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HARBOUR SPIEL

MAY 2010
Issue 233



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HARBOUR SPIEL



The Independent Voice of Pender Harbour & Egmont since 1990

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EDITOR

Brian Lee.

CONTRIBUTORS

This month we thank: Bev Brawley, Joe Harrison, Theresa Kishkan, Shane McCune, Jim Rutherford, Alan Stewart and Jan Watson.

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~ NEXT ISSUE MAILS JUNE 4 ~

EDITORIAL

Is there a future in retirement?

By Brian Lee



As I went back through old issues of the *Harbour Spiel* to write this month's feature, I kept getting lost in our past.

Myrtle Winchester published her first issue of the *Harbour Spiel* in 1991 and though it doesn't sound that long ago, it's easy to forget how life was back then.

That year I was a wide-eyed country boy struggling to keep up with an overwhelming amount of work in my first year of university.

I remember returning for a weekend to find this new little paper.

I liked it but it probably didn't matter much to me at the time because I was done with Pender Harbour and knew I'd never live here again.

The summer before, I worked at Lowes Resort renting boats to van loads of people who travelled here just to go sports fishing. The next summer I landed a job working on a salmon packer and travelled the coast.

There was plenty of fish and timber and it seemed there would always be lots of work here because of it.

Well, in a few short years we know what happened — the backbone of local industry shifted and we were faced with an uneasy reliance on development and retirement.

The changing economy had a pronounced effect on the character of the town and Myrtle recognized that.

As the '90s progressed, she editorialized about changing attitudes in the area and placed a lot of the blame on what Al Lloyd used to call "Kitsilano transplants."

She rallied for more industry in the face of what she perceived was a grow-

ing tide of NIMBY-ism.

We tend to idealize the past and one need only go back another 20 years to Howard White's *Peninsula Voice* to find evidence of NIMBYs, problems in the fishing industry, spats with local government . . . or a column by Al Lloyd.

When I went to high school here, my friends and I called Pender Harbour a "vegetable garden."

The nickname referred to what we saw as a place overrun with "cottonheads" — old people.

I mention it to show not what insensitive jerks we were but how, even in the '80s, there was a clear notion that retirement was challenging as our top industry.

But in the economic vacuum left after the decline in forestry and fishing, it was fortunate we did attract those people who don't rely on local employment yet still need services and new homes.

Without them, the area might not have transitioned as well as it did and they may be the only reason we have enough families left to keep our schools open.

But as our winter population dwindles a little more each year, I think we're seeing that the retirement economy is a false one.

A sure sign of where we may be headed is a growing trend for local businesses to reduce hours or close altogether during the off-season.

It's just a symptom of what Myrtle wrote about in 1991 but, if it continues, even Kitsilano retirees won't want to live here.

And then where would we be?

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if it's not in the Spiel.



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SPIEL PICKS

4TH ANNUAL GARDEN BAY CLASSIC FISHING DERBY - APRIL 30

Registration ends tonight for this weekend's fishing derby. Anyone can enter the Calcutta Draw where participants' boats are auctioned off to the highest bidder. If the boat you purchase catches the biggest fish, you win the pot. Past years' winners took home almost \$1,000.

65TH ANNUAL PENDER HARBOUR MAY DAY CELEBRATION - MAY 22

Come down to Madeira Park on Saturday May 22 for the biggest day of the year (around here). It starts off with a fun run and pancake breakfast at the P. H. Community Hall at 8 a.m.. The parade starts at 11 a.m. and field events at noon. The kids' dance starts at 5:30 p.m. followed by the adults' dance at 8:30 p.m. featuring Lorne Jones and the Trio Grande.

NINTH ANNUAL ATTACK OF DANGER BAY - MAY 23

The longboarding race that started it all. First heats begin at 8 a.m.. There's no parking at the race so spectators are urged to catch the shuttle bus leaving every 15 minutes from the Oak Tree Market in Madeira Park.

S. C. SYMPHONY PRESENTS GOING FOR BAROQUE - MAY 29

The Sunshine Coast Symphony "Going For Baroque" concert will be on Saturday, May 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Pender Harbour Community Hall. It will be a concert of favourites by the great baroque era composers. There will also be a free preview concert/rehearsal on the deck at the Sunshine Coast Resort (weather permitting) on May 13 at 7 p.m.

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Pender Harbour Aquatic Centre marks 30 years with a facelift

The pool is finally open.

Over 50 people were on hand April 17 to celebrate the Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre's reopening after its recent \$1.5 million facelift.

The event marks not only the culmination of three years of work by staff and aquatic society board members but also the 30th anniversary of the pool's original opening in 1980.

Gil Yard, president of the Pender Harbour Aquatic Society, thanked those who worked on the project before recognizing the vision of Shirley Cawley, Marg Gooldrup and Robi Petraschuk who worked tirelessly to include a pool in the rebuilding plans after the high school burned to the ground in 1976.

Yard also paid special thanks to MP John Weston for the \$661,370 in federal funding that helped make the project possible.

Originally intended to be funded by an \$856,000 loan to Area A taxpayers, the project ran into unexpected building code issues soon after construction started last summer,

The federal funding not only allowed the board and architects to cover the cost overruns but made possible some significant additions to the scope of the project.

Additions like a family change room, sauna, retiled deck, larger fitness room and new entrance give the facility a completely new look but much of the more costly upgrades are hidden from view.

An upgraded heating and ventilation system will provide better air quality and the entire ceiling has been upgraded to modern fireproofing codes.

Schedule information can be found at www.scrd.ca.



It's open! Facility manager Deb Cole, MP John Weston, Area A director Eric Graham and Gil Yard are all smiles as they welcome the public back to the pool.



Longtime patron and board member Bob Adkin helps Debbie Cole cut the cake. The pool had only been open for five days but Adkin had already swum three times.



A new family change room will help parents get their children changed without having to separate into the men's and women's rooms.

The "little" Copper Sky opens at the government dock in mid-May, serving baked goods, smoothies, ice cream, coffees, teas & cold drinks.

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Local Coast Guard auxiliary rescues April fools

While a violent storm raged on April 2, local Coast Guard Auxiliary 61 answered a call for help from a 30-foot racing sailboat with a crew of eight onboard.

At 5 p.m., the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Victoria tasked Unit 61 to respond to a vessel that had lost power and was adrift in 15-foot seas and 50-knot wind about a mile west of Pearson Island.

The *Raspinfly* was competing in the 42nd annual Southern Straits Regatta from West Vancouver to Nanaimo which started earlier that day.

Despite conditions, the crew were able to get a line on the sailboat and safely delivered the boat and all crew to the government dock in Madeira Park.

Organizers had called the race off at 4 p.m. after six crew members



Don McLaren photo

The Iona C delivers the 33-foot *Raspinfly* with eight crew members to Madeira Park. The crew were competing in a race from West Vancouver to Nanaimo and were caught in unpredicted high winds that built through the day.

in another vessel, the *Incisor*, had to be plucked from the water after it sank off Nanaimo.

The auxiliary Coast Guard response vessel, the *Iona C.*, was recently repowered with twin 190 hp Volvo inboard diesels, giving her a cruising

speed of 30 knots and a top speed of 35 to 40 knots.

Work was completed at Madeira Marina with the help of a provincial gaming grant and other funds raised locally including assistance from Madeira Marina and Sladey Timber.

~ SPECIAL EVENTS FOR MAY ~

MOTHERS' DAY FAMILY SWIM: Sunday May 9, 1-5pm. Mom swims for free.

MOVE FOR HEALTH DAY - Monday, May 10:

Supersplash Aquafit Challenge: 9-10 a.m. We want to invite everyone for the largest attendance in a class at the PHAFC ever! Refreshments to follow.

Managing Arthritis through Exercise: 10:30-11:15 a.m. With Joan Vyner from the Arthritis Society of BC (Free)

Spashin' sneakers 'n' Snacks Pro D Day Swim: 12-3 p.m. \$2.

All day is 2 for 1 (with the exception of Pro D Day Swim)

SLEEPOVER: Saturday May 15: Everything 30! 30 things to do at the Pender Pool! Ages 6-10. \$25. (Registration required min. one week prior to activity.)

TOTALLY TEEN TAKEOVER OF THE POOL: Friday May 28, 7-10 p.m.

Facility will be closed Victoria Day weekend, May 22, 23 and 24.

See you at May Day and the longboard races!

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April Tools sees old champs back on top



The April Fools' Karl Nichols and Mike Bathgate go down in front of the crowd in the final race. This despite earlier warnings from the Harbour Spiel photographer, 'The guy in the stern might be a little too heavy. Mike, you should get a new partner.'

The grudge was on this year at the Pender Harbour's April Tools Boat Challenge. After suffering a humiliating third place finish at last year's event, perennial champions the Garden Bay Fire Department's Fireflies were out for revenge.

Organizer Jackie Ordroneau said she hoped this year's building twist of forcing entrants to propel their boats with only 8- by 22-inch paddles would see some new designs.

With minimal materials, most of the boats took shapes from past years — long and sleek — but some chose to fashion hand paddles and lie prone, paddleboard style.

It almost worked but, in the end the Fireflies stroked to easy victory in each of their races with a combination of a perfect tracking craft and stubby paddles.

Bruno Cote, Dustin Ouellette, Kerry Rand and Dave Goble picked up \$700 for their victory over FABricating Four, the second place team of Wayne Bergman, Steve Willgoose,

Derek Alltree and Tom.

Third place went to the Garden Bay Fire Department's other team of Bruno Pepin, Christian Dibbing, Lewis Bot and Laurant Weise.

The prize for nicest boat, the "Spiffy-Skiffy" award, was picked up by the Fireflies.

The "Broken Paddle" award for bravery in the face of perversity, or something like that, went to the Madeira Park Fire Department's aptly named April Fools: Mike Bathgate, Karl Nichols and Darren Reid.

Proud Supporters of Abbeyfield House Dinners for Donors Campaign: 140 bricks sold!



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Underdog Bananas shock everyone by winning the over-30 men's

Nine years after reviving the Bananas, the gloried name of 1970's era Pender Harbour men's soccer, the motley team of underdogs are champs.

The Pender Harbour Bananas beat the Sechelt Chiefs 4-3 in the final of the Sunshine Coast Over-30 men's soccer tournament at Gibsons' Shirley Macey Field April 11.

Until this year, the Pender Harbour Bananas had never made it into the final four of the annual league wrap up and have instead been relegated to playing in the consolation "Beer Cup" championship.

Of seven teams, the Bananas entered the tournament fifth through the regular season schedule.

Despite that, when asked about their chances the day before the tournament, the always confident Rod Kammerle told the Harbour Spiel,

"We've been playing pretty good. I think we could take it all."

The Sechelt Chiefs brought 23 players to the tournament and beat Pender 3-2 in their opening game on Saturday, April 12.



The Pender Harbour Bananas beat Coast Progressive United 2-1 enroute to the final for the championship title. l-r (Bananas only): Joe Lanteigne, Brent Sheppard, Dennis Tasic, Robin Millar, John Gideon, Alan Stewart (goalie) and Paul VanWersch.

Pender then tied Halfmoon Bay and squeaked into Sunday's final four by a points differential over Halfmoon Bay who were also beaten by the Chiefs.

Pender's team of heavyweights could scrape up only 13 players for Sunday's quarterfinal match against the spritely south Coast team of Coast Progressive United.

CPU finished a close second be-

hind the Sechelt Chiefs in the regular season but Pender beat them in a hard-fought game 2-1.

This set up a rematch in the final against the powerful and well-stocked Chiefs squad.

But Pender shocked by coming out hard and scoring the first goal off the foot of the always streaking John Gideon.

All it did was wake the Chiefs up and their 12 subs ran roughshod over the battered Pender squad.

Battling broken toes, blisters and groin pulls, the Bananas seemed helpless as the Chiefs scored three unanswered goals to end the half 3-1, making it all but assured that Pender would have to accept second place.

But switching ends after halftime put the sun at their backs and they took advantage of that and the sloping field to bring them within one after a Paul VanWersch header.

"That lit everybody up," said Kammerle.

As the Bananas fans got back into the game, so too did the players.

The momentum had clearly shifted as the Chiefs suddenly found themselves on the defensive against a

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league tourney

charging Pender bunch.

With only a few minutes left in regulation, a mighty throw in from Josh Young connected with Richard Massullo's noggin to tie the score at three a piece sending the crowd into a frenzy and the game into overtime.

If still tied after a 15-minute overtime period, the two teams would face a five-man shootout.

The Sechelt Chiefs had some excellent marksmen on their team and Pender would be at a distinct disadvantage in a shootout situation.

Both teams came out like it was their first game of the tournament.

Bananas goalie Alan Stewart shone as the Chiefs pounded the goal.

As the clock ticked down, fans on both sides of the field took to their tired feet.

But it was Pender's day.

Eleven minutes into overtime, relative Bananas newcomer Jimmy Lemieux one-timed a free kick from Dennis Tasic to beat the Chiefs goalie.

Four more minutes of nailbiting defense by the Pender team delivered what no one in the league could have predicted — the Pender Harbour Bananas as 2009/2010 league champions.

The Bananas' victory was further sweetened by taking home the cup for the most sportsmanlike team which may have something to do with a new Bananas tradition — hosting a bar-



John Gideon scored the first goal in the final against the Sechelt Chiefs.

becue for the other team after every home game.

