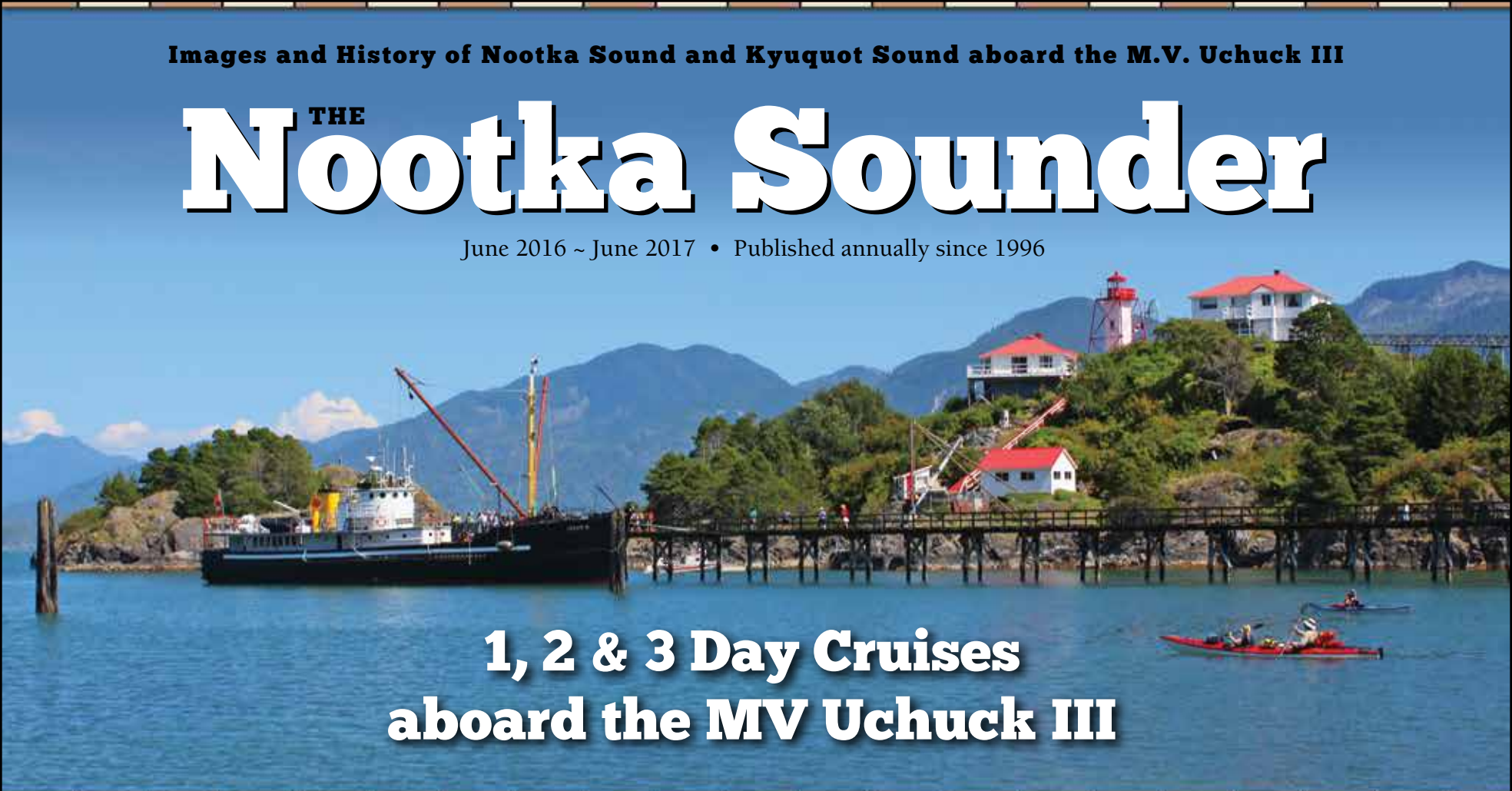


Images and History of Nootka Sound and Kyuquot Sound aboard the M.V. Uchuck III

THE Nootka Sounder

June 2016 ~ June 2017 • Published annually since 1996



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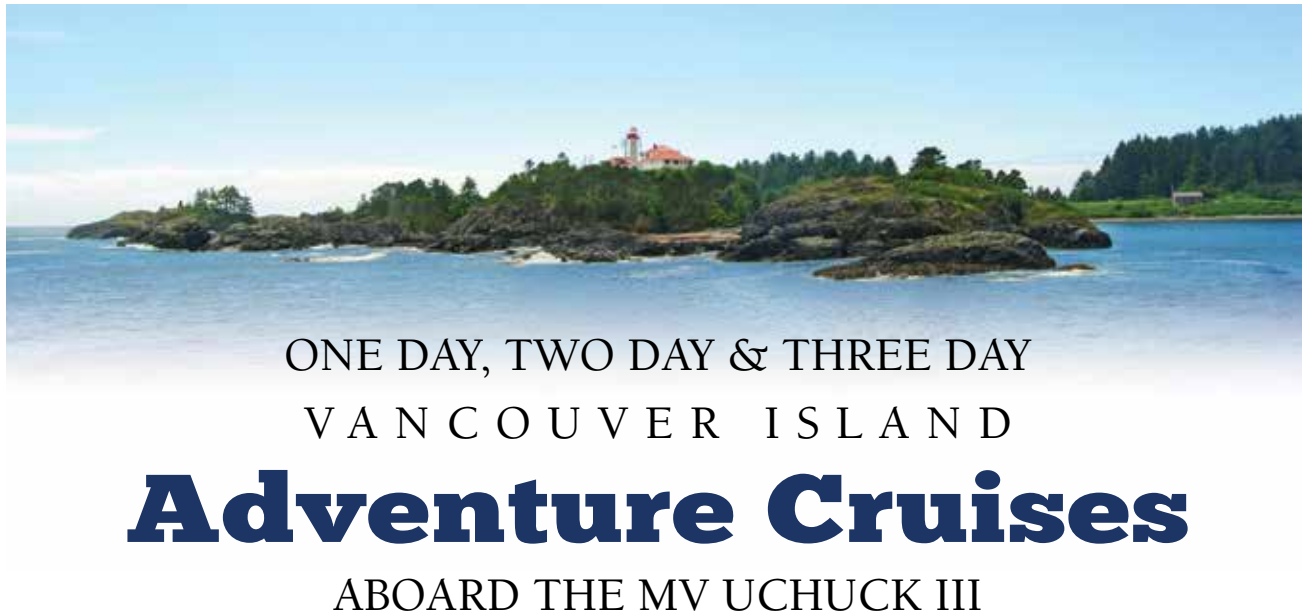
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ABOARD THE MV UCHUCK III



Friendly Cove Day Cruise

Wednesdays & Saturdays ~ June 29 - September 10, 2016

During the summer months the MV Uchuck III provides day cruises to Friendly Cove also known as Yuquot - ancestral home of the Mowachaht / Muchalaht people. Yuquot translates to "Where the Winds Blow from Many Directions" and is reputed as being the 'birthplace' of British Columbia. Once ashore, you can relax on the beach, visit Nootka Lighthouse, walk the trails, visit the historic church and explore the tidal pools that are teeming with aquatic life. For a unique and tranquil experience, stay a few nights in one of the six rustic cabins or camp at one of the wilderness sites available for rent. For reservations contact the Mowachaht / Muchalaht First Nations.



Nootka Sound Day Cruise

Tuesdays ~ Year Round

Every Tuesday the MV Uchuck III departs Gold River to provide freight and passenger service throughout the many inlets and waterways around Nootka Sound. This one-day marine cruise lets you experience the day-to-day events of a working vessel first hand, as it makes deliveries to logging camps, fish farms, lodges and other remote marine outposts. During the summer months, this marine tour day trip includes a brief stop at Friendly Cove to pick up kayakers, hikers and other passengers for the return trip back to Gold River. On any given voyage passengers can expect to see a variety of marine life from birds, to sea lions, sea otters and on occasion, even whales.



Kyuquot Adventure Cruise

Thursdays and Fridays ~ Year Round

Cruise through Nootka Sound, Esperanza Inlet and on the open Pacific to the remote village of Kyuquot (pronounced Kie-YOU-cut) to deliver groceries and supplies. Enjoy the scenery and wildlife as the MV Uchuck III and her crew skillfully navigate the waterways to deliver cargo and passengers on route. The Village of Kyuquot is a remote destination and does not offer the amenities and conveniences you'd find in larger centres. It does offer comfortable chalet style accommodations that reflect the Vancouver Island West Coast maritime lifestyle.

Guests with walking disabilities may find this marine tour difficult.



Esperanza Adventure Cruise

Four Sailings: June 16-18 or 23-25, September 15-17 or 22-24, 2016

Similar to the Kyuquot Adventure Cruise's route, this cruise includes a trip up the Tahsis or Zeballos Inlet for an overnight stay in the Village of Tahsis or Zeballos. The Tahsis Inlet is home to large rafts of sea otters for you to see. Once docked and settled in, enjoy an evening meal and explore Tahsis or Zeballos. Stretch your legs after a day on the water and enjoy strolling through these unique maritime communities.

