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*The
Independent Voice of
Pender Harbour & Egmont
since 1990.*

HARBOUR SPIEL

MARCH 2010
ISSUE 231



Olympic torch arrives
photos p. 8

do the math

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HARBOUR SPIEL



The Independent Voice
of Pender Harbour &
Egmont since 1990

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- Copper Sky Gallery & Cafe
- Garden Bay Pub
- Halfmoon Bay General Store
- IGA Madeira Park
- Mountainview Service
- Oak Tree Market
- Pier 17 (Davis Bay)
- Sechelt Public Library

EDITOR

Brian Lee.

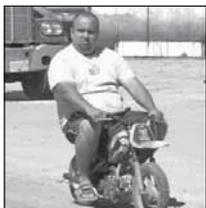
CONTRIBUTORS

This month we thank: Rick Harmer, Theresa Kishkan, Cheyenne Lightbourn, Shane McCune, Jim Rutherford, Alan Stewart and John Wade

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~ NEXT ISSUE MAILS APRIL 2 ~

EDITORIAL

Global warming and the crash test tummy

By Brian Lee



It wasn't planned but this issue has taken on a bit of a green theme.

In keeping with the rest of the issue's tint,

I'll take the opportunity to present some conclusive "science" for those skeptics who still dismiss global warming every time there's a snowfall.

For every issue of the *Spiel* I've published (except January 2007), I've enlisted the expert help of a friend named Shane McCune to assist with the final proofing.

In truth he does much more than help me proof — he's a newspaper editor with almost 40 years experience.

His eye for news might only be surpassed by an encyclopedic mind that's proven extremely handy in pointing out gaffes like the popular *Twins the Night Before Christmas* is actually called *A Visit From St. Nicholas*.

He's also really good at sorting out the staggering number of variables where an apostrophe comes into play with "its."

In short, he offers legal counsel, fact checking and a general polish while pointing out items of questionable taste because, as he'd like to say, if it wasn't for him the *Harbour Spiel* would be one big fart joke.

He does this all for a good meal and his more than fair portion of a bottle of single malt.

But what's this got to do with offering proof of a warming planet?

Shane travels from Comox and my

house is so small I force him to bunk out in an old shed in my backyard.

It used to be a crumbling ant farm before I painted the interior and unloaded 11 cans of Raid into it but it still lacks insulation and there's no mistaking its history.

When it's cold, I run an extension cord for a space heater but it's for effect only — trying to heat the thing is the like trying to heat the gazebo at the Madeira Park wharf.

But Shane's a burly fellow and toughs it for most of the year except for the few bitterly cold days in mid-winter when he's forced to the couch in my house.

He's not a young man and often grumbles about the humility of having to sleep on the sofa.

Truth be told, the past guilt of waking to see his 6' 2" frame con-torted on my 5' 11" couch has made me consider shelling out for a motel for the poor bugger.

But not this year.

The winter of 2009/2010 is the first one Shane has spent every monthly visit in the relative luxury of the spider shack.

Is he getting tougher? No.

Is he pounding more whisky before hitting the sheets? Maybe.

But I think the answer couldn't be more clear — winter doesn't really come here anymore.

And I offer this evidence not to embarrass the deniers of science out there but to point out that what may be bad for polar bears and ice skaters could be like a warm duvet for this editor's conscience.

Clarification (February 2010 editorial):

Although the province indicated that the Sechelt Landfill's existing permit needs to be updated to an operational certificate based on current standards, (SCRD staff Report, Nov. 26, 2009) the ministry did not list the specific issues included in the staff report. Those items (such as leachate management) in the current design and operating plan were identified by staff and/or hired consultants.

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

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SPIEL PICKS

PHMS PRESENTS DANIEL BOLSHOY & PAUL MARLEYN - MARCH 14

Pender Harbour School of Music, 2 p.m. — Daniel Bolshoy and Paul MarleyN. Cellist Paul MarleyN, whose work has been reviewed as “flamboyant brilliance,” and classical guitarist Daniel Bolshoy, called “the whole passionate package,” are coming together as a duo to perform on our stage. Two of our favourites.

ABBIE EVANS/DARCY PERRY FUNDRAISER QUIZ NIGHT - MARCH 19

P. H. Legion, 8 p.m. — Abbie Evans is a Madeira Park Elementary School student undergoing chemotherapy treatments for leukemia. Darcy Perry is a local volunteer firefighter and father who suffered a serious workplace accident.

On Friday, March 19 the MPES Parents Advisory Committee will host a quiz night at the Pender Harbour Legion to raise funds to help with costs associated with her Vancouver treatment. (This event was postponed from Feb. 27.)

1ST ANNUAL SEEDY SATURDAY - MARCH 20

Madeira Park Community Hall, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. — Join us for a day of family fun, seed swapping and one-stop shopping for gardening, gift and gourmet needs. MLA Nicholas Simons will be at the opening ceremonies and Carolyn Herriot, author of *A Year on The Garden Path*, will give a talk on “the zero mile diet.” This is a zero-waste event so bring your own mugs and get a discount on beverages. All proceeds go to starting a seed bank and an edible schoolyard/community garden — the first step in creating a food-secure, self-reliant community. Everyone who has saved seeds, please bring them for the seed swap table. We are requesting donations for the silent auction and raffle and need volunteers to help before and during the event. To rent a table, make a donation or volunteer contact Teri McLean (604) 883-2817 or tarebare53@yahoo.ca

dance to the sights and sounds of vancouver's djK-tel
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**equinox
electroplush**

saturday, march 20
 Pender Harbour Community Hall
 8pm-1:30am
 tickets \$20

fund raiser for pender harbour high's art & sports programs. sponsored by stone water motel, the harbour spiel & copper sky gallery & café. tickets available at copper sky gallery & café in madeira park, elements in robert's creek and fresh from the coast in sechelt. for more information call cindy at 604-883-0096.

Pender pool construction nearing completion

Many say they've heard it before but the Pender Harbour Aquatic Centre should reopen soon.

Understandably shy about providing a date, manager Deb Cole says they're looking for a "soft opening" in late March with the grand opening sometime in April.

"Where we're at right now is the last major construction item which is the tiling of the floors," says Cole.

Cole hopes to open the pool in time to offer a 10-week session of programs to begin the week of April 12 and run to late June.

"That's what I've been hearing: the community really wants to get that swim lesson set before summer."

Renovations including an entirely new layout, pool deck and heating and ventilation system were planned to be finished by late September 2009.

By mid-summer it was clear that estimate was optimistic and by November it was hoped the work would be finished by January 2010.

A number of unexpected building code issues were discovered early into the construction project.

Fireproofing hadn't been installed between the pool facility and the school during construction in 1979.

Cole says the delay has allowed them to pursue and receive additional funding through the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) Fund.

That has allowed them to expand the scope of the project to a level not possible when they received approval to borrow \$856,000 last year.

Cole says they recently received an additional \$253,870 on top of the \$407,500 granted in October.

The additional federal funds have pushed the total construction budget to just over \$1.5 million and Cole says



SHAPE Architecture Illustration

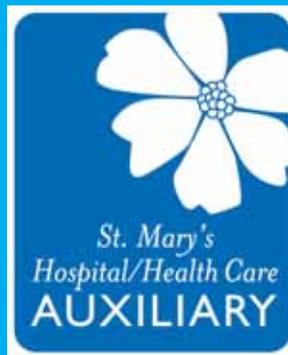
Residents will soon find out if it's been worth the wait when the revitalized Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre opens in April.

she can't wait to show the facility off.

"I'd like to give the community a heads-up too because we're going to a new registration system, the Active Net program, that the rest of the SCRD facilities use," says Cole.

"So it's going to be a big change for staff and for customers."

Serendipitously, the grand opening coincides with the 30th anniversary of the pool's original opening in April 1980.



Sunshine Coast Residents EXCEL

Support for St Mary's Hospital/Health Care Auxiliary Reaches Record Levels

Board president Bonnie Cannon, on behalf of the board and each of the six auxiliary branches, extends heartfelt thanks to the entire community for their tremendous support. Total funds raised by the auxiliary in 2009 exceeded \$450,000 which supports programs, services and equipment purchases at St Mary's Hospital.

Thank you to a caring community

SCRD board: More debate about landfill fate

While it's still unclear what the wishes of Area A residents are regarding the fate of the Pender Harbour landfill, it seems the SCR D board will soon make a decision.

On Feb. 11 the infrastructure services committee deliberated for close to an hour before passing a recommendation to move ahead with converting the Pender Harbour landfill to a transfer station.

The motion will go before the board on Feb. 25 for approval.

The motion came despite an earlier presentation by Howard White in which he presented an alternative interpretation of cost figures presented in the Sperling Hansen report.

"If the SCR D chooses to use our tax money for things like community outreach services other than landfills, that's a bookkeeping choice at our end. But to us we're still paying \$400,000 for solid waste management,"

"If that doesn't cover it, the taxpayers have indicated they are willing to pay more but we would have to be

convinced that more is necessary."

White added the only cost saved in transferring garbage to Sechelt would be the contractual costs to bury and cover garbage in the current landfill site, currently \$110,000 per year.

"Out of that, you have to pay the new costs of trucking and landfilling in Sechelt and the difference, according to the SCR D's own consultant, is only \$30,000. On top of that you have the closure fees that are set aside each year and they're around \$40,000.

"So, even the best case scenario presented by the consultants would only produce an annual savings of \$70,000 a year — surely a poor cause for a political confrontation with Area A that could conceivably drive it out of the SCR D."

White later presented a petition with 830 signatures favouring landfill expansion.

Area A director Eric Graham tabled two motions looking for support to proceed with a survey to assess the preference of Area A residents.

The first motion favouring a

mailed survey raised questions from the other directors.

"The mailout that is being described is not a randomized, statistically significant survey. It would be self-selected people who would answer. Why is that more valid than a randomized telephone survey?" said Donna Shugar, director for Area D, Roberts Creek.

"It's like the alternate approval process where you choose to fill it in or you don't and you can offer to help people by collecting and taking them to the mail box and ensure that your friend got one and so on and so on."

Graham defended his motion by pointing to the large numbers of taxpayers who are elsewhere this time of year.

"At least everybody that is a taxpayer who may live somewhere else will get their tax notice and they will at least have a chance to vote on this."

Throughout the discussions about survey methodology and validity, some directors questioned who should pay or if there was a need for a survey in the first place.

"I don't think the folks of Gibsons are going to be happy to hear what the results are one way or another because if you look at it from a pragmatic perspective, the solution to the problem is that we must evolve," said Gibsons Mayor Barry Janyk.

"If it's dollars that's involved, I think the entire Sunshine Coast who pays for this function needs to be involved and that becomes a much more involved and expensive process."

The discussions continually circled from what form a survey might take to the fact that, regardless of the outcome, the board was under no obligation to act on its results.

"If it goes one way or the other,

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



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my concern is that the board's not under any force to vote that way — they're voting for the whole Coast." said Area B Director Garry Nohr.

"If it was 50/50 again would we have to do another survey or would we just finally make a decision? I think it would be fair if we did a telephone survey and we lived with whatever the results were but with the idea that the board is under no pressure to go with it and would look at it as an advisory thing."

Committee members voted the motion down with four opposed (Shugar, Lewis, Inkster and Janyk) to three in favour (Nohr, Turnbull and Graham).

When Graham asked about the possibility of Area A funding the survey on its own, SCR D chief administrative officer John France spoke to the larger issue:

"There were a number of questionnaires completed that gave the board an indication where the community wanted to go and they progressively showed more of an understanding by the community what the issues were and progressively showed more people were more interested in a transfer station.

"Our recommendation stands and we think that the board has invested a lot of time in getting the information to the community and, frankly, it's time to make a decision."

Graham tabled a motion to move ahead with a telephone survey.

Director Shugar, who earlier indicated support for a telephone survey, addressed the motion first,

"I feel that we have the correct information and we have a good basis on which to make a decision both economically and environmentally,"

"I guess I have to say, what's the

purpose and what's the tipping point in saying we got enough?"

Director Janyk spoke second, "Ultimately, if we are going to be a federation of local government we have to do things in a collaborative way and, sometimes, some areas don't always get what they want. If it is the landfill that is the basis of the community values of Pender, well, you know, maybe it's about evolution."

Janyk listed operating deficit figures incurred at the Pender site and framed them against surpluses achieved at the Sechelt site for the last three years.

"We do attempt to make those four bottom line assessments when we make decisions. It is social and it is cultural and it is environmental but it is also economics here, folks.

"We are responsible for this function as a group and as such we have no choice but to bring this thing under some sort of regional umbrella."

Graham's second motion was also defeated four to three (Nohr, Turnbull and Graham in favour).

Immediately after the vote, Janyk moved to accept option one as presented in a staff report included in the agenda package which stated:

"Adopt draft recommendations of the PMAC and SWMP update working group which support the original recommendation provided by

Sperling Hansen Associates to convert the Pender Harbour Landfill to a transfer station."

Option two outlined steps to proceed with landfill expansion while option three involved proceeding with further consultation to confirm local preferences, recommending a telephone survey.

The motion was approved four (Lewis, Shugar, Inkster and Janyk) to three (Nohr, Turnbull, Graham).

After the meeting, director Graham received options from staff for Area A to fund a survey alone.

Graham said he will present those options to the rest of the board either in a committee meeting on Feb. 18 or the regular board meeting on Feb. 25 at which time he'll ask the board to wait for the results before making a decision.

