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IN-FLIGHT REVIEW MAGAZINE

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By Ewan Moir,
President & CEO,
Nanaimo Port Authority

Navigating Troubled Waters

THE NANAIMO PORT AUTHORITY CHARTS A NEW COURSE

IT'S HARDLY NEWS that municipal politics in Nanaimo has suffered from an excess of political acrimony in recent years. There is plenty of blame to go around, but what is most troubling is a widespread lack of trust and respect between groups and individuals that is steadily eating away at the community's foundations – common dynamics in some areas if you take a global view. At some point, groups and individuals need to start working together for the common good, to manage change yet avoid divisiveness. The Nanaimo Port Authority is no exception; we have work to do.

I'm new to the community, and the Port Authority, so I can hardly swan in with answers to problems decades in the making. Nevertheless, I have a mandate to fulfill, and what I learned in 35 years of managing a variety of businesses is that success cannot be realized without a solid foundation of trust and respect, both inside and outside the organization. I've also learned that trust and respect are easy to lose, and terribly hard to recover once gone.

The Nanaimo Port Authority is just one of several

with a role to play in mending fences. Rightly or wrongly, the Port Authority has come to be perceived by many as an unresponsive agency that collects sums of money while providing little in return. There is no point in sugar coating this perception; it matters if people believe it to be true. (It doesn't help that we are physically isolated from the community.)

Changing perceptions is no mean feat. Like turning a freighter around in littoral waters, it takes time, teamwork and vigilance.

The first step in charting a new course is to listen. When I was first appointed president of a company 35 years ago I had no idea what my job was. I knew my fundamental responsibilities, but I didn't know what a president did on a day-to-day basis. I soon realized I needed to find out, so every day I talked to the company's employees, learned internally from the dynamics of the company, to figure out what they needed to do their jobs effectively.

Listening before acting has served me well ever since. I've spent my first two months meeting externally with various community partners, including the Snuneymuxw First Nation, local politicians, business groups, transportation providers, and a range of others with a vested interest in Nanaimo's harbour.

A common theme arising in these conversations is the need to close the gap between parties and build mutual respect and trust. Community outreach and listening helps, but so too does the sharing of knowledge and concrete measures. To that end, the Nanaimo Port Authority needs to manage marine infrastructure and services in a commercial manner with greater input from users and the community, while providing a high degree of autonomy for our community partners.

The Nanaimo Port Authority also needs to change its organizational culture from within to adapt to new realities. Specifically, the organization needs to become ever more focused on serving the needs of the community, while utilizing the many benefits of our federal mandate, and facilitating opportunities for new and existing users. My job in all this is to park my ego and develop a team that will be empowered to internalize outside feedback, exercise initiative, make decisions, and function in the wider interest.

In the end, what matters now is not *who* is right, but *what* is right for Nanaimo. **H**

Helijet

VANCOUVER ISLAND

Points of Interest

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Downtown Vancouver Harbour Heliport | 16 Salt Spring Island |
| 2 Stanley Park | 17 Fulford Harbour |
| 3 English Bay | 18 Moresby Island |
| 4 University of British Columbia | 19 Sidney |
| 5 Vancouver Airport | 20 Victoria Airport |
| 6 Point Roberts | 21 James Island |
| 7 Nanaimo Heliport | 22 Sidney Island |
| 8 Gabriola Island | 23 Turn Point Light Station |
| 9 Valdes Island | 24 Waldren Island |
| 10 Galiano Island | 25 Orcas Island |
| 11 Mayne Island | 26 Roche Harbor |
| 12 Saturna Island | 27 San Juan Island |
| 13 North Pender Island | 28 Chatham Islands |
| 14 South Pender Island | 29 Discovery Island |
| 15 Ganges | 30 Trial Islands |
| | 31 Victoria Harbour Heliport |

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BY SUE DUNHAM



The Butterfly Effect

PHIL SEVENSMA, ASSISTANT CHIEF PILOT — ROTARY WING

THE “BUTTERFLY EFFECT” in Chaos Theory is the notion that a butterfly flapping its wings in New Mexico at just the right point in space and time can cause a hurricane in China. It may take a very long time, but the connection is real. Lives and careers are an on-going demonstration of this principle where the smallest of things can cause dramatic results.

Phil Sevensma, Helijet’s Assistant Chief Pilot — Rotary Wing, was fresh out of high school when he first felt the first downwash of a butterfly’s wings in 1993. He had already obtained his Glider and Private Pilot Licence through air cadets, and so he thought he might pursue a career as an airline pilot, like his father.

To pay for commercial pilot training, and gain industry experience, Sevensma went looking for a summer job with an air carrier. He spent an entire day knocking on the door of every air service operating out of YVR’s South Terminal, and by day’s end he had one resume left over. He decided he might as well drop it off at Helijet, even though the company mainly flew helicopters.

Somewhere in the world, a butterfly emerged from its cocoon.

“I’d never been around a helicopter in my life,” recalls Sevensma. “When Helijet offered me a job as a ramp agent I figured it was an opportunity to get into aviation, but I quickly became fascinated with

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the versatility of helicopters.”

Sevensma abandoned his airline plans and began working towards his Commercial Helicopter Licence, initially with Delta Helicopters in Langley, and later Chinook Helicopters in Abbotsford. He continued working at Helijet during this time, transitioning from the ramp into flight operations, and in 1996 he got tapped to be First Officer on the Sikorsky S76.

Sevensma was promoted to Captain in 1999 and continued in that role until 2005 when he decided to spread his wings and take a job on the East Coast. He spent the next five years flying to offshore oil and gas platforms with CHC Helicopters, but he and his family missed the West Coast and so he returned to Helijet in 2010.

The siren song of offshore flying called again in 2014 when an opportunity arose to fly in the Gulf of Thailand, but the departure was short-lived.

“Thailand was a great place to live and work, but it wasn’t ideal for raising kids, and I didn’t like being away from my wife and family,” says Sevensma. “I consider myself really lucky to be home every night now.”

Professional satisfaction goes a long way, too.

Early in his career, Sevensma qualified as an instructor and that training, combined with his breadth of experience, made him a natural choice for Training Captain — a role he finds particularly rewarding.

“I really like the training side, working with our aircrew to give them a better understanding and knowledge of what we’re doing,” says Sevensma.

Sevensma’s training duties expanded in the summer of 2017 when he was promoted to Assistant Chief Pilot — Rotary Wing. In this management role he supports Mike Potter, Chief Pilot — Rotary Wing, in all aspects of the company’s helicopter training and operations. The job keeps him busy, overseeing everything from initial and recurrent flight training, to developing and maintaining Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), among other things.

Sevensma says he looks forward to growing with Helijet in the years ahead: “There’s lots happening, and much to look forward to. From new contracts and opportunities to new aircraft and equipment, it’s a really exciting time to be a pilot with the company.” With a smile, he adds, “and it beats working for a living.” **H**

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CHINESE LANTERN FESTIVAL

Experience Vancouver in a whole new light with the debut of Canada's largest Chinese Lantern Festival coming to the city December 15 to January 21.

