

\$5.00

# The Pender Post

January 2024

# Post

Since 1971



Pender Island's Community Connection  
PenderPost.org VOL 54 #646

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V0N 2M0

# Happy New Year

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AURORA  
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# **The Pender Post**

**LETS DO A CIRCLE**  
A workshop facilitated by Ben Kadel

**Pender Community Hall**  
**January 28th, 1 to 3pm**

Learn about the Circle Process - An effective tool to support healthy conversations in meetings, with family, friends and neighbours, and for team building

Brought to you by the SGI Community Justice Program

Capital Regional District

**Arts & Culture**

**Project Grant Deadline**

Project, Series, and Extended Programming Grants support non-profit arts organizations.

Funding can be used to produce and present arts initiatives such as:

- ▶ One-time projects
- ▶ A short series of events
- ▶ Extended programming within a year

**Apply by Jan 18, 2024 at 4:30 pm.**

Online information session: Jan 10, 2024 12-1 pm.

**Learn more and register for info session at [www.crd.bc.ca/arts](http://www.crd.bc.ca/arts)**

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CRD Arts & Culture Support Service  
Ph: 250.360.3215  
E: [artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca](mailto:artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca)

**MEET WITH ELIZABETH MAY M.P.**

*Share your ideas for a brighter future!*

**PENDER COMMUNITY MEETING**  
Pender Islands Community Hall  
4418 Bedwell Harbour Road  
Thursday, January 11  
6 to 7:30 pm

**Elizabeth M.P. May**

If you have any questions, please call or email [Elizabeth.May.C1@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.May.C1@parl.gc.ca)

250 **657-2000**  
[elizabethmaymp.ca](http://elizabethmaymp.ca)

**SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS**

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The Pender Post is published once a month as a non-profit service to the community. Those who buy an annual subscription to *The Pender Post* and are residents here, are automatically members of the Pender Post Society. The board meets monthly and is comprised of representatives from the various non-profit clubs and societies. To send a new representative, please contact Jan Wallace at [secretary@penderpost.org](mailto:secretary@penderpost.org).

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## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The new year is upon us. How does the year fly by so quickly? It is hard to take in that 2023 is already a piece of our past, and we are on to the next year. New Year's is traditionally a time of making resolutions, but that implies dwelling on our failures, and stressing over what we should be doing instead. I choose wishes over resolutions; I would rather reflect on what we are doing right, and wish that we might continue to build on that foundation.

My wish is that our community will continue to rebuild and recover from difficulties brought by the epidemic. I think we have a renewed understanding of the importance of working together, of recognizing needs, and of reaching out to support each other in times of struggle. I look at all the volunteers who put so much of themselves into creating events and opportunities to engage us. I look at the programs designed and implemented by businesses, community services, and others. They make Pender strong.

My wish is that we will continue to change and grow in our relationships—with each other, with the First Nations for whom these islands are traditional territory, and with our natural surroundings. I wish and dream that we might continue to do everything within our power to mitigate the climate crisis, and that we would recognize that every effort we make, no matter how small it seems, moves us forward.

My wish is that we will continue to take time for gratitude. Last evening I stood on the breakwater at Thieves Bay with my dog “pack walk” friends, all of us in awe as we gazed at the spectacular sunset. Pender sunsets are often spectacular, but this one was overwhelming. Several of us murmured, “I can't believe how lucky I am to get to live here.” We are lucky, blessed, privileged to live on these beautiful, beautiful islands. I wish for us to remember that.

I wish for us all a happy, healthy, hopeful 2024. Best wishes to you, from *The Pender Post*.

*Annie Smith*

## SPECIAL NOTICES

### Ecumenical Sunday

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is observed throughout the world during the third week of January and is customarily recognised by the churches of Pender Island. Following the hiatus of the pandemic, a joint service to celebrate our unity will be held on January 21, hosted by the Community Church, meeting at 10:30 in the chapel at Hope Bay Bible Camp. Lunch will follow in the dining room. All are welcome to attend.

The 2024 theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, chosen by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso with the facilitation of the local Chemin Neuf Community, is “You shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbour as yourself.” Based on Luke 10:27, the international theme calls Christians to act like Christ in loving like the Good Samaritan, showing mercy and compassion to those in need, regardless of their religious, ethnic, or social identity.

*Judy Neil*

### Community Conversations

We had our second Community Conversation in November. The community was invited to ask questions of Adam Olsen and Deb Morrison. At this meeting, over 30 Penderites expressed their concerns regarding a wide range of topics including fading road traffic lines, fireworks, deer grazing damage, and the removal and destruction of home based business signage. We thank all the community members that showed up at this event and were engaged in these conversations.

Community Conversation meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis. As the needs of the community change so do the guests who are invited to take questions. So far we have reached out to or plan to reach out to all Island Trustees, Paul Brent, Elizabeth May, Ministry of Transportation and the local Fire Department.

The next meeting, with Adam Olsen and Paul Brent taking questions, is scheduled for January 12 at 9:30 am at the Community Hall. For information, reach out to [penderearth@gmail.com](mailto:penderearth@gmail.com).

We are very thankful to the Community Hall and Andrea Mills for making room for us for these events

*Mary Anne Pare & Kathy Cronk*



with Joel

Kids Club

# After School Program

CRAFT PROJECTS, THEATER, SEWING, PAINTING, DRAWING, FILM, CLAY WORK, BEADING, AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

AT THE HALL

JANUARY 10- MARCH 13, 2024

WEDNESDAYS

3:45PM - 5:15PM

\$135

FRIDAYS

10:00AM - 4:00PM

\$486



FRIDAY'S PROGRAM IS A FUN DAY FILLED WITH REAL LIFE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND ENCOURAGING KIDS TO BE CREATIVE



# Youth Nights

Grade 6+

Pender Island Community Hall

Wednesdays

Jan 10- March 13 2023

5:30pm - 8:00pm

**\$225**

Additional \$5.00/week if would like a meal included



Register by emailing [epicentre@sginh.ca](mailto:epicentre@sginh.ca) or calling 250-629-3665



## Start a new chapter.

### Join the Library Board

Our Vision:

To be dynamic and welcoming centre where all can learn, discover, explore and connect.

- Join a governance Board, with staff-led daily operations
- Friendly and productive meetings, 10/yr. in-person or online
- Help support the valuable role of public libraries

Pick up an application package, or visit the Library Website: About Us - Volunteering

Pender Island Public Library



MORE INFORMATION

Laura Vilness (Chair) and  
Carmen Oleskevich (Library Director)  
250-629-3722  
[penderislandlibrary@crd.bc.ca](mailto:penderislandlibrary@crd.bc.ca)



# Fate Brings Brave Entrepreneurs to Our Island

*Scott and April, owners of Vanilla Leaf Bakery and the new Copper Otter Restaurant, are charming, ambitious, willing to take risks, and very loyal to their staff.*

Shortly after I moved to Pender Island approximately four years ago, Scott Hipkin and April Conlin, who had just bought the Vanilla Leaf Bakery, arrived at the door with a surprise birthday cake. It became even more of a surprise this week when I was told that it had been their very first cake delivery. Scott and April had literally just gotten going with a single oven in operation. The surprise continued when they told me that they had had no previous experience as bakers. And it was a delicious cake!

Scott and April have known each other since grade school in Saskatchewan, living across the road from each other. Years later, after raising two sons as a single parent, Scott came to BC to visit friends and, like so many of us, fell in love with the place and decided to stay. April was at the time a school teacher and travel agent and travelled back and forth for some time. They finally moved to Sidney, having purchased a boat. During their many sailings, April would always point to a house on Pender and decided that life on a gulf island was her dream.

They quickly decided that retirement wasn't for them and began looking at small businesses in the area. Scott had experience as a silent partner in restaurants and night clubs, and for twenty years was a mortgage specialist. On a whim, April contacted Docksider Realty and was informed that the Vanilla Leaf was for sale. In spite of having no direct experience, they decided to take the plunge. April had studied Home Ec and had been taught baking by her mother. She was prepared to jump in head-first, so they set about to find the necessary staff. It was a tough slog for a while, and from April to October they didn't have a day off. They were able to keep their staff by paying well above minimum and creating benefits and an RSP plan. By maintaining high quality and keeping prices as low as possible - not to mention the trusty generator which keeps them open and the coffee hot during the occasional power outage - they were able to make a success of it.

They began thinking about the possibility of opening four or five coffee shop/bakeries in different locations in order to keep the momentum going, and the profit margin manageable. They were approached by Jo next door, who mentioned that he was leaving Jo's Place and asked if they would be interested in taking over. They quickly decided that fate was taking a hand, so went for it and opened The Copper Otter. They are able to keep staff busy by working in both the bakery and the restaurant, so it became a win/win situation. They presently have a staff of 47 in the summer and 35-40 in the winter - the largest employer on Pender at the moment.



Their future plans include extending the patio so they can double their seating capacity, and adding ceiling fans and heaters so they can remain open for three, maybe even four seasons.

The idea of After Otters was the brainchild of employee Kyle Jones. Their liquor license extends until midnight, so it seemed a great idea to create a kind of night-club environment where people could come to spend the evening. They are hoping to incorporate some entertainment and perhaps karaoke nights in the near future.

Scott and April are determined to maintain high quality product while ensuring a living wage for their staff. They are a welcome addition to Pender and have already made a big difference to the island. And I personally love that they are here, because they make delicious authentic Portuguese tarts!

*Allan Gray*



## George Henry (Harry) Brackett

October 11, 1929 - October 23, 2023



It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Harry Brackett, who left us on October 23, 2023 at the age of 94.

Born on Salt Spring Island, Harry spent his childhood on Pender Island with his parents and seven siblings in a log cabin on a large piece of land. He had a deep love of Pender Island, and spoke fondly of his childhood in the woods and on the ocean. He was fishing, gardening, and learning to live off the land from a young age.

He worked as a logger at 16, and felled trees throughout the Gulf Islands until he married Norene in 1955. The two moved to the mainland where they raised three children, and Harry had a long and successful career as an auto body mechanic. While skilled at tinkering with just about anything, he was never without a roll of duct tape for a quick fix.

Harry's love of the outdoors lasted a lifetime. Family holidays were often where there was a lake and he could fish. He would be sure to remind you it would be nice if there was cold beer in the boat too. The extended family went camping every summer for many years, usually exclusively in the rain.

Harry and Norene moved back to Pender Island in the early 1990s, and in his later years he enjoyed golfing and golf course clean up, coffee and a treat at Southridge, and breakfast out on Sundays. He could solve a sudoku puzzle with the best of

them, and never missed a re-run episode of Bonanza.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years Norene, children Janet (Kelly), Ross (Jen), Luke (Cheri), and grandchildren Cassidy (Ryan), Emma, Isabel, Jacob, Gordon (Miranda), Lucas, and Julieanne.

There will be a celebration of life in the spring of 2024, more details to come.

*Cassidy Scott*

### Remembering Harry Brackett

Harry Brackett was a long-time family friend and also a great friend of the museum through his personal connection to North Pender's settler generation. Over some 30 years of Sunday breakfast get-togethers that included Harry and Norene, conversation often turned to island events of the past.

Here's just one example of how Harry's memory worked. A few years ago, the museum received an online enquiry from an Ontario family asking about their Pender ancestor who was "lost at sea" in 1939. A *Victoria Times Colonist* archival search filled in the facts, but I wondered if Harry remembered the death of Frederick Moore, a 21-year-old fisherman and father of two? Not only did Harry recall (he would have been eleven at the time) but he also knew that Frederick's mother Isobel Moore was the midwife who had delivered his younger brother in the early 1930s. That clue filled in a lost piece of Pender's health care history, plus the equally tragic story of Isobel's death in a Port Washington house fire in 1945. So interesting.

A museum Facebook friend asked if any of Harry's stories were recorded, and they were. Chris Wakaluk, who produces the blog, "The Stories that Brought You Here", interviewed Harry in 2019. Listening to Harry's voice as I write this article is like having him right here. Thanks, Chris.

Our hearts go out to his wife, Norene, and to all his family and friends, but we're fortunate that his stories live on. Thanks, Harry.

*Simone Marler, Family friend*

## Brian Stanley Hunter

1945-2023



It is with great sadness to announce the passing of Brian Stanley Hunter. Brian died peacefully September 27, 2023 at the Chemainus Care Center. Brian was born May 29, 1945 in Ladysmith. He is the oldest son of Robert Hunter and Clara Ellen Hunter (nee Gray). Brian graduated from Ladysmith High School, after which he enrolled at UBC to study Marine Biology. After his first year he suffered a breakdown and had to leave UBC. When Brian was well again he enrolled in college and studied to be an accountant. Brian worked for many years at Crofton Mill in the office, also in Mackenzie BC.

Brian loved to travel. He lived in Australia for a while, working his way around the continent visiting every place he could. When he returned to BC he decided he would like to go back to school and take cooking. Brian became a chef, and a great cook he was.

Brian worked on the train across Canada for a time, then he got a job cooking on a freighter towing a barge out of Tuktoyaktuk. Brian then got the job of his dreams with RivTow out of Vancouver, cooking for a crew of eleven. Brian enjoyed this job. He traveled from the furthest point of the Aleutian Islands to San Francisco, and said it was like being on a holiday. Brian worked on the tugs for 20 years.

Brian lived on Mayne Island for a time, then moved to South Pender Island. Brian stayed there until his health grew

worse and he had to move back to Ladysmith.

Brian knew many people in his lifetime. He always met someone he knew wherever he traveled. Brian always felt so fortunate to have such a wonderful family and good friends. Brian was predeceased by his parents, Robert and Clara Hunter, and brother Robb Hunter in 2021. Brian is survived by his sisters Sharon Smith (Dwight), Helen Hunter (Frank), brother Dan Hunter (Christine), sisters-in-law Gayla Hunter, Nancy Hunter (Ron Albertin) and by many nieces and nephews. A celebration of Brian's life will be held in the spring of 2024. Please donate to charity of choice.

*Sharon Smith*

## John W. Fisher

1936-2023



John Wentworth Fisher was born in Huddersfield, England on 23 March 1936, the only child of Harry and Mary Fisher. His Yorkshire schooling and experience in the fabric and coal mining industries paved the way to Swansea University in Wales where he achieved a B.Sc. (Honours) degree in Chemical Engineering in 1963.

John, his wife Juliet and their son Julian emigrated to Canada where the birth of two daughters, Alison and Melanie, completed the family.

*Continued page 48*

## MLA

### BC Government doubles down on magical thinking to address housing affordability crisis



During this fall session, the BC government introduced dramatic changes to housing policy in British Columbia. At one point we had four active bills (35, 44, 46, 47) all related to the housing affordability crisis.

My response to Bill 44: Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act, 2023, was a 12,000-word, one and a half hour speech, a culmination of my 15-year journey in local and provincial governance.

The speech broadly reflects my concerns and critiques with the current trajectory of housing policy in British Columbia and I dig into the complexities of the housing affordability crisis. However, I also call for collective action that goes well beyond housing, urging genuine dialogue and comprehensive solutions. The following offers a summary of my comments.

For millennia, we worked together to deliver basic human needs—food and shelter—creating societal bonds and fostering creativity and innovation. Today, the real estate market impedes universal housing security, pitting wealth creation against basic human rights and general well-being.

The current housing market is designed to generate wealth for those that own property, but it widens the gap with those who don't own property. Consequently, the system we created is generating wealth for some while impoverishing others financially and socially.

Housing insecurity forces non-property owners into increasingly tenuous situations. They often must take on multiple jobs, reduce community engagement, and limit educational pursuits. Public security weakens as desperation grows, contributing to addiction and fraying social safety nets.

We have clear examples of what happens when housing systems generate poverty. Canada deliberately experimented with housing poverty on Indian Reserves for over a century with devastating

outcomes. Let this serve as a warning to what happens when housing systems fail the communities they serve.

The housing affordability crisis in Canada has elicited a uniform response from politicians across the political spectrum—build more supply.

Even the BC government is in reckless pursuit of supply. Through Bill 44, they unilaterally eliminated single-family zoning, allowing the development of triplexes and fourplexes. This change will likely only create unimaginable real estate wealth for the property 'haves', while deepening the socio-economic gap with the "have-nots". At the same time, they have heightened the infrastructural demands, burdened some local government administration's ability to process applications, depleted local revenue to pay for infrastructure, and undermined public engagement.

The government's solutions to the housing affordability crisis are driven by a mistaken philosophy that the real estate market will magically start valuing human well-being instead of individual wealth creation. It ignores the reality that building more supply for the past century has not created more housing affordability. They entirely sidestep the reality that housing affordability requires substantive investments in non-market solutions including non-profit housing, cooperatives, co-housing, and other models of housing that foster community development.

I have a hopeful vision for a connected world that prioritizes human well-being over profit, a world that considers housing and food fundamental human rights.

This is a snapshot of the criticisms I have for the systems we have created and maintained and the ideas I have proposed. I hope you will take the time to watch the speech at <https://adamolsen.ca/2023/11/12000-words-on-housing-affordability> and let me know what you think at [Adam.Olsen.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Adam.Olsen.MLA@leg.bc.ca).

*Adam Olsen, MLA*

*Saanich North and the Islands*

## CRD



Someone on Pender asked me last week “so what have you accomplished in the last year as our CRD Director?” I thought about it for a (panicked) moment, and before I was able to reply someone else interceded that I’d done some work on housing, and the topic steered away from the question and into the housing arena. I breathed a sigh of relief that I didn’t have to answer the question. Nonetheless it nagged at me. What did I accomplish in the last year? The immediate thought that came to mind: not much. And that thought hasn’t changed much, though it made me reflect on why.

So why didn’t I accomplish much? Part of that is simple: it’s more about supporting those around me who do accomplish things. I have at my disposal (bad word choice) some CRD staff who are directly responsible for getting things done. And they got some good stuff done, which is no mean feat in an environment that is a multi-level bureaucratic swampland, with the greatest quagmires presented by senior government, and in particular the province. Those senior levels of government care little about small rural electoral areas and that is made worse by our association with a big urban regional district and the complications that come with being islands. One has to fight through these headwinds to make progress or even maintain the status quo.

My biggest concern on our islands is housing, and the CRD has made progress, some immediate, like squeezing \$2.75 million from a provincial program that really didn’t fit what we had, to charting foundational paths by developing a rural housing strategy, partnering with local groups and working jointly with the Islands Trust to apply to the CMHC Housing Accelerator program, something neither entity could do on its own. The benefits of those foundational programs may take a few years to deliver results and

the success perhaps not attributed to those who laid the foundation, but they will bring benefits far beyond their cost.

