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HARBOUR SPIEL

The Independent Voice of Pender Harbour & Egmont since 1990

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EDITOR

Brian Lee.

CONTRIBUTORS

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~ NEXT ISSUE MAILS APRIL 30 ~

FDITORIAL

Why are we like that?



By Brian Lee

When people ask what it is about Pender Harbour and Egmont that seems to foster a distinct identity from the rest of the Coast, it's

hard to answer

There's the quick response — inbreeding, which usually gets a good laugh from anyone who wasn't born here, but there's something else too.

The other day I was asked by a senior member of the SCRD staff why Area A residents are so emotionally attached to their landfill.

I know his genuine confusion is shared by others down there because the topic came up repeatedly during board discussions.

It's an important question because the lack of a short answer has fostered the misconception that Area A residents misunderstand the issue or haven't "evolved," and that's made it morally palatable to decide on our behalf.

But I think his question is part of a larger one that looks to understand what forms our collective identity and why we're so protective of it.

That evening I attended "Quiz Nite" at the Legion — a fundraiser for two local families suffering from medical problems.

As I sipped my beer and looked around I thought about his question.

There were close to a hundred people in the hall but it seemed as intimate as a dinner party. People were joking with one another across the room and there was a general feeling of familiar ease. It made me feel good — like I was among family. (Insert inbreeding joke here.)

It's hard to deny we are still a

close-knit community that cares for one another.

And that unity is enhanced by the distance that separates us from the rest of the Sunshine Coast.

There's a certain vulnerability associated with being geographically separated from the centres of population and it creates a bond of self-reliance.

It's a bond under constant threat from those who might not share the same values.

There's an uneasy fear of a northward-creeping bureacracy that makes it illegal to have a backyard fire or requires a permit to cut "any woody plant which is 3 metres (9.84 ft.) or more in height."

We're a rural area that likes it that way and every time we're forced into the lower Coast's system, it chips away at our identity.

It's not that we want to root in our own garbage but that we want to be responsible for it; to have some control over our future.

There are some who say we should embrace our inclusion as a colour in the SCRD rainbow but, as nice as that sounds, maybe it's impractical.

And maybe it's not that we need to "evolve" but that we already have, and that's made our divergent interests such that future conflict is inevitable — and we need to complete the process.

Are we a distinct community or "a child needing to be told to take his flu shot?"

It's difficult to say and, as in my response to the SCRD staffer, I'm pretty sure I've failed to answer convincingly.

If you have any ideas, send them along.

It ain't real if it's not in the Spiel.

LaVerne's Crill

BREAKEAST · LUNCH · DINNER

Opened March 12 for the season

P. H. Lions Annual Pancake breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 4

LaFarge Construction Materials

Breakfast: 9am to Noon Easter egg hunt: Starts at 12 noon

P. H. Lions' Hall

SPIFL PICKS

ARTWAVE STUDIO AND GALLERY TOUR - APRIL 2 TO 4

Various locations throughout Pender Harbour, all day — ArtWave is back – bigger and better! This time, 10 Pender Harbour area studios and galleries are gearing up for their second ArtWave tour. Participating studios and galleries will open their doors to showcase a wide range of artistic creations, including many brand new works produced by local artists.

P. H. MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS MIMOSA - APRIL 10

Pender Harbour School of Music, 8 p.m. — If Serge Gainsbourg, Cleo Laine and Antonio Carlos Jobim hung out and jammed, they might sound something like what Mimosa has to offer: a journey through gorgeous melodies, groovy rhythms and stellar improvisations. The band consists of vocalist Rebecca Shoichet, Karen Graves, a well-known virtuoso sax and flute player and Anna Lumiere, who plays left-hand bass and keyboards while writing most of the music and lyrics in French, Spanish and English. Bernie Arai and Nino diPasquale, both incredible rhythm machines, share the drum chair.

PENDER HARBOUR AQUATIC CENTRE GRAND OPENING - APRIL 17

Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre, 11 a.m. — The pool's finally open! Come celebrate its new facelift and 30th anniversary with a free family swim and barbeque. There's face painting and games for the kids.

NINTH ANNUAL APRIL TOOLS WOODEN BOAT CHALLENGE - APRIL 24

Millennium Park, 10 a.m. start — Madeira Park's Millennium Park will once again come to life as those crazy boat-builder folks create amazing vessels out of next to nothing and then race them around the harbour for cash prizes. As usual, boat-building will start at 10 a.m. but the teams usually arrive a little earlier to set up.

'70s SOUL TRAIN BOOGIE DOWN DANCE - APRIL 24

Pender Harbour Community Hall, 8 p.m. — Boogydown Productions puts out a call to all cool cats to shake out the moth balls from all your funky flares and disco wares. Fluff that Afro puff and strut your stuff at a seventies-themed disco night fundraiser for Pender Harbour Secondary School.



PENDER HARBOUR POWER & SAIL SQUADRON MARITIME RADIO COURSE (VHF)

We will be offering the Maritime Radio Course (VHF) in April/May. The course consists of three two-hour teaching sessions plus an exam leading to the lifetime Restricted Operator's Certificate. You must have this certificate to legally operate a VHF radio. Content of the course includes such topics as radio operations, distress and urgency communication, global maritime distress and safety systems and digital selective calling. All material will be provided.

Dates: Tuesday, April 13 and Mondays: April

19, 26 and May 3

Times: 19:00 hrs to 21:00 hrs

Location: Pender Harbour High School

Fee: \$75.00

Contact: David Pearson 604-883-9313; dipear-

son@dccnet.com

Please register by Friday April 9, 2010

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Area A residents left out of SCRD decision to scrap landfill

In a surprising and sudden move, the SCRD board voted to convert the Pender Harbour landfill to a transfer station at a March 11 board meeting.

The decision came three weeks after the board voted to postpone their decision.

At a Feb. 25 board meeting a motion passed approving the "principle of a referendum, funded by Electoral Area A, with respect to the question of an expansion of the Pender Harbour landfill or a transfer station."

At that time, the board also requested a staff report detailing options for a referendum after some board members and staff pointed to concerns about the potential strain on staffing resources.

Also on Feb. 25, Lee Turnbull, Area F, Howe Sound, moved to postpone a vote to accept Recommendation 17, "to convert the Pender Harbour landfill to a transfer station," until after a referendum was completed.

That motion was defeated before another motion was carried to postpone the decision until after the staff report was received.

SCRD board members have been divided in their support for allowing Area A residents an official voice in a decision regarding the Pender Harbour landfill.

Questions about survey methodology or inclusion of the entire regional district have mired the board in philosophical discussions about how to proceed.

But if the board has been indecisive about how to accurately gauge the wishes of residents, they have been steadfast in their insistence that Area A should bear the costs of any survey or referendum on the issue



On March 11, the SCRD board voted to close the Pender Harbour landfill and to operate a transfer station in its place.

as well as any costs associated with expansion of the P. H. landfill.

A staff report detailing those costs was presented to the board on March 11 by Chief Administrative Officer John France

The report included budget estimates for a referendum, expansion or transfer station conversion options, draft ballot questions and a list of potential impacts to non-essential staff projects should a referendum be authorized.

The report presented "worst-case scenario" cost figures.

The draft ballot question included authorization to borrow a sum

not exceeding \$400,000 for the expansion of the landfill "and would only be used if MOE requires an advanced design such as an engineered liner and leachate management systems."

The report estimated total costs for holding a referendum to be approximately \$57,000.

Statutory costs (basic expenses involved with printing ballots or hall rentals etc.) were estimated at \$12,550. Support costs associated with distributing an information package totalled \$22,130.

The remainder of the estimate is attributed to staffing costs of \$22,164.

Continued next page



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ALL DAY BREAKFAST SPECIALS ON SUNDAYS

Area A residents left out of SCRD decision (cont.)

(Continued from page 5)

In comparison, the basic statutory costs (not including staff time and associated information packages) in the 2005 recreation referendum for all areas except Area A totalled \$57,000.

The SCRD recently started applying staffing costs to feasibility studies in order to reflect staff time associated with projects specific to regional areas.

The costs were enough to scare off Area A director Eric Graham.

"I couldn't suggest Area A go ahead with a referendum when it's going to cost \$57,000. We just can't afford it," said Graham at the March 11 board meeting.

"We've done this for 20 years now as a function with give and take. We give on parks and we take on landfill and that's not the case anymore — the rules have changed."

"It is my belief that the way to resolve the solid waste issue, eventually, is to put it all in one place and start chipping away at it," said Gibsons Mayor Barry Janyk.

"Don't use the argument that per-

haps we want to equate services. What we should be doing is trying to provide the best services to all tax payers for the lowest possible dollar."

After a short recess, Janyk moved to accept Recommendation 17 favouring the transfer station option.

The motion was carried five to one in favour of converting the Pender Harbour landfill to a transfer station (including an onsite resource recovery centre as recommended by the SCRD's Solid Waste Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee).

Only Graham voted against the motion while Area F's Turnbull abstained.

Turnbull later explained her decision to abstain:

"I feel that we didn't complete the process on this and I didn't support it and I want it recorded."

In an SCRD press release dated March 16, chair Donna Shugar said,

"The board cited the transfer station's economic and environmental benefits as primary factors in moving forward with this decision" Throughout the process leading up to the vote, director Graham has said he would support the wishes of the majority of Area A.

In November he indicated he felt that support weighed in favour of the transfer station option (Harbour Spiel, Dec. 2009).

In a phone interview March 12, Graham said he disagreed with the board's decision.

"My issue is that this has always been a full Sunshine Coast function and now that it's getting a little expensive for Area A, they want to kick us out and make us pay for everything if we have the expanded landfill," he said.

John France, one of the authors of the staff report presented March 11, has been a vocal supporter of the transfer station option in recent weeks.

At the Feb. 25 meeting, France was clearly disappointed with the board putting off its decision.

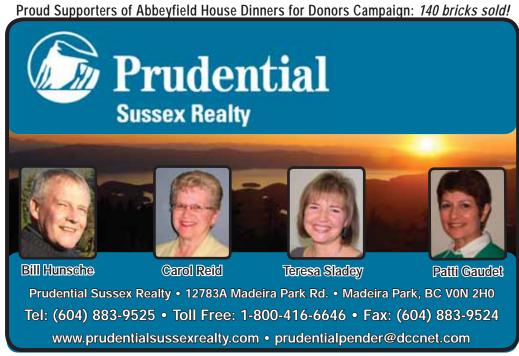
"This continues to be a long, hard process. I don't recall in the 10 years I've been here that the board's undertaken as complete a process to speak to the people of Pender Harbour involving this much staff time and this much board time," he said.

"I think when we use the word democracy, it's democracy in action. Democracy did certainly take place in the community. It took place in this board. This one certainly isn't due to a lack of process."

But some residents disagree.

Former Area A director Jane Reid recently completed a survey of her own, phoning 844 phone numbers in the 2008/2009 phone book.

"I called every number in the book and started with Z. I kept going right down to 'H' and I did the 'A's also," said Reid.



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Of the 310 residents who were home, 216 indicated they were in favour of "seeing it upgraded and remain in operation as a landfill" versus 40 who favoured it to "be closed and converted to a transfer station."

A further 54 people were undecided and six declined to participate.

Reid says the board discredited the survey claiming her use of the word "upgraded" in referring to the landfill might have misled people into assuming she meant "new."

Other feedback has also been discounted. A questionnaire circulated last June by the SCRD indicated 83 per cent favoured landfill expansion.

That survey was discredited by SCRD staff because of a low number of responses (169 completed) and it because it was not randomized.

Feedback forms collected at a Jan. 19 meeting showed only 31 per cent favoured expansion. That data was also discredited due to a small sample (62) of forms collected

Two independent petitions were circulated throughout Area A.

By early February, the first had 312-plus signatures in support of a transfer station while the second had 830 signatures favouring landfill expansion. Both were discredited by staff for including "incorrect or misleading statements."

Staff has also received direct feedback by phone, mail or e-mail. A staff report dated Feb. 3 indicated they received seven submissions in favour of expansion and 31 in favour of a transfer station.

On a local online forum, penderharbour.org, John France defended the SCRD's reluctance to accept the data offered.

"I appreciate the effort put into the polls by Pender Harbourites, it



Signs like this sprouted up after the SCRD's decision.

took a lot of time to obtain the information," wrote France.

"For this type of tool to be useful, it has to meet certain standards."

Howard White, the brother of the contractor at the Pender landfill and an increasingly vocal proponent for expansion, responded to France's post:

"If the SCRD really had a problem with standards, it had every opportunity to have a survey done that met its standards — we even offered to pay for it.

