a puppy has a lot of energy and we think she might trip over it.

We've called all over to pet stores, breeders, ads in the paper, SPCA's etc. looking for a one to two-year-old lap dog such as a Shih Tzu, poodle, another Lhasa or a cross of these, to no avail.

Do you have any suggestions?

Thanks,
Wendy

Hi Wendy,

You might be getting some resistance simply because of your mom's age as they'll understandably be concerned what happens if the dog outlives her.

I don't see that as being a huge issue; you just need to be upfront about it.

Let them know you have a game plan.

There doesn't seem to be any shortage of research with results indicating that elderly people living with a pet benefit from doing so.

To name a few of the benefits, they are generally more physically active, make fewer trips to the doctor, have better heart health, prompting one doctor to say, "If this were a drug,



stock photo

it would be marketed tomorrow."

If you want an older dog in order to avoid the house training, your best bet is a breed-specific rescue.

In general, as rescues go, breed-specific rescues are generally better equipped for matching the right dog for the right person as the volunteers for breed-specific rescues generally have a ton of experience with the pros and cons of the breed they specialize in.

They know what sort of idiosyncrasies to look for when they're assessing a dog that comes into their care.

As many health benefits as having a pet around might bring, there are risks that are less well documented.

Predominantly, tripping over the dog or cat for that matter. This usually happens at the doorway, indoor or outdoor stairs and in the kitchen and has cost more than one elderly person their freedom.

No matter the age of the dog

owner, I'm very no-nonsense when it comes to where a dog is allowed to be in these areas and make it a primary training focus for any dog.

I really stress that in a kitchen a dog should be on its mat — no wandering.

Same thing at the door before and after walks.

Stay on a mat until they're told to move and on stairs, they're trained to wait at the top and bottom until given permission to move.

In other words, zero tolerance.

It's easy to teach and I've said for years that dog trainers should start ditching the old "geometric patterns around pylons" nonsense you find in so many class programs and teach these basics instead.

Here's a link that might help, www.petsfortheelderly.org/index.html

They're not breed-specific but it's their speciality and they may be able to put you on to some dogs as well.

— John

If you have questions for John, send e-mail to: johnwade@johnwade.ca or visit his website at www.johnwade.ca

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Canadian navy comes to Pender on Halloween



The Canadian Forces *Wolf* and *Grizzly* keep a wary eye on the Garden Bay Sailing Club's Saturday activity.

Two Canadian Forces Orca class Patrol Craft Training vessels *Wolf* (PCT 59) and *Grizzly* (PCT 60) visited Pender Harbour on Oct. 31.

The ships are stationed out of CFB Esquimalt and are part of a fleet of eight steel-hulled Orca class vessels built at Victoria Shipyards between 2006 and 2008.

The eight Orca class vessels cost \$90.7 million and are intended to replace the aging wooden-hulled YAG (Yard Auxiliary, General) 300 series

training boats built in the 1950s.

The YAGs lacked current technology in their design and contained outdated environmental systems.

The Orca class hull design shares the features of the Australian Pacific-class patrol boat, with minor modifications.

The primary use of the new Orca class is the training of naval officers and at-sea familiarization for Royal Canadian Sea Cadets.

RCSC is a national youth pro-

gram sponsored by the Canadian Forces and the civilian Navy League of Canada.

Highly manoeuvrable and capable of high speed, the Orca class may be incorporated into port security operations, exercises or assigned to support surveillance and other operations if required.

The ships are not only more technologically advanced than their predecessors, they are a lot more comfortable.

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Instructors and crew are housed in double cabins while students have the relative luxury of being berthed in cabins of four or six persons, with individual storage space provided.

The extra space allows students to comfortably complete assignments, conduct briefings and other operation-related work.

The new training vessels will allow the freeing of the Halifax frigates, and Kingston defence vessels from cadet training duties.

As a result, there should be less of a backlog created by the wait for a larger vessel to be freed up from regular duties for training.

Not having to employ large

vessels like the 240-crew Halifax for cadet training duties will be highly economical to the Canadian military.

After rafting together for about four hours, the ships pulled anchor and left the Harbour heading south.



'Whoops... this isn't Esquimalt.' After a few hours in Pender Harbour, the two Orca class navy vessels pulled anchor and left.

ORCA CLASS PCT SPECIFICATIONS

Dimensions:

33m (110 ft) long x 8.34m (27.4 ft) beam x 2.6 m (8.5 ft) draught

Displacement:

210 tonnes (full load)

Powerplant:

2 - Caterpillar 3516B diesels (5,000 hp total)

Range:

660 nautical miles (1,220 km) at 15 knots (28 km/h)

Max. Speed:

20 knots (37 km/h)

Armament:

None. Foredeck is strengthened to accept an optional 12.7 mm (.50-calibre) machine gun.

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Have yourself a greener kind of Christmas

By Mairi Welman,
Recycling Council of BC

The Christmas season can be the most wasteful time of the year.

Canadians spend an estimated \$4 billion giving gifts, decorating our homes and entertaining friends and family, all of which creates additional waste and adds additional stress to our recycling system.

Why not use less this year and celebrate Christmas with the good feeling that you saved yourself some cash while contributing to the protection of our environment?

Here are just a few ways you can easily reduce waste, save energy and money and help the environment:

'GREEN' CHRISTMAS TREES

- Decorate the outdoor tree nearest to your window rather than purchasing an indoor tree.
- Consider buying a potted tree that can be transplanted into your garden after Christmas.
- Buy a locally grown, pesticide-

free tree and, after the holidays, compost it or bring your tree to a charity tree-chipping event.

- Choose to decorate your favourite houseplants instead of buying a Christmas tree; you'll save time, money and the environment while still having a festive home.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

- Purchase handmade durable and reusable decorations from a local charity.
- Instead of spending money on decorations, create them yourself. String popcorn and dried cranberries to use as garland or collect feathers, pine cones or twigs to create your ornaments.
- Children will love creating decorations. Paper chains, paper snowflakes, images from old Christmas cards or dried flowers will work wonderfully. Just make sure that there is no danger of any materials catching fire on the tree.
- Edible decorations such as gingerbread cookies, candy canes,

dried apple rings and cinnamon sticks would make a very tempting Christmas tree. Just be sure to hang them high enough so the family dog can't be tempted.

BE ENERGY SMART THIS SEASON

- Purchase LED lights. They last seven times longer and use up to 80 per cent less electricity than standard incandescent seasonal lights. They are available for both indoor and outdoor use and you have several colours to choose from.
- By using a timer for your Christmas lights you can reduce your energy consumption by 30 to 50 per cent.
- Ideally, the outside lights should only be run for four to six hours in the evening and the inside lights maybe twice that. Unfortunately, seeing Christmas lights on all night and the next morning is not uncommon.
- Use rechargeable batteries rather than disposable batteries. They can be used many times and are collected by numerous retailers for recycling.

