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The independent voice of
Pender Harbour & Egmont
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HARBOUR SPIEL

December 2024
Issue 408





*Wishing everyone a happy holiday
and prosperous New Year!*

~ from all of us at IGA Madeira Park

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HOLIDAY HOURS

Dec. 24: 8 am - 5 pm
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Dec. 26: 8 am - 6 pm
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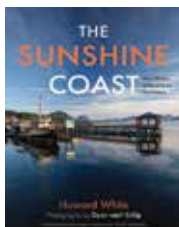


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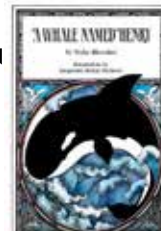
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EDITOR

Brian Lee

CIRCULATION (2,500)

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

Each issue of the *Harbour Spiel* (since Nov.
2006) is also available online as a PDF
download at www.harbourspiel.com.

CONTRIBUTORS

This month we thank: Leonard Lee, Colin
Levings, Robert Livingston, Susan Marlatt,
Shane McCune and Mackenzie Stewart.

COVER

Stellar sea lions are wary of paparazzi. About
10-12 sea lions were caught enjoying the strong
westerly storm off Daniel Point on Nov. 4.
(Brian Lee photo)

ADVERTISING

Please reserve by the 15th of the month prior
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of the *Harbour Spiel* possible — please say
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(Advertising bookings before Dec. 10)

editorial

How Egmont saved Christmas

Brian Lee



Most of the witnesses
to the incredible story of the
Christmas of 1968 are no longer with
us but one oldtimer who was there sat
down with the *Harbour Spiel* recently
to make sure the story didn't die with
him too.

He said it was your typical
Christmas in Egmont — not warm,
not freezing, just damp.

It rained hard the week before
but had turned to a foggy drizzle —
that depressing half rain that hangs in
the air like a curse.

The late Billy Griffith was never
one to boast so few knew that he was
a distant relative of Santa Claus.

They weren't that close (apparent-
ly Billy thought his cousin was a
bit of a dandy) but every few years
when Santa found himself ahead of
schedule on his annual gift drop, he'd
stop in for a hot toddy.

Christmas Eve 1968 was one of
those times.

Like every year since Pearl Har-
bour, Santa Claus started his festive
run on the International dateline in
the middle of the Pacific Ocean and
charged westward.

After departing Portugal, a strong
tailwind across the Atlantic and the
efficiency afforded by large Canadian
chimneys put him ahead of schedule
before his last stop — Hawaii.

It was midnight in Egmont but
still only 9 p.m. in Honolulu, so Santa
put his sleigh down on the Egmont
school field and shuffled up Maple
Road to the Griffith home.

While he caught up with his
cousin over candlelight, Santa's rein-
deer gorged on the lush grass of the
Egmont field like golden retrievers at
an all-you-can-eat buffet.

So they didn't notice the two hip-
pies approaching.

The two were returning late from
fishing in the chuck and after working
over a bottle of Canadian Club and a
bag of Texada Time Warp, they stum-
bled up the dock to find their homes.

That is until they spotted some-
one's unattended sleigh on the field
with eight "horses," already bridled.

In the gloom of that silent night,
the sleigh shone like a beacon of mis-
chievous opportunity.

The two snapped the reins and
bellowed "Wa-hoo!" before the rein-
deer even noticed them.

So, imagine the hippies' surprise
when instead of breaking into a saun-
ter, the startled team launched into the
air and made a steeply banked turn
high over the community hall before
crashing down by the gas station near
the crossroad.

A dozen porchlits came on at
once and soon a crowd assembled, all
gaping in awe at the spectacle.

Though it's impossible to hurt
a reindeer, they were snarled in their
harness like dogfish in a gillnet.

The two hippies were both
ejected from the sleigh and suffered
serious injuries, but they survived.

By the time Santa and Billy ar-
rived, the Egmonsters had most of the
presents gathered up and the reindeer
unhitched from the twisted sleigh.

It needed serious repairs but
there was no time for that — Santa
had to be in Hawaii in an hour.

So, Egmont jumped into action.

Someone offered Santa a wooden
herring punt he could use to finish the
night while the Egmonsters stayed up
to repair the sleigh in Berntzen's shop.

Santa could just pick it up on his
way home the next morning.

To this day, the people of Hawaii
have no idea how close they came to
missing Christmas in 1968 were it not
for Santa's Egmont helpers.

And two drunk hippies.

Community Hall Christmas Market

Saturday, Dec. 14

10am to 3pm

Community Hall, Madeira Park

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photojournal



Brian Lee

The Pender Harbour Volunteer Fire Department managed to find a window of calm between the successive storms battering Pender Harbour this fall to set off their spectacular annual Halloween fireworks display on Oct. 31.

Harbour Spiel

Loon Foundation drops major PODS funding announcement Nov. 16

A buoyant crowd ignored damp weather at the Earthfair Store's Tranquility Garden Nov. 16 to hear the Loon Foundation's announcement of a major funding milestone and partnership with the shíshálh Nation.

Patrick Weiler, MP for West Vancouver — Sunshine Coast — Sea to Sky Country, received loud applause after announcing the PODS project would receive \$13.4 million in federal funding.

The grant comes via Infrastructure Canada's Green and Inclusive Community Buildings program.

"PODS is going to be an innovative, state of the art marine and freshwater research and education facility and will be home to interactive exhibits, laboratories, galleries, performance spaces and stewardship courses making it a hub for research community engagement and public programming," said Weiler.

"PODS is going to combine shíshálh traditional ecological knowledge, western science and local culture to create a space for community members and visitors of all ages abilities and backgrounds to connect, learn and participate in activities that celebrate the ecological and cultural richness of the Sunshine Coast."

Michael Jackson, executive director of the Loon Foundation, told the *Harbour Spiel* that including pledges and donations from other sources, such as the Chip and Summer Wilson's W5 Foundation, the project is now almost fully funded.

This funding announcement was originally scheduled for Aug. 27, 2022 but was abruptly postponed at the request of the shíshálh Nation.

Since that time the Loon Foundation and the shíshálh Nation have negotiated a "relationship agreement"



Brian Lee

Shíshálh chief (lhe hiwus) Lenora Joe: 'This has been an amazing journey that we've had with PODS. It's very exciting and I'm very happy that we've been able to develop this partnership and we're very excited to move forward. This is such an excellent opportunity for the people on the Sunshine Coast, particularly our children.'

that will see the nation play a larger role in the future of PODS and the Iris and Billy Griffith Nature Centre.

"It's basically more about programming and about the operations of the PODS building, not to do so much with the construction, which will go out to tender," said Jackson.

"Our objective on that is to employ as many local people as possible and First Nations if we can."

"We will be planning the programming and particularly promoting tourism and First Nations tourism, which is a huge possibility for us now."

Jackson said adopting the final terms of the relationship agreement wasn't his decision but the 12-member board of the Loon Foundation who voted unanimously in favour of it.

"It is kind of a 50/50 agreement (with the shíshálh Nation) on the operations and programming of PODS but I just feel like we're kind of doing the right thing."

Though it took over two years to

hammer out the agreement, Jackson said he's pleased with the outcome.

"I think we've all come to a good place because it's kind of like everybody's going to win."

Jackson said the agreement will involve monthly meetings involving a "joint implementation committee" that will include two representatives from PODS and two from the Nation.

"It's a very comfortable and friendly relationship," he said.

Jackson said that the title of the Irvines Landing property will remain with the Loon Foundation.

That won't be the case with another of their properties.

On Nov. 14, two days before the funding announcement in Madeira Park, the shíshálh Nation issued a statement announcing the successful completion of the relationship agreement with the Loon Foundation:

"The Loon Foundation and shíshálh Nation have signed a historic, 15-year relationship agreement that

(continued next page)

PODS announcement Nov. 16

(continued from p. 5)

represents a landmark collaboration in the development and operation of the Pender Harbour Ocean Discovery Station (PODS), a community-based non-profit NGO.