What other things have I accomplished? I stayed out of the way. When good people have ideas that you might not fully understand, you need to let them run with them. It has been amazing to see a strong team approach develop within CRD staff, as well as how our volunteers and staff work together. I’m seeing synergies where the sum of the parts is dramatically exceeded by the work of the whole. Our volunteer committees and commissions have made great progress and provide outstanding value to our communities—there are over 70 active volunteer members. I would say the same of my tireless Alternate Director and housing advocate Rob Fenton. These are tough jobs and I hope everyone on our islands appreciate how much they do for us.

I don’t have the space to list all the areas where progress has been made. But supporting housing, transportation, economy, reconciliation, agriculture, environment, arts, internet, local harbours, water and sewer, education, emergency management and response have all seen successes, and especially sweet when we can help local groups deliver value to our communities.

If I accomplished anything, it was only through supporting others who truly delivered. The job ahead is to sustain the momentum as the challenges ahead aren’t getting any easier.

*Paul Brent,  
CRD Director for the SGI*

## Islands Trust



## North Pender LTC

A busy fall for sure with Trust Council, family illness, and the adjustment to living on Salt Spring for family health issues. I find myself grateful for the community working with me through this difficult time.

The 2024 meeting schedule for the North Pender LTC is as follows:

Friday, January 26, 10 am St. Peter’s Anglican Church Hall - Regular Meeting

Friday, February 23, 10 am - Electronic Only Meeting and Applications Only

Friday, April 5, 10 am - St. Peter’s Anglican Church Hall - Regular Meeting

Saturday, May 25, Noon - Pender Island Community Hall - Regular Meeting Noon to 3 and Community Information Meeting from 3 on.

Friday, July 26, 10 am - St. Peter’s Anglican Church Hall - Regular Meeting

Saturday, September 28, Noon - Pender Island Community Hall - Regular Meeting Noon to 3 and Community Information Meeting from 3 on.

Friday, November 29, 10am - St. Peter’s Anglican Church Hall - Regular Meeting

Housing. The new online Housing Affordability Website is now available at <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/housing-affordability>. The Province has released regulations and policy manuals related to recent housing legislation (<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023HOUS0171-001945>). Islands Trust staff have not yet analysed the full implications of this for our communities.

## Webinars

We have two webinars in January and February for Freshwater.

### Islands Trust Freshwater Sustainability Strategy and Online Atlas

January 24, 7:00 pm

Join Islands Trust for a presentation of the Islands Trust Freshwater Sustainability Strategy that sets out a vision and actions to address freshwater supply challenges, support climate action, and protect freshwater resources over the longer term. The strategy identifies how Islands Trust will work with key partners in other government agencies, First Nations governments, community groups, and island residents. Presenters will provide examples of how the Strategy has been implemented to address climate change and will share *What the Water Tells Us*, a film that was created during development of the strategy. In addition, there will be a demonstration of the Islands Trust Area Freshwater Atlas, a new online communication tool.

Register in advance for this webinar at <https://islandstrust.zoom.us/join/85928760000>

### Groundwater: Our Shared Responsibility!

February 13, 7:00 pm

Groundwater is a unique amenity of the Islands Trust Area. Join Islands Trust and provincial staff to learn further about groundwater resources and best practices for well management on the islands. Risk of saltwater intrusion is of special concern for coastal aquifers. The likelihood of saltwater intrusion in groundwater wells increases with pumping demand and from coastal hazards such as rising sea levels and storm surges. Come learn about actions to protect against saltwater intrusion and to preserve our groundwater.

Register in advance for this webinar at <https://islandstrust.zoom.us/join/85928760000>

Information from our September meeting if you want to know more about VIHA:

<https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/food-safety/food-safety>

### Disappeared Signs

I have received emails about MOTI taking signs from road margins. I have forwarded this issue over to the Executive Committee of Trust Council for follow up with staff.

### Poaching and Polluting

Thanks to those who have phoned in poaching or polluting violations. To make this easier here is the contact information you need: All things salt water: Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Fisheries Violation Reporting, <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/contact/report-signaler-eng.htm>, 1-800-465-4336, DFO.ORR-ONS.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca All other areas: BC Conservation Officer Service, RAPP - report all poachers and polluters, <https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>, 1-877-952-7277, Conservation.Officer.Service@gov.bc.ca.

### 4815 Schooner Way

Update from Islands Trust Bylaw Enforcement on the BC Crown Council decision related to 4815 Schooner Way:

“The Crown Prosecutor has stayed the charges because they believe there is no substantial likelihood of conviction and that it would not be in the public interest to pursue a prosecution.”

Be Heard: If you want to voice your opinion about this decision please direct your email to:

Bylaw Enforcement:  
bylawenforcement@islandstrust.bc.ca  
and CC:

Deb Morrison:  
dmorrison@islandstrust.bc.ca

Aaron Campbell:  
acampbell@islandstrust.bc.ca

Peter Luckham,  
IT Chair, Executive Committee:  
pluckham@islandstrust.bc.ca

David Maude,  
Executive Committee:  
dmaude@islandstrust.bc.ca

Be sure to cite the above property description and the information we have received from Islands Trust Bylaw Enforcement in the quotes above. Thank you for communicating your agreement or disagreement with this decision as early as possible so that all involved in efforts to manage enforcement issues in our community are informed of your thoughts.

*Deb Morrison,  
North Pender Trustee*

### South Pender LTC

Happy New Year!

Here's wishing everyone had a very happy holiday season and is off to a great start in the New Year with (hopefully) minimal power outages this winter season. I have only had a couple of meetings in the past month; see below:

### Corporate Planning Process

Since our last meeting in November, I completed an initial pass at a timeline analysis of the steps within the process to align with the Financial Budget process, Trust Council meetings and Strategy process. The CAO is going to gather the various existing policies and procedures so they can be reviewed for completeness against the draft Corporate Planning Process. As part of the process, we will be conducting a gap analysis and identifying areas that require new or revised policies and procedures to be completed.

### December Trust Council Meeting Highlights

Meeting and Development Application Procedures and Public Notice Requirements: To reduce spending and create efficiency, Trust Council asked that staff prepare a draft amendment to the Trust Council Meeting Procedures Bylaw so that it applies to all 13 LTCs

and add an amendment to require the release of the LTC agenda outline two days before the release date of the full agenda package. This will provide communities with an opportunity to write in comments pertaining to the agenda items in a timely manner.

In addition, a draft LTC Development Procedure Bylaw and a Public Notice Policy is being created to establish standard procedures applicable to all LTCs and Trust Council.

**Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Climate Change Leadership Steering Committee**

Congratulations to Deb Morrison who was appointed to this position.

**Vision Statement Work**

A draft vision statement was developed and is to be sent to First Nations already engaged in the Trust Policy Statement review. As a Vision Statement is intended to be included in the Trust Policy Statement, it should be received for input by First Nations as part of

the review currently taking place. The report included in the agenda package is intended to accompany the statement for background material as well.

**Trust Policy Statement**

Trustees have not yet seen the revised Trust Policy Statement as it went to First Nations for their review and input first. Once they have completed their review and sent us their input, the Trust Programs Committee will receive the package for review. This is anticipated early spring as First Nations requested additional time to finish compiling their input. Trust Programs Committee wholeheartedly supported this request in November.

**Financial Planning Draft Budget**

Trust Council reviewed the Business Cases and Operational Initiatives that feed into the Budget as well as the Islands Trust Conservancy Board Requests.

**Creating an Annual Performance Review and Employment - Chief Executive Officer**

Under New Business, this topic was discussed as we currently don't have a policy that adequately covers this area. As our only employee, it is incumbent upon us to have a robust policy regarding the CAO's performance review to provide timely, constructive feedback regarding their position and job performance. A draft policy was presented to Council, and it was agreed that the draft policy would be passed on for review and comments to the consultant that gets hired to conduct the CAO's annual performance review early in the new year and included in the overall work request package.

**Trust Council Meeting Schedule and Agenda**

Another topic under New Business. This discussion revolved around the current set up of Trust Council meetings and the ineffective way of decision making that has become common practice. The suggestion is to move Briefings, Reports, and Delegations to short monthly zoom meetings (2 - 4 hours). That will then free up time and space to allow for better discussion and decision-making.

By creating space to have a full discussion prior to a decision-making meeting, we can improve our decision-making process and make better informed decisions.

**Regional Planning Housing Work**

An impressive Housing Options Toolkit draft was presented for early information. A draft Trust Council Housing Strategic Action Plan was also presented for approval of priority actions.

All in all, the December meeting had a packed agenda with a lot of discussion on many topics. The next Trust Council meeting is currently scheduled for March 12 - 14 in Nanaimo. As always, please feel free to reach out if you would like an in-person discussion.

*Kristina Evans,  
South Pender Trustee*



**Pender Island Art Society**



*Petit Salon at the Community Hall*



With the holiday season in our rear view mirrors and a brand new year ahead of us, we are looking forward to planning our spring art show. (Want to join us? Grab a membership now!)

We had a few brave souls who came out for the card trading on one of the most dismally wet days of the year. There was no shortage of good treats to eat and some very interesting conversations sprang up covering wide ranging topics. We also had some fun cards to trade with each other.

However, before we get that far ahead, there are workshops coming up, including plans for evening sessions, good for those who can't make the daytime ones. Ideas in the planning stage include an artist lead group critique of our work in a friendly supportive setting; a two part watercolour workshop, and more. Join us and bring your ideas!. Information will be posted on our website as plans mature.

Also join us for an upcoming workshop on January 8 and 22, 1-3 pm, as we explore the world of working in pastels. Grace Frate, an Honorary Member of the Society, has moved to Salmon Arm to be with family. She left us all the pastel supplies you need to have some fun; pastels, paper, blending tools, and more, so you only need to bring your ideas or pictures you would like to recreate.

We have a selection of books available for reference. We will have two consecutive sessions, (if you want, you can work with pastels at home and then bring your work to the last session and continue). You are invited to join us in either session. You can also bring any pastels of your own. We can compare the qualities, textures and uses of different brands of pastels available. (Yes pastel mania is a thing!)

You will need gloves, masks, and your ideas. (Bring a small handheld vacuum cleaner if you have one; otherwise we can control the chalk dust with a damp paper towel.)

Sessions are free for members and \$5 drop-in for non-members. The best deal is to join the Art Society (\$35 a year) and stay informed on the workshops and events planned.

Check [www.penderislandart.com](http://www.penderislandart.com) for meeting dates and a list of our participating artists, as well as links to their art. You can also email PIAS at [penderart@hotmail.com](mailto:penderart@hotmail.com).

*Corinne Parks*

**Pender Island Celtic Music Society**



*The Highlanders welcomed Santa to Hope Bay on December 16*



Though this season can be a very busy time for folks, it's not jam-packed with gigs for our pipe band. Practice goes on every week, of course, and we spent a fair bit of time working on Christmas tunes to be ready for the mid-December arrival of the Santa Ship. The tunes can be rather tricky because of the limited range of the bagpipes (only nine official notes). You may notice that some tunes sound a little "different" as they have been adjusted to fit into our available notes. The drum corps can provide the rhythmic accompaniment for any tune of course, and they help us all to stick together.

By the time you read this most of the holiday season will be over, and the new year ready to start. The Pender Highlanders hope all of you have enjoyed the holidays, and wish you all the very best in 2024!

*Caren Rennie*



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## THE ARTS

### Pender Island Quilters' Circle



Out with the old year and in with the new year. The Quilters' Circle will have a very interesting start for the new year. Our Christmas party was very well attended and oh so very yummy: a pot luck lunch with all the trimmings. The executive thanks all the members who so willingly supplied a very wonderful lunch. Just the right amount of savory and sweets to tempt even the fussiest diet. The room was so welcoming with all the Christmas table runners and quilts hanging all around St. Peter's Hall. Show and Share was a treat. Some quilts will be this year's presents and some were quilts from past Christmases. There were a couple of crazy games, lots of laughter, and for those in the know please don't say the word colour. This game was won by Donna Smyth, tricking several women into saying just that word. All in all, it was a perfect ending to our 2023 year.

Onward to January's first meeting which is on January 8 at 9:30 am in St. Peter's Hall. Heather Duncan, our program coordinator, has come across a very exciting table runner for us all to make. It's an appliqued sea glass pattern, using material that looks like stained glass. It could be made to look like a river bed, or a walk on the beach, or just about anything your imagination conjures up. This will be a two-part project. January will be the cutting out of the stones and sharing the material. Each member is asked to bring along some steam-a-

seam and material that would remind you of little pebbles, or sea glass you would find on the beach. It will be a fun project and we hope everyone will give it a try. The February meeting will see everyone putting the sea glass together and turning it into a table runner or wall hanging. Do mark your calendar and plan to join in the fun.

We are always looking for new members to join our group. So, if you are new to the island and would like to come to a meeting, please feel free to join us on the second Monday of each month, right through to June. You will be most welcome and for anyone who wants to learn to quilt, this group has a wealth of knowledge to pass along to you.

We missed seeing our favorite quilter around the tables this past year. We wish Cindy Hultsch all the best in the new year. We send our deepest sympathies to Beth Arcand and her family with the passing of Ray.

Our quilting philosopher Laura Vilness is away in Dubai seeing the world. We wish her a fun-filled trip. So, in conclusion, I give you the quilters' prayer: cut with hope, stitch with grace, quilt with dreams, bind with laughter, and share with love.

*Karen Gagnier  
(standing in for Laura Vilness)*

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Pender Photo Club



Fall shadows frame a disc-golf basket at Fort St. John, BC. Photo by Judy Graham.

Camera Club Shoots Landscapes

The December meeting of the Pender Photo Club, held via Zoom, had the theme of “landscapes” and featured a wide array of attractive photographic images (45 in total) ranging from snow-packed mountain peaks to rice paddies to prairie skies to cityscapes (OK, the theme was just a guideline.) and more. Most importantly, the Zoom format allowed the eight attendees to quietly celebrate the season by sipping wine in the comfort (and safety) of their homes. The evening involved much casual banter and it was great to learn about the various editing techniques such as cropping, darkening/lighting parts of

the photo, exaggerating colours, or even adding items to enhance the photos.

Our next meeting will be via Zoom at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, January 2. Attendees are urged to submit up to six photos on the theme “Seascapes.” Send photos to Urs Boxler at ursboxler@gmail.com. Urs will also send out the Zoom link and provide any information you may need. Stay tuned, for a Christmas party is under discussion and may be held in January. We welcome new members. Both the inexperienced and old pros will be made to feel comfortable, so come on out.

Hans Tammemagi

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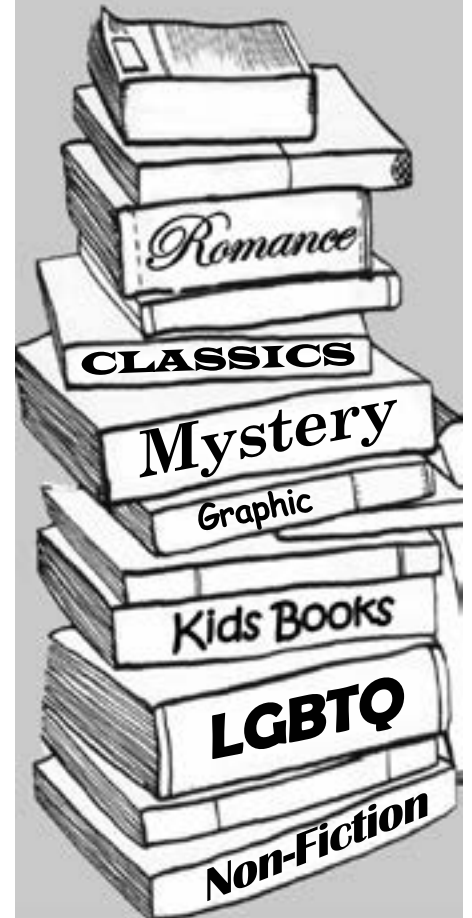
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Pender Solstice Theatre Society



Above: Helen Lemon-Moore, Grace Parker, Sitka Honan-Smith and Ethan Smith.  
 Below: Joyce Davis, Yvonne McKenzie, Wendi Lopatecki, Colette Clark, and Camaya Fehr



Last month's pantomime, *Camelot*, was a rousing success. Over four days, four hundred plus Pender Islanders enjoyed this Christmas tradition filled with laughter and boeing, and shouting, "The ghost is behind you." Teddy gained a fan club with the audience yelling "We love you, Teddy," while Morgan LeFae and Valerin the Vicious were booed every time they stepped on stage. Merlin saved the day, and everyone cheered when Laughalot was knighted. Connie Clatterbottom kept us entertained with her hunt for a date, and who could keep a straight face when Marlon came in selling ice creams! And finally, to the King's delight, Prince Arthur and Guinevere ended the show with their engagement on the Happy Day.

Director Karen Parker and Producer Margaret Alpen are to be congratulated on a job well-done. And special thanks go to Caroline Knight as costumier, Candace Aldridge for stepping in as stage manager, and all the talented actors and youngsters who worked so hard to bring it all together.

Also last month, Solstice members enjoyed a murder mystery play-reading. It took place on a dark and windy night in Gregory Franklin's amazing stone house, so it was an evening full of atmosphere.

Looking forward, Solstice Theatre is getting ready for the Spring production of *Four Weddings and an Elvis*. This production was originally slated for April 2020, but was shut down due to COVID. The 2024 iteration is being directed by Tammy Adolf, with several of the original cast members returning, and some new actors as well. This zany romantic comedy details the goings-on at a Las Vegas wedding chapel and is scheduled to hit the stage April 19 - 21.

*Evan Llewellyn, President*

## Ptarmigan Arts



Happy New Year! Have you recovered from the many celebrations? We're getting a running start into 2024 with a big focus on the visual arts and much more in the pipeline. At the end of the month, the Ptarmigan AGM will prove to be quite dramatic with many incredible applicants for only two vacant board positions. Who will make the cut? Come to watch the race (or vote, if you're a member) ...and stay to hear what we've been up to and where we're going next.