LIGHT SAFETY

- Hot bulbs can ignite dry branches. Avoid fire by keeping your natural tree well-watered and keeping extension cords and light sets away from the water.
- Light the tree only when you are at home and awake to enjoy it. Keep a fire extinguisher handy.
- Before you decorate, check light sets for frayed wires, damaged sockets or cracked insulation. If you find defects, replace the entire set.
- Remember to unplug tree lights before watering the tree.
- Carefully inspect your electrical decorations. Cracked or frayed sock-

Art. In yurts.

featuring

"Made-By-Hand"
celebrate the season with
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Nov. 10 through to Jan. 10

Visit Pender Harbour artist studios and galleries during **ArtWave** weekend:
December 11/12/13
Enjoy the "Venice of the North" talent and refreshments.

WORKSHOPS:
December 5: *Handpainted Paper*
with Jennifer Love

FibreWorks Studio & Gallery
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(604)883-2380 • www.gunboatbaylodge.com/fibreworks.html
We're open Wednesday to Sunday 11a.m. to 5 p.m. & by appt.



ets, loose or bare wires and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.

- Be careful not to nail or staple through light strings or electrical extension cords as this may damage the wire or insulation and could lead to a serious shock or a fire.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT IDEAS

- Donate the money you would spend on a gift to an appropriate charity, in your loved one's name. From nature preservation to social issues to research projects to children's charities, there is a vast kaleidoscope of worthy organizations out there who could really use your assistance.

- Use the skills you have to make a present. For example, give your own personal gift certificates for cooking, baby-sitting, gardening and housework, or frame a favourite photo you have taken.

- Choose gifts that do not require wrapping such as theatre, concert or movie tickets or gift certificates to a favourite spa, store or restaurant.

- Homemade gifts are always appreciated. If you are good at cooking, try baking cookies or muffins or making homemade jam or salsa. All these treats can be placed in reusable or recyclable containers. Your extra effort will be appreciated.

- Make personalized mixed CDs for friends and family choosing a unique mix of music for each person and using photos you have taken as cover designs.

- Be creative! Instead of buying plastic toys for your kids, make your own. Gloves and socks can easily be morphed into puppets and a big cardboard box can be cut and decorated as a puppet theatre. For the young gardener give a starter kit consisting

of a pot, soil and some seeds. You and your kids will enjoy watching your plants grow.

- Create your own Christmas cards and gift tags out of last year's wrapping paper and cards or try using other materials from around your home, such as beads, earrings, dried flowers or pictures from a magazine.

- Give a truly green gift — a compost bin, bicycle, transit pass, reusable lunch bag or water bottle, cloth napkins or a reusable picnic set.

- If you buy toys that require batteries, why not include rechargeables and a charger?

WRAPPING

- Make the wrapping part of the gift — use cloth gift bags, tea towels, bandanas, baskets, face cloths, pillow cases, towels, scarves, tins or bowls.

- Old shoeboxes, cardboard boxes or jars can be decorated with fabric, poster paint or magazine cut-outs and used to wrap gifts. Best of all, they can be reused again each year.

- Reuse wrapping paper, ribbons and bows from last year.

- Use the coloured comics section of the newspaper, colourful magazine sheets or wrap your present using pictures from old calendars.

- If you do purchase wrapping paper, avoid the types with metallic or foil embellishments or glitter as these materials interfere with the recycling process.



AFTER CHRISTMAS

- Save and reuse boxes, wrapping paper, decorations, ribbons and bows. Save cards to make gift tags next year.

- Remember to reuse, recycle and compost as much as possible.

What to do with your Christmas tree:

- Donate your live Christmas tree to a bird/wildlife sanctuary. Remember to remove all decorations, tinsel and lights.

- Cut the branches off your tree and put them into your composter or use them to cover your garden.

- Contact your local municipality or recycling organization after Boxing Day to find out when Christmas tree chipping events will be held in your area.

And once your kids have outgrown them, don't forget to donate reusable toys or clothes to charities.

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The Sunshine Coast Youth Soccer league games happen every Saturday on the field in Madeira Park. Seen here is Pender Harbour's under-9 (U-9) soccer team (orange jerseys) battling it out last month with some ruffians from Davis Bay.

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This pretty fish was one of hundreds of chum salmon that made their way up Anderson Creek to spawn in the past couple of months. Many say the volume of returning spawners was the largest in recent memory. At peak of the run, sections of the creek at John Daly Park contained 100 or more salmon vying for space.



Sonny Reid buys a copy of former SIB Chief Stan Dixon's book, *K'watamus Speaks*, at a signing at Bluewaters Books Nov. 14.



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- **Complete yard and garden services.** Roofs and gutters cleaned. Fences, decks built. Pressure washing, dump runs etc. References. Rick Jones (604) 740-9411
- **Garden Bay Laundry Service:** \$12 for first load (pickup and delivery) \$6 for each additional load. Call Carolyn: (604) 883-0650

HARBOUR SEALS



Free! APPROVALS or DISAPPROVALS!

Send to: editor@harbourspiel.com. Include your full name and a telephone number for confirmation.
Please keep them short.

A Harbour Seal of Approval to **David Goble** for winterizing the watering system in the garden of the Traffic Triangle. Thank you David.
Marlene Rees

A Harbour Seal of Approval to **Dennis Hirsch** for designing the MPES PAC website. His computer skills were invaluable.
Eric Stephan
MPES Parents Advisory Council

A Harbour Seal of Approval to **Bill Hunsche, his team and great friends**, who respond to assistance when a task seems beyond my expertise. You are wonderful.
Doris Wilkinson

A Harbour Seal of Approval to neighbour **Brian Lee**. Your prompt assistance replacing worn ropes brightened a dull and rainy day. Thank you.
Doris Wilkinson

A Seal of Disapproval to **whomever** took the lovely Christmas carriage which was on display in front of the bargain barn on Fri. Nov.13.
Sharon Halford
(on behalf of Bargain Barn staff)



