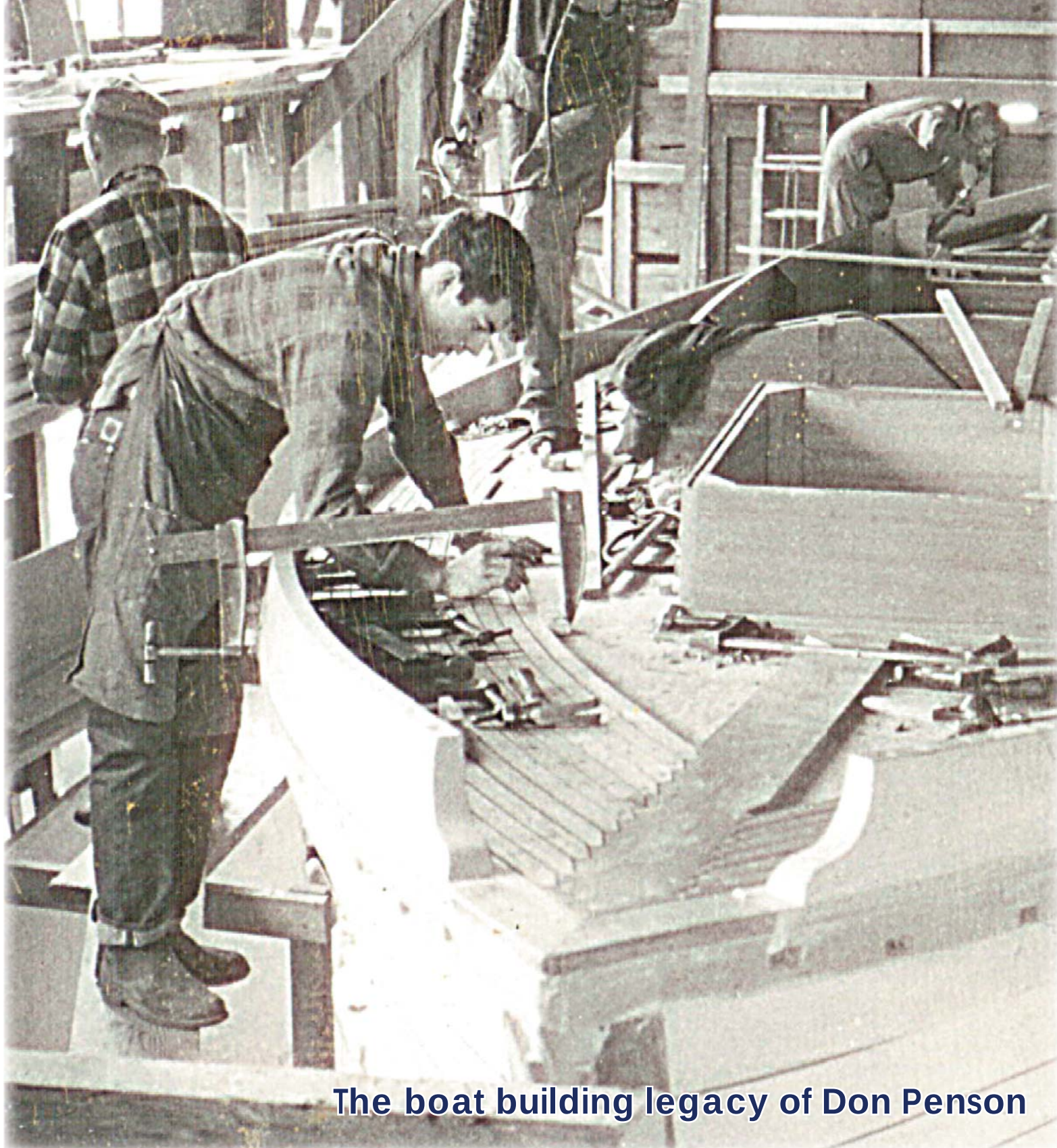


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HARBOUR SPIEL

FEBRUARY 2009
ISSUE 218



The boat building legacy of Don Penson



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The Independent Voice
of Pender Harbour &
Egmont since 1990

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Brian Lee.

CONTRIBUTORS

This month we thank: Anne Crocker, Eric Graham, Theresa Kishkan, Vanessa Laneteigne, Shane McCune, Judy Renouf, Jim Rutherford, Nolan Sawatzky, John Wade, and Jan Watson.

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EDITORIAL

@#\$%^&*~!!!



By Brian Lee

“Sir, according to your answers to the list of diagnostic questions I just asked you, it seems you need a new mother board,” said the slackjawed robot on the other end of the line.

That didn’t sound good.

I had three more days to finish the *Spiel* and, as usual, I needed four.

Anyone who’s worked with deadlines and computers understands the panic that sets in when the tool they rely on craps out.

They’ll tell you it’s not because they didn’t expect to replace a \$2,000 magic box that day. God knows, anybody who earns a living from a computer can afford that. No, it’s the priceless stuff inside that box.

When your hammer breaks you can use a rock — when your computer breaks you have to use whiskey.

Fortunately, the binary details in the hard drive were intact but it’s still like losing your keys with your dog in the car. On a really hot day.

So now what?

“Must buy new computer.”

In a dazed panic, I was halfway to the ferry when it occurred to me I should call Roxanne at our local computer shop in Madeira. I’m glad I did.

Not only am I back at work, typing on a laptop she lent me, but in a few more days I’ll take delivery of a customized super computer that I’m confident is as good as or better than could be found in the lands past Sechelt.

I haven’t had a computer problem like this for a long time and it made me realize how important it is to have a local shop. Good luck finding that kind of service online.

So, I was feeling pretty upbeat when I arrived home a mere six hours after my morning meltdown.

But it wasn’t to last.

It took me all afternoon to transfer the files rescued from my old computer and to load most of the software I need to produce the *Spiel* on to the little laptop.

My old computer had the XP operating system. This one — and the one I just ordered — has Microsoft’s fancy new Vista operating system.

As I expected, Vista is a little different and confusing to navigate at first — something not helped by the sense of urgency produced from just losing a crucial chunk of production time.

But it’s the incompatibility between the two that astounded me — I’m not sure it wouldn’t have been easier to convert to a Mac.

Much of the work I have left to do sits in the form of e-mail files in Outlook Express in the rescued hard drive but since the Vista and XP operating systems don’t “talk,” they might as well be in Barack Obama’s Blackberry until Roxanne extracts them tomorrow.

None of my peripherals worked either until I downloaded “patches” to make the software for gadgets like my printer, camera and digital recorder run on Vista.

There’s more but I won’t bore you with the details. If you’re reading this and it’s before Valentine’s Day, it all worked out.

But for all you kids out there, heed the moral of this story:

Stay in school, get a trade and learn to build stuff out of metal and wood with your hands — these computer things won’t last.

SPIEL PICKS

EGMONT COMMUNITY HALL FIX-UP - FEBRUARY AND MARCH: MONDAYS, 8 A.M. TO NOON

During the months of February and March, Egmont Community Club members will be meeting to organize and repair the Egmont Community Hall. Board members plan on working at the hall each Monday from 8 a.m. to noon. There are plans for painting, carpentry, organizing and cleaning and they need lots of help. The hall needs some TLC so anyone who has ever enjoyed it is urged to come out and lend a hand. Contact Kim Freemantle for more information.

EGMONT COMMUNITY CLUB VALENTINE'S DAY TEA - SATURDAY, FEB. 14

Come out to the hall on Feb. 14 for a special Valentine's Day event. From 10 a.m. to noon there will be a kids' workshop to make Valentine Cards and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. the Egmont Community Club will host a tea. A raffle for a cord of firewood will be drawn at 3:30 p.m.

ABBEYFIELD HOUSE FUNDRAISER VALENTINE'S DINNER AND DANCE - SATURDAY, FEB. 14

The Area A Seniors Housing Society is hosting a Valentine's Dance fundraiser at the Pender Harbour Community Hall on Feb. 14. Entertainment provided by Sue Rayment, Luci Herder, Gaetan Bergevin, Boyd Norman and John Rule. Also included for \$40 is some fine dining and silent and live auction. Tickets are available in advance only at Pender Harbour Prudential Sussex Realty and Rose Doepel at (604) 883-2928.

P. H. MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS DANIEL BOLSHOY - SUNDAY, FEB. 15

Daniel Bolshoy will be performing at the Pender Harbour School of Music at 2 p.m. on Feb. 15. Bolshoy is an exceptional classical guitarist whose technical superiority is matched by his innate musicality. His passionate temperament and charming audience communication make his concerts a stirring experience. Back in Pender Harbour by popular demand, Bolshoy's concert is the perfect Valentine's Day gift for classical music lovers.

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RCMP recover U.S. navy boat from Sea Otter Road residence

Irvines Landing was the focus of international media when RCMP executed a search warrant on a Sea Otter Road home on Dec. 16.

Two boats belonging to the U.S. navy were recovered as a result of a joint investigation by the U.S. Navy Criminal Investigation Service and the RCMP.

“We were basically an assisting agency to the U.S. naval investigators,” said RCMP Corp. Todd Creed. “Basically we just did the warrant to seize the property.”

The RCMP released information on Jan. 6 about the seizure of a 28-foot Boston Whaler from a summer residence at 4315 Sea Otter Road and the *NSY Lively*, a 44-foot fibreglass yawl recovered in Porpoise Bay.

The boats were the allegedly taken as part of a massive computer fraud involving two half brothers.

Charged in Federal Court in Tacoma last November with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and theft of honest services are Steven Bradley Smith, a U. S. Federal Aviation employee, and his Canadian half-brother Bradley Garner.

Garner is the owner of the property on Sea Otter Road.

It’s alleged that Smith used an internal computer system to claim surplus items from other government agencies.

The Province reported that the sailboat and Whaler are worth approximately \$180,000 US and are considered to be a small part of over 215 items — including a Cessna airplane — that Smith is alleged to have obtained fraudently since 2004.



RCMP photo

Worth \$100,000 US, this 28-foot Boston Whaler was recovered from a home in Irvines Landing by the RCMP in December. Here it sits in the storage yard at Mountainview Service for its owners, the U.S. navy, to claim it.



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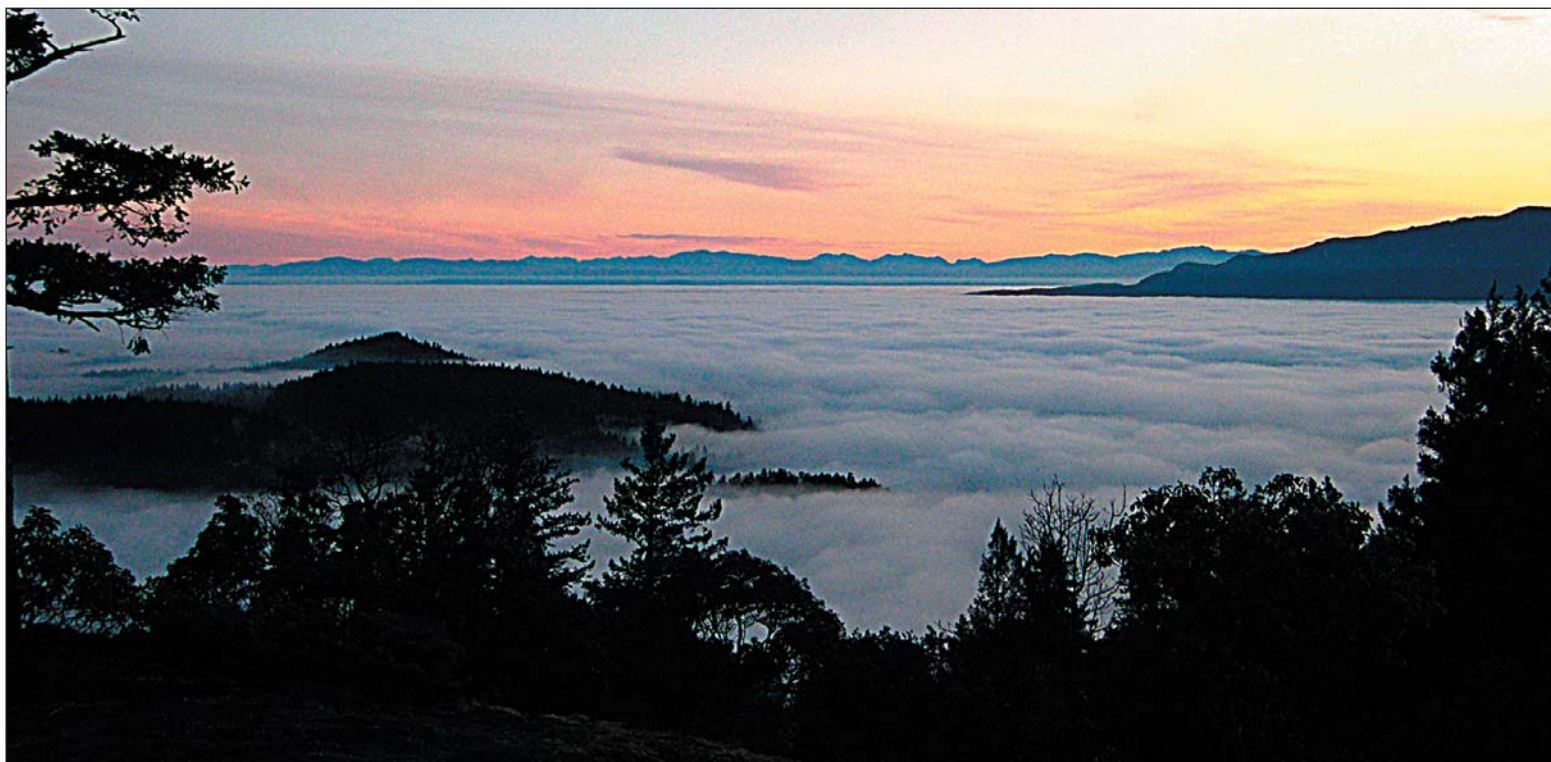

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When it gets foggy as it has been through January, it's sometimes easy to forget that a short hike up takes you to a sunny and magical world above the clouds. Pender Hill on a 'clear' afternoon sunset.



