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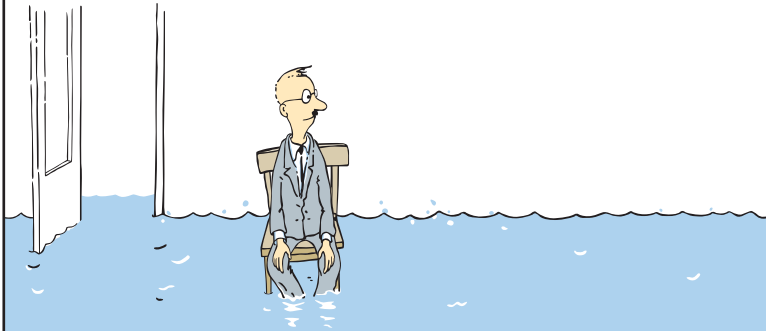
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since 1990.*

HARBOUR SPIEL

MAY 2012
ISSUE 257

Whales and dolphins collide
in Bargain Harbour (photos p. 10)

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Editor

Brian Lee

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Contributors

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Cover photo: Brian Lee. (Correction: April cover photo by Paul Hopkins.)

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~ JUNE ISSUE MAILS MAY 31 ~

EDITORIAL

Advocacy arrives in Area A

By Brian Lee



You might have already picked up on faint rumblings about the formation of what could be called a “ratepayers association.”

It all happened quite innocently.

Some folks met to discuss pushing for more walking paths and someone said, “Why stop there?”

It’s nothing new — essentially, a volunteer board would act as unofficial town council to advocate on our behalf.

They would work closely with our SCRD director to pursue and co-ordinate projects considered important to the vitality of our community.

The group’s mandate will likely be broad and that’s the point.

Area A spans a large area but has a relatively small population base. It’s also geographically isolated from the population centres at the south end of the Sunshine Coast.

Because of that, Area A has developed a certain self-sufficient pride when it comes to spearheading local initiatives.

But our reliance on overworked and aging volunteers is also one of Area A’s key vulnerabilities.

We’re lucky to be served by a sophisticated network of volunteer organizations but they are increasingly forced to contend with any number of levels of government and funding agencies to carry out their work.

With over 50 local organizations working independently, the collective inefficiency strains resources and limits the scope of what might be achieved.

And that’s what this group, whose working title is the “Pender Harbour Area Improvement Association,” aims to remedy.

It’s been suggested a small portion of our tax assessments could fund a part-time co-ordinator tasked with assisting with many of the festivals and other events held each year.

These events require work often duplicated by other organizations

Procedures for dealing with details like acquiring liquor licenses, rental of sound equipment or the writing of press releases need not be reinvented every time. A liaison could assist in maintaining and promoting a volunteer database to help spread the workload.

One could easily find dozens of examples of how such an umbrella organization could fortify the community.

There will be those who say we need to incorporate in order to address the community’s future needs.

That may be true but we need to see a little more evidence in the form of a feasibility study first, and that’s a process that will take some time.

Meanwhile, energies wouldn’t be wasted by tackling a list of projects with a unified voice.

Ideally, SCRD staff would be recognized as an invaluable resource and both groups would discover mutual benefits in the relationship.

If it all seems utopian, it is.

There will no doubt be disagreements and issues that divide the community in coming years and this group will be at the centre of it.

They will have to put up with critics and whiners and folks who contribute nothing but resistance.

But whatever form this advocacy group takes, it will rely on tremendous volunteer support from those who believe Pender Harbour is too precious to squander.

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SPIEL PICKS

CANNERY ROW: May 4-6

You loved them at the P. H. Blues Society Mardi Gras dance, now love them up close in the cosy confines of the Garden Bay Pub. Gary Comeau, Tim Hearsey and Chris Nordquist are three sought-after musicians who will be playing for three nights during the sometimes raucus Garden Bay Pub fishing derby. Guaranteed fun.

P. H. LIONS MOTHER'S DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST: May 13

Bring your mother to the best flapjack fest this side of Jervis Inlet. It runs from 9 a.m. to noon at the Pender Harbour Lions Hall in Kleindale.

MAY DAY: May 19

The 67th annual tradition takes over Madeira Park starting at 8 a.m. with the fun run (in front of Prudential Realty) and the fishing derby at the government dock. Also at 8 a.m., the Lions pancake breakfast starts up in the community hall until the parade starts at 11 a.m. The day continues with field events, children's games, longboard hockey, May Pole dance, live music, food, raffles, vendors and friends. The kids' dance starts at 5:30 p.m. in the hall followed by the adult dance featuring Dancetrax DJ Services at 8:30 p.m.

ATTACK OF DANGER BAY DOWNHILL LONGBOARD RACE: May 20

The 11th year of the biggest race on the planet. Heats start at 8 a.m. and all attending are urged to take the shuttle bus from the Oak Tree Market leaving every 15 minutes. There's food, vendors and lots of fast-paced action. Look for local longboard phenom Scott "Scoot" Smith as he tries to take the podium in his hometown race — one of the few on the planet he hasn't won . . . yet.

PHOTOJOURNAL



Babe McGurk photo

Sue 'The Bitch Goddess of Harbour Video' Kammerle is seen here celebrating her 84th birthday in Madeira Park on April 20. Kammerle offered 'no comment' when asked about the status of her relationship with her three 'companions.'

Half a sheet of plywood, no screws but lots of plastic and string

That was all the participants had to make a boat and use it to beat 11 other teams around a course at this year's April Tools Wooden Boat Challenge.

Oh, and they also had to pick up an inflated beach ball soon after the start and carry it across the finish line.

For the 11th year, the organizers of April Tools threw in a twist to challenge the builders.

This year a small amount of materials and no screws challenged the builders to design and build a boat that would stay together long enough to finish.

Most teams did admirably at that but many forgot about the beach ball.

That would prove to be disastrous for some.

More often than not, the teams that did well this year were those best able to carry the ball without it falling out of the boat, costing valuable time.

In a huge upset, perennial champs the Garden Bay fire hall's Fireflies were denied victory this year and had to be content with third place.

Instead, taking first place was a team from Delta, dressed in Budweiser red and often seen with one of their sponsor's products in hand.

"We've been at it for eight years and finally made it to the top," said one of the team members after accepting their \$700 cash prize.

Second this year was another team that travelled a long distance to be here — team Great Hope from Kamloops.

Sechelt's The Sinkers won the people's choice "Spiffy Skiffy" award and the Squamton Four from Madeira Park won the Broken Paddle award for "persevering despite overwhelming difficulties" (or something like that).

The Broken Paddle award was created in recognition of a P. H. May 2012



Brian Lee photo

Delta, BC's team Bud 1 — Peter Motzek, Norm Richards, Alex Kurenov and Scott Alexander (and joined by team members of Bud 2) accept \$700 for finishing first at this year's April Tools event. (See p. 22 for more photos.)

Jazz Festival team headed by Monty Rolston back in 2002 that completed the race with a paddle that broke seconds into the race.

Five teams from Pender Harbour High School built boats in the weeks leading up to April Tools and participated enthusiastically in two races.

In the youth division, and repeating last year's performance, was Team Awesome (Jake Snedden, Luke Roose, Cody Edwardson, and Carsen Anderson) who took first in the trophy race.

The Hydrophobes (Khoya Craig,

Liz Rowlands and Michael Parrot) came second in that race but took their revenge in the fun race which seems to reward cheating, splashing and outright sabotage.

Bobbi Bennett's unparalleled ability to hawk 50/50 tickets was much appreciated by the winner — her sister Kelly Reid.

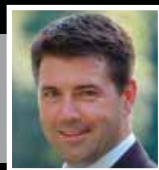
By press time there were unconfirmed reports that the Madeira Park fire hall team was still trying to get their beach ball into their boat, hours after the event had ended.

Proud sponsors of P. H. Seniors Housing Dinners for Donors campaign: 149 bricks sold!



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Alan Stewart
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Gibsons, Sechelt, Pender Harbour



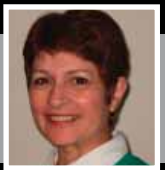
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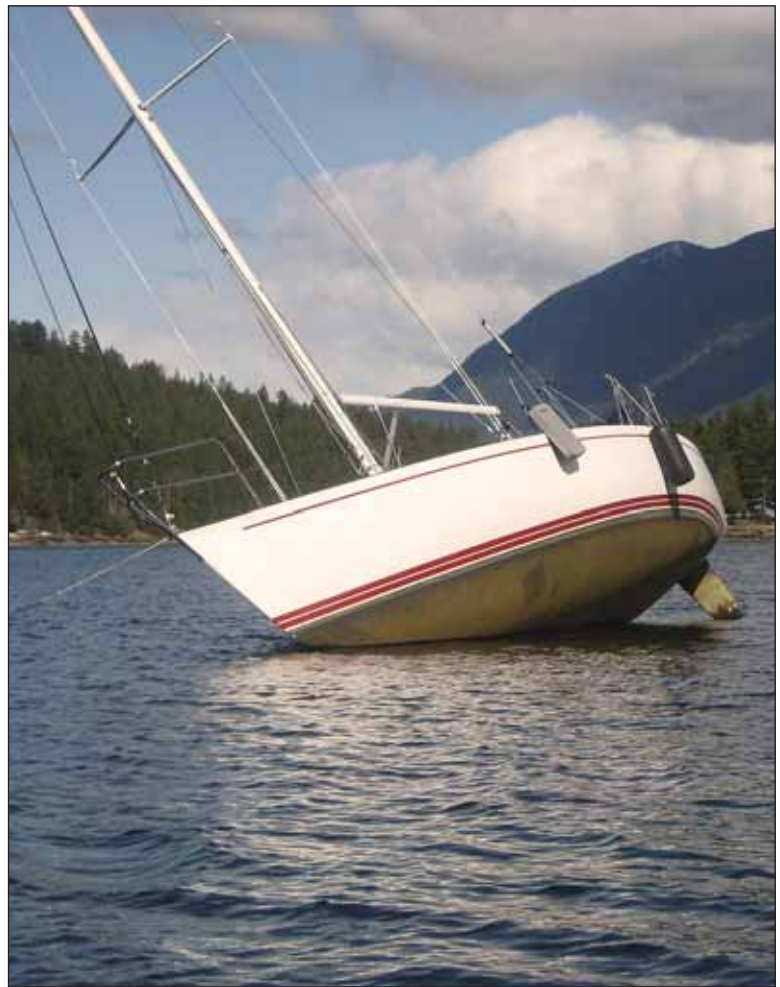
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Brian Lee photo

P. H. Rotary volunteer Lisa Rae checks one of the herring curtains the club has installed around Pender Harbour on March 26. While it is not yet known if the project will boost the local herring population, the project has shown success in encouraging the herring to spawn on their non-toxic sheets on landscape fabric.



Keray Farrell photo

The owner of the *Harwar*, paid the price for misjudging the location of this rock inside Gunboat Bay last month.

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Kelly Kammerle photo

Faced with a tough schedule in their recent Over-30 men's soccer league championship — twice they were forced to play back to back games — the Pender Harbour Bananas had to be content with winning the consolation final and the familiar 'Beer Cup.' It was the sixth (or seventh?) time in 10 years the Bananas have won it. Overall winner CPU beat the Wolves one to nil in an exciting final April 1.



Brian Lee photo

This classic 1912 tug, the *Nautilus Swell*, anchored overnight off the Skardon Islands on April 7. The 90-foot wooden ship is now used for dive charters throughout BC and Alaska.

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Local dog immortalized on cover of Jack London novel

Sunny Charboneau received a happy surprise last month when she learned a photo of her dog Cujo would appear on a new hardcover edition of Jack London's classic *White Fang*.

Cujo was the family's wolf cross and had recently died when Charboneau received a package.

"I opened it up and out fell this book and I recognized the picture right away," says Charboneau.

Animal photographer Deborah Barnes, daughter of former BC MLA Emery Barnes, visited the Charboneaus last year to photograph Cujo.

