

SOAR

In-flight
Magazine
for Pacific
Coastal
Airlines

ALL ABOARD!

Cruising Victoria's inner
harbour with former mayor

PUMPING THE ECONOMY

Boat building
enterprise thrives in
Campbell River

TAIL ART

The story of the eagle

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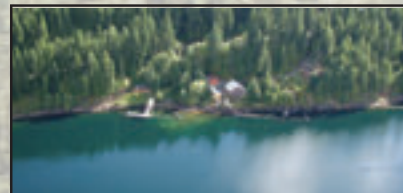
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Masset Oceanfront Home: 1.6 oceanfront acres on beautiful North Beach in Haida Gwaii. 2400sqft 5bdrm home, quality craftsmanship, 16X40ft detached shop, two greenhouses, incredible coastal views with miles of sandy beaches! A nature lover's dream. Well-appointed family home, well-established vacation rental, B&B or fishing resort. **\$595,000**



Coulter Island, Coulter Bay: ¼ shared interest in this forested 44-acre island off Cortes Island. 7.8 exclusive oceanfront acres, 12 acres common property. 960sqft main oceanfront residence is a netloft conversion; modern, full kitchen, functional and wheelchair accessible, power and water. Additional rustic cabin, octagonal log shop. **Private moorage. \$425,000**



Upper Campbell Lake: Popular recreation area just outside Strathcona Park, 30 minutes from Campbell River on Vancouver Island.

900 sqft, 3 bdrm cottage. 360ft of lakefront, substantial pier and dock. \$298,900

576sqft lakefront cabin on .43 acre, high bank, stairs to water, road access. \$179,000



Vancouver Island Acreages: Substantial waterfront properties on NW Vancouver Island. **Rupert Inlet, Section 16:** 60.9 acres, encompasses the Waukaas Creek estuary. **\$450,000**
Quatsino Sound, Sec 26: 38 acres, 1400ft low-bank oceanfront, mature timber. **\$249,999**
Alice Lake, DL202: 220 acres, fabulous North Island lake front development. **\$1,450,000**



Bute Inlet Oceanfront: Pristine 17.3-acre property with over 2500ft of shoreline located among narrow tidal passages at the northern end of the Strait of Georgia. This impressive acreage has due south exposure that provides great protection, 3 small streams / creeks that run through the property and is nicely treed. Incredible views and outdoor adventure! **\$800,000**



Ocean View Cortes Island: 2000sqft west coast-style home on 2.4 acres. Three levels, welcoming living spaces with ocean views, expansive decks, partially finished basement. Master bedroom on upper floor with ensuite and private balcony. Manicured lawns and attractive gardens. Wood stove and fireplace. Water is from a shallow well. Close to the ferry. **\$312,900**



Quadra Island Oceanfront: Beautifully treed 5.2 acres with 330ft easy-access walk-on oceanfront on Sutil Channel. 2515sqft main residence at ocean's edge, 3 levels, 4bdms, large decks. 1380sqft guest home/rental, tucked into forest with views, quite separate from the main residence. Good privacy. Near amenities, golf course, Heriot Bay and Rebecca Spit. **\$675,000**



Shewell Island: 164 acre undeveloped private island in Knight Inlet, BC Central Coast. Fully forested in mixed species, some mature growth. Diverse shoreline including little bays, varied topography. Centralized location close to Vancouver Island and Broughton Archipelago, providing quick easy access to numerous waterways, mainland inlets and islands. **\$950,000**



Redonda Bay Oceanfront Cabin: 1.1 acres oceanfront, 500sqft cabin, well-appointed, with second storey loft, wood stove and full concrete foundation. Water license on creek on property, septic field in place. Low bank waterfront and flat topography. Western exposure, nice marine views across Deer Passage, beautiful setting in the Discovery Islands. **\$224,900**



Remote BC Coast Acreages: Adjoining properties on Porcher Island off the north coast of British Columbia just a few miles from the mouth of the Skeena River. 143.2 acres diverse topography with watercourses and four small private lakes. **\$85,000**
107.8 acres in two titles, near Hunt Inlet, watercourses and part of a lake. **\$99,600**



Quatsino Sound Oceanfront Acreage: 106 acres in two separate titles. 1300+ft of low-bank easy access south-facing oceanfront, nicely protected. A small creek runs through the property. There is forest service road access and zoning permits subdivision. Well known NW Vancouver Island region that provides excellent fishing and recreation. **\$259,000**



703 Floatplane Operation: Central Vancouver Island. Profitable, established, operating floatplane company with all licenses, aircraft and facilities required to conduct business. Includes Domestic and International Licenses, Air Operator Certificate, 3 aircraft, facility lease, office and support equipment, spare parts inventory and more. Share sale. **\$1,400,000**

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Photo: Susie Quinn

Editor

Susan Lundy
lundys@shaw.ca

Group Publisher

Penny Sakamoto
psakamoto@blackpress.ca

Director, Advertising Sales

Oliver Sommer
osommer@blackpress.ca

Advertising

Anne Marie Rindt
Patty Doering

Graphic Design

Lily Chan
Michelle Gjerde

Published by

Black Press
818 Broughton Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1E4
www.blackpress.ca

Phone 250-381-3484

Fax 250-386-2624



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Annual PCA golf tourney — raising funds and hope



Quentin Smith
President,
Pacific Coastal Airlines

On Tuesday, June 3 we will host our 22nd Annual Memorial Charity Golf Tournament at Mayfair Lakes Golf & Country Club in Richmond. The golf tournament is a labour of love for both management and staff at Pacific Coastal, and it has grown considerably since the inaugural event back in 1992. Last year we provided a record \$45,000 to charity, and the event has raised a total of \$209,412.09 since inception.

The primary recipient of the funds raised by Pacific Coastal is The Source Club Society of Powell River. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to exploring and supporting work opportunities for those with mental illness. Its mission is to help people achieve healthy and productive lives and it operates on the belief that everyone has the right to meaningful employment.

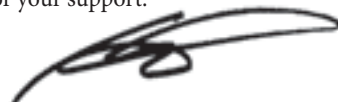
Last year we added a second charity. Native Education College in Vancouver is the largest

private Aboriginal college in the province and it offers programs leading to the BC Adult Graduation Diploma and college certificates and diplomas that provide access to employment or further post-secondary education.

I am proud of our company's history of supporting organizations that work hard every day to give people hope and in doing so, make an important contribution to the communities they serve. They are our communities as well.

If you are interested in registering to golf, or wish to become a sponsor of the Pacific Coastal Airlines 22nd Annual Memorial Charity Golf Tournament, visit our website www.pacificcoastal.com and click on the active link to the registration page.

Thank you for your support.