This five-week celebration of Chinese culture will feature massive lanterns, unforgettable performances, and incredible food. The outdoor festival is lighting up for the first time ever and will transform all 14 acres of Hastings Park with over 35 colourful illuminated displays. Some of the lanterns that will be on display include the Dragon (a symbol of worship and considered the noblest creature in the world), White Pagoda (a traditional part of architecture that offers great views), Kylin (a traditional beast with a calm temperament, in ancient Chinese tales), and Huabiao Column (famous structures in the Forbidden City in Beijing). Some of the lanterns will reach almost 200 feet in length! | vancouverlanternfestival.ca



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ultimate incentive or boutique event. Customized to the specific requirements of each group, Multi-Adventure Tours depart from the Whistler Heliport with guests flying to an exclusive "Heli-Dome" atop a nearby ice cap from where they embark on a day-long event that can include everything from backcountry snowmobiling, rappelling, and ice cave explorations, to glacier golf and heli-sightseeing, to name just a few. Guests are also treated to a chef-prepared barbecue atop the ice cap, making for an extraordinary dining experience in a spectacular setting. | headlinemountainholidays.com

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DINE OUT VANCOUVER

For all those ‘foodies’ out there, January is a great time to visit Vancouver. The Dine Out™ Vancouver Festival is a 17-day celebration (January 19 to February 4) of the city’s culinary scene, with special events, menus, tastings, workshops and classes.

The festival started in 2003 with 57 restaurants offering three-course menus at set price-points. Since then, it has grown to include more than 250 restaurants offering menus at \$20, \$30 and \$40, along with over 80 culinary events, including a street food celebration, tasting tours of neighbourhoods, cooking lessons, and dinners that pair what’s on your plate with exotic beverages, art, or even a movie.

The list of restaurants offering Dine Out™ Vancouver menus is released on the festival’s website at the beginning of January, and you’ll want to make your reservations right away as they get snapped up quickly! | dineoutvancouver.com

MOTOWN THE MUSICAL

More than just a Broadway show, Motown: The Musical is an incredible look back at one of America’s most beloved and transformational genres. This hit Broadway musical garnered four Tony nominations and now its musical magic is set to hit Queen Elizabeth Theatre, February 6-11, 2018.

Filled with the back stories of legends such as Diana Ross, Smokey Robinson and a whole host of the Motor City’s favourite stars, this is an uplifting show about how Motown broke down racial barriers and got us all dancing to the same rhythm! | vancouvercivictheatres.com

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Experience the VanDusen Festival of Lights, a magical winter wonderland with over one million lights decorating VanDusen Botanical Garden between December 1, 2017 to January 7, 2018.

This festive event showcases countless strings of twinkling lights and holiday décor, as the VanDusen Botanical Garden is transformed into an enchanting winter wonderland. All tickets include a free ride on the carousel! | vandusengarden.org



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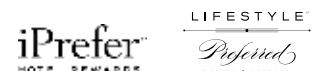


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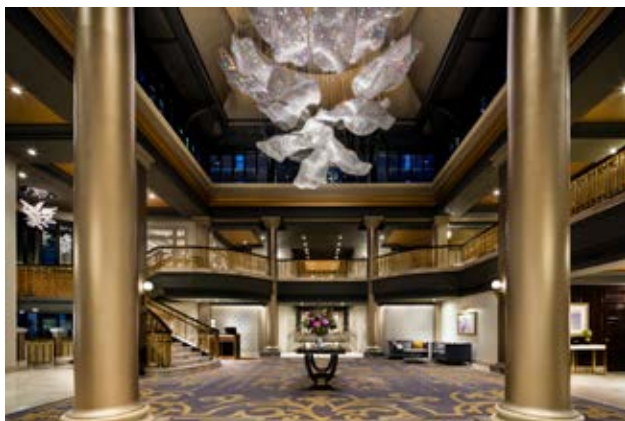
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FIT FOR A QUEEN

This past year the Fairmont Empress in Victoria celebrated the completion of an iconic two-year \$60 million restoration that brings the property into the New Year with a whole new look and feel. Indeed, the final phase of the restoration reveals a



wide range of new offerings and amenities including a renovated health club and pool, a refreshed Willow Stream Spa with an expanded lounge, an updated reception and retail area, and 229 luxuriously refurbished guest rooms.

Perhaps the most notable change to the exterior of the building is the *porte cochere*, which provides a sense of welcome as guests enter the spectacular new reception lobby. The showstopper inside is the “Twill Flower” — a six-metre-high floral-shaped chandelier, hand-woven with approximately 250,000 crystals.

“We’ve taken a landmark building and restored the original architectural elements with modern, elegant touches,” said Indu Brar, General Manager, Fairmont Empress. “It’s a fairy tale transformation and a milestone for this beautiful castle, and we’re ready for the world to see it.”

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OSWEGO JAZZ

The O Café and Bistro in the Oswego Hotel is Victoria's newest hot spot for live jazz entertainment. Now you can while away dark winter nights to the rhythm of performances by various local musicians every Wednesday and Sunday evening. And you can complete the chill vibe with a classic cocktail, or step it up with a delicious meal and beverage selection of your choice. | oswegohotel.com

TOURNAMENT OF HEARTS

The BC Scotties Tournament of Hearts, January 2 to 7, will showcase B.C.'s top women curlers who will be playing for the right to represent their province at the National Scotties Tournament of Hearts. Come out and support the players from 2018 at the Victoria Curling Club. | victoriacurlingclub.com

SEASON OF DANCE



Looking for a unique gift? How about tickets to Alvin Ailey® American Dance Theater? Their only Canadian stop this year is at the Royal Theatre in Victoria on May 1, 2018. Tickets to Dance Victoria's shows also make a divine gift for anyone who enjoys the performing arts. Dance Victoria is enjoying one of its most successful seasons ever, and tickets are selling out fast. Don't delay to dance the night away!!
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From the last Thursday in November until January 10, Ladysmith will be ignited with the life of thousands of twinkling Christmas lights. The kick-off evening is Thursday, November 30, with a parade. Moreover, there will be mobile concessions, the 11th Annual Christmas Craft Fair, Starlight Shopping, and much more. Plan on a magical evening to get you and your family into the Christmas spirit. ladysmithfol.com



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INTERNATIONAL GUITAR NIGHT

The ever-popular International Guitar Night returns to Nanaimo's Port Theatre January 26, showcasing world-class musicians. Gypsy Jazz legend Lulo Reinhardt hosts and performs with a new cast of guitar luminaries, including Calum Graham, a young Canadian contemporary sensation, Marek Pasieczny, Poland's innovative classical composer/performer, and award-winning American guitarist Michael Chapdelaine. | porttheatre.com

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Guarding against the perils of investment fraud

Investment fraud has been around a long time. Through the ages, slick grifters have found new and creative ways to fleece their victims, but it was Charles Ponzi who in 1920 perfected the pyramid financial scheme that bears his name. Using a ploy based on purported arbitrage in postage stamps, Ponzi promised investors a 50% return in 45 days, or a 100% return in 90 days. Ponzi made good at first, using funds from new investors to pay off the old, but, as with all pyramid schemes, the scam collapsed once the flow of new funds couldn't keep up with payouts. For his crime, Ponzi was sentenced to three years in prison, while his investors lost about 20 million dollars — \$225 million in today's money.

Ponzi set the standard, but the prize for annihilating investors' savings goes to Bernard Maddoff's

Ponzi scheme, which cost investors about \$18 billion when it collapsed in 2010.

The reason investment scams succeed time and again is human nature. Fraudsters know how to manipulate clients and remain undetected. Investors often think they are too shrewd to fall prey, but scammers use this hubris to their advantage. After all, Madoff's scheme succeeded for years at hoodwinking bankers, fund managers, and SEC investigators.

Investors are often too embarrassed to speak out or take action when they've been taken in. The result is that investment fraud goes largely underreported, causing untold heartbreak and lost savings. But investors are not helpless. The following are just a few measures to help guard against scams, and those who perpetrate them:

DO YOUR DUE DILIGENCE

Investors should always do their due diligence before investing, and if they don't feel competent doing so they should hire an independent professional. Either way, begin by researching the licensing and discipline history of the investment professional(s) advising you, keeping in mind that just about anyone can call themselves a "financial advisor" with minimal training. Be mindful of the "halo effect": credibility and likeability can be faked, and some people engage in fraud without realizing it.