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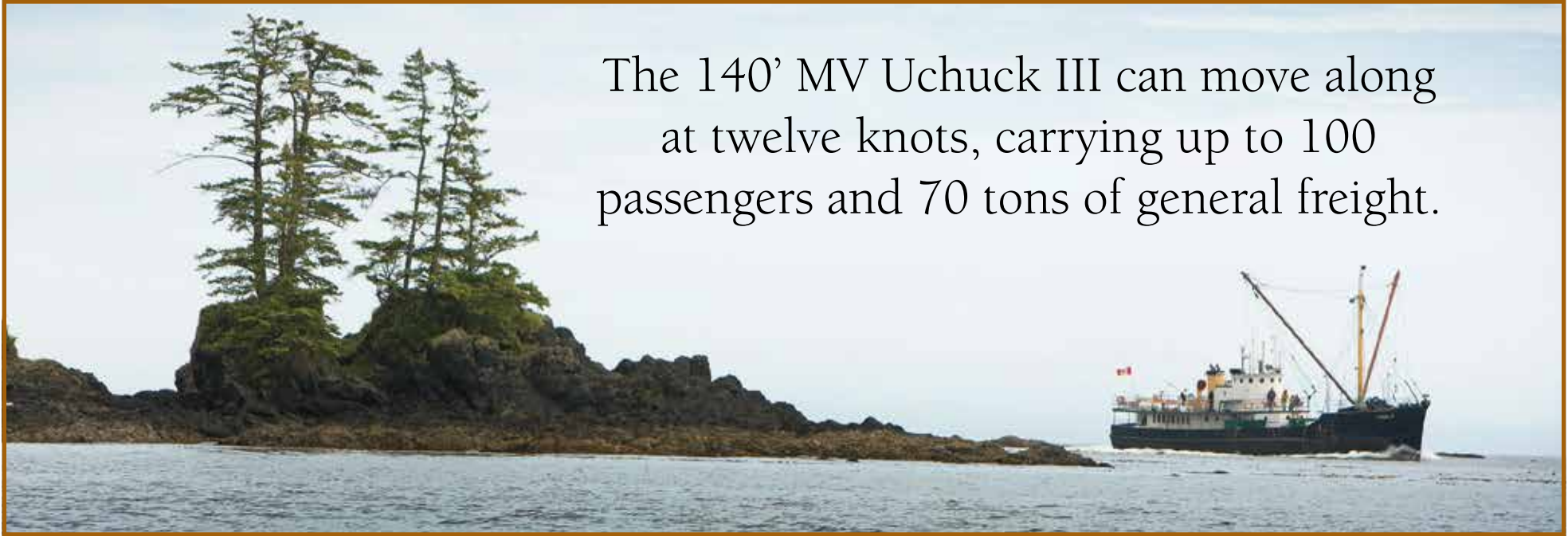
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The MV Uchuck III



By David. E Young



The 140' MV Uchuck III can move along at twelve knots, carrying up to 100 passengers and 70 tons of general freight.

On February 6, 1946, Esson Young and George McCandless bought the M.V. Uchuck I from Richard Porritt and formed the Barkley Sound Transportation Co. Ltd. to replace an existing shipping service started in the 1930s.

The Uchuck I, built in 1941 in Coal Harbour, Vancouver, had replaced the original Uchuck and in those days the second vessel in a line was given the #1 designation. Four-cylinder Caterpillar diesels powered the 70-foot long vessel carrying 64 passengers, and about nine tons of cargo at a speed of ten knots. In 1946, three scheduled trips a week left Port Alberni for Bamfield, stopping at Franklin River, Kildonan and the south shore of Barkley Sound before crossing the twenty miles of open water at its mouth to Ucluelet, and returning home along the north side of Alberni Inlet.

Traffic so increased that in 1948 the company purchased a second vessel, the Uchuck II, which allowed for separate schedules to Bamfield and Ucluelet serving each with a different vessel on alternate days. The second vessel had been built by Vancouver's Wallace Yard in 1925 for the Municipality of West Vancouver as the West Vancouver #6 of the ferry fleet, transporting foot passengers between 14th Street in West Vancouver across to Vancouver

before the Lion's Gate Bridge's completion in 1938.

The company hired Port Alberni Shipyard, Alberni Engineering, Bailey Electric as well as Ormand Plumbing to convert the West Vancouver #6 from a ferry to a small coaster. When completed the 109 foot vessel could carry 100 passengers and 21 tons of cargo: an Atlas Imperial 200 h.p. direct reversing diesel, developed a service speed of 10 knots. Later a Union Diesel of 300 h.p. — the same type that powered the historic RCMP vessel St. Roch — replaced the smaller Atlas Imperial 200 h.p. and increased the speed to 11 knots.

Amid the general growth of the region, the Federal Government began building a radar station at Tofino Airport and the two vessels were stretched to their limit transporting people and supplies. It soon became evident that more ships would be needed, therefor in late 1951 the Company bought the hull of a Yard Mine Sweeper, now the Uchuck III.

Continued on page 22



Passengers aboard the MV Uchuck III are welcome to visit the wheelhouse. Captain Spencer Larsen

Where the trees reach
— almost as —
high as we fly

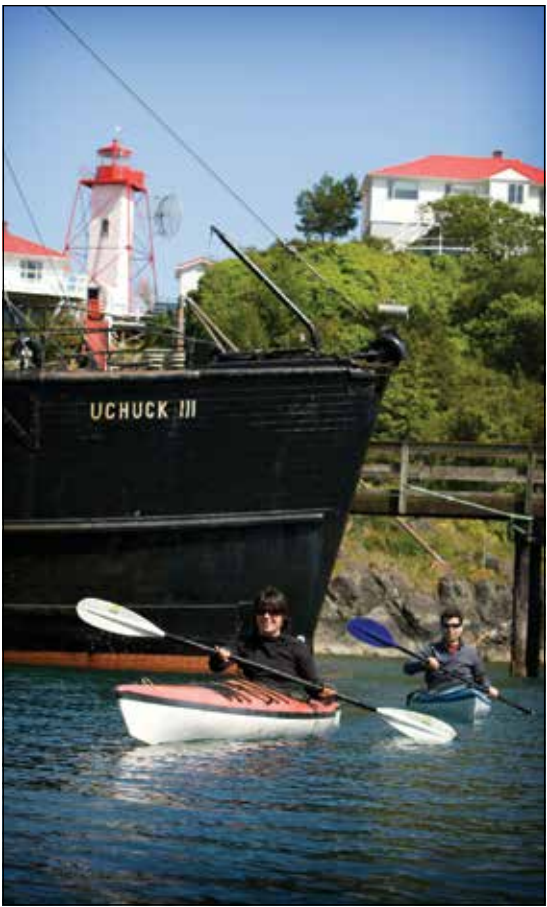
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The West Coast of Vancouver Island and Nootka Sound are a sea kayaker's paradise. The region features miles of remote rugged coastline to explore, abundant wildlife to see, pristine wilderness and secluded marine parks.

Get West Adventure Cruises provides kayak transportation services in Nootka Sound, Kyuquot Sound and Esperanza Inlet aboard the M.V. Uchuck III. Departures are from her home port in Gold River, BC. Select wet launch sites are available on all scheduled trips.

KAYAK RENTAL RATES:
Singles \$45 / day
Double \$60 / day

Our Boreal Design kayak rentals come fully-equipped and are designed and constructed to handle the rugged west coast.

Kayak rentals are available from the municipal dock in Gold River, home port of the MV Uchuck III.

KAYAK TRANSPORTATION:
From \$52.50, depending on the drop off or wet launch location along the route. This includes one-way passenger fare and a single kayak.



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Tuesday (Year Round)

Fares do not include taxes

NOOTKA SOUND DAY CRUISE

Leave Gold River	9:00 A.M.	Adult Fare	\$75.00
Arrive Gold River	6:00 P.M.	Senior Fare (60+)	\$70.00
<i>Experience the day-to-day events of a working vessel first hand, as it makes deliveries to logging camps, fishing lodges and other remote marine outposts.</i>		Child (6-12 years w/adult)	\$40.00
		Child (under 6 years)	Free

Wednesday (Seasonal, June 29 to August 31, 2016)

Fares do not include taxes

FRIENDLY COVE DAY CRUISE

Leave Gold River	10:00 A.M.	Adult Fare	\$85.00
Arrive Friendly Cove	12:30 P.M.	Senior Fare (60+)	\$80.00
Leave Friendly Cove	2:00 P.M.	Child (6-12 years w/adult)	\$45.00
Arrive Gold River	4:00 P.M.	Child (under 6 years)	Free
<i>Fares include the landing fee at Friendly Cove, proceeds of which go to the Mowachaht Band for the redevelopment of this historic site.</i>		Group (10 people +)	\$80.00 each

Thursday/Friday (March to October)

Fares do not include taxes

KYUQUOT ADVENTURE CRUISE

Leave Gold River <i>Thursday</i>	7:00 A.M	Double Fare	\$585.00
Arrive Kyuquot	5:00 P.M.	Single Fare*	\$420.00
Leave Kyuquot <i>Friday</i>	8:00 A.M.	Extra Adult (shared room)*	\$285.00
Arrive Gold River	5:00 P.M.	Child (6-12 years w/adult)*	\$215.00
<i>This overnight trip includes accommodation, dinner and breakfast in Kyuquot.</i>		<i>*Single Fares not available July and August.</i>	
		<i>NOTE: Freight runs year round.</i>	

Saturday (Seasonal, July 2 to September 10, 2016)

Fares do not include taxes

FRIENDLY COVE DAY CRUISE

Leave Gold River	10:00 A.M.	Adult Fare	\$85.00
Arrive Friendly Cove	12:30 P.M.	Senior Fare (60+)	\$80.00
Leave Friendly Cove	3:30 P.M.	Child (6-12 years w/adult)	\$45.00
Arrive Gold River	5:30 P.M.	Child (under 6 years)	Free
<i>Fares include the landing fee at Friendly Cove, proceeds of which go to the Mowachaht Band for the redevelopment of this historic site.</i>		Group (10 people +)	\$80.00 each

Special Sailings (Four dates available)

Fares do not include taxes

ESPERANZA ADVENTURE CRUISE

June 16-18, 2016 (Thursday ~ Saturday)	Double Fare	\$995.00
June 23-25, 2016 (Thursday ~ Saturday)	<i>Double occupancy only. This two night trip includes accommodation, dinner and breakfast in Kyuquot and Tahsis or Zeballos.</i>	
Sept. 15-17, 2016 (Thursday ~ Saturday)		
Sept. 22-24, 2016 (Thursday ~ Saturday)		



Routes & Destinations



NOOTKA SOUND

is rich in history. The names of many of the Islands and water ways reflect this history.