MEET A PACIFIC COASTAL EMPLOYEE



Name:
EMILY WILTON
Position: Customer
Service Agent
Based in:
Campbell River
**Time with
Pacific Coastal:**
14 years

What is the vision or mission of your department?

As customer service agents in Campbell River, we are providing more than just flights to and from Vancouver. We act as ambassadors to the community when the tourists arrive, providing them with information of local services, points of interest, best restaurants and more.

What do you like most about your job?

I love meeting people that are heading out on amazing journeys or heading home from a once in a lifetime adventure. I try to take a moment to connect with each person that I talk to in order to help ease the stress that can sometimes go along with travelling.

Where did you grow up?

I lived in Ontario until the cold weather got the best of me. I packed up my dog and some of my belongings into my old Volkswagen and headed west. Campbell River seemed like a great place to settle and see what life would bring!

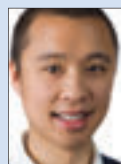
What are your hobbies outside of the job?

Summer is my favorite time of year and the kayak is where I can usually be found on my days off. We love to head out and camp, fish and bike ride. Vancouver Island also hosts many wonderful festivals and events that are fun to check out. Each winter I like to try something new and this year hot yoga and knitting have kept me very busy.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS



Susan Lundy is a freelance writer, author and editor, who grew up in Victoria and now lives on Salt Spring Island.



Benjamin Yong is a freelance journalist and community news reporter based in Richmond, B.C. He enjoys writing about lifestyles, culture and cars.



Susan Quinn is a veteran Vancouver Island journalist with more than two decades of experience and a passion for flying.



Montreal-born **Brian Kieran** has worked for several BC newspapers, taking him from England to Qatar. He is also a communications volunteer for the Pender Island Fire Department.

TAIL ART: Eagle
 AIRCRAFT: Beech 1900C
 CALL SIGN: C-GPCY

Celebrating the eagle

When the subject of tail art for Pacific Coastal Airline planes came up, the company “found it difficult to sum all that is BC in a single image.” Now, each of the airline’s tails feature different icons. Here is the story of the eagle.

BY SUSAN QUINN

In First Nations lore, the eagle is the ruler of the sky. So it is only fitting that the eagle, a revered bird in British Columbia, is depicted as tail art on Pacific Coastal Airlines’ aircraft.

Eagles are birds of prey, with keen eyesight and large wingspans — sometimes more than two metres. In British Columbia, the distinctively coloured brown and white eagles — known as bald eagles — are one of 50 different species of eagles found around the world.

Eagles are celebrated in numerous ways in BC, including First Nations ceremonies and festivals, such as the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival at Chehalis Flats in November and the annual Brackendale Bald Eagle Count near Squamish.

A bald eagle is also part of the team of

birds of prey used to prevent other birds from colliding with aircraft at Vancouver International Airport. These birds are used to scare away migrating waterfowl, according to bird handler Emily Fleming.

Twenty years ago, the wildlife branch of the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks estimated the winter population of bald eagles in BC to be between 20,000 and 30,000. Experts estimate the population is around 20,000 now.

While eagles remain abundant on the West Coast, spotting a majestic bird soaring past never ceases to turn heads.

QUICK FACT: Eagles have such good sight they can spot their prey 1.6 kilometres (1 mile) away.

BONUS FACT: Myriad “nest cams” are set up around Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland where people can remotely observe activity in eagles’ nests live via the Internet.



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Exterior of Surrey Memorial Hospital; below, Campbell Heights aerial image.

THE FUTURE LIVES HERE

Surrey sheds bedroom community designation

BY BENJAMIN YONG

From light industry to medical innovation to clean technology, Surrey is ushering in a new era of economic development by attracting all types of business, and it's quickly living up to its tag line, "The Future Lives Here."

Once ranked low on the Metro Vancouver food chain, the city is poised to match Vancouver in both population and possibly popularity in a couple of decades, thanks to the leadership of Mayor Dianne Watts and her team, which now reside in a brand new, \$97 million city hall located in downtown Surrey.

Councillor Bruce Hayne sits in his office overlooking City Centre — the area still known to many as the much stigmatized Whalley — in late February, having moved a couple of weeks prior. As part of his duties as one of Watts' inner circle, he sits as the chair of the Investment and Innovation Committee, which advises council on issues like investment opportunities. To this end, he helped oversee the Campbell Heights North business park in southeast Surrey that has been a work-in-progress since 2006 and is envisioned to take another 10 years to complete.



"It's a five-phase business park of pre-serviced industrial land. Phase one and two are sold out and we're currently selling phase three. In total, Campbell Heights represents about 245 acres," says Hayne.

"There are already about 50 or 60 or so businesses operating in the park."

Popular for companies that need a larger footprint for manufacturing, some of its inhabitants are well-known like Surrey-based Van Gogh Designs, which specializes in designer furniture, while others are more commercial-based enterprises such as CB Supplies, which distributes plumbing and geothermal products.

Hayne says the development is particularly attractive because of its proximity to one of

the busiest US border crossings in the country (at 176 Street), the new South Fraser Perimeter Road, as well as the Deltaport terminal and South Fraser Docks.

"It's clear that it's bringing investment into the community and good paying jobs into the community. It really is a huge asset to the city," he says.

Hayne adds that Campbell Heights represents only one aspect of a three-pronged approach for growing Surrey's prominence on the map. There is a heavy focus right now on health, with much of the work taking place within a one-kilometre stretch of infrastructure dubbed "Innovation Boulevard."

Situated between Simon Fraser University and Surrey Memorial Hospital, the two flanking organizations have joined together with other partners, including the University of British Columbia and Kwantlen Polytechnic University, to come up with ways to improve and advance the health care system and attract top minds in the field.

Hayne says it also aims to grow new companies in the health sector, and is already attracting young startups by providing a

well-established incubating space. Examples include MetaOptima, a company that produces a camera for smartphones, helping detect and prevent skin cancer; and MobiSafe, which has a patent pending for a foam airbag system for wheelchairs.

“A big part of it is not just doing research for research’s sake. It’s doing research for the purpose of being able to take products to the market.”

Much in the same way the city approached Innovation Boulevard a little over a year ago, things are just getting underway for the other big economic development piece: clean tech.

Surrey is currently in partnership with BC Hydro subsidiary Powertech (a company that consults on clean energy and performs independent testing) to recruit an industry chair to drive the sector forward. A base of operations has yet to be found but there is “no question” that the commercial component of the project will end up in Campbell Heights.

“As soon as some of the research is done, some of these companies are going to want to get out of the lab and into production. And they’re going to need space.”