PENDER HARBOUR AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTRE

HEALTH IN MOTION

FEBRUARY!

BOOT CAMP!: Session #2 with Tonya Stephan — get moving and enjoy a challenging workout in a group atmosphere. Lose pounds and inches to become a leaner, fitter, healthier you! → **Feb. 9 - March 6:**

Monday 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. (PHSS gym) • Wed. 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. (PHSS Gym) • Friday 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

12 classes: \$99 8 classes: \$66 4 classes \$33 Drop In: \$10

LUXURIOUS LADIES ONLY SPA NIGHT: **Wednesday February 25, 6:30-9:30pm.** Enjoy a relaxing evening with fine food, blissful healing treatments (reflexology, massage) and good company. \$35. Registration and payment required by Feb. 18. Appointments may be booked when payment received. Note: Regular swim programs (Public and Adult) and NIA will be cancelled if event goes ahead.

WATER GYM: **Thursday, Feb. 19, 12-3pm.** No school! Drop the kids off at the pool for an active afternoon! \$2, includes light snack.

SLEEPOVER: **Saturday March 7.** Mini Olympics theme. Ages 6-10 years.

SWIMMING 7 DAYS A WEEK!

All programs require pre-registration and payment one week prior to start date.

For our complete schedule of swim times and fitness classes visit us on the web at www.scrd.ca under Services.



(604) 885-6866

Pender Harbour outreach of S.C. Employment Centre hopping

The economic meltdown has provided plenty of new business for one local organization — the Pender Harbour branch of the Sunshine Coast Employment Centre.

The Pender Harbour office is an outreach service that operates one day per week out of the Pender Harbour Community School office on the Madeira Park Elementary School field.

Employment coach Joanne Sankew works for M. Magas and Associates, the private company contracted to run the Sunshine Coast Employment Centre.

“From November to December we each worked five days a week,” said Sankew.

“We added an extra day because people were calling for appointments and had to wait two weeks to see employment coaches.”

She says what was intended to be a pilot project last October has uncovered an unexpected demand for employment services in Pender Harbour.

For 12 weeks, from Oct. 8 to Jan. 14, there were 48 appointments made (with 37 kept) out of the Pender Harbour office.

Sankew attributes the demand for the services not only to the faltering economy but to the reluctance of locals to travel to the main office in Sechelt.

The Sunshine Coast Employment Centre is an initiative funded by the federal government intended to facilitate the transition of people back into the work force.

The centre provides services such as labour market information and no-cost employment coaching as well as a resource centre for clients to create resumes and cover letters, access

job listings and discuss options with support staff.

“What we really like to stress are some of the programs people can sign up for,” Sankew says.

“We offer some really good employment programs to help them get a little more job ready. We don’t place people but we hope we can give them

an advantage in their job search.”

The centre offers a variety of programs like the Aspire self-employment program — intended to provide skills needed to start a business or Experience Works, a six-week employment program for mature workers.

For more information, visit www.sunshinecoastemployment.com.

Advertisement

Then and now

Did you know that more than 7,000 years ago people were concerned with the way their smiles looked?

The earliest form of toothpaste was made by the Egyptians in 5000 BC; the ingredients included pumice, powdered animal hooves and eggshells.

Unbelievably, there weren’t any real advances until the 19th century, when efforts were made to improve the taste and remove abrasive ingredients that could damage your teeth, such as crushed china and brick dust.

The first tube of toothpaste was produced by Dr. Washington Sheffield of Connecticut in 1892.

Thankfully today toothpaste will not harm us; in fact regular brushing with a paste that contains sodium fluoride will offer cavity protection and plaque removal as well as fresh breath.

We can only guess what powdered animal hooves tasted like!

In the 18th century tooth decay became widespread thanks to the popularity of a new import, sugar.

The decay of teeth usually resulted in extraction and many wealthy

people tried to regain their smiles by having dentures made.

However, before the advent of modern acrylic materials dentures were made from carved ivory which had the teeth of executed criminals or even parts of hippopotamus and horse teeth imbedded in the ivory.

Battlefields also provided a great source of replacement teeth and in Britain “Waterloo teeth” were very popular.

It would have been a grisly job harvesting these teeth, not to mention the very real chance of being infected with some deadly disease.

Today dentures not only look good, they fit well and are easily kept clean.

Modern dentistry can now use titanium implants to ensure the denture stays in place when talking, eating, and laughing — no more concerns with floating dentures.

If you would like to know more about options available to you to help achieve your long-term dental goals, please talk to our friendly staff.



SUNSHINE COAST DENTAL GROUP
Madeira Park 883-2997 • Gibsons 886-7830

Egmont meeting held to gather concerns about Narrows Inlet

Once again, Egmont is caught up in an environmental showdown.

Representatives of the Environmental Assessment Office of the provincial government, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and the proponents of a proposed private power project in Narrows Inlet were on hand to answer questions and receive comments at the Egmont Community Hall on Jan. 14 — and receive they did.

Gibsons-based Stl'ixwim Hydro Corporation is proposing six hydro-electric “run-of-river” projects in Narrows Inlet that will generate 62 megawatts of electricity.

Run-of-river projects divert the flow of a stream through penstock tubes to engage turbines in a generating facility farther downstream.

This particular proposal differs from typical run of river projects. Stl'ixwim is proposing to dam three high-altitude lakes within the Tzoonie River watershed and Narrows Inlet to ensure a year round supply of power generation.

Proponents often tout run-of-river as a green and renewable solution to the province's energy needs but there are vocal critics.

Opponents are concerned about the environmental impact caused to streams by the facilities themselves as well as the impact transmission lines have on surrounding areas.

Larger issues about the industry include concerns about policies that seem to promote the continued privatization of our province's hydro resources.

(For more information, see *Independent Power Producers: The dawning of a controversial new power industry on the Sunshine Coast*, Harbour Spiel, Dec. 2008)

Narrows Inlet falls under the Area B within the Sunshine Coast Regional District but the proposed transmission lines would cross Sechelt Inlet and pass through Area A to access the nearby Cheekeye Dunsmuir transmission line.

According to the proposal's Terms of Reference, the project “... consists of six interrelated run-of-river components on six creeks that are located within a radius of five to eight km, centred at the confluence of Tzoonie River and Tyson Creek.”

The provincial government requires projects larger than 50MW to undergo an environmental assessment.

The project is still in the initial application and information-gathering stage and this meeting was the second of two held on the Sunshine Coast to garner feedback. Other meetings will take place as the application moves through the process.

It was clear from the outset that the issue of IPPs in our area is attracting outside attention.

Many of the 70-plus attendees were not only from outside of Area and B but many who spoke travelled from the Lower Mainland to attend.

Some who spoke brought prepared statements relating their concerns about IPPs in general but were repeatedly asked by meeting chair Kathy Eichenberger from the EAO to keep their comments and questions specific to the particular application.

Few obeyed.

West Coast Wilderness Committee literature claims the Sunshine Coast is ground zero for private hydro projects and has clearly made the area a focus of their efforts to oppose run-of-river projects throughout BC.

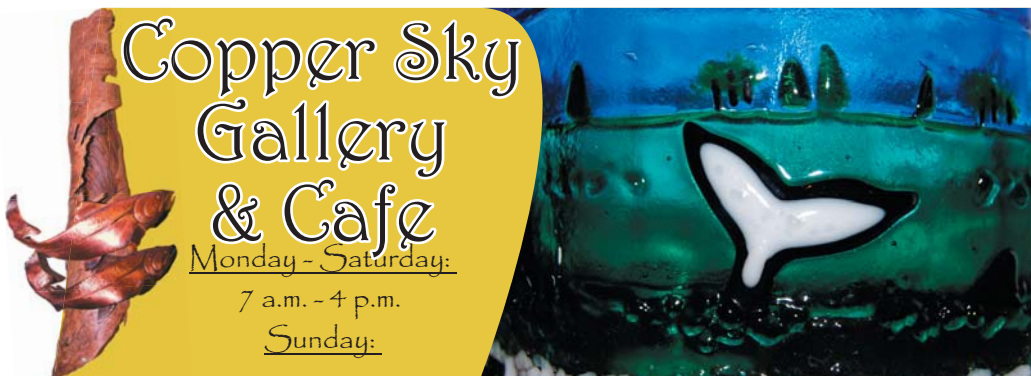
Members of WCWC were joined in their fundamental opposition to run-of-river projects by the Sunshine Coast chapter of the Council of Senior Citizens Organizations (COSCO) and the Sunshine Coast Conservation Society. In what was likely a purposeful tactic, members of these groups scattered themselves throughout the audience to give an impression of audience solidarity.

Some locals expressed concerns about the impact transmission lines would have on the area.

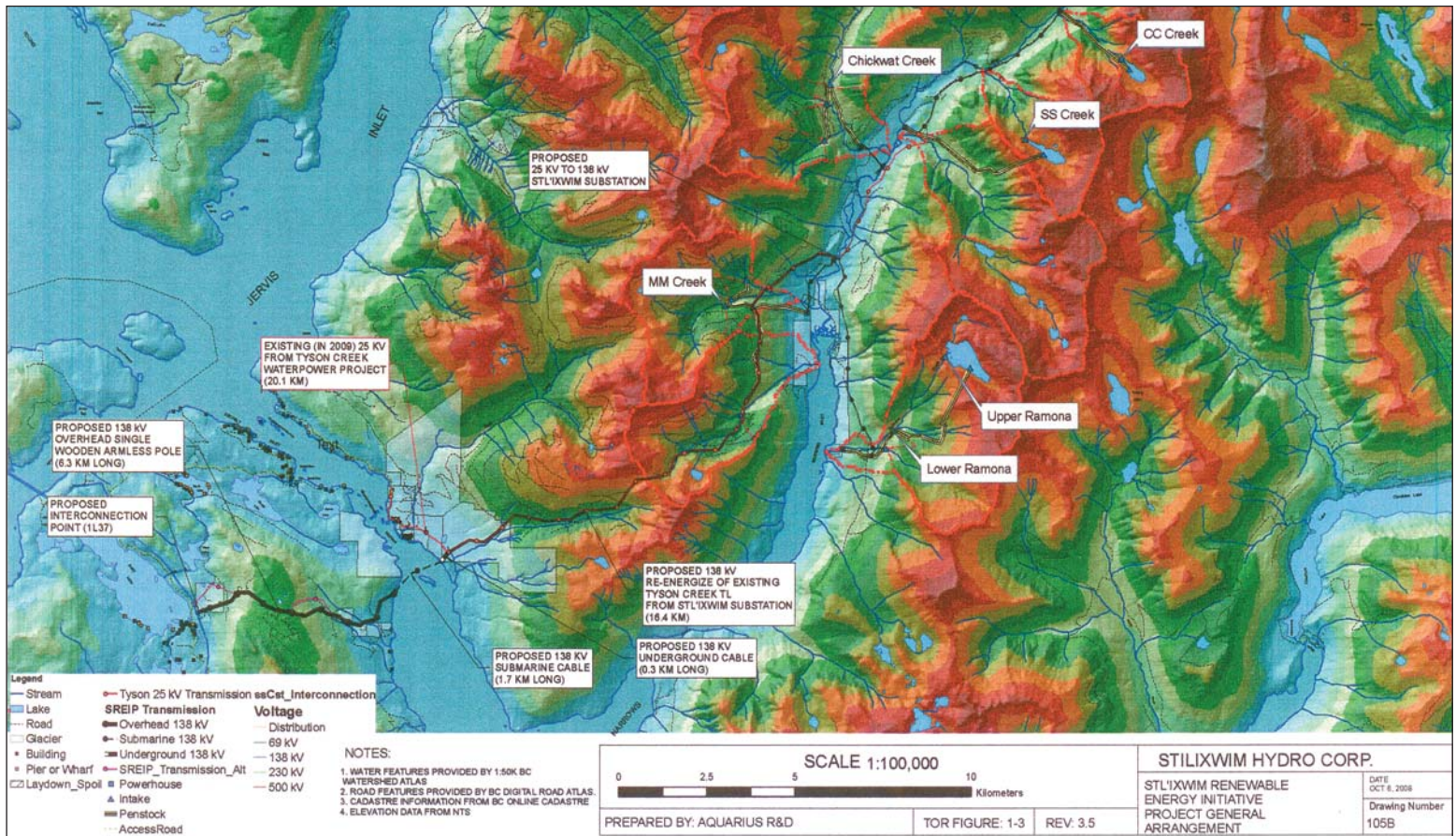
Stl'ixwim Hydro is proposing to cross Sechelt Inlet and access the BC Transmission Corp.'s grid via a planned 6.5-kilometre access line crossing over a portion of the Caren Range behind Egmont.