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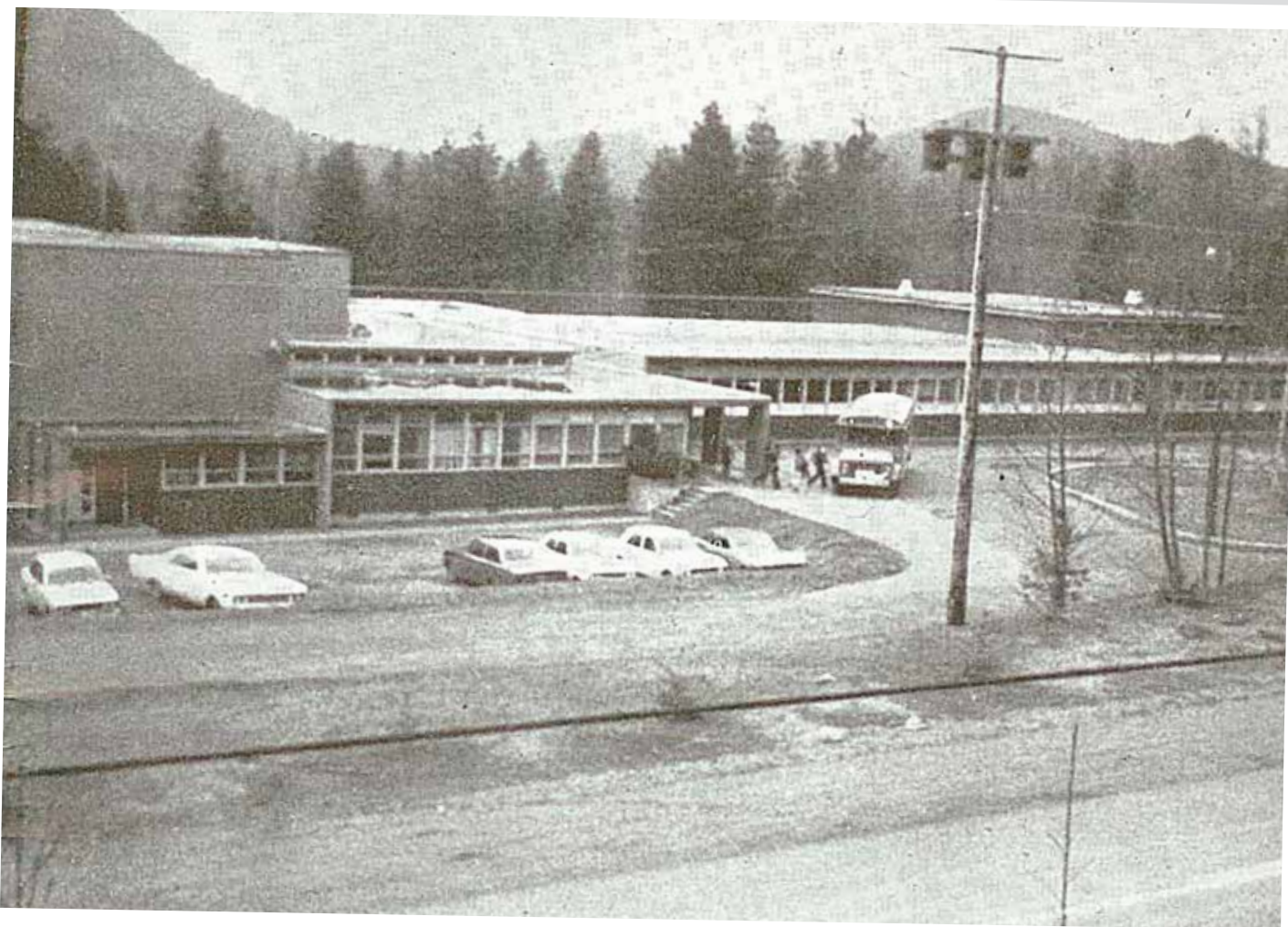
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1972 PHSS annual photo

The Pender Harbour Secondary School in 1972. The school was destroyed by fire in September of 1976 and the present school was rebuilt on the site soon after. The photo was plucked from the pages of a 1972 Pender Harbour High School annual.

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• Community Policing	883-2026
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• Gardening Club	883-0295
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• Piecemakers (quilters, 1st & 3rd Wed. 9:30 a.m.).....	883-9209
• Power & Sail Squad (2nd Wed. Legion).....	883-0444
• Red Balloon Parent & Tot drop-in.....	885-5881
• Reading Centre Society	883-2983
• Rotary Club (noon Fri. Garden Bay Pub)	883-1350
• Royal Cdn Legion 112.....	883-2235
• Skookumchuck Heritage Society.....	883-9994
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ORGANIZATIONS

MADEIRA PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

We would like to create a Victory Garden, (community garden) as well as a community kitchen in Madeira Park. We will use square foot gardening methods that make growing veggies easy, fun and accessible to everyone despite physical limitations or lack of gardening experience. All plots will be raised beds, some that allow for wheelchair gardening and will be perfect for those who can not bend, or need to be seated.

A Victory Garden will help address some key concerns facing our community. The increase in fuel costs and food prices combined with an economic downturn has made food security a real issue. Many residents can no longer afford good food.

In the event of a natural disaster or prolonged power outage, the food supply to our area will be disrupted completely. There is only a three day-supply of food on the coast

The increase in housing development is accompanied by a decrease in agricultural land — less food grown means rising costs.

The environmental impact of importing food, plus the decline in produce safety and quality makes growing your own herbs and vegetables a wise, eco-friendly choice.

If you are interested in renting a plot or learning more about this project, please contact Teri McLean by phone between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or by email: tarebare53@yahoo.ca.



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Power and Sail squad carry on Harbour carol ship tradition

To continue the 45-year tradition set by Wilma and Bill Thompson, the Pender Harbour Power and Sail Squadron will host a carol ship cruise around the Harbour on the evening of Friday, Dec 18.

The squadron invites all boat owners in the community to participate, whether squadron members or not — they need more boats.

All boats participating should be decorated with Christmas lights. The start will be at 7 p.m. off the Millennium Park dock in Madeira Park.

The lead boat will be the Coast Guard Auxiliary vessel *Iona C* and the cruise around the Harbour will take about one hour.

All participants and their guests are invited to join squadron members for a potluck (finger food only) after-party in the music school.

Beer, wine and soft drinks will be available at the cash bar with complimentary coffee and tea.

Please bring a dish of finger food to share.

Space will be available at the docks to accommodate the participating boats.

The Pender Harbour School of Music will be open from 6:30 p.m. for those wishing to view the start and finish of the cruise.

Please advise Charlie Park at 883-0453 or Ryan Campbell at 883-8251 if you wish to participate.



Mary Cain photo

Bill and Wilma Thompson and their tug the *Nanaimo Tillicum* have retired from leading carol ships around Pender Harbour. They started the festive tradition in 1964.

Get caught by the ArtWave and help our food bank

ArtWave is a group of artists from Pender Harbour who are getting together to raise awareness of their art and galleries and at the same time helping their local Food Bank.

The first ArtWave tour will take place in Pender Harbour Dec. 11-13 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

Just choose the right time and date for you and set out on an adventure. Each artist will open their studio and gallery so you can enjoy their visual delights — there will also be refreshments.

The artists are donating a percentage of their sales to the local food bank.

Did you know that our Pender Harbour Food Bank serves 25 to 30 families every two weeks?

Located at the Pender Harbour Community Church on Lagoon Road, December 2009

the food bank relies on non-perishable food items or money to provide ongoing hunger relief.

