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HARBOUR SPIEL

JANUARY 2011
Issue 241



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- Mountainview Service
- Oak Tree Market
- Pier 17 (Davis Bay)
- Sechelt Public Library

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This month we thank: Anne Crocker, Doug Elliott, Mary Findlay, Theresa Kishkan, Shane McCune, Alan Stewart, John Wade and Jan Watson.

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~ NEXT ISSUE MAILS FEB. 3 ~

EDITORIAL

Mountain Minnie and the Cougar Lady

By Brian Lee



As kids, they held a predictable fascination for us.

The Solberg sisters, Bergie and Minnie, were a rare spectacle that brightened any trip to Sechelt. (See story p. 14.)

We knew them as the Cougar Lady and Mountain Minnie and my memory says they often stood outside the Bank of Montreal looking for a ride.

For those who didn't experience Sechelt in the late seventies, it wasn't the metropolitan centre it is now.

But even then, in those rough frontier times, the Solbergs stood out like a pink shirt at the Roost.

I still see Bergie standing on the sidewalk clad in animal hide and work-clothes, wearing her trademark leather hat and knife on her hip.

Even a seven-year-old kid could tell she was the real deal.

At an age when fantasies of cow-boys and traplines reigned as the ideal lifestyle pursuit, Bergie and Minnie were Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett.

And they were women.

As we'd drive by, some sibling would point and squeal, "The Cougar Lady!"

I'm sure we weren't the only ones who gawked but I wonder now what she might have thought of us, three slack-jawed heads rotating around the windows of the car as it passed.

She probably didn't care.

Raised by her father in a cabin up the inlet, she wasn't inclined to worry about what others thought.

Those kinds of sensitivities are taught and she attended a very different school than most.

The Solberg sisters were hold-overs from a time when people didn't Tweet about who Taylor Swift was dating or worry that their lives were somehow incomplete without a high definition TV.

I'd like to say our gaped awe sprang from respectful adulation but I'm inclined to think it was closer to the childish insensitivities we're all guilty of at one time or another.

We likely saw her as a freak or an oddball. Probably crazy too.

We have a hard time tolerating characters who stray outside the norm.

One might expect the explosion of TV and internet would have broadened our tolerance of eccentrics but the opposite seems to be true.

The information age seems to have enabled this pop culture pasteurization to take place on an even larger scale.

We value style over substance more than ever and the reason is simple — style's easier to sell.

I'm not advocating that clothing should come from the cougars we shoot but it doesn't hurt anyone to come across a Bergie or Minnie once in awhile.

Real characters like the Solberg sisters shed light on our own artifice and trivial fancies.

They're like a signpost on a busy road telling us how far we've travelled from home.

Correction: Last month's editorial ("It's nothing to be ashamed about..."), wrongly labelled local fire chief Black Bill as a victim of November's slippery roads. In the Spiel's defense, a usually reliable source also identified the vehicle in question to be Black's but further investigation revealed it to be that of an imposter. (Legal counsel has directed me to refrain from any further comments until litigation is completed.) ~ Ed.

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if it's not in the Spiel.**

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MADEIRA PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS:

The students of MPES thank the following businesses
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NEXT GENERAL PAC MEETING:

Thursday, Jan. 13 @ 6:30 in the MPES Library.



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SPIEL PICKS

P. H. ROTARY PRESENTS "HOP SCOTCH" — JAN. 15

The Bad News: On Nov. 27, a couple of hours before the start of Pender Harbour Rotary's annual scotch-tasting fundraiser at the Pender Harbour Golf Course, the power went out from the Pender Harbour High School north. Tables were set, supplies were purchased and people were on their way to the event when organizers had to pull the plug.

The Good News: Organizers have regrouped and rescheduled Hop-Scotch for Jan. 15, again at the Pender Harbour Golf Course, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$90 and include an evening of great food, fine scotches and craft beer. Bus service is available to get home and it's all for a good cause.

P. H. MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS JOEL FAFARD — JAN. 16

With a Juno nomination, a Western Canadian Music Award, two WCMA nominations and two Canadian Folk Music Award nominations to his credit, Joël Fafard has proven that he can take a niche genre like instrumental guitar music and make a significant name for himself. Fafard performs at the Pender Harbour School of Music on Sunday, Jan. 16 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and available at Harbour Insurance (Madeira Park), John Henry's (Garden Bay), Visitor Info Centre (Sechelt) and Gaia's Fair Trade (Gibsons).

PHOTOJOURNAL



It's the time of year when thoughts turn to the local food bank. The Pender Harbour Food Bank has benefited from an unlikely rivalry over the past couple of years between the IGA staff and the Pender Harbour Women's Connection. The Pender Harbour Women's Connection raised \$620 at a recent luncheon while the IGA staff raised \$760 at their Christmas party. (l-r) Sue McDonald and Linda Pearson (P. H. Women's Connection), Wendy Phillips (P. H. Food Bank) and Troy Callewaert (IGA). By Dec. 12, the IGA had collected over 39 hampers of food and received \$1,000 from an anonymous donor on behalf of the food bank.

SCRD board mulls plans for Area A resource recovery facility

The vision for Pender Harbour's resource recovery facility is slowly taking shape as it moves through various stages of consultation and planning.

Last year the SCRD board resolved to convert the Pender Harbour Landfill into a waste transfer facility once it reached final capacity.

At that time, staff were directed to explore options to provide enhanced recycling and resource recovery services in order to minimize the amount of waste transferred to the Sechelt Landfill.

Dion Whyte, SCRD manager of sustainable services, submitted a staff report on the progress of the resource recovery facility to the Dec. 2 infrastructure services committee meeting.

Whyte's report summarized the recommendations that came from a two-day planning workshop held last July in which an SCRD board-appointed technical design team developed a "draft conceptual plan."

In his report, Whyte stressed that the conceptual plan includes "the overall vision, principles and design concepts" but does not look at financial or business details that will be involved in its implementation.

"It is recognized that additional work is required to examine associated costs and benefits," wrote Whyte.

The technical design team recommended the development of a "one stop drop" resource recovery facility that would be publicly owned (SCRD) but rely on private and/or not-for-profit sector operation.

The document recommends accepting a full range of recyclables and organics with a design based on five material clusters: reuse and repair, organics (composting), recycling, construction and demolition materials and regulated materials (including



It doesn't look like much but this spot just off the dump road in Kleindale is being considered as a potential site for Pender Harbour's resource recovery facility.

chemicals).

The plan also recognized the challenge of siting the facility, noting a central, high-traffic location like Madeira Park would be preferred but less cost effective than maintaining the facility at the present landfill site.

The report indicates that a possible location for the site could be at the start of the landfill road where it connects to Garden Bay Road.

The SCRD currently holds a Licence of Occupation of Crown Land for storage of derelict vehicles there. The terms of that licence would have to be amended if that site was chosen

for the facility.

SCRD staff hope to have a budget package detailing costs for locating the RRF at the Garden Bay Road site available later this month followed by a public consultation process beginning in April.

Depending on the results of that consultation, the report predicts groundbreaking could begin at the Garden Bay Road site later this year.

The report adds that if it is decided that an alternate location is preferred, detailed planning would then be needed to inform the 2012 budget.

Proud sponsors of Abbeyfield House Dinners for Donors campaign: 142 bricks sold to date!



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Serendipity Preschool receives licence to provide daycare services

It's more than just a new name.

The Serendipity Preschool is now called the Serendipity Child Care Centre because the non-profit society that operates the Madeira Park facility applied for and received a new licence this past September.

The new licence allows the society to offer full daycare as well as the current preschool program.

Board chair and parent Jessica Grohs says they currently have four staff members and are increasing the operating hours as enrolment allows.

Grohs says they hope soon to offer full-time services of 40 hours per week.

The centre is currently open for a full day on Tuesdays and Thursdays and a half day on Fridays.

Grohs says they can accept 13 children at a time between the ages of 2½ years old and five.

Serendipity Preschool was founded in 1972 by local parents.

Initially the school operated in the former Royal Canadian Legion building before moving to the annex



The Serendipity Child Development Society moved the preschool to this former forestry building in 1987.

in the Pender Harbour Community Hall.

In 1978, the Serendipity Child Development Society was formed to oversee the running of childcare programs.

After the move to the present location on the former forestry site in

1987, Serendipity amalgamated with the Madeira Park Child Care Centre to offer daycare and out-of-school programs.

Low enrolment forced the society to return to a preschool-only program.

SPORTS

Bananas bruised by Chiefs

After 12 straight victories, the Pender Harbour Bananas' win streak is over.

The Sechelt Chiefs gave the top team in the league a 6-1 drubbing at Ted Dixon Field on Dec. 12.

It was the first time the two teams have met since last year's championship final when the Bananas shocked everyone by beating the Chiefs in overtime.

Since then, the Bananas have been unstoppable, victorious over every team in the league — except one.

"We were just mediocre," said Rod Kammerle, who scored the first goal of the game — which turned out

to be the only one knocked in for the Bananas that day.

"If we played defence more it probably only would have been 2-1."

Until this game, the Sechelt Chiefs have had only 2 wins and one of the highest goals against averages.

But injuries whittled the Bananas lineup down to 11 players while their opponents brought 16.

"We're a pretty good team when we have everybody there but we were pretty mediocre that day," says Kammerle, adding that attendance at practice has been poor lately.

"Whatever. We'll come back."

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Don't mind the sign. The Pender Harbour Reading Centre Society, with the help of donations from Rotary International's eClub One and the Pender Harbour Legion, now provides a computer with internet connection. The Sechelt Library is supporting the move to library internet access by paying the additional monthly cost of connection. Earlier this year, the Sechelt Library supported the Pender Harbour Reading Centre by offering weekly delivery service of requested books from Sechelt. They continue to pay the cost of this service. The Pender Harbour Reading Room's computer will offer courses on accessing library resources and other sources on the BC Library Service site beginning next month.

Make your next trip to the city a lot easier

Direct flights from Sechelt to Downtown Vancouver, Richmond and Nanaimo.

A photograph of a white and green seaplane with "WESTCOAST AIR" and "C-FWAC" on its side, flying over a blue body of water with a forested shoreline in the background.