- 1) **Golden Hinde** Historians believe Francis Drake sighted this peak when he sailed the North Pacific in the "Golden Hind" in 1579.
- 2) **Juan Perez** Commanded the first expedition verified to the North Pacific in 1774. He made it as far as Estevan Point.
- 3) **Estevan Point** Esteban Jose Martinez was second Lieutenant on the "Santiago" 1774, the first Spanish expedition to the Northwest. He was the Commandant of the first Spanish fort at Nootka, 1789.
- 4) **Nootka Sound** Discovered in 1778 by Captain Cook during his 3rd voyage.
- 5) **Bligh Island** William Bligh, famous in connection with the "Bounty" mutiny, was Captain Cook's navigating officer on the "Resolution".
- 6) **Gore Island** John Gore, 1st Lieutenant on Cook's "Resolution", brought the expedition home after the death of Cook and Clerke in Hawaii, 1779.
- 7) **Cook Channel** Captain James Cook was the first British Navigator to enter Nootka Sound.
- 8) **Discovery Point** Named after the second ship of Cook's last expedition.
- 9) **Resolution Cove** Named after Cook's larger ship "Resolution", which was repaired at this Cove in 1778.
- 10) **Clerke Peninsula** Charles Clerke, second in command of Cook's last expedition.
- 11) **Yuquot** Chief Maquinna's summer village (Friendly Cove). "Yuquot" means "Where the wind blows from all directions". Yuquot is the original Indian village at Friendly Cove; visited by numerous English, Spanish and American fur traders.
- 12) **King Passage** Named after James King, 2nd Lieutenant on Cook's "Resolution" in 1778.
- 13) **Strange Island** James Strange of Bombay was an early fur trader, visiting Nootka Sound in 1786.
- 14) **Hanna Channel** Named after James Hanna, first of the maritime fur traders, visited Nootka in 1785 & 86.
- 15) **Kendrick Arm** Named after an American fur trader who earned an unsavoury reputation in dealing with local natives.
- 16) **Spanish Pilot Island** Among the Spanish Naval Officers who explored the region were a number of pilots who were the early hydrographic surveyors of this coast. Several of their names were given to the islands in this group.
- 17) **Maquinna Point** Named in 1791 after Maquinna, Nootka Chief.
- 18) **Saavedra Island** Named after one of the Spanish Commandants at Nootka, 1793.
- 19) **Argonaut Point** Named after the British ship "Argonaut", seized by Spaniards at Nootka, 1789.
- 20) **Princess Royal Point** Named after the British sloop seized by Spaniards in Friendly Cove, 1789. Entered the Spanish Navy as "Princess Real". Restored to its owners in 1791.
- 21) **Galiano Bay** Named after Galiano, an officer of Malaspina's expedition, who commanded the "Sutil" visiting in 1792.
- 22) **Eliza Passage** Francisco Eliza was the Spanish Commandant (Port Eliza) sent in 1790 to expand the fort at Nootka after Martinez removal.
- 23) **Valdez Bay** Valdez was with Malaspina's expedition and while in coastal waters commanded the "Mexicana" in 1792.
- 24) **Bodega Island** Captain Juan Francisco de la Bodega Quadra negotiated the terms of the Nootka Convention with Captain James Vancouver in 1792.
- 25) **Esperanza Inlet** Named after the first mate on the "Atrevida", under the Command of Captain Malaspina in 1791.
- 26) **Zeballos Inlet** Named after a Spanish Lieutenant Ciriaco Cevellas, who explored with Captain Malaspina in 1791.
- 27) **Atrevida Point** Named after Captain Malaspina's ship exploring the area in 1791.
- 28) **Tlupana Inlet** "Tlupana" was a Chief who lived at the head of this inlet. He was visited by George Vancouver in 1794.
- 29) **Jewitt Cove** Named after the survivor of the "Boston" who was captured at Marinas Bay near Friendly Cove by Maquinna in 1803.
- 30) **Boston Point** Named after the American trading ship "Boston", captured in 1803 by Maquinna.
- 31) **Plumper Harbour** The "Plumper" was an auxiliary steam sloop engaged 1857-1861 by Captain G.H. Richards in the survey of the British Colum coast.
- 32) **CeePeeCee** Canadian Packing Corporation built the fish reduction plant in 1926.
- 33) **McBride Bay** Arthur McBride reportedly built a fish reduction plant here, prior to sawmill construction in 1937.
- 34) **Cachalot** Site of an old whaling station and pilchard reduction plant, 1908-1926.
- 35) **Chamiss Bay** Site of an old pilchard reduction plant and present day logging camp of International Forest Products.
- 36) **Markale** Site of an old fish cannery.

M.V. UCHUCK III SPECIFICATIONS

Length: 136 feet Beam: 24 feet
Draught: 7 feet forward; 9 feet aft
Power: Two 8-268A Cleveland Diesels driving 2 shafts through Joe's gears.
Speed: Cruising 12 knots
Fuel Consumption: 25 gallons/hour
Construction: Double planked wooden hull of fir 3" thick. Frames are laminated oak 3.5"; on 15" centers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS Editorial: Dave Young, Ian Kennedy, Gordon Elliott, Neil Havers and Alberto Giroto **Sales and Distribution:** Wendy Woodley (250)-897-3678 • wendyski@shaw.ca
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Kyuquot Adventure



Story and Photos: Neil Havers

Rafts of sea otters are abundant in Nootka Sound, Tahsis Inlet and Kyuquot Sound.



CRUISE VANCOUVER ISLAND'S "WILD WEST COAST" ON THE KYUQUOT ADVENTURE!

A trip aboard the MV Uchuck III gives visitors a glimpse into a unique, maritime way of life.

The coves and inlets of the rugged northwest coast of Vancouver Island are home to remote logging camps, fishing resorts, fish farms and coastal communities; all of which have little or no road access. These outposts rely on Nootka Sound Service and its MV Uchuck III as a critical lifeline. The MV Uchuck III delivers a variety of freight including groceries, fish farm feed, fuel and more to remote location in Nootka Sound, Esperanza Inlet and Kyuquot Sound on a weekly basis.

The MV Uchuck III is a 140' wooden hulled vessel built in 1942 as an American Minesweeper and has been navigating Vancouver Island's west coast for over 50 years, delivering cargo and passengers to remote destinations. This historic vessel has been carefully reconditioned with a comfortable wood-finished lounge, coffee shop and spacious seating on the open-air upper deck - the perfect front-row seats to Vancouver Island's rugged West Coast.

The Kyuquot Adventure Cruise departs every Thursday from Gold River to its final destination of Kyuquot, returning to Gold River on Friday. Guests aboard the MV Uchuck III enjoy watching the crew deftly moor the 140' vessel up against docks in remote coves along the coast. At times, with high winds and running tides this can be a very challenging maneuver. Once secured, the crew offload cargo from the hold using a union purchase crane system to get it on the dock.

The real highlight is the voyage itself as stunning remote maritime scenery is revealed as the vessel navigates the inlets of Nootka Sound, Esperanza Inlet and Kyuquot Sound. Heading out from Gold River guests settle in on the top deck to take in the scenery of the inlet and its rugged forested cliff faces that plunge into the sea as the MV Uchuck III heads up Muchalat inlet. Pods of kayakers hug the shorelines, eagles cruise overhead, diving down to grab fish close to the surface. Cameras are working overtime.

The MV Uchuck III continues up Tahsis Inlet (home to colonies of inquisitive sea otters) and Esperanza Inlet, dropping off supplies and at times, kayakers along the way. At this point it has been smooth sailing in relatively calm waters. Leaving Esperanza Inlet it's open-ocean cruising to the remote village of Kyuquot for an overnight stay. Humpback and Killer Whales can be spotted at times in these waters as well as a variety of sea birds, eagles and sea otter colonies. This is a good time to hunker down in the Galley with a good book and enjoy the home-made hearty fare served on board.



The picturesque entrance to the village of Kyuquot.

Kyuquot is a truly remote maritime village. Raised boardwalks and trails hug the shoreline of small islands and rocky outcrops allowing for access to small cabins and docks along the rocky, moss covered shoreline. Towering Douglas fir and Cedar trees create an impressive backdrop. The misty evening atmosphere adds to the mystique of the Sound.

