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Inflight
Magazine for
Pacific Coastal
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TOP OF THE WORLD

Ted Allsopp skis
all 78 hills in BC
and Alberta

GREEN GOLD

Mining on
Jade Mountain

RIDING HIGH

Pacific Coastal backs
Paralympic hopeful

Pacific Coastal
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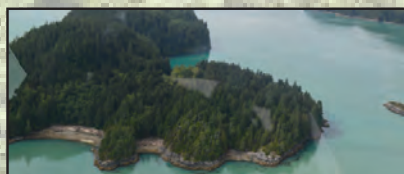
Cordero Channel, BC Coast: 178 incredible forested oceanfront acres with 3700ft of beautiful and diverse shoreline on BC's mainland coast, a well-protected bay, southern exposure and a year round creek. The last acreage of its kind in one of BC's most amazing south central coast regions. **\$998,750**



Kyuquot Sound, Walters Cove: Great fishing and outdoor recreation from this west coast Vancouver Island water-access community. Government dock near all properties.
*older home, deep water moorage **\$99,900**
*6 bdrm home **\$179,500**
*1100sqft home, new private moorage **\$179,900**



Cortes Island Oceanfront Home: 2.4 oceanfront acres in protected Gorge Harbour with an appealing 3000sqft custom home, 550ft of shoreline and exceptional deep water moorage. The home offers a bright, open concept, natural light and extensive local wood finishing details. All services are in place. Zoning allows additional guest cottage. **\$735,000**



Shewell Island: 164 acre private island in Knight Inlet, BC Central Coast. Fully forested, diverse shoreline, varied topography. Adjacent to mainland inlets close to Vancouver Island and Broughton Archipelago, providing quick easy access to numerous waterways and islands. Remains of the old homestead. This is an amazing coastal wilderness location. **\$765,000**



Discovery Passage Oceanfront Property: Located 20 minutes north of Campbell River, this diverse 2.5 acre property with 500ft of oceanfront sits on the western tip of Browns Bay. It offers high bank and low bank frontage, one of a kind views, good road access and services to the property. Marina facilities in Browns Bay. One of only four privately owned titles. **\$328,000**



Bute Inlet Oceanfront: A spectacular 17.3-acre property with approx. 2500ft of south facing, low bank oceanfront 25 nautical miles up Bute inlet. 3 small streams/creeks, beautiful sand and gravel beaches at low tides. Dramatic views. Direct access to miles of Forest Service roads. Some of the best salmon and trout fishing literally from the beach. **\$680,000**



Farquharson Island: 135 acre private island with 2.9 miles of shoreline in protected Cracroft Inlet between Knight Inlet and Johnstone Strait on the south central BC coast. Primarily moderate topography with a few dramatic rock outcrops, diverse shoreline. Access to amazing fishing, wildlife and outdoor exploration and recreation. **\$655,000**



West Coast Vancouver Island: Lyall Point, Barklay Sound. Three 10 acre oceanfront properties remaining. Extensive oceanfront, level gradual topography. Adjacent to the Broken Island Marine Group Park. This region is renowned for everything the west coast has to offer. The best value west coast oceanfront. **\$83,600 - \$103,400**



Quadra Island Oceanfront Home: Situated in Open Bay on Quadra Island. This is a quiet, peaceful, picturesque neighbourhood of oceanfront acreages. Offering includes nicely forested 5 acres, 265ft of oceanfront, a 2800sqft custom quality home, a separate guest cottage as well as a detached garage/shop. Licensed area for moorage. **\$779,000**



Quadra Island Oceanfront Acreage: An intriguing 31.42 acre property with 243ft of oceanfront on the shores of protected Gowlland Harbour. This homestead property has an amazing forest with lots of old growth and is presently undeveloped. Conveniently located minutes from the ferry and island amenities. The property is in the Agricultural Land Reserve. **\$549,900**



Quatsino Sound: This 50 acre property has approximately 500ft of protected low bank oceanfront, a private 6 acre lake and Otto Creek with cutthroat trout and migrating salmon. Diverse topography with substantial internal road network, views and privacy. It was logged and has been completely replanted. Electricity is available on Quatsino Rd. **\$175,000**



Neroutsos Inlet: Three large oceanfront acreages, 31.1 - 44.7 acres, 1400 - 2700ft of diverse oceanfront. On the shores of Neroutsos Inlet across from the village of Port Alice. 45 minute drive via forest service road or 5 minutes by water access, leaving from Port Alice. Gated driveways. Seasonal creeks border each property. Affordable oceanfront. **\$115,000 - \$130,000**

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Photo: Courtesy Big White Ski Resort

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An advertisement for the Granville Island Hotel. At the top, the letters 'G.I.H.' are written in a large, elegant, orange cursive font. Below this, the text 'GRANVILLE ISLAND HOTEL' is written in a bold, black, serif font, followed by 'VANCOUVER'S ISLAND OASIS' in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The main headline, 'Vancouver's best kept secret', is written in a large, black, cursive font. The background of the advertisement is a photograph of the hotel building, which is a modern, multi-story structure with a prominent red glass facade, situated on a waterfront. The hotel is surrounded by lush greenery and a marina with several boats docked. In the distance, the Vancouver skyline and a bridge are visible under a clear sky.

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Let it snow!

With winter just around the corner, Canadians begin thinking about snow and in British Columbia that means the beginning of yet another ski season.

Last year's conditions were less than ideal — to say the least — and there is certainly pent up demand for skiing this year. Not surprisingly, the BC ski community has been keeping a watchful eye on alpine weather conditions across the province in eager anticipation. So far, there are signs that this season may prove to be one of the best in quite some time.

Whistler, Sun Peaks and even Cypress Mountain are open at the time of writing this article and RED Mountain Resort is scheduled to open December 12. The Okanagan region has recorded significant snow fall already and Big White Ski Resort opened on November 13, the earliest start there since the 2001/2002 season.

Skiers on southern Vancouver Island will no doubt be interested in our new non-stop service between

Victoria and Kelowna, which flies twice daily during the week and once each day on weekends.

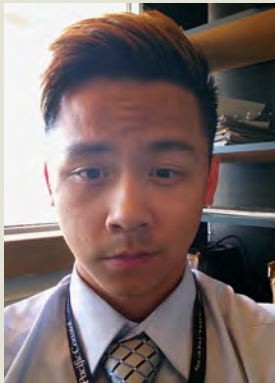
The one-hour-long flight drops skiers off at Kelowna International Airport within easy reach of Big White, Crystal Mountain, Silver Star and Apex to name a few, as well as a number of heli-ski operations in the Okanagan region. There are regularly scheduled shuttles that go between the airport and nearby ski resorts several times each day.

