



The Pointer

Summer 2011

To The Point:

July, 2011

I would like to thank all of you for your patience and promptness when it came to submitting articles. June was busier than I expected and so I had to be content waiting for the real summer for this issue to go to print. Admittedly, it didn't help that the Canucks kept going in the Stanley Cup Playoffs. Of course, I would have liked to have seen a different result. The positive spin is that I can include some exciting news that would otherwise have had to wait until the Autumn Issue. Your executive has been hard at work organizing events such as a Disaster Preparedness Information night and an opportunity to meet with our Director Mike Hicks to hear what has been going on in our Electoral District and to ask him questions. Both events were well attended and by taking the time to attend we can show our executive members how much we appreciate the time that they give to our community. This issue is dedicated to the Fire Department whose members make the commitment to be prepared for anything that comes our way. It has been "the heart beat" of Willis Point and there was a time that membership included most of our community. On a personal note, and most of all, I would like to say that our community constantly shows how much we care for each other with the most generous, heartfelt and kind contributions to help one another. In a disaster, that attitude would serve us well and bring much comfort.

A special congratulations to our all new young grads.

--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.

Contact me: **Ida von Schuckmann** ph.: **652-0050** email: **idavs4@yahoo.ca**

Photo credits this issue: Ken Leighton, Pat Williams, Ron Longbottom, Dave Lawrie & Ida von Schuckmann and anyone I've missed.

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| | | |
|---|--------------------|----------|
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| 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 | Mary O'Rourke | 652-5598 |
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| Parks Commission Rep. | Ida von Schuckmann | 652-0050 |
| CRD Advisory Committees: Environment & Solid Waste | Larry Resnick | 652-8278 |



Note from the Chair of the Community Association

Special thanks to Karen Davies for her time on the executive. She has resigned because she has moved to Cordova Bay and in her words, “tucked in a very quiet corner at the edge of the woods, so we can always pretend!”

Thank you for attending the recent information nights on Disaster Preparedness and a special meeting with our Director Mike Hicks.

Upcoming events will be the WPCA AGM in October and hopefully an all candidates meeting in November before the municipal elections.

Now that summer has arrived we need to remember that because we are on wells, we should be careful with our water consumption. That means keeping outside watering to a minimum and avoiding unnecessary and wasteful use of water such as power washing outdoor areas.

Willis Point Community Association WPCA Executive

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| Chair | Bill Douglas | 544-1042 |
| Vice-Chair | Art Wynans | 652-5898 |
| Corresponding Secretary | | |
| 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:

Bob Halsey, Pat O'Rourke, Brian McCandless, Vern McConnell (Chair)

Any questions call Vernon McConnell 250-652-2996



About the cover: Summer Solstice at Willis Point. Those wonderful long summer evenings invite you to go for an evening walk to take in the last rays of sunlight as they create a lovely afterglow from the land of the midnight sun.

WP Hall Clean-up Crew



The continued involvement in all areas of community events makes Willis Point Stand out.

Willis Point Community Association Events:

Since the last Pointer, your Community Association has sponsored three community events. The first, the annual Willis Point Road and community hall cleanup drew about 20 participants, including some enthusiastic young people. In about two hours, garbage on Willis Point Road and Mark Lane was all picked up and the areas around the hall, tennis court and playground were weeded, pruned and mowed. Don Robin arranged for Waste Management to generously donate a bin and dumping fees. Don and Audrey Robin also donated coffee and donuts for all those who showed up to help out. This year's cleanup produced less garbage than usual due to the very thorough job of picking up (illegally) discarded trash that Lorraine and Larry Pommens completed just a few weeks before. This is not the first time the Pommens have done this. It is a regular contribution they make to the maintenance and betterment of the neighbourhood, for which we are grateful.

The second event was an emergency preparedness information session with personnel from the CRD Emergency Program and Natural Resources Canada. The session focused on earthquakes and their consequences, landslides and tsunamis; and individual, family and community emergency planning in general for all hazards. Included with this pointer is some material that is reflective of the discussion at the information session. I have additional pamphlets that focus on planning for farm animals during emergencies; what to do during power failures and severe storms. I also have some of the Provincial Firesmart brochures.