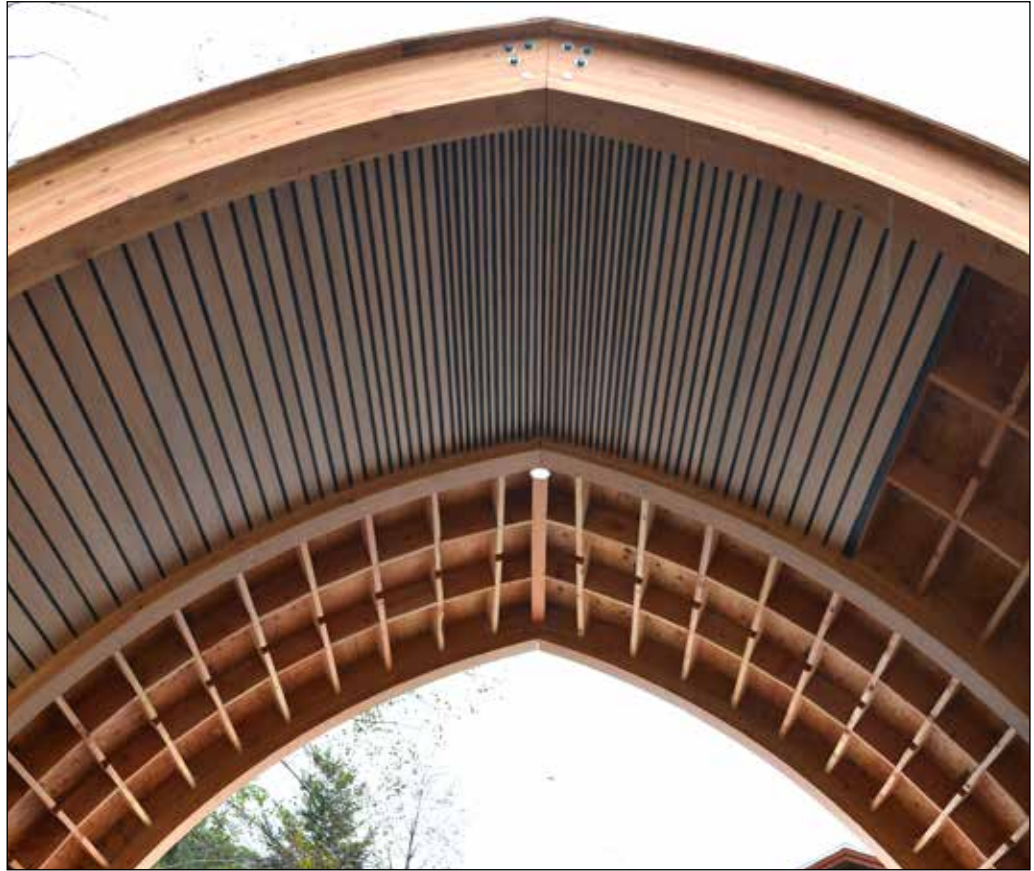
“The agreement also covers the future operation and transfer of the Iris and Billy Griffith Interpretive Centre.”

According to the Loon Foundation website, in 2002 the Loon Foundation — known then as the Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve Society — helped purchase a 10-hectare plot of forest and wetland with the goal of protecting the land in perpetuity.

It was made possible by community donations, including an “extremely generous donation” from long-time supporters Denise and Ken Cargill.

In 2005, a sizeable grant from Western Economic Diversification Canada allowed the society to build the Billy and Iris Griffith Nature Centre, an innovative education and interpretive facility on the nature reserve.

According to Jackson, the Nation has been granted a 49-per-cent stake in the Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve (including the Iris and Billy Griffith Nature Centre building) while



Brian Lee

The Nov. 16 funding announcement took place in the Earthfair Store's Tranquility Garden. Michael Jackson told the crowd that the PODS building model above is 1/39th scale of the actual PODS building and was funded by a provincial grant, the Mass Timber demonstration program.

the Loon Foundation maintains a majority of 51% of the property.

“They are also going to be involved in a similar arrangement to the PODS project — we will both be jointly programming and running the centre and operating it,” said Jackson.

“It’s a 15-year agreement and at any time the Nation can come in and buy the other half to gain full ownership.”

Jackson said future operation planning is still ongoing for the Iris and Billy Griffith Nature Centre.

“The idea is that we would continue with the education programs and summer school but it just becomes a joint enterprise where we do it together.”

Jackson added that primary do-

nor Denise Cargill, whose family was largely responsible for the land purchase in 2002, “is absolutely delighted that it goes to the First Nation.”

“It makes sense that it goes back into the hands of the shíshálh Nation and it’s a good thing for everyone.”

About a dozen representatives from the shíshálh Nation attended the announcement.

“I was trying to explain to a community member who was asking me the other day what PODS was and I said, ‘I don’t know how to explain it other than it has a lot to do with science and the ocean,’” said shíshálh Chief (lhe hiwus) Lenora Joe.

“It is going to be a magnificent project and we’re very excited to partner with PODS on this.”



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Mackenzie Stewart wins two-woman bobsleigh Canadian championship

The Canadian national bobsleigh team kicked off their 2024/2025 season at the Canadian championships on Nov. 2 and 3 with Madeira Park's Mackenzie Stewart upsetting the veterans to take gold in the two-woman bobsleigh.

Stewart, the pilot, partnered with brakewoman Leah Walkeden to beat a handful of Olympians at the Whistler Sliding Centre.

Stewart is one of Bobsleigh Canada's newer recruits and sits on the development team, so she wasn't expected to reach the podium.

Instead, Stewart and Walkeden combined their two runs for a combined time of one minute and 49.43 seconds, besting second place finishers, Olympian Cynthia Appiah and Skylar Seiben by 3/10ths of a second.

"It was pretty surreal," Stewart told the *Harbour Spiel* while hurtling (as a passenger) down the Sea to Sky Highway.

"I finished the first run in first place and had to keep telling myself that I still had a second run to do."

She said she focused on keeping her emotions under control for the 30-minute wait until her second run.

"My second run had some mistakes while we were going down so I was like, 'Don't let it snowball,'" she said.

She maintained her focus and steered her sled to first.

The win doesn't reposition Stewart in the pecking order of the national team this year because the team is already set but she said it definitely gives her some momentum going into 2026 — an Olympic year.

Her next race is Dec. 5 in Park City, Utah and Stewart is training six days a week in the gym before heading up to the hill at Whistler to spend time "sliding."

But her eight hours a day on the December 2024



Mackenzie Stewart

Francis Peninsulan Mackenzie Stewart (l) with teammate and bobsled partner Leah Walkeden on the way to winning gold at the Canadian championships in the two-woman bobsled event at the Whistler Sliding Centre Nov. 3.

hill isn't all spent in the bobsleigh seat.

The athletes do three runs per day while much of the rest of the time is spent maintaining the sleigh and getting the 128-kilogram (284-pound) sled back up the hill.

"We're full mechanics," she said.

"We regrease the shoes and polish all the runners and fiberglass — everyone's got dirty hands.

Training aside, Stewart's biggest challenge is finding funding so she can continue the sport which will cost upwards of \$200,000 for the next two years.

Though she thinks her organization is on the right track now, Stewart said that the well-publicized leadership problems plaguing Bobsleigh Canada in the last few years has cost the athletes federal and corporate funding.

For instance, to make the Olympic team in 2026, and then to be able to compete at that level, she will need

to buy a new sled herself.

Stewart said a new sled costs somewhere between \$80,000 and \$100,000.

Even to become a member part of Bobsleigh Canada team, she is required to pay an annual "team fee" of \$11,000.

Anyone looking to help her out with costs can visit her GoFundMe site at gofund.me/2bc17e66 or visit her website at mackenziestewart.ca.

Stewart generously cleared up the mystery of how the athletes get their sleds back up to the top of the course with readers of the *Harbour Spiel*.

It turns out there isn't a fancy bobsleigh magic carpet thing available — bobsledders are old school.

"We put them in scabbards (to protect the runners) and then shove them in the back of a pick-up truck," she said.

"Then we hop in and ride back up to the top of the hill."



HARBOUR SPIEL

trivia

1. How many lanes does the Pender Harbour Aquatic Centre pool have?

- ☐ a. 2
- ☐ b. 4
- ☐ c. 6
- ☐ d. 8

2. Harbour Publishing recently published which compilation of their classic *Raincoast Chronicles*?

- ☐ a. The Second Fifty
- ☐ b. The Seventh Eleventh
- ☐ c. The Sixth 10
- ☐ d. The Fifth Five

3. Where is the "Coqui-Hansen?"

- ☐ a. Secret Cove
- ☐ b. Kleindale
- ☐ c. Earls Cove
- ☐ d. Irvines Landing

4. Which financial institution has yet to open a branch in Madeira Park?

- ☐ a. TD Bank
- ☐ b. Royal Bank
- ☐ c. Bank of Montreal
- ☐ d. Sunshine Coast Credit Union

5. According to the 2021 census, which of the following is the largest at 23,819 people?

- ☐ a. City of Powell River
- ☐ b. District of Sechelt
- ☐ c. Town of Gibsons
- ☐ d. District of Squamish

6. What is "chuck" in Chinook jargon?

- ☐ a. throw
- ☐ b. eat
- ☐ c. water
- ☐ d. fish

Answers: p. 34

Four-plus: **Local**

Two-plus: **Newbie**

Less than two: **Townie**

Garden Bay firehall reopens to show off its fresh face

The Garden Bay Firehall officially reopened with a public open house on Nov. 23 after seven months of rebuilding and renovations.