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Herring spawning habitat improvements underway

Experimental efforts are underway to bolster local herring stocks by improving their spawning habitat.

Jon Paine is heading up a local group sponsored by the Pender Harbour Rotary Club after listening to a presentation by Dr. Jonn Matsen.

Matsen is a member of the Squamish Streamkeepers and attended a Pender Harbour Rotary meeting where he spoke of his group's success at improving the survival rate of spawning herring.

Matsen's group found the lack of natural spawning surfaces was likely contributing to the depletion of local stocks.

They also noted the tendency of herring to spawn on the smooth — but toxic — creosote pilings.

They found the survival rate could be improved by introducing an alternative spawning surface that imitates natural plants like eel grass.

Paine's group hopes to emulate that success and have something similar in place by the new year.

The Pender Harbour Rotary Club kicked in \$1,000 to cover expenses



Jonn Matsen photo

Squamish Streamkeeper Dr. Jonn Matsen inspects the successful result of work at Squamish Terminals in February 2009.

and Fisheries and Oceans Canada donated 300 feet of the landscape material.

Volunteers modified the sheets so lead and cork lines could be attached allowing the vertical curtains to hang in the water like a gillnet.

"At first we were thinking we

could do this at all the docks in the Harbour eventually but apparently herring are like salmon," says Paine.

"They're used to coming back to the same place so you want to start somewhere and make sure they're successful. You don't want herring spawning all over the place without getting fertilized."

Agreements are in place to set approximately 160 feet of curtain at the Garden Bay Pub dock, 70 to 100 feet on Ian and Evelyn McNee's dock in Whiskey Slough and 40 to 80 feet on the White's dock in Bargain Bay.

That totals approximately 300-feet of herring curtain giving 3,000 square feet of spawning surface.

The locations were chosen because it's known that the herring have spawned in those areas in the past and there's minimal boat traffic to disturb them.

"You know it's one of those things where there's no downside," says Paine.

"The only downside might be if we put a little bit of effort into it and it

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doesn't work."

But Paine says it will take a while before they find out if that work has paid off.

"They take three years to mature and spawn again but then they can live 12 to 15 years," he says.

"So you can imagine, if we're successful three years in a row, you're going to start to see increasing numbers coming back and then it should just bloom."

And after Matsen's presentation, Paine is optimistic it will work.

"If we do all sorts of things to improve the streams for spawning salmon but there's no feed anywhere, the little guys come out of the creek and they have nothing to eat," says Paine.

"So it's like having a party — if you put the food here, everybody comes to the party.

"So I think we'll get more salmon too."



Jonn Matsen photo

Herring are resilient and will spawn on anything that seems suitable. This photo showing a heavy spawn on seaweed covered rocks was taken in False Creek.



Jonn Matsen photo

Herring roe spawned on kelp (left) and herring roe spawned on creosote (right).

2010 HARBOUR SPIEL RETROSPECTIVE



The Memory Lane Thrift Store was shortlived. (January)



2011 was the year of the landfill as residents and politicians debated its fate. (February)



Pender Harbour Bananas win Sunshine Coast men's soccer championship. Heads swell, many don't recover. (May)



April Tools Wooden Boat Challenge proved just that for some. (May)



Past and present May Queens came together for Pender Harbour's 65th May Day. (June)



The start of the women's final, Attack of Danger Bay 9. (June)



A hiker enjoys a solitary moment on the Middlepoint section of the recently completed Suncoaster Trail. (November)



Area A finally got its bus on the road Sept. 1. (October)

2010 HARBOUR SPIEL RETROSPECTIVE



Egmont lost power. Again. (February)



The Olympics came to town. People got silly.(March)



The newly renovated Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre reopened April 17, 2010 (May)



With all of the logging trucks on the highway in 2010, one had to go down eventually. (March)



The ladies behind *Women of Pender Harbour* at their *Bluewaters Books* launch on May 29. (June)



Madeira Park Elementary School Sports Day. (July)



Over 400 riders rolled through local trails during the fourth stage of the BC Bike Race. (August)



Kelly Kammerle photo

Pender Harbour Secondary School's graduating class of 2010. (August)

When it comes to functions, you don't always get what you pay for



*By Eric Graham
SCRD Director,
Area A*

P. H. READING ROOM AND SECHELT LI- BRARY

All public libraries in B.C. are free to patrons.

To access any public library in BC, one must have a free membership card.

The Sechelt Public Library has

setup a computer at the P. H. Reading Room (located in the former forestry complex in Madeira Park) which provides access to over 40,000 items, 15,000 ebooks and audiobooks as well as auto repair, consumer health and business source information.

Physical items such as books and DVDs can be browsed with the online catalogue delivered to Pender Harbour Reading Room through the courier at no cost to the library card member.

To promote literacy and enjoy-

ment of reading, BC libraries support free access to information for all age groups and I encourage everyone to use this new service.

After all we are paying for it in our taxes.

Our reading room is completely run by volunteers and Area A pays \$500 per year and offers free rent to support them.

We are totally grateful to their dedication and hard work.

All areas on the Sunshine Coast,



MEETINGS AT 1975 FIELD ROAD

Special Community Services Committee
January 6 at 10:30 a.m.

Infrastructure Services Committee
January 6 at 1:30 p.m.

Policing Committee
January 10 at 9:00 a.m.

Transportation Committee
January 10 at 10:30 a.m.

Planning and Development Services Committee
January 13 at 1:30 p.m.

Regular Board
January 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Community Services Committee
January 20 at 1:30 p.m.

Corporate and Administrative Services Committee
January 27 at 1:30 p.m.

Regular Board
January 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunshine Coast Regional District

AREA A - ADVISORY PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting of the Egmont/Pender Harbour Advisory Planning Commission is on Wednesday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m. at Pender Harbour High School, Room 107.

SCRD STRATEGIC PLAN

The updated SCRD Strategic Plan is now available. The Strategic Plan focuses on three key strategic directions and identifies three overarching principles that will guide decisions within the organization. Visit www.scrd.ca to view the Strategic Plan.

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Area A - Director Contact Information

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

except Area A, are included in the SCRD's budgetary library function.

In 2010, Area A voluntarily paid \$23,744 to the Sechelt Public Library for the estimated number of people from our area that use the library.

Halfmoon Bay is in the Library Function and in 2010 paid \$112,145 and Sechelt paid \$372,647 toward the Sechelt Library.

With this added service (ordering books etc. online from the Pender Reading Room) we will have to pay more and negotiations are continuing.

Hop on the bus — it takes you almost to the front door of the Sechelt Library.

It's open every day except Sunday. Check out their website at www.sechelt.bclibrary.ca

DAKOTA RIDGE SKI AREA

All eight areas of the SCRD pay into this function by assessments with a total budgeted amount for 2010 of \$167,756.

Area A pays 17 per cent of the cost and in 2010 it worked out to be \$28,331.

Area B (Halfmoon Bay) pays 11 per cent or \$18,804.

This function was started in 2006 and had problems getting started and a debt had to be carried forward each year.

We had to either close it down, shorten the season or increase the maximum allowable tax levy.

So the allowable tax levy was increased for 2011 in the approximate amount of \$18,000 (Area A's increased portion \$3,060).

This will allow Dakota Ridge to remain open for this season, pay off the debt and cover shortage in revenue (daily ticket sales).

There were strongly worded

comments from some directors to SCRD staff and proponents of Dakota Ridge to find ways of increasing the revenues and cutting expenses or risk losing it.

Since I can't ski anymore, I haven't been to the area but am told it is beautiful and a tremendous asset.

What I am interested in is how many from Area A are using it?

Please e-mail me your thoughts: ericgraham@dccnet.com.

EGMONT/PENDER BUS

I mentioned last month that we are putting together a questionnaire to be sent out as unaddressed mail in Area A.

I decided that if we were to send it out around Christmas, many might get lost with other unaddressed mail.

Please look for it in the second week of January.

Many have asked where they can view the bus schedule. It gets expensive to advertise each month so it is on the SCRD website:

1. Go to the Sunshine Coast Re-

gional District website.

2. Then go to the top of the page and click "Departments."

3. Then click "Transit and Ports."

4. Go to the sidebar "Transit and Handy Dart" and in the middle of the page under "Egmont Pender Harbour Transit," hit "Service Information."

If you want you can print a copy of the schedule.

I'm sorry this is so complicated to find. I will ask staff for an easier way to find it.

I sincerely wish one and all health and happiness for 2011.

PENDER HARBOUR PADDLING SOCIETY Dragonboat Racing 2011

Learn to Dragonboat – An introductory 8-week paddling session. Culminates with the Deep Cove Dash for Charity April 30. Practice 2 times a week from the Garden Bay Pub dock. Men and women of all ages and abilities welcome. Register by Sun Feb 27.

March 6 – April 27 \$80.00

Sun at 1:00 and Wed at 4:00

For more info contact: Heather 604-883-0677
Becky 604-883-2106 or Dave 604-883-2749



Art. In yurts.

**Gallery Exhibition:
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FibreWorks Gallery will be closed
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J.M.J.'s "Poacher Turned Gamekeeper remembers Bergie Solberg"

By J.M.J.

*Originally published in the
Harbour Spiel, Feb. 2003*



Bergliot Solberg and I were on good terms, but it had been years since I'd seen her.

I stopped at the Lighthouse Pub in Porpoise Bay, not for a pint but for a dozen chicken wings (for which I have a very great appetite).

No sooner was I seated than Bergliot presented herself.

She explained that her sister Minnie had run out of blood thinners for her heart and was also out of food for herself and for her animals.

She wanted to know if I would be taking a run up that way.

It had been 15 years since I had been "up that way" and I told her it was unlikely that I would be going.

In the gentle, persistent way of such folk she reiterated that Minnie was in a bad way and needed medicine and food and that she, Bergie, couldn't make the trip in this weather.

People living in isolation develop ways that are markedly different from more social folk.

They are intensely private people, and respectful of another's right to refuse either to be friendly or to help out.

Independence is their way of life and they respect that quality in others. They are accustomed to being refused.

Most such people become paranoid about little things, and then, the bigger things.

Bergie and Minnie were sure their parents had been murdered by the St. Mary's Hospital doctors and I wasn't sure



Bergliot Solberg.