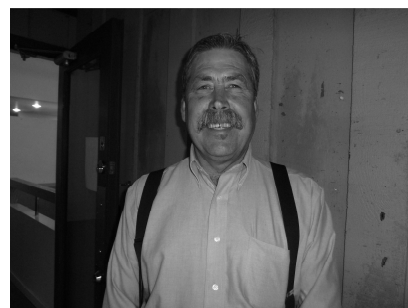
The CRD is interested in working with communities to hold emergency exercises to evaluate capabilities and engage local decision makers. Don Gorling kindly volunteered to work with them to put together a table-top exercise for Willis Point. He will need the support and assistance of other interested Pointers, who can contact him or me directly.

The third event saw Juan de Fuca Regional Director Mike Hicks attend a regular meeting of the WPCA to discuss regional and community issues. There are few regional issues which directly affect Willis Point, and Director Hicks' approach is to try to empower communities to deal directly with their own issues, negotiating as necessary with their neighbouring communities, with assistance from his office where necessary. He noted that Willis Point has the lowest taxes in the region, due in significant part to the stewardship of the WP Fire and Recreation Commission. Some local taxes also support regional infrastructure with minimal apparent benefit to individual communities, but in many cases most people benefit even if only indirectly from regional programs and facilities. Where there is no benefit for a community, he is supportive of having levies removed from the local tax base. If he is successful in next year's elections, he looks forward to continuing his approach to community empowerment.

The community association will not meet during the summer. Our next regular meeting will be the second Monday evening in September and the Annual General Meeting will be later in October. In anticipation of elections at the AGM, (half of the directors are elected each year) I would appreciate hearing of volunteers or nominees for executive positions. We will be assembling a slate for election in September.

I hope everyone has a satisfying and safe summer!

Bill Douglas
Chair, WPCA

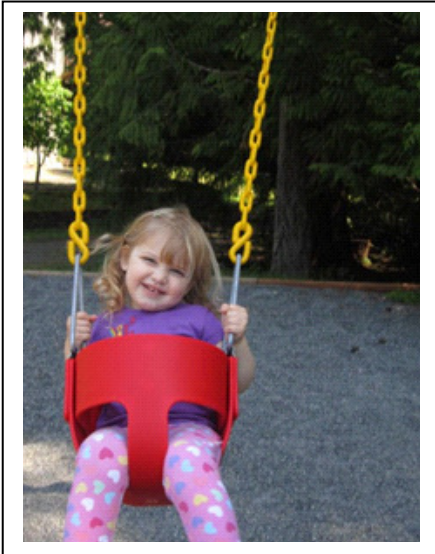


Mike Hicks at WP

What are all those volunteers doing with their summer this year?
A special thank you!!!!!!

Isaac and Emma would like the community to know how thrilled they are with the new playground

Emma was very excited to find a new toddler swing - she loves it! And Isaac is going to work hard at mastering the 'monkey bars'! Thank you so very much!



Also to be appreciated by new baby Pointers too...

Birth Congratulations:

Joan and Brian McCandless

are thrilled to introduce

Jasper Douglas Johnson,

beautiful son of

Jaclyn and Joshua Johnson.

Jasper arrived June 29th 2011 at a very healthy 11lbs 3oz.

Jasper is looking forward to waving to his Grandparents from his new home in Brentwood Bay



Trish and Ken Smith

are thrilled to announce the birth of

their 8lb 4oz **daughter on June 30 at 6:05 pm.** Everyone is healthy and happy.

A picture will be in the next Pointer in the meantime and I'm sure that we will see them walking at the Point.



baby

Fire Department Report

Emergency responses

Thankfully we have no calls to report for this edition.



Membership It is with regret that I announce the resignation of Jeff Irwin from the department. Throughout the years Jeff held several positions in the department such as a level 3 first responder, firefighter, trainer, Lieutenant, and member of the our fire fighter's association. Jeff was instrumental and led the way in a variety of projects within the department such as acquiring used vehicles for extrication practice, ordering new uniforms, helmets, gloves, license plate decals, turn out gear and having our pagers repaired. We really valued Jeff's guidance, expertise and countless research hours that went into purchasing our off road utility vehicle. The list is endless. We thank Jeff for his countless hours of work and dedication .We hope someday you will join us again, Thank you Jeff!

Kathy Crawley recently recertified her first responder instructor's certification. The course was held over a weekend at the North Saanich fire department. Kathy also gave up another weekend to instruct and exam our own members on their first responder medical skills.

Cathy Patchell recently commuted back and forth from Vancouver on her own time and expense to take Emergency Medical Responder training, she of course passed with flying colours! This extensive medical training is a prerequisite in becoming a paramedic with the BC Ambulance Service in which I hear she has applied for and has won a position!