It's become a popular ritual and many of the other teams are now returning the favour.

On the way back to a team party on Johnstone Road, an impromptu homecoming parade was witnessed by a small band of skateboarders in Madeira Park who looked on quizzically as the trophy-wielding yahoos screamed about tropical fruit from the back of a honking pickup.

Thanks to a few of the wives, all athletes were delivered home safely that night but the keg of beer, banana liqueur and a bottomless sportsmanship cup ensured game-pain wasn't the only thing to keep much of the team from work the next day.



Josh Young fights off a Chief. Much of the game in men's over-30 soccer is defined by physical play. Seen here is 500+ pounds chasing a little ball.

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Plenty of good news for a change



*By Eric Graham
SCRD Director,
Area A*

2010 BUDGET

The 2010 SCRD budget passed March 30.

I am pleased to announce that Area A's residential taxes will be going down and the primary reason is a general decrease of assessments on waterfront properties.

On an Area A home assessed at \$400,000, property taxes will go down 7.7 per cent resulting in a decrease of \$58.62 in general SCRD taxes.

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The SCRD is setting up an advisory committee of 12 Sunshine Coast residents to be part of a steering committee for the Recreation and Parks Master Plan.

Members of this committee will

play a key role, serving the interests and needs of citizens and user groups across the region.

It would be of great benefit to have representatives from our Area A on this committee. If you are interested in becoming a member of this committee please contact me.

P. H. AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTER GRAND OPENING

I was very proud to cut the ribbon (with our MP John Weston) at the

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

UPCOMING MEETINGS AT 1975 FIELD ROAD:

Policing Committee

May 3 at 9:00 a.m.

Transportation Committee

May 3 at 10:30 a.m.

Infrastructure Services Committee

May 6 at 1:30 p.m.

Planning and Development Committee

May 13 at 1:30 p.m.

Regular Board

May 13 and May 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Community Services Committee

May 20 at 1:30 p.m.

Corporate and Administrative Services Committee

May 27 at 1:30 p.m.

Visit www.scrd.ca for up-to-date meeting information.

Area A - Advisory Planning Committee Meeting

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

Landfill Tipping Fee Increase

As of May 1, tipping fees for municipal solid waste increase to \$100 per tonne at the Pender Harbour and Sechelt Landfills, a \$5 per tonne increase. Affected materials include residential and commercial garbage, as well as construction and demolition waste that cannot be recycled or otherwise diverted from the landfills. For more details, visit www.scrd.ca or phone 604-885-6800 ext. 6139.

★ **For more information:**
1975 Field Road
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Office hours:
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

T: 604-885-6800
F: 604-885-7909

www.scrd.ca

Pender Harbour Landfill Summer Hours

From May 23 to September 5, the Pender Harbour Landfill will be open on Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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.



reopening ceremony.

Without \$600,000 of funding from the federal government, some of the renovations could not have been completed.

On behalf of the entire community, I would like to extend our thanks to the Pender Harbour Aquatic Society members and staff, especially Deb Cole. Their hard work and dedication helped make this project a huge success.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL EXTENSION

I was also at the sod-turning for the \$44.15 million expansion to our St. Mary's Regional Hospital.

This project will add more in-patient beds with single occupancy which will offer patient privacy and make a big difference in reducing the spread of infections.

In addition, St. Mary's Foundation and Auxiliary will contribute \$2 million for new equipment.

COMMUNITY BUS

As mentioned last month, we are now hoping to get the community bus on the road by Wed., June 2.

There will be scheduled service on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The bus will start in Madeira Park then move on to Earl's Cove, the Egmont Museum, the Petro-Canada Gas station and John Henry's (Garden Bay).

The bus will stop again at the Pender Harbour Community Hall before heading to Sechelt where it will lay over for two hours.

It will then return via Madeira Park, Garden Bay and the Egmont Museum, completing its journey at the Madeira Park Community Hall.

I have to say here that it is not guaranteed for a June 2 start, but I am

doing my level best to have the bus operational by this date.

PENDER LANDFILL

On March 30, by a majority vote which I opposed, the SCRD board voted to turn the Pender landfill into a transfer station once the present site is full. A survey is in progress to determine the remaining capacity of the landfill. Once this site has reached capacity, garbage will be compacted and trucked to Sechelt.

I would like to thank all residents of Area A for their passion, effort and contribution to a very spirited process.

SCRD staff is currently working on proposals to install the first resource recovery station on the Sunshine Coast at the Pender Landfill facility.

When this facility is operational, it will substantially reduce the number of truckloads sent to the Sechelt Landfill site.

Steve Dawson

Sunday, May 16
2 p.m.



"...one of a handful of steel-string players who can create magic,"

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Steve Dawson is an accomplished Canadian guitarist and multi-instrumentalist. Specializing in slide and fingerstyle guitar, pedal steel, lap steel and banjo, he is in demand as a live performer, session musician and producer.

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PHOTOJOURNAL



photo submitted
Pender's Grade 7 girls beat out all contenders on the Sunshine Coast to win their year-end tournament. The Grades 5 & 6 team took second in their division. (l-r): Carley Whitehead, coach Hazel Reid, Jade Storoschuk, Nadine Jay Reid, Dani Pazur, Crystal Cook, Zena Lanteigne and coach Earl Antilla.

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Robert Charles (Allan) Walker

FEBRUARY 26, 1933 — MARCH 31, 2010



Allan Walker passed away suddenly on March 31, 2010 at his home in Sechelt at the age of 77. He was a devoted husband and father; his family and friends will miss him dearly.

Allan was born in Calgary, Alta., to parents Joseph and Viola Walker. His family moved to Vancouver when he was young, and that's where he

met his wife of 59 years, Velma. They married and moved to Kleindale (where Velma grew up) and Allan started a logging venture. This took him to logging camps at places like Loughborough Inlet, Knight's Inlet and Goliath Bay where Velma also worked as a camp cook.

After his children were grown, Allan started a second career as a boat builder in Pender Harbour which he worked at until his retirement.

He will be fondly remembered as a man with a kind spirit and true integrity. He had a fantastically sharp sense of humour that only he seemed to be able to get away with. He loved to give a good ribbing with his sly grin, but he could take it like a trooper, too. He just loved to laugh.

He is survived by loving his wife Velma of Sechelt, daughter Heather of

Pender Harbour, son Wayne (Karlene) of Campbell River, sister Shirley of Tacoma, sisters-in-law Grace (Ed) of Penticton and Marjorie of Qualicum Beach, brother-in-law Derald (Marilyn) of Nanaimo, grandchildren Angela (Joseph), Charlie, Cody, Kristina (Travis) & Ryan, eight great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Allan's family would like to thank the Sechelt Fire Department members and paramedics who attended the home and took wonderful care of Velma. Your kindness and compassion will not be forgotten.

Allan did not wish to have a formal service and his family is respecting his wishes. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to either the Heart & Stroke Foundation or the Calvary Baptist Church, Gibsons.

Dirk Jan Hunsche

JANUARY 15, 1925 — FEBRUARY 20, 2010



So brave and courageous, our father Dirk Jan Hunsche passed peacefully as the sun rose on the morning of Feb. 20, 2010.

He was surrounded by his loving wife of 58 years, Diane, and their

children.

Born in Holland, he immigrated with "Mop" in 1955.

A long time resident of Vancouver and Pender Harbour, he retired from Hunsche Bros. Service Ltd. as a master mechanic and co-owner, along with his brother Fred.

He was a caring and devoted husband, father and an exceptional Opa to seven grandchildren.

He will be missed by his family, community and friends.

No service by request.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Pender Harbour Lions Club.

Happy sailing, Dad, may the wind fill your sails. We miss you.

THE HARBOUR GALLERY will be featuring the following:

May 1 to 10:

Pat Jobb

"Songs of the Earth," print making exhibition. (11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily)

Reception: May 1, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

May 12 to 20:

Bruce Forbes and Wendy Simmonds

"Wood and Paint," a collection of carvings & paintings (11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily)

Reception: May 15, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

May 22 to Sept. 19:

Harbour Gallery Membership Show

Gallery Hours (July 1 to Sept. 19):
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



The Myrtle years: The Harbour Spiel, 1990-2006

By Brian Lee

It wasn't that long ago, but when Myrtle Winchester moved here in 1986, Pender Harbour wasn't like it is now.

Winchester was fresh off the beat from the Port McNeill Reporter and took a job as a reporter/photographer for John Burnside's weekly *The Coast News*.

More often than not, she covered the events "up here" and found herself pulled into the community.

At the time, Marg Scoular ran a second hand store in the little cedar Pan-Abode in the Madeira Park Shopping Centre but planned to move across the street into the current Re/Max office because she needed more space.

Winchester says they'd often hit the Legion after work,

"Marg told me she was moving and said, 'The rent is \$250 a month and, if you want it, I'll turn it over to you and if you can't make a living out of that you should move back to Vancouver,'"

Winchester was broke at the time and says she wouldn't have even considered the enterprise were it not for the generosity of a neighbour.

She says the person wouldn't want to be named but he had a lasting effect on how she viewed her new community.

"I couldn't really afford to start a



Vern Elliott photo

Opening day of the Coast News outpost at the Paper Mill in 1990. **Top (l-r):** unknown Coast Newsie, Ruth Forrester (CN columnist for Halfmoon Bay), Vi Tyner, unknown Coast Newsie, Jock Hermon, (original partner of PH Realty), Pete Trower, 'Sto-mach' (guy who carved the B of M totem pole), Bill Hall (Egmonster), Rosemary ?, Shirley Hall (Egmontster), Bob Bodner, John Burnside (CN publisher), Myrtle Winchester. **Top step (l-r):** Iris Griffith, Fran Burnside. **Next step:** unknown kids, Dyan Cardillo (B of M). **Bottom (l-r):** Ann Cook (author of CN's Egmont column), Jessamyn Skinner and Katie 'The Hat Lady' Devlin (Egmonster).

business and was talking about Marg's offer over tea with him and he said, 'Don't worry about it. It's a good deal, just do it,' and then he took 500 bucks out of his wallet and said, 'Here you'll need this to start.'"

Myrtle hadn't lived here that long and was overwhelmed that someone who barely knew her would have that

kind of trust and faith.

"I don't think that would happen in many other places," she says.

The loan helped her turn the building into the Pender Harbour satellite office for the Coast News where she reported on local news, edited copy and even sold and laid out ads.

She already had a journalism

December 1990



February 1991



January 1993



April 1993



March 1994



May 1995



July 1996



diploma and had worked for other newspapers but hadn't been exposed to the business side of news before. She enjoyed her new territorial freedom.

It worked fine for almost a year until she had a falling out with Burnside. Myrtle says they hashed it out over a bottle of rum.

"John had this thing where he didn't want to print much copy from Pender Harbour because there wasn't enough ad sales," recalls Myrtle.

"In his words, 'he was tired of fu**ing subsidizing fu**ing Pender Harbour because they never bought any fu**ing advertising.'"

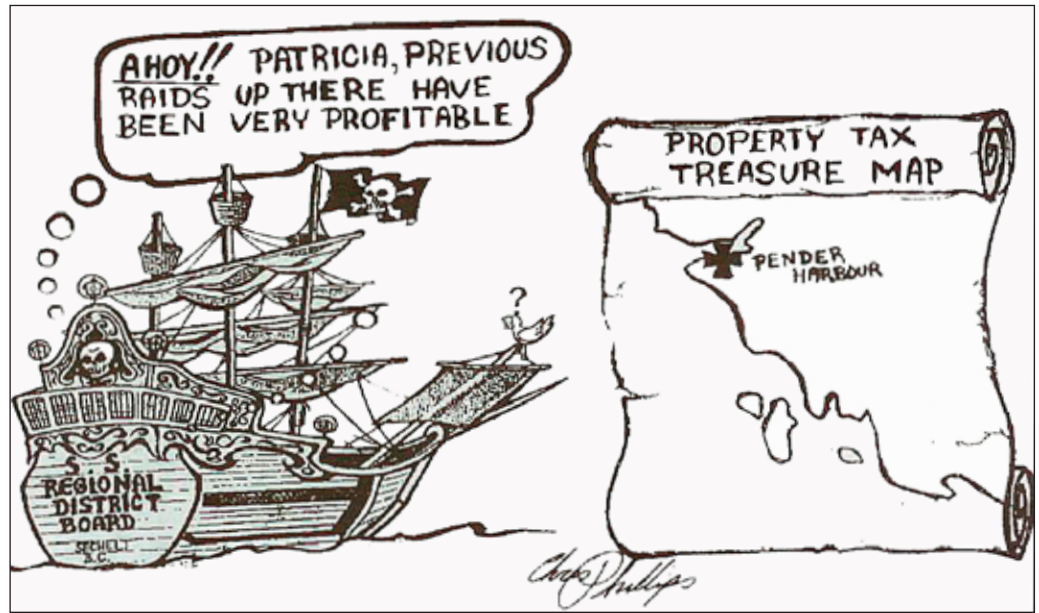
Though their friendship continued, Winchester parted with the Coast News and began offering writing and office services in the building she shared with accountant Karen Adamson.

Winchester had a Commodore Amiga 1200 and knew how to use it.