"Some schemers don't even realize they are schemers," says Peter Schenk, Portfolio Manager at The Schenk Group, Scotia Wealth Management. "Sometimes well-intentioned financial advisors get in over their heads and ignore their fiduciary responsibilities. There's a lot of grey area between a bad investment and criminal activity."

B.S. vs BRILLIANCE

Fully understand what you are investing in, and why. Fraudsters rely on arcane financial language to baffle their intended victims.

"Finance is a world where lingo sometimes masks facts," says Tom Hakemi, Partner at Vancouver-based law firm Hakemi & Ridgedale LLP. "It can be intimidating for unsophisticated investors, but they shouldn't be afraid to ask questions and challenge the experts."

"If someone asks you to invest in their business they should be able to boil it down to basics and tell you how they make money." He adds, "A com-

mon thread in investment fraud is people who, for a variety of reasons, felt they shouldn't ask questions."

DIVIDED LOYALTIES

Investors should know how their financial advisor gets paid, and guard against financial incentives not aligned with their own. In particular, investors should be wary of "churning" — an illegal and unethical practice where an advisor engages in excessive trading in a client's account that provides little or no benefit to the investor, but generates commissions for the advisor.

BE CYBER-SAFE

The Internet is El Dorado for fraudsters.

"People are more vulnerable to online fraud now than they've ever been, and the problem is getting bigger all the time," says Grant Bell, Senior Vice President, Bell Wealth Advisory Group.

Bell says what he sees most is sophisticated hackers getting into investors' email systems. Once in, they find out how their intended victim communicates so as to impersonate them without their knowledge. They will then send emails instructing

money managers to wire funds outside the country into a U.S. or off-shore bank account where it can't be recovered.

"It's not uncommon," says Bell. "I've seen at least 10 fraudulent requests from scammers impersonating clients. We're often the first to tip people off that schemers have hacked into their email."

Bell also urges vigilance around phishing scams in which schemers purport to be the Canada Revenue Agency, or the victim's bank.

"Never disclose your ID, password or confidential information online," says Bell. "You will never receive an email from a bank or CRA asking for it."

DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE

If something sounds too good to be true it likely is. Unfortunately, investors often succumb to irrational exuberance and let their guard down at the promise of quick and easy riches.

"Good advisors know no one has a crystal ball," says Hakemi. "Every investment has some element of risk, so watch out for anyone using overly promotional language, offering unrealistic returns while telling you everything is going to be great."

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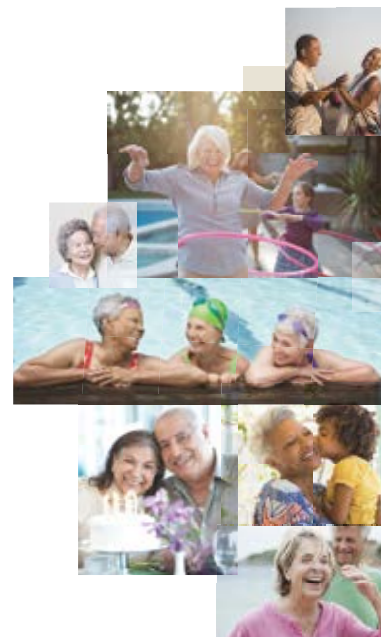
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for risk. Return and risk are related; if you're being told your investment will generate high returns with little or no risk that's a red flag."

AVOID AFFINITY INVESTMENTS

Your spidey senses should start tingling around any investment boasting exclusive access.

If an investment is great it shouldn't matter who invests in it. But fraudsters often rely on the facade of exclusive access to generate excitement. Religious groups and ethnic communities are favourite targets for fraudsters because investors rely on the participation of others in the group as a form of assurance.

"It's natural human behavior to want to share information within a group," says Hakemi. "People get charged up as word spreads, especially when prominent members of the group get involved. The effect for the schemer is that they have a bunch of promoters doing it sincerely, and for free. This causes members of the group to drop their guard, and ask fewer questions. Affinity groups are also apprehensive about taking action against a member of their own community."

WATCH OUT FOR ELDERS

Elderly people are often targeted by fraudsters, and their circumstances are often tragic because they are least able to recover from the financial loss.

"Elderly people are trusting by nature and so we see a lot of cases where they get taken advantage of and don't notice, or hesitate to report," says Bell. "Kids need to look out for their parents' investments, especially when cognitive ability is diminished."

GET HELP

Nobody wants to look incompetent or foolish when it comes to investing. But not speaking out about fraud just perpetuates it. If you, or someone you know, suspects they've been caught up in fraudulent activity it is important to get professional help.

First, discuss your concerns with an independent and accredited financial advisor, or speak with your bank for guidance and perspective. You may also wish to recruit a lawyer who specializes in financial matters.

"The person who strikes early is in the best place to recover money," says Hakemi, "It's only a matter of time before every scheme collapses, and by then there will be no money to recover." **H**

A twin-engine turboprop aircraft, likely a Cessna 441, is shown from a front-on perspective on a runway. The aircraft is white with red accents on the propellers. The background is a thick, grey fog, creating a sense of being grounded or lost.

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AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO THE VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL WINE FESTIVAL

THE ANNUAL Vancouver International Wine Festival is the highlight event of the year for B.C.'s wine lovers, and this year's Festival, February 24 to March 4, promises to be one of the biggest yet. Now in its 40th year, the VIWF is hosting 173 wineries from 15 wine producing countries, and with 1,450 different wines to choose from there is something to please every palate, from neophyte to oenophile.

Problem is, where does one begin? With so many wines and wineries, the Festival can at times be overwhelming.

Developing some sort of plan or strategy ahead of time will help prevent burnout and overload. Whether you are a first-timer to the Festival, or an old-hand, do a bit of online research, starting with the Festival's website, VanWineFest.ca. Here you will find lots of valuable information on participating wineries, tasting events, seminars and dinners, among many other things.

There is no substitute for doing one's homework before the Festival, but we all have busy lives and sometimes we don't get around to doing all the things we should. If you find yourself in the main tasting hall trying

40th Vancouver
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to decide where to begin you can still develop a plan on the fly. To that end, the following strategies and suggestions will help you get the most out of this year's bacchanalian festivities.

TASTE THE WORLD IN 15 SIPS

If you find yourself in the main tasting room with no idea where to begin, consider tasting one wine from each of the 15 countries represented at the Festival. You can even proceed in alphabetical order, starting with Argentina, before moving on to Australia, and so on.

Better still, some countries have designated tasting bars where visitors can sample a wide variety of wine styles all at the same time.

SIP LIKE A SOMM

Sommeliers are trained to pair wines with food over the course of a meal. Usually, but not always, they start guests off with a light, refreshing sparkling wine, before progressing to fuller-bodied white wines. When the time comes to switch to red wine, it generally follows from light- to medium- to full-bodied reds. The end of the meal is generally the time to switch to fortified and sweetish wines.

The same thinking can be applied to the Festival,



The Vancouver International Wine Festival is an eight-day food and wine extravanga, showcasing 1,450 wines from around the world. VIWF photo

treating it as though you would a multi-course dinner. The progression rule-of-thumb is also easy on the palate, while still allowing tipplers the chance to sample a wide range of wines.

TRY SOMETHING NEW

Another strategy is to challenge yourself with new wines you've never experienced.

