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HARBOUR **SPIEL**

February 2026
Issue 422





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EDITOR

Brian Lee

CIRCULATION (2,300)

Copies of the *Harbour Spiel* are mailed free to 1,375 homes between Egmont and Middlepoint and are available by paid subscription and free at locations throughout the Sunshine Coast.

Past issues of the Harbour Spiel are available online at www.harbourspiel.com.

CONTRIBUTORS

This month we thank: Leslie, Leonard Lee, Robert Livingston, Shane McCune and Randy Picketts.

COVER

Point Upwood sunrise, July 1991.
(Brian Lee photo)

ADVERTISING

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Advertising bookings before Feb. 13

editorial

Upcoast summers



Brian Lee

Martin Swan, son of Pender Harbour medical royalty, returns to Pender Harbour this month to give a presentation on his 2024 journey upcoast to Kimsquit.

Following Dr. Alan Swan's log-books, he retraced his family's 1964 trip in their 32-foot cabin cruiser.

I caught his presentation last summer at the wooden boat show where he mentioned his experience as a youngster working for Dunc Cameron and BC Packers on the salmon collector *Dan Cameron*.

Like many Pender Harbour kids, I too went fishing in the summers, first with my Dad and later, when I learned you could get paid for it, deckhanding on a salmon packer.

It was my second season on the 51-foot *Ocean Viking*, crew of three, owned by Dunc's son, Russell.

By then, Martin was an engineer with Transport Canada but had taken a month off to be skipper the OV.

My friend and I were students trading our summers at the lake for enough money to eat that year.

After weeks of pinballing between Smith's Inlet, Namu and Port Hardy, we got the call to head to Steveston with 50,000 pounds of sockeye.

Boats like ours usually unloaded onto larger packers to transport the fish to cannery but when the season peaked, the fleet was often full.

We were suffering the angst all young men feel exiled to the damp zone while their friends (and girlfriends) frolicked at Ruby Lake.

If everything lined up, there was a hope we might sneak home for a day before being sent back to the front.

With that in mind, we passed through Seymour Narrows and, like magic, were hit by that familiar South Coast warmth.

We were making excellent time running with the tide past Campbell River when we lost steering.

If you're anticipating one of those white-knuckle stories of survival real fishermen like to tell, this isn't that.

The water was like glass and the current just nudged us gently out of the shipping channel into the deep water desert south of Quadra Island.

Another packer a few hours behind was to give us a tow so there was very little urgency.

But the engineer in Martin was intrigued and couldn't accept that we had no control of our ship.

He conscripted us to help build an alternate steering system using our stabilizers and hydraulic winch.

We shared a laugh about the episode this past summer.

It might have worked if we weren't loaded to the scuppers but after a couple hours of effort, we failed to achieve even nominal steerage.

We were soon under tow behind our buddy boat and I sat watch through the early morning.

As we passed the southern tip of Texada Island at sunrise, I still recall the tantalizing exhilaration of being so close to home.

I snapped the cover photo thinking it would be the closest I would get to the Coast until September.

As it turned out, our rudder was gone so we made it home after all while a new one was fitted.

Only weeks later, after Martin had returned to his regular job, we were hit by a freighter heading upriver to Steveston with another load of fish.

That sent us home for another week while the *Ocean Viking* was in the shipyard.

I still have plenty of memories about time spent on the boat that summer yet none about the furlough that seemed so important at the time.

There could be a lesson in there.

P. H. LIVING HERITAGE SOCIETY PRESENTS MARTIN SWAN: Sat. Feb. 21, 2 p.m.

On Feb. 21, the Pender Harbour Living Heritage Society is pleased to host a presentation by former Pender Harbourite Martin Swan at the Sarah Wray Hall.

In August of 2024, Swan retraced a 1964 journey up to the BC Central Coast, which Dr. Al Swan, Swan's father, and his family enjoyed aboard their 32-foot Monk cabin cruiser.

Guided by the logbook and 35 mm slides from this family boat trip, Swan captured the many changes of the same coastal settlements in pictures taken exactly 60 years later. Sit back and relax while Swan takes you back in time and describes the many changes he observed on the Coast between Pender Harbour and Kimsquit, near Bella Coola. Swan's passion for the BC Coast and boats began as an infant at his Pender Harbour birthplace and deepened over his years growing up in Sechelt, working in the commercial fishing industry as a young man and cruising over his adult life.

Swan will begin his presentation at 2 p.m. in the Sarah Wray Hall (Irvines Landing). Admission is free but there is a suggested donation of \$10 with proceeds going to the P. H. Health Centre.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF ONLINE AND OFFLINE WITH JAY CALVERT: Sat. Feb. 28, 12 noon

The Pender Harbour Library Society hosts "How to protect yourself online and offline," a free presentation by Jay Calvert of *Cyber-Smart.ca*. The presentation starts at noon on Feb. 28 at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 112 in Madeira Park.

Scammers target seniors because they are often trusting, polite and may be unfamiliar with new technology. Cyber Smart Canada is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to educating and empowering Canadian seniors by helping them navigate the digital world safely.

Calvert will discuss ways older adults can avoid fraud and recognize phishing, romance scams and investment scams.

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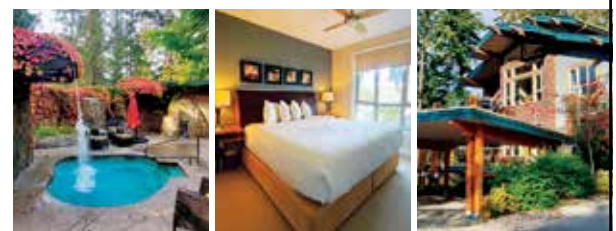
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Madeira Park finds *True North*

Madeira Park has a new sentinel at the village entrance.

On Dec. 17, the *True North* was hauled to the corner site at the highway crossroads.

The 37-foot Farrell was installed on the landscaped gardens that sit on Ministry of Transportation and Transit right of way.

The boat is one of more than 500 that carried the late local boatbuilder Barrie Farrell's distinctive design.

Most of Farrell's boats were built for commercial fishing, but some, like the *True North*, were finished as pleasure boats.

Ron Badley, owner of the adjacent Harbour Spirit Centre, headed up the project and told the *Harbour Spiel* that eventually the boat will be rigged with trolling poles and a drum.

"It's always been a pleasure boat but the idea is to celebrate the fishing history of our area with a commercial style boat," Badley said.

The boat was donated by a friend of the well-known Farrell family, Sandy Hatelly.

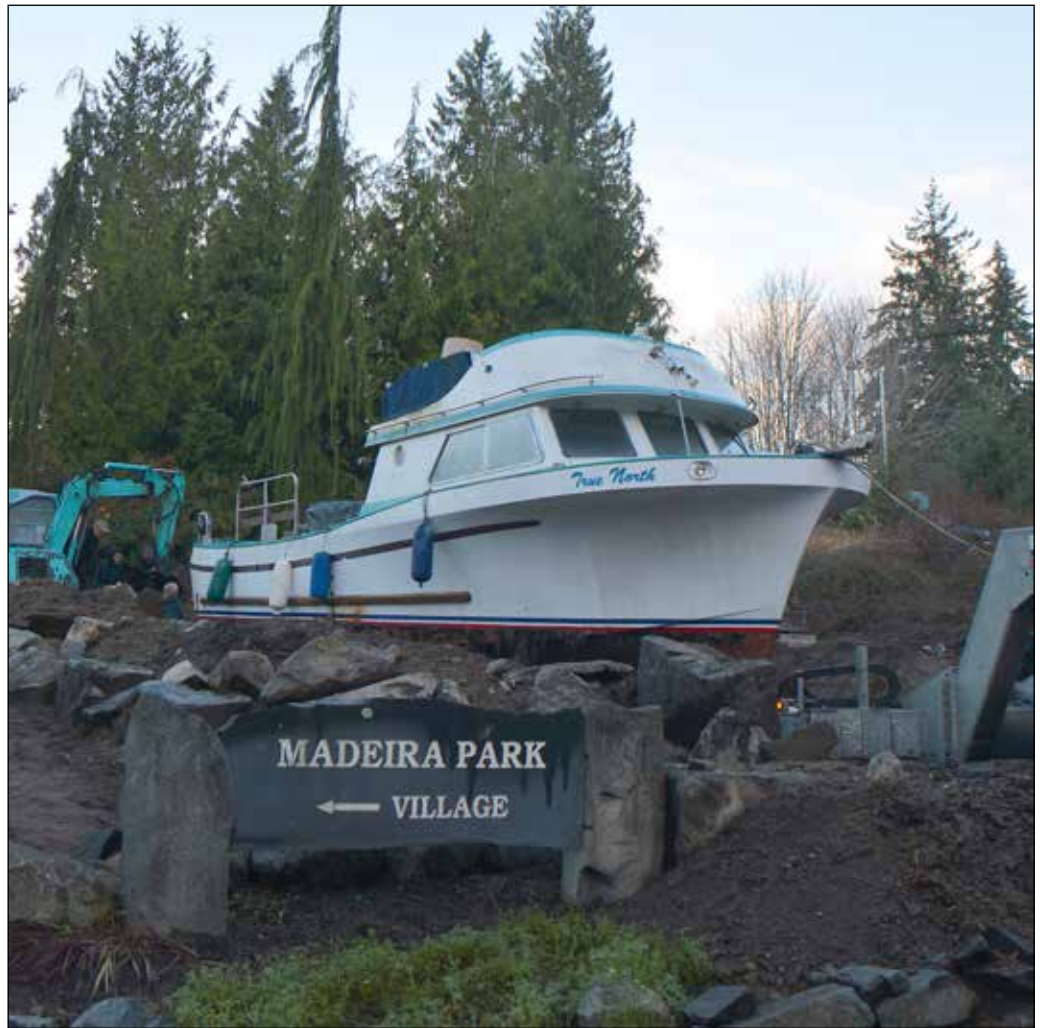
Hately said he has known Barrie, Sherry, Allen and Kerry for close to 70 years and is a fan of Farrell's design.

