

Willis
Point



The Pointer

Winter 2010

To The Point:

December, 2010

I think the most exciting thing that has been happening around the Point since the last Pointer is that many of us have been thinking and taking action around making a "Pointer History" in the form of a book really taking shape. We owe a big thank you to Bill Wright who had the foresight to start this project. The biggest value is that new people moving here can understand us better. Change is always inevitable, but how sad it would be if discarded or lost those things that are a part of our core. When I look back at how this issue came together, that interest in blending history and tradition with new ways has generated many of the articles. I didn't have to do too much soliciting; my email box was magically filled with articles. Thank you so much.

On a note of changes, as some of you the Halloween Pictures are locked in my computer at the computer hospital. So much of doing some of the prep editing in advance! The good part is that there have been some technical problems with some of the pages and by having to recreate them, they are now fixed.

Dead lines for the next year will be: March 8, June 8, September 8, and December 8. Please mark your calendars. Some of those dates may be adjusted accordingly but if you plan for them it will allow me to work on it in a more leisurely fashion.

Watch the sign for: The new MAJOR fundraiser, WP History, Dart Night, Interesting Executive meetings, Fitness Classes, Happy Hour & other suggestions for good Willis Point fun© -Ida

To my delivery team: I want to thank you for great effort with the last issue and in advance for this one. Thanks again: Ken Leighton, Trevor and Ian Espin, Pat Orr and Family, Joyce Menzies, Dawn Campbell, Helen Resnick, and Tessa Clayton. **Ida von Schuckmann ph.: 652-0050 email: idavs4@yahoo.ca**

Photo credits this issue: Ken Leighton, Alicia Pine, Kim Ilott & Ida von Schuckmann and anyone I've missed.

*Wishing you all the best of the
Season.*

*Have a great time connecting
with your family and friends.
All the best in the New Year.*

--Ida and Family



Advertising Rates

Business Listing FREE	Full Page \$ 25.00
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	Quarter Page \$ 6.50

Who's Who

WPC Chair	Bill Douglas	544-1042
Pointer Editor	Ida von Schuckmann	652-0050
Fire Chief	Greg Elvedahl	886-6635
Hall Custodian	Mariann Malvet	544-1681
Hall Sign	Don Gorling	652-6149
Saanich Inlet Protection	Patricia Sloan	652-0226
Fire & Recreation Chair	Vern McConnell	652-2996
Rural Observer Newspaper	Patricia Sloan	652-0226
Aerobics Instructor	Deanna Roozendaal	744-4891
Land Use Committee	Patricia Sloan	652-0226
Advisory Planning Comm.	Larry Resnick	652-8278
Fire Fighters Assn. Chair	Jim Potvin	544-6757
Parks Commission Rep.		
CRD Advisory Committees: Environment & Solid Waste	Larry Resnick	652-8278



Note from the Chair of the Community Association

The next Executive meeting is January 10 with special guest Tom Watkins who will be speaking to what is happening at Hartland.

Please note that Executive meetings for the coming year will be the second Monday of the month except where it falls on a statutory holiday. In that case it will be held on the Monday following.

The entire Community Association Executive is looking forward to working with as many Pointers as possible in the coming year to hold a new fundraiser. Watch for information on notice boards, etc.

Best wishes for a great Christmas and a safe and rewarding New Year!
Bill Douglas

Willis Point Community Association WPCA Executive

Chair	Bill Douglas	544-1042
Vice-Chair	Art Wynans	652-5898
Corresponding Secretary	Karen Davies	
Recording Secretary	Laurel Nash	544-0907
Treasurer	Bob Scott	652-8522
Member-at-Large	David Lawrie	652-1286
Membership Secretary	Ken Leighton	652-2686
Member-at-Large	Sheryl Campbell	652-7189
Fire & Recreation Rep.	Jeff Irwin	652-6869

Full minutes of the WPCA meetings are posted on the notice boards or can be obtained by contacting the Recording Secretary.

WPCA meetings are held in the annex at the Hall on the second Monday of each month. To confirm when the next meeting is scheduled call any Executive member.

For information, or to have an item placed on the agenda, please call :

Chair, Bill Douglas 250-544-1042 or Vice-Chair Art Wynans 250-652-5898

Fire and Rec Commission:

October 17: Election of WPFRC Commissioners (7 community members and Director Mick Hicks).

New bylaw states: Commissioners cannot be officers of fire department and the Commission can only elect 2 fire department members.