With more than 80 proposed projects in Area A and B, there is still no comprehensive transmission plan by any level of government. Eichenberger said her office is consulting with local governments to find a way to accommodate these types of recurring concerns.

The proponents said that they



hydroelectric project



Stl'ixwim Hydro Corp. map

Gibsons-based Stl'ixwim Hydro Corporation is proposing to build six small hydroelectric facilities in Narrows Inlet with a total generating capacity of 62mW. The transmission lines will cross the Caren Range to connect with existing BC Transmission lines.

would build a substation across from Egmont which could provide power in the event of another extended power outage like last year's eight-day blackout.

Egmont's Billy Griffith expressed his concerns for Tzoonie River salmon stocks.

"If these are financially viable proposals, (BC) Hydro should be putting them in. However... the Tzoonie River used to be a good fish stream with chums and coho and sockeye. The sockeye are particularly interesting because the Sakinaw sockeye are virtually extinct... Salmon Creek and Tzoonie River sockeye are genetically the same thing as Sakinaw Sockeye.

"You take the penstocks where the water comes from the lake down

to the powerhouse, it gets more nitrogen in the water from the pressure... is this going to change the chemistry of the water in the river to the death of what's left of these relatives of the Sakinaw sockeye? That's a concern."

Questions and comments from this meeting will be considered in the province's Environmental Assessment.

The EA process provides a mechanism for reviewing major projects to assess their potential impacts.

The environmental assessment includes four main elements:

1. Opportunities for all interested parties, including First Nations and neighbouring jurisdictions, to identify issues and provide input;

2. Technical studies of the relevant environmental, social, economic, heritage and health effects of the proposed project;

3. Identification of ways to prevent or minimize undesirable effects and enhance desirable effects; and

4. Consideration of the input of all interested parties in compiling the assessment findings and making recommendations about project acceptability.

An environmental assessment certificate, if issued by ministers at the conclusion of an environmental assessment, represents government's approval in principle and allows a proponent to seek any other statutory authorizations needed to proceed with the project.

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT



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UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Thursday, February 12, 2009

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

Monday, February 16, 2009

- 9:30 a.m. Budget

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

- 9:30 a.m. Budget

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

- 9:30 a.m. Budget

Thursday, February 19, 2009

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

Friday, February 20, 2009

- 9:30 a.m. Budget

Thursday, February 26, 2009

- 1:30 p.m. Corporate and Administrative Services Committee
- 7:30 p.m. Board

DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Director Eric Graham is available to meet with residents to discuss local issues related to the Sunshine Coast Regional District government. He can be reached at home at 604-883-9061 or by email, ericgraham@dccnet.com.

AREA A ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

The Area A APC will meet on

Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m.

Room 107, Pender Harbour High School

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: SOUTH PENDER HARBOUR WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Are you interested in making a difference in your community?

The SCRd is looking for area residents who would like to provide input on the planning and operation of the South Pender Harbour Water System.

As a committee member, you will also be expected to act as a liaison between the Sunshine Coast Regional District and the water users in the SPHWD. Applicants must live in the South Pender Harbour Water District.

To apply, send a letter with your name, address, telephone number and email address, explaining why you are interested in water management and why you want to join this committee to:

Dave Crosby, Infrastructure Services.
1975 Field Road, Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A1
Fax 604-885-7909
dave.crosby@scrd.ca

The deadline for submissions is March 13, 2009. For more information, contact: Dave Crosby at 604-885-6800

SCRd SATELLITE OFFICE – AREA A

Located at 12828 Lagoon Rd. Open from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday. Services provided include:

- full-time staff provide information and direct inquiries;
- website access to the SCRd
- water services staff available five days a week
- building inspectors and planning staff available by appointment
- building permit applications and other forms available on site
- secure drop-off location for plans, applications and documents

Phone: 604-885-6877 or Email: info@scrd.ca

Capilano snow job, IPP tax potential and the 2009 budget process



*By Eric Graham
SCRD Director,
Area A*

I have really been overwhelmed with learning the new

job, handling all the calls regarding the snow clearing as well as many other items of business.

SNOW CLEARING

Snow clearing in Area A is handled by our BC Ministry of Transport. For three weeks in December we experienced probably the worst conditions in 44 years.

I take my hat off to the local drivers who worked endlessly in very stressful conditions. We all owe you our thanks for the jobs you did.

Having said that, there were a lot of problems and if we don't learn from them, they will continue. If people have problems there must be someone they can talk to.

When the school bus went off Egmont Road, I phoned the local highways manager. He was on holidays. The local operations manager? His voicemail was full. Local Capilano operations manager (Powell River)? Left a message.

It wasn't until I called the highways regional manager in New Westminster that I found someone to talk to. I have been told that anyone with problem is to call 1-800-665-3135 in the provincial blue pages (Transportation, Ministry of).

I think the priorities should be to keep kids at home and clear the highway first and then roads to the three firehalls/ambulance (Madeira Park), Garden Bay to end (Deller Road) and Egmont to the end; after that Francis

Peninsula Road to the end. At least the emergency equipment can use snow-mobiles or quads, to reach their destination (that is their suggestion).

Capilano Services told me that they had their trucks out on a 24-hour basis using auxiliary workers. This is impossible — their trucks were parked in their compound a lot of the time when they should have been working.

The SCRD board has set up an open meeting with the Ministry of Transportation, Capilano Services and the SCRD Board for Monday Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sechelt Indian Band Hall at 5432 Xenichen Ave. (behind MacDonald's) in Sechelt.

Most of the complaints I received were from Francis Peninsula, Egmont Road and Bear Bay/Hammond Road. During extreme conditions Capilano trucks have to be on the road 24 hours. Highway 101 for the most part was good but the rest of the roads were terrible and some roads weren't touched for weeks. Ministry representatives have to hold Capilano Services responsible for doing a better job by improving their contract or making them fulfil the one they have.

INDEPENDENT POWER PROJECTS (IPP)

The provincial government has started a program for private companies to make proposals to supply power to BC Hydro. There are a lot of projects up and down the Sunshine Coast. If the power-generating plant or their transmission lines are in Area A, we will receive good tax revenue. If it is a Crown corporation like BC Hydro, the tax revenue is hardly anything.

All of these private power lines have to go to the Malaspina substation and each private company has to run the its own lines, which could be all over the place.

Although tax revenue would be gained, there is a lot of concern about this from the locals and from people outside the area.

2009 SCRD BUDGET

For a full week, we are in round one discussions on the 2009 Budget from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

It is too early to say, but because of the poor economic outlook for the next couple of years we are doing our best to tighten the belt. We have cut a lot and management has been sent back to add up the figures and present round two in early February. The final round (three) will be in early March and the budget for the whole Regional District has to be passed by March 31.

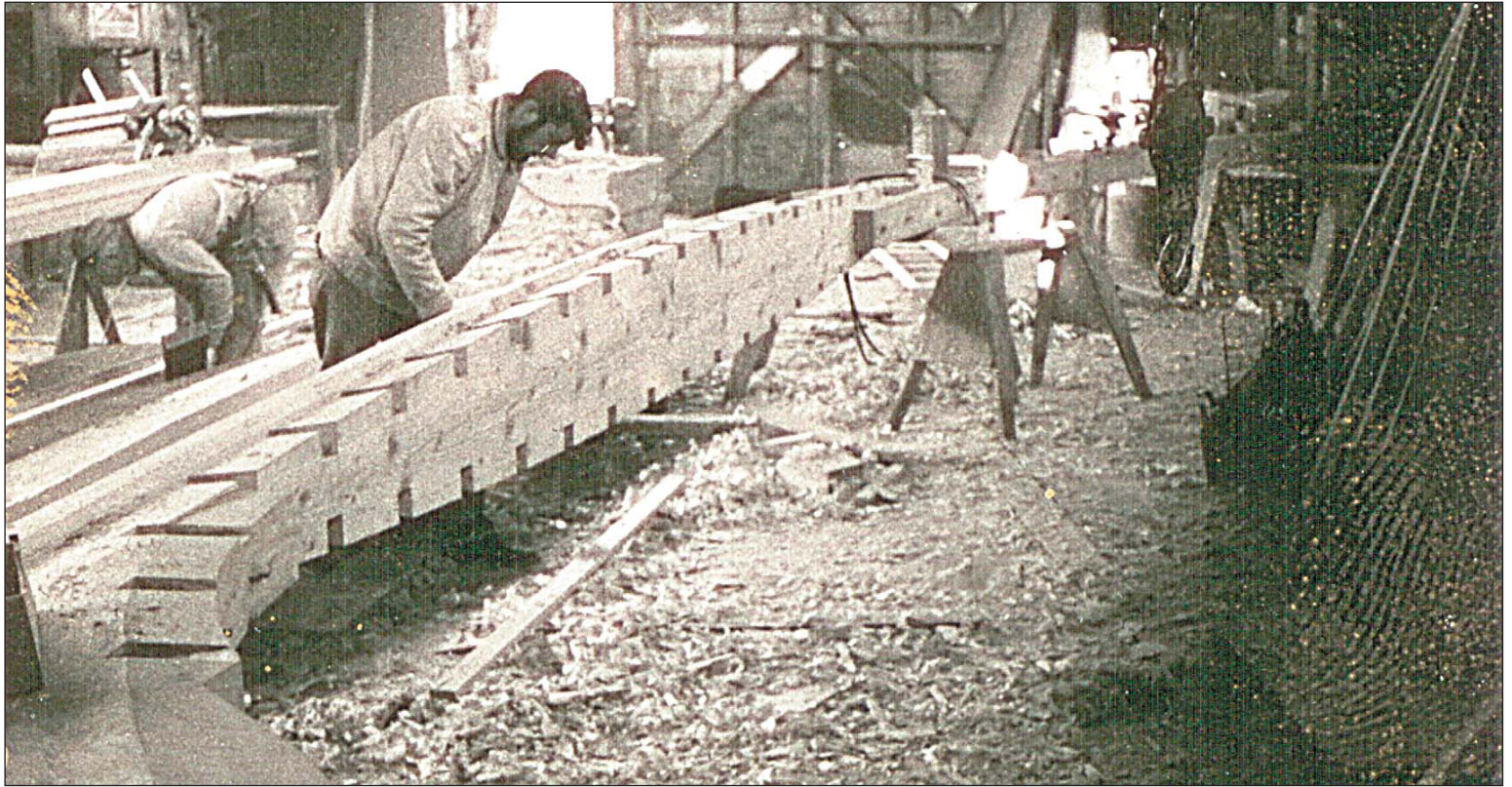
APOLOGIES

Recently I have had to increase my voicemail capacity and, in the process, increasing my email postbox storage with my internet provider. I apologize for rejected messages.

Since being sworn in on Dec 4, I have gone to more than 17 meetings at the SCRD Office on Field Road in Wilson Creek. It involves 110 km and 2.5 hour return travelling time. Sometimes the meetings start at 9 a.m. with the last meeting ending at 10 p.m. (every second Thursday).

So, if I look tired or if I don't get back to you right away, this might be the reason. There is a learning curve but I like the work and I am proud to represent you and thank you for all the encouragement you have given me.

From wood to glass: The legacy of boat builder Don Penson



Don Penson photo collection

Don Penson works at Taylor's Shipyards during his apprenticeship in Vancouver in the early 1960s.

By Brian Lee

Commercial fishing often gets the credit for defining the character of Pender Harbour and Egmont and it's due in large part to the distinctive fish boats that have long adorned local docks.