While still in the early stages, evidence of clean energy — generally defined as coming from naturally replenished sources — can already be found at city hall, which uses a geothermal field to heat the 180,000-square-



Dr. Ryan D’Arcy is head of Health Sciences and Innovation for Surrey Memorial Hospital, and the chair of healthcare innovation at Simon Fraser University.

foot building. Heat pumps extract and recirculate energy stored in the ground, a technique considered much more efficient than conventional setups, provided there is a high population density.

Hayne says this will provide heating for future commercial and residential towers surrounding the area, and the city is already looking at developing other nodes in the area.

There are other ideas in the cards, too, like addressing the tremendous power consumed by transportation and day-to-day activities

of buildings through smart retrofits such as swapping out traditional light bulbs with LED varieties, and taking advantage of solar power.

“These are all a big part of the clean energy cluster,” says Hayne.

Regardless of the project Surrey decides to tackle next, it is clear that the place once known as a bedroom community to other communities, is making the right strides to becoming a major destination.

“We’re designated to become a second metropolitan core to Vancouver.” ■

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Photo: John Welburn

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PACIFIC COASTAL SET TO SWING AT ANNUAL TOURNEY

Building on the success of Pacific Coastal Airlines' Annual Memorial Charity Golf Tournament last year, the 22nd edition, taking place on June 3 at Mayfair Lakes Golf & Country Club in Richmond, is gearing up for another exciting day of golf, sun and fun.

Last year, 148 golfers turned out for the annual tourney, raising over \$45,000. Pacific Coastal President Quentin Smith described it as "the best event ever."

He added, "The weather was perfect and we raised a record amount for two deserving local charities"

Those charities will again benefit from this year's event, as it provides support to The Source Club in Powell River, and the Native Education College.

The Source Club of Powell River helps those with mental illness to reintegrate into the community, while the Vancouver based NEC Native Education College has been serving the needs of Aboriginal students for almost 40 years.

Online registration is now open for the event, and prize donations are being sought for the silent auction, with 100 per cent of funds raised benefitting the two charities.

All registered tourney attendees receive a round of golf including a power cart,

lunch, BBQ, dinner, prizes, networking, and sunglasses from SunDog Eyewear.

For more information about the tournament or to purchase a ticket, visit pacificcoastal.com

HAIDA GWAII RULES THE HOOPS

Much like the repeat gold medal performances by the Canadian men's and women's hockey teams at this year's Sochi Winter Olympics, the 2014 All Native Basketball Tournament (ANBT) was also about defending titles.

The event took place in Prince Rupert in front of a sold-out crowd of 4,000 people, according to ANBT president Peter Haugan, who said both the Skidegate senior and intermediate teams from Haida Gwaii took repeat first place finishes in the competition.

"The seniors faced Ahousaht from the west coast of Vancouver Island and won by one point," said Haugan, adding that the 71-70 victory marked their third championship win in a row.

The under-22 intermediate Skidegate team beat out the Prince Rupert Huskies by 13 points for a 93-80 final. In the masters division, Massett bested Bella Bella by a score of 94 to 64, and the women's matchup between Metlakatla and Nanaimo was a very tight 64-63.

The tourney's MVPs are as follows: senior, Desi Collinson (Skidegate); intermediate, Nate Vogstad (Skidegate); masters, Abe Brown (Massett); women's, Judy Carlick, (Metlakatla).

— *By Benjamin Yong*

KELOWNA HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

The Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society has been selected to build and operate up to 90 units of affordable rental housing for low to modest income families and individuals at the Central Green site in Kelowna.

"Creating affordable rental housing is just one of the ways our government is putting the needs of families first in Kelowna and around British Columbia," said Premier Christy Clark, MLA for Westside-Kelowna. "We're excited to be working with the city and the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society on the development at Central Green."

The selection follows a Request for Proposal call issued by the B.C. government in September 2013. The Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society brings more than 40 years of experience to the project providing support services and affordable housing for First Nations people and individuals in need in the Kelowna area.

"Central Green is a city-led development bringing together multi-family dwellings, retail spaces, a community park and other public amenities downtown," said Kelowna Mayor Walter Gray. "We are delighted to have the Ki-Low-Na Friendship society as a partner in the development of this integrated, modern community."

The affordable housing development is located at 1700 Chapman Place and will be part of the larger city-led development at the Central Green site in Kelowna.

More BC ROUNDUP, page 10



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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

LNG LEARNING

British Columbia youth are invited to take part in an interactive career experience at the second annual Liquefied Natural Gas in B.C. Conference in Vancouver this May.

As the LNG sector develops, says a BC government press release, it will create jobs all over the province. School districts throughout BC are being invited to bring their secondary students to the conference. The Province will provide up to \$300,000 to help offset transportation costs.

The Youth Experience is a half-day program where Grades 10 through 12 students will: learn about liquefied natural gas (LNG) and jobs in this industry; get hands-on experience using heavy equipment and welding simulators; identify career paths that reflect their skills and interests via a WorkBC program; interact with BC post-secondary institutions and explore what programs are offered related to the LNG industry.

The conference is being held May 21-23 in Vancouver.

DATEBOOK

BELLA COOLA

Bella Coola Valley Farmers Market

Sundays, June-September

Head to the market every Sunday for a chance to mingle, buy fresh produce, local honey, homemade goodies, and fine arts and crafts from the Valley.

CAMPBELL RIVER

Vancouver Island Fibre Festival May 2-4

The second annual event will raise funds for the specialized recreation programs at Campbell River Community Centre FMI: visit Vancouver Island Fibre Festival on Facebook or at <http://shelmack.wix.com/vancouverislandfibre#!workshops/c66t>

Dinner and Art Auction

May 3: 5 pm

An annual event held at Quinsam Recreation Hall, the evening offers a traditional seafood buffet, performances by local artists and silent and live auctions. All proceeds benefit the Nuyumbalees Cultural Centre. FMI: www.nuyumbalees.com

CRANBROOK

Children's Festival

May 10: 10 am to 2 pm

The 29th annual festival for children of all ages has lots of exciting activities. Takes place at Baker Field at Key City Theatre — and it's free.

SIDNEY

Easter Vintage, Retro and Collectible Show/Sale April 20:

9:30 am to 4 pm

An extraordinary event for the whole family at Mary Winspear Centre: dolls, teddy bears, pre/post-war clothes, jewelry, coins, stamps, books vinyl, posters, artwork and much, much more.

TRAIL

Kootenay Chrysler Bullarama

April 26: 3:30-8:30 pm

Watch some of Canada's top bull riders at Bullarama. Doors open at 3:30 pm for mechanical bull riding fun at Trail Memorial Centre.

VICTORIA

Social Media Camp

May 1-3

Canada's largest forum of its kind, it involves three days of social media exploration, sharing, teaching and networking at the Victoria Conference Centre.