"The Festival is not the time to visit your old favourites," says Harry Hertscheg, Executive Director of the Vancouver International Wine Festival. "This



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The VIWF is a great opportunity for wine lovers to challenge themselves with new wines they have never tried before.
VIWF photo

is a great opportunity to break out of your comfort zone — to taste wines you’ve never had before. Come in with an open mind and an open palate.”

In keeping with this, he offers an inside tip: “Before you start your wine journey, make a bee-line to Table 98 where Nova Scotia’s L’Acadie Vineyards will be pouring their sparkling wine. Most people wouldn’t think to try wine from Nova Scotia, but it’s remarkably good, and you’ll probably have the table all to yourself and be able to talk directly with the principal, Bruce Ewert.”

In the same vein, Hertscheg encourages people to discover a number of up-and-coming B.C. wine producers who are new to the Festival this year. And they’re not all from the Okanagan; many hail from lesser known places, such as Lillooet, Kamloops, and the Cowichan Valley.

AVOID LINE-UPS

Line-ups are a funny phenomenon at the Festival. People automatically line-up at the popular booths (hello Champagne), but they often do so without



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knowing why. Indeed, many attendees will join an already big line-up just because it is a big line-up, the thinking being that it must be worth waiting in line for.

Such thinking is misguided.

“A table without a line-up is not indicative of quality,” says Hertscheg. “Find the booths that don’t have line-ups because that is where you will be forced to try wines you’ve never had before. You’re also more likely to speak one-on-one with the principal and learn about their wine. That’s exciting, and you’ll learn so much more.” With a knowing sigh, he adds, “The one place you will never learn about wine is in a line-up.”

LOOK FOR LANYARDS

When scouting booths, keep a keen eye out for people wearing royal blue lanyards. These indicate the person is the winery principal — usually the person who grows the grapes and makes the wine.

“Sales reps wear black lanyards, and they can provide a lot of good information, but if you want to talk to the wine producer look for the blue lanyard,” says Hertscheg. “Having the principals at the Festival is where the passion comes from. When you talk to these people you make a personal connection with their wine. You learn their story, and that makes their wine all the more memorable.”

SPITTING VS. SWALLOWING

Spitting out wine might seem counterintuitive, if not disgusting, but there is much to be said for spitting instead of swallowing. That’s because spitting allows you to taste a lot of wine without getting intoxicated. It’s also easier on the palate.

If spitting in a public forum feels unfamiliar, try practicing before you go.

“Learning to spit gracefully is really helpful,” says Hertscheg. “It’s amazing how much pleasure you can get from spitting.”

Moreover, Hertscheg reassures people they need not finish everything in the glass: “Dumping is perfectly acceptable, too.”

BEYOND THE TASTING ROOM

Many visitors to the Festival feel they have to get their money’s worth, tasting every wine at every booth. That can be done, but it’s a bit like trying to visit every country in Europe on a two-week bus tour. You can say you did it, but you’re probably

spreading yourself a bit thin.

A better approach, perhaps, is to pace yourself, focusing on the specific wine regions and wine styles you want to learn more about. To that end, there are all sorts of events and venues beyond the main tasting hall.

In particular, a Gold Pass provides holders with priority access and VIP treatment at private tasting events, as well as exclusive access to the Delta Airlines Tasting Lounge where gourmet appetizers and several premium wines are offered in a relaxed setting.

Those who really want to splash out might also consider purchasing tickets to the Bacchanalia Gala Dinner + Auction. This black-tie event is not cheap at \$450 per ticket, but the R.O.I. is considerable for anyone who takes their wine seriously.

WHEN TO GO

You'll have a different kind of experience depending on what day of the week you attend the Festival.

Friday nights are packed with the after-work crowd in business attire, which is good for socializing, albeit a bit hectic. Saturday night is more glamorous, which is great for people watching, but it, too, can be a bit of a zoo.

Early Thursday evening is best for those wanting to sample wines without the crowds. That's because capacity is cut off to ensure greater access, and you can still catch the principals while they are still fresh and lively. Saturday afternoons are also a good time as capacity is reduced by 20%.

Saturday afternoons are also a good time to shop at the Festival's onsite BC Liquor Store, which offers a bottle check, and free delivery to any BC Liquor Store in the province.

SPREAD IT OUT

Instead of cramming as much wine tasting as you can into one day, considering spreading your Festival experience out over several days.

"You can fly over on Helijet and make a weekend of it," says Hertscheg. "There are several Vancouver hotels offering a free Festival ticket with accommodation packages. You can stay in a hotel, dine at restaurants, enjoy the Festival, and not worry about driving home." He adds, "culture, food and wine are some of the things that make life worth living." 



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Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Michael Jackson, Jr. Photo © Andrew Eccles

Great Gifts for 2018

Photo courtesy of Marc Dionne and HMK

NOVEL GIFTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

UP WHERE YOU BELONG

Snowmobiling is fun; helicopter snowmobiling is super-natural fun. If you are looking for a gift that will provide memories for a lifetime, book a Heli-Snowmobile Experience adventure tour with Whistler-based Head-Line Mountain Holidays.

This is a snowmobile experience like no other: departing from the Whistler Heli-port, guests fly to an exclusive “Heli-Dome” located atop a nearby ice cap from where they will set out on a day-long expedition exploring spectacular backcountry icefields on state-of-the-art mountain snowmobiles.

Head-Line Mountain Holidays’ heli-snowmobile adventures are also perfect for special events and private groups. The company’s professional guides are some of the most capable pioneers in the mountain sledding industry. They are particularly skilled at coaching riders of all abilities to enhance their skills in a variety of snow conditions, and a high guide-to-guest ratio ensures personalized service all day long.

Heli-snowmobile tours run between January and May at a cost of \$1,695 per person. Arrangements can also be made to fly group tours from Downtown Vancouver. | headlinemountainholidays.com

CARD CARRYING DELIGHT



Send your family, friends, clients or colleagues on an adventure or escape in the New Year with a Coast Hotels gift card. Perfect for the holidays or special occasions, these gift cards are a surefire way of pleasing everyone on your appreciation list in 2018.

That’s because a Coast Hotels gift card delivers a wealth of getaway options, from urban cities to ski locales, wine region stops, northern lights viewing destinations, among many others. Moreover, each Coast Hotel is as unique as the cities they’re located in, yet they all have something in common — a full-service experience and a host of amenities.

These gift cards are convenient, too: you can send an e-gift card from the comfort of your desktop or mobile device by visiting coasthotels.com. Or stop by any Coast Hotels property to purchase physical gift cards, which can be redeemed at all Coast Hotels locations and participating restaurants.

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3

FAMILY RING

There are few better ways to honour a mother, wife, sister, or daughter, than with a bespoke ring from Idar Jewellers in Victoria. The Mythical Garden ring (pictured) is a particular style made by award-winning Jeweller Idar Bergseth that tells the unique story of every family it is designed and created for.



Because every family is different, no two Mythical Garden rings are ever alike. Each is designed to reflect the spirit and character of the family it is produced for. To that end, Idar works closely with clients before embarking on any ring design, taking the time to learn their family history and the personalities of everyone represented by the ring. The result is a treasured heirloom, that combines an array of precious gems, such as diamonds, sapphires, emeralds, pearls and birthstones — each representing an individual family member.

Available in 18 karat yellow gold and 19 karat white gold, each Mythical Garden ring is a labour of love: Idar generally spends four to six weeks hand-crafting each ring, knowing they will become family treasures passed down for generations. | idar.com

4

OFF-ROAD ELEGANCE

Get behind the wheel in 2018 and challenge yourself to explore new territories and difficult terrains, but do so in style!