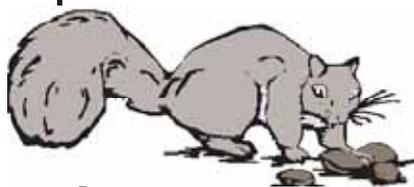
He said it might be difficult to convey financial implications for expanding the landfill in a survey because it's still unclear what portion of the operating deficit Area A taxpayers would be required to fund.

Regardless of how the board votes, Graham says he feels it's important to gauge public sentiment before making a decision.

"I want the people of Area A to know what the majority thinks. I think some people would be very surprised."

Something to Squirrel away?

SECURE, HEATED SELF-STORAGE to 5x10 ft.
Central Madeira Park, next to Speed Bump Alley



SQUIRREL STORAGE

LARRY & LINDA CURTISS

CALL 883-2040

Olympic torch relay positively overwhelming for many

Close to 1,000 people came out to cheer on the Olympic torch relay as it passed through Pender Harbour at two sites — the Pender Harbour Secondary School and Madeira Park.

The Pender Harbour Lions Club raised \$1,350 for Abbie Evans, a local girl undergoing treatment for leukemia, at the logger’s breakfast held in the P. H. Community Hall before and after the Olympic torch relay.

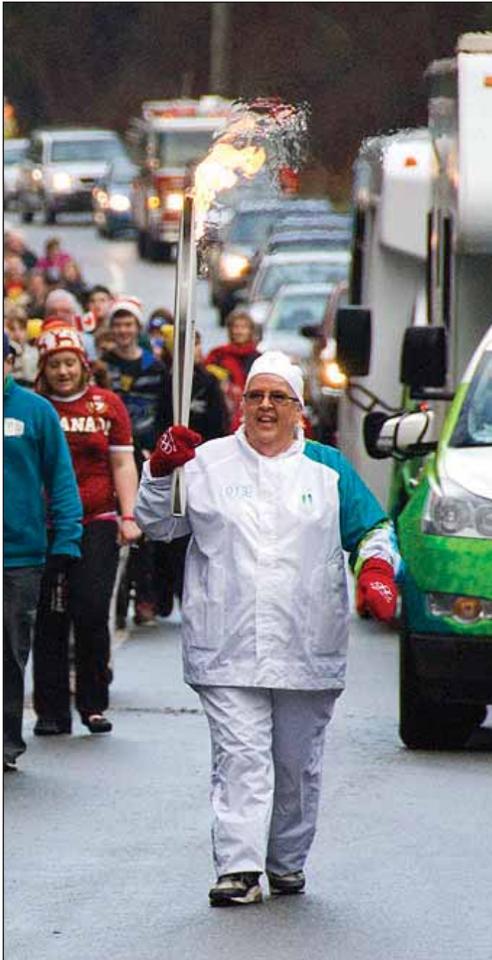
It looked like May Day as people lined while the torch cavalcade passed through Madeira Park before carrying on to Sechelt.

(Rumours of the Harbour Spiel photographer’s take-down by security on Lagoon Road have been grossly exaggerated.)



Keith Shaw photo

These three PHSS students learned at 10 p.m. the night before the torch relay that they could take part in the Olympic torch relay after others were forced to cancel. (l-r) Travis Ramsey-Wall, Lauren Storoschuk and Brittany Sheppard.



Keith Shaw photo

Daphne Pay carrying the torch on the leg from PHSS to Garden Bay Road.



Athletes from the MPES girls' running club ran ahead of the torch.



A patriotic Canadian from the east coast named Merlin got a swelled head from all the attention he was getting.



Helping to make the Harbour spirit shine are (l-r) Leasa Williamson, Shirley Earl, Raelene Bathgate and Corbett Edwardson.



PHSS grad Cassandra Whelan was the final runner, carrying the torch along Lagoon Road to the finish of the Pender Harbour portion of the relay at Francis Peninsula Road.



Torches make people happy.

March 2010



Officials deny serving 'special' coffees to torch runners while they waited for their leg of the relay.



No one was hurt and no other vehicles were involved when this loaded logging truck overturned on Hwy. 101 heading south past Bryan Rd. on Feb.17. According to RCMP, the driver didn't suffer serious injury but was transported to St. Mary's to get checked out. The truck is owned by Gibsons based Horsman Trucking Ltd., the company that won the bid to log a controversial forest near Bear Bay Road.



PENDER HARBOUR AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTRE

HEALTH IN MOTION

Active is what you make it!

Join up now for our spring fitness programs. Programs will continue in community facilities until March 26.

BOOT CAMP:

PHSS gym, 6-7pm (Co-ed)
Mondays and Wednesdays
4 Week Blocks: March 1-24, March 29 - April 21
12 classes: \$99 8 classes: \$66 4 classes: \$33
Instructor: Tonya Stephan

This program will help you build self-confidence, sculpt lean muscle and improve cardiovascular endurance and provide nutritional information. The group setting fosters encouragement, promotes teamwork and celebrates personal achievements.

HIP HOP AEROBICS:

MPES, Wednesdays, 6-6:50 p.m.
Instructor: Amy Perry
An aerobic workout hip hop style, followed with some core and resistance training.

MIX IT UP:

Beginner to moderate : MPES
Mondays, 6:45-7:45 p.m.
Instructor: Amy Perry
Moderate to intermediate: P.H. Community Hall,
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:45-9:45 a.m.
Instructor: Deb Cole/Aurelia Grimpard
Offering a variety of workouts featuring a different format each week including interval training, core conditioning, fitness kickboxing, boot camp etc.

FAB (50+) LADIES ONLY:

P. H. Community Hall,
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10-11 am
Instructor: Deb Cole/Aurelia Grimpard
A 60-minute class involving a warm-up, cardio, strength conditioning and stretching.

STONE 'N' TIGHTEN:

MPES, Fridays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Instructor: Amy Perry
This class will include a warm-up followed by floor exercises to target specific muscle groups.

MOVE STRONG, MOVE FIT (FOR SENIORS):

Christ the Redeemer Church Hall,
Mondays & Fridays, 10-11 a.m.
Jan. 22-March 29 (no class Feb. 5)
Instructor: Linda Goble
Reap the benefits of living with greater mobility, balance and strength in your everyday activities by attending this gentle fitness class. This group session will include a warm-up, balance and agility games and exercises to strengthen the major muscles and core muscles.

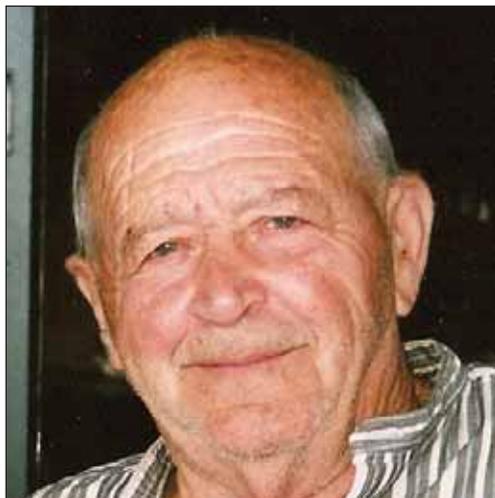
Watch for our program flyer in your mail week of March 22. Registration (in person, phone or on-line) for our spring session of swim lessons (April 12-June 18) will begin March 29. Yes, we are getting close to opening the facility! Our grand reopening 30th Anniversary Celebrations will be held in April. The facility is hoped to be open end of March.

Visit www.scrd.ca under Services.
To register (required for all programs), please e-mail phaquatic@scrd.ca or phone:

(604) 885-6866

Jean Joseph "Gerry" Gerard Paquette

FEBRUARY 24, 1927 — FEBRUARY 4, 2010



Jean Joseph "Gerry" Gerard Paquette, born Feb. 24, 1927 in Aldina, Saskatchewan, passed away Feb. 4, 2010 at his home in Madeira Park.

He is survived by siblings Laurent (Irene), George (Esther), Andre (Rita), Bernard (Yvonne), Jules, Raymond (Gayle), Rosair (Mary), Guy, Rose, Marguerite (Bob) and each of their loving children.

Gerry will always be remembered for his enjoyment of gardening, woodworking and making mischief.

He was a West Coast logger who loved to be in the woods and falling tall timber. It gave him a good living, great joy and happiness.

He is sadly missed by his family, Margaret Moss-Paquette, David, Sheila, Jennifer, Erika, Diane, Ava, Mike, Judi, Michelle, Danielle, Jaime, Nomi, Mark, Nicole and Wyatt.

Many close friends on the Sunshine Coast gave Gerry and his family their love, support, kindness and laughter, for which we are thankful.

Georgia Hall

FEBRUARY 7, 1922 — JANUARY 31, 2010



Georgia Hall (née Lowe) of Garden Bay passed away on Jan. 31, 2010 in Madeira Park.

She is preceded by her husband, Gorden (Gordie) Hall.

She has one son, George Tower (Therese) and a granddaughter, Lisa Tower.

She will be missed by all who knew her, whether they met her once or many times.

She loved her bingo, deer, travelling and casinos.

Never a person or day would go by without a joke, poem or song followed by a big hug and a smile.



March:

Monday to Thursday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Friday to Sunday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Join us every Friday night for
PRIME RIB FROM 5 P.M. TO 7 P.M.

~ everyone welcome ~



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Reservations recommended

Quelle.collaboration!

Daniel Bolshoy & Paul Marleyn

Sunday, March 14 2 p.m. \$20

Cellist Paul Marleyn and Classical Guitarist Daniel Bolshoy melt their talents together to form one of the most flamboyant and passionate packages ever seen on the Sunshine Coast. These two string artists, individually successful in their own rights, are appearing as a very dynamic duo for an afternoon you will not forget.

www.danielbolshoy.com  www.paulmarleyn.com

Pender Harbour School of Music

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

~ Sponsored by the Pender Harbour Chamber Music Festival



Formidable!

Thanks for making the Olympic torch relay a 'huge success'



By Eric Graham
SCRD Director,
Area A

OLYMPIC TORCH

I would like to thank all those people who participated in the torch run at our high school and in Madeira Park. What a success.

Including the runners, there ap-

peared to be at least 700 very enthusiastic individuals demonstrating their pride in welcoming the Olympics to our backyard — just eight days before the flame, which crossed more than 45,000 kilometres of Canada, arrived in Vancouver to signal the start of the 2010 Olympics.

PENDER HARBOUR LANDFILL

This is not a one-issue item for a great proportion of the residents of Area A .

It's not simply a situation of people not wanting it in their backyard; of people not wanting the contractor to lose half his income, of people wanting to break away from the SCRD and become their own municipality or of people wanting to improve the environment or save tax dollars — but rather a complex combination of these and other issues.

There are some facts I would like to clarify on this issue:

1) The SCRD is working to-

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

UPCOMING MEETINGS AT 1975 FIELD ROAD:

Policing Committee

March 1 at 9:00 a.m.

Transportation Advisory Committee

March 1 at 10:30 a.m.

Infrastructure Services Committee

March 4 at 1:00 p.m.

Round Three Budget

March 8, 9, 10, at 9:30 a.m.

Regular Board

March 11 and 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Planning and Development Committee

March 11 at 1:00 p.m.

Community Services Committee

March 18 at 1:00 p.m.

Corporate and Administrative Services Committee

March 25 at 1:00 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, March 31 at the Pender Harbour High School, Room 107.

New Strategic Direction for the SCRD

The SCRD is embarking on a new strategic direction that will give Sunshine Coast residents a voice in emission reduction, water protection, solid waste management, and transportation. Visit www.scrd.ca under "About Us", for more details.

★ 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.



wards recycling everything — zero waste (no garbage to be put in the landfill).

Regardless of whether we keep our garbage or send it to Sechelt, zero waste is still our main goal.

2) BC's Ministry of Environment monitors our landfill closely and has expressed no concern regarding leachate — so the claims that contaminates from our landfill are leaking into our drinking water are unfounded.

3) The BC government grant for \$1.2 million to collect the methane gas and burn it off to create electricity at the Sechelt landfill would cover the vast majority, if not all, of the cost of this project.

As I have stated all along, I would like to know what the majority in Area A would like to do.

I thought the best way to find out is through a mail-out questionnaire to all taxpayers in Area A (costing \$4,000 to \$6,000).

The problem with this is, if the answer was to expand the landfill, I am quite sure the other directors would outvote me — and the Pender Harbour landfill would become a transfer station, with the money spent on the survey a complete waste.

I am now looking at the possibility of executing a legal referendum (costing the taxpayers of Area A \$15,000 to \$20,000) to ask taxpayers whether they would like the Pender Harbour landfill to stay in the regional solid-waste function and convert to a transfer station, or whether they would prefer to create a sub-function to expand our landfill, paying all operating costs for this sub-function out of Area A.

The cost of the sub-function would be detailed in the referendum



and what Area A taxpayers vote for would be binding.

To do this, I will require the approval of the other directors for this referendum to proceed.

BYLAW ENFORCEMENT NOTICE SYSTEM

The Ministry of Attorney General launched a new and effective method of collecting fines for minor bylaw infractions known as the BEN System.

The SCR D is thinking of adopting this bylaw.

If you will be requiring permits in the future you should be aware of the ramifications.

On Wednesday, March 17 at 7 p.m., the SCR D Bylaw Enforcement Manager will be making a presentation at the Madeira Park Legion to answer any questions regarding the BEN System.

