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Grumman Goose



DeHavilland Beaver

Introduced in 1973, the 11-passenger Beechcraft King Air 200 is an enhanced version of the King Air 100. An increased wing span, a T-tail and larger engines are some of the modifications that were made.

The 9-passenger Grumman Goose was first flown in 1937, and only 345 were ever built. Thanks to its utility and value, rugged construction and amphibious capability, a number of Gooses operate in coastal airline service today.

Built in Toronto, Canada, and first flown in 1947, only 1,657 Beavers came off the assembly line. The 6-passenger aircraft is still prized by "bush" pilots for its reliability and versatility—it can operate on wheel, ski or float landing gear.



This 19-passenger, pressurized aircraft was developed as a result of the increasing demand for high-frequency commuter air travel. Its long range and large payload capability have made it the most popular commuter aircraft in North America today.

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Photo: Therese Lundgren photo courtesy Mt. Washington Alpine Resort

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SEASON'S GREETINGS WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

PRESIDENT'S

MESSAGE

I have a holiday confession to make: one of my favourite tunes of the season is *Christmas Time* by Bryan Adams. It's a favourite because for me it carries the essence of traditional Christmas songs, yet is also unique in its own right and another great song by this Canadian artist. The lyrics speaking of togetherness came to mind when developing my Yuletide message, and that in turn had me thinking about how we come together at Pacific Coastal over the holidays.

There are a variety of ways to celebrate the festive season, but I've always appreciated how people in communities all over BC can also join together in winter-holiday spirit to offer a hand to those in need. As a citizen in each community we serve, the Pacific Coastal family feels that community service is more than flying planes in and out, and we participate gladly. Near and dear to our hearts is our Adopt-a-Family program. Twelve years ago a team of staff came up with the idea of adopting a local family in need over the holidays and helping out with presents for kids, Christmas dinner and more. This concept caught on quickly all over our network so we now have in-house fundraising occasions throughout the year, and in 2009 we adopted 12 families for the holidays. I feel blessed to have staff with heart and initiative, and will always welcome their suggestions of how to be of service in our communities. Now, speaking of calls, I believe a new year will be calling upon us shortly.

This is the time when the year draws to a close and another begins, all amidst winter festivities. Looking back on 2010 we not only adapted to business during the Olympics but also celebrated and embraced this landmark occasion in Vancouver. We listened to our customers who schooled us on their travel habits and needs, so we went to the drawing board and developed our branded fares based on their feedback. I'm looking forward to welcoming you all onboard in 2011, and wish you the best of the season and a happy New Year. We're listening.

65

Sincerely, Quentin Smith, President

UPFRONT



Photo courtesy the Powell River Peak

BRINGING A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED

Pacific Coastal is celebrating 12 years this Christmas of spreading holiday cheer among its communities through its annual Family Spirit program.

Each year, Pacific Coastal supervisors determine with the local community how to help those in need of a little extra assistance at the holidays. Among the staff's popular fundraisers are "Tubesteak Tuesdays" in Vancouver, bakes sales, raffles and more. Last year, the company and staff said "Happy Holidays" to families with hampers chock-full of non-perishable food, gift certificates for local grocery stores and small presents for children.

Any leftover money continues to support families through the Richmond Food Bank.

PACIFIC COASTAL HONOURED FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Pacific Coastal Airlines was the guest of honour at a community barbecue earlier this year hosted by Powell River's Source Club Society to thank the airline for its 15 years of support.

An organization founded to provide educational and life skills programs for those with mental illnesses, Source Club offers both employment-related and social programming. Pacific Coastal has sponsored a golf tournament since 1997 that brings between \$15,000 and \$20,000 a year to the society. This year's presentation of \$15,227 brought the company's 15-year total to \$162,000!



The events highlighted in this section have been sponsored by Pacific Coastal Airlines.



Name: Trina Moldenhauer Position: Inventory & Yield Management Years with the company: 3 1/2

MEET A PACIFIC COASTAL EMPLOYEE

Born and raised in Powell River, Trina Moldenhauer has come full circle with Pacific Coastal Airlines. As a young girl taken with geography and the mystery of flight, Moldenhauer would watch the planes crossing overhead to the airport, imagining a career in travel.

And, as Powell River was the home town of Pacific Coastal founder Daryl Smith, the company was always at the forefront of aviation activity in the coastal community. "Ever since I was very young, I always wanted to work with Pacific Coastal," she recalls. Moldenhauer's dream came true when she became Pacific Coastal's Base Supervisor in Terrace. "I was thrilled to work for my dream airline," she says.

Today, Moldenhauer is back on the coast, splitting her time between Powell River and Vancouver and enjoying the challenges and rewards of her current position, responsible for Inventory and Yield Management. "In analyzing travel trends by using historical data for day of week and time of day per market, numbers of seats are determined in each fare level. I monitor, allocate and control seat allocations, and price available seats based on consumer demand," she explains. "When I see flight loads building and seat capacity decreasing, it's rewarding."

Moldenhauer was also part of the Fare Branding team responsible for Pacific Coastal's new fare structure. The initiative, which makes it easier for travellers to select the right fare for their needs, considering issues such as flexibility and cost, for example, has been well-received among both staff and clients. "I'm very proud to have been part of that team."



DATEBOOK

Comox Valley

Denman Island Christmas Craft Faire December 4 and 5

Take in the rich talents of the Denman Island arts community with the Denman Island Christmas Craft Stroll, a superb Country Christmas Faire more than 25 years in the making. Drawing from the "artist enclave" found on this island off the coast of Courtenay, this fair is renowned for its high-quality professional crafts. Find more than 70 booths in two community centres, just one block from the ferry landing.