Work involved lifting the entire top floor of the building to rebuild the foundation and lower walls underneath after it was discovered that the building had sunk 7.5 inches on its southwest corner.

Aside from the structural issue, there were a host of other hazards that the architects couldn't have foreseen back in 1975 when the hall was built.

The building doesn't meet Work-safe BC ventilation standards in the engine bays that aim to prevent volunteers from breathing truck exhaust.

Extra ventilation was installed and a side building added where volunteers can don turnout gear in a safe environment.

Planning was completed in 2023 but the project was only able to move ahead after a successful alternative approval process in February allowed the PHFPD to borrow up to \$950,000.



Brian Lee

After its renovation, the Garden Bay firehall looks so fresh and clean it's almost a shame to let trucks and soot-soiled firefighters in it.

Now, properties within the Pender Harbour Fire Protection District will contribute \$3.27 per 100,000 dollars of assessed value on an annual basis until the long-term debt is paid

off, estimated at 15 years. During the construction process, Garden Bay's fire trucks have been housed in bays at Garden Bay Marine's facility on Sinclair Bay Road.



Brian Lee

The open house on Nov. 23 attracted a steady stream of visitors to see the newly renovated Garden Bay firehall.



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✓ Exterior window cleaning	

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New SCRD chair chosen



*Leonard Lee
Area A director, SCRD*

Last month I turned 76 and, while relatively healthy for a senior citizen, I am supposed to be retired, and I find myself growing increasingly aware of how much time I likely have left to be physically capable of doing my usual stuff.

This year I declined to put my name forward as SCRD chair, and Alan Toth, a Sechelt councillor, was chosen as the new chair, which means the SCRD board will continue as usual, but with a happier director Lee.

For the last two years I've been both your regional director and SCRD chair, a big job that made it difficult for me to properly serve Pender-

Egmont residents (as chair, I had to consider SCRD priorities over Area A priorities) and left no time for personal pursuits like working on our home, volunteering for the Pender Harbour Living Heritage Society, and last but not least, fishing.

My focus can now be representing you to the SCRD and other government organizations, and working with you on things important to our community.

2025 BUDGET (TAXES)

Yes, our property taxes will go up in 2025, and the rest of the budget process will determine how much.

Our strategic plan identifies water and solid waste as our focus areas and our corporate plan designates project completion schedules according to available staff, which is insuf-

ficient to finish all of them.

Projects are further juggled according to priority and grant availability (some will be delayed while others will get done), some are already funded, some are paid from capital reserves and others are taxation items.

Staff's pre-budget "what if" scenario showed a 11.3% increase for Area A taxpayers, but this depends on which projects are approved for 2025.

Here's where we are after pre-budget, but remember it's not cast in stone because items may be added, removed, or modified until the final budget is approved in February.

These approved projects will be in round 1 budget deliberations:

- Eyewash station at P. H. Aquatic and Fitness Centre (\$35,000, capital reserves);
- Noxious weed removal at John



Sunshine Coast Regional District

www.scrd.ca info@scrd.ca

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



Board and Committee Meetings

Committee of the Whole
December 12 at 9:30 a.m.

Electoral Area Services Committee
December 19 at 9:30 a.m.

Regular Board
December 12 at 1:00 p.m.

www.scrd.ca/agendas

DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF SNOW AT DAKOTA RIDGE WINTER RECREATION AREA



The early bird rate for season passes runs until December 13. Get 10% discount on your season pass for unlimited skiing and snowshoeing all winter long! Season passes are available online at www.scrd.ca/Dakota-Ridge or at the Gibsons and Area Community Centre and the Sechelt Aquatic Centre.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR VOYENT ALERT!

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

HOLIDAY TRANSFER STATION HOURS OF OPERATION



Friday, December 20	OPEN (9:00 am–5:00 pm)
Saturday, December 21	OPEN (9:00 am–5:00 pm)
Sunday, December 22	Regular Closure Day
Monday, December 23	OPEN (9:00 am–5:00 pm)
Tuesday, December 24	Regular Closure Day
Wednesday, December 25	CLOSED
Thursday, December 26	CLOSED
Friday, December 27	OPEN (9:00 am–5:00 pm)
Saturday, December 28	OPEN (9:00 am–5:00 pm)
Sunday, December 29	Regular Closure Day
Monday, December 30	OPEN (9:00 am–5:00 pm)
Tuesday, December 31	Regular Closure Day
Wednesday, January 1, 2025	CLOSED

No loads accepted after 4:50 p.m.

Daly Park (\$63,100 taxation) and ongoing annual maintenance (\$33,000);

- Capital expenditures for the Egmont Fire Department (max. \$109,100, capital reserves), and
- Chief administrative officer recruitment (\$60,000, operating reserves).

These approved community partners projects will be in the 2025 budget:

- Pender Harbour Reading Centre (\$4,145);
- Pender Harbour Community School (youth programs, \$16,000, recreation programs \$36,800);
- Pender Harbour Tourism (portable toilets, \$3,000);
- Pender Harbour Visitor Information Centre (washrooms and booths, \$23,000);
- BC Ferries Travel Ambassador program (\$3,000);
- Sunshine Coast Chamber of Commerce (Pender Harbour economic development, \$2,500, visitor services \$2,000), and
- Sunshine Coast Marine Search and Rescue Station 61, Pender Harbour (\$5,100).

These community partners request funding increases:

- Skookumchuck Museum/ Egmont Heritage Centre, and
 - Pender Harbour Health Centre.
- Projects deferred to 2026:
- Parks signage (\$70,000, taxation);
 - Vinebrook Bridge replacement (\$820,000, debt, grant, etc.), and
 - Baker Beach improvements (\$90,000, taxation).

We'll consider these projects in round one budget deliberations:

- Walking path part-way around Katherine Lake Park;
- Dan Bosch Park parking expansion;

sion;

- Corporate planning (one-time lift, \$30,000, reserves; budget increase \$15,000, SCRD-wide taxation);
- Environmental monitoring at Sechelt Landfill and Pender Harbour Transfer Station (\$75,704, SCRD-wide taxation);
- Snow-grooming equipment repair (\$73,500, reserves);
- Solid waste management plan update (\$86,782, taxation);
- Gray Creek intake and treatment design, permitting, and tendering (\$864,550, reserves)
- Langdale wellfield construction (\$22,657,471, debt, grant, fees, etc.);
- Raw water reservoir development (2025/2026; \$322,872, capital reserves and \$75,000, operating reserves);
- Leak-detection equipment expansion (\$75,000, reserves);
- Francis Peninsula and Chapman (leaking) reservoir repair, (\$416,000, reserves);
- Pender Landing wastewater treatment plant service feasibility study (\$37,500, taxation);
- Parks Service review (\$100,000, taxation);
- Utility services review (\$150,000, reserves), and
- Egmont Park repairs (\$184,000, taxation).

Learn more about the 2025

budget at www.SCRD.ca by selecting "About Us/Board & Committee Meetings" by date.

You can access a community hub about the budget on the SCRD's Let's Talk Platform (there's a link at the top of every SCRD page), which also offers the opportunity to have questions answered about the process.

CONTACT ME

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

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Pender Harbour Seniors Housing Society Outreach Healthy Meal Program



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Call Linda — 604.883.2819, Wendy — 604.883.2514 or Anky — 604.883.0033

what's happening this christmas?

PENDER HARBOUR ROTARY SCOTCH TASTING **Saturday, Nov. 30, doors open 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m.**

There still may be a ticket or two left for the Rotary Club's annual whisky tasting event at the Royal Canadian Legion in Madeira Park. The selection of fine whiskies is paired with a specially prepared five-course dinner. Tickets are \$125 which includes gratuities. There will also be a 50/50 draw, a silent and live auction, and wine raffle. For tickets contact Kathy Riches (604) 865-0637.

DAWN PEMBERTON AND JODI PROZNICK: **'O COME ALL YE SOULFUL'** **Sunday, Dec. 8 at 2 p.m.**

Come out to the Pender Harbour School of Music to hear two of Pender Harbour's favourite women of music and award-winning powerhouses — vocalist Dawn Pemberton and bassist/bandleader Jodi Proznick. With their all-star band they will bring joy and soul to your best loved holiday classics, made famous by the likes of Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Ella Fitzgerald, John Legend, Otis Redding and more. For more, visit www.penderharbourmusic.ca.

