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HARBOUR SPIEL

November 2025
Issue 419





We encourage everyone to come out on November 11 to support our veterans and honour their sacrifice.

The day's ceremonies begin at 10:30 a.m. with a solemn procession through Madeira Park.

It will continue to the Royal Canadian Legion No. 112 where Remembrance Day services will begin at 11 a.m.

Lest we forget . . .



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EDITOR

Brian Lee

CIRCULATION (2,300)

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

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

CONTRIBUTORS

This month we thank: John Dickinson, Leonard
Lee, Robert Livingston, Shane McCune, Isla
Mackay and Susan Marlatt.

COVER

BC Ferries *Malaspina Sky* rounds Fearney Point
Oct. 14 due to a three day re-routing between
Saltery Bay and Earls Cove while BC Hydro
dismantles overhead lines across Jervis Inlet.
(Brian Lee photo)

ADVERTISING

Please reserve before the 15th of the month
prior to publication. Advertisers make
publication of the *Harbour Spiel* possible
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Paq Press
4748 Hotel Lake Rd. (by appt. only)
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(604) 883-0770

editor@harbourspiel.com

www.harbourspiel.com

December issue mails Nov. 28

Advertising bookings before Nov. 15

editorial

An AAP shines a light on Area A's ROI



Brian Lee

I was close to finishing
this issue when someone alerted me to
a notice in the Oct. 17 *Coast Reporter*
of an SCRD alternative approval pro-
cess to borrow \$13.18 million on our
behalf (story, p. 8).

I was shocked.

I recalled receiving a press re-
lease on it but I ignored it.

Why?

Because the loan was needed to
build wells in Langdale that will feed
into the Chapman water system that
supplies the Lower Coast with water.

I assumed it didn't apply to us —
until I read the notice:

"The costs of the debt will be
recovered through the regional water
service parcel tax on those properties
that have access to SCRD water in the
water supply and distribution area."

The notice then listed Area A
(Egmont/Pender Harbour) as part
of this group and included Area A's
entirety in a map of the water supply
distribution area.

It seemed like Area A property
owners would be on the hook for an
average of \$97 per parcel annually
until the debt is repaid in 20 years.

I couldn't recall Keats Islanders
or Creekers chipping in for our ongo-
ing and expensive water projects but
it had been a few years since I paid
close attention to what service costs
are shared in the SCRD, so I delved.

On a tight deadline, I finally got
a response from the SCRD.

It turns out that, no, South Pender
and North Pender water service areas
will not be on the hook for this annual
tax hit.

And the confusion is Egmont,
Earls Cove and the SCRD's fault.

But mostly the SCRD's.

The SCRD has three water
service areas made up of seven water

systems, including:

- The regional water service area
which includes Chapman, Langdale,
Eastbourne (Keats Island), Cove Cay
and Egmont water systems;

- South Pender Harbour water
service area (McNeill Lake), and

- North Pender Harbour water
service area (Garden Bay lakes).

Both Egmont (Waugh Lake)
and Cove Cay (Ruby Lake) are small
water systems with about 118 service
connections combined.

The rest of the regional water
service systems supply water to over
10,000 homes from Halfmoon Bay to
Howe Sound.

Due to some complicated provin-
cial bureaucracy and because Egmont
and Cove Cay are our Area A breth-
ren, but also part of the Lower Coast's
regional water service, Pender Har-
bour must be included in the AAP but
is not responsible for the loan.

That's a relief for Pender Har-
bour but what about the poor suckers
in Egmont and Earls Cove?

They're forced to split a \$13 mil-
lion dollar bill for water they'll never
drink, 90 kilometres away.

To be fair, the regional water sys-
tem users share costs in Egmont and
Cove Cay too, which, with today's
safety standards and maintenance
costs, helps offset the burden carried
by a relatively small connection base.

But, if nothing else, this goofy
AAP brings up questions:

Considering the costly issues
with water down south, are Egmont
and Earls Cove getting value for their
contributions to regional water ser-
vice?

Would an amalgamated Area A
water service combining all four sys-
tems (S. Pender, N. Pender, Egmont
and Cove Cay) make more sense?

It would certainly be much less
confusing.

20TH ANNUAL SUNSHINE COAST BIOBLITZ KICK-OFF: Saturday, Nov. 8 (7 days), 10 a.m.

Come on down to Madeira Park on Nov. 8 to take part in the start of the week-long Sunshine Coast BioBlitz. The kick off event starts at 10 a.m. and runs until 2 p.m. at Earthfair Store (12902 Madeira Park Road)

The annual BioBlitz is hosted annually by the Loon Foundation and runs until Nov. 14. It's part contest, part scientific enterprise and part educational event. A BioBlitz brings together scientists, naturalists, and community members of all ages to count as many species from as many different taxonomic groups as they can in a timed survey of a chosen site. Focusing on observing and documenting as many species as possible, it intends to create a biological inventory for an area. At the Madeira Park kick-off, Loon Foundation staff will teach you how to use the iNaturalist app and sign up to the project, answer questions and jump start your observations by looking at organisms on display in the PODS showroom and Tranquility Garden. Take this knowledge and continue your observation journey throughout the Sunshine Coast. For more information, visit www.loonfoundation.org/bioblitz.

REMEMBRANCE DAY: Tuesday, Nov. 11, 11 a.m.

The Royal Canadian Legion No. 112 will host a full outdoor Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph in Madeira Park on Nov. 11. The procession begins its march towards the Legion through Madeira Park at 10:30 a.m. followed by the service at 11 a.m. The service at the Pender Harbour cenotaph will include a colour party, pipers, an emcee, chaplain and a number of local representatives. Poppies are now available and can be purchased by donation at local businesses and poppy sale tables hosted by Legion representatives near Marketplace IGA and the Marina Pharmacy.

ROTARY CLUB OF PENDER HARBOUR WHISKY TASTING: Saturday, Nov. 22, Doors 5 p.m., dinner 6 p.m.

This annual Rotary fundraising event is the only way to try a unique selection of fine whiskies paired with a five-course dinner. The tasting and dinner will be at the Royal Canadian Legion in Madeira Park. There are only 80 tickets available and each costs \$135. Partner tickets (meal only) are also available for \$90. It's a fun night with 50/50 draws, a silent and live auction and a wine raffle. For information and tickets, contact Jim McKnight at jamesfraser@msn.com.

Rotary Club of Pender Harbour presents

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Michael Jackson steps down from Loon Foundation

On Oct. 2, the Loon Foundation announced that Michael Jackson, its executive director, has retired.

Jackson steps down after 25 years as one of the original founders of the Ruby Lake Lagoon Society, builders of the Iris & Billy Griffith Nature Centre.

In 2020, the RLLS became the Loon Foundation and Jackson supplied much of the vision and leadership behind the PODS development planned for Irvines Landing.

Filling his shoes as interim executive director of the foundation is Lana Brandt, formerly the director of communications and marketing for the organization.

A resident of Gibsons, Brandt comes with 20 years of non-profit experience including stints working with the David Suzuki Foundation, Fish-Wise and the Rob Stewart Sharkwater Foundation.

Brandt told the *Harbour Spiel* that she has a six-month contract and they are currently “shuffling the team around” to fill her previous position while starting a recruitment process to find a new executive director.

After spending two decades in non-profit spaces, mostly in marine conservation projects, Brandt said it’s her dream to work where there’s an intersection of scientific research, culture and education, art, community connection.

“I’m so excited because this is such a pivotal time for the Loon Foundation and for PODS,” said Brandt.

“I think that everything that is at the heart of our mission, whether it’s the (Coastal Waters) monitoring program, education, youth and community engagement, it’s such important work and it’s all a pathway to PODS and it’s leading up to something beau-

tiful here.”

With plans and building permits in place, Brandt said construction at the PODS site will begin in early 2026.

The Loon Foundation has announced several times that ground-breaking would occur soon.

Jackson told the *Harbour Spiel* that construction would begin in the “fall of 2024,” (*Harbour Spiel*, July 2024).

On Feb. 27, the foundation announced it had received a building permit for the project.

In March, Jackson said (*Harbour Spiel*, April 2025 issue) he expected construction to “begin next month, if not sooner.”

Brandt understands why some are questioning the delays.

“I will say, it’s a huge project and with that there’s so many milestones that need to be achieved before you can actually begin,” said Brandt.

“I’d like to improve communications with the community on what those are because I think everyone’s wondering when they will see construction start.”

Brandt said the mass timbers, a key architectural feature of the buildings, are currently under construction in Squamish.

While the project’s momentum ensures it will move ahead without him, Brandt said Jackson’s departure



Loon Foundation

As of Oct. 2, Lana Brandt replaces Michael Jackson as the interim executive director of the Loon Foundation.

leaves a big role to fill.

“He was the dreamer behind all of this and made it possible,” she said.

So, we’re seeing it as the next phase to bring it to life.”

“The way I’ve come to sort of wrap my head around this is that it’s such a huge project and I think that the next phase of bringing it to life — milestones, fundraising, closing that gap — all of those things, it requires

(continued p. 7)




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HARBOUR SPIEL

trivia

1. What is the former name of Kleindale Supply, the mechanical parts store that opened in 1977?

- ☐ a. Pender Harbour Auto
- ☐ b. Pender Harbour Mechanical
- ☐ c. Pender Harbour Diesel
- ☐ d. Pender Harbour Nuts and Bolts

2. Name of Pender Harbour woman who went missing in February 1979.

- ☐ a. Julie Klatchen
- ☐ b. Barb Winters
- ☐ c. Ellen Klein
- ☐ d. Donna McIntyre

3. What is a sakinaw?

- ☐ a. Outflow wind from local inlets
- ☐ b. Sockeye salmon
- ☐ c. Nesting bird found in the Caren range
- ☐ d. Stratified freshwater and saltwater lake

4. How many distinct volunteer fire departments exist within Area A?

- ☐ a. One
- ☐ b. Two
- ☐ c. Three
- ☐ d. Four

5. What is the branch number of the Royal Canadian Legion in Madeira Park?

- ☐ a. 109
- ☐ b. 112
- ☐ c. 140
- ☐ d. 219

6. What time did the main hatchway give in?

- ☐ a. 1 p.m.
- ☐ b. 3 p.m.
- ☐ c. 5 p.m.
- ☐ d. 7 p.m.