I would like to thank Sharon Montgomery for organizing another successful Muscular Dystrophy boot drive where the community generously donated \$ 800.00 dollars towards research for a cure. Also thank you Sharon for stepping up and taking on a training position at the department.

We are so very fortunate to have so many committed and dedicated volunteers on the department, who consistently go above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you for all that you give to ensure the safety of our community.

Safety

Thank you to the community association for hosting the emergency preparedness night at the community hall, the guest speakers were very knowledgeable and informative. It was a great evening that since has raised a lot of questions about the role of the fire department during an earthquake and also the issue of having one road in and out of Willis Point for evacuation purposes was mentioned several times.

Our fire department 's role after an earthquake is to conduct a rapid drive through assessment of our community checking for trapped or injured victims, giving first aid and ensuring rapid patient transport to hospital where necessary. We will check for fires and take the appropriate actions and precautions. Other safety checks will include identifying neighbours who have special needs or who will require special assistance. As well as securing off downed power lines , secure leaking or damaged propane , oil or gas tanks and take care of any other imminent dangers.

All of our members are trained first responders capable of treating a wide spectrum of patients with injuries and medical conditions such as heart attacks, cardiac arrest, breathing difficulties, spinal trauma, burn patients and fracture management. The department is fully stocked with medical supplies such as defibrillator, oxygen, suction unit and several different stretchers and patient lifting devices to move injured patients.

We have a full line of portable hydraulic rescue tools that are capable of cutting or lifting thousands of pounds to free trapped victims. We also carry self-contained breathing apparatus so that our members are able to work in smoke filled environments.

Our department holds joint practice sessions as well as a mutual aid agreement with the Highlands Fire department should we require extra firefighting assistance and the Coast Guard auxiliary from Brentwood Bay is available to us for community evacuation purposes.

After a damaging earth quake we can help set up an emergency shelter in our community hall (providing that it is structurally safe to do so) to house community members who may need a temporary place to stay to keep warm and nourished. In the event of aftershocks we will go to each home to inspect for any further dangers such as the new smell of gas or damage to electrical circuits that may cause a risk of injury or start a new fire. For everyone's safety it is wise not to re enter an unsafe or damaged home or building for the risk of collapse. We will do our best to remove all apparatus from the hall at the first sign of a tremor or earth quake to avoid entrapment of live saving equipment.

Spilled flammable liquids may cause fire and destroy a home that would have survived undamaged. Store all flammable liquids outside, in their original/proper containers, away from structures and vehicles. If you must store flammable liquids in your home, store them in the garage, keep them in a cabinet with locking doors, and always store them on the lowest shelf. It is also advisable to have your chimney inspected after an earth quake as unseen damage may cause an attic fire or allow carbon monoxide into your home.

I urge all members of the community to take an active role in preparedness to mitigate the demand on our local resources. You may consider talking to a friend or neighbour in the Point who owns a boat to go over evacuation plans in the event of an emergency.

Over the past few years I have had several inquiries from the community regarding evacuation plans not only during an earth quake but for other emergencies such as a forest fire, or a medical emergency. The concern is " how are you going to get me out of here" when the road has not been ploughed or when several large tree's have blocked the road – how are you going to move around live power lines so that I can get to a hospital? I have had reports and have personally seen campfires that have been used in our Parks or on Fama property during extreme fire seasons. Other questions have been what if I have a heart attack or break my leg while hiking on our trails, how long will it take for assistance.



The secret is out about our beautiful forest lands, beaches and parks that we enjoy and call our home and they must be protected as usage is on the rise.

In an effort to upgrade our service delivery to the community and address many of these ongoing concerns the fire department has purchased an off road Polaris utility vehicle that will be equipped to remedy many of these scenarios. This particular unit can easily transport all necessary medical gear including a stretcher, or firefighting equipment such as hoses, pumps, enough water to extinguish these remote campfires before they become large forest fires. This unit can carry 3 members at a time and is highly manoeuvrable to get past many of these obstacles, this unit will do well on the already well-established network of logging roads in our area enabling us to also respond to sections of Mark lane when the main road is closed or blocked, as well this unit can easily navigate a long steep driveway in the snow during winter. Many fire departments on the Island are using this type of unit and the reports coming back are very positive. These units are quite affordable and come with many options such as a snow plough to gain access to your home in an emergency and keep our driveway and any other problem spots clear during heavy snowfall. This unit is a great fit and I feel would serve our community very well in times of an emergency.