"Over the years I have spent many hours on board two or three of the boats Allen built, talking with he and Sherry when they would visit Bargain Harbour, lastly in the *China Cloud*," he said.

"In later years, when Barrie was building boats at Mosquito Creek, I used to visit him there and lunch with him at the High Boat Cafe as often as I could when I worked in Vancouver or was passing through."

In 2018, Hatelly purchased the *True North* from Farrell.

He said he used it for cruising



Brian Lee

The *True North* in its new home at the entrance to Madeira Park Dec. 17.

and fishing for a couple of years while rebuilding a 22-foot Penson design.

Once the smaller boat was finished, he didn't use the *True North* as much because it wasn't as suited to sports fishing.

Hately said it just sat at the dock with a tired engine that scared away anyone who considered buying it from him.

So, he thought it might make a fitting memorial to his friend.

It only took a couple of phone calls before a plan was set to replace the very rotten *Harbour Spirit* with the larger fibreglass boat.

Aside from his and wife Anne's volunteer time, Badley said the SCR

chipped in some funds via a grant-in-aid for landscaping while KER Enterprises and Don White donated fill and bark mulch respectively.

Golden Spruce Nursery and the Gibsons boat mover (paid by Hatelly) both provided welcome discounts, Badley said.

Badley plans to install permanent signage explaining what the boat is with some information on its builder and thanks to those who contributed to the project.

The gardens themselves will soon be replanted with more drought tolerant evergreens Badley said.

"The *True North* will be floating in a sea of junipers."



1. Which inlet will you NOT find if you pass through the Skookumchuck heading south?

- ☐ a. Salmon
- ☐ b. Jervis
- ☐ c. Sechelt
- ☐ d. Narrows

2. What local tree is alternately named "Pacific madrone?"

- ☐ a. Western yew
- ☐ b. Pacific dogwood
- ☐ c. Red alder
- ☐ d. Arbutus

3. Straight road on Francis Peninsula named after a local settler family.

- ☐ a. Cameron
- ☐ b. Donley
- ☐ c. Warnock
- ☐ d. Murdoch

4. Which early 1980s CBC adventure series was filmed in Egmont?

- ☐ a. Danger Bay
- ☐ b. Pilot One
- ☐ c. Spirit Bay
- ☐ d. Ritter's Cove

5. What year did they take "a little trip, along with Colonel Jackson down the mighty Mississipp'?"

- ☐ a. 1750
- ☐ b. 1780
- ☐ c. 1814
- ☐ d. 1830

6. Who or what is Egmont named after?

- ☐ a. British racehorse
- ☐ b. British warship
- ☐ c. British pudding
- ☐ d. British admiral

Answers: p. 34

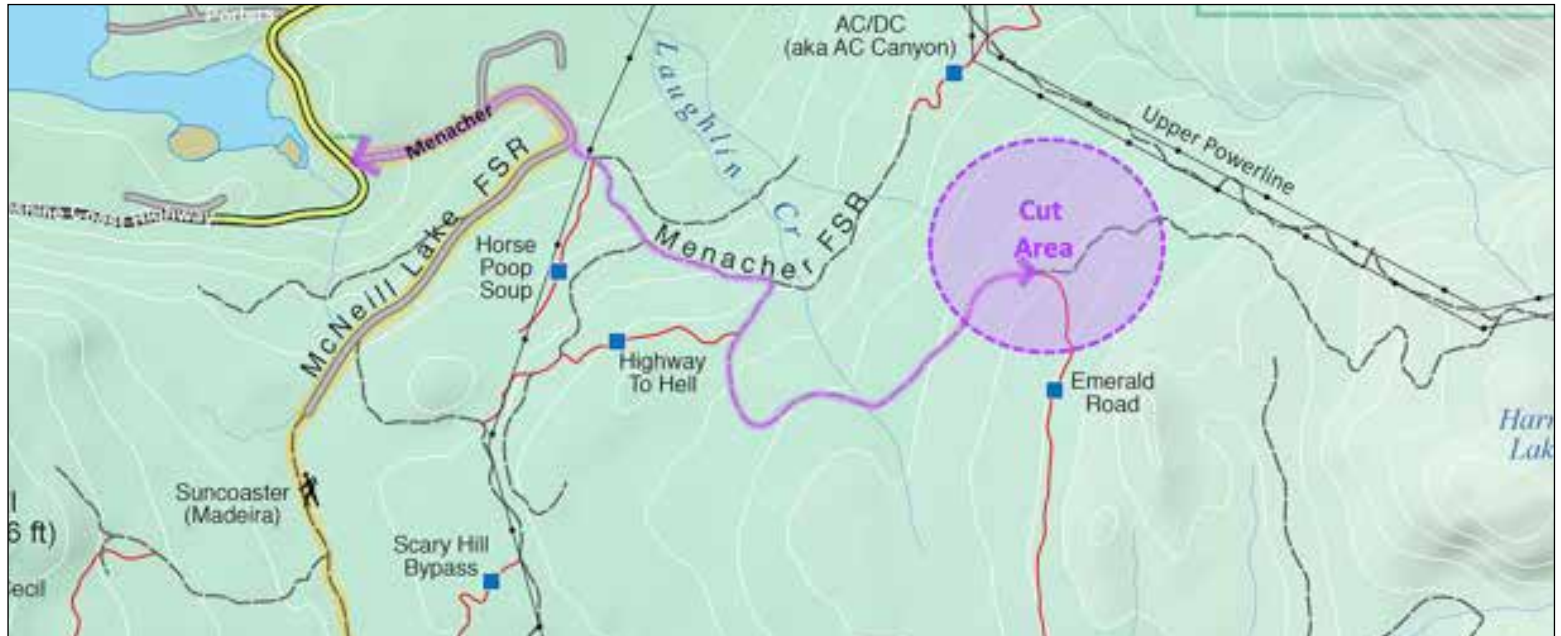
Four-plus: **Local**

Two-plus: **Newbie**

Less than two: **Townie**

In last month's (January 2026) Harbour Spiel Trivia, there was an error in the answers: If you answered "d. LaVerne's Grill" for question no. 4, give yourself another point.

Start of logging operations up Menacher Road area



Trailmapps.com/Randy Picketts

The purple circle indicates the eventual cut area for logging operations set to take place later this year up Menacher Road. The purple lines indicate the route that will be used to haul logs which is currently under construction and may have limited access.

If you are a recreational user of the forestry roads and trails above Menacher Road, you might soon find active logging operations.

Forestry company A&A Trading alerted Randy Picketts of the Pender Harbour Hikers hiking and advocacy group that road building operations were set to begin “within a week or so.”

Picketts told the *Harbour Spiel* that equipment would be moving up Menacher Road and onto McNeill Lake Forest Service Road for about a quarter of a kilometre before taking the left fork onto Menacher Forest Service Road (KL130) which runs under the power line.

“The road will be upgraded for logging operations that will be taking place further up Menacher FSR nearer the power lines that run down the slope from Harris Lake.

“Trails in the area are ‘Emerald Road’ and ‘Breaking Quarantine.’”

Picketts said A&A Trading expects the road construction phase February 2026

to last until April and if harvesting follows immediately, it would be May to likely the end of October but that “a further update will be issued on actual logging start up.”

Not only are they responsible for installing trail signage in the area but Picketts and the Pender Harbour Hikers have forged a reliable working relationship with BC Timber Sales and A&A Trading.

“We work with local logging companies requesting that they keep us informed on their plans so we are not hiking in areas that they are work-

ing in,” Picketts said.

“Both of these companies have provided signage on areas that they have logged which provides users information on what has happened.”

“Normally logging companies have to go through a formal on-line process to advise the public but we have found it is much better face to face,” he said.

“That way we can advise them of trails in the area and/or attractions like the old cars, waterfalls and wetland.

“We have also helped them catch some wood cutters in areas that they are going to log.”




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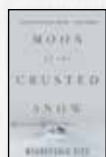
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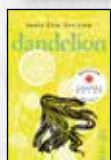
Top 2025 bestsellers from Canadian-owned book publishers

From sales data gathered by Bookmanager from 265 independent Canadian booksellers between Jan. 1 and Dec. 1, 2025 and compiled by the Canadian book industry publication Quill and Quire.



1. Moon of the Crusted Snow

by Waubgeshig Rice
ECW Press



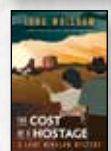
2. Dandelion

by Jamie Chai Yun Liew
Arsenal Pulp Press



3. The Marrow Thieves

by Cherie Demaline
DCB Young Readers/Cormorant Books



4. The Cost of a Hostage, A Lane Winslow Mystery

by Iona Wishaw
Touchwood Editions



5. A Two-Spirit Journey: Autobiography of a Lesbian Ojibwa-Cree Elder

by Ma-nee Chacaby w/ Mary Plummer
University of Manitoba Press



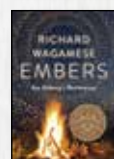
6. Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands

by Kate Beaton,
Drawn & Quarterly Publications



7. The Paper Bag Princess (Classic Munsch)

by Robert Munsch and Michael Martchenko (illustrator)
Annick Press



8. Embers: One Ojibway's Meditations

by Richard Wagamese
Douglas & McIntyre



9. 21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act

by Bob Joseph
Page Two Books



10. Love You Forever (pb)

by Robert Munsch and Sheila McGraw (illustrator)
Firefly Books



11. The Animal People Choose a Leader

by Richard Wagamese and Bridget George (illustrator)
Douglas & McIntyre



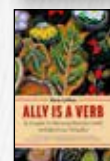
12. Season for Spies: A Lane Winslow Prequel

by Iona Wishaw
TouchWood Editions



13. 21 Things You Need to Know About Indigenous Self-Government

by Bob Joseph
Page Two Books



14. Ally Is a Verb: A Guide to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples

by Rose LeMay
Page Two Books



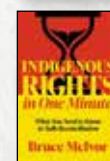
15. A Killer in King's Cove: A Lane Winslow Mystery

by Iona Wishaw
TouchWood Editions



16. Encampment: Resistance, Grace, and an Unhoused Community

by Maggie Helwig
Coach House Books



17. Indigenous Rights in One Minute: What You Need to Know to Talk Reconciliation

by Bruce McIvor
Nightwood Editions/Harbour Publishing



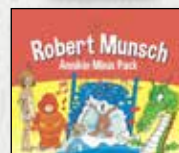
18. Love You Forever (hb)

by Robert Munsch and Sheila McGraw (illustrator)
Firefly Books



19. Indian Horse

by Richard Wagamese
Douglas & McIntyre



20. Munsch Minis 6 Pack (Mini Book Annikins)

by Robert Munsch and Michael Martchenko (illustrator)
Annick Press

Malcolm Arthur Duncan

DECEMBER 12, 1939 — NOVEMBER 12, 2025



Malcolm Duncan was born in 1939 at the St. Mary's Hospital in Garden Bay.

