

\$4.00

The Pender Post

December 2023

Since 1971

Pender Island's Community Connection
PenderPost.org VOL 53 #645

Ptarmigan Arts Wrap Up

2023 in Numbers

**Our footprint
on S,DÁYES/Pender Island,
the Southern Gulf Islands,
and Greater Victoria**

21
Programs

8
In-house
Events

12
Sponsored
Events

120
Volunteers


\$80,000
Paid to local
Artists +
Musicians

190
Children
Taught

97%
Ptarmigan
Dollars Spent
Locally

15
Visual Arts
Exhibitions

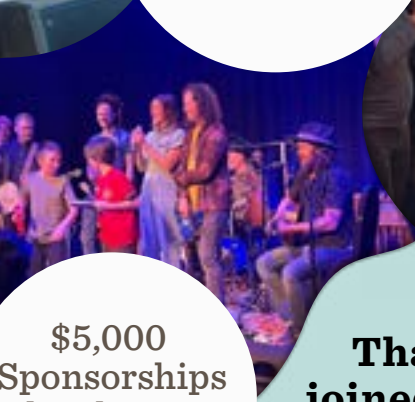
1,200
Program
Participants

100 hrs
of live
music

1,000
Concert
Goers

\$5,000
Sponsorships
to local Groups
and Events

**Thank you to everyone who
joined us this year in building
a vibrant arts community**
[ptarmiganarts.org!](http://ptarmiganarts.org)



Season's Greetings

WE WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A SAFE,
AND JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Celebrate the "joy" of the
season with us!

- CHRISTMAS DINNER

Aurora Restaurant | December 23, 24 & 25

4-Course Dinner | \$85 per person + tax

Reservations recommended

- NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS

- HEALING SPA IS NOW OPEN

For more information

250.629.2100 | info@poetscove.com



9801 Spalding Road, South Pender Island, BC V0N 2M3
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2024 ANNUAL PENDER ISLANDS LIONS CLUB Polar Bear Swim

Kick start your New Year with a Frosty Dip!

January 1, 2024 at Port Browning Marina and Resort.
Splashdown at 1 p.m.



A Suggested
Registration Fee
of 1 item will be
collected for the
PENDER ISLAND
FOOD BANK.

Prize Judging & Presentations

12:30 - 1:00 p.m. • 5 Prizes!

- Youngest Splasher • Oldest Dipper
- Best Children's Costume (12 & under)
 - Best Teen Costume (13-19 incl.)
 - Best Adult Costume (20 & over)

Food, Prizes & Fun for Everyone!



WE SERVE

SEA ★ STAR

WINE, ALL THE TIME

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

TUESDAYS TO SUNDAYS
12pm to 5pm

FRESH PASTA BY TRUSS
Saturdays 12pm to 3pm

CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS
DEC 18 TO JANUARY 3



DECEMBER AT PORT BROWNING



EVENT SPACE

HOST YOUR PARTY
IN OUR BISTRO! UP
TO 50 GUESTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

DECEMBER 8

DANIELLE LEBEAU PETERSEN - LIVE MUSIC
6PM - 9PM

TRIVIA NIGHT

EVERY THURSDAY! OPEN TO ALL AGES .
TEAMS UP TO 6. STARTS AT 6:30

DECEMBER 23

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST FOR THE FAMILY!
FREE KIDS BREAKFAST WITH A PAYING
ADULT

NEW YEARS EVE

OPEN LATE! FOOD SPECIALS AND DJ
GNOCCHI HERE TO HELP YOU RING IN 2024!

FOOD DRIVE

DROP YOUR DONATION OFF AT MARINA
OFFICE - CHANCE TO WIN PRIZES WHEN
YOU DONATE



BUYING A GIFT CARD?

PURCHASE
\$200 IN GIFT
CARDS AND
GET A \$25 GIFT
CARD FOR YOU!

DAILY SPECIALS ARE BACK

WEDNESDAY

HALF PRICE CHICKEN WINGS AFTER 5:00PM

THURSDAY

\$5 OFF FISH + CHIPS - ALL DAY
TRIVIA NIGHT - STARTS AT 6:30PM

FRIDAY - SUNDAY

BREAKFAST IN THE BISTRO - 8:00AM - 11:00AM

SUNDAY

ROAST BEEF DINNER AFTER 5:00PM

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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

The days have grown shorter, our islands have gotten quieter, the rainy season has come. And in these darker days, I become more aware of how we gravitate towards the light. Any moments of sunshine are greeted with enthusiasm and a desire to be out-of-doors, grateful for the elusive warmth. And in the evenings, Penderites have begun to prepare for the coming holidays with displays of light that lift the spirits and share their delight in the season. I became especially conscious of this in the dark days of COVID isolation, when many of us were grappling with anxiety and loneliness. I would be heading home on the dark road, when just past Fire Station #2, Steve Neil's magnificent display of coloured light would come in sight. A smile would light my face, and I would feel a renewed sense of hope. I said a silent thank you to him each time.

This past year, there has been a feeling of renewal and rebuilding of community on Pender. "The lights have come back on", so to speak, for many of us. As we celebrate, may we also reach out to share that light with our community members who may be grappling with loss, desperately looking for housing, worrying about the long-term future, or just struggling to make it through the day. There are so many ways to be a light in the darkness. Let's make Pender shine.

Annie Smith

SPECIAL NOTICES



Pioneers' Memorial Tree

The Pender Pioneers' Memorial tree at the top of Bridges Road will be lit up for the month of December, so please come by and enjoy the lights. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Rick and Kari Amies Horbas

Help fill
Santa's Sac

Take a tag
off the tree
at Tru Value
and buy a gift
or
etransfer a
cash donation to:
santaonpender@gmail.com



See page 8 for details.

Thanks for Reading The Pender Post

We Deliver!
Subscribe for 2024

Get every issue in your mailbox.

See page 9 & 10.



The Santa Ship is Sailing Back!

Saturday, December 16, 2023 1 pm at Hope Bay

A Santa Ship has sailed to the Islands every year since 1947!

The Pender Islands Lions Club and the Hope Bay Merchants welcome Pender Island kids to meet and receive gifts from Santa. Join us with the Pender Pipe Band for food, fun and a Silent Auction in support of Lions projects on the Pender Islands.

Santa will be aided by his elves, and carolers.

Pender Islands Lions Club
WE SERVE

Pender Islands Fire Service will be with us collecting donations for the Pender Food Bank.

KIM POLLARD FINE ART

PRESENTS

THE 1st ANNUAL DECEMBER GROUP EXHIBITION

ARTIST OPENING RECEPTION

Saturday December 2nd 1:00-3:00

Gallery Hours: Wednesday to Saturday, 11:00-3:00

Show runs until January 7th

#3 – 4301 Bedwell Harbour Road. Hope Bay
604.671.1189 ~ studio@kimpollard.com ~ www.kimpollard.com

Welcome Back, Santa!

Photos: Rachel Lenkowski.



THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Double your impact for conservation!



BIG NEWS! A generous community donor has offered to match all donations to the Pender Islands Conservancy up to \$10,000 by December 31!

Christmas Kingfishers art by Maria Miller

Help us keep our education, restoration and land stewardship programs going in 2024.

Make a tax-deductible donation, give the gift of conservation in the name of friends or family, and double the value of your donation until the end of 2023.

Visit the Nature Centre at Hope Bay, or our website:
WWW.PENDERCONSERVANCY.ORG



Pender Islands
Conservancy

Farewell

We have led a rich and enjoyable life during our 28 years on Pender, but age and medical considerations have finally tipped the balance and we have moved to Sidney and a new life in this seaside town. We are going to miss our dear friends, the vibrant Pender community, and the space and beauty of this unique island. Our memories include the many years Clare was involved with the choir when she directed the very popular Vivaldi Gloria and the successful millenium choir tour of the outer SGIs. Other memories include Barry's long-time association with MAP and his creation of the unique Car Stops program. Solstice Theatre was another love, both as actor and director, and finally, his care and concern for the Islands' environment led to his involvement with Pender Islands Parks and Recreation Commission. We were both delighted when Talisman Books & Gallery recently moved into its fourth ownership since we established this business in 2001.



Pender allowed us to be involved in a variety of creative and environmental activities, where we worked together with a rich assortment of Islanders.

There is no doubt that Pender hosts a remarkable community, and we will miss you greatly. We will, on occasions, make the long pilgrimage from Sidney to keep in touch with our friends, ferries permitting!

Barry and Clare Mathias

Santa's Sac



The Elf Tree is up at Tru Value!

It's simple:

- Take a tag off the tree
- Buy the gift
- Bring it back (not wrapped) by December 15

Gifts can be dropped off at Tru Value, the CRC office (M,W,F) or the Port Browning Marina office. Thank you so

Continued

The Pender Post

It's Time to Renew or Purchase Your 2024 Subscription

All Subscriptions will Expire in December

Please complete the reverse side of this form to ensure continued delivery for 2024, or complete the online form at www.penderpost.org/subscriptions

Pay by eTransfer (preferred) or Cheque

- **eTransfer** to subscriptions@penderpost.org. Enter your full name and mailing address in the message box.
- **Cheques**, made payable to The Pender Post Society, can be left in the Pender Post folder at the Dockside Realty office at the Driftwood Centre or mailed to: The Pender Post Society, PO Box 4, Pender Island, BC V0N 2M0, Attn: Dianne Allison, Subscriptions

much to Mike and staff for hosting the tree this year.

Did you know that most of the funds donated to Santa's Sac support the food card program? Last year, we supported 26 families (\$250), 12 couples (\$150) and 40 individuals (\$125), for a total cost of \$13,300. Plus we purchased a ham or vegetarian option for all families – total cost approximately \$15,000. We also visited 21 seniors with small gifts from Santa.

This year, we are so grateful that the Pender Island Fire Rescue team will be "Shaking the Boot" at the Santa Ship on December 16 and at Tru Value (date TBD). Santa really appreciates any donation you can give so that we can help make the season happier for many others.

Please consider donating your 1% to #10 on the Tru Value Spirit Board – we are down on funds this year so maybe donate in December, or all year long!

Santa now has an e-transfer account – santaonpender@gmail.com. For a tax receipt, please put your address and postal code in the memo line of the

transfer. Cheques can be made out to PI Food Bank Society, with Santa's Sac in the memo line – again, please include address and postal code. Drop off in the Santa's Sac file in the Community Box, Dockside Realty Driftwood.

Thank you so much to all of you who have responded to the call for volunteers and donations. This is a mighty little program on a small island and it's a lovely time to see big hearts at work. I am sorry to miss it this year but I know my elves will be filling the void with love and care.

Terry Shepherd, Coordinator

The Anglican Parish of Pender and Saturna Islands

It's a year ago that we lost our beloved rector, Rev. Ellen Willingham, and we still miss her all the time. However, we soldier on, keeping her memory alive, and we know she would want us to send you all blessings and best wishes, as we look forward to celebrating this Christmas season.

The churches of St. Peter and St. Christopher (on Saturna) have been

blessed this past year with the presence of different clergy members. In particular, we are grateful to Pender resident, retired Lutheran pastor Arnie Alksne, for his caring ministry and to The Reverend Canon Blair Haggart from Mayne for his visits to both Saturna and Pender. Highlights for St. Peter's were the visit of Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee on October 15 and the Blessing of the Animals service held on October 29, which was very well attended by many furry friends. Our congregations continue to follow our parish's principles of embracing a spirit of abundance and engaging with our communities. We are grateful to our communities for their support. Meanwhile, we look forward to a new year full of promise. The Diocese of British Columbia is assessing the needs of the Southern Gulf Island churches and is considering introducing the model of a shared, full-time priest for Galiano, Mayne, Saturna, and Pender. Interesting times ahead!

Please see page 31 for our seasonal service dates and times.

The Pender and Saturna Islands Parish Council

The Pender Post

2024 Subscription

Renewal New subscription Address/email change

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- **Payment options:** see reverse side.

Hugh Godfrey Griffith

1936 - 2023



With saddened hearts, we announce the peaceful passing of Hugh Godfrey Griffith, 87, of Vancouver, BC, on Saturday, October 14, 2023. Hugh lived on South Pender for 17 years.

Born in South Croydon, UK, Hugh attended the University of New Brunswick and graduated as a civil/structural engineer in 1961. He delivered the valedictorian address – finishing top of his class. It was during his studies at UNB that he joined the Canterbury Club, *The Anglican Church on Campus*, where he met Ada Adaliene Burtchael. According to *Up The Hill*, the 1961 UNB yearbook, “Hugh leaves us with both a degree and a wife!”

His career took him and his family across Canada, from Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton, and Vancouver.

He started as a field engineer and he completed his career as vice president of a Canadian-wide general contracting company, retiring at the remarkable age of 50. Hugh’s milestone projects included the Commerce Court, Toronto and the Bears paw Water Treatment Plant, Calgary.

Hugh’s life was devoted to his Christian faith and his family. He gave of his time, talents, and treasures. He made significant contributions to the fabric of his church communities and volunteer organizations. He was a Sunday school teacher, youth group leader, church warden, and mentor for many young people. He was involved with the Prison Ministry and the Neighbourhood Ministry serving meals for the most vulnerable. He was a volunteer ambulance attendant on Pender Island, delivered Meals on Wheels, and worked in many community gardens. He had a love of classical music as a VSO season ticket holder. He loved to run throughout his life and continued to maintain his healthy lifestyle as he aged.

Hugh was predeceased by his loving wife of 42 years, Ada Adaliene Burtchael (1933-2002). He will be deeply missed by his children, Patrick Griffith (Lorie) and Philip Griffith (Colette), grandchildren; Heather, Leah, and Benjamin and great grandchildren; Brooklynn, Claire, Ryker, and Jaxon.

A funeral took place in Vancouver November 6.

Colette Cada-Griffith

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

A community donor is matching donations, up to \$10,000, until December 31st.

To donate, visit our Nature Centre at Hope Bay or see:

www.penderconservancy.org

Pender Islands Conservancy

Raymond Denis Arcand

1938-2023



Ray Arcand and his lapstrake canoe.

Raymond Denis Arcand of Pender Island, BC, died October 16, 2023 while in Hospice Care at Saanich Peninsula in Saanichton. My Ray-man had a long adventurous life and lived to be 85!

Ray was born June 23, 1938 to Remi Arcand and Lucille Lessard Arcand in North Battleford, Sask. In 1946 the family moved to Chilliwack in the Fraser Valley of BC to pursue dairy farming. This is where Ray and his siblings, Lorraine, Louise, Irene, and George were raised, on the farm. Remi had some health problems so Ray, as the eldest child, was required to work at his side until he left home.

Ray had an interest in photography and worked for a time in a camera shop in Chilliwack.

He also spent a few years in the Forest Service before returning to UBC to complete his education as a High School Shop Teacher. He was employed by Chase Secondary and remained in Chase, BC for 29 years, retiring in 1997.

Ray and Janice Reeves were married in 1964 and had two children, Anthony and Michelle. The family lived in Sorrento, BC where Ray built two houses during his summer breaks, published a book on making log building tools, had a



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part-time paddle-making business and spent time with his family at the cabin at Sheridan Lake during the summers.

Wilderness canoe tripping was another of Ray's passions, along with marathon canoe racing. He lived a very active life with his many canoes. Retiring from Chase Secondary in 1997, Ray moved to Bellingham, WA and we married in 1998. We had 25 good years together to enjoy our canoeing trips and shared adventures.

We've been grateful to be able to call Pender Island our home for the last 23 years.

Ray was an extremely talented woodworker and craftsman, and a fine human being.

Ray is survived by Anthony Arcand, Michelle Arcand, Janice Arcand, Beth Arcand, Dave Green, and Dan Green and by grandchildren Cleo Mills, Abbey Mills, Odin Mills, and Ashley Green, and of course, Ted.

Beth Arcand

Finella Louise Hughes (nee Neligan)

1935 - 2023



Our beloved mother, 87, passed away peacefully on the evening of October 25 after a long battle with dementia. She is free and at rest.

Finella was born around Peckham, England December 20, 1935 to William

and Hilda. She married Tony Hughes on March 23 1957 and emigrated to Canada 25 March.

There she had five children and later worked as her own boss in the antique business, eventually owning her own shops of collectables & antique furniture, cheese boutique, and art gallery in Markham, Ontario, as well as real estate and horticulture endeavours. Finella rode across western Canada on her ten-speed bike when she was 52. She also helped build a labyrinth in Lanark County, near Ottawa.