Answers: p. 34

Four-plus: **Local**

Two-plus: **Newbie**

Less than two: **Townie**

Michael Jackson Loon walks (cont.)

(continued from p. 5)

maybe a different skill set.

“Plus, I’m assuming, that with his retirement, maybe he didn’t want to commit to taking on that next phase.”

Jackson confirmed that sentiment.

“Basically, I just came to the conclusion that I can’t go on forever, and I am 71 now,” Jackson told the *Harbour Spiel*.

“It was just that there’s so much going on now and that was one of the reasons that I was like really thinking about retirement.

“I was getting so stressed out — the workload was just enormous.

“I was just doing 12-hour days, back-to-back, over weekends.

“It was just an impossible amount of work.”

Jackson said he is also suffering a serious shoulder injury, which may require surgery and he decided it was time to pay more attention to his health and pass on the reins of the project that has taken up much of his life for the past decade.

“I just don’t think I have the gas left in me to go on,” he said.

Jackson helped form the Ruby Lake Lagoon Society in May of 2003.

Since that time, he estimates he and his colleagues have raised over \$40 million for projects including the Iris & Billy Griffith Nature Centre and PODS.

“There’s a whole new group coming in here,” said Jackson.

“They are active fundraisers and know what they’re doing.

“It’s kind of a younger generation coming in to take on the next steps and I think that’s absolutely fine.”

Jackson leaves proud of what

they accomplished.

“I remember when we first started planning discussions on PODS and I was at Pender Harbour and Area Residents Association meeting and I asked, ‘What do you want me to do with this project?’” Jackson said.

“They said, ‘Put Pender Harbour on the map.’

“I think we definitely did that.

“Everybody knows about PODS on the Coast and lot of people know about Pender Harbour now.”

Brandt and Jackson both told the *Harbour Spiel* that it was coincidence that weeks before his retirement, five of seven directors of the Loon Foundation also resigned.

Stepping down are Ryan Miller (chair), Locke Rowe (vice chair), Jim Cameron (secretary), Jeff McGuire (treasurer) and Rhian Piprell (director).

“It was a natural time for many of them to move on,” said Brandt.

“I think with PODS construction on the horizon and everything we need to bring that to life, it was just a natural time for this transition to take place.”

“A lot of them had been in their role for a long period of time and so it is a period of renewal.”

Their departures leave Brandt and two other directors, Brendan Glauser and Will Corse, to manage the foundation, overseeing millions of dollars in funding, until replacements can be elected.

Brandt said that will happen at the foundation’s annual general meeting on Nov. 29 at 11 a.m. at the PODS showroom in Madeira Park.

“We’re excited to connect with the community and provide transparency on everything,” said Brandt.

“There’s been lots of changes — from leadership to also, I think,



Loon Foundation

Michael Jackson, executive director of the Loon Foundation, stepped down as leader of the foundation and the PODS development on Oct. 2.

questions about why aren’t we seeing PODS being constructed.

“So, it’s going to be an exciting time to connect with and update the community and our members.”

A 3D digital tour of the PODS project is available on the Loon Foundation website at www.loonfoundation.org.

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AAP: Most of Area A will not pay for costs of Langdale well project

Some Pender Harbour residents were shocked to read an SCRD notice in the Oct. 17 *Coast Reporter* that seemed to include them in a Sunshine Coast Regional District alternative approval process to borrow \$13.18 million to build three wells in Langdale.

An AAP is a process where taxpayers submit a response form only if they are opposed to the borrowing and, in this case, it includes electoral areas A (Egmont/Pender Harbour), B (Halfmoon Bay), D (Roberts Creek), E (Elphinstone), F (West Howe Sound) and the District of Sechelt. .

The wells will contribute an additional 60 litres per second (5,184 cubic metres/day) once connected to the water system that serves the lower Sunshine Coast, but not Area A.

The SCRD has three water service areas with seven water systems:

- Regional water service area including Chapman, Langdale, Eastbourne, Cove Cay (Earls Cove) and Egmont;

- South Pender Harbour water service area, and

- North Pender Harbour water service area.

According to an SCRD spokesperson, all residents of Area A are eligible to take part in the AAP by submitting elector response forms but only those in Cove Cay (Earls Cove) and the Egmont water system will be responsible for the \$13.18 million debt repayment.

“This is due to provincial rules and the way the initial regional water service was established in the SCRD.

“The provincial rules specify that eligible participants are determined by the geographic area defined in the

original service establishing bylaw (SCRD Bylaw 1002) for the water supply and service distribution area.”

“While North and South Pender Harbour have since established separate water services, they still remain part of the initial service establishment for the water supply and distribution area and therefore must be included as participants in the AAP, but will not be responsible for repayment of the loan as North and South Pender water systems are each part of a separate and distinct service with their own parcel tax roll.”

If approved, the loan will result in an estimated annual cost of \$97.28 over a 20-year term for approximately 118 water customers in Egmont and Cove Cay and will be applied through the regional water service parcel tax until the debt is retired.

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**SUNDAY
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the Harbour Spiel's
new website
yet?

www.harbourspiel.com

Badley: More local driving frustrations

Editor,

Highbeams.

The little blue light on your dashboard indicates the high beam headlights are in use.

FYI, high beams are only used when there is nobody coming towards you.

See a vehicle approaching?

Go back to low beams so as to not blind the oncoming traffic.

Illegal headlight bulbs.

There are legal limits on how bright headlights can be, see the high beam issue above.

“But I can’t see at night,” you say.

Well, neither can anyone coming towards you.

If you truly can’t see at night, perhaps there is a problem with your eyesight.

Should there be an incident and

the oncoming dash cam records your illegal headlights, guess what, you’re screwed.

Speeding.

There are a few around that think they can drive at any speed they wish.

A couple contractors come to mind.

Getting your name in the paper because you mowed someone down will be bad for business.

These guys are getting paid by the hour yet still feel the need to blast around our neighbourhoods — slow down.

Driving too slow.

Mostly this applies to visitors, but... doing 20 km/h in a 50 zone is frustratingly slow.

I realize you’ve never seen the ocean before, but those of us that live here are kinda used it.

Want to gaze at the wonderment? Awesome, but please be aware the

vehicle behind you is just trying to get somewhere in a timely manner.

Pull over for a really good look and enjoy the views.

Walkers.

This is a day and night issue.

You look great in those dark colours but you’re invisible.

Dark colours against a dark background and in the shadows means we can’t see you.

A bright hat or even fluorescent wrist bands could save your life.

Best option is vizzly vest that you wear over your stylish outfit.

Please walk facing the oncoming traffic and look up as a vehicle approaches to make sure the driver sees you.

This could also save your life — especially just after the Legion has closed.

Ron Badley
Madeira Park

spiel archives - 10 years ago



Brian Lee

Captured on a GoPro camera are two humpback whales that came into Pender Harbour on Oct. 14, 2015. The two were feeding, continually diving and resurfacing, for about 20 minutes between Farrington Cove and the prawn plant on Francis Peninsula before heading back out past Irvines Landing.

November 2025



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An upwardly mobile landfill



*Leonard Lee
Area A director, SCRD*

Since 2011, people believed that 90 per cent of our garbage could be recycled, reused, or composted with an efficient resource recovery infrastructure, and we're still heading in that direction.

The recent water pond project at the Sechelt Landfill will extend its life until approximately 2031, but that looming expiry date demands an immediate solution.

The SCRD will undertake a vertical expansion of the Sechelt Landfill to extend its life about 30 more years, on the same footprint, at a lower cost, with easier permitting and with minimal service disruptions.

This provides us with a solution to our garbage problem until we can achieve our ultimate objective of reducing landfill volume by 90 per cent and we hope that continued and increased education, enforcement and diversion programs will significantly extend that 30-year lifespan.

Landfill expansion is the most cost effective at \$438.79/tonne and we still have one of the lowest disposal rates (kilogram/person of waste being landfilled) in the province.

Other considered options were ultimately trashed because of cost, time and other factors.

Lateral expansion of the landfill is feasible, but it's not supported by the landowner, the shíshálh Nation.

A new landfill site involved location constraints, high development costs and implementation would be

years away.

Exporting garbage from Hillside Industrial Park was considered because it has barge access, the SCRD owns it and existing industry would mask noise and odour.

We lack the volume to employ a waste-to-energy project, but a waste shredder could add an additional four years of life at a lower cost than exporting the garbage (\$451 tonne versus \$588 tonne).

We recently awarded contracts of up to five years to operate Recycle BC depots to Gibsons Disposal (\$3,281,508), Salish Environmental Group (\$1,085,832) and our very own Pender Harbour Recycling Depot (\$1,093,315) to ensure they continue to divert residential packaging and paper products from our landfill.

Diversion programs for furniture



Sunshine Coast Regional District

www.scrd.ca

info@scrd.ca

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



Board and Committee Meetings

Committee of the Whole
November 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Committee of the Whole
November 27 at 9:30 a.m.