### Drawing Basics Continued

Wendy Gardner's very successful (and very fun) Drawing Basics class is back for another round in 2024. Develop some basic drawing skills and engage the right side of your brain. If you have a sketchbook and some pencils that's great, if not there will be materials available to use in class. \$60 for 4 weeks from January 11 to February 1 from 6:30 - 8pm at the Pender School. Subsidies available as always. Register at [ptarmiganarts.org/programs](http://ptarmiganarts.org/programs).

### Pathway to Visceral Abstract Painting

"Learn the art of being fearless and dive into creating an abstract painting that excites you." Join Kathleen Theriault as she leads you down the abstract painting path. Beginning with a limited colour palette in a range of four values from light to dark you'll see how to carve out shapes, create rhythmic lines and exciting texture. The program will be held on two Saturdays, January 20 and 27 from 12:30 - 4:30 pm at the Anglican Church Hall. This is a beginner to intermediate painting class (acrylic to oil) open to ages 14 and over. \$90, plus your own materials from the provided list. Register at [ptarmiganarts.org/programs](http://ptarmiganarts.org/programs), subsidies available.

### Ptarmigan AGM

We are hosting our Annual General Meeting on January 29 at 7pm at the Community Hall. We will be giving reports on the past fiscal year's financial statements, programs and operations,

and will be sharing about what's coming up for the organisation. This meeting is open to the public, though only Ptarmigan general or artist members are allowed to vote. We have two open board positions to fill! We've received the most wonderful applications; it will be a joy to see who will join us for the new term.

### Visual Artists Pop-In Tours

January 28, February 4, and February 11 Each day will feature a different collection of artist studios, allowing visual artists to explore the unique studios of your fellow artists, witness their creative process, and engage in supportive critique. These tours are exclusive to visual artists. We hope to group studios by location, so there are still a few spots remaining. Would you like to showcase your studio on the tour? Please reach out to [shannon@ptarmiganarts.org](mailto:shannon@ptarmiganarts.org).

### Art In the Library Returns

Exhibit your art at the library! The Pender Island Public Library has revived the Art in the Library program, and we are proud to be partnering with them. The 2024 schedule will be available on their website ([sgicl.bc.libraries.coop/pender-island](http://sgicl.bc.libraries.coop/pender-island)) and you can also find an application form for a future show. The library is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 am - 3 pm. Don't miss the current show, *Watercolor and Wonder* by Doug Sieberg, which will be on display until the end of January.

### Uke Strum

The Community Uke Strum returns in 2024. We encourage players of all ages and abilities to join—even if you've never played the Ukulele before, come participate in this fun and welcoming group and give it a try. There will be extra chord charts available each week. Strummers meet at the Pender Island Community Hall Lounge on two Wednesdays each month from 5- 6 pm. \$5 drop-in fee accepted at the door. (Come see the Uke Strummers perform

at the Community Gathering on January 19 at noon to get a taste.)

### Weekly Community Gatherings

Every Friday from 12 - 1 pm we get together at the Community Hall for live music from local artists and homemade soup in partnership with the Community Hall, Ptarmigan Arts, and the SGI Neighbourhood House. This month we'll be hearing from Pondsides (Colin, Wendi, and Jim) on January 5 playing all original tunes with vocals, guitar, banjo & mandolin. Pocket Full of Dust (Tim Storm and his quartet from Victoria) will make the trip to Pender on January 12 with guitar, fiddle, upright bass and banjo...and lots of singing and harmonies of old-timey and bluegrass tunes. Our fantastical Uke Strummers will treat us to some Beatles renditions on January 19, and Sarah Smith will close out the month on January 26 with her magic.

### First Saturday Open Studios

First Saturday Open Studios is an artist-run open studio event. This project creates an opportunity for artists and art lovers to visit artists at work in their studios, ask questions, learn about techniques and build community. Several Pender artists have already registered and we hope to encourage many more to do the same. Artists can register with First Saturday Studios online at [firstsaturday.ca](http://firstsaturday.ca)

For information and to register for any of the above programs or events, please visit our website: [ptarmiganarts.org](http://ptarmiganarts.org).

*Alice Carolina*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**BC Smoking Cessation Program**

Most smokers become addicted to nicotine, a drug that is found naturally in tobacco. Tobacco smoke is very harmful: it contains a deadly mix of more than 7,000 chemicals; hundreds are harmful, and about 70 can cause cancer.

People who stop smoking greatly reduce their risk for disease and early death. Although the health benefits are greater for people who stop at earlier ages, there are benefits at any age. You are never too old to quit.

Quitting smoking is hard and may require several attempts. People who stop smoking often start again because of withdrawal symptoms, stress, and weight gain.

Nicotine withdrawal symptoms may include:

- Feeling irritable, angry, or anxious
- Having trouble thinking
- Craving tobacco products
- Feeling hungrier than usual

Nicotine replacement therapy can help with withdrawal symptoms.

Did you know the Provincial government has a special program to help BC residents quit smoking? And it's free! BC residents that desire to quit smoking are allowed 3 consecutive months per year of nicotine replacement therapy, either patches or gum or inhalers, for free.

Kick the habit! The sooner the better!

See the pharmacist for more information.

**Monday - Friday 10am-6pm**  
**Saturday - Sunday 10am-4pm**

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**Three on the Tree  
Production Society**



With the end of December and the arrival of the new year our biggest update and message we have from Three on the Tree this January is a tremendous thank-you to the community! The Lantern Festival is always a huge coordination effort but what is most special about the event is all of the people who come together to work and celebrate. We have many repeat volunteers and performers who we watch grow with the festival and just as many new faces who bring energy and new creativity and we are so grateful for each and every one. We will have a much more extensive report and thank you in February but, in the meantime, we just want to say that we could never create this festival without the support of our volunteers, performers, and audience. Each and every person who contributes no matter how small is appreciated and helps bring about the event's success. We also have a big thank you to our federal and provincial sponsors who continue to keep this community event possible year after year. We acknowledge the financial support from the Province of British Columbia as well as the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage.

In the upcoming months we are starting to think about the coming year and the return of the festival next December, so if you are interested in participating in a volunteer or organizational capacity, please don't hesitate to contact us on Facebook or via email or our mailing address. We also welcome feedback and are very excited if you are interested in sharing images or your thoughts. Find us at [threeonthetreeproductions@gmail.com](mailto:threeonthetreeproductions@gmail.com) or PO Box 96, Pender Island, BC, V0N 2M0.

Wishing you all a year of magic for 2024!

*Alaia Hamer and Liis Graham,  
Production and Artistic Team*

**Coleman Rogers  
Memorial Bursary**

**Tribute to Russ Searle**

On behalf of the committee members I would like to thank the Pender community, both island and off island folks, who generously donated in memory of Russ Searle to the Coleman Rogers Memorial Bursary Fund.

This cause was near and dear to his heart. Russ was a valued member of our Board for several years where we discussed applications for bursaries and perused the information given to us for each student. It appears we have been given enough funds to donate at least one bursary through this kind idea of the Searle family. There are more funds to come.

We look forward to serving the students of Pender Island in their post secondary choices this coming year.

Thank-you to all who donated. Charitable donation receipts for donations of \$50 or more that were contributed in 2023 will be issued in January.

*Joanne Enns*

**Help Build the  
Schooner Way – School  
Multi-use Trail**

**26% of funding has been pledged!**

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**Pender Island Parks  
& Recreation Commission**

Community Hall (Pender Island Recreation and Agricultural Hall Association)



2023 proved to be an exceptionally bustling year, marked by a surge in the collective yearning for neighborly connection and engagement. It felt as though a wave of communal spirit had converged all at once, and we were truly grateful to have been a part of the vibrant tapestry of your get-togethers.

As in the past, the Hall served as the backdrop for an extensive range of activities throughout the year. Invigorating exercise classes, creative craft workshops, community meetings, social clubs, captivating concerts and weddings—the Hall was a hub of diverse events. In total, it officially hosted 1190 uses, totaling approximately 4000 hours over the course of the year.

Among the notable uses has been the SGI Neighbourhood House Daycare and kids programs. We are happy to continue being host to these programs while they await the completion of the Epicentre renovations. Our heartfelt gratitude extends to all Hall users who have made concerted efforts to navigate this busy period harmoniously.

A special acknowledgment is due to our dedicated volunteers, without whom the Hall organized activities would not be possible. From hosting films and Community Cafes to facilitating Friday fun activities, carpet bowling, and serving as comfort center hosts during power outages—each volunteer contributes immensely. Our sincere thanks go to Tania, Sig, and Vicki, who played pivotal roles in enhancing the food security programs with which the Hall assists and a tip of the hat to our Board Members who oversaw the development, with input from the community, of a refreshed version of our strategic plan for the next five years (so stay tuned).

We'd like to convey our deep gratitude to the many young volunteers whose enthusiasm and dedication have transformed the Friday Gatherings and Saturday Markets into truly remarkable

experiences. Their commitment is invaluable, and it adds an extra layer of vibrancy to our community events.

As we reflect on the whirlwind of activities that defined 2023, we extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed to making the Hall a vibrant and inclusive space for all. Here's to another year of shared moments, community spirit, and the joy of coming together!

**Films**

**Inception**

Friday, January 12, 7:15 pm

Dom Cobb (Leonardo DiCaprio) is a thief with the rare ability to enter people's dreams and steal their secrets from their subconscious. His skill has made him a hot commodity in the world of corporate espionage but has also cost him everything he loves. Cobb gets a chance at redemption when he is offered a seemingly impossible task: Plant an idea in someone's mind. If he succeeds, it will be the perfect crime, but a dangerous enemy anticipates Cobb's every move. Doors open at 7, film starts at 7:15. \$5 - \$10 (sliding scale).

**The Super Mario Bros. Movie**

Sunday, January 14, 2:30 pm

While working underground to fix a water main, Brooklyn plumbers Mario and brother Luigi are transported down a mysterious pipe and wander into a magical new world. But when the brothers are separated, Mario embarks on an epic quest to find Luigi. With the assistance of a Mushroom Kingdom resident Toad and some training from the strong-willed ruler of the Mushroom Kingdom, Princess Peach, Mario taps into his own power. Doors open at 2:15, film starts 2:30. \$5 - \$10 (sliding scale).

**Barbie**

Tuesday, January 16, 2:30 pm

By popular demand we are showing Barbie as a matinee. Barbie and Ken are having the time of their lives in the colorful and seemingly perfect world of Barbie Land. However, when they get a chance to go to the real world, they soon

discover the joys and perils of living among humans. Doors open at 2, film starts 2:30. \$5 - \$10 (sliding scale).

**The Zookeeper's Wife**

Saturday, January 27, 7:15 pm

As tribute to Holocaust Remembrance Day, we will be playing *The Zookeeper's Wife*. 1939 Poland, the Warsaw Zoo flourishes under Dr. Jan Zabinski's stewardship and his wife Antonina's care. When their country is invaded by the Nazis, Jan and Antonina are forced to report to the Reich's newly appointed chief zoologist, Lutz Heck. The Zabinskis covertly begin working with the Resistance and put into action plans to save the lives of hundreds from what has become the Warsaw Ghetto. Doors open at 7, film starts 7:15. \$5 - \$10 (sliding scale).

*Continued*

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**Gran Turismo**

Sunday, January 28, 2:30 pm

The true story of a team of unlikely underdogs—a working-class gamer, a former race-car driver, and an idealistic motorsport executive—who risk it all to take on the most elite sport in the world. Doors open at 2:15, film starts at 2:30. \$5 - \$10 (sliding scale).

**Community Hall Activities**

**Introduction to Leaders in Training**

Saturday January 13, 27,  
February 10 & 24, 11 - 12:30,  
Ages 12-18

Join the fun and boost your skills. Dive into cool activities, gain work experience, and amp up your resume as you become an awesome leader. Learn to plan and lead activities and events, discover tips on group management, teamwork, and leadership. Then, rock those skills in real-life situations. Age exceptions can be made for youth with volunteer experience and a reference. Free. Registration Required. FMI or to register go to: [penderislands.org/registrations/](http://penderislands.org/registrations/) or call 250-629-3669

**Monday 55+ Lunch and Activities**

The SGI Neighborhood House and the Hall have been working together to create a fun, social day with lots of different activities. The lunch aspect started a while ago; each week lunch is served from 12 - 1 pm for a suggested \$8 - \$10, but pay what you can is fine. If you have ideas for pre and post lunch activities we would love to hear from you.

**Carpet Bowling**

Wednesdays, 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Australian rules Carpet Bowling offers

mild to moderate exercise, a bit of friendly competition and great fun. No special clothing is needed except clean flat soled shoes. Recommended drop-in is \$2.

**Community Gathering Lunch**

Fridays 10:45 am - 1 pm

Join the weekly Community Gathering for a visit in the café, a delicious lunch, live music and fun activities for everyone.

**Friday Fun**

Fridays 10:45 am - 12 pm

Every Friday come and join our youth leaders from 10:45 - 12ish as they lead fun activities. All ages are welcome, older adults are particularly encouraged as a fun way to get to meet children and youth of the community. Activity is by donation.

Friday January 5 - **Snowy Crafts**

Friday January 12 - **Make Soda Syrup**

Friday January 19 - **Make Paper Airplanes & Race**

Friday January 26 - **Taffy Making**

**Saturday Special Activities at the Market**

**Gratitude Graffiti Board**

January 6

Share with the island and the world what you are grateful for in this interactive community art project. We will have the graffiti board up for all of January to add to and read.

**Garage Sale Day**

January 13

It's time to go through your cupboards, drawers, and garage to find things that

need a new home. Cost per table is \$5 or 10% of what you earn (whichever is lower), the tables are 6x3 feet and you must book ahead by calling 250-629-3669 (leave a message with your email address) or email [bookings@penderislands.org](mailto:bookings@penderislands.org)

**Treasure Hunt Day**

January 20

Receive a clue from the Youth Leadership Café Hosts and search the Hall grounds to find a treasure.

**Puzzles & Brain Teasers Day**

January 27

Puzzles will be available to work on. If you'd like to bring a puzzle to share or leave one for others, please do, and if you'd like to try for a free drink from the cafe, we will have a few brain teasers to solve to see if you are deserving of the treat.

**Winter Market**

Saturdays, 10 am - 1 pm

Come out on Saturdays to the Market to browse local food, crafts, and produce; support your local artisans, artists, farmers and cuisiniers. Drinks are available in the Café where you can visit with other market goers or our helpful Youth Leadership Volunteers.

**Volunteering at the Hall**

**Youth Leadership Program**

Youth 10 to 18 are welcome to join this fun program. Learn how to do things like run the café, help at special events, make posters, be a caretaker of the Community Hall, assist with activities, organize and lead activities, mentor younger or less experienced youth,

**RAVEN ROCK FARM**

[www.ravenrockfarm.com](http://www.ravenrockfarm.com)  
[ravenrockfarm.pender@gmail.com](mailto:ravenrockfarm.pender@gmail.com)

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Pender Island, BC



**Eat**

Fill up with super-fresh produce, garden starter plants and flowers.

Explore the farm on a Guided Farm Tour.

**Learn**

**Stay**

Relax and recharge at The Perch – a unique BnB overlooking a regenerative farm.

help older people with technology, be an event and activity photographer... develop your skills and get great experience. Come in on a Friday or Saturday between 10am and 1 pm and ask to talk to Andrea or Liam S.

**Adult Volunteers**

**Films** - Are you a cinephile? We need people to help take entry donations, sell popcorn, and help tidy-up after movies. Volunteers watch the show for free and receive a bag of popcorn.

**Comfort Center Volunteer** - Power outages, heat warnings, other urgent issues... help the community have a fun and safe way to spend these special days. Volunteers take shifts to open up the Hall, open the café, assist people in finding things, and liaise with regular users.

**55+ Activity Leader** - Do you have a fun activity you would like to have happen on Mondays before or after the 55+ Luncheon? We would love to hear from you.

**Youth Leadership Program Mentor** - We regularly have 3 - 10 youth help out at the Friday Community Gathering and Saturday Market; they all want to learn real life work skills and have fun. We would love to have a few more mentors with a variety of skills they would like to share.

**Advertising and Office Support** - Would you like to help make our social media presence amazing? Learn some new administrative skills or brush up on some old ones? Then this is for you!

All training will be provided. If you are interested in volunteering please email [bookings@penderislands.org](mailto:bookings@penderislands.org) or call 629-3669

*Andrea Mills & George Fowlie*

**Magic Lake Property Owners' Society**

**Magic Lake Estates Community Issues Assessment-Update**

If you made lots of comments on the Assessment Survey, the summary results are shown on the December 6 CRD virtual meeting slides. See the slides at <https://getinvolved.crd.bc.ca/mle-community>.

**Summary of Comments from December 6 CRD Virtual Meeting**

The Magic Lake Estates community is generally satisfied with the level of local services that they receive, with the exception of local roads and active transportation.

The community also raised concerns with respect to affordable housing and the Islands Trust, which are much more complex multi-faceted issues to address.

There is a desire for better cross-jurisdictional collaboration, which could be led by the CRD (e.g., organize a semi-annual meeting with all the parties involved in local service delivery). Increased effort has been occurring between CRD, MOTI and Islands Trust, but acknowledge that there can always be more.

Additional education/communication with MLE residents would be helpful in better understanding local services and service providers.



*Boat caught on hazardous rock at entrance to Thieves Bay Marina*

There does not seem to be an appetite to explore incorporation/governance options in further detail, although a request to the Ministry could be considered.

**Boat Hazard Rock**

Thieves Bay has a rock close to the entrance of the marina that is exposed at low tide (about 10% of the time). In recent history, several boats have gotten stuck on the rock so a hazard buoy is being investigated with the appropriate government agency. We will keep you posted as more information is available.

For more on what the Magic Lake Property Owners' Society does for, and with, the residents of Pender Island, have a look at the website: [www.magiclake.ca](http://www.magiclake.ca) or contact us at: [notifymlpos@gmail.com](mailto:notifymlpos@gmail.com).

MLPOS Directors meetings are on the second Monday of the month. The next meeting is Monday, January 8, 4:00 pm at the Community Hall Lounge.

*Mary Beth Rondeau, Secretary*

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### Time for a Tune Up?

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- Maintenance is essential for your equipment warranty
- Extends life of equipment

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*Well designed system for our home at a reasonable price. Great customer service after installation. Mark R.*

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## Moving Around Pender



### Is My Favourite Trail On a Map?

A mobile phone can provide a hiker with a convenient map. Two of the more widely used are Google Maps and

OpenStreetMap. The second is a wiki that can be edited:

<https://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=13/48.8/-123.3>

If a favourite trail isn't on OpenStreetMap, adding it is straightforward.