"But it did everything possible to avoid having a formal survey whose result it would have to accept, and I can only think that was because it knew very well we would vote overwhelmingly to keep our landfill operating."

The fact residents weren't involved in the final decision has revived old questions about Area A's position within the SCRD.

"The directors were holding a gun to our head saying that they would pay all the costs for a transfer station but wouldn't pay for the landfill. That's extortion," said Reid.

"All I can say is we should have incorporated."

Reid was director during the failed referendum on incorporation in

1999. In 2008, then Area A director John Rees brought the issue up again when he requested a phase 1 incorporation study.

The province turned down the request indicating an Area A study would have to wait for the completion of the Sunshine Coast's regional growth strategy then underway.

Paul Fenwick, SCRD General Manager of Community Services, says that conflict doesn't exist anymore.

"The regional growth strategy is not proceeding," says Fenwick.

"The board has asked for a staff report on ways to get a similar direction as a regional growth strategy without officially having one. There wasn't sufficient support by all jurisdictions and there was no funding."

But for some the fight for the Pender Harbour landfill isn't over yet.

"There's no question there could be an appeal to the ministry of community services, in my mind," says John Rees.

"Not necessarily based on the technical details but certainly based on the fact that, on an issue as important as this obviously is to the community, that the community should be given an opportunity to voice their opinion."

Rees says an appeal could take the form of a legal petition process.

"The last resort would be a referendum. Referendums are cumbersome and they are relatively expensive but what price is democracy?" said Rees.

"What we're talking about here is whether or not we feel that we have good local government and if the price to pay is the price of a referendum to prove to the community that we do in fact have that, then I don't think it's too much."

April 2010

ACCOMMODATION OF THE MONTH

Bathgate's General Store, Resort and Marina

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There are camping facilities with a scenic view of Secret Bay and its wildlife activities, for your tent, camper or recreational vehicle





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Garden Bay artist Motoko donates painting for local history book

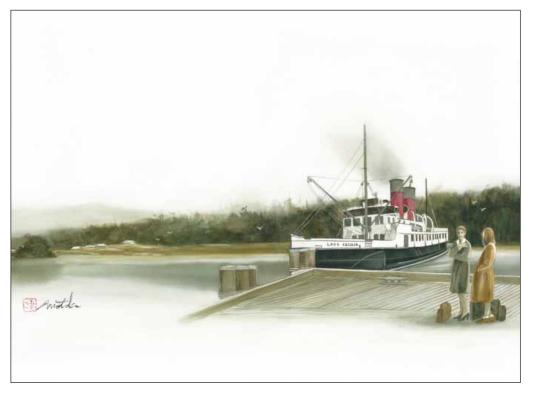
After nine years it seems the Pender Harbour Women's Connection book project is almost complete.

Due out this May, Women of Pender Harbour: Their Voices, Their History will feature a painting donated by local artist Motoko on the cover.

Motoko will present her watercolour "Women of Pender Harbour" to Dorothy Faulkner of the Archive Legacy Committee on April 3.

It depicts the Union steamship Lady Cecilia arriving at Irvines Landing in the 1940s and will be featured on the book's full-colour dust jacket.

The donation will include not only the original painting but also the right to sell and use the giclée prints to benefit fundraising efforts of the Archive Legacy Committee, which is raising funds to support the collection and preservation of historical materials in Pender Harbour.



Garden Bay artist Motoko donated this watercolour painting to Pender Harbour's Archive Legacy Committee for their upcoming historical book *Women of Pender Harbour: Their Voices, Their History.* The book is due out in May.

Thieves break into Marina Pharmacy

A break-in was reported at the Madeira Park Shopping Centre on the morning of March 19 when a Marina Pharmacy employee arrived at work to discover a door had been pried open to gain entry.

RCMP Constable Colin Bissell said it appeared thieves entered the building after first disabling the security alarm on the roof of the building.

It also appeared the thieves disabled alarm speakers inside the premises after gaining entry.

Bissell said a large quantity of various narcotics were stolen from a locked cabinet.

The RCMP are reviewing security camera footage but have not identified any suspects at press time.

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NFWS

SCRD plans new bylaw enforcement system

The SCRD has announced plans to pursue the adoption of a new adjudication and enforcement model for bylaw infractions.

The bylaw enforcement notification system (BEN) is intended to replace the municipal ticketing information system (MTI) currently in use.

The system is intended to reduce

the time and resources required to dispute minor bylaw infractions.

"When somebody wants to dispute a ticket or make a claim against somebody else, it ends up in provincial court," says chief building inspector Peter Longhi.

"A lot of the judges take a dim view of these minor infractions getting to the court system because they have bigger issues to deal with."

Longhi says a court-appointed adjudicator would be able to meet with parties in a boardroom or SCRD office, eliminating the need for sett-ting court dates, hiring lawyers and lining up witnesses.

"It it has the same authority and power as a provincial court . . . but it is a very informal process," says Longhi.

The MTI will still be active but will only be used in cases of a major infraction such as an environmental disaster because the fines under the MTI system are much higher.

The aim of the new adjudication model is to create simple, fair, and cost-effective systems for dealing with minor bylaw infractions.

According to Longhi, 31 municipalities already have adopted the new system and the feedback has all been positive.

"There's always a frustration where people complain about something and it seems that the local governments drag their feet or take too long to act on it and this is a good way of getting a speedy resolution for a minor infraction," says Longhi.

Longhi says the ultimate decision will be made by the board later this month but if it goes ahead, he hopes the system will be in place by the end of the summer.

Pender Harbour Landfill Conversion to Transfer Station

Following extensive review and consultation, the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) Board resolved to proceed with the conversion of the Pender Harbour Landfill to a Transfer Station operation, in combination with an onsite enhanced resource recovery facility.

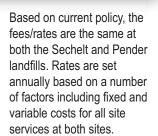
The Board cited the
Transfer Station's economic
and environmental benefits
as primary factors in moving
forward with this decision,
states Donna Shugar,
Chair of the SCRD Board
of Directors.

Transfer Station bins in the public drop off area will continue to accept all the same materials as the landfill does now, including household garbage.

Opportunities for expanding resource recovery programs, such as organics composting and styrofoam collection, are currently being considered through the SCRD's Solid Waste Management Plan update process.

Materials such as wood. green waste, metal, gyproc, propane tanks, fridges and freezers, tires, and share shed items will continue to be managed as they are now (i.e. after drop off at the Pender Harbour site they are transported to processing facilities where the material is either reused or recycled). The Pender Harbour landfill component will be closed and garbage that is dropped off there (that is not part of the diversion/reuse program) will be compacted and transported to the Sechelt Landfill for burying.

Visitors to the Transfer Station facility should not experience any increase in fees or loss to the services currently provided at the landfill", says Shugar. "Residents and commercial haulers will continue to bring discarded materials and loads to the site on Garden Bay Road. What will be changed is what happens to those materials next."



The SCRD will be proceeding with the transfer station design process as soon as possible to allow the transfer station to be in operation prior to the Pender Harbour landfill reaching capacity, which is projected to be the end of 2010 or early 2011.

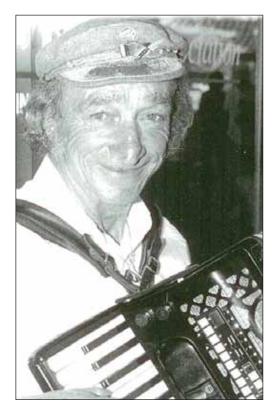
For further information please contact Dion Whyte, Manager, Sustainable Services at 604-885-6800, or visit www.scrd.ca.



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Franciscus (Frank) W. A. Roosen

SEPTEMBER 10, 1933 — FEBRUARY 28, 2010



Frank was born Sept. 10, 1933 in Holland. He was one of eight children and was often was first in his class at school with honours.

Frank was predeceased by his father, mother, brother and son William.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Joka, his children Frank Jr. (Pam) and Deborah and grandchildren Michael and Katie.

Frank and Joka immigrated to Canada in 1955 to start a new life.

Frank started his own fuel oil business in Deep Cove and joined the Kinsmen Club in 1957. In 1967 he became deputy governor and was later granted a lifetime membership.

He was also a charter member of the Pender Harbour Lions' Club.

Frank owned the Pender Har-

bour Chevron station for three years and owned 22.5 acres of property on Garden Bay Road where he successfully made a hometown dream, "This is Roosendal Farms."

At a later age, Frank and Joka opted to become snowbirds and he played the accordion for everyone.

His humour and jokes always made people laugh and his famous "Jake the Peg with his extra leg" act received so much attention. He was very stern with his children yet loved them very much.

Frank won many trophies in Sunshine Coast parades for his vegetable float and carnival music.

Services were held March 11 at Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church.

Jean Roberts Haddon (née McLachlan)

APRIL 30, 1914 — MARCH 10, 2010



Mum passed away peacefully in Gibsons at the age of 95.

She was born on a homestead in Glenbush, Saskatchewan, the eldest of seven children and took on the added responsibility of caregiver to her two youngest sisters.

When she was 18 she helped her father drive a 1929 Dodge touring car containing all nine family members out to the West Coast.

Mum was predeceased by her husband, Thomas James (Jim) Haddon.

They were longtime residents of Government Road in North Burnaby and spent their retirement years in Madeira Park where they loved to fish.

Jean is survived by her son Joe

Haddon, daughter Judy Collinge and son-in-law Rick Collinge, grandchildren Tanis, Cathy (Kevin), Richard, Ted and great-grandchildren Kadin and Matteo.

She is also survived by her sisters Amy (Norm) Gillis and Betty (Bob) Scott.

The family would like to extend their sincerest thanks to the staff at Kiwanis and Christenson Village in Gibsons for their kind and compassionate care for mum in her final years.

At her own request, no service or flowers.

Landfill the hottest issue in 20 years



By Eric Graham SCRD Director, Area A

PENDER HARBOUR LANDFILL

For Area A, I believe this has

been the hottest issue in the past 20 years.

In the past nine months there have been three public information

meetings, two surveys, one questionnaire, one telephone survey (done by one individual), two community-organized petitions, as well as a great deal of news articles and letters in the three Coast newspapers.

SCRD directors and staff have also received hundreds of e-mails and letters.

From all the information I have received, I am quite confident that the majority in Area A want to see the landfill expanded rather than turned

into a transfer station.

What I do not know is if the taxpayers of Area A are willing to pay all the cost involved in expanding the present Pender landfill site.

The board, as a whole, has stated that if Area A wants to expand the present site they will have to pay the extra cost.

At the March 11 regular board meeting, a staff report entitled "Pender Harbour Landfill Referendum Options" was received.

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

UPCOMING MEETINGS AT 1975 FIELD ROAD:

Infrastructure Services Committee April 1 at 1:30 p.m.

Regular Board

April 8 at 1:00 p.m. and April 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Planning and Development Committee April 8 at 9:30 a.m.

Community Services Committee April 15 at 1:30 p.m.

Corporate and Administrative Services Committee

April 22 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, April 28 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 Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A1

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.



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GRAHAM'S GROUNDWORK

In this staff report the extra costs were:

- 1. The cost of a referendum estimated at \$57,000.
- 2. The cost of an application to the Ministry of Environment for an operating permit estimated at \$150,000.
- 3. Annual operating costs, estimated for the first year of operation, of \$194,000.

I do not agree with some of these figures. Unfortunately, a previous delayed motion was brought forward on March 11 to proceed with the transfer station.

There were seven directors present and the vote was five in favour, one opposed (me) and Director Turnbull (Area F) abstained.

I do not think this is over and there should be more discussion with the board but it will be up to them to decide if this will take place.

If the board agrees to this, I will do my best to have fair costs presented to the electorate of Area A in a referendum paid for by Area A.

If the electorate is willing to pay these extra costs then we should proceed with the expansion.

I have said since day one that I will support what the majority wants, I just want to see that each taxpayer has their right to say what they want in a referendum.

When you consider the extra cost of a referendum over the lifetime of the landfill, with an accumulative cost of over \$1 million, the cost of the referendum seems minor.

I would like to emphasize that whether the decision is for expansion or transfer station; all directors want to work towards zero waste.

This means the lifespan of our landfill will be extended or there

would be fewer trucks taking our garbage to Sechelt.

As far as I am concerned this issue is not over — more discussion must take place with the board members and I will be doing all I can to delay the plans for a transfer station until we have these discussions.

Democracy is slow and costly but I believe it is the only system that works.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

On March 17, Madeira Park resident Violet May Ansell turned 100.

On behalf of all the residents in our communities, I offered her our congratulations and wished her a very happy birthday.

2010 BUDGET

After three months of hard work the board of directors and staff have finished round three of this year's budget talks.