Regular Board
November 13 at 1:00 p.m.

Regular Board
November 27 at 1:00 p.m.

Electoral Area Services Committee
November 20 at 9:30 a.m.

Budget Committee (Round 1)
December 1 at 9:30 a.m.

Budget Committee
(fees and charges)
November 20 at 1:00 p.m.

Budget Committee (Round 1)
December 2 at 9:30 a.m.

Board and Board Committee meetings are held in person in the Sunshine Coast Regional District Boardroom at 1975 Field Road, Sechelt, BC, online via Zoom, and live-streamed to the SCRD YouTube channel.

Zoom and YouTube links are available on the agenda page of the SCRD website at www.scrd.ca/agendas.

Your tax dollars, Your priorities

The SCRD is kicking off its financial planning process for 2026, and we want to hear from you! What services matter most to you? Where do you think investment is needed?

Your input will help guide decisions that can shape the future of our communities. To provide your feedback, visit letstalk.scrd.ca/budget

Are you in the North or South Pender Harbour Water Service Area?

How you are charged for water is changing in 2026. Volumetric billing will introduce quarterly billing for water with some charges based on your water use.

In the coming weeks, you will receive a "mock bill" — this is a sample of your new 2026 quarterly bill, showing how much water you use. Stay tuned for more updates from the SCRD before the real bills go out in 2026! For updates, visit letstalk.scrd.ca/water-billing

and ocean plastics will be considered for our 2026 budget.

SLAYING THE (WATER) DRAGON

The water dragon is one slippery beast so we won't slay it anytime soon, but we haven't quit trying.

Irresistible forces from inside and outside our communities have mandated updates to our water systems to a standard we never envisioned.

We expected to deal with infrastructure renewal, population growth, and backup sources, but we never imagined events beyond our control that dramatically increased our costs, such as escalating climate change, stricter fire-flow standards, skyrocketing construction costs, even more demands from senior governments, and the increasing threat of non-compliance fines.

It might seem hopeless, but we're chipping away at it as water continues to flow from our taps, and fire hydrants remain operational and our top-priority projects are either under construction or nearing that phase.

In 2018, the SCRD embarked on two grant-funded projects to replace failing watermain on Francis Peninsula (Pope to Rondevue Roads), Garden Bay Road and Claydon Road.

The work looked straightforward but the per-kilometre cost was much higher than estimated and by 2019, both projects were scaled back for lack of money, with significant lengths of the old watermain still in the ground.

The South Pender project, which included replacement of asbestos cement pipes, was stalled with a watermain break this spring that demanded immediate emergency work.

This increased the project's cost-per-kilometre by approximately 50 per cent, so we not only ran out of money

but had to convince the board to add \$90,200 to the paving budget.

Paving was authorized last month, with the intent of completion before year-end, but the Beaver to Rondevue Roads section can't happen until the board approves a supporting budget, hopefully in early 2026.

The North Pender project still needs watermain replacement along Panorama Drive, Panorama Place, the end of Garden Bay Road and part of Pool Road.

Prioritized sections of the project will proceed at the discretion of the SCRD, contingent upon available money.

We hope to see work begin in early 2026, which will reveal the actual cost per kilometre and refine our options.

North Pender's emergency generator, planned to be operational by fall, is expected closer to year-end as a design still must be provided for technical analysis.

The Dogwood reservoir construction and Cove Cay pump station upgrades should be completed in early 2026.

Some projects are being investigated for costs versus benefit and others because we want to avoid non-compliance fines.

Completion of a study and preliminary design for Egmont's water treatment plant is expected by the end of the year.

Predesign work for Garden Bay treatment plant upgrades likely won't make the year-end completion date target because of staff shortages (vacancies).

Deferment of a study and design to connect the North and South Pender water systems and a South Pender water-supply analysis pushed their original completion dates to late 2026.

CONTACT ME

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



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Everybody gets to eat: The PHSS hot lunch and breakfast program

Isla Mackay

Grade 12 student at Pender Harbour Secondary School

Imagine you're hungry.

Imagine trying to write a math test, do a chemistry lab and edit an English essay without breakfast.

And then, after, you have the 12-minute run waiting for you in phys ed.

Now, imagine that's been your life every day for the past five years.

We can't do our best work when we're hungry — it's biological.

The cost of not feeding children is greater than the cost of feeding them and by investing in the nourishment of our children, we invest in the future of our community.

As a student about to graduate from PHSS, I've seen how much food support matters.

I've also seen how fragile it can be.

A Feb. 2024 report by Nicholas Weswick, School District 46 secretary-treasurer, estimated that about 5.1 per cent of the 82 PHSS students, were "vulnerable."

A vulnerable child is typically defined as one who is unable to protect themselves and is dependent on others for sustenance and protection.

By November 2024, that number had jumped to 11 per cent — more than doubling in less than a year.

And, it's important to note that it's likely numbers don't tell the full story.

Many families face barriers to reporting their situation.

Based on what local volunteers and staff see every day, it's estimated that 25 to 30 per cent of PHSS students are living with some level of vulnerability.

Not every student is going to

reply to surveys as "hungry" because of the shame that surrounds food insecurity.

It means that in every classroom, some students are quietly facing food insecurity.

Some are forced to skip breakfast or come to school without a lunch.

According to Cheyenne Howitt at the Pender Harbour Community School, there are at least 8 different food and nutrition programs helping PHSS students and families.

Some reach as much as 70 to 80 per cent of our school community.

The hot lunch and breakfast program makes a huge difference, and all thanks to parent volunteers and the community school staff who are dedicated to ensuring a warm meal is provided five days of the week.

PHSS doesn't have a cafeteria, and there aren't many places nearby to buy a healthy lunch.

Rural distance, transportation costs and financial stress are all barriers.

Available Sunshine Coast data doesn't fully capture the situation in our area.

Pender Harbour isn't included in the Sunshine Coast Food Bank statistics counted from Gibsons to Sechelt.

That means poverty and food insecurity are under-represented locally, and likely higher than official numbers suggest.

This makes local programs even more important.

By feeding students in school, we help to close the gaps that bigger systems can miss.

One of the strengths of the PHSS hot lunch program is that it's open to everyone.

When food is available to all students, not just those who "qualify,"

the shame disappears.

Making food universally available also improves nutrition overall.

When healthy meals reach more students, they reach the ones who need them most.

It's community care in its simplest form.

On Nov. 19, I'll host a concert fundraiser from 7 to 8:15 p.m. at the Pender Harbour Community Church (13625 Sunshine Coast Hwy.), with all proceeds going directly to the PHSS hot lunch program.

Performers will include various Sunshine Coast musicians (pianists, violinists, guitarists, and ukulelists).

Pre-sale tickets will be available at the P. H. Community School and the PHSS by donation (suggested donation \$10- to 20 per ticket.)

Tickets will also be for sale at the door of the PHCC, neighbouring the high school, on the night of the event with all proceeds benefitting the dietary health of local students.



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The *Book of Gnome*: Season 4

John Dickinson

Once again, I placed a notebook in the trusted hands of the trusted gnome, a four-foot-tall wood carving at the Ruby Lake lookout on the Suncoaster trail.

People from the Sunshine Coast and travellers from across the globe took the time to describe the best advice they've ever received in their life.

The following are samples of what they have shared with the wise gnome:

KARLY & CALUM, (VANCOUVER):

Define your own success, don't follow someone else's.

CEM (TEXAS, cycling from Alaska to Argentina):

Find your flow and hike your own hike.

JOHN & LAURIE (SECRET COVE):

Send out love and it will come back tenfolds!

MC (RUBY LAKE):

Do something that scares you!

MARILYN (RUBY LAKE):

Progress, not perfect!

TIM (GERMANY):

Look out, the gnomes are always watching...

SILVIA,QUINTON & 3 DOGS (EDMONTON):

Don't focus on how others perceive you.

Focus on yourself.



John Dickinson

For the fourth summer, John Dickinson collected comments from visitors on the Klein Lake-Ruby Lake traverse with the help of Gnome.

COOPER & JAEDA:

Be fearless in the pursuit of what sets your soul on fire.

JESS, ANNIE & NATHALIE (SQUAMISH):

Life is better on a bike with a dinosaur strapped to the handlebars.

MARIAM, PETRA, & NEENYA (SECHLT):

If you have housework and chores to do, but you also have the chance to do something fun, do the FUN thing! Your housework will still be there when you get back.

ALI, LEE & SUNNY (SUNSHINE COAST):

Move to the Sunshine Coast!
You won't regret it.

TEAGAN & JADEN (SECHLT):

Be grateful, you are never promised tomorrow.

PRESH B (SAN JOSE, CA):

Do things in life that would make both your six-year old and 60-year old self proud.

MONTEITH FAMILY (KELOWNA):

You only accomplish your priorities.

BL (AUSTRALIA):

Have others help guide the way, but only listen to yourself.

You have all the answers inside. Trust yourself. You don't need permission from anyone!

