

seaview breeze

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSLETTER

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seaviewbreezenews@gmail.com



Downy Woodpecker by BARBARA PROWSE

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WELCOME to the Fall/Winter Edition of the **Seaview Breeze Semi-Annual Newsletter** and a new look for the Breeze. As your new editor, it my pleasure to put this together for you; *this is your neighbourhood newsletter and made possible by your contributions*. Thanks to all who wrote articles and submitted photos; we welcome all input. As well, please send me your news bites, of which I am happy to send out at any time throughout the year to our readership: seaviewbreezenews@gmail.com

Cheers,

Elaine Prodor (Editor)

and Lois Clyde (Proofreader)

Beginnings . . . the history of our road

by CHRISTINE GORNALL

In the beginning...the Tree of Man that had emerged in Africa branched off into a group of hominins that began emigrating to other parts of the world. One group of migrants went eastward and found the east coast of Vancouver Island on the Salish Sea. ...Another group travelled westward to Europe. The Coast Salish people of north central eastern Vancouver Island occupied a territory from the Salmon River watershed and Discovery Islands to the Englishman River watershed, and from Texada Island to the interior lakes and mountains of north central Vancouver Island.

These lands became known as The Traditional Territory of the K'omoks First Nation. They never consented to relinquish these lands which today remain their unceded traditional territory. The sandy beaches near the Black Creek were excellent summer hunting and gathering areas for the K'omoks people and for thousands of years they hunted elk in the peat bogs near the creek, beaver in the swampy areas west of Williams beach, and harvested abundant seafood from the shores and deep waters of the Salish Sea. Eventually the hominin migrants who had settled in Europe heard stories from the Salish Land of Plenty and ventured here in wooden ships in the 1600s and 1700s to explore the possibilities for advancement. They found a paradise of land and rich resources. They informed their

countrymen back home in Spain and Britain of riches and trade routes by sea to other lands. They noted that this paradise was already occupied by other hominins but the general opinion was that these first peoples were backward and would be easily persuaded to hand over their vast, rich territory in exchange for trinkets.

Surveyors and developers arrived in the early 1800s and the lands of the K'omoks people were granted to hominins from Europe to occupy and develop according to their very different vision. In 1860, the first settler hominins arrived in the Land of Plenty and by 1862 more than half the K'omoks people had died of diseases the settlers brought. In 1875, the E&N Railway Act easily granted their lands for rail

development along the coast...a portent that the mighty forests of spruce, fir, cedar, and hemlock fringing the three golden beaches would soon fall to the logger's arm. In 1886, the Miracle Beach area was first surveyed by the Province of British Columbia and a 283 hectare parcel was purchased by Mr. Theed Pearse, a wealthy Courtenay lawyer whose wife's name was Elma. In 1926, a logging camp near the mouth of the Black Creek was established and 25 men hand-felled the valuable trees for Hilton and Tame Logging Co. A donkey engine dispatched them onto flat deck rail cars. They were unloaded at a booming ground at Elma Bay to wait for tugs to haul them to sawmills in Vancouver. The old railroad grade is now the centre campground road of Miracle Beach Provincial Park. Rail spurs rolled on throughout the area as trees fell and farmland replaced the sea of stumps. The memory of the K'omoks people harvesting abundance here in an intricate and choreographed dance with the natural world was reduced to several middens found along the Seaview Farm shoreline, near the Nature House in Miracle Beach Park, and along Clarkson Drive. So complete was their displacement by cultural contact that few people who now occupy their lands even know that the K'omoks people were ever here.

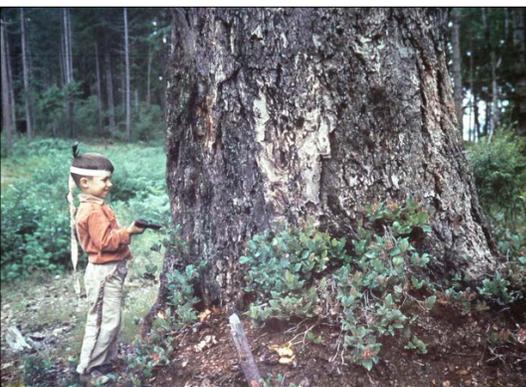


Mrs. Betty Brooks holds a stone pestle she found on Seaview Farm shore midden, evidence of pre-settler occupation of this area by Coast Salish people.