"She kept trying to get a good

picture but he kept going over to lick her," says Charboneau.

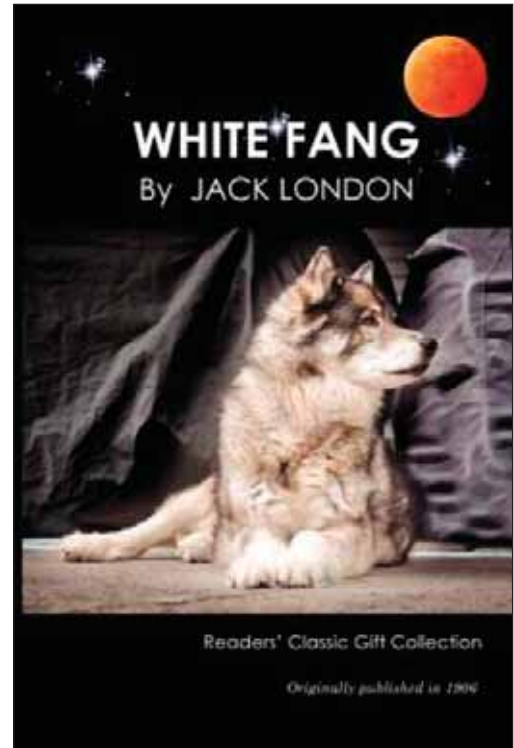
"After an hour and a half he got bored and lay in the carport and that's the picture they used."

Barnes posted the photos on her website where one of the shots was picked up by U.S. publisher Convergence Digital Reproductions for their "Readers' Classic Gift Collection" series.

First published in 1906, *White Fang* is London's famous story about a domesticated wolf hybrid set in the Yukon during the Klondike Gold Rush.

At least 349 editions of the book have been published and it has been translated into more than 89 different languages.

In 1991, the book was adapted by Disney into a motion picture starring Ethan Hawke.



publisher photo

Merv and Sunny Charboneau's Cujo is pictured here on the cover of a recent edition of the Jack London classic *White Fang*.

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RCMP bust Garden Bay grow op

Sunshine Coast RCMP seized over 500 marijuana plants from a Garden Bay home on March 31.

In a press release, RCMP say they executed a search warrant on the home, located in the 4900 block of Sinclair Bay Road.

They arrested a 29-year-old man who was the lone occupant of the house at the time.

A large guard dog was also found on the property and seized as well.

The suspect has since been released on an undertaking.

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Local gardening club hosts blue poppy expert Bill Terry

On May 14, The Pender Harbour Gardening Club will host author and Asiatic poppy expert Bill Terry at its monthly meeting.

Terry will talk about his plant-hunting adventures in a presentation called "The perfect garden: Plant-hunting in Tibet."

In 2009, Terry and his wife Rosemary took a 2,700-kilometre journey by Jeep from Chengdu, China to Lhasa, Tibet.

They accompanied a party of plant enthusiasts led by the Dutch alpinist Harry Jans.

Terry says his dream and intent on going on the trip was to find the elusive blue poppy growing in the wild.

The trip from Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, to Lhasa took them over some of the world's most hair-raising roads.

They travelled in monsoon season, crossing the raging headwaters of the Yangtze, the Mekong and Salween rivers.

They traversed a series of mountain passes as high as 5,000 metres (16,500 feet). And there they found the Himalayan blue poppy, growing in the wild.

Among the photos he returned with are several species of Asiatic poppy as well as many depicting Tibetan life under Chinese rule.

Terry is the author of *Blue Heaven: Encounters with the Blue Poppy* and the soon-to-be-released *Beyond Beauty: Hunting the Wild Blue Poppy*.

The presentation will be at the Pender Harbour School of Music at 10 a.m.

Admission for non-members will be by donation.



stock photo

Single flowerhead of the Himalayan blue poppy *Meconopsis grandis*.



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Dolphins and killer whales collide in Bargain Harbour

Francis Peninsula's Bargain Harbour came alive on April 20 when a pod of 60 to 100 white-sided dolphins made a sudden and dramatic appearance.

It was around 1 p.m. and an hour after low tide when they appeared.

The spectacle was witnessed by dozens of people lined up to snap photos of the pod which could be easily seen milling around a short distance from shore.

They may have been feeding or

they may have been hiding because soon after, the surface of the bay erupted when at least six Orca whales rounded the point.

Only transient Orca whales are known to eat dolphins (resident Orcas eat fish) but the dolphins' behaviour certainly gave the impression they were being chased.

Included in the melee were at least two Steller's sea lions.

The whales rarely surfaced after they first appeared and it is uncertain

if they were feeding on the dolphins.

In the ensuing chaos, the dolphins' pod separated into smaller groups with some managing to get out of the bay.

Afterwards, reports suggest a number of dolphins took protection in the small cove at Baker's Beach just outside of Bargain Harbour while the whales remained offshore.

A smaller pod of about 10-20 remained in Bargain Harbour for the rest of the afternoon.



David Pearson photo

1. Around 1 p.m., a school of 60-plus Pacific White-sided dolphins were seen entering Bargain Harbour. They were spotted near 'Seven Isles' (just south of RONA) minutes before.



Brian Lee photo

2. The pod milled around slowly in a tight group for awhile before they were startled by something and darted back and forth across the bay at high speed.



Brian Lee photo

3. About 20 thrilled onlookers were stopped at the pullout on Francis Peninsula Road as the pod moved closer to shore.



Brian Lee photo

4. The dolphins crossed the bay several times putting on a spectacular show before those watching understood . . .



Brian Lee photo

5. 'Ooohh, look! Whales are coming to play with the dolphins.' At least one onlooker was horrified to learn the whales probably weren't there to play.



Brian Lee photo

6. This man and child had the best view of the action but may have got more excitement than they were comfortable with after the whales arrived. The dolphins are seen here fanning out at high speed — possibly in an effort to escape unseen whales.



Brian Lee photo

7. The dolphins seemed to be looking for an exit but, because it was low tide, this route through Canoe Pass was closed. A number of attempts were made to escape Bargain Harbour via the opposite shore but, each time, the pod was turned back.



Brian Lee photo

8. The dolphins could be photographed easily at just 20 to 30 feet from shore. Unfortunately, the midday glare hampered the quality of many of the shots.



Don McLaren photo

9. It still isn't known if this pod of Orcas left Bargain Harbour with full bellies or if they were just there to have some fun — scaring the crap out of some silly dolphins.

Navigating through the intricacies of parks, trails and bikeways



By Frank Mauro,
Area A Director

Now that the time-consuming budget process is completed, more attention can be focused on setting the policies and priorities at the SCRD to ensure we all get the best bang for our buck from our tax dollars.

Area A residents consider the development of trails and bikeways to be a high priority.

This was noted both in the public consultation process for the soon to be completed *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* and in my discussions with residents.

BACKGROUND

There are two functions at the SCRD that manage and fund parks, trails and bikeways — bicycle and walking paths (665) and community parks (650).

Community parks includes the construction and maintenance of recreational trails within SCRD parks or on tenured lands for park use.

Examples are beach access trails on statutory rights-of-way and trails built on Crown land with permits held by the regional district.

The bicycle and walking paths function includes the construction and maintenance of paved transportation paths, particularly for bikeways on or near roadways.

While works and projects in community parks are generally paid for by taxation, works and projects in

bicycle and walking paths are eligible for funding through the gas tax fund.

This is a federal program administered by the Union of BC Municipalities which provides funding to local governments for capital and planning projects.

Project categories that are eligible for funding include public transit, community energy, solid waste, water/wastewater and capacity building and integrated community sustainability planning. (Bicycle and walking paths falls under the public transit portion of the eligible categories.)

CURRENT SITUATION

Area A is not a participant in the bicycle and walking paths function.

The reason given by previous directors for not participating is that the function, used for planning and

We invite you to join the conversation at the May SCRD committee meetings below:

Infrastructure Services Committee May 3 at 1:30 p.m.	Corporate and Administrative Services Committee May 24 at 1:30 p.m.
--	---

Community Services Committee May 10 at 1:30 p.m.	Regular Board May 24 at 7:30 p.m.
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Regular Board
May 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Planning and Development Services Committee
May 17 at 9:30 a.m.

Our meetings are held at **1975 Field Road** in Wilson Creek at the SCRD **Board Room**. Agendas for these meetings are available at www.scrd.ca/Agendas-2012.

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Water plays a vital role in our lives. It is used not only by the natural environment, but also as a potable supply to residents of the Sunshine Coast. To help sustain the balance between our water sources and our water needs, everyone needs to participate. To assist in these endeavours, the SCRD is offering South Pender, North Pender and Egmont Water Systems customers the Bathroom Fixture Replacement Program. This FREE package is worth over \$500 per bathroom and we offer a maximum of two installations per dwelling.

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maintenance costs, is paid for by taxation proportional to assessments (high in Area A). Gas tax allocation is calculated proportional to population (low in Area A), creating an inequitable situation.

Consequently, while some small projects not related to bicycle/walking paths have been undertaken with gas tax funds, Area A has a considerable sum accumulated in the fund (approximately \$444,000 uncommitted by the end of this calendar year).

Most of the rural areas in the regional district have spent or committed substantial portions of their allotted funds to develop and construct some great pathways.

OPTIONS

Achieving the development of these pathways will be difficult, if not impossible, without an SCRD “function” to plan and deliver the projects.

Most of the projects require the assistance and co-operation of the Ministry of Transportation for roadway access and interface. This would be best achieved through the regional district.

The options open for Area A to gain access to some of the gas tax funds for building bicycle and walking paths are either:

1. Join the bicycle and walking paths Function 665 and pay regional taxes proportional to assessments, or
2. Create a new function (Area A bicycle/walking paths) and pay all costs under it, including staff.

Either option requires the residents of Area A to go through at least an alternate approval process.

The AAP requires advertising the intention to proceed, holding public consultation, and then, if fewer than 10 per cent of the registered voters op-

pose it, the proposal passes.

The cost would be borne by the residents of Area A but it is a lower cost alternative to a full referendum.

I intend to further investigate the two options but my inclination is to favour the creation of a new Area A function as it would provide better control of expenditures.

The working environment at the

SCRD would be similar for both options.

OPEN DISCUSSION

I will be available between 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 5 at John Henry’s in Garden Bay to answer questions and to listen to your concerns.

Reach me at (604) 740-1451 or by e-mail: Frank.Mauro@scrd.ca.

Dr. Virkela,

My front teeth are crooked.

What can be done?



In addition to being a cosmetic issue, crooked teeth can cause serious complications and long-term health problems if left untreated. Fortunately, there are solutions for children *and* adults who are affected by crooked teeth.

Problems Associated with Crooked Teeth

Properly aligned teeth provide support for each other and for the entire mouth. Crooked teeth, however, do not and can cause jaw and muscle strain, leaving the mouth vulnerable to injury. People who have crooked teeth may also suffer from tooth pain or sensitivity and may have an increased risk for tooth decay and gingivitis.

Depending on the degree of crowding, there are a number of treatments available.

The teeth can be straightened with braces but veneers may be used when minor alignment adjustments are required. Veneers are like false fingernails that are bonded over the teeth to improve colour and shape. There is minimal tooth preparation required to bond veneers over the teeth, they can last for years and you would never know they are there.

Talk to your dentist to find out which treatment is best for you.



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The Cuban paradox: A Canadian's take



By Joe Harrison

Joe and Solveigh Harrison began 2012 with a five-week journey to Cuba.

Part II

(Continued from the April 2012 issue.)

Varadero is one of a number of resorts (keys or small islands with beaches) scattered along Cuba's 1,000-kilometre Atlantic northern shore attracting tens of thousands of Canadians and Europeans.

To the south are the azure waters of the Caribbean Sea where Haiti, Do-

minican Republic, and the archipelago stretch off over the horizon towards Venezuela and South America.

The 53 international resort hotels in Varadero line a spit of white sand stretching like a great hooked finger 30 kilometres northward into the blue Atlantic south of Bermuda.