FMI: www.denmanisland.com

To submit an event for the SOAR Datebook, email editor@wherevictoria.com or send a fax to the attention of "Editor–SOAR Magazine" at 1-250-480-3233.

Christmas Truck Parade, Cumberland

December 12

The Comox Valley community of Cumberland celebrates the season with its annual Big Rig Truck Parade, along Dunsmuir Avenue. The alwaysanticipated parade starts at 7 p.m. FMI: http://cumberlandbc.org

Cranbrook

Artrageous Gallery Christmas Exhibit

Through December 24

Take in artwork by local artists representing an array of mediums and subject matter, weekdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Don't miss the Art Fair at the gallery Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. FMI: 250-426-4223

Fort Steele's annual Sleigh Ride Day January 1

The holiday tradition returns to the Fort Steele Heritage Town, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring the whole family for a sleigh ride, gather around the bonfire, skate on the outdoor rink (weather permitting), and enjoy a hot drink and homemade chili in the cookhouse. Sleigh rides are \$2 per person, hot drink and chili is \$4 per

person. Ring in the new year the old-

Family Fishing Derby

Januarv 9

fashioned way!

Pacific Coastal is proud to support this third annual fundraiser at Horseshoe Lake for local children dealing with childhood cancer. Prizes, silent auction, food by donation and activities such as women's ski jumping, toboggan races, best-dressed toboggan contest and more. Proceeds benefit Canadian Cancer Society programs for children with cancer and provide money for kids who can't afford medication.

Port Hardy

North Island Concert Society presents II Voce

January 15

North Island Concert Society presents Il Voce, in a 7:30 p.m. performance at the Port Hardy Civic Centre. Putting a fresh face on the global phenomenon of "Classical Crossover" or "Popera," Il Voce's amazing sound is created by the combination of four magical voices – soprano Tiffany Desrosiers, tenor Marc Devigne, coloratura soprano Melody Mercredi and baritone DJ Calhoun – together bringing passion and virtuosity to their unique interpretations of romantic, classical, pop and opera favorites. FMI: www.niconcert.ca

Powell River Santa Claus Parade

Santa Claus Para

December 5

The Marine Area Business Association welcomes the holiday season with this parade along Marine Avenue, beginning at 3 p.m. What better way to kick off the holiday season than by joining with friends and family to enjoy the festive sounds and sights of a community Christmas parade? Don't forget to come dressed for the weather and to bring plenty of Christmas spirit!

Carols by Candlelight

December 10 and 11

Beginning at 7:30 p.m. Friday and 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Dwight Hall, join this 32nd season of Academy Choirs' seasonal celebration of carols old and new.

<complex-block>



A Powell River tradition for family and friends. Tickets are \$16 and are available from the Academy Box Office, 7280 Kemano St. FMI: 604-485-9633

Polar Bear Swim

January 1

Set your New Year's alarm and head to Willingdon Beach Park to register for this year's Polar Bear Swim, beginning at noon. Dive in for a refreshing start to 2011!

Storytelling Festival

January 29

The Anglican Church, 6310 Sycamore St., hosts this celebration of story, including traditional tales from around the world, puppet plays and improv games. FMI: 604-487-0750

Trail

Trail Smoke Eaters Junior A Hockey Through February

The historic hockey club celebrates 50 years this season! Come cheer on the home team during a variety of home games planned through the winter at

Cominco Arena. FMI: www.trailsmokeeaters.com

Polar Bear Swim

January 1

Head on down to Gyro Park and brave the cold to welcome the New Year with a Polar Bear dip.

Vancouver Festival of Lights at VanDusen Botanical Garden

December 10 to January 2

The central acres of VanDusen Botanical Garden are transformed into a holiday wonderland with seasonal displays and more than one million sparkling lights wrapped around trees and trellises – a delight for young and old. Every night, from December 10 through 24, Santa can be found wandering the garden or in his living room reading stories to children of all ages. Dinner is served nightly at Shaughnessy Restaurant (reservations are recommended – call 604-261-0011) or opt for something more casual with Dr. Waffle serving sweet and savoury waffles, apple cider and hot chocolate, or Mrs.



Randy Emery photo courtesy Trail Smoke Eaters

Claus's Kitchen and Shaughnessy's Patio for casual fare and treats. (The gardens are closed Christmas Day) FMI: www.vandusengarden.org

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Béla Fleck & The Flecktones December 4

December 4

Béla Fleck joins The Flecktones for another holiday tour in support of their 2008 Grammy® winning Jingle All The Way. The album morphs traditional music and standards into expressive, often highly composed soundscapes, featuring everything from the sparkling banjo-harmonic arrangements of "Christmas Time Is Here" and "River" to fiery, virtuosic renditions of "Sleigh Ride" and "Danse of the Sugar Plum Fairies." Béla Fleck, the 14-time Grammy® winner, has also been nominated 25 times in more categories than any other musician in history. Catch him and the Flecktones at Vancouver's Centre for Performing Arts. FMI: www.centreinvancouver.com

Victoria

Jingle Mingle December 1

The fourth annual Jingle Mingle comes to the beautiful Fairmont Empress Crystal Ballroom, where guests will enjoy a silent and live auction and nibbling – all for a good cause. The black-tie affair is a favourite among Victorians each year as it offers the chance to help make a difference in the lives of cancer patients and survivors by supporting the BC Cancer Foundation. Tickets are \$125 each, five for \$500 or 10 for \$1,000. FMI: www.bccancerfoundation.com

