

\$5.00

The Pender Post

February 2024

Pender Island's Community Connection Since 1971
PenderPost.org VOL 54 #647



Sunday, February 18, 2:00–3:45 pm
at the Community Hall

Admission by donation; * families welcome

A Special Family Day Film Presentation

As part of the museum's annual meeting, we are pleased to join the TETÁCES Revitalization Project on S,DÁYES to premiere this award-winning documentary.

A Cedar is Life weaves together the many voices that speak to how all parts of the tree were—and still are—crucially important, and the need to protect this ancient ancestor.

The film looks at how cedar is bridging cultural gaps and passing down knowledge to a new generation.

*Please Show Your Support

A donation of \$10/person or \$15/family funds your museum membership. Renew or join at the door.

A brief business meeting for members follows the film.



A CEDAR IS LIFE EXPLORES HOW ONE CRITICAL SPECIES, THE CEDAR TREE, IS CENTRAL TO THE CULTURAL LIFE OF WEST COAST FIRST NATIONS.

A CEDAR IS LIFE

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27th RED NATION INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

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Gulf Islands International Film Festival

Victoria Film Festival

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DIRECTED AND EDITED BY C. GAVIN ANDREWS

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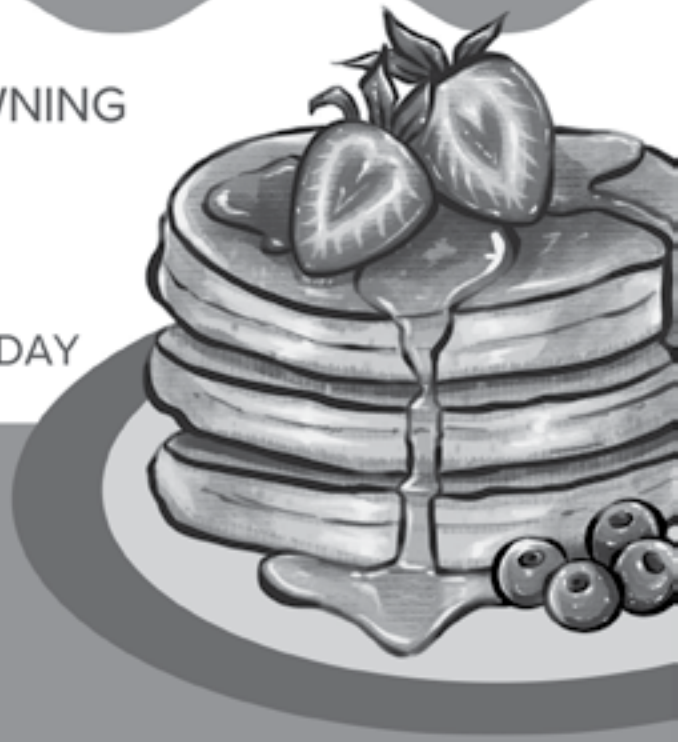
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Sunday February 11 | 2:30 PM | Community Hall

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FEBRUARY 10th - 14th, 2024 • Seating 5:00pm
\$89 per person (Exclusive of tax & gratuity)

Oyster Rocketfeller

Rich cream sauce with garlic, bacon & spinach topped
with gruyere cheese, baked to perfection
Served with garlic bread

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Baby arugula and gourmet greens with grape tomatoes, cucumber,
Bermuda onion, roasted red pepper, dressed with burrata cheese,
pickled beets, roasted pumpkin seeds and lemon vinaigrette

Filet Mignon & Lobster Tail

Double smoked bacon wrapped AAA filet mignon marinated
with garlic and fresh herbs, grilled to your liking
Served with baked lobster tail, sauteed fresh vegetables
and dauphinoise potatoes

OR

Wild Mushroom Risotto

Wild mushrooms and marinated grilled vegetables, sauteed
with shallots, garlic, vegetable stock and arborio rice reduced to a
creamy consistency infused with white wine and parmigiano reggiano
Served with garlic bread

Chocolate Fondue (A dessert for 2)

Dark Belgium chocolate, served warm at your table for two
with strawberries, mango, bananas, apricots, biscotti,
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OR

Chocolate-Covered Strawberry Cheesecake

Decadent New York cheesecake covered in strawberries,
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RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

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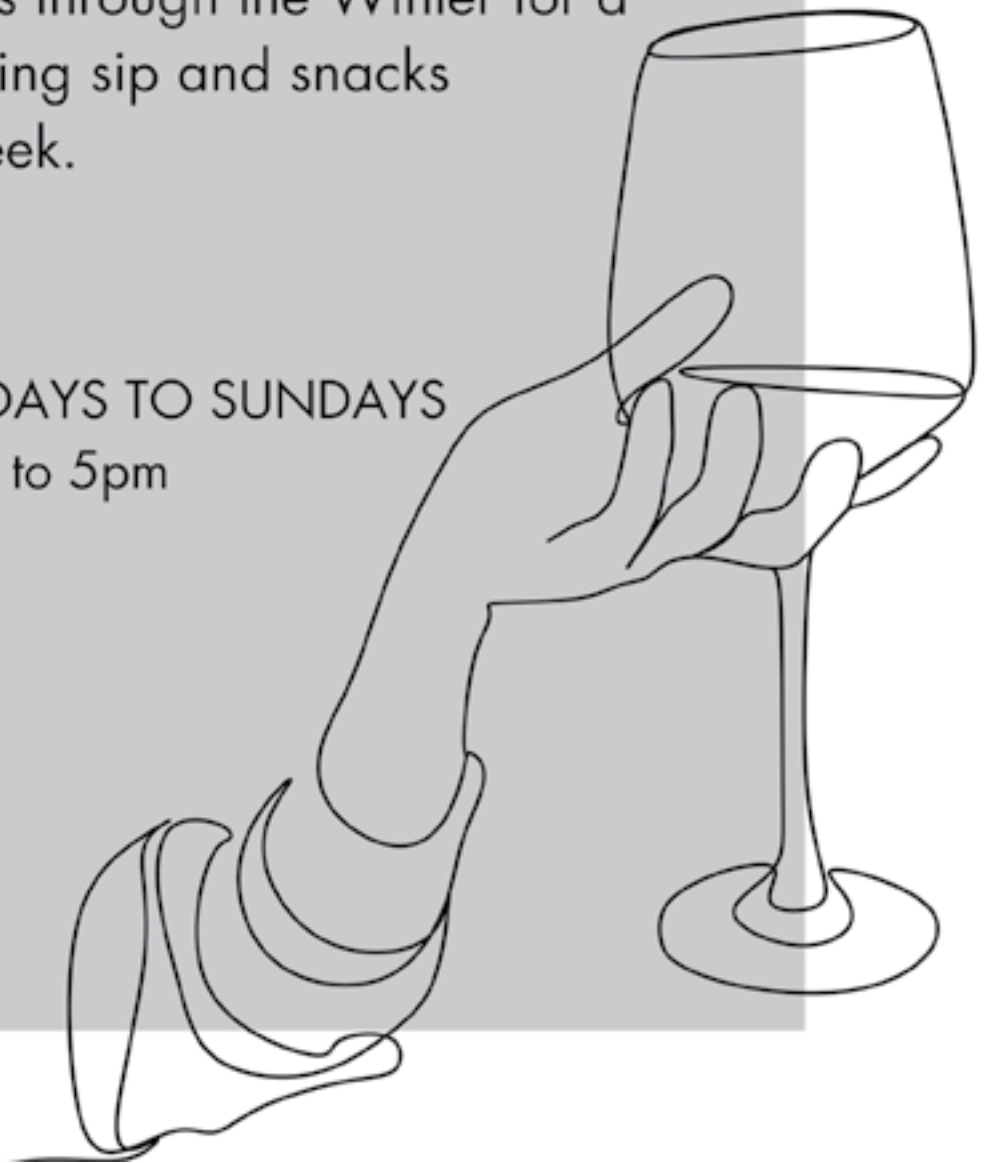
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Sea Star Vineyards and Winery is finally open year round! Come join us through the Winter for a warming sip and snacks all week.

TUESDAYS TO SUNDAYS
12pm to 5pm



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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.

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

By the time this issue of *The Pender Post* is in your hands, the snowfall will be a distant memory, and we will be busy checking the spring bulbs for early blooms. But as I write this, we are still surrounded by snow, and enduring the mushy remnants of what has been a beautiful interlude. I love snow – the silence and the sense of peace, followed by the joy of children and dogs, walkers and cross-country skiers, out reveling in the wonder of it all. At the same time, I know that not everyone greets the snow with excitement. Looking through the lens of practicality, snow brings the challenges of being homebound with undrivable driveways, icy footing, treacherous roads, and isolation.

A yearly snowfall is a good reminder of the importance of community. Living in a rural area has always meant recognizing that we need each other. From the communal living of Canada's First Peoples to the settlers who worked together to plant, harvest, and survive, rural dwellers have depended on supporting one another. In the past few days, I have seen so many examples of caring: roads being cleared, people checking on housebound or elderly neighbours, offering rides or bringing supplies, helping to shovel driveways, lending muscle power to a driver whose car was stuck. It's the modern-day version of the pioneer spirit. And I have heard many people say, "That's so Pender." It IS so Pender. That's the real joy that the snow brings.

Annie Smith

IN APPRECIATION



I would like the Pender community to know how much we appreciated one of our ferry attendants putting our pet photos on the Christmas tree in our waiting room at the ferry terminal. This is Squire, my 14-year-old, long-haired dachshund.

Joanne Enns

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

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Beach Watch



High Tides are upon us! Walking the local beaches is difficult at times but if you're doing a marine litter cleanup, save it at home to take to our annual Earth Day Beach Cleanup in April.

At the 2023 cleanup, more than half of the beach and roadside refuse collected that would otherwise have gone to Hartland Landfill was recycled! I will be there again this year with our sorting team—volunteers from Pender Island Conservancy Association and aid from Pender Island Recycling Society.

If you have adopted a favorite beach to regularly clean through the year, please help us in advance by separating out the recyclables: metal, glass, plastic, and

refundables, as this would assist during the busy 'drop off' time during the Earth Day clean up. We encourage your help to take items found on your beach walks that are recyclable to our local depot (in clean shape), throughout the year.

The 'Ocean Legacy Foundation', a non-profit Marine Conservation Organization, has a depot in Richmond which takes fishing industry related gear (often retrieved during our beach sweeps) for recycling. This hugely alleviates items thought of as trash that would have gone to the dump. The B.C. Coastal Cleanup Campaign shares this goal of diverting marine refuse from the landfill. Synthetic rope, line, white Styrofoam, fishing floats, buoys, traps, and trays are some of these items of marine debris (and AKA ghost fishing gear) that we can accept to be sent to the Vancouver side depot. Please contact me if you need help or info on this.

Hope to see you take part in the Earth Day event. Check the PICA website for more information.



*Michelle Marsden,
BC Coastal Cleanup Campaign,
fortmarsden@shaw.ca*

**Workshop on
Anti-Indigenous Racism:
Re-evaluating Canadian
History**

February 24, 12:30 pm
St. Teresa's Catholic Church

Developed by the Interfaith Society of Victoria, this workshop is one in a series of workshops to be co-hosted by The Bahá'í Faith Group of Pender Island and Southern Gulf Islands and St. Teresa's Catholic Church. Your participation is welcome. For more information or to register for this workshop, please contact Jo Beattie (jobeattieuk@gmail.com) or Bev Peden (bevpedenpender@gmail.com).

Bev Peden

Community Conversations

January's Community Conversation was one cold day but that didn't stop some brave Penderites from showing up and asking questions of Adam Olsen and CRD's Paul Brent. We thank Adam and Paul and all the community members who attended on that chilly day and engaged in informative and lively conversation.

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.

**Next is scheduled meeting:
March 8, 9:30 am
at the Pender Community Hall.**

Taking questions: Adam Olsen & TBD

For information on either of these events, reach out to penderearth@gmail.com.

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

*Mary Anne Pare
and Kathy Cronk*

Nu-To-Yu is an Integral Part of Our Community

Thanks to Volunteers and Donors

If there is any doubt as to the value and importance of Nu-To-Yu to the Pender Island community, you need only know that since 1983 it has given over one-and-a-half million dollars in the form of bursaries and grants to local groups and to individuals to provide further training and education.

Nu-To-Yu is entirely staffed by volunteers. No one is on salary. All decisions are made democratically with input from everyone. Twice yearly there is a meeting of all the volunteers to decide fund allocation.

Founded in the '70s by a group of women who saw a need for such a service, the Nu-To-Yu was originally located in a basement room in a house behind what was then the Magic Lake Market. The hope was to raise funds for the new Medical Centre. According to volunteer Pam Petrie, the first day they made the grand sum of \$35.

Pam's husband, Jim, began a search for a new location and discovered that the old school building had become available. Unfortunately, it had mould, very little insulation, single-glazed windows, and asbestos (which was removed, as much as possible, at a cost of \$25,000). Vermin were a real problem.

To the rescue came an extremely generous benefactor who, after a thorough search for appropriate recipients, left \$240,000 to the Nu-To-Yu in his will.

Another windfall arrived when one-and-a-half acres of land behind the Driftwood Centre were donated. Volunteer Manfred Burandt began dealing with the Islands Trust, engineers, and the Ministry of Highways, among others, and after wading through red tape and legal barriers for five years was finally given the title.

The Nu-To-Yu has since applied to the federal government for larger grants for rural program development. It has also applied to other organizations and foundations, and private and individual donations have been gratefully accepted. There are plans for various fundraising events. Another silent auction is being considered, since the last one garnered an impressive \$10,000.

One recent beneficiary of Nu-To-Yu donations is the Pender Young Violins who received a grant of \$5000 to assist in their successful trip to Finland last year. They have offered to return the favour by performing a benefit concert.



Jim Petrie, Pam Petrie and Manfred Burandt.

Nu-To-Yu volunteers are also always available in times of emergency, able to provide blankets, clothing, household items and anything else to those in need. Refugee families starting a new life in Canada have received \$4000 in items.

The new building will be 6100 square feet, as opposed to the 4800 square feet at the current location. This will enable the Nu-To-Yu to sell larger items such as home furnishings and art work.

We wish them all the best in their new home. Hopefully work will begin in May and the new store will be a terrific addition to the Driftwood Centre by 2025.

Allan Gray

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Registration begins January 26, 2024 tickets are available for purchase
on February 2, 2024 after registration has been approved



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The Pender Post



Thanks to Christmas Dinner Volunteers and Donors

The tree and ornaments are put away, the wrapping paper recycled, and only the lingering strains of *Auld Lang Syne* remain as a faded memory. But, hey, wasn't that a party!

So much work went into preparation and so many people to thank for their time and effort. First off, thanks to Mike Gray for those turkeys, and cooks Roberta Niemann and daughter for cooking them to perfection. Thanks also to Kelly and Peter McArthur for their contribution of a turkey.

Thanks to Dean Steeves for providing dinner music. Many thanks to my partner-in-crime, Priscilla Maki, for all her hard work and my husband, David, for his support, help, and MC job.

Most of all, thanks to all of you for attending and to all our wonderful people who donated prizes for the event. In no particular order, thanks to Home Hardware, New Moon B&B, Pender Pharmacy, Pender Chocolates, Barry for his honey and sour dough bread, Ravens Fir for the candy, Talisman Books and Gallery, Bev Peden, Wendi Lopatecki, Shirley Searle, Susan Mark, Morgan Warren, Joe Montague, Barbara Stowe, Margaret Alpen, and Sandy Shreve.

Thank you to those who stayed behind to put away tables and chairs. And last but certainly not least, thank you to Ian Dutton for stepping up and doing all those dishes. Much appreciated! My apologies if I missed anyone.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2024,

Tania Schissler

Charles G. Harris (Chuck)



The Pender Post board would like to express its heartfelt condolences to Doreen Ball on the death of her husband, Chuck, on January 18, 2024. Chuck gave so much to the community over the years, including picking up *The Pender Post* when it was printed on Mayne Island and then delivering it to the stores on Pender, while Doreen, of course, was an integral part of *The Pender Post*. Remembrances of Chuck will appear in the March issue of *The Post*. A celebration of life is being planned for April 13. Our sincere sympathy to Doreen and family.

Annie Smith

Anne L. Styba

1928-2023



My mother grew up in the West End of Vancouver near English Bay. She and her sister Janet learned to swim at Sunset Beach.

Mom and Janet visited their grandpa Connell at Pender Harbour and helped him at his blacksmith shop pumping the bellows.

Mom studied office procedures at the Fairview School of Commerce and learned typing, shorthand, and bookkeeping and worked as a school secretary when we were growing up, and had the same holidays as us kids.

Mom and our dad Tony Styba met in Toronto through friends and would go to dances on the weekends. My dad would call during the week and find out what colour dress my mom would be wearing so he could order her a matching corsage. They married and had four children: James Norris, Catherine, Stephen, and Janet Michelle.

We lived in Winnipeg until 1965 then moved back to Vancouver as Mom could not tolerate the cold temperatures or the snow that would cover the windows.

In 1968 Mom and Dad took us kids to the PNE where they saw photos of Pender Island. They purchased beachfront property and spent the first summer clearing the property while staying in a huge canvas tent with cots to sleep on. We had an amazing summer of playing at the beach all day and had no rain that summer.

Mom had many talents and was an expert at sewing, knitting, and painting. She helped Dad by typing his catalogues for their electronics wholesale business. Mom took art classes as a girl at the Vancouver Art Gallery and sold many pieces. She also won a silver medal at the age of 14 for violin.

Mom and Dad became snowbirds after retirement and travelled for four months every winter to their favourite places: Mexico, California, Hawaii, and as far as Thailand. They were travelling in Phuket during the tsunami.

Mom and Dad made lifelong friends on Pender Island: Don and Connie Abbott, John and Ethel Sabbagh, June and Max

Our Heartfelt Gratitude to All the 2023 Volunteers

Who Contributed to Keeping the Legion Operating

We could not have done it without you!