At press time, the budget has not yet been passed, but it looks like about a one-percent overall tax increase over all areas in the SCRD, but a one per cent decrease in taxes for Area A

This means that if your assessment stayed the same as last year, there should be a one per cent decrease in your SCRD general taxes.

THE BUS

I am pleased to announce that as of March 21, I have a verbal agreement on a six-month contract with a firm that currently has a licence to run scheduled bus service between Egmont and Sechelt.

If all goes well, we could have our community bus on a scheduled service between Egmont, Garden Bay, Madeira Park and Sechelt, twice per week starting as soon as June 1.

This will be on a six-month trial basis but if the costs are on budget and there is good ridership, the plan is to go to the taxpayer and see if they are willing to pay the costs, less the fares collected, in order to continue.

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Could the first visitors to the Sunshine Coast have been American?



By Gary Little

Although it seems well established that the Spanish were the first Europeans to sail along our coast in 1791 — they even

went ashore near Mission Point in Davis Bay — an intriguing chart from a 1790 book by John Meares hints that a merchant ship from Boston, Mass. may have been the first in the neighbourhood.

John Meares, a former Royal Navy lieutenant, was an entrepreneurial fur trader and part-time explorer on the northwest coast of America in the late 18th century.

He was seeking his fortune after reading the official account of Capt. James Cook's third voyage (published in 1784), noting the high prices fetched in China for sea otter pelts acquired inexpensively during Cook's one-month stay at Nootka Sound on Vancouver Island in 1778.

Meares's activities brought him to Alaska over the winter of 1786-87 (a harsh season he barely survived) and then to the west coast of Vancouver Island in 1788.

In 1790, following his return to England, he wrote a popular book



Gordon Miller painting

The American fur trading ships the Columbia Rediviva and the Lady Washington leaving Boston in 1787.

about his adventures titled Voyages Made in the Years 1788 and 1789, from China to the North West Coast of America

The book would later be carried to the northwest coast as a reference by none other than George Vancouver who left England in 1791 with orders to chart the "backside of America" in detail from California to Alaska

Meares's book included the chart shown (facing page): A Chart of the Interior Part of North America Demonstrating the very great probability

of an Inland Navigation from Hudsons Bay to the West Coast.

This chart is interesting for two reasons:

It shows a possible navigable water route between Hudson Bay and Alaska. (This concept was borrowed from a map by Peter Pond, a North West Company fur trader, published in England in March 1790. Meares himself did not explore inland.)

It shows "the sea" surrounding most of present-day British Columbia with a path marked "Sketch of the Track of the American Sloop Washington in the Autumn of 1789."

It is this latter feature that's most interesting to us here on the Sunshine Coast because it shows a great sea behind Vancouver Island accessed via Juan de Fuca Strait and extending to the north of Haida Gwaii.

We now know, of course, there is no sea of enormous size and extent indicated on this chart, but perhaps this was simply a crude approximation of the first voyage ever into Georgia

Mimosa

Saturday, April 10 🐟



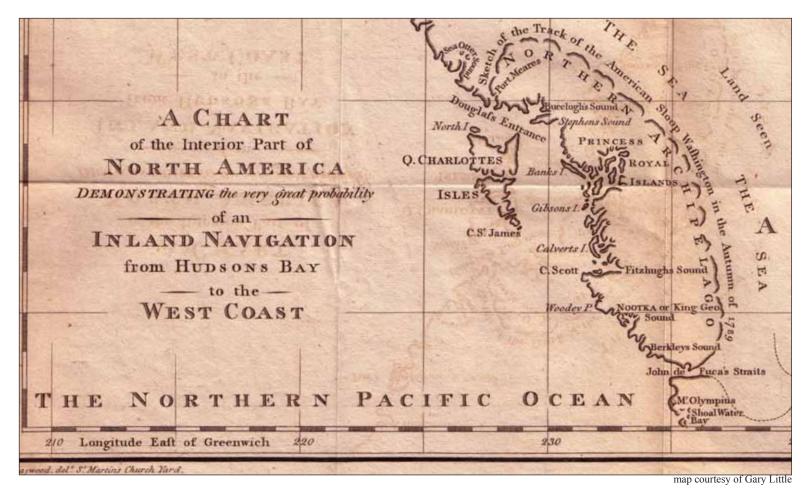
If Serge Gainsbourg, Cleo Laine and Jobim all hung out together one night and jammed, they might sound something like what Mimosa has to offer: a journey into a land of gorgeous melodies, groovy rhythms and stellar improvisations.

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Tickets at Harbour Insurance, John Henry's, Sechelt Visitor Info Centre and Gaia's Fair Trade.

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Page 14 Harbour Spiel



From a 1790 book by explorer John Meares, this chart entitled 'A Chart of the Interior Part of North America Demonstrating the very great probability of an Inland Navigation from Hudsons Bay to the West Coast,' might fuel speculation about the first non-native visitors to the Sunshine Coast.

Strait and around Vancouver Island
— a voyage that predates the welldocumented visits of Narváez in 1791
and George Vancouver in 1792.

Understand how this unusual track showed up on the Meares map requires us to go back to Boston in 1787. In that year, only 11 years after the United States Declaration of Independence, several wealthy New England merchants launched a joint venture to tap the same lucrative northwest fur trade market that attracted Meares and others.

They outfitted two ships, the *Columbia Rediviva* and the sloop *Lady Washington* and put them under the command of Capt. John Kendrick and Capt. Robert Gray, respectively.

April 2010

The plan was to go to Nootka, trade with the natives for sea otter pelts, then head to China to sell them at the high prices Cook had reported.

The two ships left Boston on October 1, 1787 to much excitement and fanfare.

They later separated in bad weather as they rounded the Horn of South America, but both ended up making it to Nootka Sound in September 1788 within a week of one another, with Gray in the *Lady Washington* arriving first.

Here Gray and Kendrick found John Meares and his ship the *Felice Adventurer* but they would have little



Robert Gray 1755 - 1806

continued next page

LOCALLY

First visitors (cont.)

(continued from page 15) opportunity to get to know him because he departed for China a few days later.

The Americans wintered at Nootka and accumulated furs until the following summer.

Then, in July 1789, the two captains exchanged ships.

Gray sailed immediately for China aboard the *Columbia Rediviva* while Kendrick stayed behind in the *Lady Washington*, presumably to acquire more furs before departing.

But the full scope of his activities during that summer and autumn is not completely known.

Gray arrived in Macao in November 1789 followed by Kendrick in January 1790.

Gray then left for Boston the following month and successfully returned on Aug. 9, 1790, making the *Columbia Rediviva* the first American ship to circumnavigate the globe.

Kendrick stayed behind in the *Lady Washington* and never did return to Boston although he continued trad-

ing on the northwest coast until his death in Hawaii in December 1794.

John Meares spent the whole of 1789 in Canton managing the affairs of his trading business and, presumably, writing a good portion of the book he would publish the following year.

In December 1789 he left for England to personally complain to the government about seizures by the Spanish of his company's ships and land at Nootka. (This precipitated the Nootka Crisis and nearly led to war between Britain and Spain.)

Meares' book was a monumental work. It was over 400 pages and included 28 copper-engraved plates and maps, including the map shown here.

However, the book was savaged by George Dixon, a rival northwest fur trader of the day (Dixon Entrance north of Haida Gwaii is named for him). He ridiculed Meares for several statements made in his book and alleged that Meares was fraudulently attempting to take credit for discover-



John Meares 1756-1809

ies made by others.

As for the purported track of the *Lady Washington*, Dixon said it resembled nothing "so much as the mould of a good old housewife's butter pat" and was a complete fabrication.

In a public exchange of pamphlets with Dixon (an 18th-century version of an e-mail flame war) Meares defended himself by saying that he had obtained his information from "Mr. Neville, a gentleman of the most respectable character, who came home in the *Chesterfield*, a ship in the service of the East India Company," and that Mr. Neville had "received the particulars of the track" from Captain Kendrick.

Capt. George Vancouver had the Meares book with him when he left Britain on April 1, 1791 to perform a detailed survey of the northwest coast to Alaska and he was also well aware of Dixon's criticisms.

He mentions the book several times in his own book and was obviously interested in confirming what lay beyond Juan de Fuca Strait.

Like finding a needle in a haystack, Vancouver encountered Robert Gray at sea, off the Washington State



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Page 16 Harbour Spiel

coast, in April 1792.

Gray was on his second trip to Nootka from Boston and Vancouver had just arrived on the northwest coast to begin his survey.

Vancouver specifically questioned Gray about the Meares chart and in his book *A Voyage of Discovery* (1798), he records Gray's reaction:

"It is not possible to conceive any one to be more astonished than was Mr. Gray, on his being made acquainted, that his authority had been quoted, and the track pointed out that he had been said to have made in the sloop *Washington*.

"In contradiction to which, he assured the officers, that he had penetrated only 50 miles into the straits in question, in an E.S.E. direction; that he found the passage five leagues wide; and that he understood, from the natives, that the opening extended a considerable distance to the northward; that this was all the information he had acquired respecting this inland sea, and that he returned into the ocean by the same way he had entered at."

Two weeks later, on May 11, 1792, Gray would achieve enduring fame as the first to sail into the great river which he named for his ship — the *Columbia*.

This act of discovery was the key to recognition of U.S. claims to the river and to the area north to the 49th parallel in 1846.

An important point that seems to have escaped everyone's attention, however, is that in the autumn of 1789, the time when the *Washington* was said to have sailed the inland sea, Gray was not its captain.

He had transferred to the *Columbia* in late July and sailed her back to





Medal minted for the Columbia-Washington Voyage of 1787.

China leaving John Kendrick in command of the *Washington*.

Kendrick did more trading, then eventually ended up in Macao in early 1790 after a stopover in Hawaii.

Could he have circumnavigated Vancouver Island in the interim?

It seems unlikely for a couple of reasons.

First, he probably would not have had enough time to do so.

Second, such an important achievement would surely have been communicated to many others by Kendrick, who remained an active trader in the north Pacific until his death five years later, but it wasn't.

Nevertheless, the possibility of a 1789 voyage around Vancouver Island, however faint, still lingers.

As J. Richard Nokes, author of *Almost a Hero* (a biography of John Meares) says,

"It is conceivable that Kendrick

may have sailed from Clayoquot Sound through the Strait of Juan de Fuca and then north behind Vancouver Island perhaps to trade with natives near the Queen Charlotte Islands.

"The truth will never be known, because Kendrick died in Hawaii in 1794 without ever returning to Boston and any record concerning this incident was lost or has never been found."

One thing is certain: If Meares's assertion was correct — and if Kendrick had a better publicist — most of present-day British Columbia would have become American territory faster than you can say "Fifty-four forty or fight!"

Gary Little is a realtor with Royal LePage Sunshine Coast and is well known for his interactive maps of the area — real estate for sale, waterfalls, and exploration. Find out more about him at www.GaryLittle.ca.

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Black Lab hydrophobia



By John Wade

Hello John,

Could you please help me figure out why for the last three years my

12-year-old mixed black Lab refuses to drink out of a bowl and now even a flat platter.

She approaches her food bowl with nervousness as well.

If there is even the slightest bit of noise or if her food drops on the plate (flat also) she cowers.

She will eat snow, drink rain water off the deck and water from the bird bath.

Our vet said it was not uncommon for elderly dogs to do this.

Because she has cataracts she explained it could be that she feels like she is going into a tunnel.

I thought she would eventually get thirsty enough and succumb to the platter, but she circles around it and refuses, so I gave in and poured it on the floor where she lapped it up one glass after another.

Is this just a bad habit? Should I just accept that she is old and continue with what I've been doing?

-Karen

Dear Karen.

When I first read this I found it mildly amusing.

To hear of a dog with even a speck of Labrador retriever being afraid to eat and drink is like finding a couch potato afraid of the remote.

After a bit, though, I got to thinking were I in her paws and something was making me afraid to do something critical to my very existence it wouldn't be so funny, particularly



considering how often she must face it

Certainly something triggered this but what is moot. I'm betting this dog has other issues.

Eccentricities that indicate a predisposition for anxiety. Thunder, fireworks, hot air balloon phobias for instance or just a nervous dog that when something scares her it sticks.

In this case, the fact that it's associated around one of the basic necessities of life makes it likely that this is a "wiring" problem more so then cataracts alone.

If we were able to make it impossible for her to eat or drink any other way then out of regular bowls she would eventually succumb.

I have never known a physically healthy creature to avoid water— even animals that know full well there are crocodiles in the water will in spite of their fear drink when they must.

However, with your dog, even if I were willing to wait her out by making it impossible to otherwise get sustenance, what's the point? She's

likely a dog predisposed to anxiety now going on 13, you've coped with this for three years, why not for a few more? Why put either of you through it?