THE BUS

I have had three meetings in February.

I was hoping for one with the possible contractor but he had to cancel at the last minute, the day before my deadline.

So all I can say is I am working on it and it is looking hopeful.

Art. In yurts.

featuring
"Pareidolia"
 by Shannon Wardroper
 continues through to March 14

April 2: "Ursula's Collectibles" runs through to May 2.
 Artists' reception: Saturday, April 2, 2 to 4 p.m.

Workshop:
April 24: Painting with Wool with
 Ursula Bentz, Saturday, April 24,
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Space is limited - register early)



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Eight (years) isn't enough: The Ruby Lake Lagoon Society



A great hit with the kids, the solar panel owl (?) can swing to face the direction of the sun.

By Brian Lee

When a cluster of conservationists formed the Ruby Lake Lagoon Society in the spring of 2002, few guessed what their efforts would yield eight years later.

Today the Iris Griffith Field Studies and Interpretative Centre is a focal point of environmental research and conservation on the Sunshine Coast offering a resource centre and a variety of field studies and nature programs.

The building itself is gaining

wide recognition as a model of sustainability with hopes that it will soon achieve energy neutrality.

The centre encompasses the latest in green home technology — solar electricity and hot water heating system, rainwater catchment and a reed bed waste water system.

But the centre itself is but one of numerous projects planned for the 22-acre Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve as the society continues to develop... organically.

The property around Ruby Lake

Lagoon was once the site of a failed campground and water bottling business by a colourful — and increasingly bitter — character who took to airing his grievances on a raised sign beside the highway.

It sat in the shadow of the Caren Range and Spipyus Park and had a network of trails meandering throughout its 99 acres of wetland and mature forest.

The alarm bells went off when it was listed for sale.

Some feared the property would be developed and some saw an opportunity.

That threat sparked the formation of the Ruby Lake Lagoon Society.

Michael Jackson, a director of the society, remembers a varied group of locals coming together to protect what they considered a precious natural area.

Jackson is a biologist and wetland consultant who first became familiar with the concept of nature centres in field study camps in England.

“They’re mainly a kind of natural history learning centres. They’ve been going for almost a century and what happens with them is, where you get a centre, you tend to get all these parks and protected areas springing up all around it because you have all these people researching the local area,” says Jackson.

“It kind of generates protection for the really important bits around it. That was one of the things for me because I was thinking, ‘My god, there are some fantastic places here,’ and you need to do something that shows how precious this place is before you get someone coming along and destroying it without really knowing what the hell is there.”

continues to blossom

Before he moved to Canada, Jackson says he tried to set up a centre back in England.

“You go down to the pub and you have a big talk about the whole thing and everybody’s really enthused about it and then you get wake up the next morning and everybody’s lost interest,” says Jackson.

“We did the same thing here but when I got up in the morning everybody was like, ‘When do we start?’”

Jackson says the enthusiasm was driven by about a dozen key people. People like John Field, John Dafoe, Edith Iglauer, Dale Jackson (Michael’s wife), Anne Clemence and the Griffith family: Maureen, Billy and Iris.

“These people are so amazing. When you have an idea they’ll just encourage you so much.”

“Of course, Iris provided much of the encouragement but unfortunately passed away soon into the planning.”

Jackson recalls how, even before the society was formed, he was working on an ecological assessment of the threatened lagoon.



Michael Jackson on a walkway over the recently installed turtle nesting beach.

He was volunteering his own time and money to create the report and Iris didn’t think it fair.

“Iris came along straightaway and said ‘I just got you \$1,000,’” offering a donation she’d solicited as chair of the Pender Harbour Wildlife Society.

“She never saw the centre, but

she was involved in the concept of it and was involved in many of the principles behind the society. That was why we named it after her.”

Iris Griffith died March 16, 2002.

Eventually the property was purchased by the Cogrossi family, owners of nearby Ruby Lake Resort.

(continued on next page)



Ruby Lake Lagoon Society photo

Many (but not all) of the people and dogs who have helped turn the Iris Griffith Centre into a world class research, education and stewardship facility.

Lagoon Society (cont.)

(continued from page 15)

The Cogrossis leased a 10-hectare portion — the Ruby Lake Lagoon Nature Reserve — to the lagoon society for \$1 per year for 80 years.

Jackson says, though it is protected by a covenant now, they hope to eventually subdivide the property to offer permanent protection for the site.

But the most interesting facet of the lagoon society’s story isn’t its history, it’s its future.

Built in 2005, the 2,500 square-foot Iris Griffith Interpretive Centre was designed by John Dafoe in collaboration with the Lagoon Society Building Committee and West Coast Log Homes.

Its construction and operation was funded through a variety of sources including private donations and grants from various levels of government and is still managed by volunteers with some paid staff.

It hosts conferences, field schools, workshops and nature schools for children while running displays and exhibits portraying human interaction with the natural environment.

It’s a catalyst for scientific stew-



The Iris Griffith Centre incorporates solar electrical panels on the roof and rain water from the roof is collected in a 5,000-gallon reservoir.

ardship in the community with a growing reputation as a welcoming environment for researchers.

The building itself stands as an innovative model for sustainable building practices by incorporating a various systems intended to minimize its environmental footprint.

A rainwater collection system diverts water into a large tank beside the building that supplies all non-drinking

water needs for the building.

The society recently acquired the rights to a natural spring located on the property to supply drinking water.

The pumps required to circulate that water are powered by three solar panels on the roof, as are the in-floor heating and subsidiary power needs.

It’s all in an effort to show how homes can run efficiently and cheaply with green technology.



Iris Griffith

Iris Griffith was a grassroots naturalist, deeply concerned with the world around her and worried about the impacts of human actions and development on wildlife. Intelligent and hard-working with a terrific sense of humour, Iris was a great community activist and instigator. She realized she couldn’t do it all by herself but she knew who to contact and how to get things started. By sheer enthusiasm she swept people along and the actions she started were taken up and carried on by many others. She was often heard to say, “It’s surprising how much you can get done if you don’t care who gets the credit.”

Iris was not one to stand around on the sidelines. She wrote letters, and she would also dig in with hip waders to get the job done. While she was very gentle and non-violent, she had very strong feelings about right and wrong. She once stood in front of a bulldozer and was arrested for it, in an effort to make a big corporation try to justify its megaproject in a court of law. She was also a realist, diplomatic and able to compromise. She realized that we can’t change everything but we do the best we can.

— Ruby Lake Lagoon Society website

“What we want to do is present a model to encourage more people to do it,” says Jackson.

“The prices of these things are coming down fast. These solar panels still cost \$900 dollars or so each, which is still a lot.”

But Jackson says as demand for solar energy systems goes up and mass production in countries like China rises to meet it, the prices will inevitably come down.

“I think there are a lot of people who just want to do this because it’s kind of the right thing to do,” says Jackson.

He hopes they will soon be able to purchase six more solar panels to supply power to run the lights, fans and a supplemental heating system which currently runs on external power.

Jackson says they’re aiming to become energy self-sufficient within a year.

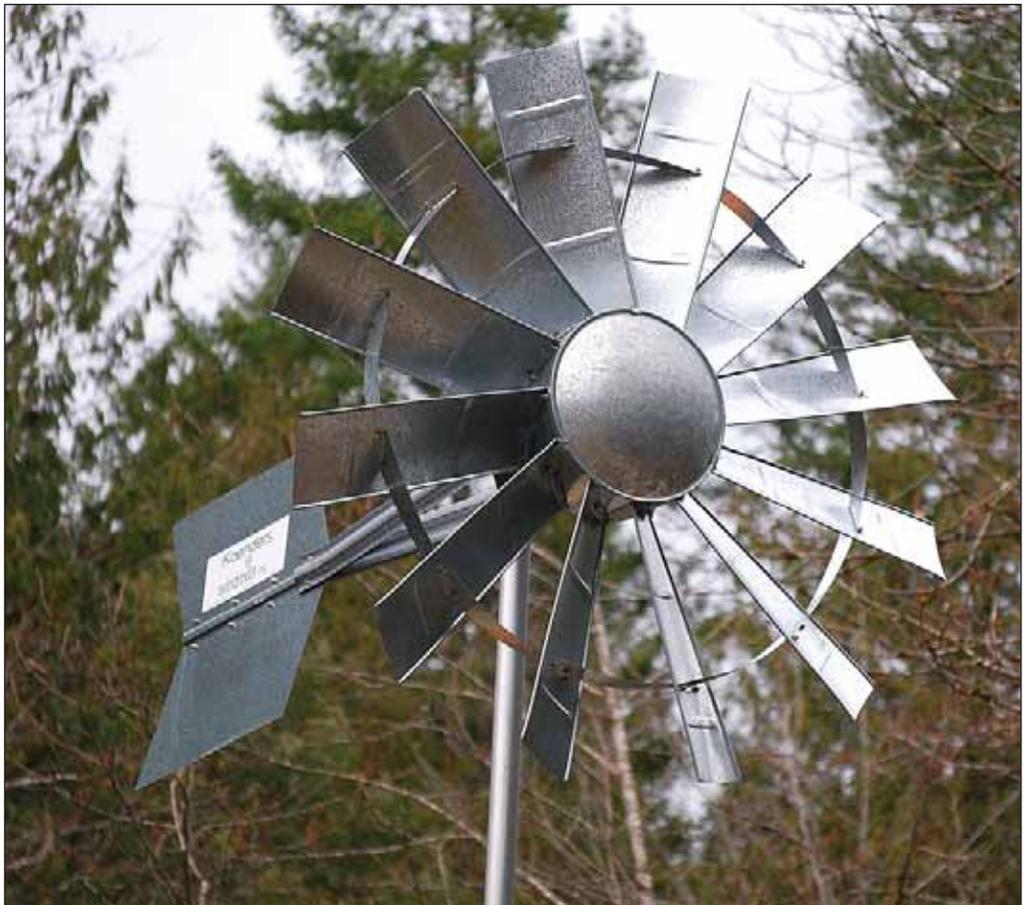
The additional solar panels can’t be installed until the completion of a new green roof currently being designed for the building.

Jackson says a test roof over the nearby wetland viewing hut has been very successful and they will likely start on the main roof this summer.

Green roofs have been used in Europe for more than 30 years but are recently getting a lot more attention around here as threats of global warming boost environmental awareness.

Green roofs usually consist of an impermeable layer with a water collection system on top of it and permeable layers sandwiched beneath that and a growing medium for vegetation.

As urban density increases, green roofs are designed to replace lost vegetation while managing rain-water.



This windmill currently pumps compressed air to oxygenate the pond but might also someday contribute to power needs at the centre, while offering an example of how people can reduce their dependence on traditional power.

It’s believed that the reflective nature of most building’s roofs contributes considerably to atmosphere temperature.

As more homes and buildings are built, the energy that once was absorbed by plants or the ground is reflected back into the atmosphere.

A local example of a large-scale use for green roof technology is Vancouver’s new trade and convention centre.

The building showcases a six-acre living roof with a water recovery system for non-potable use in the building.

Jackson says a green roof on the centre will not only provide a natural filtration system for their current

water needs but will provide insulation for the building, cooling it in the summer while preserving heat in the winter.

But the centre isn’t done there.

After water exits the building, it’s collected in a reed bed waste water system and circulated through a natural filter.

It’s a trial project that circulates liquid waste through a four-foot trough supporting a natural sedge-like plant chosen to best utilize the specific nutrients.

The society was still forced to install a traditional back-up system because of health laws but Jackson says the project is the only one of its kind

(continued on next page)

Lagoon Society (cont.)

(continued from page 17)

in BC and is being carefully monitored to measure its effectiveness.

“You can measure phosphates and nitrates and all sorts of different compounds as it’s coming in and as it’s going out to see what percentage is being diverted,” says Jackson.

“Then we can hopefully encourage the SCR and the health authorities to look at these things more seriously as a way of handling our waste.”

Nearby is a model garden of natural plant species built in conjunction with the Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society.

It’s a winding pathway with identifications of various natural plants in a seating area for nature schools.

A planned natural plant propagation centre will eventually help them with one of the most indispensable tenets of sustainability — finance.

Jackson says sales of indigenous plants will eventually help fund the centre’s programs and operation.

A key aim of the management vision has been to work toward showing how the reserve can function sustainably but also contribute economically to the community.

Last year’s BioBlitz event and the AGM of the BC Naturalist Society, which brought 150 people to the community, showed the potential for the centre to become a key generator of tourism dollars.

But a less obvious financial boost to the community might be a growing number of researchers who are frequent guests of the centre.

“We’re looking at the possibility of putting in a research facility on the property across the highway for university students to come to,” says Jackson.

“It will be like a little field studies centre with maybe a small conference room and a library and stuff like that.”

Following the principles of sustainability to the letter, Jackson says not only would this generate income for the society but, at the same time, it would encourage more research on the local environment to further their goals.

“That was one of the reasons behind the whole idea. We wanted to show you could actually make it work for the economic benefit of the community. When you look at how many people we’ve employed and the big groups that we’ve hosted... we’re contributing considerably to the economy already and it’s largely early days.”

At the edge of the wetland sits a sandy area with a raised walkway over



The green roof covering the wildlife viewing blind is a test for the main building which is to get one this summer.

it that leads to nature trails.

The nondescript patch of sand is called a turtle nesting beach and it too is a working model for how people can better interact wildlife.

“We had a group of researchers here who concluded one of the greatest threats to local western painted turtle populations was a lack of nesting sites,” says Jackson.