Another settler appeared here in the late 1940s and purchased 1000 acres of land including 2.5 miles of waterfront. His name was Frank Pottage. A successful lawyer, land developer, and entrepreneur from Alberta, he brought his family to the B.C. coast and was lured by the golden beaches near the mouth of the Black Creek. He generously donated 30 acres of land to the Province in the early 1950s and also sold land at his cost for the creation of Miracle Beach Provincial Park in 1952. The Province in turn agreed to provide public road access so that Mr. Pottage could develop his land for a seaside resort and residential subdivision. The Park facilities in the early 1950s consisted of a parking lot, a picnic shelter, and about 50 campsites. 135 concrete beach groins, visible today, were placed on the sand flats to collect and stabilize the beach sand.

The subdivision of Frank Pottage's land along a dirt shoreside road called Seaview in the 1950s began the era of residen-

tial development which drew purchasers looking for seaside holiday sanctuaries for their families and potential retirement havens. Some settled growing families here permanently and their children attended local schools. Three seaside resorts along the Seaview shore delighted generations of summer guests; Miracle Beach Resort (established by Frank Pottage and built by his son Alan), The Golden Anchor, and Tina's Trailer Park. At the other end of the road a spectacular 168 acre parcel of waterfront land rich with wetlands, fish bearing creeks, and arable land was bought by an American lawyer in 1945 and later sold in 1973 to another American, Mr. Paul Pflieger, who developed it as a farm. Today the farm delights visitors with pastoral scenery, fresh seasonal produce, and unique farm animal experiences.



Larrie Pottage, age 6, beside the grand tree in front of Janice and Bob Lee's house. (1962)

The Pottage family farm remains iconic in the history of Seaview Road and Frank Pottage's son Alan raised his three children here on the farm with his prairie sweetheart Junita Lindstrom. Larrie Pottage was born here in 1956 and remembers childhood days on Seaview Road in the then family home which is now Bob and Janice Lee's garage! His father didn't like the damp waterfront location so moved his family to its present farmhouse property on "the other side" of the road! Larrie and his girl-next-door bride Bernadine raised their five children there and continued to witness the incoming tide of newcomers to Seaview Road. Among the earliest were the Horst Stotzer family, the Bill Enns family, the Allan Brooks family, and the Percy Sundberg family. All of these pioneers along with the Pottage family have surviving members to tell their stories of the early years on Seaview Road. ≈

Stay tuned to the Seaview Breeze for the next scintillating chapter!

Black Creek Estuary Trail at Miracle Beach Park

Many of you will have seen the orange plastic fencing and signage closing off the Black Creek Estuary Trail at Miracle Beach Park. As you might know, the beautiful estuary trail has been closed for a month or so and this past week two of the three bridges were demolished. The third will be removed shortly.



The Estuary Trail at Miracle Beach Park, before and after the removal of one of its bridges.

Derek Moore is the B.C. Parks' Area Supervisor in charge of the provincial park and has indicated that the trail was closed for safety reasons – specifically, the poor condition of the bridges. While no final decision has been made, he said that the general consensus within B.C. Parks is that the trail should be closed permanently. Derek said that the issues of climate change and the rising sea level need to be considered regarding maintaining a trail with a number bridges along an estuary.

Derek stated that B.C. Parks plans to host a public information meeting around the beginning of November to discuss this issue and broader immediate and long-term issues as they relate to Miracle Beach Park such as alternate trails, bike trails, other environmental concerns, and dogs in the park and on the beach.

I expressed my concern that no notice was given to park users regarding the trail closure nor was information posted that there would be a consultation process. I suggested that short-term solutions could have been used to maintain the trail until the consultation took place, e.g. plywood on the bridges. Further, I suggested that Parks post a notice at both ends of the closed off portion of the trail informing the public of the upcoming public information meeting.

I look forward to a good discussion in November and hope that Seaview Road will be well represented at the meeting. ≈

— Paul Barnett



Thanks to Helen for once again hosting a Canada Day gathering. It was a little breezy but a good time was had by all. Happy 151st Canada!



CANADA DAY
on Seaview Road



Saratoga Beach facilities at Seaman Road are open and fully accessible



In 2016, The Saratoga and Miracle Beach Residents Association Beach Committee was formed by Paul Barnett (Chair) with members Lorraine Blondeel, Pauline Woodland, Deborah Sundberg, and John Hyde. The committee began to consider problems at Saratoga Beach regarding garbage and sanitation. Documents in the archives indicated a plan had been formed in 2003, however nothing was completed after the initial planning stage.