The Rankin Sisters

December 16

The sweet, angelic, Celtic-influenced voices of Raylene, Heather and Cookie Rankin are back together for another Maritime Christmas tour, coming to Victoria's McPherson Playhouse. Filled with the sisters' trademark vocals, this concert tour draws from their delightful Christmas album, *Do You Hear,* and is sure to be a highlight of the holiday season. FMI: www.rmts.bc.ca

Nutcracker Suite and Sugarplum Fair December 28 to 30

Celebrate the holiday season in timehonoured fashion at the McPherson Playhouse with this beloved production from Canadian Pacific Ballet, paired with the magic of a youth-focused "fair" in the lobby. The final performance also includes the "Sugarplum Ball," complete with dancing to the Commodores 18-piece big band. FMI: www.rmts.bc.ca

Williams Lake

Cariboo Foundation Christmas Gala December 4

The Cariboo Foundation Hospital Trust 2010 Christmas Gala, a fundraiser for the Digital Mammography Unit, is at the Elks Hall, featuring a formal dinner, dance, live and silent auction, with entertainment by 6 in the City. Tickets are \$75 per person, available at ReMax and Cariboo GM. FMI: Rick Nelson at 250-392-6053.

The Station House Gallery annual Christmas Market

December 1 through 31

Williams Lake's Station House Gallery welcomes its annual Christmas Market, daily through December. FMI: stationhousegallery.com



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There's No Business like Snow Business!

By Jennifer Blyth

IF IT'S WINTER IN B.C., WE'RE HEADING FOR THE HILLS – THE SKI HILLS THAT IS! AND LUCKILY FOR PACIFIC COASTAL CLIENTS, SOME OF THE PROVINCE'S FINEST MOUNTAIN RESORTS ARE JUST A SHORT FLIGHT AWAY!

MT. WASHINGTON ALPINE RESORT

Comox Valley, Vancouver Island

W ith opening day planned for Dec. 10 this year – possibly earlier if the snow keeps flying – Vancouver Island snow fans are eagerly awaiting the chance to hit the powder at Mt. Washington Alpine Resort.

Tucked into the Beaufort Mountains, with breathtaking views over Strathcona Park and the Comox Valley, Mt. Washington is renowned for its snow, receiving an average of 11 metres – or 36 feet – annually. Last season the resort received its second deepest snow in resort history at more than 15 metres.

An excellent choice for skiers of all levels, Mt. Washington features a variety of accommodation, lessons and camps, plus runs for beginner through advanced skiers. The Ozone Tubing Centre is a blast for all ages and the Nordic Centre offers more than 55 kilometres of machine-groomed cross country trails.

Night skiing is slated to return Thursday to Saturday nights this season with new hours – 3:30 to 10 p.m. – for two extra hours of slope time each night!

What's new on the mountain?

To take advantage of all that snow, Mount Washington is opening an additional 100 acres of gladed terrain off the Little Washington peak on the west side of the mountain, enhancing its already unbelievable tree-skiing, with its stands of old-growth yellow cedar and mountain hemlock.

Also new this winter, Mount Washington is excited to partner up with the Island Alpine Guides (IAG) to bring skiers and boarders an exciting range of new backcountry opportunities. In partnership with the Island Alpine Guides and Backcountry Access, Mt. Washington is introducing the first Backcountry Access Beacon Training Park to the Island. Beacon Training Parks are created to make it easier for recreationists and pros to practice using their transceivers. Mt. Washington's Beacon Basin will be located across from the Whiskey Jack Chair unload area and will be accessible during both day and night operations. This publicly accessible educational tool furthers the mountain's commitment to avalanche education for both workers and guests. You can test your beacon finding skills with friends as the park will feature four to eight permanently buried transmitters. The park is timed so you better be quick!

Work is also under way on facilities for nordic skiers. Mt. Washington's Nordic Centre and beautiful Raven Lodge welcomed more than 16 international Nordic teams for training prior to the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. Another legacy from the Games will be the Vancouver Island Mountain Sports Centre, with expected completion in spring 2011, "a unique multifunctional building to serve both emerging mountain athletes and also the larger community, where children and families can absorb the principles of life-long fitness and outdoor education while discovering a love of sport."

The centre will provide affordable overnight accommodation for a variety of groups, organizations and Island athletes, a hub for yearround coaching, training, recreation, educational programming and competitive events.

MT. CAIN

North Vancouver Island

On the north end of Vancouver Island, about 75 minutes north of Campbell River or two hours south of Port McNeill, Mt. Cain welcomes skiers, snowboarders and backcountry skiers looking for deep powder, 21 runs and 1,499 vertical feet of terrain.

Run by the non-profit Mount Cain Alpine Park Society, Vancouver Island's only community owned and operated ski hill is open three days a week (weekends and select Mondays) – meaning powder accumulates for the weekend. Skiers also reap the benefits of few line-ups and the welcoming atmosphere of a family-oriented mountain. Rentals, learn to ski and snowboard lessons and limited accommodations are also available.

TO GET THERE:

Pacific Coastal offers daily flights from Vancouver to the Comox Valley and Campbell River, access points for Mt. Washington and Mt. Cain. For details visit www.pacificcoastal.com



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* Prices are per person based on four sharing a two bedroom condo. Taxes extra. With the highest base elevation of any coastal ski hill in B.C., Alaska and Washington State, Mt. Cain's peak elevation is second only to Whistler. Slated to open Dec. 4 this year, Christmas break skiing runs Dec. 18 to Jan. 3 and special events include the Cain Cup, Jan. 15, Telefest, Feb. 19 and Kids Fest March 19.