But often missing from our fishing lore is recognition of the men who built the boats that have literally shaped our maritime landscape.

Names like Jim Brown, Fred Crosby, Jackie Cummings, Alan and Barrie Farrell, Jack and Vic Gooldrup, Denny Harling, Bud Insley, Russ Keillor, Ed Lorensen, Jimmy Reid and Carl and Ronnie Remmen are but some of the men who have helped carve Pender Harbour's place in the BC boat building record.

The boat builders were often less boisterous than their fisherman cousins. They were the quieter ones;

thoughtful and content to sit behind the scenes, building the boats that would go on to make record hauls or survive harrowing crossings of the Hecate Strait.

None fits that description better than Don Penson.

He's quiet and reluctant to talk about his boat building accomplishments but clearly maintains a fondness for many of the men he's worked alongside and the fishermen for whom he's built boats over the past 40 years.

In the late 1950s, Penson left his hometown of Creston for Vancouver to take a pre-apprenticeship program advertised in the Vancouver Sun.

It was at Hastings Park and, though the school would soon be moved to BCIT, Penson says they worked in the same space used to show livestock at farm fairs.

It took three months of school

followed by four years of apprenticeship and two years of night school to become a shipwright.

He toughed it out while also working on wooden yachts in Vancouver for McQueen's and Taylor's shipyards.

Wood was still king then and Penson says he benefited from working with some extremely skilled boat builders who had perfected the trade over a lifetime.

It wasn't pretty work and back in the early days no one considered the health effects of working without ventilators or dust masks.

"I remember working at McQueen's grinding off an old boat's copper [bottom] paint and remember coughing and feeling like I was going to die," he recalls.

"They never gave us masks in the old days."

McQueen's Yachts was started

Harbour Spiel

in 1952 by George McQueen and the company went on to achieve great success building wooden yachts designed by Ed Monk. They are still in business today but switched to fibreglass production in 1984.

“We did a lot of the big heavy planking on those boats. They’d give us a lot of the rough dirty jobs,” Penson says.

“But you had to be pretty careful. There were some awful good guys out of there and they knew all the tricks. They were good at it.”

Fibreglass technology was still in its infancy at this time and there was plenty of tight-grained, old-growth wood available for building.

Penson says the ribs were made of white oak because it was easiest to bend while still maintaining strength.

The planking was yellow or red cedar but some of the heavier commercial boats used fir. For finishing, exotic woods like mahogany and teak imported from Southeast Asia would be used but they were expensive even then.

Penson had just started a family and wanted to get out of Vancouver when he spotted an ad in the paper.

Denny Harling had a little shipyard in Garden Bay where the Seattle Yacht Club sits now and he was looking for a boat builder.

Penson landed in Pender Harbour in the mid-1960s, leaving his wife and new baby in Vancouver until he could get settled.

He recalls needing a place to stay and was told to go talk to John Daly who lived next to Harling’s shipyard.

Penson says that within minutes of their first meeting, Daly just handed him the keys to his home and quipped, “I’ll see ya in the fall,” and went fish-

ing.

That would be the first of many friendships Penson was to make with local fisherman and that kind of handshake trust was to be the cornerstone of his business for the next 40 years.

He soon found his own place, brought his family up and started building boats.

Commercial fishboats like gill-netters and trollers varied in size and shape but all had a fairly common design — a wheelhouse/cabin in the bow, some deck and fish hold space amidships and either a gillnet drum or trolling gear in the stern.

The cabins were usually Spartan with just enough room for two men — or husband and wife — to sleep,

cook, eat, navigate and read.

Fishboats are usually not regarded by the Bayliner crowd as anything but a utilitarian tool. They’re not sleek, don’t gleam with chrome and their plodding persistence as they ply our waterways sometimes garners more sympathy than envy.

Most were custom built according to the specific needs of the fisherman. Each cabin was unique but the layout usually followed certain rules.

The cabin layout always included a wheelhouse seat up front where a fisherman spent the majority of his or her day – and night.

The seat would be elevated to allow for good visibility but was usually hampered by a rat’s nest of wiring,

(continued on next page)



Don Penson photo collection

That’s Don (right) in 1979 in front of the just completed *Confident*, a 52-foot troller he built from a Gooldrup hull in his shop in Gunboat Bay.

Penson's boat building (cont.)

(continued from page 13)

electronics, switches and gauges for the mechanical systems.

A galley table with bench seating often sat behind and, with some swiftly collapsible mechanism, usually doubled as a bunk.

Across a narrow passage would sit an oil stove and sink. Cramped down forward would sit bunks that met each other in the fo'c'sle with varying levels of headroom.

Larger boats would have a separate head, sometimes with a shower, but the smaller boats often maintained toilet facilities up in the fo'c'sle.

Ingeniously hidden throughout this space would be storage for food, tools, charts, dishes, spare parts and any other piece of equipment that might be useful miles from the nearest dock.

When Don Penson arrived in Pender Harbour it was at an important time in the boat building industry.

He started out crafting wooden

planked hulls but it wasn't long before plywood technology began to replace traditional methods.

It opened the door for builders to save time and weight by laying plywood over the frame and looked to be the way of the future. But Penson says plywood boat building didn't last too long. Soon builders were presented with an even more non-conventional material that would completely revolutionize the industry.

Fibreglass was invented in 1938 by Owens Corning. It was originally intended to be used as insulation but immediately found its way into other applications.

In the '50s, fibreglass technology coincided with the postwar boom in pleasure boating and allowed builders to make boats lighter than before and in much less time. By the late '60s, fibreglass boat building techniques were starting to find their way into the BC commercial fishing industry.

Initially, there was a lot of resistance to this new material that was

touted to be stronger and lighter than wood while requiring little maintenance.

"It took a long time for a lot of the older fishermen to trust anything but wood. They all came around, most of them. A few hung on just like Frank [Lee]," Penson says with a laugh.

Penson built his last plywood boat, the *Sedna*, for Frank Lee at the start of the 1970s.

It was a big stretch for a fisherman to trust his catch — and life — to a material that hadn't yet been proven to withstand a BC coast pounding.

Because of the unknown, early fibreglass boats were built heavy with thick layers of mat and resin just to be sure. As builders came to understand and trust the material, the boats became lighter.

Fibreglass also offered more space within the hull because of its reduced thickness but the main benefit was the time it saved in producing a hull.

"Once you had a half decent mould, it was pretty fast," Penson says. "...With two or three good guys that worked hard, you could put out one of them 40-footers in three or four days."

He says it was at least three or four times faster to build a hull out of fibreglass than wood and he never looked back.

"It was a much better material than the wood," he laughs. "I'll get some controversy over that."

Work ended with Harling not long after he arrived there. Unfazed, Don moved his tools across Garden Bay to work with Vic Gooldrup in his basement shop at the home where Harry and Phyllis Brown live now.

They soon built an A-frame shop



Don Penson photo collection

'They wanted them tough and they wanted them easy riding and they didn't care what horsepower they had to put in them.' The *Channel Cruiser* was one of many 23-foot crew boats that Don Penson designed and built over the years.



Don Penson photo collection

'Popping' the hull from a mould at Garden Bay Marine for what would eventually become the crew boat/charter boat the *Topline*. Penson designed and built this hull for gillnetters the *Sharon Diane* and the *Chaser*. He later altered a hull from the same mould to add width for crew boat the *Topline*, used to run men up to Goliath Bay. Bryce Christie now runs the *Topline* as a charter boat out of the Backeddy Marina.

in the little waterfront nook between the Garden Bay Pub and the Vancouver Yacht Club.

The shop was framed with logs and was approximately 60 feet long and 40 feet wide. He would work there with Gooldrup for the next few years.

It was there they built one of the early fibreglass fish boat hull moulds.

The 40-foot hull was designed by Gooldrup and would become famous on the coast for its graceful lines and superior fishing qualities.

Penson says they built a few boats with the mould before shipping it over to Gooldrup's brother-in law, Les Curley in Victoria.

Dozens of hulls were produced from that mould over the years.

Two notable boats in Pender Harbour produced from that mould are the Cameron family's *Herring Girl* and Charles Nicholl's *Breakaway*.

"Vic was very good," Penson says.

"He was actually a genius at doing that kind of stuff and a man with very little education."

Gooldrup pulled out of Pender Harbour in the late '60s and set up shop in a number of places like Shearwater, Victoria and Campbell River. His son Mike still produces boats in Campbell River.

After Gooldrup left, Penson leased Ray Phillips' shop near Lowes Resort (now Painted Boat) for a few years.

When not involved with full boat completions, most builders often had smaller jobs here and there. Penson worked in different spots over the years on boats that needed repairs or additions.

On one of those jobs he met Alan Walker whom he hired and worked with for the next 20 years.

Penson often took boat projects from scratch to complete mechanical systems installed, but takes every opportunity to pass along credit to others

he worked with.

"Alan turned out to be one of them guys who can do anything and do it well," Penson says.

Walker handled much of the mechanical side and, with the help of one other man, they could finish two 35-foot gillnetters a year.

Later, Penson says he built a hull and cabin and traded it for three acres at the head of the Harbour where Porter Road connects to the highway.

He and Walker built a set of ways and an A-frame shop that was 60 feet long by 40 feet wide.

They eventually expanded it so they could house four 40-foot boats at a time.

Through most of the '70s and '80s, salmon and halibut fishing offered a decent living and changes in the industry meant local fishermen were starting to fish farther from home.

These changes added up to a
(continued on next page)

Penson's boat building (cont.)

(continued from page 15)

need for new gear and for the next 10 years or so Penson built dozens of boats out of that shop.

But fish boats only made up about 75 per cent of his business. Pleasure yachts, log salvage boats and crewboats for the timber industry were also much in demand throughout this period.

He designed a hull and used the mould over and over again to build dozens of 23-foot crew boats. Many still remain in the Harbour, most notably in Sladey Timber's crew boat fleet.

"A lot of the guys just wanted a

simple boat," says Penson.

"They wanted them tough and they wanted them easy riding and they didn't care what horsepower they had to put in them. You know, they had to get to work."

He sold the Gunboat Bay location in the 1980s and partnered with Bob and Danny Fielding in a shop on Sinclair Bay Road across from the Duncan Cove Resort.

They would go on to produce a variety of boats there from Gordon and Shirley Cawley's sailboat *Viking Mistress* to the crewboat-turned-charter boat the *Topline* as well as numerous fishboats. Don retired in the early 2000s.

The boat-building industry is rampant with stories of failed ventures — skilled builders garnering the respect of an entire industry only to bankrupt themselves many times over in the span of a career.

Well-respected boat builders like Vic Gooldrup and Barrie Farrell are but two who were forced to start from scratch a number of times over the years. Penson was one of the very few who came through a lifetime in an incredibly tough industry without ever losing his shirt.

"It was tough. I think mainly because most fisherman and boat builders, they can do the work — and do it well — but they cannot do business. The business kills them," Penson says.

"It just about killed me two or three times but I never did go bankrupt.

"Some of it was on contract and

a lot of it was just time and material and I'd get paid once a month," he says.

"But we weren't hardly making any money. Shop time probably wasn't much more than eight bucks an hour at the best of times."

Penson acquired a reputation as a reliable builder who delivered on time.

"You were working for guys who were probably on the edge anyway," Don says.

"For a lot of the smaller gill-netters, it was tough to make a living, eh? And they were like the rest of us — it was tough to make a living."

Don also built up a good relationship with insurance companies, providing him with reliable repair work to help carry him through the lean times.

But it was his relationship with local fisherman that was the key to his longevity and that mutual trust is illustrated by the number of boats he built for successive generations within the same family.

Three generations of Reids — Cecil, Butch and Darren — hired him to finish their boats as did many other local families whose respect he earned over the years.

But Don gets uneasy talking about his success and shifts it back to the people he built the boats for.

"I always got paid," he says. "Any of the guys I ever gave credit to — which happens sometimes you know when a guy didn't get his boat built in enough time to go fishing — I never got stuck."

Partial list of boats Don Penson built or worked on

GUNBOAT BAY SHOP

Sedna
Confident
Beyon Reason
Moody Blue
Cameron's Herring Barge
Herring Girl
Island Sunrise
Lily M

RAY PHILLIPS SHOP

Wendy Maureen

GARDEN BAY MARINE

Sharon Diane
Chaser
Topline
Quick Pick
Flashpoint
Channel Cruiser
Inlet Cruiser
Viking Mistress

RELATED READING:

Legacy in Wood: The Wahl Family Boat Builders by Ryan Wahl (Harbour Publishing, 2008)

Charlotte Louise Beale

MAY 2, 1953 – DEC. 23, 2008

Charlotte Louise Beale passed away Dec. 23 at the age of 55.

Charlotte had many relatives and friends in Madeira Park and Egmont.

She married her high school sweetheart Frank Beale in 1969.