Indeed, the first Land Rover vehicle debuted in 1947 and ever since the Rover name has been synonymous with superior off-road capability. That reputation persists 70 years on, improved only by sophistication and elegance. Carrying on the tradition is the new Range Rover Velar, a mid-size vehicle that will appeal to a wide range of drivers with its unprecedented combination of luxury, modernity and off-road ability.

Notwithstanding its elegant appearance, the new Velar is not just another SUV intended for city driving. This is a vehicle just as at home in rugged terrain. Air suspension comes standard for the V6 models and optional for four-cylinder variant. It also has considerable ground clearance at just over 25 cm, which is good enough for most sensible off-road maneuvers. What is more, all-wheel drive and adaptive dampers also let the crossover get around when away from the pavement.

For a closer look, or to arrange a test drive, visit Cowell Auto Group's Jaguar Land Rover of Richmond in the Richmond Auto Mall. | cowellautogroup.com



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GIFT OF THE GROTTO

Someone is sure to get a kiss under the mistletoe this Holiday Season if they give their loved one a gift package at The Grotto Spa at Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Spa Resort & Conference Centre.

Voted the Number 1 Spa in Canada in 2016 by Spas of America, the Grotto Spa is just one of many reasons hedonists regularly flock to the Resort. Indeed, the spa is a perfect location to escape this winter for rest, relaxation and rejuvenation. Hidden behind a towering waterfall, the entire complex is constructed around a large, heated mineral pool where high stone walls are festooned with green plants and ferns, giving the Grotto Spa a funky Jurassic vibe.

After an invigorating soak, guests can experience a range of treatments, including facials, body wraps, body glows, massages, manicures and pedicures — many with a focus on West Coast natural ingredients.

Dedicated to providing intimate experiences for individuals and couples, the Grotto spa also specializes in “social-spa” catering to groups and corporate business. | grottospa.com

5

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REFRESHING PRESENT

This holiday season, ring in the New Year with a toast to the health of family, friends and colleagues. And if you're really serious about it, consider investing in their well-being with a health assessment at False Creek Healthcare Centre in Vancouver.

Comprehensive Executive Health assessments are one of the fastest growing areas of private healthcare as organizations see the benefit of providing health screening for senior managers. After all, keeping key decision makers functioning at optimum physical and mental condition is for the greater good of the organizations they lead.



More than a clinic, False Creek Healthcare is a world-class medical facility offering a comprehensive range of health services, encompassing family medicine, comprehensive wellness assessments, advanced diagnostics (MRI, CT, Ultrasound), surgical procedures, specialist consultation, and cosmetic treatments — all under one roof with no wait lists. With a team of over 120 physicians and surgeons, they offer expedited treatment for a variety of health concerns. | falsecreekhealthcare.com

6

JOIN THE CLUB

An annual membership at The Union Club of British Columbia is a gift that will keep on giving well into the New Year and beyond. Built in 1913, The Union Club is a Government of Canada-designated National Historic Site located just steps away from Victoria's Inner Harbour.



Just as grand as the building are the host of amenities available to Club members, including: an Executive Fitness Centre with new equipment and change rooms; a steam room; a traditional billiards room and three tables; meeting rooms and boardroom set-up; multiple banquet spaces; and the Past President's Library.

The Union Club is also an exceptional place to dine with family, friends, clients and colleagues. Enjoy exceptional food and beverage offerings — at Club member pricing — in the main dining room, or head upstairs and enjoy dinner with a harbour view.

The Union Club also offers 22 guest rooms and suites, making the Club a home away from home in the heart of the city. | unionclub.com

7



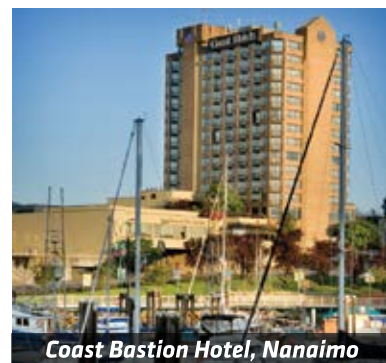
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Lead by experienced guides, guests navigate through a labyrinth of azure-blue ice caves and chambers, marveling at natural ice sculptures, flows and gentle slides from one cave and ice hall to the next.

This experience is perfect for families, engagements, weddings, private groups and corporate events. There is also the option of hiring a chef to prepare a gourmet mountain meal as part of the tour.

Heli-Ice Cave tours run year-round at a cost of \$1,395 per person. Arrangements can also be made to fly group tours from Downtown Vancouver.

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REFRESHING PRESENT

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The key is proper application. Dr. Stephen Baker is an Oculoplastic Surgeon particularly skilled at providing filler treatments around the eyes to reduce dark circles and puffiness, while adding volume to the temple area, which can hollow with age. | **bakerrejuvenation.com**

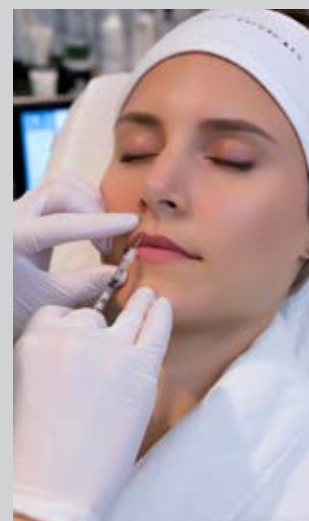




Photo courtesy of Marc Dianne and HMV

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MOONSHOT

Send your man to the moon and back in 2018 with the Portugieser Perpetual Calendar timepiece, available at Lugaro Jewellers in Downtown Victoria for the heavenly price of \$43,900. To be sure, this is a moon you can rely on, even under cloudy skies: the perpetual calendar's high-precision

moon phase display needs only a one-day adjustment every 577.5 years. This elegant timepiece also displays the year in four digits and a seven-day automatic movement with Pellaton winding. The four sub-dials on the silver-plated dial display the phase of the moon, the date, month and day, the power reserve, and small seconds. This timepiece is powered by an IWC-manufactured movement from the 52,000-calibre family, featuring a solid red-gold rotor and blued screws. The 18-carat red gold watch has an arched-edge front glass and comes with a dark brown alligator leather strap. | lugaro.com

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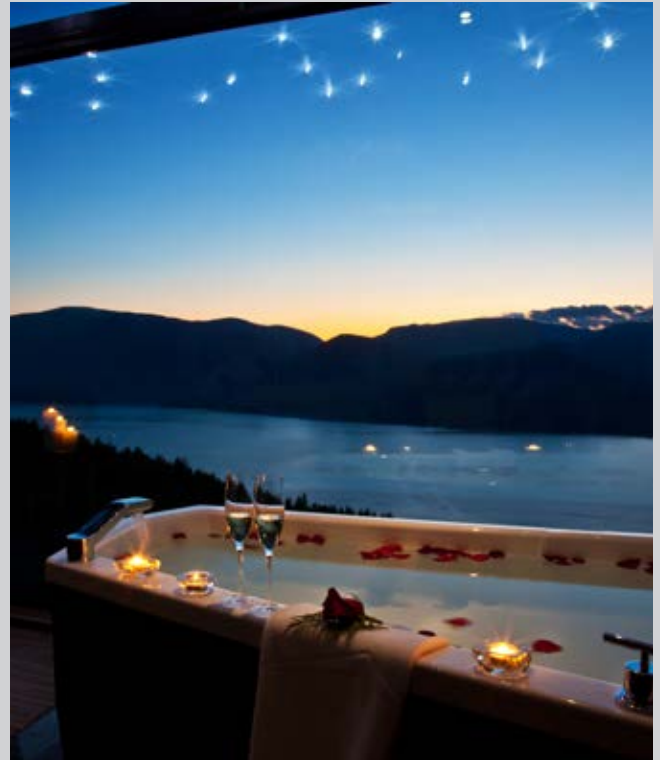
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Indeed, the Resort's 40,000-square-foot KurSpa is the largest spa in North America, and it serves as the heart of the Resort. Here you can follow the hot-cold-relax principle as you sweat it out in one of seven themed aromatherapy steams and saunas, or soak in the outdoor infinity pool, float in the indoor salt-water pool with underwater music, walk the Kneipp waterway, or unwind in one of several tranquil relaxation rooms.