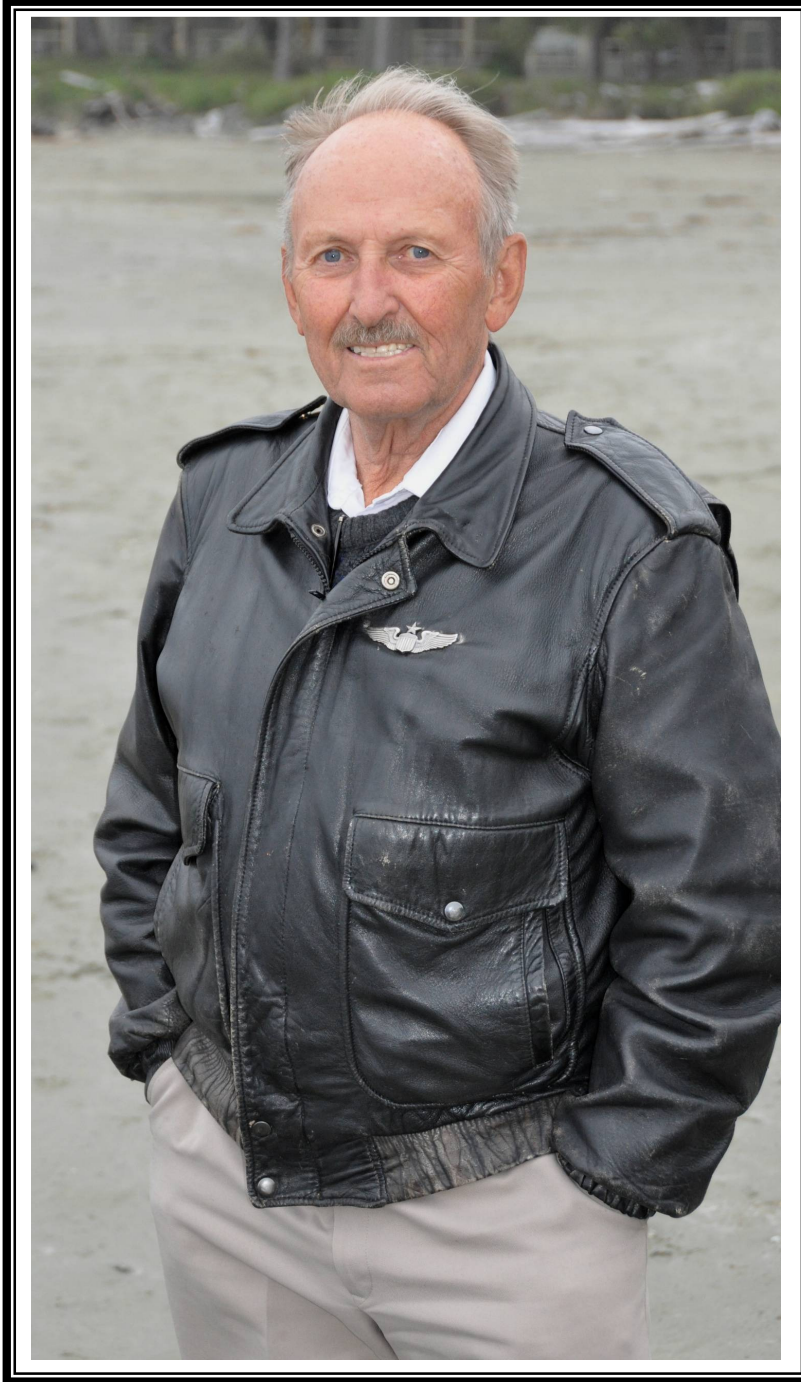
Bob Halsey, Pat O'Rourke, Brian McCandless, Vern McConnell re-elected by acclamation.

Any questions call **Vernon McConnell ph. 652-2996**



About the cover: One of the community events at the Point has been the Christmas Potluck. Over the years it has involved many Pointers. One right of passage for young pointers is the position of Santa's helper. It is always fun to see those past helpers coming back with friends and young families.

*Sincere condolences to the Hoel family from all of us at the Point.
Eric was one of our interesting Pointers who truly loved it here. He liked the sense of community, contributed as a Firefighter and whenever possible came to events at the hall whether the Hilltopper, Christmas Potluck, Happy Hours, Halloween, or... was famous for the Crabfests that he donated to the Hilltopper auction.
We'll miss you, Eric.*



Eric Hoel

July 1930-October 12, 2010

Erik was born in Arendal, Norway in 1930 and had one sister Ingrid (1926) and a brother Kjell (1927).

I can remember when Erik was born and bits of little incidents and happenings in our early days.

One thing I vividly remember was when Erik was about 5 years old. A little girl of the same age was over playing with Erik, when he was called in for lunch. Well, Erik was in a bit of a tussle, he did not want the girl to leave while he was having lunch, so being an imaginative little guy, he found a rope and tied his little girlfriend to a tree. Afterwards they played happily again.

The years went by and on the 9th of April 1940, the Germans invaded Norway. Erik was then 10 years old. The first thing the Germans did was confiscate all weapons and radios to keep us from getting news from London. Erik was a bit of a tinkerer and soon he built a crystal radio, about the size of the first cell phone. That enabled us to listen to news from England.

After the war, Erik took up Civil Engineering studies in Durham University in Sunderland, England between 1947 thru 1951. He went to England to study as it was very difficult to enter universities in Norway following WW2.

During this period, Erik toured by motorcycle, an Aerial Square Four. This is where his love for motorcycles started.

While studying in England he met his future wife, Desiree Anne Wilkinson. She returned to Norway with Erik following his graduation from Engineering school.

Erik began mandatory military service in Norway from 1952 through 1956. He served in the Norwegian Air Force as a Civil Engineer while Kjell served in the Coast Artillery group. As a Buck Private in the Air Force with a degree in civil engineering, Erik was often called on to provide solutions and report to high ranking officers. He would have to report in civilian clothing as the senior officers would not take advice from a uniformed private.

Erik gained the rank of Second Lieutenant and was posted as District Airport Engineer for Southern Norway, based at Sola Airport in Stavanger. This experience also helped form his love of flying later in his life.

Erik and Anne were married in Stavanger, Norway in 1955. In October 1957 a son, Jan Erik was born in Bergen, Norway.

Shortly thereafter, Erik followed his older brother Kjell to Canada seeking a better life and times. Moving to Canada was very popular with young Norwegians following the war. He and his young family landed in Vancouver, B.C. and shortly after relocated to Victoria, B.C. where he remained for the rest of his life. Kjell soon came to Victoria as well.