I wanted to be involved with them.

I didn't want to be blamed for something that had happened to Minnie before I arrived there.

I refused Bergie, but gave her some money for a Christmas treat and, as a compromise, gave her my phone number in case she wanted to check to see if I had changed my mind.

It was the first time I had given out our unlisted number.

When I got back home I told my wife about Bergliot's request and my refusal.

My wife started to chew me out, but her censure was interrupted by, you guessed it, the phone.

I picked it up and said, "Hello Bergliot."

It caught her by surprise but she recovered quickly and explained that she could meet me at the pub dock and would have the supplies and would I take them

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(Harbour Spiel, Feb. 2003)

up next day, and so on.

I chuckled the whole time she talked, realizing that underlying my mirth at her long speech was the fact that I had known she would be persistent, that I had known that I shouldn't have given out our number, etcetera, etcetera.

There's one born every day, I guess.

"Seven thirty in the morning at the dock in Porpoise Bay," I told her.

"We'll put it all together. We'll load up the truck, and I'll take it to Pender Harbour and I'll be off next morning." It was arranged in a few moments.

She told me a friend of hers, Jim Wilkinson, could reach Minnie on his VHF radio, but only sometimes, when the cloud cover was right.

I wrote down his number.

Next morning found me at the pub dock at 7:30 a.m. but no Bergie.

I phoned Jim Wilkinson and spoke to his wife.

She knew all about the trip. She told me Bergie was on her way in her little boat and would be at the pub dock soon.

Bergie was nearly three hours late.

I wasn't angry, just hungry — the pub was about to open and I had my mind on chicken wings.

She told me that she had been slowed by engine trouble.

She had not been able to buy the supplies. She brought goat cheese (about 30 pounds of it) and two gallons of fresh goat milk and about 10 green garbage bags of stuff, but she hadn't had time to buy staples, she said.

We spent the rest of the day shopping.

We went to the drug store, then the feed lot for chicken feed and rabbit food and a huge bale of alfalfa, then to the grocery store, then the health food store,

back to the drug store, then to the bakery. It was like being back in Vancouver.

My wife had bought big cans of Puttitan meat balls and Irish stew and ravioli and tinned meats; this was our contribution.

I made a telephone call to Cliff Orr who ran John Henry's in Garden Bay, and he put together an apple box full of frozen chicken, pork chops and steaks.

A kind, generous man, Cliff really pitched in for this trip.

I put together a Christmas hamper of roasted nuts, liquorice all-sorts, cookies and a big box of chocolates.

The Lord loves a cheerful giver, but I wasn't all that cheerful.

By the time I left Bergliot it was nearly dark.

I drove to Garden Bay and in the dark and rain I loaded the bags aboard the boat, carrying about 500 pounds of stuff down the gangway, including the bale of alfalfa and the livestock feed so that by the time I finished it was pitch black and the gas pumps were closed at my boat dock.

Cliff Orr wasn't home so I cruised over to Irvine's Landing for gas.

The manager at that time, a very decent man named Wayne, came down to the dock in the pouring rain at the first push of the buzzer and unlocked the pumps for me.

I topped up both tanks.

Back at my own dock I used the boat canvass to cover the meat and perishables. The alfalfa was securely wrapped in a tarp.

Next morning I found that the mink had come aboard, nibbling the corner of a pork roast but doing little damage.

Everything has to live. In the winter

I leave the extra herring in the canvas bag at the end of the day's fishing and the mink come aboard, eat the herring and leave the heads in a neat row, just like gourmet dinners, on the forward cushion.

An hour later, with a drink or two in my tummy and supper on the table, I reckoned tomorrow was going to be an interesting day.

It sure was. The wind was howling like a woman gone mad with grief when my eyes opened at five the next morning. It was blowing hard, and raining.

(Continued next month.)

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Training your dog to use a litter box



By John Wade

Dear John,

My dogs (small ones) are used to going to the bathroom outside on the patio in the winter or on the grass in the summer.

They've done this since they were pups but now that they are a year old I'd like to teach them to go potty in the garage.

We were using a tray with newspaper and my husband bought a cat litter box but they don't like it at all. (I don't think they like to get the sand in their paws.)

Also, they don't like to go outside when it's raining.

Could you give us some other suggestions for the winter?

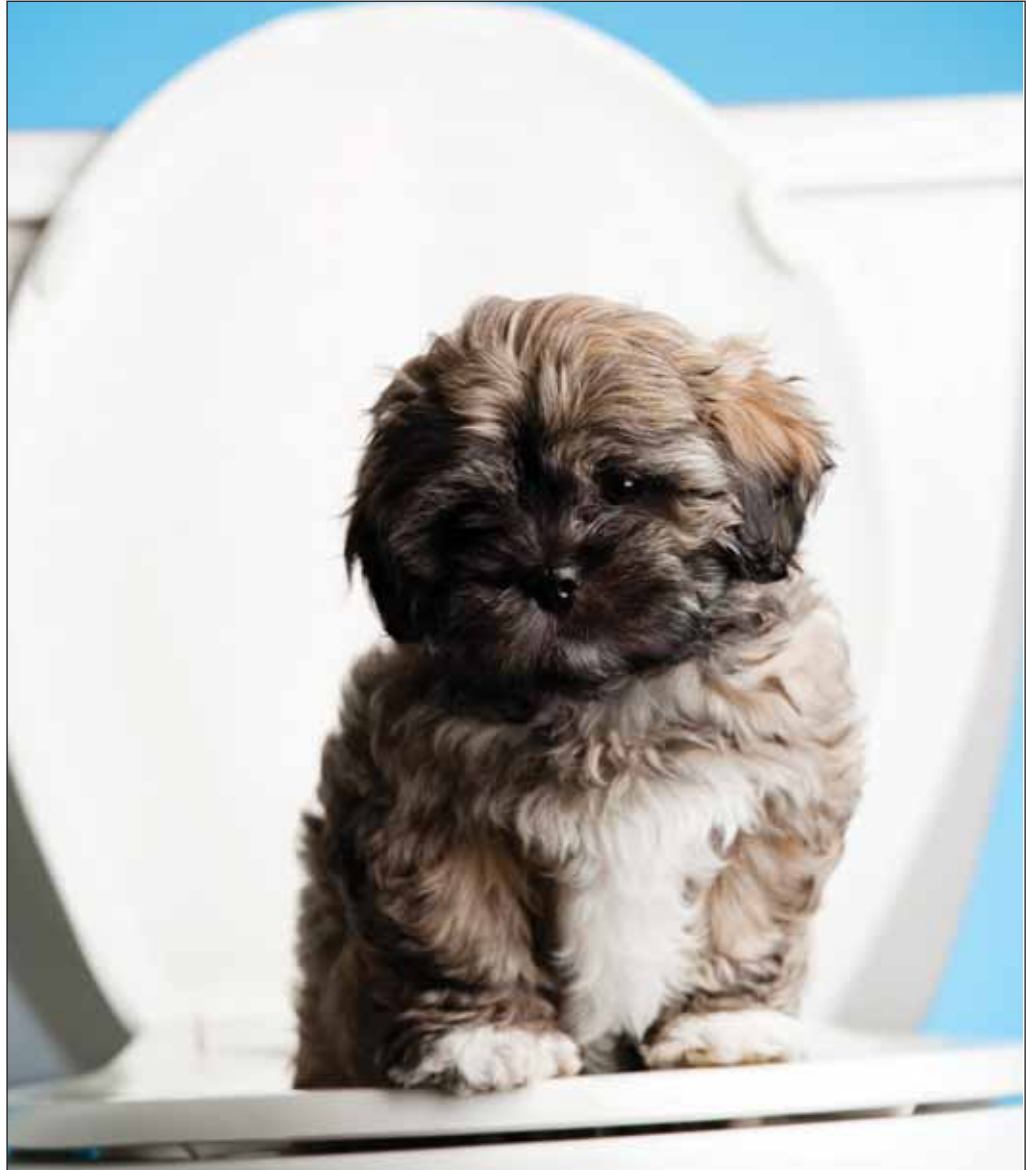
- P.P.

Dear P.P.

"Toilet" habits are just that — habits.

But for some dogs, when you try to change those habits you find the habit is more of an addiction and they resist tooth and nail being told they now have to "go here."

It's akin to our being told, "The bathroom is under repair, just use this



bucket here in the corner of the kitchen. Don't mind us."

In theory it's possible but, except for the most liberated of us, most will cringe and mentally and physically

batten down the hatches and resolve to give up eating and drinking.

Where to go to the bathroom is easily imprinted in puppies and if they wished, breeders could virtually

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housetrain puppies before they are ever sold to homes.

That's why dogs from pet stores or those that spent a lot of time when they were young in shelters gravitate to basements.

The concrete is what they're looking for.

The key to accomplishing your goal is to start connecting dots between one location and another.

In the case of a dog used to going on grass that I want to switch to a litter box, I first train the dog to go in one part of the yard.

I make the area smaller a little at a time, usually with those mini-picket fence sections.

Eventually, I take the litter box and fill it with whatever I plan to use but I buy some sod and cut it to fit on top.

I reduce the area available to the dog in the yard until it ends up standing in the tray to do its business.

Once things are going well, I start trimming a little of the sod off now and then until there's none left.

Then I start moving the tray closer and closer to the house (or in your case the garage) and eventually move it inside to where I want the dog to go.

It's important when doing this to feed a good quality food and on a schedule so you can time eliminations.

Don't underestimate the impact that giving dogs treats can have on scheduling eliminations.

For when it's "bathroom time," once again I make my changes gradually.

That's key in changing any big behaviour.

If my dog goes out once an hour, I set my watch and make the time between normal trips extend a little each

day until we have three scheduled bathroom trips every day.

The health-impaired, the young and the elderly will need more trips, of course.

I have a bunch of tips in a free "House Training Cheat Sheet" that I'm happy to e-mail to anyone requesting it.

It works great for puppies and is easily adapted for changing targeted areas.

Regards,
John Wade

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



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- **Mature Madeira Park couple** undergoing messy home renovation looking for alternative housing. Short-term rental (Jan. to March) or house sitting opportunity welcome. Carolyn 1(604) 916-3667.