Returning the next day, following the same route, guests continue to enjoy basking in the natural beauty of the west coast. This is a time to be still. Time to let your mind wander while enjoying the stunning scenery. Time to read a good book, take incredible photos or simply sit back and really catch up on things with your partner, friends or new-found friends on board. Gold River may be the final destination but it will surely be the beginning of your love affair with BC's Wild West Coast.

Your West Coast Aerial Adventures Await!

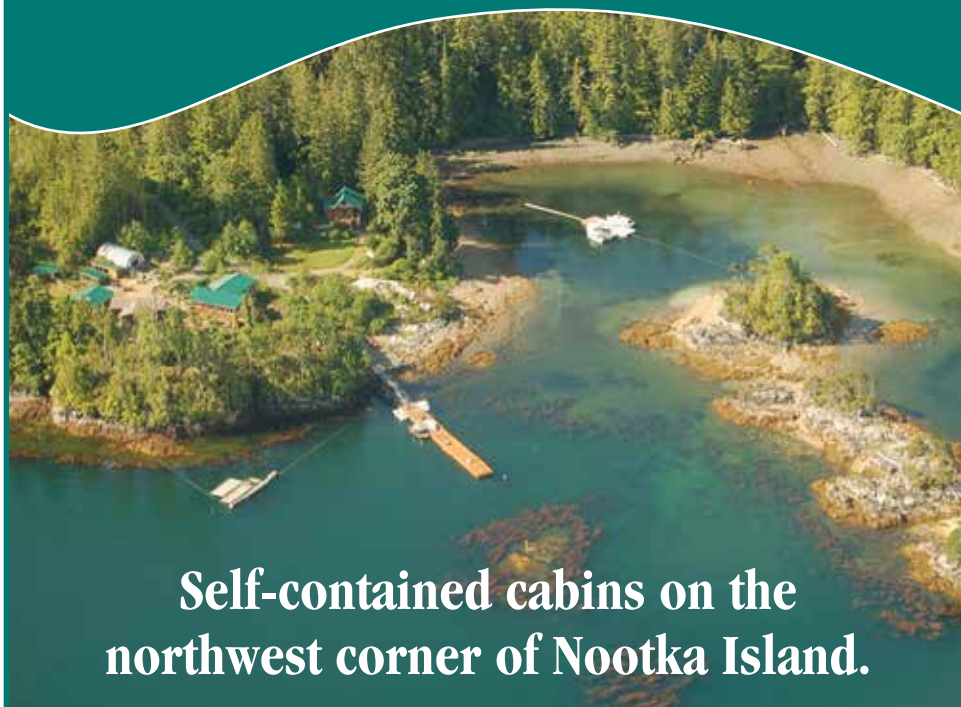


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Visiting Kyuquot

KYUQUOT

An archipelago of nine islands and the mainland make up Kyuquot, a village of 350, surely one of the most unique on BC's coast.

During the initial European contact period in the 1780s, sea otter traders in search of pelts ventured into the Kyuquot Sound area to trade with the Kyuquot and Checleset peoples. The rugged terrain and numerous reefs, however, made Kyuquot Sound difficult to navigate and with the extinction of the sea otter populations, Kyuquot Sound and Kyuquot soon fell back into obscurity.

In the mid-1850s, the lucrative seal fur trade, and the harvest of fish oil, brought trade back into the Sound. Fur sealing schooners began making routine stops at Kyuquot's fishing villages to take aboard First Nations men as hunters, and the sealing industry grew until 1911 when it was outlawed in an attempt to protect the species from extinction. Whaling replaced the sealing industry and in 1908, the Pacific Whaling Company constructed a whaling station on Cachalot Inlet to process humpback and blue whales into oil, fertilizer and meat.

Despite only seasonal hunting, the Kyuquot station processed 4,765 whales until poor markets and depleted whale stocks closed the station in 1925, and caused many of the Norwegian and Scandinavian whalers to turn to fishing for their livelihood. They and their families remained in Kyuquot Sound, many settling

in Walter's Cove on the protected side of Walter's Island, across from Houpsitas, the traditional winter home of the Kyuquot people. These two communities form the Village of Kyuquot.

Today commercial fishing and the forest industry remain the major employers, with tourism increasing in popularity.

An archipelago of nine islands and the mainland make up Kyuquot, a village of 350 - surely one of the most unique on the coast - with the original First Nations village situated on the mainland and across from it on Walter's Island, with two dozen buildings connected by a boardwalk, sits the "central business district".

Stop for a bite at "The best restaurant in town", Miss Charlie's, named after the town's mascot: Miss Charlie, a seal, saved as a pup despite the \$5 bounty on her head, she continues to swim around the harbour scrounging a handout. With no streets, Kyuquot residents use boats to access the Red Cross Outpost, the school, the post office, the fishing lodges and stores around the various coves.

Tourism is slowly attracting more and more people to this remote, very unique maritime village, and to its surrounding area, for sport fishing, kayaking and enjoying outdoor adventures in an absolutely spectacular setting.

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JOHN JEWITT

White Slave of Chief Maquinna

On March 22, 1803 English blacksmith John Jewitt was working at his forge below decks on the Boston, a US based trading vessel anchored near Nootka, not knowing that this skill would save his life.



killed him; a Spaniard had shot his friend chief Callium who was protesting the Spanish occupation; Captian Salter had roundly abused and demeaned Maquinna for breaking the lock on a gun Salter had given the Chief as a present. This last insult proved too much to bear.

As slaves carrying wood and doing other menial tasks, Jewitt and Thompson had endeared themselves to their master by making much-coveted daggers and whaling harpoons for him. The two even participated in a Nootka raid on another tribe and for their part in the victory were themselves awarded slaves of their own. Maquinna also gave Jewitt a native woman as a wife with whom he fathered a son.

Eventually, after his being over two years in captivity, a long-awaited ship arrived and forced Jewitt to use all his guile and tact to formulate a safe escape.

On Jewitt's departure Maquinna shook him warmly by the hand and, as Jewitt later wrote, "with much emotion, while the tears trickled down his cheeks, he bade me farewell and stepped into his canoe, which immediately paddled him on shore."

Back in civilization Jewitt published his story. Based on the diary he had kept of his experiences as a slave, it included observations on Nootkan life and customs. These became the basis for much of our present knowledge about native life on the west coast prior to the arrival of the white man.

He describes their class system: rituals, the potlatches, clothing, artwork, food gathering techniques, the inter-tribal diplomacy and the warfare. He also depicts Maquinna as a kind and merciful man despite the great Chief's threatening to kill him on more than one occasion.

Since its first publication in 1815, his story has gone through 23 editions in a variety of languages and is currently available as White Slaves of Maquinna.

As on any given day, Jewitt heard Maquinna and his warriors board the ship, but paid little attention to their arrival because in the past ten days since the ship had anchored off this part of Vancouver Island's west coast the friendly Nootka had frequently visited for purposes of trade.

However, an unusual commotion this time sent Jewitt rushing above deck where he was clobbered on the head by a cudgel. Recovering, he was horrified at seeing the head of Captain Salter as well as the heads of his twenty-five ship-mates "arranged in a line" on the deck.

Jewitt feared joining his unfortunate ship-mates, but because Maquinna had recognized his usefulness as the metal worker and that of sail-maker John Thompson, he spared the two of them but made them his slaves.

Maquinna's unexpected, and uncharacteristic attack on the Boston had been the result of years of insults perpetrated by a variety of Europeans visiting Friendly Cove.

One had lighted gunpowder under the seat of Maquinna himself and had nearly



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Kayak Wet Launching

Story and Photos: Neil Havers

WILDERNESS WET LAUNCHING

Ken Ellison and Mark Perrin, both Calgary residents, are avid kayakers. Since Alberta is limited in kayaking destinations they are drawn to Vancouver Island's west coast. Their goal is to circumnavigate Vancouver Island by doing 100 to 200 kilometer stretches each summer.

The remote northwest coast of Vancouver Island offers kayakers an opportunity to paddle in wilderness areas that few have experienced. From Nootka Sound to Kyuquot Sound and points in between are miles of uninhabited shoreline waiting to be explored. This pristine wilderness is home to an abundance of wildlife including Grey Whales, Killer Whales, Sea lions, rafts of Otters, Black Bear and Bald Eagles. A lucky paddler can see them all in a single trip.

Paddlers can explore sheltered inlets and stretches of open ocean. Hear the roar of the surf breaking on the rocky shoreline, explore sea caves and paddle around sea stacks. Some of the more popular destinations include the Bunsby Group of Islands, historic Nootka Sound, Brooks Peninsula and Rugged Point.

What makes these destinations so special is their remoteness. With minimal or no road access, getting there can be a challenge. Get West Adventure Cruises offers wet launching from the 140' MV Uchuck III. Departing from Gold River, BC on regularly scheduled runs, kayakers can load their kayaks and provisions and enjoy a marine cruise aboard this working marine cargo vessel. Along the route the MV Uchuck III drops supplies off to remote resorts, fish farms and logging camps using a cargo winch system and a lifting platform to retrieve supplies from the hold and drop them off on wharves.