PENDER HARBOUR COMMUNITY **CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Sunday, Dec. 8 at 3:30 p.m. (crafts)/5:30 p.m. (dinner)

At the Pender Harbour Community Hall. Santa will be there to visit the kids, arts and crafts will be available

— all before a delicious dinner. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. and dinner is served at 5:30 p.m.

PENDER HARBOUR WOMEN'S CONNECTION **CHRISTMAS GATHERING**

Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 12 noon (doors at 11:30 a.m.)

The Pender Harbour Women's Connection will be launching the 2024 Christmas season in high spirits on Dec. 10. Patricia Burnett, popular songstress, will be our featured guest. Hors d'oeuvres created by Silja Moonie Catering are sure to entice pre-Christmas appetites.

Please note this event is sold out.

HARBOURSIDE FRIENDSHIPS CHRISTMAS **LUNCHEON AND PENDER HARBOUR** **CHOIR PERFORMANCE**

Thursday, Dec. 12 at 10:30 a.m. (lunch served at noon)

Organized by the Pender Harbour Seniors Initiative, Harbour Side Friendships hosts a \$10 Christmas turkey luncheon for seniors at the Pender Harbour Community Hall on Dec. 12. Lunch will include a performance by the Pender Harbour Choir. Tickets (\$10) will be sold ahead of time to plan for attendance.

CHRISTMAS BINGO

Thursday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Bingo takes place every Thursday at the Pender Har-

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January
Harbour Spiel
is printed early
due to Christmas
scheduling.

Please send
advertising, submissions
and random thoughts

BEFORE
DEC. 9

HAPPY
NEW YEAR!



Harbour Spiel

bour Community Hall — but Christmas Bingo only happens on Dec. 12.

COMMUNITY HALL CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Don't miss the Pender Harbour Community Club's crafts, baking and artisan extravaganza at the P. H. Community Hall with dozens of vendors and artisans and Santa's kitchen serving delicious refreshments (the kitchen is open all day serving lunch for \$5). There will also be a white elephant sale, door prizes, silent auction and more.

Admission will be by donation at the door and all proceeds will go towards the new roof needed for the Pender Harbour Community Hall.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION 112 CHRISTMAS, HAM AND TURKEY AND BASKET AND PIE MEAT DRAW

Saturday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m.

If you like to yell "Yee-haw" at the meat draw, this is the biggest of the year. The Royal Canadian Legion No. 112 presents its annual Christmas fundraiser — a ham and turkey meat draw that also includes a basket auction.

It's your best bet to load up on meat (and good cheer) before the holidays. Don't miss the early bird draws starting at 3 p.m. with the main draw at 3:30 p.m.

PENDER HARBOUR WINTER FESTIVAL

Saturday, Dec. 14 from 3 to 7 p.m.

Come out to Millennium Park for the event of the season. There will be food trucks, vendors, live music and the Pender Harbour Choir will be out carolling.

Winterfest kicks off at 3 p.m. and the Christmas boat parade starts at 6:30 p.m. — all at the government dock in Madeira Park.

For the kids, Santa's Workshop includes photos with Santa, toy making, hot chocolate and cookie decorating. There will also be an artisans' market, licensed area for holiday spirits and mulled wine (bring your own mug), raffle and a bonfire. Santa Claus himself arrives at 4 p.m. So, it's going to be off the hook.

Winterfest runs from 3 to 7 p.m. while music and bar will remain until 9 p.m.

Entry will be by donation at the entrance. This year, funds raised at Winterfest will benefit the hosts, the P. H. Community Club and the P. H. Food Bank while proceeds from Christmas tree sponsorships will benefit the Madeira Park Elementary School Parents Advisory Committee.

(continued next page)



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what's happening this christmas?

(continued from p. 13)

60TH P. H. CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE

Saturday, Dec. 14 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Continuing the 60-year tradition set by Wilma and Bill Thompson, the parade of lit boats, carollers and pipers gets underway at 6:30 p.m., from the Madeira Park wharf. Boaters should meet off the government dock at 6 p.m. Participating boats should be decorated with Christmas lights. For more details: Charlie Park at (604) 883-0453.



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PENDER HARBOUR CHOIR PRESENTS

'MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS'

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2 p.m.

Join the Pender Harbour Choir as they showcase their repertoire of new music and old to celebrate the festive year-end. The choir will perform their concert "Merry Little Christmas" at the Pender Harbour School of Music on Dec. 15 under the direction of musical director Ken Johnson and accompanied by pianist Serah Strandberg.

Tickets are \$25 and are available at the Earthfair store in Madeira Park, from choir members and at the door. The choir will also perform at the Sunshine Coast Botanical Gardens on Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.

POLAR EXPRESS CHRISTMAS LIGHT TOUR

Tuesday, Dec. 17 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The annual bus tour of local Christmas lights departs The P. H. Community Hall at 7 p.m. and tours Christmas lights on Francis Peninsula and Garden Bay before returning between 8 and 8:30 p.m.

The Polar Express Christmas Light Tour started in 2013 because many seniors wanted to view the light displays in the neighbourhood but they did not like driving themselves in the dark evenings. So, the Pender Harbour Seniors Initiative hired a local school bus. A conductor greeted the passengers and punched their golden ticket as they boarded the tour bus in front of the community hall.

Each passenger was given a clip board with a judging form, pen, flashlight and a rag to keep the window clear if it fogged up. As the bus toured through Madeira Park and along Francis Peninsula, the judges would vote for the light displays.

This will be the 11th year and since 2020, the Pender Harbour Seniors Initiative awards a "champion" sign to those with exceptional displays to post on their front lawn every year with their light display. This year, there will be at least three champions in Garden Bay and three in Madeira Park. But no one gets a second sign — once a champion, always a champion. Golden Tickets (\$5) are available to purchase from Earthfair Store in Madeira Park. "Champions," make sure your sign is posted!

EGMONT CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER

Friday, Dec. 20 at 6 p.m.

A community dinner at the Egmont Community Hall. People from out of town with kids under 13 should bring a wrapped gift so Santa can hand it to their child.

HARBOUR SPIEL CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR P. H. ROTARY SCOTCH TASTING
8 PHMS PRESENTS "O COME ALL YE SOULFUL" P. H. COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER	9	10 P. H. WOMEN'S CONNECTION CHRISTMAS GATHERING	11	12 HARBOURSIDE FRIENDSHIPS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON P. H. COMMUNITY HALL CHRISTMAS BINGO	13	14 COMMUNITY HALL CHRISTMAS MARKET RCL 112 XMAS MEAT DRAW PENDER HARBOUR WINTER FESTIVAL 60TH P. H. CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE
15 P. H. CHOIR PRESENTS "MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS"	16	17 POLAR EXPRESS CHRISTMAS LIGHT TOUR	18	19	20 EGMONT CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER	21
22	23	24	25 SANTA!	26	27	28
29	30	31				



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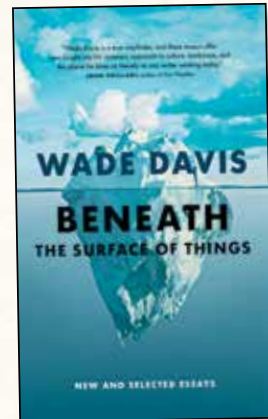


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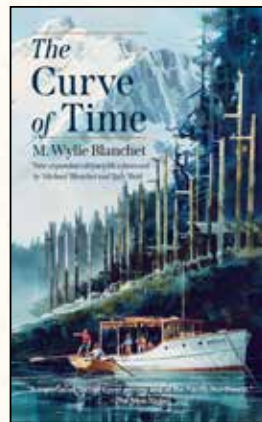
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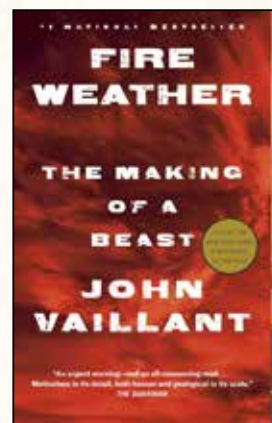
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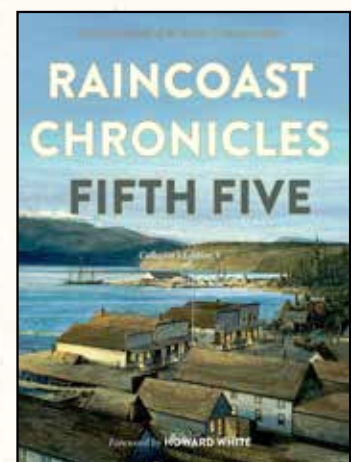
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Half a century and hundreds of book releases have rolled by since Harbour Publishing was founded in 1974. So it is only appropriate to mark this golden anniversary with a new omnibus of Raincoast Chronicles, the series that has always been at the heart of Harbour's mission to express the rich culture and history of BC's coast. This collector's edition gathers volumes 21 through 24 of Raincoast Chronicles along with Raincoast Monograph *The Remarkable Adventures of Portuguese Joe Silvey*. *Raincoast Chronicles Fifth Five* includes stories of disasters at sea, scarcely believable bush plane feats, eerie events at coastal ghost towns and reminisces of the Schnarr sisters who kept cougars as pets, along with pieces by some of BC's most iconic writers — Jean Barman, Al Purdy, Anne Cameron, Edith Iglauer, Patrick Lane, Grant Lawrence and others.