In December 1990, she produced what she describes as an eight page Christmas card to the community from her and a bunch of other local businesses. It was called the *Upcoast Christmas Journal* and she sent it out to everyone in Pender Harbour.

Besides Christmas wishes, it contained news about RCMP roadblocks, Christmas scams and even a little history documenting the 60th anniversary of the Pender Harbour Legion.

Winchester says it was just an



This editorial cartoon by Chris Phillips appeared in the Aug. 1998 issue and referred to the controversial Sunshine Coast recreation referendum. 'Patricia' is Patricia Baldwin, chair of the SCRDB board at the time.

experiment but the response was overwhelming and she had no choice but to continue publishing it.

Before she could tackle the next issue, she was counselled to change the name,

"Ted Lee said, 'Don't call it the *Upcoast Journal* because everybody will call it the Upchuck Journal.' That seemed like a good reason to change the name."

And the *Harbour Spiel* came as a natural extension of a controversial topic of the time.

"It sounded like Harbour seal. Harbour seals were very controversial — all the fishermen still hated them but there were enough environmental-

ists that wanted to protect them so it just seemed to fit."

In February 1991 she published the first official issue of the *Harbour Spiel*. In her editorial, Winchester explained the name:

"In short, we need a name as unique (if not eccentric) and independent as the average local."

It was eight pages again and printed on her home printer with help in folding and collating from Lyle Forbes and Ann Cook.

A column by Linda Goble promoted the newly formed Garbage Recycling in Pender Society's (GRIPS) efforts to create a recycling depot in

continued next page



The Myrtle years (cont.)

(continued from page 15)
Pender Harbour.

MPES principal June Maynard updated the community on Madeira Park Elementary School matters while MP Ray Skelly and SCR D Area A Director Gordon Wilson wrote on local political issues.

And the always entertaining Al Lloyd offered some reminiscences about the difficulties for Pender Har-

bour housewives to buy groceries in the 1940s.

Travel in those days was by boat and in any type of weather.

Lloyd listed some of the logistical problems associated with getting groceries down the ramp from any of the three waterfront stores — Irvines, Murdocks and Mervyns.

“Good looking, young wives would likely find a gentleman more

than willing to do the wheeling but most wives had to fend for themselves,” Lloyd wrote.

But the most interesting aspect of the first issue might be the variety of businesses who advertised.

Many still advertise monthly but there are also the all but forgotten names like the Beaver Island Grocery, the Pender Harbour Chevron or Irvines Landing Marine Pub.

Winchester wrote in that issue’s editorial:

“*The Harbour Spiel* is not my publication, it’s yours.” And for the next 15 years, she stayed true to that credo.

Winchester kept the publication intensely local and most would agree some of the *Harbour Spiel*’s charm owed to the fact that it clearly cared for the community and made an honest attempt to reflect its values.

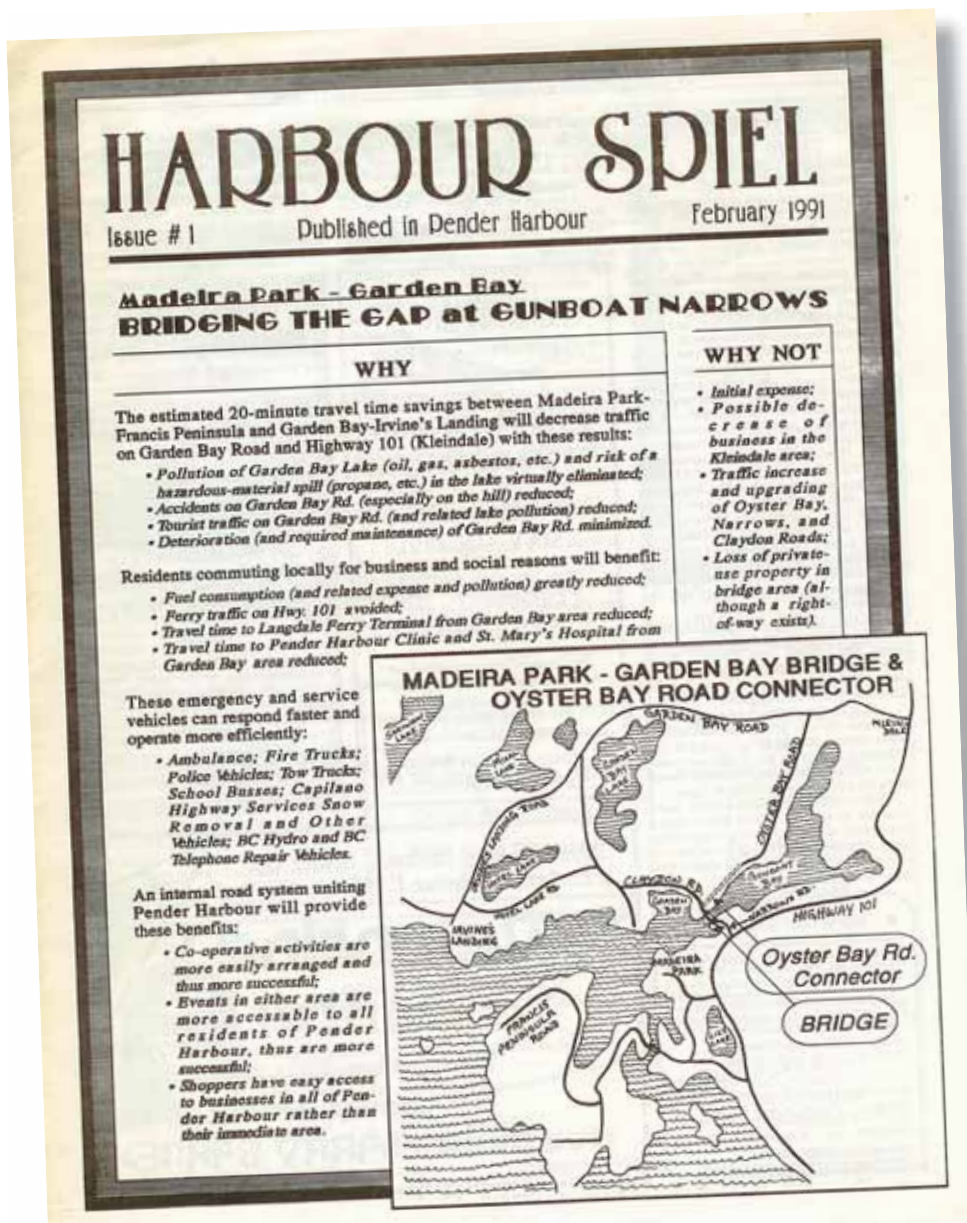
Articles about the state of commercial fishing, drinking water quality, recycling and the history of the Pender Harbour Credit Union sat beside local birthday announcements and thank-yous for kind deeds.

But there was always a hint of controversy in every issue and the *Harbour Spiel* offered a refreshing alternative to the local newspapers of the day.

“I’d write about what people were talking about,” says Winchester.

“It seemed like everybody stopped at the Legion on the way home from work and that’s where a lot of the gossip got exchanged and that’s where people voiced their opinions on the issues.”

Winchester’s third editorial opened with an apology for being late — an occurrence her readers would learn to forgive throughout the next 187 issues.



‘Bridging the Gap at Gunboat Narrows.’ The cover of first issue of the Harbour Spiel proposed a bridge linking Garden Bay with Madeira Park. The next issue featured the results of a poll showing 81 per cent were in favour.

She explained that it was growing so fast she couldn't keep up.

The April issue had ballooned to 16 pages and she needed to reorganize her Paper Mill business to accommodate it. Even then, it was taking over her life.

By the fourth issue Winchester received her first piece of "hate mail."

Local community member Stephen Garrett was offended by her divisive remarks about issues affecting Gibsons,

"What more is the use of 'we.' You did not ask my permission to include me in your stated view."

Garrett was also offended by her use of the word "terrorists" to replace tourists in a few sentences chastising rude summer visitors.

Winchester says she even lost a few advertisers over that one but it didn't stop her.

"I tried to make the editorials controversial," she says.

"If you can piss people off, you make them happy."

Over the next few years, Winchester started using PCs and commercial printers.

As the design and layout of the publication improved, Winchester kept it looking consistent by (usually) printing the cover on beige cover stock. It gave the paper an antique effect and preserved its homey style.

Every issue offered a surprise; a pithy hodgepodge of eclectic local stuff that made people hurry to their mailbox for that month's issue.

By August 1992, the *Spiel* had grown to 24 pages. New columnists and features appeared monthly.

The Harbour Spiel has had close to 50 regular contributors to date.

People like Dave Howell, Al

Lloyd, Lynn VanderPoll, Ken Walters, Mary Cain, Tom Barker, Roxanne Gregory and Mike Crowe are just a few who have contributed colour and local vibrancy to its pages.

In September 1992, Winchester unveiled the Harbour Seals of Approval and Disapproval, describing the service as, "Just a place to get it off your chest."

It became one of the most popular sections and people would invariably pick it up to scan for disapprovals like this one by Helen Berg from Dec. 1993:

"A Harbour Seal of Disapproval to the IGA employee who one day played the song 'Get Stuffed' for ever-tone (sic) in the store to hear. It was very inappropriate background music for those of us spending our money there."

Or this one from Feb 2000:

"A Harbour Seal of Disapproval to Don Benson and Bill Funk for their asinine behaviour in the Legion over the No Smoking law. GROW UP! Sandi, Evelyn, Leanna, Diane and Francis (Legion 112 staff)."

Submissions were required to include full names so only the brave could air their dirty laundry.

Approvals became the norm and, though maybe not as interesting, they fostered a sense of community by allowing public acknowledgment of people's kindness.

"Everything I put in the *Harbour Spiel* was started to fill space," says Winchester.

"The birthdays were always fun because people would go into the IGA or the Oak Tree and people they barely knew would wish them happy birthday and they'd feel good about it."

THE LITTLE CEDAR PAN-ABODE

The building was originally a display office for Pan-abode Homes, not long after Art Alexander and Ross McQuitty built the shopping centre.

From that, it became a fishing charter office, then Art's real estate office.

Marg Scoular took it over to become Pender Harbour Secondhand and I moved in with the Pender Harbour Paper Mill when she moved.

The Paper Mill conducted retail sales and office services, housed a Coast News office, a Loomis depot (Ann Cook was the local driver), Karen Adamson's accounting office and a dispatch centre for Ray Hansen Trucking, Rod Webb Contracting and Lyle Forbes.

But the little building is best known as the birthplace of the *Harbour Spiel*.

Catherine Buck and Pauline Hurst transformed the business into the Water and the Wind, primarily a new-ageish gift shop, before selling it to Vonnie and John McKelvie who added photofinishing to the services.

Ken and Lee Walters bought it from them and a few years later I bought it from Ken and Lee.

In 2006, Britta and Claus Sjogren bought the business and renamed it the Harbour Spirit.

- Myrtle Winchester, (Jan. 2009)



Terry Barker illustration

continued next page

The Myrtle years (cont.)

(continued from page 17)

Another unique attribute of the *Harbour Spiel* is that it has never charged for local obituaries.

"It seems like really sleazy marketing to pry money out of people while they're going through such a hard time. Every other paper takes advantage of it but, to me, an obituary is a part of history and that's what the *Spiel* was all about."

Myrtle wrote many of them and says it was one of the most stressful parts of the paper for her to produce.

"One month I had two obituaries to write. One was the tragic accidental death of a young man in his late teens. The other to appear was for Jackie Cummings. I received a photo of Jackie as a much younger man and got their pictures mixed up."

If that's the one error she still truly regrets, she happily talks about some of the other typos that have

found their way into the *Spiel* over the years.

She cites the chronic errors in the crossword puzzles as one of the most dependable spots in the publication to find screw-ups.

It even gained mention in other papers.

"The Harbour Spiel has one great flaw (as locals will attest to) and that is the crossword puzzle," wrote editor Dave Allen in an April 1995 issue of the *Sechelt Sun*.

"It's not impossible because it's hard. In the whole time Myrtle has been doing them, there hasn't been one (puzzle) that didn't have a square in the wrong place!"

Myrtle says one of her favourite typos was a recurring error in an ad for Hans Schroeder.

Myrtle dropped the "e" on services to make it "Handyman Services."

"Hans lived in Middlepoint and didn't get the *Spiel* so he didn't catch on for a few months," she recalls.

"He finally ran into me at the hamburger stand but he was really embarrassed to tell me. He had to go get a copy of the paper to show me because he wouldn't say cervix."

If you read closely enough, you could almost always catch an inside joke or two.

In the October 1997 issue Myrtle listed Willie "Clark Kent" Higgins as

the Harbour Spiel reporter.

Other gems just happened naturally like this Personals ad in the Feb. 1995 issue:

"To all the attached men who think I am the answer to their problems: Please stop visiting me or next month I will print your names in the Harbour Spiel. Eudora."

Myrtle says it was those kinds of things that kept it fun for her and the business aspect of running the Harbour Spiel didn't matter.

She says very few people ripped her off over the years and she always had the support of the community.

"Every month before the deadline I would be terrified that I wasn't going to be able to sell enough ads to pay for the printer," she says.

"I always did but it took me about five years to get over the monthly terror that I wasn't going to make it."