Finella moved to Pender Island in 2005 and lived here for eight years. During that time, she helped in planting the Sea Star Vineyard on Pender Island and grew the most beautiful rose garden on the island.

She was an accomplished artist and loved her work.

Finella will be missed by her brother John (Chris), children Laura, Sally (Sean), Stafford, and Peter (Sol), grandchildren Jennifer, Erin, Tara, Tiffany, Bonnie, Sylvia, Connor, Rhys, Devin, and Bronwyn, and great-grandchildren, Ayla, Thea, Aislinn, and Gemma. Finella was predeceased by her parents William and Hilda, brother Jimmy, ex-husband Tony, and infant daughter Claire.

A private funeral will be held at a later date by family request.

Peter Hughes

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Peter Binner
GOLDSMITH

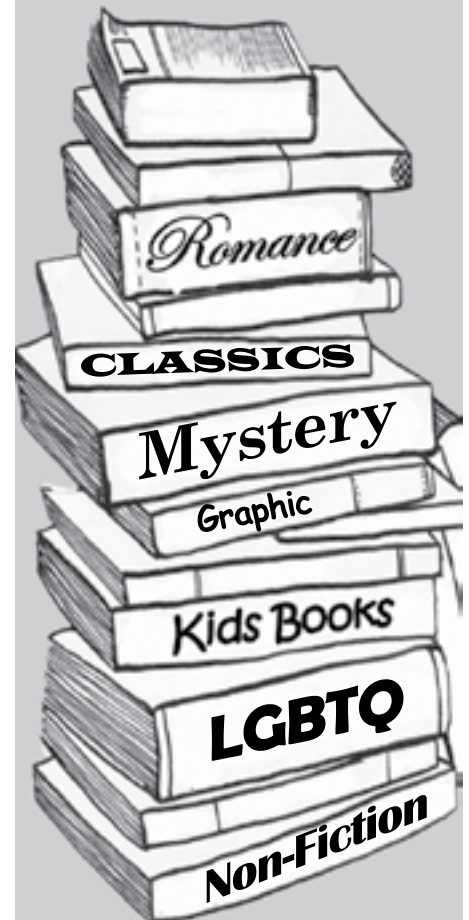
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Sunday 11 - 4



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MEET WITH ELIZABETH MAY M.P.

Share your ideas
for a brighter future!

PENDER COMMUNITY MEETING

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

SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS



Elizabeth
M.P.
May

If you have any questions, please call or email Elizabeth.May.C1@parl.gc.ca

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(Mary) Monica Bellemare (nee Darling)

1932 - 2023



It is with sadness that we announce the passing of our dear mother Monica Bellemare.

Monica was a wife, mother, grandmother “mama” (Rachel Moss née Edey and Liam Edey) and great grandmother (Lucy and Walter Moss). She left this world peacefully at her home in Ladysmith on October 29 at the age of 91.

Monica was born to John and Dorothy Darling in Edmonton and moved with her family to Vancouver in an effort to be closer to her father’s parents. The beautiful Pender Islands became their final destination in the late 1930s, where she spent her early years living in one of the cabins at Beauty Rest Lodge (Pender Lodge) as her dad was the gardener to the Lynd family. Her father then purchased land and built their permanent home on McKinnon Road. After graduating from high school (taken through correspondence), she moved to Victoria where she met her husband of 39 years, Rolland Bellemare (predeceased). Together they had three children: Danielle, Renée (Edey), and Michelle, all born in Victoria, BC.

In 1968, the family returned to Mom’s beloved Pender Islands where they raised the girls close to their grandparents. Once the children had grown, Monica and Rolland temporarily moved back to Victoria until retirement, at which time they returned to Pender to live permanently until 2021.

Our dear mother loved spending time in the kitchen baking bread and all kinds of goodies (including her famous Jam Jams and Christmas Tree Buns) and was never short on making tea for all who came calling. After school, the neighborhood children would often times gather around the Bellemare home to enjoy homemade baked bread, preserves, and cookies. When Mom wasn’t baking, her hobbies of choice were knitting and stitching festive items such as tiny stockings. She was also a proud member of the Pender Floral Art Club where she produced beautiful fair award-winning pictures and individual cards to suit each special occasion.

Everyone who knew Mom knew she loved her Scrabble games and crossword puzzles. She was rarely seen without a book or two.

Mom loved life’s quiet moments, particularly those that came with drinking tea while watching the sunset at Thieves Bay with her beloved husband.

The family would like to give special thanks to the dedicated staff at the Cowichan Community Health Services, Mid-Island Home Support, Vancouver Island Health Authority Palliative Care Program Nurses, and the Nanaimo District Hospital emergency doctors and nurses for all their compassion and care.

A private service will be held with close friends and family.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation will be greatly appreciated.

Renee Edey



Consider Donating Prizes for the
**Safe Grad Night
Silent Auction**
For info or to donate, contact:
Tina Christensen
tchristensen@shaw.ca

Russ Searle

1944-2023



It is with more sadness than we ever knew was possible that we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend, Russ Searle. He passed away Sunday morning November 5 with his loving family at his side. He is survived by Shirley, his devoted wife of 53 years, his three daughters, Katherine (James), Mo (Adam), and Linda (Dean), his two grandchildren Andrew and Emily, his sister Madeleine, extended family, and countless friends.

Russ was born in London, England, during the Baby Blitz of 1944. His father, Tom, was the RCAF boxing champion and his mother, Marie, was a volunteer ambulance driver. His early years were split between the Canadian prairies and England, where he took his first two years of schooling. He received his high school education in New Westminster, BC, and a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology (with a minor in English) from Simon Fraser University.

In 1965 he met his future wife, Shirley Marshall, at a party for the local chapters of DeMolay and Job’s Daughters (organizations for the sons and daughters of Masons). Five years later, on August 29, 1970, they were married in Vancouver, BC.

Continued

In 1975 Russ and Shirley moved from Vancouver to Victoria where Russ took up a career in sales. He started with Xerox, then moved to the fledgling *Monday Magazine*, where he also became their resident wine columnist, and lastly was with Manning Press in Sidney.

Russ and Shirley's love of sailing brought them to the Gulf Islands and in 1980, they moved to Pender. Four years later, they bought the Port Washington General Store – the main grocery store on the island at the time. When the Driftwood Centre was rebuilt, they opened the Grocery Store (now Tru Value) in the location where the pharmacy currently resides. During this time Russ was also the Justice of the Peace for Pender Island – a role that he proudly fulfilled with his usual integrity.

Ten years and three daughters later, they decided it was time to move on. In 1996, Russ put his name forward for School Trustee, an office which he served for three terms (nine years). While serving, he was elected Vice Chair of the BCPSEA (BC Public School Employers Association). He was passionate about ensuring that the children in his community were able to get the best possible education.

For more than 20 years following his time as a trustee, Russ worked with Shirley in her jewellery business (Ear Curls) where he often referred to himself as “The Boss’s Husband”. He became the company’s graphic design and marketing department. He also helped with jewellery production, and with sales at craft shows.

Throughout it all, when he had the time, Russ worked on his science fiction novels – a trilogy (Quaternity) of which he successfully published two-thirds in the last five years. The third book will be finished by his daughter.

Russ was a dedicated, faithful, loving, and doting husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend. He always made time to listen to everyone and respected their opinions, even if he disagreed with them. He was always up for a spirited debate and had a vocabulary that would rival that of Will Shortz. He

loved reading good books, listening to great jazz, drinking fine wine, cooking and eating amazing food, owning, looking at, and driving beautiful cars, and enjoying peaty Scotches (especially Lagavulin). He was an avid Canucks, Blue Jays, and BC Lions fan, could beat most at poker and chess, and often played crib with friends and family.

Russ Searle was an honourable gentleman and a kind soul. He was a pillar of his community and the heart of his family; he will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

A celebration of life for Russ was held on Saturday, November 25, 2023 at St. Peter’s Anglican Church on Pender Island. In recognition of his strong commitment to education, the family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Pender Island Coleman/Rogers Bursary fund – a bursary that supports Pender Island students.

Cheques payable to the Coleman/Rogers Memorial Bursary Fund may be mailed to: Joanne Enns, 4210 Clam Bay Road, Pender Island, BC V0N 2M1

You may also drop off the cheque in the community box at the Real Estate office at the Driftwood in the Coleman/Rogers folder.

Or, you can donate online here: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-colemanrogers-memorial-bursary-fund/>
Mo Searle

GOVERNMENT

MLA

Pender Island Q&A Features Transportation, Fireworks, Deer



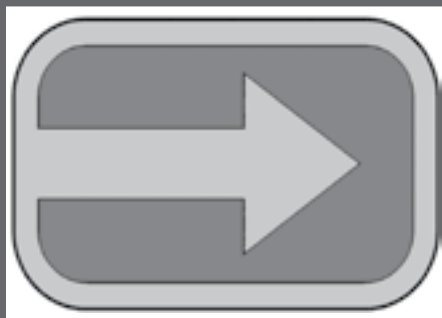
I had the pleasure of attending the second bi-monthly *Question and Answer Session with Community* at the Pender

Island Community Hall on November 10. I am grateful to Maryanne Pare and Kathy Cronk for organizing the meeting. My hands are raised in gratitude to Islands Trust Trustee Deb Morrison for joining me, and to the almost 30 people who came out to share their concerns, questions, hopes, and ideas.

Transportation and roads were top of mind for many, including the maintenance of the painted road (centre and fog) lines, speed limits, and the removal of “Slow Down” signs, and the Canal Road Dip project. Other topics included fire protection and egress for the Magic Lake community, impacts of fireworks, and the deer population on Pender Island.

I also had the opportunity to meet with the Pender Island Health Care Society to hear about their successes and challenges in creating a full community care centre, as well as members of the Pender Island Public Library to learn more about their critical service in partnership with Galiano, Mayne, and Saturna. I am grateful for their important community service and advocacy for stable and sustainable library funding.

In each of these conversations I recognized the *rurban purgatory* that the provincial government has put Pender



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Tuesday and Thursday

Island, and the other Gulf Islands, in. Unfortunately, the government often considers the islands rural when they need to be urban, and it considers them urban when they need to be rural.

As I said in the legislature this fall in my response to Bill 44, Pender Island's connection to the Capital Regional District is both beneficial and a drawback, and its inclusion in the Islands Trust wraps it in an argument that is grounded in a legislative policy designed to address problems 50 years ago, not the problems of today. The problems are similar but different and we need effective policy to address them.

Earlier this fall I attended a public meeting on Salt Spring Island with BC Ferries CEO Nicholas Jimenez. It was an interesting discussion. I am pleased with the direct and open way Mr. Jimenez is tackling the many challenges he inherited at the BC Ferries Corporation. As you know, and as I hear, the challenges are significant, and deeply impact Pender Islanders. I continue to advocate for an affordable and reliable marine transportation network and on a variety of other issues in the surrounding Salish Sea, including the anchorages.

I am thankful for my team in the Saanich North and the Islands Constituency Office in Sidney. Jerram, Laura, and Patricia are powerful advocates, and we work together to advocate for you individually, our communities, and our region. If you need assistance with the provincial government or agency, please do not hesitate to contact my office at Adam.Olsen.MLA@leg.bc.ca or 250-655-5600.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting January 12, from 9:30-11:30 at the Pender Island Community Hall.

Please consider signing up for my newsletter at <https://saanichnorthandtheislands.com> to receive notification and follow-up for the Pender Community Meetings.

*Adam Olsen, MLA
Saanich North and the Islands*

Islands Trust



South Pender Local Trust Committee

Happy December everyone! Here is what I have been involved in over the past month.

Trust Programs Committee

At our last meeting on November 6, we discussed the upcoming speaker series including available wildfire webinar resources and the results of the Stewardship Education Survey. We also received an update on the Living in the Trust Area project discussing the Trust Area Mailing program with two updated publications which are planned to go to 309 new purchasers within the Trust Area.

- Government and other Services contact sheet combined with Land Use Planning contact info
- Stewardship Tips Brochure update (Think about Trees section to provide information specifically tailored for this region on managing forests for ecosystem values while also managing for fire)

We received an update on the Trust Policy Statement status, and a reporting back from the joint working group composed of Trust Programs and Regional Planning Committee members on the applicability of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as it relates to the work of Islands Trust.

We discussed and set our 2024 meeting dates.

Financial Committee

We met on October 18 and November 8 to review the current budget draft that includes the Q2 spend and projected forecast for the remainder of this fiscal year. The group was walked through the various sections of the budget draft to explain the changes from the previous year and this year's budget needs, such as contracted staff wage increases, lease space increases, and technology upgrades due to obsolescence. Most business cases were in the agenda; a few are still being worked on, and the Financial Committee should have those soon. The draft budget will be presented to Trust Council in December for their review and comments.

Dates for 2024 calendar year were also set.

Corporate Planning Working Group

At Trust Council, the Project Charter was endorsed and the working group was charged with continuing its work as presented. The working group met on November 7 to discuss next steps in the development of the overall process, including reviewing existing policies and procedures with the CAO to identify gaps and suggest changes as needed to bring current processes into alignment with the Corporate Planning Process. The vision and mission statement work that began in the September Trust Council meeting is identified as an important input to any strategy work that may begin in the next year.

Continued

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Reconciliation Learning Group

I missed the first meeting of this group due to a scheduling conflict, and since then Robyn Kefi left Islands Trust and took a position that advances her career. I understand that the group will continue to meet, but we're not sure at the moment who will be taking the lead.

South Pender LTC

We held our South Pender LTC on November 10. We discussed and adopted the Project Charter for the Minor LUB Amendments projects and agreed to hold community workshops to encourage community input on various solution ideas. These ideas will be collated by staff to be brought back to the LTC and passed over to the APC for review and suggestions. The dates for these events will be announced through the website and the Email Distribution list managed by our Islands Trust staff.

We set out 2024 meeting dates and those will be posted soon as well.

*Kristina Evans,
South Pender Trustee*



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THE ARTS

Pender Island Art Society



Last month, members of the Art Society (PIAS) enjoyed the two-part Chiaroscuro portrait workshop based on William Maughan's book, *Artist's Complete Guide to Drawing the Head*, led by members Ron Underhill and Peter Paré. With just two colours of pastel pencil and the toned paper itself, most of our drawings actually ended up looking like people! Thanks to Ron and Peter, many of us got over our fear of faces.



At 1:00 pm on Monday, December 4, we'll be Trading Art Cards. This is a fun session in which members prepare 'trading cards' (like baseball or hockey cards) to share and trade. On paper or card stock, watercolour paper, canvas, fabric, or even thin wood, each artist hand-paints (or sketches, collages, draws, etc.) enough cards to trade with other members. As styles and ideas evolve year to year, it's fun to flip through past collections. Since it's our last session before Christmas break, there will be goodies. Bring your own tea or coffee and a mug, as we wish one another happy holidays.

January 8 and 22 we'll be exploring pastels in a two-part series. All supplies will be included, so come out and give pastels a try.

Sessions are free for members, and there is a \$5 drop-in fee for non-members. Materials are often supplied. Why not join the Art Society (still a bargain at only \$35/year)? We are a welcoming bunch and would love to meet you. We meet at 1:00 pm most first and third Mondays of the month at the Anglican Parish Hall. We'll also be trialing some evening sessions in the new year.

Check out our website at www.penderislandart.com or send us an email at penderart@hotmail.com.

Kelly Leroux

Pender Island Celtic Music Society



The Saturday workshop held at the end of October was enjoyed by all. The pipers and the drummers worked separately with their instructors for most of the day. The pipers were also introduced to some interesting high tech gadgets related to piping. At the end of the day both groups came together to put our newfound expertise to the test as we played the tunes we had worked on.

In November the Highlanders kept busy with weekly practices, continuing the work on the tunes covered in our workshop, preparing for Remembrance Day and getting a head start on Christmas tunes. The Highlanders took part in the Legion's Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 11 as they have done for many years.

Caren Rennie



Our youngest piper playing the Lament on Remembrance Day.

Pender Island Community Choir



Seasonal good wishes to everyone, and here is what you need to know: our traditional, not-to-be-missed, PICCS concerts are at 7 pm on Friday and Saturday December 8 and 9, with a matinee at 2 pm on Sunday, December 10. Tickets are on sale now at \$30 per adult; anyone under 17 years is free, but will also require a ticket for seating purposes. Yes, the adult tickets are a little more than in previous years because this is a Benefit Concert intended to raise funds for the choir to be able to continue singing into the future. It's been a challenging time, financially, this year. Maybe we'll be successful in our next Gaming Grant application, but who knows? We have a long tradition of choral singing and performing on this island, and we will continue to keep up the tradition one way or another. Plans are already in the works to celebrate our 50th anniversary as a formal choir next year.