PANORAMA MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

Near Invermere, in the Kootenay Rockies

Tucked into the Rocky Mountains near Invermere, B.C., about two hours north of Cranbrook, served by Pacific Coastal Airlines at Canadian Rockies International Airport, Panorama Mountain Village boasts the best winter has to offer. Homeowners and visitors enjoy true slope-side lodging, one of North America's biggest vertical descents and in the "off-season" the award-winning Greywolf Golf Course. The family-friendly village at Panorama is designed for pedestrians, with plenty of experiences and amenities close at hand.

Known for its Rocky Mountain powder and long, groomed runs, signature runs such as "Schober's Dream" and "View of 1000 Peaks" are ultimate cruisers offering spectacular views of the surrounding snow-capped summits. Looking for a challenge? Taynton Bowl is a vast area – formerly heli-skiing terrain – filled with chutes, bowls and glades that will challenge the black diamond skier.

What's new at Panorama?

Building on the new gladed area opened last year off the "View of 1000 Peaks" run, this winter, an extension of this run will draw skiers into a new, previously inaccessible area of the mountain. The new, 10-hectare, yet-to-be-named black diamond run exits onto Taynton Trail.

Also new on the mountain, the Rockstar Terrain Park is moving to Powder Trail with new beginner/intermediate skier-cross features and a new freestyle mogul section and jump course to challenge technical skills.

Starting Dec. 10, night skiing expands to seven days a week, on terrain three times larger than last year. "We are really excited about the new night experience at Panorama this winter. Anyone with a valid pass for the day can keep skiing past 4 p.m. and into the night on the Showoff Trail with access via the Mile 1 High Speed Quad," notes Jeremy Neill, Marketing Manager for Panorama. Rising 1,200ft above the village, the Showoff trail is more than a mile long. Marked as a green circle run signifying that it's rated as 'easier,' it's a gentle rolling cruiser, great for all abilities and groomed daily.

Serving new skiers or those looking to improve their skills, the new Panorama Snow School will use the latest techniques to ensure skiers and boarders have fun and learn quickly. Families will also enjoy the many activities designed to keep children engaged and happy while not on the slopes.



Panorama Mountain Village



TO GET THERE: Pacific Coastal offers daily flights from Vancouver to Cranbrook with 30-seat Saab service now twice daily Monday to Friday. For details visit www.pacificcoastal.com



Fusion Cuisine and Italian Favourites

Complementing these opportunities will be new dining possibilities from acclaimed Executive Chef Brian Vallipuram, whose fusion-style cuisine adds a new twist to the contemporary seasonal menus. Mile High Pizza will also be relocating to the Lower Village with additional seating and an Italian restaurant will open at the golf course clubhouse, delighting diners with a modern menu. Just a 20-minute drive from Trail Regional Airport, serviced by Pacific Coastal Airlines, Red Mountain's diverse accommodation options and amenities make this an ideal winter destination for everyone from families to die-hard thrillfans. Mountain-side features include a lift-accessed six-acre Terrain Park with rails, fun boxes, a wallride and tabletop jumps for riders of all ability levels. Improve your skills with lessons and clinics or head out on your own while trusting the kids to Red Mountain's kindercare and tot lessons.

RED MOUNTAIN RESORT

Rossland, in the West Kootenays

A lso scheduled to open Dec. 10, Rossland's Red Mountain Resort, with 87 runs spread across two stellar mountains, boasts toprated terrain ranging from wide-open groomed runs to steep, powder-filled glades. With more than 1,685 skiable acres and 880 metres (2,919 feet) of vertical terrain serviced by six lifts, there's plenty to explore, with runs divided into 15 per cent beginner, 40 per cent intermediate and 45 per cent advanced. Highlights of the 2010-11 season include the 10th annual Canadian Open Freeskiing Championships, Jan. 12 to







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15 and 20 to 22 and the Rossland Winter Carnival, Jan. 28 to 30. Select evenings of night skiing are also planned.

What's New at Red?

There's plenty of action on Red Mountain, including a \$2 1/2 million revamp of the day lodge, adding more space and an updated look, both to Rafters up top and to the Sourdough Grill and Pizzeria downstairs. The project also includes a small conference area and a general store to serve both day visitors and those staying on the mountain, and brings in guest services and accommodations rental, essentially localizing a variety of services into one building.

Also new this season is a new back country guided hut on Kirkup Mountain and a newly gladed peak on Grey Mountain which has opened up approximately 300 acres of back country to delight skiers, who can then link back to the lift-serviced area.

Real estate and guest accommodation is another story in the evolution of Red Mountain. With the addition of the new developments at Red, the number of local units will increase

> to 425, which can accommodate approximately 1,943 people. From ski-in/ski-out luxury townhomes and condominium units to bed and breakfasts, hotels, youth hostels and more, guests will certainly find accommodations to suit just about every need.

