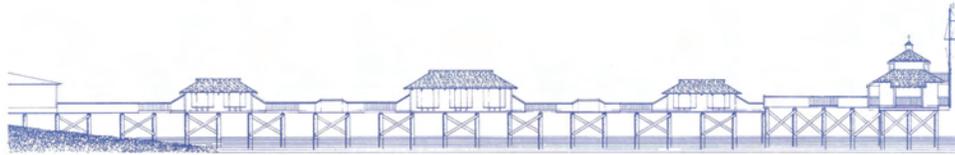


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NEWSLETTER FOR THE COWICHAN WOODEN BOAT SOCIETY SEPTEMBER 2011

Board of Directors

President – David Knott
Vice President – Hilary Abbott
Past President – Lewis Penney
Treasurer – Peter Holmes
Executive Director – Suzan Lagrove
Directors
Colin Craig
Hylton McAlister
Bob Weinberg



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Newsletter Editor: Sue Weinberg

CHANCES COWICHAN: The Cowichan Bay Maritime Centre is grateful for the support from CHANCES COWICHAN. The funds are crucial to our ongoing work.

Letter From The President

The Board of Directors felt that a letter was needed to accompany the minutes to express our appreciation for the thoughtful, passionate and respectful dialogue that transpired during the General Meeting – often not captured in the tone of the official minutes.

The Board clearly heard several matters that needed to be addressed. Firstly – communication, which members feel is wanting. A motion presented and roundly endorsed was the need for four General Meetings of the Membership in addition to the Annual General Meeting. It seems this request is due to members feeling disengaged from important decision making. Your Board welcomes this initiative and looks forward to involving members in this decision-making and in the need to engage the membership in fulfilling the undertakings that often arise from such decisions.

Another clearly articulated concern was the need to remind the Board that we are a Society of Members – not a building – not a workshop – not a pier – but rather, a people. It seems that in the process of the building expansion, this rather basic tenant has possibly been overlooked or sidestepped. Your Board heard this message and appreciates its importance. We will work hard to restore your faith that people come first and assets come second.

That being said, please understand that the expansion we have almost completed does not come without an extreme amount of energy in the voluntary form of human and monetary resources. If your Board lost sight of the Society's true mission while seeing this exciting project through to its present state, we do apologize. On the eve of its official opening,

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please allow us to restore your faith in our leadership. Your encouraged involvement is always appreciated and we hope to soon return to the more familiar Society you have known and enjoyed being a part of these many years.

The matter of having a Shipwright on the staff of the Maritime Centre was also discussed. The Board chose to exercise one of two options that Eric Sandilands presented – namely to work under contract. Accordingly, a shipwright is available at an hourly rate of \$50. Members are asked to book Eric’s time through the Executive Director. To be clear, at no time did the Board consider operating the Centre without access to a shipwright.

I hope this letter serves to demonstrate that your Board is working on your behalf and is dealing with many challenging issues. We are wishing for your thoughtful and active participation while allowing for a venue to hear and engage the membership in worthy and active participation in the operation of what has to be one of the best Maritime Centres on Vancouver Island. Please, let’s look forward to a positive and dynamic future together while we strive to deal with some of the matters that might have been managed better.

Now that the centre has changed in its operation somewhat, the Board is now focusing on finding ways to craft and develop an active society with a strong future, while maintaining the appeal for the members it always had. We will need help from all of our members in this process.

Your President,
-David Knott

CWBS Making Headlines!

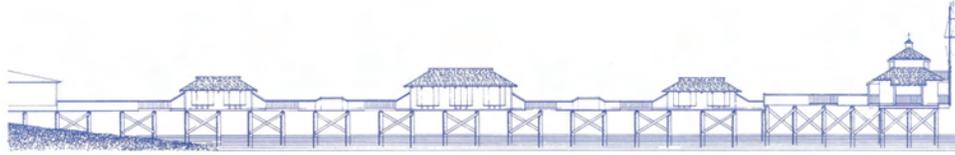
The following article is taken directly from the latest online issue of *Pacific Yachting*.

Complete credit is given to the author, Cherie Thiessen. Many thanks to Cherie for sending in this article to the CWBS newsletter.

Last August, *PY* reported on a major renovating project for Cowichan Bay’s popular Maritime Museum, to be completed in 2012. The ambitious plans included expanded display and workshop areas, a maritime library, and a community room; the funds needed, \$750,000. So how are they doing halfway into the project? We returned to have a look, and found a 2,100-foot timber frame construction nearly built to lockup, and a fundraising chart indicating that 80 per cent of their fundraising target had been reached. With \$350,000 already raised toward their goal of \$425,000, it looks as if the driving force behind this expansion is going to be right on track.