(1) Install a route logging app on your device. Google finds several including GPS Tracks, myTracks, Runkeeper and Strava

(2) Go to the beginning of your route and start the logger. In GPS Tracks, touch the Map icon at the bottom of the screen. Touch Start at the top of the screen to begin tracking.

(3) Walk the route.

(3) At the end of the route, click Stop.

(4) Give the route a meaningful name. ClamBayRoadToGeorgePeak for example. Touch Save to record in a file.

The route log is stored on the device.

A future issue will address upload to a desktop system and log editing.

The next MAP meeting will be Saturday, January 6, 10 am at the Community Hall. New interest is always welcome. Greetings for Christmas and the New Year.

*Peter Easthope*

**Nu-To-Yu Building Fund**

60% of the \$1,250,000 required to build the new Nu-to-Yu facility at the Driftwood Centre has been raised. Government grants will provide some of the remainder but private donations are also requested.

For information see:  
<https://nu-to-yu.com/our-new-build>

To donate to the Building Fund, contact:  
[nutoyudonate@gmail.com](mailto:nutoyudonate@gmail.com)

## Nu-To-Yu

### Pender Island Community Service Society



January and February are typically blustery and slippery. The Nu-To-Yu will not open if the power is out on North Pender. Since wisdom comes with age, and goodness knows there is 'age' on the island, the roads must also be drivable for the postman, the school bus driver, and golden agers. No, we will not hike over if we cannot drive. As if.

When Nu-To-Yu reopens for selling on January 12, 2024, small price increases will be in effect on some items. The base price for skirts and trousers will be \$3, up from \$2. Mugs and glasses upstairs are now 50 cents a piece and the base price for puzzles and games is a dollar. Adult long and three-quarter sleeve length shirts, be they t-shirts, scrub tops, blouses or dress shirts, have a base price of \$2; short sleeve \$1.50 unless tagged higher. Base price lists will be posted around the store and at the cashiers' desk. Yes, there may be outrage, yes Facebook may light up. Goodness knows someone may make a Tik Tok video. Please dig deep and remember this is the first major price increase in eight years....if you can call a loonie major.

It starts with the community donor. The sorting their donations, the bundling up, and the motoring of the donations down to the Nu-To-Yu. Or, from your closet to the car, from the car to the store, from the store to your neighbor. Let us see what they wore. It was an itsy bitsy teeny weeny.....

The Nu-to-Yu would not exist without donations. Since July 2023, and not including the Silent Auction, more than \$10,000 has also been donated for the new community Nu-To-Yu building located near the Driftwood shopping complex. Thank you everyone for the small donations, for the larger donations. All are heartfelt and appreciated. We could not do it without you and we know it.

Finally Christmas decorations will be accepted again in the fall as will winter outerwear. Easter is earlier this year (March) and items for Easter will be accepted in late January.

*Daurel Minion*

## Pender Earth

Our last Climate Café was held December 1. We had a good turnout with stimulating conversation.

A climate café is a facilitated time to share thoughts and feelings about the climate crisis in the company of engaged, supportive others. It is also a place to share responses and practices that we find useful in dealing with increasing environmental threats. When we talk together non-judgmentally about how the planetary emergency is affecting us, it becomes possible to look at truths which are too painful to face alone. As well, brainstorming about practical and creative responses can increase our resilience and hopefulness, as well as counter feelings of isolation.

Our Climate Café does not aim to have a specific outcome. We're not gathering to solve problems, or convince anyone. Rather, we hope to genuinely connect with each other about climate injustice and the crisis we're all facing as a step toward engagement and action for a livable future for us all.

The format for this is in a circle with a talking stick. Participants will be given an allotted time to bring their points forward to ensure that everyone has a chance to speak.

All are welcome Friday, January 5, 9:30 am in the Lounge at the Community Hall. We will meet again on February 2.

This is a pilot project which will run from December to February with the support of the Community Hall. More information and feedback? Reach out to [penderearth@gmail.com](mailto:penderearth@gmail.com).

*Kathy Cronk and  
Mary Anne Pare*



*Santa received a warm welcome when he visited Hope Bay on December 16. Thanks to the Pender Island Lions for keeping this special island tradition alive! Also thanks to our local RCMP for getting Santa here safely and to the Highlanders for piping him in.*

## Pender Island Child Care Society

### Dragonfly Child Care & Family Resource Centre



#### Babysitting Course

Karen Parker will be facilitating the Canada Safety Council's Babysitting Course for youth ages 12 and up. This is an eight hour course that will be held from 9 am - 5 pm on Saturday January 27 at Dragonfly Centre. At this time the cost of the course is dependent on the amount of interest and includes a take home babysitting manual. After achieving their certificate the youth are invited to leave their name and number with Dragonfly so that they can be referred to local island families in need of a sitter. Please call Sarah at 250-629-3039 or email [dragonflyfamilycentre@gmail.com](mailto:dragonflyfamilycentre@gmail.com) to register your child.

#### Family Counseling Sessions

Once a month on every second Monday afternoon, registered counselor Geneva Jacobs will offer supportive services to parents raising little ones. These one-on-one counselling sessions will be held in a confidential space while your child/ren is cared for by an educator. Geneva brings compassion, reflectiveness, and curiosity as she accompanies you in navigating your way toward a more fulfilling and empowered life. We are grateful for the generous support of The Victoria Foundation.

#### Adult Meditation Night

Exploring Expanded States of Consciousness and Meditation will be held every Thursday evening from 7 - 8 pm at Dragonfly. The evening is guided by Glenn Henderson and begins with a variety of different short exercises from breathing exercises to chi gong to experiencing sound frequencies and more. These are then followed by a silent sit meditation.

#### Dad n' Me Pancake Breakfast

Dad n' Me Pancake Breakfast is held one Saturday per month from 9 - 11 am at Dragonfly. This month it will be held on January 20 and facilitators, Pam and Chris, will be there flipping pancakes, sizzling up some bacon, and brewing endless pots of coffee. This is a fabulous program for children and dads, uncles, grandpas or friends to come out for a free breakfast, socialize, play and give mom the morning off! Thanks to the Ministry of Children and Family Development, this program is free.

#### Parents and Babes

The Parents and Babes program runs every Monday morning (except holidays) from 11:30 am at Dragonfly. Sarah Conley facilitates this free drop-in program for parents, caregivers, and their children. Come out and enjoy

snacks, adult and children interactions, developmentally appropriate toys and the book lending library. Thanks to Victoria Foundation and the Pender Island Child Care Society, this program is free.

#### Healthy Opportunities for Preschoolers (HOP)

HOP is held every Wednesday morning from 9:30 - 10:30 am in the school gym. Come on out and join Jennifer Ursell as she sets up new activities each week. From basketball and hula hoops to crash mats and obstacle courses, this program will be sure to tire out your youngster! HOP is designed for parents and caregivers to engage in physical activities and learn new skills with their children 1-5 years. Thanks to the Pender Island School and the CRD, this program is free.

#### Dragonfly website

Check out our website for more information about our programs, helpful parent blogs, and recipes: [www.dragonflycentre.ca](http://www.dragonflycentre.ca).

If you would like further information on Dragonfly activities, you can contact Sarah at 629-3039 or by email [dragonflyfamilycentre@gmail.com](mailto:dragonflyfamilycentre@gmail.com).

*Sarah Conley*

## Pender Islands Conservancy



### Donation Matching Campaign

We have had a great response to the \$10,000 donation matching campaign. But if you have not already done so, you have until December 31 to make your donation to the Pender Islands Conservancy worth twice as much and get your tax benefit for 2023. Your donation will help make our projects and programs happen.

### Memberships

Members, please renew your memberships, which are due on the first of January every year. If you are not a member, we hope you will join us. Your \$20 tax deductible donation pays for your single or family membership and will help us to run our programs in 2024. Also, please do not forget to choose number 5 on the Spirit Board when you are buying your groceries at Tru Value. Your ongoing support is very important and very much appreciated.

### The Conservancy Nature Centre

Our Nature Centre at Hope Bay serves as a source of ecological and conservation information for our community. It also provides a space to promote sustainable shopping while supporting our many talented local artisans and our conservation programs at the same time. We will be open our usual hours over the holiday season: Wednesdays to Sundays from 11 am to 3 pm.

The Nature Centre will be closed from January 10 - 14 for a "Refresh and Refit." In the meantime, please drop by for a visit, meet one of our volunteer hosts, and see the great Coastal Douglas Fir Wildlife display that we have on loan from the BC Museum.

### December's Activities and Reports

The new updated Pender Island Bird Checklists are hot off the presses and are available at the Conservancy Nature Centre. Your \$3 donation per copy will help support birding projects on Pender Island. A huge thank you to Gerald McKeating, John Peetsma, and Bob Simons for spending many hours



*Young biologists participating in the annual Christmas Bird Count for kids*

updating and adding 30 new birds to the list. Thanks also to the folks who created the earlier list for the Pender Field Naturalists.

### The Winter Birding Brush-Up

On a very blustery, wet, and dark December day, fifteen intrepid souls headed out for the Winter Birding Brush up. Every year, about a week before the Christmas Bird Count, a winter bird identification walk is offered to help people brush up on their winter birds and to give beginner birders a chance to venture out with more seasoned birding experts. Unfortunately, due to the wind and heavy rain, the session did not last long, but a good number of bird species were observed. Congratulations to those who braved the weather, and many thanks to Bob Vergette for organizing and to Erin O'Brien, Dan Baxter, and John Peetsma for mentoring the walk.

### Christmas Bird Count for Kids

Pender Islands CBC4Kids happened December 15 at the Hope Bay Bible Camp. A small but enthusiastic group learned about bird identification and what birds can be found on Pender. They also talked about characteristics that all birds have in common, and how the differences among birds can tell us

about what they eat and where they live. The children learned a bit about how we study birds and why studying birds is important. Did you know that there is an albatross named Wisdom who was banded 70 years ago and still returns to Hawaii every year, or that there are birds who migrate over the Himalayas at heights that humans would need oxygen?

The group went to Hope Bay to put what they had learned into action, where they identified 13 different species and counted over 80 individual birds. Afterward, they shared notes while enjoying cookies and hot chocolate. We are grateful to Megan Oriah and Erin O'Brien for planning and presenting this year's CBC4Kids, and to the adults who volunteered as birding mentors. CBC4Kids is sponsored in part by Birds Canada.

### The 123rd Annual Christmas Bird Count

On December 16, volunteers on Pender, Mayne, and Saturna joined birders all over the western hemisphere for the annual Christmas Bird Count. This was the 123<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Bird Count, making it the longest continuing North American citizen science effort in

history! Approximately 40 people went out to lakes, streams, forests, marshes, bays, and shorelines to identify and count birds, covering most of Pender Island.

Afterward, at the evening pot-luck supper (thanks so much to the folks at the Bible Camp for sharing their space with us), Pender participants enjoyed a hot meal while sharing stories of the day's birding adventures. Once the final results have been compiled, they will be shared on our website and in our monthly newsletter.

Many thanks to all the volunteers, and a special thanks to Bob Vergette and Don Peden, who organized the Pender CBC this year on behalf of the Pender Conservancy.

**Native Plant Garden Development**

The Native Plant Garden project at the Community Hall has begun through a partnership between the Pender Islands Conservancy, the Community Hall, and the Pender Island Garden Club. The 5-Year Draft plan has been approved by the Community Hall Board and work on Phase 1 has already begun in the Centre Garden outside the main Hall doors.

A group of enthusiastic and hardworking Garden Club volunteers (who are obviously not afraid of getting mud all over their knees), guided by Erin O'Brien of the Pender Conservancy, have held three work bees already, removing invasive grasses, Himalayan blackberries, and other invasive plants, and preparing the soil for mulching and planting appropriate native plants in the

spring. The Magnolia tree, and the June plum shrubs will remain, and will share the garden space with native shrubs such as Red Flowering Currant.

The Conservancy depends on community support for projects like this one, which will improve the ecological balance and environmental health of our beloved island.

*Elizabeth Miles*

**Natural History Notes**

**Birds of a Feather**

In the trees, they chatter above you, fluttering from tree to tree. They're travelling through the woods, searching for food. Who could it be? You look closer and see... chestnut-backed chickadees...but also red-breasted nuthatches... and also a brown creeper? Wait, is that a golden-crowned kinglet too? An assortment of birds, all flocking together? This is known as a mixed-species flock, a surprisingly common phenomenon in insectivorous bird species, particularly during the non-breeding months.

Mix-species flocks tend to surround a "nuclear" species: social birds who are flexible in what they eat and how they find it. The birds that follow the nuclear species are known as "associates" or "attendants," trailing the nuclear species while it is within their territory. The final piece of the mixed-species flock are the "sentinels," birds that alert the flock when potential predators are around. These flocks gather for increased access to food, and protection from predators.

Mixed-species flocks are made up of several species, each of whom may have a slightly different method of finding food; by travelling together, they increase their collective ability to find food. The role of sentinels also increases the collective ability of a flock to spot predators while foraging, and by travelling in larger groups, each individual bird has a lower risk of being eaten as predators are less able to single out individual prey.

These flocks are an important source of food and protection for many birds during the non-breeding months, and it's been found that the removal of the nuclear species can lead to poorer condition in attendant species. Unfortunately, with increasing fragmentation of native habitats, the potential for loss of nuclear species increases, and flocks often do not persist. Flocks that do remain are in poorer condition than those that would typically be found in non-fragmented habitats. Habitat connectivity is therefore an important factor that allows these mixed-species flocks to persist and benefit all species within them. Mixed-species flocks may also be a way for birds to adapt to new, unfamiliar, or changing environments, because the avenues for finding food increase with additional species. These multi-species assemblages may therefore be important for maintaining diversity of avian communities in the context of rapid environmental shifts that are already occurring due to climate change.

*Sarah Devries*



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Pender Island Parks & Recreation Commission

### Pender Island Farmers' Institute



We are looking forward to 2024 because it marks the 125th year of the Pender Island Farmers' Institute. We plan to celebrate throughout the year, especially during the Fall Fair on August 24 and at the summer Farmers' Markets.

We have wrapped up the Wednesday market until the spring, but we will have the barn open most Saturdays during the Hall's Winter Market hours. Thank you for your support of local food, and a special thank you to our volunteers Anne Burdett and Tom Bueckert.

The BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon program has also wrapped up with over \$20,000 worth of coupons redeemed on our island at the Pender Island Farmers' Market in exchange for Pender Island produce, meat, eggs, honey and herbs. Thank you to The BC Ministry of Health, BC Farmers' Markets, and our community partners the Pender Island Food Bank, Dragonfly Daycare/Pender Island Child Care Society, and SGI Neighbourhood House for making this program possible.

Memberships became due on December 31, so please renew by dropping \$5 into the mail at PO Box 38, Pender Island or e-transfer to [penderislandmarket@gmail.com](mailto:penderislandmarket@gmail.com). We welcome new members; applications are on our website at [www.PIFI.ca](http://www.PIFI.ca).

*Barbara Johnstone*

### Pender Island Ferry Advisory Committee

A Happy New Year to all our ferry travellers!

We have some highlights from the minutes of the BF Ferries and Southern Gulf Islands FAC meeting held on October 5. Fiona Poole and David Wright represented the Pender Islands FAC.

BC Ferries (BCF) has been analyzing time performance in the Southern Gulf Islands and concludes the main challenge is in Village Bay on the 5:30 p.m. sailing. Their next step is investigating options for adjustments. This includes altering schedules to ensure punctual sailings. Implementations of changes are expected to occur in 2024.

Village Bay terminal construction is on schedule for completion. Berth 1 estimated completion is 2027 and Berth 2 is 2034. BCF teams will be in the community next year to share more updates and offer engagement opportunities. The FAC requested that all SGI communities be included in updates and engagements given Village Bay is a hub for all islands.

The BCF project manager for Lyall Harbour reported that design work is underway for the terminal and consequently construction has been delayed. Once internal approvals have been received, BCF will provide an updated construction schedule.

*Continued page 32*



### HAPPY NEW YEAR

#### BC Smoking Cessation Program

Most smokers become addicted to nicotine, a drug that is found naturally in tobacco. Tobacco smoke is very harmful: it contains a deadly mix of more than 7,000 chemicals; hundreds are harmful, and about 70 can cause cancer.

People who stop smoking greatly reduce their risk for disease and early death. Although the health benefits are greater for people who stop at earlier ages, there are benefits at any age. You are never too old to quit.

Quitting smoking is hard and may require several attempts. People who stop smoking often start again because of withdrawal symptoms, stress, and weight gain.

Nicotine withdrawal symptoms may include:

- Feeling irritable, angry, or anxious
- Having trouble thinking
- Craving tobacco products
- Feeling hungrier than usual

Nicotine replacement therapy can help with withdrawal symptoms.

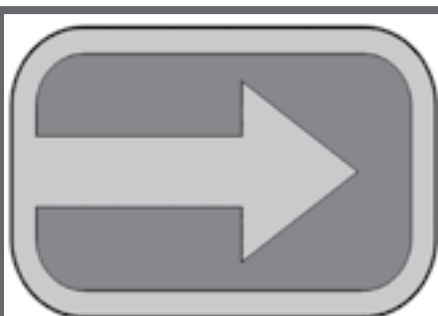
Did you know the Provincial government has a special program to help BC residents quit smoking? And it's free! BC residents that desire to quit smoking are allowed 3 consecutive months per year of nicotine replacement therapy, either patches or gum or inhalers, for free.

Kick the habit! The sooner the better!

See the pharmacist for more information.

Monday - Friday 10am-6pm  
Saturday - Sunday 10am-4pm

**250-629-6555**  
[www.swan.ca](http://www.swan.ca)



# OTTER BAY EXPRESS

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## Victoria

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

## Help on Pender

Tuesday and Thursday

**Health Services**

**Medical Emergency** ..... **911**

**Medical Clinic**..... 629-3233

**Monday to Friday, 9 am - 12 pm and 2 - 5 pm**

Please do not call clinic staff at home. If your circumstance is genuinely of an urgent nature that will not wait until the clinic reopens, call **1-800-866-5602** and ask for the “**Doctor on-call for Pender Island.**” Your call will be returned.