Visit one or visit all of the following ArtWave galleries, from Madeira Park to Garden Bay:

- The Harbour Gallery – a co-operative of local artists working in a broad range of media.
- Copper Sky Gallery & Cafe – a collection of art and fine craft by local BC artists.
- FibreWorks Gallery – fibre arts in yurts.
- The Piecefull Glass Canvas – limited edition sculptures, stained and mosaic glass.
- The Flying Anvil Studio & Gallery – forged, fabricated and funky things.
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THE DAYS

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Dec. 2 - Diane Lee, Ray Phillips, and Al Wood.

Dec. 3 - Paula Campbell, Mike Pickering, Joanne McQuaig and Ed Wray.

Dec. 4 - Noel Lebrun

Dec. 5 - Gaye Beardmore, Andrea Curtiss, Andy Curtiss and Logan McCormack.

Dec. 6 - Ryan McDonald and Bill Reid.

Dec. 7 - Dianne Rousseau, Dan Gifford and Jennifer Reid.

Dec. 8 - Keenan Clerx

Dec. 9 - Michelle Beardmore and Robert Purdy.

Dec. 10 - Trevor Jones and Cathy Thompson.

Dec. 11 - Bill Griffith, Pete Belair, Patti Reid and Al Wendland.

Dec. 12 - Malcolm Duncan and Pat Martin.

Dec. 13 - Cody Edwardson-Zayshley

Dec. 15 - Kay Langsford.

Dec. 16 - Cassandra Whelan.

Dec. 17 - Ian Campbell and Joi

Phillips.

Dec. 18 - Niki Verzuh

Dec. 19 - Tony Adamson, Tyson Carswell, Helen Garrett and Jamie Bouvette.

Dec. 20 - Lil Beharrell, Nicole Fletcher, Cole Hawker and Tyler Silvey.

Dec. 21 - Harvey Langton, Robert Wilkinson and Josh Young.

Dec. 22 - Dani Thompson. Steven Fouts, Rob Nieuwenhuis, Gwyneth Bryant and Christine West.

Dec. 23 - Kate Thompson.

Dec. 24 - Tatiana Phillips-Campbell, Chris Phillips and Clifford Silvey Jr.

Dec. 25 - Peter Schmidt.

Dec. 26 - Peter Fritz.

Dec. 28 - Steve Boyd and Jeff

Girard.

Dec. 29 - Diane Gamble and Jesse Hawker.

Dec. 30 - Dean Bosch, Bryan Edwardson, Andy Ross and Jean Minch.

Dec. 31 - John Brimacombe, Fara Priest and Scott Bruce.

DECEMBER WEATHER

MERRY ISLAND

Our average daily high temperature in December is 6.5 C and our average daily low is 3.2 C, giving us a mean daily temperature of 4.9 C. The highest December temperature recorded is 13.3 C (Dec. 14, 1962) and the lowest was -11.7 C (Dec. 28, 1968).

December has an average of 54.9 hours of bright sunshine. It usually has 19 days with measurable precipitation, an average monthly rainfall of 140.1 mm and an average monthly snowfall of 10.6 cm. Our average month-end snowfall is 4 cm. December has the highest snowfall of the year (November has the most rain). The highest December daily rainfall recorded at Merry Island was 66 mm (Dec. 25, 1972). The record daily snowfall was 40.6 cm (Dec. 31, 1968).

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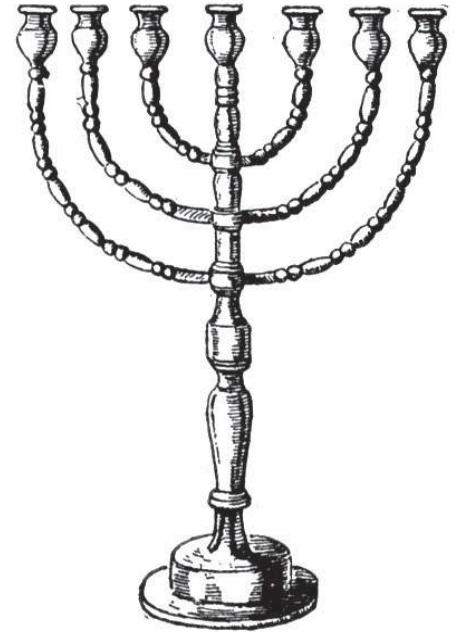
OF DECEMBER

HANUKKAH BEGINS DEC. 12

Hanukkah (also spelled Chanukah), also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BC. Hanukkah is observed for eight nights, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, and may occur from late November to late December on the Gregorian calendar.

The festival is observed by the kindling of the lights of a special candelabrum, the nine-branched Menorah or Hanukiah, one light on each night of the holiday, progressing to eight on the final night. An extra light called a shamash (Hebrew for “guard” or “servant”) is also lit each night for the purpose of lighting the others and is given a distinct location, usually above or below the rest.

Hanukkah marks the rededication of the Temple after its desecration by the forces of Antiochus IV and commemorates the “miracle of the container of oil.” According to the Talmud, at the rededication following the victory of the Maccabees over the Seleucid Empire, there was only enough consecrated olive oil to fuel the eternal flame in the Temple for one day. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days, which was the length of time it took to press, prepare and consecrate fresh olive oil.



~ wikipedia.com

DECEMBER ASTROLOGY

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 21)

Sagittarians love excitement and adventure. They are easily bored but often trend-setters. They are bold and impulsive, natural explorers who thrive on change and mental stimulation. Sagittarians are usually the naked ones in the hot tub.

CAPRICORN: DEC. 22 - JAN. 20

Capricorns often experience hardship early in life, but their resourcefulness makes them survivors. Often hard to get to know, they are loyal, responsible, and down-to-earth but beware the baggage from those early life hardships...



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Pender Harbour Volunteer Fire Department

*wants to thank everyone who supported us by buying
raffle tickets or donating to our fireworks fund.*

Pender Harbour's Volunteer Firefighters want to thank everyone who supported us by buying raffle tickets or making donations to our fireworks fund.

With your help, we were once again able to put on a spectacular Hallowe'en night fireworks display in perfect weather, but we couldn't have done it without you!

In particular, we want to recognize the great generosity of the following local businesses for donating fabulous prizes (names of prize-winners in brackets).

Please support them and let them know how much you appreciate their kindness:

MADEIRA MARINA - 2.5 HP OUTBOARD MOTOR (BYRON GILLARD, GIBSONS)

SUNSHINE COAST CREDIT UNION - GIFT CERTIFICATES VALUE \$400 (PAT SMALL, PENDER HARBOUR)

SUNSHINECOASTHOMES.COM/REMAX - DIGITAL CAMERA (JOHN TJENSVOLD, HALFMOON BAY)
(DONATED BACK TO THE FIRE DEPT. FOR USE AT INCIDENTS — THANKS, JOHN!)