The driving force, not surprisingly, is Cowichan’s Wooden Boat Society, an energetic, and hard working group of dedicated people who are in love with traditional boats and want to preserve the region’s maritime history. Their passion has put Cowichan Bay on the map with its annual wooden boat festival, its classical wood boat restorations, and its hands-on courses in traditional boat building techniques. Lew Penney, past president of CWBS, was behind the fundraising from the start. “At first we wanted a grant to fix the pier, but the people behind one of our main grants wanted new construction, not renovations,” Penney explained. “So then we came up with this expansion, but we never thought we’d get a grant. This is three times the cost of a regularly constructed building. The original design was by Tim Richardson, who designed the original pods 25 years ago. The building meets B.C.’s provincial Wood-First act, which aims at increasing the demand for local wood products

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by using timber from locally milled wood as the primary construction material.”

The building will house a commercial salmon fishing display, an aboriginal display, and a display of recreational fishing from the 1950s, as well as serving other community functions. The CWBS envisions the new maritime centre becoming the heart of this tiny village, a village that was founded on the fishery, after all.

Although Penney has handed his president's hat to David Knott, he is still very committed to seeing this project completed and is very proud of what's being accomplished. In fact, everyone involved is grinning these days. The two storey wooden structure will definitely be a flagship in the community.

Its builders, Macdonald and Lawrence Timber Framing, are a local company with an international reputation, a reputation well earned when you see what they're creating, and almost on time. It's a beautifully crafted building using traditional joinery. "There are no nails or bolts in the construction", Penney beams. "It's all wooden pegs." The company has also donated over \$25,000 to the project in materials and labour, proving that they clearly do share a passion for the craft.

We were especially taken with the flawless fir floors and the nautical touch. When you're on the second floor you feel like you're in the hold of a large ship; the arched beams resemble the huge ribs of a wooden boat!

– Cherie Thiessen

<http://www.pacificyachting.com/blog/py-blog/currents/item/58-cowichan-bay-maritime-centre-update>

Wednesday Knights

The Wednesday Knights are a group of members who meet regularly on Wednesday

nights to do something practical.

It first started with rebuilding the inside staff washroom and then led to a winter spent restoring the lapstrake dinghy that is on display, including rebuilding the engine. A book on that restoration was produced and is available for perusal from Suzan. The group has steadily grown and attracted new members to the society, both men and women. We come from all walks of life and each have various skills that are shared and taught. A few of us didn't know one end of a boat from the other and have taken great pleasure from learning how to steam a rib or tune carburetors.

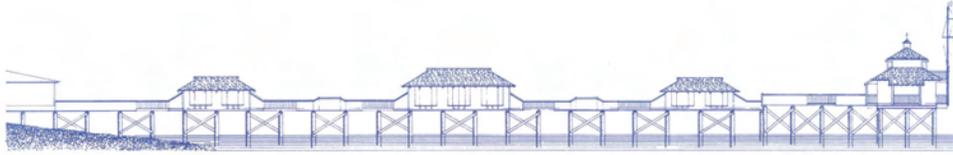
This year, we built from plans a 10ft, 3-point hydroplane. This was not only interesting and frustrating, but at many times hilarious and resulted in the creation of a common bond as we all tried to figure out what went where. The results were stunning and when we have a suitable area, the boat will be put on display. Its debuts at this year's Cobble Hill Fair received rave reviews.

As the boat slowly took shape, many visitors commented on how they had once had one and, "wow! My kid would love that." Costs were covered from members' pockets and the centre benefitted from an active, ongoing project that some visitors followed to its completion.

Since completing the hydroplane the group still meets. Some weeks we clean the shop, sharpen and adjust tools and other weeks we go out as a group with boats and practice man overboard, picking up buoys, or, as we did recently, taking evening boat rides and visiting Maple Bay. If anyone would like to join, then please let me know. I am available anytime via email at dtknott@shaw.ca. We meet at 6pm every Wednesday evening at the pub for supper, and then we head to the centre by 7pm.

-David Knott

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A Goodbye From the Girls

“We’ll Miss You Too”
-By Bre & Kendall



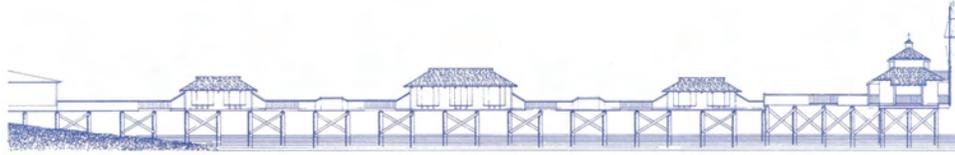
It all began on a cold, windy, rainy May afternoon. Poor Suzan had been tasked with hiring two charming summer students for the center, and yet all the candidates thus far had been lacking. Luck was on her side though, when the first of the last two youngsters stumbled in, 5 minutes late, and mildly confused as to where the interview actually was. Appearances can be deceiving though, and Suzan was impressed with her resume and leopard print blouse. She made some notes and sent her on her way. Next, Suzan was even more elated to have a curly, bubbly, blond stroll in, and made notes that she was the picture of responsibility and charisma. Shortly after, phone calls were made, and next Monday Suzan arrived at work to be greeted by two smiling faces. Over the course of the next four months, the two enthusiastic girls jumped head first into their tasks.