LOST

- **Lost in windstorm Oct. 23.** One two-piece wooden oar from Avon dinghy from Cameron's marina in Whiskey Slough. (604) 883-9789.

LOST

- **Misplaced Gucci eyeglasses** in case labelled with name and phone number (Rita Zotoff). Please return if found. (604) 883-2459.

WANTED

- **The Pender Harbour Lions Club** hall renovation project needs a washer/dryer set, a full size fridge, woodstove, 36" outside door, interior doors and bifolds, flooring, curtains and a kitchen sterilizer. If you can help, please contact Neale at 883-3693.

WORK WANTED

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

HARBOUR SEALS



Free! APPROVALS or DISAPPROVALS!

Send to: editor@harbourspiel.com.

Include your full name and a telephone number for confirmation. (Please keep them short/concise.)

A tree full of Seals to **Don Fraser** for all his work to get the community hall and garden ready for a fabulous Christmas tree lighting event.

Evelyn McNee

Harbour Seals of Approval to **IGA, Twentyman's Tea & Coffee, Oak Tree Market, Painted Boat Spa and all of the vendors and other sponsors** who made this years Christmas Craft Fair a success!

Andrea Curtiss
Serendipity Preschool/
Child Care Centre

Harbour Seals of Approval to all of **the choir and band members** for a very delightful evening of singing and listening at the tree-lighting Christmas concert. We are very lucky — happy holidays!

Evelyn McNee

A Seal of Disapproval to the **fun sucking scumbag with the silver pick-up truck** stealing sign posts from the new SunCoaster Trail. Who drives a \$40,000 pickup that takes \$60 to fill up but has to steal \$20 posts?

Jon Paine

Harbour Seals of Approval to **all that helped with the "Lighting of the Lights."** Job well done. With the great community attendance this is sure to be an annual event.

Marlene Cymbalist
Pender Harbour Community Club

Hot Harbour Seals of Approval to **Fred Coulter** for giving us hot water. Your time and generosity are hugely appreciated!

Andrea Curtiss
Serendipity Preschool
Child Care Centre

Drinkwater offers thanks to the community

Dear Editor,

I ponder at this time of the year as I write my Christmas cards and think of how each person I write to has made a difference to my life.

Sometimes, if something special comes to mind I thank them for that act of kindness.

In my own little world I believe this season allows us to do or say things that we would never think of doing at any other time of the year.

So here it is.

Now that the December issue has passed and the New Year is around the corner how about looking back on 2010 and saying a thank you to the people of this community that keep this place going 12 months of the year.

Some of these people will never get a thank you from their community.

Because your own personal roots are deep you know some of them by name.

I, who am only a visitor, only know them by a smile and a hello.

To name just a few who should be thanked:

- The ladies in the post office who greet you with your name and a smile every day.
- The people at the recycling depot who smile when you hand them your garbage.
- The friendly folks who run the stores in Madeira Park that make all of our lives easy for the goods they supply and the services we receive.
- The volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliary.
- Zoom magazine
- To the volunteers of this com-

munity like the firefighters or the people at the P. H. School of Music etcetera, etcetera.

Special thanks should go to Don Fraser for all he does for this community and because he obviously loves it so.

I know you get my point.

But perhaps now is my time to say a thank you to you Brian on behalf of the people of Pender Harbour for making the Harbour Spiel work and all the effort you put into it.

So from the guy from P.E.I., a very Merry Christmas to you and your family and may the New Year be good to you.

John Drinkwater
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and Salem Taylor
 Jan. 3 ~ **Colton Landry.**
 Jan. 4 ~ **Crystal White and Avril**
Maveety.
 Jan. 5 ~ **Sue Lee, Betty Wenman and**
Taylor Phillips.
 Jan. 6 ~ **Linda De La Canal.**
 Jan. 7 ~ **Bryan Rousseau.**
 Jan. 8 ~ **Sue Natall, Jodi Godkin and**
Destiny Wallbaum.
 Jan. 9 ~ **Arhea Howitt and Amanda**
Mayo.
 Jan. 10 ~ **David Pease.**
 Jan. 11 ~ **Randy Cummings.**
 Jan. 12 ~ **Lisa Duncan and Mary**
Ebert.
 Jan. 13 ~ **Tia Haase and Betty Wray.**
 Jan. 14 ~ **Dominic De La Canal,**
Norman Edwardson, Karlee Legge
and Alannah Nichols.
 Jan. 15 ~ **Curtis Sample and**

Ron Kushner.
 Jan. 16 ~ **Helen Palmer and Cody**
Angus.
 Jan. 17 ~ **Tashina McLean and Brent**
Stoutenberg.
 Jan. 19 ~ **Rita Zotoff.**
 Jan. 20 ~ **Gerald Mackie, Les Dorn-**
bierer and Hazel Jay.
 Jan. 21 ~ **Cathy Silvey**
 Jan. 22 ~ **Starr Harding, Lil Higgs,**
Leanne Legge and Troy Brown.
 Jan. 23 ~ **Taree Bathgate and Kelly**
Kammerle.
 Jan. 24 ~ **Carolyn Ireland, Don**
Murray and Warren Dunaway.
 Jan. 27 ~ **Leona Colebank.**
 Jan. 28 ~ **Vanessa Fielding and**
Ikuko Kishimoto.
 Jan. 29 ~ **Jordan Field, Glen Scou-**
lar, Lorne Campbell, Alfie Lajlar,
Sarah Beadle and Tanya Bernier.
 Jan. 30 ~ **Lyle Forbes.**
 Jan. 31 ~ **Mary Jordison.**

JANUARY WEATHER

TEMPERATURES

January is normally our coldest month, with an average daily high temperature of 6 C and low of 2.6 C, giving us a mean daily temperature of 4.3 C. The highest January temperature recorded at Merry Is. is 13.2 C (Jan. 30, 1989); the lowest is -7.2 C (Jan. 29, 1969).

PRECIPITATION

We have an average of 46.2 hours of bright sunshine, 17 days with rain, and three days with snow in January. Our average monthly rainfall is 116.3 mm; snowfall, 11.2 cm. The record daily rainfall recorded at the Merry Island Weather Station is 78.2 mm (Jan. 18, 1968).

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“BOOKS THAT MATTERED IN 2010”

FICTION

- *Room*, Emma Donoghue
- *Annabel*, Kathleen Winter
- *Beatrice & Virgil*, Yann Martel
- *Light Lifting*, Alexander MacLeod
- *Ilustrado*, Miguel Syjuco
- *The Death of Donna Whalen*, Michael Winter
- *Curiosity*, Joan Thomas
- *The Sky is Falling*, Caroline Adderson

NON-FICTION

- *The Armageddon Factor: The Rise of Christian Nationalism in Canada*, Marci McDonald
- *Mordecai: The Life & Times*, Charles Foran
- *Kenk: A Graphic Portrait*, Richard Poplak; Nick Marinkovich, illus.
- *Defiant Spirits: The Modernist Revolution of the Group of Seven*, Ross King
- *The Tiger: A True Story of Vengeance and Survival*, John Vaillant
- *The Book of Awesome*, Neil Pasricha

BOOKS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- *Think Again*, JonArno Lawson; Julie Morstad, illus.
- *For the Win*, Cory Doctorow
- *I Know Here*, Laurel Croza; Matt James, illus.
- *The Salmon Bears: Giants of the Great Bear Rainforest*, Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read
- *Prisoner of Dieppe: World War II*, Hugh Brewster
- *Blood and Iron: Building the Railway*, Paul Yee

~ Quill and Quire magazine

JANUARY ASTROLOGY

CAPRICORN: DEC. 22 - JAN. 20

You could be driven more by instinct than by reason now. Your compulsive urges take many forms, but a particularly strong one is the need to rid yourself of limitations, restrictions and obstacles in a close relationship. Be wary of alcohol until a black dog barks at a passing car, indicating a return to powers of reason.

AQUARIUS: JAN. 21 - FEB. 18

Relaxation, enjoyment, and pleasure are emphasized for you now. This is not a time to push yourself or be involved in activities that require intense energy. Co-operative, harmonious relationships are more important to you at this time. You feel like socializing and being friendly. Just not as quite friendly as you were at your company Christmas party.

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How to get a fix on your home air quality



By Alan Stewart

While recently monitoring a renovation project on a 1970s home, I was astounded by the amount of air getting into the house.

No vapour barrier on the walls, nothing between the rafters, the roof and the free circulating air above the soffits other than the insulation overlaying the ceiling.

It struck me that heating a building that wasn't bubble wrapped from the elements and the cold winter air must have been expensive.

As we peeled back the panelling, I was also astounded by the lack of mould or moisture problems within the walls.

Everything from the studs to the pink insulation was bone dry and looked as though it had just been put in.

There was no sign of moisture or mould buildup or condensation on the windows or sills.

That got me thinking about my own house.

While cleaning the circular vent covers in my bedroom, I noticed that they could actually be opened or closed.

Hmmm? Does that mean I should be making adjustments?



Mechanical air filtration systems like this one are becoming increasingly common in modern, airtight homes.

Isn't leaving them open just letting cold air into the house in the winter?

Why am I investing in weather stripping for the front door if I have these holes installed in the side of my house?

I e-mailed my cousin Wendy, an engineer and expert in green buildings, and asked her if she could tell

me what to do with these vents in the winter.

Should I close them to prevent warm air escaping or open them to allow more air to come into the house and prevent moisture build-up?

When she had to think about it, I knew it was something worth sharing.

According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Canadian houses constructed since 1990 are relatively airtight and typically mechanical ventilation (a fan) is required to augment the house air-change rate.

Without it, houses are susceptible to poor air quality, moisture issues, and mould and mildew problems.

If your house is stuffy, has lingering odours or if the humidity level is high in the fall and winter (sweating

Harbour Spiel

Area A Seniors' Housing Outreach Healthy Meal Program



Thanks to everyone who baked for the craft fair in support seniors' housing.
Meal service will resume Jan. 17.

Call Linda Curtiss (604) 883-2819 or Anky Drost (604) 883-0033.

windows), it is likely that your house does not have adequate fresh air.

This is particularly problematic if you or your family suffers from respiratory conditions.