RONA - 3/8" DRILL AND \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE ("RICHARD", PENDER HARBOUR)

OAK TREE MARKET - MEAT PACKAGE VALUE \$200 (BOB PATON, VANCOUVER)

JOHN HENRY'S MARINA - \$200 VALUE BOAT GAS (BRIAN BANNEN, NEW WESTMINSTER)

PENDER HARBOUR DIESEL - \$200 VALUE GIFT CARD (WAYNE HOWE, PENDER HARBOUR)

MARKETPLACE IGA - \$200 VALUE GIFT CERTIFICATE (DON MCLEOD, PENDER HARBOUR)

MARINA PHARMACY LTD. - HIS AND HER WATCHES (BETTY SLADEY, PENDER HARBOUR)

PRUDENTIAL SUSSEX REALTY - \$100 VALUE GAS CARD (ALLEN SCOULAR, PENDER HARBOUR)

A special mention to Stu and Dorothy Eggleton, Norbill Investments and Sunshine Coast Credit Union for their MEGA donations!

Welcome sustenance, in the form of hot drinks and wieners, was kindly donated by Troy and Lorie Callewaert (MarketPlace IGA), David and Louise Twentyman (Twentyman's Coffee), McGavin's (buns), and Grimms (wieners). The warming bonfire was fuelled by pallets from Rona and Steve Boyd provided the sand on which it sat.

Bob Fielding (Garden Bay Marine Services) kindly lent us his boat and a float on which we mounted the water-borne display and our Unit 61 Coast Guard Auxiliary members patrolled the harbour to cover any unforeseen circumstances — thanks to one and all.

The support and enthusiasm the community at large has once again shown for this event is greatly appreciated by your firefighters, and motivates them to do it all again next year!

Mysterious characters vie for cash at Halloween Bash



photo submitted

The fabulously attired and hopelessly inebriated wait to learn which one of them would take home the cash prize for best costume.



photo submitted

It's still unknown who the Edward Scissorhands lookalike was at the Pender Harbour Blues Society Halloween Bash but they handed him \$500 for having the best costume.

The Pender Harbour Community Hall continued its comeback in reputation for hosting some of the hottest parties in town.

Thanks to a quality band like Tim Hearsey and the Pender Harbour R&B Allstars, over 110 costumed characters jammed in on Halloween night to dance and compete for the \$500 prize for best costume.

The event was organized by the Pender Harbour Blues Society to raise funds for next years blues festival and they hope to make it an annual affair with a date for next year already announced — Oct. 30, 2010.

In the end it was a mystery man dressed as Edward Scissorhands who took home \$500 for best costume.

Nobody thought to ask his name. A saucy Donald Duck and dapper Don Cherry rounded out second and third place.

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~ From all of us at Sunshine Coast Dental



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LOAN CUPBOARD: Crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, commodes, raised toilet seats, respiratory nebulizers etc.

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

What is asthma and how can you minimize its effects?

*Compiled by
P. H. Health Centre nursing staff*

Asthma is a common chronic lung condition that affects about 11 per cent of children and 18 per cent of adults in Canada.

It is due to an inflammation (redness and swelling) of the airways of the lungs.

The airways become extra sensitive and are easily narrowed by certain factors called triggers.

This makes it difficult for air to enter and leave the lungs.

As a result, the symptoms of asthma may occur including shortness of breath, chest tightness, wheezing coughing and sputum production.

ASTHMA TRIGGERS

There are two groups of asthmatic triggers.

The first cause inflammation in the airways or make existing inflammation worse.

They include allergens, tobacco smoke, viral respiratory infection, occupational substances, air pollutants and certain medications.

The second group of triggers do not cause inflammation of the airways but produce symptoms in the person who already has inflammation.

They include exercise, irritants, certain weather conditions, food additives, and medications and emotions.

CONTROL OF ASTHMA

The key to achieving control of your asthma or best results is prevention.

1. Identify the triggers that bring on your symptoms.

2. Avoid all contact with your triggers if possible with the exception of exercise.

3. Reduce your contact with a

trigger when total avoidance is not possible. This means making your home and environment as free of the trigger as is practical.

4. Take your medication as prescribed by your doctor.

ALLERGENS

Allergens are substances that cause an excessive reaction of the body which is known as allergy.

House dust mite allergen is the most common trigger of asthma.

Other important allergens are animal dander, mould and pollen.

Although some foods may be allergens, they are an uncommon trigger of asthma.

Because most people spend more than 90 per cent of their time indoors, indoor allergens are more important than outside allergens.

To find out whether allergens are causing your asthma symptoms ask your doctor about allergy testing.

DUST MITES

In the bedroom, put your pillows, mattress and box spring in dust-proof covers made especially for people with an allergy to house dust mites.

Synthetic pillows build up more dust mite allergen than feather pillows.

If covers are not used synthetic pillows should be washed in hot water (55 to 60 degrees C) at least every month.

Some people may prefer to buy cheap pillows and replace them often.

Keep soft stuffed or fluffy toys out of the bedroom.

Placing small toys in a freezer overnight can kill mites, but does not affect the mite allergen.

The toys will need to be washed to remove the allergen. Remove car-



pets and replace with hard flooring.

Hard floors should be wet mopped at least weekly.

Dust the bedroom thoroughly once a week using a damp cloth.

Bunk beds are discouraged. The bottom bunk may have more allergen build up.

If there is a dresser clean out the drawers regularly with a damp cloth.

Keep all clothes in the closet with doors shut. Store in drawers or the closet only laundered clothes that are worn regularly. Mites can grow in clothing.

Use curtains shades or blinds that can be washed or cleaned regularly. Do not use heavy drapes.

Use electric heat if practical. Hot air furnaces circulate dust.

Keep pets out of the bedroom at all times.

TOBACCO SMOKE

Next to allergens tobacco smoke is the most important trigger of asthma. It contains a large number of gases, vapour and particles which, when breathed in, trigger asthma.

Environmental tobacco smoke also known as passive smoke or second-hand smoke increase a child's risk of developing asthma.

For more information on asthma check out the Canadian Lung Association website.

Golf club busy as ever while season winds down



By Jan Watson

The grassy area next to the clubhouse at the golf course has become a popular landing spot for

helicopters.

On Oct. 24 two landed side by side to pick up a party from Painted Boat going on an excursion.

AGM RESULTS

The golf club held its annual general meeting on Oct. 17 and following are changes to the board of directors:

Jan Watson - president, Ian Grant - past resident, George Grout - greens chairman, Grant Hallborg - house chairman and Bruce Forbes - director of finance.



Breakfast with Santa

Sunday, Dec. 20
9 a.m.

Ages 10 & under: \$5.00

Ages 11 & up: \$9.95

Reservations recommended.



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photo submitted

The frequency of helicopter landings has designated the spot off the front deck as Pender Harbour Golf Club's official heli-pad.

Newly elected to the Board:

Carol Newman - secretary/membership, Wayne Babcock - publicity, Darren Reid - pro shop director, Ian Archer - men's captain and Kathy Bergman - ladies captain.