They had three children: a daughter Patti and two sons, Tom and Garry.

Charlotte was predeceased by her sister Mib.

She is survived by her husband Frank, daughter Patti (Dale),

sons Tom and Gary (Lucinda), parents Chuck and Louise, sister Maggie, brother Dan and grandchildren Frankie Jr., Jessie, Conner, Karlea, Nick, Amanda, and Justin.

LETTERS

Pender Hill fire starters offer update on restorative justice program

Dear Editor,

To the Pender Harbour Community: The youths involved in the Pender Hill fire would like to share their experiences in volunteering in the community and express their feelings about it.

YOUTH NO. 1:

Since the incident I have done volunteer work. I have helped restore the trails of Pender Hill by building bridges over small streams. I have also put together and sorted second-hand building supplies that are sold to raise money for building houses for families in need and I will continue to volunteer there in the future. There are nice people there, I enjoy the work, and it feels really good to give back to the community.

I am grateful for the restorative justice program and appreciate all the time and work the volunteers there put into it.

YOUTH NO. 2:

I have completed 40+ hours of volunteer work to various non-profit organizations. I have been working with the elderly at the Kinsmen Retirement Centre in my community. I have shared many things with them. Every week we play active games such as basketball, bowling and pass. This

helps them stay active and keep in shape.

At another organization I help teach special-needs children to skate and to swim. This program has made me a better person. I have learned to be a better teacher, as well as I have learned to be more patient with people. I feel that this community service has helped me give back to the community after we made a very foolish mistake. I would like to sincerely apologize once again for making such a big mistake and affecting so many of your lives. I'm sorry.

YOUTH NO. 3:

My volunteer work has showed me that every bit of work gives back to the community in one way or another. I also got the chance to meet many new people and I have also learned many new skills that I can use later on in life. I am very grateful to give back to the community of the Sunshine Coast through volunteering.

My goal is to continue on with volunteering for many years to come. I am also very grateful for the community justice program and for the volunteer organizations that welcomed me to help out in our community.

YOUTH NO. 4:

I was working with the Parks Board to restore the Pender Hill trail. We helped build two new catwalks and cleaned the trails to clear them and make them safer for hikers.

I also worked several hours with an organization that cares for animals. I will be continuing to volunteer with wildlife management on the Sunshine Coast in the future.

I have learned a lot from all of this that will affect me for good.

I'd like to thank everyone involved in the community justice program for all their time and I'd like to apologize again to you who live in the community that was so affected by the fire.



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Winchester takes shot at John Wade...

Dear Editor,

“Pet Talk” by John Wade either has to go or be re-named “Pet Quack.”

Let’s consider last month’s column, where Mr. Wade advises L.L., a pet owner, about his adult male cat that disturbs him throughout the night.

He allows that it’s likely not a psychological problem (yay John) but wonders if the cat wants to go outside to protect its territory.

Sorry John, this is a cat, not a perimeter-trained guard dog. Then he tells L.L. to tire out the cat before bedtime by playing with a ping-pong ball. Now John has confused the five-year-old cat with a five-year-old human.

But, he offers more: L.L. is told to assemble and use an arsenal of spritz bottles, compressed air and air horns to discourage the cat from approaching its owner to have some yet-unknown need met. Compressed air? Hey, John, have you tried spraying yourself in the face with canned air? Can you say “permanent visual damage?”

John finishes up by telling L.L. to take his cat to the vet and “listen for any sign of other cats in the neighbourhood.”

We shudder to imagine what his solution might be to “other cats in the neighbourhood” and are relieved to deduce that he doesn’t know that there

are other cats in all neighbourhoods. Too bad he forgot L.L.’s comment that he had already had his cat checked out by the vet.

John’s website tells us he is a dog trainer and author (“Order John’s New Book”) and implies he’s a modest man because his qualifications are absent. But, he’s all about dog training. Not cat training, not pet talk, but dog training.

By the way, the answer to the L.L.’s question last month is simple and obvious. Get the adult male cat neutered and ignore everything that John Wade wrote.

Myrtle Winchester

... and Wade returns fire at Winchester

Dear Editor,

Mark Twain once said, “I am not one of those who in expressing opinions confine themselves to facts.”

I’m always open to input and I’m sure you mean well but your mental slip is showing.

I did a quick internet search for independent verification of the areas which you thought worthy of note.

The Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has an article called “Fun Feline Sports” which includes the ping-pong in the

tub game. It appears on many other cat oriented sites as well.

The San Francisco Humane Society, Animal Health Channel and the Dumb Friends league all recommend air canisters as a humane deterrent for use on cats. The literature on cats and their protective attitude towards territory and how it might cause problems with indoor cats is legion.

Your assessment that the cat need only be neutered fails to take into consideration that were the cat actually intact (which is highly unlikely for an indoor male cat — possible but unlikely) it was five years old and were this the problem, it seems likely to have popped up earlier in the cat’s life.

It’s usually from someone that’s big on heart but as my quick Google search reveals in your case, short on any real experience.

The problem is that well-meaning or not, it often does more harm than good as it’s based on the ownership of

a pet or two, maybe some volunteer work at a shelter, maybe some reading.

More often than not it’s about as helpful as throwing a drowning man both ends of a rope.

You may, “shudder to imagine” what my solution might be to “other cats in the neighbourhood” but the truth is (take a deep breath Myrtle — this may seem a little harsh but it was your decision to play with the big dogs/cats) it is “solutions” from people that believe their opinions, no matter how poorly founded, are worth expressing that cause untold harm to animals.

I know it is not your intent but it is “expertise” like yours, given to people needing actual solutions, that often leads to the ultimate surrender or euthanasia of dogs and cats.

John Wade



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Icy roads a public safety risk

Dear Nicholas Simons, MLA;

I am writing to alert you to the situation that road and highway maintenance in the Pender Harbour area, which is funded by the provincial Ministry of Transportation, has become vastly inadequate during winter weather.

Since Dec. 17, Pender Harbour has experienced snow and sub-zero temperatures. The snow on Highway 101 from Pender Harbour to Earls Cove is plowed infrequently.

Highway 101 and feeder roads onto the highway, such as Garden Bay Road, are salted rarely or not at all.

Side roads to acreages or subdivisions, where many people live, typically are neither salted nor plowed.

As snow-filled and icy roads make for dangerous driving, Pender Harbour has seen an increase in car accidents.

Many people have been snowed in for some or all of the last 18 days.

It has been difficult or impossible for people to reach the stores to buy groceries, for example.

Community residents and businesses have suffered.

Road maintenance is a matter of public safety, and an essential infrastructure need that currently is not being met in Pender Harbour, by the

Ministry of Transportation.

The ministry privately contracts Capilano Highway Services Company, whose excellent employees tend the roads for Pender Harbour and the Sunshine Coast.

BC road work is funded through BC tax money; Pender Harbour has had satisfactory or good road maintenance in the past.

I respectfully request that the government of BC increase the operating budget or renegotiate the contract for Capilano Highway Services to ensure that the basic needs of winter road maintenance are met in Pender Harbour.

Until that time, snowy and icy road conditions will continue to pose a public safety risk.

Sincerely,
Dr. Klisala Harrison



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How to put your foot in it

By Jim Rutherford &
Nolan Sawatzky

How to put your foot in it — snow and slush that is.

Who was to know this column would get ahead of itself about spring?

The heavy wet snow has produced dramatic damage to some shrubs/plants and not to others. It's the sustained freezing temperatures that are the real killer.

Nobody can decide what temperature zone we're in: Five? Eight?

The higher the number the more temperate the zone.

Perennials for zone five will be just fine, whereas tender semi-perennials for zones seven to eight are likely gone.

DIANTHUS

Dianthus (carnations) may have frozen off but just leave them for now to see what greenery will appear.

Fatsia with its blackened leaves will come back just fine.

Cut off the damaged leaves at the main stock and now is as good a time as any to cut out the growing tip — if the plant is too tall for what you want.

FLAX

Depending on the variety, flax took a real beating from the heavy snow.

Those leaves, with the spine broken will not likely come back, but the plant is far from dead.

To give the plant a chance to send out new foliage cut off half the damaged foliage to about one-inch so the plant can produce enough food for regeneration.

Later you can remove the broken foliage as new growth appears.

CORDYLINE

Cordyline, that look like an overgrown dracaena, have a fountain-like form and leaves that arch away from it

in a weeping fashion.

They can grow up to three or four metres (12 to 16 feet) high if well protected from winter cold, but weep we must, as the crown may not recover.

If it did survive, that crown will take a long time to grow while looking really shabby.

YUCCAS

Yuccas are pretty hardy and should do just fine. Pruning off the limp leaves will improve the look.

If an entire stock has broken off on a big shrub like lilac, chainsaw it out to the soil level.

You can now leave a couple of suckers to come from the base to fill out.

If it's a lateral branch that's broken, cut it back as flush as you can to the main stock.

You want to leave as little conductive tissue exposed as possible. That's the little green layer, just under the bark.

When you're not sure whether the shrub is alive or dead, scrape off a little of the bark. If you see the green cambial layer you've got a live one. This works well for any hydrangea that looks damaged.

BUDDLEIA

Treat buddleia the same way as you would for lilacs but prune off all the flower heads too as the shrub only blooms on new growth.

Cotoneaster and euonymus that



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have all blackened because of the frost will snap back. Perhaps with your grass shears shape them up a bit.

Grasses that have browned off can all be cut back almost to ground level.

Be brutal. They'll come back greener and better than ever. Same with dagger ferns but get to them before you might chop off any new fiddleheads.

PYRAMIDAL EVERGREENS

Sometimes vertical branches of your pyramidal evergreens will break out, not off, and refuse to stay put in the overall pyramidal shape. Snow load can do this or very high winds.

Here's an easy way to cope with the problem if chopping out the vertical branch will leave too big a hole.

With an exacto knife, split open the white casing of some ordinary household electric wiring and cut the length to get at the black sheathed strand. Thread this wire around two or three of the sturdier uprights and tie in the branch. Tighten further as necessary by pushing the branch back into the pyramidal form.

The black wire will never be seen and the plastic coating will not damage the back.

If a lateral branch of one of your good fruit trees has split off, you have to be cruel unless you have great patience to stake the limb.

Cut off the broken limb flush to the main trunk and try to remove as much torn bark as possible, to minimize the exposure of plant tissue.

Now is a great time to prune your fruit trees as they are about as dormant as they're going to get.

RANUNCULUS

Treated as spring flowers by retailers, these showy buttercups come in amazing colours.

The fern-like foliage which appears in spring is attractive but it dies down in the summer.

Planting time is March to April in any well-drained soil. It thrives best in full sun.

Soak the tuberous roots in cold water for several hours and then plant them claws downward.

The ones in stores available now have been forced. The natural blooming period is mid-summer.

Don't forget to lift them in late summer when the foliage has withered and store the tubers over winter in dry peat in a frost-free place or, if you feel lucky, leave them in the ground.

All too much work, ranunculus flowers are useful for cutting (cut flowers) as they are long-lasting in water.

So did you win or lose through

the snows?

One year in 10 is not a bad gamble for those of us that don't pull our dahlia tubers and gladiolas corms.

But hey, it's a great chance to get new colours if they did freeze.

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HARBOUR SEALS



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

Many recycled approvals to **all who donated their time, bottles and cans** to the Grad fundraiser. A special thank you to teachers **Lorraine Dimond and John Smith** and to the **employees of GRIPS** who went above and beyond the call of duty to assist us. Last but not least, thanks to our **moms and dads** too.

PHSS Grad Class of 2009

A huge Seal of Approval to **Bryce Christie, Milly of Lee Bay, the two unknown men and the Garden Bay Fire Dept.**, who helped us so much after our accident. Thanks too to all those who called and offered help, especially **Sue Richardson and Roland Lussier and Bjarne Toftrup**, and all our **wonderful neighbours**.

Rick and Margaret Hartley

A Harbour Seal of Approval to **Twyla and her two companions** who stopped to assist us on the afternoon of Dec. 22 as our car slid into a ditch on Irvines Landing Road. And another Seal of Approval to our neighbour, **Dave Milligan**, and another passing motorist for pulling us out.

Jim and Kathryn Woodward

A Harbour Seal of Approval and a great big "Thank You" to **Helmut Grohs** for plowing our driveway and all of Dames Road allowing us to join our family for Christmas. We truly appreciate your kindness.

Bob and LaVerne Richardson

A Harbour Seal of Disapproval to **Capilano Highway Services** for not bothering to clear the snow or to salt on Garden Bay and Irvines Landing Roads.

Jim and Kathryn Woodward

A Harbour Seal of Approval to **Bill and Marita Davie / Branch Management** for donating tree assessment, trimming and removal services at the future Sarah Wray Heritage Hall.