Erik found employment with R.C. Thurber, Materials Engineering and the Frazer River Board from 1957 to 1959. He was responsible for long range hydro-electric planning for the entire Fraser River system.

In 1959 Erik obtained his P. Eng. qualifications in B.C. and started the engineering firm Erik Hoel Ltd. This firm continues to this day, entering its 50th year of practice.

In 1960, Erik and Anne have their second child, a son named James Steven. In 1963 the third child, Susan, was born.

In 1961 Erik and Kjell acquired raw land waterfront properties at Willis Point, north of Victoria..

Owning cottage property in Norway was a very popular trend, Kjell and Erik merely carried on this tradition. Shortly after, Erik built a cottage at W.P. now a big house.

In 1968 Erik takes up his dream of flying and obtains his Pilot's Licence. His instructors were experienced and highly qualified individuals, such as Jack Ellard, Noel Ribout, Basil Newton and Jack Kaiser. He remained good friends with his instructors for many years after. Erik was a Life Member of the Victoria Flying Club and B.C. Aviation Museum.

Erik goes on to obtain his multi engine rating, commercial rating and eventually his Instructor rating. He buys his own airplanes over a period of years. A twin engine Piper Apache CF ROV, a Piper Cub floatplane and a Cessna 150.

In the early 1970's, Erik and son Jan fly a Cessna 150 Aerobatic plane from the Cessna factory in Kansas to Victoria.

From 1965 to 1990, Erik is a key Organizing Chairman of the hugely successful Oak Bay Tea Party. With his connections in the world of aviation, he arranges spectacular airshow displays and waterfront shows that draws crowds in the tens of thousands. He has many friends, including best friends Bert Wright, John Bailey, Fred Usher, Bert Fatt, Jim Young, the Jarvis family and his brother Kjell.

In 1979, Erik married Cheryl Goy. Throughout the 1980's and early 1990's, Erik enjoyed skiing, flying, boating, diving and travelling. He made W.P. his principal residence and enjoyed many years there, playing Dixieland tunes on his piano. He was divorced from Cheryl in 1994.

Erik joins the W.P. Fire Department and trains and qualifies as a First Responder.

Erik remained at W.P. until his death on October 2010. In his last years he continued in the spirit of adventure and got his motorcycle license and rode a replica of the motorcycle he had as a young man. He also enjoyed driving in his Miata sports car and re-building his boat, the Stallar Polaris.

Erik was a pioneer at Willis Point who made many contributions to our community. He will be missed by so many good friends.

Submitted by Kjell Hoel

Notes from the AGM Held Oct. 17, 2010:

Executives Present:

Bill Douglas, Chair, Arthur Wynans, Vice Chair, Bob Scott, Treasurer, Laurel Nash, Corresponding secretary, Sheryl Campbell, Member-at-large, Larry Resnick, Advisory Planning Commission Ken Leighton, Membership secretary, Elizabeth Errington-Wynans, Recording secretary, Absent: David Lawrie, Member-at-large. Guest: Tom Watson Larissa Hutcheson, CRD

Reports:

Chair – Bill Douglas:

- The past year saw a modest turn-over in ownership of properties.
- The WPCA offers condolences to the surviving loved ones of Pointer pioneers that passed away.
- The playground renovation was the Playground major project for the year. The WPCA asks Pointers to please consider shopping at the businesses that donated to this project.
- We anticipate meeting with the RCMP regarding the neighbour-watch program.
- A thorough community clean-up took place earlier in the year.
- A large WPCA fundraiser was not held this year. The casino night, 2 years ago, raised a good source of funds as did the Darts Night this year.
- Please come forward with your ideas for fundraiser in 2011.
- Willis Point is still in need of a Parks Commissioner. We are looking into being able to attend meetings as a teleconference.
- The “26 weeks to Emergency Preparedness program” has been organized by Judy and Peter Gary.
- Thank you to all volunteers for donating time, talents, and resources to the community!

Treasurer – Bob Scott:

- As of Aug 31/10 - \$137 made, spent \$7943, brought in \$8xxx (see Treasurer's Report).
- Did very well in lieu of not having a major fundraiser thanks to donations.
Vice Chair – Arthur Wynans:
- Busy year with organizing the playground restoration.
- Thank you to corporate and community sponsors, as well as grants, made things very successful.

Membership – Ken Leighton:

- 9 people have joined the WPCA in the last year.

WP Volunteer Department – JC Patchell (for Greg Elvedahl, Fire Chief)

Advisory Planning Commission – Larry Resnick:

- Questions arose about having secondary dwellings at WP
- June Klassen brought this to APC (unofficially)
The Chair suggests this issue be left with the APC for the time being and a more official poll of the entire community be done.

Land Use Committee – Pat Sloan (absent)

Parks Commission – Chair (vacant role)

The Pointer Editor: - Ida von Schuckmann

Elections:

Chair: Bill Douglas - carried
Recording Secretary: Laurel Nash - carried
Correspondence Secretary: Karen Davies - carried
Member at Large: Sheryl Campbell – carried

For more detailed information please contact Bill Douglas.