After consultation and cooperation with many levels of government, most notably the exceptionally helpful staff of the Comox Valley Regional District, a plan was formed to construct permanent facilities at Seaman Road. Construction commenced in May and on July 9th, the new facility at Seaman Road was officially opened by CVRD directors. A highlight of the event was the Beach Committee’s relentless attention to the delivery of hot dogs, Mexi pops, and pop. The ribbon cutting ceremony was attended to by SAM-BRA president Curtis Scoville and Area C director Edwin Grieve.

Features of the new facility include improved parking, a fully accessible trail to the beach, a dedicated parking stall, toilet, change room, garbage, refundables recycling, bike rack, cigarette butt collector, loading zone, and accessible parking.

The Saratoga Beach Access Park is located off Clarkson Avenue, one block south of Eyre Road which previously served as the main beach access. The beach committee hopes you will visit the site and enjoy it. We welcome comments and suggestions regarding our beautiful beaches. ≈

— John Hyde

www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/saratogabeach



(Ribbon cutting photo by Maureen Scoville, all others by Elaine Prodor)

Pesky Critters!

Well, Seaview residents, it’s that time of year again for Mo’s rant on rats — this is when our four legged rodents start looking for warm places for the winter. So here’s your reminder to stay vigilant for signs of rat droppings and nesting sites and keep your traps, etc. handy. Rats can breed throughout the year if conditions are right so they may not stop in winter.

One female can produce up to five litters a year. Gestation periods are 21 days & litters can number up to 14 although 7 is more common. Rats can reach sexual maturity in about five weeks so a population can multiply very quickly. If a large fraction of the population is exterminated the remaining rats will increase the reproduction rate to restore the old population level. You can see that it is important to maintain a level of extermination.

Females are capable of becoming pregnant immediately after giving birth and can nurse one litter while pregnant with another.

Rats can do a lot of damage to your home so go around and stuff steel wool into any hole bigger than 1/4 inch (that’s where mice can get in...rats need 1/2 inch...not very big!) Because their teeth never stop growing, they have to continually chew to wear down their teeth hence your water pipes, rafters, etc. are prime chewing surfaces.

Once they gain entry to an area it is not always easy to block it so prevention is the best key.



We have had a very good year of ‘no rats’ which is encouraging after battling them for the previous three years. I’m hoping it’s because folks on the road did something about them last year because this is a community problem and we all need to pitch in to exterminate as many as possible. ≈

— Mo Ross

PHOTO GALLERY



'Four Seasons of Seaview Road'
by GLENN ROGERS



'Seaview Sunset' by BARBARA PROWSE



'Dusk' by BARBARA PROWSE



'First Sunrise of Fall' by LOIS CLYDE

“BANG-BANG, WHIRR-WHIRR, VROOM-VROOM”

Seaview Road Suburbia?

“Sheila! Look at this! That idiot Ross guy down the road has written another entry in the Seaview Breeze complaining about the rest of us. What a twit!”

“Tim! Relax! What idiot? What twit? What are you on about this time?”

“Don’t you remember that time about five years ago he wrote that Seaview Road should have a bloody quiet time in the late afternoon and we should shut off all our power toys...I mean tools... around 4 pm? He’s after us again! Imagine!”

“I remember that. I mentioned at the time that it seemed like a pretty good idea and you went out in a huff and promptly started mowing the lawn!”

“And what’s wrong with that! If my lawn needs mowing then I’ll mow it! I worked for over forty years so I could retire and play with my toys...I mean use my tools on any day and at any time I wish!”

“But it was pouring rain and dark!”

“No problem anymore, Sheila. Crappy Tire has a sale this week on lawnmowers with LED headlights! And it’s only 800 bucks!”

“They should put better mufflers on them, Tim, rather than headlights! Besides...we have neighbours all around us. It’s not like we live in the center of a 10 acre parcel. Anyway, you should trade that mower for an electric one that would be way quieter and wouldn’t stink up the air either! Better still...get a push mower. You might even get more exercise. And you could even consider using a broom to sweep our huge 10 by 10 patio rather than using that obnoxious blower!”

“Sheila...you just don’t get it do you? People way smarter than me invented all these toys..I mean tools, so people like us could enjoy our increased leisure time.”