Malcolm Armstrong, Tony Bachmeier, Vicki Bachmeier, Charles Baker, Patrick Brown, Anne Burdett, Lisa Christensen, Allyson Coffey, John Cowan, Diane Cuthbert, Kathy Curtis, Catherine Dawson, Colin Denton, Larry Dempster and the Highlander Pipe Band, Jean Deschenes, Teresa Dyck, Charlotte Edwards, Joanne Enns, Stephen Fairclough and band, Marilyn Forbes, Greg Forsyth, John Fotheringham, Tim Frick, Carol Funk, Lisa & Russ Gedak, Jamie Graham, Shane Greenall, Kathy Haggitt, Lorette Hall, Daunne & Bruce Hall, Dave Hargreaves, Dean Harris, Jane Harrison, Joanne Harrison, Jon Heaney, Dale Henning, Ron Henze, Grant Hobbs, John Hough, Natasia Ilkiw, Jenn Kaila, Rutger Kamphuis, Jen Laidlaw, Andrea Law, Ralph Little, David Lumley, Terry MacDonald, Ian MacGregor, Enzo Marino, Lionel Mather, Ben McConchie, Lisa Mollison, Alan Munroe, Ken Pelley, Barb Pender, John Pender, Melody Pender, Kauko Pennanen, Ian Pirie, Patti Reid, Gord Resvick, Ian Robertson, Karen & Kevin Robertson, Mary Beth Rondeau, Dave & Tania Schissler, Dave & Donna Sherman, Barney Simpson, Darlene Smith, Neil Smith, Pamella Smith, Audrey Stibbe, John Temple, Daphne & Mike ter Kuile, Carol Tonnellier, Gillian Turner, Art van Vliet, Fred Weircyski, Nia Williams, Peter & Diane Wilson, Tom Wyborn.



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Allen, and Mary and Harry Vogel. Connie Abbot was an expert at quilting and Mom and Connie had sewing in common and also did some travelling to Mexico together. Ethel Sabbagh became a trusted friend to our Mom and family and, as a registered nurse, she attended many First Aid emergencies for us over the years. June and Max Allen also travelled to Mexico together with my parents.

Mom was an avid gardener and had a large vegetable garden every summer. We also had fruit and nut trees and benefitted from eating off our land.

Mom sewed my graduation dress and my sister's wedding gown as well as some of our clothes growing up.

Our mother loved us all and was a good mother. We shall miss her very much and will be together in the fullness of time.

Michelle Styba

Norris Styba

1958 - 2023

My brother Norris was born in Toronto but moved to Vancouver in 1965 as my parents had a house in Dunbar. He had many friends and hobbies. He loved to skim, swim, ride his bicycle, and motorcycle. He graduated from Prince of Wales High School in 1976 and had several jobs before becoming a carpenter, and worked on TV and movie sets.

Norris loved to fish with our father, Tony Styba, and went to Langara Fishing Lodge with my husband, Trevor Styba, on our dad's retirement. He also went fishing with his friend Steve Wicks who was in commercial fishing.

Norris loved the water and spent every summer playing in the ocean on Pender Island or at Point Roberts with our Granny May Peterson. He had many adventures on Pender Island each summer with his friends Bruce, John, and David Vogel. One day Norris decided to climb a huge tree to see an eagle's nest and lost some skin on his hands on the rope he was climbing.

My brother and I were good friends and he taught me to drive. He told me to drive like he was holding a cup of tea to not spill.

He also helped us move to Penticton in 1994 and helped us finish our cabin at Apex. He loved to visit each Christmas to see our kids and skate on the skating loop.

Norris had a workplace accident when a wall fell on him and knocked him unconscious. He was revived by oxygen but suffered a brain injury in 2014 and was unable to continue to work on movie sets. I moved him to Penticton in 2019 to be closer to me and to be with our mother. They both lived at Trinity Care Centre and enjoyed going to the beach and for car rides twice a week for sushi and ice cream.

Norris was a kind and gentle soul who loved children. He unfortunately never married or had children of his own.

I shall miss my brother and will see him again on the other side.

Michelle Styba

Donnie Watt

1949 - 2010



May the winds of time blow softly and whisper in your ear how much we love and miss you and wish that you were here.

Norma Watt, Colby and Nolan

Jane (Harker) Slater

1939 - 2023



It is with deep love and respect that I share the news of the passing of Jane Slater. She followed Mark, her husband of 62 years, just a short season after his passing in July. She went peacefully with her three children by her side. She endured her declining health with the courage and quiet dignity that she has shown throughout her life.

Jane and her husband spent many happy years living on Stanley Point Drive on Pender Island before moving to Sidney in 2016.

Jane was born in Vancouver. Her parents, Lucy and Douglas Harker, emigrated from England. During the war years in her childhood she moved inland to safer ground in Calgary.

As a girl she enjoyed camping, hiking, and skiing and she passed her love of adventure and travel on to her children. She and her lifelong friend Janice Pickerill worked summers as waitresses at the Eldorado Arms on Lake Okanagan where she enjoyed learning how to waterski.

Jane briefly attended nursing school in Victoria, and then attended UBC and studied psychology where she met Mark on a blind date. They married in 1961 and moved up the coast to Ocean Falls, where Mark worked as an engineer in the pulp mill. Diana and Ted were born there. Jennifer joined later in Sarnia, Ontario. Then in 1969 the young family returned to Vancouver where they lived on West 18th Avenue.

Jane was a devoted Christian who lived her faith but did not impose it. She loved hymns, romantic movies, musicals, and caring for numerous pets.

As a gracious host she always wanted to be sure we were happy and fed. It made her truly content to see her family enjoying a good meal. She filled a drawer at Pender Island with chocolate chip and cranberry cookies for her grandchildren.

Jane became an ESL teacher. She hosted and helped many Vietnamese and Chinese refugees. She loved to travel. She travelled on her own to Israel and to China.

After the Vancouver years, she found herself an empty-nester, which was a difficult chapter of her life. Mark had received a promotion and the two packed up their beloved home on West 18th Ave and moved to Calgary.

In 1998 they moved to Pender Island to live with her beloved stepmother, Betty Harker, whom Jane looked after for several years. She continued her tradition of creating fun. She joined the book club, the bridge club, the Scrabble club; she volunteered at the Pender Nu-To-Yu; went on day trips with the Red Hat Ladies; and taught Sunday school. She especially enjoyed Pender holidays with her teenage granddaughters. Jane discovered a passion for kayaking. She bought two kayaks: one extra so she could always introduce someone new to the sport she loved.

In 2016 Jane and Mark moved to Sidney, where they continued to enjoy visits with loved ones and friends new and old, and where they held out together during the pandemic and survived, even thrived, as a team.

We honour Jane's loving and generous spirit, her readiness to assist others, and her willingness to donate her time to volunteering. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Jane's memory to your favourite charity or cause.

Ted Slater

Donna Sterling

May 18, 1941- January 4, 2024



Donna Sterling passed away peacefully in her sleep at Victoria Hospice with family by her side. Retiring to Pender fifteen years ago with her husband Finlay, Donna loved her home on the ocean and her time on the island. She also enjoyed her many trips in the PNW getting to know the area. Her favourites included Victoria, Tofino, Courtenay, Vancouver, and Seattle. A maritimer by birth and at heart, she will be returning 'home' to the South Shore of Nova Scotia to be laid to rest beside her mother. Donna wanted to thank all the good people at The Pender Medical Clinic, The Pender Island Pharmacy, and the first responders and ambulance services of Pender Island who, over the last five years, went above and beyond during her prolonged dance with breast cancer. In lieu of flowers or condolences, donations can be made in Donna's name to Victoria Hospice if desired.

Retford Sterling and family

Bill and Patti Badcock



We are writing to pay tribute to our dear friends: Bill Badcock who passed over on December 22 and Patti Badcock who followed him on January 8.

Bill was a many-layered person. He was a member of Mensa, a Q.C. (more recently K.C.) and appeared at the Supreme Court of Canada on a landmark Indigenous case. He loved to cook: his cheesecakes were so delicious. He was kind, generous with his gifts and time and had a delightful sense of humour. He was devoted to Patti, their daughter, and granddaughter.

Patti was also a special person. She was an artist, seeing the beauty in almost everything. She was kind, caring, and had an infectious laugh. Her family was so important to her. She loved and had a real connection to nature, animals, and birds. At least once a week she came to our farm to feed the horses their lunch and just be with them. Patti came over when we said goodbye to our old mare, Cheyenne, and thought one of us had put their arm around her. Instead it was one of the other horses, Mike, who rested his head on her shoulder.

We were thrilled when they visited our new home in Courtenay. Thank you to daughter Kye, granddaughter Echo, and John, Patti's brother, for sharing these two wonderful people with us.

Neville Avison and Sharon Card

MLA

Advocating for People and Communities in Saanich North and the Islands



I have a deep connection to the beautiful place we live. I belong here, and this perspective informs the way I advocate, engage, and relate to the people, to the land, and to all the flora and fauna.

Reflecting on the past six years that I have been MLA for Saanich North and the Islands, I am proud of the advocacy work of our community office. From day one we have aspired to be community-centred, advocating for constituents who contact us, while proactively working to bring people together on important issues to build local resilience.

My approach has been informed in part by Peter MacLeod's work (MASS LBP) in the early 2000s on *The Constituency Project*. Conversations with Peter offered rich insights on how we could effectively engage with the constituency, stay connected, and also be a connector. This constituent-centred approach was inspired by my experience working in local businesses like the Butchart Gardens, where professional, personal, and prompt customer service was emphasized.

Creating an effective and efficient approach to advocacy has, and continues to be, an iterative process. It's important to recognize and acknowledge the constituency advocates who have worked in the community office since 2017. Their efforts refined and improved our approach.

Over the last year alone, our office has engaged in advocacy on roughly 687 different case files. These cases can range from anything as straightforward as responding to an inquiry about provincial services, to convening stakeholders and facilitating efforts to change existing provincial policies and legislation.

Our office is non-partisan and responsive to any issues or concerns related to provincial jurisdiction. However, we focus our advocacy on the issues that are most important to the constituents of Saanich North and

the Islands. Over the last six years, this means that we have focused primarily on transportation, healthcare, housing, waterways/nature, Indigenous Peoples, and local governance in the Southern Gulf Islands.

While not the only metric of progress, these efforts have resulted in real and tangible investments in the community.

Between 2017 and 2023, the provincial government has invested more than \$300 million in Saanich North and the Islands in areas such as affordable housing, healthcare, childcare, education, transportation, rural broadband connectivity, and COVID-19 recovery. These investments have been consistent across both minority and majority governments with an investment of roughly \$158 million from 2017-2020 (minority government), and roughly \$148 million between 2020-2023 (majority government).

None of these investments are possible without the community making them a priority. I raise my hands to the mayors and councillors, CRD electoral area directors, Islands Trust trustees, and their local government administrations, local community groups, and individuals, for their work in the community to prepare grant applications, and to effectively administer and steward projects.

While the provincial government cannot financially support all the worthy project applicants, we will continue to work with proponents to advocate for, and support, their initiatives.

Whether you have never connected with our office or do so frequently, I encourage you to reach out. We are here to support you or your community organization. Please do not hesitate to contact me and our team of community advocates at Adam.Olsen.MLA@leg.bc.ca, by calling 250-655-5600 or visiting our community office on 9828 Fourth Street in Sidney, BC. For more information, visit www.saanichnorthandtheislands.com/.

*Adam Olsen, MLA
Saanich North and the Islands*

CRD

Borrowing for Housing



This topic of this article is pretty much akin to closing the barn door after the horse has escaped, but nonetheless it needs to be said.

There has been much discussion and concern regarding the announcement that CRD is looking to borrow \$85 million for the purpose of supporting housing, and that they chose the Alternate Approval Process (AAP) to get constituent approval. That process allows for electors who oppose this borrowing to register their disapproval by filling out an Electoral Response form available on the CRD website (simply Google CRD Electoral Response Form). That form can be scanned or a photo taken and emailed directly to the CRD (LegServ@crd.bc.ca), or mailed via Canada Post or even dropped off. If 10% of the CRD's electorate send in forms opposing this borrowing, the bylaw fails and the borrowing won't happen.

I've heard from islanders that they don't like this methodology, that not enough information has been made available and that this seems a sly way to get approval. In hindsight they have a point, and I admit we could have done a much better job at explaining the \$85-million borrowing bylaw in advance and its likely impact on the average household's taxes. Once those were properly explained, the rationale for seeking approval for the CRD to borrow up to \$85 million would (I believe) make



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Electoral Area Director
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good sense to the majority of electors, and make the AAP a sensible choice.

So why seek to borrow so much for housing? It's no news that we don't have enough housing in our region and the impact on all components of our region are negative; our economy, our social supports and most importantly those unhoused or housing insecure. We need to fix this. The provincial and federal governments realize this and have recently committed billions of dollars to address the problem. Those senior levels of government do that in partnership with local and regional governments. This allows for significant investments, with each level of government contributing their share.

There is intense competition amongst local and regional governments to attract those senior government housing funds, as they can triple the value of the local government investment in housing. By announcing a housing fund up to \$85 million, the CRD positions itself as a strong, willing, and able partner, stretching the value of our taxes exponentially.

Some might say "that sounds good if you say it fast, but what if the CRD doesn't attract those senior level government housing funds?" Simple. The CRD doesn't borrow the funds. And there is no impact on property taxes. But in my opinion there would be a substantial negative impact on our ability to build housing, and the collateral damage to our economy, society, and even environment would be very negative, and would likely have other significant tax consequences in the future as we deal with the impacts of inadequate housing in the region.

CRD has borrowed for housing in the past to increase the supply of non-market housing. CRD's wholly-owned Capital Region Housing Corporation (CRHC) is the largest non-profit housing provider on Vancouver Island, providing homes for more than 4,000 residents with over 2,000 housing units across more than 50 buildings.

The borrowing of \$85 million would increase our taxes by about \$26 per year

per average CRD household assuming all \$85 million was borrowed and done so at today's inflated interest rates over a 30-year term. Reality is that borrowing would not likely happen all at once and not start for some time (interest rates are predicted to decline) so that \$26/household is a worst-case scenario, and that assumes we'd be successful at attracting funding partnerships and all \$85 million would be exercised.

Islanders have also pointed out we've seen no CRD housing funds flow to our islands, and for the most part they are correct. Some very small housing support funding has been available through grants-in-aid in the past, but most recently \$2.75 million has been earmarked to support a housing project on Galiano Island. Other islands are on our radar.

The CRD is putting the final touches on the Southern Gulf Islands Rural Housing program, which I expect to see the CRD Board approve in February. Rural housing will be one of three CRD housing support streams for the balance of the term, and I expect results across our islands

I'm more than optimistic but tempered by the reality that creating housing stock is a slow process, so getting it going is critical. Our island economies and social fabric are suffering from a lack of workers, be they teachers, early child-care staff, construction trades, hospitality workers, even ferry employees. The adverse impact of inadequate housing is palpable on our islands.

As to the negative consequences on property owners, most residents on our islands are older (55+), and they can defer property taxes at very low interest rates, without impacting their immediate income. Almost all property owners who purchased their homes pre-pandemic have seen a substantial lift in the value of their home, so their relatively small participation in helping create more accessible housing on our islands seems equitable to me.

I agree we dropped the ball on getting information to electors in advance of

announcing this borrowing bylaw and the AAP.

While CRD had put some information on the \$85-million borrowing in advertisements in the *Times Colonist* and other news channels, as well as in social media, it simply wasn't enough, and not in sufficient depth. And we didn't explain that the AAP was a cost-effective alternative to a referendum, which in our large region would have likely cost more than \$500,000. Better those monies be spent on housing than process. And even better if we had realized that this whole thing should have been explained in advance, and more thoroughly. The blame for that rests with the likes of me, and which I hope to learn from.

*Paul Brent,
CRD Director for the SGI*

Islands Trust

South Pender LTC

Corporate Planning Process



On page 22 of the Governance Report 2022, it was noted that "Trust lacks a unified, comprehensive corporate planning process that begins with goals, proceeds to initiatives to achieve the goals, and then converts the initiatives into financials." As one of the first actions by the new Governance Committee in 2023, a Working Group was struck in February with members from the Finance and Governance Committee, as well as staff, to develop and implement a robust, comprehensive Corporate Planning Process to address this identified issue.

Some people have asked "What is a Corporate Planning Process and why is it important?" Corporate Planning involves strategy definition and direction, decision-making, and resource allocation. It outlines the process to determine the Trust's goals and objectives each term and the specific requirements to achieve them.

Strategic Planning (which forms part of the Corporate Plan) outlines where to focus money and resource allocation to reach the objectives and goals each year during the term.

As it currently stands, Islands Trust has no official written procedure for either Corporate or Strategic Planning. As a direct result of this, staff become overloaded with too many projects that lack explicit and clearly defined milestones, timelines, and benchmarks for success and/or completion. By developing a formal written procedure which provides trustees and staff with recourse to gain clarity on priorities, we reduce the risk of staff burnout and turnover while increasing our project delivery successes and reducing overspending.

Having an official Corporate Planning Process in place enables your trustees to follow Best Practices for local governments to ensure that money and resources are spent responsibly and with greater transparency and control. Some of these elements already exist, but to date, have not been formalized into a complete process for staff and your trustees at Trust Council to follow, term over term.

Trust Council needs specific, detailed information with in-depth analysis to make effective decisions to determine which, and how many, projects to initiate and allocate money to, along with an understanding of resource availability and time requirements to conduct the work and produce meaningful deliveries. The Corporate Planning Process breaks down each step and includes various analytical tools to provide insight into goal and objective alignment, budget requirements/impacts, resource allocation, risk and end benefits to the Trust Area and communities, along with clear benchmarks to measure progress and success at each milestone. With this level of information, Trust Council is better informed to develop an accurate budget forecast with a realistic projection of what can be delivered

each fiscal year to avoid overtaxing and underspending.

This formal process provides the steps to thoroughly review the work being conducted at multiple points during the project's life cycle so that Trust Council can effectively prioritize projects to reach its objectives in a timely and financially responsible manner. It also increases transparency in spending and project status, and reduces inefficiencies in workload management. This provides staff the ability to focus on fewer projects at a time to deliver quality results on budget and on time before moving on to the next project, which may have a direct impact on yearly taxes.

*Kristina Evans,
South Pender Trustee*

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Pender Island Art Society



The New Year is now well underway. Last month, PIAS rang in the New Year with a series of two afternoon pastel classes. Using a varied and comprehensive array of donated supplies: pastels, conte, tools, resource materials, papers and grit, attendees were allowed an enjoyable opportunity to expand understanding of the media, by way of a generous donation by Grace Frate.