FMI: www.socialmediacamp.ca

Greater Victoria Business Awards

April 24: 6-10 pm

Takes place at the Fairmont Empress Hotel. Held annually in April, this gala event recognizes businesses in the Capital Region

in 14 different award categories. A spectacular night of entertainment and celebration.

Marriage of Figaro

April 24-30 / May 2,4

The Marriage of Figaro presented by Pacific Opera Victoria takes place at the Royal Theatre. FMI: www.pov.bc.ca

VANCOUVER

2014 NEC Awards

May 31: 6-10 pm

Native Education College gala event takes place at Coast Coal Harbour Hotel, celebrating student and alumni success.

WILLIAMS LAKE

85th Birthday Celebrations May 3

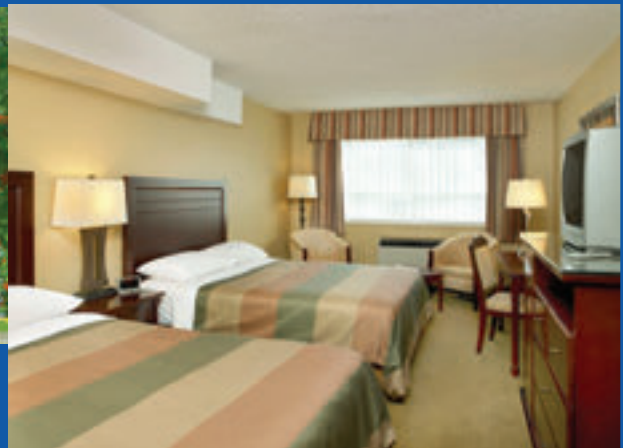
An all-day family-friendly birthday celebration to mark Williams Lake's 85th birthday. A huge celebration featuring community meals, activities in beautiful Boitanio Park downtown, a family dinner and dance, and of course, birthday cake! www.williamslake.ca

Williams Lake Indoor

Rodeo April 18-20

Some 5,000 people are expected to attend this fun-filled event, which takes place at the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex.

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Birthday BASH

BC TOWN CELEBRATES 85 YEARS OF "DIVERSITY AND OPPORTUNITY"

Williams Lake turns 85 this year and the city is planning a foot-stomping good time to celebrate.

Although birthday activities are planned throughout the year, May 3 has been designated as birthday bash day, with events starting at 8:30 a.m. and running until 10:30 p.m.

"The City of Williams Lake has been developed on a firm foundation of partnerships, working together and community spirit," says councillor Danica Hughes, adding that the community is famous for rodeo. And in rodeo events, she points out, a "main goal is to avoid breaking barriers."

"This year as we celebrate the city's 85th birthday, we hope to do the opposite. We want to break down barriers, bringing the entire community together to celebrate the diversity and opportunities that have made our little city such a unique place to call home."

Williams Lake, whose history is rooted in the Cariboo Gold Rush in the mid-1880s, was incorporated as a city in 1929.

Hughes, who suggested the event last year, has spearheaded the birthday celebration, and has been joined on an organizing committee by fellow councillor Surinderpal Rathor and several community members


Events on May 3 will take place in beautiful Boitanio Park in downtown Williams Lake, and at the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex (adjacent to the park).

From 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., the Lions Club will host a breakfast in the park, followed by family activities and games, also in the park, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Lunch will be available at the recreation complex. Then, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., Maranatha School will host a "Carnival in the Complex."

At 5 p.m., prepare to feast at a community dinner hosted by the Rotary Club of Williams Lake. A birthday cake will be served at 7 p.m., and a foot-stomping family dance wraps up festivities from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

The city is proud that 25 individuals, businesses, and organizations (including the city) each contributed to the budget, making this a true community event.

Other events throughout the year include the world-famous Williams Lake Stampede (June 27-30), the Stampede parade and Street Party, Canada Day, ArtWalk, the Harvest Fair, Santa Parade, Cowboy Concert and fireworks show hosted by the city on Oct. 31. 

To Get There

Pacific Coastal Airlines runs several flights daily between Vancouver Airport's South Terminal and Williams Lake. Visit www.pacificcoastal.com for more details.



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LIFE  BIGGER HERE

ALL ABOARD!

Cruising Victoria's inner harbour

Story by SUSAN LUNDY
Photos by KEN SAKAMOTO
and SUSAN LUNDY

It's a salty, sunny, hot summer day in downtown Victoria — the perfect time, we discover, to take a pickle boat ferry cruise and get a sea-side visual of the city.

The causeway in front of the Empress Hotel hums with activity as the charming, 12-passenger Victoria Harbour Ferry “pickle boats” swoosh in and out, picking up passengers and, with dance-like precision, side-stepping away again. About a dozen of these ferries dart in and out, heading to 17 different stops around the outer, middle and upper areas of Victoria's Inner Harbour, giving tours and providing taxi service.

Everyone seems pretty happy, and indeed as we climb onto the covered, bench-like seats, our fellow passengers — hailing from New Jersey, San Francisco, Vancouver and Illinois — appear delighted to be aboard. We've chosen the 60-minute Gorge Cruise, which promises a “relaxing” tour of the historic Gorge waterway, “past the iconic Johnson Street Bridge, working shipyards, historic homes and classic yachts” (www.victoriaharbourferry.com).

Alternatively, the ferry service offers a 45-minute Harbour Tour of the “bustling inner harbour,” a combination tour and — definitely on the bucket list — a Pickle Pub Crawl.”

We are all further charmed to meet our captain, Chris Causton, former hotelier, restaurateur and five time Mayor of Oak Bay, who has guided harbour tours for two years, and claims each time is different.

“The Gorge tour is my favourite,” he says, “because there are so many stories to tell.”

Indeed, the tour becomes an entertaining excursion that weaves together the waterfront visuals with amusing anecdotes, intriguing bits of history and light-hearted political commentary.

It turns out Causton is hilarious.

He's also informative, able to point out various landmarks; for example, a harbour-side brewpub, and paint the larger picture — Victoria, blessed with excellent water, he says, is home to nine breweries including three waterfront brewpubs (one of which became our second post-tour stop). A view of the Gorge Hospital prompts commentary on other Victoria hospitals; gliding under the historic Selkirk Bridge opens a conversation about the Galloping Goose Regional Trail, cycling in the city and some fascinating historical notations.