AWARDS NIGHT

The Awards Night Banquet held on Oct. 17 was once again a joint event between the men and the ladies.

A lovely prime rib and chicken dinner was followed by the presentations.

Captain Ian Archer presented the trophies to the various men's champions.

Men's champion was Lorne Campbell.

Senior men's and super senior men's champion was Rusty Ellis.

Match play champion was Merv Oleksyn.

The Menzies two man team trophy was presented to Bill Jack and John Maveety.

Ladies captain Jackie Grant announced the ladies champion Connie McGill and the low net champion Mary Carlsen who both unfortunately

were unable to attend.

Apart from getting my name on the big plaque, I was thrilled to receive a special trophy for my hole-in-one made by Eldy Gandy.

HUSBAND & WIFE TOURNAMENT

The Husband & Wife / Odd Couple Tournament was well attended on Oct. 24, which turned out to be a beautiful warm and sunny day.

The winners were Merv and Roberta Oleksyn for the second year in a row with a combined net score of 146.

The Odd Couple winners were Mickey McMillan & Wendy Haddock.

FROM THE 19TH HOLE...

It's amazing how a golfer who never helps out around the house will replace his divots, repair his ball marks, and rake his sand traps.



STAFF SCRAMBLE & DINNER

A fun nine-hole scramble was held on Oct. 20 with six teams made up of greens, pro shop and restaurant staff plus directors.

It was the first time playing golf for some of the girls.

The winning team was George, Dominic and Doug and everyone had a good time followed by a nice dinner.

Who really is Santa Claus?



By Cheyenne
Lightbourn

*He was dressed all in
fur, from his head to his
foot,
And his clothes were
all tarnished with ashes
and soot.
A bundle of Toys he had
flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler, just opening
his pack."*

Growing up, not a Christmas Eve would pass without the reading of Clement C. Moore's poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas."

My sister and I would snuggle into our beds before the eternity leading up to Christmas morning and listen intently while Dad would read the poem aloud, painting us beautiful a picture of dear old Saint Nick and his eight magical reindeer.

Moore's poem has been around for generations and has defined Santa Claus for most of us today.

But the idea of the old, jolly, bearded — and well nourished — gift giver has been around for much longer.

We all have some kind of memory of Santa and a general idea about who he is.

But before Moore's version, there were many different myths and legends rooting our beliefs today.

In the old days, when winter was a dark and hard for most, Saint Nicholas was said to give out gifts to the poor around the time of Christmas or Winter Solstice.

Before the name "Santa" emerged in Europe, a similar figure was said to have left treats like candy and toys for children.

He took the form of Odin, an ancient Germanic god who would lead hunting trips through the sky riding an eight-legged horse called Sleipnir.

The horse was said to be able to leap to great heights and many believe that the Sleipnir was the origin of the magical eight reindeer we now associate with Santa's annual flight around the world.

Children would place their boots near the chimney, filled with sugar, straw or carrots for Sleipnir to eat on the night of Christmas.

The children would be rewarded by Odin filling their boots with small gifts or candy.

In Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands, this tradition survived the onset of Christianity but became associated with Saint Nicholas as result of Christianization.

The practice is still seen today in the modern tradition of hanging stockings by the fireplace for Saint Nick to fill with gifts though many have forgotten the practice's origin.

The tradition came to the United States via a Dutch colony and has since spread all over the world.

The leaving of cookies for Santa, and sometimes even carrots for the reindeer, is also said to come from the stories of Odin and his horse.

Not only did the Dutch bring the tradition of leaving out boots or stockings to be filled with treats, they also brought the name "Sinterklaas" along with them.

Sinterklaas morphed into Santa Claus around the time when it became associated with the British "Father Christmas" and Germanic Odin.

There are many different legends, and beliefs about how Santa Claus, Saint Nicholas, Kris Kringle or Father Christmas came to be.

Through every facet of his many characters, his cheerful and generous spirit has coloured countless childhood memories of Christmas and holds a special and nostalgic place in many of our hearts.

Have a joyful Christmas, Hannukah or Kwanzaa — however you are celebrating it.

And, whatever you believe in, remember to be good and kind or you might end up with a lump of coal in your boot.

Happy holidays.



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Good service is a ferry tale



By Shane McCune

Christmas is coming, and that means a lot of family gatherings.

And in these parts, that means a lot of ferry travel.

Which raises, yet again, my main complaint about BC Ferries: Why does the Coast and mid-Island fleet go dark in the middle of the day?

When I lived in Vancouver, I learned soon enough that a holiday visit to my brother in Powell River meant catching the first sailing from Horseshoe Bay if I wanted to be sure of reaching Black Point by dark. In theory the next one at 9:20 a.m. should leave me well over 90 minutes to get from Langdale to Earls Cove for the 12:20 p.m. crossing of Jervis Inlet.

But a late departure from Horseshoe Bay, a little snow on Highway 101, a handful of campers or those old guys in K cars, and you pull into Earls Cove just as the ferry is pulling out . . . and there you sit until 4:25 p.m., wishing someone would open Tom & Sherry's.

Once I moved to Pender Harbour, the trip to Powell River was easy



"The origin/destination pair of 'Comox to the Sunshine Coast' is not a primary demand segment," says BC Ferries Communication Officer Deborah Marshall.

enough. But now I live in Comox, so my monthly trip to Madeira means sailing from Little River at either 6:30 a.m. (not bloody likely) or 10:10 a.m. The latter puts me in Powell River at about 11:30 . . . which is 10 minutes after the last morning ferry from Salt-ery Bay. The next one is at 3:20 p.m.

It's the same thing going the other way. The 10:25 from Earls Cove might get you on the noon ferry from Powell River to Comox — if you're the first off the boat and drive like one of those yoots in bait-car videos. Otherwise you wait five — FIVE — hours for the next sailing.

Oh, and if you're aiming for that 5 p.m. boat from Powell River, best to catch the 12:20 from Earls Cove and grab a bite or a nap for three hours at the Westview terminal. Because that 4:25 from Earls Cove will strand you in PR until the last sailing at 8:45.

What gives?

I put that question to Deborah Marshall, BC Ferries' redoubtable communications officer. She's held that post for years, and after jousting with reporters during the PacifiCats kerfuffle, the Queen of Oak Bay's

hard landing in Horseshoe Bay and the sinking of the Queen of the North, she wasn't fazed by a mere scheduling beef from the boonies.

Turns out those holes in the timetable are there to make life easier.

The five-hour naval siesta in the Comox-Powell River run is there "to better facilitate day trips" by Powell Riverites heading to the Island.

"The gap between the a.m. and p.m. gives them more time for their day trip which may include medical appointments or shopping etc. before they have to return home," she wrote in an email.

I guess that makes sense. But what about my difficulty getting from Comox to Pender Harbour without wearing out my twiddle fingers in a parking lot?