An honorary lifetime member of PIAS and accomplished pastel artist, Grace recently left Pender, and Margaret Alpen took the reins and organized this delightful series. Some useful techniques were shared to reduce messy chalk dust, and ideas for best surfaces to create pastel artwork on. Some members brought artwork that had already been started, others brought ideas and some created spontaneously. The selection of ideas and supplies brought some cheer to the grey and cold January Mondays, as well as a hearty turnout of artistic folks.

The February art schedule promises to be equally interesting with new ideas to exchange and an opportunity to share art and receive positive critique. February 5 Corinne Parker will host a supportive investigation of artwork offered by attendees where friendly critique will be offered. In Corinne's words, 'We all put our heart and soul on the line when we share art so we have to be very respectful when we comment on others' art'. This class is for everyone, whether you have a formal artistic background or if an interest and enjoyment brings you to create. Bring your art – possibly a piece of art that won't finish – and we will start by observing the offered artwork. Class runs 1- 3 pm.

February 20, Margaret Alpen will host an evening class, which may allow parents or those who work during the day to join in *Exploring Ways of Drawing* from 7 - 9 pm. Using different tools, and techniques for looking at objects, attendees will be encouraged to explore ideas to add to or begin their toolkit of creative drawing practice.

Larissa Shumuk

Pender Island Celtic Music Society



The month of January was a very quiet one for the Pender Highlanders, although it may seem a bit incongruous to think of anything having to do with bagpipes and drums as being quiet. There were no official performances, and the cold snap mid-month was definitely not motivating for outdoor playing. So it has mainly been a time for rest, and practising, of course. When asked if a person should really practise every day, an old music teacher used to say, "Of course you don't need to practise every day, just practise on the days that you eat."

For a break from all that practising, the Highlanders will be hosting the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper from 5 - 6:30 pm on February 13 at the Anglican Church hall. Of course we won't be doing this by ourselves, but with the help of other community folks. Admission is by donation; come out and enjoy a tasty meal!

Caren Rennie

Pender Island Concert Society



Matthew Hinton and Lester Quitzau

Our first event of 2024 presents two Pender Island performers in concert on Sunday, February 11 at 2:30 pm at the Community Hall.

Matthew Hinton and Lester Quitzau first got together about a year ago to jam a

little – Lester singing with guitar and Matthew on piano. A friendship began that fostered further collaboration and musical creativity. Ptarmigan Arts urges us to "Come journey with Matthew and Lester as they wander through the woods of musical improvisation... from Mozart to The Mississippi Sheiks, they explore an unknown landscape... listening to and following a path unfolding." This performance will be their first public one as a duo.

As usual, tickets will be available for sale at Talisman Books for \$25 and at the door if seats are available. Our generous sponsors make it possible for students to attend all concerts free of charge. Students must be armed with a ticket.

Our next concert will be at 7:30 pm, Thursday April 25 when we present guitarists Adam Cicchillitti and Steve Cowan in performance.

On a sad note, the Concert Society board marks the death of Bill Badcock this past December. For over 10 years, Bill voluntarily produced posters, programs, and tickets for every concert, graciously accepting changes and incorporating them at the last minute. His skill resulted in exceptionally good artistic results. We will miss his friendship, humour, and talent.

Jon Heaney, Society Chair



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Pender Island Quilters' Circle



A heartfelt thank you to Karen Gagnier for writing the January Pender Post article. She has a delightful and enthusiastic style, which is greatly appreciated.

Sixteen dedicated quilters met at the Anglican Church Hall, January 8, on a blustery Winnie-the-Pooh day for our inaugural meeting of 2024. We started with a short business update. We moved on to "Show and Share" where members display their recent projects. There was a range of laptop to full-size quilts including pretty in pink for a baby (Eleanor), shades of coral for a teenager (Susan D.), and blue blocks (by our renowned speed quilter, Karen W.). We also viewed works in progress with unique characteristics: sewing half-triangle squares by hand (Joanne) and a technique for perfect points for 150 squares (Martha). We are inspired by the creations of our quilter colleagues and this is one reason why we gather each month.

We also share handy quilting hints and tools of the trade. Not only do quilters gather and hoard fabric, they also accrue nifty tools which they are happy to show off. Susan shared her hint for machine applique stitching where she lifts the foot and moves the fabric but doesn't cut the thread; the thread is cut later. To applique by machine (and hand) around small, fused pieces of fabric is a time-consuming process and eliminating steps in the process is a bonus.

Heather proceeded to lead in our project for January and February, "Sea Glass" table runner, and explain the production process. The first step is to cut and fuse the pieces of sea glass (fabric in various shades of blue and green and other colours). Most of us spent the session cutting out sea glass fabric shapes and chatting with our table companions (about quilting and life, in general). We'll fuse them in a pattern on our chosen fabric background. At the February Quilters Circle session, Heather will



Show & Share - Karen W's quilt

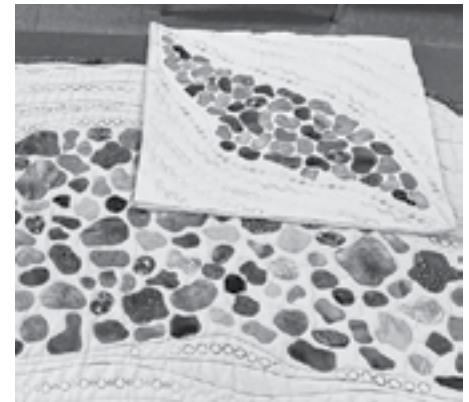
demonstrate free motion quilting and applying the binding to finish the quilt. Heather provided a beautiful instructional layout with examples of sea glass patterns and finished projects. Karen G. also provided supplementary examples to encourage us.

It was a motivating initiation to 2024.

Our next meeting, February 13, 9:30 am at the Anglican Church, will be a continuation of the sea glass project. Newcomers are always welcome and there is no expectation of doing the monthly project. You can bring your own project to work on.

Quilter's Philosophy: Winter can be an endurance test in the northern climes. However, it is a wonderful opportunity for quilters to be reclusive and creative and focus on fabric art. It is a pleasure to seclude ourselves in a designated spot in our abode, with a hot drink, and spread out our current project. It may look like chaos to others but we have a plan and cold winter days unfold with joy.

Laura Vilness



Sea Glass Table Runner

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Pender Photo Club



Cliffs of Moher on the Irish coast by Sherrie Boyte.

The New Year came in with a roar as 10 camera clickers, aka photo club members, met on Tuesday January 2 via Zoom. We viewed 52 photos and, as an aside, I must say Zoom is a pleasant format. You can enjoyably critique photos in the coziness of your own home, perhaps with a glass of wine. No more driving in the dark. Many thanks to Urs for organizing these comfortable meetings!

The theme of “seascapes” yielded shots that were wide-ranging in content and spectacular to view. We travelled to Ireland, Indonesia, Pender Island (the most beautiful of all!) and more, seeing boats and waves galore. We were dazzled by the photos and how they had been improved by cropping, enhancing lighting, and boosting colours. The

use of fog and mist was particularly effective.

We are considering inviting speakers to address our meetings. If we use Zoom, travel costs can be avoided. The next meeting will be at 7 pm on Monday, February 5 via Zoom. Please submit up to six photos that capture this month’s theme to Urs Boxler (ursboxler@gmail.com). The theme is, well, a bit unusual. You are to show a “poor” shot, and then a photo of the same subject once it has been improved by shooting from a different angle/zoom or by photoshopping the image. Please submit up to six photos. Good luck

All camera lovers are invited to join our meetings.

Hans Tammemagi

Pender Solstice Theatre Society



Solstice Theatre’s spring production of *Four Weddings and an Elvis* is now in rehearsal and will be presented at the Community Hall April 19 to 21. This comedy is directed by Tammy Adolf and its talented cast consists of Matt Adolf, John Barlow, Annette Cyr, Joyce Davis, Robert Dill, Tanys Harapiak, Jaime MacLean, Karen Parker, Barb Pender, Aaron Severance, and Ethan Smith.

Evan Llewellyn, President

PIJazz

We’re back! While the holiday season presents no lack of musical satisfaction, the band enjoyed a break to recharge and regroup. Our Thursday rehearsals at the Anglican Hall have resumed with some new tunes and new goals.

We are working towards our next community jazz dance March 2 at the Community Hall.

It’s hard to imagine the place we started nearly 20 years ago – being occasionally overjoyed with having all of us in the same general part of the tune at the same time – to now, where we are building our repertoire into a third set, adding tunes in different sub-genres of jazz, and enjoying pretty decent instrumentation. It’s amazing fun.

On the matter of players, wanna come play? Played trombone a few decades ago? Still kinda remember your trumpet fingerings? Come on out! Other instruments could work too: give us a holler at brycewoolcombe@gmail.com and we’ll chat. I mean, you don’t have to be rusty, and we’d be overjoyed if you just moved to Pender after spending years in professional bands, but we’re flexible. We can even sometimes find instruments to loan.

Music Musings

As mentioned in a previous column, I started out with more than a bit of musical snobbery and have been curing myself incrementally over the years. Here’s some entire genres of music (in addition to jazz) that I’m currently loving.

Ukrainian Pan-Folk Meta-Punk

DakhaBrakha. That’s it. They’re the only one. If you want to be stunned with highly-skilled and dramatic music, this is a good bet. Their live show will make your hair tired from standing on end so much.

Young Guys Who Channel Otis Redding, Marvin Gaye & Bill Withers

Again, only one, and it’s Leon Bridges. If you enjoy Jon Batiste, you’re in for a treat.



DakhaBrakha

Welsh Guys Who Sing, Rap, Play Bass, Play Guitar, and Normalize Talking About Mental Health

Ren Gill. Also, Ren with Chinchilla. Also, Ren with The Big Push. That Ren guy gets around, and brings a truly startling amount of instrumental skill, poetry, and candour. He even has that Leonard Cohen-ish ability to write a pop song in spite of himself. Smarter than Childish Gambino and more heartfelt than Rage Against the Machine.

Strange Retro-Modern Disco Funk Party Music

Scary Pockets, Pomplamoose, Swatkins, and many more. This is my cabin cleaning music, and Charlie the Cat likes it loud.

Canadian Songwriters Who Do the Nashville Style Better Than Americans

Donovan Woods and William Prince. Intentional vocabulary, honesty, and lack of pretense. These guys write songs to the Nashville template so well that Dolly Parton has noticed, and she should know.

So, take a chance! Be that weirdo who listens to crazy tunes. Embarrass your children. Scare the cat. It's Pender: we do that kind of thing.

*Bryce Woollcombe,
Music Director*

Ptarmigan Arts



Welcome to February, Penderites! We have a lovely spread for you this month with something for everyone.

Keep reading for the goods! Did you know that in addition to the many programs we talk about here, we also run charitable programs for seniors and those with socio-economic challenges, music programs in the SGI schools, and singalongs with various organizations in Victoria? Much of what we do at Ptarmigan doesn't get public attention, but you can read about it on our website under "Programs". We're lucky to work with so many amazing funders and facilitators who are passionate about the arts and help make these programs accessible to those who need them. Thank you for being part of that by donating to Ptarmigan and sponsoring young artists.

Visual Artists Pop-In Tours

We invite Pender's visual artists to join three days of Studio Pop-In Tours. 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. Tours run from 1 - 4 pm and are self-guided. January 28 features Magic Lake area studios, February 4 features Hope Bay area studios, and February 11 features studios on South Pender Island. For a complete tour listing visit ptarmiganarts.org/visual-arts.

After School Sketching with Wendy Gardner

February 8 - 22

Join Wendy Gardner in After School Sketching for grades 8 and 9. Anyone can learn to draw. Once you learn the basics and practise these developing skills, your doodling can turn into amazing 3D visual images. This class is an introduction to basic drawing concepts: line, shape, perspective, and values. It will run for three weeks on Thursdays, February 8 - 22, from 3:45 - 4:45 pm. Drawing exercises will be individualized for those with some drawing experience.

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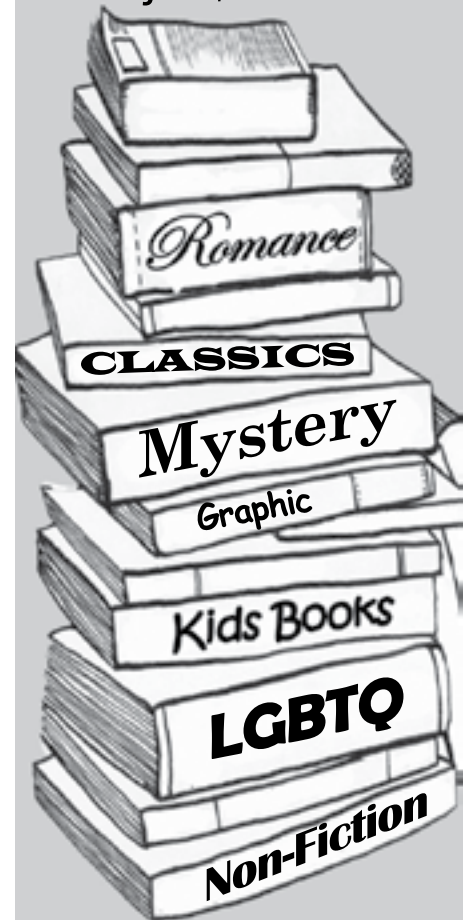


**Book of the Month
THE OLD GAYS GUIDE TO THE GOOD LIFE**

Lessons Learned About Love and Death, Sex and Sin, and Saving the Best for Last

By Mick Peterson, Bill Lyons, Robert Reeves

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Bring your enthusiasm and let's see what we can draw together. Register at the Pender School Office. (All After School programs are fully subsidized by Parmigan Arts so our young artists can enjoy stellar arts education for free).

**PI Concert Society Presents:
Lester Quitzau and Matthew Hinton**

February 11

We are proud to sponsor the next instalment of the Pender Island Concert Society: Lester Quitzau & Matthew Hinton on February 11 at the Hall. A year or so ago, Matthew Hinton and Lester Quitzau got together to jam, with few parameters other than the key of the music. They each brought their unique perspective to the session, playing and listening, letting the muse and music guide them. A lovely friendship began, establishing a platform for musical creativity and collaboration. Lester Quitzau on guitar and vocals; Matthew Hinton on piano. The concert will take place at the Pender Community Hall on Sunday, February 11 at 2 pm. Tickets cost \$25/adult, and youth are free. Tickets available on ptarmiganarts.org/programs and at Talisman Books.

Glazing Day

February 18

Ilse's Glazing Day is back in 2024. This event is for anyone who has taken one of Ilse's pottery courses and has some pieces they'd like to finish (it is not a workshop in glazing). All pieces will be bisque fired in Ilse's home on February 11; the Glazing Day is on Sunday, February 18 from 2:15 to 5:15 pm at the Community Hall where you will be able to use a selection of glazes on your pieces, and following that, a glaze firing will happen. The final reveal will be on Sunday, February 25 from 2:15 to 3:15 pm at the Community Hall. The cost is \$60/person, glazes included, subsidies available. Register by February 8.

Adult Music Theory Basics

February 10 - March 16

Sabrina is back with a Music Theory class starting February 10. Whether you enjoy just listening to music, singing at home, singing in a choir, or have played an instrument for years, this

course will help you build a foundation in understanding key aspects of the elements of music. It will run for six Saturdays from February 10 to March 16, 1 - 3 pm, at the Anglican Church Hall (4703 Canal Rd). Cost is \$110 for 6 weeks, which includes a workbook created by Sabrina Read. Subsidies are available; contact info@ptarmiganarts.org for details. Registration deadline is Tuesday, February 6.

Youth Music Theory Basics

February 10 - March 16

This program is for youth ages 12 - 17 who wish to polish their skills in note reading, circle of fifths recognition, rhythm, harmony, composition, and those seeking music theory prep for the GISPA program on Salt Spring. It will run for six Saturdays from February 10 to March 16, 3 - 4:30 pm, at the Anglican Church Hall (4703 Canal Rd). Cost is \$110 for six weeks, which includes a workbook created by Sabrina Read. Subsidies are available; contact info@ptarmiganarts.org for details. Registration deadline is Tuesday, February 6.

Uke Strum

The Community Uke Strum is thriving and welcomes newcomers. 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. This month the strummers are meeting on February 14 and 28.

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, Parmigan Arts, and the SGI Neighbourhood House. This month our wonderful Uke Strummers will treat us to 10 Beatles covers on February 2, we'll be hearing from the lovely Judy Buerk with her accordion on February 9, Greg Beattie will bring us a few Valentine's tunes together with



Music theory instructor, Sabrina Read

his daughter Liz on February 16, and Pocket Full of Dust (Tim Storm and his quartet from Victoria) will finally make the trip to Pender on February 23 with guitar, fiddle, upright bass and banjo... and lots of singing and harmonies of old-timey and bluegrass tunes.

Art In 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). The current exhibit, Debbie Katz's 'Winterlude', can be viewed during the Library's regular hours, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 - 3.

First Saturdays 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

For information and to register for any of the above programs or events, please visit our website: ptarmiganarts.org

Alice Karolina

South Pender Historical Society



Christmas Eve Singalong

The popular Christmas Eve singalong led by Daniel Lapp on organ was a huge success. A record turnout of close to 100 singers arrived to celebrate the holiday season. The inside of the Church of the Good Shepherd was overflowing, and a larger group sang outside around a warming fire connected to the inside singers with a speaker system graciously set up by Tim Johnson. We sang contemporary and modern songs celebrating the holiday season interspersed with appropriate readings. The audience would request a song to sing and a moment later Daniel had the chords worked out and was ready to go. A highlight was Soleil, Daniel's daughter, singing a solo. After the singalong we shared hot apple cider and goodies around the open fire. No snow this year, but lots of beautiful community connections.

The vestry floor and pew kneelers have been repaired and with the upgrading of the prophets chamber (our serving centre) the facilities are now in good repair. Thanks to Bert Hol for his help with those projects. The next SPHS funding initiative is to help add another panel to the 13 moon calendar at Poets Cove explaining the importance of the reef net fishery to the WSÁNEĆ peoples, with one of their traditional reef net sites in view across the waters

at the entrance to Bedwell Harbour. Stay tuned as the project grows and expands. This summer, Art Off the Fence will take place at the Church of the Good Shepherd. Keep July 19 and 20 free to take it all in. Thanks to Susan Taylor, Frank Ducote, and others for organizing.