“One of the biggest causes of mortality is when they try to cross roads. They just seem to like to do that.”

Jackson says they built it after the nesting season last summer so it has yet to be used by the turtles themselves.

The turtle research group has developed other nesting beaches elsewhere in the community and continue to study the dwindling population.

Beside the turtle beach is a windmill pushing compressed air through tubes that aerate the pond.

Jackson says the introduced oxygen tends to reduce stagnant water, helping to control green algae and mosquitos.

It’s not natural and that’s the point — the Iris Griffith Centre is as much about finding practical solutions for living with your environment as it is concerned with preserving it.

Jackson says they’ve also considered setting up a power generating turbine in the creek that flows out of the pond.

It’s a controversial industry but, as Jackson says:

“There are some obvious places you don’t want to do it but there also a whole lot of places where there’ll be no damage whatsoever. It’s not a bad idea — at least they’re thinking in the right direction.”

Farther along the shore of the

pond is a viewing blind for visitors to study and photograph the inhabitants of the wetland without disturbing them.

The society hopes to install a wireless video camera in the beaver den at the far end of the pond and in the wood duck breeding boxes scattered throughout.

The ideas are endless and with so many projects, it’s easy to forget that the place is run by volunteers.

The centre has some paid staff and has benefited from incentive funding for projects like current trail work by unemployed forestry workers but part of the charm of the centre comes from knowing that much of the heavy lifting has been done by unpaid locals.

As you tour the property, the vision of those volunteers becomes clearer and so too does the potential of what the reserve could become.

If we’re to adapt in time to preserve the natural order of life on the planet we’ll need more examples of how to do it.

In a perfect world, every town would have one.

“That whole sense of doing something positive, finding solutions instead of always just harping on about a problem,” says Jackson.

“The times are changing – people, consumers and kids – they want to do things better.

“If they can see ways of doing things better and if they can see that people are actually finding solutions and that there is a better way, then more and more people are going to demand that better way.

“That’s kind of how this place works.”

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2010

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For more information 604-885-6806 or 604-885-6887.
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Wright finds a wrong

Dear Editor,

A couple came into the Bargain Barn when I was working last Saturday to ask where the public washrooms were in Madeira Park.

They had driven up from Gibsons and needed to use the facilities (urgently!) before they poked around to eat and do some shopping.

I was embarrassed to tell them we had no public washrooms and that the only option was to have lunch at one of the cafes and ask to use their washroom.

The woman I was working with said she had the same experience recently at the harbour when a couple came off their boat in order to shop at

IGA and asked her where the public washrooms were.

She pointed them to the portable toilets at Millennium Park.

The man was outraged that our village and marina could not offer a public toilet for cruisers — unless they stayed overnight.

Our public washrooms are closed for the winter; one of the local businesses has a sign on the door advising “No washrooms; don’t even ask!”

What kind of welcome is that?

We wondered who is responsible for the washrooms located behind the Visitor Information Centre and what caused them to be closed for the winter.

None of the local businesses

allow visitors to use their own washrooms — leaving those of us greeting guests on a regular basis not knowing what we are supposed to say.

It appears our “welcome sign” is out with our beautiful gardens and painted buildings and our 20 or so businesses offer a wide variety of products and friendly service.

Is our message, “Yes, we want you to visit our fair community and spend your money... but please go to the bathroom first?”

Maureen Wright
Madeira Park

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It's time to take action on the marijuana madness

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed your short portrait of the two dominant economists of our time in your latest issue; Milton Friedman and John Maynard Keynes. (February 2010, Issue 230).

After the major economic events of the past two years, Richard Nixon's old quip that 'we are all Keynesians now,' comes to mind.

In your brief article you did put your finger on one minor offshoot to Friedman's laissez-faire philosophy, the legalization of marijuana.

I believe, like Friedman, that the present laws governing marijuana are draconian in the extreme and corrosive to the fabric of society in general.

Now that I have my Gold Card, I am astonished that the madness continues. To be put in jail for inhaling the smoke of a common backyard plant is insane and anybody that gives their brain half a chance, knows it.

Now our scheming prime minister, far and away the most skilful politician in the country, wants to increase the drug penalties.

Infuriated by the Senate led by Larry Campbell (ex-RCMP, ex-corner, ex-mayor of Vancouver) and the senators blocking his new drug Bill C-15 (which calls for a mandatory two year prison term for just five plants), he prorogued Parliament, added a few toady Conservatives to the Senate and presto, C-15 will be back this year.

Two years for five plants. And the rest of Parliament will stay mum. Our politicians and public officials are totally gutless on the pot issue.

We all know its wrong to lock up some poor citizen for pot. I'm not talking about the bikers, the Vietnamese (gangs) and all that.

I mean the little family with the

shed out back, the mortgage-stretcher, the small time grow. The laid-off guy who has opened up the back bedroom or the basement. The law says they lose their shed, their bedroom, basement and kids. Shameful.

Take the case of Marc Emery. I laughed when my logger neighbour said "Now they're going to pull those peacock feathers out of his ass, one at a time."

OK, so Emery stuffed it in their faces, I do grant you that. A professional nuisance who did well in the pot trade. That's all.

When they come for the Emerys today, it could be you tomorrow.

A few years ago a great little book came out on rum running on the Coast here during the 1920's. The author had just retired as vice-president of engineering for BC Hydro.

Its all about how he paid for his engineering diploma by bootlegging.

He said he was afraid for his job with Hydro so didn't release the book until he was well clear of public life.

And did we learn anything from that era? Prohibition? Not a damn thing obviously.

The well-known creation of criminal enterprises and the making of ordinary and otherwise law-abiding citizens into criminals for fermenting fruit in a bath tub was as destructive to society then as the pot laws are now.

It also made bad booze.

Our kids are looking at our massive hypocrisy. They see adults smoking pot all the time and yet the schools are still droning on about "the brain on drugs."

The trouble is the kids are going to assume we are hypocritical about everything and that everything adults say about the dangers of some drugs, especially for some people, is BS.

Or that legal drugs are OK because your doctor gave them to you. Elvis, Heath Ledger, Michael Jackson, come to mind. That is dangerous.

So, dear editor, I ask that your readers take action on this madness. If they feel strongly, would they please:

- Write our MP, Mr. Weston, and tell the man to stop being so cowed by the party leader, so attached to his coattails of power that he can't use some common sense on pot laws or we will throw him out.

- Write Larry Campbell and the Senators that stopped Bill C-15 and thank them. Thank God for the Senate in this case but then it's easy for them to be brave, they're not running for election.

- Get honest with young people about pot, you adults who use it, whether you are teachers, lawyers, cops, doctors or politicians. Just be honest.

Ron Fearn
Egmont

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Pot 'em up

By Jim Rutherford
(assisted by Ellen McGillveray)

Spring is here. Well, maybe just a teaser.

Seen in four-inch pots everywhere, tête-a-tête narcissus are a quick way to perk up a deck container for spring, and you'll always have them.

When buying them, make sure they're "tight" (just showing a little colour).

Remove the wrapper, dump the bulb cluster out and plant in your container.

If the roots of the other plants are matted together in the spot you want to plant, an old serrated butcher knife will do no harm to cut these roots back to accommodate the new bulbs.

Primulas (primrose, first rose) are



such a bright joy when they first come for sale.

Keep in mind that the deer love them too.

These primulas have been greenhouse forced, so they can be a little tender to a snap frost. Also, these primulas unfortunately tend to be a one shot deal.

We have never had good luck planting them out in a border to come up in another season.

Luckily there are lots of other primula varieties that hold the course.

All the plants mentioned love cool spring temperatures. If you have purchased a spring potted garden, keep it in a cool place to extend the life of the bulbs.

IRIS RETICULATA

No deer problem here. These bear orange- or yellow-marked blue/mauve or purple flowers.

They hold up well in containers if kept cool. The vibrant colors give good contrast.

Ellen says when they're finished blooming to plant them into a sunny, well-drained spot in the garden.

RANUNCULUS ASIATICUM (BUTTERCUP)

Give them a try. The rich colours are irresistible. The blooms may remind you of a small double peony.

The ones you see for sale and already in bloom are out of season, as they have been forced in greenhouses.

To grow them yourself, start by planting the tuberous roots' "claws" downward in a one-inch deep well-drained sunny site in March-April. They will bloom in summer.

PAPER WHITES

Paper whites are used in Europe a lot at Christmas time as a potted or cut flower.

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The blooms are very fragrant and once they're in warm indoor temperatures for awhile, they tend to grow quickly and then flop over the side of the pot. They will not straighten up, so just cut the blossoms off and treat as a cut flower.

TULIPS

We haven't dealt with potted tulips because, unless your yard or deck is completely deer-proofed, you'll be heartbroken when nothing of your efforts is left.

Red Riding Hood is perhaps one tulip left to mention. This variety is quite short with variegated leaves (blotches of brown or red) and red blooms. It's more closely related to the original species than the very tall super-bred Darwins. It's a hardy tulip and well worth having for interest.

With all the bulbs and primulas, let the foliage die down naturally after they've finished blooming. This is their only chance to build up strength for next season.

As the foliage dies back, reduce the watering. We don't keep them dry until fall planting, but put them in the ground fairly soon.

NATURALIZING

Establish a group of bulbs in grassland or woodland and then let the bulbs grow and increase without interference. (It has nothing to do with Immigration Canada.)

The bulbs mentioned will naturalize beautifully and multiply. Try them right in your lawn. A bulb planter will be helpful to replace the turf.

Group the bulbs together in clusters and forget 'em. Some bone meal in the hole with the bulbs would be nice.

Perhaps leave out the ranunculus as they bloom in summer, but other than that, when the bulb foliage dies down, you can mow right over everything.

If you see potted bulbs for sale that have gone past their best — make an offer.

Just check that they haven't been watered to death and that the bulbs are still firm. Plant 'em right in your lawn for better or for worse.

Next spring wait for your surprise as the bulbs appear.

Perhaps an Easter Egg Hunt for everyone amongst the vibrant flowers.

Gum disease - More trouble than you think!

More people are becoming aware of the link between oral health and our general health but the mouth is often seen as separate from the rest of the body.

People don't realize that decay of their teeth is an infection and that infection can directly affect their general health.

What happens in our mouth doesn't only remain there.

The links between oral health and general well-being are not all known yet.

One theory is that the bacteria that builds up between teeth and gums can enter the bloodstream and settle elsewhere in the body, causing damage to other organs such as the heart.

The same type of bacteria found on the walls of the arteries is also found in plaque on our teeth.

Plaque build-up on your teeth will make your gums bleed when you brush and floss and bleeding gums are an indication of infection.

The Journal of the Canadian Dental Association shows gum disease may be more prevalent among diabetic patients than non-diabetic people.

Diabetics are more likely than non-diabetics to suffer severe bone loss, tooth loss and infections from gum disease.

Despite its harmful effects, gum disease can be prevented and easily reversed if caught in the early stages by practising good oral health habits.

Brush at least twice a day and floss once a day and be sure to have a dental check-up at least once a year.

As always, we welcome new patients and our helpful friendly staff is on hand Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to book your appointment with one of our dentists or with our hygienist Darlene Fowlie.

Our phone number is (604) 883-2997.



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Take control of your future by creating a business plan, Part 2

By Brian Lee

Second in a series of articles intended to promote small business and self-employment. (Cont. from Feb. 2010)

After a business plan's executive summary introduces a reader to a broad overview of your business, it's time to look under the hood.

BUSINESS DESCRIPTION

A plan's business description provides an opportunity to review the mechanical structure of your machine. It will build on some of the concepts touched on in the executive summary by taking a deeper look at the company and should answer a reader's questions about how your business generates a profit.

It might start with a short description of the industry. When describing the industry, discuss the present outlook as well as future possibilities.

Include details about whether yours is a new business or an established one and reiterate its legal form: sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation, providing details about principals and their areas of expertise.

You should also provide information on all the various markets within the industry, including any new products or developments that will benefit



or adversely affect your business.

Include detail about the structure or the type of operation of your business: Is it service oriented, wholesale, retail or manufacturing?

Offer a snapshot of your primary customers, what products or services you intend to sell them and how it will be distributed to them.

Identify how your business support systems like advertising, promotions and customer service will serve your goals.

Describe the products or services you intend to market in detail emphasizing any details that might give them a competitive edge.

Finally, explain why your busi-



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ness is going to be profitable and, if your document is going to be used for financial purposes, touch on how the added equity is going to make your business more profitable.

Keep the description brief as most of the items in the business description will be documented in more detail later in the plan. Your intention here is to keep the reader's attention.

MARKET STRATEGIES

Here your business plan will finally begin to delve into more detail in the form of a market analysis.

Your market analysis should attempt to define your business's market in terms of size, structure, growth prospects, trends and sales potential.

The total potential market is assumed to be the total aggregate sales of your competitors.

From that, identify your specific target market by taking into account factors like geography, customer attributes or product needs that dictate a realistic projection of your customer base.

Projecting your market share will be a subjective estimate taking into consideration industry growth (an increase in the total number of customers) and the percentage of customers you can reasonably hope to attract and retain.

Your market strategy will then detail how you intend to position your business within that market.

It involves identifying in detail your marketing advantage, pricing strategies (cost-plus, demand pricing, competitive pricing or markup pricing), distribution plans (direct sales, wholesale distributors, brokers retail distributors direct mail etc.), promotional plans (advertising, packaging, public relations, sales promotions and

personal sales) and sales potential.