TO GET THERE:

Pacific Coastal offers daily flights between Vancouver and Trail, near Rossland with 30-seat Saab service now twice daily Monday to Friday. Visit www.pacificcoastal.com for details.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.mountwashington.ca www.mountcain.com www.skipanorama.com www.redresort.com www.hellobc.com

Winter Visits with Feathered Friends



Winter Highlights:

On Vancouver Island the bald eagles - particularly at Goldstream Park near Victoria where they feast on the fish returning to spawn – are favourites with winter bird watchers. Two significant Victoria-area nature sanctuaries include Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary and Esquimalt Lagoon. Feathered visitors to Swan Lake, with its loop trail around the urban water feature, include a year-round population of Anna's Hummingbirds, winter's Barred Owls and Cooper's Hawks, and Common Mergansers, most common in December and January. Esquimalt Lagoon, a federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary, is one of the most important bird feeding areas in the Capital Region, home to large numbers of seabirds, shorebirds and waterfowl, in addition to a variety of migratory species, all easily viewable from the shoreline.

Up Island, the Comox Valley's fertile farmlands draw more than 2,000 trumpeter swans each winter. The Courtenay River estuary, easily viewed from the Courtenay Municipal Air Park Walkway near the Visitor Centre, or from viewing platforms along Comox Road, is a unique habitat for numerous species.

In the Vancouver area, Delta's Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary and Boundary Bay are both birding hotspots along the Pacific Flyway, offering access to a variety of species, including Snow Geese, swans and raptors. At Reifel, winter visitors enjoy Mallards and Black-Capped Chickadees, many small forest birds and birds of prey

W hile birdwatching might be typically associated with spring and summer, in fact, our feathered friends are plentiful throughout the seasons. Thanks to B.C.'s many parks and protected wildlife sanctuaries, and its position along the Pacific Flyway, many species make their home here, some yearround, others during their annual migrations.

> such as eagles, hawks and owls, including the very small Saw-Whet Owl. Downtown, Stanley Park and Jericho Beach are both good locations for spotting waterfowl.

In the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast, Tweedsmuir Provincial Park, near Anahim Lake, welcomes numerous trumpeter swans, passing through on their winter migration. Farther inland, Williams Lake's Scout Island is a 9.7hectare nature sanctuary and park area with a series of nature trails taking visitors through a relatively undisturbed natural environment, rich in bird and small wildlife habitat. Winter birds of interest include Red Wing Blackbirds, Northern Flickers, Song Sparrows and Snowy and Pygmy Owls.

In Cranbrook, Elizabeth Lake Bird Sanctuary is accessible year-round for birders and outdoor enthusiasts. While a frozen lake means water birds are rare here, other birds are regularly spotted. During last year's Christmas Bird Count, common Cranbrook sitings included Bohemian Waxwings, Rock Pigeons and Mountain Chickadees. The public is welcome to join this year's count – Dec. 27 in Cranbrook and Jan. 2 in Kimberley – which can be a good way for beginner birdwatchers to learn the basics.

On Haida Gwaii – formerly the Queen Charlotte Islands – the remote shoreline and waters provide habitat for a variety of wildlife. Local birders recommend the shoreline for good viewing opportunities, with island colonies just off shore supporting murres, puffins (Tuffed and the occasional Horned variety), up to three species of cormorant, gulls, auklet, murrlet and more. Beaches are home to additional shore species, with spring and fall migration periods providing greater diversity.



EXPLORE... Island lifestyle, spectacular storm watching and bird watching this winter in Haida Gwaii





In the Office

...WITH PAUL MANSON, PRESIDENT AND CEO, SEA BREEZE POWER CORPORATION

A s more attention is focused both on the world's limited fossil fuel resources and their impact on global environment, awareness of renewable resources is also growing.

At the forefront of that movement here in British Columbia is the Vancouver-based Sea Breeze Power Corp., a renewable energy company focused on unlocking B.C.'s vast but "stranded" renewable energy potential. Among the current "made-in-B.C." solutions to the province's power needs is a wind farm project near Port Hardy, on the northern tip of Vancouver Island. To learn more, SOAR chatted with Paul Manson, Sea Breeze President and CEO. The company recently entered into an agreement with International Power Canada Inc. for the development of Phase 1 of the project, with Sea Breeze planning a second phase down the road.

What is the Cape Scott Wind Farm?

The Cape Scott Wind Farm is located 35 km northwest of Port Hardy on northern Vancouver Island, within the traditional territories of the Quatsino, Tlatlasikwala and Kwakiutl First Nations. Phase 1 of the project is projected to generate sufficient renewable power to provide for the annual electricity needs of approximately 100,000 British Columbians. Work is expected to begin in the spring and should take about 18 months. Upon completion, power generated will be sold to BC Hydro.

Can you tell us a little about Sea Breeze Power? What kind of expertise does the company bring to its projects?

The first company in B.C. to pursue wind energy on a commercial basis, Sea Breeze Power's No. 1 attribute is its enthusiasm and optimism for the very real potential of renewable energy as our primary power source for all of our electricity and transportation requirements. Paired with that is a very high level of expertise in all facets of the industry, from prospective site identification and resource assessment to permitting and community relations.

What benefits will the Cape Scott project offer? Are there benefits to the local economy as well?

Wind energy is generally recognized as having the lowest carbon impact of any energy generation. The foundations and access roads use only six to seven per cent of the ground area and, providing siting doesn't impact migratory bird routes, the impact on the surrounding environment is minimal.



Photo courtesy Sea Breeze Power Corp.

In terms of job creation, not only will preparation and construction create a variety of short-term jobs, but completion of Phase 1 of the Cape Scott Wind Farm is also expected to create at least six permanent jobs.

Why was this location chosen for the wind farm?