Judy Renouf
Sarah Wray Heritage Hall

A Harbour Seal of Approval to **Don White / Indian Isle Construction Ltd.** for donating a dumpster for all the garbage (inside and out) and running it back and forth to the landfill multiple times.

Judy Renouf
Sarah Wray Heritage Hall

A Harbour Seal of Approval to **Cliff Rowlands and family** for donating a new metal roof for use on the future Sarah Wray Heritage Hall.

Judy Renouf
Sarah Wray Heritage Hall

A Harbour Seal of Approval to **those people who turned out at short notice to continue the traditional annual carol ships parade** on Dec. 18. In particular, we'd like to thank **Paul Hopkins, Margaret Skelley and Ian McNee**.

Charlie Park
P. H. Power and Sail Squadron

A Seal of Approval and special thank you to all **my family and friends** for the loving care you gave me following my recent surgery. I would never have made it without you being there for me when I needed you. I am so lucky! Love and hugs.

Muriel Cameron

Thank you to all of the **Health Centre Auxiliary members** for your support during my term as president. And thank you to **all who worked at and supported our Bargain Barn**. We reached our goal of \$50,000 gross income for 2008 because of the generous support of this wonderful community.

Janet Thomas

A Harbour Seal of Approval to **everyone who supported the Madeira Market** in 2008. Hope to see you all this year.

Freda McDermott

A Harbour Seal of Approval to all the wonderful people who helped us during the last couple of months — **Gary Meilleur, Joey Kraft, and Wendy & Kirk Voen, Lucille Askey and Sue McDonald**. We are truly blessed by the caring people in Pender Harbour.

Al, Helen and Romeo Reimer

STUDIO

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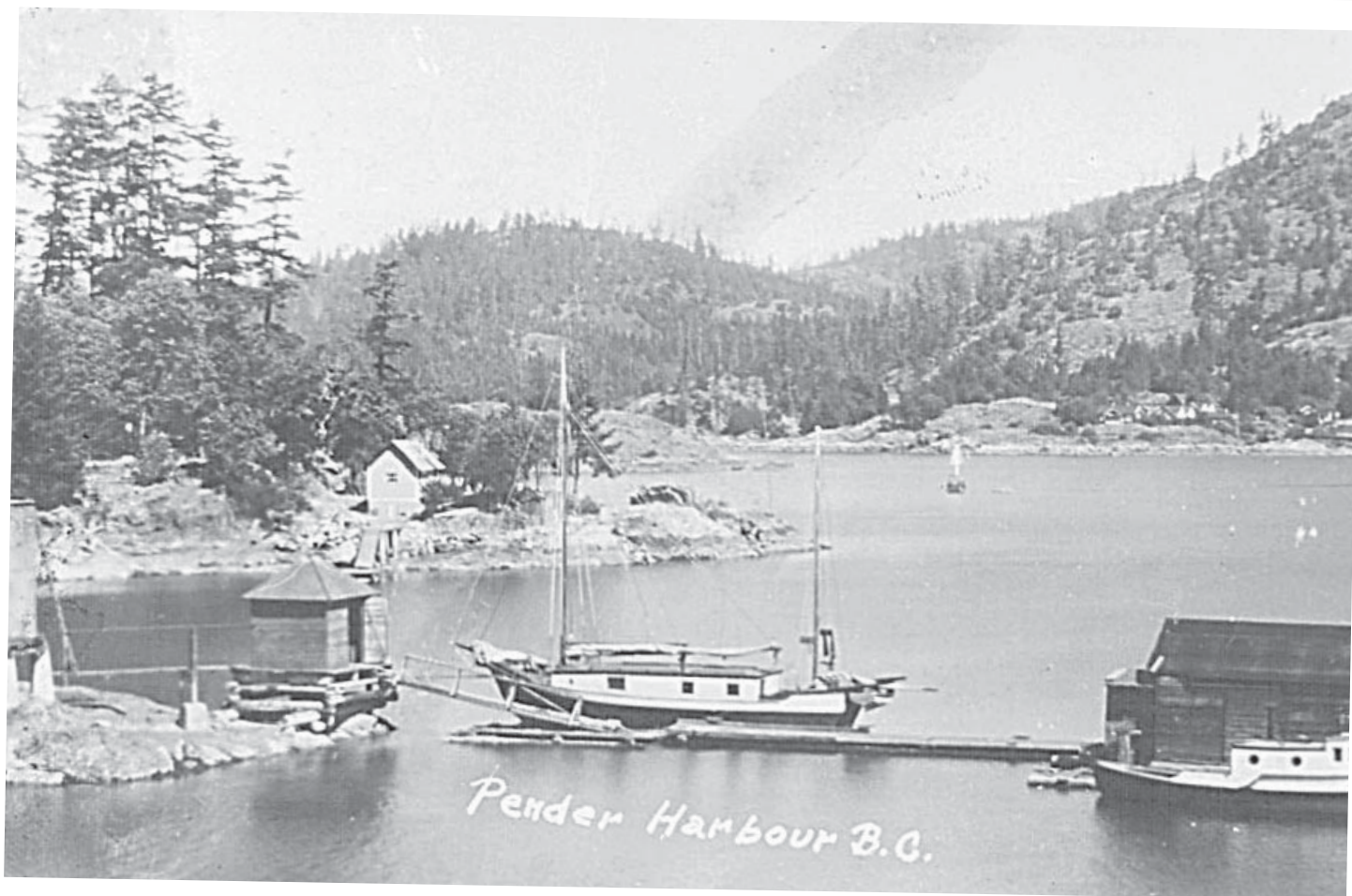
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F. Bakewell collection photo

This postcard photo was taken from Popes Landing on Francis Peninsula and looks across the Gap to Charles Island and Irvines Landing beyond. It was likely taken some time between 1940 and 1950

According to Howard White, it was named after Jim Pope who ran a gas dock, a general store and a fish buying station there. A man named Murdock owned it by 1948, at least, and the road was put in some time after that.



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Rotary exchange student Vanessa Lanteigne sends update from



By Vanessa Lanteigne

Hey everyone!
It's that time again, so this is my fourth monthly report (and four months here as of yesterday... oops!)

This was definitely the best month! I had so much fun and did so many things that I've never done before and I made a few realizations about Mexico and Mexican culture.

HEALTHY SO FAR

As far as I can remember, it's been fine (ha-ha) but I know some of the other exchange students are having a really hard time.

I met this girl from Chilliwack and we've become really close and right now she has a stomach infection, and before that she was so sick that she had to get three injections of something for her cold.

Realization No. 1 about Mexicans: If you're sick, you NEED

medicine. And it's the only way you will get better.

So, if anything I'm becoming a little TOO healthy, me and the Mexican food have become great pals if you know what I mean.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Hmm... well... my school doesn't really do anything. We had a posada but I wasn't there. A posada is another word for a party.

Realization No. 2 about Mexicans: They have multiple different words for party: Posada, fiesta, comida (if it's a party in the daytime with lunch), cena (if it's a party at night with dinner) and baile (if the fiesta is centred on dancing) and I'm sure there's more but I just can't remember.

ATTENDANCE AT ROTARY FUNCTIONS.

There was a week-long rotary function in Guanajuato with all the exchange students in Mexico.

I think there were about 500 students there but I also think a lot didn't come because of the expenses.

But the whole trip was fantastic! (Excluding the fact that one of my best friends there got sent home 'cause they caught him smoking weed in the hotel and he already had to go back to France.)

All of us who were going to Gua-

najuato and some other exchange students all went to a posada at a Rotex's house and made sure that everyone who was coming was there.

And then we proceeded to destroy seven pinatas. Each of them had seven points and each one of the points means some bad characteristic like envy or vanity or something along those lines.

The thing is, you hit the pinata to make those characteristics to go away and you are rewarded with the candy that's inside. (I know... who knew whacking paper mache was so in-depth.)

So that was neat and pinatas are actually so hard to break, in Canada we don't do it right — we usually just tie the thing to a tree and maybe put a blindfold on and hit it but really you need a blindfold and to put the pinata on a string so you can move it up and down on some sort of pulley system.

Then they spin you around the stick 10 times or so and sing a song and by now you are right out of it, so you're swinging the bat trying to hit the pinata, everybody's laughing and singing the song and the pinata is even moving up and down and side to side and when the song finishes you are just so thankful because pinatas are soo hard!

Guanajuato is a beautiful city that I recommend to everyone — so gorgeous and the streets are steeped in stories.

They showed us around the usual tour route and we even made our own parade with all of the 25 countries that we had.

The most were from Brazil — a whopping 86 students. Following closely behind was Germany at 84.

All of us had flags and were sing-

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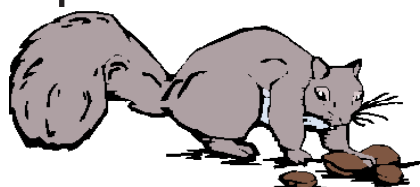
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ing our national anthems. It sounds lame but it was actually quite incredible with, like, at least eight different languages and 500 students parading down the small streets of Guanajuato.

And then that night we had a pool party with a DJ and everything.

The next day we had a day of sports and everyone was divided into teams with people other than their district, a sneaky plan to get us to make friends.

My team sucked — and I mean that in the best possible way. We had like something like 16 people, like 10 showed up and six at the very very most would ever play.

I had to play in almost all the sports, so I was completely dead and then we went out dancing! And anyone who knows me knows I couldn't pass that up so off I went and we had a pretty good time.

I'd say there was a funny little screw-up: there weren't supposed to be any people outside Rotary in the club but the club failed to acknowledge this. So we had exchange students and "outsider personas" in the club all at once.

So why was that such a bad thing? Well, let me tell you! Some of the exchange girls charmed some of the guys in the club to come back to our hotel and when my district chairman found them they didn't want to leave, so there was a fight and my chairman ended up with a black eye the next day!

And then the rest of the time was fun — we made little skits in our own districts too and the last night we had a formal dinner and that was really fun — danced all night!

ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF ROTARY

I've been playing pool a lot,

— there isn't much to do in my town, movies, fiestas... oh! Realization No. 3 about Mexico: Since I've been here I've realized there are many different types of freedom.

Yes, the people of Mexico have the freedom to do pretty much everything that we in Canada can, but is it actually possible? No.

There are safety issues and kid-nappers and it's just not safe.

How would it change your life if you couldn't walk on the road alone? Or take the bus at night?

Some of my girlfriends can't even drive in their cars alone at night.

This realization alone has made me so grateful to be Canadian and from our country.

But enough with all that patriotic stuff, I thought Canada was supposed to be modest!

For all of you with snow on your lawns and snow-coloured skin I am soaking up the sun here! Ha-ha — sorry, had to do it.

But a lot of you will be surprised to know that Mexico gets really cold.

There's a city down here called Puebla and it seems as cold as Canada (but it probably isn't) with frost in the morning.

It just doesn't snow because it doesn't rain much either.

I'm gonna wrap this up — it's taken me so much time to try and remember what I did!

So to all, I hope you had an awesome Christmas and a happy New Year.

Much love from down south to everyone!

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Are you ready for the next snowfall?

*Compiled by the Pender Harbour
Emergency Preparedness Committee*

Here are some tips on being snow prepared (or some common sense that goes a long way).

TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR FAMILY'S SAFETY

- Be prepared with the basics in case you get stuck for several days at home. Have enough food, water, medications and other essential supplies on hand.
- Pay attention to the weather forecast.
- Make a list of local emergency contact numbers.
- Purchase or prepare an emergency kit and store it in an easy-to-find location.
- Be prepared for possible power outage. Ensure you have a telephone and radio that do not require power and flashlights with extra batteries.
- Keep your driveways (where possible) and your paths clear; ensure your street number can be clearly seen from the road for emergency vehicles.
- Have an efficient snow shovel and de-icing compound on hand.

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR

- Check on your neighbours to make sure they are okay. If you are more mobile than they are, see if they need any supplies.
- Do they need their pathways and/or driveway cleared if unable to do it themselves?
- Do they have enough emergency essentials to last them 72 hours, including firewood or propane for heating and cooking?

DON'T GO OUT UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY

- Do you really need that item or



Are you and your car prepared to drive on snowy or icy roads?

can it wait a few days? Can someone who has to go out get it for you?

- Are you and your car prepared to drive on snowy or icy roads?

IF YOU MUST GO OUT, BE SAFE ON THE ROAD

- Winterize your vehicle before the winter weather hits. Tune the engine and check the battery, fluid levels (especially antifreeze), brakes, hoses and belts. Have the oil changed and check the tread and air pressure on your tires
- Installing four snow tires will provide a greater amount of traction and control for driving in severe winter conditions. For extra traction and safety purchase a set of chains for your vehicle. Wide, high-performance, or low profile tires, other than those that are specifically designed as snow tires, are not suitable for use on snow covered roads. Do not mix snow tires.