Practice
with
Highlands
Volunteer
Fire
Department



Open Burning



As per CRD Bylaw No. 3452 section 8 (b and c) All outdoor burning as of June 13 th is now prohibited until further notice, this includes open burning, beach fires, camp fires and incinerators. Briquette and propane barbecues and propane fire pits are allowable under the bylaw.

I am sure many of you have seen the tragic loss of property to wildfires in Alberta over the past weeks. It is hard to comprehend how one might feel after losing everything to a wildfire but we certainly got an idea from the news footage coming from Slave Lake. We must remain vigilant to prevent a serious fire like this from occurring in Willis Point this summer.

Thank you on behalf of the fire department to Dan Houston of Houston Signs for making all of the decals for the department's new UTV. All of his numerous donations, help, support and professional service over the years is so greatly appreciated, thank you Dan.

We are currently looking for more volunteer firefighters to join our team, if you have ever thought of becoming a firefighter and are over 19 years of age, now is a great time to come and check us out. We practice every Wednesday night at 7:00 pm. We provide extensive emergency training in all aspects of firefighting and first aid. There is no better way to help your community.

We wish all Willis Pointers a safe and fun summer!



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

Catharsis Web Design

Tessa Clayton (250) 888-0052
tessaclayton@gmail.com

Wild Arts Summer Camps at Wild Arts Creative Cottage and other locations.
Check out website for dates and ages
wildartsvictoria.com

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

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after 11:00am

Call for special orders over 3.

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**Shelley Klassen
250-652-4895**

**Would you rather be
Cleaning...
Or enjoy your day?**

**CALL JANET
AND I WILL MAKE
SHORT WORK OF YOUR
CLEANING AND COOKING
PROJECTS.
250-544-2142**

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



This is not what Willis Point should look like!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Do your part... Don't dump and if you see someone dumping take down identifying information such as license plate numbers and report to the RCMP.

Dumping is illegal and the fine is substantial.

Missing Old Neighbours:

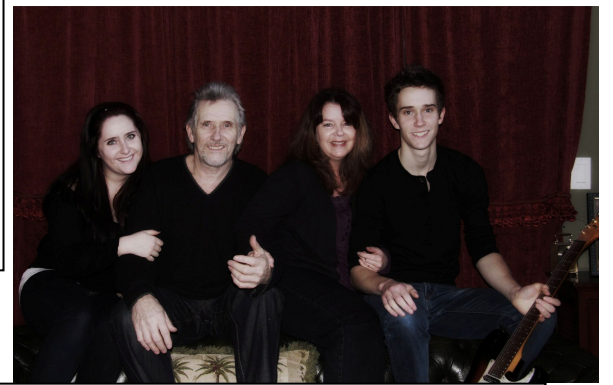
*Often to be able to welcome new neighbours, we have to say good-bye to old ones.
The month of June brought a flurry of moving activity to Willis Point.*

Good-bye and best wishes to the following three families.

Remember you are always Pointers and we are always happy to see you back!

The **Peeke-Vout Family: Roger, Dar and Debbie** have lived at Willis Point over 20 years. Debbie tells me that she will be back for the Halloween Bonfire, her favourite Willis Point event.

The **Fitzpatrick Family: Derek, Suzanne, Alana, and Tyler** have lived at Willis Point for approximately 12 years. Moving to Ontario and spending time in England seems to be the wrong direction from Willis Point, so we are glad that Alana is staying in the Victoria area. It means that they are more likely to come for a visit. Thank you for all you have done for the Point. Derek, we will miss your music.



The **Davies Family** moved to Willis Point over 7 years when **Dai and Karen** bought from the Fitzpatricks. Since they are away travelling with work a lot, and their daughters, **Beth** and **Katie**, have moved out, they've decided to downsize. Karen wrote that they have found a new house in Cordova Bay that is the right size and "tucked away in a quiet corner at the edge of the woods so we can always pretend we're still in Willis Point."

Wedding Congratulations:

To **Beth Davies** and **Cedar Haneson** on **May 21**

Welcome New Neighbours:

Susan Bridges

7441 Mark Lane (formerly Fitzpatrick`s)

Susan was on the the highway Patrol in San Jose, California until 1993 when met her husband, **James**, who was from Victoria. They moved to Cordova Bay.