Another exciting feature for skiers is that all of our fares include 50 pounds of free checked baggage, which will generally cover the weight of skis and/or a ski bag.

I hope to see lots of skiers on our flights this season. Let it snow!



MEET A PACIFIC COASTAL EMPLOYEE



Name: MARCUS LEE
Position: Ramp Attendant / Customer Service Agent
Time with Pacific Coastal: Two years
Based in: Vancouver, BC

What do you like best about this job? The best thing about my job is that I get to continually meet new people every day, even for just a moment. I can be the person to bring them the smile they need, whether it's in the morning or at the end of their day. In addition, the environment and atmosphere at Pacific Coastal is amazing, not to mention the employees I get to work with. Everyone is cheery and they were very welcoming when I first started with the Pacific Coastal family.

Where do you live? Richmond, British Columbia.

Where did you grow up? Moncton, New Brunswick.

What are your hobbies outside of the job? Outside of work, I enjoy volleyball, softball and going to the gym. As well, I really enjoy spending my time with my friends and that entails mostly going out and trying new and different foods around Greater Vancouver.

Anything else you'd like to share? I would like to thank the Pacific Coastal family for making the time I've been with the airline so enjoyable. I hope to continue pursuing the goals and visions of PCA. And I'd like to give a shout out to all my co-workers at YVR (Ramp & CSAs).

OUR CONTRIBUTORS



Susan Lundy is a freelance writer, author and editor, who grew up in Victoria and now writes for and edits several publications.



Sean McIntyre Sean McIntyre is a journalist who lives on Salt Spring Island, where he enjoys writing about the people and places that make BC special.



Montreal-born **Brian Kieran** has worked for several BC newspapers that have taken him from England to Qatar.



Alyn Edwards began his career as a reporter for major newspapers and TV stations. He is currently a partner in Peak Communicators and writes for a number of newspapers and magazines.



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Riding High

PACIFIC COASTAL AIRLINES BACKS 2016 PARALYMPIC HOPEFUL

By SEAN MCINTYRE

When the opportunity arose early in his airport career, Tristen Chernove never thought twice about applying for a management position at one of Canada's busiest airports.

It didn't matter that he was relatively new in the organization, that he was a fresh face to the industry or that he would be viewed as young for the position.

When questioned about his youth, Chernove didn't hesitate with his answer.

"You can have a thousand experiences in your life, but that doesn't mean that you have wisdom," he recalls telling his panel of interviewers.

"You can have one experience and get more out of it than another person might from the experiences of a lifetime. It's all about the introspection that you apply from that experience.

"I savour my experiences, and I try to get as much out of each one that I can."

Thanks in part to Pacific Coastal Airlines' decision to cover flight expenses between Cranbrook and the Lower Mainland, Chernove is now about to embark upon an experience unlike any other, working to qualify for a spot on Canada's Paralympic team.

Back in 2009, Chernove began to lose coordination in his lower legs and developed weakening and loss of control. A specialist discovered he had Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, or CMT, a little-known hereditary disorder that affects the nervous system, producing muscular dystrophy symptoms.

Given his thriving career, young family and passion for sport, the news hit hard, but Chernove didn't skip a beat. It was just another obstacle, another challenge to overcome.

"Initially I was scared of what the future might look like for me, my beautiful wife and brilliant, young daughters. After kind of getting my head around the realities of that diagnosis, I decided what I really wanted to do is find out how my body would respond



to using the affected part of it as much as possible, as intensely as possible and as hard as possible to try to counteract the disease's progression as much as I could," he says.

CMT research was in its infancy and doctors said they saw no reason why Chernove shouldn't pick up a bike and go for a ride.

"Exercise? Yes, but don't overdo it," Chernove was told.

"So I really took up cycling in a much bigger way," he says. "Also, it doesn't hurt that I live in what I think is the best place in the world to be a cycling enthusiast. Cranbrook has hundreds of kilometres of forest single track, quiet secondary roads and a wonderful community of passionate cyclists. It was a natural draw to be outside riding bikes."

Three years later, the neural disorder in Chernove arms had begun to show signs of improvement and his legs were deemed to

have had no further degeneration.

Chernove travels to the Lower Mainland via PCA regularly to train and compete at the legendary Friday night cycling races at the Burnaby Velodrome.

PCA has worked with Chernove for years in his role as airport manager at Cranbrook's Canadian Rockies International Airport.

"While we knew he had been an accomplished athlete, we had no idea about his condition, or his determination to focus on cycling and to raise awareness and research funds," says Kevin Boothroyd, the airline's director of sales and marketing. "This is in keeping with the humble man we have come to know."

He added, "Once we learned about this disease, its impact on him and his family, and what he was planning to do to raise awareness and funds for research, we immediately stepped up to provide him with free flights to assist with his training efforts now and into the future. Simply put, it was the right thing to do."

Since he began cycling competitively, Chernove has posted a string of impressive finishes at events in British Columbia and across the country. He placed second-overall in the tough, 156-kilometre 2015 Kootenay Gran Fondo, placed well in the BC Bike Race on his mountain bike, and earned silver and bronze medals in the National Track Cycling Championships in Milton, Ontario this past October.

"Those races were my first track races, and it was my first time racing out of a gate, but it all was a wonderful experience," he says. "It's some of the most fun I can remember having on a bike since that exhilaration of first learning to ride as a young child. It's really a thrill."

It took a couple more years before Chernove landed that senior position at YVR, but his answer to the panel of interviewers back in 2002 continues to serve him well.

It came in handy while he worked as a

“I wanted to find out how my body would respond to using the affected part of it as much as possible, as intensely as possible and as hard as possible.”

whitewater guide and world-class competitive paddler. It proved essential when he was partially paralyzed with a fractured back after a traffic accident (thrown through the windshield of a bus) in northern Mexico's remote Sierra Madre Mountains.

It's the sum of every savoured experience that's helped Chernove thrive professionally in the airport industry in Cyprus, Jamaica, Bahamas, United Kingdom, Vancouver, Cranbrook and, most recently, as the founder of Elevate Airports, an airport management, operations and consulting company.