“What increased leisure time, Tim??? When you aren’t actually cutting, or trimming, or blowing, or planing, or sanding or shredding with one of your infernal power toys, you’re running off to Home Creepo to see what new power toy they’ve invented to do some chore that you didn’t even know needed doing!!!!”

“Hold on, Sheila! Hold on! Look at thisnow the idiot has gone too far! Not only is he concerned about all the unnecessary noise, but now he’s talking about dark skies! He actually suggests that we turn off our outside lights when we’re done for the evening. Supposedly it’s easier to see the stars. The nerve of this guy. Oh no! There’s more! He even thinks we could all drive a bit slower on the road. He makes up some nonsense about it being safer for children, deer, and pets. Just wait until this guy hears my new drone! It’s designed so that you can fly it really close to the patio or driveway and the wash from the blades will blow all the needles and leaves off the concrete without you even having to leave your lawn chair. Brilliant!”

“Uh-h-h Tim?”

“Yeah Sheila?”

“And how then do you pick up all those needles and leaves from the garden beds and the lawn?”

“Well...I still have my power vac!”

“Right, Tim. Goodnight. And before you come to bed please turn off the outside light? Thanks.” ≈

Note: Now I feel better. I may also have regained my reputation as one of Seaview’s notable cur-mudgeons. Obviously no one should take this personally though, as it’s not peculiar to our end of the road – Bob and Liz had to drag their house away on a barge to get some peace and quiet!

— Neil Ross



CHEERS! ITALIAN WINES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

by VALERIE VAN DER GRACHT

Italian wines are made to be paired with food and are always better when accompanied. Usually fatty or rich foods pair best, charcuterie or red meats go well with Italian reds that are richer and heavier. On the other hand, I find a Pinot Noir (or as is the case here an Italian similar to a Pinot Noir) goes well with turkey. Here are my top three picks:

1. Vigneti Zau Il Passo Nerello Mascalese Nero d’Avola 2016

Sicily as a wine region is becoming more popular with their push towards quality. A region that was previously known for mostly bottling wine from grapes that were not their own. This wine is like a pinot noir without the tannins. I found it really, really good with a smoky aroma. The grapes are a native variety grown in volcanic soils. The wines and region are currently the hottest, hippest wine region, the Burgundy of Italy. Grown in a hot, dry climate, rot is not an issue. This wine was delicious, excellent, and my #1 of reds. I would pair this with Thanksgiving or Christmas turkey dinner. \$22.99 sku 699835 On sale for \$19.99 until October 27. *Region: Sicily*



2. Casale del Giglio Lazio Cesanese Rosso 2016

An ancient grape variety and native to this region. With spicy aromas of cinnamon on the nose and palate with slight smoky aromas. Very dark with great legs, for this varietal ripening is challenging. It is juicy with gentle tannins, surprisingly light but refreshing with a richness and freshness but not heavy. Would pair wonderfully with a ravioli with fresh, seasonal tomatoes. At this point the Cesanese Rosso was my favourite so far, in the end I ranked it #2 of the reds. \$23.99 sku 646711 On sale at \$22.49 until October 27. *Region: Lazio*



3. Feudo Maccari Nero D’Avola, IGP Terre Siciliane 2016

The grapes for this wine are grown in the most southerly region of Italy. The wine was darker than Nero d’Avola and lighter than the Cesanese Rosso. Made with no oak and exhibits a purity of the grape variety. It was rich with a fruity aroma, light with a tart finish and flavourful. My #3 of the reds. \$19.99 sku 144923 On sale at \$18.49 until October 27. *Region: Sicily*



Find the full article at: <http://myvancity.ca/2018/10/03/flavours-italy-presented-italian-trade-commission-ita-italian-chamber-commerce-canada-west-collaboration-bclddb/>

BONJOUR!

C'est amusant! (Study the picture first and then read this story)



A French policeman stops the Englishman's car and asks if he has been drinking. With great difficulty, the Englishman admits that he has been drinking all day, that his daughter got married that morning, and that he drank champagne and a few bottles of wine at the reception, and many single malts scotches thereafter.

Quite upset, the policeman proceeds to alcohol-test (breath test) the Englishman and verifies that he is indeed totally sloshed. He asks the Englishman if he knows why, under French Law, he is going to be arrested.