The SPHS podcast project is really growing and expanding with funding support from the CRD, CRC, WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council & School Board, the Pender Museum Society, and the SPHS. Our new goal is to complete at least 18 podcasts with WSÁNEĆ elders and South Pender pioneer settler families to help record the history of family connections to S,DÁ,YES and South Pender. Chris Wakaluk is recording and editing the interviews. He and I have completed most of the interviews with WSÁNEĆ elders and are now starting on South Pender pioneer settler families. It is exciting and moving to see how interested the WSÁNEĆ elders have been to share their stories about their connection to S,DÁ,YES and their traditional homeland. It will be equally interesting hearing early settler stories shared by family members. Once the editing and approval to release are completed, the podcasts will be available for the community to enjoy on

Continued



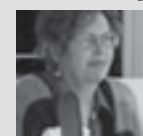
Book Launch
February 24, 2 pm
Talisman Books

Birdie's world is forever changed when she discovers the lifeless body of a fisherman on a Scottish beach. This tragic event brings back haunting memories of her older brother's mysterious disappearance from her family when she was just eleven years old. She knew that she must return to her Native roots, to find her brother Gerald.

While Birdie navigates her way through a labyrinth of secrets, the inconvenient truths of the historical and contemporary experiences of Indigenous people emerge. As Birdie confronts her fears, she uncovers answers – about family, reconciliation, and love.

Throwaway People is a gripping novel exploring the unbreakable bonds of family. In memory of her grandmother, a residential school survivor, Mallory unflinchingly confronts systemic abuse, misinformation and prejudice against First Nations peoples.

Meet the Author



A decorated author, Mallory's accolades include the Province Newspaper's prestigious Author of the Year Award.

A member of the Federation of BC Writers and the League of Canadian Poets, she has written poetry in English and French, short stories, and plays.



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South Pender Historical Society (Continued)



13 moon calendar installation at Poets Cove with MENEFIYE, the artist who created it.

the *The Stories That Brought You Here* podcast site hosted by Chris.

We now have 127 lifetime members. If you are not already a SPHS member and want to be reminded of upcoming events, lifetime membership is only \$10. Please get in contact with Sandra Johnson at 250 812-9776 or email her at sandraLhjohnson@gmail.com to become a member. She will make sure you get your lifetime membership card and a bonus Brooks Point poster. E-transfers can be sent to southpenderhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. We look forward to welcoming you to our community events and activities.

Robert Dill

BOOKKEEPING
PERSONAL INCOME TAX

Shirley Searle
 Dipl Tech BCIT, ATD
Accounting Services

Phone: 250 629-6295
 Cell: 250 516-4440

Coleman Rogers Memorial Bursary



Russ Searle in store.

Last month we paid tribute to Russ Searle. I found this photo of Russ at the Museum recently. Thanks to everyone that donated in memory of Russ Searle to the Coleman Rogers Memorial Bursary Fund.

Joanne Enns

**SPARE ROOM?
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CRC Southern Gulf Islands Community Resources Centre
HOUSING NOW
CRD Making a difference...together
CRSC
GULF ISLANDS

Community Hall (Pender Island Recreation and Agricultural Hall Association)



We are pleased to announce that we have secured a grant for an infrastructure upgrade to support Food Security Programs on Pender Island. This grant, provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) under the Local Food Infrastructure Fund (LFIF), amounts to a generous sum of up to \$116,239. This funding will be augmented by \$29,300 from our donations account, thanks to the generosity of our donors, bringing the total project funding to just over \$145,000.

The LFIF, a 5-year, \$70 million initiative, is part of the Government of Canada’s Food Policy aimed at fostering a healthier and more sustainable food system in the country. We express our gratitude to LFIF and the Government of Canada for their foresight on food security issues and for supporting our community with this substantial grant, which will have a lasting impact for years to come.

The project involves the acquisition and installation of new kitchen equipment, including a reach-in freezer and refrigerator, countertop mixer, induction range, electric convection oven, and a new exhaust system. Additionally, the project includes the construction of separate walk-in 10’ x 10’ freezer and walk-in 10’ x 10’ refrigeration units on the property. These structures will significantly expand our capacity to freeze and store meat and produce for future use and processing.

We are excited about the positive impact this upgrade will have on our ability to contribute to food security in our community. Once again, we extend our appreciation to AAFC, LFIF, and the Government of Canada for their support and commitment to building a resilient and sustainable food system.

Donations

Donations support vital programs such as the Youth Leadership Program, children’s camperships, Comfort Centre, community activities, food security initiatives, capacity building for local nonprofits to create new activities,

and the essential maintenance of the building. If you would like to make a donation to the Community Hall, we are able to accept e-transfers at accounts@penderislands.org In the notes, include your name, address, phone number, email, and that it is a donation. Donations over \$50 will receive a tax receipt.

Youth Leadership Activities

Intro. to Leaders in Training for 12 to 18 years

February 10, 10 am- 12:30 pm
February 24, 11 am - 12:30 pm

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 snacks provided. Registration is highly encouraged. FMI or to register go to penderislands.org/registrations/ or call 250-629-3669.

Films

Doors open 15 minutes prior to showtimes. \$5 - \$10 (sliding scale)

Interstellar (2014)

Friday February 9, 7:15 pm

In Earth’s future, a global crop blight and second Dust Bowl are slowly rendering the planet uninhabitable. Professor Brand (Michael Caine), a brilliant NASA physicist, is working on plans to save mankind by transporting Earth’s population to a new home via a wormhole. But first, Brand must send former NASA pilot Cooper (Matthew McConaughey) and a team of researchers through the wormhole and across the galaxy to find out which of three planets could be mankind’s new home. .

Priscilla

Saturday, February 10, 7:15 pm
Tuesday, February 13, 2:30 pm

When teenager Priscilla Beaulieu meets Elvis Presley at a party, the man who’s

already a meteoric rock ‘n’ roll superstar becomes someone entirely unexpected in private moments: a thrilling crush, an ally in loneliness, and a gentle best friend. Saturday February 10, doors open at 7, film starts at 7:15. Or watch the matinee Tuesday February 13, doors open at 2:15, film starts 2:30. \$5 - \$10 (sliding scale).

The Lorax (2012)

Saturday, February 24, 11 am

Twelve-year-old Ted (Zac Efron) lives in a place virtually devoid of nature; no flowers or trees grow in the town of Thneedville. Ted would very much like to win the heart of Audrey (Taylor Swift), the girl of his dreams, but to do this, he must find that which she most desires: a Truffula tree. To get it, Ted delves into the story of the Lorax (Danny DeVito), once the gruff guardian of the forest, and the Once-ler (Ed Helms), who let greed overtake his respect for nature.

West Side Story (2021)

Saturday February 24, 7:15 pm

Love at first sight strikes when young Tony spots Maria at a high school dance in 1957 New York City. Their burgeoning romance helps to fuel the fire between the warring Jets and Sharks – two rival gangs vying for control of the streets.

Community Hall Activities

Monday 55+ Lunch and Activities

Each week lunch is served from 12 - 2 pm. Meals are also available TO-GO. \$10 suggested but pay what you can is fine. Pre- and post-lunch activities will be added over time. If you are interested in helping in any way, please let us know.

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.

Make Valentines Day Cards

February 2

Make Chocolate Covered Strawberries

February 9

Make Marshmallow Catapults

February 16

Ping Pong Fun

February 23

Saturday Special Activities at the Market

Board Games Day

February 2

Join us for a delightful blend of camaraderie and strategy. Choose from various games or bring your own for friendly challenges. Enjoy the added perk of half-price drinks for all players.

Garage Sale Day

February 10

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 6 x 3' and you must book ahead by calling 250-629-3669 (leave a message with your email address) or email bookings@penderislands.org.

Coffee House Day

February 17

Indulge your senses at our Saturday Market Coffee House. Immerse yourself in the lively market atmosphere while savoring special café drinks crafted by our Youth Leaders and witnessing any

performers bold enough to take the stage. Sip, shop, and savour the moment at our Coffee House – where community, creativity, and fun converge!

Calling all performers! Elevate the market vibe on our Coffee House stage with your talents – whether you're a spoken word artist, thespian, musician, acrobat, or any other type of performer, we invite you to display your skills. Join us in creating unforgettable moments, captivate the audience, and be part of the vibrant atmosphere.

Dr. Seuss Day

February 24

Today is a day for fun and joy.

To remember our youth,

both girl and boy.

Give us a poem.

Your own or his.

And get a free hot drink.

Don't worry, we know our biz.

Winter Market

Saturdays 10 - 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.

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, show people how to carefully handle animals, make posters, be a caretaker of the Community Hall, assist with activities, organize and lead activities, mentor younger or less experienced youth, help older people with technology, event and activity photographer... develop your skills and get great experience! Come in on a Friday or Saturday between 10 am 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 get to watch the show and have popcorn for free.

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 or call 629-3669

Andrea Mills & George Fowlie

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Gulf Islands Food Co-op



Great news! The CRD has provided the Gulf Islands Food Co-op with a Grant in Aid to support several projects across Pender, Mayne, Galiano, and Saturna islands this year. Thanks go to our CRD Director, Paul Brent, for supporting local food growing.

Skill-sharing Events

Apart from continuing our usual support for Co-op Sales Tables at the Farmers' Markets, and for the Seed Libraries, we will also be continuing relationships with the WSÁNEĆ community by developing skill-sharing events that increase Indigenous food plant knowledge for islanders. Plant propagation and traditional land stewarding principles will be integrated into the events co-developed by the WSÁNEĆ community.

Winter Stock Up

For Pender this year we are borrowing a great idea from the Galiano Community Food Program who put on a *Winter Stock Up Market* every October, specifically to provide islanders with winter storage vegetables - think potatoes, squash, beets, and carrots – all grown on-island. What a great way to cozy our way into winter, with a cupboard full of Pender produce that will last weeks or possibly months. Although veggies will be sold at regular market price, the Farmers Market Coupons can be used. Some of these winter storage crops will also be purchased towards supplying our Food Bank with truly nutritious home-grown

soups! Growers can contact GIFC for a small financial incentive to supply root veggies for this project! info@gulfislandsfoodco-op.org

Orchard Group

Another new initiative this year - centred on Mayne Island - will be a peer-to-peer, grower-led learning group for those who cultivate fruit orchards and trees (mostly apple) and who wish to acquire additional skills, tools, and practices in a connected environment. Topics could include orchard maintenance and upkeep, blossom thinning, pruning techniques, grafting, and nutrition—and will continue through the growing season. We will try to make these sessions accessible to Pender folks as well (ferry schedules willing), and perhaps next year we can find some funding to make our own Pender orchardists learning group!

Although it's a slushy mess in my garden right now, I have to say I am an incurable seed-catalogue enthusiast, and already dreaming of how things will look in a couple of months. Starting soon, the Pender Seed Library will be stocked with seeds for the spring, provided for free to the community; feel free to drop in at the Public Library and ask a librarian to show you where to find them.

Roz Kempe, President

Magic Lake Property Owners' Society

The MLPOS board believes the following notice is important, not just for Magic Lake property owners, but for all owners on Pender Island. At the end of the bylaw synopsis, there are links to help find more information.

Proposed CRD Land Assembly, Housing and Land Banking Authorization Bylaw 4552

Bylaw Synopsis

“The purpose of Bylaw No. 4552 is to authorize the borrowing of eighty-five million dollars (\$85,000,000) for the purposes of the Land Assembly, Housing and Land Banking Service, including to support future housing partnership opportunities and to increase the supply of affordable, inclusive, and adequate housing in the region. The debt servicing cost will be recovered over a period not exceeding 30 years through annual requisition for the service.

The service area applies to all municipalities and electoral areas of the CRD, including Central Saanich, Colwood, Esquimalt, Highlands, Langford, Metchosin, North Saanich, Oak Bay, Saanich, Sidney, Sooke, Victoria, View Royal, and the Electoral Areas of Juan de Fuca, Salt Spring Island, and Southern Gulf Islands. Participating area consent will be obtained by conducting a region-wide alternative approval process.”

This would increase the currently authorized borrowing limit for “affordable, inclusive, and adequate” housing from \$35 million to \$85 million to take advantage of the increase in funding/grant partnerships with senior governments.

The CRD may proceed with Bylaw No. 4552 unless 10% of eligible electors within the CRD indicate, by signing the elector response form, that the Board must obtain the assent of the electors by way of an assent vote (referendum) before proceeding to adopt Bylaw No. 4552. The deadline for submitting signed elector response forms, in relation to Bylaw No. 4552, to the CRD is 12pm



Tours

Weddings

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info@lightningtaxi.ca

(noon) on Monday, February 5. Forms must be received by the deadline to be counted.

For more information search “CRD Bylaw 4552” or see: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/about/how-we-are-governed/elections-other-voting/land-assembly-housing-and-land-banking-aap>

A FAQ is also available by searching “CRD Bylaw 4552 FAQ”

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 or contact us at notifymlpos@gmail.com

The next MLPOS Directors meeting – on the second Monday of the month – is Monday, February 12, 2024, 4 pm at the Community Hall Lounge.

Mary Beth Rondeau, Secretary

Moving Around Pender (MAP)



Taxi Saver Program

Moving Around Pender, in conjunction with the SGI Neighborhood House, and Lightning Taxi, is pleased to announce the start of the Pender Taxi Saver Program on February 1. (See ad page 8.) The idea for the program started when MAP ran the Community Bus. Although the Community Bus pilot project was a success, two of the target groups we

hoped to serve – frail elders and those with mobility challenges – were not prominent users of the bus service. The reason for this was that in our rural setting the distances between seniors’ homes and the bus stops were excessive and often hilly. MAP concluded that a subsidized taxi service would be more appropriate for this group and when the Island Coastal Economic Trust (<https://islandcoastaltrust.ca>) announced a competition for small transportation grants this fall, MAP partnered with the SGI Neighborhood House and Lightning Taxi to apply. We were successful.

All Pender residents 65 years of age and older and those with mobility challenges of any age will be eligible to buy half price taxi vouchers for Lightning Taxi rides for on-island trips to community services, events, or businesses including, but not limited to the Community Health Centre, Community Hall, Legion, hairdressers, physios, churches, pharmacy, grocery store, etc. In addition, those accessing services off island will be able to use vouchers to go to the Ferry Terminal for a walk-on trip to Swartz Bay.

Registration for eligible individuals can be done at the CRC/Neighborhood House Office at the Driftwood.

The project is a pilot and will run for eight months. If we can show that there is a need for such a program we can use the data to lobby government and BC Transit for ongoing support for such a service.

Peter Easthope



**February Vitamin SALE !
Multivitamins and supplements**

In the heart of the cold season, many of us like to boost our diet with vitamins and supplements. A multivitamin can be an excellent addition. Make sure you choose one that has both vitamins and minerals to maximize benefits from these supplements. If you are on blood thinners, be aware that some brands may contain Vitamin K, which is not recommended as it may interfere with your medication.

Canadian recommendations for vitamin D, during winter, are between 1000-2000 units per day. The needs are less during summer as our skin, when exposed to sunlight, can transform inactive vitamin D into the active form (D3). If you have kidney failure or if you are vegan/vegetarian, make sure you ask your pharmacist which formulation of vitamin D would be best for you.

Vitamin C can be a good idea, as some studies suggest it helps the immune system. Eating more citrus is also a healthy way to get your daily dose of vitamin C. High doses of vitamin C are not proven safe, so we do not recommend taking over 500-1000mg daily.

There are plenty of options for vitamins--ask your pharmacist for information or recommendations.

Remember that a healthy diet and exercise is the best way to keep you healthy for life.

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

250-629-6555
www.swan.ca

OTTER BAY EXPRESS

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otterbayexpress.ca

Victoria

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Help on Pender

Tuesday and Thursday

Nu-To-Yu

Pender Island Community Service Society



The Nu-To-Yu (NTY) is the place to shop for Valentine's Day.

Purchase a small dish from the Victorian era, or a mid-century tea cup and saucer and fill it with their favorite candy. Create a picture of the family with a pre-loved frame. Remind them of their youth with a Beatles CD. There is estate jewelry for sale at reasonable prices as well as necklaces that can be reconfigured with your loved one in mind.

Easter is celebrated earlier this year: Easter Sunday is March 31. NTY is currently accepting donations of Easter items as well as spring clothing, including boots for the mud and gently used clothing for gardening. Easter decorations will be available starting the second half of February.

The store is open for donations Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am to noon, and 11 am to 2 pm on Saturdays. Larger items such as furniture are not accepted on Saturdays and it is preferable you phone on a Tuesday or Thursday morning before attempting to drop off: 250-629-2070. When you pack 'like with like' it is easier for us to sort your donations and get them where they need to go. Packing glass with kitchenware is a recipe for shards. Too many books in too large a box is a recipe for back pain: yours and ours. Shopping hours remain unchanged at 10 am to 4 pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

There are approximately 65 active volunteers who assist in making the Nu-To-Yu what it is: a vibrant social community recycle, thrift, secondhand opportunity shop! Some individuals (Mia and Vicki) volunteer every Tuesday and have for many years. They assist in organizing the upstairs clothing area. Others, Hans and Keith for example, are relative newbies and work in the book area and with the new build, respectively. As with all volunteer organizations on the island, the Nu-To-Yu can always use more volunteers, especially sellers. Please drop in on Tuesday or Thursday if interested.

Daurel Minion

Pender Earth

We have exciting news! We have had good turnout at our monthly Climate Café so have decided that our pilot project has been a success and with the help of Andrea Mills and the Pender Community Hall we will continue to run these Cafés up until May 2024.

A climate cafe 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 February 2, 2023, 9:30 am in the Lounge at the Community Hall. We will meet again on March 1, 2023.

Need more information or feedback? Reach out to penderearth@gmail.com.

*Mary Anne Paré
and Kathy Cronk*

Pender Island Chamber of Commerce



In our efforts to foster a supportive environment for businesses and community organizations on Pender Island, the Chamber of Commerce is actively engaged in several initiatives.