Besides, at 13, her kidneys may not be as efficient as they once were and it may be dangerous to wait her out.

If you want to try a couple of more things, see if she'll chew on ice cubes. Slightly more convenient and less messy for you.

Trying her out on an anti-anxiety medication for 12 weeks might be worth a shot as well.

For most behaviours you'd have to form a behavior modification plan as well but if we could calm her mind, I should think that the pleasure of eating and drinking would be enough positive reinforcement.

Regards, John Wade

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

'We have to fight to get this undemocratic, unconscionable abuse

Dear Editor.

With its decision to close the landfill in defiance of the strongest opposition Area A has mounted on any issue in recent memory, the SCRD has declared war on Area A.

Both what was done and the way

it was done is violence to our good faith contract with the regional district.

Regional districts are supposed to respect the wishes of individual areas except on issues that are clearly region-wide like building inspection.

On all other matters it is sup-

posed to be directed by the wishes of the local community, especially on a matter like the Pender landfill which serves only our area and no other area cares about.

Sure, the other areas may contribute a little to our landfill, mostly because of bloated SCRD administration and staff costs, but we over-contribute to many of their services.

Area A has only about 10 per cent of the SCRD's population but contributes about 17 per cent of its tax revenues.

Over the years we have overpaid for our membership in the SCRD by tens of millions but we have been content to shrug it off as long we were able to get something when we wanted it.

Over the years we have stated again and again that one of the things we want is a local landfill and up to now the SCRD has always been decent enough and smart enough to agree.

Regional districts are an imperfect form of government and it has taken a lot of mutual respect and good will to make this one work as well as it has.

Thanks to a board and staff dominated by hardliners who can't see past their noses, that neighbourly tradition was brought down in flames on March 11.

The way it was done was almost as shameful as the deed itself. To this day the SCRD has never admitted that a strong majority of the area opposes their plan to truck our garbage to Sechelt. They have turned a blind eye to two polls and one massive petition that should have made the truth obvious to a two-year-old, while using every excuse in the book to avoid doing a survey that would settle the matter.

Good oral hygiene is key to a healthy body

One of the most important things you can do for your total health is to take care of your teeth and gums.

There is a growing body of current research that supports a link between oral diseases and diabetes, heart disease, stroke, lung diseases and pre-term, low-birthweight babies.

In addition, periodontal (gum) disease is an infectious disease that may be transmitted from one person to another.

Women who are considering pregnancy or who are pregnant should see their dental hygienist as an important part of prenatal care.

Start by using a good brushing and flossing technique.

The basics: hold the toothbrush bristles at a 45-degree to the gums and "wiggle" the brush softly to work the bristles around the gums and then draw the bristles over each couple of teeth. Repeat five to eight times per area covering two to three teeth.

Look into the mirror to make sure that you don't miss any areas.

Using dental floss after brushing is a very necessary part of oral hygiene.

Flossing not only removes food particles and plaque between the teeth but also introduces oxygen into the area.

Oxygen deactivates the disease-causing plaque and prevents them from invading the tissue.

To learn more about how your oral health contributes to your total well-being, make an appointment for cleaning and review of your dental health.

Call 604-883-2997 for an appointment with Darlene Fowlie, a registered dental hygienist at the dental office of Dr. Robert Hynd in the Pender Harbour & District Health Centre.



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of regional district power overturned'

They favoured a self-interested minority who agreed with them, even appointing a Sakinaw Lake cottager who hates the landfill as Area A's "representative" on the two important committees that made the fatal closure recommendation. That person, Phil Ragan, has presumed to speak for all of us while campaigning aggressively inside the system to kill the landfill.

Finally, when they were able to deny us a voice no further, the SCRD proposed a full-dress legal referendum which we would have to pay for at a rip-off cost that was over four times as much as they have ever charged before.

To keep our landfill this referendum would require us to authorize \$550,000 for expansion work professional engineers said should only cost \$155,000. It would also require us to accept a permanent tax of \$203,000 in addition to the \$440,000 we already pay in waste taxes and fees. This would be more than twice what the professional consultants said the expanded landfill should cost to operate.

Clearly this referendum was designed to be defeated. It is a sleazy piece of political quackery that would have made Idi Amin blush.

The SCRD would have us believe this is fair, honest and the only way to deal with the issue. Yet if we agree to the transfer station option, which would cost more to build and probably much more to operate, we don't have to have a referendum and we don't have to pay a cent of new taxes—just because that is what they want.

The board could just as easily make the decision to expand the landfill with no referendum and no tax as it has done numerous times before, but out of childish spite this board

chooses not to. If this is not abuse of political power, nothing is.

Now, as an exercise in damage control the SCRD is trying to start happy talk about a new recycling centre at the closed landfill, but the official motion passed by the board does not provide for any concrete action on recycling.

Yet another piece of shabby deception by a board that must surely rank as one of the worst in the history of the Sunshine Coast?

The loss of our landfill is a serious blow to Area A. When we become a municipality, it would allow us to go on our own and escape from the SCRD's costly and over-centralized system. Its Area A tax bite has gone up 400 per cent in four years.

Without our own landfill we will be slaves to whatever garbage empire the SCRD chooses to impose upon us, and it has some scary plans.

But we have much more to worry about than the landfill now. Every vital interest we have as a community is at risk in the hands of these hardline zealots who will feel they have the right to impose their will on us without limit if they get away with this.

Eric Graham, our director, has let us down. He refused to support the majority until the 11th hour and he seems to swallow anything staff tells him, even that it's fair to make us pay \$57,000 for a referendum designed to fail.

The only thing that could redeem Eric at this point would be for him to resign and force a byelection on the issue. That would give us a referendum for free. Failing that, he should resign anyway for failing to represent his constituents on the most high-profile issue that has come up in years.

Phone or email him to tell him how you feel.

What else? We have to fight to get this undemocratic, unconscionable abuse of regional district power overturned. And perhaps the time has come to get a more responsible form of government.

Howard White Madeira Park

2010

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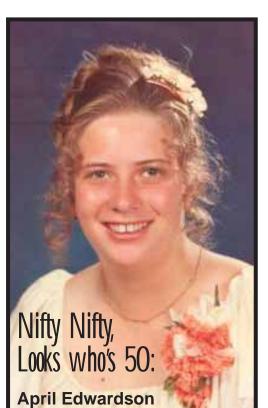
Residential and commercial customers on the SCRD water systems for North and South Pender are encouraged to apply now — spaces are limited.

The models of toilets being offered are on display for your viewing at the SCRD South Pender office located at 12828 Lagoon Road, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

For more information 604-885-6806 or 604-885-6887.

www.scrd.ca





LETTERS

'It's time to examine other options'

Dear Editor.

The Coast has to be the most over-governed place in BC.

And not very well either from reports of the bullying and humiliation heaped on our director at the SCRD where he was overruled on a local issue concerning the landfill.

In 40 years of close watching, I have never heard of this unwritten courtesy being broken.

Having been in that chair, I realize that you are expected to use your elbows now and then and that a smooth tongue can take you a long way, but to deny the people of Pender Harbour the voice of the person we elected will have unforeseeable consequences.

What's to be done?

Many beleaguered taxpayers are looking at alternatives.

There are three costly local governments on the Coast: Sechelt, Gibsons, and the regional district with over 250 employees which already functions more like a district municipality.

A single Sunshine Coast District Municipality for the Lower Coast within the Greater Vancouver Regional District makes more sense than a bureaucratic nightmare where wellmeaning employees have to pre-empt political responsibilities to get anything done.

Electing a single mayor and council at large will eliminate duplication, reduce taxes and restrain parochialism

Meanwhile Area A (Pender/ Egmont) could become part of the Powell River Regional District which borders us on Texada and at Saltery Bay.

This is a much more modest operation with a budget of \$8 million compared to \$40 million for the SCRD serving a similar population far away from the Lower Mainland with its complex urban problems.

It's time to examine other options and, yes, even incorporation if need be. The present setup is untenable.

I am proposing that we form a local ad hoc committee to approach the BC government to form an independent restructuring commission to advise the minister on the feasibility of various options.

Over the next 18 months, in a leadup to local elections, I will try to bring this issue to centre stage.

Think about it.

Joe Harrison

Would you like to find out more about your child's school?

April 10, 2010



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Page 22 Harbour Spiel

Regarding the SCRD vote for transfer station, March 11

Dear Editor:

The SCRD has put in eight months of difficult and often tumultuous consultations.

Their staff and our director, Eric Graham, have suffered eight months of heated pressure.

We want to thank everyone who worked so hard on this issue and

especially the directors of the SCRD for voting for the future of our environment and a healthy place for our children's grandchildren to live.

It's time to look and move forward as a community, stop holding on to garbage in mind and in fact, and start coming together as the Sunshine Coast.

It's time to put our collective

heads together to create the healthiest community we can.

Zero waste and ultimately zero landfills on the Sunshine Coast should be just one of our goals.

Carole Rubin Concerned Citizens for Sustainable Waste Management

Harmer attempts to right Wright's wrong

Dear Editor,

In response to Maureen Wright's letter regarding the dearth of bathroom facilities for visitors, I'd like to point out that the Pender Harbour Chamber of Commerce is responsible for the washrooms located behind the visitors' information booth.

In the past, these washrooms have been open year round, but with a reduced budget and reduced membership, the chamber has opted to close these during the "off" season.

So quite correctly, people may wonder where they can, um, go.

Well, simple, really.

First, there are very good facilities beside the harbour authority office, which are available when you ask at the office for a key (thanks, Ian and Dave). There are two portable toilets beside the launch ramp in Millennium Park which, although looking a little tired, are fine for use.

And the Copper Sky Gallery and Cafe has a washroom which the public can use (thanks, Cindy).

The off-season in the Harbour is getting shorter as the community gains more festivals (like the Mushroom Festival in October), so the closure period will be revisited.

And remember that we're all volunteers — we all want what is best for the Harbour and its visitors.

Rick Harmer Pender Harbour & Egmont Chamber of Commerce



The Pender Harbour Equestrian Society is a newly formed society located at 12571 Warnock Road, Madeira Park.

Offering reasonably priced horse boarding, riding lessons provided by certified coaches and a dressage and stadium ring. Horses are available for sale and lease. New members welcome.

Certified coaches interested in teaching at PHES are also welcome to inquire.

For more information please contact: Charly at 604-883-3606 or email scmclean@telus.net





Take control of your future by creating a business plan, Part 3

By Brian Lee

(Continued from February/March 2010 issues) The last in a three-part series offering tips on creating a business plan.

After summarizing why your business is or will be successful, a business plan should back up the rhetoric with some sound financial analysis. A thorough scrutiny of projected or actual data combined with a detailed look at how the company will operate should answer any remaining questions a reader or investor might have

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The purpose of this section is to provide the reader (or investor) with a description of your product or service's design.

You should try to chart the progress of what you intend to sell within the context of product development, market development and organizational development.

The design and development plan may vary depending on the type of business you have and is most crucial for a business that is bringing a manufactured product through the development stage to market. It should identify key scheduling stages the product must pass through before customer delivery.



identify all costs associated with the process and any perceived risks in developing the product (technical, financial or personnel requirements) should be identified with a plan to address each one

OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

This section will attempt to describe how your business will function on a continuing basis.

The operations and management plan will highlight the organizational structure of the company (such as the various responsibilities of management or employees) and will begin to assess the financial components of the business that will be covered in more detail in the next section.

The organizational structure needs to be defined because it will provide the basis from which to project operating expenses, critical to the formation of financial statements.

Most businesses will be structured into several broad areas that include marketing and sales (including customer relations and service), production (including quality assurance), research and development and administration. Key personnel should be identified here with an organizational chart with job descriptions and salaries.

The size of many small businesses dictates that these broad areas will be handled by the same person. That shouldn't affect the organizational structure – management tasks should still be classified into departments (depending on specific business requirements and goals) even for a management team of one. Once the structure is in place, it is possible to predict operating expenses.

The operations plan should include tables for operating expenses and capital requirements.

Labour expenses (personnel requirements multiplied by salary level) will be determined from the organizational structure. Overhead expenses include travel, maintenance, advertising, rent, insurance, etc.

Capital requirements are a cost representation of the amount of money required to purchase equipment you'll use to establish and continue operations.

For a service business, capital costs usually involve equipment used to service customers. Manufacturing companies' capital costs will involve production equipment.



Page 24 Harbour Spiel

FINANCIAL FACTORS

Financial data is always at the back of the plan. It's not the most exciting aspect of the plan but, depending on what your plan is used for, it may be the most important.

The three common statements to include are a cash flow statement, an income statement and a balance sheet.