If running a business like the Harbour Spiel wasn't already stressful enough, Winchester has had more than her share of health problems over the years and after undergoing successful treatment for hepatitis C in 2003, she now faces another battle.

This time its cancer and she's invited people along for the ride through "My Dance with Cancer," a blog in which she matter-of-factly details her diagnosis and subsequent treatment.

Despite the illness, Winchester says she feels great and looks forward to getting on with her life, "once the bloody doctors figure out what the hell is wrong with me."

In 2006 Myrtle was wooed away from the *Harbour Spiel* by a PR job with Pan Pacific Aggregates, a company planning to mine a controversial site near Spipyus Park.

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She says by then she was already disillusioned with the paper and had decided it was time to get out.

"It just wasn't as much fun as it used to be. It just occurred to me that I shouldn't be doing it anymore.

"As soon as I realized that, there was no point to continue doing it."

Myrtle waited a few days before calling me.

"You were the only one person in the Harbour I could think of who could do it and I certainly wouldn't let it go to someone outside of the Harbour," she recalls.

"You were interested in the history of the community which was very important to me and you were semi-literate."

It all happened very quickly after that.

Winchester called me on Sept. 30, 2006 and within weeks had handed over the operation, pushing me to publish my first issue on Nov. 1.

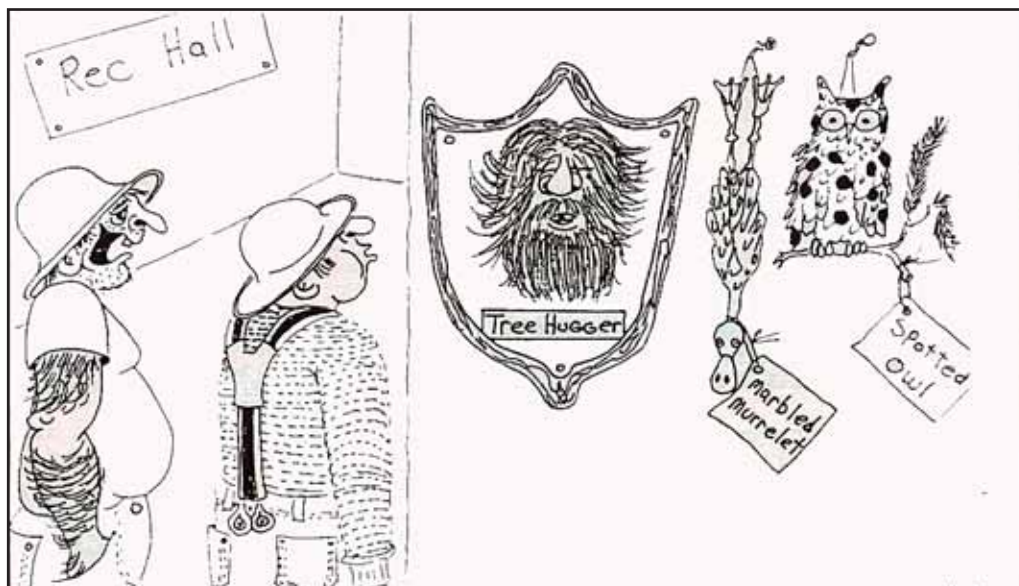
Soon after, Myrtle sold her retail business and took a six-month contract with PPA.

PPA is no longer around and, though she gets nostalgic when she thinks back to Friday afternoons spent sharing Bacardi Coolers and gossip with friends on the porch of the Paper Mill, she says she has no regrets about selling the business.

"It was a different community then — everybody was on the same page. It's not anymore — the community is fractured now," she says.

"Al Lloyd used to talk about Kitsilano transplants. He called them that because they'd move here because they hated Kitsilano and loved Pender Harbour.

"But the first thing they did when they got here was try to change everything about Pender Harbour so they



'They were easy to get. They were all in the same spruce I fell in the Caren Range.' Always political, just not always politically correct, this uncredited editorial cartoon was published in the March 1995 issue.

could make it just like Kitsilano."

Her changing attitudes were reflected in her editorials which became increasingly critical of the changing community. In Nov. 2005, she wrote,

"Pender Harbour is growing like, as my mother used to say, a bad weed."

Her pet concern was the lack of industry in the community and the emergence of a new kind of NIMBYism that discouraged the development and jobs that could sustain families.

"Over the years, fewer and fewer people saw the issues the same way I did. It got to a point where I was the minority," she recalls.

"By 2006 when I was publishing the *Harbour Spiel*, I was so careful about being politically correct in editorials and in the way I reported on issues in the community that I felt that the honesty of the issue was compromised and it just wasn't fun anymore."

Her 190th editorial ended by thanking the advertisers who had been there since the beginning — the Garden Bay Pub, Midway Power, the Pender

Harbour Legion, IGA, Harbour Insurance, Harbour Disposal, Rod Webb and Bill Hunsche.

Before signing off she wrote, "It was never about the money, but without the advertising revenue, it would not be possible."

Reading through back issues of the *Harbour Spiel*, there's an absurd similarity of topics in the letters and editorials then with controversies swirling today.

Issues regarding water quality, regional government attempts to close the landfill, out of control land developers, dog control, incorporation and teenagers being teenagers pop up over and over.

The names have all changed but there's still a common thread connecting the community of 1991 to the present one.

And if it sometimes seems frayed and hard to see, we should remember that common thread may have disappeared all together were it not for Myrtle Winchester's efforts in preserving it.

Attack of Danger Bay crew mobilizes for ninth year



By Bricin Lyons

So here we are, nine years in the making, with Pender Harbour hosting the biggest and longest running international longboarding event the Sunshine Coast has ever seen.

In the last nine years we have produced an event that has put British Columbia on the international map of speedboard racing, with Pender Harbour being the first community in Canada to host such an event.

It's inspired other towns and racers to create longboard festivals like ours — Nanaimo, Shawnigan Lake, Comox, Summerland, Vernon, Kimberly, Williams Lake, North Vancou-



Between heats, organizer Bricin Lyons keeps the crowd entertained with contests like this dance off at 'Carnage Corner' at last years ADB.

ver, Britannia Beach and Salt Spring Island all host events now.

In Alberta there are races in Canmore, Edmonton and Calgary and back east there is an event in Montréal. It all started with a Pender Harbour school boy's dream.

Last year Brazil made history by taking the win with Pender Harbour's Scott "Scoot" Smith settling for second place.

This year we will see five racers from the Philippines, five from Australia, six from Brazil, five from Puerto Rico, a couple from the U.K., one from Sweden, three from Hawaii, and racers from all over Canada and the States.

Attack of Danger Bay has produced four world champions in nine

years. All four are Canadian, and three hail from Pender Harbour: Tom 'Meatball' Edstrand from Francis Peninsula, Kevin "K-Rimes" Reimer from Sakinaw Lake and PHSS graduate Scoot Smith from Madeira Park.

None of this would have happened without community effort. This is truly amazing what we have started here.

I'd like to acknowledge and give great thanks for nine full years of support from the Pender Harbour Rotary, the Pender Harbour Lions Club, the Pender Harbour Community Club and all their past and present presidents.

These groups have always stuck by our side to help ensure the event's survival and create this wonderful atmosphere and energy.

A big thank you to the Oak Tree Market for their continued financial support, Garden Bay Pub and Grasshopper Pub, Pender Harbour Transportation for the donation of the shuttle buses for the spectators, Pender Harbour Ambulance Crew, Sunshine Coast RCMP, Tourism Sunshine Coast and the *Harbour Spiel* both past and present.

Thank you to all of the local

Harbour Spiel

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businesses and the kids we pay to keep the race track clean, Irene at John Henry's and the Lions Club gatekeepers.

Most importantly a huge thank you to all the local residents on Murdoch Road and Esquire Drive for welcoming us back into their neighbourhood for another action-packed 10 hours.

Please help keep the neighbours happy by not parking on or around the race course and by taking the shuttle bus from Madeira Park's Oak Tree Market which runs every 15 minutes — the first leaves at 8 a.m.

And, as always, we will stop the race to make sure local residents can access their homes — just flag the closest corner marshal and we will safely and quickly accommodate you.

Nine years hasn't been a cake-walk by any means.

We've had to fight and tackle issues every year but I'll wait until the 10th annual Attack of Danger Bay to touch on the full history of this amazing community event.

It's very important to keep this event going and we have to keep this a positive family event.

I've never wanted a beer garden or smoke pit at this event and we're not starting now.

With you, the community and the local police, I want to remind you that we have a no drug or alcohol policy.

Every year we have to focus on what we see could be a potential problem and be proactive towards it.

So this year we must make sure that no booze or drugs are anywhere around our precious event.

Please help us tackle this issue by leaving your beers and smokes at home, thank you.

I've arranged for the Community

Police, the Pender Harbour Rotary Club and the Pender Harbour Lions members to help us keep watch with the local authorities to ensure a successful Attack of Danger Bay Nine.

See you there.



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Tooth wear can be a major dental problem.

Once tooth wear has progressed through the strong outer enamel to the soft inner dentin of a tooth, the rate of wear accelerates.

Back teeth lose their functioning cusps which aid in chewing, and front teeth get short and start to chip.

Tooth wear often happens so slowly that even though a person has worn away as much as one third to one-half of their front teeth, they may not even be aware of it.

It is sort of like gaining weight — it usually happens slowly so you have time to get used to it.

Front tooth wear is often uneven and produces a crooked smile line.

Early treatment of wear would include wearing of a night guard to protect the teeth from night time grinding, control of acids (fruit juice, soft drinks and acidic foods) and alignment of the bite through selective bite adjustment or orthodontics and possible minor restoration of worn teeth.

If wear is severe, there are restorative options available, which can restore function and esthetics.

Early prevention of dental problems is always our first choice.

So even if you do not have symptoms sometimes it is desirable to fix it now and avoid more serious complications in the future.

If you would like to know more about preventive options available to you to help you to achieve your long-term dental goals, please ask one of the dentists or friendly staff members at the Pender Harbour Health Centre.



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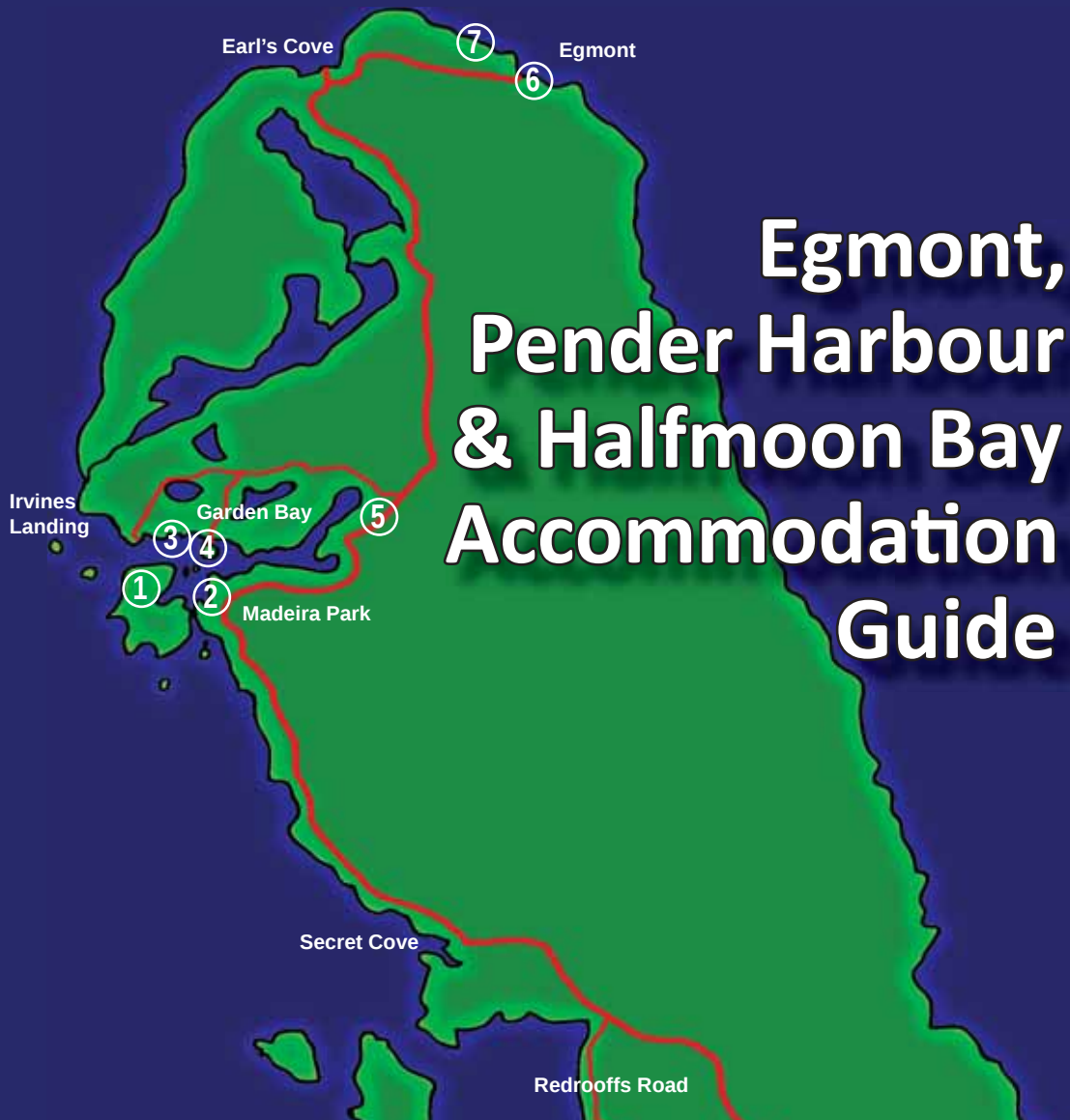


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7



Egmont, Pender Harbour & Halfmoon Bay Accommodation Guide

Purple — totally unique

By Jim Rutherford

Add a little flair and depth to your planting schemes with a shot of purple.