**Audiologist, Donna Stewart** ..... 778-426-4876

**Better at Home Program** ..... 629-3346

**Chiropractor, Dr. Penny Paterson**..... 629-9918

**Community Nurses**..... 629-3242

Carmel Kozac and Miranda MacKenzie

**Community Support Worker/Volunteer** .... 629-3346

**Crisis and Mental Health Counsellors**

Shellyse Szakacs ..... 250-538-8711

Ulla Rembe..... 250-539-0325

**Family Advancement Counsellors** ..... 250-222-0025

**Dentist, Dr. Emma Marler** ..... 629-6815

**Lab Services**..... 629-3233

**Massage Therapy, Tru Hartwood** ..... 250-889-3923

Taylor Watson..... taylorwatson.ca

**Public Health Nurse, Immunization, Prenatal Education**

Julie Duhamé ..... 250-544-2400 or 539-3099

**Pharmacy**

**Pharmacist, Christine Swan** ..... 629-6555

**Other Licensed Health Care Professionals**

**Physiotherapy, Mieke Truijen** ..... 629-9910

**Reg. Massage Therapy, Krista Wissink**.....250-381-7318

**Help Lines**

**Healthlink BC**.....Dial 811

Nurses 24/7, Pharmacists 5 - 8 pm, Dieticians 9 am - 5 pm

**Problem Gambling Help Line**..... 1-888-795-6111

**211** - Free multi-lingual information/referral to wide range of community/social/government services.....Dial 211

**24 Hour Crisis Help Lines**

**A.A. (24 hour help line)**..... 250-383-7744, 250-526-0550

**Islanders Working Against Violence (IWAV)**

Free, confidential support.....1-250-537-0735

Toll-free..... 877-435-7544

**Kids' Help Phone**..... 310-1234

Text.....686868

Chat ..... www.kidshelpphone.ca

**Mental Health Distress Line**

Support/Information ..... 310-6789

Suicide Prevention Helpline.....1-800-784-2433

Vancouver Island Crisis Line .....1-888-494-3888

Text..... 250-800-3806

Chat (Adults) ..... ww.CrisisCentreChat.ca

Chat (Youth) ..... www.YouthinBC.com

**Ministry of Children and Family Development**

MCFD ..... 800-663-9122

Victim Link ..... 1-800-563-0808

**Community Support Numbers**

**Capital Regional District (CRD)**

Director SGI, Paul Brent..... 604-760-9975

Building Inspector.....629-3424

SGI Harbours, Ben Mabblerley..... benmabb@telus.net

Bylaw/Animal Control complaints ..... 1-800-665-7899

Magic Lake Water & Sewer General ..1-800-663-4425

Magic Lake Water & Sewer Emergencies ....1-855-822-4426

**Emergency Hydro** ..... 1-888-769-3766

**Fire Rescue (Emergencies)** ..... **911**

**Duty Officer is available 24/7**.....1-888-574-1959

**Non-Emergency** - Hall #1 and Admin..... 629-3321

**Burning Permits** - online ..... www.penderfire.ca  
or at Fire Hall #1, 4423 Bedwell Harbour Road

**Hall/Meeting Room Bookings**

Anglican Parish Hall ..... rentals@pendersaturnaanglican.ca

School Community Room .....629-3711

Health Care Centre.....629-3326

Legion Hall..... bookings239.rcl@gmail.com

Pender Island Community Hall.....629-3669

**Home Support Services**

Ask for the home support program ..... 1-888-993-2299

**Islands Trust: Victoria** ..... 1-800-663-7867

NP, Deb Morrison..... dmorrison@islandstrust.bc.ca

NP, Aaron Campbell..... acampbell@islandstrust.bc.ca

SP, Dag Falck ..... dfalck@islandstrust.bc.ca

SP, Kristina Evans ..... kevans@islandstrust.bc.ca

**Member of the Legislative Assembly**

Saanich North and the Islands, Adam Olsen..250-655-5600

**Member of Parliament**

Saanich-Gulf Islands, Elizabeth May....1-800-667-9188

**Pender Island Emergency Program**

Emergency Coordinator ..... 250-589-3001

ESS ..... 250-792-0880

**Pender Island Public Cemetery** .....629-6625

**Pender Island Veterinary Clinic** .....629-9909

**Poison Control Centre** ..... 1-800-567-8911

**RCMP, Outer Gulf Islands (non-emergency)** ..... 629-6171

**Crimestoppers** ..... 1-800-665-TIPS (8477)

**Victim Services** ..... 629-6531

**Rescue**

Marine & Aircraft distress ..... 1-800-567-5111

*Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC)*

Search and Rescue (Land) Emergency .....911

**School Trustee, Greg Lucas**..... glucas@sd64.org

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**Anglican Church of Canada**

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Parish of Pender and Saturna Islands • 4703 Canal Road

January 7	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist
January 14	10:00 am	Morning Prayer
January 21	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist
January 28	10:00 am	Holy Eucharist

You are welcome to join us in person or online via Zoom – please contact us for the Zoom link.

Church Office: 629-3634 | Parish e-mail: [admin@pendersaturnaanglican.ca](mailto:admin@pendersaturnaanglican.ca) | Hall bookings: [rentals@pendersaturnaanglican.ca](mailto:rentals@pendersaturnaanglican.ca)

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**Pender Island Community Church (PICC)**

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4405 Bedwell Harbour Road (little white church next to the library) We are a non-denominational church, all are welcome!

Please visit our website ([www.picchurch.ca](http://www.picchurch.ca))

January 7	10:45 am	Dan Glover- Communion Service
January 14	10:45 am	Christian Girard
January 21	10:30 am	Dan Glover- Ecumenical Service, Hope Bay Bible Camp Chapel
January 28	10:45 am	Wm. Phillips

Please visit our website for updated information, or telephone Judy at 629-6168.

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**St. Teresa’s Chapel - Roman Catholic Services**

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4705 Buccaneers Road

January 1	9:30 am	Feast of Mary; Liturgy of the Word and Communion
January 7	9:30 am	Epiphany; Liturgy of the Word and Communion
January 12	9:30 am	Friday Mass with Fr. Rolf in lieu of Sunday
January 21	10:30 am	Ecumenical service*
January 26	9:30 am	FridayMass with Fr. Rolf in lieu of Sunday

\*The first Ecumenical Service since 2020 is hosted this year by the Community Church. All Christian churches and worship groups will be participating in the event. The theme is “You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbour as yourself” (Lk 10:27), which is highlighted by the parable of the Good Samaritan. This year’s service and lunch will take place at the Hope Bay Bible Camp. For further information about our liturgies and times, email [stteresachapel@gmail.com](mailto:stteresachapel@gmail.com) or phone 250-629-6029.

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**The Bahá’í Community of Canada ([www.bahai.ca](http://www.bahai.ca))**

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The Bahá’i Faith Community of Canada ([www.bahai.ca](http://www.bahai.ca)); The Bahá’i Faith Group of Pender Island and Southern Gulf Islands

These events will be hosted by Bev and Don Peden at 4862 Pirates Road, all welcome.

January 12	7:00 pm	Discussion evening: “What is Community?”
January 26	7:00 pm	Discussion evening: “How do you see our community contributing to Peace?”

Please feel free to bring a writing, meditation or prayer that inspires you and provides a path for consultation.

Please email [bevpedenpender@gmail.com](mailto:bevpedenpender@gmail.com) or call 250 412 2524 or visit “[bahaissi.org](http://bahaissi.org)” for more information.

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**Common Table Fellowship in Christ**

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Meets every Sunday upstairs at the Community Hall

Sundays	10:00 am	Meet for coffee upstairs at the Community Hall
	10:30 am	Service
	12:00 pm	Potluck Lunch (around noon)

Common Table Fellowship In Christ is a spiritual family of folks who find Unity and New Life ‘In Christ’. Come as you are, all are welcome. Reach us at [commontablependerisland@gmail.com](mailto:commontablependerisland@gmail.com).

## JANUARY CALENDAR

<b>LEGION</b> .....	40	<b>RECYCLING CENTRE</b> .....	40
Meat Draw, every Saturday, 4 pm		Tues., Thurs., and Sat., 10 am – 3 pm	
Friday Dinner, January 12 & 26, 5:30 pm		<b>NU TO YU</b> .....	23
<i>See below for additional events.</i>		Shopping: beginning January 12, every Friday and Saturday,	
<b>LIBRARY</b> .....	37	10 am - 4 pm	
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 am - 3 pm		Donations (no furniture): beginning January 9, every Tues. and	
		Thur. 9 am – 2 pm and Sat., 11 am - 2 pm	

### WEEKLY EVENTS

Kids Club After School Program, Mondays - Thursdays, 3:45 - 5:30 and Fridays 10 am - 4 pm.....

#### SUNDAYS

Badminton Club, 10 am -noon, School Gym (also Tuesday evenings)

#### MONDAYS

Parents and Babes, 9 am - 11:30 am, Dragonfly Centre ..... 24

Let's Go Walking, 9:30 am (also Fridays)

MYI: 18 Postures for Seniors with Judith, 11 am - 12 pm, from January 8, Community Hall ..... 34

Community Lunch, 12 - 1 pm, Community Hall..... 20, 43

1:1 Counseling with Geneva Jacobs, every second Monday, 12:30 - 4 pm, Dragonfly Centre..... 24

Caregivers Support Group, 1 - 3:30 pm, alternating Mondays (January 1, 15 & 29)..... 34

#### TUESDAYS

Badminton Club, 7:30 - 9:30 pm, School Gym (also Sunday mornings)

MYI: Moderate Yoga with Krista, 9 -10:45 am, from January 9, Community Hall.....

MYI: Gentle Chair Yoga, 11 am - 12 pm, from January 9, Community Hall.....

MYI: Essentrics 11 am to 12 pm, from January 9, Community Hall .....

Artists' Drop-in Drawing with Ron Underhill, 2 – 4 pm, every Tuesday (except January 2), Legion

#### WEDNESDAYS

HOP, 9 - 10:30 am, to December 20, School Gym..... 24

MYI: Gentle Walk with Andrea, 10 - 11 am, from January 11, Community Hall ..... 34

Taoist Tai Chi, 10 am - noon, Community Hall,

Carpet Bowling, 1 -3:30 pm, Community Hall..... 20

Socrates Club with J ohn Gowen, 2 - 4 pm, Legion

Food Only Market 3 pm, Barn behind Community Hall

Kids Club, 3:45 - 5:15, until March 13, Community Hall..... 6, 44

Youth Club, to March 13, 5:30 pm - 8 pm, and Friday all day ..... 6, 44

Uke Strum, to 6 pm, every second Wednesday (Jan. 10 & 24), Community Hall Lounge ..... 17

Youth Night, 5:30 - 8 pm, Community Hall

#### THURSDAYS

MYI: Gentle: Chair Yoga with Erin, 11 am - 12 pm, from January 11, Community Hall..... 34

Euchre with Margaret Vergette, 2 - 4 pm, Legion

Exploring Expanded States of Consciousness and Meditation, 7 - 8 pm at Dragonfly Centre..... 24

Homework Club for High School Students, 5 – 7 pm, Community Hall ..... 44

#### FRIDAYS

Food Bank, 10 am - noon, upstairs at back of Anglican Parish Hall ..... 33

Community Café, 10:30 am - 1 pm, Community Hall ..... 20

Community Gathering Lunch, 12 - 1 pm, Community Hall..... 20, 43

#### SATURDAYS

Winter Market, 10:00 am - 1 pm, Community Hall..... 20

Youth Leadership Café, 10 am - 1 pm, Community Hall ..... 20

#### SUNDAYS

Sunday Lounge for 14-24s, 4 - 9 pm, Community Hall

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

Speakeasy with Leslie McBain, first Sunday of each month, 7 pm, Legion

Photo Club, first Tuesday each month, 7:00 pm, via Zoom..... 15

MLPOS Directors Meeting, second Monday every month, 4 pm, Community Hall Lounge ..... 21

S,DÁ,YES Circle, third Wednesday every month ..... 42

Lions, first Wednesday every month, 5:30 pm, Legion

Quilters' Circle, second Monday every month, 9:30 am, Anglican Church Hall ..... 14

Pender Island Garden Club, second Thursday every month, 1:00 pm..... 44



## JANUARY CALENDAR

5	Fri	9:30 am	Pender Earth Climate Café, to 11:30 am, Community Hall.....	23
		10:45 am	Activity: Snowy Crafts, Community Hall.....	20
6	Sat	10:00 am	Gratitude Day Graffiti Board, Community Hall.....	20
		10:00 am	MAP meeting, 10 am at the Community Hall.....	23
8	Mon	9:00 am	Parents and Babes until 11:30 am, Dragonfly Centre .....	24
		1:00 pm	PIAS Pastels, Part 1, Anglican Parish Hall .....	13
10	Wed	9:30 am	HOP until 10:30 am, School Gym .....	24
		11:00 am	CRC Board Basics Workshop, to 12:30 pm, via Zoom .....	43
11	Thu	6:30 pm	Drawing Basics Continued starts, to February 1, to 8 pm .....	17
		1:00 pm	55+ Cooking Workshops, to 3 pm, Thursdays until February 15 .....	43
		1:00 pm	Garden Club, Community Hall .....	44
		6:00	Elizabeth May Community Meeting, to 7:30, Community Hall.....	4
12	Fri	9:30 am	Community Conversation with Adam Olsen and Paul Brent, Community Hall.....	5
		10:45 am	Activity: Make Soda Syrup, Community Hall.....	20
		5:30 pm	Legion Friday Dinner.....	40
		7:15 pm	Film: <i>Inception</i> , Community Hall .....	19
13	Sat	10:00 am	Garage Sale Day, Community Hall.....	20
		11:00 am	Intro. to Leaders in Training, to 12:30, (also Jan. 27, Feb. 10 & 24), Community Hall.....	20
		2:00 pm	Legion General Member Meeting, Legion.....	40
14	Sun	2:30 pm	Film: <i>The Super Mario Bros. Movie</i> , Community Hall .....	19
15	Mon	9:30 am	Quilting Circle, to 12:30 pm, Anglican Church Hall .....	14
16	Thu	2:30 pm	Film: <i>Barbie</i> , Community Hall .....	19
17	Fri	4:00 pm	S,DÁ,YES Truth & Reconciliation Circle, Fireside Room, 4703 Canal Road.....	42
19	Fri	10:45 am	Activity: Make Paper Airplanes & Race , Community Hall.....	20
		11:00 am	CRC Seniors Advisory Committee, Community Hall .....	43
20	Sat	9:00 am	Dad n' Me Pancake Breakfast, until 11am, Dragonfly Centre .....	24
		10:00 am	Treasure Hunt Day, Community Hall .....	20
		10:00 am	Scrapbook & Crafts Group with Melody Pender, also January 21) to 5 pm, Legion	
		12:30 pm	Pathway to Visceral Abstract Painting starts, to 4:30 pm at the Anglican Church Hall.....	17, back cover
21	Sun	10:00 am	Ecumenical Sunday Service, chapel at Hope Bay Bible Camp .....	5, 29
		1:00 pm	55+ Valentines Day Card Making Workshop, to 3 pm, Legion .....	42
22	Mon	1:00 pm	PIAS, Pastels, Part 2, Anglican Parish Hall .....	13
24	Wed	7:00 pm	Islands Trust Freshwater Sustainability Strategy and Online Atlas, online webinar .....	11
26	Fri	10:00 am	North Pender LTC Regular Meeting, Anglican Church Hall .....	10
		10:45 am	Activity: Taffy Making, Community Hall.....	20
27	Sat	9:00 am	Canada Safety Council's Babysitting Course, ages 12 & up, to 5 pm, Dragonfly Centre .....	24
		10:00 am	Puzzle and Brainteaser Day, Community Hall.....	20
		11:00 am	Intro. to Leaders in Training Ages to 12:30, Community Hall .....	24
		12:30 pm	Pathway to Visceral Abstract Painting starts, to 4:30 pm at the Anglican Church Hall.....	17, back cover
		1:00 pm	Bingo, Legion	
		7:15 pm	Film: <i>The Zookeepers Wife</i> , Community Hall.....	19
28	Sun	2:30 pm	Film: <i>Gran Turismo</i> , Community Hall .....	20
			Visual Artists Pop-In Tour, artist, location and time TBA .....	17
29	Mon	3:00 pm	Parks & Recreation Commission monthly meeting, Community Hall & via Zoom .....	36
		7:00 pm	Ptarmigan Arts AGM, to 8 pm, Community Hall .....	17
31	Wed	11:00 am	CRC Society Tool Box Workshop, to 12:30 pm, via Zoom.....	43

## ADVANCE NOTICES FOR FEBRUARY

2	Fri	9:30 am	Pender Earth Climate Café, Community Hall.....	23
4	Sun		Visual Artists Pop-In Tours (also February 11).....	17
10	Sat	1:00 pm	Adult Music Theory Basics with Sabrina Read starts, to 3 pm, Anglican Church Hall	
10	Sat	3:00 pm	Youth Music Theory Basics with Sabrina Read starts, to 4:30 pm, Anglican Church Hall	
		7:00 pm	Groundwater: Our Shared Responsibility!, online webinar.....	11
18	Sun	2:15 pm	Glazing Workshop, to 5:15 pm, Community Hall	
			<i>A Cedar is Life</i> documentary film, Museum .....	35

**Pender Island Ferry Advisory Committee**

*(Continued from page 27)*

The FAC noted previously that while there is a dedicated ticket booth for SGI travellers at the Swartz Bay terminal, this booth is often multitasking with other routes causing long line-ups during peak hours. BCF later advised that follow up had been completed with the Terminal team to ensure this issue was top of mind. When traffic is busy for the SGI travellers, the SGI ticketing booths are to be dedicated.

SGI FAC expressed concern that there is no process in place to accommodate inter-island rates through Swartz Bay. Exceptions and work arounds are made as required when there are service disruptions. BCF responded that they currently cannot charge inter-island fares at Swartz Bay Terminal as it is not set up on their Point of Sale system. The revenue and tariff department will investigate solutions to this issue and follow up with SGI FAC.

BCF is reviewing how to improve the SGI waiting room at Tsawwassen. More news next month.

David Maude from Mayne and Mary Greenwood from Galiano were re-elected as co-chairs for the Southern Gulf Islands.