Use the same make, size and type on all four wheels.

- Slow down on icy roads and allow yourself more time to get where you're going. Accelerate gently and steer smoothly. Carefully test your braking and steering at a very slow speed. Allow extra space margins. Go down icy hills in a low gear. Avoid passing and if your wheels lock, ease off the brakes then reapply them to maintain steering control.

- In particularly cold weather equip your vehicle with jumper cables, a shovel, traction pads or chains, an ice scraper and a towing cable, flares, a blanket, a first aid kit, candles and non-perishable foods such as candy bars, warm gloves, boots, a flashlight and a cellular phone (if you have one).

Keep yourself safe this winter.
Be prepared.

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Feb. 3 ~ Chloe Campbell

Feb. 5 ~ Rick Hartley and Roland Fritz

Feb. 6 ~ Lachlin Rand

Feb. 7 ~ Reg Morton

Feb. 9 ~ Joyce Garbers and Jackie Crowell

Feb. 10 ~ Wendel Welander and Eddie Smith

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

Feb. 12 ~ Ab Haddock

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

Feb. 15 ~ Shawna Lee Edwardson.

Feb. 16 ~ Irene Boyd and Betty Mc-

Donald

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

Feb. 18 ~ Dr. Rick Smalley

Feb. 19 ~ Don & Joan McDougall

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

Feb. 22 ~ Chelsea Scoular

Feb. 23 ~ Evelyn Cumming and Donna Campbell

Feb. 24 ~ Debbie Rand

Feb. 25 ~ Bruce Haines

Feb. 27 ~ Neale Smith and Rick Jones

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

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OF FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY WEATHER

TEMPERATURES, MERRY ISLAND

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

PRECIPITATION, MERRY ISLAND

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

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- **Light repairs,** maintenance and detailing on boats and RVs, lawn and weed cutting, yard maintenance, power washing or house cleaning. Alex and Char (604) 741-1572



**Truman Crabb
1994 - 2008**

Truman was born in Nanaimo and moved to Pender Harbour in 1997.

Truman assisted Matt with delivery of the Vancouver newspaper to members of the Old Fart's club.

He was often seen walking an old fart of his own around the community.

We would like to thank all the people who assisted with his wide girth by their daily contributions of cookies.

*Truman was loved
and will be sadly missed.*

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• Suncoast Players	883-9277
• Sunshine Coast Community Based Victim Services.....	885-0322
• Volunteer Fire Dept (Wed. evening)	883-9270
• Wildlife Society (3rd Tues. PHSS).....	883-9853
• Women's Cancer Support	883-9708
• Women's Connection (2nd & 4th Tue.)	883-2454
• Women's Outreach Services	741-5246

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~ ORGANIZATIONS ~

EGMONT COMMUNITY CLUB VALENTINE'S DAY TEA

Come out to the Hall on Feb. 14 for a special Valentine's Day event. From 10 a.m. to noon there will be a kids workshop to make Valentine's Cards and then from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. the Egmont Community Club will host a tea. A raffle for a cord of firewood will be drawn at 3:30 p.m.

PENDER HARBOUR WOMEN'S CONNECTION

On Tuesday, Feb. 10 the Pender Harbour Women's Connection is celebrating their tenth Birthday and Valentine's Day. We have an income tax expert on Tuesday, Feb. 24, to give us tips to help optimize our refunds and demystify the new incentives our government is offering us. These will held at the School of Music in Madeira Park. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. and our gatherings will start at 10 a.m. until noon.

PENDER HARBOUR & DISTRICT WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Pender Harbour & District Wildlife Society is very pleased to welcome Howard White to its February meeting. Howard is a longtime publisher and author of books on coastal marine life and local history. He will give a talk on the natural history of our coast. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 17, at the Pender Harbour High School.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Sunshine Coast has been chosen as one of 10 "Communities of Innovation" in BC for an Early Childhood Project to give a voice to issues affecting young children and their families and to strengthen caregiver capacity. Please visit our blog to offer comments or feedback: ecevoice.wordpress.com If you do not have internet access, the Harbour Learning Centre computer lab is open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with staff available if you need assistance (located in the Community School portable by the Elementary School).

PENDER HARBOUR COMMUNITY CLUB MAY DAY

May Day planning has started and we are in desperate need for volunteers to pull it off. Our next meeting is Monday Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Pender Harbour Community Hall. We have all kinds of fun positions to fill so please come out and help make May Day 2009 another huge success.

Irvine's Landing Hall renovation project update

*By Judy Renouf, secretary,
Pender Harbour Living Heritage Society*

The renovation of the Irvines Landing Hall (the future Sarah Wray Heritage Hall) kicked off last April with a flurry of energy and elbow grease.

Over the months that followed, the project team cleared the overgrowth of brush around the building, had trees trimmed and removed, repaired broken windows and had the building cleared of pests and garbage.

We were also successful in receiving some generous donations and a couple of grants to help us get things off the ground.

Lately, however, it seems there's been no activity, and many of you are wondering what's going on.

While there hasn't been any physical work occurring, rest assured that a lot has been happening behind the scenes.

Late last summer, the project officially became a part of the Pender Harbour Living Heritage Society (the organization that puts on April Tools every year, among other things).

This enables us now to provide charitable tax receipts for donations of money, services, and materials to the project.

A building permit application was also prepared over the summer and submitted to the SCRD in early September.

A permit is ready for us now, on standby, to be issued when we are ready to start the renovation work.

This work, however, has been delayed because we felt it important to wait for the official approval of the sewage outfall portion of the Pender Harbour Landing development because it may affect how we spend our donation and grant money.

Bob Fielding of Pender Harbour Landing has kindly donated the use of the Pender Harbour Landing sewage system for the new Sarah Wray Heritage Hall, which will save us a great deal of money on our renovation costs.

We decided to wait until the sewage outfall application is fully approved before spending money on renovations and building materials, just in case we're forced to consider more costly alternatives to deal with the Hall's sewage system on our own.

We're very optimistic the Pender Harbour Landing sewage system will

get a green light soon, and look forward to getting started on the renovations in earnest.

In addition, our fearless leader, Eric Graham, had to step down from his position as project lead and chairman of the Pender Harbour Living Heritage Society due to his recent election to the Area A Director position.

He hopes to remain an active volunteer on the project.

We want to thank everyone for their hard work on the project so far and anticipate a busy summer at the corner of Irvines Landing and Hotel Lake roads.



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"Art in Yurts" FibreWorks Gallery is closed for the month of February and re-opens March 1st with Kerr Grabowski's exhibit of wearable art.

FibreWorks Studio is open by appointment for spinning fibres and handspun yarns in February.

Check the website for workshop information:

Anna Hawthorn: March 20 & 21

Figure in Landscape painting

Kerr Grabowski: March 23 to 27

Design and Deconstructed Screenprinting

Angelika Werth: April 2 to 05

Deconstructed/Reconstructed Garment

Ursula Bentz: April 18

Dimensional Felting

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Landscapes are alive with stories: Edward Hoagland's contribution



By Theresa Kishkan

Twenty years ago, the late Bill and Edie McNaughton took me for a walk out at the end of Francis Peninsula to a little protected bay.

It was a beautiful place — and it became even more interesting when Bill pointed out the remnants of stone fish traps, visible at low tide. He ran his hands up the trunk of a cedar and showed me how it was scarred from bark removal. Anthropologists would call it “culturally modified.” He remembered native people camping there in his boyhood, the details still vivid after many decades.

Landscapes are alive with stories. The American writer Edward Hoagland knows this. His classic book of British Colum-

bia, *Notes from the Century Before*, has been in print since its publication in 1969, testifying to its fascination for new generations of readers. It chronicles his explorations in northern British Columbia, primarily near Hazelton, and on the old Cariboo-Cassiar trail leading to Telegraph Creek on the Stikine

River. In 1960, and again in 1966, he walked, flew and canoed into remote areas, gathering stories of the men and women who settled the country.

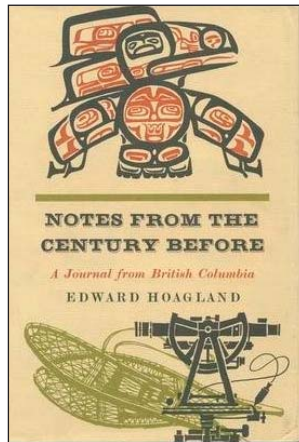
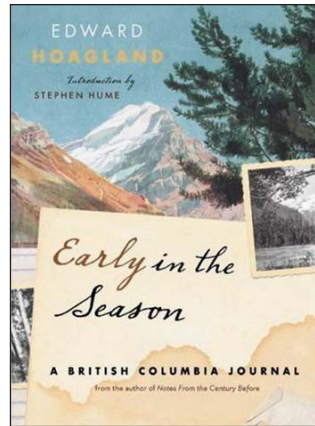
In 1968, with his book soon to be published, Hoagland returned to parts of his former range. He kept a journal as he revisited many of the old-timers of his first trip and tried to gather more

information on some of the legendary characters whose stories animate the country: Skook Davidson, Jack Lee, Frank Swannell. This journal languished for years while Hoagland wrote other books and it has now been published by Douglas and McIntyre as *Early in the Season*.

The writing is often wonderful and the details are vibrant. Hoagland hurtles through the country, observing. The pace is breathless. “Jack [Lee]...fried his eggs on the blade of his shovel, so as not to have to bring a pan – eggs so old that ‘they crowed when they hit the metal.’ Cooked his breakfast fish on the end of a string, which he would spin with his fork over the fire...” But the book lacks the narrative drive and coherence of *Notes from the Century Before*. It is a period piece and as such Hoagland has left intact the derogatory terms for native women, Chinese prospectors and the African-Americans he used as cultural contrast.

Political correctness aside, Hoagland comes across as a distasteful man. He imagines himself to be sexually irresistible to other men’s wives, young native girls and ranchers’ daughters; and his commentaries on women are unpleasant enough to make the reader wonder if he is trying to be ironic or else is utterly delusional.

Still, *Early in the Season* is to be recommended for its storied mapping of relatively inaccessible parts of the province. Even in 1968, Hoagland was aware that the country was changing and his book stands as an



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Fine dining, Silent and Live Auction, Door prizes - Doors open 6:30pm

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Building Fundraiser for Pender Harbour Abbeyfield House, hosted by Area A Seniors Housing Project

to BC's literary record

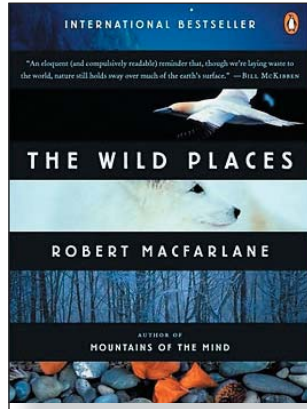
eloquent portrait of a specific time and place.

More than 30 years ago I lived on a small island off the west coast of Ireland. I frequently walked through the stark Connemara hills and thought I was in as wild a place as existed on earth. Much later I learned that those hills were rich with archaeological remains, indicating thousands of years of occupation. What I'd seen as simply piles of boulders were megalithic tombs, their portals soft with lichen. Scatterings of stones were remnants of ancient field systems. Darkened or fire-cracked rocks, close to rivers, were cooking places. I had to revise my notion of what was wild and what had been shaped by human settlement.

I thought of this shift while reading Robert MacFarlane's *The Wild Places* (Penguin Books). MacFarlane, a young Cambridge scholar, decided to seek out the most remote areas of the British Isles and Ireland, countering the attitude that such a relatively small landmass with more than 61 million people couldn't possibly provide much of a wilderness experience.

The book is organized into 15 essays, named mostly for geographical features. The reader is a companion on the author's pilgrimages to emblematic or representative examples of those features: An island used by monks off the coast of Wales, Rannoch Moor in Scotland, Cumbria with its ridges and summits and tarns. We are asked to notice things: The grooves in rock near Sheffield where Victorian landowners had employed a

mason to chisel areas to catch rainwater to attract grouse in their breeding time, the curve of birch branches seen through a ruined crofter's cottage in Scotland.

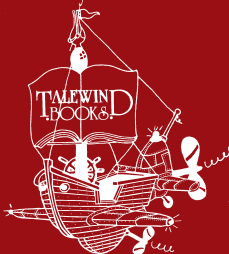


We're also asked to think about nature and civilization. He quotes historian Robert Pogue Harrison: "Civilization literally cleared its space in the midst of forests." MacFarlane writes about the way civilization has celebrated the natural world.

"Myths in almost all cultures," he writes, "look fabulously back to a forested earth."

And he is mindful that the results of that engagement might also be accelerating the demise of so much of our "forested earth."

Yet this is not a gloomy book. It is an infinitely wise and generous one, full of humour and charm — a perfect antidote to winter's chill.