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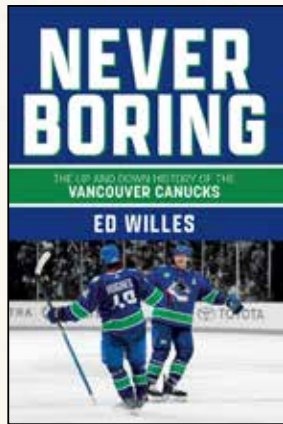
DOPPELGANGER: A TRIP INTO THE MIRROR WORLD

Naomi Klein

What if you woke up one morning and found you'd acquired another self—a double who was almost you and yet not you at all? What if that double shared many of your preoccupations but, in a twisted, upside-down way, furthered the very causes you'd devoted your life to fighting against? Not long ago, Naomi Klein had just such an experience — she was confronted with a doppelganger whose views she found abhorrent but whose name and public persona were similar enough to her own that many people confused her for the other. For a vertiginous moment, she lost her bearings. And then she got interested, in a reality that seems to be warping and doubling like a digital hall of mirrors.

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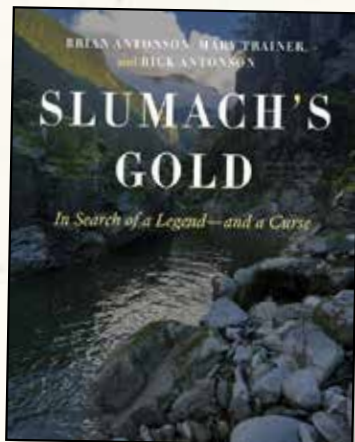
NEVER BORING: THE UP AND DOWN HISTORY OF THE VANCOUVER CANUCKS

Ed Willes

Cheering for the Vancouver Canucks over the last half century has required patience, commitment and a forgiving nature. For decades, veteran Vancouver hockey writer Ed Willes has had his own vantage point on this team that has, in his words, "been haunted by dark and unnatural forces since its inception." As this irreverent, often bitterly funny chronicle shows, the litany of woe stretches back farther and runs deeper than many Canucks fans realize, and stars several of the biggest names in hockey history.

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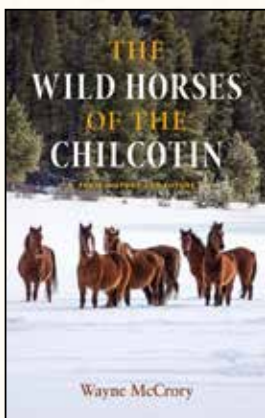
SLUMACH'S GOLD: IN SEARCH OF A LEGEND — AND A CURSE

Brian Antonson, Mary Trainer, Rick Antonson

A real-life treasure hunt that verges on myth. For more than 130 years, prospectors and adventurers have sought the legend of massive gold nuggets after the details of their exact location died with Slumach, a Katzie Nation man executed for murder in 1891. Countless prospectors, adventurers, amateur sleuths and history buffs have attempted to find Slumach's gold over the years. It has been the subject of books, articles, TV shows and podcasts. But so far, no one has succeeded in locating the legendary gold. Or have they?

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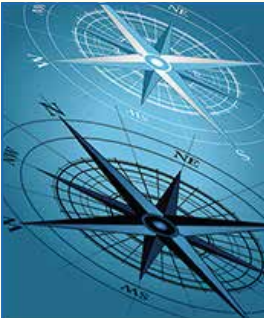


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Steller sea lion

Eumetopias jubatus

Story and photos: Brian Lee

In the water and from a distance, the Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*) can be mistaken for a seal.

It isn't until it hauls itself out of the water that most appreciate what an exceptionally different creature it is.

Most range in size between 400 kilograms (880 pounds) and 800 kilograms (1,760 pounds) but a male Steller sea lion can weigh up to 1,000 kilograms (2,200 pounds).

Cows are smaller and weigh from 200 kilograms (440 pounds) to 300 kilograms (660 pounds).

But they win in the end, as cows outlive males by five to 10 years, often reaching the age of 30.

Its massive size makes it the largest of the otariids, or eared seals, and

the fourth largest of all pinnipeds.

They can travel up to 27 km/h, dive to depths of 300 metres, stay down eight minutes and gobble up to 35 kilograms of fish every day.

That maybe what this raft of Stellers were up to off Daniel Point during the powerful westerly storm on Nov. 4.

I hiked out to Daniel Point to face it down with my camera and was reminded that in photography, and life, effort pays.

My wind burn was rewarded by nine to 12 sea lions enjoying the swells a car length off the beach.

They would dive in three minute intervals before returning to the surface to verbally threaten the photographer for a minute or so before diving back down to their fish party.





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Brian Lee

The first snow of the season on the Caren Range. Photo taken Nov. 18

seals



Note your Harbour Seal of Approval or **Harbour Seal of Disapproval.**

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

Harbour Seals of hearty applause to the amazing **Healthy Meals volunteers** who produce fantastic dinners to help our community's seniors.

Barb Nield

Wreaths full of Harbour Seals of Approval to **all the dedicated volunteers, participants and attendees** who helped make the Remembrance Day parade, ceremony and gathering such a memorable, heartfelt occasion.

Lyn and Bill Charlton
Royal Canadian Legion 112

Boat loads of Seals to local electrician **Bill Reid** for coming to the rescue at the Bargain Barn when we lost power during one of the recent storms.

Karen Wells

A Harbour Seal of Approval for **Yester** at the Painted Boat Resort for helping a person in need.

Donna Edwardson

A 150-pound wiggly Seal of Approval to **Andrea C. at Madeira Park Veterinary Hospital** who went above and beyond to help us get urgent veterinary care to our St. Bernard during November's first big winds and power outage.

Christine Alexander

A Harbour Seal of Approval and a huge thank-you to **Fred Lowther** for helping Ken bear-proof the house after the local bruno decided he wanted underneath.

Ken and Lee Walters

Poppy Fields of Seals of Approval to **all those who donated to the poppy campaign and the volunteers who gave their time** to canvass and our local businesses for their support.

Lyn and Bill Charlton
Royal Canadian Legion 112

A very appreciated Harbour Seal of Approval to **Eddy Edrik** for taking time to come and entertain the Flair cancer support group on our 10th anniversary.

You made it very special!

Jean Pate



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Spreading Kindness

Each year this community fundraiser allows us to provide much needed support to our local families and community members all year round.

The donations made help fill the need within our community in a variety of ways. Over this last year Spreading Kindness funds were used to:

Provide local youth support throughout the summer

Create access for youth to connect with mental health supports

Help youth participate in recreational opportunities and extracurricular activities

Purchase and distribute cold weather clothing such as: toques, gloves, sweaters, boots, and jackets

Distribute grocery cards to families and community members requiring additional support, as well as alternative food security support to best address the need.

Provide essential items to our local youth and other community members, such as: socks, toothbrushes, tooth paste, deodorant, shampoo conditioner, soap & chapstick

How To Donate:

Online: <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/1875/donate> **E-Transfer to:** phrotaryclub@gmail.com

By Mail: PH Rotary, C/O 4202 Packalen Blvd, Garden Bay BC V0N 1S1

Cheque payable to PH Rotary (Spreading Kindness in Memo)

For more information please contact lyncharlton7@gmail.com



Drop in Services

Pender Harbour Community School

December 9th, 2024 10:00am - 12:00pm

**Information, Support, Learning, and
Connections for Newcomers and Immigrants**

Free services for eligible clients

GET HELP WITH ►

Language + Important Documents (SIN/MSP) + Health
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For more information please call 604.212.2716 or email info@welcoming-communities.ca



WelcomeBC

604.883.2826

5012 Gonzales Road Madeira Park



Pender Harbour Community School Society
leisure · life · growth · community

www.pendercommunity.ca

phcs@dccnet.com

Tuesdays to Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm



PENDER HARBOUR AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTRE

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

On lower level of
P. H. Secondary School:

13639 S.C. Hwy.

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www.scrd.ca/recreation

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Come swim with us, join a fitness or aquatic fitness class or work out in the weight room!