So, please run, not walk, to Talisman Books & Gallery to buy your tickets for our Winter Benefit Concert. Your support will be appreciated immeasurably, and we have a star-studded program for you! In order of appearance, the following generous Pender Island musicians are donating their time and talents to entertain you: Bev Barradell, Peach & Quiet (Heather Read and Jonny Miller), Denny Goertz and the Young Violins, Mary Reher, Katie Cooper, Sarah Smith, and Lester Quitzau, along with our irreplaceable band members Dan Weeks, Charlie Knowles, and Kathy



A Winter Benefit Concert

With local musical friends:

 Denny & the Young Violins 
Sarah Smith, Lester Quitzau
Peach & Quiet, Katie Cooper

Curtis. We are incredibly grateful to all of them for their loving support of the Community Choir under the inspirational direction of Sabrina Read alongside accompanist Eileen Deros. As always, our Youth Choir (13 singers aged 5 through 13) will steal the show, especially when they lead the adult choir in a riotous (raucous?) version of *You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch*. The adult choir is working hard to bring you an eclectic variety of maybe familiar songs, including, as our finale, a very beautiful arrangement of *Silent Night* in remembrance of Ursula Poepel who was such a devoted and accomplished choir member for so many years. We will sing our hearts out – please come and share this seasonal tradition!

Patricia Callendar

Pender Island Concert Society

The Concert Society's next performances will begin in February when we are delighted to present a special concert featuring Lester Quitzau on guitar playing with Matthew Hinton on piano. They will give us an afternoon performance on Sunday February 11. Both Lester and Matthew are well-known Pender Island musicians. In April our season will end with guitarists Adam Cicchillitti and Steve Cowan in concert.

Elsewhere in this edition of *The Pender Post* the Society has expressed its gratitude for all those organizations and businesses that have financially supported our concerts so generously. Without the help of our season subscribers and these donors, our concerts would not be possible unless admission prices were substantially higher than they are.

Many thanks go out to our board members who make sure the performers are fed and made to feel comfortable and welcome on Pender. Thanks also to Colin Hamilton for his lighting, sound quality, and staging expertise. And to Bill Badcock for his design and printing of our programs and tickets over many years.

All members of our board wish everyone the best for the holiday season, Christmas, and for the new year.

Jon Heaney, Society Chair

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Pender Island Quilters' Circle



Eighteen avid quilters met on November 12 at the Anglican Church Hall. Karen Gagnier led an update for upcoming activities and plans. The first item of business was a financial summary from our new and very capable Treasurer Susan Underhill.

The second item of business was the December 11 Christmas party. We will bring finger foods to share. Karen regaled us with a past near disaster when the food table collapsed and all the dishes slid gracefully to the floor. Amazingly, not one dish was broken and all the food remained in the containers. Hopefully, that will not happen again. We were all asked to bring a fat quarter (not Christmas fabric) as a give-away and a finished Christmas project for table displays. Heather was asked if she would plan the fun activities (this is her forte) and she agreed.

The third item of business was a discussion, led by Martha, about the 2024 Fall Fair (quilters like to plan ahead). Martha wants to hand over responsibility for this but will assist the new "Queen Bee". Quilters were encouraged to enter items for both the display and judging (we have plenty of time to design and sew). Karen suggested that we create a committee in the new year, with at least four volunteers.

We proceeded on to "Show and Share" of in-progress and completed quilt projects. Barb/Martha/Denise/Karen W. shared Christmas project table runners in shades of Christmas greens and



Garden Quilt, Karen Gagnier

reds as well as blue and white winter fabrics. Charlotte and Karen W. also showed small Christmas items and Karen W. has been busy sewing aprons for Christmas gifts. Susan Dawson, who has a reputation of being a prodigious quilter, showed several finished family quilts (I think she's made at least 15 in



Christmas Tree Skirt, Janet Ellis

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Ohio Star Instruction Board, Heather Duncan

the recent past). Karen G. has completed her garden quilt, which is a gift of “many stitches, many hugs.”

Heather, our program planner, provided instructions on an alternative and easier star block (Ohio Star) for the Winter Wonder table runner project that many have worked on during October and November. Heather has a gift for providing instructions in an easy-to-follow sequence.

Heather’s handy hint: sew a scant quarter-inch seam when piecing a block; this ensures that there is an adequate seam allowance when sewing blocks together.

The rest of our morning was spent working on individual projects and sharing strategies and advice. We help each other when we reach an impasse in our projects. An example is that Bea McDowell helped Karen W. with paper piecing, which can be perceptually complex.

The January project is an applied sea glass pattern and Heather will provide a sample at the Christmas party.

Next Meeting: December 11, 10:30 am, Anglican Church Hall.

Quilter’s Philosophy: Delicious, delectable, mouthwatering, luscious, scrumptious are words typically used to describe edible fruit. I recently heard a quilting friend rhapsodize about the colours and pattern of a gorgeous fabric. Quilting does call to the senses where we connect the visual and tactile to taste and scent in our imagination. The



Christmas Table Runner, Barb Tarris

holiday season is the perfect time to indulge the senses and experience the joy of our craft and celebrations.

Pender Island Quilters wish each and every one of you a joyous holiday.

Laura Vilness



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Pender Photo Club



Photo: Jean Moore

The November meeting of the Pender Photo Club was held via Zoom, which not only featured a wide array of attractive photographic images but also allowed the nine attendees to quietly sip glasses of wine. The theme of “black and white” attracted 69 photos that ranged from cemeteries and steps in Paris to totems and hikes in Alaska to local scenes including skeletons from the Hallowe’ en walk, and much more. The evening involved much casual banter and it was great to learn about the various editing techniques used to enhance the photos.

Our next meeting will, again, be via Zoom at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 5. Attendees are urged to submit up to six photos on the theme “Landscapes” (but not Seascapes, reserved for a future meeting.). Send photos to Urs Boxler at ursboxler@gmail.com. Urs will also send out the Zoom link and provide any information you may need.

We welcome new members. Both the inexperienced and the old pros will be made to feel comfortable, so come on out.

Hans Tammemagi

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Pender Islands Conservancy

Pender Solstice Theatre Society



Teddy the Bear and Connie Clatterbottom



Camelot, Solstice Theatre’s Christmas pantomime, is underway and continues at the Community Hall on

December 1 and 2 at 7 pm and Sunday, December 3 at 2 pm. This family show is full of colourful costumes, songs, and mayhem, and is graced by many talents including many youth and children. Tickets are available at Talisman Books.

On December 16, Solstice will be hosting a play-reading at a mystery location. This event is open to anyone who would like to dip their toe into the world of theatre or would simply like a fun potluck with drinks and a little gossip. No experience is required, and a non-reading audience is welcome.

We do encourage readers, and there will be opportunity for anyone who wishes to read to take part. The play is a murder mystery spoof titled *Death By Fatal Murder*, and it includes such characters as Inspector Pratt and Squadron Leader Spiffy Allwright. Come out for a unique evening of fun and laughter. Seating is limited, so RVSPs are essential. Let us know by emailing pendersolstice@gmail.com. New faces are welcome. But again, RSVPs are a must. Once we hear from you, we can let you know our secret location.

If you are interested in the history of Solstice Theatre, check out the display window in the breezeway at the Driftwood. You will see many local characters and memorabilia from over 30 years of live theatre on Pender.

Evan Llewellyn

PIJazz

Dancing at the Hall really is a tremendous amount of fun. Our November 17 dance/concert was a grand success, in our usual ball gowns, gumboots, flannel, and tuxedos manner. The tunes were great, featuring many premiers of masterful arrangements, and the floor was hopping. Deirdre, our house dance instructor, provided help for beginner and intermediate movers and shakers, while some experienced twirlers and flingers really upped the energy level. We play for the listeners, too, as long as the minimum chair-dancing requirements are met, as they were.

We have another of these dances set for March 2, but stay tuned for more gig announcements.

Music Musings ('cause folks keep wondering what I'll rant about next...):

Musical Theatre. There. I said it. My name is Bryce and I have a musical theatre problem.

And this fits fairly well in a jazz column, because one of the strongest foundations of jazz is the collection of tunes appropriated from early musical theatre called 'The Standards'. Sure, there are tons of great original jazz tunes, but jazz without the standards would be like lasagne without the noodles.

Musical theatre has been a part of my life since high school, with a run of *Annie* that featured costume malfunctions, things falling from the lighting rig, climbing gear, graffiti, and a short discussion with law enforcement. Then it got weirder.

At my first real teaching gig I got roped into musical-directing many shows. *Sound of Music*. *Music Man*. *Brigadoon* (ewww...). *Little Shop of Horrors*. *Fiddler on the Roof*. *Oliver!* Starting the production process for each show was like getting hit by a tsunami of bad rental music, singers who can't sing anything other than their audition piece, not enough rehearsals, not enough hours in the day, and coffee. So much coffee.

But the challenges were outweighed by so many joyous things. Student players exceeded themselves so often I almost came to expect it. Shows that were



cringy disasters on the tech rehearsal would be amazing on opening night. Invariably, something would happen in the third performance that was utterly and completely disastrous, and the whole troupe would fix it, improv around it, and survive with a smile. For instance, in a performance of *Little Shop of Horrors*, the massive antique dentist chair managed to roll completely off the stage apron, ending up in an untidy mess beside the orchestra pit. While the piano player launched into all the best bits of the entr'acte, two burly audience members and I tried to hoist it back on stage, failing horribly. For the rest of the evening, Dr. Orin Scrivello drilled, acted, sang, and got comedically evil right there with the band, and the rest of the cast basically did the show intermingled with the audience. If you'd

ever wondered what could make that show even more surreal, now you know. Oh, and Audrey II caught fire near the end.

Musicals have given me so much joy and weirdness. I may do another someday, but I already have enough stories (and minor trauma) for a lifetime.

*Bryce Woolcombe,
Music Director*





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Ptarmigan Arts



Hello lovely Penderites, we've put together something special for the last month of the year – check out the inside front page! We assembled a 'Wrap up in numbers' for December, so if you've ever wondered about how many programs we actually run, how much money gets paid out to facilitators and performers, or how many hours of live music we host in a year, this is the moment all your questions will be answered. Our favourite number: an estimated 97% of the dollars spent by Ptarmigan return directly to our local community. Thank you to everyone who joined us this year in building a vibrant arts community.

Let's Get Painting! 55+ Partnership with SGINH

The SGI Neighbourhood House is putting on a 55+ painting workshop in collaboration with Ptarmigan Arts. It will take place on Friday, December 1, 2 - 4:45 pm at the Community Hall (right after the soup lunch). Enjoy a playful exploration of colour, mark-making, shape, and pattern. Experiment with

traditional and non-traditional tools and materials, and have fun along the way to creating a small painting uniquely your own. No experience needed, materials provided. With Kathleen Lightman, BFA, BCATR and Monica Bennett, Workshop Assistant. Learn more and register at sginh.ca/programs/seniors-programs/

Art In the Library Returns

Would you like to showcase your art in the library? Now's your chance! The Pender Island Public Library has brought back their Art in the Library program and we are proud to be partnering with them. If you would like to have your art displayed in the library in 2024, please submit your application by December 9. A link to the application is available on our website.

Next time you're in the library, take a moment to admire *Watercolor and Wonder*, a display by artist Doug Sieberg. The library is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10-3.

Visual Artists Pop-In Tours

Visit your fellow artists' unique studios, see them in action, and share friendly critique. Pop-In Tours will be scheduled January 28, February 4, and February 11, 2024. If you would like to open your studio and have it featured on the Pop-In Tour, please email shannon@ptarmiganarts.org by December 10. Spaces are limited.

Ptarmigan AGM

We are hosting our Annual General Meeting on January 29 at 7:00 pm at the Community Hall. We will be giving reports on the past fiscal year's financial statements, programs, and operations, and will be sharing about what's coming up for the organisation. This meeting is open to the public, though only Ptarmigan general or artist members are allowed to vote. We have two open board positions to fill. If you would like to become part of our board or vote in the election, make sure to get your membership in order right away.

Continued

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Uke Strum

Diana Fairclough leads our Community Uke Strum. 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.

Weekly Community Gatherings

Every Friday from 12 - 1 pm we get together at the Community Hall for live music from local artists and homemade soup in partnership with the Community Hall, Ptarmigan Arts, and the SGI Neighbourhood House. This month we'll be hearing from *Pitchin' Wood* (Marty Thompson, Shelley Richards, Dave Wright, and Judy Buerk) on December 1, Steph Jackson December 8 with a few jazz seasonal favourites, *Plumper Sound* December 15, Ben McConchie on December 22 leading us in a Christmas carols sing along, and Matthew Hinton December 29.

First Saturdays Open Studios

First Saturday Open Studios is an artist-run open studio event. It is an opportunity to visit artists at work in their studios, ask questions, learn about techniques, and build relationships with the artists. Artists can register with First Saturday Studios online in order to be featured as an open studio. Several Pender artists have already registered and we hope to encourage many more. Learn all about it and how to register at firstsaturday.ca.

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

Alice Karolina

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DRIFTWOOD CENTRE

Three on the Tree Production Society



Three on the Tree is gearing up for our most spectacular and challenging event of the year! Our annual Magic Lake Lantern Festival will take place on December 31, with lantern making workshops in the days prior. If you would like to participate in the parade, the assembly point is the Danny Martin Ball Park at 4:30 pm. The parade will leave at 5 pm with a performance to follow upon arrival at the front of the lake. Please note that there will be a road closure at this time and a reroute to access Magic Lake Estates. We will post a map of the closure on Facebook for those in need of more details.

We have plans to host lantern making workshops at the Community Hall December 27, 28, and 29. These are open to all ages. Those under 12 will need a guardian to help out but we recommend coming as a group because that's the most creative and fun way to make a lantern. Prepare to get a little messy and please bring a donation if you enjoy the programming.

This year our theme for the show is around the love story between the sun and the moon, a story of how she cried endlessly bringing up a great tide in the depths of winter, making the sea rise and the nights grow long, only to learn that every day while she slept the sun would come back and watch her rest.

We are very enthusiastically looking for volunteers. If you are creative or just want to support with clean up, set up or hot chocolate serving we would love your assistance. Contact us at threeonthetreeproductions@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

We also have a new Instagram page so please give us a follow and tag us in any posts that you make at our events: [@threeonthetreeproductions](https://www.instagram.com/threeonthetreeproductions)

*Alaia Hamer & Liis Graham –
Artistic Director & Producer*




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Community Hall Pender Island Recreation and Agricultural Hall Association

Films

Shadow of a Doubt (1943)

Saturday, December 16, 7:15 pm

Uncle Charlie is a very charming man, but his niece slowly realizes that he is wanted for murder and he soon recognizes her suspicions. Although one of the suspected murderers is killed and the case is considered closed, she still has her suspicions. Doors open at 7, film starts 7:15. \$5 - \$10 (sliding scale).

Die Hard (1988)

Saturday, December 23, 7:15 pm

A New York City police officer tries to save his estranged wife and several others taken hostage by terrorists during a Christmas party at the Nakatomi Plaza in Los Angeles. Doors open at 7, film starts 7:15. \$5 - \$10 (sliding scale).

Oppenheimer

Thursday, December 28, 7:15 pm

During World War II, Lt. Gen. Leslie Groves Jr. appoints physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer to work on the top-secret Manhattan Project. Oppenheimer and a

team of scientists spend years developing and designing the atomic bomb. Their work comes to fruition on July 16, 1945, as they witness the world's first nuclear explosion, forever changing the course of history. Doors open at 7, film starts 7:15. \$5 (suggested).

Community Hall Activities

55+ Lunch and Activities

Mondays, 12 - 1 pm

The Community Hall has been working with the SGI Neighbourhood House to bring you this weekly Luncheon and activities for people 55+. Each week lunch is served from 12 - 1 pm, and meals to go are also available. \$10 suggested but pay what you can is fine. Pre and post lunch activities will be added over time as capacity grows. 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.