James was an electrical engineer. He worked for the Federal Government developing nuclear engines for the Military. He is now in St.Mary`s Nursing Facility in Victoria with Multiple Sclerosis.

Susan came to Willis Point for the natural surroundings. She is an activist in preservation of animals and nature. She hopes to become an active member of our community.



Dear Willis Point Neighbors,

Seems I was overly anxious for it to be spring when I wrote my last column. Yikes, that wet, cold stuff went on and on. I loved it. Mud. Puddles. Ticks. Otter poo. I'm going to miss it.

Oh, wait... I did miss it. Just because she was sneezing and coughing from allergies, she didn't want to walk me in the rain and cold. Wimp. There is much less of that going on now and she's gone back to driving me down to the park to meet the rest of the gang every morning. Can't figure out why she gets annoyed, though, when I run down there in the afternoon by myself. Doesn't she know where I am? Doesn't she always come and get me? I like that. There are biscuits involved.

One thing they have done that rocks my world is to add to my collection of tennis balls. Now she has one or two in the car, thanks to Dave Lawrie, who produces them like magic out of his pocket when we're walking. I like him.

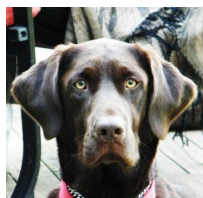
I'm stretched out on the couch right now, dictating this to her. Geez, I hope she proofs the submission better than last time. Doesn't she know I can't type? I have no thumbs. Heck, I can't really read. And I don't want to get off the couch, either.

Speaking of that woman, you know, the one who is such a sucker that she always comes to pick me up when I go to Melody or Mark Lane? Why walk home when you can ride? Oh, I digress. I've already told you that, anyway. Hey, I'm a dog. What do you expect?

She laughs at one of my other favorite pastimes. Rolling on towels. Oh, wet towels are a bit of heaven. And towels just out of the dryer aren't too bad, either. Maybe it is just laundry in general. I just love the stuff. And it is much better stuff after I put my scent on it. I like to pull wet laundry out of the dryer, take it down the hall and have a good roll. Yummy.

Yikes, I hear that we're getting rid of the current batch of Mildred's ... she calls all the chickens Mildred. Do you think my barking at them and jumping around their coop had anything to do with their lack of egg production?

Scary moment. The vet came to the house. To the house!!! Imagine. Whew, it wasn't for me though. The big guy was feeling down – literally, the Pierrot (the llama) was not picking up his head very much and the vet came to have a look. Poor guy has arthritis but seems to be doing better now that the weather is better. Weird, he loves the cold, but it is just hard on his aching bones.



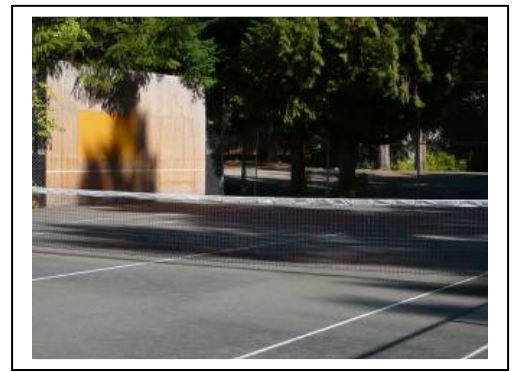
Don't forget to stock up your earthquake kit for your pets.

Nick

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

WILLIS POINT TENNIS PLAYERS

Join us at our Willis Point community tennis court on Saturdays from 10 a.m. – Noon (weather permitting) for fun, social games. 3.0 and up players will be warmly welcomed.



We have been playing continuously for 15 years, but do need more "tennis" playing neighbours to augment our group and enjoy this wonderful facility.

It's all free and right in your own back yard, starting immediately.

For more information, please call **Pam Chang-Kue - 652-0295**

Disaster Preparedness Program



Last summer we began posting the 26 week disaster preparedness program information on both bulletin boards and in the Pointer. Have you taken **ANY** action in the last year to be more prepared?

Here are a few things that you can do this summer to get started:

- ◆ Take a video of the interior and exterior of your home. Open closets and drawers. Put the video in a secure place, such as a safe deposit box. In case of fire or earthquake, you'll have a visual record to help with any insurance claims.
- ◆ Prepare or purchase an earthquake kit for your car, office and home. A local resource is: www.columbiasafety.com (no endorsement implied)
- ◆ Strap your water heater

Have a great and safe summer.