We have been participating in discussions with BC Ferries and with the Provincial Minister of Economic Development. We went into these meetings armed with feedback gathered from our members through a targeted poll conducted last fall. These types of meetings provide a platform to address crucial issues impacting our local businesses and service providers, and to advocate for policies that can stimulate economic growth in our region.

Highlighting our dedication to member engagement, we organized a vibrant mixer last December. Mixers bring together local entrepreneurs, business owners, and community leaders. They are a valuable networking opportunity, foster collaboration and strengthen the bonds within our local business ecosystem.

Looking ahead, we will host our next mixer on February 29 at Nosy Point



Bed & Breakfast. Be sure to follow the Chamber's Facebook page for announcements when tickets go on sale.

In addition to these events, the Chamber is actively involved in creating an updated 2024 Visitors Guide together with the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership. This guide serves as a comprehensive resource for visitors, showcasing the diverse offerings of our island. It is distributed widely through Visitors Information Centres, on BC Ferries, at special events and at locations across the Penders. If your business is keen on being featured in this guide, now is the time to act and reach out to us to secure your spot.

The Chamber of Commerce remains steadfast in its commitment to champion the interests of the local business community. By actively participating in crucial discussions, hosting engaging events, and spearheading initiatives like the Visitors Guide, the Chamber is positioning our community for sustained economic success. Businesses and community organizations interested in contributing to this momentum are encouraged to connect with us to take advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we can build a vibrant and sustainable local business scene.

Inquiries can be directed to info@penderislandchamber.com or stop in during our open office hours on Tuesdays from 10 am - 4 pm. We are located in the Community Resource Centre at the Driftwood.

Not a business owner? Be sure to take a look at our online Business Directory (www.penderislandchamber.com) and show your support for the businesses and community organizations that are working together to serve the Pender Island community.

Sandra Tretick, Manager

Pender Island Child Care Society

Dragonfly Child Care & Family Resource Centre



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 February 2. Facilitators, Pam and Chris, will be there flipping pancakes, frying up some sausages, 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.

Adult Meditation Night

Exploring Expanded States of Consciousness and Meditation will be held every Thursday evening from 7 pm - 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 guided meditations to experiencing sound frequencies and more. This will then be followed by a silent sit meditation.

Parents and Babes

The Parents and Babes program runs 9 - 11:30 at Dragonfly every Monday morning (except February 19 as we are closed for Family Day). Sarah Conley facilitates this free drop-in program for parents, caregivers, and their children. Come out and enjoy healthy 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.

Continued following Calendar

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Anglican Church of Canada

Parish of Pender and Saturna Islands • 4703 Canal Road

February 4	10:00 am	St. Peter's Church	Holy Eucharist
February 11	10:00 am	St. Peter's Church	Morning Prayer
February 18	10:00 am	St. Peter's Church	Holy Eucharist
February 25	10:00 am	St. Peter's Hall	Circle Service

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

February 13, 5:00 pm Pancake Supper, St. Peter's Hall

Church Office: 629-3634 | Parish e-mail: admin@pendersaturnaanglican.ca | Hall bookings: rentals@pendersaturnaanglican.ca

Pender Island Community Church (PICC)

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)

February 4	10:45 am	Dan Glover-Communion
February 11	10:45 am	Greg Ouellette- Multiply.net
February 18	10:45 am	Christian Girard
February 25	10:45 am	Frank Strohschein

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

St. Teresa's Chapel - Roman Catholic Services

4705 Buccaneers Road

February 4	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word and Communion
February 9	9:30am	Friday Mass with Fr. Rolf
February 14	7:00pm	Ash Wednesday Liturgy and Communion; distribution of ashes
February 18	9:30am	Liturgy of the Word and Communion
February 23	9:30am	Friday Mass with Fr. Rolf

Pender residents and visitors are welcome to celebrate Sunday and Friday liturgies with the chapel community. Except for Ash Wednesday which is a day of fast and abstinence, there will be coffee, tea and goodies served after the liturgies. If there are any changes to the above schedule, those on our mailing list will be informed. Others who plan to attend a liturgy should email stteresachapel@gmail.com or phone 250-629-6029 to find out any changes to the schedule.

The Bahá'í Community of Canada (www.bahai.ca)

The Bahá'í Faith Community of Canada (www.bahai.ca); The Bahá'í Faith Group of Pender Island and Southern Gulf Islands

February 24 12:30 pm Workshop on Anti-Indigenous Racism, St. Teresa's Catholic Church
See page 6 for details.

Please email bevpedenpender@gmail.com or call 250 412 2524 or visit "bahaissi.org" for more information.

Common Table Fellowship in Christ

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.

FEbruary CALENDAR

LEGION	47	RECYCLING CENTRE	45
General Member Meeting, February 24, 2 pm		Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 am - 3 pm	
Meat Draw, every Saturday, 4 pm		NU-TO-YU	28
Friday Dinner, February 9 and 23, 5:30 pm		Shopping: every Friday and Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm	
Bingo, February 10, 1 pm		Donations: every Tues. and Thur. 9 am - 12 pm and Sat., 11 am - 2 pm (no furniture on Saturdays)	
Scrapbook & Crafts Group with Melody Pender, February 3 & 17, 10 am - 5 pm		LIBRARY	44
Cooking Classes, Thursdays, Feb. 1, 8, 15 & 22, 1:00 pm		Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 am - 3 pm.	
<i>See below for additional events.</i>		Closed February 17 in lieu of BC Family Day	

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

SUNDAYS

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

MONDAYS

Parents and Babes, 9 am - 11:30 am, February 5, 12 & 26, Dragonfly Centre.....	29
MYI: 18 Postures for Seniors with Judith, 11 am - 12 pm, Community Hall	41
55+ Lunch and Activities, 12 - 2 pm, Community Hall.....	24
1:1 Counseling with Geneva Jacobs, February 12 & 26, 12:30 - 4 pm, Dragonfly Centre	
Caregivers Support Group, 1 - 3:30 pm, alternating Mondays (February 12 and 26), Community Hall.....	41
Pender Highlanders, 7 pm, Anglican Parish Hall	

TUESDAYS

Badminton Club, 7:30 - 9:30 pm, School Gym (also Sunday mornings)	
MYI: Moderate Yoga with Krista, 9:45 -10:45 am, Community Hall.....	41
MYI: Gentle Chair Yoga, 11 am - 12 pm, Community Hall.....	41
MYI: Essentrics 11 am to 12 pm, Community Hall	41
Artists' Drop-in Drawing with Ron Underhill, 2 - 4 pm, every Tuesday, Legion	

WEDNESDAYS

HOP, 9:30 - 10:30 am, School Gym	29
MYI: Gentle Walk with Andrea, 10 - 11 am, Community Hall	
Taoist Tai Chi, 10 am - noon, Community Hall	
Carpet Bowling, 1:30 -3:30 pm, Community Hall	24
Socrates Club with John Gowen, 2 - 4 pm, Legion	
Kids Club, 3:45 - 5:15, until March 13, Community Hall	
Youth Club, to March 13, 5:30 pm - 8 pm, and Friday all day	
Uke Strum, to 6 pm, every second Wednesday (February 14 & 28), Community Hall Lounge	20

THURSDAYS

Gentle Chair Yoga with Erin, 11:00 - 2 pm	41
55+ Cooking Workshops, 1 - 3 pm, Thursdays, until February 15, Community Hall	
Euchre with Margaret Vergette, 2 - 4 pm, Legion	
Exploring Expanded States of Consciousness and Meditation, 7 - 8 pm at Dragonfly Centre.....	29
Homework Club for High School Students, 5 - 7 pm, Community Hall.....	51

FRIDAYS

Food Bank, 10 am - noon, upstairs at back of Anglican Parish Hall	38
Community Gathering Lunch, 10:45 am - 1 pm, Community Hall.....	20, 25
Friday Fun with Youth Leaders, 10:45 am - 12:00 pm	25

SATURDAYS

Winter Market, 10 am - 1 pm, Community Hall.....	25
Adult Music Theory Basics, 1 - 3 pm, Anglican Church Hall (starts February 10)	20
Youth Music Theory Basics, 3 - 4:30 pm, Anglican Church Hall (starts February 10).....	20

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Speakeasy with Leslie McBain, first Sunday of each month, 7 pm, Legion	
MLPOS Directors Meeting, second Monday every month, 4 pm, Community Hall Lounge	27
Lions, first Wednesday every month, 5:30 pm, Legion	
Quilters' Circle, second Monday every month, 9:30 am, Anglican Church Hall	17
Pender Island Garden Club, second Thursday every month, 1:00 pm.....	52

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

2	Fri	9:00 am	Dad n' Me Pancake Breakfast, to 11 am, Dragonfly Centre	29
		9:30 am	Pender Earth Climate Café, to 11:30 am, Community Hall.....	28
		10:00 am	Board Games Day, Community Hall	25
		10:45 am	Activity: Make Valentine's Day Cards, Community Hall.....	25
3	Sat	10:00 am	MAP meeting, 10 am at the Community Hall.....	27
4	Sun		Visual Artists Pop-In Tours, Hope Bay area studios, to 4 pm.....	19
5	Mon	9:00 am	Parents and Babes until 11:30 am, Dragonfly Centre	29
		7:00 pm	Photo Club monthly meeting, via Zoom.....	18
9	Fri	10:45 am	Activity: Make Chocolate Strawberries, Community Hall	25
		4:00 pm	Games Night: <i>Magic, The Gathering</i> , to 8 pm, Community Hall.....	51
		7:15 pm	Film: <i>Interstellar</i> (2014), Community Hall.....	24
10	Sat	10:00 am	Garage Sale Day, to 1 pm, Community Hall	25
		10:00 am	Intro. to Leaders in Training for 12 to 18 years, to 12:30 pm (also February 24)	24
		7:15 pm	Film: <i>Priscilla</i> , Community Hall (also February 13).....	24
11	Sun	1:00 pm	Visual Artists Pop-In Tours, South Pender studios, to 4 pm	19
		2:30 pm	Concert Society Presents: Lester Quitzau & Matthew Hinton, to 4:30 pm, Community Hall	2, 16, 20
13	Tues	2:30 pm	Film: <i>Priscilla</i> , Community Hall (also February 10).....	24
		5:00 pm	Pancake Supper, to 6:30, Anglican Church Hall	16
14	Wed	11:00 am	Minutes and Records SGI Sustainable Funding Initiative, to 12:30 pm, Zoom	50
16	Fri	10:45 am	Activity: Marshmallow Catapults, Community Hall	25
		11:00 am	Seniors Advisory Committee Meeting, Community Hall.....	50
		12:00 pm	Computer Savvy Seniors with Dorian, to 2 pm, Community Hall	50
		1:00 pm	Alive After 5: Youth Workplace Safety Virtual Workshop, to 3 pm	51
		4:00 pm	S,DÁ,YES Truth & Reconciliation Circle, Fireside Room, 4703 Canal Road	
		7:00 pm	Ethnobotany seminar with Dr. Pamela Spalding, Community Hall.....	34
17	Sat	10:00 am	Coffee House Day, Community Hall	25
		9:30 pm	Natural History walk with Dr. Pamela Spalding (location TBD)	34
18	Sun	2:15 pm	Glazing, to 5:15 pm, Community Hall.....	20
		2:00 pm	<i>A Cedar is Life</i> documentary film, Museum	42, back cover
20	Tues	7:00 pm	PIAS: Exploring Ways of Drawing with Margaret Alpen, to 9 pm	16
23	Fri	10:45 am	Activity: Ping Pong Fun, Community Hall.....	25
24	Sat	10:00 am	Coffee House Day, Community Hall	25
		10:00 am	Dr. Seuss Day, Community Hall	25
		10:00 am	Intro. to Leaders in Training for 12 to 18 years, to 12:30 pm (also February 10)	24
		11:00 am	Film: <i>The Lorax</i> (2012), Community Hall.....	24
		12:30 pm	Workshop on Anti-Indigenous Racism, St. Teresa's Catholic Church.....	6
		2:00 pm	Book Launch: <i>Throwaway People</i> , Talisman Books	21
		7:15 pm	Film: <i>West Side Story</i> (2021), Community Hall.....	24
26	Mon	6:30 pm	Community Justice Program Community Conversation Circle, via Zoom	50
27	Tues	4:00 pm	Avoid Phishing and Other Scams with Dorian and Conner, to 6 pm, via Zoom	50
28	Wed	11:00 pm	Treasurer Lab Workshop, to 12:30 pm.....	50
		7:00 pm	Youth Advisory Committee, Community Hall.....	51
29	Thur		Chamber of Commerce Mixer, Nosy Point Bed & Breakfast.....	28

ADVANCE NOTICES FOR MARCH

1	Fri	9:30 am	Pender Earth Climate Café, to 11:30 am, Community Hall.....	28
2	Sat		Dance, PI Jazz, Community Hall	18
4	Mon	3:00 pm	Parks & Recreation Commission monthly meeting, Community Hall and Zoom	43
8	Fri	9:30 am	Community Conversation with Adam Olsen and Paul Brent, Community Hall.....	6
10	Sun		Maritime Weather Seminar, Legion	52
14	Thu	4:00 pm	Singing for Joy starts, to 5 pm, Anglican Church Hall	
18	Mon	7:00 pm	<i>Payadora Tango</i> , Community Hall	
23	Sat	2:00 pm	<i>Here's to Your Good Health</i> speaker series: <i>Healthy Aging to Avoid Frailty</i> , Community Hall.....	40
30	Sat		Seedy Saturday.....	36
31	Sun	12:00 pm	25th Annual South Pender Easter Sunday Art Walk (to 5 pm)	

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/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 Parks and Recreation, this program is free.

Dragonfly Website

Check out our website for more information about our programs, helpful parent blogs, and recipes: 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.

Sarah Conley

SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS

Elizabeth May M.P.

May

250 657-2000

ELIZABETHMAYMP.CA

9711 4TH STREET
SIDNEY, BC V8L 2Y8

CONSENTIOUS, CARING, NON-PARTISAN CONSTITUENCY SERVICES

Pender Islands Conservancy



Thank you, Pender Island!

The community response to the December “Double Your Impact” matching campaign was amazing. We are thrilled to announce that we reached our goal of \$10,000, which was matched by a generous community donor. These funds will help support our land protection, restoration, education, and research programs in 2024. A heartfelt thanks to all who donated!

Ecology Seminars: Ethnobotany with Dr. Pamela Spalding

Join us on Friday, February 16 at 7 pm at the Community Hall as we welcome Dr. Pamela Spalding, a post doctoral fellow with the BIOSCAN project in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria. Her research areas are ethnobotany, ethnoecology, legal geography, Aboriginal rights and Indigenous law. Following the seminar, on Saturday February 17, Dr. Spalding will join us on a Natural History walk (location TBD) at 9:30 am. Watch our website and social media for updates on this and other events.

Earth Day Beach and Roadside Clean-up: Save the Date

The 2024 annual Earth Day Beach and Roadside Clean-up will be happening Saturday, April 20. Details will be announced in the March Pender Post, in our Sea to Cedars newsletter, and on our website at penderconservancy.org.

Of course, you need not wait until Earth Day to go out and clean your favourite beaches. The high tides and storms of winter have already deposited a large amount of garbage and plastic debris onto our beaches, and it is best to gather up as much as we can before it is all washed back out to sea. If you cannot store your collected trash on your property until Beach Clean-up Day, please contact us and we will help to arrange for drop off at Pender Island Disposal Services.

Conservancy Nature Centre

If you haven't been by Hope Bay in a while, come check out the refreshed Nature Centre. A diversity of “visitors” from the Royal BC Museum have joined our Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem display, and we have lots of locally made products in the gift shop. Be a sustainable consumer...and learn things at the same time. Open Wednesdays to Sunday from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Passages

We were saddened to learn of Patti Badcock's passing in January. She was a gentle soul who loved horses and laughed easily. Patti was a member of the Pender Islands Conservancy board for several years and a stalwart participant of the original Forage Fish citizen science project. Patti was also an artist, and fellow volunteer, Rhondda Porter, reports that Patti did a lovely series of drawings of the beaches they were studying on the bottom of the Forage Fish data sheets. Rhondda shared a fond memory of sitting on a log with Patti on a beach in the pouring rain one cold December day, working away on their data sheets.

Our condolences to Patti's family and friends.

Natural History Notes

Moss: The Coral Reef of the Forest

The winter woods of Pender Island are beautifully draped with an incredible variety of deep, luxurious mosses in many shades of emerald and fluorescent green. These mosses are so important to forest ecosystems that Robin Wall Kimmerer, botanist, and author of the best-selling book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, refers to them as the “coral reef of the forest.” Mosses make up much of the forest floor, storing a great deal of moisture, and hosting an amazing number of miniature critters. Mosses have been around for over 450 million years; there are at least 15,000 species, roughly 700 of which are found in British Columbia. Each species of moss has specific habitats that they prefer to

grow in and it can take years for mosses to fully establish in some environments.

Mosses fall into a group of plants known as Bryophytes, which also contains organisms known as liverworts and hornworts. These types of plants are non-vascular, meaning they don't have roots or the ability to transport water throughout their tissues. They anchor to rocks, bark, and soil using small, hairlike structures called rhizoids. Even though they don't have roots, mosses can absorb up to 20 times their weight in water! Their ability to soak up so much water helps maintain soil moisture, keeps the conditions around them humid (reducing fire risk), and helps to create the perfect place for seeds to germinate. Mosses can also dry out to survive extended drought and are able to survive in a dry state until there is moisture again. They can survive and photosynthesize in temperatures as high as 40°C.

Their hardiness makes mosses some of the first plants to colonize disturbed sites, stabilizing the soil surface, retaining water, and allowing other plants to establish. Unfortunately, the ability of invasive plant species to rapidly take over disturbed areas interferes with this important regenerative process. Despite their hardiness, mosses can be easily damaged by heavy boots, bicycle tires, etc. In addition, while mosses can soak up large amounts of water, they also soak up whatever is in the water, including harmful pollutants. Mosses are quite sensitive to changes in their environment, and due to this sensitivity, and their ability to absorb pollutants, they are good indicators of ecosystem health. However, if these health indicators are ignored, the harm to ecosystems persists, and much like many coral reefs, the ecosystem degrades, and species are lost.