He died peacefully and with dignity on Nov. 12 at Sechelt Hospital at 85 years of age after several months in hospital following an incapacitating stroke from which he could never recover.

With Medical Assistance in Dying, he died surrounded by and with the support of his loving wife, Jane, daughters Sherry and Theresa and granddaughter Tiffany.

Duncan grew up on the Pender Harbour waterfront, son of Art Duncan and Cledia (Warnock) Duncan and great-grandson of "Portuguese Joe" Gonsalves of the Madeira Islands and Irvines Landing.

He wore many hats in his life.

He was a successful boom man, heavy equipment operator, log salvager, welder and fabricator (Duncan Repairs), commercial fisherman (prawns and salmon), small boat builder, charter boat owner-operator (Pender Harbour Charters), Dawson City, Yukon restaurateur (Sourdough Joe's), Klondyke Cream and Candy ice cream parlour and, lastly, his favourite job as a small-scale Yukon gold miner (Mickey Mouse Mining).

Although not formally educated, he had a brilliant engineer's mind that enabled him to design, build, fix or improvise just about anything mechanical or architectural.

And he loved doing it all.

Duncan also loved giving, and helping others.

He especially loved catching, and delivering most of his seafood catch to the old timers, friends and neighbours, sometimes even vacuum packed after

he cleaned and processed it too.

He will be sorely missed by his surviving family members and very many friends in Pender Harbour, Sechelt and throughout British Columbia and the Yukon.

The world just isn't the same without him.

Duncan is survived by his best friend, companion, and partner of 53 years, Jane Reid, children Dale Duncan, Sherry Duncan and Theresa Baldwin, grandchildren Tom, Marisa, and Jarvis Duncan, Wyatt and Tiffany Baldwin, and Richard Heller.

He is also survived by great-grandchildren Iszak and Linkin Szoke, and sisters Bernice (Pete Hanna) and Llona (Monte Holberg) as well as many nieces and nephews.

He is predeceased by his son Tiffy Reid and grandson Mac Duncan.

A celebration of life, to be announced, will be held before this year's prawn season opens.

OBITUARIES: The *Harbour Spiel* publishes obituaries without charge to recognize and record those who lived in Pender Harbour and Egmont. Submissions must be timely, include the date of birth and date of death and be submitted in a digital format. All submissions will be edited for length and adherence to Canadian Press style and to remove first-person and personal messages as required to maintain editorial consistency.

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P. H. Wildlife Society presents 'Travelling trees, shifting climates'

submitted

The Pender Harbour Wildlife Society hosts its first event of the year with a presentation by professor Sally Aitken on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at Pender Harbour Secondary School.

Which tree species grow where in British Columbia is largely driven by climate.

After the last ice age, tree species migrated into and across BC from ice-free areas to the south.

The magnificent native forests we see today — and the species they contain — are the result of this great migration.

Today, climate change is affecting the health of many native tree species, reducing local suitability for some while expanding the potential range of others.

In this talk, Aitken will discuss predictions for the future of key coastal BC tree species, outline steps forest and conservation managers can take

to support forest health in a changing climate and emphasize the importance of protecting old-growth forests.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Sally Aitken is a professor in the department of forest and conservation sciences, (faculty of forestry and environmental stewardship) at the University of British Columbia.

She earned her PhD from the University of California, Berkeley.

Her research integrates seedling experiments, DNA sequencing and climatic data to understand how tree populations adapt locally to climate, and to inform reforestation, restoration and conservation decisions as climates change.

Aitken is a co-author of the textbook *Conservation and the Genomics of Populations* and hosts the BC Big Tree Registry and database at UBC.

She has received numerous honours, including the Canadian forestry scientific achievement award (2009), the International Union of Forest Research Organizations' scientific



photo submitted

Dr. Sally Aitken

achievement award (2014), and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (2017).

The event begins at 7 p.m., with doors opening at 6:45 p.m.

The evening will also include a short PHWS annual general meeting to elect the 2026 board of directors.

letters

Jenks: Ed Ricketts and Pender Harbour

Editor,

We enjoyed Colin Levings' article about Ed Ricketts in your January *Harbour Spiel* that stated Ricketts visited Pender Harbour in the 1930s.

Could he possibly have stayed at the old Irvines Landing Hotel on the waterfront (initially owned by Joe Gonsalves and his son-in-law Theodore Dames)?

A month ago, the Irvines Landing Hotel guest register (1912-1945) was donated to the Pender Harbour Living Heritage Society.

We checked for the names of Ed Ricketts or his companions, Jack Calvin and Joseph Campbell.

None were listed.

This register is a valuable resource and we are grateful that this piece of Pender Harbour history was preserved and found its way to us.

While Ricketts' name was not found, the register is helping to tease out other stories about the Pender Harbour area.

Cathy Jenks

P. H. Living Heritage Society



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PHARA: Questions to province about Aboriginal title ignored

The following letter from the P. H. and Area Residents Association to Premier Eby (dated Oct. 14 and cc'ed to political and industry leaders and the Harbour Spiel) did not receive a response from the province.

Dear Premier Eby,

On Aug. 7, 2025, the BC Supreme Court issued a landmark decision that raises profound issues for BC's land title regime.

In *Cowichan Tribes v. Canada*, the court held that the BC Land Title Act does not give private property owners certainty against Aboriginal title claims.

Your attorney general immediately stated, "We disagree strongly with the decision.

"British Columbia will be filing an appeal..."

You yourself were reported to have said, "... let me be clear: owning private property with clear title is key to borrowing for a mortgage, economic certainty, and the real estate market."

Yet despite these words, your government quietly went to court several weeks later to seek a "consent order," judicially affirming Haida Nation Aboriginal title over private lands on Haida Gwaii.

It appears from media reports that your intention in seeking that consent court order was to prevent future governments from ever repealing your 2024 law recognizing Aboriginal title over private property on Haida Gwaii.

So how does one square these positions?

Are you opposed to Aboriginal title existing over private property?

Or are you in favour of it?

The judge in the *Cowichan Tribes* case might have also been confused by government's inconsistent position on these matters.

At paragraph 3564 she noted:

"B.C. submits that... Aboriginal title and fee simple title conflict and cannot co-exist because both include the right to exclusive use and occupancy."

Yet at paragraph 2140, she noted that the Haida law you passed "illustrate[s] how Aboriginal title and fee simple can co-exist as legal interests through a negotiated agreement."

Why does this matter to us, and the average British Columbian?

Because in summer 2024, you publicly described the Haida deal as a "template" for BC.

And around that same time, your government signed an agreement to

negotiate Aboriginal title over the Sunshine Coast (even though the deal was kept secret from the public and your own Sunshine Coast NDP candidate until well after the election).

So just like in the case of the Land Act debacle, the residents of our area now find themselves thrust into a most unenviable position.

And while we may be the first citizens (after Haida Gwaii) having our private property rights and Aboriginal title being negotiated in secret — we highly doubt we will be the last.

This is a matter of concern to every private property owner, lender and investor in British Columbia.

So, we urge you to immediately pause all negotiations related to the recognition of Aboriginal title (on the Sunshine Coast or anywhere) until after the appeals in the *Cowichan Tribes* case have run their course.

And we ask for your clear, immediate and unequivocal commitment that you will do so.

PHARA board

(Peter Robson, Suzanne Yuile, Sage Robson, David Blaiklock, Bob Baker, Bill Charlton, Peter Jones, Eliza Kinley, Sean McAllister, Brent Mulhall and Scott Topham)

The following letter from PHARA to Premier Eby (dated Jan. 7 and cc'ed to political and industry leaders and the Harbour Spiel)) follows up on the letter above.

Dear Premier Eby,

On Oct. 14, we wrote you in response to the urgent situation created by the BC Supreme Court decision in *Cowichan Tribes v. Canada*.

More specifically, we noted the complications your government cre-

ated in that case as a result of your passage of the Haida Nation Recognition Act, and we expressed related concern about your commitment to negotiate recognition of Aboriginal title in the Sunshine Coast area.

A copy of that letter is attached for ease of reference.

In our letter we asked for your "clear, immediate and unequivocal commitment" to "immediately pause all negotiations related to the recognition of Aboriginal title (on the Sunshine Coast or anywhere) until after

the appeals in the *Cowichan Tribes* case have run their course."

It has now been nearly three months and we have received no reply.

Can you please confirm your government is not presently negotiating — and has no intention of negotiating — recognition of Aboriginal title over the Sunshine Coast area or any portion of it at least until the judicial proceedings in *Cowichan Tribes* have fully run their course?

PHARA Board

Robson: They're back



Peter Robson

These photos show the site of a former encampment along Garden Bay Road and Meadow Creek before new occupants arrived on Dec. 23. Much of the site was cleaned up and most of its occupants were removed in the summer of 2023.

This Dec. 30 letter to Leonard Lee, SCRD Area A director; and Randene Neill, MLA Powell River – Sunshine Coast and Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship was cc'ed to the Harbour Spiel.