Fire Department Report

Call summary

- Oct. 3 /10 Medical call for an allergic reaction
- Oct 30/10 A call to help search for an overdue hiker
- Nov. 19/10 Snow covered tree branches touching a live power line causing some sparking in the 6700 block of Mark lane.
- Nov.20/10 Power lines down in the 6900 block of Mark lane
- Nov 30/10 Duty call about a large amount of smoke on Willis Point rd near the Saanich border.
- Dec 17/10 Roll over motor vehicle incident on Willis Point rd near the Saanich border

Membership

A great time was had by all at our annual Christmas party, It was fantastic to see so many honorary and past members in attendance as well as Mr Mike Mc Gregor from the BC Ambulance Service. The department had much to celebrate and recognized Mark Roosendaal for his outstanding past service to the department and community with a beautiful stained glass picture hand crafted by our member Cathy Patchell. Our Special Service Award was presented to Kathy Crawley and Jeff Irwin for their outstanding dedication, hard work and commitment to the department. A ten year service pin was presented to Aran Puritch.

Last year's power point show was featured again this year to ensure that all past members have had a chance to view it. (thanks Aran)

Lot's of laughs and unique presents were shared during our gift game . A big thank you to everyone in the whole department for another great year !

Safety

Please spare some time to ensure the family is up to speed on Christmas tree safety. Position those trees well away from heaters, woodstoves and fireplaces. Make sure they are well watered because they are extremely flammable when dry. Never leave lights on unattended. Extension cords must be checked and in good repair – often these overheat. Please recycle your Christmas wrapping paper, do not stuff your fireplace full of discarded wrapping and ignite as it burns too rapidly and generates far too much heat increasing your chances of a chimney fire. Also be sure to check your smoke detectors to ensure they are working properly.

Finally, on behalf of all of the dedicated volunteers of the Willis Point fire department, we wish you all a safe and joyous holiday season and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,
Greg Elvedahl
Fire Chief

Neighbourhood Notices:

Discreet, Reliable Pointer available for security of Vacation Houses, watering plants, feeding fish, cats, etc. On-site supervision of tradespeople while you are at work or on vacation, emergency rides or pick-up for kids to sports, appointments or school, and vet appointments.
If you can't do it, maybe I can!
Pat Sloan 652-0226

Willis Point Handyman

Brad Taylor-Gorling Cell 250-217-8785
Decks – Painting – Yardwork – Hauling

LEARN COMPUTER BASICS PRIVATELY AT HOME

Learn to email, exchange photos, twitter, pay bills, surf the net, keep in touch with family and friends. I'm a computer-savvy senior with patience. Get connected with the world and stimulate your brain. I use a mac mostly, but am comfortable with Microsoft. \$30.00 per hour
Ph. 250-516-5980 k7harwood@gmail.com

Do you have a business to advertise in the Pointer???
You get coverage both in hard copy and online.



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DAY!!!

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THEN CALL JANET AND I WILL MAKE SHORT

CLEANING AND COOKING PROJECTS.

I WILL CLEAN YOU WHI MY RATE ?
ONLY \$20.00/HOUR **WORKING FOR YOU,**
X.

**FOR INFORMATION CALL
JANET.**

PHONE: 250-544-2142

New Baby Congratulations:



Ken and Kathy Ilott's (Papa and Nana)

**Son and Daughter-in-law,
Damien and Kim Ilott**

**Welcomed their first child,
A beautiful daughter –**

Sydney Aurora Ilott
Born on August 17th, 2010 at 6pm,
8lbs 8 oz's.

New Neighbours:



841 Melody Place

Gerry O`Reilly and Janet Larsson

Gerry was originally from Toronto. He then lived on Gabriola Island where he ran a taxi company. He now works part time at Somerset House on Dallas Road.

Janet formerly lived at Brentwood and out by the airport. She has a daughter age 22 in Alberta. Her first husband died of a heart attack. She worked at Dunsmuir Lodge until it closed. She is planning on starting a housekeeping business. She sings with the Avalon Singers, the Getting Higher Choir and the Broadway Chorus.

WILLIS POINT COMMUNITY FITNESS

We invite you to join our Willis Point Community Fitness program.

On **Tuesdays**, circuit classes offer a warm-up followed by 21 specific workout stations that include cardio/aerobic exercises such as running and skipping to raise your heart beat, strengthening stations using exercise balls and weights to tone your body and conclude with stretching to improve flexibility. This is a great class for beginners or fitness buffs who want an intense, self-guided workout.

On **Thursdays**, aerobic classes offer physical exercises that combine rhythmic aerobic exercise with stretching and strength training routines with the goal of improving all elements of fitness. The class includes a warm-up, cardio-vascular fitness, muscle strengthening exercises and stretching. Participants may select their level of participation according to their fitness level.

**Classes start Tuesday, January 3, 2011,
and
run every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 7 – 8 pm.**

Class fee – \$3 per class or \$20 per month. Classes are organized and led by a team of volunteers, and all monies collected are used to pay for hall rental and equipment.

For more information, please contact:

Mary O'Rourke (250.652.5598)

Dianne Twamley (250.652.3519)



Halloween

As usual it was a dark and spooky night, made extra special by the Fire Dept. Thank you for an amazing evening which was ablaze with both bonfire and the best fireworks show ever.

Junior members along side seasoned firefighters got to show off their fire management skills.

Young and old came dressed in their Halloween finery.

There was an abundance of treats.

Unfortunately the evidence of what a good time it was is locked in my computer.