This system of off-loading supplies is the same system used to wet launch kayakers along the route. Kayaks are positioned onto the lifting platform on the ship's deck with the kayaker in position, ready to paddle. As the paddler hangs on to the cables the lift platform is lowered overboard to just below the ocean's surface, allowing the paddler to simply paddle off on his or her adventure. These wet launches take place at select locations along the route within proximity of choice paddling destinations.

"Our biggest expense and logistic problem is always arranging a shuttle or water taxi to reunite us with our vehicle, especially when we only have one vehicle, says Mark, "Ken discovered Get West Adventures online and booked passage for us to be wet launched at Rugged Point (Kyuquot Sound) from the MV Uchuck III. We stopped at a number of fish farms, logging camps, and fishing lodges as the ship loaded and unloaded freight. We found it to be a very relaxing way to travel to our launch site. We arrived at Rugged Point and were wet launched with only a 100 meter paddle to our campsite." he added.

Talking to the captain, Ken and Mark learned that the MV Uchuck III will also pick up kayakers along her regular weekly routes. "I have an INREACH so when we knew when we would arrive in Nootka Sound I sent an email to Get West's office and arranged to be picked up on the Friday afternoon as the ship was returning to Gold River. We talked to the captain on VHF radio and he told us where and when to be so they could literally pick us up." said Mark.



Mark Perrin is prepared for a dropoff at Rugged Point near Kyuquot.

"The whole experience with the Uchuck was absolutely a pleasure, from the people working on the ship, the Captain, who took us into the bridge to see how things work, the lady who runs the kitchen on the ship, and the people in the booking office, and the actual launch and pick up. This was my favourite kayaking trip on Vancouver Island. The scenery on the west coast is fantastic and the experience with the Uchuck and being able to avoid car shuttles and all the logistics involved, was great." added Ken.

Mark added, "The real highlight was the actual wet launch and pick up on the ship, I am pretty sure most kayakers have not experienced this and they will talk about it for quite awhile."

Kayak rentals are also available for those who don't want to haul their kayaks to the west coast. At the Gold River Dock, Get West rents Boréal Design single and double kayaks complete with a PFD/life vest, paddle, throw rope, spray skirt, spare paddle and a safety kit.

For more information on remote kayak wet launching on Vancouver Island's Wild West Coast go to www.getwest.ca



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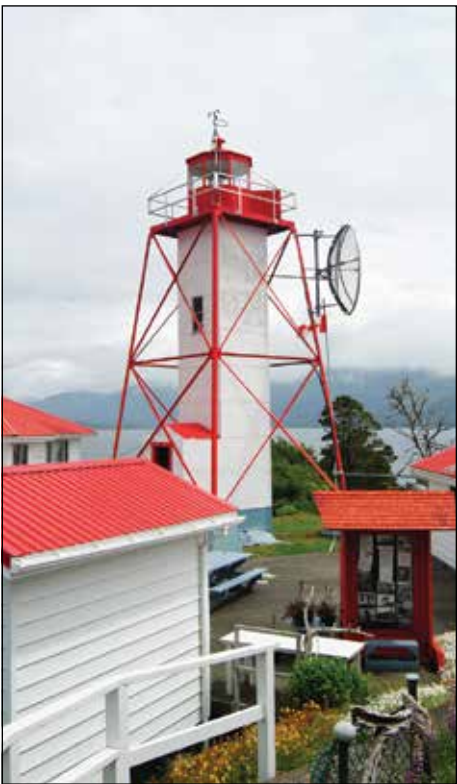
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In the Comox Valley

Visiting Friendly Cove



MV Uchuck III docked at Friendly Cove (Yuquot).

Story: Ian Kennedy Photos: Neil Havers



A trip to Friendly Cove puts visitors in touch with BC's earliest history, with many of its "firsts"... first European contact; first beer brewed in BC; first European inhabitants; first ship built; first visit by a European woman; first European settlement; first gardens... and all at or near British Columbia's first national historic site, established in 1923.

It all starts with a leisurely day-long cruise aboard the MV Uchuck III, leaving Gold River on Wednesdays or Saturdays between June and September.

Arrive at the Gold River dock in time for the prompt 10 a.m. departure and settle in for a fabulous two-and-a-half hour voyage down the Muchalat Inlet and out into Nootka Sound to Yuquot. The Uchuck III serves as both a passenger vessel and a working freighter which carries all manner of cargo and people to logging camps, fish camps, fish farms, and settlements along the way. Prepare yourself for interesting stops at which you'll begin to acquire a feel for something of life on this west coast. Enjoy a muffin, sip a coffee, meet fellow travelers, and then settle down to take in

the sights and sounds of the coast: the steep sides of Muchalat Inlet (a U-shaped fiord, a remnant of the last ice-age), covered with Douglas firs, Sitka spruce, Arbutus, Western red and yellow cedars and Western hemlock. Most of the trees are second growth, but their predecessors might have been upwards of 300 feet high. One Douglas fir at Woss Lake on northern Vancouver Island grew to 305 feet and had an 18-foot diameter, holding the official record as the largest tree ever cut in British Columbia. Over 1200 years old, it would have been growing before the Vikings invaded Britain. Imagine the human activity of a few hundreds of years ago when at nearly every creek mouth along this inlet the Muchalaht people could be found at their summer camps catching and curing salmon for winter food. While doing so, however, they would

have been very vigilant, concerned about enemy raiding parties looking to capture slaves. Wars were not uncommon, especially against the neighbouring Mowachaht who, in 1935, despite earlier animosity, amalgamated with the Muchalahts to form one tribe. Along the way you'll see how modern fishers entice different varieties of salmon onto their lines, the most prized being the Spring or King salmon reaching up to 50 or 60 pounds. At the mouth of Muchalaht Inlet the MV Uchuck III steers west into Zuciarie Channel (not a Spanish name but a corruption of the name of one of the Muchalaht First Nations band), between Bligh Island and the mainland, the island named after William Bligh of Mutiny on the Bounty fame but at that time Cook's navigator on the Resolution. Once past Bligh Island and as the Uchuck III heads across the mouth of Nootka Sound to Nootka Island, look back on the starboard and into Bligh Island's Resolution Cove, originally called Ship Cove by Captain Cook. Battered by savage storms on their voyage from Hawaii and seeking a place to make repairs and to find fresh water

Visitors to Friendly Cove can explore the shoreline, forested shoreline trails and hike up for a visit to the Lighthouse. You might even meet the Lighthouse Keepers!

Captain James Cook with his ships Resolution and Discovery, limped into this bay on March 29, 1778. While the British anchored their 'floating islands', the First Nations people shouted from their canoes: "itchme nutka, itchme nutka", meaning "go around", "go round" to a better anchorage at Yuquot, but Cook misinterpreted their shouts, believing they were calling out Nootka as the name of the area. Despite this initial misunderstanding, he and his men stayed for more than a month here, becoming the first documented Europeans to set foot in British Columbia. After repairing ships' masts and spars with Douglas fir wood; brewing beer using Sitka spruce needles, hops and molasses; and trading metal objects for sea otter skins, they sailed for home by way of Alaska and Asia. In China, they made a small fortune selling the luxurious sea otter pelts acquired at Nootka and, when news of this new source of trade reached others, European and North American traders converged on

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Visiting Friendly Cove



A stop is made in Resolution Cove where Captain James Cook moored to harvest trees to make repairs to his ship, 'The Resolution'.

Native carvings greet visitors to Friendly Cove. A visit in the historic Roman Catholic Church, now a Cultural Centre, promises more native carvings for those interested in native culture of the Pacific Northwest.

Nootka, three hundred and thirty ships between 1785 and 1825, and nearly exterminated the sea otter on this coast. Two plaques in the cove commemorate Cook's visit.

As the Uchuck III enters Friendly Cove or Yuquot, "where the wind blows in all directions", notice the 100-foot high lighthouse on the port side, where the Spanish fort once defended the cove.

Built in 1911 the lighthouse is not open to visitors, however, a hike up to it offers a spectacular view of up to sixteen miles visibility up and down the coast - on a clear day, that is. Only two houses now occupy the cove where once stood up to twenty big houses and where once lived 1500 indigenous people: the summer home of Chief Maquinna and his Nuu-chah-nulth people. Only two now live here, year round.

Once ashore take the path from the end of the pier to the gleaming, white Roman Catholic Church built in 1956 to replace the one built by Father Brabant in 1889, which burned in 1954.

The church now serves as a museum. Inside, the two stained glass windows donated by the Spanish Government commemorates the Spanish fort settlement of San Miguel with its extensive gardens that existed at Yuquot from 1789 until 1795.

Instead of altar and pulpit now stand two striking and colourful interior house-posts with another two on either side of the archway entrance.

In the choir loft, if not out on loan to other museums, are thirty or so photographic reproductions of the drawings of Thomas de Suria and Jose Cardero done while the two were in Yuquot in the late 1700s and donated in 2002 by the Spanish

Entrance to Resolution Cove.



government. The originals remain in Barcelona.

Outside, and adjacent to the church, the baseball field marks the location of the Spanish gardens where, every August, the Mowachaht-Muchalaht hold their salmon barbecue and Summerfest.

Walk behind the church down to the pebble beach to the West, pass the modern graveyard and go inland to Aa-aak-quak-sius Lake or Jewitt lake.