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

HOURS OF OPERATION IN DECEMBER

To view drop-in fitness class times, please check online calendars www.scrd.ca/pender-pool.

Hours of operation for the whole facility, effective to Dec. 15:

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

Hours of operation from Dec. 16 -19

Please note that the hours of operation may vary between the pool and the gym side of the facility:

Pool = Pool and wet area of facility

Weights = Weight room and fitness area of facility

Monday, Dec. 16	Tuesday, Dec. 17	Wednesday, Dec. 18	Thursday, Dec. 19
POOL: 7am to 9am WEIGHTS: 7am to 1pm	POOL: 7 to 9am 3:30 to 8pm WEIGHTS: 7am to 1pm 3:30 to 8pm	POOL: 7am to 9am 3:30 to 8pm WEIGHTS: 7am to 1pm 3:30 to 8pm	POOL: 7am to 9am 3:30 to 8pm WEIGHTS: 7am to 1pm 3:30 to 8pm

Hours of operation for the whole facility, starting Dec. 20

Fri, Dec. 20 & Sat, Dec. 21 CLOSED	Sun, Dec. 22 8am to 3pm	Mon, Dec. 23 8am to 3pm	Tue, Dec. 24 to Thu, Dec. 26 CLOSED	Fri, Dec. 27 to Mon, Dec. 30 8am to 3pm
Tue, Dec. 31 8am to 1pm	Wed, Jan. 1 CLOSED	Thu, Jan 2 to Sat, Jan. 4 8am to 3pm	Sun, Jan. 5 CLOSED	



Seniors activities for December!

POLAR EXPRESS CHRISTMAS LIGHT TOUR: Dec. 17

Bus departs Madeira Park at 7pm and tours Christmas Lights on Francis Peninsula and returns @ 8-8:30pm. Purchase your "Golden Ticket" at Earth Fair Store: \$5 after Dec. 1.

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

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

Dec. 5 – Armchair Travel (free lunch for all who attend)

Dec. 12 – Christmas Turkey Lunch and Music by the Pender Harbour Choir — \$10 tickets sold ahead of time, so we can plan for our attendance.

CARPET BOWLING: Wednesdays, Dec. 4 & 11

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

CHAIR YOGA: Mondays & Fridays, Dec 2, 6, 9, 13 & 16

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

CHAIR YOGA: Wednesdays, Dec. 4 & 11

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

**Seniors
Helping
Seniors**

PENDER HARBOUR SENIORS INITIATIVE

Sponsored by:
Smart Fund



HARBOURSIDE FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM

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

**FOR INFORMATION
OR TRANSPORTATION,**

CALL MARLENE:

(604) 883-9900

SKOOKUMCHUCK VIEWING TIMES

DECEMBER

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

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

1. 11:27 AM -S, 3:29 PM +M
2. 12:07 PM -S
3. 12:49 PM -S
4. 1:35 PM -S
5. 2:36 PM -M
6. 3:33 PM -M
7. 9:30 AM +XL
8. 10:06 AM +XL
9. 10:41 AM +XL
10. 11:17 AM +L
11. 11:51 AM +L
12. 12:43 PM +L
13. 9:19 AM -S, 1:36 PM +M
14. 10:13 AM -S, 2:29 PM +M
15. 11:01 AM -M, 3:19 PM +M
16. 11:57 AM -M
17. 12:45 PM -M
18. 1:35 PM -M
19. 2:27 PM -M
20. 8:38 AM +XL, 3:21 PM -L
21. 9:09 AM +XL
22. 9:38 AM +XL
23. 10:04 AM +L
24. 10:31 AM +L
25. 11:14 AM +M
26. 11:50 AM +M
27. 8:53 AM -S
12:44 PM +M
28. 9:40 AM -S, 1:38 PM +S
29. 10:22 AM -S, 2:37 PM +M
30. 11:03 AM -S, 3:20 PM +M
31. 11:53 AM -S

These are estimates only and not intended for navigation.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

\$1,139 billion

The amount the AI market is projected to reach by 2030, substantial growth from its estimated \$214 billion revenue in 2024.

21%

The net increase AI is expected to contribute to U.S. GDP by 2030.

1 million

The number of users ChatGPT picked up within the first five days of its release.

75%

The percentage of consumers worried about the impact that AI has on the ability to trust information found on the internet.

1/10

The share of cars that will be self-driving by 2030 (the global market of self-driving cars is forecast to increase from 20.3 million in 2021 to 62.4 million).

59%

India's AI adoption rate is the highest in the world, followed closely by the United Arab Emirates (58%).

15%

A McKinsey report predicts that between 2016 and 2030, AI-related advancements may affect around 15% of the global workforce.

~ Forbes

DECEMBER WEATHER

TEMPERATURES (MERRY ISLAND)

Our average daily high temperature in December is 6.6 C and our average daily low is 3.3 C, giving us a mean daily temperature of 5 C. The highest December temperature recorded is 13.3 C (Dec. 14, 1962) and the lowest was -11.7 C (Dec. 28, 1968).

PRECIPITATION (MERRY ISLAND)

December has an average of 54.9 hours of bright sunshine. It usually has 19 days with measurable precipitation, an average monthly rainfall of 135 mm and an average monthly snowfall of 10 cm. Our average month-end snowfall is 4 cm. December has the highest snowfall of the year (November has the most rain). The highest December daily rainfall recorded at Merry Island was 66 mm (Dec. 25, 1972). The record daily snowfall was 40.6 cm (Dec. 31, 1968).

DECEMBER ASTROLOGY



SAGITTARIUS: NOV. 23 – DEC. 21

Sagittarians love excitement and adventure. They are easily bored but often trendsetters. They are bold and impulsive, natural explorers who thrive on change and mental stimulation. This month, the new moon implants itself in your decan, bringing you energy and enthusiasm. It's your time after the arduous past few months. Enjoy this mental holiday until Dec. 30 when the celestial dopamine dump exits your decan, leaving you staring into the hollow shell of yourself and wondering what changed.



CAPRICORN: DEC. 22 – JAN. 19

Capricorns often experience hardship early in life, but their resourcefulness makes them survivors. Sometimes hard to get to know, they are loyal, responsible and down-to-earth. This month Jupiter arrives in your fifth house. Maybe you say, "No big deal." But you forget, your partner lives there and he or she resents the visitor. It will be a time of strong potential for monetary gain but it may cost you your marriage. On Dec. 17, an old friend drops in unannounced. You suspect addiction when he or she asks for money.

BC BESTSELLERS

For the week ending Nov. 16

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

1. Whitewater Cooks The Food We Love by Shelley Adams, Conner Adams (Alicon Holdings)

2. Untold Tales of Old British Columbia by Daniel Marshall (Ronsdale Press)

3. Never Boring: The Up and Down History of the Vancouver Canucks by Ed Willes (Harbour Publishing)

4. The Curve of Time: New, Expanded Edition by M. Wylie Blanchet (Harbour Publishing)

5. The Animal People Choose a Leader by Richard Wagamese, illust. by Bridget George (Douglas & McIntyre)

6. Beneath the Surface of Things: New and Selected Essays by Wade Davis (Greystone Books)

7. The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben and Fred Bernard, illustrated by Benjamin Flao (Greystone Books)

8. Slumach's Gold: In Search of a Legend — and a Curse by Brian Antonson, Mary Trainer & Rick Antonson (Heritage House)

9. 300 Mason Jars: Preserving History by Joanne Thomson (Heritage House Publishing)