Judy Estrin and Dr. A. Peter Gary

Bill Douglas forwarded this to me last year when we began talking about helping Willis Point being prepared for a disaster. Thank you, Bill – it clears up a number of mis-perceptions.

Judy Estrin

“10.5” Fact or Fiction?

“The difference between truth and fiction: fiction has to make sense”-- Mark Twain

Highlighted below are some of the myths perpetuated in the earthquake disaster miniseries "10.5" aired by NBC. These myths or errors were identified by scientists, and the following is adapted from the Southern California Earthquake Country website with contributions from geologists, engineers and seismologists in Canada and the United States.

FICTION: There can be a magnitude 10.5 earthquake

FACT: The magnitude of an earthquake is related to the size (length and width) of the fault plane on which it occurs--the longer and wider the fault, the larger the earthquake. In order to have a magnitude 10.5 earthquake you would have to have a fault longer than 9,500 km (6,000 miles) - **no such fault is currently known to exist.**

- ◆ The largest earthquake ever recorded was a magnitude 9.5 on May 22, 1960 in Chile. This occurred on a fault that is almost 1600 kilometers (1,000 miles) long. The earthquake ruptured the entire length of the fault.
- ◆ The largest earthquake ever recorded in Canada occurred on August 22, 1949 just west of British Columbia's Queen Charlotte Islands. This rupture occurred on the Queen Charlotte/ Fairweather Fault System that extends more than 1,000 Km (620 mi) roughly paralleling the west coast of British Columbia. The earthquake ruptured approximately 500 km (300 mi) of the Queen Charlotte segment of the fault.
- ◆ The largest earthquake in the United States occurred in Alaska on March 27, 1964 and was a magnitude 9.2. This earthquake ruptured 1,000 km (620 miles) of the Alaska-Aleutian mega-thrust fault, which is 3,600 km (2,240 miles) long.
- ◆ For comparison, the San Andreas Fault is only 1,290 km (800 miles) long, and the longest rupture on the San Andreas Fault was 400 km (250 miles) during the 1906 earthquake.

◆ -----

◆ **FICTION: California or any part of North America will suddenly split apart from the rest of the continent and become an island or form new oceanfront property**

- ◆ **FACT:** The forces creating earthquakes in British Columbia and down the west coast of North America are compressional forces, actually pushing land from the Pacific Ocean onto the North American Plate. In fact, Vancouver Island is slowly being pushed toward the mainland at about the rate your finger nails grow. Because of these enormous compressional forces at work, it is impossible for any part of North America to "split off".

◆ -----

◆ **FICTION: The earth will open and swallow my car, my town, or me**

- ◆ **FACT:** Earthquakes are created by sudden ground movement on either side of a fault under tremendous pressure. If faults could open up, there would be no pressure or friction between the two sides. Without the pressure and friction, there would be no earthquakes.
- ◆ Shallow cracks and crevasses can form during earthquake-induced landslides, lateral spreads, or other types of ground failures. Faults, however, do not open up during an earthquake.

◆ -----

FICTION: Aftershocks are not earthquakes

- ◆ **FACT: Aftershocks ARE earthquakes!!** The only difference is that they occur after a larger earthquake instead of by themselves. You cannot tell from looking at a seismogram if an earthquake is a main shock or an aftershock, because they look the same. Aftershocks are earthquakes that follow the largest shock of an earthquake sequence. They are smaller than the main shock (the biggest earthquake) and close to the main shock fault. Aftershocks can continue over a period of weeks, months, or even years. In general, the larger the main shock, the larger and more numerous the aftershocks, and the longer they will continue. Every aftershock is an earthquake. After a major earthquake you should expect to experience periodic shaking from aftershocks

◆ **FICTION: Earthquakes are caused by certain weather**

- ◆ **FACT:** Many people believe that earthquakes are more common in certain kinds of weather. In fact, no correlation with weather has been found. There is also no link between earthquakes and time of day, or season of the year.

◆ **FICTION: Some earthquakes don't have epicentres**

- ◆ **FACT:** Every earthquake has an epicentre! Earthquakes begin far below the surface of the earth. We call the point where they start the "focus" or "hypocentre". The point on the surface of the Earth directly above the hypocentre is called the "epicentre". All earthquakes have epicentres, even aftershocks, since they are just smaller earthquakes occurring as the result of a larger earthquake, or main shock.