By the end, the reader should have a clear picture of who and where your customer is and how and why they are likely to purchase your product or service.

COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS

Simply put, a competitive analysis is a statement of your business strategy and how it relates to your competitors.

Its purpose is to determine the strengths and weakness of competitors within your market with the aim of identifying strategies that will provide your business with a distinct advantage.

After the current and potential competition is identified, the next step is to analyze their strategies and identify the areas where they are most vulnerable.

This might involve identifying key assets and skills the strongest performers possess while examining the reasons behind the failure of some of the less successful companies within your market.

From your analysis you can then identify a strategy capitalizing on your competitive advantage in these five areas: product, distribution, pricing, promotion and advertising.

You will need to establish this competitive advantage clearly so the reader can visualize how your business holds an advantage and why it will succeed.

The final instalment of this article, Part 3 of "Take control of your future by creating a business plan" will appear in the April issue.

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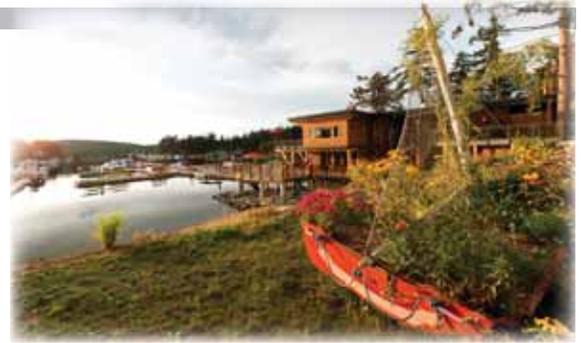
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Collaring a barking dog



By John Wade

Hi John,

My husband and I have a 15-month-old Maltese name Kage. The problem is that

he barks at everything and everybody inside and outside.

His bark, for a little guy, is very shrill and loud and is very irritating — not just to us, but neighbours as well. People keep saying to get a ultrasonic bark collar but we do not want to do anything that is inhumane. We would appreciate your thoughts on using bark collars in general.

Sharon

Hi Sharon,

I've never known any ultrasonic barker to be deterrent enough for a persistent hard core barker.

I also don't believe marketing hype regarding one type of collar is more humane than another. If any collar is going to work it has to cause significant discomfort.

Ultrasonic collars irritate the ears, citronella collars spray the nostrils and eyes and static shock collars irritate the skin surface. Each must occur in an irritating enough manner to motivate the dog to not bark.

The static collars are the scariest of the bunch but are the most effective in my experience. Whether warranted or not you'll have to decide.

They are effective enough that the manufacturers of the other types of collars spend a lot of time producing "studies" saying they don't work and will wreck a dog.

To anyone observing it will be

obvious that the dog didn't like the static stimulation it receives once it hits the level that makes that sets off the deterrent.

The purely positive (PP) dog training bunch go purely polemic at the merest hint that one would consider introducing static shock over injecting citronella up a dog's nose or causing pain to a dog's hearing.

They often ask, "How would you like it?"

I believe I see the point even as they seem to miss it. I wouldn't like it, so I'd stop barking. The dog isn't supposed to like it. I haven't met one of the people posing the question that actually tried it themselves. I have many times and I can honestly say I didn't like it, meaning it worked.

I've never known a dog who barked past four out of five on the dial and most get it at two.

But the collar has to be introduced slowly.

My biggest problem with the static collars is that the instructions for the manufacturers aren't sufficient for introducing the collar in increments to find the correct adjustable level to discourage barking. There are various levels of quality as well.

Personally I'm not comfortable with any of them if the dog owner is not taking into consideration that the



problem may lie with them.

I would want to know why the dog is barking and deal with that as well or find a way around it so the poor dog isn't short-circuiting mentally because it is stimulated but can't bark it out.

Regards,
John Wade

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



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Compiled by

P. H. Health Centre nursing staff

Osteoarthritis is a disease that causes the cartilage in your joint to break down.

Cartilage is the hard, white tissue that caps the ends of your bones and acts as a shock absorber for your joint.

You can see it when you tear a drumstick off a chicken.

When you move, it cushions the impact and lets your bones glide smoothly over each other.

As osteoarthritis develops, the cartilage begins to fray and may even wear away entirely, causing your bones to rub directly against each other.

This can make it painful to move your joint. In some cases, little bumpy growths, or spurs, develop on the ends of the bone.

Osteoarthritis can develop in any joint but it usually affects those that carry your bodyweight like the lower back, feet, hips and knees.

It is also seen in finger joints and the joint at the base of the thumb.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Continuous achy feeling in your joint.
- Pain when you put weight on your joint.
- Pain in your joint when walking, climbing stairs, sitting down or getting up out of a chair.
- Stiffness, swelling or a loss of flexibility in your joint.
- Stiffness in your joint for more than half an hour after you get out of bed in the morning.

CAUSES

- Age — osteoarthritis is not a



result of aging, but your chance of developing the disease goes up as you get older.

- Weight — excess weight can strain the joints that carry your body weight, like hips and knees.
- Heredity — if you have a family history of osteoarthritis you may be more likely to develop the disease.
- Injury and overuse — old injuries and repetitive activities like heavy lifting, kneeling, or squatting can leave lasting damage in your joints.

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thritis through eating well, exercising and learning how you can continue to enjoy everyday life.

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MARCH ASTROLOGY

PISCES: FEB. 19 - MAR. 19

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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.

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OF MARCH

FREAKONOMICS?

A 2006 book by Stephen J. Leavitt and Steven J. Dubner, *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*, attempts to solve the riddles of everyday life using economic theory. It could be called pseudo science but the book offers a unique approach to questions like “What makes a perfect parent?” while offering up data on “The probability that a real estate agent is cheating you.”

In a chapter titled “Where have all the criminals gone?” the authors make a case for tying the dramatic drop in crime in the U.S. during the early 90s to an unexpected cause — abortion. The authors begin by refuting many of the popular explanations for the completely unpredicted reduction in crime such as capital punishment and tougher gun control laws.

On Jan. 22, 1973, legalized abortion was suddenly extended to the entire U.S. with the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Roe v. Wade*. In the following year, 750,000 women had abortions in the U.S. (representing one abortion for every four live births. By 1980 that number rose to one per 2.25 live births.

Mothers most likely to take advantage of *Roe v. Wade* were unmarried, in their teens or poor — or all three. Those three factors are also by far the strongest predictors that a child will have a criminal future or will replicate their own mother’s childbirth tendencies. Just as those unborn babies would have hit their prime criminal years, crime statistics slid off the charts. The authors conclude that because those most likely to commit crimes were aborted in the years after 1973, it explains the precipitous drop in crime 17 years later.

MARCH WEATHER

TEMPERATURE

Our average March daily high is 9.2 C, our average daily low 4.3 C, giving us a mean daily temperature of 6.7 C. The highest March temperature recorded is 15.6 C (March 11, 1965); the lowest, -3.3 C (March 3, 1976).

PRECIPITATION

March has an average of 127.7 hours of bright sunshine and 15 days with rainfall. The monthly total rainfall averages 78.6 mm; monthly total snowfall averages 1.5 cm. The highest March daily rainfall recorded is 44.7 mm (March 4, 1968). The lowest March daily snowfall recorded is 8.9 cm (March 2, 1962).



**Skookumchuck
viewing
times
~ March ~**

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

March 1	11:53 am -L, 5:03 pm +L
March 2	12:29 pm -L, 5:59 pm +L
March 3	1:03 pm -L, 6:57 pm +L
March 4	6:21 am +L, 1:37 pm -L
March 5	6:57 am +M, 2:11 pm -L
March 6	7:38 am +M, 2:50 pm -L
March 7	8:25 am +S, 3:36 pm -M
March 8	9:23 am +S, 4:42 pm -M
March 9	6:56 am -S, 10:40 am +S
March 10	8:05 am -S, 12:14 pm +S
March 11	8:58 am -M, 1:29 pm +S
March 12	9:43 am -M, 2:25 pm +S
March 13	10:21 am -M, 3:11 pm +M
March 14	11:55 am -M, 4:54 pm +M
March 15	12:21 pm -M, 5:35 pm +M
March 16	12:39 pm -M, 6:15 pm +M
March 17	12:53 pm -L, 6:57 pm +L
March 18	1:12 pm -L, 7:41 pm +L
March 19	6:46 am +M, 1:35 pm -L
March 20	7:25 am +M, 2:04 pm -L
March 21	8:08 am +M, 2:44 pm -L
March 22	8:57 am +M, 3:41 pm -L
March 23	9:56 am +S, 4:54 pm -M
March 24	11:09 am +S, 6:15 pm -M
March 25	8:16 am -S, 12:34 pm +S
March 26	9:24 am -M, 2:00 pm +M
March 27	10:16 am -M, 3:13 pm +M
March 28	11:00 am -M, 4:15 pm +M
March 29	11:39 am -L, 5:11 pm +L
March 30	12:15 pm -L, 6:05 pm +L
March 31	12:47 pm -L, 6:58 pm +XL

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LOST

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MISSING

- **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. Reward. Bill/Connie (604) 883-0785



WANTED

- **VCR to show health videos at the Pender Harbour Health Centre.** Anyone interested in donating one should contact Nancy at the P. H. Health Centre, (604) 883-2764.

WANTED TO RENT

- **Need 2 or 3 bedroom to rent** starting July 1st. Non-smoker with references and a full-time job. Madeira Park area. W/D a must, small pet friendly. (604) 883-2745.

WORK WANTED

- **One ton dump 4x4, 8" woodchipper, mini-excavator, power washing, dump runs, light repairs and detailing on boats & RV's.** Call Gerry (604)741-1572.
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- **Complete yard and garden services.** Roofs and gutters cleaned. Fences, decks built. Pressure washing, dump runs etc. References. Rick Jones (604)740-9411



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thanks the following for their support and sponsorship:

- P. H. Aquatic and Fitness Centre
- IGA
- Sunshine Coast Credit Union
- P. H. Rotary Club
- Westwood Fitness Solutions
- Volunteers: RCMP and paramedics, parents
- PHSS students: Mackenzie Stewart, Solveig Van Wersch, Alex Christian, Vanessa Lanteigne, Katie Edwardson
- Promotion Plus Girls Only

Special mention to coach Paola Stewart!

Thanks and see you at the May Day Foot Race!

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 Spiel of Approval to **Rona** for donating \$100 to purchase items for the Madeira Park Elementary School woodworking club.

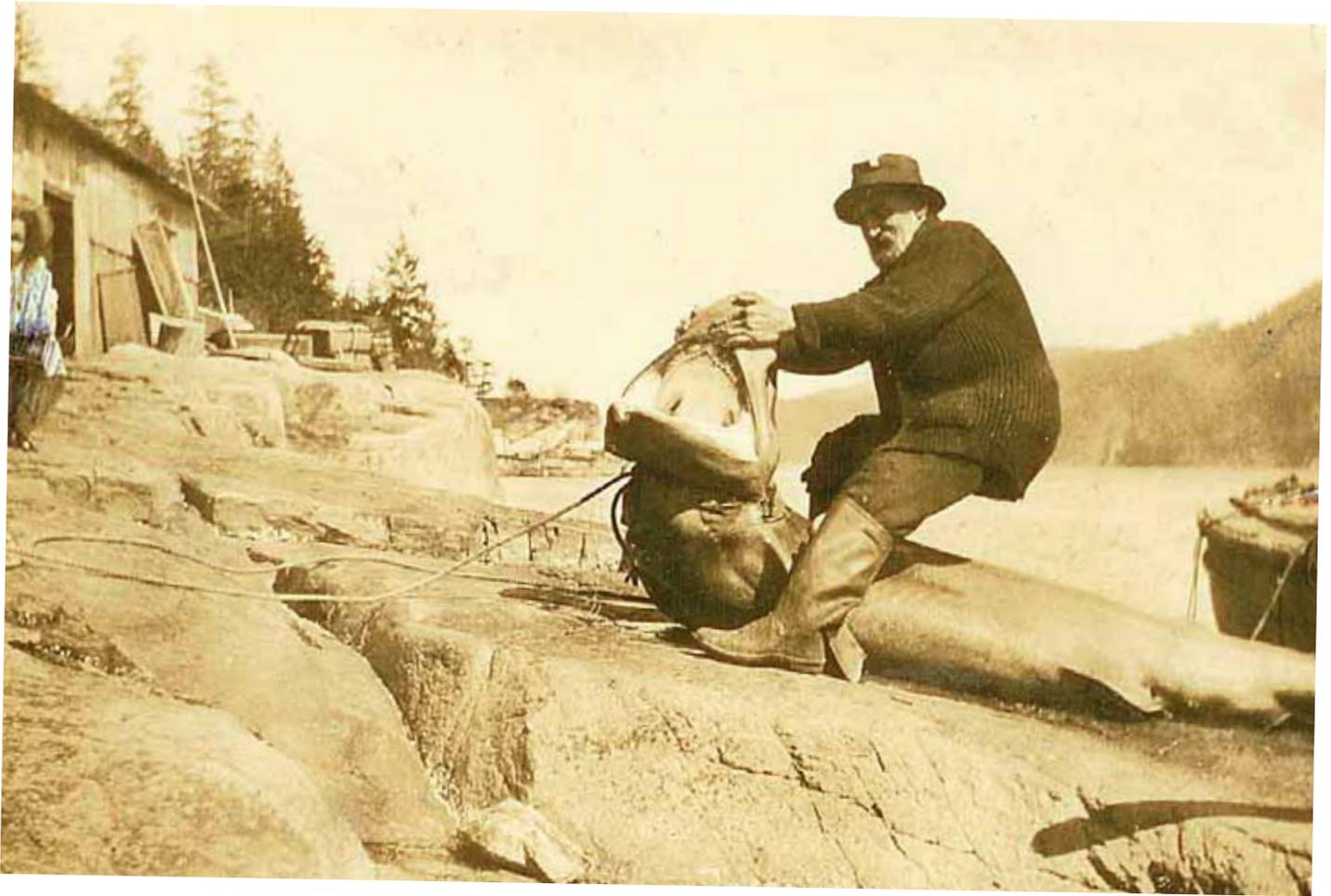
Fred Thorsell
MPES Principal

A Harbour Seal of Approval to all **the parents** that repeatedly show an interest in their child's education by attending PAC meetings and/or volunteering. It is always nice to see new faces.