Our SGI Ferry Advisory Committee comprises representatives from Galiano, Mayne, Pender, and Saturna. If you have issues for BCF’s attention, call BCF Customer Care at 1.888.223.3779, or comment on BCF’s Facebook page Facebook.com/BCFerries. You can also reach BCF through their website at <https://www.bcferries.com/contact-us> or their Twitter account @BCFerries, or email [engagement@bcferries.com](mailto:engagement@bcferries.com)

We can be reached through our Facebook page or by contacting us directly by email: [JaneDixatJaneonPender88@gmail.com](mailto:JaneDixatJaneonPender88@gmail.com), [DavidWrightatsummerlawns@shaw.ca](mailto:DavidWrightatsummerlawns@shaw.ca), [Fiona Poole at poolefiona12@gmail.com](mailto:FionaPooleatpoolefiona12@gmail.com).

*Fiona Poole*

**Pender Island Fire and Rescue**



Happy New Year Pender Islands! I hope everyone had a fun and safe holiday season.

As of December 14, Pender Fire members had responded to 286 emergency calls. Unfortunately, I do not doubt that number went up before year’s end.

Looking back at 2023, on one hand it seemed like things were going back to “normal” after the COVID years, but more issues like rising cost of living, and nearly nonexistent affordable housing keep pushing people harder and harder; yet we persevere. Our community donated over \$1400 during our boot drive for the Santa Sac and I know that will go a long way to helping the families and individuals it assists.

Every year we recap the emergency calls we attend, but I want to take this opportunity to talk about all the other services we provide. Pender Fire completes Fire Safety Inspections of all the island’s commercial properties ensuring life safety issues are identified and corrected, keeping everyone safe who uses these businesses. Pender Fire attends the Farmers’ Market from June through August every Saturday spreading the message of fire safety. Our prevention team completes BC Fire Smart assessments for residents looking to improve their wildfire resiliency. Pender Fire teams up with RCMP for

the kid’s bike rodeo day as well as attending fire drills at the school. Hall 1 has a propane tank recycling program. We also provide visual inspections of fire extinguishers and training on their use, as well as collecting expired fire extinguishers. Our team is proud to be part of such important programs protecting our islands.

Last month we talked about keeping generator exhaust away from doors and windows. This past week we received a call for a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm that activated. Using our multi-gas detector we searched the house for sources of CO. It was suspected that generator exhaust was entering the house through the unsealed windows and temporary openings in the wall. The generator was shut down, the house ventilated, and the residents were permitted to go back in. This was an incident that could have had a tragic outcome if they did not have a CO detector. This gas is clear and odorless, which makes it so dangerous. So please, check your smoke and CO detectors, and replace the batteries every six months.

*Captain Jon Grelik*

## Pender Island Food Bank Society

We are asked to submit our articles early this month so that everyone can enjoy the Christmas holiday season. By the time you read this, our clients will have received their gift coupons, their Santa gifts, and will be starting the New Year with some comfort and knowledge that Pender Island residents care about them. Everyone who used the food bank in 2023 received a gift coupon at Christmas through Santa's Sac: Tru Value gift cards for \$100 for singles, \$125 for doubles and \$250 for families, plus a ham as well as gifts the children have asked for.

The tree in Tru Value (thank you, Mike) with gift wishes on the angels that decorate the tree enjoyed the response of many Pender residents who took a decoration and returned a gift. Thank you to each and every one of you for making Christmas a bit special for a child on our list. The Food Bank also gave gifts to seniors and those who are shut in.

Thank you so much to Lori Stewart at Port Browning for facilitating the donation of \$200 worth of fresh produce and milk from SYSCO Food Distributors for the Pender Island Food Bank. I heard from fellow volunteers that the huge bag of carrots, family-size milk containers & perfect kiwis & avocados were snapped up by appreciative Food Bank clients.

Our busy little Food Bank has seen an increase of about 25% in the past few months. With help from you & SYSCO, the Food Bank served 43 people.

Donations to the food bank in cash or gifts are always welcome, and you will find a bin at Tru Value for gifts of food. Please do not put in outdated or opened foodstuffs, as we can not give them to our clients.

We welcome volunteers to help with the work of the food bank, and if you feel this is an avenue you can offer service to, please contact Barb MacPherson.

*Bev Peden*



*With a 25% increase in need, the food bank is more grateful than ever for donations of food and cash.*

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## Pender Island Health Care Society (PIHCS)



### New Year's Message

Happy New Year to all! It is our hope that Penderites and their families and friends have had a healthy and happy holiday break, and are ready to welcome a new year of successes, challenges, and surprises.

2024 is shaping up to be another busy year for the Health Centre and the Health Care Society, with renovations, planning for the future within a Primary Care Network, and continuing the search for another physician (among other things).

### Gathering Input from the Pender Public

We strive for quality accessible health care and wellness support for the Pender Islands community.

To accomplish this important mandate, the Society wishes to engage the community to assess health and wellness needs. To this end, we are planning a public survey early in the New Year as well as a public forum for the discussion of issues and gathering of your ideas and suggestions. We welcome your input; this vibrant community is what drives us to continue to provide quality primary health care and complementary services. Stay tuned.

### Urgent Care Accessibility Improvements

We are happy to report that PIHCS has received a second grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the Federal Government, Employment and Social Development Canada. Their Enabling Accessibility Fund provides funding for projects that make Canadian communities and workplaces more accessible for persons with disabilities. These funds will be used to improve accessibility at the entrance to the urgent care part of the Health Centre.

### Volunteer Opportunities at the Health Centre

Do you love gardening or landscaping? Need a little fresh air for your good health? The small inner courtyard at the

Health Centre is a beautiful place for a moment of peace or quiet reflection, but it has seen better days. If you would like to help restore and refurbish it with low-maintenance and native plantings, we'd love to hear from you – please contact the Health Centre at [info@penderislandhealth.org](mailto:info@penderislandhealth.org). It's very much appreciated, and is a fun way to contribute to the health and wellness of the community.

*Urs Boxler for the  
Communications Committee*

### Community Support Programs

“Love has to be put into action, and that action is service. Whatever form we are, able or disabled, rich or poor, it is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing; a lifelong sharing of love with others.” ~ Mother Theresa

### Maintain Your Independence Classes

Classes are \$50 for the eight sessions or \$8 to drop in. If the cost poses a barrier, contact Community Support for assistance; many thanks to the CRD/Pender Parks and Recreation Commission for its financial support of the MYI programs.

**18 Postures for Seniors with Judith**  
Mondays, January 8 - February 26,  
11 am - 12 pm

**Moderate Yoga with Krista**  
Tuesdays, January 9 - February 27,  
9 - 10:45 am

**Gentle Chair Yoga with Erin**  
Tuesdays, January 9 - February 27,  
11 am - 12 pm

**Essentrics with Heather**  
Tuesdays, January 9 - February 27,  
11 am to 12 pm

**Gentle Chair Yoga with Erin**  
Thursdays, January 11 - February 29,  
11 am - 12 pm

To register or have your email address added to our mailing list, leave a message for Andrea at 250-629-3346 or email [andrea@penderislandhealth.org](mailto:andrea@penderislandhealth.org)

### Caregivers Support Group

January 1, 15 and 29, 1 pm - 2:30 pm

The Family Caregivers Support Group is an opportunity for self-care, a place to discuss your concerns, get information, find out what others have done, share your feelings and connect with others. Come early, 12 - 1 pm, for a delicious lunch put on by the SGI Neighbourhood House.

### Act of Kindness

Each month we will bring you a story found in our community. If you would like to have your story of kindness or gratitude added, please contact Andrea.

“I want to express my immense gratitude for the incredible support our community provided during our choir concert weekend. The success of the event would not have been possible without the generosity and dedication of so many people. The musicians who donated their time and talent. Sound, lights, video and our concert marshall; all so important. The piano tuner who came over from Victoria and only charged for his ferry. The members themselves who not only worked on their singing but baked their hearts out as well. The stage and chair set up and take down volunteers, including the Community Hall youth volunteers. The decorating team who were so creative and diligent in taking it all down, too. The front of house volunteers always come through but this year was a first for us to do the concessions ourselves and those volunteers had quite the challenge. Even the husband of one of our volunteer musicians baked delicious cookies. Flowers donated from Petals and Paws brought big smiles from our wonderful director and accompanist. Thanks to all who stepped up to our plea to keep us singing!”

To volunteer, to learn more, to inquire about meeting dates or times, or to sign up for any of the above programs and opportunities, please email [andrea@penderislandhealth.org](mailto:andrea@penderislandhealth.org) or leave a message at 629-3346.

*Andrea Mills,  
Community Support Worker*

Pender Island Museum Society



**A Life in 650,000 Words**

Victor Menzies moved to North Pender Island in 1893 at the age of seven. For the remainder of his long life, he would call Pender home. The museum holds Victor’s handwritten diaries covering 1920-1977. Late in life, he added annual reminiscences from his birth in 1885 to just before his death, a record spanning almost 90 years of island history.

As his obituary noted, he was “active in farming, dairying, church and all community affairs”. The Menzies’ Valley Home Farm, located opposite the cemetery, would be described as one of the best in the Gulf Islands.

One of the museum’s goals is to “improve the care of and accessibility to the collection”. In early 2023, the museum successfully applied to the British Columbia Historical Federation for a \$5,000 grant towards the cost of transcribing Victor’s journals. For three months this past fall, contractor Natalie Dunsmuir ploughed (pun intended) through 36 handwritten booklets and scribbles, typing out some 650,000 words. (A novel averages 80,000 words.)

Natalie grew up on Saturna and Pender and served as our very capable summer museum assistant in 2018 and 2019. We were pleased that she was available to take on this project and appreciated her perseverance in transcribing these firsthand accounts.

Victor’s daily entries included precise dollar amounts of monies spent, earned, and owed. He kept equally detailed farming notes, especially related to the family’s herd of nationally recognized, purebred Jersey cows. As we mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pender Island Farmers’ Institute in 2024, Victor’s journals are a go-to source of all things farming.

The diary for October 4, 1924, includes a typical day’s entry: “We took in 10 loads of corn and it filled the silo.

Father + Will helped us. Went to meeting in school in evening, engaged [sic] a Farmers Institute, made me treasurer. Pd \$1.00 membership fee. Began to fatten Tilly [cow].” He did refer to a “farmers’ meeting” as early as 1920, but 1924 was the official founding of an institution that continues to this day.

Victor was not one to express much in the way of emotion, gossip, or conjecture in his daily jottings. Rather, it is in the entirety of his life that we grasp his close connection to the land, his skill and success as a farmer, his enjoyment of family, friends and neighbours, his profound Christian faith, and his love for his wife, Vivienne.

We have barely scratched the surface of the journal transcript, but we can already sense the stories hidden between the lines that are calling out for more research. That’s just what you’ll read throughout 2024 as we bring you vignettes from the diaries. Stay tuned...

**Something Special for February**

On Sunday, February 18, the museum is pleased to present the documentary *A Cedar is Life*. The film explores how one critical species, the cedar tree, is central to the cultural life of West Coast First Nations. Look for details next month.

*Simone Marler, President*



*Victor and Vivienne in their elder years at their home at Hope Bay.*



*Editor-transcriber, Natalie Dunsmuir, poring over the Menzies’ diaries.*

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Pender Island Parks and Recreation Commission



**WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council**

On Friday, November 24, Pender Island Parks and Recreation Commissioners attended the CRD WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council Community Parks meeting at ØENINĒW, WSÁNEĆ Ancestral Village Site (Poet’s Cove Resort). This was an opportunity for relationship building and learning that was well attended by commissioners from many of the Southern Gulf Islands. Among the key points that commissioners took from the conversation was a greater understanding of the critical role of Cultural Monitors within the context of planning and restoration work that we do in Community Parks, as well as an appreciation for the deep knowledge that Cultural Monitors hold, which has been passed down to them from their

ancestors—particularly given that not all areas of cultural importance show evidence of past use. We look forward to continued learning opportunities and collaboration with the WSÁNEĆ as we work to steward our Community Parks on S,DÁYES.

**Shingle Bay Park Restoration**

In February 2019, the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board identified Climate Action & Environmental Stewardship as a priority for the region and approved a motion to declare a climate emergency. Its Climate Action Strategy includes protecting, conserving, and managing ecosystem health and nature’s capacity to store carbon and adapt to climate change; with increasing severity of extreme weather events such as atmospheric rivers, this includes increasing the resilience of riparian ecosystems through restoration.

Under this strategy, the Shingle Bay Community Park, and lower Masthead Crescent/Shingle Bay trail are priorities for restoration work beginning in 2024. Shingle Creek, which runs parallel to the trail, supports minimal riparian vegetation along its banks due to over-browsing by deer; this is leading to extreme erosion of the banks during periods of high water flow. There are also issues with drainage affecting the trail itself that are introducing sediment into the stream and compromising the trail for recreational use. Increased suspended sediment in the water reduces the quality of this habitat for amphibians such as red-legged frogs, a species of conservation concern that is present in high numbers during summer drought months. Greater sediment flows can also negatively affect the downstream marine environment. In addition to drainage issues affecting the trail and park, there are also invasive plant species infesting the riparian area along the stream on the park side (notably Canada thistle—which, despite its name, is not native to Canada). Infestation of an area by



*Stream bank erosion in Shingle Creek, adjacent to the Masthead Crescent/Shingle Bay trail on North Pender Island. Photo by Erin O’Brien*

invasive plants results in a reduction in biodiversity, which compromises the resilience of ecosystems in the face of environmental change. To address these issues, a Restoration Plan is being developed for the stream and park that will remove invasive species, increase native plant biodiversity, establish bank-stabilizing shrub and tree growth, and assist with directing water drainage to the stream and away from the trail and park greenspace. This work will require installation of fencing to exclude deer from restoration areas, and some minor ground works to facilitate drainage. We anticipate that this project will both improve the ecological health and resilience of this important watershed and riparian habitat for which we share a stewardship responsibility, as well as enhance the recreational value of the park space for our community.

*Erin O’Brien, Commissioner*

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## Pender Island Public Library



### Seeking Board Trustees

We are hoping you might want to turn the page in your interests and open a fulfilling new chapter. By joining our Library Board, you would be part of a governance board requiring no physical work, but plenty of opportunity to get creative, cultivate great ideas, and do it all with a team that enjoys working together. I can say without a doubt this position comes with an opportunity to showcase any strengths you bring to the table. Would you like to know how to apply? Drop by to chat with the Library Director or Chairperson Laura Vilness, or visit the Library website (select About Us—Volunteering) for details and application package. (See ad page 6.)

### Thank You

As we start the New Year 2024, it's timely to thank all the wonderful staff that help keep the library functioning smoothly. Library Technician Colette manages the computer system and statistics, oversees inter-library loan services, and trains patrons with tech tutoring. Library Assistant Jenny greets patrons by name, recommends excellent books, and organizes exciting programs. Student Assistant Abby is gaining valuable job skills through our teen training program. Bookkeeper Melody keeps the monthly finances running smoothly and IT Support Kevin keeps the equipment and Wi-fi updated. The Library is proud to support working people and their families in our community with year-round, secure jobs. Thank you to our volunteers (6 Board Trustees and 12 team members) who are part of the "dream team" that delivers relevant library services. And thank you to patrons who use the library—all the best for 2024!

### Art in the Library

On exhibit: Douglas Sieberg, Watercolours. Be transported to sunny days through finely crafted watercolour images of whimsical doll carriages, tropical sailboats, and warm family scenes.

### Books On Display—Mental Health

Featured this month: adult and youth books on mental health and how we can support one another, stand up against

stigma, and improve our mental health in 2024. Browse a wide variety of books that share stories and experiences, fostering understanding, promoting resilience, and raising awareness about the importance of mental well-being for everyone.

### New Books

#### Adult Fiction

*The Bittlemores* (Jann Arden), *A Minor Chorus* (Billy-Ray Belcourt), *The Manor House Governess* (C. A. Castle), *The Lost Cause* (Cory Doctorow), *The Language of Dreams* (Marion Ehrenberg), *The Cellist of Dachau* (Martin Goodman), *The Jazz Club Spy* (Roberta Rich).

#### Adult Mystery and Sci-Fi

*The Edge* (David Baldacci), *The Proof of the Pudding* (Rhys Bowen), *Resurrection Walk* (Michael Connelly), *The Watchmaker's Hand* (Jeffrey Deaver), *The Court of Shadows (Vampyria Saga Book 1)* (Victor Dixon), *The Spy Coast* (Tess Gerritsen), *Kwändūr* (Cole Pauls).

#### Adult Non-Fiction

*Sabai* (Pailin Chongchitnant), *Gutsy* (Heather Fegan), *Decolonizing Sport* (Janice Forsyth), *Going Infinite* (Michael Lewis), *The Worlds I See* (Fei-Fei Li), *The Road Years* (Rick Mercer), *Autistic Adults* (Daniel Smeenk), *You Could Make this Place Beautiful* (Maggie Smith), *The Woman in Me* (Britney Spears), *The View from Down Here* (Lucy Webster).

#### Youth

*The Last Kids on Earth and the Monster Dimension* (Max Brallier), *In the Serpent's Wake* (Rachel Hartman), *The Big Cheese* (Jory John), *We Are Growing!* (Laurie Keller), *No Brainer* (Jeff Kinney), *Weird Rules to Follow* (Kim Spencer), *That's My Sweater* (Jessika von Innerebner).

#### Library hours

Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 - 3, at 4407 Bedwell Harbour Rd. Contact: 250-629-3722 or email: libraryhelpdesk@crd.bc.ca

*Carmen Oleskevich, Director*

## Pender Island Recycling Society



Happy New Year! The staff and board of PIRS wish you joy and wellness in 2024.

At this time of year, when there is a power outage, snow, or high winds, the depot may need to close. Updates will be posted on the website at [penderislandrecycling.com](http://penderislandrecycling.com), on our voicemail (250 629 6962), or on the depot's Facebook page.

On the depot website, you can also find a detailed list of items that are accepted. For items that we can't accept, you may find alternative options on the CRD recycling webpage: [crd.bc.ca/service/waste-recycling/recycle/myrecyclopeda](http://crd.bc.ca/service/waste-recycling/recycle/myrecyclopeda).

Your donations to the FreeStore and ReShop are much appreciated. Please check with staff before dropping items off. It takes a few extra minutes to have your items screened but it really helps when we can accept only what is likely to find a new home. We are happy to take a look, even when we're busy, because it keeps the inventory ever-changing and interesting. We accept most recyclable items in good condition for the store, including appliances and electronics, tools, and kitchenware. We can't accept chipped or broken dishes, textiles, and out of date books.