It is important that we slow down, get close to the natural things around us, listen to what they have to tell us, and act accordingly. Mosses are beautiful and diverse, and if more people paid



A thick layer of moss covers a rock in a Pender Island forest, holding moisture at the forest floor, creating habitat for wildlife, and creating a safe place for seed germination, thereby increasing biodiversity.

attention to their beauty and their function in the ecosystem, the coral reefs of the forest could tell us what they need. And hopefully we'd listen.

*Sarah DeVries,
Ecological Technician*

Pender Island Emergency Program



This month we'll start introducing you to some of the extraordinary people involved with the Emergency Program. Let's start with Joann, who had read in a Pender Post article that the program was looking for volunteers. She offered her services, did some training, and is now a Duty Officer, responsible for monitoring fire department pages, and helping to staff an Emergency Operations Centre should one be needed.

Many of our volunteers come with absolutely no experience; they just learn as they go along. We are fortunate that Joann came to us with a background in social services where she had worked to get people with drug addictions and mental health issues off the streets and into group housing. She spent some time dealing with group homes for children. After a few years in the trenches, she moved to E-Comm 911 where she answered 911 calls. Part of the job was decision making, figuring out what was a real emergency and what wasn't.

She's also a great person to have around if you're swimming on a busy beach with no lifeguard, as one tourist in Hawaii can attest. On her recent honeymoon in Maui, Joann was snorkelling and enjoying watching the fish in the water. At one point she happened to look up and noticed a man in the water who appeared to be really struggling. She could tell he wasn't a strong swimmer, so kept an eye on him. His wife was back on the beach and started yelling

at him in a foreign language that Joann couldn't understand, but with her 911 experience she clearly recognized the sound of panic in the woman's voice. So she swam out to the guy as quickly as she could. As she got closer, she could tell that he was having trouble breathing and was swallowing salt water. She asked if he needed help, and he frantically nodded.

She was able to flip him onto his back, and she hooked her arms under his armpits and started doing backstroke with him floating on top of her. He was a big heavy guy, so it took a lot of effort to get him to shore. As she swam, she could feel his heart pounding against his rib cage and could hear him hyperventilating. Fortunately Joann had her fins on, but her own lungs were burning from the effort. When she got him close to shore, another man rushed down and helped her drag him onto the beach. By now she was completely exhausted, so the second man took over doing first aid and got him to cough up the salt water and start breathing normally.

The man's wife came over and kept apologizing to Joann, saying she had been too tired to go out and rescue her husband. Everyone on the beach was watching, but nobody else tried to help. To avoid the stares, Joann hopped back in the water and resumed snorkelling. By the time she came out again, the couple was gone, but the man who had helped came over, shook hands with her, and told her she'd done a really good job.

You don't need to have Joann's experience or be able to literally save someone's life in an emergency. But if you're at all interested in helping your community as a volunteer with the Emergency Program, please contact coordinators Catherine Dawson or Liz Gowen at (250) 589-3001.

And thanks, Joann.

Liz Gowen

Pender Island Farmers' Institute



Seedy Saturday

The Farmers' Institute would like you to mark the date for Seedy Saturday, March 30 at the Community Hall. We encourage people who would like to exchange seeds or plants with other growers, who want to purchase seeds or plants, and those who would like to see what else will be on hand that day. More details will be in the March Pender Post.

Fall Fair

We are also preparing for the 2024 Fall Fair. Meetings are starting, and we will be looking for volunteers and organizers in specific areas. We hope you can participate and enjoy our community spirit, and talents in growing, baking, arts, crafts, and agricultural displays. To find out how, see <https://www.pifi.ca/about-the-fair>. If you would like to be involved please contact Barbara Johnstone, Terry Shepherd, Michelle Marsden, or Anne Burdett.

We are looking forward to 2024 because it marks a milestone year for the Pender Island Farmers' Institute – our 125th anniversary. We plan to celebrate throughout the year, especially during the Fall Fair on August 24 and at the summer Farmers' Market. We want to highlight the various farms on the island this year. If you would like your farm to be involved, please let us know.

Memberships

Memberships became due on December 31, so if you haven't already, please renew by dropping \$5 into the mail at PO Box 38, Pender Island or e-transfer to penderislandmarket@gmail.com. We welcome new members - applications are on our website at www.PIFI.ca. Anyone who farms, grows, or supports our efforts is welcome to join!

Barbara Johnstone

Pender Island Ferry Advisory Committee

As we move into 2024, there are several pressing issues which keep B.C. Ferries in the minds of Pender Island passengers.

The recent very cold and stormy weather has challenged the staff and crew of ferries. Thankfully for us, Pender Island passengers have experienced few disruptions in service and our sympathies go to our neighbouring islands who have not been so fortunate. Hoping for a milder winter going forward.

Currently the Queen of Cumberland is undergoing a refit, and the Salish Heron has been brought in as a replacement. The Queen is due back to service in early February.

Some of you will have noted from local press such as *The Tye* and the *Times Colonist* that union negotiations have hit some rocky times, and arbitrators will hopefully decide the outcome this month. It is unfortunate when management/labour relations are so strained, and there is no doubt that BC Ferries employees are due fair remuneration and conditions to help offset the cost-of-living increases.

There is no word yet on the rescheduling of a community drop-in by BC Ferries staff on Pender. It seems that the safety planning has not yet been concluded. Please keep an eye out for further information in the coming weeks.

Karen Johnston has now been replaced and Jeff Groot, formerly an ADM with the Provincial Government, has been recently appointed as the new Executive Director, Communications and Engagement.

Our sincere thanks go to the co-chairs of the Southern Gulf Islands, David Maude from Mayne and Mary Greenwood from Galiano, who continue to work hard representing residents' issues to the BC Ferries engagement staff. Their persistence and experience in this role are invaluable.

Our SGI Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) 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.bcferrys.com/contact-us> or their X (Twitter) account, @BCFerries, or email engagement@bcferries.com.

We can be reached through our Facebook page or by contacting us directly by email: Jane Dix at JaneonPender88@gmail.com, and David Wright at summerlawns@shaw.ca.

Fiona Poole

Pender Island Fire and Rescue



Captain Todd Bulled



Hello Pender Islands.

As of January 17 PIFR has responded to 14 emergency calls.

I want to take the opportunity to share with you all the promotion of Lieutenant Todd Bulled to the rank of Captain. Capt. Bulled has been an integral part of the team here at PIFR as well as an outstanding community member, consistently demonstrating dedication, leadership, and a commitment to the safety and well-being of our community. Not to mention, if you follow our socials, those creative, engaging, and educational bits are of Todd's creation. So let us congratulate Cpt. Bulled on this well-deserved promotion.

Continued

Tree Frog Spas

Sales / Maintenance / Installation

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Mike Jamieson • 250-222-6453
jamiesonelectric@shaw.ca

This month also starts a new NFPA 1001 firefighter training recruit class. This year, three new members answered the call and have committed to the rigorous training schedule to help keep our community safe. We look forward to working with our recruits as they work toward their goal of becoming certified interior structural firefighters. It's a long road ahead of them but we are confident they will succeed and be successful in this new career. Along with our members, we will be hosting members from Saturna Island Fire Rescue to complete their Fire Fighter Training.

2024 brings a big change for the Penders concerning fire permits. CRD bylaw has changed and that is reflected in the new permits available to our residents. You may have received emails advising you of some of the changes but let me explain a quick synopsis of what to expect.

Permits have been renamed:

- Category 1 - campfires
- Category 2 - hand piles
- Category 3 machine piles
- Incinerator
- Outdoor wood-burning appliances (kilns, hot tubs, pizza/ bread ovens, etc.)

All permits can be applied for online at www.penderfire.org except Category 3 fires as they must be done in person at Hall 1. Category 1, 2, and incinerator fire permits are still \$5 each but now are good for the entire year. Wood-burning appliance permits are \$20 and require a site inspection allowing the user to operate their appliance year-round with some exceptions.

No longer will there be a mandatory shutdown in the months of July through Sept. Now burning restrictions will be put in place as the wildfire indices dictate, and that should be a more appropriate method given the changes in our climate and extreme swings we seem to have been experiencing in recent history.

We ask you to check our website for the most current burning restrictions before you start your burn because as things get dryer, more restrictions will be in place limiting the type of fires that you have on your property.

Remember, smoke detectors save lives. Check your batteries and give them a test.

*Capt. Jon Grelik,
PIFR Fire Prevention Team*

Pender Island Food Bank Society

We are beginning a new Gregorian Calendar year with appreciation for all our volunteers and the many people who have donated time, money, and goods to the food bank. We are so grateful for the very generous donations which were made by Sysco foods and Gordon Food Service through Port Browning Pub and Marina to our Food Bank over the Christmas Period. Fruit, vegetables, eggs, milk, potatoes, carrots... they were all so well appreciated by our clients. How timely these donations have been with the enormous jump in food costs and the number of clients we see on a weekly basis. We now have a baby on our list of clients and a less than one week supply of formula from London Drugs was \$67. One has to wonder how regular hard-working folks can afford this type of expense.

We are grateful to members of the community who help us to be generous. We are also grateful to the Pender Woodchoppers who donated \$2500 to the work that we do.

And a huge thank you to all those taking part in the Ecumenical Service at Hope Bay Bible Camp on January 21 for donating all funds received to our Food Bank. Their generosity is much appreciated.

Bev Peden

Pender Island Health Care Society (PIHCS)

Public Survey of Pender Health and Wellness Services - Your Voice Matters!



PIHCS requires your input to assess current health and wellness needs, as well as urgent care requirements.

Where are our strengths, and where are the gaps? What are the community's health priorities? We are listening - the survey is open February 1 - 15, and we want to take the community's pulse.

We encourage all Penderites, young or old, full-time or part-time residents, to complete the survey between February 1 and 15. Whether you use primary care providers on or off-island, or are here only some of the time, we want to hear from you. We are all stakeholders in health services on the Penders; it's worth a few minutes of your time to make a difference.

The survey can be completed on your computer or your smartphone, or you may want to take advantage of the Library's public computers. The survey is online at our website <https://penderislandhealth.org/> -just click on 'TAKE THE SURVEY'. Paper versions will also be available at the Health Centre, the Community Resource Centre, and the Community Hall, with collection receptacles at those same locations.

All responses are anonymous and confidential, and data will be aggregated for analysis. Results will inform and influence our plans to facilitate quality accessible health care and wellness supports, and will be shared with the community in a public forum following data analysis.

Please spread the word to your friends and neighbours; we want to hear from the entire community.

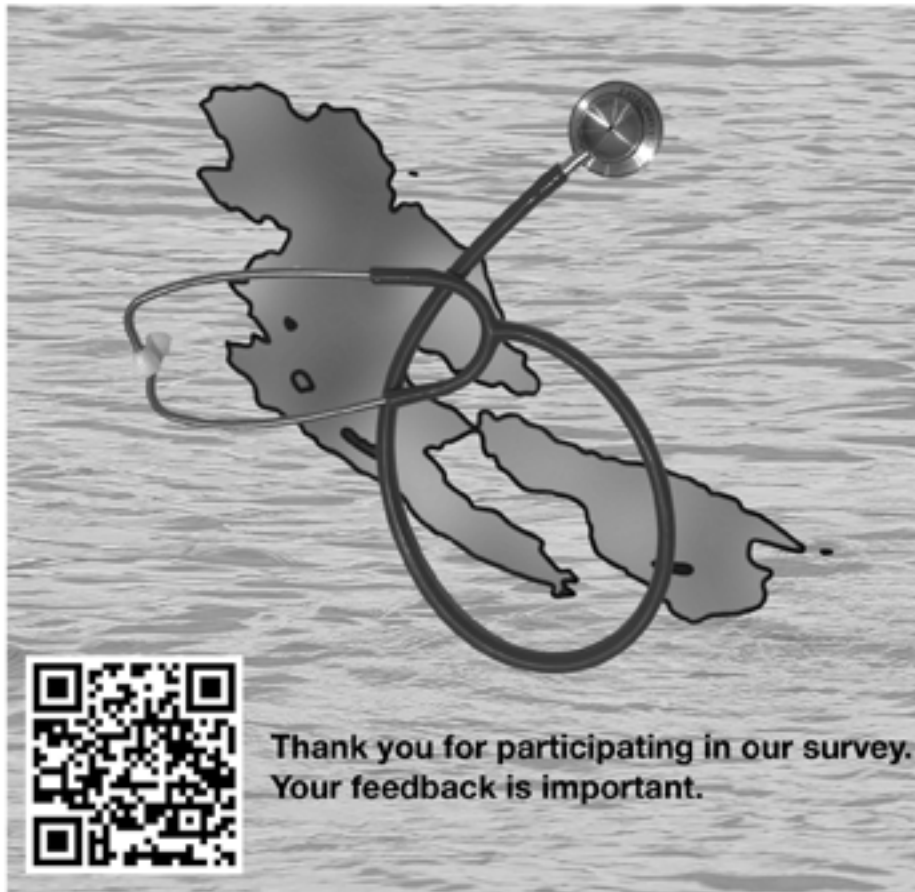
The more responses, the better; they make the picture more complete, and they make the results more meaningful. Please see the full-page ad on the opposite page for more info.

Continued



Pender Islands
Health Care Society

Health and Wellness Survey 2024
February 1 - 15



Thank you for participating in our survey.
Your feedback is important.

The Pender Islands Health Care Society (PIHCS) needs your feedback to identify where health services and supports are meeting your needs, as well as how wellness and health care delivery on Pender might be improved. **Your voice matters!**

Data collected with this survey is anonymous as the IP address that identifies your computer or phone will not be stored. Survey input will be analyzed collectively to determine where Pender has gaps in care, services or supports and the analysis results will be shared with the community.

The survey is on the website: penderislandhealth.org
Click: **TAKE THE SURVEY**

Pender Island Health Care Society (PIHCS)

Public Forum - Learn About the Health Survey Results, and Provide More Input

Dates aren't yet solidified, but keep your eyes peeled for announcements about an open community session this spring. It'll be a chance to hear about the survey results, what the Health Care Society is working on, and to participate in more feedback opportunities.

Community Volunteer Income Tax Program for Seniors

The Better at Home Program is pleased to confirm that we will once again be working with a CRA approved community volunteer to complete income tax returns for individuals 65+. To access this free service, you must have a modest income and a simple tax return. Please contact Jane Harrison at 250-629-3346 for more information.



Current construction activity is focused on the northwest corner of the building.

A Guide to Healthy Aging to AVOID Frailty

The next talk of our *Here's to Your Good Health* speaker series will take place on March 23 at 2 pm at the Community Centre. The talk, *A Guide to Healthy Aging to AVOID Frailty*, will be presented by Dr. Grace Park. Dr. Park is the Regional medical director for Home Health with Fraser Health Authority and a practicing family physician. She provides medical direction for the Home and Community Care program to support and help clients to live independently at home for as long as possible. How to age gracefully in place on our beautiful Pender Island is the aim of many Pender elders!

Accessibility Improvements

We are making good progress with phase I of construction to make the Health Centre accessible for people with mobility issues. In this first phase, the west entrance will lead through a widened door, along a widened hallway, past a newly accessible washroom, towards the centre of the building, where the registration desks and the waiting room are located. This work has been enabled by gaining a first 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. As previously mentioned, a second grant in the same amount has been obtained to target accessibility issues for the urgent care part of the building for phase II of accessibility improvements.

Urs Boxler on behalf of the Communications Committee

SAVE MONEY & ENERGY!

with FortisBC & BC Hydro

SGI Neighbourhood House is teaming up with FortisBC and BC Hydro to offer income-qualified households personalized advice and home installation of energy-saving products — at a reduced cost for you. Some households may even qualify for a new fridge, insulation, or a natural gas furnace.

Pick up the registration form at the Southern Gulf Islands Neighbourhood House/ Community Resource Centre in the Pender Island Driftwood Centre on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays 10-4pm or call 250-629-3665 or email admin@sglnh.ca to get your application

Fortis will send someone to assess your needs and contact you directly

FREE to apply!

*Products selected depend on the individual characteristics of the home and other program criteria. Applicants need to be income-qualified. Only FortisBC natural gas heated, FortisBC electrically heated or BC Hydro electrically heated single family homes, townhouses, and duplexes may be eligible for washroom upgrades. In addition, only FortisBC natural gas heated homes may be eligible for furnace replacement. Other program criteria apply. Apartment units are not eligible for insulation or furnaces. Offer valid to 3/31/24.

We're working together to help B.C. save energy

Community Support Programs

“Sometimes it’s easy to lose faith in people. And sometimes one act of kindness is all it takes to give you hope again.” ~ Randa Abdel-Fattah

Maintain Your Independence Classes January - February

\$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.

Mondays

18 Postures for Seniors with Judith

Tuesdays

Full - Moderate Yoga with Krista
Gentle Chair Yoga with Erin
Essentrics with Heather

Thursdays

Gentle Chair Yoga with Erin

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

Caregivers Support Group

Monday, February 12 and 26,
1:30 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 just want to express my immense gratitude to the wonderful people who organized the SGINH Christmas dinner. It was truly a special event, and I can’t help but feel incredibly grateful.

The volunteers who put everything together must have worked tirelessly to make it happen, and I’m truly touched by their dedication. I understand they not only came up with the idea of having the event, but they also coordinated food and gift donations for us participants, set up a beautifully arranged space, took care of the cleanup, and managed numerous other tasks to make the event truly memorable.

This Christmas was going to be quite challenging for me; the prospect of spending the holiday season alone, coupled with a tight food budget, cast a shadow over what is supposed to be a joyous time of the year. For people like me, who lack the presence of close family members, the sense of isolation can be deeply felt. The need for the warmth of familial connections creates a void that isn’t easily filled, and financial constraints only intensify the feeling of loss.

Because of this, the Christmas dinner organized by the thoughtful volunteers took on an even greater significance. It became a beacon of hope and companionship for those of us who might have otherwise spent the holidays in solitude. The generosity of the organizers in creating a heartwarming event that not only addressed our physical needs through food and gifts but also fulfilled our emotional need for connection, made a world of difference.

The outcome? Nothing short of spectacular! The Christmas dinner brought together 30 people from the community, and the joy of the festive season was palpable. The dedication and hard work of the volunteers truly exemplify the spirit of generosity and community engagement. I am deeply grateful for their selfless efforts.”