These tasks, at times, could be quite demanding. Neither of the two had much experience carpentry wise, and found scraping

and sanding (and eventually painting) the railways a challenge. Help and advice was graciously offered. Lucky them. Daily advice seemed to be a hallmark of the job. Take for instance the making of the kiddy boats. For those of you that don’t know, about 200 every two weeks is a low estimate. Despite frequent shrieks of terror when the band saw would break, they were basically qualified experts by the end of their stay. Cleaning and organizing was a daily chore. The bathrooms, pier, office and shop never ran out of crevasses to dust and spider webs to sweep (also terrifying). Another trial they endured was the ongoing war with the family of otters that had taken up residence on the docks. While neither girl relished scrubbing their refuse off, they took it upon themselves to take up arms with brooms and loud noises. Unfortunately, the otters happened to weigh 80 pounds each and had mouths with sharp teeth, so the girls ended up tactfully calling a truce after a few scraps. Happily, they found better residents on the wharf to make friends with like the habitual users of the shop and occasional impromptu tour guides. They found these blossoming relationships to be profound and educational – although they felt slightly disconcerted at the end of the summer when they realized that 90% of their conversations with males had been with the 60+ age group. Also educational were the general opinions on their music, their music’s volume, and particularly anything to do with that “racket” as it was affectionately called.

The one relationship that was by far the most rewarding was the one they developed with their boss, Sparky. Just kidding. Suzan taught the girls many skills that summer – including how to make bank deposits, how to mail a letter (the girls were shocked that paper was actually still a form of communication!), how to effectively swindle tourists into buying raffle tickets, the proper way to dress a

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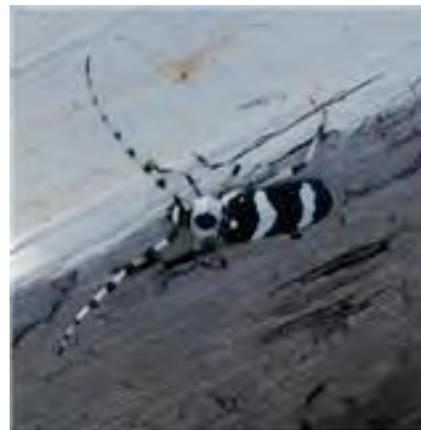
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mannequin, and that “Tequila!” is the only acceptable karaoke song. And that’s only in Mexico at that. In exchange for these priceless skills the girls happily took to fetching Iced-Caps and redecorating the old rat-infested nest that was to become Suzan’s office. They felt, quite emphatically, that Suzan required a feminine, quiet retreat for when they left her to the mercies of the primarily all male staff at the centre. So, on a whim, they chose ‘Sugarloaf’ and ‘Taffeta’ for the walls, added some pink curtains, an orchid, new storage, picture frames, a questionably painted file cabinet, blood, sweat, some tears, an overdose of that “racket” and voila! The oasis was complete. Yet it needed a final touch, so they secretly snuck in their goodbye present a couple of weeks early – a beautiful Chinese fighting fish with the same smoky purple hue of Suzan’s ever-changing hair.

So, as the temperature falls and their short shorts are no longer warm enough, the girls bid the center a fond goodbye – leaving behind a trail of raffle ticket stubs, and reminiscences of the only summer students ever, to the memory of one gracious member, to wear “designer jeans to the woodwork shop.”



Something Buggy



The following article was kindly sent in by member, Chris Banner.

-On Saturday evening when my boat “Kendrick Isle” was being put back into the water, my wife, Lenore Hietkamp was watching and photographing the event and Lance was supervising the ways.

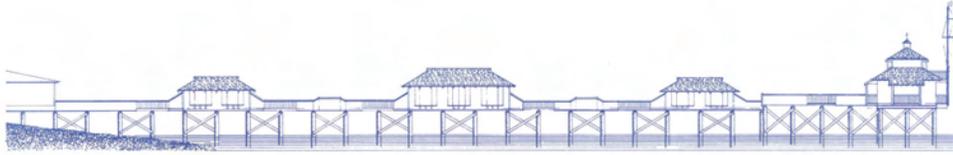
Lance was surprised, and Lenore was mystified when a large beetle was seen on the ways. It was very large, its body was 3” long and its antenna made the total length over 6”. It looked extremely exotic. Lenore surmised that it was probably a foreign species brought in by a boat.

I urged that the pictures of it should be sent to the BC Museum for clarification. Below is Rob Canning’s reply.

From: **Cannings, Rob RBCM**

This is the longhorn beetle *Rosalia funebris*, also known as the Banded Laurel Borer or Banded Alder Borer. In coastal BC the larvae mainly burrow and feed in Red Alder logs and stumps, thus the beetle’s name. It’s a spectacular beetle and a pretty common native

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species, but a wonderful and sight whenever it turns up!

From the Editor

Thank you all for the contributions to this edition of the CWBS newsletter. Contributions for the next issue can be emailed to Sue at weinbergsmy@yahoo.ca