10. Gumboots in the Straits by Lou Allison, with Jane Wilde (Caitlin Press)

~ Association of Book Publishers of BC

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Dec. 1 ~ Darren Morton and Beth Voutier.
- Dec. 2 ~ Diane Lee, Ray Phillips, James Wray and Al Wood.
- Dec. 3 ~ Paula Campbell, Mike Pickering, Joanne McQuaig and Ed Wray.
- Dec. 4 ~ Noel Lebrun and John Williams.
- Dec. 5 ~ Gaye Beardmore, Andrea Curtiss, Andy Curtiss and Logan McCormack.
- Dec. 6 ~ Ryan McDonald and Bill Reid.
- Dec. 7 ~ Dianne Rousseau, Dan Gifford and Jennifer Reid.
- Dec. 8 ~ Kim Bailey and Keenan Clerx.
- Dec. 9 ~ Michelle Beardmore and Robert Purdy.
- Dec. 10 ~ Trevor Jones and Cathy Thompson.
- Dec. 11 ~ Grace Donnahee, William Jans and Patti Reid.
- Dec. 12 ~ Malcolm Duncan and Pat Martin.
- Dec. 13 ~ Cody Edwardson-Zayshley
- Dec. 16 ~ Ginger Taylor and Cassandra Whelan.
- Dec. 17 ~ Ian Campbell, Shane Gudbranson, Kyle MacKenney, Joi Phillips and Doreen Willgoose.
- Dec. 18 ~ Tony Adamson and Niki Verzuh.
- Dec. 19 ~ Tyson Carswell, Helen Garrett and Jamie Bouvette.
- Dec. 20 ~ Nicole Fletcher, Ella Nya Goulette, Shea Lee and Tyler Silvey.
- Dec. 21 ~ Harvey Langton, Duncan McDougall and Josh Young.
- Dec. 22 ~ Gwyneth Bryant, Steven Fouts, Shane Hardie, Rob Nieuwenhuis, Dani Thompson and Christine West.
- Dec. 23 ~ Kate Thompson.
- Dec. 24 ~ Tatiana Phillips-Campbell, Chris Phillips and Clifford Silvey Jr.
- Dec. 25 ~ Peter Schmidt.
- Dec. 27 ~ Cameron McDougall.
- Dec. 28 ~ Jeff Girard.
- Dec. 29 ~ Diane Gamble.
- Dec. 30 ~ Dean Bosch, Bryan Edwardson, Andy Ross and Jean Minch.
- Dec. 31 ~ John Brimacombe, Nathaniel Johnson, Fara Priest and Scott Bruce.

6. SAFETY

!
6

The Coast’s volunteer fire departments in Gibsons, Roberts Creek, Sechelt, Halfmoon Bay, Egmont and Pender Harbour.

!
35

The number of calls S. C. Search and Rescue’s 44 members attended in 2023. Including training, a total of 8,344 volunteer hours.



The Sunshine Coast is still a relatively safe community, although some categories of crime are on the rise. The crime rate reported for Sechelt municipality increased 13.6% from 2021 to 2022, while the rate for Sunshine Coast rural, which includes Gibsons, rose by 2.8%. Public safety services on the Sunshine Coast are heavily dependent on volunteers who put in thousands of training and response hours every year.

Managers of the Sunshine Coast Community Services Society transition program noted that since 2017, women have been more reluctant to leave an abusive relationship because of the housing crisis.

Staff from the Sunshine Coast Community Services Society’s victim services programs report an increase in the number of people served from **378 in 2020 to 602 in 2023**. They put this down to a rise in violent crimes and an increase in dating violence.



!
9%

The increase in reported property crime throughout the entire Coast from 2021 to 2022. Traffic violations were up 31%.

!
8,900

The average number of RCMP calls per year since 2019. Calls involving wellness checks and mental health issues has risen since 2020.

!
549

The number of calls (2023) for the Sechelt Volunteer Fire Department, 23% more than 2022 and a 136% increase over the 10-year average.

Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (Sunshine Coast stations, missions/year)

Stations	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Station 12 (Halfmoon Bay)	13	15	20	17	27
Station 14 (Gibsons)	16	21	18	10	21
Station 61 (Pender Hbr.)	5	6	8	12	9
TOTAL	34	42	46	39	57





Colin Levings

Colin Levings snapped this photo of a mink (*Mustela vison*) drinking from a bird bath located just above the high tide mark in Gerrans Bay. It was during one of the summer's dry periods and shows how bird baths aren't just for the birds anymore.

organizations

ROTARY CLUB OF PENDER HARBOUR

For the past seven years, donations to the "Spreading Kindness" fundraiser were able to assist local youth and families in need throughout the year by supporting the Pender Harbour Community School youth and family support program. Funds are used to purchase essential supplies, grocery cards and to address the specific needs of local youth and families all year long and at Christmas.

To donate online, send an e-transfer to phrotary-club@gmail.com (indicate "Spreading Kindness" in the memo) or visit <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/1875/donate> OR mail a cheque payable to P. H. Rotary (add "Spreading Kindness" in the memo) to Pender Harbour Rotary, c/o 4202 Packalen Blvd, Garden Bay, BC, V0N 1S1.

Additionally this year, a "Christmas Giving Box" for anyone who wishes to donate an unwrapped or labelled wrapped gift (with content label) for a child in need between the ages of 3 and 12 can be dropped off at our local IGA, Marina Pharmacy, Rona, John Henrys, or the P. H. Legion. For more information, contact Lyn Charlton at lyncharlton7@gmail.com.

PENDER HARBOUR WOMEN'S CONNECTION

The Pender Harbour Women's Connection will be launching the 2024 Christmas season in high spirits on Dec. 10. Patricia Burnett, popular songstress, will be our featured guest. Hors d'oeuvres created by Silja Moonie Catering are sure to entice pre-Christmas appetites.

Please note this event is sold out. The doors will open at 11:30 a.m. The women's connection will recommence Jan. 21, 2025. Watch for our Celtic New Year celebration announcement.

December 2024



Did you know?

Pender Harbour Dental is accepting new patients, including those enrolled in the Canadian Dental Care Plan.

Cdn. Dental Care Plan

The Canadian Dental Care Plan will help pay a portion of the cost for a wide range of oral health care services for:

- Seniors aged 65 and over
- Children under the age of 18, or
- Adults with a valid federal disability tax credit certificate for 2023.

Starting in 2025, all remaining eligible Cdn. residents can apply for the CDCP.

Just ask us!

We will work with those with CDCP to pre-authorize eligible treatments including cleanings.

To apply for the CDCP, visit:

www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/dental/dental-care-plan.html

For more information or to book an appointment, call our front desk at

604.883.2997





PENDER HARBOUR HEALTH CENTRE

www.penderharbourhealth.com

High quality, team-based health care
for the people of Pender Harbour
and surrounding area.

NURSING SERVICES: (604) 883-2764

RNs are on duty 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. weekdays

- Blood tests • ECGs • Injections • Blood pressure
- Home/Palliative care • Dressings • Holter Monitors

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE: (604) 883-2764

Alternate Thursdays, 10am – 12 noon

- Well Baby Clinic
- Child and Adult Immunizations

PHYSICIANS: (604) 883-2764

- By appointment, Tuesday & Thursdays only

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER: (604) 984-5070

Annaliese Hasler, NP

Tuesdays, 9:30am – 3pm

- Women and Youth Health Services

BETTER AT HOME PROGRAM: (604) 212-2232

Haida Bolton – Program Co-ordinator

Helping Seniors Remain Independent

- Email: betterathome@penderharbourhealth.com

Supplementary services:

DENTISTRY: (604) 883-2997

Dr. Robert Hynd, Dr. Lisa Virkela, Dr. Endre Sinkovics

Darlene Fowlie – Hygienist

Monika Miller – Hygienist

Rosa Seda – Hygienist

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Registered Hearing Instrument Practitioner

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Chris Hogan R.Ac – Fridays, 9am – 5pm

sunshineacupuncturehealthcare.janeapp.com

Ongoing:

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.

TEENS' DROP IN CLINIC

Offered every Tuesday between 3 and 5 p.m.

LOAN CUPBOARD

Crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, commodes,
raised toilet seats etc.

DIABETES & DIETICIAN MGMT. PROGRAM

Weekly on Thursdays – call to book an appt.

CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Weekly on Wednesdays – call for an appointment.

ADULT DAY PROGRAM

Dementia caregiver support group.

Call (604) 883-2764.



THE SUNSHINE COAST HOSPICE SOCIETY

Compassionate, respectful end-of-life and bereavement care. Whether you want to talk with one person or to join a bereavement group, trained volunteers are available. (604) 883-2764.

A non-profit society governed by local volunteers dedicated to the health and wellness needs of our community.

Local health matters

Community needs assessment spotlight

In the spring of this year, the Pender Harbour Health Centre launched the 2024 Pender Harbour Health and Social Service Needs Assessment. This project aimed to connect with community members from Pender Harbour and surrounding communities to hear from you what your health and social needs are and how the Health Centre and our community partners can work to find solutions to these health and social challenges.

As part of the needs assessment process, we connected with over 200 people with a needs assessment survey, we facilitated interviews with five community members, we heard from 12 community organizations and held two town hall events. We then collaborated with a consultants Urban Matters who synthesized the data and produced the final needs assessment report.

We are excited to let you know that this report is now finalized, and we are ready to share some of the key findings and recommendations with the community.

Key highlights and identified needs were:

- A lack of primary care physicians in the community;
- Transportation barriers that impact community members' health and wellness;
- Concerns around the lack of mental health and addiction services, especially for youth;
- The aging population and challenges accessing appropriate care, and
- Cost of living and food security challenges in community.

A comprehensive list of needs can be found in the final report. The final report also made some recommendations on how the community could help address these needs, some of the recommen-

dations include:

- Establish a health steering committee that could help advocate for community needs;
- Continue to expand elder/senior support programs in community;
- Explore options for telehealth and virtual care to increase access, and
- Explore ways to reduce health travel transportation costs.