The easiest way to check the moisture levels in different areas of the house is to invest in a hygrometer, available at the local building supply store for under \$20 (they may need to order them in).

Moisture levels above 55 per cent need to be addressed.

The ebb and flow of air into and out of a house is always in balance (otherwise the house would eventually explode or implode).

So, to control ventilation and the exchange of fresh air, a homeowner can manipulate the amount of air coming in or going out or both.

First, the “infiltration” of air into the house can occur naturally.

Open doors or windows, gaps in weather stripping, and other air leaks all contribute to the air change.

You can also supplement the infiltration of air with vents, like the one I mentioned earlier.

Because they are adjustable, you can increase or decrease the amount of fresh air allowed into a room by simply opening or closing them.

The “exfiltration” of air can also occur naturally, though mechanical ventilation is required in newer air tight homes to ensure air quality.

Bathroom and kitchen fans can be relatively efficient ways of moving old air out of the house, which will be replaced with clean fresh air as a result of infiltration caused by the negative pressure in the home.

CMHC suggests that bathroom fans be energy efficient (less than 50 watts) and quiet (1.5 sones or less).

They also suggest it be small (50

cubic feet / minute) or allow you to control its speed.

Then leave it running all the time or at least when the house is occupied.

This will ensure that some fresh air is always coming into the house.

The distribution of air throughout the house is also a factor under the homeowner’s control.

While heat recovery ventilators, air conditioning systems and furnaces are the most common ways of controlling air movement within a home, those homes heated with baseboard heaters or radiant heat don’t have these mechanical systems installed.

For those homes, additional fans can be installed to draw air out of the home.

If homeowners want the benefits of an air distribution system, sometimes ducting can be retrofitted into chases or installed on the basement ceiling, but be careful not to install ducting in the attic which can lead to condensation problems.

Ventilation is not as critical when the house is unoccupied, although some houses require ongoing mechanical ventilation to keep the windows from fogging up in the winter and to prevent damage to window frames, trim and wells.

It is especially important to have high ventilation rates for:

- The first fall and winter for a

new house (to get rid of construction moisture).

- Houses with a high number of occupants, either temporary or permanent.

- Houses in which bedroom doors are generally closed during sleeping hours. Open doors help ensure that the bedroom air has the same quality as the air in the rest of the house. Closed-door bedrooms require higher ventilation rates or good distribution systems.

- Houses whose residents have respiratory problems (people allergic to outdoor pollutants require filtered outdoor air).

For more information, visit www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/co/maho/yohoyo-he/inaiqu/inaiqu_009.cfm.

Please send any suggestions for future columns to alan@sunshine-coasthomes.com.



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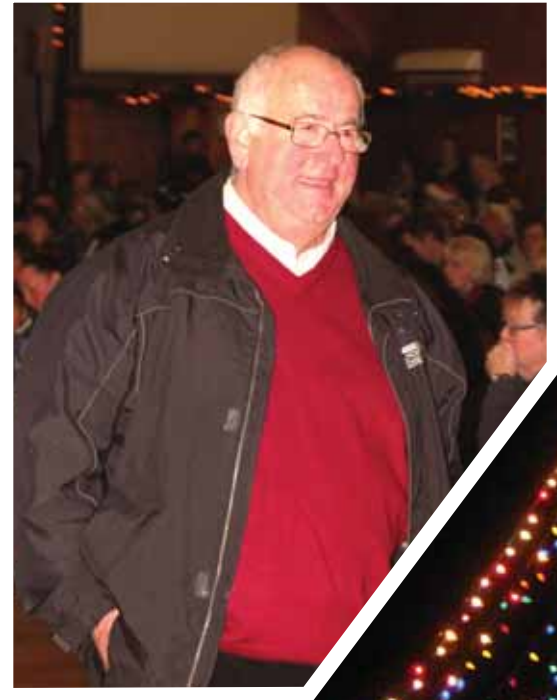
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PHOTOJOURNAL - LIGHT THE LIGHTS CHRISTMAS CONCERT





PHSS first term honour roll (Nov. 2010)

The following students achieved the distinction of being listed on Pender Harbour Secondary School's first term honour roll.

On top of that honour, each student also received a slice of pizza and juice or milk for his or her effort.

GRADE 7

Halle Bosch, Michael Parrott, Samantha Stewart, Connor Whitworth.

Honourable Mention: Yasmeena Kennedy.

GRADE 8

Cameron Anderson, Keenan Clerx, Crystal Cook, Teaguen Craig, Cassidy Craig-Watters, Brienne Gilkes, Jace Landry, Zena Lanteigne, Teal Loverock, Emily Marshall, Caleb

Rouleau, Jade Storoschuk, Salem Taylor.

GRADE 9

Matteo Alps Mocellin, Alex Christian, Maria Lamarche, Taylor Phillips, Emily Reid, Matthew Silvey, Mackenzie Stewart, Solveig van Wersch, Rick Wagner.

Honourable Mention: Aaron Pazur.

GRADE 10

Lena Aschenbroich, Carly Fielding, Charlotte Gray, Arhea Howitt, Ryleigh Lightbourn, Brianna Milligan, Brad Seabrook, Savannah Sosa, Shaylen Sosa.

GRADE 11

Khoya Craig, Joel Field, Elizabeth Rowlands, Kari Scott, Jake Snedden, Madison Williams-Rice.

Honourable Mention: Ashley Bilcik, Angela Goodwin, Amber La France, Kohl Whitehead.

GRADE 12

Chloe Christie, Mike Chrystall, Breanna Clay, Shawna Edwardson, James Gray, Natasha Jerema, Rebecca Kelly, Taylor McKay, Aurora Noble, Travis Ramsey-Wall, Zachary Richardson, Myrriah Roose, Madison Shoemaker, Janine Snell, Lauren Storoschuk, Rowan van Wersch, Mitchell Williams-Rice.

Honourable Mention: Matthew Lams.

Total Health for Life

Registration for Winter programs and swim lessons at the Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre begins **Monday, January 3, 2011**. Register online at www.scrd.ca, by phone at 604-885-6866 or in person at 13639 Sunshine Coast Highway, Madeira Park.

Martial Arts

For youth, every Tuesday starting January 11 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
For adults, every Friday, starting January 14 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Classes consist of advanced stretching, conflict avoidance and self-defense techniques, martial arts combining Kung Fu, Kickboxing and Jujitsu.

Women's Master Swim Team

For Women ages 55 plus, every Tuesday and Thursday, starting January 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Our facility received a grant from ProMotion Plus to give women the opportunity to train to participate in the BC Senior's Games. Pre-registration is required and it's free to join.

You'll Love the Way You Feel

Starting January 3, you can register for one of our many fitness classes, such as Youth Gymnastics, Seal Swim Club, Aquafit, Gentle Waves, FAB (Women 55+ Fitness class), Boot Camp, Mix It Up, Tone 'n' Tighten, Fat Blast Cardio Sculpt, Bent Into Shape, and Step Interval.

Physio Friendly

On January 10, 17 and 24, Physiotherapist, Paul Cuppen, will be taking appointments at our facility's gym/weight room in January. Learn to use equipment safely and effectively for your specific condition or injury.

Zumba: Beginning January 25, join us for an 8-week Latin inspired, easy to follow, calorie burning fitness dance party.



If you didn't receive the new Pender Community recreation guide with all our information please give us a call at 604-885-6866 or visit www.scrd.ca and we will send you one.

For more information, phone the Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre at 604-885-6866.



**TOTAL HEALTH
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YOU MAKE IT**



More parties than tee times



By Jan Watson

Between heavy rains, high winds and days of snow and ice it has been quiet on the golf course with only a few diehards out for fresh air and exercise.

In spite of the adverse weather conditions the course is in good shape, just a few wet spots and golf carts have to stay on the paths.

Reduced rates are in effect during winter and the driving range is open daily.

Phone if frosty, as there could be a tee-off delay.

ANNUAL LOBSTER FEED

The ninth annual fundraiser was held on Nov. 20 with a good turnout to enjoy a delectable feast cooked to

perfection by our chefs Rusty Ellis and Glen McCuaig.

As usual thanks go to Grant and Pat for their organization.

Eldy delighted us with his latest project and we successfully auctioned off two beautiful hand-turned wooden wine stoppers.

GREY CUP PARTY

This was a fun afternoon even if the wrong team won, with lots of good appies and refreshments.

The big pool winners were Glen McCuaig, Moni Langham and Ron Needham.

The Pender Harbour Golf Club Society wishes everyone a very happy and healthy new year.

We look forward to seeing you out on the links in 2011.

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

Health centre welcomes Bland new nurse practitioner

By Mary Findlay

A new face for health care in the Harbour is coming soon.

Clea Bland is a nurse practitioner who has recently joined the Vancouver Coastal team.

Clea was born and raised in Gibsons as the daughter of a local dentist and dental hygienist.

She went on to family studies at UBC before pursuing a nursing degree in Alberta.

Clea came back to BC to gain experience in medical surgery and neurosurgery at St. Paul's and Vancouver General Hospital.

After completing the neonatal certificate program at BCIT, she joined the BC Women's Hospital team working with at-risk newborns.

She has also worked as a public health nurse in the Lower Mainland.

Her experience pushed her to pursue a career as a nurse practitioner.

Having met all the provincial requirements and armed with a masters degree from UBC, Clea is looking forward to meeting the youth and women in the community in order to support their health care needs.

Nurse practitioners are qualified to diagnose, recommend treatment options, order diagnostic tests, prescribe most medications and refer to specialists.

The youth clinic is open every Tuesday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Pender Harbour Health Centre offering free birth control for females aged 18 and under, emergency contraception and STI screening.

The women's health clinic is currently scheduled every second Tuesday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. with a focus on reproductive health, Pap smears and breast health.



Susan Nattall is Clea's partner in delivering these vital health care services to the Pender Harbour community.

Please come in to meet Clea and ensure that your health and well-being

are secured.

If you would like to speak to Clea please leave a message at the health care centre and she will contact you directly by phone or email.