A special thanks to all of you made the Halloween Bonfire and Fireworks possible© --Ida



**Based out of a home studio in
Willis Point
Eclipse Glassworks
is set to launch in 2011!**



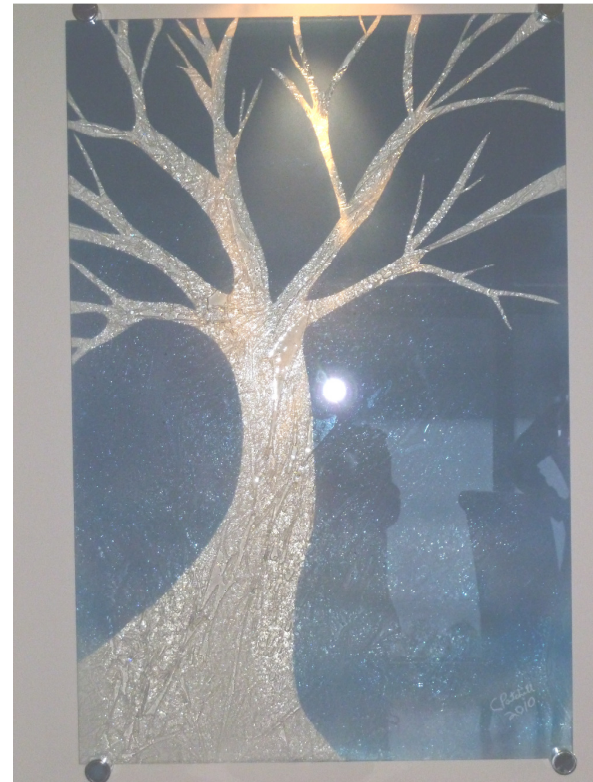
This small business involves uses an innovative approach to glass where it can be transformed into unique pieces of art work. In addition to glass 'paintings', almost any glass surface can be treated to look like 'ice' which provides both privacy and elegance to ordinary windows.

This technique was learned in a course by Rick Silas of Silastial Glass in Sidney, BC and local Willis Pointer Catherine Patchell is busy developing her own style using this artistic medium.

Perhaps the greatest aspect of Eclipse Glassworks is the fact that most of the glass can be salvaged from the landfill. In addition, the technique can be applied to most existing windows which reduces the cost and waste of replacing glass.

Since the philosophy of 'Eclipse' is to make a positive impact environmentally and socially, it has adopted the Canadian Harambee Education Society (CHES) as its sole sponsor which will receive an annual percentage of all profits. CHES is a BC based non-profit organization which provides educational opportunities to young girls in Africa.

If you would like more information about Eclipse Glassworks, Silastial Glass or CHES, please contact Catherine Patchell at 250-857-0220
www.eclipseglassworks.com



26 Weeks to Family Emergency Preparedness

The Second 13 Weeks...

Week	Take this preparedness step:
14	Check your insurance policies and make records of your possessions. Use your video camera to document every room in your house. Store the video in a safe place such as a safe deposit box.
15	Stock your kit with both large and medium-sized plastic garbage bags (orange or yellow make good visible signals). Large bags can also be used as ponchos, ground covers or blankets. Add plastic or paper dishes and cups as well.
16	Add a change of clothing for each family member to your kit. Be sure to include warm clothing, heavy work gloves and sturdy shoes.
17	Add additional canned or freeze-dried food like stews, tuna fish, baked beans and vegetables to your kit.
18	Enroll a family member in a first-aid course. Pack HELP/OK signs in your kit.
19	Assemble important documents like wills, insurance, papers, medical records, credit card numbers, inventory of possessions, identification, etc. Make copies and store originals in a fireproof / waterproof container that will be accessible if your home is damaged.
20	Add personal items such as toilet paper, handi-wipes, soap, detergent, soap, detergent, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, sanitary supplies, etc. to your emergency kit
21	Add evaporated, canned or powdered milk to your kit.
22	Get a large bucket with a tight-fitting lid to use as a toilet, and put it with your emergency kit. Use the bucket to store other emergency tools like an axe, a folding shovel and rope.
23	Add sleeping bags or blankets (foil blankets take up less space) and consider adding plastic emergency ponchos to your kit.
24	Add more canned, freeze-dried, or dehydrated food products to your kit until you have at least a three-day supply for each family member.
25	Add a pocket knife, cutlery, a whistle and a spare set of house and car keys as well as items such as books, toys and cards as well as a family photo album to your kit.
26	Meet with neighbors to discuss emergency preparations and the possibility of sharing items such as generators.

Dear Willis Point Neighbors,

While everyone else spends time reflecting or setting goals at this time of year, I really would rather spend my days playing ball. Or going for those daily walks near the water where there is lots of good poo to roll in. When no one is watching, I love being able to slip into the water. It makes that woman who walks me really mad though. She complains that I'm either wet or stinky. What does she know? Don't the girls we walk with love the way I look and smell?

Okay, I'll reflect. I miss my friends. Cica was a nice cat. No one has swatted my face since she went away. There hasn't been any cat food to steal. Sometimes they forget and call me Jordan. I don't mind. Even if she was a girl and I'm not, she did have a "boy" name. I miss that old girl. I used to like to kiss her face and ears. She liked that.

Speaking of old girls, sometimes when we walk we run into Cleo and Elvis. That Cleo is one fine hound dog. I could go for her in a big way. She's slim, has quite a howl and seems to like me. The challenge is to get her to ditch her brother and come with me.