December 1 - **Make Bread & Butter**

December 8 - **Make Gift Wrap**

December 15 - **Cardboard**

Gingerbread Houses

December 22 - **Christmas Crafts**

December 29 - **Make Simple Lanterns**

Yuletide Market

December 2, 9, 16 & 23, 10 - 2 pm

Cast your eyes upon the handsome works of local artisans, crafters, artists and be dazzled. Tempt your tastebuds with tantalizing and fresh fare. Volunteers are energetically encouraged to support this weekly activity to welcome guests, assist with the special café, or provide festive outdoor activities. Registration for vendor space is open through our website <https://penderislands.org/registrations>. Spaces are limited.

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 10-1 pm and ask to talk to Andrea or Liam S.

FRUIT TREE PRUNING

25 Years Local Experience

(Victoria, Salt Spring, Mayne)

Dip Hort, Capilano U,

Apprenticed Stonecrop Gardens, NY

Booking Pender for January



Matt England

250 537 7524

mattengland@live.ca

CRD Bylaw and Animal Care Services

Adult Volunteers

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

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

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

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

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

All training will be provided. If you are interested in volunteering please email bookings@penderislands.org or call 629-3669.

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.

Donations help support important programs: the Youth Leadership Program, camperships for children's camps, comfort center, community activities, food security programs support, support local nonprofits in building up their capacity to create new or build up activities, and of course, the important tasks of just keeping the building open, healthy, and running!

Andrea Mills & George Fowlie

Responsible Pet Ownership

It is important that your dog be well trained – for public safety and for your pet's safety. Dogs are required to be under control, or on a leash where specified, for the safety of everyone: people, pets, and wildlife.

Be prepared when you head out. Carry a leash and collar for unexpected encounters. Your dog must be in clear line of sight and able to respond immediately to voice commands. If your dog is not trained and jumps up on others, please put it on a leash.

Always respect others who might not welcome your dog's attention. Please remember that "my dog is just being friendly" is not reassuring for some people. Although your dog's curiosity and playfulness may seem harmless, it can have a negative impact on others – including pets and wildlife.

Scoop your dog's poop and take it to the trash. Be prepared when walking your dog by bringing your own bags. Leaving plastic bags filled with dog waste on the ground puts other dogs or other animals at risk. If they get curious and bite into these bags, they can choke or become sick. Uncollected dog waste has the potential for adverse health impacts on people, on dogs, and on the environment. Dog poop can contain many harmful organisms. Bacteria and parasites from dog waste can remain

in the ground for years. If children, other dogs, or animals come in contact with dog faeces, they can get sick. It's nobody's responsibility to clean up after your pet but your own.

Please note the following quotes from the CRD ANIMAL REGULATION AND IMPOUNDING BYLAW NO. 1, 1986:

Section 24(1), No owner of an animal shall suffer or permit such animal to "run at large" as defined in Section 1. (2);

Section 26((1), No owner of a dog shall permit or cause the dog to cry or bark in a manner which disturbs quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of the neighbourhood or of persons in the vicinity of the place where the dog is kept.

For more information, contact the CRD Bylaw and Animal Care Services: 1-800-665-7899; <https://www.crd.bc.ca/service/animals-pets>; 212-2780 Veterans Memorial Parkway, Victoria, BC, V9B 3S6

Reminder: All dogs in the CRD must be licensed for 2024.

Don Peden

Renew your
dog's license
this month.



Medicine Beach
Liquor Store

OPEN EVERY DAY

COLD BEER | SPIRITS | LIQUEURS | FINE WINES

250-629-2024 www.medicnebeach.com @medbeachliquor

Health Services

Medical Emergency911
Medical Clinic..... 629-3233

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

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

Audiologist, Donna Stewart 778-426-4876
Better at Home Program 629-3346
Chiropractor, Dr. Penny Paterson 629-9918
Community Nurses..... 629-3242

Carmel Kozac and Miranda MacKenzie

Community Support Worker/Volunteer 629-3346
Crisis and Mental Health Counsellors

Shellyse Szakacs 250-538-8711
 Ulla Rembe..... 250-539-0325

Family Advancement Counsellors 250-222-0025

Dentist, Dr. Emma Marler 629-6815

Lab Services..... 629-3233

Massage Therapy, Tru Hartwood 250-889-3923
 Taylor Watson taylorwatson.ca

Public Health Nurse, Immunization, Prenatal Education
 Julie Duhamé 250-544-2400 or 539-3099

Pharmacy

Pharmacist, Christine Swan 629-6555

Other Licensed Health Care Professionals

Physiotherapy, Mieke Truijen 629-9910

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

Help Lines

Healthlink BC.....Dial 811

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

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

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

24 Hour Crisis Help Lines

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

Islanders Working Against Violence (IWAV)

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

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

Kids’ Help Phone..... 310-1234

Text.....686868

Chat www.kidshelpphone.ca

Mental Health Distress Line

Support/Information 310-6789

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

Vancouver Island Crisis Line1-888-494-3888

Text..... 250-800-3806

Chat (Adults) ww.CrisisCentreChat.ca

Chat (Youth) www.YouthinBC.com

Ministry of Children and Family Development

MCFD 800-663-9122

Victim Link 1-800-563-0808

Community Support Numbers

Capital Regional District (CRD)

Director SGI, Paul Brent 604-760-9975

Building Inspector 629-3424

SGI Harbours, Ben Mabblerley benmabb@telus.net

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

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

Magic Lake Water & Sewer Emergencies1-855-822-4426

Emergency Hydro 1-888-769-3766

Fire Rescue (Emergencies) **911**

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

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

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

Hall/Meeting Room Bookings

Anglican Parish Hall rentals@pendersaturnaanglican.ca

School Community Room629-3711

Health Care Centre.....629-3326

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

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

Plum Tree Court..... plumtreecourt@gmail.com

Home Support Services

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

Islands Trust: Victoria 1-800-663-7867

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

NP, Aaron Campbell acampbell@islandstrust.bc.ca

SP, Dag Falck dfalck@islandstrust.bc.ca

SP, Kristina Evans kevans@islandstrust.bc.ca

Member of the Legislative Assembly

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

Member of Parliament

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

Pender Island Emergency Program

Emergency Coordinator 250-589-3001

ESS..... 250-792-0880

Pender Island Public Cemetery629-6625

Pender Island Veterinary Clinic629-9909

Poison Control Centre 1-800-567-8911

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

Crimestoppers 1-800-665-TIPS (8477)

Victim Services 629-6531

Rescue

Marine & Aircraft distress 1-800-567-5111

Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC)

Search and Rescue (Land) Emergency911

School Trustee, Greg Lucas glucas@sd64.org

Anglican Church of Canada

Parish of Pender and Saturna Islands • 4703 Canal Road

December 3	10:00 am	St. Peter's Church	Holy Eucharist
December 10	10:00 am	St. Peter's Church	Traditional Lesson and Carols
December 17	10:00 am	St. Peter's Church	Morning Prayer
December 24	10:00 am	St. Peter's church	Christmas Eve (morning) - Holy Eucharist
December 31	10:00 am	St. Peter's Hall	Lay Led – Circle Service

The congregations of St Peter's and St Christopher's wish everyone a joy filled Christmas season.

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)

December 3	10:45 am	Dan Glover	Communion
December 10	10:45 am	Bobby Cooper	Worship Service
December 17	10:45 am	Dan Glover	Worship Service
December 24	10:45 am	Jim Madsen	Worship Service
December 24	7:00 pm	Carols & Readings	Christmas Eve Family Service
December 31	10:45 am	George Hodgson	Worship Service

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

St. Teresa's Chapel - Roman Catholic Services

4705 Buccaneers Road

In the Christian church calendar, Advent (from Latin *adventus*, "coming") is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.

December 1	9:30 am	Friday Mass with Fr. Rolf (in lieu of Sunday)
December 10	9:30 am	Liturgy of the Word and Communion with a lay presider
December 15	9:30 am	Friday Mass with Fr. Rolf (in lieu of Sunday)
December 24	5:00 pm	Christmas Eve Liturgy of the Word and Communion with a lay presider
December 31	9:30 am	Liturgy of the Word and Communion with a lay presider

Pender residents and visitors are welcome to celebrate all our liturgies with the chapel community. There will be coffee, tea, juice, and goodies served after the liturgies. Please note that our Christmas liturgy will be held at 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve; there will be no liturgy on Christmas Day. 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

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

December 14	7:00 pm	Discussion evening "What does Power mean in this new reality?"
December 21	7:00 pm	Discussion evening "What kind of Speech promotes Unity?"

Please feel free to bring a writing, meditation or prayer that inspires you and provides a path for consultation. Please email bevpedenpendersaturna@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 commontablependersaturna@gmail.com.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

LEGION	47	NU TO YU	34
Meat Draw, every Saturday (except December 23), 4 pm <i>See below for additional events.</i>		Shopping: every Friday and Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm	
LIBRARY	25, 44	Donations (no furniture), every Tues. and Thur. 9 am - 2 pm and Sat. 11 am - 2 pm	
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 am - 3 pm (Closed December 26-30)		Children's Shopping December 3, 10 am - 1 pm	
MUSEUM	41	Last day of shopping before Christmas: December 22	
Closed for the season but open December 26-30, 1 - 4 pm		50% Off Boxing Day Sale December 26, 11 am - 3 pm	
RECYCLING CENTRE	45		
Tues., Thurs., and Sat., 10 am – 3 pm , closed Boxing Day			

WEEKLY EVENTS

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

SUNDAYS

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

MONDAYS

Parents and Babes, 9 am - 11:30 am, to December 18, Dragonfly Centre.....	35
Let's Go Walking, 9:30 am (also Fridays)	
MYI: 18 Postures for Seniors with Judith, 11 am - 12 pm, to December 18, Community Hall.....	40
55+ Lunch, 12 - 1 pm, Community Hall.....	28, 40
1:1 Counseling with Geneva Jacobs, every second Monday, 12:30 - 4 pm, Dragonfly Centre.....	35
Caregivers Support Group, 1 - 2:30 pm, alternating Mondays (December 4 and 18).....	41

TUESDAYS

Badminton Club, 7:30 - 9:30 pm, School Gym (also Sunday mornings).....	43
MYI: Moderate Yoga with Krista, 9 -10:45 am, to December 19, Community Hall	40
MYI: Gentle Chair Yoga, 11 am - 12 pm, to December 19, Community Hall	40

WEDNESDAYS

HOP, 9 - 10:30 am, to December 20, School Gym.....	35
MYI: Gentle Walk with Andrea, 10 - 11 am, Community Hall	40
Taoist Tai Chi, 10 am - noon, Community Hall,	
Carpet Bowling, 1 - 3:30 pm, Community Hall.....	28
Socrates Club with John Gowen, 2 - 4 pm, Legion	
Food Only Market 3 pm, Barn behind Community Hall	38
Youth Night, 5:30 - 8 pm, Community Hall, until December 11	

THURSDAYS

MYI: Gentle: Chair Yoga with Erin, 11 am - 12 pm, to December 21, Community Hall	40
Euchre with Margaret Vergette, 2 - 4 pm, Legion	

FRIDAYS

Food Bank, 10 am - noon, upstairs at back of Anglican Parish Hall	38
Community Café, 10:30 am - 1 pm, Community Hall	26, 28
Live music: Dec. 1 <i>Pitchin' Wood</i> , Dec. 8 Steph Jackson seasonal jazz, Dec. 15 <i>Plumper Sound</i> , Dec. 22 Ben McConchie Christmas singalong, Dec. 29 Matthew Hinton	
Community Gathering Lunch, 12 - 1 pm, Community Hall.....	26, 28

SATURDAYS

Yuletide Market, 10 am - 2 pm (until December 23), Community Hall.....	28
Youth Leadership Café, 10 am - 1 pm, Community Hall	28

SUNDAYS

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

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Speakeasy, first Sunday of each month, 7 pm, Legion	
Photo Club, first Tuesday each month, 7:00 pm, via Zoom.....	22
Moving Around Pender (MAP), first Saturday every month, 10 am, Community Hall	34
MLPOS Directors Meeting, second Monday every month, 4 pm, Community Hall Lounge	34
Reconciliation Circle, third Wednesday every month.....	44
Lions, first Wednesday every month, 5:30 pm, Legion	

DECEMBER CALENDAR

1	Fri	9:30 am	Pender Earth Climate Café, to 11:30 am, Community Hall.....	35
		2:00 pm	Let's Get Painting workshop, to 4:45 pm, Community Hall.....	25
		10:45 am	Activity: Bread and Butter, Community Hall	28
		5:30 pm	Legion Friday Dinner – Cowichan Curry Chicken.....	47
		7:00 pm	Solstice Theatre's Camelot (also Dec. 2, 7 pm and Dec. 3, 2 pm), Community Hall.....	22
2	Sat	10:00	Legion Scrapbook & Crafts Group with Melody Pender, to 5 pm	
		1:00 pm	Group Exhibition, opening reception, Kim Pollard Fine Art, Hope Bay.....	6
3	Sun	11:00 am	Children's Shopping Day, to 2 pm, Nu-to-Yu.....	34
4	Mon	9:00 am	Parents and Babes until 11:30 am (also Dec. 11 and 18), Dragonfly Centre	35
		1:00 pm	PIAS Trading Art Cards, Anglican Parish Hall.....	18
		5:00 pm	Circle of Security Parenting course until 7 pm (also Dec. 11), Dragonfly Centre.....	35
		3:00 pm	Parks & Recreation Commission monthly meeting, Community Hall & via Zoom	43
5	Tue	9:00 am	Islands Trust Council Meeting, (also Dec. 6 & 7) Coast Victoria Hotel & via Zoom	
6	Wed	9:30 am	HOP until 10:30 am (also Dec. 13 and 20), School Gym.....	35
		5:00 pm	Uke Strum to 6 pm, (also Dec. 20) Community Hall Lounge	26
8	Fri	10:45 am	Activity: Make Gift Wrap, Community Hall	28
		7:00 pm	Pender Island Choir Christmas Concert (also Dec. 9, 7 pm, Dec. 10, 2 pm), Community Hall.....	19
9	Sat	9:30 am	Winter Birding Brush Up, Pender Conservancy Nature Centre Hope Bay	37
		11:00 pm	Art in the Library submission deadline.....	25
10	Sun	11:00 pm	Visual Artists Pop-In Tours submission deadline.....	25
11	Mon	9:30 am	Quilting Circle: Christmas Gathering, to 12:30 pm, Anglican Church Hall.....	20
14	Thu	1:00 pm	Garden Club, Community Hall	51
15	Fri	10:30 am	Christmas Bird Count for Kids (CBC4Kids). Hope Bay Bible Camp.....	37
		10:45 am	Activity: Cardboard Gingerbread Houses, Community Hall.....	28
		5:30 pm	Legion Friday Dinner – Christmas Turkey Dinner	47
16	Sat		Christmas Bird Count, various locations and times	37
		9:00 am	Dad n' Me Pancake Breakfast, until 11am, Dragonfly Centre	35
		1:00 pm	Lions Santa Ship, Hope Bay	6, 7
		5:30 pm	Christmas Bird Count Potluck Dinner, Hope Bay Bible Camp	37
		7:15 pm	Film: <i>Shadow of a Doubt</i> (1943), Community Hall.....	28
22	Fri	10:45 am	Activity: Christmas Crafts, Community Hall.....	28
23	Sat	7:15 pm	Film: <i>Die Hard</i> (1988), Community Hall	28
25	Mon	4:00 pm	Christmas Pot Luck.....	49
26	Tue	11:00 am	Nu-to-Yu Boxing Day Sale, to 3 pm.....	34
		1:00 pm	Once Upon a Yuletide at the Museum, until December 30, 1-4 pm	41, inside back cover
27	Wed	tba	Lantern Festival Lantern Making Workshop (also Dec. 28 & 29) Community Hall.....	27
28	Thu	7:15 pm	Film: <i>Oppenheimer</i> , Community Hall	28
29	Fri	10:45 am	Activity: Make Simple Lanterns, Community Hall	28
30	Sat	2:00 pm	Legion General Member Meeting (note time change).....	47
31	Sun	5:00 pm	Lantern Festival Parade and Show, assemble at Ball Park a 4:30 pm.....	27, back cover

ADVANCE NOTICES FOR JANUARY

1		12:30 pm	Polar Bear Swim, Pt. Browning.....	2
5	Fri	9:30 am	Pender Earth Climate Café, Community Hall	35
8	Mon	1:00 pm	PIAS Pastels, Part 1, Anglican Parish Hall	18
11	Thu	6:00 pm	Elizabeth May MP Community Meeting, to 7:30 pm, Community Hall.....	14
12	Fri	9:30 am	Adam Olsen Question and Answer Session with Community, Community Hall.....	16
16	Thu	4:00 pm	S,DÁ,YES Truth & Reconciliation Circle, Fireside Room, 4703 Canal Road.....	44
22	Mon	1:00 pm	PIAS, Pastels, Part 2, Anglican Parish Hall	18
28	Sun		PI Junior Sailing AGM.....	52
29	Mon	7:00 pm	Ptarmigan Arts AGM, Community Hall.....	25

Magic Lake Property Owners' Society

Magic Lake Estates Community Issues Assessment Update

Thank you to everyone who attended the Open House hosted by CRD and the consultant. There were interesting results to the survey. And a follow-up virtual meeting for those who were unable to attend the Open House in November is set for December 6, 2023, 7 pm. Please visit the CRD website for the slide presentation and to register for the virtual meeting: <https://getinvolved.crd.bc.ca/MLE-community>

Initial Survey Results

There was a good response of 324 surveys filled out and 91% identified as residents of MLE. In general, Magic Lake Estates (MLE) showed high levels of satisfaction on all issues on average (85%).