A more comprehensive list of recommendations can be found in the final report. If you would like a copy of the report, you can collect a paper version from the reception at the PHHC or access a digital copy at the PHHC website www.penderharbour-health.com. The PHHC will be holding a town hall event in the spring of 2025 where we will share the findings of the report and let the community know the next steps we can take to address these needs.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Sunshine Coast Foundation and their Responsive Community grants which funded this needs assessment and Urban Matters who guided us through the process.



Finally, a big thank you to all those community members and organizations who gave their input and contributed to this report, with a special mention to Marlene Cymbalist who was key to the success of this project.

We look forward to seeing you in the spring to continue the conversation.

Have a wonderful, safe, and healthy Christmas to you all.

Sarita Bay, North Pole

Susan Marlatt

"Sarita Bay, North Pole."

"Sarita Bay, North Pole."

"North Pole... Sarita Bay?"

"Ho-ho-ho, Sarita Bay!"

It was Christmas Eve 1975 and our boat, the *Sarita Bay*, was decorated with a small fir tree from French Creek at the top of the mast.

My partner Keray Farrell and I had just picked up his two daughters, Lisa and Kari-Ann, to join their brother David and my son Yolan on our 36-foot double-ended, Japanese-built troller.

The girls were living with their mom in Powell River and had joined us for Christmas.

The children were all aged from three years to 10, with Lisa being the big sister in charge.

Ever practical, Keray decided we needed to combine the festive season with a haul out at the little ways in Parker Harbour in Okeover Arm.

This tiny bight is popular in the summer but in those days Desolation Sound was empty in the off-season except for locals and hand loggers, clam diggers and prawn fishermen like ourselves.

It was a vibrant resident community, mostly gone now.

Keray and I were followed everywhere by our friend, John Mitchell, who we met on Lasqueti Island.

Mitchell was a Vietnam war resistor, as was I and many other young people on Lasqueti Island during that time.

Like many other Americans, he and I had arrived on the Coast in the late 1960s and early 1970s without practical skills or money.

We were both keen though and luckily Keray was born and raised in



Susan Marlatt

David Farrell and Yolan Marlatt in the 'foxhole' (fo'c'sle) of the *Sarita Bay*.

the Pender Harbour area and was the guy to show us how to survive here.

Mitchell's boat, the *Bold Venture*, was similar in size to the *Sarita Bay* but with only one person onboard, he had lots of room.

We were stuffed onboard and the girls were not used to living in such a small space.

Things were a bit strained onboard so we hoped to put the kids ashore for a run while on the ways.

It was a flat calm trip up Georgia Strait, as is often the case in late fall.

The fog was patchy but grew much thicker.

Since we had no radar, to avoid being run over by the Westview ferry we would shut down the engine and listen for her large diesels or the swish of a bow wave.

The kids also had to go out on deck in life jackets to make use of their sharp eyes to spot other boats, reefs, logs or trees onshore (you don't want to see trees).

We played a game of finding the

Mystery Reef marker with the kids.

It was important to find this buoy not only to avoid the reef but because Keray was making his annual stop at Sharpes Bay fuel dock inside the Ragged (Copeland) Islands to celebrate the season.

Mrs. Sharpe dispensed rum as well as fuel during Christmas to her loyal customers and was famous for the huge scar on her neck which she told the children came from a run-in with a cougar.

After visiting Mrs. Sharpe, on we went around Sarah Point, stopping every now and then to listen for shipping.

John followed close behind having never been far from his usual area unless seining with the Lasqueti Fish Company in the summer on the *Lasqueti Gambler*.

He was the beach man on the *Gambler*, not the skipper, and didn't have much experience navigating.

It was a long day with four children crammed into the already

crammed fo'c'sle, or "foxhole" as they called it.

After we anchored in Okeover Inlet, everyone had been fed and were occupied reading, playing with puppets, drawing or wrestling.

Keray and I decided to leave 10-year-old Lisa in charge and row over to the *Bold Venture* for a festive beverage and some leg room.

She was a very take-charge girl and the kids were well-behaved and understood they could not go out on deck without us there.

We made our escape.

We left lights on in the wheelhouse and told Lisa to call us on channel 16 if she needed anything and then switch to our designated working channel.

She wrote it all down.

Mitchell's boat was an oasis — no children, just rum on a quiet Christmas Eve in a beautiful bay.

Without warning, Mitchell picked up his VHF handset and called the *Sarita Bay* on channel 16.

"*Sarita Bay*, North Pole."

No answer.

He called again and still nothing.

Suddenly, Lisa's little head pops up in the wheelhouse.

Incredibly, she reaches up and keys the handset and calls back.

"North Pole, *Sarita Bay*."

Of course, in the moment, they forgot to switch to our working channel, so the whole inlet would have been listening.

Santa asked if she had been good this past year.

"Oh, yes, I have been."

"How about the other kids on-board, how had they been?"

"Just really good, all of us, Santa."

John asked what she would like



Susan Marlatt

The *Sarita Bay* on the ways in Parker Harbour.

for Christmas but I can't recall her response.

After much ho-ho-ho-ing, John said "Merry Christmas!" and signed off.

When we returned to the *Sarita Bay*, Lisa told us all about her amazing conversation with Santa.

The best Christmas present ever.

It wasn't until years later that I learned that the Comox Coast Guard was listening but never came on during this conversation to tell Santa to

switch to another channel.

When John died decades later, he left no children.

To friends, he gave away his beautiful A-licensed troller, his home in Teakerne Arm (skidded off by barge) and all of his possessions.

John Mitchell, just an American draft dodger, left such a large sum of money to BC Children's Hospital that he was listed on the same page of donors as the Sedin twins.

Merry Christmas.



Susan Marlatt

John Mitchell's home in Teakerne Arm, years after the Christmas of 1975. The boat on the outside is the 1966 Remmem-built troller, *Alaskan*, which at the time the photo was taken was owned by the author and Denny Bohmer.

DECEMBER

- Sat. Nov. 30.....Pender Harbour Rotary Scotch Tasting - Royal Canadian Legion 112, doors at 5 p.m.
- Mon. Dec. 2.....Pender Harbour food bank pickup - P. H. Community Church, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon
- Thu. Dec. 5.....Harbourside Friendships drop-in (armchair travel) - P. H. Community Hall, 10:30 a.m.
- Fri. Dec. 6.....SoM Coffeehouse - P. H. School of Music, 7 p.m.
- Sun. Dec. 8.....P. H. Music Society presents "O Come All Ye Souful" - P. H. School of Music, 2 p.m.
- Sun. Dec. 8.....P. H. Community Christmas dinner - P. H. Community Hall, 5:30 p.m. (3:30 p.m. crafts)
- Mon. Dec. 9.....P. H. Community School drop-in service - P. H. Community School, 10 a.m. to noon
- Tue. Dec. 10.....P. H. Women's Connection Christmas Gathering - P. H. School of Music, noon
- Thu. Dec. 12.....Harbourside Friendships Christmas luncheon - P. H. Community Hall, 10:30 a.m.
- Thu. Dec. 12.....SCRD committee of the whole - SCRD boardroom, 9:30 a.m.
- Thu. Dec. 12.....SCRD regular board - SCRD boardroom, 1 p.m.
- Thu. Dec. 12.....Christmas Bingo - P. H. Community Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Sat. Dec. 14.....Community Hall Christmas Market - Pender Harbour Community Hall, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Sat. Dec. 14.....Royal Canadian Legion 112 Christmas meat draw - 3 p.m.
- Sat. Dec. 14.....Pender Harbour Winter Festival - Madeira Park government dock, 3 to 9 p.m.
- Sat. Dec. 14.....60th annual P. H. Christmas boat parade - leaving from Madeira Park dock, 6:30 p.m.
- Sun. Dec. 15.....Pender Harbour Choir performs "Merry Little Christmas" - P. H. School of Music, 2 p.m.
- Mon. Dec. 16.....Pender Harbour food bank pickup - P. H. Community Church, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon
- Tue. Dec. 17.....Polar Express Christmas Light Tour - departs P. H. Community Hall, 7 p.m.
- Thu. Dec. 19.....SCRD electoral services committee - SCRD boardroom, 9:30 a.m.
- Fri. Dec. 20.....Egmont Christmas Potluck Dinner - Egmont Community Hall, 6 p.m.
- Wed. Dec. 25.....Christmas
- Mon. Dec. 30.....Pender Harbour food bank pickup - P. H. Community Church, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon

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

"The propagandist's purpose is to make one set of people forget that other sets of people are human."
~ Aldous Huxley

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