Hi Director Lee/Minister Neill:

You may have noticed that someone has moved a trailer into the old Simkins (sp?) place on the MOTT right of way adjacent to 5812, 5828, 5821 Garden Bay Road.

Today, a second trailer has

moved into the site.

We cannot let this happen again in our community.

Hoping you can take action to force MOTT to deal with this.

As it is, the Simkins place has been abandoned for many months now and I was hoping to get the site cleaned up.

MOTT told me then that once he left the site, they'd move the barriers so that no one else could move in. Obviously, they have not done this.

However... we need to nip this in the bud or once gain face years of non-action by MOTT, the police, DFO, Conservation Officer Service and natural resources people, despite the sewage issue.

Here are some photos of the Simkins place before the two new trailers were moved in.

Please use your influence to end this.

Peter Robson

P. H. and Area Residents Assoc.



Brian Lee

This photo (taken Jan. 14) show the site's newest occupants who began setting up camp Dec. 23.

Keighley: Brodie broods over self-inflicted embarrassment

Editor:

In the January issue of the *Harbour Spiel*, Steven Adamson emoted over Dallas Brodie's self-inflicted embarrassment at the University of Victoria on Dec. 2.

Adamson was critical over Premier David Eby's curt but fair comment regarding Brodie in saying, "I suspect the member got exactly what she wanted at the university."

His answer was in response to Brodie who had asked Eby to condemn some alleged violence against Brodie's entourage at the UVIC on Dec. 2.

So what actually happened on that day?

A brief search of the media coverage of the above noted incident revealed the following story.

Dallas Brodie is a dyed-in-the-wool residential schools denier who questions the truth behind the heinous acts of mistreatment that hundreds of First Nations residential school children suffered, and in particular the veracity of the evidence revealing the more than 200 unmarked grave sights discovered at the St. Augustine's Indian Residential School in Kamloops, which were identified using advanced ground penetrating radar operated by certified technicians.

Brodie attempted to hold a gathering on UVIC grounds on Dec. 2 to spread her racist bile and was banned by the administration because she did not have a permit to do so on the university's private property.

Nevertheless, Brodie decided to make a media show of it and she attempted to proceed with her event despite the university's ban in the absence of a permit.

She brought along a couple of other strident residential school deniers, Frances Widdowson and Jim McMurtry.

Despite the ban, Widdowson, in an advance online post defiantly said, "We're coming in."

They were clearly seeking publicity for their ill-conceived crusade and in fairness, one does have to concede that people do in fact have the right to publicly seek to be proven wrong.

Indigenous faculty and staff used their extensive community connections and quickly organized a counter-rally to drown out the Brodie crew and approximately 900 people turned out in opposition to the Brodie/Widdowson/McMurtry show.

On their arrival at the university, the Brodie entourage, which included their camera operator, were informed by campus police that their planned

rally could not proceed.

The police surrounded Widdowson and while we don't know the detail of how the conversation went down, the police arrested Widdowson, who was later released and was given a \$115 fine for unlawful trespass, which she is now disputing.

The Brodie rally did not take place and it was alleged that her camera operator was jostled at some point although the police laid no charges for any assault, despite their substantial presence and many watchful eyes.

So, when Dallas Brodie stood in the legislature seeking to eke out some additional public attention for her anti-reconciliation crusade she was justly skewered on the tip of Premier David Eby's rapier wit when he said, "I suspect the member got exactly what she wanted at the university."

Eby's comment was fair and correct.

She sought out publicity and she achieved precisely that which she sought, albeit in reverse.

It put me in mind of the old parable of a young man who kills both of his parents and then desperately pleads for the mercy of the court because he is now an orphan

Jef Keighley
Garden Bay

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Area A progress



Leonard Lee
Area A director, SCRD

PANORAMA WATERMAIN PROGRESS

As the final step in the North Pender Harbour watermain replacement project, the contract to supply and install approximately 1.4 kilometres of new watermain and complete permanent pavement restoration over Panorama Drive and Pool Road, was awarded in January to NB Contracting, the highest scoring qualified proponent..

Because the cost is substantially higher than the 2023 budget of \$850,000, the current, proposed budget excludes watermain replacement under Panorama Place and a section of

Garden Bay Road from Lyons Road to Pool Road.

The 2023 proposal is outdated because of construction, materials, supplies and labour rate increases, along with Ministry of Transportation and Transit requirements, all substantially upping the costs.

Increased funding includes \$420,000 from the Area A Community Works funds and \$588,680 from North Pender Harbour water service capital reserves for a total \$1,008,680 and a new project budget of \$1,858,680, which includes an approximate 20-per-cent contingency for unforeseen complications.

The budget increase will be finalized in late February, and the contract is contingent on the increased budget being included in the 2026-2030

SCRD financial plan.


Work, planned to begin early this year, is expected to take eight to 10 weeks and should finish in the second quarter of 2026.

KLEINDALE CREEK BRIDGE



The 9.1-metre, wooden bridge spanning Kleindale Creek will be replaced in a multi-year project budgeted at \$110,000.


The project, subject to approval, includes technical assessments, detailed design, Class B cost estimates, issued-for-construction drawings and 100 hours of staff time.

When significant structural failure demanded that the bridge be closed in 2023, Suncoaster Trail users were rerouted along a segment of Highway 101.



Sunshine Coast Regional District

 www.scrd.ca  info@scrd.ca



Egmont / Pender Harbour
Area A Director Leonard Lee
leonard.lee@scrd.ca
604-212-0406

Board and Committee Meetings

Budget Committee February 2 and 3 at 9:30 a.m.	Committee of the Whole February 26 at 9:30 a.m.
Committee of the Whole February 12 at 9:30 a.m.	Regular Board February 26 at 1:00 p.m.
Regular Board February 12 at 1:00 p.m.	Our meetings are held in person in the SCRD Boardroom at 1975 Field Road, Sechelt, BC, online via Zoom, and live-streamed to the SCRD YouTube channel. Links are available here: www.scrd.ca/agendas .
Electoral Area Services Committee February 19 at 9:30 a.m.	

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR VOYENT ALERT!?

It's easy, FREE and a great way to be informed about emergency-related alerts on the Sunshine Coast. There are multiple ways to register, including landline calls and cell phone notifications → www.scrd.ca/alert-system

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN RENEWAL

Community conversations will kick off again in February for the SCRD's Official Community Plan renewal.

An Official Community Plan (OCP) is like a roadmap for the future. It guides how our communities grow, evolve, and respond to change. Whether it's planning neighbourhoods, determining housing options, protecting the environment, developing parks, or preparing for the impacts of climate change, the OCP sets the course for decision-making that affects everyone, now and for generations to come.

Stay tuned to letstalk.scrd.ca/ocp-renewal for information on pop-up events and a workshop in the Pender Harbour area as we speak about opportunities for growth in our communities.

VINEBROOK BRIDGE

Vinebrook Bridge, a key Crown land trail crossing, will get a major overhaul including an alignment adjustment, at a cost of \$510,000.

The bridge was closed in 2022 when an engineering review identified structural deficiencies, deeming it unsafe.

DAN BOSCH PARK

The Dan Bosch parking lot and beach area will be expanded, trails will be developed, park furniture installed and a launch area for self-propelled watercraft will be built.

KATHERINE LAKE PARK

A perimeter trail will be built around Katherine Lake to create a continuous loop.

VOLUMETRIC BILLING 101

To keep our taxes as low as possible while maintaining the services we want, the SCRD seeks grants to support infrastructure and other projects, but there are always conditions to receiving a grant funding.

In 2012, it was announced that, “In order to ensure the treated water from the new facility is responsibly used ...the grant funder requires that water meters be installed for all water customers,” and “The need to reduce water consumption is motivated largely by the desire to reduce the scale and cost of future infrastructure upgrades.”

Water meters were installed on North and South Pender Harbour water service properties in 2014-2015 to identify significant leaks and properties using excessive volumes of water.

A mock volumetric billing trial was initiated last year, giving us a good idea what 2026 would look like,

and our first real quarterly utility billing starts in April.

Our target was for the yearly average user’s cost to be close to the \$1,000 charged in 2025, with some paying more, some less, and the majority around some new average.

Volumetric billing will increase rates for those who waste water by not fixing leaks on their property and disregard other usage regulations for efficient water use, which is fair because, otherwise, everyone else subsidizes their waste.

Unfortunately, those who maintain vegetable gardens to reduce their grocery expenses or supplement their income will also pay more.

Most homeowners use less water in the first and last quarters of the year with the six months in the middle being their highest use and cost.

For example, a two-person household without garden or lawn watering will pay the base rate of \$212.50 per quarter for a yearly total of \$850.

A three-person household watering indoor and outdoor plants using seven cubic metres over the base summer average would pay an additional \$28, for a yearly total of \$880.

A four-person household on a one-third acre with a decent vegetable garden and flower beds would use 88 cubic metres over the base summer

average for a yearly fee of \$1,012.

Everyone pays a base, fair share for the availability of water to their home and towards community uses such as firefighting.

Benefits of volumetric billing include identifying underground leaks before they cause property damage and being mindful of the cost of ignoring leaks and using water unnecessarily, e.g. leaving a hose running while washing vehicles.

However, in these times of increased droughts and hot summers, the overall benefits of volume-based billing far outweigh any negatives.

CONTACT ME

Email leonard.lee@scrd.ca or call/text (604) 212-0406 about SCRD issues that matter to you.



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- Garden Bay Marine Services.....(604) 883-2722
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- Malaspina Door And Gate(604) 590-4300

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- S.C. Credit Union, Pender Harbour.....(604) 740-2662

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- Andrew Curtiss Contracting.....(604) 740-7775

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Pender Harbour Winter Festival ~ Dec. 20

Brian Lee photos





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- Eaves to Earth Property Maintenance.....(604) 740-5499
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Local health matters

PHHC New Year updates

As we welcome 2026, we are excited to let the community know about some updates from the Health Centre.