New Directors on the MLPOS Board

The MLPOS volunteer Board of Directors welcomed two new Directors at the November meeting, the first after our Annual General Meeting in October. Roy Moore has taken his seat as our new Vice President, replacing the retired Jeremy Harwood. In addition, Rachel Lenkowski has volunteered to be a Special Projects Director to guide our playground improvements. Many thanks to both for taking on the positions.

Shaw Fibre-Optic Project Getting Underway?

An observant Magic Lake resident noticed the Shaw permit sign at Panda Bay (at the end of Harpoon Road). At long last, this project to bring fibre-optic cable to Pender looks like it is moving forward. That's all we know so far, we will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

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

The next MLPOS Director's meeting - on the second Monday of the month - is Monday, December 11, 4pm at the Community Hall Lounge.

Mary Beth Rondeau, Secretary

Moving Around Pender (MAP)



MAP held its AGM November 4, marking 15 years since we incorporated as a society in 2008. Over the years we've seen many Penderites step forward to help us in our mission to make getting around the islands safer, healthier and more enjoyable. Time moves on and many of our members moved on as well. Barry Mathias, a founding member who initiated our Car Stop program, recently moved to Sidney so our car stops have lost their champion. If you notice a neglected stop please let us know or better yet, adopt it as your own.

The Schooner Way Trail project now led by PIPRC has applied for funding and we have our fingers crossed it will be successful. The MAP community trails continue to see lots of use. Maintenance is ongoing with support from Green Angels and others. Parks Canada continues to move forward with a couple of suggested trails. We hope to see some new connectors in the coming year.

Another project MAP is working on is a pilot project to provide HandiDART style services in cooperation with Lightning Taxi and the Community Resource Center. Our bus project from previous years identified the need for more passenger directed transportation, especially for those seniors with limited mobility. MAP is currently applying for funding.

As always our projects are limited by the time and energy of our volunteers. If any of the above ideas sound interesting or you have some ideas of your own, please join us.

Our next meeting will be December 2 at the Community Hall, 10:00 am. Hope to see you there!

Peter Easthope

Nu-To-Yu

Pender Island Community Service Society



The end of 2023 is in sight but not before we have our annual Children's Shopping Day on December 3 from 11 am to 2 pm. No need to reserve, call, or book in advance. Parents and grandparents will be treated to a hot chocolate outside as the wee shopper picks out gifts with a volunteer. As per usual, cash only, and masks are not mandatory unless provincial health regulations mandate the same. Last day of shopping before Christmas is Friday December 22. The store reopens December 26 for a 50% off Boxing Day sale 11 am to 3 pm. We reopen for donations on January 9 and for shopping on January 12, 2024. Please hold on to your Christmas decorations until after September 2024 as there is no room at the store for long term storage.

Nu-To-Yu thanks the community of Pender for their ongoing donations. We know many of your donated items have been lovingly cared for over many decades and with your donation comes a little bit of you as well. It is difficult to part with items that have made deep, meaningful memories in our lives. Your donations give opportunity to many: bursaries to graduating students, a handicap bathroom for the Legion, monies towards a cardboard compactor at Recycling and a contribution to Santa's Sac are but a few examples of how your life helps others via the Nu-To-Yu.

Donation days in 2024 will remain unchanged: Tuesday and Thursday from 9 am to 12 pm and Saturdays 11 am to 2 pm. Shopping days are Friday and Saturdays, 10 am to 4 pm. To increase our hours for receiving Nu-To-Yu requires more bodies/volunteers. No need to be a lean mean lifting machine. We are all about pacing ourselves, protecting backs, and eating cookies.

Moving forward, an architect has been hired for the new community build. We look forward to working with Ms. Karen Hillel of Hillel Architecture.

The Nu-To-Yu wishes you and yours a healthy holiday season. Thank you for your support over 2023.

Daurel Minion

Pender Earth

Our first Climate Café was held in November; we had a good turnout for this event and stimulating conversation.

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 December 1, 9:30 am in the Lounge at the Community Hall. We will meet again on January 5 and February 2, 2023.

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

Maryanne Pare



Pender Island Child Care Society

Dragonfly Child Care & Family Resource Centre



On behalf of our staff and board of directors we wish all our families a wonderful winter holiday and look forward to seeing each of you in 2024.

Winter Break

Dragonfly partners with the school (SD 64) and will be closed for two weeks for winter break. Our last day of Parents and Babes is December 18, our last day of HOP will be December 20, and our last day of child care will be December 21. Dragonfly will reopen on January 8.

Family Counseling Sessions

Once a month on every second Monday afternoon registered counselor, Geneva Jacobs, will offer supportive services to parents raising little ones. These 1:1 counselling sessions will be held in a confidential space while your child/ren is cared for by an educator. Geneva brings compassion, reflectiveness, and curiosity as she accompanies you in navigating your way toward a more fulfilling and empowered life. For more information or to reserve your space please contact Sarah.

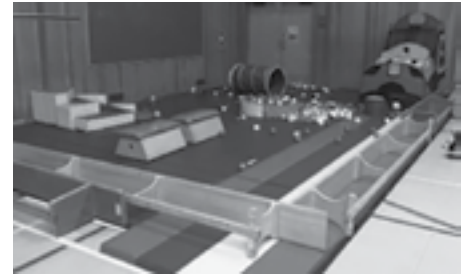
Dad n' Me Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, December 16, 9 - 11 am at Dragonfly

Dad n' Me Pancake Breakfast is held one Saturday per month. December 16, facilitators, Pam and Chris will be flipping pancakes, frying up 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.

Parents and Babes

The Parents and Babes program runs every Monday morning (except holidays) from 9 - 11:30 at Dragonfly. Sarah Conley facilitates this free drop-in program for parents, caregivers, and their children. Come out and enjoy snacks, adult and children interactions, developmentally appropriate toys, and the book lending library. Thanks to Victoria Foundation and the Pender Island Child Care Society this program is free.



Healthy Opportunities for Preschoolers (HOP)

HOP is held every Wednesday morning from 9:30 - 10:30 am in the school gym. Come on out and join our trained facilitator as she sets up new activities each week; from hockey pass to badminton, crash mats, balance bikes and tunnel play, 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, this program is free.

Dragonfly website

Check out our website (www.dragonflycentre.ca) for more information about our programs, helpful parent blogs, and recipes. If you would like further information on Dragonfly activities, contact Sarah at 629-3039 or dragonflyfamilycentre@gmail.com.

Sarah Conley



Consider Donating Prizes for the
**Safe Grad Night
Silent Auction**
For info or to donate, contact:
Tina Christensen
tchristensen@shaw.ca

Pender Islands Conservancy



Double your impact in supporting conservation on Pender Island this holiday season!

A generous donor has offered to match any donations made between now and December 31, up to \$10,000. So, any holiday season gift contributions or year end donations to the Pender Conservancy will go twice as far.

The Pender Islands Conservancy land acquisition campaigns have been very successful in the last few years, thanks to our excellent partnership with Raincoast Conservation Trust and the kind generosity and support of the residents of Pender Island. However, we also need funds to allow us to continue our educational and restoration work. This is your chance to double your impact when donating to support our programs.

Other ways you can contribute this holiday season:

- Join the Conservancy or renew your membership. All memberships are due on January 1 each year. Membership dues (\$20 for individuals, couples, or families), provide funds which help us run our educational and restoration activities.
- Remember Number 5 on the Spirit Board, when shopping at Tru Value.
- Support the Nature Centre when doing your Christmas shopping. We have many items that would make excellent eco-friendly gifts.

Natural History Notes: Feeling Sluggish?



A banana slug at the Kingfisher Forest Nature Sanctuary

The dampness of fall and winter can oftentimes feel endless, but with the rain comes the critters we haven't seen in a while, and among them are slugs. Banana slugs, native to British



Participants in the Meadow Making workshop examine a native plant meadow in progress

Columbia, are the second largest land slug in the world, reaching up to 23 cm in length - that's about as long as a dinner fork! Banana slugs can frequently be found across Pender Island, identifiable from their dull yellow colour with occasional dark splotches. These slugs feed on plants, decaying animals, and mushrooms, converting them into rich soil, and dispersing their seeds and spores. Banana slugs also act as a food source for many other creatures, such as salamanders and snakes, making them an important part of the ecosystem they live in. Banana slugs have a hole in the side of their body that is used for breathing, and they produce a slime that helps with movement, adhesion, and protection - the slime contains a toxin that causes the mouth of their attacker to go numb.

Banana slugs are not to be confused with the introduced Black slug, a fully black slug that can reach up to 18 cm in length. These slugs can often be found in similar habitats as native Banana slugs and can spread quickly due to their ability to reproduce rapidly, laying up to 150 eggs each time they reproduce. While Black slugs are introduced, they do provide food for many organisms, such as Northwestern Garter Snakes; however, it is not known how or if they compete with or may cause declines in populations of native slugs. In periods of heat and drought, it can often appear that Black slugs are more prominent

than Banana slugs, but this is most likely due to the fact that Banana slugs enter a period of torpor similar to hibernation, called estivation; they bury themselves in leaf litter and slime, creating a sort of cocoon to protect themselves until the conditions improve. In contrast, black slugs tend to continue to be active as temperatures warm and the forests dry out.

So remember, as the dampness of fall and winter returns, don't be sluggish - get out and enjoy all the inhabitants of the Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem that we haven't seen in a while, like the amazing Banana slugs!

Sarah Devries, Ecological Technician for the Pender Islands Conservancy

November News

Meadow Making with Kristen Miskelly

On November 9, in a collaboration of the Conservancy, Gulf Islands Food Co-op, and Pender Island Garden Club, Kristen Miskelly of Satinflower Nurseries visited Pender for a Meadow Making seminar followed by an afternoon of garden tours. We are lucky to have so many folks in our community already engaged in meadow making using native plants, which provided us with a chance to see gardens in various stages of development. As our community seeks strategies for reducing water consumption, increasing biodiversity, and enhancing ecological resilience of

our environment in the face of climate change, understanding how to restore our yards, gardens, and parks using native plant species is critical for achieving these goals. The seminar and site visits provided lots of ideas and inspiration for the more than 30 participants, and we look forward to having Kristen back for more workshops in the future.

Climate-Conscious Connectivity with Dr. Pam Wright

Dr. Wright gave an enlightening seminar on the evening of November 10, followed by a sunny walk-and-talk at Kingfisher Forest on November 18, which challenged us to think about connections (or lack thereof) at different spatial scales: from newts attempting to travel through our yards and across roads in their annual migration between seasonal habitats, to grizzly bears or wolves moving across vast wilderness areas within a single year. We discussed ways that each of us can help to connect habitats for different species by taking a “beetle’s-eye view” of our own backyard. (Did you know that beetles won’t cross parking lots?!) We are so grateful to Dr. Wright for sharing her knowledge and expertise with us as we all learn to be better stewards of the Coastal Douglas Fir ecosystems we are so privileged to live in. If you want to chat with her more about these topics, you can swing by the Conservancy Nature Centre on Thursdays, where you will be greeted by her as the volunteer host.

Dr. Erin O’Brien

December Events and Activities

Winter Birding Brush-up

Saturday, December 9, 9:30 - 11:30)

Conservancy Nature Centre at Hope Bay

Need to hone your birding skills? Participating in the Christmas Bird Count? Now’s your chance to go birding with the experts, and fellow enthusiasts. Meet us at the Conservancy Nature Centre where we will explore fields, forests, and shores in search of winter birds. Bring binoculars if you have them, and dress for the weather.

Christmas Bird Count for Kids

Friday, December 15 at 9:30 am
at Hope Bay Bible Camp

Come learn about identifying birds through fun activities and then

head out into the wild to put your knowledge to use and contribute to the annual Christmas Bird Count. All welcome! Treats and hot chocolate provided. Adult mentors needed. If you can volunteer, please contact biologist@penderconservancy.org.

Christmas Bird Count 2023 and Potluck Supper

Saturday, December 16

Started in 1900, the CBC is the world’s largest and longest-running Citizen Science project. People in more than 2000 locations throughout the western hemisphere participate in the CBC each year. Depending on weather and other factors, we can expect to observe more than 50 bird species during the CBC.

Each year on Pender, we form groups composed of two or three people with each group covering one small part of North or South Pender Island. Groups will observe birds in their respective areas starting in the morning. Detailed reporting instructions and safety information will be provided.

In addition to observing birds in the field, we also encourage residents to include observations of birds at homebased bird feeders. Let us know if you wish to include your bird feeders in the bird census.

The Conservancy has contacted individuals who participated in the CBC in previous years. We invite participation by all interested Penderites. If you are new to birding, we can assign you to a group with an experienced observer. To participate, please contact Bob Vergette at bc.bcp@gmail.com, or call 250-222-0410

CBC 2023 will be followed by a potluck dinner at the Hope Bay Bible Camp starting at 5:30 pm. This event enables participants to share their experiences and learn more about the distribution of birds on the Pender islands. A hot meal together is an enjoyable end to a winter’s day observing Pender’s birds. Please bring your own dishes and serving utensils, as there are none available at the Bible Camp hall.

Don Peden

Pender Island Emergency Program



In mid-October, we held a Volunteer Appreciation Tea at the Community Hall. There were over 45 attendees from all four components of the Emergency Program – Duty Officers, Emergency Support Services, Neighbourhood Program, and Communications.

PI Fire Chief Mike Dine was the featured speaker, and he gave an interesting talk on various topics ranging from the challenges in finding new firefighters to evacuation routes to how PIFR’s excellent rating with Fire Underwriters lowers our household fire insurance premiums. Add in door prizes, a rousing game of “People Bingo,” and some delicious treats, and all in all it was a fun way to spend an afternoon with fellow volunteers, and a long overdue chance to thank the members for helping to keep our island safe.

Two new preparedness publications will be ready just in time for winter. Google “prepared BC winter guide” and scroll down to Winter Weather and Storm Preparedness Guide. It has lots of helpful tips on being prepared for whatever winter decides to throw at us.



And look for a new cookbook to be released by the Community Resource Centre just in time for Christmas. *Dining in the Dark* was created to increase the resilience of Southern Gulf

Islands residents when our many winter power outages make meal prep a challenge. It’s an easy-to-use resource taking what’s in our cupboards and pantries to make quick and tasty meals. The recipes were submitted by fellow islanders, often with a personal story attached, to explain why their recipe is a favourite go-to meal when the lights go out.

The cookbook will also be incorporated into upcoming workshops to demonstrate safe, alternative ways to cook without power. For more information: 250-629-3665 or info@sgicommunityresources.ca.

Liz Gowen

Pender Island Farmers' Institute

Farmers' Market News



The Pender Island Farmers' Market - Wednesday Food-Only Market will continue until mid-December to support our local food producers and recipients of the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupons. The last day we can accept coupons is December 18. If recipients are unable to use all of their coupons, we will accept them at the barn and will use them to donate food to the Food Bank.

The Wednesday market is 3 - 5 pm behind the Hall in the Farmers' Institute barn. We accept coupons, cash, debit, Square e-gift cards, and credit. We will have more lamb, as well as pork, perhaps turkeys (they may be gone by December), eggs, garlic, mushrooms, smoked cheese, preserves, pies, and sausages. The market list is posted weekly at pifi.ca under *Wednesday Price List*. Everything at the barn is made, baked, or grown on Pender Island and we are members of the BC Association of Farmers' Markets. This season we have supported 20 different farmers and food producers.