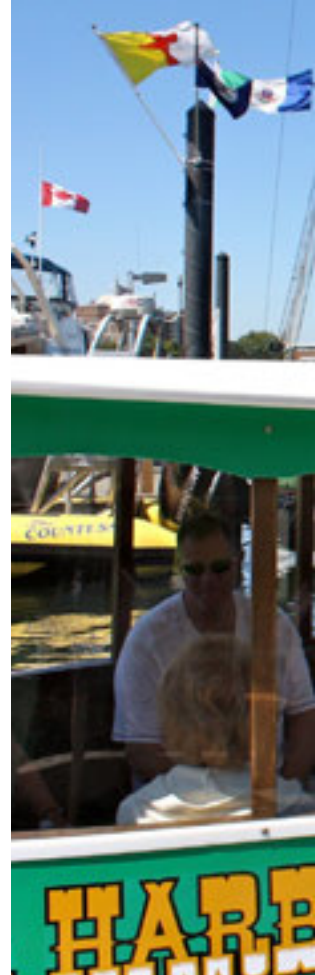
Causton is extremely knowledgeable for good reason: he's lived in a Victoria for over 40 years and been involved in “an incredible number of developments in the city.” He once owned a historical restaurant in Victoria — Rattenbury's — and describes himself as a history buff.

He guides an average of seven tours a day, and says it never gets “tiring.”

“Every day you meet new people from around the world and you tell them about the city you love. Also the job keeps you on your toes and gets you breathing wonderful salt air for the whole of your shift . . . the sun is a real bonus.”

He's almost guaranteed to have one family from Switzerland on his boat every day, he says, adding, amusingly: “I always try to guess where people are from when I'm pulling into a dock to pick them up (shoes are the clue!). You would also be surprised how many Russians visit Victoria.”

During our tour we stop at Point Ellice House, where one couple has decided to disembark and take in afternoon tea,





Victoria Harbour Ferry captain Chris Causton on board a “pickle boat” and various scenes from the ferry service’s 60-minute Gorge Cruise.



before resuming the tour in an hour or so. (Point Ellice House is an original, Victorian home on the Gorge built in 1861. It holds a large collection of Victoriana; and the gardens contain some original heritage roses and hollyhocks.)

There are a number of other stops serviced by the pickle boat ferries, including: Banfield Park, a variety of restaurants and pubs, gateways to various districts such as Chinatown, attractions like Fisherman’s Wharf, and points of interest, such as Songhees Walkway.

“The Harbour is the jewel in Victoria and everyone should see the city from the water,” Causton says, stressing that the ferries provide a taxi service in addition to the tours.

Also of interest is the Pickle Pub Crawl, which runs mid-May to mid-September. Last years’ pub

locations included the Blue Crab Restaurant at the Coast Hotel, The Flying Otter Grill, Lido Bistro, Canoe Brewpub and The Bard and Banker. Check the website for more details.

The Victoria Harbour Ferry Company was founded in 1990 with just two ferries. Today it operates a fleet of 14 small 12-passenger ferries and two 40-passenger vessels. The boats service Victoria and Nanaimo inner harbours and neighbouring waterways, travelling over 60,000 kilometers a season and making over 90,000 stops.

Our voyage ends with profuse thanks to Causton, followed by a walking jaunt along Victoria’s colourful Inner Harbour Causeway, and finally, a well-deserved brew on a waterfront patio. Ahhh, summer in Victoria. ■

Port of Victoria FUN FACTS

— with files from Greater Victoria Harbour Authority website at: <http://gvha.ca/>

- ▶ The Port of Victoria is a tourist attraction and working harbour, serving the cruise ship industry, offering whale watching and ecotourism opportunities, and hosting ship repairing facilities, a float plane aerodrome, marine industrial uses, an international ferry terminal and a water taxi service.
- ▶ Greater Victoria Harbour Authority (GVHA) operates a deep-sea terminal at Ogden Point, a mixed-use facility at Fisherman’s Wharf and marinas at Causeway/Ship Point, Wharf Street, Johnson Street and Mermaid Wharf.
- ▶ Victoria Harbour waters and water traffic are administered and regulated by Transport Canada. The harbour seabed is also controlled by Transport Canada, as far inland as the Selkirk Trestle.
- ▶ Air traffic into the harbour, including helicopters and seaplanes, is regulated by Nav Canada.
- ▶ Waterfront lands and water lots are owned by a variety of agencies and private owners.
- ▶ Lands surrounding the harbour were a traditional winter home for First Nations peoples for thousands of years.
- ▶ When European explorers came about 500 years ago, the harbour was chosen by the Hudson Bay Company as its Pacific Northwest base, and Fort Victoria was born.
- ▶ For many years, the control of the harbour and its waterfront lands was disputed, held by absentee landlords in Britain. Once BC joined Canada in 1871, jurisdiction belonged to Ottawa.
- ▶ More recently, Victoria wanted the harbour to be under local control, and many people worked towards this goal. Finally, in 2002, the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority was formed, and four parcels of harbour land were divested to its control.



GO WILD

Visuals and wildlife in this “treasure,” protected with help from The Nature Trust of British Columbia.

CELEBRATING NATURE ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

BY ALYN EDWARDS

There has been a quiet movement in the Comox Valley to preserve land in its natural state so locals and visitors can witness firsthand the thousands of birds, fish and wildlife coexisting in an undisturbed habitat, as they have since the beginning of time.

On the outskirts of the Town of Comox is a natural treasure called Lazo Marsh. This 48-hectare (120-acre) protected area is located at the northern extent of the Coastal Douglas Fir bio-geoclimatic zone — the rarest of all landscape types in British Columbia.

This unique eco system with Mediterranean climate features the highest density of species that are of both provincial and global conservation concern, such as trumpeter swans.

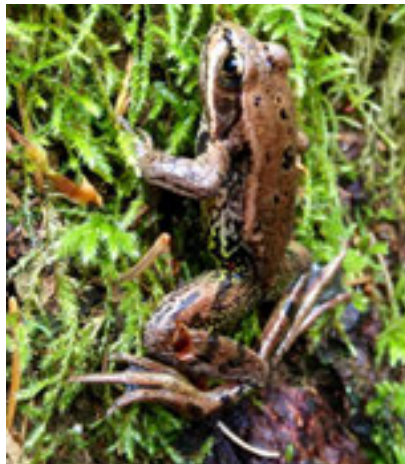
Visitors can walk the intricate trail network to experience the outdoors. Here they will see wetlands, riparian areas, sand dunes and upland forests. This variety of habitat hosts a wide range of permanent and migrating species, including horned owls, ducks, geese and swans, while cutthroat and rainbow trout, coho salmon and stickleback occupy the marine world.

Lazo Marsh is just one of many conservation lands protected and maintained in the Comox Valley. One of the organizations instrumental in acquiring this property and many other key natural land reserves is The Nature Trust of British Columbia.

The organization began 43 years ago when four dedicated conservationists got together

for breakfast to discuss how to use \$4.5 million from Canada’s Centennial Second Century Fund.