"It's windy," is the short answer, but more than that, the site, a bog on top of a high plateau, is in an area of low population and as there's little forest cover, it's virtually unused by wildlife, so there's limited environmental impact. Northern Vancouver Island has a tremendous potential for renewable energy, and not just wind but also tidal. Additionally, I think it's very positive to have a major wind project within driving distance of the city, allowing people to learn more about the possibilities.

How will this project affect future power projects in B.C.?

Success begets success and having a successful major wind project will engender more enthusiasm and acceptance for the possibilities of renewable energy. Ten years ago the idea of commercially generated wind power in British Columbia was just a fantasy. In addition, Sea Breeze holds applications for a number of other sites around the North Island which we hope to access for future wind power projects. We are also looking into helping the province's remote communities that are currently reliant on diesel for their power generation to tap into some of the renewable resources at their doorstep, such as wind and tidal energy.

What are Sea Breeze Power's goals when working in and with its host communities?

We as a company have really enjoyed the relationships we have built with all the communities with whom we have worked on the North Island and particularly with the First Nations. We were fortunate from the start to find a region that was so hospitable and welcoming of wind technology.

Where does Sea Breeze Power hope to be as a company in five years?

We are entering the age of renewables. We set out to be a leader in wind energy and it's been a long road but we see the possibilities. While Sea Breeze is keeping its eye open for opportunities in other regions, I would just love to see B.C. grow into being a huge, huge exporter of renewable energy. We as a province really have that potential.

What else are you working on?

In addition to the Cape Scott project, Sea Breeze is also pursuing the Juan de Fuca Cable, a 550 megawatt High Voltage Direct Current Light® submarine electric transmission line that will connect the Greater Victoria area with Port Angeles in Washington State. Allowing the transfer of power both ways, the cable will provide additional power stability for both Vancouver Island and the Olympic Peninsula, enabling an expansion of trade which will benefit both sides of the border.



Christmas in Downtown

5000



City sidewalks, busy sidewalks Dressed in holiday style In the air There's a feeling of Christmas

- Silver Bells

he hustle and bustle of a city Christmas comes to life in downtown Vancouver.

From the bright lights and world-class shopping of Robson Street to a twinkling forest escape of Stanley Park, a weekend getaway is sure to get you in the spirit of the season. And when the shopping bags are full – or you just need a little break from the holiday cheer – there's plenty going on in the neighbourhood to entertain. Here are a few favourites...

Everyone Loves a Parade!

Mark your calendar for the seventh annual Santa Claus Parade, beginning at 1 p.m. Dec. 5. Santa's early visit to Vancouver is the perfect kick-off to the holiday season with this year's parade featuring its largest-ever number of marching bands, dance troupes and festive floats. Entertaining more than 300,000 spectators each year, the televised parade is the Lower Mainland's biggest winter event. FMI: www.rogerssantaclausparade.com

On Stage:

Arts Club Theatre Company's Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage presents *Irving Berlin's White Christmas: The Musical* Dec. 4 to Jan. 2.

Audiences will warm to this unforgettable musical about love and friendship, based on the classic holiday film, from the book by David Ives and Paul Blake. This tap-dancing delight brims with tunes — including "Sisters" and the everpopular "White Christmas" — that will fill you with the joy of the season. FMI: www.artsclub.com

No holiday season is complete without Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*. Ballet BC brings the treasured production to the Queen Elizabeth Theatre Dec. 29 to Jan. 1. Set in turnof-the-20th-Century Imperial Russia, this new production is filled with the magic audiences have come to expect. "With scores of children, mice in the battle scene dressed as Cossack soldiers, and snowflakes dressed as Russian princesses, this spectacular achievement offers a perfect complement to Tchaikovsky's glorious musical score played live by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra." FMI: www.balletbc.com

New & Notable Downtown

New to Vancouver this year is the Vancouver Christmas Market, bringing the 700-year-old tradition of the German Christmas Market to the plaza in front of the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. through Dec. 24, the market is an authentic "Christkindlmarkt" featuring festive merchandise, food, cultural activities and events.

A special children's area known as the Kinderweihnacht will let youngsters make their own Christmas gifts and visit with Santa Claus. Colourful décor, seasonal gifts, family entertainment, authentic food and an enchanting village atmosphere will make this an unforgettable event. Tickets are \$5/adults; \$2/youth; and free for children age six and younger. FMI: www.tourismvancouver.com

Outdoor skating is a rare pleasure on the West Coast, but it's expected that a relaxing turn around the rink will be as close as Robson Square. While details were still being finalized at press time, the outdoor ice skating rink, once a regular delight of skaters of all ages, was expected to return from mid-December through February.

Lights & Action:

Hosted by the Vancouver Park Board and British Columbia Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund, from 3 to 10 p.m.

nightly through Jan. 2, Bright Nights in Stanley Park transforms Stanley Park's forest, train and children's farmyard areas with more than two million twinkling lights. Entertainment, dozens of delightful animated displays and more carry on the tradition started with the first Christmas Train more than 30 years ago. Children can also visit Santa in his "living room" at the train station. Admission to the plaza is free, but tickets are required to ride the train and visit the farmyard (\$8.04/adults, \$5.36/children and seniors). Partial proceeds from the train and all donations support the work of the British Columbia Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund. FMI: www.vancouver.ca/parks/ events/brightnights

