

# A tour of the 'left coast'

Last week The Sidekick and I ventured out to Canada's west coast (sometimes referred to as the "left coast") as we took a week to visit her mom and brother.

I was told they lived on 'an island in the Pacific,' but Vancouver Island wasn't the first place that came to my mind.

(For some reason, visions of scantily clad Polynesian girls serving cold drinks with little umbrellas in them came to mind, while lounging on a white sand beach.)

But after flying into Vancouver International through fog, I had a pretty good hunch we wouldn't be seeing any white sand beaches.

Thirty minutes after landing, we were on a bus, on the ferry, crossing the Strait of Georgia, en route to Nanaimo. First stop was Qualicum Beach, to visit her mom. The resort community is on the east side of the island with a population of almost 9,000, comprised mostly of seniors.

We saw Cathedral Grove, one of the most accessible stands of giant Douglas fir trees in B.C., some of which are more than 800 years old, and one boasts a nine-foot wide base.

Another day was spent in the Nanaimo area, visiting her brother James, who makes his living as a diver, harvesting geoduck, the largest burrowing clam in the world. James and his crew take their boat out for an eight-week season, diving in an area near the Queen Charlotte Islands, just south of the Alaskan border.

We spent a day touring south of Nanaimo, taking in the sights at Ladysmith, while enjoying lunch, then the 33 murals at Chemainus, and on to the old English charm of Victoria, named after Britain's longest ruling monarch.

(It wasn't until later I learned from The Sidekick that Ladysmith was the birthplace of Baywatch babe/Playboy playmate Pamela Anderson, born July 1, 1967. Had I known, I might have spent more time there, in case she had some cousins wandering around.)

**Ted Brown**



Another day found us taking to the mountains, driving two hours on a winding mountain highway, to land in Tofino, located on the Pacific side of the island.

Float planes flew in and out as we ate at a restaurant overlooking the harbour. The view was spectacular, with snow-capped mountain peaks rising up in front of us at a moment's notice after turning on the mountain pass. I admit, however, driving a rented Toyota Yaris is a bit intimidating, when one meets a 60-foot logging truck rounding the bend.

Viewing the countless inlets filled with mist along the way, I was reminded of the lyrics from Ian Tyson's song about logging in B.C., entitled *Summer Wages*.

*"So I'll work on the towboats  
With my slippery city shoes  
Which Lord I swore I would never do again  
Through the gray fog-bound straits  
Where the cedars stand watching  
I'll be far off and gone  
Like summer wages."*

At the end of the week, as the float plane lifted off from Nanaimo harbour, taking us back to Vancouver, I was struck how much our most westerly province differs from Ontario, with its mild weather, huge trees and beautiful mountains.

It's a place I think every Canadian should visit, if only once, just to take in the vastness and diversity of our great country.

And perhaps, if lucky enough, bump into one of Pamela's cousins in Ladysmith.

## Annual controlled deer hunt to begin next week

The annual controlled shotgun deer hunt will take place in Halton Hills and Milton Monday through Friday of next week.

Deer hunting will be allowed from an hour before sunrise until an hour after sunset from Nov. 3-7.

Halton Police, along with enforcement officers from the Ministry of Natural Resources, Conservation Halton, and municipal bylaw officers from Halton Hills and Milton, will staff the areas involved.

Police and their partners have planned a co-ordinated response to ensure the safety of hunters, property owners and enforcement officers during the hunt.

The shotgun hunt covers only five designated days, however, other species are in season throughout the region at various

times. Unauthorized hunting or abuse of natural resources can always be reported to a 24-hour-tip line 1-877-TPS-MNR.

Residents are also reminded that it's not uncommon for bears to be seen in Halton Hills. Bear sightings should be reported to the Bearwise Hotline at 1-866-514-2327, if the situation is dangerous, police should be contacted immediately.

Anyone who wishes to report infractions or illegal activity regarding the controlled deer hunt is encouraged to call police at 905-878-5511 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Information pamphlets about the controlled deer hunt are available at both the Halton Regional Police stations in Georgetown and Milton.

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