Founding member Ralph Shaw was an elementary school principal who received the Order of Canada for his work establishing the McQueen Lake conservation area north of Kamloops. Others at the meeting included Federal Environment Minister Jack Davis, Senator Len Marchand and research scientist Alistair McLean.



Photos provided by Nature Trust of BC

“After breakfast, we walked the streets of Kamloops discussing the merits of setting aside suitable natural wild places where people could come to know nature on a friendly basis,” Ralph Shaw recalls.

There was a sense of urgency because British Columbia was experiencing a period of rapid growth and industrial development. The Nature Trust of British Columbia was established to acquire and preserve ecologically suitable, natural places selected

on a scientific basis for the benefit of wildlife and people today and future generations.

Some of the best examples of this are in the Comox Valley where Ralph Shaw now resides. He practices his ongoing personal commitment to spend at least one day a week in nature.

Among his favorite preserves is The Nature Trust’s Brooklyn Creek property, which is small at one acre, but important as habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife.

Other critical wildlife habitat and sensitive ecosystems acquired in the area by The Nature Trust of British Columbia are 15 hectares (39 acres) of Comox Slough, seven hectares (18 acres) at Millard Creek, and 10 hectares (26 acres) of Filberg Marsh.

These unique natural reserves are not without management challenges with invasive species, habitat fragmentation and increased recreational use. As a result, local conservation groups, along with various levels of government, have pooled resources to manage the lands for the benefit of fish and wildlife, while facilitating visitor access.

At 87 years old, Ralph Shaw continues his love affair with the outdoors. He can often be seen drifting on a local lake in his punt, communing with nature.

“A fly rod is an umbilical cord held by a man extending into a lake. You can learn a lot about the life of lake by doing that,” he says of his lifelong passion for fishing. “Look at all the small parcels The Nature Trust is picking up that are all pieces of the puzzle, making it easier for fish and animals to get by.”

He says the Comox Valley is a natural spectacle populated by a huge mix of people — many of whom are working to preserve

large areas and acquire more, as funds become available.

He currently has his sights set on the 20-hectare (50-acre) Maple Lake, the only urban lake in the area. It is privately owned.

“With climate change, everything on the edge of a climate zone is going to have it either better or worse,” he says. “Society has been moving away from contact with natural systems and that’s why I believe the work that is being done to preserve sensitive areas is essential. People need to know what a natural system is and why it’s so important.”

The Nature Trust of BC is a non-profit land conservation organization. A leader in protecting BC’s natural diversity of plants and animals, The Nature Trust acquires and conserves critical habitats and other areas of ecological significance. Since 1971, along with its partners, The Nature Trust has secured over 470 parcels of land totaling 70,000 hectares (173,000 acres) throughout British Columbia.

Properties include land in MacMillan Provincial Park, which is renowned for old growth Douglas-firs in Cathedral Grove on Vancouver Island, the Adams River in the interior — which is famous for its sockeye run — the majestic Hoodoos in the Kootenays, which provide wildlife migration corridors, and most recently 2,000 acres of grassland near Pentiction in the Okanagan. ■



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PUMPING the economy

BOAT BUILDING ENTERPRISE THRIVES IN CAMPBELL RIVER

When Steve Daigle describes his boat building enterprise in Campbell River as a “significant” player in the region’s economy, he is being a tad modest.

Daigle left Prince Rupert in 1985 to launch Daigle Welding & Marine Ltd. and EagleCraft aluminum boats in Campbell River. Since then his business has expanded four times and now has 24 employees including an in-house naval architect.

In 29 years Steve and his team have custom built more than 800 commercial and pleasure aluminum craft, from 24 to 60 feet with price tags from \$300,000 to \$1.3 million. Recent sales have included a 50-foot landing craft shipped to Inuvik and a 43-foot pleasure craft built for a Russian politician.

Currently, there is more than \$3 million worth of vessel construction underway at the facility including a \$1.3 million, 45-foot commercial goosy duck harvesting vessel, and two 43-foot patrol vessels for Port Metro Vancouver (PMV), worth about \$1 million each.

In fact, Daigle Welding & Marine Ltd. seems to be emerging as the go-to West Coast shipbuilder for

BC patrol vessels. In 2011 and 2012, the company built and delivered two new patrol boats to the Nanaimo Port Authority: the 32-foot NPA Eagle and the 39-foot NPA Osprey. It has also built a 33-foot patrol boat for the Vancouver Police Department.

On the day I visited with Daigle, I was fortunate to meet PMV Boat Master Jason Krott who was there to conduct one of his regular quality control inspections. Krott would normally be at the helm of one of the

port’s five vessels, but he was taken off the water last year to oversee the project. “When I go back to the fleet I will actually operate one of these vessels. It is very exciting. I have nothing but good things to say about Steve and his team. This process has been like watching a really fine home being built to your specifications.”

“The value is getting what we want. It is all about getting vessels that are custom built specific to what we do with them.”

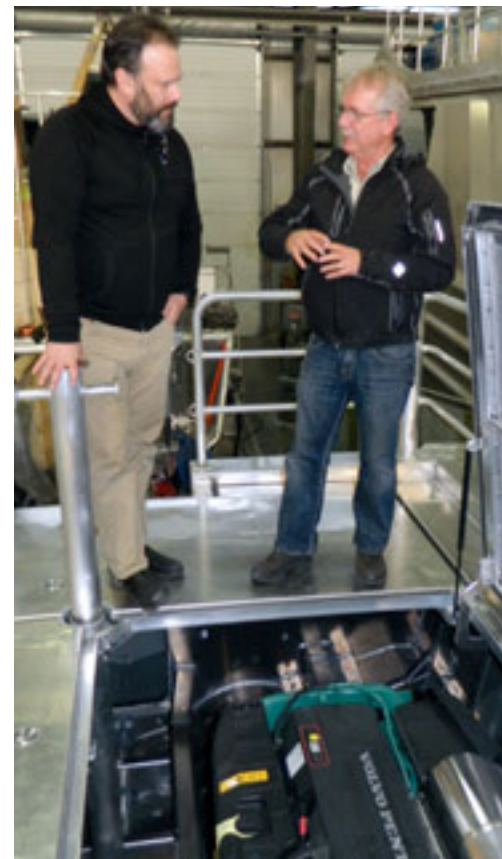
At the Daigle factory, work on the PMV project is about 65 per cent complete. When the vessels are launched in May, they will each be fitted with two 500-horsepower diesel engines, 16-kilowatt generators, an array of equipment, and the latest in communications, navigational and video equipment, including forward looking infrared cameras.

The end products will allow patrol crews to safely and quickly respond to callouts and incidents in the PMV’s 640 kilometres of jurisdiction throughout the waterways of Metro Vancouver.