“Breaking my back in Mexico was like a little training camp for developing the tools, outlook and focus on what really matters to me in life. I owe a lot to intention and always being absolutely sure that whatever is in front of me has been put there for a reason and not being stuck or getting blocked by obstacles, instead adjusting my path,” he says. “Like a river through a boulder garden, I try not to get pinned against a rock or pulled into a back eddy for too long. I go where the fast, deep water wants to take me.”

More recently, Chernove's rosy outlook and determination has got him eyeing a spot on Team Canada's cycling squad for the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games; the way things are going, he might even make it for Rio de Janeiro next summer.

Chernove's success on the racing circuit has given sponsors and coaches something to get excited about too. During the summer, Chernove was picked as a member of Canada NextGen Olympic training program. Thanks to ongoing support from PCA, Chernove can keep training in Burnaby, the location of Western Canada's lone indoor cycling track.

Chernove is focused on raising money for research, treatment and eventually a cure for hereditary neuropathies. He's grateful for supportive friends, family and acquaintances. During the past year he's achieved 70 per cent of his goal to raise \$10,000 for the Hereditary Neuropathy Foundation. As he cycles, Chernove is fueled by the knowledge that more can be done to fill in many of the blanks that surround CMT, which is believed to affect as many as 2.6 million people worldwide.



Pacific Coastal Airlines is happy to back Paralympic hopeful Tristen Chernove.

Photo by Sean McIntyre

Doing his part to help researchers find a cure is just another obstacle asking to be overcome.

“The universe is unfolding exactly as it should,” Chernove says. “If the path I'm on comes to a big challenge or a roadblock, I get excited because, for me, change has always been for the positive and a change means new experience.”

Fun never asks how old you are.

It's much more fun to roll in the fast lane with friends — staying healthy and strong for life's third act. I've earned it.

Shot on location at Miracle Lanes, Sidney

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It takes a Village...



Pacific Landing offers a whole new way of living

The budding village community at Havenwood on the Western Shores of Victoria BC is one of many new communities popping up in the area, but unlike its competition, Pacific Landing offers much more than just location. It's an idea whose time has come and developer Randy Royer is poised to offer something unlike anything on the market today.

Appealing to the ever growing aging demographic, this six-phase development will host over 100 luxury residential units, a boutique hotel, a wellness centre, spa and two restaurants, including the transformation of the old Pendray Mansion on the lagoon to a fine dining establishment with pub style seating below. It will also include a seasonal farmers market, community cooking theatre, floor-to-ceiling-glass-walled yoga studio, a community garden and village square with ever changing artisan kiosks.

While this sounds like an incredible undertaking, this team has a proven record of creating something where nothing exists — and it all starts with location.

Pacific Landing, The Village at Havenwood is located on over 12 acres of untouched protected waterfront, neighbour to elite Royal Roads University, surrounded by miles of forest and just steps to the rapidly growing Western Communities.

The vision of this community has been seven years in the making, ever since developer Randy Royer set his sights on Southern Vancouver Island, Canada's most southern, most temperate and most popular haven for Canada's aging demographic.

From Sidney to Sooke, Royer and his team scoured available inventory, until by chance one day, they stumbled across Havenwood. Lovingly used by the local community for years (although always privately owned), this



Pacific Landing, The Village at Havenwood is located on over 12 acres of waterfront property near the Western Communities just outside of Victoria.

rare piece of land must be seen to be fully appreciated. In addition to its waterfront location, Havenwood boasts a fish-bearing river and has an aura of calm you can feel the moment you drive over the old bridge and down the boulevard.

Randy Royer knew immediately this was the place for his vision.

Six years later, what started as a piece of land has turned into an incredible six-phase vision that will change the way we create communities. Each owner can be a voice in that change and collectively craft a new future that nurtures growth, collaboration and sustainable living both emotionally and physically.

The idea was to create a village — a place to grow, to learn, to evolve and to become part of the story — a story in which each owner creates part of a whole, like pages in a book. And all this simply because we're all seeking a place to call home and it's time we're given the chance to decide what that home looks like.

Sales Director Anna DiFiore has been on-site walking this land since the spring, watching the vision evolve, talking to locals and learning from prospective buyers what they want to see in a community.

"I have never been so in touch with each of my buyers. It's about a relationship, finding out what makes them tick, how we can

collectively nurture their future," she says. "It's less about actual real estate. Pacific Landing is a collaboration of ideas that every one of us is a part of. By the time we get to the actual inventory, to the 'sales,' I have likely spent 10 hours simply getting to know them."

She adds, "As an example, one of the first purchasers in phase one would like to have a small space available to continue part-time his grief counselling business. Randy and I found a nice space for this to happen. Another one of our buyers wants to learn to make wine, so we are outfitting an area in the community cooking theatre for her to not only make wine, but also teach others."

Within six weeks of launching Phase One, it was 75 per cent sold out. Presales of Phase Two will start in late November, offering owners the chance to 'craft their own homes.'

So who is Randy Royer and what makes him tick? With his unmatched success years earlier developing the Grand Okanagan Resort in Kelowna, and another 30 resort style communities in North America over the years, Royer is a man who knows how to get things done, and done well. But like all of us, success cannot stop the aging process.

Like many Canadians, he is part of the largest aging demographic ever seen, and he realized developers were not catering

to this demographic. Many “age in place” communities were built on the foundation of retirement villages, with dinner at six, and shuffle board at eight and movie night every Wednesday. But, it turns out, that is not what people want. As a man approaching his 60s, this vision is close to his own heart and his own reality — he not only identifies with this market — he is this market.

As Royer says, “The age in place movement is not about getting old, it’s about growing young. We are not a 50-plus community. We are an interactive community, designed by our owners and their stories. We are offering a place to learn, to collaborate and to create a village of which we are all stewards.”



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- Phase Two will consist of 22 luxury homes with stunning water views and priced from the mid \$400,000s.
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A “PLACE TO SLEEP”

KWA’LILAS HOTEL RISING IN PORT HARDY

Down through the years the Port Hardy Inn has been a hit and miss landmark in this northern Vancouver Island community ... hit and miss because it usually closed its doors each year the moment seasonal tourist traffic fell off.

Locals tell me the welcome mat set out by the previous owners said: “Go Away.” It was definitely not in sync with this town’s welcoming nature and its friendly smile. There really isn’t a delicate way to describe the old hotel. “Unremarkable” is about as far as I’m prepared to bend reality.

But that state of affairs is changing rapidly. As you read this report, the economic development arm of the Gwa’sala ‘Nakwaxda’xw Nation, the K’awat’si Economic Development Corporation (KEDC), is gutting the old inn.