The cash-flow statement is one of the most critical because it shows how much cash will be needed to meet obligations. It shows when it will be required and where it will come from.

The income statement reports on the business's cash generating ability — a scorecard on the performance of the business that reflects when sales are made and when expenses are incurred.

The balance sheet uses information from all the financial models developed in earlier sections of the plan but is generated solely on an annual basis and is a summary broken down into three areas: assets (cash, accounts receivable and inventory), liabilities (accounts payable, accrued liabilities and taxes) and equity (the difference between the two.

To obtain financing for a new business you may need to provide a projection of the balance sheet over the period of time the business plan covers and often a personal financial statement as well.

For all three statements, you should include a short note emphasizing key points about the information presented.

GETTING HELP WITH YOUR BUSINESS

Many small businesses ideas start when a prospective entrepreneur sees an opportunity to capitalize on

a specific skill he or she possesses. More often than not that skill does not include business plan writing.

There should be no shame in looking for outside help when creating a business plan, especially one sophisticated enough to impress potential investors.

Depending on your budget and needs, there is a variety of resources available.

Hired consultants can not only help with the technical details of creating your plan but they might also bring an alternative perspective to your business's approach.

Consulting firms vary in cost and require a considerable amount of time communicating the specifics of your enterprise.

There are a wide range of skills and specialties within the consultancy field so it's important to make sure the person you hire has experience in businesses similar to yours.

As always, check their references and get details of the services they will provide in writing.

There are very few private business consultants on the Sunshine Coast but there are a number of federally and provincially funded resources available

The Aspire Self-employment Program is a government funded program intended to ease the transition from unemployment to business ownership.

The 48-week training program begins by helping qualified candidates develop a business plan through workshops and one-on-one coaching and continues to offer support as the business develops afterwards.

In order to get a referral to the program, prospective candidates must first speak with an employment coach from the Sunshine Coast Employment Centre at (604) 885-7443.

Community Futures is a nonprofit, government funded organization focused on developing the economic and entrepreneurial capacity of the Sunshine Coast.

Among other initiatives, Community Futures offers business advisory services for existing small business and start-up ventures. Staff are available to help review and critique business plans at no charge.

To make an appointment to meet with a business advise contact Community Futures at (604) 885-1959.

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Phone immediately. We need a few more people to meet the minimum.

PHOTOJOURNAL



Tom Barker shows off the new Pender Harbour and Egmont Chamber of Commerce sign directing visitors to Garden Bay. Barker says he and Larry Curtiss spearheaded the project but were helped in the installation by Alfie Lajlar of Crossroads Grill and Rona's HIAB flatbed to lift it into place.



Man Stewart photo

'How do you give an eagle mouth to mouth?' Bystanders could do nothing after witnessing this eagle strike a tree limb on Francis Peninsula Road March 19. A conservation officer later arrived to remove the carcass.





The only dedicated yarn store on the Sunshine Coast features sustainable yarns and fibres, needles and accessories, knit night on Fridays and classes. Closed Mondays, open all weekend.

In Gibsons: #8 - 1161 Sunshine Coast Highway www.unwindknitandfibre.ca 604.886.1418

Page 30 Harbour Spiel

April Tools Wooden Boat Challenge floats towards ninth year

Submitted

On April 24, Madeira Park's Millennium Park will once again come to life as those crazy boat-builder folks create amazing vessels out of next to nothing and then race them around the harbour for cash prizes.

As usual, boat-building will start at 10 a.m. but the teams usually arrive a little earlier to set up building spots with saws, sawhorses, cordless screw guns and other hand tools.

But there's always a catch. Two years ago, teams were surprised to be given a paddlewheel to power their boats and had to give hard consideration to how to steer something that travels well in a straight line around a circular course.

Last year they got a length of sauna-tube which had to be incorporated into their design.

This year all the builders are being told is that "there will be plenty of materials to build a boat . . . but prepare to get wet!"

The fastest three teams will receive sizable cash prizes but there is also the Broken Paddle Trophy for the team that perseveres in the face of adversity and the Spiffy Skiffy Trophy (a people's choice award) for the boat chosen by the crowd as the finest looking.

But the day isn't only about building interesting boats from questionable materials.

High school students who have built boats after school will race for the coveted youth trophy, followed by a relaxed-rules fun race for bags of goodies.

There will be free mini-boatbuilding and other activities for the kids thanks to the Pender Harbour Community School and Success by 6,



and a fabulous barbecue by the Pender Harbour Rotary for everyone.

The Pender Harbour Living Heritage Society, organizer of the event, still only charges a \$160 entry fee per team of up to four or \$140 for early birds signing up before April 1.

Call Richard or Jackie at (604) 883-0539 or e-mail jackieordron-neau@gmail.com to enter your team or if you would like to be part of the planning or staging.





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Page 32 Harbour Spiel

Homeopathic food for thought

By Livia, RN, Student of Homeopathy

We are living in one of the most exciting periods in human history.

Virtually every aspect of human life is undergoing radical conceptual change — science, politics, economics, ecology, theatre, music, etc.

Such change even extends to the field of medicine.

The concept of the whole man is replacing the previously fragmented view of the patient as a diagnostic entity.

In the fields of holistic health, nutrition, acupuncture, homeopathy and related therapies, increasing trust is being placed on the healing forces of the individual, rather than on drugs.

Classical homeopathy is a highly systematic method of powerfully stimulating the body's vital force to cure illness.

It is based on a few simple principles of nature.

In all its ramifications, homeopathy is far too sophisticated a discipline to be learned in a few seminars or by reading one book.

The principles are simple in concept, but difficult to fully comprehend, and they require years of intense training and experience to apply.

There is so much in nature we don't use, choose to ignore, are scared to try or are pushed to deny.

There is also much information "out there" (internet is a good example) and it gets very confusing.

That is why I encourage you to seek information from somebody who is familiar with this particular form of healing.

Studying this wonderful medicine helped me to open my mind to



new possibilities.

I've seen many cures and have met many very grateful patients who chose homeopathy because there was nothing more out there for them.

Homeopathy is gentle, has no side effects and if in the hands of a true professional, life-changing.

It is not limited to certain diseases but is universally applicable to all diseases.

It cannot cure all cases as in some, there is not sufficient vitality that may be aroused to cure.

It is absolutely effective in cases where there are no pathological tissue changes — that is, in cases where the disorder is still only functional.

Homeopathy also has most spec-

tacular results in diseases of children, both acute and chronic.

In conclusion, some extra food for thought:

Many people argue that orthodox medicine has impressively reduced the global mortality rate rate (and of course we all agree that surgeries and antibiotics can save lives) but if we look around us we can see that the incidence of mental and emotional illness has increased proportionately.

Wouldn't that make one think that the cause of disease must be sought on a dynamic plane and not just on a physical or chemical plane?

Well, as a smart man once said, awareness is a good start.





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THE DAYS

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April 4 ~ Frank Roosen Jr., Doreen Lee and Mike Legge.

April $5 \sim$ **Doug Silvey** and **Breanna** Clay.

April $6 \sim$ Mike Bathgate and Ursula **Dornbierer**.

April $8 \sim$ Andrea Clerx and Gloria Fritz.

April $10 \sim$ **April Charlton**.

April 11 ~ Joe Adams.

April $12 \sim$ **Matthew Phillips** and **Tilley Dougan.**

April 13 ~ **Bonnie Lindsay, Geoff** Warner, Billy Petraschuk and Don Priest.

April 14 ~ Dan Leech and Ann Landry. April 15 ~ Teresa Sladey and Cathy Collins.

April $17 \sim$ Sheila McCann and Carly Campbell.

April 18 ~ Russ Foster, Talon Mclean, Howard White, David Brimacomb, Kalen Zayshley and Ron Calvert.

April 19 ~ **John Field**.

April 20 ~ **Sue Kammerle** and **Katie Tenbroek**.

April 22 ~ **Dan Choquette** and **Lorrie Babcock**.

April 23 ~ Kathy Morant, Sue Richardson, Heidi Vaughan and Jordan Kammerle.

April 24 ~ Len Silvey and Alex Dore.

April 25 ~ Samantha Stewart and Dietta Edwardson.

April 26 ~ **Teyjah Xaveress** and **Blake Campbell**.

April 28 ~ **Jeanette Penson**.

April 29 ~ **Ruth Langton**.

April 30 ~ Kasey & Kelly Smith, Marie Reid, Hazel Higgins, "Prawntrap Patty" Jackson, Bill Sutherland and Jeff Wilbee.

APRIL ASTROLOGY

ARIES (MARCH 20-APRIL 20)

The sign of the ram gives Arians loyalty, generosity, high energy and courage. They love adventure and often fiercely defend the underdog. Aries typically do not wash lettuce before eating or return borrowed books.

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.



EXCAVATION • PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT • SEPTIC FIELDS • GRAVEL & TOPSOIL

Page 34 Harbour Spiel

HARBOUR ALMANAC

OF APRIL

COMPOSTING

One obvious solution for reducing the pressure on our landfills and providing increasingly rare topsoil is home composting.

When leaves drop from a tree, they decay into soft black humus over time, without any help from people.

Composting aims to speed up that process.

You can simply toss grass clippings and leaves in a heap and let nature do the rest in its own good time, or you can help it along, by providing a balanced diet for the micro-organisms who'll do most of the work.

A successful compost needs three elements: air, water and food.

AIR

An effective compost should be turned fairly regularly. Air penetrates only the top layers of the pile, so it needs help to reach the centre. A vile smell around the compost tells you that anaerobic bacteria are moving in, and the pile may simply need to breathe

WATER

Your compost pile should be as damp as a wrung-out sponge, moist to the touch, but no water should come out when you squeeze a handful.

FOOD

In composting jargon, woody materials that are high in carbon (autumn leaves, paper, peat moss, sawdust, cornstalks, hay and straw, etc.) are called "brown" ingredients. Materials like garden refuse, manure, tea and coffee grounds, feathers, hair, and food scraps are high in nitrogen, or "green." Follow the simple rule that compost needs to be about half "brown" and half "green" by weight.

APRIL WEATHER

TEMPERATURES, MERRY ISLAND

Our average daily high temperature in April is 11.8 C and our average daily low is 6.2 C, giving us a mean daily temperature of 9 C. The highest April temperature recorded is 20.7 C (April 27, 1972); the lowest is -1.1 C (April 3, 1975).

PRECIPITATION, MERRY ISLAND

April has an average of 190.8 hours of bright sunshine and 13 days with measurable rainfall. April averages a total monthly rainfall of 60.4 mm and a total monthly snowfall of 0.3 cm. The highest April daily rainfall on record is 31.8 mm (April 27, 1962); the highest April daily snowfall on record is 5.1 cm (April 3, 1975).



DATE/TIME - SIZE (small, medium, large, extra large), EBB (-), FLOOD (+) - Standing wave is best on large flood (tide flowing into Sechelt Inlet).

April 1 1:16 pm -L, 7:52 pm +XL April 2 6:42 am +M, 1:46 pm -L 7:23 am +M, 2:19 pm -L April 3 April 4 8:07 am +S, 2:58 pm -M April 5 8:59 am +S, 3:46 pm -M April 6 10:03 am +S, 4:45 pm -M 11:32 am +S, 5:53 pm -M April 7 April 8 9:23 am +S, 4:42 pm -M April 9 9:19 am -M, 2:24 pm +S April 10 10:02 am -M, 3:17 pm +M April 11 10:39 am -M, 4:04 pm +M April 12 11:09 am -L, 4:48 pm +M April 13 11:29 am -L, 5:30 pm +L 11:43 am -L, 6:10 pm +L April 14 April 15 12:01 pm -L, 6:52 pm +L April 16 12:24 pm -L, 7:35 pm +L April 17 12:54 pm -L, 8:22 pm +L April 18 7:00 am M, 1:35 pm -L April 19 7:48 am +M, 1:35 pm -L April 20 8:43 am +S, 3:34 pm -L April 21 9:48 am +S, 4:43 pm -M April 22 11:10 am +S, 5:54 pm -M April 23 12:47 pm +S, 7:08 pm -M April 24 8:53 am -M, 2:14 pm +M April 25 9:44 am -L, 3:22 pm +M April 26 10:28 am -L, 4:21 pm +L April 27 11:07 am -L, 5:14 pm +L April 28 11:40 am -L, 6:05 pm +XL April 29 12:08 pm -L, 6:54 pm +L April 30 12:34 pm -L, 7:43 pm +XL

These are estimates only and not intended for navigation.

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- Kitchen staff for upcoming season. Call Garden Bay Pub, 883-2674.

LOST

• Black cat Kleindale area. "Blackie" short hair, green eyes. Gail G. 883-1101.