Your steady support in 2023 through membership dollars, refundable bottle donations, and use of the depot's delivery service contributed significantly to our operating costs. For 2024 membership renewals at the depot, payment can be made by cash, cheque, debit, and credit card. You can also renew from the comfort of your home by visiting our website or sending an e-transfer to [penderislandrecycling@gmail.com](mailto:penderislandrecycling@gmail.com). When renewing on-line, please provide your mailing address and a charitable tax receipt will be sent to you in the mail.

Now is a great time to plan for spring deliveries of soil and our list is quickly filling up! Each week we bring a load of soil, mulch, or gravel to Pender. The

cost is \$160 to North Pender or \$180 to South Pender, plus the cost of materials. For more details, email us (at the above address), call 250 629 6962 during open hours, or ask a staff member on your next trip to the depot.

Recently, the government of BC took steps to reduce plastic waste through their Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation, which can be found here: [https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/oic/oic\\_cur/0642\\_2023](https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/oic/oic_cur/0642_2023)

The regulation supports BC's efforts to prevent single-use and plastic waste, divert more waste from landfills, and keep consumer products working longer.

Beginning on December 20, 2023, the following bans and changes took effect.

Banned: plastic utensils, including spoons, forks, knives, chopsticks, stir sticks and drink splash plugs; pre-packed, bundled food service accessories.

By customer request only or from a self-service station: wooden utensils, cup lids and sleeves, straws, condiments, napkins, wet wipes, garnishes (e.g., plastic sushi grass, umbrellas for drinks).

And the following changes are coming on July 15, 2024.

Banned: plastic shopping bags, with a minimum fee on new reusable and paper bags; food-service ware\* made of biodegradable plastic, polystyrene foam (i.e., Styrofoam), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), or polyvinylidene chloride (PVDC) materials; film wrap made from

biodegradable plastic or PVDC; all oxo-degradable plastics.

For limited use (i.e., not prepared food for takeout, delivery or immediate consumption): food-service ware (bowls, boxes or cartons, cups, containers, plates, platters and trays) and film wrap made from compostable plastic.

We are grateful to live in a province that is taking steps to reduce plastic waste and pollution. Other steps that you can take to reduce plastic waste when dining out include asking for your food items "to stay" if you are doing so and bringing your own reusable travel mug, which are now welcomed in many coffee shops again.

*Niki Roberts*

### Pender Organic Community Garden Society



All our gardens have been put to bed under thick blankets of manure, maple leaves, and straw for a well-deserved four-month snooze.

All summer veggies have been long-since removed, with only some hopeful winter seedlings and the hardy kale, leek, broccoli and beets bravely resisting the cold and wet. It's time for rest and recuperation for both gardens and gardeners.

Was it worth the trouble? I think most of us in the Community Garden would say decidedly "yes". As well as the

fresh veggies listed above, we're still chomping through onions, garlic, potatoes, and dehydrated San Marzano tomatoes. Some of us have even grown such exotics as flax and tobacco. Most of us grow kale on our 20' by 20' garden plots, and we grow several varieties. Some are best for salads, others for stews. All varieties are loaded big-time with vitamin C, so no fear of scurvy among us gardeners. So right now, after slurping through a kale-impregnated stew, I'll take a little afternoon snooze.

But wait! What's that magazine that was stuffing up my mailbox? It's a West Coast Seeds catalogue! Huddled next to our comfortable wood stove, we idly peruse page after page of impeccably photographed, new and splendiferous varieties of tomatoes, beans, peppers, squash, etc. Here we go again. Our dreams go into high gear, ticking off the seeds we must have. I can recommend Fortex beans (a climber) and Celebrity and San Marzano tomatoes. I've given up on radishes, claimed by seed vendors to be the most dependable veggie any youngster can grow. In my garden, only one in 50 turns out to be non-wormy and not habanero-hot. Getting back to 2024 garden plans, I think perhaps I might get a cold frame up and running by late January to start those little darlin' lettuce, arugula and mesclun... Thus, the whole process starts again.

Get the message? Compulsive gardeners cannot quit!

*Chris Hodgson*

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PenderPOD



November 18 was not just another beautiful day on Pender Island...

it was a day that the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales came north in Swanson Channel. And it was an actual SUPERPOD! A Superpod is when every single member of the SRKWs is present. That's upwards of 75 killer whales. Maybe you were one of the lucky residents on North Pender to see them all, as it's a real sight to behold! But if you weren't so lucky, there's another way you can also enjoy them, and that's by listening in. Raincoast Conservation Foundation has recently launched their livestream video and hydrophone on their YouTube Channel. The camera overlooks the area where Haro Strait, Boundary Pass and Swanson Channel meet, including the area of the Interim Sanctuary Zone. The hydrophone allows viewers to hear what's going on in the underwater soundscape. Killer Whales or Orcas find their way and find their food by using clicks or echolocation. They also use whistles and calls to communicate and socialize with each other. Noise (usually generated by vessels) in the ocean interferes with this.

The following information was obtained from a recent Raincoast press release. The data collected from the acoustic and visual monitoring station will support the development and implementation of new or strengthened regulations and enforcement efforts for the recovery of the SRKW endangered population. This technology will also demonstrate the use of the area by other marine mammals including Bigg's Killer Whales, porpoises, sea lions, and humpback whales, visually or by listening for their characteristic vocalizations. In addition to the monitoring technology now in place in the Pender Island Sanctuary Zone, noise data from this site will be made available to NoiseTracker, a joint effort between hydrophone operators in BC to provide underwater noise levels at



*Raincoast Conservation Foundation's livestream video and hydrophone on their YouTube Channel overlooks the area where Haro Strait, Boundary Pass and Swanson Channel meet and lets us hear what's going on under water.*

multiple BC locations on a shared user-friendly website. You can tune or listen in by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6YhBAIJqGM>.

POD members of the Southern Gulf Islands Sighting Network (SGIWSN) recently took part in the Marine Educators meeting online. This group includes NGOs acting for recovery of the Southern Resident Orcas–SRKWs in BC and Washington State, and representatives of Federal Ministries in the Whale Protection and Recovery Unit. We learned that boater education is a key issue, particularly for US boats in BC waters. The Interim Sanctuary Zones–ISZ at Pender and Saturna—are not well known, and there is confusion about when they are in effect, which is June through November.

Our SGIWSN data confirms that there are whales in our near waters every month of the year. Hotspots are at Brooks Point, South Pender and East Point, Saturna. Southern Residents were spotted as recently as December 11 in Swanson Channel. Also, there are boats nearby almost always when whales are present, and the noise from small and large vessels impacts communication and feeding behaviour for the SRKW.

These factors are why POD and other citizen science and research organizations advocate for permanent year round sanctuaries and protected areas, with increased public awareness of their purpose. There are now about 80 SGIWSN members on Pender, Saturna, Mayne and Galiano Islands. If you are interested, you can see our data at [Spyhopper.ca](http://Spyhopper.ca).

*Dave and Kathleen Durant and Monica Petrie*

**Help protect our precious coast.**  
[www.raincoast.org](http://www.raincoast.org)



## Royal Canadian Legion



Once again, we've made it through another successful year at good old Branch #239, with only a few bumps along the way... but too few to even mention. What is worth mentioning is all the great volunteers we had this year. Friday Night Dinner/BBQ gang, meat draw hosts, volunteer bartenders, those who came out for work-bees, and those special people who helped with the all-important memorials, as well as the prep for Remembrance Day. Hey, those sandwiches don't get made by themselves!

There were always lots of other jobs that somehow got done: recycling, empty returns, picking up liquor orders, cutting the grass, trips to town for supplies, and so much more. These jobs got done because we have people who care about the Legion and understand how much this organization contributes to the well-being of Pender Island. Without this core group of volunteers, the Legion would not exist, and to them I say "thank you for a job well done". I am not mentioning names right now but I hope to institute a volunteer of the month program starting in the New Year, so look for that.

I also want to thank all those fine people who come to our Friday night dinners and Saturday meat draws on a regular basis. Attendance at both of these events was fantastic this year, so subsequently we now have more money to direct back to the community and to keep the Legion a viable concern for at least a few more years yet. Another area that has taken off in the last year is the number of clubs and organizations that are now using the Legion for their gatherings. On most days of the week someone is using the Legion for at least a couple hours, which is great for them and the affordable rent adds up quite well over the year, thus adding yet more to the Legion's bottom line: a win - win for all. Just one more thing that our outgoing President, Jean Deschenes, has worked so hard on implementing during

her four-year tenure (more on Jean next month).

I would also like to thank all musicians who have performed at the club over the last year. They have added a great deal to the overall dining experience for our loyal clientele. Along with the fact that we have been putting out some fine meals, the Legion is a destination for good times on Friday nights.

As we head into 2024, we are looking forward to another great year. Dinners will be starting up again on January 12, and I'm thinking... how about Roast Beef with all the trimmings? Please see our website calendar and posts for activities and events: [www.penderislandrcl239.com](http://www.penderislandrcl239.com)

As I mentioned a couple of months ago, we have been busy rounding up a new executive for 2024, and I am glad to report that we will be able to fill all of those positions, including president. I am not at liberty to announce who that might be at this time, but if you attend our general meeting on December 30, all will be revealed. A little suspense never hurts! That meeting will be at the new time of 2 pm. Hopefully this time of the day will be a little more conducive to attending for those who like to sleep in on Saturday morning. The added benefit is you can stay for the meat draw if you so desire.

Recent giving back to our community from meat draw proceeds included donations to Santa's Sac accepted by Bev Fournier, and Pender Island Junior Sailing accepted by Bruce Waygood.

Before I sign off for yet another year, I would like to pay homage to all those who contributed to the success of our recent Special Persons Christmas meal delivery on December 10. With the help of a cast of thousands (ok, maybe a couple of dozen) we managed to send out about 65 meals to deserving people all over the island. Thanks to Santa's Sac, Better at Home, all the volunteer drivers, the Legion for the meals, and a special thanks to Jane Harrison for coordinating, and for taking over the



*Outgoing president Jean Deschenes presents cheques to Pender Island Junior Sailing and Santa Sac.*

washing up when I cut my finger (some people will do anything to avoid dishes). The other person I would like to thank is my right-hand girl, Pamela Smith, who peeled about 40 pounds of potatoes without complaining, and helped me dish up all those meals. She once again gave her all for the Legion and the islands. She's quite a lady and, what the heck, let's just call her our volunteer of the month for December! (Thank you to John for cooking the excellent turkey meal. JD)

I would also like to thank Colin Denton for filling in for me (on short notice) on Remembrance Day when I had a bit of a health issue, and for writing such a damn fine article in last month's Post.

Lastly, I would like to mention that we lost a few of our really good people in 2023, and I hope you can all raise a glass of cheer to their memory this New Years Eve. Gone but not forgotten.

*John Pender*

## Outer Gulf Islands RCMP



So, as I missed the deadline date for November let's look at the stats for the end of October to December 9, 2023. We attended seventy calls to 911 for service, that is up from sixty-one from the same period in 2022.

### File of Note

November 11, 2023 Michael Cabeldu, was reported missing and over due. Michael was located on November 14, 2023 a little worse for ware but has been returned home safely.

Members attended and assisted on six calls where persons were in distress. Working with mental health resources and BC ambulance, all person were able to reach assistance.

On December 5, members attended Clam Bay Road for a single vehicle collision. Police investigated the driver for impairment, as such the driver was issued an immediate roadside driving prohibition. No other persons or vehicles were involved.

### Follow-up

In Octobers Pender Post I reported, Outer Gulf RCMP members along with West Coast Marine vessel and Coast Guard crew, were able to recover a deceased male from an area East of Active Pass. Currently police are working with the Provincial Coroners service and are still waiting on a DNA match to identify the male and to notify next of kin.

Just another reminder to renew your insurance, as police have found multiple vehicles with lapsed insurance.

Remember when approaching a school bus with red lights flashing, you must come to complete stop and wait for the bus to complete the drop off of students. Only after the flashing red lights are turned off can drivers proceed. Three drivers over this period were issued violation tickets for failing to stop for the school bus

As we are coming up to New Years we, the members of the Outer Gulf Islands RCMP, want to wish everyone a Happy



New Years and joyous celebration. If you are planning on heading out and celebrating, please plan a head for a sober ride home.

### Fraud Alert

Recently a new scam is making the rounds. Caller identifies as a family member. Caller states their cellphone was damaged or stolen, now they need money to pay for a new on. They hand the call over and a new voice is heard. They ask for the victim's credit card number. Please do not provide you're credit card numbers as this is a scam. Please ask for a call back number (which they usually refuse to give) then hang up and call the family member in question and confirm if there is an issue or they are in distress. When in doubt give us a call as I can almost guarantee it's a scam.

If you want to read more about what is going on in Province or the other islands, you can search this link (<https://bc-cb.rcmp-grc.gc.ca>), then use the quick links (BC RCMP Detachments), then scroll down to Outer Gulf Islands and select newsroom.

*Const. Simon Bentley*

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## Driftwood Centre

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So, let's look at the stats for the end of October to November 20, 2023: we attended fifty-four calls to 911 for service, which is up from 39, from the same period in 2022. As we are coming into the holiday season, we here at the RCMP detachment would just like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a joyous and safe New Years!

We are conducting traffic enforcement through the month of December. Our focus will be impaired drivers. So plan ahead if you are planning on celebrating the holidays.

If you want to read more about what is going on in the province or the other islands, you can search this link <https://bc-cb.rcmp-grc.gc.ca>, then use the quick links (BC RCMP Detachments). Then scroll down to Outer Gulf Islands and select Newsroom.

*Const. Simon Bentley*

**S,DÁ,YES Truth and Reconciliation Circle**

Sending best wishes for the winter season to all our members and to friends on S,DÁ,YES. We wish to reflect on the activities of 2023 and contemplate intentions for 2024 and beyond. Members continue to deepen our understanding and recognition of the WSÁNEĆ connections to homeland and endeavour to continue building bridges. Earlier in the year featured a presentation on the inspiring development after a devastating fire on Elephant Hill in 2017. After the fire, Secwépemc communities came together to collaborate with the provincial government to co-manage the restoration of the land and forest, incorporating Indigenous traditional knowledge, and continue to do so. (<https://www.srssociety.com>).

Other key actions include members participating in coordinating two SENĆOŦEN language workshops at the Library (more to come in 2024); Circle members created a display at the Driftwood to honour Truth and

Reconciliation Day (September 30) and Red Dress day. Additionally, several members recently attended the screening of *CELÁNENS TFE TETÁCES (Relatives of the Deep)* with the LÁU, WELNEW Tribal School students and more recently at the First Peoples House at UVic. S,DÁ,YES residents were recognized for our participation and support towards reconciliation. These films will soon be online and we shall update readers.

As we enter 2024, the Circle wishes to create a short survey to ask members current interests and if there are barriers to attending the Circle (fewer members have been able to attend the autumn Circles). Ideas for discussion/reflection and public events in the new year are welcomed. Next Circle is planned for January 17. For more info contact [madelin.emery@gmail.com](mailto:madelin.emery@gmail.com).

*Madelin Emery*

**SGI Community Resource Centre**



Happy New Year Pender Island! We hope that you had a lovely holiday season and that you are excited for all that 2024 has to offer. As we embark on a fresh year, we're delighted to bring you updates on how our organizations continue to grow and expand to meet the needs of the community.

**Dining in the Dark**

The Community Resource Centre, supported by the Southern Gulf Islands Emergency Program, is pleased to announce that *Dining in the Dark*, a cookbook for preparing meals without electricity, is now available for purchase in a location near you. To learn more or to purchase your copy, please call the office or visit the website <https://www.sgicommunityresources.ca>.

**Housing NOW Needs Your Help**

We're looking for folks interested in journalism/creative writing for our quarterly newsletter or our podcast coming in 2024. Working, retired, students and BIPOC community

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**DRIFTWOOD CENTRE**

members from Galiano, Mayne, Pender, Salt Spring, and Saturna are encouraged to reach out for this volunteer position—we'd love to hear from you. If you or someone you know may have an interest in lending your voice to the affordable housing movement in the SGIs, please connect with us at [housingnow@sgicommunityresources.ca](mailto:housingnow@sgicommunityresources.ca) to find out more.

**Vitality Business Centre**

You already know that the Community Resource Centre is able to help you with printing and laminating, but did you know that we also rent out equipment like projectors? We are here to help you with your business and personal needs. Stop by and let us give you a hand; we are located in the Community Resource Centre at the Driftwood.

**Employment Services**

On the hunt for a new job, change in career, or wondering what opportunities are available? Let us help you find what you are looking for by calling the office or emailing [islandsupport@sgicommunityresources.ca](mailto:islandsupport@sgicommunityresources.ca).

**Sustainable Funding Initiative**

As we move into the quiet(er) winter season, the SGI Sustainable Funding Initiative has lined up a number of capacity building workshops for non-profit boards and volunteers. Facilitator Lori Seay has worked with BC non-profits for 25 years as a board member, employee, and contractor. Upcoming workshops include Board Basics, Wednesday, January 10, 11 am -12:30

pm and Society Tool Box, Wednesday, January 31, 11am - 12:30 pm, both sessions

via Zoom. Learn more about our workshops and register by visiting the website [www.sigcommunityresources.ca/non-profit-support/](http://www.sigcommunityresources.ca/non-profit-support/) Did you know that the SGI Sustainable Funding Initiative can also assist with researching grant programs and proofreading applications? Contact Katie [kdentry@sgicommunityresources.ca](mailto:kdentry@sgicommunityresources.ca) for more info.

Together, we can sustain meaningful connections, inspire positive change, and nurture a community that thrives. Thank you for being a part of our community and we look forward to seeing you at one of the upcoming events

For further information on any events or services please call our office: 250-629-3665.

*Shannon Jensen*

**SGI Neighbourhood House**



Happy New Year Pender Island! We hope that you had a lovely holiday season and that you are excited for all that 2024 has to offer. As we embark on a new year, we're excited to share the latest updates and upcoming events that showcase the vibrancy of our community.

**Food Programs**

Join us for a hot lunch on Mondays and soup on Fridays at the Pender Community Hall from 12 - 2 pm. Pre-register for meals by calling the office.

**Seniors Advisory Committee**

Do you have ideas for future 55+ programs? We want to hear from YOU!. Join the next meeting to have your voice heard. January 19, 11 am, Pender Island Community Hall.