The depth comes from the fact that purple seems to recede whereas red and yellow advance. This can make a border or container look deeper in your field of vision.

Don't be afraid to use purple and red together. It will look very rich and if you think the colour contrast is too much, then soften it with some pink.

SHRUBS

Buddleia or butterfly bush is an easy and inexpensive place to start introducing purples to a border bed and deer don't bother them. You'll see mauve to even white ones growing wild on the roadsides.

Anything that you see growing wild is a good indication of what habitat the plant prefers.

Garden Bay Road is a lovely drive and along the way you'll see habitats from swamp, salt marsh, deep shade woodlands to barren rock slopes.

Black knight is a true purple buddleia and a real showstopper.

All buddleias thrive in well-drained soil and in full sun. Prune hard in early spring for best flowering on the new shoots and also cut out any winter kill.

The fragrant flowers (especially the white ones) attract butterflies and are at their best in late summer.

Lavender is another summer bloomer that gives a great show of purple and perhaps the showiest of all is *Lavandula stoechas*, usually just called French lavender because it is native to the Mediterranean area.

That means growing conditions

of well-drained soil and full sun.

Like all lavenders, it forms a compact sprawling shrub with grey-green foliage. The different and very showy characteristic of this particular species is the conspicuous purple bracts topping the flowers, creating a deep purple haze over the whole plant.

CONTAINERS

Hemerocallis aren't just day lilies but new varieties are becoming available all the time.

Purple/grape coloured ones are pricey and usually come in one gallon pots, but not very full, so start out in a container.

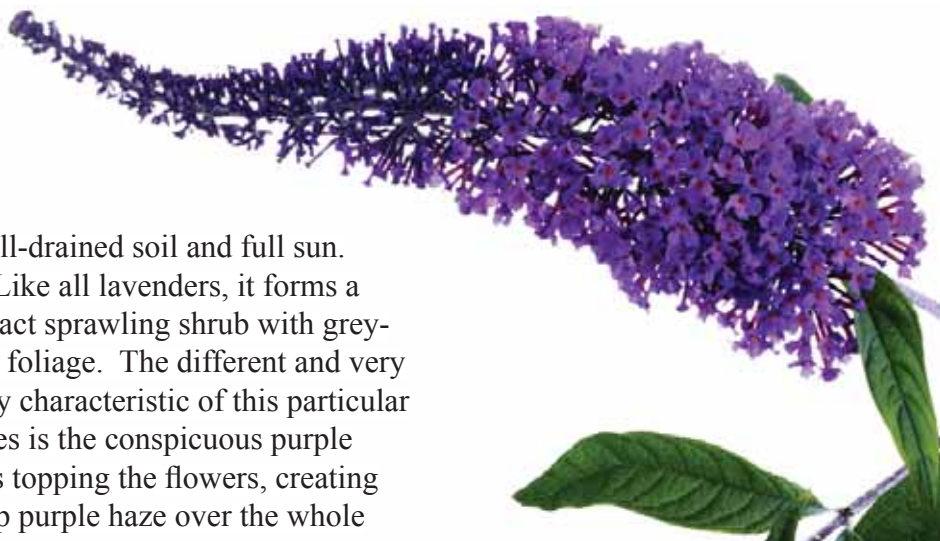
The deer always chomp down the orange ones in a border, so keep these new varieties well protected.

Any reasonable soil will do, they thrive in full sun to light shade and, if you have time, dead-head as you go.

Strobilanthes or "purple passion" is an electrifying choice for a foliage plant. Reaching 60 cm high and 20 cm wide, this annual lives in well-drained soil in full sun. Contrast with sorbet-coloured blooms of compact lime petunia for total impact.

Heliotrope: Look for massed large heads composed of individual tiny flowers. It's noted for its evening fragrance and is well worth considering for hanging baskets and tubs.

"Mini-marine" has violet-purple flowers with dark green, wrinkled foliage. It can be a tender perennial but likely just an annual in our zone. An advantage of heliotrope is that it



thrives best in full sun and can really take it hot.

Coleus are way underused for shady spots but are easy to grow when kept evenly moist and out of the blazing sun. You can shape them up by just nipping them back. It's best not to let coleus bolt (bloom and go to seed).

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SATURDAY PROGRAM

DOW

- 8:00
 - FAMILY FUN RUN
 - LIONS' PANCAKE BREAKFAST
 - KIDS (12 & UNDER) FISHING DERBY GOVERNMENT DOCK
- 11:00
 - FLY-BY PARADE START (Bill Thompson & the N-3-N)
 - MAY DAY PARADE
- 11:30
 - CROWNING OF 65TH MAY QUEEN
- 12 - 4
 - FIELD EVENTS AND CHILDREN'S GAMES
 - BEER GARDENS
 - LONGBOARD HOCKEY
 - MAY POLE DANCE
 - ROCK CLIMBING WALL
 - SUMO WRESTLING
 - MECHANICAL BULL
 - BOUNCY CASTLE
 - LOGGER SPORTS
 - LIVE MUSIC ON FIELD
 - VENDORS
 - LOTS OF FOOD
- 5:30
 - CHILDREN'S DANCE (until 7 p.m.)
- 8:30 - 1
 - ADULT DANCE
(with Lorne Jones & the Trio Grande)

Friday Night Teen Dance:
DJ, karaoke and spot prizes
7 - 11 p.m.

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MAY 22

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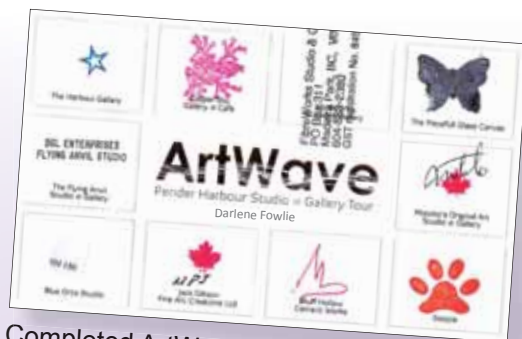
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Blustery conditions and power outages didn't stop April's ArtWave event on Easter weekend.

Ten local studios and galleries opened their doors for three days and raised \$400 for the Pender Harbour Food Bank.



Completed ArtWave passports were entered in a draw for prizes.



Rick Harmer's outdoor studio was a good one to skip during Friday's storm but worth a return visit on Sunday.



Joe Stanton and friend play on a warm Sunday afternoon at Geopia Studios.



Krista Maurer's Blue Orca studio in Daniel Point wins for best view.



Pat Jobb and Wendy Simmonds at the Harbour Gallery in Madeira Park.



Bruno Pepin stands beside some of his work at Kleindale's Flying Anvil Studio.



Ursula Bentz's pieces at FibreWorks were stunning and wearable.



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Cindy Cantelon between customers at her Copper Sky Gallery and Cafe.



Pia Sillem and her pottery studio at Geopia Studios in Earl's Cove.



George Connell's Geopia Studios website notes that he is described by the Federation of Canadian Artists as 'one of our members'.



Pauulet Hohn at her Piecefull Glass Canvas Studio/Gallery in Kleindale.



Jack Gibson is currently working on a larger than life size version of his bronze sculpture 'Yonel' that will grace the entrance to his Garden Bay studio.



The always charming Motoko at her Sinclair Bay Road Gallery.

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Nancy says good-bye. Susan says hello.

*By Bev Brawley
Clinical Office Manager*

There has been a changing of the guard at the Pender Harbour Health Centre.

For over 20 years, Nancy Mackay has steadfastly provided nursing care and advice at the clinic.

She has decided that the time has come to step down from her nursing duties and plans to spend lots of extra time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

In true Nancy style, she has numerous plans for exciting adventures and social activities to fill her days.

Nancy won't be completely absent from the clinic.

You will still see her and more than occasionally.

She will continue running her diabetes program, as well as filling in as clinic or home care nurse every now and again.

She officially "retired" at the end of April and we already miss her more than she can imagine.

As we say good-bye to Nancy, we are very pleased to welcome Susan Nattall who is stepping into her position as clinic nurse team leader.

Many of you already know Susan as our bubbly clinic nurse on Mondays, the warm, nurturing home care nurse on Tuesdays or as the person to see at the teen drop-in sessions on Tuesday afternoons.

A longtime resident of Pender Harbour, Susan brings to this position a diverse background and skill set of benefit to all age groups. Her certification in reproductive health encompasses birth control, pap smears, and sexually transmitted infections.

As well as working for us in the clinic and home care, she has worked



Nancy Mackay's nursing school graduation photo. Mackay has retired from the Pender Harbour Health Centre nursing staff after more than 20 years.

at St. Mary's and Vancouver General Hospitals and pediatric respite care.

She concurrently works with the Sechelt Indian Band as well as the Pender Harbour Health Centre.

While Susan is providing leadership in the clinic, Kathy Bergman continues to lead our home care team.

Kathy assumed this position when Linda Szabados retired last year. Kathy joined the Pender Harbour health care team after 15 years at the

VGH Eyecare Centre in management and in the OR. She also has worked in the recovery room and on the cardiac surgery ward.

We are fortunate to have such wonderful dedicated and caring people working in our community.

Please join us in extending warm wishes of appreciation the next time you are at the Pender Harbour Health Centre.

Area A Seniors' Housing Outreach Healthy Meal Program



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HARBOUR ALMANAC

THE DAYS

BIRTHDAYS

May 1 ~ Allison Scoular and Kim Struthers.

May 3 ~ Roy Loxterkamp, Tyra Phillips and Natasha Kammerle.

May 4 ~ Andrew Sutherland.

May 5 ~ Barb Ellison, Rob Ellison, Baylee Higgins and Robyn Leech.

May 6 ~ Lori Fielding.

May 7 ~ Stephanie Warner, Mary Richardson, Debbie Roosen, Tricia Fisher and Kristen White.

May 8 ~ Wally Silvey, Linda Reid, Francis Belisle, Ryan Schroeder and Vicki Honeybourne.

May 9 ~ Frank White, Steve Devaney, Bruce Silvey, Rick Dougan, Leanna Mackie, Karen McKeeman, Vanessa Stephens, Debbie Hayen and Jim Greenlaw.

May 11 ~ Deena Lowings, Shelley Wharton and Candace Sharp.

May 12 ~ TJ Campbell and Rob McMann.

May 13 ~ Joe McCann, Mel Likes and Reynald Bernier.

May 14 ~ Jan Smalley and Lhonna Dougan.

May 15 ~ Michael Pazur.

May 17 ~ Linda Curtiss, Jack Dennis, Dan Jinks, Helen Krantz, Roland Schmidt and Amy Tiefenbach.

May 18 ~ Joe MacKay, Devina Morton, Ron Collett, Wendy Haddock and Sharon Halford.

May 19 ~ Bill Thompson and Earl Stewart.

May 20 ~ Rylan English, twins Carrie & Stirling Fowler and Brenna Young.

May 21 ~ Shannon Fowler.

May 23 ~ Mary Milner and Tom Patterson.

May 24 ~ Vicki Kobus, Dick Milner, Treenah Dougan, Margo Hunsche and Maurice Lowings.

May 25 ~ Helen Edwardson and Christina Stoutenburg.

May 27 ~ Cindy Schroeder.

May 28 ~ Mikey Thompson, Janice Metcalfe, Lyn Vaughan, Kevin Graham, Wayne Archbold and Myrtle Winchester.

May 29 ~ Cliff Silvey, Tyler Forsyth and Amber LaFrance.

May 30 ~ Marten Mees, Kathy Mills and Mike Phillips.

MAY ASTROLOGY

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Taureans are seekers of peace and stability. Although unambitious, they are happy to be the powerhouse behind the scenes. They are sensible, healthy cynics and have pink gums.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 21)

Geminis are butterflies by nature, flitting from one attraction to the next. They are particularly drawn to tinfoil. They're easily bored but have lively, stimulating minds and can be witty and charming.

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OF MAY

THE WORLD WITHOUT US?

In his 2007 book *The World Without Us*, journalist Alan Weisman employs an interesting premise — what would happen if human beings simply disappeared — to consider at once the power of nature's resilience and the lasting impact man has on our planet.

Weisman travelled the globe to identify regions isolated from human contact by politics or natural disaster.

In 1974, the Mediterranean island of Cyprus was divided by warring Greek and Turkish forces. As war approached, the Greeks abandoned the beachside resort of Varosha and the resulting border cut it off from the Greeks permanently.

To resist squatters, the Turks fenced off the resort town, vacated so quickly that visitors returning two years later discovered the hotel registry still open to August 1974 with room keys left on the reception desk and flowers dried in vases on uncleared tables.