JP & ALYSE, ONTARIO:

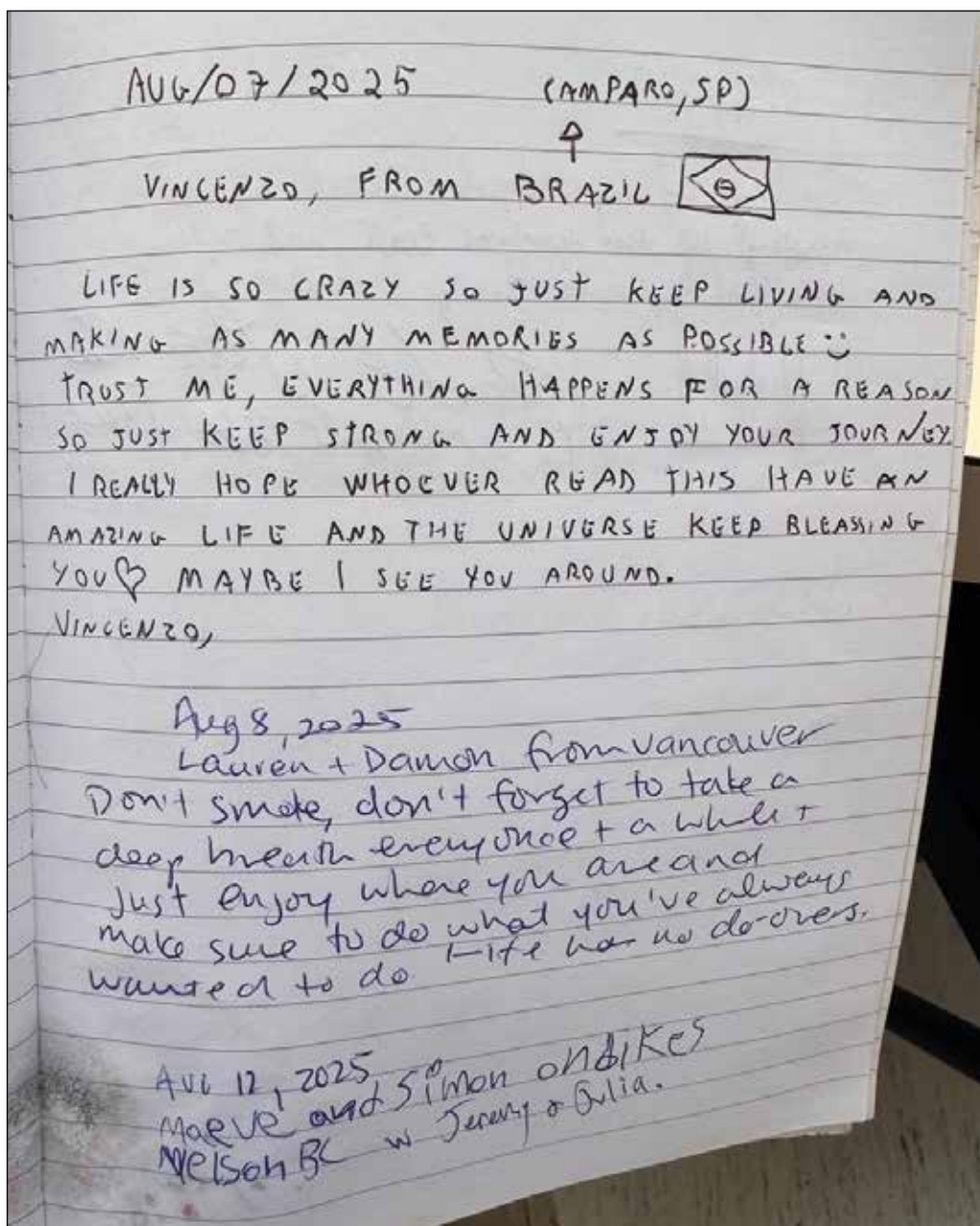
Life is a book, & you decide when to turn the page—knowing you can't turn it back.

BROCK (THE UNIVERSE):

So happy to see this journal carry on! It's about time people started taking life more silliously. I'm dead sillious.

Thanks friends! Long live the Gnome!

November 2025



John Dickinson

A page from the *Book of Gnome*.

*Pender Harbour Seniors Housing Society
Outreach Healthy Meal Program*



Healthy Meals service has resumed.

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Poul Larsen

JANUARY 31, 1940 — AUGUST 23, 2025



It is with deep sadness that the family of Poul Larsen announces that he died unexpectedly at Sechelt Hospital on Saturday, Aug. 23, surrounded by his closest family and friends.

Larsen was born in Fredericia, Denmark, to Karl and Erna, and had two younger brothers, George and Hans.

His professional life began at the age of 16 when he was hired as an apprentice in the press room of a local newspaper, thus embarking on a lifelong career in the printing industry.

Shortly after, he spent two mandatory years in the Danish army, returning to civilian life following his service.

Two years later, Larsen met his future wife and lifelong partner, Birgit, while they both shared the same commute on a local train.

Shy glances blossomed into marriage and the beginning of a lifetime of love and adventure.

Within weeks of their marriage, the young couple moved to Sweden to seek new adventures.

After three years of work at a local newspaper and experiencing the incredible northern lights, midnight sun, hiking and cross-country skiing, they longed for even greater adventure and decided to emigrate to Canada.

The couple arrived in Vancouver and both quickly found work in the printing industry.

Fate would intervene when they met Toby O'Brien, a recently widowed father of three young boys seeking assistance with raising his family.

They embraced this worthy challenge and moved in with the family in North Vancouver.

Over the next decade, they became de facto parents to Eric, Kevin, and Tim.

The bond formed during these years never diminished, and the family connection remains strong.

Larsen worked at the *Columbian* newspaper in New Westminster as press room foreman for 15 years.

The couple then decided to start their own business and Polar Printing began operations in North Vancouver where it became a fixture in the local community.

After a successful 20-year run, the business was sold to a close friend, and they embarked on a life of travel, adventure, snowbird winters in the sun and countless good times with great friends.

They spent their retirement years between their home in Garden Bay and their winter home in Palm Springs, all while travelling the world — planes, trains, automobiles, and

cruise ships — to many countries on all continents, often with friends.

Larsen loved nothing more than spending time with family and friends, regardless of the occasion.

Cooking meals, sharing good food, and enjoying fine wine were a big part of his life.

He always had a big smile on his face, was quick to laugh and eager to plan the next party.

Larsen's family would like to thank neighbours and first responders who assisted during this difficult time.

They also thank the kind, professional and considerate doctors and nurses at Sechelt Hospital.

A celebration of life for Poul Larsen was held in Pender Harbour on Oct. 3.

Royal Canadian Legion #112

Pender Harbour 2025 Poppy Campaign

Donations to our Poppy Campaign benefit our community:

In 2025, three bursaries were awarded to PHSS graduates.

2025 Poppy Campaign begins FRIDAY, OCT. 31

Please come to our Remembrance Day Ceremony on

Tuesday, November 11

Procession marches off at 10:30 am.

Service at 11:00 am.

Followed by refreshments in the Legion. Everyone welcome including children.

Wear yours proudly!



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

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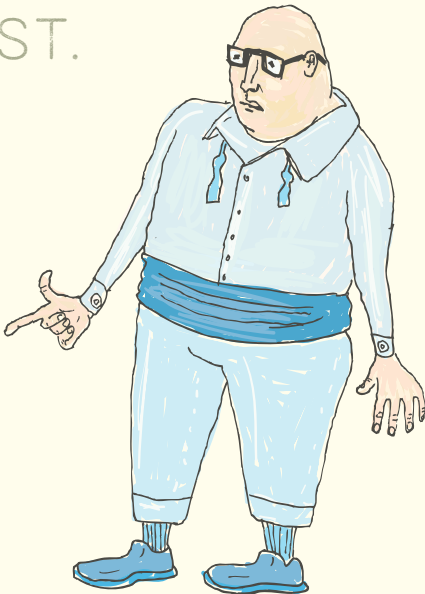
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Local health matters

2024 – 2025 P. H. Health Centre AGM in Review

The Pender Harbour Health Centre Society held their annual general meeting at the Pender Harbour Community Hall on Sept. 28.

Over 30 members of the Pender Harbour Health Centre Society were in attendance and heard all about the successes and challenges at your Health Centre over the past year.

Reports were provided by Diane Hopkinson, board president, Marilyn Duggan on behalf of the PHHC board treasurer, Nick Gaskin, PHHC executive director, Lisa Kennedy from Crowe and MacKay accountants and Lesley Durrant, board president of the Pender Harbour Health Centre Auxiliary.

Updates were given on the financial health of the society, operational highlights from the past year and plans moving forward.

The speakers also thanked and acknowledged the society membership and wider Pender Harbour community for supporting the Health Centre over the past year.

A special mention needs to go to the PHHC Auxiliary, their board of directors and volunteers at the Bargain Barn who donated a record \$60,000 to the health centre at the AGM.

We thank them for their continued dedication and support, and we thank the public who support the work of the Bargain Barn.

Also, at the AGM we said farewell to our treasurer Doug Cameron who had served on the PHHC Society board for 9 years and Pia Sillem who stepped down at the end of her current term.

The PHHC Society board, staff and patients send their heartfelt thanks Doug and Pia for their dedicated service and commitment to the



Pictured (l-r): Nick Gaskin, PHHC executive director, Lesley Durrant, PHHCA board president and Diane Hopkinson, PHHCS board president, with a cheque for \$60,000.

board and the Health Centre.

Given these departures from the board, the PHHC Society membership and board welcomed Diane Hopkinson and Lorna Young back for another term and Tracy McClelland, Michael Gunn and Jane McQuat Farrer for their first terms.

As you know, for the past 49 years the Health Centre has been a community-led organization, governed by an elected board of directors and supported by the society membership.

Next year we look forward to celebrating the Pender Harbour Health Centre delivering health and wellness services to the community for 50 years.

If you would like to become a member of the PHHC Society, then please reach out to Susan Campbell at the Health Centre at: susan.campbell@penderharbourhealth.com.

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organizations

P. H. MUSIC SOCIETY COFFEE HOUSE

The P. H. Music Society presents this month's School of Music Coffee House on Friday, Nov. 14. Playing are Joan & Ted and The Coast Fiddlers. The youth of the Coast Fiddlers perform often on the Coast and were at the Rocky Mountain Fiddle Summit in Calgary last April.