The Farmers' Institute barn will also be open from 10 am - 1 pm on Saturdays until just before Christmas. We are now accepting Square e-Gift Cards, which can be purchased by Square, or through our website pifi.ca or Farmers' Market

Facebook page. It is a great way to share the gift of local food with your family and friends. The Square e-Gift Cards will be accepted at the Farmers' Institute barn behind the hall, and at the Farmers' Market next summer.

Fall Fair News

The 2024 Fall Fair will be on August 24 so save the date! We are excited that this will mark the 125th anniversary of the Farmers' Institute and we are already making plans for next year's fair. The January Pender Post will have catalogue changes, so that you can start working on your entries early. Please contact Barb at 250-222-3817 or at www.pifi.ca if you would like to help us out or have any questions. We would love to hear your ideas and would more than love to have you join us.

As we end 2023, we wish each of you a happy and healthy holiday and New Year.

Barbara Johnstone

Help fill
Santa's Sac

Take a tag
off the tree
at Tru Value
and buy a gift
or
etransfer a
cash donation to:
santaonpender@gmail.com

See page 8 for details.



Pender Island Food Bank Society

Warm greetings to everyone! The Christmas season is upon us, and Santa is busy. We would like all our food bank family to know that everyone who used the food bank in 2023 is offered gift coupons at Christmas through Santa's Sac: Tru Value gift cards for \$100 for singles, \$125 for doubles and \$250 for families, plus a ham as well as gifts the children have asked for.

The tree is in Tru Value (thank you, Mike) with gift wishes on the angels that decorate the tree. Our clients only make up part of the Santa's Sac list...at present 27 families on Santa's list.

We hope everyone will take a gift card, buy the item, and return it to help make Christmas special for all our families on Pender.

The Food Bank will also be giving gifts to seniors and those who are shut in. Donations to the food bank in cash or gifts are always welcome, and you will find a bin at the Tru Value for gifts of food. Please do not put in outdated or opened foodstuffs, as we can not give them to our clients.

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

Bev Peden

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Tribute to Marion Alksne for her Retirement

“An amazing team in an amazing time.” That’s what Marion Alksne, newly retired, will tell you about her tenure as executive director of the Pender Islands Health Care Centre. Not one to toot her own horn, she reiterates the point, frequently, that it takes a team to keep the place going. And while she’ll tell you it was an amazing team to work with, she’ll also tell you it was an amazing time, with a pandemic to get through first and foremost. “It’s been a long haul.”

“If there was a gift I could give this team, it would be that they could stop for a time,” Marion says. But she also knows there’s no stopping them. All want to improve on not only the aging building but the services that the Health Care Centre provides. When asked what she is most proud of from her term as executive director, she points first to the team and then to how much she has learned in the role, everything from navigating through a pandemic and upgrading a septic system.

And are there any regrets as she leaves? “Only that I hate that I’m leaving a pile on my desk.” It’s the nature of the beast that each day would start with a pile on her desk demanding attention. Trouble was, and still is, that things arise every day, to be added to that pile. It’s a never ending cycle so there is never the satisfaction of looking at a clean desk and being able to say that everything is done. “I hate that I’m leaving a pile on my desk,” she says. “I’ve usually been able to get jobs done, things tidied.” But the work to upgrade the building and get the medical clinic running efficiently is a work in progress that will be now shouldered by Annette Garm, the new executive director who is enthusiastically backed by Marion.

She has served during a difficult time affected by three years of pandemic conditions. Nevertheless, her leadership saw the development of a strategic plan, a new awareness of the need for major capital upgrades, a referendum on taxation to support Health Centre

operations, taking on the administration of the medical clinic, and even a flood in the crawl space. As her term draws to a close, Marion has been working closely with Outer Gulf Islands (OGI) health centres to find a common voice on how best to deliver primary care for our island communities for years into the future.

On behalf of the board, and the Pender Islands community, thank you for your professionalism, dedication, patience, knowledge, and caring ways.

Donations

(Yes! We need and appreciate them!)

The Pender Islands Health Centre has always relied to some extent on donations from the generous Pender Islands community for operations and capital projects. This has been true for the past 40+ years as the Health Centre has grown to its present size and level of services. Donations from private individuals complement other funding sources such as the property tax levy since 2022, grants from government and non-profit organizations, and, last but not least, from generous bequests. The medical clinic itself, operating within the Health Centre, is funded by Island Health, but the operation of the Health Centre, its buildings, and all other ancillary health and wellness services fall under the realm of the Pender Islands Health Care Society.

Many building projects would not be doable without funding partners. Their contributions, both big and small, allow us to complete critical capital improvements that keep our building safe, up-to-date, and healthy. We recognize with sincere gratitude our funding partners for their continued support and generosity.

Major recent and on-going projects:

Septic System upgrade: \$100k
Anonymous Donor

Accessibility upgrades: \$100k
Grant from Canadian Federal Government

Building upgrades: \$300k
Community donations and support

IT upgrade: \$85k
Grant from Community Services Recovery Fund

HVAC upgrade: \$104k
Grant from Canada Infrastructure Program (CVRIS)

Generator replacement: \$60k
Grant from Canada Infrastructure Program (CVRIS)

Medical equipment: \$10k
Pender Island Lions Club

The current health care environment is evolving and our Society is not standing still. Our longer term planning, consistent with the direction indicated by the Ministry of Health and health authorities, must incorporate future expansion of services and facilities. This does require the Society to continuously build up the capital reserves.

How can you help? It’s easy. Click on Donations on the website, <https://penderislandhealth.org>. You can choose to make a one-time donation or set up a regular monthly donation. The monthly option helps us in planning and predictability for the Health Centre, but any and all gifts are very welcome. The handling is fully secure and automatic and you will receive a tax-deductible receipt. Your generosity is, as always, highly appreciated, and helps make our Health Centre relevant, reliable, and accessible for all.

Building Upgrade Work Starting

Please be aware that construction work will be starting soon at the Health Care Centre. There may be noise and some disruption to the seating area and bathrooms over the next several months as we cycle through accessibility related updates and renovations. We are sorry for any inconveniences this may cause.

Vaccinations

Island Health held a very successful vaccination clinic at the Pender Islands Community Hall on November 15. The PIHCS Community Support office assisted with the administration of this Clinic and a heartfelt thanks goes to the volunteers who helped make the day a success. Vaccination appointments for both influenza and COVID-19 are available at Pender Pharmacy. Go to “GetVaccinatedBC” to book your appointment.

Continued

“Here’s to Your Good Health” Speaker Series

The third talk, by Dr. Karin Humphries *Cardiovascular Disease in Women*, at the library was very well attended. A video of this very interesting and revealing presentation is now available on the website <https://penderislandhealth.org/speakers>.

Christmas Wishes to All

As the days grow shorter and the holiday season approaches, it is the sincere wish of all of us at the Health Care Society that each and every Penderite has the opportunity to share real joy and warmth with family and those they hold most dear. We are lucky to live on these islands, in a community that knows how to support one another, to pull together, and to appreciate the blessings we have. For many around the world, and for many close to home as well, this Christmas season will be difficult – conflict, poverty, loss and loneliness are complicated challenges, so please look after one another, help out and

visit those who may need a little extra care at this time of year, and stay safe. Bringing and sharing joy with others is a wonderful way to express the spirit of the season, whether through music, food, silly games, companionship, worship, or family traditions.

We hope residents and visitors have a wonderful, restful and healthy holiday (and by the time Christmas arrives, the days will actually be getting a bit longer again!)

We offer our heartfelt gratitude to all the hardworking practitioners, staff, and volunteers who make the Health Centre such a vital and welcoming place. They, too, need a little bit of down time to recharge and reconnect. The medical clinic will be closed on December 25 and 26. The other providers will have their own hours; please check with them for their holiday hours.

*Urs Boxler on behalf of the
Communications Committee*

Community Support Programs

*If we are asking for the world to be kind,
we must first ask what are we doing to
add more kindness to the world. ~ Joel
Leon*

Maintain Your Independence

18 Postures for Seniors with Judith.

Mondays, until December 18,
10:30 - 11:30 am. \$5 to drop in.

Moderate Yoga with Krista.

Tuesdays, until December 19,
9:45 - 10:45 am

Wear loose clothing and bring a yoga mat.

Gentle Chair Yoga with Erin.

Tuesdays, until December 19,
11 am - 12 pm

Wear comfortable clothing.

Gentle Walk with Andrea.

Wednesdays, 10 - 11 am

Everyone welcome. Wear water resistant walking shoes and bring a hat or umbrella if it's raining.

Gentle Chair Yoga with Erin

Thursdays, until December 21,
11 am - 12 pm

Increase flexibility, stay limber, and improve balance. This class is suitable for those with mobility challenges, difficulty with balance and ideal if you are recovering, have arthritis or joint injuries. Wear comfortable clothing.

January - February MYI Classes

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

18 Postures for Seniors with Judith

Mondays, January 8 - February 26

Essentrics with Heather

TBC

Moderate Yoga with Krista


Tuesdays, January 9 - February 27

Gentle Chair Yoga with Erin

Tuesdays, January 9 - February 27

Moderate Yoga

TBC



New
Horizons
for Seniors
Program

MONDAY 55+ SOCIAL GATHERING

LUNCH AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Gathering at the Hall at 12 noon. Hot lunch is served \$8, sliding scale & we encourage "Pay it Forward" if you are able to pay a bit more to help others. Limited meals for sale for later use.
Volunteer driver available to deliver as needed.

FRIDAY COMMUNITY GATHERING

SHARE A MEAL, VISIT & BUILD COMMUNITY

cafe opens at 10am
soup live music and activities
12:00 - 1:00 pm
\$8 suggested donation
pay what you can



Gentle Chair Yoga with Erin

Thursdays, January 11 - February 29

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

Every other Monday, December 4 and 18, 1 - 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.

“Many years ago, exhausted after a long and stressful day at work, I stumbled off the bus dreaming about the warmth of my bed. I stopped in at a 7/11 on the way to my apartment to buy a bag of popcorn to treat myself. A man about three times my size stood in front of me at the register buying a pack of cigarettes and turned toward me, telling me I looked tired. I smiled uncomfortably and became noticeably more alert, as a young woman does when a strange man starts talking to her at night. He turned toward the cashier and said that he was going to get my snack too. I politely declined and was already pulling out my wallet, but this man wouldn't allow me to say no. He handed the cashier a couple of extra dollars to cover my popcorn and told me that he hoped my night got better. He walked out of the store and I never saw him again.”

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

Pender Island Museum Society



Once Upon a Yuletide

The museum is pleased to welcome one and all to our annual Christmas special event that runs December 26 - 30 from 1 - 4 p.m. (See ad inside back cover.) The old Roe House will be filled with live music, storytelling, holiday decorations, and special displays, all served up with spiced apple cider and cookies.

We can't often display the museum's clothing collection, but we're taking our beautiful christening gowns out of storage, just for Christmas. The detail in these family heirlooms is as remarkable as the new lives they celebrated.

A Christmas Christening

Christmas celebrations were the highlight of the winter season on the Penders during the settler era. Families were together and farm work was less demanding which made it a popular and practical time for weddings and christenings.

In one case, the tradition persisted into the 1970s with a christening in the Church of the Good Shepherd on South Pender on December 22, 1972. Thanks to the *Gulf Islands Driftwood*, we have most, but not quite all, of the story.

The writer, who went by the pen name “Cultus Coulee”, asked, “How often do parents fly from Washington DC to have their baby baptized in South Pender's tiny church? How often does Rev. Oswald Foster christen one that is No. 5 in line? Well, hardly ever!”

“But it did happen on Friday, December 22, when William Herbert Willson, V, entered the Church of the Good Shepherd on the arm of his grandfather, William Herbert Willson, III.

Fittingly, “organist Isabel Foster played *Away in a Manger* and *O Come all Ye Faithful* in a church decorated with white asters put on the altar in memory of Bishop Coleman, by the Spaldings and Willsons.” (Bishop Coleman had died suddenly several years earlier but was still greatly missed. His name lives on today on the main sign for the Health Centre.)

“After a tiny splash on the baby's brow,” the story continued, “a cavalcade wound



One of the christening gowns that will be on display during Christmas-week.

across the island to Little Splash (the Willson home) on Plumper Sound and the sparkle of champagne.”

A helper that day who “held the large Bible for the Rector” was the baby's cousin, Frank Trice, age 13. What he remembers, and what the 1972 story omitted, was the sudden realization that no one had brought water for the baptismal font. The crisis was averted by a quick-thinking Sybil Conery Willson, who nipped outside to the rain barrel for the required “splash” of not-so-holy water. Wee Billy Willson grew up to be a good-humoured fellow who loves the story of his Christmas christening on South Pender.

About Cultus Coulee

As local historians, we owe a debt of gratitude to “Cultus Coulee” for a plethora of Pender pieces that appeared in the *Gulf Islands Driftwood* in the late '60s and early '70s. The writer was Constance (Grey) Swartz, elder daughter of Winifred (Higgs) Grey, an early South Pender settler. Contie's sense of humour and love of words, the arts, and the Gulf Islanders of her day shine through in her writings.

Simone Marler & Frank Trice



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(250) 629-6053

kristin@islandscapes.ca
www.islandscapes.ca

Design
Construction
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Pender Island Parks and Recreation Commission



Keep your eye on the birdie! Badminton in the school gym, Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings.



Schooner Way - School Trail

This has been a big year for us at the PIPRC. We have taken significant steps to move forward on what will be one of the largest infrastructure improvements that Pender Island has seen in many years. The two-kilometer Schooner Way - School Trail, a multi-use trail, will run from the Danny Martin Park in Magic Lake to the Pender Island School.

I would like to personally thank all those in the Pender Community who have stepped up to pledge support for this project. We are more than a quarter of the way to our \$500,000 pledge target. These pledges are an essential component of this undertaking, and a requirement of the BC Active Transportation Grant Application – the main source of funding for this project.

Our grant application was submitted on October 26 - a day early. I would like to recognize the focus and efforts of the CRD staff who worked hard to complete this application. Many thanks also to the businesses and organizations that provided letters in support of the application. We feel we have presented a compelling case for Pender Island to receive these funds to construct this vital piece of infrastructure. We expect to hear if we have been awarded the grant sometime early in the New Year.

Watch for information on additional pledge drive activities until we reach our \$500,000 goal. I hope you will consider contributing whatever you can to this exciting cause. Pledge forms are available online (www.crd.bc.ca/schoonerwaytrail), in the community

folders, and at the Visitor Information Centre kiosk.

Other projects which are gaining momentum leading into the New Year are a floating dock to be built on the west side of Magic Lake near the boat storage area and a pump track destined for Danny Martin Park.

Magic Lake Dock

The Magic Lake Dock has been a long standing project at the PIPRC. It has required significant administrative work behind the scenes with the Islands Trust and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. As most of these requirements have now been fulfilled, we hope to start work on the project soon. We are currently in talks with local community groups to assist with the installation.

Pump Track

The Pump Track Project is an excellent example of a concerted effort by inspired community members. The commission was approached by a group who proposed this project. After a positive initial response to their presentation by the PIPRC, the group followed up with further studies and canvassed local residents for feedback. They have since reported back to the PIPRC on their findings, which were generally very positive. We look forward to working with community groups to add more amenities to our parks for the benefit of the entire community.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is December 4. I hope to see many of you there as we work together to make our parks and Pender Island a healthier and more enjoyable place to live, work and play.

Rob Fawcett, Vice Chair

Help Build the Schooner Way – School Multi-use Trail

Pledge to Sponsor a Meter or Become a Founder

Each \$250 pledge will sponsor 1 meter of trail. Sponsor 10+ meters to be a "founder".

Information & Pledge Forms:
www.crd.bc.ca/schoonerwaytrail



Pender Island Parks & Recreation Commission

Help fill Santa's Sac

Take a tag off the tree at Tru Value and buy a gift

or

ettransfer a cash donation to:

santaonpender@gmail.com



See page 8 for details.

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

A community donor is matching donations, up to \$10,000, until December 31st.

To donate, visit our Nature Centre at Hope Bay or see:

www.penderconservancy.org

Pender Islands Conservancy

Pender Island Public Library

*Planned Giving:
A Gift for the Future*

Pick up our brochure
"Leave A Legacy"

4407 Bedwell Harbour Rd.
250-629-3722



Laura Vilness (Chair), Carmen Oleskevich (Library Director), and MLA Adam Olsen enjoy a tour of the Library.