Our choice, Kawama Resort, is the oldest hotel, dating back to the days of Al Capone and the cozy relationship between the Mafia and brutal dictator Fulgencio Batista.

We chose Kawama because it lies adjacent to the town of Varadero

(which is off limits for Cubans) but would at least give us the cultural flavour.

Al Capone got his start during Prohibition in the 1920s as a rumrunner to the Florida Keys just 90 miles away.

The Cuban authorities point out parallels with current drug cartels in Colombia.

Capone's former mansion sits as a Cuban monument to the bad old days when the Mafia and the CIA ran the country.

Today "Al's Place" is a *palidare*, a private family-run restaurant which is different from the government restaurants serving indifferent food in a lacklustre manner.

Cuba is three times larger than Vancouver Island and sits more or less east-west astride the Tropic of Cancer, basking in the constant northeast trade winds except during the summer hurricane season.

The island country lies just a few minutes by plane from the coast of Florida where two million Cubans and their descendants now live.

Initially most Cubans who left did so because their property was seized during the Revolution.

Cubans continue to vote with their feet for economic reasons or to escape political repression.

The population of Cuba at 11.4 million is one third as large as



Solveigh Harrison photo

Kawama Resort, just outside the resort town of Varadero, is the oldest hotel dating back to the days of Al Capone

Canada's and traces its history back to the landing of Christopher Columbus, who landed in 1492 on Juventud, one of the many islands south of Havana.

Today, Cuba's people reflect a cosmopolitan, integrated society with an international ambience.

Three out of eight Cubans are white, four are copper brown, and one in eight is black.

New arrivals from places like Pakistan, Iran, and Africa are being assimilated into what is a truly egalitarian society where all races seem to mix as friends and neighbours.

To see and hear the swirling tro-va rhythms of Cubans celebrating in dance and song is deeply moving — a truly spectacular example of spiritual unity that gives one hope.

The pettiness of our ideologies and prejudice are suddenly just transitory illusions — the only reality becomes the joy of dance, flow of strings, sobbing sax and brass, singers' faces and the machine-gun staccato of the drums that reach back to our African forebears thousands of years ago.

But very few Americans visit Cuba.

Since the Cuban socialist revolution over 50 years ago, when vast tracts of American-owned sugar plantations were confiscated, the U.S. government has imposed an embargo that only allowed Americans with special permission to visit family or on approved cultural exchanges.

Few Cubans forgive the first George Bush for cutting off humanitarian aid when the Soviet Union withdrew from Cuba in 1991.

Crying children were put to bed with sugar water while others died.

Fidel Castro remembered by offering to send hundreds of doctors to New Orleans during the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

May 2012



Solveigh Harrison photo

The beach in Varadero is similar to what you would find at many other tropical destinations with one exception — there are no Americans.

The second George Bush didn't win any Latin American friends either after he churlishly rejected the offer, leaving the victims to wait days for medical help and needlessly increasing the American death toll.

The crippling U.S. economic blockade and the fall of Cuba's communist ally, the Soviet Union, forced Cuba to open its doors to tourism to pay the bills.

Cubans almost universally feel that Americans kicked them when they were down by cutting off all food purchases and money sent from relatives in Florida just when things were desperate.

Cubans speak bitterly of the mid-'90s and the Bush blockade but seem to have rallied patriotically.

Even through the financial crisis that followed, Cubans responded by planting organic gardens, raising piglets in the courtyard, keeping hens or pigeons on the rooftops and using bikes and horse carts to save oil.

It is not illegal for Americans to visit Cuba, just to spend money there, a crime which can result in huge fines.

However, brave Yanks do enter through Puerto Rico or Cancun, Mexico.

These visitors do so on a cash basis only and avoid U.S. credit cards which will land the lawbreaker in hot water.

It has all contributed to building a very powerful Cuban identity.

This unlikely Cuban patriotism is one based on science education, the arts, music, dance and altruistic social goals.

It makes for a unique society that the Cuban government very successfully promotes as a model of development in the Third World and especially in Latin America.

And the message resonates.

(Continued next month.)

Welcome to Attack of Danger Bay 11



By Bricin Lyons

Attack of Danger Bay is moving into the next decade with two-time defending champion Kevin “K-Rimes”

Reimer coming back to try to make it three.

In memory of our longtime advocate, supporter and Rotarian Michael Crowe, we’ve shined up the Michael Crowe Trophy and updated it with all of the past champions from the last decade of Pender Harbour racing.

Crowe donated the trophy back in 2006 and it looks better than ever now with all champions’ names etched upon it.

This year we made some fantastic looking medals for winners with a number of classes to spread them around in.

There will be cash prizes for the top racers in ladies, juniors, men’s and a master’s class.

It’s going to make for some exciting action.

On Saturday, after the May Day Queen is crowned, come watch an action-packed game or two of skateboarding hockey.

Competitors will once again rage in the cage at the basketball courts beside the MPES playground.

Come watch the best of the best



Brian Lee photo

Competitors brace for ‘Carnage Corner’ during a semi-final heat in last year’s Attack of Danger Bay longboard battle.

clash for a chance to win the cherished LHL Danger Bay Cup.

Just a reminder that on race day — Sunday, May 20 — we are asking that you take our free shuttle bus that leaves every 15 minutes from the Oak Tree Market starting at 8 a.m.

Please leave your cars in Madeira Park as we must maintain emergency vehicle access along Francis Peninsula Road and Murdoch Road.

Also, out of respect for local residents and others, we will be working closely with the RCMP, Rotary Club of Pender Harbour and the P. H. Lions Club to ensure we continue to keep

a positive and family friendly atmosphere at the event.

In other words, please leave your drugs and alcohol at home.

This year will see more walkie-talkies and course workers to make sure residents are able to leave their homes at anytime during the race.

We will also be adding a shuttle bus stop at the bottom of the hill to move any spectators safely to carnage corner to enjoy the top-notch racing and spectacular crashes.

Note to Pender Harbour businesses: Please hire more staff. The resorts, motels and bed and breakfasts will be filling up while any establishment that serves food will once again be packed.

Racers, fans and family are flocking to the Sunshine Coast’s favourite weekend — Pender Harbour May Day.

And once again, thanks to all the volunteers — we couldn’t run this colossal event without you.

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Harrison: Pender held back by lack of political autonomy

Dear Editor,

Don Fraser's idea for a walkway along Lily Lake from the Legion to Tyner Park needs support.

A number of local people have been meeting to try and get this project up and running, but it will not be easy.

Our single voice on the SCRD is holding Pender Harbour back from becoming an age-friendly community that attracts young people as well as retired folks.

We need a local government vehicle to get things done because most of us oldtimers are running out of time and energy.

It's time to form an "interim district of Pender Harbour council" that can ask the province to hold a local referendum to form a district municipi-

pality.

We went through all the preliminary studies some years ago.

Yes, I was opposed when we voted a dozen years ago but both the economics and the homeowner tax position have changed.

I've studied the budget numbers and we can do it economically.

The SCRD office on Field Road is far away and leaves Pender matters to a handful of bureaucrats.

They should be employed here and add to the local economy.

We're paying anyway — better some of the money stay here.

There is no legal reason why (Community, Sport and Culture Minister Ida Chong) cannot authorize a vote in November 2012.

Legally, the minister can order a vote if there is an indication of strong

community support through a delegation with a petition signed by a good number of local voters.

Without a locally elected mayor and council, Pender will become just another summer village that becomes a winter ghost town.

Let's do something about it.

Joe Harrison

Time for Spring Tune-up....

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Our popular sleepover event is back! Saturday May 5 at 7:00 p.m. For ages 6 to 12 years. \$25 per child with family rates available.

YOUTH NIGHT

On Friday May 11 the pool will come alive with games and music. This is a youth friendly environment. Youth admission is \$2.

DANGER BAY SWIM WEEKEND

On May 18 and May 19 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. come and get into the mood for a fun and action packed weekend of longboarding. Join friends and boarders at the pool for a swim, hot tub, sauna or workout. Admission is \$2.

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY

First Friday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. come and join us in the lobby for some tea or coffee and healthy snacks.

NEW!

We are pleased to announce the Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre extended hours for summer.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Effective May 22 to June 30 the facility will be open Monday to Friday for the regular schedule of swim and fitness classes. The facility will be closed weekends.

Effective July 1 to 27 the facility will be open Monday to Friday for the morning swim and fitness schedule. The facility will be closed evenings and weekends.

Watch for our summer flyer in the mail describing our summer camp programs for kids and youth.

WALKABOUT PENDER HARBOUR

A new walking program designed for beginner fitness levels using Nordic Walking Poles. May to June.



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From AC to RONA: Russ and Tess Jones put the ‘family’ back



RONA staff and VIPs including MLA Nicholas Simons join Russ and Tess Jones after cutting the board to officially “re-open” Madeira Park’s RONA store on April 20.

Russ Jones admits it took a little getting used to.

He and his wife Tess had just sold everything they owned to purchase Madeira Park’s RONA Building Supplies from its corporate parent when he heard it the first time.

“I overheard someone refer to my new store as ‘AC,’” he laughs.

“It took me a few times before I figured it out. Then it became kind of funny to me because, every time someone said it they’d catch themselves and, as if speaking to a foreigner, they’d explain, ‘Sorry, AC is the *old* name.’”

It was just one of the ways in which Russ and Tess have come to appreciate their new role in the community will be much more than just that of a retailer of goods.

And they wouldn’t have it any other way.

“Knowing that our customers see our store as having a particular history that people not only recognize, but maybe even celebrate, reaffirms why we chose to be here over anywhere else,” says Russ.

AC is, of course, what many still call the building supply store opened on the site by Art Christian in 1972. Christian owned and operated AC Rentals and Building Supplies for 17 years before retiring in 1989.

“A lot of people think it was the first building supply store around here but it wasn’t,” says Christian, quick to deflect any applause for his accomplishments.

“Wilf Harper had the first one back in the ’60s. He ran it where the fire hall is now.”

Harper’s enterprise ended some years before Christian decided to get into the business. Christian had already moved his family up to Pender Harbour and built homes for a few years before realizing the growing community needed a reliable source for materials.

“Back then, there was just a small building we rented off a guy named Nick Garrick,” says Christian.

“It was pretty rough. Years later I dug it out in the back there and added on to the original building.”

Christian would later purchase the property and put his kids to work. It was a true family business with Christian, his wife and three sons all working there at one time or another.

Other owners included Dave Orr and, later, Brian Kask, who still owns the property but sold his Curtis Lumber chain to RONA in 2006. But for 40 years, AC has stood as short-speak for the place supplying materials that have literally built this community.

Russ and Tess have been visiting Pender Harbour since 1997 when Russ’s parents, Merf and Jackie Jones, retired here. Russ worked for RONA for 25 years and says he wouldn’t trade his experience there for anything. But about 10 years ago, he and Tess sat down and asked themselves, “Why are we here?”

As the couple chat about how they systematically set about tackling the question, one immediately notices the passion they have for making a difference in the world. They made a list of personal and family goals for their future while ensuring they coincided with their values. From that exercise came the couple’s vision statement — a one-sentence road map to help focus their energy on what they wanted out of life.

Russ picks up a folder from his desk, opens it and reads from the first page:

“Our mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of those close to us through empowerment, effective planning, organization, inspiring leadership, communication

in the 'business'

and relationship building.”

“Essentially, this is what drives us — all of the decisions we make — it’s all driven by this core purpose,” says Russ.

The Joneses have refined their vision statement over the years but one thing that came out of that exercise hasn’t changed.

“Ten years ago we also set a goal to purchase our own store,” says Russ.

“But there was more to it than that. It had to be operated in a sustainable manner, it had to be located near the coast where we had family and it had to be located in a community where we wanted to raise our children.”

Madeira Park surpassed every one of the criteria on the list and it was almost like the decision was handed to them. All they had to do was convince RONA to let Russ become the first employee in their corporate history to acquire a corporate-owned store. Then it was just a matter of selling their home and parting with every cent of their life savings to purchase it.