Say goodbye to the forlorn Port Hardy Inn and hello to the up-market Kwa’lilas Hotel. “Kwa’lilas” is a traditional word that refers to a place to sleep. After KEDC purchased the inn earlier this year, it was renamed by Gwa’sala ‘Nakwaxda’xw elders in hopes that travellers and guests would find peace and rest within its walls.

KEDC CEO Conrad Browne says there is not one square inch of the structure that will escape the \$5 million transformation, a figure that includes the purchase price.

District of Port Hardy Mayor Hank Bood has watched his community reel from the 1995 closure of the BHP Island Copper mine and has seen the population plummet from 6,000 to 3,500 and claw back to 4,000.

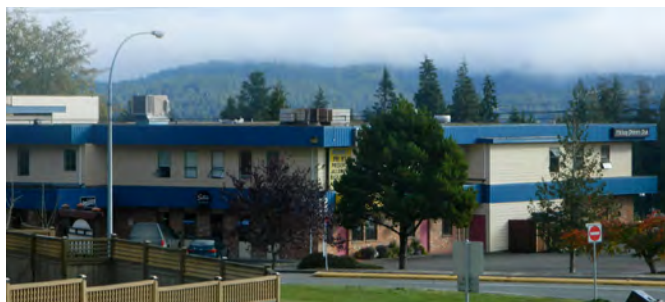
“These days, tourism has become a stabilizer in our economy,” he says.

Even so, some of the town’s motels and hotels remain seasonal.

“It is a really good step forward to introduce a themed hotel that will be running year round,” Mayor Bood says.

Scheduled to re-open in May 2016, the Kwa’lilas Hotel will welcome its first block of European tourists in June thanks to a partnership with Montreal-based Jonview Canada, the largest tour operator in the country.

Browne says: “Five years ago we developed a comprehensive



The Port Hardy Inn will be rebuilt to exude the feeling of a Big House.

community plan. It was interesting because we got in front of our community, a community that has had a tough go of it for a long time, and we asked the community to put its dreams on paper and some people laughed off the dream of a hotel. They weren’t even sure if they should talk about it.

“But, it is amazing what transpires when you write down a dream. Lo and behold five years later, 960 community shareholders own a hotel.”

Given the history of these two arbitrarily fused nations it is easy to appreciate their reticence to believe in dreams. Back in the 1960s, the Canadian government decided that the ‘Nakwaxda’xw people in Blunden Harbour and the Gwa’sala people in Takush needed to be relocated to a small reserve at Port Hardy. It was a social engineering nightmare. Many tried to go back home but their villages had been burned. A former Indian agent, Alan Fry, chronicled this troubled history in a book titled *How a People Die*, because he didn’t believe that the ‘Nakwaxda’xw and Gwa’sala people would survive.

Browne says the new hotel will exude the feeling of a Big House including a traditional smoke hole incorporated in a new roof. Cedar and a grand entrance will replace the dull exterior. Inside, every wall will become a canvas showcasing Gwa’sala ‘Nakwaxda’xw art and culture.

The 85-room hotel will feature two luxury suites and 4,000 square feet of meeting space. It will be a four-star accommodation and it will re-define the tourist and traveller experience in this region, Browne says.

The KEDC CEO says marketing emphasis will be placed on workshops and conferences to keep the hotel and its 40 staff members busy in the winter and shoulder seasons. Currently, many Central Coast First Nations leaders pass through Port Hardy to attend any number of meetings usually in Vancouver. Now, the Kwa’lilas Hotel will be able to



THE KIERAN REPORT
with BRIAN KIERAN



Drawing by Judy Henderson and Lisa Juan of Inside Design Studio

host those meetings.

It will be the job of KEDC Tourism Coordinator Davis Henderson to put together activity packages that bring the traditions and history of the Gwa'sala 'Nakwaxda'xw into the new space: Elders' stories, singing and dancing programs, drum making, seasonal food gathering based on the elders' traditional food-gathering wheel.

"We will be working with who we are and what we do every day."

The team of architects, designers and artists on the hotel project is led by Scott Roberts of Vancouver-based Mizare Hospitality.

"The team will be working closely with destination marketing bodies like Aboriginal Tourism BC and Tourism BC," he says.

"There is currently such a focus around the globe on aboriginal tourism experiences, people looking for something unique, a cultural experience they can take back home.

It is truly something we offer in BC that other parts of the world do not have."

Aboriginal tourism is definitely a growth sector. Annually, about four million BC visitors spend more than \$40 million including aboriginal experiences in their holiday plans. By 2017, BC's aboriginal tourism industry is expected to contribute \$68 million to the economy annually.

The biggest opportunity for the Gwa'sala 'Nakwaxda'xw, Roberts says, is to drive year round employment.

"The more tourists that come here, the more employment opportunities we will create for the nation and the surrounding area. It's a win-win situation." ■



KEDC CEO Conrad Browne



Scott Roberts



Good to go!

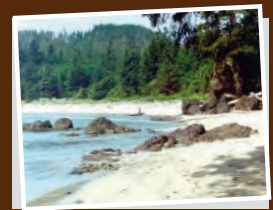
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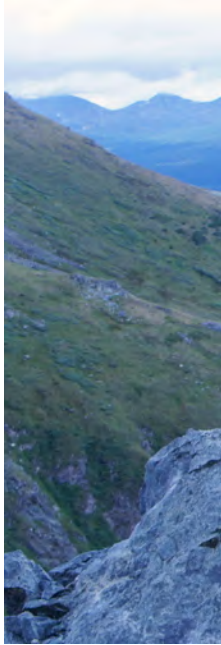
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“This area used to be called the China Wall — a reference to the sheer magnitude of the jade deposits and the fact that 90 per cent of jade mined in BC is exported to China.”



GREEN GOLD

MINING ON JADE MOUNTAIN

By ALYN EDWARDS

“You are looking at ground zero of what could be the largest jade deposit in the world,” says 40-year veteran jade miner Kirk Makepeace, looking across a grassy meadow at what has become known as Jade Mountain.

It’s one of four mine sites operated by Green Mountain Jade in British Columbia, three of them in the extreme north.

We have reached the mountain after a day of travel involving a flight from Vancouver, a day’s drive to Dease Lake followed by a fixed wing flight to the company’s Kutcho Camp. With us came food supplies and replacement teeth for the excavators that claw giant jade boulders from mountain tops, plus other sundry items.