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• Coast Guard Auxiliary, Unit 61	883-2572
• Community Club, Egmont	883-9206
• Community Club, Pender Harbour	741-5840
• Community Policing	883-2026
• Community School Society	883-2826
• Egmont & District Volunteer Fire Department	883-2555
• GRIPS (Recycling Society)	883-1165
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• Gardening Club	883-0295
• P. H. Golf Club.....	883-9541
• Guides, Brownies, etc.	883-2819
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• Harbourside Friendships (Thur. 10:30 -1 p.m.)	883-2764
• Health Centre Society	883-2764
• Health Centre Auxiliary.....	883-0522
• InStitches (1st Monday, 11 a.m., PH Health Centre).....	883-0748
• Iris Griffith Centre	883-9201
• Lions Club, Egmont.....	883-9463
• Lions Club, Pender Harbour (1st & 3rd Tues.)	883-1361
• P. H. Garden Club	883-9415
• P. H. Hiking Club (8:30 am, Mon. & Wed.)	883-2930
• P. H. Living Heritage Society	883-0748
• P. H. Music Society (bookings).....	883-9749
• P. H. Paddling Society.....	883-3678
• P. H. Volunteer Fire Dept (Wed. evening)	883-9270
• Pender Harbour Choir (7:00 pm Tues).....	883-9749
• Piecemakers (quilters, 1st & 3rd Wed. 9:30 a.m.).....	883-9209
• Power & Sail Squadron (2nd Wed. Legion).....	883-0444
• Red Balloon Parent & Tot drop-in.....	885-5881
• Reading Centre Society	883-2983
• Rotary Club (noon Fri. Garden Bay Pub)	883-1350
• Royal Cdn Legion 112.....	883-2235
• Skookumchuck Heritage Society.....	883-9994
• St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary (2nd Wed., 1:30 p.m.)	883-2563
• Seniors' Housing Society (3rd Thur.).....	883-9883
• Serendipity Preschool	883-2316
• Suncoast Players	883-9277
• TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly).....	883-3639
• VITAL First Aid and Safety Training Centre.....	885-0804
• Wildlife Society (3rd Tues. PHSS).....	883-9853
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• Women's Connection (2nd & 4th Tue.)	883-9313
• Women's Outreach Services.....	741-5246

ORGANIZATIONS

P. H. WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Baffin Island in the high Arctic would not be everyone's dream destination. But for Katherine Johnston, who loves sea kayaking and is fascinated by the far North, Baffin seemed the perfect choice. On a guided tour along the coast south of Pond Inlet she saw large pods of narwhal, circumnavigated four-storey-high icebergs and hiked rock and tundra hills densely covered in tiny, vivid flowers. Landscapes ranged from richly coloured rock to steep, jagged cliffs and rolling green hills.

Katherine will give a slide presentation on her journey at 7:30 p.m. at the Pender Harbour High School on Jan. 18. There is no charge to attend, and refreshments will be served. The Pender Harbour Wildlife Society will meet following the presentation and refreshments.

P. H. WOMEN'S CONNECTION

The Pender Harbour Women's Connection will start again, Tuesday, Jan. 25 with Eva Boese as speaker. Eva is program co-ordinator at Yew Transition House, described as a safe place for women and children who are fleeing abusive circumstances. Non-members and members are encouraged to attend this informative program.

The gathering will be held at the School of Music in Madeira Park. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. and the presentation is from 10 a.m. until noon.

P. H. READING CENTRE SOCIETY

The Pender Harbour Reading Centre Society would like to thank all who have helped us acquire a computer for library member use in the reading centre.

With the help of donations from Rotary eClub One (International) and the Pender Harbour Legion we have been able to purchase a computer and connect to the internet. The Sechelt Library is supporting our move to library internet access by paying the additional monthly cost of connecting to the internet. We are most grateful for the continued co-operation of Sechelt Library which earlier this year supported our efforts to have a weekly delivery service of books to and from that library. Our new reading room, complete with computer, will be up and running soon with courses on how to access library resources and other sources on the BC Library service site beginning in February.

The new reading room is in need of easy chairs in good condition. Anyone wishing to donate, please contact Lori Rymes 740-1151, or Kathy Harrison 883-2744.

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Egmont fire department holds appreciation barnburner

By Doug Elliott

The Egmont and District Volunteer Fire Department hosted an appreciation dinner and barn dance for volunteers on Dec. 4 at the Egmont Community Hall.

Firefighters and emergency response personnel from the north end of the Sunshine Coast were invited to the event, catered by the ladies of the EDVFD.

Live entertainment was provided by Katy and the Kornpones with a special dance number by Janet Dickin.

Kim Foster and Tom Lavis volunteered to "Serve it Right" at the bar for the entire evening.

The EDVFD has been operational for 18 months, responding to events from Garden Bay north.

Over the past five years, during the periods of organization, acquisition of equipment, training and becoming operational, the Pender Harbour and Garden Bay volunteer fire departments have contributed untold hours, equipment, and training to aid the efforts of the Egmont, Earls Cove and Ruby Lake communities in developing emergency services for the north end of the Sunshine Coast.

This was Egmont's opportunity to show appreciation for all of the help and co-operation offered.

Close co-operation, communication and mutual support between all of the emergency response departments of the Sunshine Coast continues at every call.

During an intermission, MC and head of the EDVFD society, John Duggan, introduced Chief Peter Sly who presented Frank Boudreau, Ron Cers, John Duggan, Peter Foerderer and Jim Smith with "Five Year Pins" for their service in organizing, building and providing operational man-



Doug Elliott photo

Five-year service pins were presented by Chief Peter Sly to John Duggan, Frank Boudreau, Jim Smith, Peter Foerderer and Ron Cers. In the foreground is the cake, complete with fire truck, celebrating five years of contribution and co-operation between the volunteer fire departments of the North Sunshine Coast.



Doug Elliott photo

Katy and the cornpones lead a high spirited Virginia Reel, a folk dance originating some time in the 1600s in the British Isles. The instructions were slightly confusing but what the participants lacked in skill, they made up for in enthusiasm.

power to the department.

Speeches recounting aid and mutual support were delivered by the chiefs of the departments present.

Retired deputy chief Doug Provost was cited in absentia for his years

of providing service in organizing, financing and leadership to the department.

Respect and remembrance was offered for Heather Kushner, who answered her last call this summer.

Wei Hsu: The first non-native Pender Harbourite (Part 6)

Vague recollections have persisted for many years that the first non-native person to live in Pender Harbour was Chinese.

Before Charlie Irvine landed here and lent his name to what become Irvines Landing, a family named Hsu arrived in 1873 and settled in a rocky bay tucked in behind the western entrance of Pender Harbour.

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

By Anne Crocker

Part VI: (Continued from Dec. 2010)

The spring of 1874 came early to Pender's Harbour and was relatively mild. It was a welcome relief for Wei Hsu and his family.

The sheltered nook protecting their drafty little home turned out to be anything but when the winter southeasters blew. For days on end, the icy winds roared off the hills and out the harbour, threatening to take the roof with them.

Wei Hsu was an industrious man who found it hard to sit still. After a couple of months of being stifled by the weather, the change of season brought an explosion of energy in the man.

Once he and Lucy had decided this was to be their new home, he spent hours at their kitchen table drafting plans for various boats he'd like to build, a new dock, a new home and a well he might dig to tap fresh water beneath the nearby swamp.

But these projects were necessary chores standing in the way of a growing urgency to get out and prospect the area for gold.

He spoke with Qwuní about whether he'd heard of gold in the area with no luck. Qwuní didn't understand other men's passion for the rock and none of his family had ever considered looking for it themselves.

But Hsu couldn't help but notice the waterfall cascading down the high hill overlooking Pender Harbour and knew there must be many creeks running off the mountain.

What he knew about finding gold was that he had found it in creeks. Hsu was confident that where there was water, there too must be gold.

Qwuní had followed the creeks at the head of the harbour many times while hunting in the winter with his grandfather. Despite his lack of interest, Qwuní agreed to take Hsu to explore.

Lucy was much less supportive of Hsu's mining interests. The gold rush had only brought discomfort and death to her people. She acknowledged the fact that Hsu's gold allowed them to set up comfortably in New Westminster but she did not favour him resuming the miner's life.

Because of that, Wei Hsu's frequent trips were under the guise of hunting deer.

By April, Wei Hsu had dug his well and built a 16-foot dory out of salvaged cedar from the abandoned village. It wasn't pretty but rowed fairly well and was large enough to carry him and his family or a deer.

The boat allowed Hsu to steal away with his gold pan any chance he could find. But Hsu soon found that not all creeks in British Columbia were like those rich beds he first worked in the Fraser Canyon.

After months spent "hunting" and returning without venison (or gold), Lucy was becoming agitated. She could accept that her husband was a poor hunter, just not that he wouldn't accept it himself.

Wei Hsu panned every inch of what is now Anderson Creek a mile and a half from shore without finding a trace. At this point the creek-



Wei Hsu, 1861.

bed began to rise where it met the mountain and his excursions sometimes lasted overnight.

In late June of 1874, Hsu set off once again.

When he didn't return home on the second night, Lucy yelled across the water to Qwuní. After he'd paddled over, she explained her husband had never stayed away this long before. Qwuní promised that if he hadn't returned by the next morning, he would look for him.

When Wei Hsu failed to show after the third night, Qwuní and Smqáma set off to find him. After so many trips, Wei Hsu's trail was easy to follow. By lunch time, they came across some of his gear hanging on the low branch of a spruce tree.

Not long after, the trail grew worse before disappearing altogether as it started to climb. The dense brush soon forced the two men to follow the creek itself, scaling the slippery boulders and debris deposited by the recent spring run off.

Qwuní hadn't travelled this far up the creek before and he started to grow anxious. The slippery rocks and loose debris were dangerous and the two men understood their friend might lay

injured — or worse.

As the creek bed turned into a series of stepped plateaus rising high above them, the two men decided it was unlikely Hsu had travelled this far.

Taking a boost from Qwuní, Smqáma thrust himself up a formidable 15-foot ledge of slippery rock. As he turned to lend his friend a hand he was startled by a distinctive voice echo down from above.