In 1976 they attempted to reclaim it but soon gave up from the sheer havoc

nature's return had on the town. Two decades later houses had become roosts for pigeons and all but disappeared "under magenta mounds of bougainvillea."

Weisman also describes the work of British marine biologists researching the growing volume of plastic in the world's ocean. They discovered there was more plastic by weight than plankton on the ocean's surface. Six times as much.

Even more alarming, they discovered that, as it breaks down into increasingly smaller particles over time, the polymers spread far more consistently throughout the ocean depths than previously expected and "soon everything alive would be eating them."

After reviewing other examples of the human legacy of the plastics industry, Weisman finds that researchers are unclear about how long the billion-plus tonnes of plastic produced so far will remain in the environment but all agree it will last a very long time, even in a world without us.

MAY WEATHER

TEMPERATURE

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

PRECIPITATION

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

Skookumchuck
viewing
times
~ May ~



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

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

May 1	1:03 pm -L, 8:33 pm +XL
May 2	6:56 am S, 1:38 pm +L
May 3	7:44 am +S, 2:21 pm -M
May 4	8:38 am +S, 3:10 pm -M
May 5	9:45 am +S, 4:04 pm -M
May 6	11:15 am +S, 5:01 pm -M
May 7	12:55 pm +S, 6:00 pm -S
May 8	2:05 pm +S, 7:02 pm -S
May 9	9:11 am -M, 3:02 pm +M
May 10	9:46 am -L, 3:52 pm +M
May 11	10:12 am -L, 4:38 pm +L
May 12	10:32 am -L, 5:21 pm +XL
May 13	10:55 am -L, 6:03 pm +XL
May 14	11:25 am -L, 6:45 pm +XL
May 15	12:01 pm -L, 7:28 pm +XL
May 16	12:46 pm -L, 8:12 pm +XL
May 17	1:38 pm -L, 8:59 pm +XL
May 18	7:37 am +S, 2:32 pm -L
May 19	8:37 am +S, 3:29 pm -L
May 20	9:48 am +S, 4:28 pm -M
May 21	11:20 am +S, 5:30 pm -M
May 22	1:04 pm +M, 6:37 pm -M
May 23	2:23 pm +M, 7:53 pm -S
May 24	9:13 am -L, 3:26 pm +L
May 25	10:01 am -XL, 4:22 pm +L
May 26	10:45 am -XL, 5:13 pm +XL
May 27	11:23 am -XL, 6:00 pm +XL
May 28	11:50 am -L, 6:45 pm +XL
May 29	12:12 pm -L, 7:29 pm +XL
May 30	12:40 pm -L, 8:11 pm +XL
May 31	6:37 am +S, 1:15 pm -L

These are estimates only and not intended for navigation.

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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.

A Harbour Seal of approval to the **Pender Harbour Archive Legacy Committee members** who presented me with a framed print of Motoko's *Women of Pender Harbour* book cover print in recognition of my leadership and nine-year commitment to this important history project.

Dorothy Faulkner

Harbour Seals to to the **Pender Harbour branch of the Sunshine Coast Credit Union and the Copper Sky Cafe** for displaying student work from Madeira Park Elementary and Pender Harbour Secondary, during Education Week.

Fred Thorsell
MPES Principal

Thanks to all the **wonderful volunteers** who helped get the Egmont Community Hall ready for the raising and renovations. We are on our way!

Beverly Saunders
Egmont Community Club

A Seal of Approval and a heartfelt thank you to **our amazing community** — it makes me proud to be a Pender Harbarian. Thanks to all of **my friends, family, firefighters, organizations, businesses, the P. H. Lions and the MPES PAC** for being there when we truly needed it. A special thank you to Mike, Darren, Rich and Dave. And to my wife Amy, words can not express my gratitude for all you do, I love you.

Darcy Perry

Seals to all our **wonderful community supporters** who donated to and participated in the March Quiz Nite and Silent Auction Fundraiser for the Evans & Perry families. We were able to give each family \$1,692.

Lori, Pauulet, Tanis, Jill B., Alan & Paola

Thanks to **everyone who has given so generously to the food bank** through out the year. We depend on these donations from local stores, organizations and individuals.

Wendy Phillips (P. H. Food Bank)

A mega Harbour Seal of Approval to **everyone who sent flowers, cards, called, visited and brought meals over.** I can't thank you enough for your overwhelming compassion.

Janice Metcalfe



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Peninsula Times photo

Peninsula Times, April 2, 1975 ~ "Pender Harbour May Queen Correen Brown (third from left) and her attendants literally jump into spring on a trampoline at Madeira Park Elementary School. Correen and her royal entourage are preparing for the community's annual May Day celebrations tentatively scheduled for May 24 weekend. Attendants are (from left): Elsie Kingston, Lisa Garrison, Jayne Houghtaling and Janet and Patti Reid."

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Squamish streamkeepers find hope for our local herring stocks

Dear Editor:

I recently read your article on herring from the April, 2009 issue and wish to add some information your readers may find interesting.

While the herring run on the east coast of mid-Vancouver Island has boomed the last few years, most other herring runs of Georgia Strait have declined drastically in the last 30 years.

I believe the Squamish Streamkeepers have stumbled onto the main reason for this and it may also give further understanding of the dramatic decline in chinook and coho populations seen over the same period.

In the 1960s, 2000 tons of herring spawned in Howe Sound, mainly on eelgrass in the Mamquam Blind Channel. The addition of a large hemlock sawmill, a chlorine/caustic soda chemical plant and log booming grounds brought a major herring die-off (estimated at 500,000) and destruction of most of the eelgrass beds.

By the mid-1970's herring had disappeared off the DFO's records of this area and the decline of chinook and coho runs soon followed.

In 1983, I visited the DFO herring head in Vancouver to find out what had happened to the herring in upper Howe Sound.

The reply was that since herring had disappeared from Pender Harbour and False Creek around the same time

but numbers remained high on the east coast of Vancouver Island, it was assumed that they had simply moved across the strait to spawn.

In 2006 the Squamish Streamkeepers happened to go under the Squamish Terminals dock (built in the early 1970's) and found millions of herring eggs had been spawned on hundreds of creosote pilings.

We found that all these eggs died. A smaller number of herring had spawned on bladderwrack and hatched out successfully — likely just enough survivors to keep the run alive.

We wrapped some of the pilings with various materials and Global TV filmed the fact that a certain weed control material was spawned very heavily on by the herring and gave 100 per cent survival.

In the spring of 2007, we wrapped 176 pilings with this material and laid more material lengthwise to further increase the spawning area.

February and March 2008 saw hundreds of millions of herring eggs spawned on these materials and hatched successfully.

In 2009 we added 400 more feet on a float line which itself probably hatched out half a billion eggs. We now see juvenile herring throughout Howe Sound and expect this will carry over into a higher survival rate for chinook and coho as they leave the Squamish River.



This photo taken March 19 at the Garden Bay Hotel's wharf clearly shows the herring are spawning in Pender Harbour.

In 2007 we investigated False Creek herring spawning and found they had been seen spawning at the entrance to False Creek and also at the government dock around B berth but had died on the creosote pilings.

DFO's Dave Nanson, who had moved from Squamish to Sechelt, reported herring eggs dead on creosote pilings in Pender Harbour.

On March 14, 2010 two Streamkeepers went to Pender Harbour and quickly found millions of recently

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spawned dead herring eggs on creosote pilings on one small dock while minutes before a local said herring hadn't been seen in years in Pender Harbour.

Herring love to spawn on clean smooth surfaces and there's nothing like fresh creosote to provide a smooth spawning area, especially when the eelgrass and bladderwrack they traditionally spawned on has disappeared due to development.

Once pilings are covered with algae and barnacles they have little appeal to herring. It's the new pilings they prefer though a 2000 San Francisco Bay study showed even 50-year-old creosote pilings still carry enough PAHs to kill eggs.

PAHs are polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and are usually associated with petroleum products and that include creosotes.

PAHs have proven deadly to the vulnerable stages of herring development especially from egg to hatch out.

We see that the declines in herring numbers in Howe Sound, False Creek and Pender Harbour were not due to transmigration across Georgia Strait but destruction of their traditional spawning areas through industrial and marina development, and subsequent spawning on creosote pilings PAHs.

An even better example is the herring of Cherry Point. This is a subspecies of herring that spawns later than most (May-June) and spends its lives between Vancouver Island, Point Grey and northern Puget Sound feeding off the rich plume of the Fraser River.

While much of Cherry Point herring's life is spent in Canadian waters, its spawning area is mainly in the U.S. from Birch Bay to Bellingham Bay.

In the 1970s the spawning count was over 15,000 tons. Now it's closer to 1500 tons. What happened?

PAHs, of course, but not creosote. Two oil refineries and an aluminum smelter were built in the Cherry Point area and the herring stocks plummeted.

It's legal for the refineries to spill over 800 pounds of oil per day into this once prime spawning area and there have been 73 illegal oil spills as well.

Cherry Point has lost over 13,000 tons of herring, Howe Sound 2,000 tons, Pender Harbour 2,000 tons and though False Creek has no records, it would be at least 2,000 tons too. That means southern and eastern Georgia Strait has lost 19,000 tons of herring since the 1970's.

During that same period chinook and coho stocks have plummeted by 90 per cent with DFO unable to provide an explanation while allowing allowing salmon farms to intrude further into the vacuum left behind.

The herring of the mid east coast of Vancouver Island retain their stocks because they still have the natural plants on which herring spawn successfully.

False Creek had a major spawn in 2009 on sea lettuce rooted on rip-rap applied to the shores of the Olympic village site and Howe Sound herring have had a noticeable increase

by providing artificial spawning alternatives to creosote, though there's a long way to go before it can be called a success.

The Squamish Streamkeepers hope to do a presentation at the Streamkeeper seminar in Campbell River May long weekend 2011.

We would also like to try an experiment next year to see if alternatives to creosote will work in Pender Harbour.

I bet that bringing back the herring will bring back the salmon.

Jon Matsen
Squamish Streamkeepers



Friday, May 28, 7:30 p.m.
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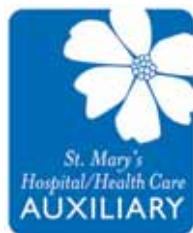
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• Women's Outreach Services.....	741-5246

ORGANIZATIONS

PENDER HARBOUR & DISTRICT WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Sakinaw Salmon & the DFO — Grant McBain, of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans will give an update on progress with the Sakinaw sockeye. He will also outline the roles and responsibilities of the DFO associated with the Area A Master Water Plan as it relates to Sakinaw and its tributary lakes. Anyone interested in this topic is welcome to attend at PHSS on May 18 at 7:30 p.m.

PHSS GRAD REUNION, 1958-1976

Anyone who attended PHSS from 1958-1976 (and spouse or partner) are invited to the PHSS reunion taking place on Sat., June 26 and the Pender Harbour Golf Club. We'll start with a "meet and greet" at 4:30 p.m. followed by a buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m. Costs are \$25 per person (paid in advance). Please register online at our e-mail account phssgradreunion2010@hotmail.com or phone 1-604-485-4451 (Wendy) for tickets.

SERENDIPITY PRESCHOOL

Registration for children who want to attend preschool beginning in September 2010 or January 2011 begins on Tues., May 4 from 12:30 to 1 p.m. and will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m., until June 15. Call (604) 883-2316 for more information or if you need to arrange a different time.

P. H. WOMEN'S CONNECTION

The women's connection will hold its annual Chinese Auction on Tues. May 11. Please bring quality household items, baked goods or plants to be auctioned off with proceeds to the launch of the "The Women of Pender Harbour" book. On Tues. May 25, Michael Ross will be along to present "Is Your Pender Harbour and District Health Centre Meeting Your Needs?" Both gatherings are at the School of Music in Madeira Park at 10 a.m.



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Blues society kicks it up a notch

Submitted

The 7th Annual Pender Harbour Blues Festival on June 4-6 is a few weeks away.

James Harman, "your full service bluesman," will shake it up at the Pender Harbour Community Hall in downtown Madeira Park on Saturday night, backed by Vancouver's Steve Kozak and his West Coast All Stars.

A harmonica player, singer, songwriter and producer, Harman's credentials are backed by a four-decade, award-winning recording and international touring career.

This respected musician has accompanied and collaborated with a veritable who's who of contemporary blues artists.

Jim Byrnes headlines on the opening Friday at the home of blues on the Sunshine Coast, the scenic Garden Bay Pub.

His remarkable career as a musician, singer, songwriter and actor is defined by the blues and his evocative, smoky vocals tell a truth that doesn't come overnight.

The mighty talented and Juno Award-winning guitarist Tim Hearsey will front the band on Saturday night at the Garden Bay Pub, giving true blues fans a choice of venues or, with a little planning, a double header.

With the early start of the James Harman concert at the Pender Harbour Hall there will still be time to catch the end of the evening with Tim and the great house band at the pub.

On Sunday afternoon, the Garden Bay Pub hosts the All-Star Jam.

Get ready for some surprise guest

appearances by past blues festival performers.

And on Sunday night, Willie MacCalder, one of the founding members of the Powder Blues Band, will front the house band in a rockin' performance that should cap off the weekend just right.



The house band for the shows at the pub will be led by Tim Hearsey, and features Powder Blues alumni Bill Runge on bass and tenor sax and the legendary Duris Maxwell on drums.