The Jones family moved to Madeira Park (and into Russ’s parents’ basement) in September of last year. Soon after, they dropped their two kids — Cooper, 7, and Isabella, 9 — at Madeira Park Elementary and got to work.

From the start, they set about merging their value statement with their vision for their new store. It was clear that a number of departments were crying out for expansion — housewares was an obvious example.

“I noticed immediately that nobody in the community sold items like toasters,” says Russ.

“I don’t want to force people to drive to Sechelt when I could offer it here.”

A marine hardware section was installed and new tool lines like Hilti and Stabila were added for contractors while they expanded their garden centre by 2,000 square feet. Other touches have included installing roofing over the exterior racking to protect the lumber from the sun and rain. In June they hope to open their “boutique design centre” showcasing kitchen, flooring and countertop products.

It’s the old story of fresh eyes finding ways to improve what was already there. And, though the \$200,000 they invested in those physical changes to the store are hard to miss, Russ says it’s the less tangible ones that promise to be the most rewarding for him.

“At the end of the day, our business is not the lumber or hardware we sell. Our product is really the quality of the whole customer experience as they come in the store — how they’re treated by the employees, the service they get and the feeling they have about us when they leave,”

At that Tess jumps in:

“I want them to feel like it’s their store, because we

want it to reflect what we love so much about the community.”

Russ spent 25 years with RONA and knows what goes into making a successful store and it’s not necessarily product margins or strict accounting.

“I learned a lot working as a district manager. I had 16 stores and spent a lot of time visiting them. I could walk in a store and within two minutes I could tell you what the energy of the place was like,” he says.

“And the interesting thing about that is, if I walked into a store and I felt it had a very good energy and the spirit of the people was strong, that same store would have a good bottom line. For me, the two are directly connected.”

So when Russ announced to his new staff that he likes it when customers complain, they weren’t sure how to take it.

“Now they know me and when they get a complaint, they know I’ll come out and talk to the customer. I’ve tried to make it clear to my staff that, though it may be unconventional, customer complaints are a gift that tell us how we can make the store better.”

The Joneses feel that they have taken ownership of the store for the people of the community and they don’t take that responsibility lightly.

“I think that’s really what it comes down to for us — maybe in 40 years we’ll be able look back and know our business made a positive difference in people’s lives too.”



Tess and Russ Jones taking a break during their grand re-opening weekend to help their children, Cooper and Isabella, build a bird feeder at the 'Little Hammer's Club' activity area.



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May

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DINNER: 5 TO 7:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, MAY 19

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HARBOUR SEALS



Free... approvals or dissapprovals.

Send to: **editor@harbourspiel.com**.

Include your full name and a telephone number for confirmation. (Editor reserves the right to edit for length.)

A huge Seal of Approval to the
**home care nurses at the Pender
Harbour Heath Clinic.** We are so
lucky to have you. Special thanks to
Kathy Bergman.

Jan Watson

Harbour Seals to **Rick and Jill
Wagner and LaFarge** for their con-
tinued generous support of our P. H.
Lions Club.

Neale Smith
P. H. Lions Club

A Seal of Approval to the **Area
A Seniors' Outreach Healthy Meals
program.** A great idea for a gift to
someone in need. I really appreciated
it.

Jan Watson

Harbour Seals of Approval in for
Russ and Tess at RONA for hosting
a fund raising BBQ for the P.H. Lions
Club on April 22.

Neale Smith
P. H. Lions Club

A Harbour Seal of Approval to
Tom of Tom's Signs for an awesome
job of my sign.

Sunny Charboneau
Miss Sunny's Hair Boutique

A huge Seal of Approval to **ev-
eryone in Pender Harbour.** We have
been here for two years, living aboard
our sailboat *Curtsy* and we have
received nothing but kindness and
friendship from everyone.

We are going cruising, but will
be coming back here, someday.

Thank you everyone in IGA in
Madeira Park, there is no better store
anywhere.

Bert, Mejan and boatcat Annie
S.V. Curtsy

A Harbour Seal of Approval to
my great friends and neighbours
for good wishes, good food, beauti-
ful flowers, errands run and for your
support during my recovery. Thanks
again.

Donna Tombe

A big Harbour Seal of Approval
to the **Sechelt Senior Activity Centre**
for sending their bus up so Pender
Harbour seniors could attend the
vaudeville show April 15.

They had a great time.

Marlene Cymbalist
P. H. senior's facilitator



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HELP WANTED

- **Flexible full or part time nanny** for four young children this summer. Ideally four to five days a week. First aid certification, criminal record check and three-plus years child care experience. Resume and cover letter to tpressello@active-hedge.ca.

HELP WANTED

- **Iris Griffith Centre seeks** enthusiastic applicants for summer Centre Assistant positions. Eligibility: full time students between 15 and 30 years old. Application deadline is May 6, 2012. Details: www.lagoon-society.com.
- **Backeddy Resort & Marina** requires experienced pub server May 18 to Sept. 30. Flexibility in scheduling is required, hours vary, min. 5 shifts per week. Applicant must be legally eligible to pour and serve alcohol and possess valid Serving It Right certification. Resume: lyle@backeddy.ca.

MOORAGE WANTED

- **Looking for moorage to rent for a 28ft boat** for some weeks this summer, hydro necessary and walking distance to Madeira Park Centre preferred. Please call Donna at (250) 286-9858.

PERSONAL

- **Wanted:** Somebody to go back in time with me. This is not a joke. e-mail: jimmer@dccnet.com. You'll get paid after we get back. Must bring your own weapons. Safety not guaranteed. I have only done this once before.

VOLUNTEER WANTED

- **Iris Griffith Centre** seeks docents/volunteers who love the outdoors and want to help others learn about nature. Contact: info@lagoonsociety.com or (604) 883-9201.

WORK WANTED

- **Knees ripped in your favourite jeans?** Update that Chanel suit? For repairs, alterations, re-fashioning and custom sewing, call Billy. (604) 865-0640.
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APRIL TOOLS



Brian Lee photo

The Madeira Park fire hall's Mike Bathgate tried everything to keep his ball in the boat.



Brian Lee photo

Bud 1 gliding easily to first place and \$700.



Brian Lee photo

The Squamton Four's extreme 'V' hull design shocked many by making it *almost* the entire way around the course.



Brian Lee photo

Taking exception to the Hydrophobes' written taunts, "Boys are dumb" and "They can't write," members of Team Awesome attack at the strategic bottleneck underneath the wharf ramp. Despite this heinous act of warfare, the girls managed to swim their boat across the line to claim victory in the vicious 'fun' race.



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ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTORY

• Blues Society	883-2642
• Bridge Club	883-2633
• Chamber of Commerce, P. H. & Egmont.....	883-2561
• Christ the Redeemer Church	883-1355
• Coast Guard Auxiliary, Unit 61	883-2572
• Community Club, Egmont	883-9206
• Community Club, Pender Harbour	741-5840
• Community Policing	883-2026
• Community School Society	883-2826
• Egmont & District Volunteer Fire Department	883-2555
• GRIPS (Recycling Society)	883-1165
• Garden Bay Sailing Club	883-2689
• Guides, Brownies, etc.	883-2819
• Harbour Artists	883-2807
• Harbourside Friendships (Thur. 10:30 -1 p.m.)	883-9766
• Health Centre Society	883-2764
• Health Centre Auxiliary	883-0522
• InStitches (Last Thursday, 11 a.m., PHHC).....	883-0748
• Lions Club, Egmont.....	883-9463
• Lions Club, Pender Harbour (1st & 3rd Tues.)	883-1361
• P. H. Aquatic Centre Society	885-6866
• P. H. Cancer Support Group.....	883-2393
• P. H. Garden Club	883-9415
• P. H. Golf Club.....	883-9541
• P. H. Hiking Club (8:30 am, Mon. & Wed.)	883-2930
• P. H. Living Heritage Society	883-0744
• P. H. Music Society (bookings).....	883-9749
• P. H. Paddling Society	883-3678
• P. H. Pipe Band	883-0053
• P. H. Power & Sail Squadron (2nd Wed. 7:30 p.m.).....	883-9313
• P. H. Volunteer Fire Dept (Wed. evening)	883-9270
• Pender Harbour Choir (7:00 pm Tues)	883-9749
• Piecemakers (quilters, 1st & 3rd Wed. 10 a.m.).....	883-9762
• Reading Centre Society	883-2983
• Rotary Club (noon Fri. Garden Bay Pub)	883-2544
• Royal Canadian Legion No. 112.....	883-2235
• Ruby Lake Lagoon Society	883-9201
• Skookumchuck Heritage Society.....	883-9994
• St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary (2nd Wed., 1:30 p.m.)	883-2563
• Seniors' Housing Society (3rd Thur.).....	883-0704
• Serendipity Preschool	883-2316
• Sunshine Coast SHROOM.....	883-3678
• TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly).....	883-3639
• Wildlife Society (3rd Tues. PHSS).....	883-9853
• Women's Cancer Support	883-9708
• Women's Connection (2nd & 4th Tue.)	883-9313
• Women's Outreach Services.....	741-5246

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

P. H. WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Penny Hall, photographer and photojournalist, will present a slideshow on the birds, vistas and wildlife of New South Wales and Queensland on Tuesday, May 15 at the Pender Harbour High School starting at 7:30 p.m. The main focus of the trip was to find 200 birds during the 24-day winter visit guided by her son-in-law, Australian Nigel Jacket, himself an avid birder and biologist.

This will be the last PHWS meeting until September.

P. H. JAZZ FESTIVAL SOCIETY

The Pender Harbour Jazz Festival relies on volunteers to help make the festival run smoothly. They are looking for enthusiastic men and women who will work the week-end of September 14, 15 and 16. If you have a few hours to volunteer and have specific technical or service skills that could help us, please visit our website at www.phjazz.ca and see our volunteers page.

Then let us know by emailing us at jazzvolunteers@penderharbourmusic.ca with your contact information and we will be in touch.

P. H. POWER AND SAIL SQUAD HARBOUR CLEAN-UP

The annual Harbour Cleanup, sponsored by the P. H. Power and Sail Squadron will take place on May 6 at 10 a.m. Folks are asked to decide which is best for you and turn up at one of the following meeting points: Millennium Park in Madeira Park or by the pump-house at the south end of Garden Bay Lake.

It should only be a couple of hours. You will be issued with garbage bags and assigned an area to be cleaned up. We will arrange pickup and disposal of the filled bags. For more information: Garden Bay Lake area call Charlie Park at 883-0453. For Madeira Park call Ted Taylor at 883-0677.

P. H. WOMEN'S CONNECTION

The first May Women's Connection gathering will be on Tuesday May 8. This gathering will be held at the P. H. School of Music in Madeira Park, as will the next gathering.

The next gathering will be on Tuesday, May 22. Women's Connection will have a short AGM followed by their annual Chinese auction. This is when we ask members to bring their gently used household items or their wonderful baked goods to be auctioned.

Doors open at 9:30 and the gatherings are from 10 a.m. until noon. Members, non-members, and drop-ins are always welcome.



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BC Book Prize nominees to read in Madeira Park

Submitted

Pender Harbour authors and married couple Theresa Kishkan and John Pass had a wonderful surprise recently upon discovering they both received nominations for this year's BC Book Prizes.

To celebrate, The Bluewaters Book Co. will be hosting a free reading that will include both authors at the Pender Harbour School of Music in Madeira Park, on Monday, May 7 at 6:30pm.

Novelist and essayist Kishkan will read from her imaginative and highly original memoir, *Mnemonic: A Book of Trees* (Goose Lane).

In *Mnemonic*, the author intertwines the mysteries of trees with the defining moments in life.

For Kishkan, trees are memory markers and through the pages of her book she explores the presence of trees in nature, in culture and in her personal history.

Mnemonic is shortlisted for the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize.