PHYSICIANS AT THE PHHC

In January we welcomed Dr. Derek Williams to the Health Centre. Dr. Williams is currently working part time at the Health Centre and has been connected to 250 local patients through the Health Connect Registry. We will be connecting more patients to Dr. Williams through the registry in the coming months.

In January, we also welcomed a locum physician, Dr. McLaren, to the Health Centre. Alongside seeing attached patients, the PHHC was able to offer physician access to unattached community members for the first time in some years. We are excited to welcome Dr. McLaren back to the PHHC in February — please check our website and Facebook page to see if appointments are available.

Both Dr. Williams and Dr. McLaren continue to be supported by Dr. Bazilli, and we thank Dr. Bazilli for her continued commitment to the PHHC, her patients and community.

PCN AT THE PHHC

In December, the PHHC posted for our first two Primary Care Network positions at the PHHC. The Health Centre is currently recruiting a part-time social worker and clinical counsellor.

In the spring of 2026, we will start recruiting for the full time PCN registered nurse to join our

multidisciplinary team. If you are interested in any of these roles, we encourage you to check out the careers page on the website or look at our Facebook page.

BRINGING RESOURCE TO PENDER HARBOUR

In early 2026, we enter the last six months of the “Pender Connections: Bringing Resource to Pender Harbour” series at the Health Centre.

This is a partnership between the PHHC and the Sunshine Coast Resource Centre, funded by the Responsive Community Grant from the Sunshine Coast Foundation. This spring will be providing access to sessions including Seniors Connector, Caregiver Support, Housing Subsidy and Food Security etc. Please look for announcements on our website and Facebook page.

PENDER HARBOUR SENIORS LINK

In January 2026, the PHHC was notified by United Way BC that they will be renewing the funding for the Pender Harbour Seniors Link bus service for 2026 – 2027. This is fantastic news for the community and a testament to the hard work of the Pender Harbour Better at Home staff and our seniors link bus driver Brian.

Last year, the Seniors Link bus provided 1,231 rides to community members. This was over an 800% increase on 2024 rides provided to community. More updates will appear on the PHHC website.



ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTORY

• Community Policing.....	(604) 883-2026
• Egmont Community Club	(604) 883-1379
• Egmont & District Volunteer Fire Department	(604) 883-2555
• FLAIR Cancer Support Group.....	(604) 883-0660
• FOKUS (10:30 a.m., Fridays @ PHHC).....	(604) 740-1151
• GRIPS (Recycling Society)	(604) 883-1165
• Garden Bay Sailing Club.....	(604) 883-2689
• Girl Guides (Guides, Sparks and Embers).....	(604) 883-2819
• Harbour Artists	(604) 883-2807
• Harbourside Friendships (Thur. 10:30 -1 p.m.)	(604) 883-9900
• Health Centre Society	(604) 883-2764
• Health Centre Auxiliary.....	(604) 741-2646
• InStitches (last Thursday of month, 10 a.m.).....	(604) 740-1151
• Lions Club, Egmont.....	(604) 883-9463
• Lions Club, Pender Harbour (1st & 3rd Tues.).....	(604) 883-1361
• Men's Cancer Support Group.....	(604) 883-2393
• P. H. Aquatic Centre Society.....	(604) 885-6867
• P. H. and Area Residents Association.....	(604) 883-9205
• P. H. Blues Society.....	(604) 741-1186
• P. H. Choir (7 p.m., Tuesday).....	(778) 227-8430
• P. H. Community Club.....	(604) 883-9900
• P. H. Community School Society	(604) 883-2826
• P. H. Garden Club.....	(604) 883-9798
• P. H. Golf Club	(604) 883-9541
• P. H. Hiking Club (8:30 am, Mon. & Wed.).....	(604) 883-2274
• P. H. Library	(604) 883-2983
• P. H. Living Heritage Society.....	(604) 883-8065
• P. H. Music Society (bookings)	(604) 883-9749
• P. H. Piecemakers (quilters).....	(604) 883-2573
• P. H. Pipe Band.....	(604) 883-0053
• P. H. Power & Sail Squadron	(604) 883-2086
• P. H. Ramblers (hikers, every Tues. a.m.).....	(604) 883-1191
• P. H. Volunteer Fire Dept (Wed. evening).....	(604) 883-9011
• P. H. Women's Connection (2nd & 4th Tue.).....	(604) 883-0444
• Rotary Club (noon Fri. RC Legion No.112)	(604) 883-2843
• Royal Canadian Legion No. 112	(604) 883-2235
• RCM SAR Coast Guard Auxiliary, Unit 61	(778) 240-3151
• Ruby Lake Lagoon Society	(604) 883-9201
• Skookumchuck Heritage Society.....	(604) 883-9994
• S. C. Health Care Auxiliary (2nd Wed., 1:30 p.m.).....	(604) 741-8413
• Seniors' Housing Society	(604) 883-2819
• Serendipity Child Care Centre.....	(604) 883-2316
• Sunshine Coast Better At Home.....	(604) 989-6171
• Sunshine Coast Women's Outreach Services	(604) 741-5246
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organizations

P. H. MUSIC SOCIETY COFFEE HOUSE

Celebrate Valentines Day early with music at Coffee House. The P. H. Music Society presents this month's School of Music Coffee House on Friday, Feb. 13. Playing are Brady Wells, solo classical and contemporary guitar and Katrina Bishop, singer and songwriter.

Doors (Pender Harbour School of Music) open at 7 p.m. and music starts at 7:30 p.m. There is a suggested \$10 donation for entry at the door.

PENDER HARBOUR LIVING HERITAGE SOCIETY

On Feb. 21, the Pender Harbour Living Heritage Society is pleased to host a presentation by former Pender Harbourite Martin Swan at the Sarah Wray Hall.

In August of 2024, Swan retraced a 1964 journey up to the BC Central Coast, which Dr. Al Swan, Swan's father, and his family enjoyed aboard their 32-foot Monk cabin cruiser. Guided by the logbook and 35 mm slides from this family boat trip, Swan captured the many changes of the same coastal settlements in pictures taken exactly 60 years later. Sit back and relax while Swan takes you back in time and describes the changes he observed between Pender Harbour and Kimsquit, near Bella Coola.

Swan will begin his presentation at 2 p.m. in the Sarah Wray Hall. Admission is free but there is a suggested donation of \$10 with proceeds going to the P. H. Health Centre.

PENDER HARBOUR WOMEN'S CONNECTION

February 10 marks the 27th anniversary of the Pender Harbour Women's Connection and we are pleased to welcome former chair Linda Pearson as our special guest speaker for this celebration. Pearson and her husband David, originally from England, retired in Pender Harbour in 2004. Since then, Pearson has been deeply involved with the Women's Connection, the Bargain Barn and the P. H. Health Centre but her talk will focus on her career in the film and television industry in the U.K. while working at Granada TV and then becoming director of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in Scotland.

Read any good books lately? Join us, Feb. 24 for a "Books and Bites Book Exchange" pop-up book club meeting. Bring along your favorite book and share what you found interesting about it. Did its setting, topic, author, characters or genre grab you? Also, you will have a chance to bring along a couple of gently used books for a book exchange while we enjoy light snacks together.

The P. H. School of Music doors open at 9:30 a.m. and events begin at 10 a.m. A \$4 drop-in fee includes refreshments.



Brian Lee

‘Time spent amongst trees is never wasted time.’ (Katrina Mayer). Egmont, Jan 17.

Have you visited the online version of the Harbour Spiel lately?

Now completely
redesigned and updated
with all issues archived
back to Nov. 2006.

www.harbourspiel.com

LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND AT THE MADEIRA PARK LEGION

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 1
2 - 5PM

**JOE ROTUNDO &
THE COASTAL COMETS**

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 7
6 - 9 PM

**KARAOKE PARTY
HOSTED BY DJ KARL**

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 8
3 PM

SUPERBOWL PARTY



SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 15
2 - 5PM

BLUE WESTERN

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 22
2 - 5PM

SPINDRIFT STREET

EDDY EDRIK every Friday Night 6pm

Legion 
Branch #112

EVERYONE WELCOME
12829 Lillies Lake Rd, Madeira Park

Celebrate Three Years of Better@Home!

MARKING A MILESTONE OF SUPPORT, COMFORT AND COMMUNITY

Better@Home is thrilled to celebrate its third anniversary!

For three years, we've been dedicated to helping seniors live independently and comfortably in their own homes. From friendly visits to transportation and light housekeeping, our community-based support services have made a real difference in the lives of older adults from Halfmoon Bay to Egmont.

Thank you to our amazing staff, volunteers, and local partners for making every day brighter and more connected. Here's to many more years of caring and community!

INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM OR LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR SERVICES?

CONTACT: [Haida Bolton, Program Coordinator](#)

EMAIL: haida.bolton@penderharbourhealth.com PHONE: 604 212- 2232

Come join us at "Harbourside Friendships" for entertainment and lunch on Feb. 26 in the Pender Harbour Community Hall from 10:30am – 1pm.

Better@Home – Supporting Independence, One Neighbour at a Time.



PENDER HARBOUR SENIORS INITIATIVE

Sponsored by:
Smart Fund



HARBOURSIDE FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM

Sponsored by:
**P. H. Health Centre &
P. H. Health Auxiliary**

FOR INFORMATION
OR TRANSPORTATION,
CALL MARLENE:
(604) 883-9900

Seniors' activities for February

Mark your calendars!

Join us Feb. 28 for an information session from Jay Calvert on "cybersecurity" at the Madeira Park Legion Branch 112 at 12 noon. All are welcome!

HARBOURSIDE FRIENDSHIPS: Thursday drop-in, 10:30am – 1pm

In the Pender Harbour Community Hall. Lunch will be served at 12pm. Cost: \$10 pp.

Feb. 5 – Come join our Valentines Card exchange with the Elementary students.

Feb. 12 – Armchair Travel to China

Feb. 19 – Music with Ted and Joan

Feb. 26 – Come help us celebrate our Better@Home third Anniversary serving Halfmoon Bay to Egmont. Free Lunch for all who attend

CARPET BOWLING: Wednesdays, Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25

At the Pender Harbour Community Hall, 1-3 pm. Cost \$3.