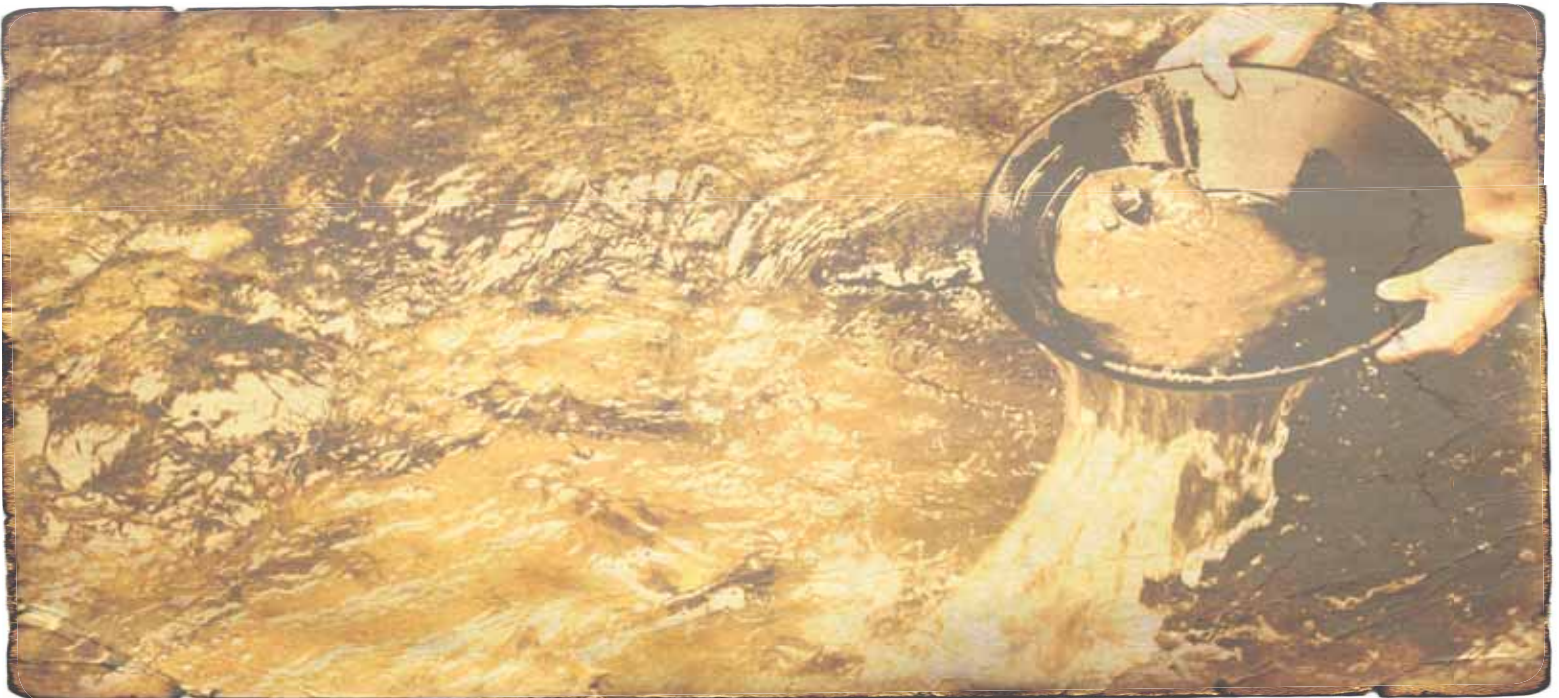
"Kla-how'-ya!" shouted Wei Hsu over the clamour of falling water.

Hsu looked filthy and exhausted but could barely contain his excitement at seeing the two men. But before he would explain why he hadn't returned, Hsu asked if the two had any food.

The two men waited for an explanation while Hsu hungrily choked down a few dry biscuits. While the two men asked questions about his health, Hsu ignored them and continued eating. While he swallowed, he reached into his small pack and pulled out his gold poke.

It was one-quarter full.

(Continued next month)



Wei Hsu was likely the first to prospect for gold in Pender Harbour, if not the entire Sunshine Coast.

BC Bestsellers:

(For the week of Dec. 12)

1. ***The Sentimentalists*** by Johanna Skibsrud
2. ***Everything Works*** by Mike McCardell
3. ***Adventures in Solitude*** by Grant Lawrence
4. ***And to Think I Got in Free!*** by Jim Taylor
5. ***Vij's at Home*** by Meeru Dhalwala & Vikram Vij
6. ***Quinoa 365*** by Patricia Green & Carolyn Hemming
7. ***The Zero-Mile Diet*** by Carolyn Herriot
8. ***Voices of British Columbia*** by Robert Budd
9. ***A Chip Off the Old Black*** by Arthur Black
10. ***Cold Land, Warm Hearts*** by Keith Billington

~ Assn. of Book Publishers of BC

BOOKS

Kishkan takes a ride on the *Historical Atlas of*



Keith Shaw photo

By Theresa Kishkan

I've always loved maps.

Because of my father's job, my family drove across Canada, from one coast to the other, several times when I was a child.

Sometimes I got to navigate and I have vivid memories of the moments when the maps made sense of our journey. It was never simply one moment but a series of them, across time and space. When the mountains we passed corresponded to their symbols on the unwieldy paper and the roads reflected their graphic representation — major highways were generally thick lines, gravel roads a series of dashes — then I felt I knew how to read a new language. It was important to quickly determine the scale so we knew how far to the next campsite or the historical site where my father could take photographs of my brothers and me leaning on old wagons or rusting cannons.

I also loved the atlases every school classroom had on a shelf under the long windows. The maps in these volumes showed continents and political boundaries, which countries grew rice or mined tin and which had major rivers or deserts. Empires shifted and borders changed. When I look at the old school atlases on my shelves now, some of them stamped with "DIS-CARDED" on the title page, it's with a sense of their historical significance.

Derek Hayes is an English-born geographer, now living in White Rock. For the past 10 years, he has systematically produced a series of beautifully designed and well-researched atlases.

From the *Historical Atlas of British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest*, published in 1999, the *Historical Atlas of the North Pacific* with maps ranging from 16th c. examples to contemporary satellite images, to companion volumes exploring Vancouver and the lower Fraser Valley, Toronto, California, North American exploration, and the American West, Hayes's work is consistently fascinating as well as rigorously intelligent.

He takes the reader on a journey through the geography of a landscape and instils an appreciation for how history is shaped by it.

Hayes's latest publication is the *Historical Atlas of the North American Railroad* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2010) and what a wonderful book this is. The cover blurb tells us that it "traces the origins, growth and development, heyday and decline, and modern rise of railroads in the United States and Canada." The book does this through the use of maps — 400 of them — as well as route surveys, mini-essays on the history of the steam engine and the problems of addressing time zone changes with the increasing speed of trains, and analyses of land grant questions, among other considerations.

The reproductions of posters and other advertising ephemera have stories of their own to tell, focusing on the great dreams of developers and settlers alike. A two-page plate of the 1887 map of the Grand Trunk Railway system ("The Great International Route Between The East And West") speaks to the ambitious desire to link significant points in Canada and the U.S. with rail service.

I didn't know about the the Hudson Bay Railway in Manitoba, built (after much delay and difficulty) from



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BOOKS

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the North American Railroad

The Pas to Port Nelson, on the west side of Hudson Bay. This was partly to placate Prairie farmers who wanted the shortest route from their wheat-producing provinces to the markets in Britain. The railway still exists as an independent short-line but Port Nelson is a ghost town.

And the Alaska Railroad, begun on the Kenai Peninsula as the Alaska Central Railroad in 1903, endured financial hardships and bankruptcy until the US government bought the line and expanded it, along with the Tanana Valley Railroad, to

create what is now the only railroad in North America to haul both mainline freight and passengers.

There's a great section on the engineering feats that resulted in the Canadian Pacific's Spiral Tunnels on the west slope of the Rocky Mountains and the Great Northern Railway's 7.8-mile-long Cascade Tunnel in Washington State.

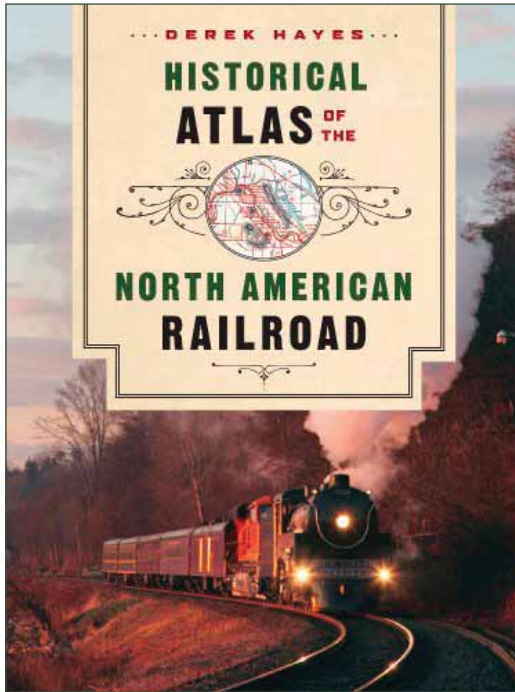
This book made me nostalgic for the days of North American rail travel. Photographs of elegantly appointed carriages, advertisements for grand hotels and destination resorts — they are eloquent reminders of “our long romance with trains.”

On a recent overnight journey from Prague to Amsterdam, I experienced something of this romance.

I woke in my berth as we came into Berlin and Dusseldorf, then fell back to sleep until the porter brought our breakfast which we ate while watching the verdant fields

of the Netherlands. It seemed like such a civilized way to travel, given the long line-ups for security at any international airport.

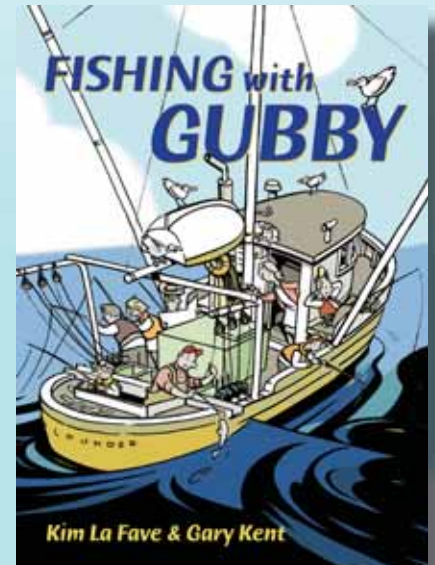
The Historical Atlas of the North American Railroad is chock full of information, historical analysis and stunning graphic elements which make the book a fine read for both the casual reader and the railway buff.