The Englishman answers with a bit of humour, "No sir, I do not! But while we're asking questions, do you realize that this is a British car and that my wife is driving on the other side?" ≈

— Barrie Barnes

BOOK REVIEW

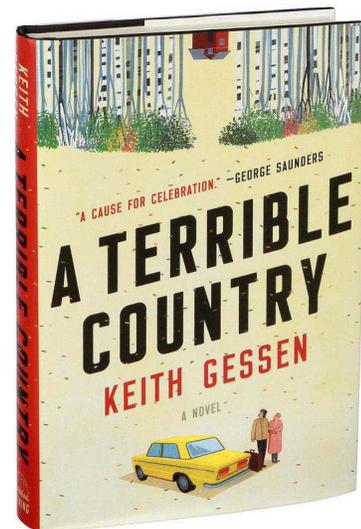
A Terrible Country by Keith Gessen

Dear Reader, as the winter and its rain and gloom bear down upon us, it is helpful to retreat into a good book. I am always seeking such solace and so I thought I'd share a suggestion.

The good news is Keith Gessen's **A Terrible Country** is not a terrible book! Interesting, flawed Andrei has lost his way and returns to his birthplace, Moscow, ostensibly to care for his ailing Grandmother but hoping to find purpose and a sense of belonging. The son of Russian emigrés to America, he has never felt like he has quite found his footing. His graduate studies in Russian literature have failed to produce any result, either personal or professional, and he hopes reconnecting with his homeland will provide a path forward.

Through the author's eyes we are given insights into the Moscow of 2008 as well as reflections on how the society has changed since the break up of the Soviet Union. But fear not, this is not a learned tome! There is a great deal of humour in the book and Andrei isn't a sniveling whiner. He has many adventures and demonstrates a lot of pluck. Descriptions of his attempts to find a hockey team to play with are funny if somewhat profane. The development of his relationship with his Grandmother, who has secrets of her own, is touching and authentic, and the descriptions of her fragility and feistiness ring true. Poignant and comic in equal measure, **A Terrible Country** is ultimately a tale of weakness and delusion but we are taken for a wonderful journey along the way. ≈

— Barbara Prowse



HOLIDAY RECIPES TO SHARE!

PEARS in RED WINE

Peel pears but leave in the core.

Place in slow cooker or saucepan, add a mixture of red wine and water (1 to 1) to cover pears.

Simmer with 2 1/2 C sugar for about 6 hours.

Drain, reserving wine in a saucepan. Refrigerate pears.

Reduce wine mixture until thickened, refrigerate until ready to serve. Pour over pears and serve with whipped cream and/or ice cream.

Alternatively, bring pears to room temperature, heat sauce gently and then pour over.

— Helen Hays

CRABAPPLE CHEESE SLICE

Cream together 1/2 C butter with 1 C. sharp grated cheese.

Add 1 1/2 C flour + 1 tsp baking powder + 2 T sugar. Crumble together.

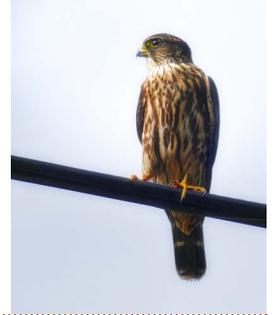
Press 1/2 of mix into an 8x8 pan. Spread with 1 C crabapple jelly. Place remaining crumbs on top.

Bake 350°F for 30 minutes. Cool and cut into squares.

This is ridiculously easy and delicious...savoury with a touch of fruity sweetness. And, making it provides me with a great memory of learning to bake with my Mom.

— Shelly Hollingshead

NOTICE BOARD



'Sharp Shinned Hawk'
by BARBARA PROWSE

Winter Art Classes and Workshops on the Road

Kathi Rudko Artworks

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For more information, visit:
www.elaineprodor.com

ISLAND VOICES CHAMBER CHOIR

JENN FORSLAND, MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Present

To Shorten Winter's Sadness

7:30pm, Friday November 23,
Campbell River United Church,
425 Pinecrest Road,
Info: 250 203 0471

7:30pm, Saturday November 24,
Comox United Church,
250 Beach Drive,
Info: 250 898 4773

Tickets \$20 (students free with an adult)
Music Plant (Campbell River)
Benjamin Moore House of Colour (Courtenay)
Blue Heron Books (Comox)
www.islandvoiceschamberchoir.bc.ca

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seaviewbreezenews@gmail.com