The guest rooms are sure to dazzle, too. Beautifully appointed, each open-concept room has floor-to-ceiling window walls that let the natural beauty of the Okanagan flood in. Moreover, the walk-through glass shower and crystal-shaped soaker tub mean you never miss a minute of the glorious view. And with 3.5 million Swarovski crystals integrated into every aspect of design, this is one resort that truly sparkles. | sparklinghill.com



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For an unforgettable gift, treat yourself, or someone you care for, to an introductory flight with Chinook Helicopters. Leaving from the Abbotsford International Airport, you will have the opportunity to take (supervised) control of one of their training helicopters and see for yourself what it takes to fly one of these machines. Chinook Helicopters fleet of training helicopters includes the Bell 47, Robinson 44 and Bell 206. The choice of which one to fly is yours! chinookhelicopters.com



DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER

Certainly, 2018 will be a year she'll never forget if you slip this Fancy Yellow Diamond Trilogy Ring on her finger. It'll set you back about \$84,000, but she's worth it, right?

Designed and manufactured in-house at Lugaro studios, this elegant and extraordinary trilogy ring is GIA certified, boasting one 3.42 carat Fancy Yellow Diamond, accented by two VS/G-H half-moon cut diamonds (0.82 carat total weight), set in 18K white and yellow gold | lugaro.com

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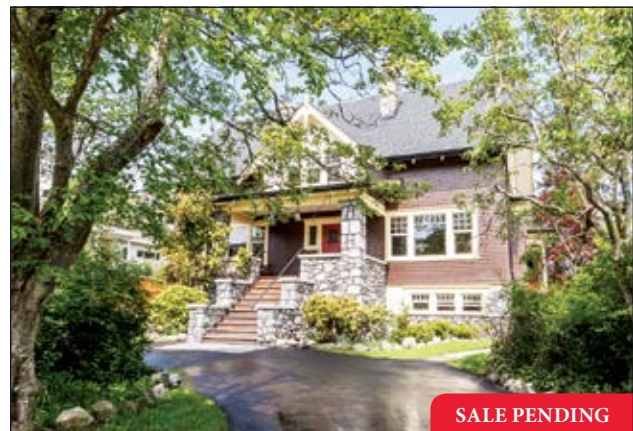
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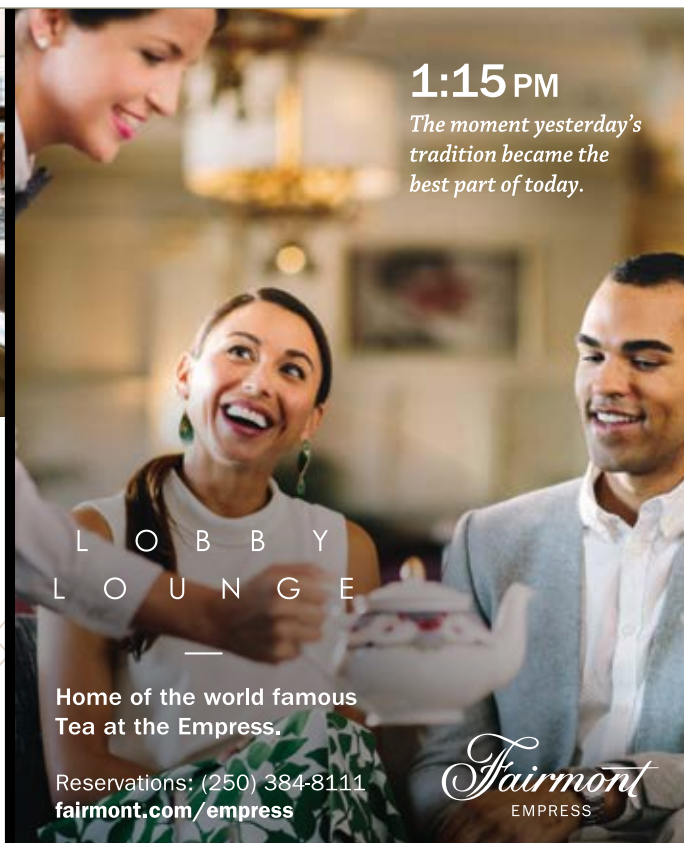
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Raven Lacerte (centre) and her father, Paul Lacerte (right), take part in a Moose Hide Campaign demonstration aimed at ending the problem of domestic violence. Jeff Nicholls photo

Power of Persuasion

THE MOOSE HIDE CAMPAIGN GETS MEN TALKING

PAUL LACERTE was moose hunting near Prince George with his daughter, Raven, early one autumn morning in 2011 when something profound happened. They had just harvested an animal, and Lacerte was admiring his daughter's confidence and skill as she field-dressed the animal. The misty forest they were hunting in was just west of Highway 16 — the notorious “Highway of Tears” where many Indigenous women had disappeared, or been found murdered — and as they processed the moose their conversation turned to the tragedy of violence against women.

The subject hit close to home. At the time, Lacerte was the Executive Director of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, and

he knew too well the problem of violence against women. Underscoring that concern was the reality of being a father to four young girls.

“We had a moment of inspiration,” says Lacerte. “We agreed violence against women is not a women's issue, but a uniquely male problem. The only way to bring about change is to get men talking to each other about it, using the power of persuasion instead of preaching.”

Father and daughter decided the best way to get men talking would be some sort of conversation starter. They hatched a plan to traditionally tan their moose hide and cut it up into tiny square patches that men would wear as a sign of their commitment to honour and protect women. To make sure each patch mattered, Raven and her three sisters attached a hand-written card to each patch asking the male recipient to promise not to hurt women, or children.

So began the Moosehide Campaign — a grassroots movement of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal men taking a stand against domestic violence.

The Campaign was quickly embraced by First Nations communities in B.C., and in no time the 2,000 patches from the first moose hide were gone. Lacerte appealed to other First Nations hunters to contribute, and soon they had obtained a total of 12 hides, yielding some 25,000 patches.

“My four daughters spent the better part of a year hand-writing cards for every patch,” recalls Lacerte. “I was so proud of them, but as interest in the Campaign grew I knew it wasn't realistic for them to continue writing cards. I was worried they were going to develop arthritis!”

Interest and participation in the Moosehide Campaign grew way beyond expectations. Lacerte and his daughters could barely keep up, and so he eventually resigned his position with the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to run the Campaign full-time.

While the Moose Hide Campaign started as a B.C.-based First Nations initiative, Lacerte recognized violence against women and children is an endemic problem afflicting all aspects of society. As such, the Campaign evolved, appealing to men across Canada, regardless of ethnicity.

“It's a huge problem in this country,” says Lacerte. “On any given night in Canada about 6,000 women and children are sleeping in shelters because it isn't safe at home. That's unacceptable.”

The solution, as Lacerte sees it, lies in the coercive power of peer pressure: “the Murdered and Missing Women Inquiry is important, but we don’t need to wait for their conclusion to know that men need to stop hurting women”.

Interest in the Moose Hide Campaign grew when B.C.’s political leaders started championing the message, especially once every MLA in the provincial legislature agreed to wear the patch for one day. The federal government followed suit, as did a number of government agencies, including the RCMP, the Canadian Forces, and the Treasury Board of Canada, among others. Since 2011 the Campaign has produced more than 750,000 patches, and is on track to reach 1 million by early 2018.