◆ **FICTION: Get in a doorway!**

- ◆ **FACT:** An enduring earthquake image that began in California is a collapsed adobe home with the doorframe as the only standing part. From this came the belief that a doorway is the safest place to be during an earthquake. True-- if you live in an old, un-reinforced adobe house. In modern houses, however, doorways are no stronger than any other part of the house and usually have doors that will swing and can injure you.
- ◆ You are safer to **DUCK, COVER, and HOLD**. *Duck* under sturdy furniture or into a building alcove; **Cover** your head and torso as best you can to prevent injury from falling objects; and **Hold** on to keep yourself covered as much as possible.
- ◆ If you can't find anything to get under to protect yourself, the next best option is to sit down against an interior wall with your knees brought to your chest, elbows on your knees and hands clasped behind your head.

◆ **FICTION: You can prevent large earthquakes by making lots of small ones, or by "lubricating" the fault with water**

- ◆ **FACT:** To alleviate the stress of a magnitude 9.0 earthquake, you would have to trigger over 1,000 magnitude 7.0 earthquakes or 32,000 magnitude 6.0, or well over a million magnitude 5.0 earthquakes. The simple fact is we can't trigger that many events of even magnitude 5 deep in the earth. There are never enough small earthquakes to eliminate the need for the occasional large earthquake.
- ◆ As for "lubricating" faults with water or some other substance, injecting high- pressure fluids deep into the ground is known to be able to trigger earthquakes to occur sooner than would have been the case without the injection. However this would be a dangerous pursuit in any populated area, as one might trigger a damaging earthquake.

◆ **FICTION: California can have larger earthquakes than Washington, Oregon or British Columbia**

- ◆ **FACT:** The largest earthquakes occur at subduction zones, not along strike-slip faults like the San Andreas Fault. While earthquakes that occur on strike-slip faults can cause great damage, they rarely generate earthquakes larger than a magnitude 7.5, and seldom have earthquakes larger than a magnitude 8.
- ◆ Subduction zones, on the other hand, can produce earthquakes over magnitude 9, such as the 1960 Chile earthquake, which had a magnitude of 9.5. This is because subduction zone earthquakes occur along faults, which are much longer and go deeper into the earth than transform boundary faults. This results in more motion during an earthquake along a subduction zone fault. South western British Columbia, coastal Washington, coastal Oregon and northern California are located above the Cascadia Subduction Zone and therefore have the potential to have much larger earthquakes than the San Andreas in California.
- ◆ The last time the Cascadia Subduction Zone ruptured was January 26, 1700 and it is estimated to have been a magnitude 9.0. The average return period for a subduction earthquake in this zone is about 550 years. The range of recurrence, however, varies from as little as 200 years to as much as 900 years. Given that the last event took place 304 years ago, coastal North America could experience a Cascadia Subduction event at any time.-----

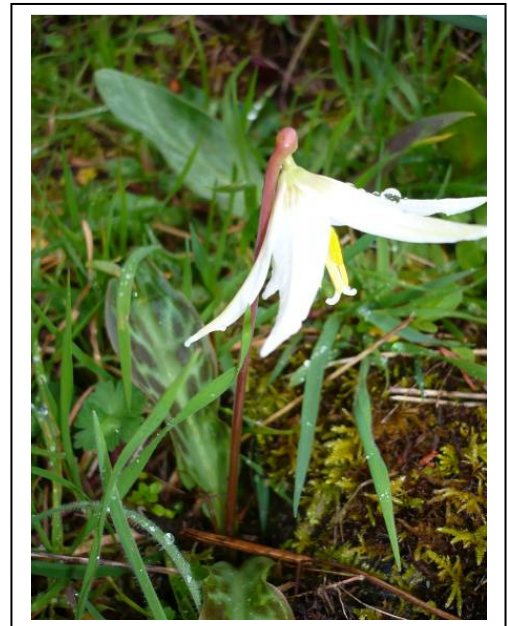
- ◆ **FICTION: Knowing the magnitude of an earthquake as it happens**
- ◆ **FACT:** The quickest computer estimation of the magnitude of an earthquake takes seven to twelve minutes. An accurate estimation of the location and size of an earthquake can take anywhere from 45 minutes to more than an hour. There is no way to know the magnitude or location of an earthquake while it is occurring.
- ◆ -----
- ◆ **FICTION: Calling out increasing magnitudes while the earthquake is happening**
- ◆ **FACT:** Earthquakes exhibit one maximum magnitude. This maximum magnitude can usually be determined within an hour. The first estimates of the size of an earthquake are almost always overestimates. Subsequent estimates are refinements, and typically revise the initial estimate downwards not upwards.
- ◆ -----
- ◆ **FICTION: Staying on a bicycle, during a M7.9 earthquake, while buildings are collapsing all around**
- ◆ **FACT:** During an earthquake of this magnitude it will be difficult to stand, let alone ride a bicycle. During the 1949 Queen Charlotte earthquake (M8.1) the ground shook so hard, cattle couldn't stand and humans had a very tough time standing for more than a few seconds. One individual recounted it was hard to hold onto the grass as the shaking caused him to pull up clumps of grass in his hands.
- ◆ -----
- ◆ **FICTION: The fault rupture follows the train tracks**
- ◆ **FACT:** Faults on which earthquakes occur are large-scale geologic features which act independently of any human structures or features that might cross them. They are typically linear features and typically follow the axis of bedrock valleys. If a rupture was to occur on a fault plane, movement would follow the natural strike of the bedrock and not a minor man made feature etched on the surface of the earth.
- ◆ -----