MISSING

883-0785

• Reward. Ancient pottery urn (12" x 18") taken from inside our home between Christmas and Jan. 25. We believe we were home at the time as there was no sign of forced entry. Has two cup handles. Top: shiny, dark. Bottom: Flat rusty brown. Re-

WANTED TO RENT

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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 **Carole** for giving birth to a healthy boy. Eden Sky.

Ryan Logtenberg

IN MEMORIAM

In memory of Gilbert Louis Callihoo, born on May 2, 1936, in Spruce Grove AB. He died suddenly on June 1, 2009.

Gil lead an amazing life, from travelling over the globe to just being dad. He left behind four children, ten grandchildren and the love of his life, Barbara. Gilbert made friends everywhere he went and fixed anything, for anyone.

As a grieving family, we shall always remember him fixing any mess we managed to get into. He will be greatly missed.

Harbour Seals to the U9 soccer team: Alleyne C., Keegan E., Warner E., Michelle F., Jessa G., Lu-Lu K., Joshua K., Kyle Mc., Austin R., Isla S., Lauryn Y., Matthew P. Thanks for the awesome year.

A Harbour Seal to **Troy from the IGA** — thanks for the drinks donated for the U9 soccer team.

Rod and Kelly Kammerle

A Harbour Seal of Approval to the **Pender Harbour and Garden Bay Volunteer Fire Departments and ambulance attendants** who gingerly plucked me off of Mount Daniel after my fall in February. Your dedication is appreciated — my sincerest thanks.

Donna Goulette-Boudreau

A Harbour Seal of Approval to the **Oak Tree Market and IGA** for donations to the Christmas dinner and **Heather Brown and crew** for all their work

Muriel Cameron P. H. Community Club

A Seal of Approval to **everyone** who so generously donated baking to our bake sales last year — it all helps to keep our hall operating.

Muriel Cameron P. H. Community Club

An Easter basket full of Easter stars to **our friends** who constantly offer their continued support to David and myself.

Diane White

Page 36 Harbour Spiel



Alice Haddock photo

In 1946, the Pender Harbour Community Hall was built almost entirely with volunteer labour and donated material. Logs were felled nearby and milled at Reg Spicer's mill on Spicer Road. It has undergone many renovations over the years and its recent coat of paint has it looking as good as ever. (Notice the Madeira Park Elementary Schoool is missing from the background — it wasn't built until 1952.)

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APRIL 6 Happy 40th, Hot tub! You're the best Uncle Mike! All the best bro! Happy birthday son.

PHOTOJOURNAL



Kelly Kammerle photo

The Pender Harbour's U9 Orange Crushers with their medals after the Sunshine Coast Youth Soccer Association year-end tournament held on March 20 in Sechelt.



OXFORD CIRCUS

Michele Mocellin photo

Accompanied by two parents and teacher Mr. Mocellin, six students from PHSS visited London, Paris, Florence and Rome during a whirlwind 10-day guided tour over spring break. They got to touch the stones of the Roman Colosseum, climb the Eiffel Tower, negotiate the London tube and eat lots of gelato. Pictured (I-r): Madison Williams-Rice, Brittany Sheppard, Khoya Craig, Kari Scott, Taylor McKay and Zach Richardson.



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More pot talk: herbs

By Jim Rutherford (assisted by Ellen McGillveray)

This time it's pots of herbs on the patio or deck right outside the kitchen.

A tip is to separate the pots into moist, semi-dry and dry, by the amount of watering that needs doing.

We recommend using plastic terra cotta-looking pots — they are inexpensive and will do nicely.

Beware of real terra cotta or clay pots unless they are glazed either inside or out. When they are glazed, they have been kiln-fired and are more likely to be frost resistant.

The unglazed ones tend to wick away moisture and dry out very quickly. There are also some newfangled resin pots available, a bit pricier, but very durable.

The soil mix for your herb pots can be any well-draining, all-purpose potting soil with maybe a bit of manure mixed in for flavor.

HERBS

Herbs can make a beautiful display on your deck. Mix flowers in your favorite colours to jazz it up.

For the moist pots, use basil, tarragon and triple curl parsley, then decorate with pansies.

Pansy petals are edible — roll the large petals and slice for colorful ribbons in the salad, and drop the miniature Johnny-jump-ups straight in.

Begonias, impatiens and fuchsias will blend in for all summer colour.

A medium moisture pot is the most versatile.

Use any of the parsleys, chives, thyme (use the regular cooking thyme because the decorative ones don't have much flavor), or oregano and marjoram, then dress up with an endless list of flowering annuals.



Trailing petunias and million bells, brachycomb daisies and many other trailing basket plants put on a good show.

For edible flowers, try calendula, aka pot marigold or poor man's saffron. Sprinkle the bright orange petals on everything from salads to roast chicken.

Now for the dry, Mediteranean pots. This is where you can plant the traditional Provençal herbs: lavender, sage, and rosemary.

They will look fabulous with nice tall snapdragons (yellow rocket is my personal favorite), tagetes marigolds (the little "lemon em" ones) and trailing verbena in nice hot colours.

WHICH PARSLEY, WHERE?

Triple-curled and Italian (or flat leaf) does well in the medium pots.

If it is too dry, they just bolt to seed and get bitter. The cilantro, also called coriander seed, will do well either in the ground in fairly rich soil, or in a moister, shadier pot.

There are lots of other yummy herbs to be had, but they need to be in the garden as they get too big for pots.

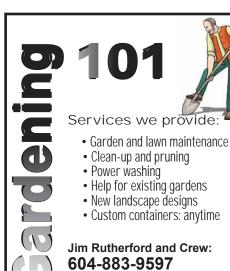
Dill, fennel, lovage, borage and all the mints can grow big, so why not

have them in the flower beds?

The lacy foliage of dill and fennel makes a fantastic backdrop for just about any flower display.

Our deer friends don't have very educated palates and don't seem to go for most herbs but watch out for the flowers that you use to dress them up if deer are a problem for you.

Thanks to Jo Benjafield for the little herb book from Provence. How kind and thoughtful. And to Peter — thanks for clearing my head about parsley.



jimrutherford@eastlink.ca

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ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTORY • P. H. Aquatic Centre Society885-6866 • Bridge Club883-2633 Chamber of Commerce, P. H. & Egmont......883-2561 Christ the Redeemer Church883-1355 Coast Guard Auxiliary, Unit 61883-2572 Community Club, Egmont883-9206 Community Club, Pender Harbour741-5840 • Community Policing883-2026 Community School Society883-2826 Egmont & District Volunteer Fire Department883-2555 • GRIPS (Recycling Society)883-1165 Garden Bay Sailing Club......883-2689 • Gardening Club883-0295 • P. H. Golf Club......883-9541 Guides, Brownies, etc.883-2819 Harbour Artists883-2807 Harbourside Friendships (Thur. 10:30 -1 p.m.)883-2764 Health Centre Society883-2764 Health Centre Auxiliary......883-0522 • InStitches (1st Monday, 11 a.m., PH Health Centre)...883-0748 • Iris Griffith Centre883-9201 Lions Club, Egmont......883-9463 Lions Club, Pender Harbour (1st & 3rd Tues.).........883-1361 • P. H. Garden Club883-9415 P. H. Living Heritage Society......883-0748 • P. H. Music Society (bookings)......883-9749 P. H. Paddling Society.....883-3678 • P. H. Volunteer Fire Dept (Wed. evening)883-9270 Pender Harbour Choir (7:30 pm Tues)......883-9273 Piecemakers (quilters, 1st & 3rd Wed. 9:30 a.m.)......883-9209 Power & Sail Squad (2nd Wed. Legion)......883-0444 Red Balloon Parent & Tot drop-in......885-5881 Reading Centre Society883-2983 Rotary Club (noon Fri. Garden Bay Pub)883-1350 Royal Cdn Legion 112......883-2235 Skookumchuck Heritage Society......883-9994 St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary (2nd Wed., 1:30 p.m.) 883-2563 Seniors' Housing Society (3rd Thur.)......883-9883 Suncoast Players883-9277 TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)......883-3639 VITAL First Aid and Safety Training Centre.....885-0804 Wildlife Society (3rd Tues. PHSS)......883-9853 Women's Cancer Support883-9708 Women's Connection (2nd & 4th Tue.)883-9313 Women's Outreach Services......741-5246

ORGANIZATIONS

P. H. AND DISTRICT WILDLIFE SOCIETY

The Department of Fisheries will be presenting "Water and Hiking Projects in Pender: Our Local Fisheries plus Trails," to inform you of its work and projects. Also in attendance will be Sean Reid from SCRD Parks and Recreation to talk about the Sunshine Coast Trail Project.

It will take place on Tuesday April 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pender Harbour High School.

P. H. WOMEN'S CONNECTION

The Women's Connection April 13 gathering will host a presentation titled "From the Kitchen Sink to the Art Gallery: A brief introduction to printmaking" with Pat Jobb.At the April 27 gathering, the presentation will be "A Touch of Japan" with Rosemary Bonderud. Both gatherings are at the P. H. School of Music in Madeira Park and doors open at 9:30 a.m. and the meetings are from 10 a.m. until noon. Members, non-members and drop-ins are always welcome.

SUNSHINE COAST SALMONID ENHANCEMENT SOCIETY

Chapman Creek Hatchery needs funds to support the annual release of about 1.5 million salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout into Sunshine Coast waters. Only about seven per cent of its budget of \$175,000 comes from Fisheries and Oceans Canada. The balance must be raised from memberships, donations and this fundraising event.

On Saturday April 10, 2010, the Sunshine Coast Salmonid Enhancement Society (SCES), which operates the hatchery, will hold the 13th Annual Salmon Dinner and Auction at the Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre. A gourmet salmon dinner is followed by live and silent auctions on hundreds of valuable and unique items. Tickets are available at \$100 with a tax receipt of \$50 from members, by calling (604) 885-4738 and at the hatchery at (604) 885-4136.





Growing our community

By Rick Harmer, P. H. Chamber of Commerce

A meeting of hopes and money will take place at the Pender Harbour Legion on April 20, from 7 to 10 p.m.,

Hopes will be represented by individuals who are seeking financing through partnerships, remortgaging or other financing.

These people are members of our community who will be providing employment, perhaps not only for themselves but new employees, through business expansion.

They will come to the meeting with business plans in hand, prepared to give a short overview of their needs and also prepared to answer questions from those assembled.

The overview should be strong enough to warrant further discussion at the meeting itself during a break or later when convenient for both parties.

Money will be represented by Community Futures, Aspire, a mortgage broker and, we hope, you.

You have been successful in life and want to give something back to the community and recognize that our community needs help with employment to attract and keep younger people in our area.

So, how much is enough? Each opportunity will be unique. It could be as little as \$1,000 needed or invested.

We must think of our future here in the Harbour.

It is and will remain a wonderful place to live, to work and to stay. Please, bring your ideas and hopes to this meeting.

Contact Rick Harmer, (604) 883-3678 or e-mail at rickharmer@hotmail.com to make a presentation.

ArtWave rolls in April 2 to 4

Submitted

ArtWave is back – bigger and better. This time, 10 Pender Harbour area studios and galleries are gearing up for their second ArtWave tour, to be held during the Easter weekend, April 2 to 4.

Participating studios and galleries will open their doors to showcase a wide range of artistic creations, including many brand new works produced by local artists.

The first ArtWave weekend, held in December, was highly successful and featured eight galleries and studios. This time, with two more galleries participating, the ArtWave tour now extends to Egmont.

Visitors will be issued with passport cards and encouraged to visit all 10 galleries. As in December, participating ArtWave studios and galleries will make a donation in support of the Pender Harbour food bank.

The participating galleries, located all around from Madeira Park to Daniel Point and up to Egmont, include:

• The Harbour Gallery, a preview

of new works by this co-operative of local artists.

- Copper Sky Gallery & Café, a collection of art and fine craft by local BC artists.
- FibreWorks Gallery, fibre arts in yurts.
- The Piecefull Glass Canvas, limited edition sculptures, stained and mosaic glass.
- The Flying Anvil Studio & Gallery, forged, fabricated and funky things.
- Gibson Fine Art Creations Ltd., limited edition sculptures, fine art reliefs.
- Motoko's Original Art Studio & Gallery, contemporary paintings by Motoko, originals, limited edition prints, gift items and art cards.

- Blue Orca Studio, contemporary fine art and gemstone jewelry.
- Bluff Hollow Cement Works, lightweight concrete art, specializing in faces, fountains, torsos and whimsy.
- Geopia, art and ceramic works, featuring a huge wood kiln.



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April market update – an Olympic effect?



By Alan Stewart

It's February.
We're on our
couches watching
the opening ceremony of the greatest
event in BC's his-

tory and many real estate owners are wondering how the Games will affect the value of their investments.