This area used to be called the China Wall — a reference to the sheer magnitude of the jade deposits and the fact that 90 per cent of jade mined in BC is exported to China.

“This is it,” Makepeace enthuses. “It’s a solid wall of jade running right over the mountain. It’s not only one of the world’s largest deposits, but it produces some of the most beautiful jade ever to come out of British Columbia.”

Several of the world’s most prestigious jewelers — including Tiffany & Co — agree. They are cutting, shaping and polishing BC jade and combining it with silver and gold to make beautiful bracelets, necklaces and rings.

Makepeace has been at the forefront of jade mining since 1975. A world authority on nephrite jade, he acquired the majority of BC’s jade mines through the Jade West Group in the 1990s. In 2011, he entered into a partnership with Green Mountain Jade Inc., which is taking jade mining and sales to the next level through the company’s contacts in China. Green Mountain Jade has 18,600



Jade Buddha for Universal Peace.

hectares of deposits in British Columbia and four producing mines.

He says jade mining has the smallest footprint and is less invasive than other forms of mining.

“We’ve been here for 40 years and the footprint is probably smaller than a soccer field,” he says.

The largest gem-grade boulder ever found was at the company’s Polar Jade Mine in 2000. The 18-tonne mega boulder was named Polar Pride and was carved into a nine-foot tall Buddha for a Bangkok monastery. It has toured the world, attracting over 7.5 million visitors and is valued at \$5 million.

The following year, a 10-tonne Polar jade boulder was carved into the Emperor’s Sunrise. It was placed at the entrance to the BC Canada Pavilion during the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The Polar mine produces Canada’s most recognized nephrite jade described as the brightest, most translucent, hardest and greenest in existence.

Jade is the world’s toughest natural stone. It has an 8,000-year history in China — originally used for tools, weapons, sacred jade ware and later for the king’s imperial seal as the symbol of power.

Jade is the official stone of China and has been the provincial gemstone and official mineral emblem of British Columbia since 1968. Approximately 1,200 tonnes of nephrite jade is produced globally with premium jade prized by carvers and jewelry makers, selling from \$150 to \$500 USD per kilogram.

Jade mining has been going on in British Columbia for the past four decades. But it’s now taking off.

“The deposits in BC will be supplying the world with jade for the next few hundred years,” Makepeace says. “It has tremendous value because it is gem grade jade and it just keeps going up in price.”

High on Jade Mountain, 22-year-old Taylor Sherlock from Langley operates a yellow excavator with a steel claw to break the rock and pull boulders out of the mountain.

“A few days ago, I popped up this nugget and you could see it had a green skin. It was apple green,” he says. “I just picked it up and then put it down and got out of the excavator and did a little jig.”

Nearby, Riley Jagodnik uses a power drill to pull out core samples to determine the quality of the jade hidden inside a large boulder. If it is high quality jade, a wire saw is used to cut the boulder in half so it can be trucked to the camp.

There, giant circular saws cooled with a constant water flow cut the boulders into smaller pieces to be stockpiled and eventually trucked to Vancouver.



Taylor Sherlock and pioneer jade miner Kirk Makepeace on top of Jade Mountain in northern British Columbia.

Green Mountain Jade has a storage and sales yard in South Surrey near the US border where the company holds a fall auction. There are plans to open a retail outlet to serve high-end jade buyers and the general public while trying to build a market for carvers and custom home builders with lower grade jade.

Makepeace sets down a long cylindrical core sample from a boulder dislodged from its mountaintop cradle.

“This is the jade that we’re looking for,” he enthuses. “This is the gem grade jade that China wants. This is jewelry quality material. It makes everybody happy when you pull out cores like this.”

Jade mining in British Columbia is currently a \$30 million business despite having a season of only two to four months in summer. It increased by 11 per cent this year over last and is projected to grow significantly in 2016. ■

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Top of the World

FERNIE-BASED SKIER VISITS 78 OF ALBERTA AND BC'S SMALLEST SKI HILLS

By DOC POW,
founder of SnowSeekers.ca

Life-long pals Greg Scott from Alpine Canada and one of this country's most passionate skiers, Ted Allsopp, were on a chairlift comparing notes about who had skied more places.

Scott had been part of the ski race scene for nearly 30 years, while Allsopp — aka Ted Shred — made his livelihood elsewhere in the industry, founding Downhill Riders, a ski and snowboard adventure travel company almost 40 years ago, and Northern Escape Heli-Skiing in Terrace, BC, 10 years ago.

The conversation evolved into a dare. Scott laid down the challenge to Allsopp — ski every resort big and small in Alberta and BC.

Allsopp was stoked and began pulling out maps and plotting his quest.

"The spreadsheet grew right away as there were lots of little spots that needed to be added," Allsopp tells me.

"Lots of investigation," went into his plan, and a passion for adventure drove Allsopp to ski all 78 ski destinations over the next six years — 35 in Alberta and 43 in BC.

Throughout the challenge, Allsopp kept learning about ski hills he had never heard of before, like Mount Cain on northern Vancouver Island. He kept racking up the little rippers.

"By the end of the 2014 winter ski season, my buddy Trevor Suer and I got to Grande Prairie, Dawson Creek and Northern Alberta, discovering a few more hard-to-find ski hills."

Ted Allsopp makes his final stop at Tweedsmuir Ski Club in Bella Coola, becoming the first in the world to ski every lift-serviced ski spot in Alberta and BC.



The criteria for ski hill classification was any hill with a lift, whether it was a chairlift, T-bar, or — in Allsopp and my case for the 78th — a diesel-powered engine with a metal towrope attached.

"People would be amazed at how many great little ski hills there are out there," says Allsopp.

To ensure accuracy, Allsopp developed a spreadsheet and a map, and used the Canada West Ski Areas Association list. His enthusiasm for the project was non-stop.

Allsopp's buddy Scott was impressed with his tenacity.

"I thought I had a leg up on Ted after working with ski resorts, Alberta Alpine and Alpine Canada, but Ted was like a dog with a bone to get to every one," he says. "Skiing them all is really an amazing feat and now I owe him a beer that I definitely thought was going to be coming my way."

In the meantime, Allsopp himself became impressed during his quest.

"Over the course of six years in really working to reach this goal, I found a new respect for small little ski spots, and how many awesome little places with great terrain there are if you time your visit right."

I got to experience that first-hand when Allsopp and I went to scratch the last ski venue off his list — No. 78 at the Tweedsmuir Ski Club in Bella Coola.