Departing at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 11 to 24, Karaoke Christmas Lights Trolley Tour from the Vancouver Trolley Company heads through the streets of Vancouver to Stanley Park for the Bright Nights display. Take in the twinkling plaza, then hop back on the karaoke trolley to VanDusen Botanical Garden for Festival of Lights where guests can stroll the renowned gardens, decorated with more than a million lights. The tour departs from Canada Place at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$38/adults; \$35/students and seniors; and \$25/children. FMI: www.vancouvertrolley.com

Also in Stanley Park, the Magic of the North comes to the Vancouver Aquarium from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily to Jan. 3. Visitors will immerse themselves in a thrilling 4-D experience aboard The Polar Express – feel the wind on your face, snow fall on your fingertips and smell hot chocolate in the air. Continue the journey to a winter wonderland at Canada's Arctic Gallery and meet Scuba Claus (December weekends and daily Dec. 17 to 26 at 11:30 a.m.). FMI: www.visitvanaqua.org

The lights arrive harbourside with Carol Ships Parade of Lights, Dec. 3 to 23. A 50-vear-old Christmas tradition began with one boat decorated with holiday lights in Coal Harbour. Today, on peak evenings, this holiday tradition has grown to more than 50 decorated boats gliding through Vancouver's waterways, with more than 100,000 twinkling lights and 30,000 singing voices. The spectacle viewed from the shore is free, but the best experience is from the carol ships themselves. Tickets for different boats range in price and offerings. FMI: www.carolships.org



In the midst of the holiday preparations, take the time to enjoy the Winter Solstice Lantern Procession, Dec. 21, from 6 to 10 p.m. The longest night of the year has been celebrated by cultures all over the world for thousands of years. Here in Vancouver, the night is illuminated with lanterns, singing, drumming, music and dancing in five different Vancouver neighbourhoods: Granville Island, Yaletown, Chinatown, Strathcona and East Vancouver, five small, community-based festivals that reflect the unique nature of each neighbourhood.

FMI: www.secretlantern.org





PARKSIDE VICTORIA RESORT & SPA OFFERS NORTH AMERICAN-LEADING SUSTAINABILITY PAIRED WITH STYLE & SOPHISTICATION

By Jennifer Blyth

<mark>Green</mark> goes Platinum

O ne of Victoria's newest resorts has proven that green – done right – can be gorgeous.

Parkside Victoria Resort & Spa is the first all-suites sustainable resort hotel targeting LEED® Platinum Certification in North America. Offering both quarterownership options and hotel-style suite bookings, Parkside sits just one block from the Victoria Conference Centre and two blocks from the Inner Harbour and Provincial Legislature. Developed by Aviawest, the aim was to design a building to fit aesthetically with the surrounding neighbourhood and be integrated as "Victorian" but not appear dated or old. The three-storey glass-and-green-roof atrium, use of rock and stone in and around the building, interior and exterior water features, and thoughtful landscaping and green spaces combine to blend the distinction between outside and in. Luxury furnishings and elegant décor - made from lowemitting, non-toxic and recycled materials - make Parkside the perfect home away from home.

What sets Parkside apart from the other developments rising in Victoria's downtown? "Probably the most unique feature of Parkside are the amenities in the building," says Aviawest CEO Jim Pearson. "The 29-seat movie theatre, Penthouse Lounge, 25-metre pool, spa and all the wonderful common areas like the atrium definitely give us a different feel than the typical hotel."

Additional amenities include a fitness centre, 24-hour concierge service and AquaTerre Spa. "I think the theatre is the favourite feature, along with the quality and size of the suites themselves compared to the typical hotel room. The spaces are really designed to be able to 'live in' for the short term. Most hotels rooms are designed for 'sleeping' but not great to entertain, socialize and live fully." Suites range from one-bedroom units that accommodate up to four guests to two-bedroom luxury suites that accommodate up to eight. Throughout, owners and guests will enjoy contemporary bathrooms with cosy-on-the-toes heated tile floors, shower and bathtub, including some soaker tubs, with kitchens outfitted in beautiful granite counters and stainless steel appliances. Curl up in front of the Solus electric fireplace, relax with a favourite program on the flatscreen LCD TV, or enjoy the views over the historic surrounding neighbourhoods from a private balcony or patio.

For those looking to purchase at Parkside, the larger building is 80-per-cent sold out and the smaller building about 15-per-cent. Prices for a quarter-interest start at \$149,900. "We're in a fortunate situation that we are able to monetize the unsold inventory as hotel rental inventory, which helps with carrying costs," notes Pearson, adding that Aviawest is thrilled to have completed such a significant project at a challenging economic time.

"I think we are proud that we got this project completed through the economic downturn, and proud we didn't cut corners on the product we promised to the purchasers." In turn, those buyers – typically from places with cooler winter climates, such as Prince George, Calgary and Edmonton – are appreciating Victoria's mild year-round climate, which provides not only respite from snow and cold, but also access to pastimes such as year-round golf, biking and hiking, cultural events, and much more. "Originally when we conceived the project, we thought of the prime summer season as being most desirable, but we underestimated the demand for our Canadian snowbirds," Pearson says.

TO GET THERE:

Pacific Coastal flies several times each day between Vancouver South Terminal and Victoria International Airport. Visit www.pacificcoastal.com for more details.



From the beginning, a focus on building "green" was paramount for the Vancouver Island developers, and to earn its LEED Platinum rating, Parkside boasts many environmentally conscious initiatives and features. During construction, waste and materials were diverted from landfills at a rate of 92.3 per cent and residents and visitors will be able to continue this program: recycling bins are located in all suites and a dedicated underground area collects the building's recycling. The goal of environmental excellence continues in the resort's day-to-day operations, with green housekeeping practices using green cleaning methods and EcoLogo® certified cleaning products. Green power has been purchased from renewable sources for 50 per cent of Parkside's electrical demand.