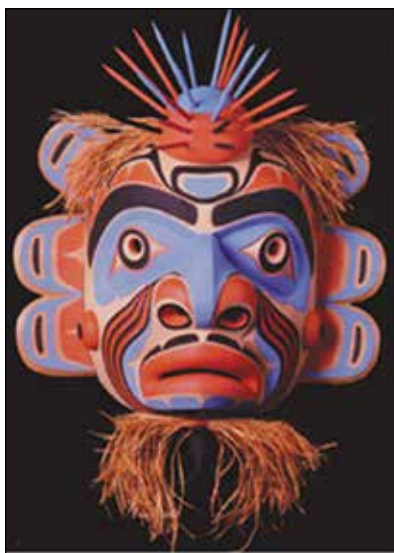
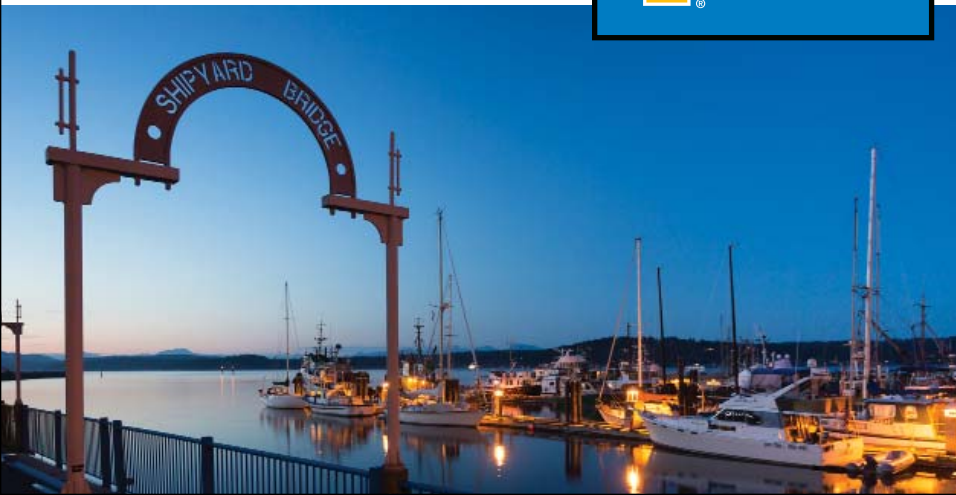
A small wooded islet in this lake once housed the Whaler's Shrine at which the Mowachaht/Muchalaht conducted purification rituals before going whaling, rituals so secret even John Jewitt, a slave of Maquinna in 1803-'04, did not know of the shrine's existence. Its 92 carved wooden figures, sixteen skulls and the shelter that once protected them currently resides in the American Museum of Natural History in New York, sold to it in 1904. Near the lake, six cabins can be rented.

Head back toward Yuquot, and seek out the large totem pole flat on the ground at the eastern end of Friendly Cove. Erected in 1929 it fell to high winds in 1994. Farther east sits a small cove with a beach where John Meares built the forty-ton North West America in 1778, the first European-style ship launched in B.C.



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West Coast Pursuits



Photo: Neil Havers



The West Coast of Vancouver Island, one of the most rugged yet most spectacular environments in the world, abounds in recreational opportunities from kayaking to spelunking.

KAYAKING

The First Nations people once ranged up and down the coast in cedar canoes, whaling, fishing and moving to and from their winter and summer homes.

In the same water borne way, a growing number of kayakers now absorb this rich aboriginal history, as they visit the coastal communities, the abandoned villages and remote islands of the “Land of Maquinna”, indeed one of the world’s finest sea kayaking areas.

Seek out a kayak tour company for all-inclusive packages or, if competent, go with friends - going alone can be dangerous because of the changeable weather and adverse conditions.

Many kayakers load their vessels on the Uchuck III at Gold River and sail on her out to the outer coast to be ‘wet-launched’. Arrangments can be made with Get West Adventure cruises for a return pick-up.

Get West also provides kayak rentals from the municipal dock in Gold River. All our kayaks are Boreal design and come fully equipped to get you started on your West Coast kayaking adventure. These kayaks are composite in construction and designed to handle the rugged west coast.

An absolutely splendid wild wilderness awaits paddlers: uninhabited beaches; dense old growth rainforests populated by wolves and bears; waterfalls; deep fjords, and coves, secluded and sheltered.

Supernatural! Wildlife galore: orca and gray whales, sea lions, black bears, cougars, and bald eagles. Most kayakers want to view the sea otters and rafts with a hundred of them not a rarity here. In all about 1500 of these adorable creatures live

here, descendents of 89 sea otters re-located from Alaska between 1969 and 1972, and ranging from Brooks Peninsula south to the Broken Islands. Paddle Kyugot Sound, sheltered Esperanza Inlet or Nuchatlitz Inlet and Nuchatlitz Marine Park, Nootka Sound and Bligh Island Marine Park in between. Unparalleled!

Something even more challenging: whitewater kayaking on some of the many rivers cascading down from the nearby mountains.

FISHING

Vancouver Island’s West Coast, holds a reputation as one of the finest fishing areas in the world, salt water or fresh. From mighty salmon to gigantic halibut in the ‘saltchuck’, cutthroat, rainbow, and steelhead trout in fresh water, anglers here catch their limit of fish.

A number of fishing charter companies in Gold River, Tahsis, Zeballos and Kyuquot offer expert guides, fishing charters and resort accommodation.

Tackle the west coast any time of year, but summer sees most people trying their luck at catching the transient runs of Pacific Coho, Sockeye and Spring salmon, also know as Chinook, or Tyee if weighing over 30 pounds. For variety, try bottom fishing for ling-cod, rock-cod, snapper and gigantic halibut, some up to 175 pounds.

Former Campbell River judge and writer Roderick Haig-Brown enthused about the joys and serenity of fly-fishing on Vancouver Island. His writings have lured people from around the world to come to enjoy the thrill of hauling a steelhead, Dolly Vardon, or cutthroat from one of the many rivers dotting the Island.

The ultimate in sport’s fishing is to hire a floatplane or a helicopter and fish secluded lakes and rivers. No matter your choice, Vancouver Island’s west coast offers fantastic scenery and abundant wildlife as well as superb fishing!

HIKING

With the famed West Coast Trail becoming so crowded that people planning to hike it need reservations, the Nootka Island Trail offers a 35-kilometre hike through the same kind of wild, pristine wilderness, but without the crowds.

Most start at the north end of the trail, arriving there by seaplane, or having a boat or water-taxi drop them off at Louie Bay, just south of the Nuchatlitz Inlet.

Consisting almost exclusively of beach walking, the hike allows for seeing black bears, wolves, cougars, eagles, sea otters, whales and sea lions. Enjoy showering under Calvin Creek waterfall, swimming and body surfing in the ocean, exploring ancient sites where once stood bighouses, investigating the life in tidal pools and beachcombing for treasures.

Eventually, tired but happy, arrive four or five days later at Yuquot (Friendly Cove) where the Uchuck III makes bi-weekly pick-ups.

Challenging, not a trek for the unfit or faint hearted, the Nootka Island Trail offers immense satisfaction for those who hike it.

Strathcona Provincial Park offers numerous improved trails to explore. These trails are suitable for all ages and fitness levels.

WILDLIFE VIEWING

Viewing wildlife is one of the fastest growing activities in North America. British Columbia is the most biologically diverse province with over 95 million hectares that are home to a rich variety of flora and fauna, providing some of the best wildlife viewing opportunities in Canada.

Most popular on the west coast is whale and grizzly bear viewing. Vancouver Island is home to many adventure tour companies that treat guests to the wonders of Grey Whales breaching on the open Pacific,

Photo: Neil Havers



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West Coast Pursuits



Photo: Neil Havers



With fifteen known entrances, the Upana Caves, about 10 miles from Gold River, contain nearly 1500 feet of passages and requires approximately an hour to complete a self-guided tour. Pathways and steps allow amateur spelunkers ~ those who explore caves ~ to visit the fifteen known semi-developed ones.

Once underground watch for the Upana River as it emerges for a 90-foot stretch through the Main cave before disappearing, but it reappears later in Resurgence Cave, the walls of which have been transformed by heat and pressure into smooth, white marble. Film producers used the caves when filming scenes for the television series "Huckleberry Finn and His Friends".

The Artlish River Caves and the Black Hole north of Zeballos can only be visited on guided tours, but feature some of the largest entrances, interior chambers and passages of any on the Island.

Spelunkers must bring warm, water-proof clothes, sturdy boots and flashlights. Helmets optional, but recommended.

Killer Whales migrating in search of food and Grizzly Bear feeding on salmon in the river deltas.

Wildlife viewing is included on your trip aboard the MV Uchuck III. Guests can expect to see an abundance of wildlife including sea otters, harbour seals and bald eagles. Watch the shorelines for an appearance of elk, deer and black bear. On some cruises guests are treated to sightings of Humpback Whales and Killer Whales.

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SURFING

The giant rollers and pounding Pacific surf attacking Vancouver Island's west coast makes the 'killer' waves beloved by surfers and windsurfers. Often up to 25' in height, these waves have turned this coast into a surfer's paradise. At Long Beach, in Pacific Rim Park near Tofino, now the 'Malibu of the North' and the 'Surf Capital of Canada', the offshore winds make any part of the coast, and a number of lakes, perfect for windsurfing.

A company operating on Nootka Island offers accomplished surfers and wind-surfers the opportunity to ride waves in the least crowded of circumstances. Guests live in tree houses and are transported by rugged Zodiac watercraft to empty surf where they become absolutely "stoked" while carving and jumping waves to their heart's content.