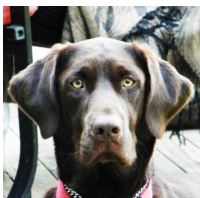
Thank you for taking my people away for Halloween. They left in a rush, leaving me in the house with a big bag of candy. They weren't gone long enough as I had three more boxes of junior mints to eat when they came home. Geez, were they carrying on about the papers and plastic piled up in the office. You'd think they would have been happy to have it all in one stack. If they didn't want me to eat it, why did they leave it in a bag on the couch?

I have discovered something wonderful in the kitchen. Sometimes I sneak in and eat the butter from their butter dish right off the table!

Oh, the peacocks. I chase and I chase but haven't caught one yet. What a racket they make. It's almost like my favorite squeaky ball.

They went away and took me to Puppy Love. They call it a dog spa. I call it a compound. Do you know that they have fences EVERYWHERE? Sure they play with me, feed me twice a day and give me treats, but escape has eluded me. If they take me back there, I bet I can find a way to slip out. Maybe that will be my goal for 2011. Plus a few visits to the yard next door.

Have a happy new year!



Nick

*As dictated by Nick to Judy Estrin and Peter Gary of
842 Sea Aira Heights.*

What's Happening at Hartland?

It's a new year for Hartland landfill and there are tales to tell! Hartland, our region's only landfill, is a one stop drop for recycling, garbage and household hazardous waste. But before you go, make sure you have the latest scoop on what's accepted, as well as adjustments in fees and operating hours.

Keep an eye out for possible opening hour adjustments for general public drop-offs at Hartland. By closing the landfill to the public two days a week and extending hours on other days, the CRD could save on both vehicle traffic greenhouse gas emissions and on costs to the public (closing for two days would save \$160,000 a year). Right now, it's only a consideration, but make sure you check at www.crd.bc.ca/hartland before you make the trip.

Now that product stewardship has expanded in BC, you can bring more items than ever to Hartland with the assurance that they will be properly disposed of. Starting on January 2, 2011, electronics such as computers, televisions and printers, tires, pharmaceuticals, pesticides and flammable liquids will all be banned from the landfill. That's because they can all be returned for recycling through the product stewardship program. All product stewardship items are free to return to Hartland. If you want to enter the general recycling area, it's a simple six dollar fee.

Telephone books are another of the region's recycling success stories. Don't let that old book languish under the new 2011 model in your cupboard. At Hartland, you can receive 20 cents for each book collected and delivered to the landfill (by appointment only, with a minimum of 100 books). It's a great way for non-profit organizations to raise funding and contribute to good recycling practices at the same time. In 2009, participating groups collected over 44 thousand telephone books. That's nearly 62 tonnes of paper diverted from the landfill.

Still have regular garbage at home that can't be recycled? Hartland's tipping fees will increase slightly this January, bringing the cost to \$107 per tonne. Tipping fees cover the costs of infrastructure and delivery of all regional solid waste programs. Yard and garden waste can be recycled for \$55 a tonne and you can drop drywall off for \$200 a tonne. Make sure your load is covered and secured to reduce litter on local roads.

Recycling and waste diversion are two of the most important things we can do as a region; at our current rate, Hartland landfill is expected to reach full capacity by 2035. When it fills, we won't have another one waiting in the wings. Aiming for better recycling habits will protect our ground water supplies from contaminants, save space at the landfill and help ensure our region stays clean and beautiful into the future.

For details on the telephone book return program, Hartland's recycling area, fees, hours and more, contact the CRD Hotline at **250.360.3030** or visit www.crd.bc.ca/hartland.

A call for help with the Willis Point History:

A small book is being compiled on the history of Willis Point and its pioneering families. The book will consist of at least 60 pages and contain stories of individual pioneer families and community events, with photographs. The book will be professionally printed and bound. All profits from the sale of these books will be donated to Community funds, so purchasing copies will be a good way to support the community and to help preserve the history of our community.

About 60 pages have already been written and Bill Wright & Ken Leighton are now appealing for additional stories, of pioneer families, events and memorable occasions, also photographs of the community and its pioneers. This book will cover the period up to and including the 1980s. If you have any photographs that you think might be helpful and which you are willing to have published, the originals can be scanned and returned to you in a few days, so please see what you can find. Bill or Ken will be happy to write additional stories based on information they receive, so again, if you have recollections or family stories, please help if you can!!

Please contact Bill Wright at 652-3254

Exerpt from AGM minutes:

"BCTransit Survey - Ida von Shuckmann - request made at the AGM. Want to encourage participation in the survey. Will be included in the Willis Pointer issue."

I have spoken with **James Wadsworth**, planner for BCtransit to get more information about how we can best let transit know what our public transportation needs are. The survey that I mentioned at the AGM focused on the identification of key transit corridors. BC transit is interested in hearing from rural areas to identify needs there and will look at a survey in the future. As a community, we can do our own survey, or send a letter signed by interested Pointers, asking BCtransit to include our area as an area needing to be looked at for a solution for rural service. I will take this to the Executive in January. If you are interested please give me a call.

Ida von Schuckmann **ph. 250-652-0050**

In the mean time if you are interested in the 25 Year Master Plan for BCTransit –click on the Futures button on the home page and then Victoria and area at www.bctransit.com



Disaster Preparedness Committee Formed – at last!

Thank you Celia Scott and Ann Ward for coming forward as volunteers. If anyone else would like to be part of the committee, just get in touch with me.

We're planning on having our initial meeting in January / February with our first task being to outline our awareness plan for 2011. Also on the list of things to do is an inventory of everything at the Hall. We need to ascertain what items are out of date and in need of replacement.