Early in the year, local and Vancouver buyers spurred on by low interest rates moved into the market to avoid the risk of a wave of international buyers driving prices higher.

This activity fuelled expectations that this year would be another banner year for Sunshine Coast real estate.

The Games came, the streets

emptied as people headed into town to enjoy the festivities or simply stayed home to watch them and we sat in our real estate offices, prepared for the wave of international visitors.

Nada.

While we're still hopeful of the ripple effect that so much attention focused on our province will eventually have, it would appear that it could take longer than many people had hoped, particularly for the recreational investment market.

Pender Harbour statistics in particular are cause for some concern.

HOME SALES

During the peak of area activity in 2007 there were 16 home sales from the start of the year to March 23 (the date of writing this article) with

an average sale price of \$536,552.

In the dark days of 2009 we saw seven sales with an average price of \$462,000.

This year we've seen nine sales with an average selling price of \$431,500.

There are currently 72 homes for sale in the area with an average asking price of \$726,548.

The appetite for property in the area seems to have swung from highend waterfront homes to relatively affordable getaways and full time residences for locals.

There have only been two waterfront home sales this year:

One was a well-priced older 1,574 square-foot cottage on 1.4 acres of tidal waterfront in Oyster Bay, complete with a dock and fore-

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shore licence, which was assessed at \$514,700 but sold for \$455,000.

The other was a 1,616-squarefoot, three-bedroom older home with dock and licence on Francis Peninsula Road which was assessed at \$564,000 and sold at \$550,000.

BARE LAND

As for bare land, there is plenty of supply and limited demand — a sure recipe for good deals for buyers.

In 2007 we saw seven bare land sales by this point with an average selling price of \$268,600.

This year, just like 2009, we've seen three sales year to date, with an average selling price of \$131,666.

This included the sale of a 0.68acre view lot in an upscale Garden Bay development which was listed in 2006 for \$310,000 and reduced to \$195,000 in 2009.

The property sold this month for \$156,000.

The lots which did sell this year sold for an average of 92 per cent of their assessed values.

With 103 lots for sale in Pender Harbour at the moment, there's never been a better time for buyers to look for "deals" from sellers

With only 18 sales over the last 12 months, motivated sellers are giving serious consideration to any



reasonable offer.

Rising interest rates, the implementation of the HST and more and more inventory coming on the market are all reasons for Pender Harbour buvers and sellers to find some common ground this spring.

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

EMERGENCY

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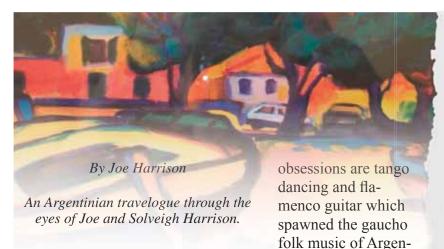
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Summer in Patagonia, Part I



The plan was to spend a week in Mexico City and fly to Buenos Aires; travel a thousand miles by bus to Mendoza, the famous wine region of Argentina in the foothills of the Andes; rent a car and travel south in a circuit of the country over a period of seven weeks staying in hotels or cabanas (motels with kitchens).

Unfortunately, this put us in the steamiest part of summer in the southern hemisphere when vacationing Argentines travel en masse to mountains and beaches after school gets out.

In retrospect, early fall in March or perhaps spring which starts in September, would have been better.

Flying to Mendoza or perhaps Santiago, Chile and exploring just Patagonia and the Northeast rainforest over a month would have been wiser and more manageable.

Our trip, covering more than 20 cities and towns, turned into something of an expedition because of unrealistic expectations and poor planning.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Solveigh and I left Pender Harbour in mid-January and landed in a beat-up hotel in Buenos Aires in 35-degree heat.

Buenos Aires is a huge cosmopolitan city and its major cultural tina.

Right off, I
have to say that
the people are
among the most
sophisticated in
the Americas with
unique flair and a
feel for style. The
one exception is
art where you see
very little except
prints of the
Impressionists in
room after room

Art galleries throughout the country have been either closed for renovations or empty since the Repression in the '70s when so many were murdered by a rightwing regime. Intellectuals, dissidents, and artists are still viewed with political suspicion.

Grafitti on a wall in Rosario, a city west of Buenos Aires and the birthplace of Che Guevara, read "culture is not your friend" — a common theme.

Our first afternoon in the city, we watched a demonstration and parade of several thousand allied left-wing groups from our hotel balcony, protesting debt payments to the World

PARAGUAY BRAZIL URUGUAY Bank. The political atmosphere appears edgy at the best of times and there are weekly demonstrations by mothers of "The Disappeared" who were kidnapped and murdered by the government in the '70s. We spent our first sweaty nights at marvellous tango and guitar concerts absorbing the full flavour of the flashing spike heels of sleek women dressed in black and athletic young men performing the most intricate and sexy dance imaginable, tango. There is something of the nation-

There is something of the national character embodied in the stylized postures and swirling moves to

Latin rhythms that defies description. The gypsy wail of flamenco guitar and castanets send the blood jumping and pulsing in mysterious waves of empathy like no other music.

Aside from the industrial soybean-covered prairie (pampa) surrounding Buenos Aires and the jungle of the Amazon basin stretching to the towering Andes in the west, Argentina is one long and mostly flat desert.

The sparse, scrubby grass and brush extend all the way to the tip of South America in a ragged triangle.

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Guanacos (llama-like cousins of the camel), rheas (a type of ostrich as tall as a man), hares (that resemble small kangaroos) and many species of birds share the empty miles with countless horses, cattle and sheep.

The country is vast. If Argentina was dropped on North America, it would leave a footprint from Cabo San Lucas, Mexico to Fort St. John, B.C. (latitude 23 to 55 degrees) and stretch as far east as Saskatchewan.

We intended to explore a stretch comparable to that from San Diego to the Oregon border, starting with a handful of cities west and south of the capital. If possible we wanted to get to know the people and indulge our interests in the natural world, especially some of the 900 bird species.

HAIL LIKE PING PONG BALLS

By early February, we were south of Mendoza, crossing a 400-kilometre stretch of desert not unlike that on the Sonoran Desert south of Phoenix. Our goal was a hotel called Cruce El Desierto, the only accommodation for hundreds of kilometres.

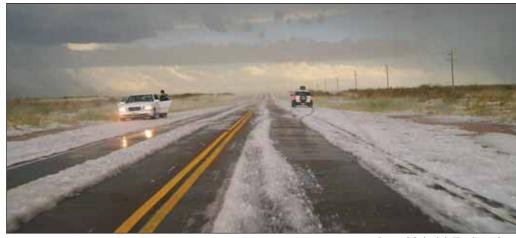
One of the oddities in Argentina is that street names and even villages share the same names in celebration of historical figures from the struggle for independence from Spain in the early 1800's.

Generals like Belgrano, San Martin and a host of others are met in every town so there is the illusion you never have left a particular place. There is a corner of Mitre and Sarmiento in every town.

The temperature readout on the dash was 32 degrees Celsius as we stopped for lunch from our cooler in the back seat.

A grove of poplars gave scant shade as we waved to the men in the police security checkpoint. Argentina takes security seriously with passport or documentation required at bus stations, accommodation, and dozens of such posts along the highways if there is trouble. It also slows down the Bolivian Indians trying to enter the country to find work in the vineyards. Backpackers get special attention, but little comes of it other than general intimidation.

As we continued along the typically good highway, I became alarmed as the temperature outside the car climbed closer and closer to 40 degrees. I fully expected our little Brazilian Chevy to rebel but its air conditioner continued to push out cool breathable air.



Joe and Solveigh Harrison photo

As the temperature dropped from 40 to 13 degrees in the desert south of Mendoza, the Harrisons were caught in a furious storm with ping pong ball-sized hail.

April 2010



Joe and Solveigh Harrison photo Upsillata, a typical Andean oasis near the Chilean border

The shade of a monstrous black thunderhead and spectacular lightning in the distance promised relief, but I remembered the warning of Lorenzo as we left Tupungato — expect hail as big ping pong balls on the desert. Look for a tree and park, he had said.

As we drove under the shadow with no trees for miles, all thoughts of Lorenzo faded as the temperature began to fall — 35, 32, faster and faster.

At 24 I became mildly alarmed and at 19, I began to think the whole electrical system had burnt up.

Now 15, 14 and at 13 we saw flashing lights and steaming furrows of hail among the cars stopped every which way. People were pouring out of cars to play in the hail and throw snowballs. Suddenly a fire hose cloud-burst of rain hit us, fogging the windows opaque instantaneously.

As we continued through the ruts in the calf-deep hail, the temperature slowly climbed back to 30-plus. Thankfully, that lingering over lunch had saved us from hail which would have meant major repairs on our tinny mini-Chevy.

Continued May 2010 issue

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PENDER GOLF

Golf springs back to life



By Jan Watson

I'm not sure but I think the March issue is the first one I have missed since doing this column for the last 10 years or so.

I had a great holiday in New Zealand — a lovely country with great people but it's good to be home in Pender Harbour.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Keith Mackie finally beat his Dad.

ST PATRICK'S SCRAMBLE

A great opener for spring and the new season, the St. Patrick's Day Scramble held on March 20 was a huge success — 41 golfers participated on a lovely afternoon.

Once again I picked myself a great team of Eldy Gandy, Kirk Mackie and Dave Phillips and we were the winners with a 33.

Three teams were tied with 35 and after retrogression second place went to Lorne Campbell, Marianna Bekei, Lorraine Wareham, Kathy

Love and Carl Rietze. Kps on No. 3 were Blake Priebe and Jan Watson and on No. 6 it was Alex Kerr and Marianna Bekei.

The golf was followed by a wonderful Chinese buffet thanks to Heather Brown and her staff.

LADIES CLUB

FROM THE 19TH

said to Jack Nicklaus,

A gushing reporter

Your name is synonymous

You really know your way

around the course. How

Nicklaus replied,

"The holes are num-

do you do it? What is

your secret?"

bered."

with the game of golf.

"You are spectacular.

HOLE...

After the traditional coffee and muffins on March 18 — the first day of the season — the ladies held their customary nine-hole scramble which

suffered a slight delay due to frost

The winners were Heather Cranston, Krys Parranto & Jan Watson with 37.

The course is in great shape thanks to our greens superintendent Jason Haines and I cannot say enough about our volunteers, George Grout and his gang do a wonderful job with improvements around the course.

A FAREWELL TO BOB

Our goodwill ambassador "BS Bob" Thirlwell has decided to retire and we will all miss him and his banter in the pro shop. Our best wishes go to him and Sylvia.

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AND ANOTHER THING...

No rainbows in Canada's new citizen handbook



By Shane McCune

Last month there was a brief dust-up over the revised handbook for those preparing for a citizenship exam.

Discover Canada was entirely revamped under the authority of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Min-

ister Jason Kenney. The rewrite, the first since 1995, was completed last November and as of March 15 citizenship applicants are now tested on its contents.

The flap arose when it emerged that Kenney, a vocal opponent of same-sex marriage, had twice ordered the removal of references to Charter protection of gays and lesbians and the legalization of same-sex marriage.

Confronted with this, Kenney blustered that there wasn't room in the 63-page guide for "every legal decision, every policy of the government of Canada."

Yet there are three pages left blank for notes. And there was room for this:

"In Canada, men and women are equal under the law. Canada's openness and generosity do not extend to barbaric cultural practices that tolerate spousal abuse, 'honour

killings,' female genital mutilation or other gender-based violence. Those guilty of these crimes are severely punished under Canada's criminal laws."

That little brouhaha faded quickly. But there are many other omissions and inclusions in *Discover Canada* designed to promote Conservative values.

As SFU professor Donald Gutstein wrote in the online magazine The Tyee, the overriding theme of the guide is militarism. The guide touches on virtually every war involving Canadian forces — replete with sidebars on military insignia and specific

battles. The word "peacekeeping" appears only once and "medicare" not at all.

Newcomers learn that six Canadians have won Nobel prizes in science, but why is there no mention of Lester Pearson, the only Canadian person to win a Nobel Peace Prize? (Hint: He was a Liberal.)

At the end of this catechism there are questions to help would-be citizens prep for their exams. Samples:

What are three responsibilities of citizenship?

a) Being loyal to Canada, recycling newspapers, serv-

ing in the navy, army or air force.

- b) Obeying the law, taking responsibility for oneself and one's family, serving on a jury.
- c) Learning both official languages, voting in elections, belonging to a union.
- d) Buying Canadian products, owning your own business, using less water.

How are Members of Parliament chosen?

