



Photo: Will Thomas

Visitors from as far away as Whitehorse and Montreal take part in Hornby Recreation's Sand Castle Competition, this year held on Big Tribune beach on Sunday, August 21. The contest has only two rules: 'No Power Tools' and 'Have Fun'. Left and above: Loa and Lucy add fins to the sculpture 'Fish Eating A Fish'.

School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)

Applications are invited for the temporary contract position of **Early Childhood Educator (ECE)** for the Pender Islands Strong Start BC Centre (Outreach Pilot Project). Please refer to School District No. 64 website at <http://sd64.bc.ca/job-information/> for further information.

Roasting Fancy Coffee
for mail orders since 1982



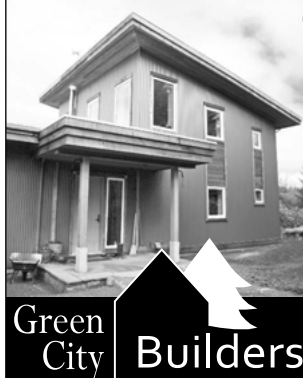
from Thetis Island to you
www.potofgoldcoffee.com

Pender Island Kayak Adventures
ADVENTURE IS CALLING

TOURS • RENTALS • LESSONS • E-BIKE • SUP YOGA RETREATS

TOLL FREE: 1 (855) 629-6939
www.kayakpenderisland.com

New Homes
Renovations
Passive House
Solar Panels



Green City Builders

www.greencitybuilders.ca
250.537.6296

AROUND THE ISLANDS

Pender Islands' New Bus

The Moving Around Pender (MAP) society's new community bus took its first passengers around the island on August 26-28, the weekend of the Fall Fair. The bus was purchased by a combination of fundraising, donations and grant money and is now being driven at designated times by volunteer drivers. It carries passengers from Magic Lake Estates to the Otter Bay ferry terminal and back again, with many stops in between, such as at Medicine Beach, the Health Care Centre, the Driftwood, the Community Hall, the Nu-Tu-Yu, Home Hardware and the Golf Course.

For more info on the bus and its schedules, go to www.movingaroundpender.ca.

Opening Monty's Trail - Lisa Baile

The grand opening of Monty's Trail took place at the Pender Fall Fair on August 27. Karl and Hedi Hamson in their always generous way have allowed the Moving Around Pender society to construct a modest trail across their property. In fact, Karl did a huge amount of the work on this trail himself, including building the very first stile on Pender. The stile allows walkers to get over the fence while keeping Karl's sheep within the field. There's even a 'dog door' to accommodate small dogs. The trail is named after Hedi and Karl's large, enthusiastic Labrador, Monty, known to many of you for his wandering ways. Monty's trail [dogs on leash please—except for Monty!] starts at the back of the Community Hall, winds through the woods and exits just across the road from the Auchterlonie Centre, and is a delightful and safe alternative to using the road.

This is MAP's first trail and it is especially special because it is on private land.

MAP has a long term vision of creating interconnected walking and biking trails on Pender to allow us to leave our cars at home, and enjoy nature while keeping ourselves and the environment in good shape. One way to help achieve this is to have some trails on the private property of community-minded land owners. This is now realistic because MAP has collaborated with trail societies on the other southern Gulf Islands to purchase liability insurance for landowners who agree to allow trails on their land.

Watch for the extension of MAP's trail system which, thanks to careful work by Ron Henshaw, will connect the Community Hall to the Farm Stand, via Valley Home Farm on Linda and Don Weir's property. Way to go Don and Linda! Thanks to their generosity you will soon be able to avoid walking on that traffic-laden stretch of road. Both Monty's Trail and the Valley Home Farm trail are on agricultural land and the owners obtained permission from the ALC to construct these trails.

Galiano's Musical Walkalong

The Galiano Island Walkalong for Learning took place on August 27 this year. The annual fundraiser included a shorter, 4.7km hike and a longer 8.3km

one, both through the Vanilla Leaf Land Reserve. Classically trained musicians were stationed throughout the forest to serenade hikers with music from harp, violin, cello and harmonica. Afterwards, a feast was held by Galiano-based chef Martine Paulin, complete with cake and homemade ice cream hand-churned by Loren and Mary Ruth Wilkinson.