**Computer Savvy Seniors**

Would you like to improve your digital skills? The Computer Savvy Seniors



Brilliant landscapes begin here ☀️ 🌙

**Kristin Taggart**  
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**55+ Fall Workshops**

There will be a Valentines Day card making workshop on Sunday, January 21 from 1 - 3 pm at the Pender Island Legion.

Chef Andrew will be hosting cooking workshops at the Legion on Thursdays January 11 - February 15 from 1 - 3pm. \$120 for all or \$25 drop in.

If cost is a barrier, please call for subsidy options.

**Volunteer Program**

We are on the hunt for members for the Volunteer Advisory Committees for youth, childcare, and seniors to support our program on all four SGIs. For more information please contact at [Volunteerprogram@sginh.ca](mailto:Volunteerprogram@sginh.ca).

*Continued*

**Community Justice Program**

Happy New Year! We are a small but mighty group of volunteers that would love for you to check us out. A great way of doing that is to join us on Wednesday, January 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm for a Community Conversation Circle on Zoom, "Making Peace in 2024". The conversation will be held in a circle format which, believe it or not, works wonderfully on Zoom. To "reserve" your virtual seat, please email us at [cjp@sginh.ca](mailto:cjp@sginh.ca). Meanwhile, please check out our ads in your publications for all the other activities and events we have on the go, and see our webpage at <https://sginh.ca/programs/cjp/>

**Youth Programs**

After School Programs begin the week of January 10 at the Hall:

**Wednesday Kids Club**

January 10 - March 13,  
3:45 pm - 5:15 pm, \$135

**Wednesday Youth Club**

January 10 - March 13, 5:30 pm - 8 pm,

and Friday all day, \$225.00 plus \$50 for dinners

**Kids Club**



January 12 - March 15 (except February 23), 10 am - 4 pm, \$486

For more information see our website <https://sginh.ca/programs/epicentre>.

**Free Homework Club for High School Students**

Every Thursday from 5 - 7 pm at the Community Hall

Your participation, enthusiasm, and support are what make these programs truly special. Thank you for being a part of our community and we look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events.

For information or to register for any of these programs please call 250-629-3665.

*Shannon Jensen*

**Pender Island Garden Club**

*At our December meeting, Urs Boxler gave a very well organized and informative talk on photographing our gardens.*



Come out on Thursday, January 11 to hear one of our local speakers, Rose da Silva, talk to us on "Growing Your Own". Sorry but with "busyness" on my part and the early deadline for *The Pender Post* this

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month, I haven't had time to contact Rose to see what this title means to her. You will have to attend the meeting to find out! As always the drop-in fee for non-members is \$5.

Consider getting involved volunteering with the Pender Island Garden Club. We would welcome anyone who wants to step-up and organize an off-island field trip, a flower show, or anything else that you think might be of interest to the island gardeners. The Board can always use new members and ideas; as they say, "many hands make light work". Together we can continue to have a strong club. I have been doing Communications for several years now and am ready for a break.....to quote my dear mother, "a change is as good as a rest".

Happy gardening dreams,  
Kathy MacLachlan

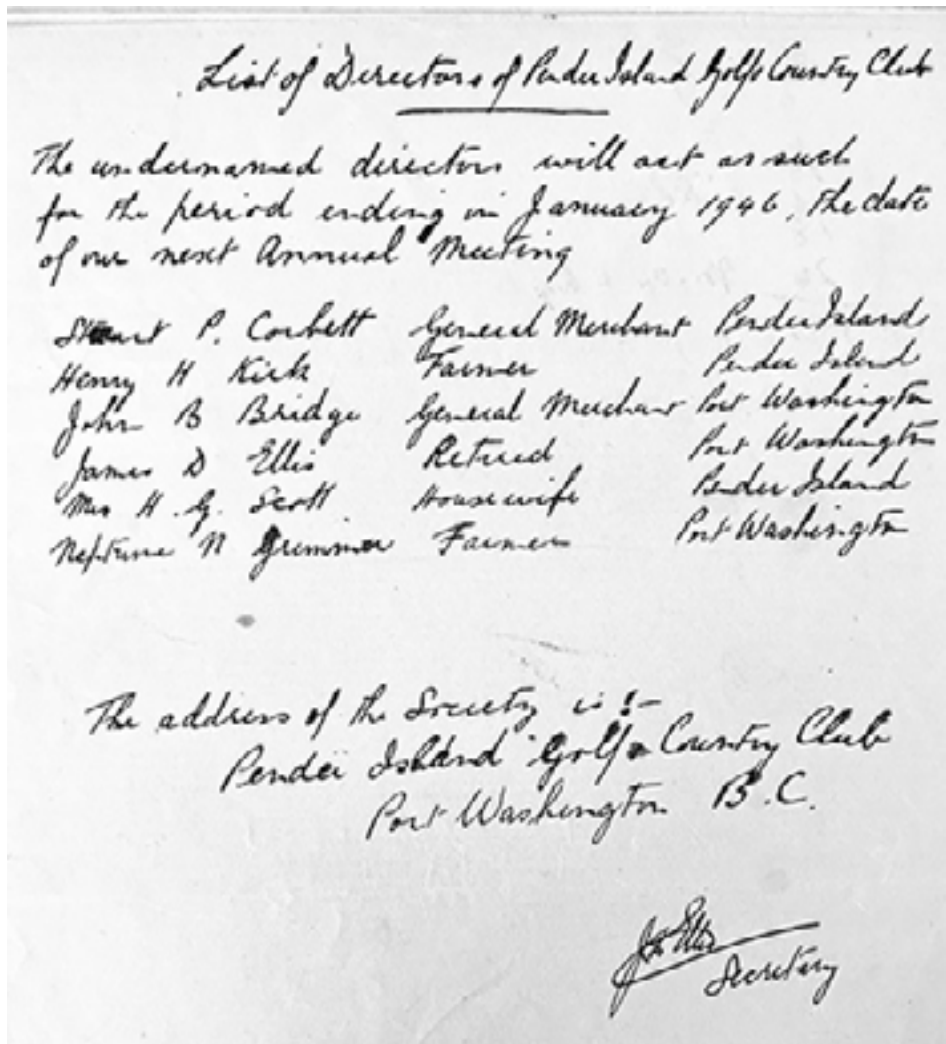
### Pender Island Golf Club



Some people view golf as an elitist sport and golf clubs as even more so. But, as with all things Pender Island, the Golf

Course and Club was started by volunteers, built by volunteers, and operated by volunteers. This remains true today. We are a not-for-profit society whose business is run by volunteers with one exception. We now have one full-time year-round employee and four part-time summer employees who look after the day-to-day operation of the club with the help of a multitude of volunteer club members.

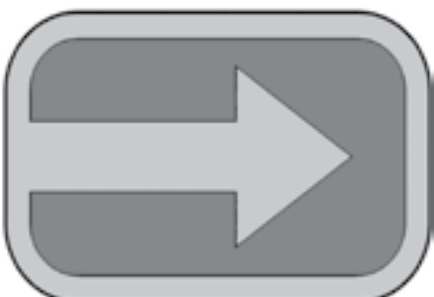
2024 marks the 79<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Pender Island Golf Course. The club was officially incorporated under the Societies Act and purchased 50 acres from George Grimmer in 1945. However, it's not clear when the club formally came into being. The oldest records we can find are from the 1944 Annual General Meeting. The first entry in the minutes from that meeting are "Meeting opened. Secretary reported that the meeting minutes book had been lost." But we do know by way of private letters that organized golf was underway



From the minutes of the Golf Club's 1944 Annual General Meeting.

on Pender in 1938 by way of sufferance and rent. In other words, club members were playing on Grimmer's pastures, and he sometimes ignored them and sometimes charged them rent.

The original club members each contributed money and raised a mortgage to purchase the land, which was evenly divided by South Otter Bay Road. The east side was mainly in



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pasture and the west side in heavy forest. The plan had been to add four holes on the west to the existing five holes on the east but poor economic post war conditions

waylaid these plans and membership had declined to unproductive levels. A Tombstone event in 1953 was the last club golfing event for some time. Even though the game of golf had come to a standstill, that same group of volunteers managed to keep the club solvent. By selling saw logs and firewood from the west side and occasionally renting out the east side for pasture, they managed to pay the taxes and keep up the interest payments on the mortgage.

Stay tuned for more on the story in the February issue of *The Pender Post*.

Don't forget the course is open year-round, except for when the course is flooded, frozen, or covered in snow. You will need to use the honour box but how very Pender Islandesque is that?

*Cindy Bedford, Volunteer Member*

### Pender Island Otters Swim Club



Happy New Year



*Our new coach, Elizabeth Gyurkovits in the pool with two Otter Pups.*

to everyone, and thank you for the support of our club through the year from Tru Value Spirit points, CRD grant funds, and Gaming Commission funds.

We finally have a refurbished webpage up and running. You can find us at [www.penederislandotters.ca](http://www.penederislandotters.ca). We hope to add a few more things to it as time goes on, but for now, we are back on the internet, and accessible. Many thanks goes out to our retired Head Coach/registrar Alexandra Kierstead for making it happen.

Our new season starts Friday, January 5 and registration opened in the latter part of December. We are thrilled to welcome Elizabeth Gyurkovits to our coaching team. She and Deirdre Knister are teaching our Otter Pups all about swimming, and we have had a few Pups graduate to the big pool over the fall.

Elizabeth gave me a brief bio of her



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## REMEMBERING

*Continued from page 6*

It was with enthusiasm that John embraced his career involving mining in the UK, Canada, USA, South America, South Africa, China and Vietnam, producing coal, diamonds, uranium, gold, silver, tungsten and base metals in supervisory and management positions doing research, metallurgy and process development for international companies.

Ultimately, he became an independent Engineering Consultant in new ventures and conservation. Often work was in remote places where he met all levels of society from eating simple meals in a shack to presentation dinners. He admired and respected them all, high or low, from north, south, east and west.

In his teens he became a cool jazz pianist with his own five-piece band rocking the Yorkshire moors and riding hi BSA motorbike up hills and down dales.

In 1993, he took his high school sweetheart, Megan, on a BMW bike for a 27,000 km ride from Vancouver to Argentina and from Cape Town to Namibia and Swaziland. They married the following year and he took her three children, Samantha, Thomas and Sarah, blending them with his own children with much tenderness.

It is with great sadness that we announce that John passed away on 14 November in the Royal Jubilee hospital, peacefully with family beside him. John was predeceased by his parents and his beloved daughter Alison.

John always knew where he was going and never looked back. He spoke his truth with honour; he admired the world and its people with respect for their differences. He was a proud Pender Islander for more than 20 years and was privileged to have good friends and the tender care of the first responders and medical team who saved us many times offer the last four years.

John is deeply mourned by his wife Megan, his children, and grandchildren, Camerson, Cole, Lwazi, and Luvuyo.

*Megan Fisher*



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## WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR OCTOBER

	Average Temperatures			Extreme Temperatures		Precipitation		
	Max	Min	Mean	High	Low	Rain	Snow	Total
Magic Lake	10.0	5.1	7.5	12 on 13th & 19th	1 on 30th	113.2	0	113.2
“Normal”	9.8	4.7	7.3	18.5 in 2016	-8.5 in 2006	135	0.2	135.2

November is historically our wettest month and this year, November seemed to be living up to its reputation when we had 31 mm of rain in 12 hours on November 2 and I cannot remember ever recording that much in such a short time. Two days later we had 20 mm in twelve hours. However, after a wet start to the month, we finished with less than the average total precipitation for November. Most of the rain fell during the night so we had a lot of very pleasant weather and sunshine. Temperatures in November were close to average. The

meteorology term “normal” means average over a number of years.

As usual, in the February Pender Post I will give a summary of the year’s weather and a comparison with previous years.

January is still mid winter for us. Rainfall can be expected to be high and temperatures low. There is sure to be some ice on the lake but do not expect it to be like an ice rink. Be sure to accurately check the thickness of the ice before setting foot on it. On Pender Island if

we expect snow every January we will often be disappointed (or pleased?). In the last thirty-six years there were fourteen years when we had no snow in January. The only years when we have had a lot of snow in January were 2002, 4, 5 and 11. There were two years when the January temperature did not drop to zero.

2023 was a year of many unprecedented events, good and bad, worldwide, including weather. We’ll hope for the best in 2024.

*Malcolm Armstrong*

## COVER STORY



I took this photo at the end of last year. I love the bright orange colours of Varied Thrushes. It’s great to see them because they aren’t always here. I don’t see them in the summer but I sure get lots of them at my house in the winter. I have a bush with lots of berries on it that they love. They come in groups and clean all the berries from all the plants and bushes in my garden and deck and then they’re gone until next year.

*Ewa Jaros*



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**NUMBERS PUZZLE MCA #38 BY MALCOLM ARMSTRONG**

There are 27 numbers in this puzzle and that should be enough to ensure that the puzzle is not too difficult. I hope it is not too easy, To solve the puzzle you must enter a number 1 to 9 in each of the remaining fifty four empty squares, but there must not be more than one number 1 – 9 in each row, each vertical column or each large square of nine numbers,

Thank you to those readers who have given me feed back, your comments are very helpful.

*Malcolm Armstrong*



7	1	5			6			
			7		8		1	4
3	8		9					
					4			9
2	9			3			7	
			2			5		
				6				5
1				2		7	8	
		6	4					

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**MLS# 929077 - \$899,000**



**MLS# 943095 - \$1,049,000**



**MLS# 938860 - \$1,349,000**



**MLS# 932877 - \$1,350,000**



**MLS# 948580 - \$2,100,000**



**MLS# 911049 - \$2,850,000**

*We are forever grateful to our Dynamic Dockside Team, our Valued Clients, and all of you who helped make 2023 another special year on Pender.*  
**Thank you all!**



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**Quarter Shares, Lots, & Acreages**

<b>NEW LISTING</b> MLS# 949248 • \$178,000	<b>Lot 61 Keel</b> MLS# 941950 • \$239,000	<b>3710 Bosun</b> MLS# 941390 • \$247,500	<b>3614 Jolly Roger</b> MLS# 937465 • \$249,900
<b>3726 Rum</b> MLS# 920971 • \$269,000	<b>2267 PORT WASH</b> MLS# 908137 • \$275,000	<b>Lot A Boundary Pass</b> MLS# 937048 • \$299,000	<b>4616 Mate</b> MLS# 934872 • \$339,000
<b>Lot 17 Sextant</b> MLS# 938336 • \$369,000	<b>NEW PRICE</b> MLS# 904285 • \$433,000	<b>2687 Galleon</b> MLS# 909531 • \$499,000	<b>2618 Crowsnest</b> MLS# 916562 • \$589,000
<b>4515 Bedwell</b> MLS# 926973 • \$599,000	<b>6939 Pirates</b> MLS# 916955 • \$925,000		

*Price marked on Solds is the Last MLS List Price.*



EMIL CHERVATIN

JENNY MONTGOMERY

SAM BOYTE

TANJA LONERGAN



COLIN DENTON



JAIME MacLEAN



SANDY MUNDY



SHERRIE BOYTE



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250-629-3166



# Heather Regan

REALTOR®

250.682.383

reganheather1@gmail.com



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## 1603 TREASURE CRESCENT PENDER ISLAND, BC



Walk on Waterfront, where Orcas and Otters play!  
**New Price! \$1,399,000 | MLS 937549**

## 3725 FRIGATE ROAD PENDER ISLAND, BC



1.64 acres and 3 bedroom house in Magic Lake - Great value!  
**\$699,900 | MLS 935355**

## 3612 FOC'SLE PENDER ISLAND, BC



Affordable and adorable panabode!  
**New Listing | \$525,000 | MLS 945123**

## LOT 1 PORLIER PASS GALIANO, BC



Over an acre of raw land, close to government dock!  
**\$275,000 | MLS 918053**

Although this information has been received from sources deemed reliable, we assume no responsibility for its accuracy, and without offering advice, make this submission to prior sale or lease, change in price or terms, and withdrawal without notice.



# DAILY SPECIALS

WEDNESDAY: HALF PRICE WINGS AFTER 5PM

THURSDAY: \$5 OFF FISH AND CHIPS

FRIDAY - SUNDAY: BREAKFAST IN THE BISTRO

SUNDAY: ROAST BEEF DINNER AFTER 5PM

# NEW! TAKE + BAKE

GET YOUR PUB FAVOURITES AND BAKE AT HOME!  
ASK ABOUT OUR FROZEN ENTREES.

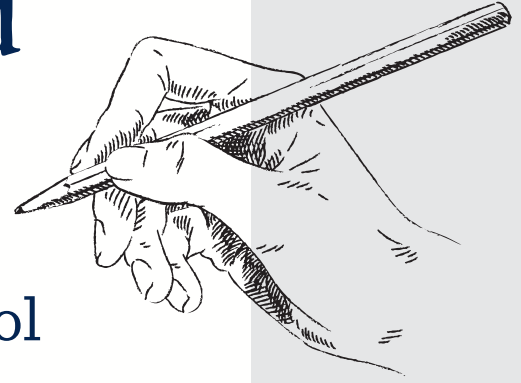
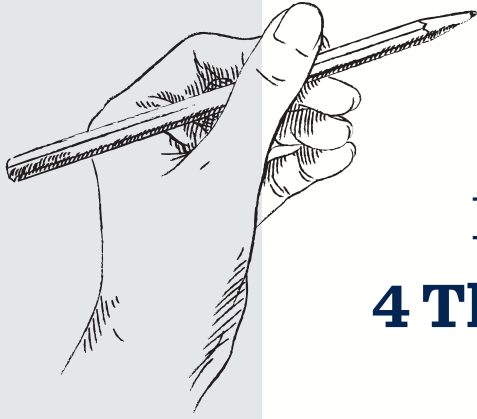
PERFECT PORTIONS FOR 2. UNDER \$15 EACH.



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[WWW.PORTBROWNING.CA/STAY](http://WWW.PORTBROWNING.CA/STAY)

# Drawing Basics Continued

with Wendy Gardner



Pender Islands School

**4 Thursdays, Jan 11 - Feb 1**

6:30 - 8pm | 14+



**VISUAL ARTS IN JANUARY**

REGISTER: [PTARMIGANARTS.ORG/PROGRAMS](https://ptarmiganarts.org/programs)



**PATHWAY TO  
VISCERAL ABSTRACT  
PAINTING** WITH KATHLEEN  
THERIAULT

**SATURDAY JAN 20 + 27  
12:30 - 4:30PM  
ANGLICAN CHURCH HALL**