"The origin/destination pair of 'Comox to the Sunshine Coast' is not a primary demand segment," Marshall wrote with admirable candour.

Rejigging sailings from Westview would also interfere with the Texada Island clientele, "which includes user groups such as students and commuters who are a much larger

Pet Portraits



and more dependent segment of traffic than Comox to/from Sunshine Coast."

OK, OK, you've made your point: We Comoxen are nothin' and nobody. Commuters should take precedence — more about that in a moment.

"Powell River also sees an advantage to the lack of connectivity from Route 7 [Earls Cove-Salter Bay] to the 12:00 sailing from Powell River to Comox because it allows for a tourism element while waiting for the ferry," Marshall wrote.

"There had been some concern with customers 'racing' for the Route 17 sailing which was a safety concern, so we now advertise that it does not connect."

Well, that solves that. Now what about the Route 7 schedule that can leave morning travellers from Vancouver bound for Powell River stranded at Earls Cove between the 12:20 and 4:25 sailings?

"(S)ome consider this an opportunity to stop in Sechelt or other Sunshine Coast communities on the way."

Now I felt ashamed. Here I was thinking only of my own selfish desire to get from A to B as directly as possible, without any regard for the commercial boost Madeira Park gets from waylaid travellers.

But let's get back to the matter of giving commuters priority. That's not how it looks to Barry Janyk, mayor of Gibsons, where many residents commute daily to Vancouver.

"You would think that BC Ferries would recognize . . . that they should probably pander to the biggest user group, which is the commuter," he said. "But instead they denigrate them."

He says the tourist-oriented summer schedule makes no sense, and the

ships can't keep to it.

"So even though they have a 5:45 p.m. sailing, that ferry is consistently half an hour late, so people that are trying to do family things in the summertime can't get together with their families, and it just rips the guts out of the community."

How does the ferry corporation respond to this complaint?

"They shrug. They say, 'Well, we're working on the schedule for next year,'" Janyk said. "They told us that two years ago."

IS IT THE FLU?

Surely everyone knows by now that this flu season is causing a lot of concern in the medical community.

The H1N1 virus is responsible for a great many more hospitalizations due to respiratory complication than previous recent influenza strains.

For this reason your dental care providers are taking precautions beyond our usual strict guidelines for cleaning and sterilization.

Starting with the front desk staff, when booking or confirming your appointment you will be asked if you currently have any flu symptoms, such as fever, muscle aches, headache, sore throat and forceful cough.

Also you will be asked if you have been in contact with anyone who has the flu.

Patients or their caregivers (parent and siblings) who have symptoms will have their appointments rescheduled.

As a further precaution, when entering the dental office staff will ask that patients use a hand sanitizer that is provided.

Infected patients will be seen if they need emergency treatment, such as a dental abscess or a broken tooth.

WorkSafe BC requires dental team members who provide care for H1N1

infected dental patients to minimize exposure to staff and other patients by restricting the time and location of the treatment and to institute appropriate infection control procedures.

WorkSafe BC also requires dental staff to wear a fit-tested N95 respirator mask, as well as eye protection, gloves and gowns.

The Public Health Agency of Canada states that an adult infected with the virus remains infectious for seven days from onset of symptoms and up to 10 days for children.

The incubation period is most likely one to four days prior to any symptoms, so a patient may be infected and posing a risk to others before they become symptomatic.

For this reason the dental office will continue to screen patients by phone prior to their appointments to try to reduce the number of infections in our community.

Most H1N1 infections will be mild. However, our goal is to reduce the risk for all our patients and staff during this flu season.

Please feel free to call our office if you have any questions or concerns related to this serious flu virus.

SUNSHINE COAST DENTAL GROUP
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Theresa Kishkan explores *The Age of Water Lilies*

By Kimberly Bruce

Writer and book reviewer Theresa Kishkan's ninth book, *The Age of Water Lilies* (Brindle & Glass, 2009) enchants with layering of BC history, feminine emotion and botanical eloquence.

Effortlessly creating atmospheric prose that draws on natural imagery, she creates an epic feel that encompasses BC history from the turn of the 20th century into the 1960s.

Describing the landscape of BC's Interior as well as detailing the natural areas of Victoria's shoreline, Kishkan uses specific plants, places and surroundings to show the continuity of shared personal histories.

To find a new way of living, Flora Oakden leaves her aristocratic home in England in 1912 and follows her brother to Wallhachin in BC's Interior.

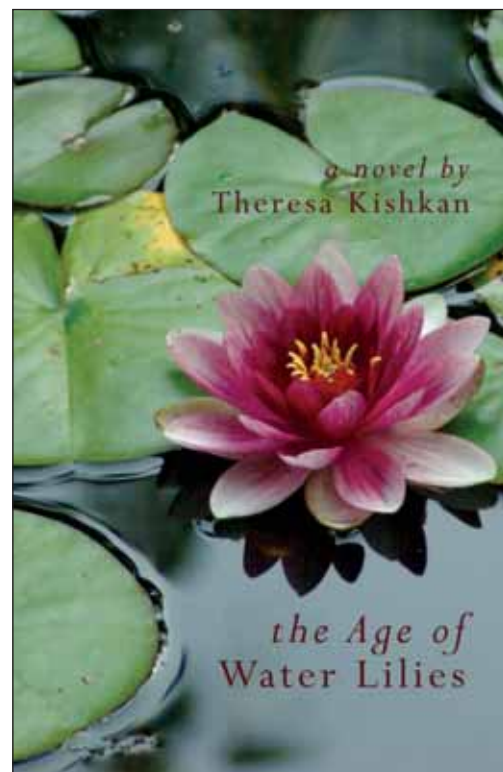
Flora falls in love with the rugged landscape and the determined survivors who inhabit it.

When her lover, a local ranch hand with a mysterious past, and her brother leave to serve in the First World War, Flora finds herself unmarried, pregnant and alone, left to struggle against social stigmas.

Flora moves to Victoria's Fairfield area where she finds the support of a strong, forward-thinking woman, Ann Ogilvie.

Together they create a home for Flora's daughter, refusing to compromise their beliefs for social propriety.

Fifty years later Flora meets Tessa, a nine-year-old who shares the



same love of exploring her surroundings and observing natural mysteries.

Tessa draws a map of her world in Fairfield and learns the hidden histories of Ross Bay Cemetery.

Memories of Flora's past haunt Tessa's discoveries as their friendship draws them together.

The Age of Water Lilies is every bit a woman's history and Kishkan purposefully evokes the suffering and loss felt by the women left behind in

The Bargain Barn Thrift Store
Madelra Park
is aglow with Christmas

After December 1, all Christmas stock 50% off
Wednesday Friday & Saturday 10:30 - 3:30

We will be closing for the season after business on Saturday Dec. 19, reopening Wednesday Jan. 13, 2010

Thank you for making 2009 another fantastic year - see you in 2010

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the World Wars.