This ski adventure started with a quote I won't forget: "We don't have lineups," said Tweedsmuir Ski Club president David Flegel.

No surprise, this place is literally in the

middle of British Columbia's wilds.


An hour's drive east of Bella Coola and a 20-minute snowshoe in, it's places like the Tweedsmuir that can re-ignite your passion for snow sports. At Tweedsmuir, you have to call ahead to be sure the single towrope is even going to be working. By calling ahead you "book time" at the ski hill. If you go, be sure and reserve the Skookum backcountry cabin for your stay.

It was fitting that Allsopp's quest finished in such a cool and remote location.

"Starting from sea level, as opposed to Fernie where you start at 2,500 feet, the mountains look bigger," says Allsopp.

We hit "Scott's Run," tucked to the left of this single towrope operation. It hadn't been skied in a week and was about a football field long, a cruiser strip of snow with a nice pitch at the top to keep it interesting. It overlooked the Chilcotin Mountain range. Allsopp and I took to the run, giggling with joy at the heli-ski-like powder all around us.

"For skiers and snowboarders, BC is home to a ton of really incredible spots that have some stellar terrain. They can be the perfect combination for an epic road trip," says Allsopp.

Looking for off-the-beaten-path powder? Visit www.SnowSeekers.ca and participate in the SnowSeekers' Challenge to discover a variety of ski and snowboard terrain across Alberta and BC. You could win a chance to fly into some of the remotest parts of the province for your own powder adventure with Pacific Coastal Airlines. 

WINNING ABORIGINAL BUSINESSES NAMED

The seventh annual BC Aboriginal Business Awards — honouring individuals and businesses from all corners of the province — were presented recently at a gala dinner ceremony in Hyatt Regency Vancouver.

John Rustad, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, presented the awards.

“The surge in aboriginal businesses in BC has created economic development initiatives in every corner of the province,” said Keith Mitchell, chair of the BC Achievement Foundation Board of Directors, the presenting organization of the BC Aboriginal Business Awards.

“[The] recipients exemplify the best of vision, enterprise, resourcefulness and entrepreneurship in Aboriginal business and their efforts are shaping communities while helping to build an economic future for this province.”

The BC Aboriginal Business Awards were launched in 2008 to honour and celebrate business excellence in six categories. Sixteen aboriginal businesses, entrepreneurs, joint ventures and community-owned enterprises were recognized.

James Walkus of the Kwakwiltl Nation in Port Hardy was honoured as recipient of

the 2015 BC Aboriginal Business Award for Individual Achievement for his dedication to his community and its economic development opportunities. The Young Entrepreneur of the Year award went to Patrick Shannon, of EVIL Patrick by Design in Skidegate.

Top award-winning businesses and partnerships included: T. Fraser Chiropractic Inc., Kamloops; RNN Sales and Rentals, Dawson Creek; Tahltan Nation Development Corporation, Dease Lake; Quatern Limited Partnership, Coal Harbour.

Other businesses named for “outstanding achievement” included: DJ O Show, West

Vancouver; Bavarian Home Hardware Ltd., Kimberley; Skyride Bike and Board Inc., Vernon; Spirit Works Ltd., North Vancouver; Wee Care Early Childhood Centre Inc., Courtenay; Inlailawatash Natural Resources Services, North Vancouver; Lakeshore Resort and Campground, Windermere; Lower Nicola Indian Band and LNB Construction Inc., Merritt; River Fresh Wild Salmon, Kamloops.

Detailed information about the awards and a list of past winners is posted on the foundation’s website at www.bcachievement.com/aboriginalbusiness.

More BC Roundup on next page



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Vancouver Island continues to be recognized as a premier vacation destination and has again been voted one of the world's best islands to visit.

With its irresistible mix of pristine wilderness and top-ranked food and lodging, it has been voted seventh Best Island in the World by readers of *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine.

The Condé Nast Readers' Choice Awards feature top hotels, resorts, cities, islands, cruise lines and airlines. More than 128,000 travellers took part in the 28th annual Readers' Choice Awards survey.

"Being recognized among the top islands in the world is a great achievement," said Dave Petryk, president and CEO of Tourism Vancouver Island. "The world is recognizing this wonderful destination and the remarkable experiences that our tourism businesses provide to visitors."

Several Vancouver Island resorts and properties were also listed in the awards, including The Wickaninnish Inn (#2), Long Beach Lodge Resort (#11) and Black Rock Resort (#17) in the Best Resorts in Canada category. For Best Hotels in Canada, Vancouver Island and Gulf Island properties

included the Magnolia Hotel & Spa (#4), Hastings House (#10), Fairmont Empress (#13) and Sooke Harbour House (#17).

The City of Victoria (#24) also made the list of Best Cities in the World.

TOURISM TRENDING

Statistics Canada is showing a strong summer tourism season in British Columbia. Visitor numbers were up by 238,000 people for the first eight months of 2015 — representing a 7.1 per cent increase compared to the same period last year.

International overnight visitors are an important indicator of growth in the tourism sector, and numbers from August highlight this trend. Leading the way were visitors from Japan with an increase of 15.8 per cent over the previous August. Visitors from India were up 13.2 per cent and visitors from Australia increased by 5.8 per cent. Growth from the United States, BC's largest international market, was up 0.7 per cent, with an additional 3,484 visitors coming to BC compared to August 2014.

In 2013, the tourism industry generated \$13.9 billion in revenue with a direct contribution to BC's gross domestic product of \$7.3 billion. Tourism accounted for 4 per cent of the province's total GDP. ■

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Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Spa Resort launches the Vacay It Forward Challenge!

People who deserve a vacation are often the last to take one. Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Spa Resort has created a social corporate responsibility initiative to change that with the Vacay It Forward Challenge.

“Those in the hospitality industry are in the business of creating wonderful experiences for our guests. We value our special relationships within our communities by supporting a number of charities. By creating the Vacay It Forward Challenge, Tigh-Na-Mara and our hospitality industry can work together to help make a difference to make the lives of others better,” says Luba Plotnikoff, Marketing & Media Relations Manager at Tigh-Na-Mara.

The rules of Vacay It Forward are simple. Tigh-Na-Mara is challenging seven hospitality properties to select the charity of their choice, determine a recipient and pay it forward with a vacation. Tigh-Na-Mara is pleased to announce that Pacific Sands Beach Resort in Tofino, Painted Boat Resort on the Sunshine Coast, Victoria’s Oak Bay Beach Hotel and the Brentwood Bay Resort have stepped up to join this unique corporate responsibility initiative that recognizes and rewards charities and individuals who go above and beyond to make the lives of others better.