The Sunshine Coast's own Peter Van Deursen will round out the house band on Hammond organ and piano.

Saturday's free performances will feature talent at community stages at John Henry's, Crossroads Grill and Triple-B's Burgers.

Visit penderharbourbluesfestival.com for more information and tickets or call (604) 865-0640.

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A realtor's speculations about real estate speculators



By Alan Stewart

While many real estate investors speculate (def: to engage in any business transaction involving considerable risk or the chance of large gains, especially to buy and sell commodities, stocks, etc., in the expectation of a quick or very large profit), this realtor has to speculate (def: to indulge in conjectural thought) on what is happening in our local Pender Harbour and Egmont real estate market.

Why have the number of sales on the Sunshine Coast risen 140 per cent from the same period in 2009 while those in Pender Harbour and Egmont have dropped 10 per cent?

Why has the average price of detached homes on the Sunshine Coast risen two per cent while the average Pender area sale is 30 per cent less than it was last year?

Why has the number of bare land sales on the Sunshine Coast gone up 144 per cent this year while the number of Pender area land sales has dropped 20 per cent?

There are a number of factors at work.

RECREATIONAL INVESTORS

The economic crisis has had a

dramatic effect on consumer confidence and while buyers are prepared to take advantage of low interest rates and other incentives to invest in a principle residence, they are less inclined to risk a big ticket "secondary" purchase.

Entry-level recreational investors with cash in hand are also exploring inexpensive alternatives south of the border, especially with the dollar at par.

A quick internet search turned up numerous homes set on world class golf courses in Palm Desert, Calif., complete with swimming pools and tennis courts for the price of a Pender Harbour mobile home on land.

Your money will go even further in Las Vegas.

High end recreational waterfront buyers are also considering other local alternatives.

A client who recently came to the Sunshine Coast to explore million-dollar waterfront properties with us made the decision to purchase on Vancouver Island because of what they called "a huge discrepancy in values."

For \$960,000 they purchased a fully renovated and furnished 3,610 sq. ft., south-facing waterfront home in Nanaimo with "stroll-on beach," double garage, high-end appliance package, master suite with spa tub.

The same home on the Sunshine

Coast would have likely been offered for over \$1,500,000.

RETIREES

And what of the retirees who drive the Pender Harbour real estate market?

With the Dow Jones back to over 11,000 points, everyone's retirement investments have returned to their former glory — haven't they?

The reality is that while those who held onto their investments have likely recovered much of their perceived losses, countless responsible and conservative investors whose futures depended on those investments, cashed out on the way down and lost much of what they were counting on to retire.

Those people will obviously have to wait a little longer to retire and, therefore, a little longer before they come to look at property in Pender Harbour.

FIRST TIME BUYERS

First time buyers are also eluding us.

Traditionally, as a result of the distance from Vancouver and amenities, Pender Harbour residential real estate was offered at prices of 10-15 per cent less than the cost of similar real estate in Sechelt or Gibsons.

With the rapid rise in values of

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waterfront properties in Pender Harbour, other non-waterfront properties were swept up and rode the wave to today's levels.

With the ebb in interest on those high-end waterfront properties, residential properties have been left high and dry, like a beached whale, while Sechelt and Gibsons residential homes are selling comparatively well.

Furthermore, with many of our local economic engines in a state of disarray, there is relatively little employment attracting young families to our community.

With building starts down, many of the construction crews who moved to our area in past years have moved on to greener pastures.

Local business owners and entrepreneurs (not to mention realtors) have also had to make life-altering decisions as a result of the slowdown.

Local retailers tell me that there is a good balance now between job hunters and employment opportunities, but they all agree that they simply aren't able to offer the pay level required for their employees to afford an entry-level home in the area, regardless of attractive benefit packages that they may offer.

There is no simple answer to our current stagnation.

To re-energize our residential market, we'll have to get back to offering similar properties for 10-15 per cent less than the Sechelt and Gibsons market.

High-end waterfront homes may face some additional challenges.

I've suggested the following analogy to some of my clients:

"If there are no customers in the store, it really doesn't matter how low you set your price."

According to the Real Estate

Board of Greater Vancouver, there have been 15 real estate sales in the Pender area this year (10 homes, five lots) with 212 properties currently listed for sale (100 homes, 112 lots).

The message is clear, if you want to sell a property this year, regardless of aggressive reports out of Vancouver, set your price against those prop-

erties which have sold — not against the neighbours' house which has been listed for sale for the past 12 months.

The two values may be drastically different.

Please send any suggestions for story lines to alan@sunshinecoasthomes.com.

Thank you to Rick Wagner and Earle Creek division of Lafarge construction materials for sponsoring the Pender Harbour Lions' Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast and to everyone who who attended.

- Pender Harbour Lions

Please come to our next Pancake breakfast on May 9 for Mother's Day.

Just after the breakfast we will have a demonstration from the Sunshine Coast Remote Control Model Airplane Club.

See you there.



Summer in Patagonia, Part 2



By Joe Harrison

*An Argentine travelogue through the eyes of Joe and Solveigh Harrison.
(Continued from April)*

There is a strong sympathy in Argentina for revolutionaries like native son Che Guevara who was born and educated as a doctor here.

He later joined Fidel Castro in the Cuban Revolution, and then became a martyr when assassinated in Bolivia by right-wing mercenaries.

Right- and left-wing extremism is a problem throughout Latin America and the flip-flop ambiguity is a curious feature of politics here.

The political history since independence from Spain 200 years ago has been boom and bust.

Indians were mostly hunted down or placed on reserves in the American pattern of the 1800s.

There have been military coups such as the one in the mid-1970s when over 3,000 dissidents were arrested by the secret police, many dropped from airplanes into the Atlantic.

Nine old men appear on TV regularly because they are on trial in Buenos Aires for crimes against humanity. Another is being extradited from Spain. They do not look the least bit contrite — just bitter about fate. And, of course, Argentina was the last refuge for Nazis on the run after the Second World War.

It makes one wistful for our own little huddle of mild mudslingers in Canada.

YERBA MATÉ

Gauchos adopted maté, a pre-Columbian aboriginal ritual, which is now universal in Argentina.

Maté (pronounced mattay), is a stimulating hot infusion of yerba maté leaves and water (half and half) that swells to form a pulpy green mass.

A perforated metal straw is inserted and friends sip the bitter tea and a special member of the group is designated to add warm water from a thermos as the cup or gourd passes



from hand to hand.

An invitation to maté is a special event that is serious and intimate. You see it everywhere: between lovers, a single man at breakfast, family groups on the beach, in offices. The maté ceremony has almost spiritual overtones.

In a secular country where religion is not conspicuous, personal relationships and self-realization are prominent values.

The artistic, personal style of intimacy in this most European of Latin American countries with a bidet in every bathroom is embodied in mate, tango, and gaucho traditions.

Driving on any highway you will see shrines surrounded by dozens of blood red flags dedicated to Antonio “Gauchito” Gil, the little gaucho who, in the distant past it is said, was killed and never properly buried.

Many Argentines leave offerings of maté, alcoholic drinks or written prayers asking for help from this saint-like spirit.

Travellers who stop will receive blessings and cars honk to salute you if you pull over for a photo.

Solveigh and I were afraid we

Doesn't your Mom deserve
pancakes?



MOTHER'S DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

**Pender Harbour Lions' Park
May 9 ~ 9 a.m. to noon**

Free demonstration by the
Sunshine Coast Remote Control Airplane Club at
11 a.m.

were offending people when we heard the car horns beeping at us as we stopped.

It didn't seem in character with the good-natured people. On asking at the tourist office, we were reassured that people were just giving a blessing for a safe journey.

There is a whole other set of shrines with great piles of water-filled plastic bottles dedicated to the miracle of a baby who survived on the desert by nursing from the breast of his dead mother.

I suspect these shrines have ancient roots because shrines along roadsides are found throughout Latin America and containers of water, beer, or liquor are often involved.

The commonality of drinking and a spiritual connection is striking.

Visiting any supermarket such as the one in Viedma, a delightful small town near the mouth of the Rio Negro reminiscent of the painting by Seurat



Joe and Solveigh Harrison photo

Shrines like this are found throughout Argentina and are dedicated to the legendary folk saint 'Gauchito' Gil.

May 2010

called "The Bathers," makes the importance of maté even clearer.

I was amazed when Solveigh pointed out that the store has over 50 feet of shelf space seven feet high to display packages of yerba maté leaves in dozens of varieties.

The Catholic Church gave its blessing early on to discourage alcoholism. And it works.

We met Leo and his partner Chamilla over beer at a street cafe in Mendoza while watching wonderful tango. He was moved to tell us of his extended family's car wash business. and explained why maté allowed them to work 14-hour days.

Chamilla, who worked as a telephone receptionist for three firms, said that she also relied on maté to cope with long hours.

The ceremony is highly significant, intimate and meaningful with intricately decorated cups and silver straws and stylized protocols.

On meeting almost any acquaintance, even at the checkout counter in the market or at work, a full kiss on the cheek with a hug indicates an intimacy perhaps derived from this social bonding which Solveigh and I found surprising.

Public displays of intimacy are frequent and endearing and considered normal here.

Seeing teenage boys exchange a hug and cheek kisses stopped me in my tracks the first time. It was hard to



Joe and Solveigh Harrison photo

Yerba maté is prepared by steeping dry leaves (and twigs) of yerba mate in hot water. Drinking maté with friends from a shared hollow gourd with a metal straw is a common social practice in Argentina.

imagine Leo doing this.

Leo is given to radical right wing politics — especially after a snootful of good beer.

With a background of rousing rhythms and the whining violins and off-key hand accordions of 1930s tango, he offered a whispered comparison of the current president of Argentina to Chavez in Venezuela.

Chamilla, perhaps more alert to sensitivities, disagreed.

Continued in the June 2010 issue



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Snowbirds have landed back on the course

By Jan Watson



The last few snowbirds are back and the men's and ladies days are now in full swing.

Congratulations to men's captain Ian Archer for his first hole-in-one on March 29 and yes, he did have his quarter in the pot.

They were presented with lovely handmade pens by Eldy Gandy.

Kp on No. 3 for the ladies was Louise McKay and on No. 6 for the men it was Joe McKay

MEN'S CLUB

The men played a Money Ball Scramble on March 29. The winning team with a combined score of 167 comprised Ian Archer, Lorne Campbell, Garry Noble & George Huey. Kp on No. 3 Garry Noble and No. 6 Ian Archer (hole-in-one)

On April 6 stroke play low-gross winner was Rusty Ellis with 75, while low-net winner was John Duggan with 65. Kp on No. 3 was Garry Noble and on No. 6, Bruce Forbes.

April 13 stroke play, the winner was Lorne Campbell with 75 while low net winner Jamie Tufford had 65. Kp on No. 3 was

Ian Archer and on No. 6 it was Wayne Babcock.

LADIES CLUB

On March 25 the ladies played three clubs and a putter but the rain came and the game was called after nine holes. Low net winner was Heather Cranston with 30.

April 1 saw a game of "Tic Tac Toe" and the winners were Wendy Simmonds, Carol Newman and Wendy Haddock. April 8 was cancelled due to snow!

A nine-hole scramble on April 15 was followed by the ladies spring meeting and luncheon. The winning team was Reni Ducich, Elaine Park and Heather Cranston with 36.

MASTERS PAR THREE

The third annual Masters Par 3 Scramble was a great success with 44 golfers playing in this 18-hole event.

It was a sunny day and a lot of fun was had by all, especially by the "Drama Queens."

In men's, the winners were John Duggan, Terry Cowan, Geoff Sieben and Verne Bullock with 49.

In keeping with the Masters tradition they were each presented with a green jacket.

In the other category of mixed and ladies teams the winners were Bruce Forbes, Wendy Simmonds, Vicki Halford and Bob Hunt with 50.

FROM THE 19TH HOLE...

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There's more than boob in that tube



By Shane McCune

Poor old television. Is it really as awful as people say?

Imagine you're chatting at work or a party and you mention an interesting book. When you ask if anyone else has read it, somebody says, "Oh, I don't read books."

It would never happen, right? Nobody ever says that, even if it's true.

Now imagine the same gathering and the same conversation, except this time you mention a television program you just watched.

There's a good chance someone will say, "Oh, I don't watch TV,"

There's no way to say you don't read without sounding pathetic, and no way to say you don't watch TV without sounding snobbish.

All kinds of people agree that television's best years are behind it; they just can't agree how far behind. Some old enough to remember the dawn of network TV might say it peaked with 1951's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, the first opera commissioned for and performed live on the small screen.

Many baby boomers wax nostalgic over 1960s variety shows: *Ed Sullivan*, *Dean Martin*, *The Smothers Brothers*, *Sonny and Cher*, *Flip Wilson*.

I'll bet there are high-schoolers who firmly believe the medium peaked with the introduction of "Elmo's World" on *Sesame Street*.

Whenever the high point was, everybody seems to agree it's gone. These days the average prime time menu offers about a dozen police/court procedurals, a couple of medical dramas and, worst of all, reality shows. Way, way too many reality shows.

As one expert put it: "I invite you to sit down in front of your television set when your station goes on the air and stay there, for a day, without a book, without a magazine, without a newspaper, without a profit and loss sheet or a rating book to distract you. Keep your eyes glued to that set until the station signs off. I can assure you that what you will observe is a vast wasteland."