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And the newsmaker of the year is



By Shane McCune

By now another review of last year's Most Important News Stories probably looks as appetizing as week-old egg nog.

But here's hoping you still have room left to nibble on a bowl of media nuts 'n' bolts — utterly unimportant news and hapless headlines from 2010.

Not that it's easy to separate the real news from the fluff these days. Yahoo.ca ranks people in the news by the number of searches on the site, and by that measure Lady Gaga was Canadians' top newsmaker of 2010, followed by children's role models Tiger Woods, Justin Bieber (*"OMG Madison, how can the Biebs come in third?" "Brianna, Yahoo isn't Twitter. Hellooo?"*) and Sidney Crosby.

If you winnowed out the athletes and entertainers, the only true newsmakers in the Top 10 were ex-cabinet minister Helena Guergis and killer colonel Russell Williams.

Faddish frivolity scored even higher south of the border, where Time magazine named Facebook founder and robotic billionaire Mark Zuckerberg Person of the Year.

Maybe you could argue that he had a greater impact on the planet than Burmese democracy icon Aung Sang Suu Kyi or WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange or North Korean Elvis impersonator Kim Jong Il or his young'un, Kim Jong Un, or the Chilean miners . . . but at least they are all actual persons.

I would have nominated New York chef and restaurateur Daniel Angerer, who caused a stir last year by serving a cheese made from his wife's breast milk.

Admit it: When you read that your first reaction was disgust, followed immediately by an urge to make puns on "Gorgonzolas."

Or, if you're a headline writer, something a little less sophisticated:

N.Y. Chef Keeps Abreast of Food Trends
With Mother's Milk Cheese
— USA Today.

That cheese tastes like 38-DD!
— The (N.J.) Trentonian.

Breast Milk Cheese: The Ultimate in Local Sourcing?
— SF Weekly.



Brace Yourself for the Mother of All Cheeses
— The Guardian.

Soylent Green is ... "Human Cheese"?
— Lone Star Times.

Breast Milk Cheese Mom: Bon Appe-teat!
— CBS News.

'Human Cheese' Ma: Don't Have A Cow!
— New York Post.

Ah yes, Rupert Murdoch's Post, where taste and restraint go to die. It mustered a brief flutter of interest in the World Cup last June when the American team managed to hold the Brits to a draw, or as the Post put it:

USA WINS 1-1

Alas, soon afterward the Yanks were booted from the tournament by Ghana, prompting this Post headline:

THIS SPORT IS STUPID ANYWAY

The Province sports section is, day after day, one of the best headline engines in the country. During last May's Canucks-Blackhawks playoff series, a Tony Gallagher profile of Chicago defenceman Niklas Hjalmarrsson ran under this Variety-style gem:

Nik's slick stick schtick wins fans

At the higher end of the brow, the online magazine Slate found this grabber:

Could a brain parasite found in cats help soccer teams win at the World Cup?

Space does not permit an explanation, but do you really need one?

Slate is proof that online headlines can be as arresting as those on paper. But they still don't strike me as "real," and I don't think it's just an old print guy's snobbery. Readers seem to grant websites more latitude than they

give newspapers.

WickedLocal.com is a network of 158 U.S. community news sites, most of which revel in a cheeky style:

West Roxbury police: Butt search yields crack

— Wicked Local Roslindale, Boston, Mass.

The Wicked Local gang must get a big giggle from that pun, because it also appeared in a sister paper, also from Boston, in February 2008:

Crack found in man's butt

Contrast that with the relatively demure approach of the Campbell River Mirror headline concerning a local found with cocaine hidden in the same place:

Police allege man has bag of trouble behind him

The restraint was all the more impressive considering the suspect's name was Peter Dick.

Which leads me to reuters.com, the online arm of the venerable British wire service. At a track meet in Eugene, Ore., last July Olympic bronze medallist sprinter Walter Dix bested fellow American Tyson Gay, who was recovering from an injury. Or as Reuters put it:

Tired Gay succumbs to Dix in 200 meters

Print and pixel can also be equally inane. Just last month the Province front page warned:

BAD DRIVERS SHOCK COPS

Earlier in the year cnn.com uncovered this shocker:

PAKISTANI TALIBAN PLOTS AGAINST U.S.

When they're not snickering like schoolboys, U.S. headline writers often reveal their political biases more readily than Canadians. The following appeared online after passage of the U.S. health care bill; see if you can spot the liberal among the conservatives:

A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFIRMARY

— Drudge Report

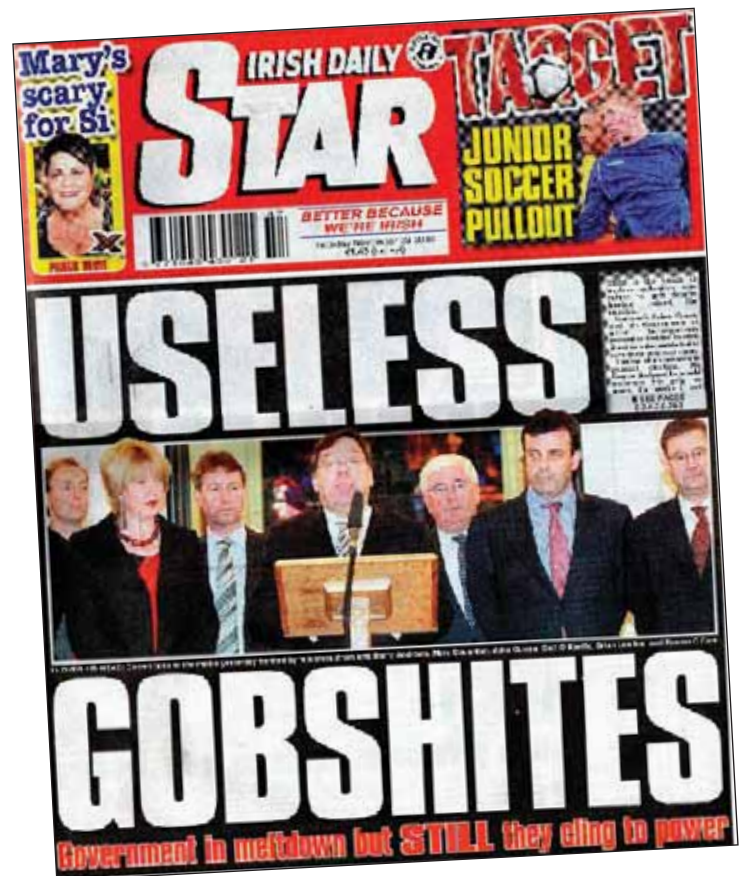
THE DOCTOR WILL SEE YOU NOW

— Huffington Post

ABORTION FUROR

— foxnews.com

Slant is relative, of course. Those websites are paragons of objectivity compared to the British and Irish press. Here's how the Irish Daily Star dissected the complex politics behind Ireland's humiliating bailout:



And while brevity is the soul of wit and the watchword of headline writers everywhere, sometimes a slightly wordier headline is called for. Sometimes it pretty much tells the whole story. From Ireland's Evening Herald:



Calendar listings are provided free of charge by the Harbour Spiel. Send information to editor@harbourspiel.com by the 15th of the month.

JANUARY

- Thurs. Jan. 6.....IGA Customer Appreciation Day - IGA Madeira Park
- Thurs. Jan. 13.....MPES PAC Meeting - MPES Library, 6:30 p.m.
- Sat. Jan. 15.....P. H. Rotary presents Hop-Scotch - P. H. Golf Club, 7 p.m. *New time!*
- Sun. Jan. 16.....P. H. Music Society presents Joël Fafard - P. H. School of Music, 2p.m.
- Mon. Jan. 17.....Area A Seniors' Healthy Meal Program service resumes.
- Tues. Jan. 18.....P. H. Wildlife Society presents a presentation by Katherine Johnston - PHSS (Rm. 107) 7:30 p.m.
- Fri. Jan. 21.....PHSS band California tour silent auction/Quiz Night fundraiser - P. H. Legion, 8 p.m.
- Tues. Jan. 25.....P. H. Women's Connection presents Eve Boese - P. H. School of Music, 10 a.m.
- Wed. Jan. 26.....Area A APC meeting - PHSS (Rm. 107), 7 p.m.
- Sat. Jan. 29.....Robbie Burns Night - P. H. Legion, 6:30 p.m.



FERRY DEPARTURES

*Effective to March 31, 2011**

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.	11:20 a.m.	10:25 p.m.	9:25 a.m.
12:20 p.m.	1:20 p.m.	12:20 p.m.	11:20 a.m.
2:30 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	4:25 p.m.	3:20 a.m.
4:30 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	6:25 p.m.	5:25 p.m.
6:30 p.m.	7:25 p.m.	8:20 p.m.	7:20 p.m.
8:20 p.m.	9:15 p.m.	10:05 p.m.	9:15 p.m.

♥ Daily except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1.

♦ There is an alternate schedule for the Earls Cove ferry on the following dates:
Oct. 8, 11, Dec. 24, 27 & 28.

♦ Daily except Sun and Dec. 25 & Jan. 1.

Deep Thoughts . . .

“The face of a child can say it all, especially the mouth part.”

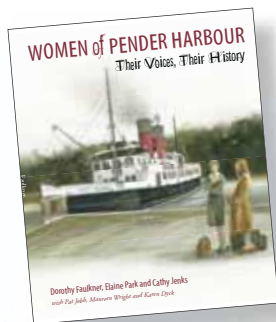
— Jack Handey





Thank you to everyone who supported the fundraisers organized by the Pender Harbour branch of the St. Mary's Hospital / Health Care Auxiliary during this past year.

You all make a difference.



It's our story.



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Proceeds from the sale of this book and prints of the cover painting will support the collection and preservation of historical materials in Pender Harbour.

RESCHEDULED

due to power outage

The Rotary Club of Pender Harbour presents:
Third annual

Hop-Scotch

An evening of great food, specialty beers and unique scotches.

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