To see photos and more information on the charities and recipients to date please visit www.facebook.com/vacayitforward.

“We hope every property challenged will join us on this journey and Vacay It Forward to those who need it most. As an industry with heart, we can make a difference and help to build a mountain of change,” says Luba Plotnikoff and Tigh-Na-Mara General Manager, Paul Drummond.

In February 2014, Tigh-Na-Mara was presented with the Humanitarian Award of Excellence from the Hotel Association of Canada, in recognition for their generous support of many charitable campaigns and initiatives both financially and through hundreds of volunteer hours.

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Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Spa Resort & Conference Centre features 192 unique log crafted accommodation set in 22 acres of forest beside the ocean. Located in picturesque Parksville, BC, guests will experience the quality comfort, convenience, unique restaurants, award winning Grotto Spa, over 10,000 sq ft of meeting space, free WiFi, parking, an indoor pool with fitness facilities, and 3 kms of sandy beach with the warmest swimming waters in Canada.



The Lion King and the Lone Butte Hotel

By THELMA FAYLE

Al Jones grew up in Victoria and spent summers with his family at Shawnigan Lake, but today he is a proud and active resident of a tiny, historically rich town, located in the heart of BC's Cariboo Region.

Jones was inspired to move to the interior and become a "Caribooster" after reading Thoreau as a young man. Here, he learned to build log homes and appreciate a rural way of life. He married Gayle, a ranch woman, and they raised their two daughters in the log home they built near Lone Butte, just over an hour's drive southeast of Williams Lake, one of Pacific Coastal Airlines' central BC destinations.

When Jones dropped a framed picture of the Lion King that had been hanging in his daughters' bedroom for decades, he was surprised at what he discovered beneath the shards of glass. As he stooped down to pick up the pieces under the colourful cartoon, a pen and ink sketch of the long-gone Lone Butte Hotel emerged.



Photo of a pen and ink sketch found beneath a cartoon drawing of the Lion King

The print, by Danish/Canadian artist Ole Pii, had been covered over by an exchange student, who decided to use the old framed picture she found at a garage sale for a cartoon she drew and wanted to give the Jones girls as a gift.

Pii's meticulous artwork was an exciting find for Al and Gayle Jones, as they have been volunteering for 20 years with the Lone Butte

Historical Society.

The Jones have enjoyed working with many friends and neighbours on a variety of community projects identified as historically valuable local points of interest. Through its collective efforts, the society has worked on the revitalization of the Lone Butte water tower park, schoolhouse relocation, cemetery cleanup, construction of a cairn



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honouring old pioneers, Diefenbunker repair work and the Alice Singleton heritage house restoration, just to name a few of its achievements.

“The community work has been a lot of fun for many of us,” says Al Jones, who

“.. Lone Butte is all about relishing history and nature.”

graduated from the University of Victoria with a history degree some 40 years ago. After he and Gayle raised their daughters locally, both have been keen to do all they can to help their friends maintain the historical treasures they value in their community.

As Lone Butte approaches a centennial celebration in 2019, the little town in the heart of lake country is remembered as an important community historically. Situated at 3,700 feet above sea level, it was the highest point on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway and became a key water stop for steam engines.

With the building of the Cariboo Highway, nearby 100 Mile House later became the main centre in the area. There are several Lone Butte murals in 100 Mile House, including one of the Lone Butte Hotel.

Although Lone Butte was a busy centre for

ranchers in the first half of the 20th century, the general vicinity is now better known as a summer and winter recreational hub.

Swimming, boating, fishing, hiking, bird-watching, horseback-riding at guest ranches, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and ATVing are just a few of the local pleasures. As the Jones' well know, Lone Butte is all about relishing history and nature.

A drive by the classic old wooden water tower built in the 1920s next to the railway tracks or a visit to the Diefenbunker emergency shelter — which was built in the late 1950s to house key members of the government in the event of a nuclear

attack on Canada — is to be reminded of an integral, long-standing community presence in the Cariboo region.

If you visit, you won't find the old Lone Butte Hotel log house, though. That rich architectural piece of history is long gone.

“It would be my dream to see someone build a replica of the old hotel,” says Al. “I believe it could even be financially viable as a working historical B&B, with its half a dozen rooms. However, it would require financial resources to make it happen. But who knows? Maybe one day.”

Until then, Ole Pii's inspiring print will remain hanging in the Jones' kitchen. ■

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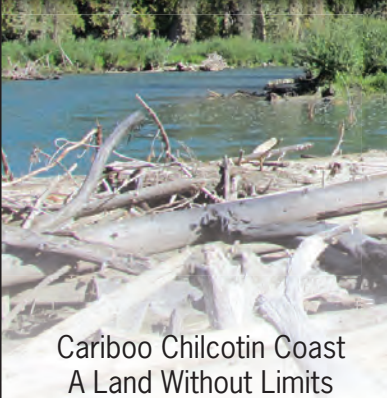
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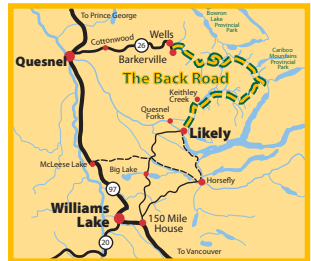
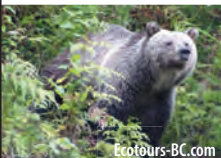
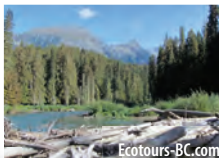
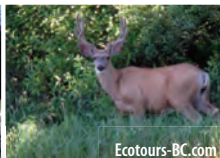
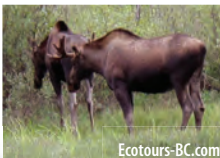
The Tong House 致公堂堂馆

This is perhaps the oldest structure in the area also had its own newspaper to see the Tong House. They were a Chinese fraternal organization that grew to the needs of new arrivals, the community's Anchor, foundation, the care of elderly and families in need in the aftermath of a mine's closure back to China.

The Chin Hing Tong Society formed a branch here in 1922 and until 1910 had over a hundred members.