Once again... Willis Point is a great place to live and I think that if I had a choice of where to spend time during a disaster it would be Willis Point! Thank you to all of the Pointers who have put much effort into making us aware that while we don't wish for a disaster of any kind being prepared is our best defense.

Many of us live out here because we love being in touch with nature. As we move away from nature in many facets of our lives, it is good to remember that we still have much to respect as well as appreciate in our natural world.

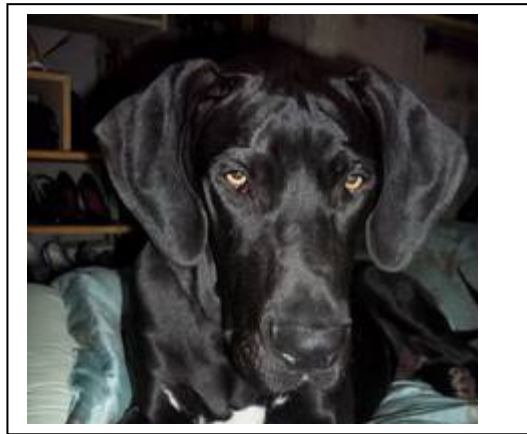
Looking forward to seeing many of you at meetings and events at the hall or on the trails in our community.

--Ida



Miracle Dog

By Carmen Moore



Her name was Ebony, a befitting name for a Great Dane-Black Labrador cross. Although a treasured member of a loving family, Ebony had love to go around and she shared it with the whole Willis Point community. She became everyone's dog for she was often to be seen at the end of her driveway greeting passers-by, both human and canine, with a wagging tail. She was not above wandering further afield to neighbouring yards as well, scrounging treats wherever offered. In her latter years this became a problem when health problems required that she be on a controlled diet. Neighbours were advised of this and made every effort to co-operate as everyone had Ebony's best interest at heart.

When her family spent a few days holiday on their boat, a friend and neighbour was happy to assume responsibility for her care. She was visited at intervals during the day for feeding and socializing, sleeping inside at night but spending the day in the enclosed yard.

What the neighbour was not aware of, was Ebony's terror of loud noises. Still in her yard on a Saturday night in August, when the Butchart Gardens fireworks display began, she must have panicked and leaped the fence at the sudden eruption. When the unsuspecting caretaker arrived to put her in the house, Ebony was nowhere to be found. After hours of plunging around in the dark in surrounding bush, calling fruitlessly, he finally had to give up till morning.

Early Sunday morning neighbours were alerted and a community search began. It was assumed that the terrorized dog had crawled away to a secluded spot in the bushes. But as the temperature soared, the searchers became alarmed that the elderly dog would expire from heat and thirst. As the day wore on despair set in and the would-be rescuers had to give up.

In the meantime of course, the stricken dog sitter had contacted the owners who were on their way home, prepared for the worst. To their amazement, they received a call from a Brentwood Bay resident. An elderly exhausted dog had been found collapsed on the beach on the Brentwood side of the inlet. She was filthy and dehydrated but alive and still wearing her salty, mud-caked collar with her identity tag. It seemed incredible that the old, arthritic dog would have been physically able to swim Tod Inlet but that was the only way she could have reached the opposite beach.

After a few days of loving care and back on her medication, Ebony, the miracle dog, was restored to her normal state. She lived her remaining days surrounded by her loving family and friends.



Tia's Heritage Café

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