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

PENDER HARBOUR WOMEN'S CONNECTION

The Pender Harbour Women's Connection will not have a meeting on Nov. 11 out of respect for Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Legion.

Instead, on Nov. 25, the Women's Connection hosts an Autumnal Loonie/Toonie auction. This event is a fun way to support the Women's Connection who use the money raised to fund speaker honorariums and provide enjoyable activities. The PHWC will accept contributions of desirable articles that you have cherished but feel that it is time for someone else to enjoy. In turn, you will be able to bid on other items. Think of it as a pre-Christmas shopping spree for you, your home or for others.

Drop off articles or baked items (also included in the auction) on Monday, Nov. 24 between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. at the P. H. School of Music or, if you have suitable items but can't come Monday, please come early Tuesday morning. Doors will open at 9 a.m. on Nov. 25 with the event to begin at 10 a.m. A drop-in fee of \$4 includes refreshments.

P. H. COMMUNITY SCHOOL SPREADING KINDNESS FUNDRAISER

For the past several years, donations to the "Spreading Kindness Fundraiser" assisted local youth and families in need throughout the year and at Christmas by supporting the P. H. Community School youth and family support program. Funds are used to purchase essential supplies, food security support and to address specific needs of local youth and families.

The P. H. Community School can receive donations directly by e-transfer to spreadingkindness@pendercommunity.ca or by cheque, payable to Pender Harbour Community School Society with "Spreading Kindness" in the memo (5012 Gonzales Rd., Madeira Park, BC, V0N 2H1).

Or, in person, with cash, at the same address, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The P. H. Community School is the small building next to Madeira Park Elementary School. Contact lyncharlton7@gmail.com for further information.

2025/26
CONCERT SERIES

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Buy tickets online at PenderHarbourMusic.ca/concert-tickets or at Harbour Insurance in Madeira Park and Sechelt Visitor Centre. All concerts are held at the School of Music, 12956 Madeira Park Rd., Madeira Park.

Follow us on [@penderharbourmusic](https://www.facebook.com/penderharbourmusic) [@penderharbourmusicsociety](https://www.instagram.com/penderharbourmusicsociety)

PHWS presents Judy Myers: Dealing with invasive species in BC

Join the Pender Harbour Wildlife Society on Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. at Pender Harbour Secondary School for an engaging presentation by population ecologist Judy Myers,

Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity in British Columbia and beyond.

Why do they thrive so successfully in new environments?

How do we manage their impact?

Judy Myers is professor emerita in the department of zoology at the University of British Columbia.

She will explore the challenges and successes of dealing with invasive plants and insects, touching on natural declines, biological control and what we can learn for the future.

Myers' 35-year career at UBC as a population ecologist focused on

invasive species such as European cranefly, winter moth, knapweed and purple loosestrife.

She has studied everything from biological control to pesticide resistance, and co-authored *Ecology and Control of Introduced Plants* (Cambridge University Press, 2003).

In 2004, she was awarded the Entomological Society of Canada's gold medal for contributions to the theory and practice of biological control.

In 2014, she was elected president of the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution and served in that role until 2016.

Her other research passion has been the population cycles of the Western tent caterpillar, explored in collaboration with Jenny Cory at



Jenny Cory

Professor Judy Myers with a colony of Western tent caterpillars whose population biology she has studied for decades.

Simon Fraser University.

She also helped launch UBC's first conservation biology course and has been a strong advocate for women in science.

Doors open at 6:45 p.m.

photojournal



submitted

It's that time of year. What ever you call it — Ambush Alley, Ticket Town or Cash Only Corner, local organizations are staking out the corner between the IGA and the credit union while looking for fundraising support from Madeira Park shoppers. One day last month saw two very important community groups working the spot as Ron Cymbalist (l) of the P. H. Volunteer Fire Department sold fireworks raffle tickets (with customer Fred Lowther). Just around the corner were Donalda Brown (l) and Marlene Cymbalist (r) of the Pender Harbour & District Health Centre Auxiliary Society selling Bargain Barn raffle tickets.

PENDER HARBOUR AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTRE

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

GLOW NIGHT at the POOL!

Join us for an unforgettable evening of glowing fun!

Monday, Nov. 17, 5 – 7:30pm

Games, music, and glowing surprises await!

Don't miss it – fun for all ages! Lights out, glow on!

HOURS OF OPERATION:

POOL AND WET AREAS:

Monday & Tuesday
7am to 1pm
3:30pm to 8pm

Wednesday
7am to 8:30am
3:30pm to 8pm

Thursday
7am to 1pm

Friday
7am to 8:30am

Saturday & Sunday
10am to 4pm

WEIGHT ROOM:

Monday to Wednesday
7am to 1pm
3:30pm to 8pm

Thursday & Friday
7am to 1pm

Saturday & Sunday
10am to 4pm

Drop-in activities
are great way to
add activity to
your day in a
fun and social
setting!

MYPASS DROP-IN ACTIVITIES:

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

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

MYPASS MIX IT UP
Thursdays, 9am

MYPASS LAND MEETS WATER
Tuesday & Thursday, 10:30am

MYPASS AQUAFIT
Tuesday & Thursday, 9am

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL PROGRAMS!

Aquatic Leadership, Exercise & Fitness programs, Swim Lessons and more!

Visit www.scrd.ca/recreation-registration/ for more information.

Beginner Total Body & Core

Register in both classes and save 10% on the 2nd class!

- Tuesdays: 1 – 2pm (Nov. 25 – Dec. 16) — \$80 / 4 classes
- Thursdays: 1 – 2pm (Nov. 27 – Dec. 18) — \$80 / 4 classes

Iron Goddess: Women's Weight Training Level 1

Drop-in for \$17 / class, space permitting.

- Mondays: 12 – 1pm (Oct. 20 – Nov. 17) — \$75 / 5 classes
- Mondays: 12 – 1pm (Dec. 1 – Dec. 29) — \$75 / 5 classes

Iron Goddess: Women's Weight Training Level 2

Drop-in for \$17 / class, space permitting

- Mondays: 1:15 – 2:15pm (Oct. 20 – Nov. 17) — \$75 / 5 classes
- Mondays: 1:15 – 2:15pm (Dec. 1 – Dec. 29) — \$75 / 5 classes

Applications for 2026 LIFE Financial Assistance will be available in November.
Learn more about this program: www.scrd.ca/financial-assistance/



**PENDER HARBOUR
AQUATIC & FITNESS
CENTRE**

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

On lower level of
P. H. Secondary School:

**13639 S.C. Hwy.
604 885-6867**

www.scrd.ca/recreation

Mushroom Walk and Forage with John Field

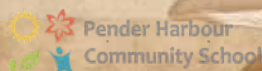
Saturday November 15TH, Time TBA

Pre registration required

Max. 20 participants

Donations encouraged but not required

Email virginia@pendercommunity.ca to register and for more details.



C.F.S.C. NOVEMBER 8TH 9AM-5PM \$200.00

OFFERED AT THE PENDER HARBOUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL.
SPACE IS LIMITED. PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL TO REGISTER.

C.O.R.E. NOVEMBER 21-23 \$250.00

OFFERED AT THE PENDER HARBOUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL.
SPACE IS LIMITED. PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL TO REGISTER.

PENDER COMMUNITY



604.883.2826

PHCS@DCCNET.COM

www.pendercommunity.ca

Seniors Helping Seniors

PENDER HARBOUR SENIORS INITIATIVE

Sponsored by:
Smart Fund



HARBOURSIDE FRIENDSHIP PROGRAM

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

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

Seniors' activities for November!

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

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

Nov. 6 – Oral health presentation by Jenna Phelps

Nov. 13 – Jeopardy done Harbourside Friendship style

Nov. 20 – Discussion/share - bring a topic, or an item to share

Nov. 27 – Free lunch for all who attend the "Dialogue circle/family history"

CARPET BOWLING: Wednesdays, Nov. 5, 12, 19 & 26

At the Pender Harbour Community Hall, 1-3 pm. Cost \$3. (No bowling Oct 15.)

CHAIR YOGA: Mondays & Fridays, Nov. 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24 & 28

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

CHAIR YOGA: Wednesdays, Nov. 5, 12, 19 & 26

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

pendar harbour tides ~ november 2025

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

Canoe Pass:



November	1AM	2AM	3AM	4AM	5AM	6AM	7AM	8AM	9AM	10AM	11AM	Noon	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
Sat 01	10.8	11.2	11.0	10.3	9.1	7.9	6.8	6.3	6.4	7.3	8.9	10.8	12.6	14.0	14.7	14.5	13.5	12.0	10.2	8.6	7.5	7.2	7.8	9.2
Sun 02	10.8	11.8	12.0	11.3	10.2	8.8	7.6	7.0	7.2	8.2	9.9	11.8	13.5	14.5	14.8	14.0	12.4	10.4	8.2	6.5	5.5	5.6	6.5	8.1
Mon 03	10.0	11.7	12.8	13.0	12.4	11.2	9.7	8.5	7.9	8.2	9.3	11.0	12.8	14.2	14.9	14.6	13.1	10.9	8.4	6.0	4.3	3.7	4.1	5.7
Tue 04	7.9	10.3	12.4	13.8	14.1	13.5	12.2	10.7	9.5	8.9	9.3	10.5	12.1	13.7	14.8	14.9	13.9	11.8	9.1	6.3	3.9	2.4	2.1	3.1
Wed 05	5.2	7.9	10.7	13.2	14.7	15.0	14.3	13.0	11.5	10.4	9.9	10.4	11.6	13.1	14.4	15.0	14.6	12.9	10.4	7.3	4.4	2.1	0.9	1.1
Thu 06	2.5	5.0	8.1	11.3	13.8	15.3	15.6	14.9	13.6	12.2	11.1	10.8	11.3	12.5	13.8	14.7	14.9	13.9	11.8	8.9	5.8	3.0	1.0	0.2
Fri 07	0.7	2.5	5.2	8.5	11.7	14.2	15.7	15.9	15.2	14.0	12.7	11.7	11.5	12.0	13.0	14.1	14.7	14.5	13.1	10.7	7.8	4.8	2.3	0.6
Sat 08	0.1	0.9	2.9	5.7	8.9	12.0	14.4	15.8	15.9	15.3	14.1	12.9	12.1	11.9	12.4	13.2	14.0	14.3	13.8	12.2	9.8	7.1	4.4	2.2
Sun 09	0.9	0.7	1.6	3.6	6.4	9.4	12.3	14.5	15.7	15.8	15.1	14.1	13.0	12.2	12.1	12.4	13.0	13.5	13.7	13.0	11.4	9.3	6.8	4.5
Mon 10	2.7	1.7	1.7	2.7	4.6	7.1	9.9	12.4	14.4	15.5	15.5	15.0	14.0	13.0	12.2	11.8	12.0	12.4	12.7	12.8	12.2	10.8	9.0	7.0
Tue 11	5.1	3.7	2.9	3.0	3.9	5.7	8.0	10.4	12.7	14.4	15.3	15.3	14.8	13.9	12.8	11.9	11.3	11.2	11.4	11.7	11.8	11.5	10.6	9.2
Wed 12	7.6	6.1	4.9	4.3	4.4	5.2	6.8	8.9	11.1	13.0	14.5	15.2	15.2	14.5	13.5	12.3	11.2	10.4	10.1	10.3	10.7	11.0	11.1	10.6
Thu 13	9.7	8.5	7.3	6.3	5.7	5.7	6.5	8.0	9.8	11.8	13.5	14.7	15.2	14.9	14.0	12.8	11.3	10.1	9.2	8.9	9.1	9.7	10.4	10.8
Fri 14	10.9	10.4	9.5	8.5	7.6	7.0	7.0	7.7	9.0	10.7	12.5	13.9	14.8	15.0	14.4	13.2	11.6	10.0	8.6	7.7	7.6	8.0	8.9	10.0
Sat 15	10.9	11.4	11.3	10.6	9.7	8.8	8.2	8.2	8.8	10.1	11.6	13.1	14.3	14.8	14.6	13.6	11.9	10.1	8.3	6.9	6.3	6.5	7.3	8.6
Sun 16	10.1	11.3	12.1	12.2	11.7	10.8	9.9	9.2	9.2	9.8	11.0	12.4	13.6	14.4	14.5	13.7	12.2	10.3	8.2	6.5	5.4	5.2	5.8	7.1
Mon 17	8.8	10.6	12.1	13.0	13.1	12.5	11.6	10.7	10.1	10.0	10.7	11.8	12.9	13.9	14.2	13.8	12.5	10.6	8.4	6.4	4.9	4.2	4.5	5.6
Tue 18	7.4	9.5	11.5	13.0	13.8	13.8	13.2	12.2	11.2	10.7	10.7	11.4	12.3	13.3	13.8	13.7	12.7	11.0	8.8	6.6	4.7	3.6	3.5	4.3
Wed 19	5.9	8.1	10.4	12.5	13.9	14.5	14.3	13.5	12.5	11.5	11.1	11.3	11.9	12.7	13.4	13.6	12.9	11.4	9.4	7.1	5.0	3.5	2.9	3.2
Thu 20	4.6	6.6	9.0	11.5	13.4	14.7	14.9	14.5	13.6	12.5	11.7	11.4	11.7	12.3	12.9	13.3	13.0	11.9	10.0	7.8	5.6	3.8	2.8	2.6
Fri 21	3.5	5.2	7.5	10.1	12.5	14.2	15.1	15.1	14.4	13.4	12.4	11.7	11.6	11.9	12.5	12.9	12.9	12.2	10.7	8.7	6.5	4.5	3.1	2.5
Sat 22	2.8	4.0	6.1	8.6	11.1	13.3	14.8	15.3	15.0	14.2	13.2	12.2	11.7	11.7	12.1	12.5	12.8	12.4	11.3	9.6	7.6	5.5	3.9	2.8
Sun 23	2.6	3.3	4.8	7.1	9.6	12.0	13.9	15.0	15.2	14.8	13.9	12.9	12.1	11.7	11.8	12.1	12.4	12.4	11.8	10.4	8.7	6.7	4.9	3.6
Mon 24	2.9	3.0	4.0	5.8	8.1	10.5	12.7	14.4	15.2	15.1	14.5	13.6	12.6	11.9	11.6	11.7	12.0	12.2	12.0	11.1	9.7	7.9	6.2	4.7
Tue 25	3.7	3.2	3.6	4.8	6.8	9.0	11.4	13.3	14.7	15.2	15.0	14.3	13.4	12.4	11.7	11.4	11.5	11.7	11.8	11.4	10.5	9.1	7.6	6.1
Wed 26	4.8	4.0	3.9	4.5	5.8	7.8	10.0	12.2	13.9	15.0	15.2	14.8	14.0	13.0	12.0	11.2	10.9	11.0	11.2	11.3	11.0	10.2	9.0	7.7
Thu 27	6.4	5.3	4.8	4.7	5.5	6.9	8.9	11.0	12.9	14.4	15.2	15.1	14.6	13.6	12.4	11.2	10.4	10.1	10.1	10.4	10.7	10.7	10.3	9.5
Fri 28	8.4	7.2	6.3	5.8	5.8	6.6	8.1	10.0	11.9	13.6	14.8	15.2	14.9	14.0	12.7	11.3	10.0	9.1	8.8	9.1	9.6	10.2	10.6	10.7
Sat 29	10.2	9.4	8.4	7.5	7.0	7.0	7.8	9.3	11.0	12.8	14.3	15.1	15.2	14.5	13.1	11.4	9.7	8.2	7.4	7.3	7.8	8.8	9.9	10.8
Sun 30	11.3	11.1	10.5	9.7	8.8	8.3	8.3	9.1	10.4	12.0	13.6	14.8	15.2	14.9	13.7	11.8	9.7	7.7	6.2	5.5	5.7	6.6	8.1	9.8



Brian Lee

For four days starting Oct. 14, the *Malaspina Sky* ferry that transits between Earls Cove and Saltery Bay took an alternate route around Nelson Island to avoid BC Hydro power line replacement work across Jervis Inlet. Here, locals were offered a rare sight as the *Malaspina Sky* churns past the Hodgson Islands and Fearney Point on her way to Earls Cove on the first morning of the schedule change.

harbour seals



Note your Harbour Seal of Approval or Disapproval.

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

Harbour Seals of Approval to the **Sunshine Coast Community Forest Legacy fund** and the **Sunshine Coast Foundation**, whose generous grants allowed the Pender Harbour Library to upgrade our single-paned windows to beautiful double-paned glass.

Seals also to **Modern Windows of Powell River** who honoured the estimate they provided one year ago.

Sylvia Showler

P. H. Reading Centre Society

A full belly of Harbour Seals to the **Rotary Club of Pender Harbour** and the **Pender Harbour Legion** for starting off the school year with donations to the PHSS hot lunch program.

And Seals also to **St. Hilda's Anglican Church** for sponsoring all of November's hot lunches. Thanks to these sponsors, the students really look forward to Wednesdays.

Anne Pino

PHSS PAC



RECYCLING & BOTTLE DEPOT

883-1165

ONE-STOP CONVENIENCE

- Multi-material recycling
- Beverage container refund centre

Plus, recycling of:

- Small appliances and electronics
- Household batteries
- Light bulbs and paint

Hwy. 101 & Menacher Rd.

OPEN: 8:30am to 3:30pm

CLOSED: Sundays, Wednesdays & all holidays

SKOOKUMCHUCK VIEWING TIMES NOVEMBER

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

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

- 1 2:01 PM +L
2. 1:28 PM +L
3. 8:33 AM -M, 2:04 PM +L
4. 9:42 AM -M, 2:28 PM +L
5. 10:40 AM -M, 3:06 PM +L
6. 11:31 PM -M, 3:47 PM +L
7. 12:19 PM -M
8. 1:08 PM -M
9. **8:06 PM +XL**, 2:10 PM -M
10. **9:00 AM +XL**, 3:15 PM -M
11. **9:53 AM +XL**
12. **10:45 AM +XL**
13. **11:34 AM +XL**
14. **12:18 PM +XL**
15. 12:56 PM +L
16. 8:16 AM -S, 1:29 PM +L
17. 9:13 AM -S, 1:57 PM +M
18. 10:00 AM -S, 2:24 PM +M
19. 10:41 AM -S, 2:59 PM +M
20. 11:19 AM -S, 3:27 PM +M
21. 11:57 AM -S
22. 12:36 PM -M
23. 1:17 PM -M
24. 2:10 PM -M
25. 3:02 PM -M
26. **8:07 AM +XL**
27. **8:50 AM +XL**
28. **10:24 AM +XL**
29. **11:02 AM +XL**
30. 11:40 AM +L

These are estimates only and not intended for navigation.



ISRAEL/GAZA CONFLICT

1,200

The number of people killed in the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks on Israel, mostly Israeli civilians.

251

The number of Israeli civilians taken hostage on Oct. 7.

66,000+

The number of Palestinians killed in Israel's military response to the Oct. 7 attack.