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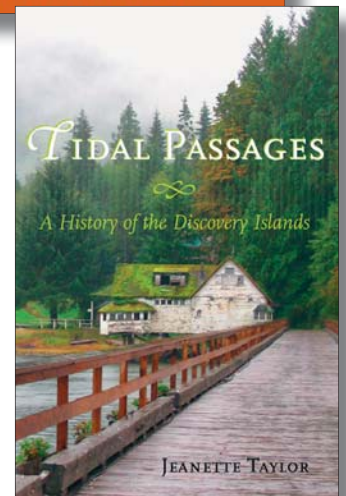
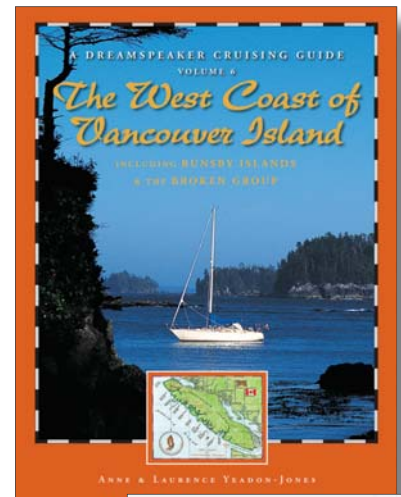
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Why can't we let dogs be dogs?

By John Wade

Hi Francine,

Hi John

Why is it so important a dog heel during the entire walk? Why should

the entire walk be at your feet?

Dogs are curious and it's a big, wide world out there. Why do people feel the need to force everything to conform to what they want without giving anything?

My dog completely freaks out like it's the first time he's gone in a year. But if I need him beside me, I can call him back. He was trained with simple patience and practice. It's his nature to be excited to go outside as well as want to sniff everything we pass when we go outside. Why is this a bad thing?

I just don't get why we can't let dogs be dogs as long as they are reasonable and controllable.

— Francine

Those last three words are the key. You have the luxury of letting your dog find his inner self because when the need arises you can rein him in. When you have the ability to easily turn it off, then you have the luxury of letting it turn on. That's the advantage of having a trained dog.

Teaching a proper street heel is part of the way to get a dog to the point where it can enjoy the freedom yours enjoys. Not teaching it can have far-reaching consequences.

I know of countless upended dog owners with injuries like broken bones or dogs that in their excitement were able to get away from their owner and run into the street and killed.

Dogs out of control on walks usually get a head start inside the doorway of their homes and that has its own ancillary fallout. They are usually doorway crazy dogs that eventually make the departure and arrival of guests a pain. Some people, often the elderly and those with children,

just don't visit, not because they don't like dogs, but because they don't like the risks associated with being around them.

Once outside, the sniffing is usually done on a leash tighter than a guitar string. I don't hear of neck injuries to the dog that often, but lots of shoulder, elbow, and wrist strains for the dog walker. I know of pedestrians with lives that have been catastrophically changed after being upended by overly friendly dogs that just wanted to do what was natural and say a doggy hello.

There's a time and a place for wild abandon and sniffing, and for me that's not the street shared with cars, bicyclists, skaters, joggers, people with children etc. To be honest with you, if a dog can't do a loose leash heel I think it's very bad manners if the dog owner doesn't pull them aside for passersby. When we're at the dog park or another place safe to let them run amok, have at it I say.

Here's a way to get the best of both worlds.

I teach "heel" which is on the left side and "Relax" when it's on the right side. "Relax" is sniff time but if I say "heel" it's because we're in a crowd or there are children, bicyclists, joggers etc.

Hopefully that keeps everyone safe and happy. But the bottom line is, if a dog can't be reined in by its owner around distractions, then it's essentially out of control with potentially disastrous consequences for all.

— John

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

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Some praise for the greenskeeper



By Jan Watson

At time of writing, Jan 15, the golf course still has some snow on it and golfers are getting anxious to get back

in the swing.

Mother Nature really did a number on us this year.

MEN'S CLUB

It seems I missed writing up the results of the men's championships for 2008.

It was not my intention to miss anyone out so here goes.

Men's Champion was Don Matheson, 54 hole score 224, runner up Lorne Campbell with 234. Senior Men's Champion was Alex Kerr, 36 hole score 158 and low net winner was Peter Kenny with 137. Super Senior Champion was George Grout, 18 hole score 83. The Men's Match Play champion was Lorne Campbell who beat Don Matheson on the first extra hole.

LADIES CLUB

Just in case I missed the ladies, I will mention them too.

Ladies Champion was Reni Ducich and the runner up was Mary Carlsen. Ladies Low Net winner was Pat Hallborg and the Crabb Cup

Match Play Champion was Kathy Bergman.

UNSUNG HEROES: THE GREENS KEEPERS

We all hear about the star players like Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson but how many of us give any thought to all the work and preparation that goes into maintaining a golf course?

It takes a lot of man-hours to keep everything in good shape.

The greens superintendent is a highly skilled person who has undergone a long educational and training period over several years.

He has to keep up with all the changes that are constantly happening with the environment and with the equipment and fertilizers etc.

When weather

patterns change he has to adjust his schedule to make sure that the golf course is at its best for special events such as tournaments, men's and ladies' days, and for the weekends.

Some of us are not always considerate of the course and do not replace divots or repair ball marks on the green. This is important as it helps to keep playing conditions nice for

everyone.

I cannot begin to mention all that the greens superintendent and his staff do to make the golf course a beautiful place to be.

We are very fortunate at Pender Harbour Golf Course to have a great group of workers, who are all very polite and pleasant to all golfers and we are very proud of the condition of our golf course.

FROM THE 19TH HOLE...

One day a man came home and was greeted by his wife dressed in a very sexy nightie.

"Tie me up" she purred, "and you can do anything you want."

So, he tied her up and went golfing.

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PHOTOJOURNAL - SNOW STORMS OF DECEMBER



Kim Smail photo

A serene moment at the government wharf in Madeira Park.



Char's Photography photo

Sometimes even the tow truck gets stuck. CA Towing getting some help on Francis Peninsula.



Sylvia Farley photo

The lagoon in Garden Bay on a placid morning.



Sylvia Farley photo

Snow became art on this Garden Bay roof top.



A flock of these birds devoured the berries on this snow covered arbutus tree.

The tragedy of forbidden love on Nelson Island

By Anne Crocker

Despite the taboo, it wasn't uncommon for cousins to fall in love with each other in small coastal settlements back in the early 1900s. An oft-told story of two Nelson Island teenagers who succumbed to cupid's curse in 1922 illustrates the intensity of forbidden love and its tragic consequences.

By all accounts, Julia was a beautiful 16-year-old who grew up on the island's western shore with her Uncle's son John. John was 18 and had never considered life without Julia at his side — they were best friends. Spring often sheds more than winter's cloak and when they made clear their hopes of one day marrying, their parents felt a moral duty to oppose what had been assumed was a close friendship. It was said later that the parents would have been better to try to restrain the Jervis Inlet tide.

John's father moved his family to Egmont, forbade his son to see her and sent him to a logging camp at the head of Theodosia Inlet. John still managed to communicate with his love via letters delivered by a mutual friend who worked in the camp and would travel back to his home in Hidden Basin once a month.

Someone once said that "Absence is to love what wind is to fire" and after four months separation, John sent word he would be arriving by rowboat on a particular evening. Julia was to meet him at their favourite arbutus grove on a hill that overlooked Malaspina Strait.

She was ecstatic at the thought of being reunited with her lover and aroused more than a little suspicion from her family at her sudden interest in perfume and appearance. She arrived at the spot early with a basket of fresh blackberries and salmon sandwiches wearing the dress and shawl she wore when her darling first proposed months before. Upon entering the arbutus clearing she was confronted by an old tom cougar, its jaws bloody from a deer it had taken down nearby. It snarled fiercely in defence of its kill, causing her to shriek, dropping her basket and shawl as she fled.

John heard the shriek and arrived breathless moments later to find the cougar with Julia's bloody shawl in its mouth. Believing the cougar had just feasted on his darling, John was overwhelmed with grief and dispatched the beast with an old .30-.30 he always carried in case he crossed the path of local rum runners.

Hearing the shot, Julia knew it was John and turned back towards the trail. After a dozen steps she heard another shot and began to run faster. Entering the clearing, she was confronted by the grisly sight of her lover collapsed on the cat with a fatal bullet wound to his head. Beside him, still held tight in his fist, lay her soiled shawl.

Julia never married and lived in Roberts Creek until she passed away in 1989.

June 9, 1922

Dearest Julia,

Miles apart, days away
 But this love chiseled in my heart will stay.
 Wanting to grasp you close to me
 But knowing I can't oh why does this be?
 Every time I glance at your eyes so pure and blue
 I love my senses and want to be retained by you
 Craving to be in your arms, be held so tight
 Yearning yearning begging with all my might
 But I know this in no way will be
 You and me at once for all to see
 This, this, what it could be
 For this is forbidden love that captivates me.

- John

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.

JANUARY EVENTS

- Sun. Feb. 1.....Super Bowl Party - Garden Bay Pub
- Sat. Feb. 7.....Madeira Market - P. H. Community Hall, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Sun. Feb. 8.....Joe Stanton CD release party - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
- Tues. Feb. 10.....P. H. Women's Connection Meeting - P. H. School of Music, 10 a.m.
- Sat. Feb. 14.....Valentine's Day Tea - Egmont Community Hall, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- Sat. Feb. 14.....Valentine's Dinner and Dance/ Abbeyfield Fundraiser - P. H. Community Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Sun. Feb. 15.....Gaetan and the French Connection - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
- Sun. Feb. 15.....P. H. Music Society presents Daniel Bolshoy - P. H. School of Music, 2 p.m.
- Mon. Feb. 16.....P. H. May Day Committee meeting - P. H. Community Hall, 7 p.m.
- Tues. Feb. 17.....P. H. & District Wildlife Society presents Howard White - PHSS, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Feb. 21.....P.H.S.S. Fun Carnival - PHSS, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- Sun. Feb. 22.....P. H. Community Club AGM - P. H. Community Hall, 2 p.m.
- Sun. Feb. 22.....Mark Vance - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
- Mon. Feb. 23.....P.H. Health Centre Auxiliary meeting - P. H. School of Music, 1 p.m.
- Tues. Feb. 24.....P. H. Women's Connection meeting- P. H. School of Music, 10 a.m.
- Wed. Feb. 25.....Ladies Only Spa Night - Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre, 6:30 p.m.

MARCH

- Sun. Feb. 1.....Pender Harbour Paddling Society Open House - Garden Bay Pub, 1 p.m.

FERRY DEPARTURES

Effective September 2 - June 29, 2009

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

Langdale	Horseshoe Bay	Earl's Cove	Saltery Bay
6:20 a.m.	7:20 a.m.	6:30 a.m.	5:35 a.m.
8:20 a.m.	9:20 a.m.	8:25 a.m.	7:25 a.m.
10:20 a.m.	10:00 a.m. (Apr. 10 & May 18)	10:25 a.m.	9:25 a.m.
11:00 a.m. (Apr. 10 & May 18)	11:20 a.m.	12:30 p.m.	11:25 a.m.
12:20 p.m.	1:20 p.m.	4:25 p.m.	3:20 p.m.
2:30 p.m.	2:00 p.m. (May 14 / 15 only)	6:25 p.m.	5:25 p.m.
3:00 p.m. (May 14 / 15 only)	3:30 p.m.	8:20 p.m.	7:20 p.m.
4:30 p.m.	4:00 p.m. (April 9 only)	10:10 p.m.	9:15 p.m.
5:00 p.m. (April 9 only)	5:30 p.m.		
6:30 p.m.	7:25 p.m.		
8:20 p.m.	9:15 p.m.		
10:10 p.m. (Oct. 13 / May 18 only)	11:00 p.m. (Oct. 13 / May 18 only)		

Note: schedule differs slightly for Oct. 10 & 13, Dec. 24 & 26, Jan. 1 and May 18 -- see website.

♦ Daily except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1

* Daily except Sundays & Dec. 25





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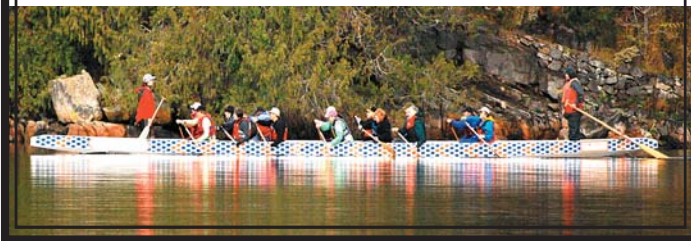
Sunday, March 1 at 1 p.m.

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Feb. 8 - Joe Stanton CD release party

Feb. 15 - Gaetan & French Connection

Feb. 22 - Mark Vance

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