Fundraising Thanks

Thank you to all our generous donors who purchased used books and DVDs at our annual book sale on November 25. Funds raised will be used primarily to purchase books for youth and adults, to be able to offer a wide variety of materials for everyone to enjoy. We thank Island Savings Credit Union for a community grant which will be used towards our Garden Revitalization Project, and to an anonymous donor who made a donation through the Victoria Foundation.

MLA visit

PIPLA was honoured with a visit from Mr. Adam Olsen, our MLA for Saanich North and the Islands, and constituency advocacy worker Patricia Pearson, on November 10. Mr. Olsen toured our facility and learned more about library services throughout our electoral area (Pender, Mayne, Galiano, Saturna and Piers islands). We had a good chat with

Adam about concerns pertaining to ongoing, sustainable library funding at the local and provincial levels. We are very appreciative of receiving a one-time BC Enhancement Grant in 2023, and are continuing to advocate for an increased guaranteed base funding at the provincial level, as library funding has been frozen for over 10 years. In addition to rising operational costs (facilities, salaries, equipment, insurance, utilities, books), the demands on libraries have increased in response to legislation such as Accessible BC Act and FOIPPA, and addressing emergency preparedness, homelessness, and other social needs. Public library trustees and staff across the province are meeting with their MLAs to advocate for adequate annual funding for libraries. We are very appreciative of Adam's support and advocacy for this cause, as he has spoken to this need in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you Adam for championing public libraries!

New Books

Adult Fiction

In the Belly of the Sphinx (Grant Buday), *Huge* (Brent Butt), *Midnight at the Christmas Bookshop* (Jenny Colgan), *The Burnout* (Sophie Kinsella), *The Leftover Woman* (Jean Kwok), *Roman Stories* (Jhumpa Lahiri), *A Season in Chezgh'un* (Darrel McLeod), *Touched* (Walter Mosley).

Adult Mystery and Sci-Fi

Caught on the Book (Laura Gail Black), *The Legacy* (Gail Bowen), *The Twelve Books of Christmas* (Kate Carlisle), *The Secret* (Lee Child), *The Exchange* (John Grisham), *Double Eagle* (Thomas King), *Judgment Prey* (John Sandford), *Murder by the Seashore* (Samara Yew), *The Defector* (Chris Hadfield).

Adult Non-Fiction

Air Fryer All Day (Rebecca Abbott), *Women Who Won* (Ros Ball), *The Blue Machine* (Helen Czerski), *Chocolate All Day* (Steven Hodge), *Wandering Through Life* (Donna Leon), *Paper Trails* (Roy MacGregor), *Retro Crochet Style* (Savannah Price).

Youth

Something Like Home (Andrea Arango), *The Wild Robot Protects* (Peter Brown), *This is So Awkward* (Cara Natterson), *Unicorn for a Day* (Dana Simpson), *Glow* (Jennifer Smith), *Not He, Or She, I'm Me* (A.M Wild).

Library Hours

Open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 - 3, at 4407 Bedwell Harbour Rd. Library will be closed December 26 - 30 for holiday break. For assistance, call 250-629-3722 or email libraryhelpdesk@crd.bc.ca.

Laura Vilness, Chairperson and
Carmen Oleskevich, Library Director

Pender Island Reconciliation Circle

S,DÁ,YES Truth & Reconciliation Circle resumes January 17, 4 - 6 pm, Fireside Room, 4703 Canal Road. We shall explore ideas and actions for 2024. Everyone welcome! An email reminder notice will be circulated in early January. If you'd like to be notified please contact me at madelin.emery@gmail.com.

Madelin Emery

Pender Island Recycling Society



Closed Boxing Day

We are closed on Tuesday, December 26 for Boxing Day. The depot will be very busy in the week following Christmas. If possible, hang on to your recycling until the first week in January when the traffic at the depot eases. Gift bows and ribbon are not recyclable.

Did you know that the CRD banned food scraps from your garbage in 2015? One of the simplest ways to deal with food scraps is to put them in a composter (\$114) or a food digester (\$185). We have just restocked supplies of these and they are both sold at cost. A Speedibin composter is another solid choice and these are made locally on Vancouver Island. They are pricier (\$599), but on the plus side, they are made of steel, are rat proof, and come with a ten-year warranty. They can be purchased online directly from the manufacturers. Visit their website for more information: <https://www.speedibin.com>

Composters handle raw plant food scraps like fruit and vegetable peelings, egg shells, coffee grounds, and brown paper towel. This organic material decomposes with the help of worms and once decomposed it can be harvested from the bottom of the unit and added to your garden. The food digester can handle raw and cooked fruits and vegetables, dairy products, meat, and bread. Although you can't collect compost out of a digester, its leachate will enrich the soil of nearby plants. It requires a sunny, well-drained site. For more information about how these units work, please visit the Compost Education Centre website: <https://www.compost.bc.ca>.

If you are a full-time Pender resident, we recommend installing a composter and a digester so that you have sufficient capacity for your organic waste. If you live on Pender part-time, installing only a digester might suffice.

Non-packaging plastic is one of many items that can be recycled at the depot and this category includes plastic kitchen utensils, lawn chairs, and wash basins, to name a few. If you have a plastic item

that is no longer usable, but is clean, free of paint, and free of metal, bring it to the depot to be recycled. There is a charge for larger items, for example, a \$2 fee per lawn chair. Thank you in advance for bringing this material to us and keeping it out of the landfills. PIRS thanks the CRD for funding this worthy initiative in 2023 through their Rethink Waste grant.

The Nu-To-Yu is a key player in recycling non-program plastic. They funded the initiative for several years and they also collect plastic for recycling. When a plastic item is donated to the Nu-To-Yu that doesn't sell, their dedicated volunteers make sure that any metal present is removed and then they bring it to the depot. Depot staff bale and ship the plastic to Merlin Plastics in Delta to be recycled locally. The Nu-To-Yu helps Penderites to reduce, reuse, and recycle and we at the recycling depot offer our heartfelt thanks for all that they do to keep Pender clean and green. Our community has diverted over 18 tonnes of non-program plastic from the landfill since 2015.

The staff and the board of directors of the Pender Island Recycling Society wish you and your family the very best during the upcoming holiday season. We thank you for your ongoing support of Pender Island's community-owned and operated recycling depot.

Niki Roberts

Pender Organic Community Garden Society



I was excited to get a plot in the community garden last fall. In November, I threw myself 100% into getting my garden beds ready for spring planting.

I made four rows, each piled with manure, shredded leaves, and straw. I expected this to break down slowly over the winter and, come March, be ready for planting. By early March, I was surprised to see four beautiful rows of rich green grass. Where did that come from? I set about trying to dig under the grass, but quickly admitted defeat as the soil is clay and wasn't surrendering to my will. Not being defeated about what

I was going to garden, I just needed to get some new ideas about how I was going to go about doing this. "No dig gardening" became my go-to on YouTube.

I knew Ruth Stout has been growing successfully for years planting potatoes using the no dig method with straw as a mulch. I also read *One-Straw Revolution: The Philosophy and Work of Masanobu Fukuoka*, an amazing read about the no dig method of covering the seeds with straw to dissuade the birds from eating them all. With this information I felt quite confident I could successfully grow potatoes.

Towards the end of March and early April, I set about placing the potatoes on the grass, covering them with a few handfuls of compost, then adding a thick layer of straw, probably about eight inches. Throughout the growing season, I watered thoroughly every six to eight weeks. I was quite pleased with how well this method works. I would definitely say it was successful for my first attempt. Some of my potatoes were over one pound.

Would I grow potatoes again? The answer is a resounding "no" because of a cute little critter native to Pender Island called a Vole. Voles are small with no tail and quite fat. They love potatoes in a no-dig garden. They made their home under the straw, tunnelled through the straw, and feasted on my potatoes. It is a bit funny. I did manage to get pails of potatoes, and the Voles got fatter, so all is good. Next spring I won't grow potatoes because of crop rotation, but if I did, I would dig up the soil and bury them, which works perfectly for other gardeners. Voles, it seems, are as lazy as me when it comes to digging.

Another exciting discovery was how moist the ground was even without water for several weeks. And if that's not enough excitement for any gardener, all the grass had decayed into rich brown organic matter. Overall I would say this was a very successful growing season. My first year taught me several new ideas about soil, water, dead (decaying) organic matter and how each works symbiotically together.

Therese Barker



Free Parking Given to Bulk Carriers and Freighters

In mid-October, Bruce McConchie was given short notice that he could speak to MPs in Ottawa. The following is taken from Elizabeth May’s Sunday newsletter:

In our more routine work in Parliament this week, we had a rare chance to educate MPs who live nowhere near the Salish Sea about the unacceptable and routine “free parking” given to bulk carriers and freighters in our waters. I was thrilled that after twisting a few arms on the committee, one of my constituents, Bruce McConchie, was selected as a witness and came to Ottawa to testify in person on bill C-33. Bruce represented the amazing citizens’ network, the South Coast Ship Watch Alliance (SCSWA). Bruce did a fantastic job! I think his evidence of the routine destruction of the seabed, the threat of accidents and collisions as ships drag anchor and move during storms, harassment of endangered whales in their critical habitat, and disruption of the quality of life for local residents routinely inflicted by the anchorages, really shocked MPs from all parties. I was only able to participate by Zoom, and thanks to help from some Liberal MPs was allowed to get in one question, raising the reality that the use of the Salish Sea waters in the territory of Coast Salish peoples has never had consultation as required under UNDRIP.

For more information and to join other advocates to eliminate freighter anchorages in the Southern Gulf Islands,

Farm Fresh Free Range
Eggs
Apple Juice
Walnuts
Shepherd's Croft Farm
2234 Port Washington Road
629-6644

google South Coast Ship Watch Alliance (SCSWA) or go to: <https://shorturl.at/jrtBM>.

Elizabeth May Continues Her Work on Improving the Management of Ports

Bill C-33 deals with improvements in rail safety and managing ports. Sadly, this bill gives little scope to deal with the anchorage problems. However, as we write this, Elizabeth May is preparing to present and argue for effective amendments for changes to protect the Salish Sea from the routine despoliation from freighter anchorages. Fingers crossed for any improvements.

Whale Marathon?

In other news, there were some unexpected behaviours displayed by the whales of J Pod. Researchers are left with many questions: On November 5, J Pod spent nineteen hours in Quartermaster Harbour, Washington State, resting up and apparently preparing themselves for a great race. Shortly after dawn the next day, they accelerated out of the harbour and entered Colvos Passage. According to officials their speed averaged 13 knots. They sped north and finally exited out of Admiralty Inlet after covering 60 miles in nine hours! Is this a record? It’s certainly very unusual. Such speed and stamina are impressive and have never been seen before. The winners have yet to be identified, but rumours suggest there was a photo finish. The Orca Network continues to monitor whale sightings, but there have been no challengers from other pods.

On a more sombre note, a 22-year-old male orca, identified as K34, has not been seen since July 7. At the time he was reported to be underweight, suggesting he was in poor condition. His mother, K13, died after losing several family members recently including his older brother (K25).

While there is still the possibility that K34 is alive, after he has missed three whale encounters with K pod his survival is unlikely. Every death among the Southern Resident Killer Whales is significant. With such a low population (low 70s) the lack of genetic diversity can add to the problems faced by this group.



Taeven and Cedar carrying the Pender POD banner, August 20

Humpback News

Humpback whales have their problems too. Eight of them have been struck by vessels in the Salish Sea in less than a month. The number of deaths and injuries is not yet known. Although a record number of humpbacks were recorded in 2022, there are increasing threats to the health and safety of these creatures. Among the risks are lack of food, pollution, boat noise, net entanglement, and disease, as well as vessel strikes.

We are lucky to have a growing number of volunteers who give their time to monitoring whale traffic and also the movement of vessels large and small as they traverse the Salish Sea. The expression “out of sight, out of mind” does not apply here. Those of us concerned enough or lucky enough to come close to a pod of orcas recognise that we meet as one family to another.

Gregory and Julia Nicholls

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

A community donor is matching donations, up to \$10,000, until December 31st.

To donate, visit our Nature Centre at Hope Bay or see:

www.penderconservancy.org
Pender Islands Conservancy

Royal Canadian Legion

Branch 239



The weather cooperated for a successful

Remembrance Day this year with the cenotaph service followed by a short service inside, sandwiches, and a complimentary beverage to raise a glass to honour all of our veterans who have served in war and peace. We also had a wonderful Doug Pirie Candlelight cemetery ceremony on November 9 with over 120 school children and their teachers gathered at the cemetery to read their tributes to the veterans and place candles on the crosses that were lighted later that evening to present an awe-inspiring sight. Thanks to Legion members, RCMP, Fire Rescue, and Principal Margot Landahl for your help and participation. And thanks to Cheryl Boland, her students, and other volunteers, for cleaning the crosses.

Meat Draws

Meat draws are well attended by a great group of regulars, and always welcoming to newcomers. Thanks to the volunteers who commit the time and effort to host the draws. There will be turkey in the draws on December 9 and 16, in addition to all that great meat and hilarity we provide at every meat draw. Volunteers will be taking a Christmas break so there will not be a meat draw on December 23, but will return on December 30. There will be no Bingo in December, but will return on January 27. All meat draw and bingo proceeds support our community organizations and groups.

Friday Dinners

We are pleased to announce two famous December Friday dinners - December 1 Barb Pender's Cowichan Curry Chicken with live music by Scanlon Bros., and on December 15 Anne Burdett's Christmas Turkey dinner with all the trimmings, with live music by John Temple. Don't miss out - please reserve early by email to branch239.rcl@gmail.com.

On December 10 John Pender and his helpers will be cooking approximately 65 Christmas meals donated by the Legion for delivery by volunteer drivers to bring cheer to some Pender Island friends. Thank you to all who help make this special event a success.



Remembrance Day ceremony at the Legion.

Photo, and photos on next page, by Rutger Kamphuis

Please see our website for information, updates, and calendar of events: www.penderislandrcl239.com.

Best of the holiday season to all,
Jean Deschenes, President

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day and the events surrounding it are some of the most significant functions your Legion coordinates on Pender Island. On November 9, Pender school students, teachers, RCMP and Fire Rescue members as well as Legion members and others from the community attended the cemetery in a Remembrance ceremony that included sharing thoughts and placing candles on the crosses of veterans at rest. Many thanks to all who

participated and contributed to keeping alive the memories of people who served our country and in some instances, paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

Another event is the poppy campaign. Across the country, the Royal Canadian Legion distributes poppies prior to November 11 for people to wear as a symbol of remembrance of our Veterans. It is important to note that the Legion does not "sell" poppies. They are available at no cost to the public but donations to the Royal Canadian Legion are appreciated and encouraged by the volunteers distributing them.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who spent time in often chilly conditions, participating in this campaign! What becomes of these donations you may



wonder? On Pender Island, the Legion uses these funds in several ways. The Pender Legion branch # 239 makes available to Pender students attending first year post-secondary education an annual Poppy Scholarship of \$1,500.00. Many of you who have attended Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Pender Legion will have noticed displays of our school student's works of art, essays and poems commemorating what Remembrance Day means to them. This is part of a nationwide contest and first prize awardees' works are sent to further judging at municipal, provincial and ultimately, federal levels. We are fortunate on Pender to have excellent participation from our talented students and some have moved as far as provincial recognition. There are cash prizes awarded to our local achievers and the

Legion is able to use poppy donations to award over \$1,000 each year to first, second and third prize awardees. While supporting our local community is the Legion's prime mandate, we also use poppy donation funds to assist veterans in need or at risk. Thanks to the amazing generosity of Pender locals and visitors alike, the 2023 Poppy Campaign donations far exceeded our expectations and enable us to keep supporting our students and others. A special thank you for the donation made on behalf of Dick Watson.

Remembrance Day Ceremonies on November 11 were well attended and made even more poignant by the presence of members of the Canadian Submarine Force and Army. This year we were fortunate to have comrades Malcolm Armstrong and Mike and

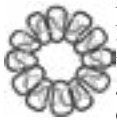


Daphne ter Kuile provide us with impactful presentations. If you were unable to attend, please view these ceremonies on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/PenderIslandLegion239. From David Rawlings, our parade leader, to the people in the kitchen preparing sustenance, from the RCMP and Fire Rescue members to The Pipe and Drum Band, Legion volunteers and all other attendees and honoured participants who contributed their time and energy, I humbly and sincerely express my gratitude.