这幢洋楼是福士顿镇古道的建筑了，通常被称为致公堂，“致公堂”类似于中国人的兄弟会，宗旨在于扶持新人，社区节庆，筹款，扶贫救弱，并且负责帮工人的骨灰及遗体运回中国。

福士顿致公堂分社成立于1922年，到1980年，已经发展到超过一百名会员。

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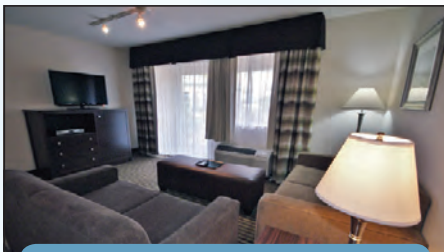
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Info: fortsteele.ca

HAIDA GWAI

Annual General Meeting Haida Gwaii Arts Council

Jan. 10

Come join this dynamic board of individuals keen on local arts events, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. at the Queen Charlotte Visitor Information Centre, 3220 Wharf St., Queen Charlotte. Info: info@hgartscouncil.ca or www.hgartscouncil.ca

KELOWNA

Luminaria

Dec. 12

In support of Building Healthy Families Kelowna, enjoy a family friendly festival with a candle-lit night garden, a cappella music by Della Voce and memory candles, plus hot chocolate, cookie decorating and whimsical Christmas displays, 4 to 8 p.m. at the Okanagan Lavender Herb Farm, 4380 Takla Rd. Admission: \$12/adults; \$5/children. Info: 250-764-7795

POWELL RIVER

Evening Train Ride with Santa

Dec. 11

The Forestry Heritage Society presents a family train ride on the Paradise Valley Railroad, 4365 McLeod Rd. Enjoy Christmas lights and a visit by Santa. Bring flashlights and dress warm! Free, but please bring non-perishable food items or an unwrapped new toy for the local Salvation Army.

Info: Hans Maurer at 604-487-9552.

TRAIL

Light Up the Hospitals Pledge Day

Dec. 4

7 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Waneta Plaza Centre Court, with local entertainers performing from 10 a.m. Visit the Waneta Plaza or KBRH Health Foundation to make a donation or call 888-364-3424. Info: www.kbrhhealthfoundation.ca

VANCOUVER

Education and Career Fair 2015

Dec. 11

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Association for Mineral Exploration BC Mineral Exploration Roundup Jan. 25-28

Bringing together prospectors, geoscientists, investors, suppliers and others interested in the mineral exploration industry.
Info: www.amebc.ca/roundup

VICTORIA BC Children's Hospital Festival of Trees To Jan. 5

Take in a lush forest of beautifully decorated trees at Victoria's Bay Centre and help support BC Children's Hospital Foundation. Info: www.bcchf.ca

Wildlife Photographer of the Year Opening Dec. 4

A visitor favourite every year, this exhibit returns to the Royal BC Museum with a brand new selection of 100 of the most stunning images from around the world. The exhibit continues to April 4.
Info: royalbcmuseum.bc.ca

WILLIAMS LAKE Winter Lights Festival Dec. 4-6

Enjoy an old-fashioned country Christmas in downtown Williams Lake, with workshops hosted by downtown merchants, Santa Parade, caroling, festive food challenge, an ugly sweater scavenger hunt, gingerbread house making and more.
Info: info@wlcba.com or 250-398-5717

Williams Lake Winter Carnival Jan. 30-31

Coming to Boitano Park with family events including igloo building, sledding, snow ball throw contests, cross country skiing, facepainting, sleigh rides and snowshoeing. Info: wlvintercarnival.com

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BRIDGE WITH THE MASTER

MICHAEL LAWRENCE SHARES TALENTS WITH VICTORIA-AREA PLAYERS

By DON DESCOTEAU

Highly skilled Greater Victoria bridge players have helped the city craft quite a reputation as a hotbed for the popular game in Canada.

Three local individuals — Duncan Smith, Doug Fraser and Rhonda Foster — have achieved the lofty standing of Canadian Grand Life Master, a pinnacle reached by only 10 players in the country.

Numerous others on the Capital Region bridge scene are ranked among the leaders in Canada's men's and women's categories, based on their competitive results.

"...along the way he has won three world championship titles and 18 North American crowns."

So it should come as little surprise that longtime international bridge professional, teacher and author Michael Lawrence was convinced to lead a two-day skills workshop in November at the Westin Bear Mountain Golf Resort and Spa.

"Victoria is unique in having the highest level per capita in Canada of duplicate bridge players by ranking, or recent results in international competitive play," said Bob Flitton, one of a group of high-level, Victoria-area players who worked to bring the Tennessee-based bridge giant to town.

Having read dozens of books on the subject, Flitton appreciates the way Lawrence, as an author, explains salient points of the game in an easy-to-understand way.

That approach came through loud and clear in person during Sunday's first day of the workshop. As Lawrence stood talking strategy with more than 80 avid players, gathered in fours around tables in the Westin ballroom, Flitton whispered to a visitor, "This has been really successful. People are blown away with what they're hearing."

Listening to the bridge legend describe common scenarios and offer up a list of best practices and playing options available,

participants followed along on a printout of notes Lawrence uses in his presentations and gives to participants to take away and study.

In an earlier interview, he joked that his bridge career began in the 1940s, when he helped his mom play while sitting on her lap at the table. He actually took up the game in earnest while at the University of California.

After graduation he became so skilled, he was recruited in 1968 by businessman and bridge aficionado Ira Corn to a professional bridge team known as the Dallas Aces. Corn

created the team in an attempt to break the Italians' stranglehold as world bridge leaders. Part of Lawrence's role as a paid member of the team was to write about bridge and start teaching its finer points, as a way to increase the number of high-level players in the U.S.


He's been doing that consistently ever since, noted Flitton, and along the way has won three world championship titles and 18 North American crowns.

"When you've got a person who can explain something simply and make it easy to understand, and a knowledge backed by more than 50 years of research and experience at the highest level ... the story is when Mike Lawrence says 'this is how you should do it,' you listen to Mike Lawrence."

Now in his mid-70s but looking much younger, Lawrence has travelled the world teaching and playing bridge.

"The things I teach, these things will come up at the table," he said. "You will have available to you the information which you didn't have before on what to do now."

Flitton said the purpose of bringing in Lawrence was to motivate local bridge players to take their game to the next level.

"There are a lot of people that are interested in the game and having an event like this will help improve the organization of it," Flitton said. "Once you start learning these conventions and whatnot, it makes the game a lot more interesting." 



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"Southeast Wind" appears with permission of the artist, Robert Davidson



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