CHAIR YOGA: Mondays & Fridays, Feb. 2, 6, 9, 13, 20, 23 & 27

At the Pender Harbour Community Hall 11am –12pm with Carole Logtenberg or Kristin Tracey. Improve your balance, strength & flexibility with gentle moves. Cost: \$3.

CHAIR YOGA: Wednesdays, Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25

At the Sarah Wray Hall from 11–12pm. Improve your balance, strength & flexibility with gentle moves with Carole Logtenberg or Kristin Tracey. Cost: \$3.



PENDER HARBOUR AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTRE

20m, 4-lane pool
hot tub, sauna, gym &
weight room

On lower level of
P. H. Secondary School:

13639 S.C. Hwy.

604 885-6867

www.scrd.ca/recreation

PENDER HARBOUR AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTRE

www.scrd.ca/pender-pool • **604-885-6867**

It's not too late to register for Winter Programs! Winter Programs take place between Jan. 1 and March 31.

Family Day is Monday, Feb. 16 (Facility open from noon to 4pm).

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Adult (18+): \$5.25, Youth (13-17): \$4.75, Child (6-12): \$3.95, Adult & Tot: \$6.85, Infant (0-2): Free

POOL AND WET AREAS:

Monday & Tuesday 7am to 1pm	Wednesday 7am to 8:30am 3:30pm to 8pm	Thursday 7am to 1pm	Friday & Saturday CLOSED	Sunday 10am to 4pm
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WEIGHT ROOM:

Monday & Tuesday 7am to 1pm	Wednesday 7am to 1pm 3:30pm to 8pm	Thursday 7am to 1pm	Friday & Saturday CLOSED	Sunday 10am to 4pm
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Drop-in fitness classes are great way to add activity to your day in a fun, social setting!

MYPASS DROP-IN ACTIVITIES:

Admission is included with your MYPASS, or pay the drop-in rate when you come:

- Adult (18 – 59 years): \$7.35
- Senior (60+ years): \$6.30

MYPASS MIX IT UP

Thursdays, 9am (no class Feb. 12)

MYPASS LAND MEETS WATER

Tuesday & Thursday, 10:30am

MYPASS AQUAFIT

Tuesday & Thursday, 9am

Applications for 2026 LIFE Financial Assistance are now available.

Learn more about this program: www.scrd.ca/financial-assistance/

**WOMEN'S
VOLLEYBALL**
FREE DROP-IN

Wednesdays
7:45 - 8:45 p.m.

Pender Secondary School Gymnasium

NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

**FULL MOON DRUM
CIRCLES**

Where: Pender Harbour School of Music
When: Full moon evenings from 7 - 9 p.m.
March 3rd & April 1st

Follow Pender Harbour Community School on
Facebook to confirm meetings

Extra drums available - Free event

PENDER COMMUNITY

**HARBOUR LEARNING
CENTRE HOURS:**
Tuesday to Friday
9am to 3pm

604.883.2826
phcs@dccnet.com

**MEN'S DROP IN
HOCKEY**

BRING YOUR OWN STICK
FREE EVENT

THURSDAYS 8-9:30

PENDER SECONDARY SCHOOL
GYMNASIUM

**Emergency &
Standard
First Aid Training**

What Training Is Included?

- ✓ CPR & AED Training
- ✓ Naloxone training
- ✓ Emergency Response

Cost: Emergency First Aid
(Online Only): \$126.00
Standard First Aid
(Online & In person):
\$260.00

• Online portion for
both emergency and
standard participants

• Feb. 21, in person, for
standard participants
only

Email or call to register:
virginia@pendercommunity.ca
604-883-2826

pender harbour tides ~ february 2026

Cooler colour codes indicate lower tides. For kayaks and small boats accessing Canoe Pass (Beaver Island), these colour codes (right) indicate what should usually provide sufficient depth for passage. Note: variability occurs due to barometric pressure, wind conditions, etc.

Canoe Pass:



February	1AM	2AM	3AM	4AM	5AM	6AM	7AM	8AM	9AM	10AM	11AM	Noon	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
Sun 01	4.7	7.4	10.4	13.1	15.1	16.0	15.9	15.0	13.7	12.4	11.6	11.5	12.0	12.9	13.7	14.1	13.6	12.1	9.8	7.2	4.7	2.8	1.9	2.0
Mon 02	3.5	5.8	8.7	11.7	14.2	15.8	16.2	15.6	14.3	12.8	11.4	10.6	10.7	11.4	12.5	13.5	13.9	13.4	11.9	9.6	7.1	4.8	3.2	2.5
Tue 03	3.1	4.8	7.4	10.3	13.1	15.2	16.2	16.0	15.0	13.3	11.6	10.2	9.6	9.9	10.9	12.1	13.1	13.6	13.1	11.6	9.5	7.2	5.2	3.9
Wed 04	3.7	4.6	6.6	9.2	12.0	14.3	15.8	16.2	15.5	14.0	12.1	10.3	9.1	8.8	9.3	10.4	11.7	12.8	13.2	12.7	11.4	9.5	7.5	5.9
Thu 05	5.1	5.2	6.5	8.5	11.0	13.4	15.2	16.0	15.7	14.5	12.7	10.8	9.1	8.1	8.0	8.7	10.0	11.3	12.4	12.8	12.4	11.3	9.8	8.2
Fri 06	7.0	6.6	7.1	8.4	10.4	12.5	14.3	15.5	15.6	14.9	13.3	11.4	9.5	8.0	7.3	7.4	8.3	9.6	11.0	12.1	12.5	12.3	11.4	10.3
Sat 07	9.1	8.4	8.3	8.9	10.3	11.9	13.5	14.7	15.2	14.9	13.7	12.0	10.1	8.3	7.1	6.6	6.9	7.9	9.2	10.6	11.7	12.3	12.3	11.8
Sun 08	11.0	10.3	9.9	9.9	10.6	11.7	12.9	14.0	14.6	14.6	13.9	12.5	10.8	8.9	7.4	6.4	6.1	6.5	7.5	8.8	10.2	11.4	12.2	12.5
Mon 09	12.3	11.9	11.4	11.2	11.3	11.8	12.6	13.4	14.0	14.2	13.8	12.8	11.4	9.7	8.0	6.7	5.9	5.7	6.1	7.0	8.2	9.6	10.9	12.0
Tue 10	12.7	12.9	12.8	12.5	12.3	12.3	12.6	13.0	13.4	13.7	13.6	13.0	11.9	10.4	8.8	7.3	6.1	5.4	5.3	5.8	6.7	8.0	9.4	10.9
Wed 11	12.2	13.1	13.5	13.5	13.2	12.9	12.7	12.8	12.9	13.2	13.3	13.1	12.3	11.1	9.7	8.1	6.7	5.6	4.9	4.9	5.4	6.5	7.9	9.6
Thu 12	11.2	12.6	13.6	14.0	14.0	13.6	13.1	12.8	12.6	12.7	12.9	13.0	12.8	12.1	10.8	9.3	7.6	6.1	5.0	4.4	4.4	5.1	6.4	8.2
Fri 13	10.0	11.8	13.3	14.2	14.4	14.1	13.5	12.9	12.4	12.2	12.4	12.7	12.9	12.8	12.1	10.8	9.1	7.3	5.6	4.4	3.9	4.1	5.0	6.6
Sat 14	8.6	10.7	12.6	13.9	14.6	14.5	13.9	13.0	12.2	11.8	11.8	12.1	12.6	12.9	12.9	12.1	10.6	8.7	6.7	5.0	3.9	3.5	3.9	5.3
Sun 15	7.2	9.5	11.7	13.5	14.6	14.7	14.2	13.3	12.2	11.4	11.1	11.4	12.0	12.7	13.1	13.0	12.1	10.4	8.3	6.2	4.4	3.4	3.3	4.2
Mon 16	6.0	8.3	10.8	12.9	14.4	15.0	14.6	13.6	12.4	11.2	10.5	10.5	11.0	12.0	12.9	13.3	13.1	11.9	10.0	7.8	5.7	4.1	3.3	3.6
Tue 17	5.0	7.2	9.7	12.2	14.1	15.1	15.0	14.1	12.7	11.2	10.0	9.5	9.9	10.8	12.0	13.0	13.5	13.1	11.7	9.7	7.4	5.4	4.1	3.7
Wed 18	4.5	6.3	8.8	11.4	13.6	15.0	15.3	14.6	13.2	11.4	9.8	8.8	8.6	9.3	10.6	12.0	13.2	13.6	13.0	11.6	9.5	7.3	5.5	4.6
Thu 19	4.7	5.9	8.0	10.5	13.0	14.7	15.5	15.1	13.8	11.9	9.9	8.3	7.5	7.8	8.8	10.4	12.0	13.2	13.6	13.0	11.5	9.6	7.6	6.2
Fri 20	5.6	6.1	7.7	9.9	12.2	14.2	15.4	15.4	14.4	12.6	10.4	8.3	6.9	6.4	7.0	8.3	10.2	11.9	13.2	13.5	13.0	11.6	9.9	8.3
Sat 21	7.3	7.1	7.9	9.6	11.7	13.6	15.0	15.5	14.9	13.4	11.2	8.8	6.9	5.7	5.5	6.3	7.9	9.8	11.6	12.9	13.4	13.0	11.9	10.6
Sun 22	9.4	8.7	8.8	9.8	11.4	13.1	14.6	15.3	15.2	14.1	12.1	9.8	7.5	5.7	4.7	4.8	5.7	7.3	9.3	11.2	12.6	13.3	13.1	12.4
Mon 23	11.4	10.6	10.3	10.5	11.5	12.7	14.0	14.9	15.2	14.6	13.1	11.0	8.7	6.5	4.9	4.1	4.2	5.2	6.7	8.7	10.6	12.2	13.1	13.3
Tue 24	12.9	12.4	11.9	11.6	11.9	12.6	13.5	14.4	14.8	14.7	13.8	12.2	10.1	7.9	5.9	4.4	3.7	3.8	4.6	6.1	7.9	9.8	11.5	12.9
Wed 25	13.6	13.6	13.3	12.9	12.7	12.7	13.1	13.7	14.2	14.4	14.1	13.1	11.5	9.5	7.5	5.6	4.2	3.5	3.5	4.2	5.6	7.4	9.4	11.3
Thu 26	12.9	13.9	14.3	14.1	13.6	13.2	12.9	13.0	13.3	13.7	13.9	13.7	12.8	11.3	9.4	7.4	5.5	4.1	3.3	3.2	4.0	5.4	7.4	9.6
Fri 27	11.7	13.4	14.5	14.8	14.5	13.9	13.2	12.6	12.5	12.7	13.1	13.5	13.5	12.9	11.5	9.7	7.6	5.6	4.1	3.2	3.1	3.9	5.5	7.7
Sat 28	10.1	12.3	14.1	15.0	15.1	14.6	13.6	12.6	11.8	11.6	11.9	12.5	13.1	13.4	13.0	11.8	10.0	7.8	5.8	4.1	3.2	3.2	4.2	6.0

Robert Livingston (with data provided at www.tbone.biol.sc.edu/tide)



Note your Harbour Seal of Approval or Disapproval.