The funds raised by the walk will go towards nature education for city kids. Since 2000, the Galiano Conservancy Association has offered this outdoor education to more than 30,000 participants.

'We provide hands-on direct experience in nature, giving kids access to wild places, big shorelines and old growth forests,' said Galiano Conservancy program coordinator Reed Osler. 'Kids can explore the intertidal zones and learn to identify seaweeds, sea cucumbers, barnacles, chitons, sea urchins, sculpins, crabs, nudibranchs and limpets. They might even help pull down a tree or help plant in the restoration forest.'

'The Walkalong is not only a great community event, it is our sole source of funding for bursaries for children who otherwise would not be able to experience nature education,' says Osler.

Galiano Learning Centre Renamed

A naming ceremony for the Galiano Conservancy Association's (GCA) Learning Centre is taking place on September 24 of this year. The centre is being renamed in honour of Ken and Linda Millard, to commemorate their contributions to the conservancy.

The Millard family gave nearly 30 years of volunteer service on the part of Linda and Ken, along with significant financial donations. Linda created and managed the GCA's community library for many years, with Ken acting as the organization's full-time coordinator until he passed away in September of 2015.

The Millard family's donations helped to purchase and protect land on Galiano Island, including the 188 acre waterfront property that is home to the Learning Centre. On this site, the Galiano Conservancy offers hands-on programs where students of all ages develop skills and creative solutions to help restore the planet. While Ken and Linda's time was given freely and happily, it would not have been possible without their family's deep understanding of the importance of this mission and their generosity in giving up time together. To honour this family's contributions, a new name and entrance sign for the Galiano Learning Centre will be publicly unveiled at this special event.

Sustainable Affordable Housing

A Capital Region Housing Corporation affordable housing complex in Saanich, the Vergo townhouses, has achieved Platinum Level LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification. Vergo is an 18-unit complex with one-, two- and three-bedroom rental townhouses for families with moderate income. The buildings were designed with upgraded insulation and windows, natural lighting,

energy efficient appliances and light fixtures, low volatile organic compound paint and floor coverings, and natural landscaping.

LEED is an international rating system for sustainability which is used in 150 countries worldwide. The certificate is based on sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

Victoria Foundation Turns 80

With the Victoria Foundation's 80th anniversary coming up in September, local attractions are opening their doors to the public free of charge on September 17. Places as diverse as the Robert Bateman Centre, Boulders Climbing Gym, the Maritime Museum of BC, and the Abkhazi Garden will be open for free in honour of the Victoria Foundation, which is the second oldest and sixth largest community foundation in Canada.

'Commitment to community is a cornerstone of the Victoria Foundation,' CEO Sandra Richardson said. 'So we wanted to mark this important milestone with an inclusive, cooperative event, highlighting the importance of partnership and celebrating all this region has to offer. It's our birthday gift to the community.'

The foundation began in 1936 when Burges Gadsden, a volunteer at a local soup kitchen, founded it. Since then it has invested more than \$1.8 million in the community.

Gabriola Air Quality Monitoring

The Gabriola Island Clean Air Society is creating an air quality monitoring system across their island. They have deployed four air monitors on Gabriola and another in nearby Parksville and hope to have more monitors in operation soon.

Gabriola's clean air society is hoping these monitors will help give early alert of fires to fire crews and will pinpoint on-island areas of high pollution caused by residential activities such as illegal burning and garbage incineration. The sensors will also allow islanders to monitor the effects of off-island air pollution on Gabriola. Data will show just what effects a nearby Nanaimo pulp mill paper operation has on the air quality of the island.

And lastly, the clean air society is hoping their monitors will be able to provide baseline data that will help record the effects of five large ship anchorages that are currently proposed just off-shore of Gabriola.

The air monitoring technology, from the company PurpleAir, connects to wireless internet and broadcasts 24-hour air quality data onto an online map, which can be found at map.purpleair.org.

This map shows the entire world, with data for all PurpleAir systems currently in operation. For instance, upon writing this, the air quality is great in Moscow, but marked as 'unhealthy for sensitive groups' in the city of Chubbuck, Idaho. Air quality on Gabriola is shown as healthy on the map, with the Air Quality Index number typically hovering between 15 and 30 (as opposed to Chubbuck's 128).