Kishkan's writing has been nominated for numerous awards, including the Pushcart Prize, the Relit Award and the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize.

Her essay collection, *Phantom Limb*, was also nominated for the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize in 2008.

John Pass's exquisite collection of poetry, *crawlspace* (\$18.95, Harbour Publishing), is a contender for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize.

The poems in Pass's *crawlspace* work within the narrowing passages imposed upon us by the inevitable strictures and limitations of living and experience: aging, love and loss, tightening or unravelling family ties.

Published widely in Canada,



Theresa Kishkan photo

Bluewaters Books will be hosting married authors John Pass and Theresa Kishkan for a pre-BC Book Prizes reading event at the Pender Harbour School of Music May 7.

Pass's work has also appeared in the U.S., the U.K. and Ireland.

His most recent books include *Water Stair* — which was shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award — and *Stumbling in the Bloom*, winner of the 2006 Governor General's Literary Award.

He has won both the Canada Poetry Prize and the Gillian Lowndes Award, and was previously shortlisted for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize in 1992 and 2001.

Soon after their Pender Harbour

reading, the couple will travel to Vancouver to attend the Lieutenant Governor's BC Book Prizes Gala where the winners will be announced on May 12.

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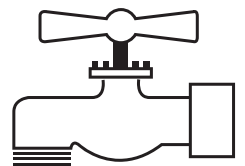
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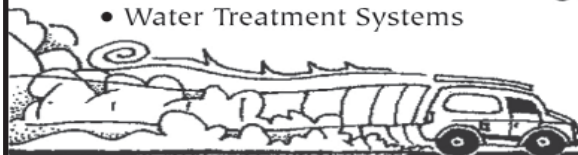
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- 8:00 • Family Fun Run (Entry forms/start: Prudential Realty)
 • Lions' Pancake Breakfast — Community Hall (to 10:30 a.m.)
 • Kids (12 & under) fishing Derby — Government Wharf
- 11:00 • May Day Parade
- 11:30 • Crowning of 67th May Queen
- 12 - 4 • Field events and children's games
 • Longboard hockey
 • May Pole dance
 • Bouncy castle & Sumo wrestling
 • Live music on field (Altered)
 • 50/50 tickets and silent auction
 • Vendors (crafts and food)
- 5:30 • Children's dance (until 7 p.m.)
- 8:30 - 1 • Adult dance: Dancetrax DJ Services (Laser light show!)
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Tanned arrivals bring some competitive golf back to course



By Jan Watson

The season is well underway now with the last of the snowbirds back showing off their tans.

However, with all their practice in the sunshine, it remains to be seen if they are showing up the “winter folk” with any better play.

Needless to say it’s good to see everyone back with a lot more activity around the golf course.



MEN’S CLUB

Stroke play March 27 came with Hidden Partners based on net score.

Winners were Bob Ducich and Fred Baldwin with 147 while runners up Merv Oleksyn and Rob Cameron shot 149.

KP on No. 3 was Bob Ducich and on No. 6, Garry Noble.

Though unusual for the men, April 3 was rained out.

April 10 saw a Stableford and the winner with 21 points was Andrew Barker.

Brian Disney was second with only a point behind at 20.

KP on No. 3 was Terry Cowan and on No. 6, it was Garry Noble.

with Helen Crabb third.

On March 29, another early season event — Tic Tac Toe — was won by Jackie Grant

Finishing second was Heather Cranston and third, Helen Krantz.

Low putts on the front nine winner on April 5 was LaVerne Richardson with 16. On the back nine, Helen Krantz was able hold her score to 15. KP on No. 3 was Heather Cranston.

Blind Partners on April 12 was based on net score and saw winners Wendy Haddock and Heather Cranston shoot 157.

Runners up Cathy McEachern and Reni “Down-under” Ducich shot 159.

LADIES’ CLUB

March 22 saw a traditional event early in the season with three clubs and a putter played over limited holes (due to inclement weather).

The winner was LaVerne Richardson, second was Krys Parranto

COMING EVENTS

The first Ladies Steak Night will be on Friday, May 11 at 5:30 p.m.

Check with the Pro Shop for other events and to make tee times.

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FROM THE 19TH HOLE

Sex and golf are the two things you can enjoy even if you’re not good at them.

~ Kevin Costner

Local couple attend NDP leadership convention in Toronto

By Vera Kristianson

My husband Lyle, MP for the Kootenay West riding in the 80s and 90s, and I attended the NDP leadership convention in Toronto recently.

We were both excited about going but the trip didn't start well.

Two weeks earlier my knee collapsed (arthritis) and, though we almost cancelled the trip, it improved and I went, hobbling with a cane.

Soon after arriving, I met a woman from Newfoundland.

"So there is an NDP organization in Newfoundland?" I asked.

She gave me a strange look.

"I am Lorraine Michael, leader of the NDP caucus in Parliament — we have five elected members," she replied.

"We should be the Official Opposition as we had 23 per cent of the vote but the Liberals got 16 per cent and six elected members.

"But, next time . . ."

I felt foolish. As a veritable news junkie, how did I miss that?

I joined a group of women and a woman introduced herself as Liz Hanson, leader of the Official Opposition NDP in Yukon.

Again, I didn't know. When did that happen?

Soon after, Darrell Dexter, the NDP premier of Nova Scotia, addressed the convention.

Manitoba also has an NDP government — it turns out the NDP is everywhere.

The convention was a success and though the voting took forever, there were so many old friends and interesting people to meet, time flew.

Of the approximately 4,000 attendees, I would say about one-third were young people.

I recall, years ago, Lyle talking about attending a CCF election rally in Vancouver and saying there was nothing but grey hair in the hall.

They vowed to change that, and proceeded to organize a youth movement which now seems to have spread across the country.

On this night, Thomas Mulcair was elected leader and it was hugs and kisses everywhere — not the divisiveness predicted by the media.

The highlight of the trip was Wednesday when we attended the first caucus meeting with the new leader.

It was very different from the caucus meetings Lyle used to attend.

The room was overflowing, microphones were set up and members had to line up to speak. Business was brisk and interesting.

Afterwards, we went to the House of Commons to listen to Question Period.

There was a rump group of Liberals sitting at the far end and hordes of New Democrats overflowing two



photo submitted

Vera and Lyle Kristiansen at the recent NDP leadership convention in Toronto March 24.

thirds of the hall. It was wonderful.

Later, in the chambers, Lyle saw interim Liberal leader Bob Rae (who was his seat mate in the previous caucus) and said:

"Bob, you are sitting in almost the same seat you were when I was elected."

Bob replied, "It is the exact same seat. I feel stuck."

When it was all over, I felt great.

Vindicated for all of the work, contributions and sacrifices we had made over the years.

"What we desire for ourselves we wish for all."

~ J.S. Woodsworth

Vera Kristiansen's book "A Very Political Family" describes the many activities undertaken when politics combines with family life.

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Overcoming nail trimming nervousness



By John Wade

Nail trimming of dogs makes a lot of people nervous.

That in turn can make a lot of dogs nervous.

For many dogs, having their feet handled while holding still and coping with the sensation of nails being clipped causes anxiety.

But it wouldn't be a problem if someone had "pretend clipped" with real clippers once in awhile during television commercials when they were still little.

When my eldest son was little I used to hold him in one arm while shaving with an electric shaver and buzzed it around his head for a pretend shave.

At some point before my second son was born I switched to using a razor.

His mother, having seen a number of blood stained dots of tissues decorating my face on occasion, for some reason put the kibosh on any further father/son pretend shaving bonding.

In any event, the youngest didn't get any shaving experience, electric or otherwise.

A little later in their lives it came time for their first big-boy haircuts



and there was a marked difference in their response to the electric clippers.

The eldest was nonchalant but when it was the youngest's turn and the clippers got close to his head, he got a look on his face like the barber had traded up to a chain saw.

He bounced out of the chair and headed for the door.

The moral?

Acclimatize, rather than surprise.

The fear of cutting into the quick and causing some bleeding is the average dog owner's main concern.

It's why many dogs are sent to

the veterinarian or a groomer instead.

But truth be told, even at the professionals, the quicks get cut now and then.

A big part of the difference between a pro nicking too far and a dog owner is that the pros don't worry about it.

They just slap on a little goop designed for just such an event and move on to the next nail.

Dog owners, however, can react a little differently and can easily shift their dog's anxiety level skyward.

The dog is laying calmly, paw extended and the owner clips too

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short, spots some blood and starts yelling something like,

“Help! Help! I’ve killed my dog!”

The terrified dog leaps to its feet barking,

“What? What? Hey, whose blood is that?”

The poor dog may forever connect the sight of the clippers with either their imminent demise or the plug being pulled on their owner’s sanity.

Even if a dog owner is going to have someone else do the job (or it’s a dog that gets so much exercise its nails never need trimming), I still recommend they practise acclimatization for two reasons.

First, it’s one thing to relieve your own stress by reassigning the job but that doesn’t necessarily lessen the

dog’s stress.

Puppy dress rehearsals will pay off in reduced stress for the dog when the real curtain comes up.

Secondly, at some point in its life, a dog may get some sort of foot or limb injury that requires daily attention.

That’s not a task as easily transferred to a third party and treatment is easier to apply and easier for the dog to take if a “Stay still, while I’m doing something you may not like,” foundation has been laid early in life.

Pawsitively yours,
John Wade

e-mail John at: johnwade@johnwade.ca or visit his website at www.johnwade.ca



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Spring staging suggestions from the experts



By Alan Stewart

Any home stager will tell you that “staging is staging” and the principles remain the same throughout the year — keep things clean, clutter-free and colourful.

But that doesn't mean each season comes without its own brand of staging magic.

For spring, there are a number of things you can do both inside and outside to take advantage of the improving weather.

Barb Schwarz, creator of Homes Staging and CEO of Stagedhomes.com, suggests adding splashes of colour to your porch with potted flowers.

She favours larger pots bearing tulips or daisies with greenery in the middle and placed on each side of the front door.

Bringing spring colours into a home is just as easy, especially with accessories like throw pillows, area rugs, artwork, towels and bedspreads.

“Change accessories and the whole house changes,” says Schwarz.



Swap-out decorative pillows on a sofa for a fresh new look.

“This year, nature colours are really in. Green is really big and hot orange is an accent that is strong.”

Designers also recommend using other knickknacks that speak of spring, such as pears, eggs, sea shells, nature, leaf patterns in fabrics, wicker, real leather and rust metal as contrast.

Schwarz says it's also a good

idea to replace the drapery panels in a home or office.

She recently changed a den from a daisy pattern in blue to cream plain panels that went from ceiling to the floor, “. . . and the whole room looked bigger and more elegant,” she said.

Of course, all rooms in the house are important and there are ways to liven up each as the spring season blooms.

You want the buyer to buy the whole house, not just one or two rooms staged, so it's important to create a cohesive design.

But don't forget your “great outdoors.”

Clean up your yards, remove fallen leaves and dead plants and trim bushes and hedges.

Indeed, spring brings more buyers so take advantage of all that the season has to offer.

Please send any suggestions for future columns to alanstewart@prudentialsussex.com



Thanks!

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Rotary exchange students report back on their adventures



By Brianna Milligan

Brianna Milligan left for Stockholm, Sweden on Aug. 4, 2011 to spend a year as a Rotary Youth Exchange student.

My Rotary youth exchange to Stockholm, Sweden has been the scariest, weirdest and most amazing experience of my life.

I have met many people and learned so many new things about this country and the world around me.

I had no idea what it would be like coming into this, but am overjoyed with the experience and wouldn't change a thing.

I have lived here nine months and I couldn't be more proud of myself.

I thought living in Sweden wouldn't be so different from Canada, but I can assure you, it is.

I have travelled throughout Sweden and have even visited some other countries.

I am very sad to be leaving my new life I have made for myself here but am very excited to come home to my family and friends.

I would encourage any teenager to apply for the Rotary exchange; it has given me so many opportunities and has changed my life in the best way.