Daigle Welding & Marine has also earned a fine reputation in the pleasure yachting world where glam can often trump durability. It is a measure of Daigle’s boat building success that a customer from 10 years ago can recoup the full price of his original boat when he trades up to a new vessel.

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THE KIERAN REPORT

with BRIAN KIERAN

This is rare in yachting circles. Boat ownership for many is like standing in a cold shower and ripping up the money in their wallets. For them, depreciation is the price of membership in the boating fraternity. Not at Daigle Welding & Marine.

Daigle says his customers – from BC, Alberta, Washington State and as far away as Norway and Chile – “have owned boats before, are knowledgeable about boats and want to have specific features that they have seen on other boats custom designed into the boat we’ll build for them.”



“Other boat manufacturers have specific models of boats that they set up on an assembly line. Our boats are more expensive than production line models because we custom design and build our aluminum boats.”

One of the unique services Daigle Welding & Marine offers is a boat storage facility. Currently Daigle has about 20 customers, primarily from Alberta and Washington State,

who leave their boats in Campbell River.

“When they come out, their boat has been brought out of storage, cleaned, fuelled up and tied up at one of our slips in the marina ready to go,” he says.

That kind of ongoing relationship with customers is at the heart of the value proposition Daigle brings to his business.

“It’s more than just building a boat. We sell an investment,” he says. ■

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TEE TIME

Whatever the weather, the courses in the Columbia Valley offer some of Canada's most scenic vistas, long fairways and challenges for every skill level.

Fly and play the Columbia Valley golf trail

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY PIRJO RAITIS

Flying into Cranbrook aboard Pacific Coastal Airlines, we land in a basin surrounded by the tall peaks of the Rocky, Selkirk and Purcell mountains. Canadian Rockies International Airport, just outside of Cranbrook, is 956 kilometres from Vancouver — it takes over 10 hours to drive the distance, but only one hour and 40 minutes to fly.

The Columbia Valley trench features one of the longest intact wetlands in North America and provides a vital link on a major bird migration route. It's a pleasant and scenic drive up to the Columbia Valley. Broad valleys, hoodoos, rivers and amazing vistas compete for attention with the snow-capped mountains and air so fresh you want to bottle it.

The East Kootenay region is a Mecca for golfers. Scattered along the Columbia Valley are epic world-class courses playable by professionals and anyone else with a set of clubs.

This weekend, we were treated to golfer's dream vacation. Playing one of Canada's best greens, Greywolf Golf Course was a challenge and an exhilarating experience bar none. It is ranked number 22 in Canada by Golf Digest, and for good reason. Located at Panorama Mountain Village, the course was designed by Doug Garrick, and features holes



The historic stolen church, St. Peter's Anglican Church, was absconded and reassembled in Windermere instead of going to Revelstoke.

to remember, like the Cliffhanger situated on a small plateau. On this hole you can enter to win \$100,000 for a hole-in-one at the annual Cliffhanger Shootout. The course yardage ranges from 7,140 to 5,365. Count on spending a good part of your day on this fabulous, scenic course.

Staying at the Bighorn Meadows Resort in Radium was a fitting end to a day of golf. The two-bedroom suite, overlooking the golf course, was well appointed, stylish and comfortable in every way. The resort sits on the north hole of cc. It's a short walk into Radium from the resort and Kootenay National Park sits on its boundary. In Radium, Helna's Stube offers gourmet Austrian food in a quaint, unpretentious restaurant. Reservations are definitely

recommended as the small venue fills quickly. Other hidden gems include CasaVino and Safta's Kitchen.

Fairmont Hot Springs' Mountainside Golf Course is a classic course with long, tree-lined fairways overlooking the valley. The course yardage ranges from 6,552 at the blue tees to 5,189 yards at the ladies red.

We finished off our golf days with a good soak at Fairmont Hot Springs, an amazing way to end an active day, easing us into a relaxing night.

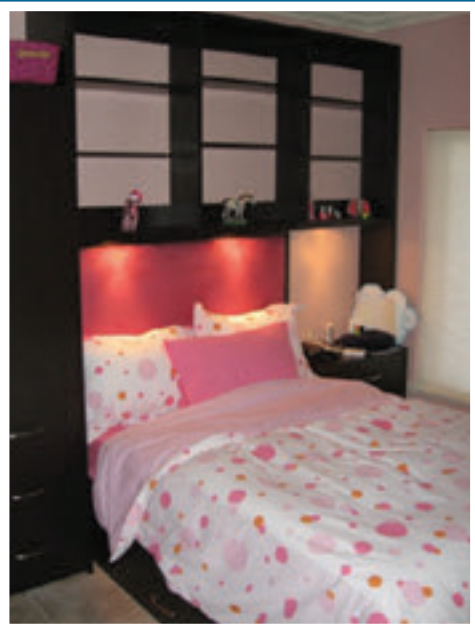
The area is sprinkled with golf courses and elegant resorts where one could spend two weeks just golfing, taking in the scenery and enjoying everything the region has to offer.

Copper Point is a sleek, new, sophisticated resort with all the amenities, and two golf courses. There are nine 18-hole spectacular golf courses within a 35-minute drive and with an average daily summer temperature of 24 C, it truly is a golfer's paradise.

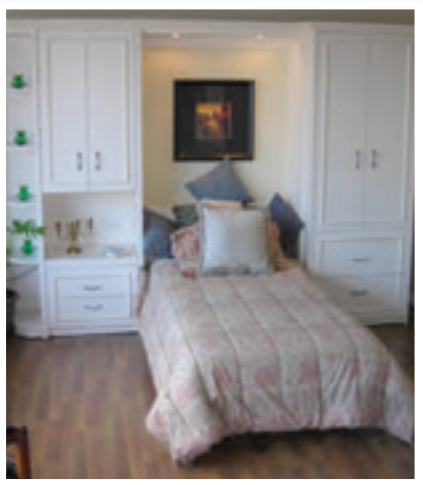
The friendly people, stunning scenery and enjoyable climate are perfect reasons to return again to the Columbia Valley. [➡](#)

To Get There

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POWELL RIVER

Photo provided by Canada Soccer



Head coach of Canada's Men's national Para Soccer Team, Drew Ferguson, with young soccer players.

Sharing the beautiful game

POWELL RIVER MAN HEADS UP NATIONAL MEN'S PARA SOCCER TEAM

BY JENNIFER BLYTH

Any athlete growing up outside Canada's major cities knows that pursuing his athletic dreams takes extra-special commitment and dedication, not only from himself, but also from parents, teachers, coaches and community supporters.

Growing up in Powell River in the 1970s, this reality was well understood by Drew Ferguson as he pursued his own dream of professional soccer.

Today, back in the coastal BC town, and as head coach of Canada's Men's National Para Soccer Team, Ferguson is able to share those experiences with a whole new generation of athletes.