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 or leave a message at 629-3346.

*Andrea Mills,
Community Support Worker*



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Pender Island Museum Society



Family Day Weekend Presentation

The museum is pleased to host the island premiere of the award-winning documentary, *A Cedar is Life*, at the Community Hall on Sunday, February 18, at 2 pm (see inside front cover). A brief annual meeting for museum members follows the film.

Throughout 2024 we'll share vignettes from the recently transcribed Victor Menzies diaries. His brief entry from July 2, 1920, piqued our interest: "[Attended] Miss Nickawa's recital in the evening at Hope Bay."

Who was Miss Nickawa?

An online search turned up the story of the all-too-short life of Indigenous recitalist, Frances Nickawa. In that summer of 1920, she was still early in what would be a remarkable career.

Known at birth as Fanny Beardy, she was born c. July 1898, probably in Split Lake, Manitoba. Her family were involved with the fur trade around York Factory, but her father died soon after her birth. The Dictionary of Canadian Biography provides the story.

"In 1901 a staff member at the Methodist residential school in Norway House circulated her wish to adopt a Native child. The Reverend Charles George Fox, Church of England missionary at Split Lake, brought Fanny, with her mother's consent, to Norway House in October, but by then the teacher had adopted another. However, the school's sewing teacher, Hannah Tindall Riley, to whom Fanny had taken a liking,

adopted her. Unmarried, English-born, and in her mid-forties, she had joined the staff the previous year....The next month Hannah registered Fanny at the school as Frances Nickawa, using her mother's family name."

Entering public school in 1907, Frances experienced racial prejudice for the first time. Her biographer later wrote, "Bravely she would say, 'I'm Indian; I'm Cree to the core, and I'm proud of it.' But her sensitive spirit was constantly harried by ignorant, brutal snobs."

"When she was 15, she and Riley moved to South Vancouver. Studying elocution with theatre director and elocutionist Harold Nelson Shaw, she paid her way with sewing, secretarial service, and dog walking. Shaw was keenly supportive of her talents." Over the next few years, Nickawa and Riley would tour extensively, taking on hundreds of engagements across the country.

"Nickawa's only return to her homeland was in the summer of 1923.... 'My life as a child came back slowly at first then... like a tornado uprooting all the works of civilization; where can your civilization fit in now? How does it make you feel toward your own people?'"

"In September 1923 Nickawa suffered a breakdown and memory loss. Following a seemingly complete recovery, she and Riley sailed for Australia in March 1924 to undertake a tour; it was warmly received. Rounding the globe, they reached England the next July, where she gave additional performances. In Vancouver ... Nickawa met an English businessman, Arthur Russell Mark.



They married on 29 Jan. 1927. Mark became her agent and together they resumed her recitals. In Ottawa in May 1928 Nickawa suffered a collapse and returned to Vancouver. After a long illness [tuberculosis], she died on 31 December."

"Like [Pauline] Johnson and other aboriginal performers of her day, Nickawa faced endless public demands for idealized Indians of yesteryear. Her early death was much mourned; as her biographer wrote, 'The light that was in her went out with startling suddenness.'"

Victor Menzies noted in his diary that Nickawa was a "friend of T W Fry", a lay minister on Pender and Victor's longtime friend and neighbour.

As we see Indigenous Peoples telling their history in their own words today, it's heartening to know that Pender folks were already listening over a century ago.

To read the full story, go to <https://www.aupress.ca/books/120181-recollecting/#11>. "*Frances Nickawa: A Gifted Interpreter of the Poetry of Her Race*" by Jennifer S.H. Brown

Simone Marler, President

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Pender Island Parks and Recreation Commission



I have lived on Pender for five and a half years and have had the honour of sitting on the Pender Island Parks and Recreation Commission for the last three. When I first joined, I brought my big city attitude, asking what the Commission can do for me to make my situation better. I saw many flaws with how things were done and made a point to make sure everyone knew how displeased I was with the situation.

Slowly, I began to realize that the Commission was what I/we were going to make of it. We can focus on the difficulties or we can recognize that this is a Pender-run commission for the benefit of the people of Pender.

The Commission is a small group of volunteers who meet monthly to oversee and manage our Community Parks on behalf of the Capital Regional District. I have served with commissioners of various backgrounds, with a wide variety of skills and abilities. We get things done when we come together as a community to make Pender a nicer place to live.

My focus has been to build safe, enjoyable trails that help people get around Pender in a healthy way. I have brought this initiative to the community and have been overwhelmed by the support I have received.

My takeaway from three years on the Commission is that we CAN accomplish things as a community, with community effort. We need concerted, organized, and sustained efforts to build, and to bring to fruition, ideas to make our community better. I hope to see individuals and groups much more engaged with the Commission as we move forward. I think this is an opportunity (and a necessity) for our community to thrive.

We hear about things people don't like more often than we hear what they would like to see and how it might be accomplished. I am hopeful community



Tree planting in the Enchanted Forest on South Pender

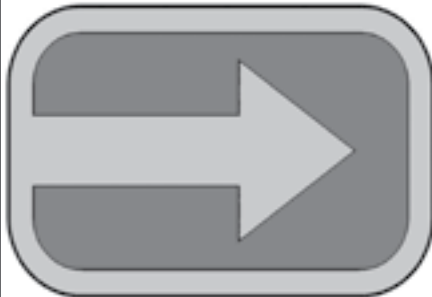
members will bring forward constructive and workable improvements for our parks. If you take this approach, I am confident you will find a positive reception and a willingness to work with you to make Pender Island a better place.

The pump track is an excellent example of this in action. A group of enthusiastic community members came to us with the spark of an idea and we encouraged them to come back with a workable proposal, which they did and which we enthusiastically supported. The project is now part of our 2024 capital budget.

On a more tangible note, a group of commissioners spent one Saturday in January planting trees at the Enchanted Forest in cooperation with the Pender Islands Conservancy. Many thanks to Raven Rock Farm for the donation of 75 cedars and Douglas-firs that added to our replanting efforts at this site last spring and enabled us to replace some that didn't survive the most recent long, dry summer.

Our next meeting is March 4 starting at 3 pm at the Community Hall and via Zoom. Our meetings are open to the public.

Rob Fawcett, Vice Chair



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Pender Island Public Library

Seeking Board Trustees



Do you 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. (See ad page 10.) I can say without a doubt this position comes with an opportunity to showcase any strengths you bring to the table. To apply, drop by to chat with Carmen, Library Director or Chairperson Laura Vilness, or visit the Library website (select About Us – Volunteering) for details and application package.

Library AGM

We welcome all library members to join our Board of Trustees and staff for a short AGM on Wednesday, March 13 at 9:30 am. The meeting will be held in-person at the library, and by Zoom. The meeting package is available on the library website, under Library Events. We'll review the successes of 2023 and present the Library's new Strategic Plan for 2024-2028.

Fundraising Thank-you

Thank you to all who supported the Library in 2023 in our fundraising efforts. We raised funds through your generous donations, including in memoriam funds, the Tru Value Spirit Board #16, online through CanadaHelps, on Giving Tuesday (November), and at our holiday book sale (December - January). Fundraising remains a crucial component of generating revenue for the library to cover basic expenses, allowing us to deliver great services to the community. Thank you for donating funds and good quality used books! Charitable tax receipts are available.

Art in the Library:

Winterlude by Debbie Katz,
felt artist

February and March

Brighten up your winter days with fantastic felted objects, functional and fanciful. For the past fifteen years,

Debbie has been creating unique pieces of felted art that explore the boundaries between art, fashion, and home decor in a fanciful, colourful, and humorous way.

Books On Display

February celebrates Black History Month in Canada, and this year's theme is *Black Excellence: A Heritage to Celebrate, a Future to Build*. Historically, in every facet of Canadian society, Black individuals have made remarkable contributions. Pick up a book today to learn about Black voices in stories, policies and programs that affect their lives, and how we can remove barriers related to anti-Black racism and other systemic inequities.

New Books on the Shelves

Adult Fiction

Three Holidays and a Wedding (Uzma Jalaluddin), *Sharpe's Command* (Bernard Cornwell), *City of Dreams* (Don Winslow), *Starling House* (Alix E. Harrow), *The Last Ranger* (Peter Heller), *Prophet Song* (Paul Lynch).

Adult Mystery and Sci Fi

Deadly Game (Michael Caine), *City of Betrayal* (Victoria Thompson), *The Fury of Beijing* (Ian Hamilton), *Starter Villain* (John Scalzi).

Adult Non-Fiction

The age of Deer: Trouble and Kinship with our Wild Neighbors (Erika Howsare), *How to ADHD: an Insider's Guide* (Jessica McCabe), *Everyday Mediterranean* (Vanessa Perrone)

Local authors

Sauntering the Sonoran Desert (Dave Manning)

Youth and Teens

Break (Kayla Miller) *Ink Girls* (Marieke Nijkamp), *Frogs: Awesome Amphibians* (Liz Prince), *Cat's Cradle: The Mole King's Lair* (Jo Rioux), *The Dog Knight* (Jeremy Whitley), *Nature School* (Lauren Giordano), *Bad Kitty Makes a Movie* (Nick Bruel), *Heartstopper #5* (Alice Oseman), *Hockey Girl Loves Drama Boy* (Faith Erin Hicks), *Northranger* (Rey Terciero).

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Pender Island Recycling Society

Library hours:

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 am - 3 pm, at 4407 Bedwell Harbour Rd. Closed for Family Day, Saturday, February 17 (in lieu of February 19).

For assistance, email libraryhelpdesk@crd.bc.ca or call 250-629-3722.

*Carmen Oleskevich,
Library Director*



Did you know that almost 11,000 single use items were avoided in 2023 because Pender residents and visitors chose to use reusable dishes, glasses, cutlery, and napkins from our dish loan program rather than disposable items?

Our dishes were used at birthdays, family reunions, potlucks, weddings, choir events, art galleries, the Fall Fair, and so much more! We offer dinner plates, side plates, bowls; water, wine, and champagne glasses; coffee cups; cutlery; and cloth napkins. Keep us in mind the next time that you are hosting an event that requires more dishes than you have in your cupboard. (Note that we don't have dish washing facilities at the depot and suggest that you wash all items in a dishwasher or soak in mild bleach solution before using).

If you are interested, ask a staff person for more information the next time that you are at the depot. Rental is by donation, and people typically donate

from \$5-50, depending on the size of the rental. PIRS thanks the CRD for sponsoring this program.

The depot was closed on Saturday, January 13 due to the extremely cold weather. Please note that service announcements are made on our website (penderislandrecycling.com), our Facebook page, and our voicemail (250 629 6962). Check in during power outages or unusual weather events to confirm that we are open.

Thank you to our many supporters that have renewed their membership to the Pender Island Recycling Society. For those still wishing to renew, memberships are voluntary, tax deductible, and cost only \$20 annually. We accept payment by cash, cheque, credit, and debit payments at the depot. Memberships can also be renewed from the comfort of your own home at PenderIslandRecycling.com or by sending an e-transfer to penderislandrecycling@gmail.com. If you send an e-transfer, please also send us your mailing address and we will put a tax receipt in the mail for you.

Thank you to those of you that are pre-sorting recycling. This reduces wait times for everyone and is appreciated. If you're having trouble pre-sorting, check in with us for tips and suggestions. Many people find the following categories useful:

- Paper and cardboard (now collected together, and no toilet paper or Kleenex please)
- Plastic containers
- Flexible plastic packaging (which includes plastic wrap, bubble wrap, crinkly chip bags, squishy foam, zippered pouches, and much more)
- Tin cans, aluminum foil, and metal lids (don't forget that metal aerosol containers are collected separately)
- Cartons and cups (paper soup and cream containers, as well as other containers that are made of paper and plastic coated)
- Refundables (plastic, paper, and alcohol/non-alcohol aluminum)

Continued

Pender Island Public Library

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Niki Roberts

PenderPOD



J16 and her pod's new calf. Photo courtesy Center for Whale Research.



J60, Who's Your Mama?

You gotta give it to those whale sighting aficionados, both citizen scientists and researchers. They are out there in all kinds of weather tracking the whereabouts of our local cetaceans and

studying eyepatches and dorsal fins to figure out who's who. On January 3, a newborn calf was spotted travelling with J16 in Puget Sound... but J16 is over 50....?! Could it be the same calf that was hanging with J40 on December 28? And in early January with J42? Close study of eyepatches confirms this is one and the same newborn, doing the rounds at a speed of over 10 knots in his first weeks of life. Mother, aunt, grandmother...it takes a pod to raise an orca calf.

More curiosity in the deep waters with a Gray whale that showed up on January 12 in Possession Sound, which is between Whidbey Island and the shoreline of Snohomish County....an unusual occurrence this time of year. Always something happening out there.

And here on the island in the depths of winter, your local POD is thinking about future happenings. We are cooking up speaker and film events for 2024. Sighting Network members will be involved in testing a new hydrophone in Boundary Pass as part of the Whale Report Alert System (WRAS), Ocean Wise, which provides and monitors the Whale Report that we use for our sightings. The sighters will also be training some of us citizen scientists on Pender and Saturna. We look forward to the chance to contribute to large vessel slow down when whales are in the vicinity of approaching ships. There is also a grant application being submitted

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Royal Canadian Legion



for a Pender/S,DÁ,YES community event for Ocean Day 2024. Stay tuned!

On a final note, here is a sobering quote from Rachel Carson, the prescient American biologist who wrote *Silent Spring* in 1962:

“It is a curious situation that the sea, from which life first arose, should now be threatened by the activities of one form of that life. But the sea, though changed in a sinister way, will continue to exist; the threat is rather to life itself.”

Our website is www.penderpod.ca and you can also find the Pender Ocean Defenders on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1515666712022248>).

Mary Anne Paré and friends



Tom Simpson, winner of the Cowichan vest made and donated by the Simmons family.



So, how’s 2024 going so far? Well, I hope!

As I mentioned last month, we have a new President at the Legion – and when I say new, I really mean OLD! To replace our president, Jean Deschenes, we had to reach back into the archives and resurrect a president from bygone days, or at least back to 2018. Yes, yours truly has once again grabbed hold of the reins to lead us into the next chapter of our existence. Good luck to us all.

A lot has changed in the job description since 2018. The biggest change has been in the role the computer and online presence now plays in the day-to-day operation of our club. Leave things in someone else’s hands for a few years and they go and modernize everything....what was I thinking. The computer, of course, was around six years ago, but I suppose not being used to its utmost ability. I mean, you can’t keep an entity that wants to control your life down forever. I tried, but trust me, you can only do so much. For better or worse I am back behind the wheel and I will do my best not to destroy all the hard work Jean has done over the last four years to, not only keep the Legion afloat, but to put us in as good a financial position as we have ever been in.

Continued



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SGI Community Economic Sustainability Commission

**...economic prosperity,
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www.sustainableislands.ca

I am not saying that I will do everything the same way Jean did – I have my own style, such as it is. As Des Rawlings said (several times as I recall) “John, you don’t always go by the book...but you care as much about the Legion as I do and that’s what counts”. I may not do things in the way others think I should, but I promise to do everything in my power to do my best for the Legion... and subsequently Pender Island. With the help of my executive, new and old, and our core group of volunteers, I am sure 2024 will be another good year for Branch #239.

I welcome our Executive Board for 2024:

President and Service Officer:
John Pender

Vice President: Lisa Christensen

Past President: Jean Deschenes

Secretary: Kathy Haggitt

Treasurer: Art van Vliet

Executives at Large: Colin Denton,
Dale Henning, Allyson Coffey, Barb Pender, and Melody Pender.

I believe it is a good team and, aside from the obvious nepotism displayed, I think we have a group that will be dedicated to making the Legion a success for many years to come.

Once again thanks to Jean Deschenes for all she has done for the Legion these last four years. The good news is she is not disappearing quite so easily and as Past President will be there to ease me into this new computer-based presidency. Thank you, Jean.

Also a big thank you to outgoing Executive members Dave Sherman, Ian MacGregor, Charles Baker, and Dean Harris for their commitment over the last few years.

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of the 2023 volunteers who contributed to keeping the Legion operating. See our ad on page 10.

The Legion has evolved over the years from a service club to so much more—as we must all do to survive. Though we only appear to be open on Friday and Saturday, we have several groups

renting space just about every day of the week for a nominal fee that provides a comfortable venue for them and assists the Legion’s bottom line as well. If you wish to reserve a time for your group, please email bookings239.rcl@gmail.com and we’ll find a spot for you.

As I mentioned last month, we have decided to honour a Legion volunteer every month and this time we will actually be thanking two people—the team of Tom Wyborn and Natasia Ilkiw. For several years both Tom and Natasia have been an integral part of our Team. From assisting with Meat draws, Friday dinners and Barbecues, outside catering events, work bees, and anything else that comes up, they are always there to pitch in and to go above and beyond the call of duty to make the Legion a success. When not volunteering they are sure to be seen supporting our meat draws, bingo, and dinners, etc. in a financial way. They are indeed a team and we are proud to have them as part of our Legion team!



Donation to Nu-To-Yu presented to Manfred Burandt by John Pender and Jean Deschenes.

Speaking of volunteers, we are asking all Legion members to vote for their Legionnaire of the Year for 2023. All Legion members, including executives, are eligible for nomination. You can pick up a form from the Legion or email branch239.rcl@gmail.com to request the form by email, or email your nominations, which are due by February 29.

Our February 9 Friday dinner is one of my specialties: roast beef, Yorkshire pudding, gravy, roast potatoes, veggies and dessert. Live music will be performed by a favourite, John Temple. Great deal—\$28 for dinner and music. February 23 dinner TBA, but it will be good.

See you for our delicious dinners, and our fun meat draws.

John Pender, President

Outer Gulf Islands RCMP



Let's look at the stats for December 10 to January 14. We attended fifty calls to 911 for service, down from fifty-nine during the same period in 2022/2023.

File of Note

Members attended Galiano Island on Christmas Eve for a report of an assault with a weapon. A male was taken into custody and was released on

an undertaking with conditions. The male is being directed to attend court at a later date. Members attended three calls for persons in distress over the holidays. With the assistance of Pender Fire Department and BC Ambulance paramedics, all persons were taken to hospitals in Victoria to be cared for.