This year has gone by so fast — it feels like it was just the other day I got off the plane.

I don't want to think about saying goodbye to my new families and friends, but it's soon going to be time for me to come home and I will miss everything very much.

But I will bring much of my life during that past year home with me.



photo submitted

Exchange student Brianna Milligan relaxes in her new bedroom in Stockholm, Sweden.



By Poya Liu

Sixteen year-old Poya Liu travelled from Taipei, Taiwan in September to begin classes at Pender Harbour Secondary.

It's really hard to believe that I've been in this lovely town for over eight months.

Pender Harbour has given me so many precious experiences which are such remarkable memories in my life.

From Taipei City to Pender Harbour, it wasn't easy for me to get used to this quiet small town.

I remember how frustrated I was when I first got here, not knowing what's going on in class, smiling and nodding to people even though I didn't understand a word they said.

But the people in Pender have always been so friendly and helpful, they welcome me and teach me things that I will never forget.

I encourage young students to apply to this exchange program. It isn't easy but that's what makes it unforgettable — being an exchange student is the best experience so far in my life.

Thanks to all the Pender people and the Pender Harbour Rotary club for making my dreams come true.

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Harbour Spiel Trivia

1. Who was the star of "Vipers," the 2007 film production shot in Garden Bay?

- ☐ a. Jennifer Love Hewitt
- ☐ b. Tara Reid
- ☐ c. Courtney Cox
- ☐ d. Shannon Doherty

2. Which Kleindale man was known for performing his "Jake the Peg" routine for local audiences?

- ☐ a. Pete Klein
- ☐ b. Frank Roosen
- ☐ c. Rolf Harris
- ☐ d. Dwight Young

3. Who is the Pender Harbour Cowboy?

- ☐ a. John Wayne
- ☐ b. Andy Petraschuk
- ☐ c. Bertrand Sinclair
- ☐ d. Alan Moberg

4. Madeira Park hosts the second oldest May Day celebration in the province. How old is it this year?

- ☐ a. 67 years
- ☐ b. 52 years
- ☐ c. 96 years
- ☐ d. 80 years

5. What is the name of the lake near Madeira Park (according to the BCGN database?)

- ☐ a. Lily Lake
- ☐ b. Lillies Lake
- ☐ c. Lilly Lake
- ☐ d. Paq Lake

6. Which local commercial fishery opens May 3?

- ☐ a. Halibut
- ☐ b. Sockeye salmon
- ☐ c. Herring
- ☐ d. Prawns

Answers: p. 50

Four-plus: **Local**

Two-plus: **Newbie**

Less than two: **Townie**

Apologies for an error in question 5 of last month's quiz: Francis Peninsula, of course, becomes Beaver Island at *high* tide.

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Brian Lee photo

Rotary Club of Pender Harbour members taking a break from slinging hot dogs and hamburgers at RONA Madeira Park's grand re-opening on April 21 were (l-r): Patrick Munro, Rosemary Bonderud, Glen Bonderud, John King and 17-year-old Panamanian exchange student, Emanuel Gonzalez. Look closely to find former Area A director Eric Graham, sitting contentedly in the background (r) embracing the quiet peace of his life after politics.



Paul Hopkins photo

Gypsy jazz favourites from Seattle, Pearl Django, perform at the Pender Harbour School of Music April 14,

May 2012

P. H. Community Policing Station

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- Blood pressure • Diabetes and Nutrition Counselling

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Darlene Fowlie – Hygienist

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- Restorative Dental Care Consulting
- Dentures • Surgical Extractions

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- **All travel immunizations done in Sechelt

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- Women and Youth Health Services

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Sharon Gilchrist-Reed LPN

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Alcoholics Anonymous meets Wednesdays at 8 p.m. – Everyone welcome.

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

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

Common eye problems and what to do about them

By Kathy Bergman

The most common causes of blindness are age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, cataracts and diabetic retinopathy.

GLAUCOMA

Glaucoma is a complicated diagnosis in which damage to the optic nerve can lead to progressive irreversible vision loss.

Early detection and treatment can prevent vision loss in most patients.

Glaucoma can be genetic so if you have a parent or sibling with this disease you need to have an eye examination.

This disease will present with peripheral vision loss and people might not notice the subtle changes in vision until it affects their central vision.

People may say they have tunnel vision and often have problems of night blindness.

Cataracts occur when the lens of the eye becomes cloudy, blocking light from reaching the retina and people's vision will become blurred as the cataract develops.

A cataract procedure involves removing the cataract and replacing the lens with a plastic implant.

AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION

AMD is one of the leading causes of vision loss and this disease affects the central part of your vision.

There are two types of AMD — dry and wet form. There is no effective treatment for the dry form at this time.

The wet form is where there is abnormal blood vessels that grow in the retina.

Although there is no cure for this

disease there is treatment that will work to stabilize it and prevent further vision loss.

People who suffer from AMD may see someone approach them but may not be able to see their face.

DIABETIC RETINOPATHY

Diabetic retinopathy is an eye condition that is often a complication from diabetes.

Diabetics with increased blood sugars may have damage to the blood vessels in the retina that can lead to vision loss and possibly blindness.

If you have diabetes, receive regular eye exams by an ophthalmologist or a retinal specialist.

HOW TO ASSIST SOMEONE WHO IS VISUALLY IMPAIRED

Some people experience significant fluctuations with vision depending on time of day, stress, level of blood sugar or environmental conditions like lighting or glare.

If you are assisting a visually impaired person, let them take your arm and walk a half step ahead of them.

This position allows them to feel your body movements as you walk and reduces the chance of walking into objects.

HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR VISION

Adults over 40 should have an eye examination to rule out any age-

related diseases such as those discussed above.

If you have no concerns and no corrective lenses then getting an eye exam every two years is adequate.

If you do have a family history of glaucoma, AMD or diabetes you may need to go more often.

1. Adults and children should wear sunglasses that block 100 per cent UV rays.

2. Stop smoking. There is a direct link between smoking and the adverse health effects it has on the lens and the retina of the eye.

3. Eating leafy green vegetables will reduce risk of AMD.

4. Get a regular eye examination.

5. Wear eye protection when doing anything where you are at risk of flying debris.

6. Be aware of eye fatigue, if your eyes get tired from working on a computer, or reading things at close range for a prolonged time follow the 20-20-20 rule:

Look up from your work every 20 minutes focus on an object 20 feet away for 20 seconds.

The P. H. Health Centre would also like to offer the cardiac recovery program in May.

If there is anyone interested in attending please call the Health Centre to register.

HARBOURSIDE FRIENDSHIPS — MAY

Meet at the P. H. School of Music on Thursdays from 10:30-12:30 p.m.:

May 3: Open House at the P. H. Community School

May 10: Authors Corner at the P. H. School of Music

May 17: Kleindale Nursery with lunch to follow at the P. H. School of Music

May 24: Carpet Bowling and lunch to follow at the P. H. Community Hall.

May 31: Music by the Inspirations at the Pender Harbour School of Music.

Skookumchuck viewing times

~ May ~

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

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

May 1	7:41 am -L, 1:38 pm +M
May 2	8:24 am -L, 2:34 pm +L
May 3	9:02 am -L, 3:39 pm +L
May 4	9:40 am -XL, 4:34 pm +XL
May 5	9:55 am -XL, 5:28 pm +XL
May 6	10:43 am -XL, 6:21 pm +XL
May 7	11:36 am -XL, 7:12 pm +XL
May 8	12:31 pm -XL, 8:03 pm +XL
May 9	6:42 am +M, 1:27 pm -XL
May 10	7:37 am +M, 2:25 pm -XL
May 11	8:44 am +M, 3:25 -L
May 12	10:13 am +S, 4:24 pm -L
May 13	11:48 am +S, 5:24 pm -M
May 14	1:07 pm +M, 6:28 pm -M
May 15	2:11 pm +M, 7:41 pm -M
May 16	8:59 am -L, 3:08 pm +L
May 17	9:35 am -L, 4:00 pm +L
May 18	11:06 am -L, 4:46 pm +L
May 19	11:31 am -L, 5:29 pm +XL
May 20	11:06 am -L, 6:10 pm +XL
May 21	11:19 am -L, 6:47 pm +XL
May 22	11:42 am -XL, 7:24 pm +XL
May 23	12:11 pm -XL, 7:58 pm +XL
May 24	6:21 am +M, 12:48 pm +XL
May 25	7:06 am +M, 1:33 pm -L
May 26	7:58 am +S, 2:26 pm -L
May 27	9:05 am +S, 3:16 pm -L
May 28	10:42 am +S, 4:31 pm -L
May 29	12:13 pm +M, 5:43 pm -M
May 30	1:19 pm +M, 7:04 pm -M
May 31	2:32 pm +L, 8:27 pm -M

These are estimates only and not intended for navigation.

BIRTHDAYS

May 1 ~ Allison Scoular and Kim Struthers.
 May 3 ~ Roy Loxterkamp, Tyra Phillips and Natasha Kammerle.
 May 4 ~ Andrew Sutherland.
 May 5 ~ Barb Ellison, Rob Ellison, Baylee Higgins and Robyn Leech.
 May 6 ~ Lori Fielding.
 May 7 ~ Stephanie Warner, Tricia Fisher and Kristen White.
 May 8 ~ Wally Silvey, Linda Reid, Francis Belisle, Ryan Schroeder and Vicki Honeybourne.
 May 9 ~ Frank White, Steve Devaney, Bruce Silvey, Rick Dougan, Leanna Mackie, Karen McKeeman, Vanessa Stephens, Debbie Hayen and Jim Greenlaw.
 May 11 ~ Deena Lowings, Shelley Wharton and Candace Sharp.
 May 12 ~ TJ Campbell and Rob McMann.
 May 13 ~ Joe McCann, Mel Likes and Reynald Bernier.
 May 14 ~ Jan Smalley and Lhonna Dougan.

May 15 ~ Michael Pazur.
 May 17 ~ Linda Curtiss, Jack Dennis, Dan Jinks, Helen Krantz, Roland Schmidt and Amy Tiefenbach.
 May 18 ~ Joe MacKay, Devina Morton, Ron Collett, Wendy Haddock and Sharon Halford.
 May 19 ~ Bill Thompson and Earl Stewart.
 May 20 ~ Rylan English, twins Carrie & Stirling Fowler and Brenna Young.
 May 21 ~ Shannon Fowler.
 May 23 ~ Mary Milner and Tom Patterson.
 May 24 ~ Vicki Kobus, Dick Milner, Treenah Dougan, Margo Hunsche and Maurice Lowings.
 May 25 ~ Christina Stoutenburg.
 May 27 ~ Cindy Schroeder.
 May 28 ~ Mikey Thompson, Lyn Vaughan, Kevin Graham, Wayne Archbold and Myrtle Winchester.
 May 29 ~ Cliff Silvey, Tyler Forsyth and Amber LaFrance.
 May 30 ~ Marten Mees, Kathy Mills and Mike Phillips.

MAY WEATHER

TEMPERATURE

Our average daily high temperature in May is 15.6 C and our average daily low is 9.3 C, giving us a daily mean temperature of 12.5 C for the month. Our record high temperature in May is 28.4 C (May 29, 1983) and our record low is 3.3 C (May 1, 1970).

PRECIPITATION

May has an average of 12 days with rainfall and an average total for the month of 54.9 mm. Our record daily rainfall in May is 28.7 mm (May 2, 1963) and our record daily snowfall in May is 1 cm (May 10, 1985).

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OF MAY

MOTHER'S DAY – MAY 13

The celebration of motherhood dates back to the ancient Greeks when Rhea, the mother of all Greek goddesses, would be honoured annually at a springtime feast.

In ancient Rome, a raucous spring festival was held in honour of the Roman mother goddess Cybele, while the Celtic pagans linked their celebration of the mother goddess Brigid to the coming of spring and the first milking of the ewes.

The first celebration of Mother's Day in the United States took place in 1858.

Anna Reeves Jarvis campaigned for a Mothers' Work Day in her home state of West Virginia to raise awareness about local sanitation issues.