Though Ferguson caught the soccer bug early, there was no North American soccer league back in the mid-1970s. As a 15-year-old player doing fairly well on BC turf, he took the best option available to pursue his passion; he moved to England, training and

playing there until he was 20. Returning to Canada, Ferguson signed with the Vancouver Whitecaps and played 13 years of professional soccer before retiring in 1991.

Thirteen years later, Ferguson was contacted by the Canadian Cerebral Palsy Sports Association, which was initiating a soccer program. The Canadian Soccer Association joined the program in 2005, bolstered by Ferguson, his coaches and approximately a dozen athletes.



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International eligibility rules assert that Para Soccer players must have cerebral palsy, or be in recovery from a stroke or head injury. Cerebral Palsy can affect people in varying degrees, but many athletes with CP can play with able-bodied players until age 12 or 13—when other players generally become bigger and stronger, Ferguson says.

For Para soccer, players are assessed based on the level of their disability and teams are composed of players of various designations. Some players are virtually indistinguishable from able-bodied players, while others have greater difficulty with lateral movement or transitioning from forward to backward movement, for example. Players with a high level of physical disability who find it difficult to run with ease may well find their niche as a goaltender.

Coming from a background of highly competitive, world-class play himself, Ferguson appreciates his players' work ethic and attitude both on and off the field.

"Here, if someone gets knocked down, they get right back up; they don't ask for sympathy."

While engaging in fierce competition on the pitch, once the game is over, players enjoy a rare camaraderie with their opponents.

The team's complementary, cooperative nature has allowed for a miscellany of

personal contribution. Some players, like Victoria's Jamie Ackinclose, 46, present significant experience; others, like 15-year-old Samuel Charron, offer youthful energy. Para Soccer goaltender Derek Whitson also plays on the Canadian Sledge Hockey team, and has represented his country at the Paralympics.

"He's been able to step up and talk to the guys about what it takes to compete at this level," Ferguson says.

Initially ranked 37th internationally, "[the team has] been gradually trying to climb the ladder." Last August, it earned a best-ever finish at the Intercontinental Cup in Spain, finishing 10th in the 16-team competition and moving up to 11th in overall world ranking.

The team's current goal? A top-eight ranking that would secure a spot in the Paralympics, Ferguson says.

Coming off its strong finish in Barcelona, the team's next focus is the Americas Regional Qualifiers this summer in Toronto, before the World Championships in 2015. International competition is tough, with Russia, the Ukraine and Brazil holding the top three positions, and with others like Iran, Argentina and Scotland adding to the elite field.

However, growing awareness of Canada's Para Soccer Team among community coaches means Ferguson is finding athletes at a

younger age—often in their early teens—and bringing them into the program, where they benefit from extra training, development and high-level experience. In fact, the work keeps him on the road about 100 days a year, flying from Powell River (most frequently via Pacific Coastal Airlines) to cities across Canada—and to matches around the world.

"As a head coach you're always trying to climb that ladder. I take a lot of pride in how well the team is doing, but I get very, very happy seeing how the players progress," Ferguson says.

While many players come to the program quite reserved, the training, play and competition brings a personal self-confidence that permeates their lives. One player, now 22, attended a camp in Ontario having never flown before. A month later, he was travelling by himself to meet the team in Brazil for a match.

For more information about the Men's National Para Soccer Team, visit canadasoccer.com.

To Get There

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Q & A

Tim Ryan

Chair, Forest Practices Board

Tim Ryan has worked in the forest sector for more than 35 years, and in leadership positions for the past 21. Formerly Chief Forester and Director of Woodlands Operations with Vancouver's Ledcor Resources and Transportation, Ryan spent much of his career with Ainsworth Lumber Co. Ltd., where he was vice president responsible for timberland operations, corporate forest and environmental policy and bioenergy. He also served as Manager of Forestry with the Cariboo Lumber Manufacturers Association and is past president of the Alberta Chamber of Resources and former board member of the Alberta Forest Products Association. He is a Registered Professional Forester in BC, and he holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry from the University of Alberta.

Q: WHAT IS THE MANDATE OF THE FOREST PRACTICES BOARD?

A: The Forest Practices Board provides the public with information about how well BC's forest industry is meeting provincial forestry laws and regulations, and how well government is enforcing the legislation. We do this by independently auditing forestry operations and investigating public complaints. We publish our findings and make recommendations for improvement to industry and government. The Board was established in the mid-90s in response to the "War in the Woods" and has been an important part of the forest industry regaining the public trust to operate in BC.

Q: WHAT IS YOUR ROLE AND HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

A: I became Chair of the Board in January 2014. My role is to guide the appointed board in its deliberations, to liaise with government, industry and other stakeholders, and to provide strategic direction to the staff of resource professionals who carry out the day-to-day work. My background is in the forest industry, so I bring a good understanding of the industry to the table. The other board members have backgrounds in soil science, recreation, biology, government, First Nations forestry, etc., so together we are a well-rounded board.

Q: WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING THE FOREST PRACTICES BOARD TODAY?

A: Our oversight mandate is specific to the forest practices undertaken by the forest industry and government. However, the integration of land uses and the cumulative impact of an increasing array of resource developments on BC's public land are putting strains on forest values such as water and wildlife, and will challenge all parties to find sustainable solutions. We have seen continuous improvement in BC forest practices, but the key is not to become complacent. The board needs to continue

to identify areas of improvement through public complaints, audits, investigations and reports in response to continuously changing environmental, social and economic conditions.

Q: HOW WILL YOU ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES?

A: Our approach will be to continue to make thoughtful and factual observations of what we are seeing on the forest land base and independently report that to government, industry and the public. Where possible and appropriate, the board will recommend solutions or actions, and ask for a response. When it makes sense, we will communicate our findings with other resource sectors to help encourage sound practices by all resource users.

Q: WHAT HAS BEEN THE BOARD'S BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT IN RECENT YEARS?

A: We are most proud of the credibility we have established as an independent oversight body. This has been accomplished through board leadership, the support of the board's work by government, industry and NGOs, as well as the hard work of FPB staff and contributors. We have a motto to "tell it like it is." That can sometimes make people uncomfortable, but we always ensure we have all the facts. They have the opportunity to tell us if we got it wrong, and the objective is always continuous improvement for the future.

Q: WHAT ELSE DO PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE FOREST PRACTICES BOARD OR THE INDUSTRY IN GENERAL?

A: BC has a world class forest industry and a robust system for providing oversight to ensure provincial forestry laws are followed and forest practices are conducted responsibly and sustainably. We are here to hold the forest industry and government accountable on behalf of the public, and that provides assurance and instills public confidence in this important sector of our economy.

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