Have a happy and healthy new year.

Judy Estrin
jestrin@pacbell.net
250.652.9203 or 250.652.9230



It's been an amazing 12 years Willis Point !!!

It comes with much emotion to share with you that Jordan, Joshua and I (Myles) will be moving out of the Point at the end of January. I have made so many amazing connections here...you really are all like family to us. I am not very good at goodbyes but then who is!

I found this cute little quote that stuck out for me:

*Goodbyes are not forever.
Goodbyes are not the end.
They simply mean I'll miss you
Until we meet again!*

There are so many things I will miss about the point but mostly all of you. It has been an incredible chapter of my life and what wonderful memories I will have of this precious corner of the globe we call "The Point."

To everyone from us boys and our chocolate lab, Tinky,

We will truly miss you all.

Drop us a line :)

myles1217@hotmail.com

Jordan, Joshua and Myles



An Educating Experience

By Carmen Moore



Anyone who has ever attended a one-room Prairie country school will have a story to tell about the Christmas concerts but for all of us they were the highlight of our school year. The memorable one for me was in 1936 when I was ten years old.

Our new teacher had been hired by mail and since the application gave only initials, our school board assumed that the applicant was male. This was their preference, their reason being that a man would more easily cope with the rigours of a small teacherage situated in an isolated school yard.

It was a shock therefore, when the teacher turned out to be a very substantial female with an equally stout twelve year old son, plus three enormous trunks. They appeared a jocular pair, however, and after dinner in our home our father, who was chairman of the school board, delivered them to their modest accommodation, together with their luggage.

School opened in mid August and the pupils, ten of us in total, met our new teacher and her son. They were a jolly pair so we were impressed rather than intimidated. Within a few days it became apparent that Mrs. B... was an avid musician and thespian and was much more enthusiastic about teaching us “fine arts” than the three Rs.

From the voluminous trunks she produced a variety of musical instruments – ukulele, banjo, mouth organ, drum, castanets and even an accordion. She announced that each of us would learn to play an instrument and would perform at the Christmas concert. Instruments were distributed among us and the musical program was well under way. There was little emphasis placed on the curriculum or discipline, however, we were one instrument short so I brought my sister’s guitar from home and proceeded to learn my selection “Aloha O”.

The din was unbelievable as we all enthusiastically if not skillfully applied ourselves to our musical education. It was great fun so I believe none of us enlightened our parents that we were receiving very little in the way of formal education. Apart from our individual musical pursuits, we were busily rehearsing plays, choruses, recitations. Most of every day was spent in rehearsal.

December arrived and the date of the concert was set. Oddly enough we had never rehearsed the complete program so consequently when the big night came there was complete chaos. Numbers were performed willy nilly. As Mrs. B. frantically readied us in costumes for a play, several recitations and vocals ere jammed together as fill-ins.

Most of the so-called musicians performed as a group and the results were far from melodic. I was in the unlucky position of being the only solo performer so whenever there was a lull, of which there were many, I would be shoved out in front of the curtain to play my guitar. This became somewhat of a trial to everyone since I only knew one number!

The audience seated on backless, hard benches, consisted of not only parents but also a crew from a local salt mine. They had attended not for the concert but for the lunch and dance to follow. After four hours of so-called entertainment these guys were becoming more than a little restive. My father, whose back was giving him considerable discomfort, was embarrassed to see his daughter appear for about the fourth time. He reported hearing one man say bitterly, “If that damned kid comes out one more time and plays “Aloha O”, I’ll bust her guitar over her head.”

Eventually the disastrous evening was over but the arrival of Santa and the gift giving is a blur in my memory. I do recall that colourful Mrs. B. only “taught” us that one term.



If you want to understand what a treasure life at Willis Point is, you would want to go around humming the Willis Point Song. With her song, Linda Parker sums up the essence of our life style and why many of us never leave after arriving here. This is an example of something that should be included in our book about the history.

The Willis Point Song

(To the tune of "My Favorite Things"...)

*Driving to town, it's not bumper to bumper
Watching for deer, and those brown and grey thumpers
Getting to work's not as tough as it seems,
This is what living in Willis Point means...*

*Swimming and skiing and Hilltopper races,
Dart Nights, Aerobics and Halloween faces,
Bright shiny firetrucks, quick to the scene,
This is what living in Willis Point means...*

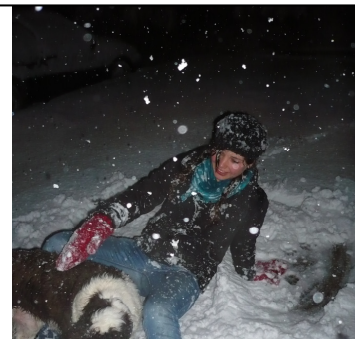
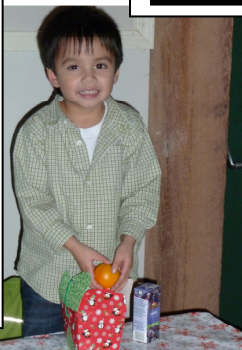
*When your boat sinks,
When your car stalls,
When your well runs dry,
Assistance is only a phone call away,
And on that you can rely.*

*Stitch Nights and Pot Lucks away from the masses,
Pub Nights and Socials, the tinkling of glasses,
Parties and Gala's from tux's to jeans,
This is what living in Willis Point means...*

*Tennis and baseball and hiking through trails,
Eagles and sunsets and watching of whales,
Children that stay friends from toddlers to teens,
This is what living in Willis Point means...*

*When the winds blow,
When the trees fall,
When the power's down,
We simply remember the friends we have here
So who needs to live in town?*

A Few Winter Scenes
around
The Point.