Throughout history, women's perspectives have been lost but in this novel the change that occurred in this past century, with women being able to vote and voice their opinions publicly, is celebrated.

This is highlighted when Flora and Ann stage a play, "The Trojan Women," with other local women to express the timelessness of what is lost for women through war.

But it's the botanical imagery throughout this novel that creates a sense of continuity.

The plants create a sense of nostalgia for place.

Flora's water lilies remind her of a brother lost in battle and a family left physically and emotionally in the past.

The constant images of familiar flowers that have been brought with those who colonized are important for Flora's connections to the homes that she's lived in and have a soothing, dreamlike effect,

"Shooting stars and bleeding hearts grew in clumps as lovely as any garden, and she was surprised to find both pink and creamy late erythroniums still blooming as well.

"And nodding onion, long-spurred violets, a tall blue flower which Ann told her was camas, and the sweet-scented Nootka rose."

The name of each flower is precise, always bringing its image to the forefront of any scene.

And with each repetition of a flower Flora's history is recalled.

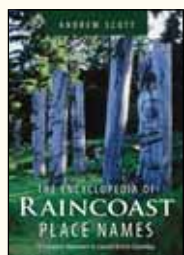
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1. ***The Expanded Reilly Method*** by Mike McCardell.
2. ***Whitewater Cooks at Home*** by Shelley Adams
3. ***Trauma Farm*** by Brian Brett
4. ***A Life in the News*** by Tony Parsons
5. ***Had a Glass 2010*** by James Nevison & Kenji Hodgson
6. ***The Best of Chef at Home by Chef*** Michael Smith
7. ***Mountain Timber*** by Richard Mackie
8. ***One More Time*** by Dal Richards & Jim Taylor
9. ***Birds of Interior BC and the Rockies*** by Richard Cannings
10. ***Everyday Indian*** by Bal Arneson

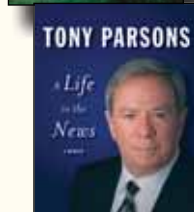
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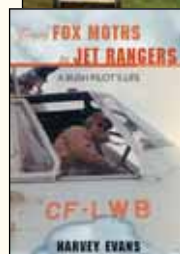


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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

DECEMBER

- Fri. Nov. 27.....Suncoast Singers and P. H. Choir performance - P. H. Community Hall, 7 p.m.
 Sat. Nov. 28.....Madeira Park Elementary School field trip fundraiser Quiz Nite - P. H. Legion, 8 p.m.
 Sat. Nov. 28.....Serendipity Preschool Christmas Craft Fair - P. H. Community Hall, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Sat. Nov. 28.....Pender Harbour Rotary presents Hop-Scotch - P. H. Golf Course, 7 p.m.
 Sun. Nov. 29.....Sunday Jam with Greg and the Slow and White Band - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Sat. Dec. 5.....Harbour Gallery Christmas Sale - Harbour Gallery, 11 a.m.
 Sat. Dec. 5.....FibreWorks workshop: Hand-painted Paper w/ Jennifer Love - FibreWorks Gallery
 Sat. Dec. 5&6.....Wendie's Christmas open house - 5653 Garden Bay Rd., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sun. Dec. 6.....Sunday Jam with Joe Stanton - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Mon. Dec. 7.....P. H. Food Bank pick up - P. H. Community Church, Noon
 Mon. Dec. 7.....Pender Harbour Walkabout - Kleindale Petro-Can, 12:30 p.m.
 Thurs. Dec. 10.....Madeira Park Elementary School Christmas concert - MPES, 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m.
 Fri. Dec. 11,12 &13.....ArtWave - various galleries throughout Pender Harbour, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sat. Dec. 12.....Harbour Gallery Christmas Sale - Harbour Gallery, 11 a.m.
 Sat. Dec. 12&13.....Wendie's Christmas open house - 5653 Garden Bay Rd., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sun. Dec. 13.....Community Potluck Christmas Dinner - P. H. Community Hall, 5:30 p.m.
 Sun. Dec. 13.....Sunday Jam with Larrie Cook and the Bluesmasters - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Wed. Dec. 16.....Harbour Community Christmas service - P. H. Community Hall, 7 p.m.
 Fri. Dec. 18.....Bon-Bon and Rose - Garden Bay Pub
 Sat. Dec. 19.....Harbour Gallery Christmas Sale - Harbour Gallery, 11 a.m.
 Sat. Dec. 19&20.....Wendie's Christmas open house - 5653 Garden Bay Rd., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sun. Dec. 20.....Breakfast with Santa - P. H. Golf Club Restaurant, 9 a.m.
 Sun. Dec. 20.....Sunday Jam with Gaetan - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Mon. Dec. 21.....P. H. Food Bank pick up - P. H. Community Church, Noon
 Sun. Dec. 27.....Scramble and potluck dinner - P. H. Golf Course
 Sun. Dec. 27.....Sunday Jam with Peter van Deursen - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.

FERRY DEPARTURES

Effective September 8 - February 11

Crossing time: Langdale 40 min./Earl's Cove 50 min. Ticket sales end 10 min. before sailing for foot passengers, 5 min. before for vehicles.
 See www.bcferries.com for information on added sailings during peak periods.

Langdale

• 6:20 a.m.
 8:20 a.m.
 10:20 a.m.
 12:20 p.m.
 2:30 p.m.
 4:30 p.m.
 6:30 p.m.
 8:20 p.m.
 10:10 p.m. (Oct. 12 only)

Horseshoe Bay

• 7:20 a.m.
 9:20 a.m.
 11:20 a.m.
 1:20 p.m.
 3:30 p.m.
 5:30 p.m.
 7:25 p.m.
 9:15 p.m.
 11:00 p.m. (Oct. 12 only)

Earl's Cove

♣ 6:30 a.m.
 8:25 a.m.
 10:25 a.m.
 12:20 p.m.
 4:25 p.m.
 6:25 p.m.
 8:20 p.m.
 10:05 p.m.

Saltery Bay

♣ 5:35 a.m.
 7:25 a.m.
 9:25 a.m.
 11:20 p.m.
 3:20 p.m.
 5:25 p.m.
 7:20 p.m.
 9:15 p.m.

See alternate schedule for Oct. 9, 12,
 Dec. 24, 26 2009 and Jan. 1, 2010

• Daily except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

♣ Daily except Sundays and Dec. 25



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Pender Harbour Studio & Gallery Tour

ArtWave



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Happy Holidays!



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SUNDAY: Eggs Benny

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DEC. 6: Joe Stanton and the Precious Littles

DEC. 13: Larrie Cook and the Bluesmasters

DEC. 20: Gaetan and the French Connection

DEC. 22: Peter van Deursen

AT THE GARDEN BAY PUB

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8 p.m. to 11 pm.**

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to join host Greg Slauenwhite.