When Jarvis passed away in 1905, her daughter Anna pursued a national mother's day in honour of her own activist mom. Anna's efforts paid off when in 1914, Mother's Day was recognized as a U.S. national holiday by presidential proclamation.

More than 60 countries celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May. In the United Kingdom, Mothering Sunday is held on the fourth Sunday of the Lenten Season.

March 8 marks the celebration of moms in most countries of the former Soviet Union, while the Arab world honours mothers on the vernal equinox (March 21).

MAY ASTROLOGY

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Taureans are seekers of peace and stability. Although unambitious, they are happy to be the powerhouse behind the scenes. They are sensible, healthy cynics who excel in relationships and backgammon. One should be wary of Taurean in-laws.

GEMINI (MAY 21–JUNE 21)

Geminis are butterflies by nature, flitting from one attraction to the next. They are particularly drawn to tinfoil and should generally avoid situations involving confetti, ticker tape or falling snow. They're easily bored but have lively, stimulating minds and can be witty and charming.



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The continuing story of Wei Hsu, the first non-native resident of



Vague recollections have persisted for many years that the first non-native person to live in Pender Harbour was a Chinese man who operated a fish saltery in Irvines Landing.

Before Charlie Irvine landed here and lent his name to the stretch of beach at the western entrance to Pender Harbour, a family named Hsu had settled there years before in 1873.

The historic events depicted here are loosely based on the author's own imagination and should not be interpreted as fact — unless it suits the reader to do so.

By Anne Crocker

Part XXII: (Continued from April 2012)

No one looked forward to the return of Wei Hsu and Qwuní more than their friend Smaqma.

Almost two weeks had passed since Wei Hsu and Qwuní had left and he was tired. Forced to shoulder all of the fishing and maintenance responsibilities previously shared by the three of them, he was getting grumpy.

Despite that, Smaqma rose every morning, well before dawn and set out in his dugout with a gill-net. He'd return at lunch with his morning's catch and launch into whatever duties were required of him at the saltery shed and smokehouse.

Smaqma had travelled south to Whoi-Whoi once. It was to trade with the Skwxkwú7mesh but then there was nothing there but trees and trinkets.

He had never seen a white man's village. He'd heard much about New Westminster from Wei Hsu and Lucy, which had piqued his curiosity about what strange adventures might be found there. But he acknowledged his friend and neighbour was without a wife and it would be a good opportunity for Qwuní to discover what he was missing.

Inix had a sister who followed Father Durieu to Sechelt. She was disappointed that her encouragement for Qwuní to approach her was ignored. Qwuní wouldn't consider it, stubbornly refusing to marry "a woman who takes the cross."

Smaqma didn't have the heart to tell his wife that his disinterest had more to do with the fact that her sister was homely. Still, their friend was

growing older and Kálpilín was a lonely place in the winter. So, it was decided that Qwuní should accompany Hsu on the trip to the skookum village.

The women too were busy. After a winter of eating dried berries and bulbs, early spring brought welcome relief in the form of fresh roots. Lupines, sea milkwort and cow parsnips (or, as the white man called it, "Indian celery") were suddenly plentiful but meant adding extra labour.

The later evenings allowed for longer work days but it meant the three women would fall into bed exhausted each night.

So it was, after a morning spent harvesting milkwort at the head of the harbour, that they returned to find Smaqma had not yet returned from his day's fishing. He did not return by dinner either.

It wasn't unusual for their men to stay out for the full day if they decided their luck might be better farther from home. But very rarely would they stay overnight unless the weather turned poor.

That was not the case on this day. So when Inix woke Lucy at midnight with news that her husband had still not returned, all knew something was wrong.

Wei Hsu and Qwuní broke camp and left Gastown on the morning of their ninth day there. Circumstances forced them to stay on a little longer than they had planned but they fulfilled their shopping list and left with promises of future sales.

With a slight breeze from the southeast and a favourable tide, they were able to hoist their sail, and made excellent time on their trip north. As the day's favourable breeze faded into the evening,

Pender Harbour

the two rowed the last three miles to South Thor-manby Island and made camp in Welcome Passage just before dusk.

As they unloaded their gear, Qwuní spotted a canoe along the opposite shore heading south from Pender's Harbour. As it neared, Wei Hsu recognized it to be Smaqma's dugout.

It was almost dark but he could make out two people in the boat, both paddling. They yelled out to Smaqma but no reply came. Wei Hsu was excited to see his friend after almost two weeks away and quickly launched their empty boat and rowed towards them yelling, "Smaqma! Ko-pet'!" (Stop.)

As Wei Hsu approached, the two figures began to paddle furiously, easily outpacing him as they faded into the charcoal distance.

Hsu returned to the beach disappointed and confused. He knew his friend must have reasons for avoiding him but the incident worried him.

After a restless night, the two shoved off before as a faint glimmer showed itself over the eastern mountains. Two and a half hours later, the sun was

bright when they reached the point where Hsu and his family had been left stranded almost two years before. The thought of seeing his family stirred him making the oars seem to pull themselves.

Qwuní felt it too. He would be happy to never return to Gastown and was eager set his hands back to honest work in a place he felt comfortable. As the two men dwelled in their private thoughts Wei Hsu spotted something odd.

Up ahead on the rocks, he could see one of their two gillnets draped across the steep shoreline like a wet blanket hung out to dry. The unmistakable green buoy Wei Hsu had purchased in Nanaimo was wedged between two larger rocks, anchoring it to the beach. Tied to the other end was an unfamiliar boat. It was half sunk but held fast by net as it bumped along the rock face in the tide.

As they neared they found a man laying motionless, face down in the water. The side of the his head was smashed in.

It was Smaqma.



Image courtesy of Hsu family archives

Of the hundred or so works by Mary Hsu, many were of plants including this painting of Sea Milkwort. Sea Milkwort grows in marshy areas and estuarine mud flats. Many coastal tribes harvested the roots and boiled them before they were eaten.

Personal stories of very different births



By Theresa Kishkan

Keith Shaw photo

Anne Lamott is a Californian writer, the author of novels and essay collections, a book about the

writing life and two splendid memoirs.

The first, *Operating Instructions: A Journal of My Son's First Year*, was published in 1993.

It chronicled her experiences as the single mother of Sam and did so in such a funny ironic way, taking the reader through the chaos and joy of that first year. Now she's just published *Some Assembly Required: A Journal of My Son's First Year* (Riverhead Books, 2012), co-written with Sam Lamott.

Sam calls his mother to tell her that he and his sometimes-on, sometimes-off girlfriend Amy are expecting a baby. Amy is 20; Sam is 19.

"Sam and I are quite close, and I'd always looked forward with enthusiasm to becoming a grandmother someday, in say, ten years from now, perhaps after he had graduated from the art academy he attends in San Francisco and settled down into a career, and when I was old enough to be a grandmother. I was a young fifty-five. Maybe a medium fifty-five. Let's say a ripe fifty-five, with a child just one year past his majority."

Everything that makes Lamott's novels so enjoyable and her essays so provocative is in this book. Her wit, her observant eye, her irreverence, her honesty, her quirky Christianity — these conspire together to create a large and generous narrative. The situation isn't perfect, she admits. But is it ever? And what she could never have anticipated is the intense pleasure that this baby, Jax, brings to her and to her extended family.

"The beauty of the curve of his head . . . all grandparents I've mentioned this to have felt this. He's a Fibonacci spiral, like a nautilus shell — one of those patterns in mathemati-

cal expression with a twisting eternal perfection."

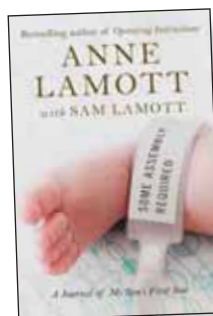
This extended family includes her brother, her cousins, a beloved uncle (who dies during the course of the book), her son's adopted gay uncles, a surrogate grandmother, and Lamott's faith community.

She credits her small liberal church for helping her when she was an alcoholic trying to stop drinking and then as a single mother. The congregation continues to support her and her son's new family as they find their way through the first year of

Jax's life.

I'm not a Christian but admire the place faith occupies in Lamott's life. She doesn't proselytize or offer homilies or platitudes. She's far too intelligent and original for that. She wrestles with her god on a daily basis, asking impossible questions. She calls it a "deep intimate conversation with something that listens." And much of that conversation involves trying to work out how possessive to be about her new grandson, how to offer love and support to her son and his partner without overwhelming them. How to accept her own imperfection.

Sam's entries in this journal are mostly in the form of emails to his mother. In fresh clear language,



BC Bestsellers:

(For the week of April 22, 2012)

1. *Whitewater Cooks with Friends* by Shelley Adams
2. *Eating Dirt* by Charlotte Gill
3. *Something Fierce* by Carmen Aguirre
4. *The Sacred Headwaters* by Wade Davis
5. *Backyard Bounty* by Linda Gilkeson
6. *No Sailing Waits and Other Ferry Tales* by Adrian Raeside
7. *The Chuck Davis History of Metropolitan Vancouver* by Chuck Davis
8. *Indian Horse* by Richard Wagamese
9. *Geology of British Columbia, New Edition* by Sydney Cannings
10. *My Year of the Racehorse* by Kevin Chong

~ Assn. of Book Publishers of BC

Pender Harbour Seniors Housing Society Outreach Healthy Meal Program



Thanks to Keith Pike
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he talks of the pressures of being a full-time student and father, of trying to negotiate the difficulties of a relationship that would have ended if not for the birth of Jax, and of the joy he experiences in the presence of his small son. Not having read multiple books about infant development and consciousness, Sam treats Jax like a younger peer.

"He likes candid situations – he's not going to laugh at what you think is funny. He loves spontaneous things, and sight gags. The funniest thing on earth to him is anyone sneezing, including himself. He just loses his mind laughing."

I'm not a grandmother yet but with two of my children planning weddings for this summer, I look forward to the prospect. Having read *Some Assembly Required*, I have an idea of what's in store.

Who can forget the first signs of significant unrest and protest in the Arab world, a time we now call the Arab Spring? It began in Tunisia in December 2010, when a young man set himself on fire to protest police and government corruption. The resulting protest movement resulted in governments being overthrown in that country as well as Libya, Egypt,

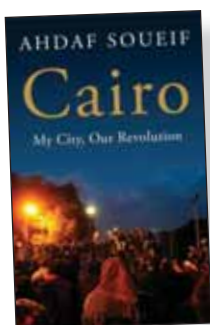
and Yemen. Major protests occurred in Algeria, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Bahrain, Morocco, and Syria (still in the middle of civil disorder).

Gifted Egyptian novelist Ahdaf Soueif was the voice that many of us listened to during the Egyptian Revolution of 2011. She wrote passionately about this moment in history for the Guardian newspaper in Britain (available online at guardian.co.uk) and was interviewed by news agencies from all over the world.

Cairo: My City, Our Revolution (Bloomsbury, 2012) is her account of those days. She is part of a large family with a history of political activism and she takes the reader into the heart of Tahrir Square along with her sons, her sister, nieces, and friends.

What's truly admirable about this book is how Soueif provides context for what happened in Egypt. She delineates her country's long history of corruption and the dream of many of its citizens for civilian structures to provide for a more equitable future.

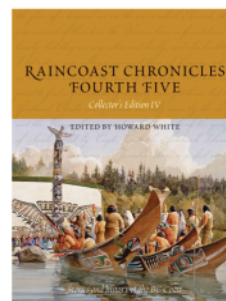
She is unsparing in her condemnation of those who ruled with brutality and force but she also understands the difficulty that Egypt now faces in pursuing a workable democratic system.