Many thanks to **Bill and Joan Wright** for the many years that they hosted the Christmas Party at the Hall. Until **Sheryl and Al Campbell and family** took it on, there were many of us who took part but always r with the support of the Wrights. There are three names that come to mind as important to mention for their special dedication to the event by having played a more than helpful role. They are **Annette Butchart, Charlie Bonner and Dean Hyland.**



OH, MY DEER! At the helm of this deer team is Jake Dalke of Porcupine Plain participating in the Santa Claus parade in 1947 at Melfort, Sk. This was taken by the local photographer, Cliff Heath. The deer were used at many Santa Claus parades in the towns of the Carrot River Valley. Jake passed away in 1961.
 - Photo from Jim McPhee of Vernon, B.C.

- Lillian Oliver,
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Point to Ponder

How can some
 "draw a blank"?

The Wright's started the children's Christmas party back in 1978 and it is still running to this day.

The idea for the Christmas party came from a similar party run by the local merchants of Porcupine Plain Sask. back in the early 1950's. The local theatre would run a children's matinee where all the children of the area could go for free. Santa would arrive at the party in a sleigh pulled by six live deer. After the movie and some singing he would chat with the children as he passed out there goody bags. Then jump back in his sleigh with a wave to the children and a slap of the reins away he would dash out of town Wishing a Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night. Incidentally that road out of town headed north towards the pole. If you were a doubter about Santa, when you saw him arrive on that sleigh pulled by six live Deer you were a believer after that.

It worked there and it works here. Other than our Santa arrives on a big red decorated fire truck. The party has evolved into a potluck supper with Santa accompanied by 2 to 4 Elves; the girls pass this job on to the younger girls as they get older.

It's great to see the older children and even an adult or two still sitting on Santa's lap asking for something special for Christmas. I am sure he will fill them all sooner or later.

May your Christmas memories be as wonderful as mine. And oh by the way here is a photo of Santa's helper and trainer of those Deer taking them out for a run.



Welcome back Santa!

Thank you to the Campbell family for taking on the task of setting the date and organizing Santa to make his annual visit to Willis Point! The ‘young’ and ‘old’ all enjoy a ‘sit’ on Santa’s knee.

There are many people to thank for making this another successful community Christmas potluck; to **the Halseys and friends** who served the Christmas Cheer from the bar, to those that helped decorate the hall, to the **Fire Department** for providing Santa with means of transportation while here at Willis Point (where do you suppose he parks his sled??), to those **neighbours that cooked** turkeys (so delicious!!) and hams, to **Santa’s helpers**, and to those that stayed behind afterwards to become **the clean-up crew** and clean up after all of us – THANK YOU!!

Dear Santa, we’re so thankful you found time in your busy schedule to come again this year. You must agree that there are many good little boys and girls living here at Willis Point that look forward to your visit each year –
THANK YOU AGAIN AND SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

Alicia Pine
on behalf of all Pointers



Dear Pointers Who Came out Caroling

How lovely it was to see you all tonight! Thank you so much. Having carolers come to the door, particularly in such large numbers, was an incredible treat. What a wonderful way for us to ring in the Christmas season at Willis Point!

Please find attached the gingerbread cookie recipe. In my rush to get them made, I forgot to add the cinnamon and the cloves they taste much better with all the ingredients. Enjoy and Merry Christmas!

Jennifer, Bob, Caitlin, Matthew and Isabel

SOFT GINGER COOKIES

Ingredients

- ¾ cup margarine/shortening/butter
- 1 cup sugar, plus more for rolling
- 4 Tbsp dark molasses
- 1 large egg
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ tsp salt
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp each of ground ginger, ground cloves, and cinnamon (for the carols I forgot the cloves and the cinnamon ... they are better with all the ingredients!)

Heat oven to 350. Combine ingredients. Shape into balls. Roll in sugar. Flatten with a fork. Bake 10-12 minutes on an ungreased cookie sheet or until golden brown and cracked on top. Makes 3 dozen (I always double this recipe!)



Mark **Christmas Caroling** on your calendar for next year. Thank you to Barbra Ende for organizing us. Bob Scott, we missed your voice...looking forward to your being there next year. Thank you to the Halseys'...Gabrielle, Bob and Vanessa for the warm welcome and refreshments at the end.

Business Directory

Chi-Kung Massage Studio Fiona Percy 544-4057	Housework Maid Easy Gerri Gorling 652-6149
Avalon Cottage Brew on Premises Vern McConnell 386-4030 avaloncottage@hotmail.com	Knotty Pine Cedar Products Darren Pine 544-0202
Piano and Flute Instruction Monica Maxwell 544-1822	Leighton Photography Rob Leighton 652-1865
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Cedarwood Video Editing and Production Karen Davies, 544-1313 www.cedarwoodvideo.com	Reflexology By Linda Parker 652-6466
Photos by Suzanne 544-0166 www.cameraworkbysuzanne.com 544-0166 Suzanne Fitzpatrick	Dave Phillips Willis Point Specialist, Holmes Realty 656-0911
	WP Handy Man Brad Taylor-Gorling Cell 250-217-8785 Decks, Painting, Yard work, Hauling
	<i>Email to be added to the business directory: idavs4@yahoo.ca</i>



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