Notwithstanding the Moosehide Campaign’s considerable success, Lacerte is concerned many people wear the patch without fully appreciating what it stands for.

“Wearing the patch is important, but it’s meaningless if people don’t know what it stands for,” says Lacerte.

To ensure people who wear the patch are knowledgeable about it, the Moose Hide Campaign promotes a three-step engagement process. The

“WEARING THE PATCH IS IMPORTANT, BUT IT’S MEANINGLESS IF PEOPLE DON’T KNOW WHAT IT STANDS FOR.”

— Paul Lacerte

first step is for men to wear the patch and make a vow to protect women and children. The second step involves patch-wearers committing to a three-hour online training program that provides communication strategies and skills. The third step involves a day-long fast with no food or water from sun-up to sun-down.

“Every culture and religion appreciates the significance of fasting,” says Lacerte. “It’s an important act of solidarity for men to stand together, showing themselves and others that violence is no longer tolerated in our communities and society.” 

The Moose Hide Campaign invites men across Canada to participate in a nation-wide fast on February 15, 2018. For more information, visit www.moosehidecampaign.ca



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To date we have given out close to one million moose hide pins which have generated at least as many conversations about ending domestic and gender-based violence. We have a vision of one million men fasting with us in ceremony in 2020 to end domestic violence in Canada.

For more information find us online at moosehidecampaign.ca



“I am full of gratitude and hope and love for everybody that has supported the campaign so far. I am excited to see where it goes from here!”

*Raven Lacerte,
Moose Hide Campaign
co-founder*



Rising Tide

OCEAN HOUSE IN HAIDA GWAII OFFERS ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

THERE IS NO SHORTAGE of outdoor adventure businesses operating in British Columbia, so you might be forgiven for not knowing about Ocean House, a new cultural eco-tourism lodge scheduled to open in Haida Gwaii in June 2018. Nevertheless, Ocean House is a business story worth following because it stands apart from the rest, and achieves much more than just profit.

Owned by the Haida Enterprise Corporation (HaiCo) — the economic development arm of the Council of Haida Nation — Ocean House is part of a diverse portfolio of businesses aimed at economic development on Haida Gwaii for the

Above: Opening in June 2018, Ocean House is an ultra-remote 12-room fly-in lodge anchored in Stads K'uns GawGa (Peel Inlet) that will be capable of hosting up to 24 guests in luxury accommodations for three-, four-, or seven-night stays.

benefit of the Haida People. To this end, Ocean House is a refurbished floating lodge that will host small groups of adventure travelers in high-end accommodations on the rugged and remote west coast of Moresby Island, the main southern island in Haida Gwaii. Here guests will explore the raw beauty of the land while discovering the rich cultural heritage of the Haida People. In the process, Ocean House will provide jobs and skills training for local people, while contributing to the social fabric of the wider community.

Located in *Stads K'uns GawGa* (Peel Inlet), Ocean House is in an ultra-remote, secluded bay on the rugged west coast of Haida Gwaii where there are few people and access is limited to ocean-going vessels and helicopters. Here guests will have access to isolated beaches, untrammelled rainforest, and ancient Haida cultural sites.

Today the area is isolated and untrammelled, but it was not always so. Prior to European contact, the West Coast of Haida Gwaii was dotted with dozens of thriving Haida villages. By some estimates, as many as 40,000 Haida occupied the islands — a number that had dwindled to a just a few hundred by the end of the 19th century.

The remains of long houses and totem poles can still be found in several abandoned village locations, but few visitors are permitted — or able — to visit these protected heritage sites. Guests at Ocean House, however, will have the rare opportunity to be accompanied by local cultural guides from the Haida Nation who are proud to share the history of their people.

“Ocean House is the first and only lodge on the West Coast of Haida Gwaii that puts cultural tourism front and centre,” says Joelle Rabu, General Manager of Haida House, Ocean House’s sister property on the east side of Graham Island. “Respecting the past and the land is very important to the Haida People, our team is very cautious about who we attract to Ocean House. We don’t want to turn the place into a Disneyland with people going willy-nilly through ancient villages, one of which is a UNESCO world heritage site.” She adds, “Our hope is to attract visitors, not tourists. Tourists have a checklist of sites they want to see and tick off their list, whereas visitors are people who come to learn and pass on knowledge. In this way they will become informal ambassadors for Haida Gwaii.”

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Above: Quality of service, and integrity with the traditions of the Haida People, is central to Ocean House's business model.

Left: Guests at Ocean House will enjoy delicious chef-prepared meals made with the freshest of local ingredients.

Because Ocean House is owned by the Haida Nation the lodge has a mandate to be authentic and consistent with local traditions. That's because Ocean House at *Stads K'uns GawGa* was born out of the desire to create a business that would not just provide revenue, but would ensure the land and waters function to provide for the long-term wellbeing of the Haida people.

"HaiCo has a diverse portfolio of businesses on Haida Gwaii — everything from energy and lumber, to sport fishing and seafood processing," says Bob Brash, HaiCo CEO. "Through business ownership, the Haida Nation is forging ahead and taking their destiny into their own hands. Like many First Nations in B.C., they're working towards self-sufficiency so as to not be economically dependent." He adds, "Diversifying into cultural eco-tourism was a natural extension of everything the Haida people believe in, while at the same time offering visitors around the world a rare glimpse into the untouched, rugged archipelago of Haida Gwaii."

The future is promising. When Ocean House opens in June 2018 it will provide seasonal employment and skills training for between 14 and 16 full-time employees from Haida Gwaii. While this provides commercial and professional benefit to local people and their communities, it also serves to immerse employees in their own culture and history.

"There is a great resurgence happening throughout the Haida Nation," says Rabu. "Their culture is coming back through experiences and learning, and Ocean House has a role to play in this regard."

The majesty of the land and surrounding ocean can have a similar effect.


Formerly known as the Queen Charlotte Islands, Haida Gwaii is world-renowned for its preternatural

beauty. Every year travelers come from around the globe to visit this collection of islands some 200 kilometres out in the Pacific Ocean off B.C.'s North Coast. And few places in Haida Gwaii are more dramatic and remote than the West Coast of Moresby Island where Ocean House is anchored.

Perched on the edge of the continental shelf, the coastline here is marked by steep mountains that plunge down into the ocean. Not far from shore, the sea floor drops from 100 to 1,000 meters or more, causing upwellings of currents that are rich in nutrients and marine life. The abundance of food attracts all sorts of animals, from salmon, orcas and whales, to seabirds and sea lions, among many others.

Haida Gwaii is also home to a wide range of land mammals. Sitka deer are found in large numbers everywhere, and the largest subspecies of black bear in the world is found here, too.

Guests at Ocean House are able to discover the local flora and fauna in any number of ways, from sea kayak and zodiac tours, to riparian nature hikes, in the company of knowledgeable and professional local guides. Such tours can be demanding, especially during periods of Haida Gwaii's famous foul weather, but guests can revive and regenerate in the warmth and comfort of Ocean House's many amenities and offerings, which includes a fully-stocked lounge and bar, media room, library, sauna, steam room, and an onsite massage therapist. What is more, guests will enjoy delicious chef-prepared meals made with the freshest of local ingredients.

"It's luxury in the heart of nature," says Rabu. "You don't have to suffer to enjoy the rugged beauty and serenity of these mystical islands at the edge of the world." 



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Fondue For You

PACIFIC RESTAURANT REVIVES A SIGNATURE FOOD FROM THE SEVENTIES

MY PARENTS were married in November of 1968, and on their wedding day they were lucky enough to receive seven fondue sets as gifts. Seems fondue was rather big at the time.