Those last words might ring a bell. That excerpt is from a 1961 speech to broadcasters by U.S. Federal Com-

munications Commission chairman Newton Minow, who is famous for two things: Having a name that sounds like a bait shop and coining the phrase "vast wasteland" to describe TV fare.

Sure enough, a spin through the dial in prime time back then yielded a dozen westerns, a couple of medical dramas and too many reality shows.

Reality shows? You bet: *Candid Camera* begat *America's Funniest Home Videos* and *Punk'd*. Long before *American Idol* there were *Ted Mack's Original Amateur Hour* and *Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts*.

Think Maury Povich strips away his guests' dignity? You should have seen *Queen for a Day*, where women broke down as they told host Jack Bailey about their seriously ill children, burned-out homes or impending bankruptcies, with the most pitiful tale (as judged by the applause meter) winning the crown, velvet robe, roses and the usual appliances and vacations, along with whatever it was they actually needed — an operation, a wheelchair, whatever.

In that 1961 speech Minow also said this: "When television is good, nothing — not the theatre, not the magazines or newspapers — nothing is better."

I'm not sure that was true then, but I'm positive it's true today. Alongside the cookie-cutter franchises of *CSI* and *Law & Order* and *NCIS* there have been standouts like *The West Wing*, *The Sopranos*, *Six Feet Under*, *Breaking Bad*, *Damages*, and in Canada *Da Vinci's Inquest*, all of them better written and acted than 90% of the movies hitting the Cineplex.

As a print journalist it pains me to say it, but documentary work on both sides of the border also outshines all but a few newspapers and magazines.

Don't watch TV? It's nothing to boast about.



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6. **Mountain Timber** by Richard Mackie
7. **Incontinent on the Continent** by Jane Christmas
8. **Darwin's Bastards** ed. by Zsuzsi Gartner
9. **Sweetness from Ashes** by Marlyn Horsdal
10. **Vancouver Special** by Charles Demers

~ Assn. of Book Publishers of BC

BOOKS

Chabon offers tips on *Manhood for Amateurs*



Keith Shaw photo

By Theresa Kishkan

The American novelist Michael Chabon is best known for books which straddle genres.

A passionate fan of comic books and science fiction, he embraces what many other serious writers disdain; yet his elegant prose and intelligent sense of structure have helped him to earn an exalted place in contemporary literature.

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay won the Pulitzer Prize in 2001 and *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, published in 2007, won both Hugo and Nebula awards, among others.

Recently Chabon collected a number of columns he wrote for the magazine *Details* and published them as a book, *Manhood for Amateurs: The Pleasures and Regrets of a Husband, Father, and Son* (HarperCollins, 2009).

I loved this book. While there are many titles on the market which explore marriage, motherhood and daughterhood, I can't recall many, if any, that explore the territory from a man's perspective.

And Chabon is an engaging, insightful guide.

The book opens with "The Loser's Club," a poignant recollection of a 10-year-old Chabon trying to organize The Columbia Comic Book Club. His mother rents a multi-purpose room at a local community centre in Columbia, Maryland, where he laboriously creates a newsletter on a manual typewriter (this is 1973, before computers) and tapes a sign to the door of the room, expecting masses of

kids to join his club. Maybe you can guess the result.

Another piece considers circumcision — Chabon was raised a secular Jew and confesses to "confused ideas of deity, heavily influenced by mind-altering years of reading science fiction."

He laments the loss of unsupervised freedom that kids of his generation enjoyed and wonders what the result will be for imagination,

"If children are not permitted — not taught — to be adventurers and explorers as children, what will become of the world of adventure, of stories, of literature itself?"

He also explores the opportunistic relationship between entertainment and profit in television programming and the resulting product spin-offs.

Chabon is not afraid to write about emotional territory and he does this with great sensitivity and humour. "William and I" looks at the supposed division between the roles of mothers and fathers in raising children, inspired by William's doll:

"The daily work you put into rearing your children is a kind of intimacy, tedious and invisible as mothering itself . . . There is intimacy in your quarrels, your negotiations and running jokes. But above all, there is intimacy in your contact with their bodies . . ."

A meditation on learning to bake with his mother is delightful: ". . . a boy could take to the kitchen, the centre of every home, and find there a sense of history and connectedness to anchor him, something that would not disappear or blow away or change beyond recognition."

One of my favourite pieces in the collection is "Sky and Telescope." Chabon remembers an early gift of



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a telescope which was a disappointment.

"It did not, as I had imagined, work by letting you put your eye up against the fiery flank of the universe itself. It had a small, bleary oculus that received a shimmery reflection from a tiny mirror that lived all alone at the bottom of the long cardboard tube." But in later years, his wife buys him a more sophisticated instrument which he loves and which provides occasions for inspired conversations with his kids.

"It kind of freaks me out to think about that, Dad," my older son said after I had him look through the telescope at one of those endlessly deep and star-packed regions of space that look empty to the naked eye. 'I mean, we're so small.'

"True, I said. We're, like, nothing.

"Well, yeah. Except to each other."

The penultimate essay in the book, "The Amateur Family," serves as a bookend to "The Loser's Club." A comment made by a guide at the Smithsonian Museum makes Chabon realize that through his children, he

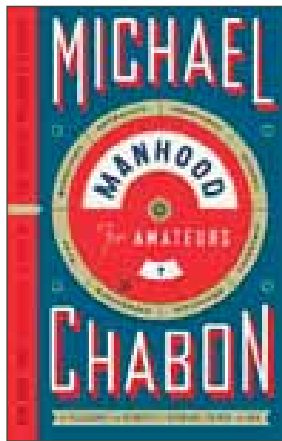
has managed to put together a club of members with shared interests (the television show *Doctor Who* in this instance):

"Maybe all families are a kind of fandom, an endlessly elaborated, endlessly disputed, endlessly reconfigured set of commentaries, extrapolations, and variations generated by passionate amateurs on the primal text of the parents' love for each other. Sometimes the original program is cancelled by death or separation; sometimes, as with *Doctor Who*, it endures and flourishes for decades."

I remember my own family's summer camping trips in search of history — the grease trails near Batnuni Crossing used by Alexander MacKenzie on his

journey west to Bella Coola; ghost towns of the gold rush; the great cattle ranches of the late 19th century. The notion that we create our own ideal companions has such rich resonance for me.

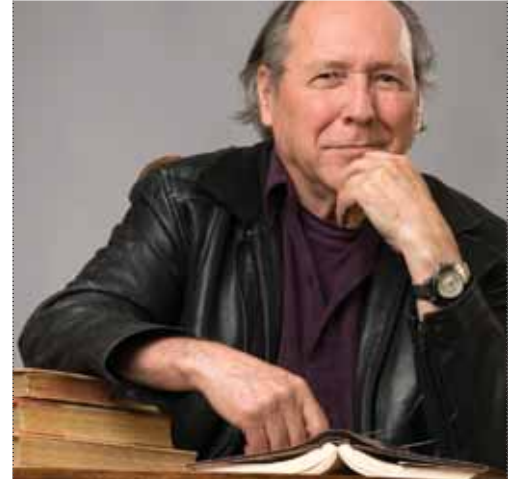
Manhood for Amateurs would make a wonderful Father's Day gift and if my husband hadn't already listened to me read aloud numerous long passages to him, I'd pass along this suggestion to my own children.



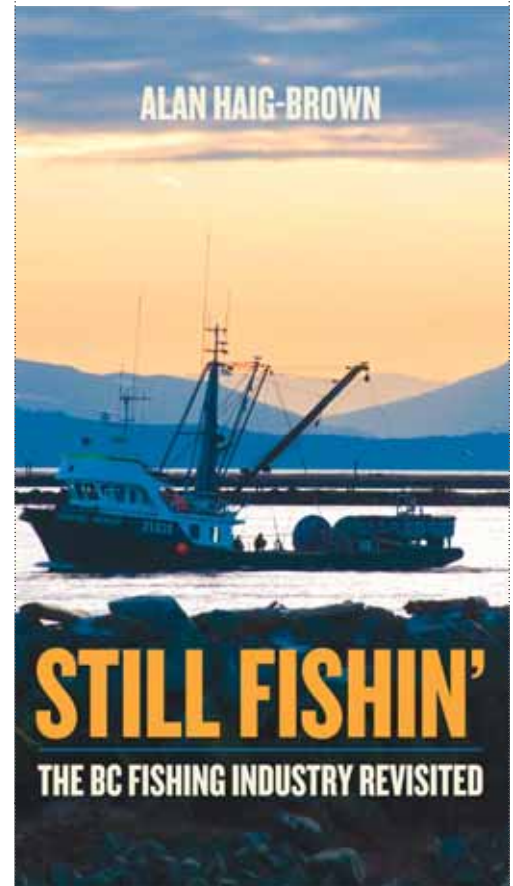
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

MAY

- Fri. April 30.....Pender Harbour Aquatic Centre's "Totally Teen" - PHAFC, 7 p.m.
 Fri. April 30 (to May 2)....Garden Bay Classic Fishing Derby - Register at Garden Bay Pub, 5 p.m.
 Sat. May 1.....Pat Jobb artists reception: - Harbour Gallery, 2-4 p.m.
 Sun. May 2.....Sunday Jam with Larrie Cook - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Mon. May 3.....P. H. Food Bank pick up - P. H. Community Church, Noon
 Thurs. May 6.....Commercial prawn season opens locally
 Sat. May 8.....Mad Hatter Mother's Day Tea - P. H. Legion, 1:30 p.m.
 Sat. May 8.....Els van Baarle "Wax Works" artist reception - Fibreworks Gallery, 2-4 p.m.
 Sun. May 9.....P. H. Lions Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast - P. H. Lions Park, 9 a.m. to Noon
 Sun. May 9.....Mother's Day Family Swim - Pender Harbour Pool, 1-5 p.m.
 Sun. May 9.....Sunday Jam with Joe Stanton - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Mon. May 10.....Move for Health Day - PHAFC, various times throughout the day
 Sat. May 15.....Fibreworks workshop "Kelp Baskets" with Joanne Waters, 10 a.m.
 Sat. May 15.....Bruce Forbes and Wendy Simmonds artist reception - Harbour Gallery, 2-5 p.m.
 Sun May 16.....P. H. Music Society presents Steve Dawson - P. H. School of Music, 2 p.m.
 Sun. May 16.....Sunday Jam with Gaetan - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Mon. May 17.....P. H. Food Bank pick up - P. H. Community Church, Noon
 Tues. May 18.....P. H. Wildlife Society presents DFO's Grant McBain on Sakinaw salmon - PHSS, 7:30 p.m.
 Sat. May 22.....MAY DAY - Madeira Park, 8 a.m. to 1 a.m. (See schedule p. 26)
 Sun. May 23.....Attack of Danger Bay - Shuttle buses leave Oak Tree Market every 15 minutes, all day long
 Sun. May 23.....Sunday Jam with Peter van Deursen - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Fri. May 28.....Totally Teen Takeover of the Pool - PHAFC, 7 p.m.
 Sat. May 29.....Women of Pender Harbour book launch - May 29, 1-3 p.m.
 Sat May 29.....Sunshine Coast Symphony presents "Going for Baroque" - P. H. Community Hall, 7:30 p.m.
 Sun. May 30.....22nd annual Garden Bay Golf Classic Texas Scramble - P. H. Golf Course, 10 a.m.
 Sun. May 30.....Sunday Jam with Mark Crissinger - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
 Mon. May 31.....P. H. Food Bank pick up - P. H. Community Church, Noon

FERRY DEPARTURES

Effective March 1 - June 29, 2010

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



Langdale	Horseshoe Bay	Earl's Cove	Saltery Bay
6:20 a.m.	7:20 a.m.	♣ 6:30 a.m.	♣ 5:35 a.m.
8:20 a.m.	9:20 a.m.	8:25 a.m.	7:25 a.m.
10:20 a.m.	• 10:00 a.m.	10:25 a.m.	9:25 a.m.
• 11:00 a.m.	11:20 a.m.	12:20 p.m.	11:20 p.m.
12:20 p.m.	1:20 p.m.	4:25 p.m.	3:20 p.m.
2:30 p.m.	♦ 2:00 p.m.	6:25 p.m.	5:25 p.m.
♦ 3:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	8:20 p.m.	7:20 p.m.
4:30 p.m.	4:00 p.m. (Apr. 1 only)	10:05 p.m.	9:15 p.m.
5:00 p.m. (Apr. 1 only)	5:30 p.m.		
6:30 p.m.	7:25 p.m.		
8:20 p.m.	9:15 p.m.		
10:10 p.m. (May. 24 only)	11:00 p.m. (May 24 only)		

See alternate schedule for
April 2, 5 and May 24, 2010

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WILLIE MacCALDER
Garden Bay Pub 7 pm Sun. June 6 - \$20

ALL-STAR JAM
Garden Bay Pub 1-5 pm Sun. June 6 - \$10

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Sat 1-6 pm
Triple-B's Sat 12-5
John Henry's Sat 1-5

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- MAY 16: Gaetan & the French Connection
- MAY 23: Peter van Deursen
- MAY 30: Mark Crissinger & the Blue Budzz
- MAY 30: 22nd Annual Garden Bay Golf Classic

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