By email only: editor@harbourspiel.com. Include full name and telephone number. (Editor will edit for length.)

Grateful Seals of Approval to our amazing volunteer elves: **our kitchen crew — Marlene, Joan and team, the bakers organized by Patti, our pricers (Savannah, Traci, Naomi, Sage, Lynette, Lynn), the set up and event day crews** and the entire **volunteer board**.

Also, thanks to **Fred** for so much work, **Dilys** for her fantastic publicity and all our very generous donors — **Carolyn, Erin of GroundWaves, Cynthia, Maureen, Jayne, Linda, Jenny, Bob** and many more.

And, thanks to the community for making a successful fundraiser for the community hall.

Lesley Durrant
P. H. Community Club
Christmas Market

A very appreciated Harbour Seal of Approval to **Matt McDonald (IGA store manager)** for once again helping the P. H. Women’s Connection and Flair on the Coast with their Christmas fundraising raffles.

Also, a big thank you to **Alana** for doing them up — the gift baskets were amazing

Jean Pate

Overwhelming Harbour Seals of gratitude to **Brian Lee** for his dedication and hard work creating our local *Harbour Spiel* which is at the heart of our wonderful community.

His important, extensive contribution to our community is evident to all of us who look forward to his monthly publication.

Lyn & Bill Charlton

A huge Harbour Seal of Approval to **Deborah Warburton** for her beautiful Christmas floral arrangements for our raffles for Women’s Connection and Flair on the Coast.

Thank you so much.

Jean Pate

Warm Seals of Approval to our local **Madeira Park IGA** for providing us with a nifty food trolley saving many volunteer backs.

We so appreciate how you support us so many different ways — thank you.

Joka Wright
P. H. Food Bank Society

A hot dog-shaped Harbour Seal of Approval for **Matt McDonald and the Madeira Park IGA** for their generous donations for our hot dog fundraiser at Winterfest 2025.

Isla Mackay
PHSS 2026 graduating class.

photojournal



submitted

Local resident Katherine Ayers (r) won the stunning print ‘Enlightenment’ (donated by local artist Motoko) at the Christmas Craft Fair in the P. H. Community Hall Dec. 13. All proceeds from the Bargain Barn’s annual raffle go to the P. H. Health Centre.

Combining superior, professional workmanship and honest, friendly service with competitive rates!

Property Maintenance

A newly established exterior home and yard maintenance company from a third-generation Coast resident.

✓ Lawn mowing	✓ Wood splitting & stacking
✓ Weed control	✓ Evergreen/shrub pruning
✓ Fertilizing	✓ Hedge trimming
✓ Spring/fall cleanup	✓ Boat & watercraft winterizing
✓ Leaf blowing	✓ Fall bulb planting
✓ Gutter cleaning	✓ Odd jobs
✓ Power washing	
✓ Exterior window cleaning	

WCB Covered and fully insured
Allen Phillips — Owner/Operator
eavestoeearth@gmail.com
604-740-5499

SKOOKUMCHUCK VIEWING TIMES FEBRUARY

DATE-TIME-SIZE (small, medium, large, extra large)

EBB (-), FLOOD (+) - Standing wave is best on large flood (tide flowing into Sechart Inlet).

1. 10:57 AM -M, 3:21 PM +M
2. 11:36 AM -M, 4:11 PM +L
3. 12:25 PM -L
4. 1:08 PM -L
5. 1:45 PM -L
6. 2:16 PM -L
7. 2:46 PM -L
8. 3:15 PM -L
9. 8:28 AM +M, 3:44 PM -L
10. 8:59 AM +S, 4:20 PM -L
11. 10:19 AM +S
12. 12:00 PM +S
13. 8:46 AM -S, 1:12 PM +S
14. 9:29 AM -M, 2:01 PM +M
15. 10:08 AM -M, 2:45 PM +M
16. 10:47 AM -M, 3:28 PM +L
17. 11:25 AM -M, 4:13 PM +L
18. 12:01 PM -L, 5:00 PM +L
19. 12:26 PM -L
20. 1:05 PM -L
21. 1:33 PM -L
22. 2:04 PM -XL
23. 2:29 PM -XL
24. 8:15 AM +L, 3:21 PM -XL
25. 9:19 AM +M, 4:33 PM -XL
26. 10:46 AM +S
27. 8:03 AM -S, 12:25 PM +S
28. 9:04 AM -M, 1:31 PM +M

These are estimates only and not intended for navigation.



VENEZUELA

31,250,306

Venezuela's population (2024 estimate).

98.2%

Percentage of Venezuela's population who speak Spanish as their first language.

74.5

Venezuela's life expectancy at birth. (Canada's is 81.7.)

97.2%

Venezuela's literacy rate.

31

Venezuela's median age. (Canada's is 40.6.)

48.1%

Percentage of Venezuela's population who are Roman Catholic. Approximately 32% are Protestant.

88.4%

The percentage of Venezuela's population who are urban (2023).

979 metres

Venezuela's Angel Falls is the world's highest uninterrupted waterfall at 979 metres or 3,211 feet.

24.4%

Percentage of the country's land used for agriculture.

\$111 billion USD

Venezuela's GDP in 2023. (Canada's was \$2.24 trillion USD for 2024.)

300 billion+

Venezuela's oil reserves, estimated at over 300 billion barrels, represents about 17 percent of global supply.

~ U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, StatsCan, various

FEBRUARY WEATHER

TEMPERATURES, MERRY ISLAND

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

PRECIPITATION, MERRY ISLAND

February should have about 85.7 hours of bright sunshine (the most since October), 16 days with measurable rainfall and one day with measurable snowfall. February should have a total rainfall of 99 mm and a total snowfall of 7 cm. The highest February daily rainfall recorded is 49 mm (Feb. 11, 1983); the highest February daily snowfall recorded is 22.9 cm (Feb. 15, 1983).

FEBRUARY ASTROLOGY

AQUARIUS: JAN. 20 - FEB. 18

Aquarians are original, independent humanitarians who shy away from emotional expression. This often makes them seem uncompromising and aloof. Aquarians are thoughtful listeners but they rarely tolerate someone they disagree with. This month, Pluto arrives in Aquarius and will remain in your sign until 2043. Initially, this will cause some turbulence as the newcomer disrupts your spiritual flow state. Fear not as the guest will soon become family and by mid-March, you'll be used to its sinister and quirky effects.

PISCES: FEB. 19 - MAR. 20

The finest of the signs, Pisceans have a boundless imagination and a natural aptitude for acting. They are sympathetic, highly tolerant and incurable romantics.

This is a time for focusing on spiritual and psychological needs, and for self-reflection. As you prepare for a tumultuous year ahead don't forget to love. Love deeply and without concern for other's expectations of you. Of all the signs, Pisces are the least vulnerable to judgment — so continue to ignore your mother's hysterical slut shaming.

BC BESTSELLERS

For the week ending Jan. 17

The BC bestseller list uses sales data from over 80 independent bookstores in BC representing sales of BC published books released within the calendar year.

1. **A Season for Spies** by Iona Whishaw (Touchwood Editions)
2. **Cheapskate in Lotusland: The Philosophy and Practice of Living Well on a Small Budget** by Steve Burgess (Douglas & McIntyre)
3. **Inquisitive Raven** by Richard Wagamese, illus. by Bridget George (Douglas & McIntyre)
4. **The Canada Handbook** by Adrian Raeside (Harbour Publishing)
5. **The Eh Team: A Celebration of Canadianisms from Elbows Up to Poutine** by Charles Demers, forward by Dakota Ray Hebert (Greystone Books)
6. **Coastal Connections: A History of BC Ferries and Passenger Ships** by Derek Hayes (Harbour Publishing)
7. **Unceded** by George M. Abbott (UBC Press)
8. **John Horgan: In His Own Words** by John Horgan, Rod Mickleburgh (Harbour Publishing)
9. **A Sign of the Times: The Best of the Penthouse Marquee** by Benjamin Jackson, Aaron Chapman (Anvil Press)
10. **Vancouver Island: The Art of the Landscape** by Kelly Hutchison, Dave Hutchison (Two Trees Art Publishing)

~ Association of Book Publishers of BC

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Feb. 1 ~ Randy Rayment and Earl Stewart.
 Feb. 2 ~ Mary Cochet, Jennifer Jones and Paola Stewart.
 Feb. 3 ~ Chloe Campbell and Lorna Rousseau.
 Feb. 4 ~ Rob Alliston, Susan Hardie and Joyce Soper.
 Feb. 6 ~ Lachlin Rand.
 Feb. 9 ~ Jackie Crowell.
 Feb. 10 ~ Eddie Smith.
 Feb. 11 ~ Cody Pantages, Scott Smith and Chris Garbers.
 Feb. 12 ~ Tony Rabachuk.
 Feb. 13 ~ Kim McCanse.
 Feb. 14 ~ Steve Morton, Christine Fenn and Elsie Rennie.
 Feb. 15 ~ Shawna Lee Edwardson.
 Feb. 16 ~ Carly Bloch, Irene Boyd and Evan Silvey.
 Feb. 17 ~ Dot Farrell, Daniel Dore and Jessica Munro.
 Feb. 19 ~ Debbie Cole.
 Feb. 21 ~ Ethan Enns, Ryan Phillips, Helen LeBlanc and Cathy Silvey.
 Feb. 22 ~ Chelsea Scoular.
 Feb. 23 ~ Tony Botticelli, Evelyn Cumming and Donna Campbell.
 Feb. 24 ~ Debbie Rand.
 Feb. 25 ~ Bruce Haines.
 Feb. 27 ~ Neale Smith, Rick Jones and Gunnar Silvey.
 Feb. 28 ~ Nolan Percival, Trevor Morin, Bob Walsh, Erin Fraser and Sharlene Gamble.