As a child of the 70s, I grew up loving fondue. Any time the pots and elongated forks came out, and the pink Sterno was lit, I just knew it was going to be an exciting night. Especially when copious amounts of red Mateus shared the table with boiling hot oil.

Sadly, fondue was consigned to the culinary cupboard with the arrival of thrilling new food trends in the 1980s, such as quiche and wine coolers. But, as with most signature foods, what is old is new again, and foodies everywhere are dusting

off their fondue sets and lighting up the sterno as a new generation succumbs to the charms of fondue.

Leading the way in Victoria is the Pacific Restaurant in the Hotel Grand Pacific where Chef Takumi Kitamura has revived this classic Swiss dish with distinct modern elements.

I like to surprise my wife, Heather, on our regular Thursday date night by taking her out for something new each week. Pacific Restaurant is one of her favourites, but I keep the fondue a surprise until we arrive.

Our server, Saul, seats us at a window table, and soon delivers a couple of delicious cocktails — a sparkling pamplemousse and an akavit Manhattan — that we sip on while admiring the reflection of holiday lights dancing on the Inner Harbour.

Halfway through our libations, Heather asks where our menus are.

“There are none tonight,” I smirk. “It’s pre-ordered.”

As if on cue, Saul glides in with a bubbling bowl of cheese fondue, accompanied by a plate of assorted fresh vegetables, apple slices, small potatoes, chorizo sausage, gherkin pickles, and chunks of spongy, fresh baguette.

“I haven’t had fondue since I was a girl,” squeals Heather. “This is sooooo cool.”

Actually, it’s piping hot, as I soon discover.

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In my initial excitement, I stab a chunk of apple with my fondue fork and dip it into the burbling cheese, lifting it to my tongue without letting it cool. Eee-yikes!

I suggest Heather not follow my example, and so we pace ourselves, blowing on each tidbit of cheese-smothered food for a few seconds before knocking it back.

The array of flavours is delightful, especially when paired with a glass of sparkling wine from Unsworth Vineyards.

True to its origins, the classic fondue combination of Gruyere and Emmental cheese, blended with truffle, roasted garlic, *kirschwasser* and a sprinkle of nutmeg, envelopes every morsel in a savoury, gooey mass. Each bite is wonderfully unique, but I'm especially partial to dipping fresh baguette. So much so that I end up wiping the bowl clean with the last remaining piece of bread. (Heather and I had recently just finished a ridiculously austere, month-long cleanse diet that forbade gluten.)

Next up is the hot broth fondue with dashi broth. Drawing on Japanese cuisine, Chef Kitamura melds East and West together with this piping hot broth derived from dried bonito. Accompanying the broth are a variety of dipping sauces, including ponzu, sesame sauce, wasabi mayo and sweet chili for coating pieces of prawn, beef, and vegetables.

I make the mistake of over-cooking my first piece of beef, but I catch on quick to the timing required. Then it's just a matter of personal preference choosing which dipping sauce to enjoy. Heather seems to enjoy the prawns dipped in wasabi mayo, while I'm too omnivorous to settle on any one food-sauce combo. It all tastes amazing!

Of course, no fondue experience is complete without chocolate. Better still, Grand Marnier 70% dark chocolate drizzled over an assortment of decadent dippers including fresh fruit, banana cakes and, perhaps best of all, marshmallows!

As we polish off the last of the dessert course, Heather and I take turns reflecting on our respective childhood fondue memories. We agree the only thing missing from tonight's experience is our son, Rowan, who has yet to experience the fun and flavours of fondue dining. I wonder aloud if my parents still have one of those seven fondue sets down in their basement, but Heather has a better idea:

"Why bother going to all the trouble when we can just bring him here?" **H**

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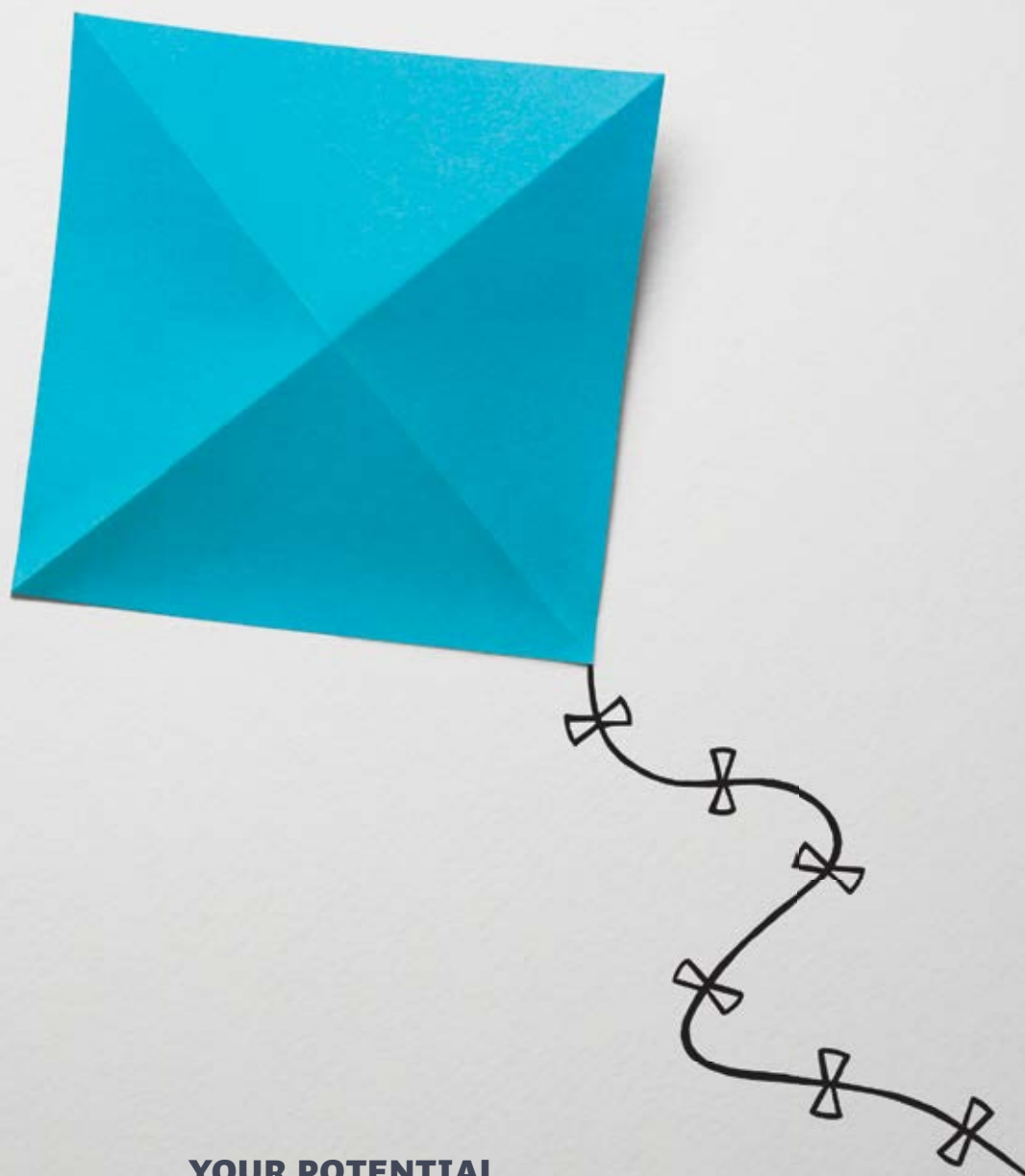
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