SCUBA DIVING

Vancouver Island has become internationally known as a scuba diver's paradise, with the Jacques Cousteau Society rating it second only to the Red Sea for clarity and diversity of marine life.

Scuba magazine ranks Barkley Sound (Pacific Rim) the number one winter dive destination and number two for year-round diving. The temperate waters offer incredible visibility, up to 50 feet. See Pacific octopus - the largest of all octopi - wolf eels, unlimed sponges, of rock fish, fish eating anemones, sponges, sea cucumbers, sea pens, and sunstars.

Photo: Neil Havers



Gorgonian Coral

Photo: John Rawlings

A rarity in North America is the area's Gorgonian coral. The corals are found throughout the Tahsis Narrows, particularly at Mozino Point. The abundance of life and color makes this some of the best diving on the island.

With over 200 shipwrecks, Vancouver's Island's Nootka Sound and Esperanza Inlet are a "must see" for divers world-wide.

SPELUNKING

Sometimes referred to as the "Island of Caves", Vancouver Island comes riddled with over 1,000 caves - more than any other area in Canada - with the Upana Caves near Gold River being among the most spectacular. So spectacular in fact that Gold River, with more than fifty caves nearby, serves as home to the B.C. Speleological Federation for the scientific study of natural caves.



The Upana Caves is an underground adventure surrounded by honeycombed limestone rock. There are, both, easily accessible caves and extreme caves. The harder, deeper caves should only be attempted by expert cavers with the proper equipment and skills.

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Grieg Seafood BC Ltd.

Operating in BC for 16 years, Grieg’s salmon farms are in Nootka Sound and Esperanza Inlet on the west coast of Vancouver Island, and Clio & Okisollo Channels on the east coast of the Island.

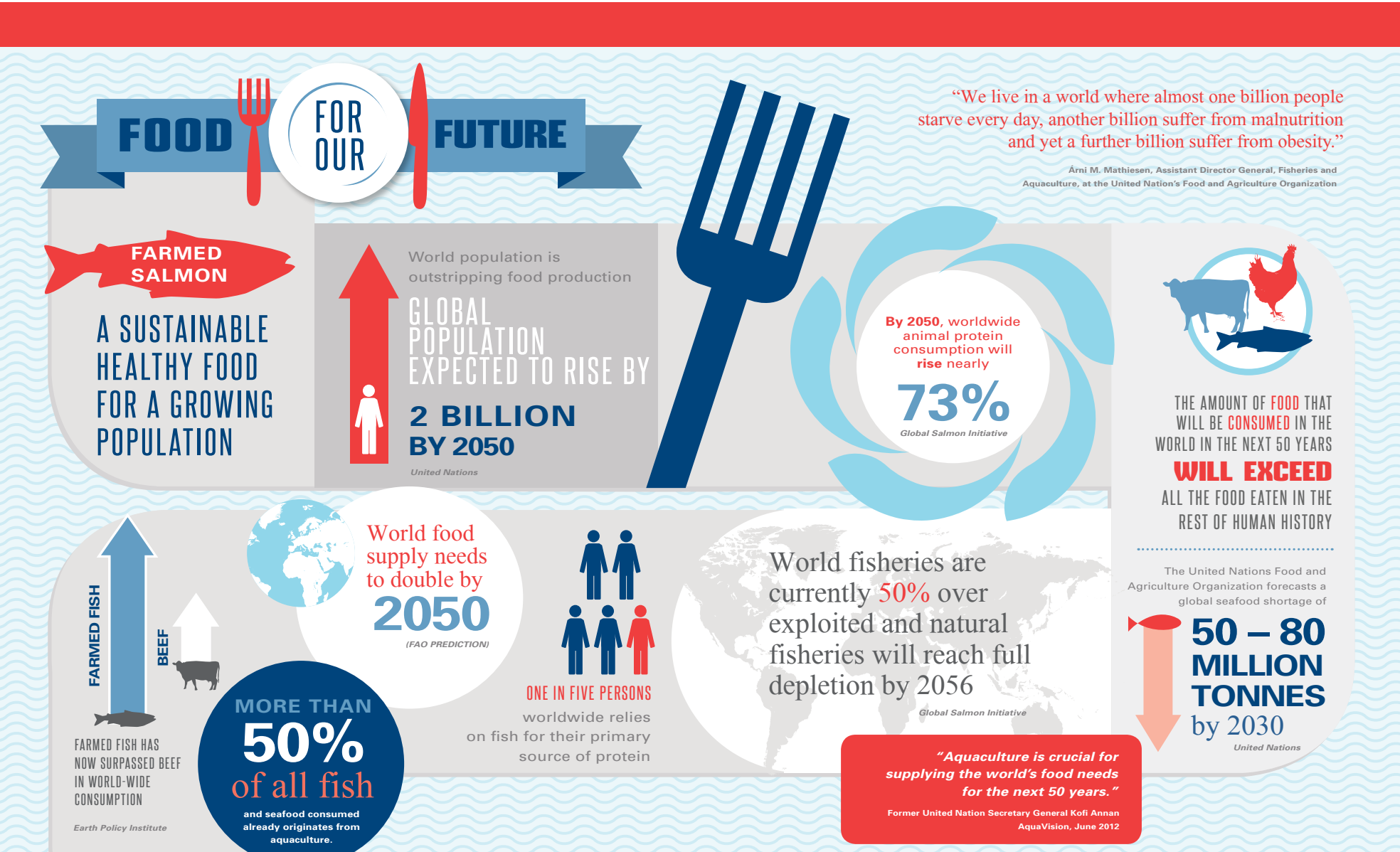
We also manage farms near Sechelt on the Sunshine Coast, 75 miles north of Vancouver. Grieg’s proximity to its primarily Canadian and U.S. markets means fresh salmon is available year around to national grocery store chains and seafood buyers on behalf of fine-dining white tablecloth restaurants throughout North America.

The town of Gold River is home to Grieg’s freshwater hatchery. Like many other coastal communities closest to farm sites, its businesses provide a range of services including transportation, equipment maintenance, water taxi, dive & net repair services, catering and fuel deliveries in support of the aquaculture industry. The MV Uchuck III delivers supplies and fish feed to Grieg’s west coast farms. We employ full-time more than 100 persons from more than a dozen rural aboriginal and non-aboriginal communities. Excluding payroll, Grieg contributes nearly \$70 million annually to regional businesses and contractors, most of them family-owned small enterprises.

Grieg’s head office is in Campbell River. Our 20 employees work in areas of accounting & finance, human resources, operational management, regulatory and fish health.



Aquaculture jobs provide sustainable employment for a young workforce.





First Nation Partnerships

BC's aquaculture companies operate their salmon farms in partnerships with First Nations in whose territories the farms are located. Grieg's aboriginal employees work at its head office, hatchery and farm locations. 10% of our workforce is aboriginal persons mostly from nearby First Nations communities.

Aboriginal leaders have supported Grieg's programs to provide aquaculture training to their members, who have then secured full-time employment with Grieg and other seafood companies. Our involvement in area career fairs ensures that we can promote the range of jobs available in aquaculture, including farm technicians, farm managers, veterinary services, fish health (lab) technicians, environmental monitoring staff, human resources, accounting and business development.

Many of the aboriginal businesses providing services to the aquaculture sector include water taxi, smolt transport and harvest vessels.

Certified in Best Salmon Farming Practices

In 2013, Grieg became the first aquaculture company in the world to be awarded the prestigious Global Aquaculture Alliance's 'Best Aquaculture Practices' (BAP) certification for multiple-site farms. Best Aquaculture Practices is an international certification program that is science-based and applies continuously improved global performance standards for the entire aquaculture supply chain – farms, hatcheries, processing plants and feed mills. BAP certification assures that healthy foods are produced through environmentally and socially responsible means. Their salmon standard was developed by a committee of diverse stakeholders including leading progressive environmental and advocacy organizations. The Global Aquaculture Alliance's (GAA) review process involved an audit of Grieg's environmental, social, food safety, animal welfare and traceability processes and systems and included visits to its farms for rigorous review of its activities. To maintain the certification status, Grieg's farms must be re-audited and re-visited every year by a GAA auditor.