- a) They are appointed by the United Nations.
- b) They are chosen by the provincial premiers.
- c) They are elected by voters in their local constituency (riding).
 - d) They are elected by landowners and police chiefs.

OK, those are about as tough as the admission test at a prison. Let's see how you do on these:

What does the word "Inuit" mean? Who was Sir Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine?

I confess I couldn't answer that last one. Some of the others look easy at first, but they're tricky, so I'm including the answers.

What is the highest honour that Canadians can

receive? Attention from Americans.

After an election, which party forms the government? The one that two-thirds of the country didn't vote for.

In Canada, are you allowed to question the police about their service or conduct? Certainly, but it may be difficult to ask your question with a broken jaw.

And here are a few sample questions on subjects omitted from the guide:

Which are Canada's national games?

- a) Golf, tennis and baseball.
- b) Basketball, football and curling.
- c) Polo, jai alai and squash.
- d) Hockey, lacrosse and 6/49.

What is the first priority of most new Canadians?

- a) Improving language skills.
- b) Joining community groups.
- c) Visiting the Rockies.
- d) Curbing immigration.

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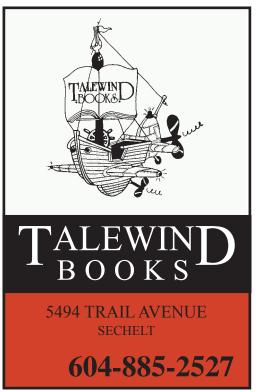
| 4 | Grant or Statement or or other laws

Discover Canada

BC Bestsellers:

(For the week of March 14)

- 1. *Best of Chef at Home* by Michael Smith
- 2. Trauma Farm by Brian Brett
- 3. *Everyday Indian* by Bal Arneson
- 4. The Encyclopedia of Raincoast Place Names by Andrew Scott
- 5. *The Shores We Call Home* by Carol Evans
- 6. *Sweetness from Ashes* by Marlyn Horsdal
- 7. *A Life in the News* by Tony Parsons
- 8. The Complete Book of the Winter Olympics by Jaime Loucky & David Wallechinsky
- 9. *Mountain Timber* by Richard Mackie
- 10. *Incontinent on the Continent* by Jane Christmas
 - ~ Assn. of Book Publishers of BC



BOOKS

Books celebrating nature's hopeful season

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MIRACLE



By Theresa Kishkan

Spring is such a hopeful time. I thought this particularly on March 20th as I walked through

the community hall where gardeners gathered to sell and buy seeds collected from coastal gardens, along with raspberry canes, trays of seed-

lings, clumps of chives and rhubarb. With the seeds and plants came advice and encouragement.

Readers of the novels of Barbara Kingsolver know that gardens and farming are important thematic concerns in her work. Until recently she lived in Arizona and wrote novels set in that arid landscape; she's also pub-

lished collections of essays which examine the political and environmental contexts of food production.

A few years ago, with her husband and two daughters, Kingsolver moved to a 100-year-old farm in Appalachia where she'd grown up. Determined to forge a closer relationship to the land and to the farmers who produced food in their neighbourhood, the family committed themselves to eating locally for a year. They'd grow the food or rely on farmers markets, visits to farms, and they'd learn the skills to make what they could (bread, cheese, yogurt). They also made lists of what they could live without.

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life (HarperCollins, 2008) is a wonderful account of that year, written for the most part by Kingsolver but with essays by her older daughter Camille (a student of biol-

ogy and nutrition who also contributes recipes) and her husband Steven Hopp (a scientist specializing in vireos and bioacoustics). Her younger daughter Lily, a third-grader during the year in which the book takes place, raises the family's chickens, selling surplus eggs in order to save for a horse.

The book is characterized by Kingsolver's vivid writing style, full of humour, colour, rich detail, and well-researched scientific investiga-

tion (she holds a graduate degree in evolutionary biology). It's also characterized by a lack of scolding, a quality too often in evidence in books about lifestyle changes. Her passion for food, its production and potential, is infectious not because she insists that you believe her or asks you to emulate her

but because of her enthusiastic pursuit of sustainable agriculture.

One of my favourite sections of *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* is the account of Kingsolver's 50th birthday party. Determined to celebrate not only the event but also the family's delight in the foods of their neighbourhood, they plan a meal around what's available from their garden and from local producers.

"The menu wrote itself: Lamb kabobs on the grill, chicken pizza with goat cheese, asparagus frittata, an enormous salad of spring greens, and a strawberry-rhubarb crisp. To fill out the menu for vegan friends we added summer rolls with bean sprouts, carrots, green onions, and a spicy dipping sauce . . . As the RSVPs rolled in, we called farmers to plead for more strawberries, more chickens" A horse trough chilled the local wines and microbrewery beers and local mu-

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sicians provided music for 150 guests who danced until dawn.

Joe Denham grew up on the Sunshine Coast and makes his living as both a timber-framer and prawn fisherman. His first collection of poetry, *Flux*, was published in 2003 to considerable critical acclaim.

His new book, *Windstorm* (Nightwood Editions, 2009), is a long poem in five sections. It be-

gins with an accident: "the saw's wheel/kicks the slab back through/my calloused fingers..." and progresses to a sustained meditation on a globe poised on the brink of environmental collapse. From the board which injures his hand, milled from an ancient fir, to the song of endangered whales in

the polluted oceans, to "sickly water/I feed my son and daughter worsening daily as does/all that's left of this world..." he praises and laments each beautiful damaged element.

There is such weather in this book — "I remember hauling/south of Black Point/a massive cloudbank soaring up the strait . . ." It animates the language, full of wind and rain, and provides a Shakespearean backdrop for the action of the poem. Imagine a boat at sea, a storm, the indifferent stars above: "Love forms its

own weather. Currents of air/colliding in time."

Parts of Windstorm are written in a version of terza rima, a three-line stanzaic form developed by Dante. Terza rima has an intricate rhymescheme – aba, bcb, cdc, etc. Another section is a series of connected sonnets. Do you need to know this to enjoy the poem? Not necessarily; but to realize that the driven rhythms and music of the lines are part of such

careful work is to recognize what a masterful craftsman Denham is. Try reading passages aloud for the vigour of the rhythms which ebb and flow like tides.

The latest addition to the Harbour Publishing series of laminated portable guides to natural history is *A*

Field Guide to Coastal Wild Flowers of the Pacific Northwest by Phillipa Hudson (Harbour Publishing, 2010).

This is a clear and well-organized collection of photographs accompanied by English and Latin names as well as information about distribution and size. It's perfect for putting in a pocket or backpack for spring walks and just in time for the appearance of trilliums and fawn lilies in our local woods.



Vindstorm



of all ages.

FEATURED LOCAL AUTHOR FOR APRIL:

Audrey Owen and her alphabet book

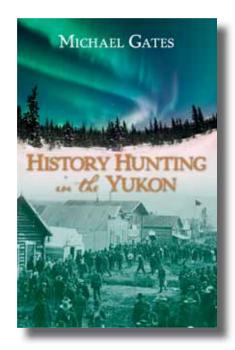
Amazing British Columbia

~ Meet Audrey on Saturday, April 24th from 1 to 3 p.m.

LOOK FOR OUR SPRING SALE ITEMS!

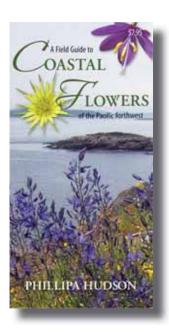
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NEW RELEASES from Harbour Publishing



HISTORY HUNTING IN THE YUKON

by Michael Gates \$18.95 · paper



A FIELD GUIDE TO COASTAL FLOWERS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

by Phillipa Hudson \$7.95 · pamphlet

HARBOUR PUBLISHING

www.harbourpublishing.com

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

APRIL

Fri. April 2-4Artwave Studio and Gallery tour of Pender Harbour and Egmont, (Friday to Saturday)
Sat. April 3Madeira Market - P. H. Community Hall, 10 a.m.
Sun. April 4
Sun. April 4P. H. Legion Brunch followed by Mini Meat Draw - Pender Harbour Legion, 11 a.m.
Sun. April 4Larrie Cook and the Bluesmasters - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
Wed. April 7Eldercollege presents: <i>The Garden That is You</i> - P. H. School of Music
Fri. April 9Last day to register for P. H. Power and Sail Squadron's VHF radio course
Sat. April 10Pender Harbour Golf Club's Third Annual Masters Par 3 Tournament - P. H. Golf Course
Sat. April 10P. H. Music Society presents "Mimosa" - P. H. School of Music. 8 p.m.
Sun. April 11P. H. Legion Brunch followed by Mini Meat Draw - Pender Harbour Legion, 11 a.m.
Sun. April 11Joe Stanton and the Precious Littles - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
Mon. April 12Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre Pro-D Day swim - PHAFC, 12 p.m.
Tues. April 13Eldercollege presents: <i>Matters of the Heart</i> - P. H. School of Music
Tues. April 13P. H. Women's Connection Gathering, P. H. School of Music, 10 a.m.
Tues. April 13P. H. Power and Sail Squadron VHF Radio course starts (register by April 9)
Sat. April 17Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre Grand Opening - PHAFC, 11 a.m.
Sun. April 18P. H. Legion Brunch followed by Mini Meat Draw - Pender Harbour Legion, 11 a.m.
Sun. April 18Gaetan and the French Connection - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
Tues. April 20P. H. Wildlife Society presents "Water and Hiking Projects in Pender" - PHSS, 7:30 p.m.
Sat. April 24Fibreworks Gallery presents "Painting with Wool" workshop - Fibreworks Gallery, 10 a.m.
Sat. April 24April Tools Wooden Boat Challenge - Millennium Park, 10 a.m.
Sat. April 24'70s Soul Train Boogie fundraiser - P. H. Community Hall, 8 p.m.
Sun. April 25P. H. Legion Brunch followed by Mini Meat Draw - Pender Harbour Legion, 11 a.m.
Sun. April 25Peter van Deursen - Garden Bay Pub, 2 p.m.
Tues. April 27P. H. Women's Connection Gathering, P. H. School of Music, 10 a.m.
Wed. April 28Area A Advisory Planning Committee meeting - PHSS, 7 p.m.
Fri. April 30Pender 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.



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PENDER HARBOUR, APRIL 24, 2010!

It's the 9th annual



WOODEN BOAT CHALLENGE

LOTS AND LOTS OF FREE ACTIVITIES FOR HIDS!

Has your team got what it takes to build a boat in three hours with materials provided, race it round a short, market course without sinking, and do it faster than anyone else? Then you could win \$700 (2nd place \$400, 3rd \$250).

Get a 4-person team together and challenge your friends or co-workers to do the same.

Entry fee is \$160 (or just \$140 if you register before April 1st!); for that you get a materials package and a t-shirt for each team member.

- Seafarer Millennium Park, Saturday, April 24, 2010.
- New construction "twist" and materials revealed at 10:00 am.
- Construction between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm.
- Youth race starts at 2:00 pm, adult race follows at about 2:45 pm.
- Concessions
- Mini boat building, hat making, face painting, and more for kids.

 $Try\ paddling\ or\ rowing\ a\ CLASSIC\ WOODEN\ BOAT\ or\ a\ DRAGON\ BOAT\ in\ the\ Harbour\ for\ FREE!$

FOR A REGISTRATION PACKAGE CALL

604-883-0539

The Pender Harbour April Tools Wooden Boat Challenge is a project of the **Pender Harbour Living Heritage Society**.

Pender Harbour Living Heritage Society.

Visit our website: www.apriltools.ca



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4th Annual Garden Bay Classic Fishing Derby: April 30 - May 2

\$1000 - Biggest Salmon • \$1000 - Reverse Draw • \$1000? - Open boat auction/Calcutta Draw

Friday, April 30: Derby Registration and Calcutta Draw, 5 p.m.

Anyone can take part in the live auction (Calcutta) to bid on whose boat will catch the biggest fish. If your skipper wins, you take the pot. (Past year's winners won close to \$1000.)

Saturday, May 1: Derby and Dinner

Fishing all day with dinner at 6 p.m. (included)

Sunday, May 2: Weigh In - 1 pm

Awards following 1 p.m. weigh-in: Prizes, \$1000 reverse draw, Calcutta Draw and \$1000 for biggest salmon.

\$100 Entry fee

Profits to salmon enhancement.

APRIL 4: Larrie Cook APRIL 11: Joe Stanton & the Precious Littles APRIL 18: Gaetan & the French Connection **APRIL 25: Peter van Deursen**

Pub Specials

FRIDAY: Meat Draws Proceeds to P.H. Abbeytield House

SATURDAY: Prime Rib SUNDAY: Eggs Benny



GARDEN BAY PUBOPEN DAILY AT 11... (604)883-2674