18,000+

The number of Palestinian children killed in Israel's military response.

30.8%

Percentage of Palestinians killed in the conflict, as of July 2025, who were under the age of 18.

150

The number of countries that recognize the State of Palestine of the UN's 193 member states.

2.1 million

The number of people in the Gaza Strip, a stretch of land surrounded by Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea that is 41 kilometres long by 10 kilometres wide.

2 million+

The number of Palestinians in Gaza caught in a humanitarian catastrophe, largely man-made famine.

9.97 million

The population of Israel as of 2024, of which 21% are non-Jewish.

~ BBC

NOVEMBER WEATHER

TEMPERATURES (MERRY ISLAND)

Our November average daily high temperature is 8.8 C and our average low is 5.2 C, giving us a daily mean of 7 C. The highest November temperature recorded is 15 C (Nov. 4, 1975); the lowest is -7.3 C (Nov. 27, 1985).

PRECIPITATION (MERRY ISLAND)

November averages 55.8 hours of bright sunshine and 19 days with precipitation. November's average monthly rainfall is 148.5 mm; snowfall is 2.5 cm. The highest November daily rainfall recorded at Merry Island is 50 mm (Nov. 3, 1989); snowfall is 9.6 cm (Nov. 25, 1985).

NOVEMBER ASTROLOGY



SCORPIO: OCT. 24 – NOV. 22

Scorpios are highly sensitive and compassionate, with a fierce pride and determination. People born under this sign are considered to be dynamic and extreme in their opinions. This month, the full moon in Taurus on Nov. 5 boosts your rizz levels off the charts. Use this time to get out there and make potential romantic partners understand why you're it. Your serenity and patience with people will yield rewards both professionally and socially. Pets will not share the same affection during this time.



SAGITTARIUS: NOV. 23 – DEC. 21

Sagittarians love excitement and adventure. They are easily bored but often trendsetters. They are bold and impulsive, natural explorers who thrive on change and mental stimulation. This month, the passage of Pluto in your astral sky will make you extremely irritable. People will not understand the effects the stars play on the Sagittarian and will assume you are just a jerk. That's OK because by Nov. 22, career opportunities abound and those critical of you will soon be awed by your accomplishments. Number: 34.

BC BESTSELLERS

For the week ending Oct. 18

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

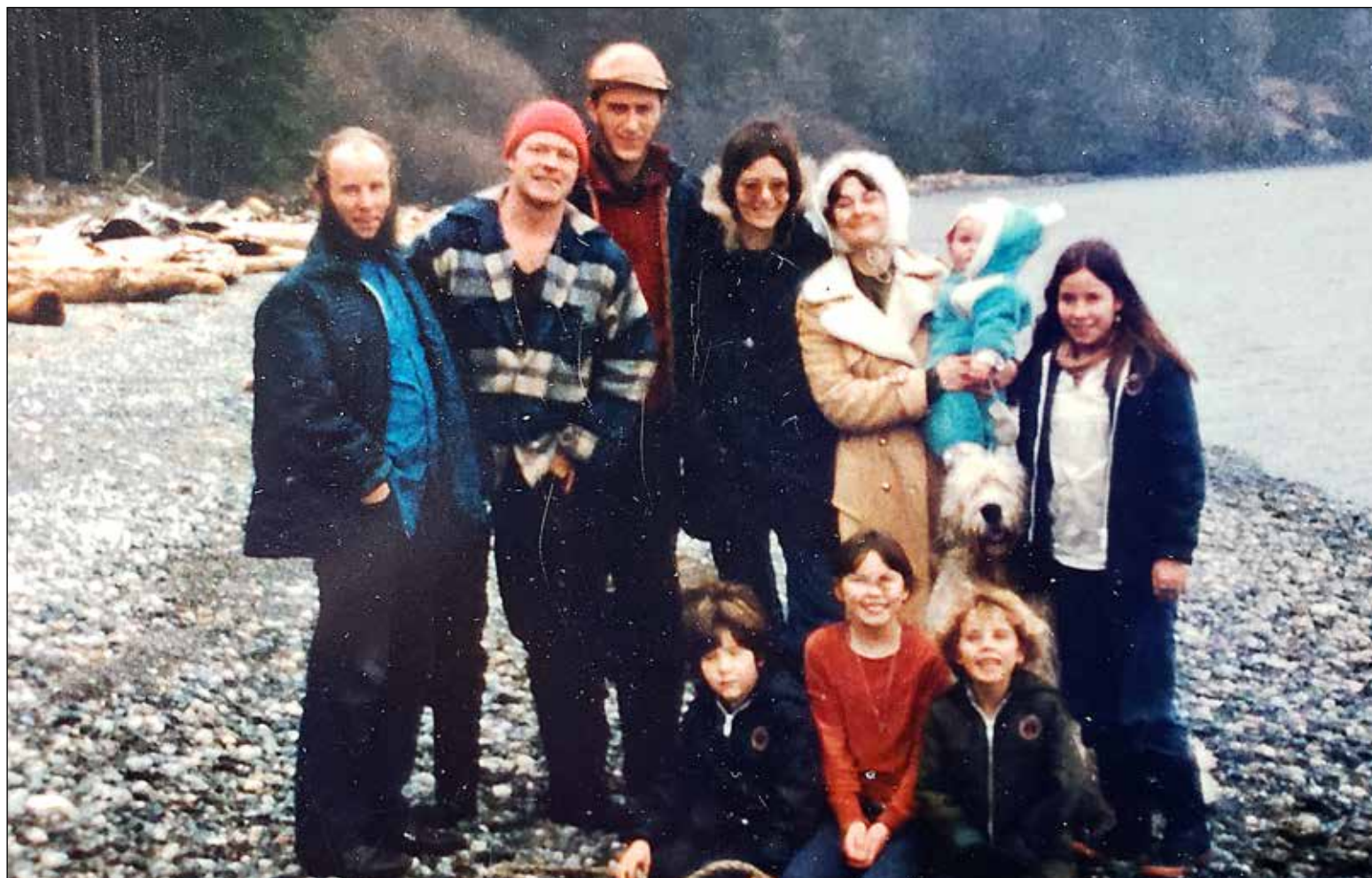
1. **A Season for Spies** by Iona Whishaw (Touchwood Editions)
2. **John Horgan: In His Own Words** by John Horgan, Rod Mickleburgh (Harbour Publishing Co.)
3. **Inquisitive Raven** by Richard Wagemese, illustrated by Bridget George (Douglas & McIntyre)
4. **Decolonization and Me: Conversations about Healing a Nation and Ourselves** by Phyllis Webstad, Kristy McLeod (Medicine Wheel Publishing)
5. **Indigenous Rights in One Minute** by Bruce McIvor (Nightwood Editions)
6. **I Won't Feel This Way Forever** by Kim Spencer (Orca Book Publishers)
7. **The Cost of a Hostage: A Lane Winslow Mystery** by Iona Whishaw (Touchwood Editions)
8. **Rufous and Calliope** by Sarah Louise Butler (Douglas & McIntyre)
9. **Swimming Holes and Beaches of SW BC** by Alex McKeen & George Harwood Smith (Greystone Books)
10. **Trading Fate: How a Little-known Company Stopped BC from Becoming an American State** by Graeme Menzies (Heritage House Publishing)

~ Association of Book Publishers of BC

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Nov. 2 ~ **Carrie Hillhouse** and **Charles Lee**.
 Nov. 3 ~ **Charlene Cote**, **Sue Rayment** and **Trevor Ross**.
 Nov. 4 ~ **Sandy Boyd**, **Brennan Bennett**, **Pressley Silvey** and **Daphne Taylor**.
 Nov. 5 ~ **Diana Degraaf**, **Colton Edwardson**, **Finnley Silvey** and **Tanis Zayshley**.
 Nov. 6 ~ **Kathie Atherfold** and **Max Scoular**.
 Nov. 7 ~ **Joni Mitchell**.
 Nov. 8 ~ **Eleanor Reid** and **Ryan Boyd**.
 Nov. 9 ~ **Candace Cruikshank** and **Matthew McKimm**.
 Nov. 10 ~ **Tom Duncan** and **Nicole MacDonald**.
 Nov. 11 ~ **Loretta McDonald**.
 Nov. 12 ~ **Roger Duncan**, **Dwayne Knock** and **Cooper Pantages**.
 Nov. 13 ~ **Hunter Edwardson**, **Tanya Cummings**, **Paul Jones**, **Darrin Jordison** and **John Maveety**.
 Nov. 14 ~ **Amber Kincaide**.
 Nov. 15 ~ **Josey Bennett**.
 Nov. 16 ~ **Janique Peters-Gray**.
 Nov. 17 ~ **Biada Priest**, **Rodney Kammerle**, **Lin Sullivan** and **Barb Watt**.
 Nov. 18 ~ **Steve McCanse** and **Amanda Ross**.
 Nov. 19 ~ **Cheryl Jensen** and **Dennis Levasseur**.
 Nov. 20 ~ **Jill Wagner**.
 Nov. 22 ~ **Jennifer Girard**, **Alysa English**, **Brooke Fraser**, **Anne Fraser** and **Mark Raaflaub**.
 Nov. 23 ~ **Dodie Edwardson**, **May Silvey**, **Dave Daiken** and **Wayne Griffith**.
 Nov. 24 ~ **Maggi Guzzi** and **Chase Campbell**.
 Nov. 25 ~ **Neil Remmem** and **Leah Pockrant**.
 Nov. 26 ~ **Gary Griffith**.
 Nov. 27 ~ **Betty Sladey** and **Natasha Landry**.
 Nov. 28 ~ **Tavia Chandler-Kwan**, **Ryder Noble** and **twins Paige** and **Lexi Pauls**.
 Nov. 29 ~ **Marie Coombes**, **Pete Hannah**, **John McDonald**, **Malcolm McDougall**, **Myrna Pickering** and **Kaila Silvey**.
 Nov. 30 ~ **Lori Clarke**, **Brayden Zayshley** & **Foster Willan**.