Santa Ship

Once again, we were extremely honoured to bring the big guy and all his booty to Hope Bay this year. Lots of smiles and laughter were present throughout the bay.

Info Sessions

I am working with our school district to set up an information session focused around the current trend of "sextortion and cell phone safety". This will be for parents and anyone else interested in protecting themselves or a family member from becoming a target. Dates, time, and location will be passed along through the PAC.

Fraud Alert

I am currently putting together an information session focused around telephone and internet (email and spam) fraud, so stay tuned for date time and location.

Job Opportunity

Currently the detachment is looking to hire part time, on-call guards. If you are interested in this, you can access information through the Commissionaires BC website (<https://www.commissionaires.bc.ca>) You would have to complete and maintain an enhanced security clearance, obtain basic first aid training (paid for), and receive on site training through the Commissionaires. Now the fun part: you could be called out at all hours of the day or night. Shifts can be as long as twelve hours and as short as four hours. If this is something you might be interested in, check out the web site. Application/ security packages can be picked up at the detachment during regular hours.

Just a reminder: renew your car insurance.

If you want to read more about what is going on in the province or on the other islands, go to <https://bc-cb.rcmp-grc.gc.ca> and follow the Quick Links to BC RCMP Detachments. Scroll down to Outer Gulf Islands and select Newsroom.

Const. Simon Bentley

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SGI Community Resource Centre



Dining in the Dark

The Community Resource Centre, in partnership with the Emergency Management team, is pleased to announce that *Dining in the Dark*, a recipe book for cooking without electricity, is now available for purchase at a location near you. Watch our Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/SGICommunityResourceCentre>) for dates for cooking and workshops using these recipes. Check out the website for more information <https://www.sgicommunityresources.ca/>

Housing Now

Coming soon... Verified HomeShare Registry Applicants. Are you interested in HomeShare but you aren't sure how to go about vetting your potential housemate? Let the Housing Now Registry help. Working in partnership with businesses and community focused organizations, Housing Now has built a verification process for your peace of mind. Employer/Character and Landlord/Rental Agency reference checks will assist you in finding the right housemate for your shared living experience. Have questions? Connect with our team today to find out more at housingnow@sgicommunityresources.ca.

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 emailing islandsupport@sgicommunityresources.ca or call (250) 629-3665 for assistance.

Vitality Business Services

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. If you have any questions give us a call (250) 629-3665.

Sustainable Funding Initiative

The SGI Sustainable Funding Initiative has lined up a number of capacity building workshops for non-profit boards and volunteers.

Minutes & Records Workshop

Wednesday, February 14,
11-12:30 (Zoom)

Treasurer Lab

Wednesday, February 28,
11-12:30 (Zoom)

The SGI Sustainable Funding Initiative has a monthly newsletter with upcoming grant opportunities for nonprofits, small businesses, and individuals; resources, inspiring videos, community news, and nonprofit features. Subscribe to our newsletter, or register for one of our workshops www.sgicommunityresources.ca/non-profit-support/

As we look forward to spring, your continued support and participation ensures that our community flourishes. Thank you for being a part of our community.

Shannon Jensen

SGI Neighbourhood House



As February unfolds and the days grow longer, signaling the impending arrival of spring, we invite you to join in on the programs and events taking place this month.

Food Programs

Join us for a hot lunch on Mondays and soup on Fridays at the Pender Community Hall from 12 - 2 pm

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. February 16 at 11 am at the Pender Island Hall

Computer Savvy Seniors

Would you like to improve your digital skills? The Computer Savvy Seniors Program can help! Join instructor Dorian on February 16 at the Community Hall. Bring your questions to have answered with the Friday soup and music. Dorian will be hosting a Phishing and Avoiding Scams workshop on February 27, 4 - 6 pm. This class will be available on zoom. Call (250) 629-3665 or email at fiftyfiveplus@sginh.ca to register. \$5 suggested donation for each class.

55+ Fall Workshops

We are in the works of putting together informative Southern Gulf Islands wide programs for February and March. Check out our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/sgineighbourhoodhouse>) for more information. To register please call 250-629-3665 or email fiftyfiveplus@sginh.ca.

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 4 SGIs. For more information please contact at Volunteerprogram@sginh.ca.

Community Justice Program

We are a small but mighty group of volunteers that would love for you to check us out. To register for your virtual seat, please email us at cjp@sginh.ca.

PENDER ISLAND VETERINARY CLINIC

Dr. Gordon Oudman

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Meanwhile, please check out our website to learn about the activities and events we have on the go: <https://sginh.ca/programs/cjp>.

Youth Programs 15-29

Homework club takes place every Thursday from 5 - 7 pm at the Community Hall. Games Night! is hosting Magic: The Gathering on February 9 from 4 - 8 pm and board games February 23 4-8 pm at the Community Hall. Drinks and snacks are provided. Alive After 5: Youth Workplace Safety Virtual Workshop will be held on February 16 from 1 - 3 pm. The Youth Advisory Committee with Maddi and Liam will be meeting on Zoom for their monthly meeting February 28 7 - 8 pm. Register by emailing youthprograms@sginh.ca.

As we look forward to spring, your continued support and participation ensures that our community flourishes. Thank you for being a part of our community.

Shannon Jensen

Canadian Power and Sail

Pender Island Squadron



If you are a boater, or thinking of becoming one, the following courses, seminars and boat shows may be of interest to you.

Vancouver Boat Show

January 31 to February 4

This is a good opportunity to inspect various boat models, get familiar with various suppliers of marine equipment, and source information specific to whatever form of on-water activity that interests you. If boating interests you this is a great one-day adventure with good pedestrian connections between ferry and transit to and from Vancouver.

Maritime Radio Course

One of the best investments you can make when it comes to taking the search out of Search and Rescue. Whether you are a paddle boarder, kayaker, or

boater, having and knowing how to use a Marine VHF radio can save your life. The Maritime Radio Self-study Course is offered year round by CPS Pender Island. Check it out under Courses and Seminars at the cps-ecp.ca web site. Call me if you need help registering. Our squadron offers assistance in tutoring and examination for your license.

Basic Navigation and Boat Handling Course

Offered on-line beginning February 1.

This course includes sections covering basic navigation skills (using a compass, reading and interpreting nautical charts, understanding the navigation aids & buoy system, exploring the basic features and use of Electronic Navigation devices), legal responsibilities and safety measures, selecting and using lines and knots, anchoring, docking, understanding the impact of weather on boater safety, electrical hazards, collision avoidance rules, tides and

Continued

Canadian Power and Sail Pender Island Squadron



Weather Seminar

March 10, 2:00 pm

At the Pender Island Legion on McKinnon Road

\$15/person or \$20/couple

Weather in the Salish Sea can often come in many forms and in many ways. Our coastal mountain ranges, many channels, tidal systems and location on the west coast can often result in sudden squalls and difficult to interpret weather events. Don't venture out unprepared!

Learn how to obtain, understand and plan for local weather events before venturing out on the water. This will be a fun presentation in plain spoken language that will help you to understand many of the terms and conditions presented in a typical marine weather report.

For further information contact David Kirsop, Commander, at 250-539-0951.

The Wind Came All Ways ~ Emily Carr

currents, and other related topics. Each section includes course notes, instructional video, knowledge checks, skill testing quizzes and exercises, and links to supplementary resources. An optional final multiple choice exam is also available.

Weather Seminar

March 10 we will offer a one day seminar course at the Legion on weather which will focus on weather and wind conditions encountered in our local waters. See our ad on previous page details.

Check out the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron web site at www.cps-ecp.ca. It offers a lot of information on boating related activities, boater education, and marine environmental awareness.

If you would like to join our squadron, or offer suggestions for seminar topics, then contact me at davidkirsop@yahoo.ca

Thanks for reading and stay safe on the water,

David Kirsop, Commander

Pender Island Garden Club

Fabulous Plants and Their Fungal Friends

“Plants are fascinating. Fungi are fascinating. But for sheer entertainment value, it’s difficult to beat plants, plus fungi. Fungi have been associated with plants since plants first colonized the land, and are requisite partners of almost all of our familiar BC plants. This talk will include fungal endophytes, mycorrhizae, mycoheterotrophs and other partnerships between plants and fungi.”

The above quote is from our speaker this month, Andy MacKinnon, a forest ecologist and well known mycologist. Andy’s recent research interests include the ecology of BC’s ectomycorrhizal fungal species and that is what he is going to talk to us about. Andy is the co-author of six best-selling books about plants and mushrooms of western North America.

As usual we are meeting at 1 pm, downstairs in the Community Hall, on February 8. Drop-ins are welcome to attend this session for a fee of \$5.

Kathy MacLachlan

Pender Island Golf Club



Original club house, Alex Amies' cabin.



As you may recall from our January article the meeting minute book prior to 1944 was lost!

But fortunately, what we do have is an interview with Olive Clague for *The Pender Post* shortly before her death in 1991. Olive was the sister of George, Neptune and Percy Grimmer. George, the brother who sold the club the land, was not interested in golf, but Neptune, Percy, and Olive all liked to play. Neptune was one of the original six directors of the club and both Percy and Olive were active members.

What we didn’t know until now was how deep the roots of golf are in the community of Pender Island and how Pender Island stands out in the game of golf. In 1991 Olive recounts that her love of golf started when she learned to play in 1913 while her family went to visit her mother’s cousin, William Auchterlonie, in Scotland. William, known as Willie, and later his son Laurie were both the club makers and professional golfers at none other than the world-renowned St Andrews. But that is not all! In 1893 that same Willie Auchterlonie won the Open (some refer to it as the British Open) and then in 1902 Laurie Auchterlonie, his son, won the US Open. Who knew our Pender roots were so famous in the game of golf. Why, even today, our present day Laurie Auchterlonie carries on the legacy. His Great Great Grandfather Lawrence Auchterlonie was the brother of Willie’s dad David. Lawrence and his family came to Pender in 1882.

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Pender Island Otters Swim Club

Lawrence's daughter Elizabeth married Washington Grimmer and so it began. Confused yet? Me too. Anyway, present day Laurie Auchterlonie has won the club championship 19 times in the last 20 years! Something to be said for great golf genes.

Thanks to Olive we also know a couple of other things that are not in the records we hold.

Her notes tell us that Alex Amies had built a 2-room cabin on the Grimmer farm next to the hay barn down by the creek in the early 1930s. He lived there for several years until he went into service in 1939. So, when the club bought the property in 1945, his cabin was turned into a club house where members could have tea and store their clubs. If you drive by the course, you will see the cabin is still there and today is used to store our equipment.

The fees to join and play were very low because the members worked very hard to build and maintain the tee boxes and holes. These volunteer efforts continue to this day. Every Monday a group of volunteers comes out to the club and does whatever tasks the grounds superintendent assigns, which helps us to keep the costs down. Our records show that during the 1940s the cost to join the club was \$10 annually and green fees set at 50 cents a round, which was collected by any member who happened to be out there to play. Members who maintained a green and a tee box had their annual dues reduced by \$5; they did not need to worry about the fairways as the cattle and sheep from the Grimmer farm did a good job of keeping the fairways mowed.

Stay tuned next month for more on the story.

*Cindy Bedford,
Volunteer Member*



Patti Badcock, then in her 70s, participating in the Ice-Berg Relay Race at Duncan Aquatic Centre at the Cowichan Valley Breakers swim meet.



We are now well into the second half of our winter maintenance season, with full attendance in the Otter Pups and pretty well full in all the other groups as well. Good to see lots of familiar and new faces in the water again after the Christmas break.

Panorama Pool management have decided to switch their scheduled major pool cleaning/filter maintenance session to most of April this year, instead of the late August to mid-September time frame. There will be a bit of a gap for the last part of our sessions while they do that. This means that we will be running our Friday practices right through spring break to March 29 to try to offer as many sessions as we can before the pool closes, then resume once completed, hopefully by April 19, but definitely by April 26.

Then, of course, we start the summer season with new registration starting on May 3. Bit of a hiccup in our bookings, but nothing we can do about that.

On a sad note, we mourn the loss of Patti Badcock, one of our long time board members and original *Walrus* group swimmers. Patti died in early January and we send our sincere sympathy to

her brother (and our long time treasurer/ and fellow *Walrus*) John Cowan, and all her family. Patti led her team of Otter Pups to victory in the no-hands-transport relay of a Styrofoam ice-berg back and forth down the pool. Her sheer joy of swimming is evident in the photo. She jumped right in to take part in the race with our three little swimmers, and loved swimming with the club. Patti was a staunch and loyal board member who helped out in publicity and always staffed our Fall Fair booth. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Lastly, we will be confirming the date soon for our Annual General Meeting in mid-March. It will be via Zoom to make it easier for all our members to attend without worrying about making ferries home and for those on other islands. The date will be announced in the March issue of *The Pender Post* and also emailed out to all our members. If anyone is interested in nomination to our board, or has any questions about our club or programs, feel free to contact us at penderottersswimclub@gmail.com or our new web page at www.penderislandotters.ca.

Helen Lemon-Moore, President

WEATHER OBSERVATIONS FOR DECEMBER

	Average Temperatures			Extreme Temperatures		Precipitation		
	Max	Min	Mean	High	Low	Rain	Snow	Total
Magic Lake	9.1	5.2	7.2	12.5 on 5 & 27	1.5 on 23 & 24	128.4	0.0	128.4
“Normal”	7.0	2.5	4.7	15.0 in 2014	-11.5 in 1990	131.5	11.7	131.5
Comparing 2023 with average annual temperatures and precipitation since 1987:								
2023	15.0	7.0	11.0	35.0 in Aug.	-3.5 in Jan. & Feb.	695.0	18.5	713.5
1987-2023	15.0	7.0	11.0	39.5 June 2021	-12.5 Feb 1989	823.0	31.6	854.6

December is, on average, our third wettest month. It is also our coldest month and it is the month with the most snow. But the weather is variable and almost unpredictable. There are many places in Canada where it is sure to snow in December, but Pender Island is different.

As it did in November, the rain came early in December 2023 -- more than half the December average precipitation in the first five days of the month. For the rest of the month it rained frequently but not heavily. Our rainfall for the month was a little above December average, but there was no snow so our total precipitation was about 3 mm below the average for December.

The average daily maximum and minimum temperatures show December 2023 to be the warmest December in the last 36 years, but the average temperatures for the whole of 2023 were equal to the average for the whole of that period from 1987 - 2023.

Total precipitation in 2023 was below the average for the years 1987 - 2023, but it was not a record. There have been four years with less than the 2023 total. Rainfall and snow have varied from year to year without showing any trend to increase or decrease.

It has been a pleasantly mild winter so far with no extremes of weather. There has been more fog than usual, but not enough to be a real problem. The

absence of snow is sad for our closest ski resorts, but our winter is not over yet. A white Christmas would have been nice, but that has its disadvantages. Our first Camelia blossomed before the end of the year.

By the time you read this, we will be well into the New Year. January and February are still winter, even on Pender Island, with lots of rain and freezing temperatures. The coldest day since I have been recording the weather was -12.5 C in February 1989. Maximum February temperature will probably be in the mid-teens.

Don't forget that 2024 is a Leap Year.

Malcolm Armstrong

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NUMBERS PUZZLE MCA #39 BY MALCOLM ARMSTRONG

There are 25 numbers in this puzzle and that should be enough to ensure that the puzzle is not too difficult but not too easy either. From the feedback I get from readers, I know there is a wide range of expertise at solving these puzzles. There are 56 empty squares and to solve the puzzle you must put one number 1 – 9 in each of these 56 squares, but no more than one number 1 – 9 in every row, every vertical column and every group of nine small squares. There are more than one correct solutions.

Malcolm Armstrong

COVER STORY

I took this month's cover photo on my property in Magic Lake. I don't know what kind of mushroom it is. I just started investigating the mushrooms around my house this year and am just beginning the journey of learning to identify them. This particular mushroom, in its mossy home, both triggers nostalgia for the fairy tale books of my childhood and speaks to the rewilding and land stewardship we are privileged to be a part of here on Pender. No matter what we humans get up to, the mycelia are spreading out and doing their things unbothered and probably will do for a long, long time. I take comfort in that. Taken with my very buggy iPhone Xs Max.

Becky Johnson

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

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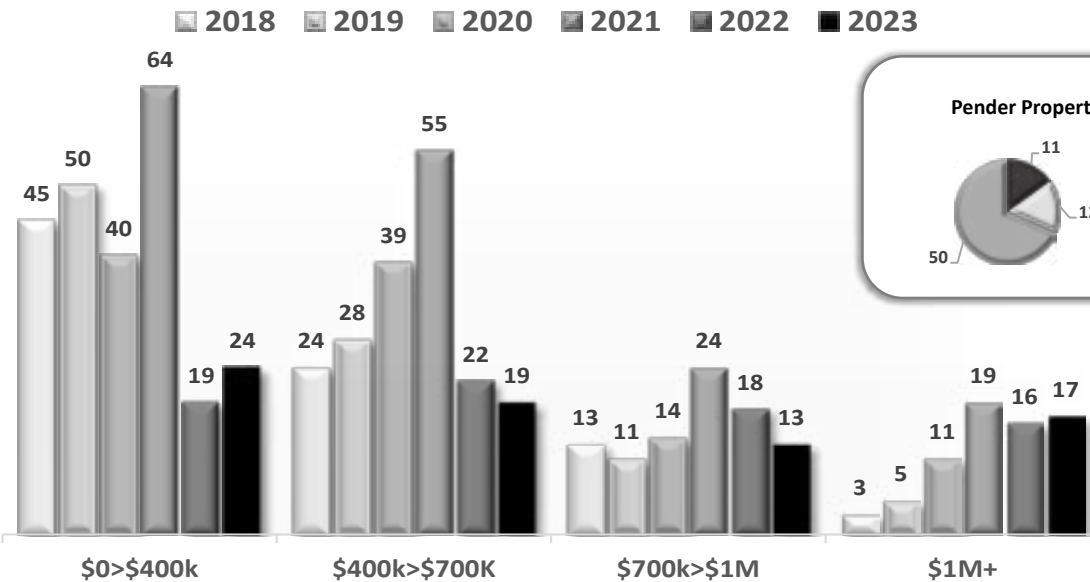
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