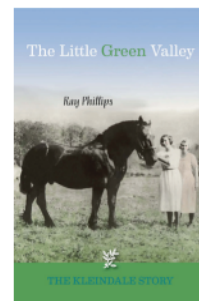
LOCAL AUTHOR EVENTS

MAY DAY BOOK SIGNING with
HOWARD WHITE
&
RAY PHILLIPS

May 19 at 10:00am
Blue Waters Book Co., Madeira Park



**Raincoast Chronicles
Fourth Five**
Howard White, editor



**The Little
Green Valley**
Ray Phillips

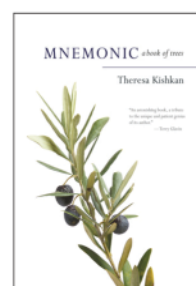
Congratulations to
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&
THERESA KISHKAN
whose books are shortlisted for
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May 7 at 6:30pm at the
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crawlspace
Poems by
John Pass



Mnemonic
A Book of Trees
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America's glass: Half empty or half full?



By Shane McCune

It is possible to be an optimist and a pessimist at the same time. As the skydiver said between the failures of his main and backup chutes: "Cheer up, things could be worse."

Take this year's Stanley Cup playoffs. The pessimist loses sleep because the Canucks exited in the first round.

The optimist smiles because the Bruins did too, Teabag Tim and all.

Or consider the recent Alberta election. Mindful of the stink that attaches to any government too long at the trough, some might see little reason to celebrate the Conservatives' 12th consecutive majority — a win that guarantees them at least 45 unbroken years of power. That's a ridiculous run even for Albertans, who don't like to change dinosaurs in mid-ice age.

But because so many pundits had parroted the pollsters' prediction of a Wildrose Party putsch, the same Polyanthuses heralded the Conservatives' victory as a surprise triumph for "progressives."

In fact the progressives in the opposition — the Liberals and NDP — fell from a combined 11 seats to nine, while Wildrose soared from four to 17.

The pessimist in me says that forebodes a future Alberta government of climate change deniers, creationists, quasi-racists, homophobes and Bible-thumpers.

But then again . . .

My newspaper career started the same year as that Tory dynasty. The Vietnam War was raging, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld school busing, the Americans still called China "Red China," Greenpeace was born and Jim Morrison died.

It had been only three years since homosexuality was decriminalized in Canada and only four since the Maple Leafs had won a Stanley Cup.

The first issue of Ms. magazine appeared that year as an insert in New York magazine, but other media tended to regard feminists with fear, contempt or ridicule — if they regarded them at all.

The Province newsroom was filled with cigarette smoke, clacking Underwoods, dinging Teletype machines and rumpled white guys. Only the women's section had a female editor; on cityside only two full-time reporters were women.

If anyone had told me then that within 40 years:

- the Communist bloc would collapse and the Cold War end;

- men would accept women as workplace equals and even bosses;

- homosexuals could legally marry and adopt children, and

- a black man would be president of the U.S.,

Even the young optimist in me would have backed away slowly and quietly summoned help.

On the other hand, if someone had said that in 2012:

- contraception would be an issue in the U.S. presidential race;

- a majority of Americans would reject Darwin's theory of evolution, with 40 per cent insisting that God created man in his present form within the last 10,000 years;

- almost one in five Americans would erroneously believe their president was a foreign-born Muslim, and

- polio, measles and whooping cough would be staging a comeback thanks to parents who refused to vaccinate their children,

Even the pessimist in me would have said things couldn't possibly get that bad.

Not long ago Globe and Mail columnist Doug Saunders rhetorically asked readers what story they would tell to explain America.

Would it be the shooting of Trayvon Martin, who may have been killed for no reason other than being a black teenager wearing a hoodie? Or would they talk about the hoodie protests in which citizens and politicians donned the victim's garment in protest against racial profiling and Florida's vigilante-promoting self-defence laws?

"Is America the country of Rick Santorum, the Republican presidential candidate who believes the Enlightenment was a mistake and public schooling is wrong?" Saunders wrote.

"Or is it the country where nine states have voted to remove barriers to same-sex marriage since 2004?"

He maintains that, despite election results to the contrary, the U.S. is actually becoming better educated and more liberal.

Half of adult American women are unmarried; women in non-traditional families make up 25 per cent of

AND ANOTHER THING...

eligible voters, and tend to empathize with other “outsiders.”

Since 1960 the high-school dropout rate among Americans has fallen from 60 to 14 per cent. Above all, Saunders notes, almost 40 per cent of Americans and 28 per cent of voters are non-white.

He could also have noted that in the last five years, five U.S. states have abolished the death penalty, bringing the total to 17.

He’s definitely a glass-half-full guy, and I’d like to agree with him. Maybe the future is bright after all. Or dark. Or both.

Going back to my 1971 self, if someone had told me that by 2012 people would have phones the size of a cigarette pack that could connect to the Internet I would have scoffed: “Big deal, Dick Tracy has a TV on his wristwatch.

“And what’s an Internet?”

But if you told me most people

would have their own computers, some the size of an Etch-a-Sketch, I would have been impressed — that Etch-a-Sketches would still be around.

So I’m prepared to believe that the future may well be brighter than it looks right now. But so far the 21st century is not living up to my boyhood expectations.

I don’t like walking — where’s my damned jet pack?



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.

MAY

- Fri. May 4-6.....Garden Bay Pub Fishing Derby and Cannery Row - Garden Bay Pub, all weekend
- Sat. May 5.....Survivor Sleepover - P. H. Aquatic Centre, 7 p.m.
- Sun May 6.....P. H. Power and Sail Squadron Harbour Clean Up - Millennium Park/Garden Bay Lake, 10 a.m.
- Sun. May 6.....Sunday Jam with Cannery Row - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
- Mon. May 7.....Theresa Kishkan and John Pass reading event - P. H. School of Music, 6:30 p.m.
- Sun. May 13.....Sunday Jam with Joe Stanton - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
- Mon. May 14.....P. H. Gardening Club presents Bill Terry - P. H. School of Music, 10 a.m.
- Mon. May 14.....P. H. Food Bank pickup - P. H. Community Church, noon
- Thurs. May 10-12.....Spring Gardening Parking Lot Sale - Madeira Park IGA
- Fri. May 11.....Coffee House - P. H. School of Music, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun. May 13.....Mother's Day
- Sun. May 13.....P. H. Lions Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast - P. H. Lions Hall, 9 a.m.
- Tues. May 15.....P. H. Wildlife Society presents Penny Hall - PHSS, 7:30 p.m.
- Fri. May 18.....Royal Canadian Legion #112 general meeting, Pender Harbour Legion, 11 a.m.
- Sat. May 19.....67th annual May Day - Madeira Park, All day
- Sat. May 19.....Mark Vance and James Roger - Garden Bay Pub, 8 p.m.
- Sun. May 20.....ADB 11 - Esquire Drive, all day
- Sun. May 20.....Sunday Jam with Gaetan - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
- Sun. May 27.....24th Annual Garden Bay Golf Classic - P. H. Golf Course, 10 a.m.
- Sun. May 27.....Sunday Jam with Peter B3 - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
- Mon. May 28.....P. H. Food Bank pickup - P. H. Community Church, noon

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

FERRY DEPARTURES

~ Effective to May 16, 2012 ~

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.



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.

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.

*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 a.m.
3:20 p.m.
5:25 p.m.
7:20 p.m.
9:15 p.m.

*Alternate schedule for:

May 21, 2012

See alternate schedule at www.bcferries.com

☛ Daily except Sunday

“Censorship is telling a man he can’t have a steak just because a baby can’t chew.”
~ Robert A. Heinlein

Pender Harbour & Area Listings



16211 Sunshine Coast Hwy \$2,290,000

Ruby Lake Estate, 4+ Acres with Artisan "Lodge Style" Log Home; detached 4-Bay Workshop with Deluxe 2 bedroom Carriage House. Outdoor spa + Infinity pool roughed in. Landscape terraced to lakeshore and dock.



Destination "Bakeshop"... Egmont \$989,000

Situated Creekside along the Skookumchuk Trail just a 10 minute walk up from the Gov't Dock... Fresh brewed coffee & baking scent the air... It's no mirage ~ it's the 'Green Rosette Bakeshop' & 11 Acre Country Estate & 5 Bdrm Home.



Sechelt Inlet \$649,000

Mini 2.8 Ac. Estate with two bedroom cottage plus beachhouse/guest cottage, private cove/beach & 58 Ft. deep water dock.



Nelson Island \$459,000

Wesquarry Retreats ~ Charming, fully finished & outfitted cottage with spacious leisure deck + mooring dock in protected bay.



4716 Hotel Lake Crescent \$359,000

Cape Cod design is ideal for a family purchase, recreation or retirement use. Just steps away from accessing a trail to Hotel Lake for swimming & trout fishing.



4508 Rondeview Road \$329,000

1600 sq.ft. Rancher with garage + detached 24'X24' workshop. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths & Home Office/Hobby room with built-ins.



Waterfront 1.22 Acres \$224,900

View Building Site above Road with 83'W/F portion fronting Pender Harbour, on Francis Peninsula (just west of Hassan Rd). Future moorage potential & rocky beach.



5997 Bluff Place, Ruby Lake \$1,100,000

Level access right to the Custom Built Chalet Style cedar home! At the lakeshore, a sleeping cabin plus dock. Screened gazebo, garden hot tub, detached garage. Memories are made on Ruby Lake ~ you deserve an opportunity to make yours!



4709 Billy Goat Road \$849,000

Deluxe Ocean View Home - Corner lot, park setting on ¾+ Acre, 500+/- Sq. Ft. of decks + covered patio + private courtyard garden! Custom built-Ins, Gourmet Kitchen & luxurious baths.



13514 Godkin Way (Daniel Point) \$519,000

Quality View Home - Builder's Own w/ Hardy board siding, exposed aggregate patio & walkway, Main Floor finish in 13" tiles w/ 9 Ft ceiling, heatilator Fireplace. SS appliances & cultured stone counters.



Sechelt Inlet \$359,000

Waterfront Recreation Destination... Two legal lots serviced with power & tel., two cottages, a dock, utility bldg - Package offered at Bargain Price.



Daniel Road Acreage \$354,000

SL 5 offers 9+ Acres with Ocean Views, cleared roadways & potential building sites throughout, with plenty of trees left for privacy!



16562 Timberline Rd, Earls Cove \$289,000

Nearby access to salt water beach, recreation trails, boating & fishing lakes... Ocean View Home with updated Kitchen, Bath, H/W floors & newer roof.



6050 North Lake Rd \$150,000 (Crown Lease)

Includes dock on the lake, lakeshore leisure space, storage or sleeping cabin, plus room to park an RV... All in addition to the loft-style 1 bedroom, serviced Faux Log cabin. Truly an affordable family get-away.



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604.883.9525



Call Us for a Personal Tour of These Awesome Properties!

4800 Hotel Lake Road New Listing	\$182,500
Pender Harbour Landing Estates	Ocean View Pricing from \$187,500
Cecil Hill Road Development	Pricing starts at \$79,000
Lot 61 Panorama Dr. (Garden Bay) New Listing	\$115,000
Lot 49 Timberline Rd (Earls Cove) New Price	\$ 99,500
Lot 18 Orca Rd, Lee Bay (near Daniel Pt) No HST - New Price	\$ 88,000
Lot 32 Timberline Rd (Earls Cove) New Listing	\$ 82,500
Lot 17 Cedarridge Rd. (Earls Cove) New Listing/Sharply Priced	\$ 68,800

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24th Annual Garden Bay Golf Classic: Sunday, May 27

10 am Texas Scramble \$65

LIVE MUSIC SUNDAYS @ 2 PM

May 6: Sunday Jam with Cannery Row
May 13: Sunday Jam with Joe Stanton
May 20: Sunday Jam with Gaetan
May 27: Sunday Jam with Peter B3 plus
Garden Bay Classic Golf Tourney

MAY 4 – 6: FISHING DERBY

Cannery Row (3 days!)

Gary Comeau, Tim Hearsey & Chris Nordquist

MAY 19: MAY DAY

Mark Vance w/ James Rogers

Friday Night Meat Draw Special

Eggs Benny Sundays

Prime Rib Saturdays



GARDEN BAY PUB

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