In closing, I would like to mention that apart from Remembrance Day ceremonies, your Pender Legion provides many other valuable services to the community. Over the years we have contributed many tens of thousands of dollars in support of community organizations including: Youth Baseball, Junior Sailing, sending kids to camp, Pender youth scholarships and bursaries, the Recycling Centre, Medical Clinic, Nu To Yu, and the list goes on. We provide a venue for meetings, celebrations, community events and social interaction. Our facility is also a convening point in case of natural disaster. Like many service organizations on Pender, we rely on volunteers to keep our doors open. We are actively in need of people to step forward and commit a few hours a week to keep this valuable community resource active. Elections are coming soon and unless we can fill the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer as well as executives at large, there is a very real possibility that we will have to close our doors. Anyone considering stepping up to the task can rest assured that there will be guidance, support and mentoring available from experienced individuals and that you will be contributing greatly to your community. I have been with the Legion executive for 13 years, including three terms as President. I did not have any previous experience and have found it an interesting and personally gratifying journey; if I could do it, so can you! Please come and help us keep giving back to Pender and Remembering.

Colin Denton, Youth Committee and Poppy Campaign Chairperson, RCL #239 Pender Island

SGI Community Resource Centre



Happy Holidays! We are looking forward to festive gatherings with our loved ones and in the community. See below for the exciting events taking place to lead us into the holiday season.

Housing Now

As we make our way to the closing of another year, Housing NOW would like to thank our wonderful community members for opening their homes to our HomeShare Registry Program. This was a promising first year with over 24 HomeSharer Hosts across the region offering both temporary and long-term shared accommodations and several successful HomeSharer connections were made!

Also, a huge thank you to the SGI CESC, the CRD and the SGI Tourism Partnership Society for their support of our Housing NOW vision - a HomeShare Housing Registry designed for life in the SGIs. With their organizational support and the support of our community partners, Housing NOW will continue to nurture the growth of our Housing Registry program in 2024.

Vitality Business Centre

You already know that the Community Resource Centre is able to help you with printing and laminating, but did you know that we also rent out equipment like projectors? We are here to help you with your business and personal needs. Stop by and let us give you a hand, we are located in the Community Resource Centre at the Driftwood. If you have any questions give us a call (250) 629-3665.

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. Check out our Facebook page for more information about upcoming Job Club meetings at the hall.

Sustainable Funding Initiative

As we move into the quiet(er) winter season, the SGI Sustainable Funding

Initiative has lined up a number of capacity building workshops for non-profit boards and volunteers. Facilitator Lori Seay has worked with BC non-profits for 25 years as a board member, employee and contractor.

Upcoming workshops, all held via Zoom, include:

Mission Possible

Wednesday, December 13, 11 - 12:30

Board Basics

Wednesday, January 10 11 - 12:30

Society Tool Box

Wednesday January 31 11 - 12:30

Learn more about our workshops and register by visiting the website www.sigcommunityresources.ca/non-profit-support. Did you know that the SGI Sustainable Funding Initiative can also assist with researching grant programs and proofreading applications? Contact Katiekentry@sgicommunityresources.ca for more info.

Shannon Jense

SGI Neighbourhood House



As we welcome in the merry season and cozy evenings with our loved ones, we are looking forward to festive community gatherings.

Christmas Day Potluck

Join us December 25 for a Christmas Day Potluck at the Community Hall. Details below. Please register online at <https://sginh.ca/programs/food-security/>

Food Programs

Home cooked food by talented cooks

55+ Monday Gathering

12 noon, \$8 (sliding scale)

Enjoy a hot lunch with others at the Hall or take away for another day. All meals freeze well and if you need delivery, call the week before, (250) 629-3665. December 4 Curried Lamb Tagine, December 11 Penne Pasta Sauce with Pancetta and Tomato, December 18 Short Rib Bourguignon.

Friday Gathering

Soup and Live Music, 12 noon.
Come by and enjoy the fun!

Pender Christmas Potluck

4pm at the Community Hall

December 25th

Free Event!

Bring a dish to share |
Festive Sweater Contest |
Live Music | Gift Exchange |
Door Prizes | Bar Available
(at cost)

<https://forms.gle/QmTJab4L5a4X4cXm6>
Register by December 15th

Brought to you by:
SGI Neighbourhood House, Pender Island Community Hall
← our wonderful volunteers







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Dr. Gordon Oudman

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At the Hope Bay Store **250-629-9909**

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Computer Savvy Seniors

Need help with a computer? Give us a call or email us at fiftyfiveplus@sginh.ca and we can put you in touch with someone to answer all your questions and walk you through all your concerns.

55+ Workshops

This winter we will be running a number of fun workshops to get you out of the house and socializing while learning. Check out our website to register <https://sginh.ca/programs/seniors-programs>.

Volunteer Program

We are still on the hunt for members for multiple Volunteer Advisory Committees for youth, childcare, and seniors to support our program on all 4 SGIs. All it takes is one virtual hour a month and your commitment to help guide our programs. If you are interested in volunteering to help continue to build a strong community please contact Volunteerprogram@sginh.ca.

Community Justice Program

At its heart, Restorative Justice is about healing the harm that occurs in a community. Rather than seeing crime as a violation of the law and the state, Restorative Justice views crime as a violation of people and relationships. Justice then involves victims, offenders, and community members in an effort to put things right. Victim needs are addressed, and the offender has the responsibility of repairing the harm. Please consider working with us as we continue to help build even stronger communities on the Southern Gulf Islands. Learn more: cjp@sginh.ca <https://sginh.ca/programs/cjp/>

After School Programs

Have you signed your kids up for our afterschool programs at the Community Hall yet? It's not too late!

Wednesday afternoons we will be hosting a Youth Club at the Community Hall. This will be a great opportunity for youth grade 6+ to have fun and socialize with their peers! Homework club will take place throughout December. Check out our Facebook page for more information <https://www.facebook.com/sgineighbourhoodhouse>

For information on any of these programs call (250) 629-3665.

Shannon Jense

Canadian Power and Sail

Pender Island Squadron



The mission of Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons is to promote safety on the water through education and training. Our squadron reaches out to all users of various water craft such as canoes, kayaks, PWCs, small open boats, sail boats and power boats. We all benefit when those who pursue water based recreational activities understand and follow safety procedures appropriate to their activity. Recently, two people on Vancouver Island lost their lives to drowning over a period of one week in unrelated accidents.

An accident is an unexpected event. It is not always possible to avoid an accident but it is possible to avoid injury or accidental death by wearing the proper safety equipment, having proper equipment related to your activity and knowing how to summon help in a timely manner. This is sometimes known as “taking the search out of search and rescue”. It takes volunteers time and effort to produce and provide quality educational training; this comes from our members. Becoming a member of CPS and providing education focused on water safety benefits all of our community.

In my last posting I mentioned the *On-line Maritime Radio* course as being available. I since discovered there was something not right in the on-line registration system and the course offered by CPS Pender Island Squadron did not appear among those listed. The course is now listed and available to those wishing to take it. This course is highly interactive and focuses on how to use the radio effectively for maritime communications, radio checks, navigational notifications, marine assistance, and marine rescue. The course is user friendly and will take you through various scenarios for non-emergency and emergency situations. Go to www.boatingcourses.ca to register. Look for the course offered by CPS Pender Island as we will be your examiners.

Beginning February 12, 2024 we will be offering *Basic Navigation and Boat Handling – Part 1*. This course includes sections covering basic navigation skills (using a compass, reading and interpreting nautical charts, understanding the navigation aids - buoy system, and 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 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.

In March we will offer a one day seminar course on weather which will focus on weather and wind conditions encountered in our local waters. Notices and schedules will be forthcoming in February.

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, contact me at davidkirsop@yahoo.ca.

Thanks for reading and stay safe on the water,

David Kirsop, Commander

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

Pender Island Garden Club



I hope that everyone has successfully put their gardens to bed for the season. I think that my raspberries and picked tomatoes have finally called it a year and have ceased to ripen.

Last month we had a very informative session with Kristen Miskelly of Satinflower Nurseries and learned a lot about using native plants to create meadows.

Our Christmas meeting is December 14 at 1 pm, downstairs in the Community Hall.

Next year the Pender Island Garden Club will have been in existence for 50 years. To commemorate this we are planning to create a garden calendar using our members' photographs. Urs Boxler will give a presentation on best practices to photograph our plants and gardens to help us achieve this. After Urs' demonstration we will have an afternoon tea with assorted goodies to celebrate the season.

The drop-in fee for non-members is \$5.

Kathy MacLachlan



Paul Brent
Electoral Area Director
Southern Gulf Islands

250-216-5618
directorsgi@crd.bc.ca

www.crd.bc.ca/southerngulf



Pender Island Junior Sailing Association



Pender Island Junior Sailing Association (PIJSA) has been offering summer dinghy sailing lessons since 1993. This has been possible because of the generosity of many individuals who volunteer their time to serve on a Board, maintain boats, and support instructors by being present on the beach during courses. Last summer, PIJSA had about 80 students enrolled in week-long courses over four weeks. PIJSA needs additional directors and members in the next few months in preparation for the 2024 season. Below is some background of the organization and some changes.

PIJSA is a registered Society, but for many years, the only members have been the Board, which currently has 15 members. In addition, about 10 people volunteer to help in various capacities. The Board is large because the Safety Plan requires 2 - 3 responsible persons in addition to instructors to be present during courses to handle any potential emergency. In practical terms, it is

4 - 6 people, which includes "volunteers". The responsible persons are currently specified as directors, but our insurance provider does not require them to be all directors.

For directors, who are "retired", committing to a week on the beach is not unreasonable, but for some who are still working, this is difficult, and yet they bring valuable skills. In addition, some like the on-hands aspects of working with boats and people, but not the policy issues that directors face.

PIJSA is changing emphasis from a director organization with few if any other members, to a director and member organization, in which members take on only the roles in which they are interested. In doing this, PIJSA hopes that more people will become involved, allowing more people to be available to help during the courses, thus allowing for some to take on commitments of less than a week, even a few days. PIJSA believes that some members might have other responsibilities that involve boat maintenance or registration or communications, for example, but do not involve course duties in the summer.

Directors and members who help while students are present, must have a police background check, as most of our students are children.

PIJSA will continue to encourage parents and grandparents to volunteer when their children or grandchildren are present.

If you have an interest in participating with PIJSA, or want more information, please contact me at 250-818-8555 or kbwaygood@shaw.ca. PIJSA will have its AGM January 28, 2024, and invites all interested people to attend.

Bruce Waygood, Commodore

Pender Island Otters Swim Club



December is here and our fall sessions will come to a close for the holidays on December 15. We want to thank both our coaches, Jack and Deirdre, for working through a rather challenging few months. Our coaches have been working hard to make

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adjustments in group times and to accommodate a record number of registrations, and still deliver a high level of quality instruction. We have had to cap registration for the fall as the numbers wanting to register were exceeding safe group sizes for two coaches. Our call out for help in last month's report did work though, and we will be orienting a new assistant coach for the last couple of weeks of this session. She'll join our coaching staff fully for the winter session starting January 5.

Registration for our winter session will open in late December when we are hoping our webpage will be up and running again. (Our webpage has been down for rebuilding these past two months.) Until then, we can be reached for information by email: penderottersswimclub@gmail.com. General information and registration requests will be forwarded to our registrars for the link to winter registration. That session will run from January 5 to the end of April, but may have to have a two week gap in late March or April when Panorama Pool has planned maintenance on their pool filtration system.

We will introduce our new assistant coach in our January report, but are really glad she has come forward and is very enthusiastic about working and swimming with us. All the best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season to everyone, and we look forward to being able to take on more swimmers in the coming year, now that we have another coach to help out.

Helen Lemon-Moore, President

Pender Post Past



December 1973

Christmas on Pender was celebrated in style in 1973. Not one but two Santa Ships arrived for the island children, one from Victoria and one from Bellingham. The Bellingham ship continues to visit to this day. The School children presented a Christmas 3-act operetta titled *The Little Blue Angel* which was followed by another visit from the Jolly Old Elf himself. New Year's Eve saw a dance held at the Legion Hall to celebrate the start of 1974. The Women's Institute renewed an old tradition of giving a spoon to each baby born onto Pender Island and that year seven spoons were given out. This gives meaning to being born with a silver spoon in your mouth. Not surprisingly a Mrs. Fearn, who was one of the new mothers, advertised in *The Pender Post* looking for new mothers

interested in establishing a group to help with babysitting, advice, and setting up a daycare for those under four etc. to give the new mums some respite when needed.

Nep Grimmer continued with his recollections of life as a young man in 1911/14 on Pender. As his brother Percy enlisted in the service Nep remained behind to keep the farm running. He recalls taking his Jersey bulls to the Fair at the CNE and leading them from the CPR Dock to the Fairground along Hastings Street. Try doing that today! With both his brother and brother-in-law enlisted, Nep had to hire help to keep the farm going and hired Arthur Luty to help. Nep recounted one winter in 1914 when it snowed so hard, they had trouble getting to the barn and when they got there, they discovered the snow had drifted up to the top of the stable door, and as it opened outward, they had to climb up to get into the stable from the barn!

Val Butcher

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Average Temperatures

	Max	Min	Mean
Magic Lake	16.0	8.6	12.3
“Normal”	14.4	7.8	11.1

Extreme Temperatures

High	Low
27.0 on 7th	1.0 on 24th & 27th
27.0 in 2023	-1.0 in 2006

Precipitation

Rain	Snow	Total
117.0 mm		117 mm
96.3 mm		96.3 mm

October is the first month of our five-month wet season; it is almost always a wet month and in thirty-six years there have been only four Octobers when we had less than 40 mm of total precipitation. In those thirty-six-years we had almost zero snow, so statistics give us some idea of what to expect.

This year, October started with temperatures a little above average for the month as one would expect in the fall. It was a surprise when we had a record high for October of 27°C. I have recorded 26°C twice in earlier Octobers, the first time being in 1987 which was my first year as a voluntary observer for Environment Canada. Towards the end of the month we had some frosty

mornings, but the temperature in the Stevenson Screen did not quite get down to zero.

Our Dogwood tree has the most beautiful autumn colour and so have the maples and the magnolia even though they turned later than usual. Our apples are the best ever and there are still a few unpicked; it is a beautiful time of year. There are still only a few occasional ducks and geese on the lake; what has happened to them is a mystery. The good wildlife news is that the lake was stocked with young trout on October 13.

October weather turned out to be typical for October with temperatures and precipitation slightly above average and no snow.

December is our coldest month with the lowest average daily temperatures. The Winter Solstice occurs on December 21. That is when the sun is as far south as it goes and nights start to get shorter. At the end of the year we sometimes think winter is almost over but January and February can be very wintry. There is a 50% chance of getting snow in December. My records show that Pender Island snow is very random in the months of December, January, and February; usually not very much but occasional heavy falls may occur in any of those months.

Malcolm Armstrong

COVER STORY



I took this photo back in December 2021 in the late afternoon. The previous night we had had a fresh fall of snow. Snow on Pender – I gotta check this out! Our property in Stanley Point Estates looked like a winter wonderland! While out enjoying the newly decorated landscape, I noticed the sparkling snow contrasting so vividly with the red, yellow and green leaves of this Oregon Grape growing alongside our driveway. “Photo opp, photo opp!”

I didn’t have my Canon EOS 70D but I did have my Apple iPhone 13. I shot this picture, with an ISO setting of 40, at 26 mm/f 1.6 at 1/122 of a second. Smart camera! I usually shoot in Raw format as I belong to the Pender Island Photo Club where we have a lot of fun with our monthly submissions. This picture was not cropped or enhanced in any way. I was just lucky to capture good old Mother Nature doing her magic.

Ken Sawatsky

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NUMBERS PUZZLE MCA #37 BY MALCOLM ARMSTRONG

I would classify this puzzle as medium hard. I had to make an important choice twice when I was solving it. I made the right choice both times otherwise the puzzle would have taken me much longer and I would classify it as hard. I know that what is hard for one person may be easy for another. I never know how hard or how easy a puzzle is going to be when I construct it so I hope you enjoy the variation.

To solve the puzzle you must put a number, 1 to 9 in each of the small empty squares, but no more than one number 1 to 9 in each row, each vertical column and each block of nine numbers.

Malcolm Armstrong



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

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