Eric Stephan
MPES PAC

A Harbour Seal of Approval to the **S. C. Credit Union (Pender Harbour), P. H. Community Club, M.P.E.S. PAC, Triple B's and parent volunteers** for making the annual pancake breakfast at the Madeira Park Elementary a huge success!

Robyn Leech/Hot Lunch Program



Butch and Carol Reid photo collection

Pictured is John Wray on Nelson Island (April 1929) with a 450-pound (likely six-gill) shark.
Scrawled on the back of the photo:

“Some Catch: This huge shark was caught in very deep water near Pender Harbour, BC. Weight was 450 pounds. Picture was made on the shore of Nelson Island on April 20, 1929 by Miss Harriet Wray of Irvines Landing, BC.”

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Spring brings out crocuses and litterbugs



By Cheyenne Lightbourn

Spring is working its way into the cold veins of the land again and the sun is luring us humans from our cave-like homes into its bright warmth.

Crocuses are bursting from their earthy hiding places and reaching for the blue infinity of the clear sky, animals are waking from winter slumbers and everything seems to be coming to life.

Sprung with spring comes the desire for adventure. The hankering for fresh air and sunshine is stirring and prodding after the dreary and dark days of wintertime.

Like many, I am drawn to the beauty of the outdoors this time of year. I can't sit still inside any kind of building when the sun is shining as bright, and the leaves are as green, as during early spring.

A couple of weeks ago spring fever hit me; it was beautiful and sunny



outside, so I decided an excursion of some kind was in order. I got in a little rowboat that is permanently planted, flipped over and unused on my dock and rowed out to a little island a half-hour from my house.

On the island were otter trails and magnificent arbutus, along with all kinds of moss, mushrooms, wild rose bushes and other neat flora.

Everything was stunning, except for the garbage, washed ashore on the

side of the island facing Madeira Park.

The people of Pender Harbour claim to love their land, and most seem to care about the environment that they inhabit. We all enjoy and take pride in the beauty of our home but seeing all of the garbage that was obviously from some of the people in this general area disgusted me.

Many think it's okay to throw their garbage in the ocean, for whatever reason. It floats away and if it's out of sight, it's out of mind, for some.

But it doesn't just disappear. It washes up on shores, gets eaten by animals that don't know any better, and pollutes our waters.

I know that not every person on the water chucks their garbage overboard. Those who do should think twice before littering the shores our kids play on and others admire.

Get out and enjoy spring but remember to pack out what you bring with you.

Let's keep Pender clean and beautiful, so that it can be enjoyed for many springs yet to come.

Give in to the call of nature for some springy fun in the sun — but don't be a litterbug!

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Big Al Stewart usually tends goal but stepped out in this game against the Chiefs on Feb. 7 to dazzle fans with his explosive footwork. The next weekend he was back in net, shutting out Big Mac's Bruins, 3-0.



Greg Lightbourn photo
'Cougars,' one of a number of local mountain bike trails recently logged, used to carry on past this point through 300 metres of dense forest. Local mountain bikers hope promises are kept by BC Timber Sales who have said trails would be restored afterwards.



The Bananas lost 6-2 to the Sechelt Chiefs in this game at Lion's Park Field Feb. 7. Seen here is Richard Massullo getting one of their two goals on the day — off a penalty kick. As of Feb.17, the Bananas season stood at three wins, two ties and 8 losses.

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• Bridge Club	883-2633
• Chamber of Commerce, P. H. & Egmont.....	883-2531
• Christ the Redeemer Church	883-1355
• Coast Guard Auxiliary, Unit 61	883-2572
• Community Club, Egmont	883-9206
• Community Club, Pender Harbour	741-5840
• Community Policing	883-2026
• Community School Society	883-2826
• Egmont & District Volunteer Fire Department	883-2555
• GRIPS (Recycling Society)	883-1165
• Garden Bay Sailing Club.....	883-2689
• Gardening Club	883-0295
• P. H. Golf Club.....	883-9541
• Guides, Brownies, etc.	883-2819
• Harbour Artists	883-2807
• Harbourside Friendships (Thur. 10:30 -1 p.m.)	883-2764
• Health Centre Society	883-2764
• Health Centre Auxiliary.....	883-0522
• InStitches (1st Monday, 11 a.m., PH Health Centre).....	883-0748
• Iris Griffith Centre	883-9201
• Lions Club, Egmont.....	883-9463
• Lions Club, Pender Harbour (1st & 3rd Tues.).....	883-1361
• P. H. Garden Club	883-9415
• P. H. 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 Society	883-2983
• Rotary Club (noon Fri. Garden Bay Pub)	883-1350
• Royal Cdn Legion 112.....	883-2235
• Skookumchuck Heritage Society.....	883-9994
• St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary (2nd Wed., 1:30 p.m.)	883-2563
• Seniors' Housing Society (3rd Thur.).....	883-9883
• Serendipity Preschool	883-2316
• Suncoast Players	883-9277
• TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly).....	883-3639
• VITAL First Aid and Safety Training Centre.....	885-0804
• Wildlife Society (3rd Tues. PHSS).....	883-9853
• Women's Cancer Support	883-9708
• Women's Connection (2nd & 4th Tue.)	883-9313
• Women's Outreach Services.....	741-5246

ORGANIZATIONS

P. H. WILDLIFE SOCIETY

“The Perfect Garden: Plant Hunting in Tibet.” Visit the roof of the world with Bill Terry, our own Sunshine Coast expert gardener and the acclaimed author of *Blue Heaven: Encounters With the Blue Poppy*. Last year, Bill, his wife and a group of botanists travelled to China and Tibet to observe the alpine flora of that rugged and wild region. The slideshow presentation is at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16 at the Pender Harbour High School.

P. H. WOMEN'S CONNECTION

On March 9, Women's Connection will host Kim Watts from the Pender Harbour Pool to join us for an informative session on CPR called “What, When, How and Why!” On March 23 we'll host Gary Little who has researched and prepared a fascinating presentation of the earliest maps depicting the Sunshine Coast. Both gatherings will be at the P. H. School of Music in Madeira Park. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting is at 10 a.m.

P. H. GARDEN CLUB

The next meeting of the Pender Harbour Garden Club will be at the P. H. School of Music in Madeira Park on Monday, March 8 at 10 a.m. The speaker will be John Gillespie of Landwise Consulting, talking about some of the realities of garden design in Pender Harbour, such as soil (or lack thereof), drought and deer. New members are always welcome — for information call Karen Dyck at (604) 883-9415.

P. H. READING CENTRE

The Pender Harbour Reading Centre is pleased to announce a new service for our members. Commencing March 4, a pickup and delivery service for Sechelt Library books will operate every Thursday for a trial period of six months. For more details contact the PHRC in person or by phone at 883-2983.

P. H. FALL FAIRE SOCIETY

The Pender Harbour Fall Faire Society is having its AGM on Friday March 5 at 11:30 a.m. at the Legion in Madeira Park. We are a registered non-profit group that has hosted a multi-faceted fair in Pender Harbour on the first Saturday of October for the last eight years. We need new members to help us put this well-attended event together. Please come to our meeting if you can contribute some of your time.

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For a better future...

*By Rick Harmer,
P. H. Chamber of Commerce*

As promised in the last issue of the Spiel, the date, time and place of the “Live, Work, Stay” program will be April 22, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the P. H. Legion.

This event is hosted by the Pender Harbour and Egmont Chamber of Commerce with the aim of providing a place where people needing money can speak to the people who have it.

It should be emphasized that our community absolutely needs these kinds of events.

Al Mulholland of Community Futures recently noted that the Coast is losing its key demographic (20 to 34 years of age) to Vancouver because of a lack of work to sustain them here.

So what do we need? We’ll certainly need businesses associated with seniors, as they will make up the largest part of the population.

We will also need light manufacturing, infrastructure employment (bus drivers, etc.), internet businesses, — anything that will be attainable and sustainable.

Our resource sectors are diminished and are unable to maintain the high payroll levels of the past so small businesses might be the future of this community.

If you have a good idea for a business in this community and don’t know how to proceed, this event will definitely steer you in the right direction.

If you have advanced on your good idea (business plan or prototype), then bring it in and let the experts help you.

Equity financing, partnerships or mortgages could enable you able to make your dream happen.

Your presentation should be dynamic and catch the lenders’ or investors’ interest quickly.

To that end, you’ll have just five minutes to lay out the premise and the promise.

The lenders/investors will also have the same amount of time to ask you questions about your product or service.

Don’t expect a miracle loan à la CBC’s “Dragon’s Den,” but hopefully you might find a missing piece to your entrepreneurial puzzle.

The rest is up to you.

For the lenders/investors who are willing to spend an evening listening to proposals — thank you.

Your input will be valued on this first event of its kind in our community.

Plus, you will perhaps see some-

thing that appeals to you.

We hope there will be a lot of interest from the community, borrowers and lender/investors alike.

Without events or meetings like this, we may continue to witness the erosion of our population — and lifestyle.

Should you wish to participate, please call me at 604-883-3678 or e-mail me at rickharmer@hotmail.com

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



Visit these websites:

MPES: www.sd46.bc.ca/mpesweb/

PAC: www.mpespac.com



PENDER HARBOUR EQUESTRIAN SOCIETY

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

Pender Harbour Reading Centre takes a look inward

On Nov. 25, community members attended a brainstorming session intended to evaluate and build on the programs and services offered at the Pender Harbour Reading Centre.

The following are the results of that session as compiled by the chair of the Pender Harbour Reading Centre, Janet Falk.

The results of our session showed clearly that many things at the Pender Harbour Reading Centre are liked by everyone and are working well.

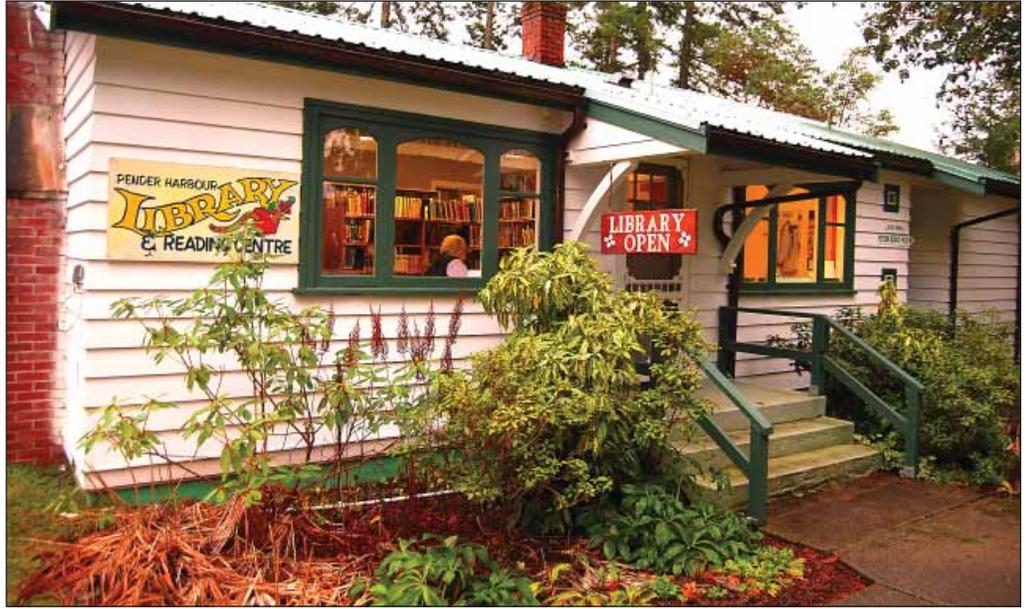
The following were listed as our “prouds:”

- Popular books were available quickly and our collection is increasingly diversified.
- The check-out system is liked and reasonably efficient.
- The physical location is very convenient.
- The repository for the Harbour Publishing collection is appreciated.
- We have loyal and happy volunteers.
- Overall the centre is seen as a great service to the public.

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS

In addition, the following suggestions for improvements came forward:

- Re-examine our hours of opera-



tion to try and include some lunch hours, hours after work and opening longer on Tuesdays.

- Increase our ability to communicate with members.
- Provide a reading space and investigate the possibility of obtaining a computer for patron research, access to British Columbia Library Services databases, etc.
- Develop a website.
- Obtain some way of giving tax receipts for donations and encourage bequests, donations etc.
- Increase membership fees, used book prices and have two large book sales a year in conjunction with Pender Harbour events.
- Attempt to find some way to winterize the building to reduce heating costs.

ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE MEETING

What have we achieved so far? We decided to start small but have investigated and set in motion the following:

- Investigated the cost of developing a website and are currently looking for funding sources.
- In the process of developing

a database of members which will include e-mail addresses.

- Designed tentative new opening hours which will be presented to members and the public via a survey for feedback.
- Negotiated a pickup/delivery system with the Sechelt Library for books (trial six-month run).
- Made a presentation to P. H. Rotary who may be interested in helping us change the windows in the centre, and are considering a funding proposal we presented.

• Investigating opportunities to move under the charitable tax status umbrella of existing organizations.

• Investigating use of Telus grants for use of new technology.

• It was decided to keep our membership fees the same as access was deemed important but are considering increasing the price of our second-hand books.

• In addition to selling second-hand books in the centre, two book sales will held: one at the April Tools event and another at the S. C. Wooden Boat festival .

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Pender Harbour Secondary term two honour roll

Honour roll is a 75 per cent or better average, with no mark lower than a C. Students must be enrolled in at least seven courses over the year. Honourable mention is 70 to 74.99 per cent average.

GRADE 7

Keenan Clerx, Crystal Cook, Teaguen Craig, Cassidy Craig-Watters, Brianne Gilkes, Dane Hanna, Christopher Joseph, Jace Landry, Zena Lanteigne, Teal Loverock, Tashina McLean, Dani Pazur, Kevin Rossner, Jade Storoschuk, Salem Taylor, Carley Whitehead. Honourable Mention: Daisy Dixon



GRADE 8

Matteo Alps Mocellin, Alex Christian, Renee Harper, Autumn La France, Maria Lamarche, Zach Mansbridge-Fafard, Aaron Pazur, Emily Reid, Matthew Silvey, Mackenzie Stewart, Solveig van Wersch, Rick Wagner, Matthew Watts. Honourable Mention: Ryder Hutt

Sosa, Shaylen Sosa.

GRADE 10

Emma Carillo, Khoya Craig, Louis Dillon, Joel Field, Maciek Glowacki, Angela Goodwin, Amber La France, Sam Langfield, Luke Roose, Brandon Rouleau, Elizabeth Rowlands, Kari Scott, Allison Scoular, Jake Snedden, Madison Williams-Rice. Honourable Mention: Emily Hargrove, Samantha Howitt, Kohl Whitehead.

Foley, Cyrus Foster, Mitchell Jones, Rebecca Kelly, Morgan McLellan, Aurora Noble, Michael Pazur, Travis Ramsey-Wall, Madison Shoemaker, Janine Snell, Rowan van Wersch, Mitchell Williams-Rice. Honourable Mention: Amanda Mudry, Brittany Sheppard.

GRADE 9

Lena Aschenbroich, Carly Fielding, Dakota Fox, Charlotte Gray, Arhea Howitt, Ryleigh Lightbourn, Angus Marshall, Brianna Milligan, Tatiana Phillips-Campbell, Sahara Ramsey, William Reid, Savannah

GRADE 11

Timo Antilla, Chloe Christie, Mike Chrystall, Breanna Clay, Shelby

GRADE 12

Chase Campbell, Dion Pickles-Teller, Alexa Dornbierer, Luke Hansen, Courtney Herdman, Vanessa Lanteigne, Cheyenne Lightbourn, Nicole Polacek, Cooper Rancier, Trevor Thorpe, Katie Woods.

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What's coming up: 2010 real estate happenings



By Alan Stewart

The Canadian government is having a serious effect on the real estate landscape this year with a couple of dramatic program implementations.

First, the new Harmonized Sales Tax, which is to come into effect in June 2010, will have a dramatic effect on the cost of buying new high end homes and bare land.

Second, the tightening of lending rules for borrowers.

HARMONIZED SALES TAX:

According to the Certified General Accountants (CGA) website, the 12 per cent HST will be applied to a builder's sale of a newly constructed or substantially renovated residential housing.

The sale of housing that has been previously occupied by an individual as a place of residence and that is exempt from GST would also be exempt from HST.

As before, there was a new housing rebate available to qualified purchasers who will use the house as the primary place of residence on the federal portion of the HST (five per cent) and there will also be a rebate available on the provincial component (seven per cent).

The rebate would equal 71.43 per cent of the provincial part of the HST subject to a maximum rebate amount of \$26,250 when purchasing a home, but varies based on the type of property.

The HST is also applicable to bare land. According to BDO Dunwoody, the sale of land is currently the one supply where the GST may become collectible, regardless of the GST registration status of the seller.

With the implementation of the HST, land sales that are subject to the five per cent GST will become subject to the 12 per cent HST.

Any person who sells land should determine whether the HST is applicable to the sale.

Currently, PST does not apply to the sale of bare land.

On affected properties, if either ownership or possession is transferred to the purchaser before July 2010, the HST would not apply so if you have a deal in the works, get on with it.

As with the GST, the application of the HST is a complicated subject that often depends on the intent or situation of the parties involved in the transaction.

My advice is always to get professional advice from a qualified tax practitioner when making decisions.

TIGHTER LENDING STANDARDS

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty

has announced tighter lending standards for mortgages saying that, while the housing market is healthy and there's no solid evidence of a bubble, the moves are needed to "help prevent negative trends from developing."

Under the new rules, all borrowers will have to meet certain standards for five-year fixed-rate mortgages, regardless of whether they're seeking a loan with a lower rate and shorter term.

The government is also lowering the maximum amount Canadians can withdraw when refinancing to 90 per cent of the value of their homes, from the current 95 per cent, and requiring a 20-per-cent down payment for government-backed mortgage insurance on "speculative" investment properties.

There is some speculation that the news of upcoming tighter lending criteria combined with low interest rates and the upcoming HST implications could really heat up the housing market as buyers look to get into the game before the stricter rules come into effect. This could lead to short term price increases in certain sectors, particularly properties of interest to first time home buyers.

The Canadian Real Estate Association said in a report last week that low interest rates will push resale home prices to records this year.

The three new changes to the mortgage insurance guarantee rules are intended to take effect on April 19, 2010.

Mr. Flaherty stressed that some lenders are already applying stricter standards when approving buyers for mortgages, but said today's announcement was needed to ensure others start doing so.

The government claims that the

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intent of the tighter standards is to encourage Canadians to build equity in their homes instead of tapping that equity as a source of cash.

According to a statement, the finance minister suggested that “this will discourage the kind of mortgage refinancing that can create unsustainable debt levels as interest rates go up. We are encouraging people to build equity over time, using home ownership as an effective way to save, rather than as a vehicle for quick cash.”

The intent of this program is to “have some stabilizing effect” and encourage “moderation” in the market, said Flaherty.

The main purpose is to curb the type of “excesses” that helped fuel the subprime-mortgage meltdown in the United States.

“You can see people starting to use the equity in their homes as if it were cash and the assumption that took hold that housing prices only ever go up,” Mr. Flaherty said, adding the government is worried about “the tendency for those who have limited credit to speculate in the market.”

“They’re the first ones to get into trouble in the market when interest rates go up.”

In addition to the Federal Government changes, CMHC will also be implementing a change to the calculation of a borrower’s Total Debt



to take steps to protect the real estate economy, taking into account the situation of our friends to the south and the dramatic impact on housing prices there.

Given the recreational nature of many properties on the Sunshine Coast, maintaining a healthy real estate climate is more important than in urban centres.

Recreation properties are arguably the most affected during economic corrections. As an example, a colleague just returned from the U.S. recreational paradise, Hawaii, and told me that a property he had looked at in 2007 was priced at \$2,000,000.

The same unit, still unsold is now offered for sale at \$600,000. If tighter lending rules can help us avoid a similar situation – I’m all for them!

Please send any suggestions for story lines to alan@sunshineco-asthomes.com.

Service Ratio, where rental income is generated from the subject property.

Effective April 19, 2010, 50 per cent of the gross rental income from the subject property may be included in the borrower’s gross annual income for the purposes of calculating the borrower’s Total Debt Service Ratios.

Eighty percent of the gross rental income was used formerly.

The 80-per-cent direct rental offset from basement suite income will no longer be used for debt servicing calculations.

While the new restrictions are a blow to those working hard to get into the market, in my opinion, it’s prudent

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If ya gotta go, better make it green



By Shane McCune

Most tourists in Paris visit Napoleon's tomb, where the "little corporal" is sealed, like a Russian matryoshka doll, inside six coffins: Iron, mahogany, lead (two of those), ebony, and the final outer shell of stone, which one writer likened to

"a giant loaf of homemade bread, about the size of a UPS truck."

Well, you don't serve an emperor small bier, I suppose, but what excuse do the rest of us have?

Every day millions of corpses go into the ground, pickled and preserved to stave off that "dust unto dust" business as long as possible. Taken together, the ordinary dead are taking up far more land and material than Napoleon, and making exactly the same use of it.

It's ironic to think of all the folks who devote a good part of their lives to recycling, gardening without chemicals, burning as few hydrocarbons as possible . . . only to become polluters when they die, thanks to embalming fluid, the preservatives in coffins and well-fertilized cemetery plots.

That post-mortem footprint is extended for years by steel coffins (the "Mom Remembered" sells for \$995US at walmart.com) and the concrete

liner (1.5 tonnes worth) for the grave itself.

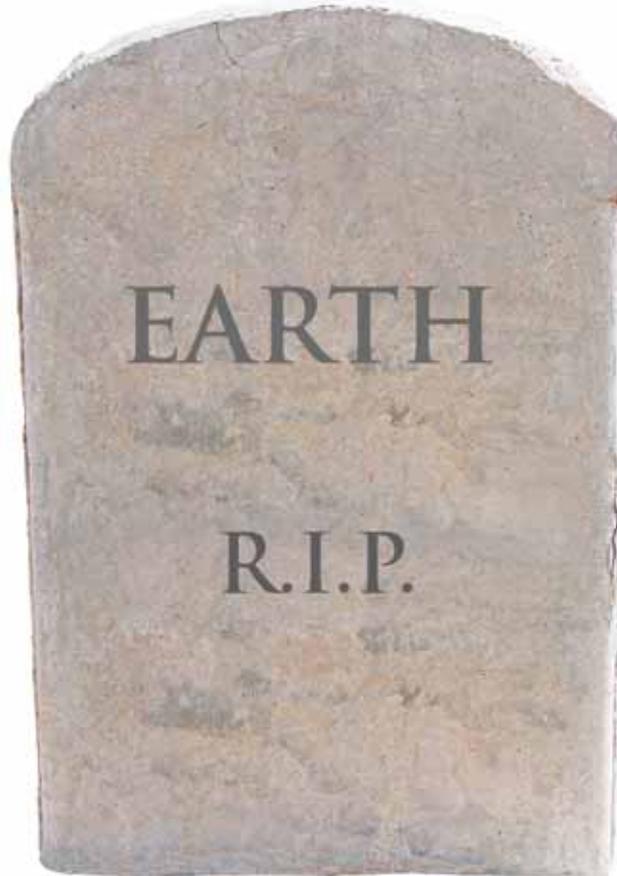
A four-hectare (10-acre) cemetery contains enough coffin wood to build more than 40 homes, 1,000 tonnes of casket steel and 20,000 tonnes of concrete for vaults. Across North America enough metal goes into coffin and vault production each year to build the Golden Gate Bridge, and enough concrete to build a four-lane highway from Vancouver to Portland, Ore.

Cremation is now the send-off of choice for 30 per cent of North Americans, and is expected to pass the 50-per-cent mark by 2025. According to the Cremation Association of North America, nearly a fifth of those who choose cremation do so for environmental reasons.

But that smoke is still black, not green. A crematory furnace burns for about two hours at 760 to 1,150 degrees Celsius. The Natural Burial Co-operative (more about that shortly) estimates the fossil fuel used in North American cremations each year is enough to send a car to the moon and back 84 times. (Which sounds like an intriguing alternative. It would certainly solve the problem of storing the cremains.)

In North America and Europe crematoria are usually fired by propane or natural gas, which are improvements over the coke

and coal they replaced, but perhaps not as clean as the electric ovens increasingly used in south Asia, where cre-



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AND ANOTHER THING...

mation is a Hindu tradition.

(The Swedish city of Halmstad is recycling heat from its crematorium for residential and commercial use. Its new civic slogan: “Halmstad — Death Warmed Over.”)

And human bodies — even those of vegans — contain heavy metals and other pollutants that are more harmful when vaporized than when left in the ground. Pacemakers must be removed before a cremation; not only can they explode, damaging the furnace, but they contain radioactive elements and mercury.

Some ardent Greens in Europe and California even suggest that teeth be removed before cremation to prevent the release of mercury from amalgam fillings.

Yikes. Isn't there a saner way to shuck our physical remains when we're finished with them?

Of course there is, and it's what humans did for millennia before the invention of funeral parlours: Burial with no embalming, no coffin. Just that “dust to dust” thing, with trees or bushes in place of a gravestone.

It's called woodland burial, natural burial or green burial, and it now accounts for 10 to 12 per cent of interments in the U.K., where the movement began in the mid-1990s.

There are two main groups promoting green burials in North America, the aforementioned Natural Burial Cooperative and the Green Burial Council. There are some 300 undertakers and other “deathcare providers” (too bad we can't bury that kind of jargon) on the continent willing to accommodate the practice, but only a handful of properties for the actual burials.