That time the Duval brothers stole my car



Susan Marlatt

The author and her south Texada Island neighbours ('pretty much the whole population of south Texada Island at the time') are standing (l-r): Keray Farrell, Joe Brown, Skinny Jimmy Dougan, the author, Margaret Dougan (holding Tilly) and Lisa Farrell. Seated (l-r): Yolann Marlatt, Kari-Ann Farrell and David Farrell.

Susan Marlatt

Some names in this story have been changed to protect the guilty.

Decades ago, I had an amazing opportunity to caretake a 40 acre, water-access only property on the southwest side of Texada Island.

Mary and Al Palmer on Jedediah Island and "Skinny" Jimmy Dougan and his family on Texada's southern tip were our closest neighbours.

The Jones boys, Bruce and Gordon, along with their parents, were culturing oysters in Skerry Bay, just across Sabine Channel on Lasqueti

Island.

Neighbouring Bull and Boho Islands also had caretakers.

Joe Brown and his wife had a miner's lease further up the coast and picked huckleberry greens for florists.

Aside from being paid caretakers, my partner Keray Farrell and I dug clams commercially to make ends meet.

I was paid to teach the four kids as well (see "Correspondence education for dummies," *Harbour Spiel*, May 2025).

It was a great little community and we happily visited one another by

boat and did frequent checks on various families by radio in the evening (see "The naked caretakers of Sabine Channel," *Harbour Spiel* June 2023).

Keray, my marine and parenting partner, and I lived and worked there with our four children from 1977 until early 1981.

It was during this time, about 1980, that our car was stolen from French Creek.

French Creek is close to Parksville and is a major boat basin for both commercial and pleasure craft.

Like most folks living on the outlying islands do, we kept a car in the

gravel lot there for our use when we visited the metropolises of Parksville or Qualicum or Nanaimo to shop, do business or whatever.

At that time here was no charge to park a car in this lot, nor was there any security, and theft was a problem — especially the siphoning of fuel out of the vehicles.

Honour among thieves dictated that the siphoners left enough fuel to get to the gas station on the way in to Parksville.

This seemed to work out OK and we all lived with this arrangement.

But, the theft of a whole car was rare.

On the morning of this particular ill-fated shopping excursion, our little blended family of children and both parents arrived in French Creek by speedboat prepared to launch a hectic day of foraging for necessary items.

These trips to Vancouver Island were quite infrequent.

Sometimes a few months passed between opportunities to get supplies that couldn't be grown or gathered.

These trips also provided a welcome opportunity to interact with the outside world.

It always surprised me that people found so much to do that involved driving around buying things.

But, as usual, we had a lot to accomplish that trip and the kids quickly spread out on the huge parking lot to locate our old white station wagon.

So much time had passed since our last trip off Texada that we couldn't remember where exactly we had left it.

"No car," was the report.

"It's not here."

How could that be?

It must have been stolen, but truly, could it have really been stolen?

The whole car, not just the battery or the fuel?

This was pretty bad news, but with little choice, we flagged down a ride into Parksville and reported the theft at ICBC (or whoever it was that insured and registered a car in those days).

Their reply was that we had not bought comprehensive insurance, which covers fire, theft, and glass.

So, the vehicle was not insured for theft.

Being survivors, we walked over to the bank and emptied the account, carrying on to the closest car lot that had another old station wagon available.

The new car was virtually the same as the stolen one and, \$400 later, we transferred the existing insurance onto it and moved on with our day.

Of course, we didn't bother with the comprehensive insurance option, which cost \$4 extra.

Many months later, friends on Lasqueti Island where we collected our mail and travelled frequently for all sorts of work and recreational events, reported that the Duval brothers from Parksville were bragging about stealing a white station wagon in French Creek.

The Duvals were then and still are a respected Parksville family, captains of the local logging industry who

are generally very well thought of.

There is even a Duval Street in Parksville.

Apparently, they coveted its valuable engine and junked the rest of it in a logging slash where their family was working.

Well, that was interesting information but what could we do with it?

In 1980, these four sons were all in their 20s and considered the whole area their playpen and that they were somehow permitted to behave badly.

I was in my early 30s, so not much older, but I had no family other than the ones living on a side hill on Texada Island.

Nothing much could be done from the Sabine Channel side of Lasqueti Island, water access only.

Time passed by, maybe even a year, before Keray and I were back in Parksville with the children captive in the back of the fresh station wagon.

Let's go for a beverage, we thought.

We parked behind the Rod and Gun, a historic hotel in downtown Parksville.

We left the children to entertain themselves while we had a rare social occasion at a pub.

In we go and Keray hisses, "There's the Duval brothers. Don't make eye contact."

(Continued next month)



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Sat. Nov. 1.....Halloween Howl Dance and Costume Extravaganza w/ Joe Rotundo - RCL 112, 7:30 p.m.

Sun. Nov. 2.....Live music with Martini Madness - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 2 p.m.

Mon. Nov. 3.....Pender Harbour food bank pickup - P. H. Community Church, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon

Wed. Nov. 5.....Full moon

Thu. Nov. 6.....Harbourside Friendships (Oral health w/Jenna Phelps) - P. H. Community Hall, 10:30 a.m.

Fri. Nov. 7.....PHSS class of 2026 "Beer and Burger" fundraiser - Ace's Clubhouse, 5:30 p.m.

Fri. Nov. 7.....Live Music with Eddy Edrik - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6:30 p.m.

Sat. Nov. 8.....20th annual Sunshine Coast Bioblitz kick-off (7 days) - Earthfair Store, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sat. Nov. 8.....Canadian Firearms Certification course - P. H. Community School, 9 .m. to 5 p.m.

Sun. Nov. 9.....Live music with Raspberry Jam - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 2 p.m.

Tue. Nov. 11.....Remembrance Day

Thu. Nov. 13.....Harbourside Friendships (Jeopardy) - P. H. Community Hall, 10:30 a.m.

Thu. Nov. 13.....SCRD committee of the whole - SCR D boardroom, 9:30 a.m.

Thu. Nov. 13.....SCRD regular board - SCR D boardroom, 1 p.m.

Fri. Nov. 14.....Live Music with Eddy Edrik - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6:30 p.m.

Fri. Nov. 14.....School of Music Coffeeshouse - P. H. School of Music, 7 p.m.

Sat. Nov. 15.....Mushroom walk and forage with John Field (contact the P. H. Community School)

Sun. Nov. 16.....Grey Cup Party - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 2 p.m.

Mon. Nov. 17....Pender Harbour food bank pickup - P. H. Community Church, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon

Mon. Nov. 17....Glow Night at the Pool - P. H. Aquatic and Fitness Centre, 5 p.m.

Tue. Nov. 18.....P. H. Wildlife Society presents population ecologist Judy Myers - PHSS, 7 p.m.

Wed. Nov. 19....Music for Meals fundraiser - P. H. Community Church, 7 p.m.

Thu. Nov. 20.....SCRD electoral services committee - SCR D boardroom, 9:30 a.m.

Thu. Nov. 20.....Harbourside Friendships drop-in (discussion/share) - P. H. Community Hall, 10:30 a.m.

Fri. Nov. 21.....Live Music with Eddy Edrik - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6:30 p.m.

Sat. Nov. 22.....Rotary Club of Pender Harbour Paired Whisky Tasting - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6 p.m.

Sun. Nov. 23.....P. H. Music Society concert series "Buddy Holly Tribute" - P. H. School of Music, 2 p.m.

Sun. Nov. 23.....Live music with Magic Carpet Ride - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 2 p.m.

Tue. Nov. 25.....P. H. Women's Connection Autumnal Loonie/Toonie Auction - P. H. School of Music, 10 a.m.

Thu. Nov. 27.....SCRD committee of the whole - SCR D boardroom, 9:30 a.m.

Thu. Nov. 27.....Harbourside Friendships drop-in (free lunch/dialogue circle) - P. H. Community Hall, 10:30 a.m.

Thu. Nov. 27.....SCRD regular board - SCR D boardroom, 1 p.m.

Fri. Nov. 28.....Live Music with Eddy Edrik - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 6:30 p.m.

Sun. Nov. 30.....Live music with Spindrift Street - Royal Canadian Legion 112, 2 p.m.

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

"All warfare is based on deception."

~ Sun Tzu

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To my valued patients:

After 23 years of dedicated service to the community, I am announcing my retirement from Pender Harbour Dental at the end of December.

It has been an honour to be your dentist and I cherish the lasting relationships I have made.

I am deeply grateful for your trust and support over the years and, as I step into this new chapter, I am confident that Dr. Hynd, Dr. Sinkovics and the rest of the Pender Harbour Dental team will continue to provide you with exceptional care.

Our team is committed to ensuring a seamless transition and your records will remain secure. For those who had work they wanted to get completed, please contact our office as soon as possible — Anne and Kamila are ready to answer any questions you may have.

~ Dr. Lisa Virkela

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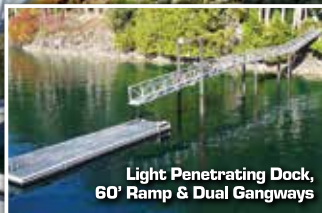


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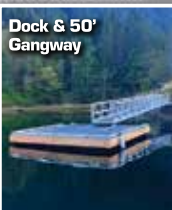
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