The long-term energy savings goal is to reduce consumption and costs by 50 to 60 per cent over the

national standard. Initiatives to help achieve that goal include prewarmed water from solar energy and heat pumps to recycle energy from waste water from commercial laundry, tubs and showers and store in subterranean basement. Lightcoloured reflective roofs reduce absorption of heat in summer and building design allows for natural "air conditioning." Suites are accessorized with Energy Star-rated appliances and energy-efficient electronics while washrooms and change rooms feature watersaving plumbing fixtures, including waterless urinals, dual-flush toilets, low-flow showers and aerated faucets with sensors. Ozonation of pools and hot tubs eliminates the need for water replenishment, which reduces wastewater, and reduces chlorine use by 90 per cent - also reducing indoor chemical and pollutant sources.

A 68,500-gallon storm water tank system will collect water for non-potable irrigation purposes throughout the resort while outside, water-efficient gardening and landscaping measures include native and drought-tolerant plants throughout the gardens, eliminating the need for potable water irrigation. Rooftop gardens reduce the building's heat signature while adding outdoor living space with stunning views of the Legislature, St. Ann's Academy and surrounding neighbourhoods.

Targeting transportation, the building is well-serviced by public transit and is in the centre of dining, shopping and entertainment amenities. Parking spaces with electrical charging stations have been designated for alternative fuel vehicles, while 46 bicycle racks and adjacent change rooms have been provided for staff, retail visitors and residents.

All of which goes to show that you can enjoy a premier getaway in one of the world's most desirable cities while also being mindful of the global environment.



www.ParksideLifestyle.com/soar Toll Free 1.877.444.9386





FOODFOR**THOUGHT**



MAPLE, DILL AND BLACK PEPPER MARINATED SOCKEYE SALMON ON CEDAR

Marinade

1/4 cup brown sugar1/4 cup water1/2 cup maple syrup1 tbsp. chopped fresh dill1 tbsp. coarse black pepper

Combine all ingredients and mix well.

Add 4 pieces of sockeye salmon to marinade, making sure to submerge each piece.

Allow to marinate for 4 to 12 hours.

Cooking

Soak 4 BC Coastal Grilling Planks in water for 2 to 4 hours.

Preheat oven to 395°F.

Place salmon on cedar board and bake 10 minutes to medium.

Serve with your choice of rice and vegetables.



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www.landinggrill.com



PLANETFASERS

ACROSS

- 1. Jeer or mock
- 6. Islamic leaders
- 11. 7 day schedule
- 14. Dip lightly into water
- 15. Give over
- 16. Not old
- 18. Foravs
- 21. Voluntarily relinquish
- 23. Optic maser
- 25. Higher in stature
- 26. Jabs with a knife
- 28. Antilles island
- 29. Comes in a pack for smoking
- 31. Religion
- 34. Tit for
- 35. Partidge Family star Susan
- 36. Tuna brand
- 39. British policemen
- 40. More wise
- 44. Fabric with hole patterns
- 45. Donate income regularly
- 47. Gets stuck
- 48. Fleece
- 50. Volcanic mountain in Japan
- 51. Saddle occupant
- 56. Large coffee maker
- 57. Chimneyed light source
- 62. Swamp grass
- 63. ____-Riddle Aeronautical Un.

- DOWN
- 1. Reddish browns
- 2. Atomic #58
- 3. Tulsa state (abbr.)
- 4. Fisherman's lure
- 5. So you know, abbr.
- 6. Not well
- 7. Angry
- 8. Article
- 9. Manganese
- 10. Old age mental infirmity
- 11. 99.1 Binghamton, NY
- 12. 17th Hebrew letter
- 13. Be in awe of
- 14. Jill Biden's title
- 17. No longer are
- 19. Fall back (time)
- 20. Large body of water
- 21. Decreased moon phase
- 22. Having winglike extensions
- 24. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 25. Hill (Celtic)
- 27. Building lots
- 28. "Psycho" motel
- 30. Talk
- 31. Type of begonia
- 32. Saunter
- 33. Drama awards
- 36. Not girlish
- 37. Lease
- 38. Take in solid food
- 39. Altar
- 41. 20th C. actress Lillian ____h
- 42. Abyssinia or ____iopia



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- 43. Pertaining to arthritis
- 49. Graduated nurse
- 51. A tractor trailer
- 52. Frozen water
- 53. Official prosecutor
- 54. Point midway
- between NE and E
- 55. Radioactivity unit
- 58. Do over prefix
- 59. Rural delivery
- 60. Pound
- 61. Atomic #18

SUDOKU



9 G 8 L 6 2 F 3 6 2 ε G L 9 8 F 4 З L F 2 9 9 6 Þ 8 ε 7 9 2 F 8 G 6 G 8 6 З 2 9 L Þ L 2 Z G L 7 8 9 З 6 3 8 G F 6 9 2 L Þ 9 ε G 7 2 8 6 н 8 6 Þ F 9 ε G

SUDOKU ANSWER FOR THIS ISSUE

CROSSWORD ANSWER FOR THIS ISSUE



a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Sudoku puzzles are formatted

as a 9x9 grid, broken down

into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve

(See bottom left of page for answers.)

Difficulty: $\star \star$

★ Moderate ★★ Advanced ★★★ Hoo Bov!

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- - 46. Wyatt _____, OK Corral

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