So far the only place in B.C. (and the first in Canada) to offer natural burials is Royal Oak Burial Park in Victoria, which has set aside a third of an acre for this purpose. Bodies buried there may not be embalmed and must be in a biodegradable shroud or container. No headstones or other individual markers may be erected, although family members can plant indigenous trees or shrubs on the grave.

Royal Oak pledges to maintain a “meadow-like” appearance in the green burial area, without pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers or even watering. So far there are fewer than a dozen occupants in the green burial zone, but there is room for up to 250. As the park fills, even the roads will be removed to create more spaces.

There are plans for similar burial parks in Ontario and New Brunswick.

Some conventional cemeteries have made provision

for semi-natural burials, in part because they are running out of space. Mountain View Cemetery, the largest in Vancouver, is the first municipal cemetery in North America to earn a “green hybrid” designation from the Green Burial Council because it permits burials without traditional coffins or concrete liners. With no more plots for sale, Mountain View also lets families disinter remains after 40 years, deepen the plot, and rebury the remains along with the newly deceased.

If there's one drawback to a natural burial, it's the absence of a place to write an epitaph. Still, friends and family can always dedicate a bench at a park or golf course to the memory of a loved one.

But it won't make a bit of difference to the departed.

DRINKING FOUNTAIN FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN



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BC Bestsellers:

(For the week of Feb. 14)

1. *Whitewater Cooks at Home* by Shelley Adams
2. *Trauma Farm* by Brian Brett
3. *A Life in the News* by Tony Parsons
4. *Had a Glass 2010* by James Nevison & Kenji Hodgson
5. *The Expanded Reilly Method* by Mike McCardell
6. *The Complete Book of the Winter Olympics* by Jaime Loucky & David Wallechinsky
7. *The Best of Chef at Home* by Michael Smith
8. *Mountain Timber* by Richard Mackie
9. *The Encyclopedia of Raincoast Place Names* by Andrew Scott
10. *Everyday Indian* by Bal Arneson

~ Assn. of Book Publishers of BC



TALEWIND BOOKS

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BOOKS

Brian Brett writes a rebel history of rural life



Keith Shaw photo

By Theresa Kishkan

Brian Brett's *Trauma Farm: A Rebel History of Rural Life* (Greystone Books, 2009) and

Eric Soblin's *The Cello Suites: J.S. Bach, Pablo Casals, and the search for a Baroque Masterpiece* (House of Anansi Press, 2009) are two books of non-fiction on two very different subjects yet each author brings a wide-ranging curiosity to the material he is exploring.

Brian Brett lives on Salts Spring Island and is well-known in literary circles as a poet and novelist. With *Trauma Farm*, he demonstrates that he is also a brilliant memoirist.

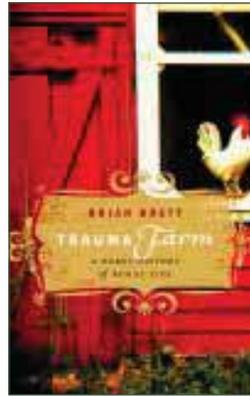
In telling the story of buying a small neglected farm with his partner Sharon, he forgoes a predictable chronology; instead, he begins at dawn on a day which encompasses 18 years. This stylistic device allows us to see the way time is always fluid on a farm. History is always present – the long history of human interaction with domestic animals and crops as well as the personal history of the author and his family. The reader is invited to the world of Trauma Farm, populated by Stonewall Jackson, the horse, the dogs Olive, Sam and Jen, the sheep, the peahens and peacocks who roost in the maple, the dizzy chickens, honeybees and pigs.

Brett is a delightful host. He takes us to see the gardens filled with garlic and lilies, the orchard trees in bloom, loud with bees. Unapologetically, he also shows us the castration

of pigs and the slaughter of meat birds (done quickly); before guiding us to a table laden with the fruits of his labour — lamb shanks, salads, even a wicked Calvados:

“...The proof level was through the roof, and even watered down it could nearly make you go blind. My liver still quivers at the memory of it.”

And Brett is a wise teacher. “One of the intentions of Trauma Farm is political — to create while leaving



only a small footprint. It's an argument against the modern mythology of agribusiness that believes we can control the gorgeous organic complexity of the planet. The small farm is a dying anachronism in our age, but it is here that some of us are taking a rebel stand, returning to the traditional knowledge

that grew good food for thousands of years.”

The book concludes late in the evening of the those 18 years, its author listening to frogs and a peacock shouting in the maple, at home in the moonlight. A wonderful book, beautifully written.

In 2000, two and a half centuries after the death of J.S. Bach, Eric Soblin attended a concert of Bach's cello suites at Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music, performed by Laurence Lesser. The program notes, indicating that “no known composer's manuscript of these works exists,” intrigued him and his experience of the music, “more earthy and ecstatic than anything I'd ever heard,” drove him to find out more about both Bach and the Catalan cellist Pablo Casals, who restored the cello suites to musical repertoire in the early 20th century.

Part detective story, part love

in *Trauma Farm*

song, Siblin’s book is a masterful exercise in investigative journalism yoked to a more personal quest to understand his own surprising obsession with this music. (His previous job was as pop music critic at the Montreal Gazette.)

He organizes his material in homage to the cello suites; each chapter replicates their structure: six movements, beginning with a prelude and followed by a sequence of stylized dances.

When were the cello suites composed? No one knows for certain. Bach’s second wife Anna Magdalena made a copy of them around 1730 but it’s thought that at least several of the suites date to Bach’s period of employment as Kapellmeister in the court of Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Cöthen, 1717-23.

Siblin traces every reference and echo of the cello suites, hearing in them biographical nuances, for instance, the moment when Bach first learns of his first wife’s death:

“Three notes establish a gut-wrenching sadness. There’s a slight tremor on the fingerboard, the bow a harbinger of difficult news. The cello, wavering at first touch, recovers

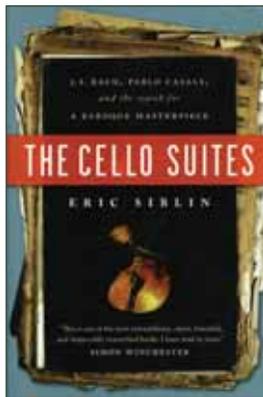
its equilibrium and reports a painful chronicle.” This is exactly right, I think. The opening prelude of Suite No. 2 in D minor is as profoundly and sorrowfully sombre as anything I’ve ever heard.

Siblin’s reconstruction of Pablo Casals’ 1890 discovery of the cello suites is marvellous. At age 13, Casals was walking in Barcelona with his father in search of sheet music.

“On Carrer Ample they went into another music shop. As they rustled through the musty bundles of sheet music, some Beethoven cello sonatas were located. But what’s this? A tobacco-coloured cover page inscribed with fanciful black lettering: *Six Sonatas or Suites for Solo Violoncello* by Johann Sebastian Bach. Was this what it appeared to be? The immortal Bach composed music for cello alone?”

The interweaving of Bach’s story and Casals’ story (which itself echoes 20th-century history and politics), and Siblin’s own self-discovery, makes for compelling reading.

I highly recommend this book, accompanied of course by a recording of Pablo Casals playing the six cello suites, made between 1936-9.



Time flies like an arrow, fruit flies like a banana. (Groucho Marx)

New titles and old favourites for everyone

~ MARCH'S FEATURED LOCAL AUTHOR ~

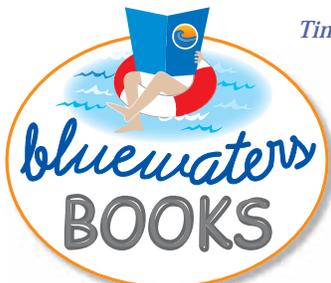
Natasha Rosewood:

psychic healer and author of

Aaagh – I Thought You were Dead

Saturday March 27, 1 – 3 pm

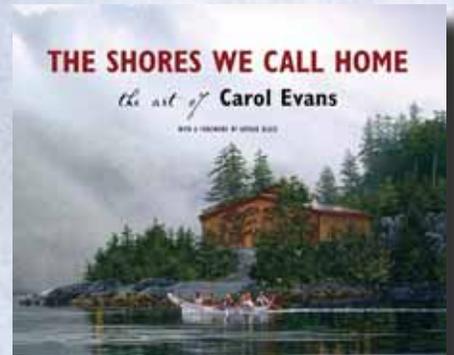
(Rosewood will take private appointments locally on Sunday, March 28)



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

MARCH

- Wed. March 3.....P. H. Living Heritage Society AGM - Sarah Wray Hall (Irvines Landing), 6:30 p.m.
 Wed. March 3.....GARDEN BAY PUB REOPENS for the season, 11 a.m.
 Thurs. March 4.....MPES PAC meeting - MPES, 6:30 p.m.
 Fri. March 5.....P. H. Fall Faire Society AGM - P. H. Legion, 11:30 a.m.
 Sat. March 6.....Madeira Market - P. H. Community Hall, 10 a.m.
 Mon. March 8.....P. H. Food Bank pick up - P. H. Community Church, noon
 Mon. March 8.....P. H. Garden Club presents John Gillespie - P. H. School of Music, 10 a.m.
 Tues. March 9.....P. H. Paddling Society AGM - Garden Bay Restaurant, 7 p.m.
 Tues. March 9.....P. H. Women's Society will host Kim Watts - P. H. School of Music, 10 a.m.
 Mon. March 10.....P. H. Branch, St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary Meeting - Lily Lake Village, 1:30 pm
 sat. March 13.....Joe Stanton - Garden Bay Pub, 8 p.m.
 Sun. March 14.....Daniel Bolshoy and Paul Marley - P. H. School of Music, 2 p.m.
 Tues. March 16.....P. H. Wildlife Society present Billy Terry, author of Blue Heaven - PHSS, 7 p.m.
 Wed. March 17.....SCRD information presentation on new Bylaw Enforcement Notification - P. H. Legion, 7 p.m.
 Fri. March 19.....MPES Quiz Night Fundraiser for Abbie Evans and Darcy Perry - P. H. Legion, 8 p.m.
 Sat. March 20.....Seedy Saturday - Pender Harbour Community Hall, 10 a.m.
 Sat. March 20.....DJ K-tel dance fundraiser for PHSS Arts and sports programs - P. H. Community Hall, 8 p.m.
 Mon. March 22.....P. H. Food Bank pick up - P. H. Community Church, noon
 Tues. March 23.....P. H. Women's Society will host Gary Little - P. H. School of Music, 10 a.m.
 Wed. March 24.....MPES PAC Spring Chicken Sale pick up - MPES
 Sat. March 27.....Bluewaters Books presents Natasha Rosewood - Bluewaters Books, 1 to 3 p.m.
 Sat. March 27.....Rock 'n' Roll Night with Bear Music - P. H. Legion, 5:30 p.m.

COMING NEXT MONTH:

Artwave: April 2 - Studio & gallery tour of Pender Harbour Friday through Sunday

Eldercollege (Register at Capilano University in Sechelt):

April 7 - *The Garden That is You*. Vegetable gardening sponsored by the Pender Garden Club and presented by Capilano University Eldercollege at the P. H. School of Music.

April 13 - *Matters of the Heart: How to Avoid a Catastrophic Cardiac Accident*
 Sponsored by the P. H. Health Centre and presented by Nancy MacKay.

FERRY DEPARTURES

Effective March 1 - June 29, 2010

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



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

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

- ♣ Daily except Sundays
- Apr. 2 and May 24 only
- ♦ Apr. 5, May 20 and 21 only

THE HARBOUR DID SHINE

The Community School Society would to thank everyone who participated in the Olympic Torch Relay Community Celebrations on February 4 and the School Rally Events on January 22.

The spirit of our community certainly shone brightly through the efforts of many volunteer organizations, our schools and individuals, and was most evident on the faces of those chosen to carry the Olympic torches and in the voices of those performing Canadian folk music on stage.

A huge thank you to the following organizations and individuals that contributed immensely to the success of the celebrations: Marg Penney, Eric Graham, SCRD, Deb Cole, Paola Stewart, Sabine Tamm, Al Stewart, Paulet Hohn, Lois Ross, Sunny Charboneau, Cindy Schroeder, James Pashniak, Darcie Murray, Corbett Edwardson, Cam Meakins, Harbour Spiel, Don Basham, Randy Udahl, Wayne Bergman, Rick Smalley, Lightning Runners Club, Rotary Club, MPES principal Fred Thorsell and students, staff and Junior Leadership Program, PHSS principal Nancy Brindley, students and staff, Jennifer MacInnes, Keith Shaw, Margaret Hartley, Kerry Muhlman, Larry Curtiss, Rick Harmer, Edmund Arceo, PH Chamber of Commerce, Andrea Prowse, PH Dragon Boaters, Egmont and Pender Harbour Fire Protection Services, Pender Harbour Lions Club, Marg Skelley, Joy McLeod, Pender Harbour Choir, Sharon Halford, Pender Harbour Friendship Group and the Pender Harbour Pipe and Drum Band.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE TORCHBEARERS:

Daphne Pay, Travis Ramsey-Wall, Brittany Sheppard, Lauren Storoschuk, Kenneth Tran and Cassandra Whelan.



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SATURDAY: Prime Rib
SUNDAY: Eggs Benny

Live Music Sundays @ 2 pm

MARCH 7: Larrie Cook and the Bluesmasters
MARCH 14: Joe Stanton and the Precious Littles
MARCH 21: Gaetan and the French Connection
MARCH 28: Peter van Deursen

**Reopening
March 3!**