Musings from a Pender Harbour bait dock girl

Leslie

In the 1970s, I worked a bait dock in Pender Harbour.

It was before marinas were polished and childhoods were scheduled — and before I understood what a gift that was.

Hassan's Store sat on the waterfront of Francis Peninsula, solid and salt-soaked, with two large live-herring tanks floating beside the dock.

The tanks rose and fell with the tides like slow-breathing animals, their lids kept firmly shut — because if you forgot, the seagulls wouldn't.

My grandparents, Don and Phyllis McLeod, lived about 25 creaky wooden stairs up above the store.

When someone came into the store, a doorbell jingled — customers came by car, foot or boat.

You didn't wait for customers when you sold live bait but would watch the docks for new arrivals.

Upstairs was also the “ghost room,” directly across from the bedroom my sister and I shared, with a clear view of the Harbour entrance.

We always knew when the ghost visited — not by sound or shadow, but by smell.

The room would suddenly fill with the scent of carnations.

No explanation, just carnations. Every time.

Our bedroom walls were covered with Tiger Beat magazine centre spreads — teen heartthrobs smiling down from every angle.

Hassan's wasn't just a store — it was a social spot in the Harbour.

All the local people came to shop there and we knew everyone who walked through the door.

There was friendly chit chat, news exchanged, laughter shared.



AI (Chat GPT)

An AI imagining of what Hassan's Store looked like in the 1970s.

You could even run a tab and pay at month's end — history in itself now.

Grandpa was generous.

Nana, on the other hand, knew exactly what everyone owed.

The store sold everything the

Harbour needed: groceries, hardware, tackle, souvenirs, live herring bait, and my personal favourite — Archie comic books.

Hot dogs slowly turned on a spit, buns warmed above them, and the air carried that unmistakable mix of

Harbour Spiel

salt, fuel and wieners that never really leaves you.

I was nine years old, blonde pig-tails bouncing, and proudly employed as dock girl and bait scooper, earning \$1.35 an hour.

Live herring were \$4 a dozen back then.

My job was to net them carefully — alive, shiny and wriggling — counting each one aloud into buckets and making sure no dead ones slipped in.

Floaters were removed immediately and either fed to the hopeful seagulls or saved for me.

I caught about four rock cod a day just hanging out on the dock.

Sometimes I took my freshly caught rock cod to the Chinese restaurant in Madeira Park and sold them for quick cash.

I turned that profit into buying jewelery for myself, which was a solid job perk.

Later, I made the questionable decision to walk along the centre beam of one of the herring tanks.

I slipped and was suddenly submerged in a swirling silver universe — hundreds of herring flashing around me like living coins.

Their sticky scales clung to my skin and hair for weeks.

No amount of shampoo could defeat “eau de herring.”

On hot days, my younger sister and I would jump straight into the ocean and swim underneath the dock, hanging out there like it was our secret fort.

Cool, shaded and hidden from the world, it felt like the best clubhouse imaginable.

The dock was always alive.

Charlie the chipmunk was unofficial harbour supervisor, watching

dock goings-on with deep suspicion.

Eagles perched overhead, seals surfaced nearby, jellyfish drifted past like floating glass and starfish clung stubbornly underneath.

Orcas passed through now and then, silent reminders of who really owned these waters.

Every morning the fishing boats went out, crews waving as they passed.

Later they came back heavy with catch, waving again.

In between came yachts — some modest, some enormous, some polished enough to look like floating mansions.

Famous people passed through, too — movie stars and wealthy boat owners quietly cruising the coast, provisioning on their way north to Desolation Sound or Princess Louisa Inlet.

Rumour had it that legendary yachts like John Wayne’s *Wild Goose* passed through the region.

Nana always got excited when famous people came to shop, but she kept it together.

Her excitement showed after they left.

She was clear: treat famous people like ordinary folks — that’s why they came here.

Nana taught me to count change the old-fashioned way, always cash, and ring up sales first on the paper calculator, then punch the total into the towering old cash register — ornate, engraved and heavy enough to anchor a boat.

We were one of only two places selling live herring at the time.

The other was Irvine’s Landing, which had a pub known to me for milkshakes served in aluminum cups.

We didn’t have that fancy machine, but I dreamed about it.



Peninsula Times

An advertisement for Hassan’s Store in the *Peninsula Times* (March 5, 1975).

Grandpa played his saxophone with his brothers in their band for community dances there, music drifting across the same harbour.

Between tips for being “cute,” free chips and chocolate milk, comic books, and the quiet pride of being useful, it was more than a job.

It was an education.

I learned young how to catch a rope thrown from a boat and tie it properly.

Daily sunsets were the best you have ever seen — no exaggeration.

The kind that make you stop whatever you’re doing and just watch.

I don’t know how many live bait docks are left now, or how many children grow up learning tides and how to run a business, instead of times tables.

But I do know that being waterfront, alongside my family, surrounded by fish boats, fancy yachts, chipmunks, ghosts and herring tanks, was a gift.

And now, in one of life’s great full circles, I’m thrilled to spend my retirement (when I retire) in the very town where I once worked the herring docks — still watching the water, still grateful.

FEBRUARY

- Sun. Feb. 1.....Live music with Joe Rotundo and the Coastal Comets - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 2 p.m.
Mon. Feb. 2.....SCRD budget committee - SCRD boardroom, 9:30 a.m.
Tue. Feb. 3.....SCRD budget committee - SCRD boardroom, 9:30 a.m.
Thu. Feb. 5.....Harbourside Friendships (Valentines card exchange) - P. H. Community Hall, 10:30 a.m.
Fri. Feb. 6.....Live music with Eddy Edrik - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6:30 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 7.....Karaoke Party w/ DJ Karl - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6 p.m.
Sun. Feb. 8.....Superbowl Party - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 3 p.m.
Mon. Feb. 9.....Pender Harbour food bank pickup - P. H. Community Church Ministry Centre, 10 a.m.
Tue. Feb. 10.....P. H. Womens' Connection (Linda Pearson) - P. H. School of Music 112, 10 a.m.
Thu. Feb. 12.....Backeddy Pub reopens for the season
Thu. Feb. 12.....SCRD committee of the whole - SCRD boardroom, 9:30 a.m.
Thu. Feb. 12.....Harbourside Friendships (Armchair travel to China) - P. H. Community Hall, 10:30 a.m.
Thu. Feb. 12.....SCRD regular board - SCRD boardroom, 1 p.m.
Fri. Feb. 13.....Live music with Eddy Edrik - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6:30 p.m.
Fri. Feb. 13.....P. H. School of Music Coffee House - P. H. School of Music, 7:30 p.m. (doors 7 p.m.)
Sat. Feb. 14.....P. H. Music Society's Mid-winter Chamber Music Weekend - P. H. School of Music, 2 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 14.....Live music with Joe Stanton - Backeddy Pub, 5-8 p.m.
Sun. Feb. 15.....P. H. Music Society's Mid-winter Chamber Music Weekend - P. H. School of Music, 2 p.m.
Sun. Feb. 15.....Live music with Blue Western - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 2 p.m.
Mon. Feb. 16.....Family Day
Thu. Feb. 19.....SCRD Electoral Area Services Committee - SCRD boardroom, 9:30 a.m.
Thu. Feb. 19.....Harbourside Friendships (Music with Ted and Joan) - P. H. Community Hall, 10:30 a.m.
Fri. Feb. 20.....Live music with Eddy Edrik - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6:30 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 21.....P. H. Living Heritage Society presents Martin Swan - Sarah Wray Hall, 2 p.m.
Sun. Feb. 22.....Live music with Spindrift Street - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 2 p.m.
Mon. Feb. 23.....Pender Harbour food bank pickup - P. H. Community Church Ministry Centre, 10 a.m.
Tue. Feb. 24.....P. H. Womens' Connection (Book and Bites Exchange) - P. H. School of Music 112, 10 a.m.
Thu. Feb. 26.....SCRD committee of the whole - SCRD boardroom, 9:30 a.m.
Thu. Feb. 26.....Harbourside Friendships (Better at Home anniversary) - P. H. Community Hall, 10:30 a.m.
Thu. Feb. 26.....SCRD regular board - SCRD boardroom, 1 p.m.
Fri. Feb. 27.....Live music with Eddy Edrik - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6:30 p.m.
Sat. Feb. 28.....Protect Yourself Online and Offline w/ Jay Calvert - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 12 noon
Sat. Feb. 28.....Live music with Joe Stanton - Backeddy Pub, 5-8 p.m.

Harbour Spiel Trivia Answers: 1. **b** 2. **d** 3. **c** 4. **d** 5. **c** 6. **b**

"Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same."

~ Emily Brontë



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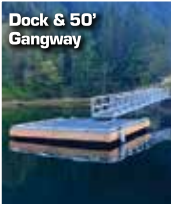
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