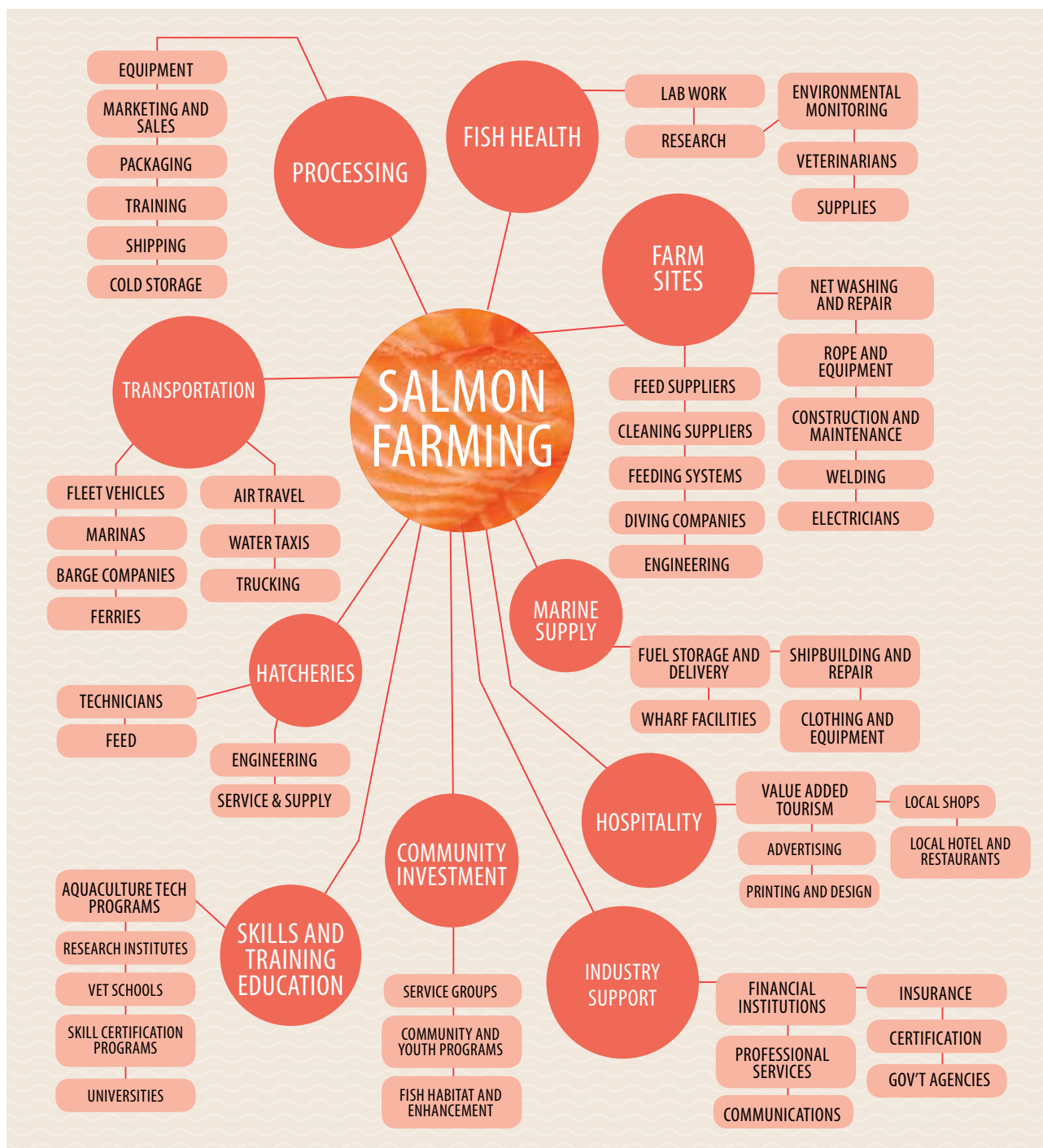
Grieg is also pursuing certification under the Aquaculture Stewardship Council's ASC standard, which standard was co-developed by the World Wildlife Fund.

Participating in Communities

In 2015, Grieg contributed more than \$100,000 in cash and in-kind support to 100 community organizations and societies on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast. In addition to sponsoring fundraising dinners for salmon enhancement societies, we sponsored sports tournaments, fishing derbies, arts & culture festivals, First Nations sport events, and health-related charitable fundraisers.

Our employees volunteer at events such as Canada Day salmon barbecues, Seafood & Salmon Festival and Campbell River's annual Oceans Day which promotes awareness of protecting our oceans and ocean life. Grieg staff coach hockey teams, volunteer with area fire departments and are members of various Boards of Directors contributing to the health and care of their communities.

SALMON FARMING'S RIPPLE EFFECT



INTERNATIONAL SALMON FARMERS ASSOCIATION

Jobs in the Aquaculture Industry

As regulations governing BC's aquaculture industry are the most rigorous in the world, training and technical knowledge of its staff is of highest importance. Salmon farmers, also known as aquaculture technicians, have advanced computer skills for the purpose of managing extensive fish health data. Science courses to understand the biology of salmonids, feeding and nutrition of salmon, fish health and husbandry are required of all farm employees, as well as first aid, boating, marine and safety skills. Other skilled workers in the industry include veterinarians, lab technicians, production managers as well as financial, health and safety and human resource professionals.

Tim Johnson,
Mowachaht Muchalaht
First Nation





Cruising aboard the MV Uchuck III is a great way to see marine wildlife in their natural habitat.



SEA OTTER

Sea otters are the smallest of marine mammals. A fully grown sea otter is the size of a German Shepherd dog, and can weigh up to 45 kg.

Sea otters depend upon a thick fur coat and a high body temperature to stay warm in their chilly ocean environment. They have the thickest fur of any mammal, up to 160,000 hairs per square cm. To maintain their high body temperature, sea otters eat up to 1/4 of their weight in food each day.

Sea otters are often confused with their smaller cousin, the river otter, which despite the name, are often found in the marine environment. You may see river otters running along rocky shores or snoozing on docks.

Female sea otters bear a single pup, usually in early spring. The pup is normally born at sea and remains with its mother for

about 6 months. The males are not involved in raising the young.

Sea otters are fairly social animals, so it is not uncommon to see a group, or raft, of up to 100 male or female sea otters.

Sea otters feed on invertebrates, animals such as snails, clams, octopus, crabs, mussels and sea urchins. Sea urchins are grazers, and eat kelp. Sea urchins can devour entire kelp forests, creating areas devoid of seaweed, and are called "urchin barrens".

By eating urchins, sea otters increase the abundance of kelp, which increases near shore productivity and provides an important habitat and nursery area for many species of fish. When sea otters were hunted to extinction on our coast, the

near shore ecosystem was likely altered in a dramatic manner.

Sea otters were once common throughout coastal areas of the north Pacific, ranging from northern Mexico to Northern Japan. They were hunted to the brink of extinction, in an intense maritime fur trade which lasted from the 1700's until the early 1900's.

Sea otters were legally protected in 1911, with less than 2000 sea otters remaining throughout their range. The last known otter to inhabit British Columbian waters was shot off of Grassy Island, near Kyuquot, in 1929.

Sea otters were re-introduced to British Columbia from 1969 to 1972. A total of 89 sea otters, captured in Alaska, were released in the Bunsby Islands, just northwest of Kyuquot. The population has grown at a rate of about 19% per year. In 1995, there were at least 1450 sea otters along the west coast of Vancouver Island, many of which live within the area the Uchuck travels.

So keep your eyes peeled... these engaging animals, which are surprisingly common along the Uchuck's route, are actually one of Canada's rarest marine mammals.

CALIFORNIA SEA LION

The California Sea Lion occurs from Baja California to Alaska. This playful, noisy, exuberant, quick learner is the "trained seal" of the circus. It is highly adaptable to any surrounding and use a variety of habitats. When resting on rocks or beaches they point their noses skyward and may be seen laying atop one another. When at sea they raft together, playing and leaping clear of the surface. Their long fore flippers enable them to make powerful strokes while swimming and they may reach speeds of 25 mph. They are v e r y vocal and bark like dogs; the pups have a bleat-like call. The California Sea Lion preys on schooling fish, rockfish, squid, flatfish, hake, lamprey, dogfish and salmon.



HUMPBACK WHALE

This whale is black with white patches on the flippers, bottom surface of the tail flukes and body. Males average 47 feet; females, 49 feet. Weight ranges from 25-45 tons. The head is flattened and the flippers are the biggest of any species.

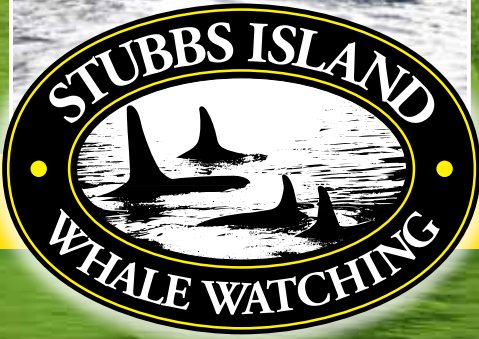
They are highly acrobatic animals who breach repeatedly and have a spectacular blow of 10-13 feet ending in a beautiful haze of spray. They feed on krill and schooling fish such as herring, mackerel and cod. The humpback is usually found in small groups but have been known to be as large as 200.

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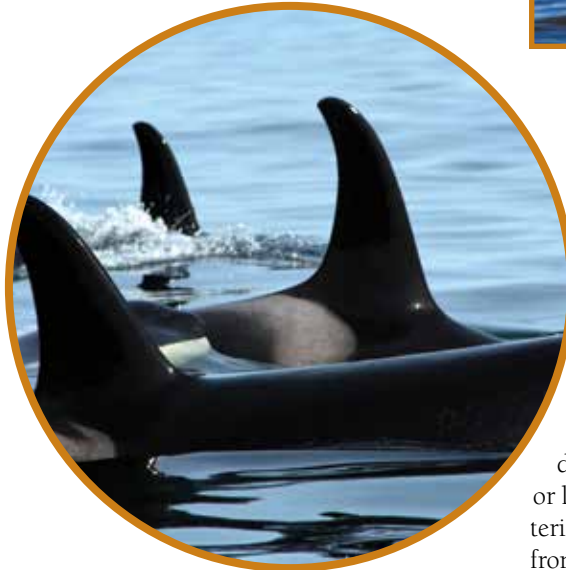


Humpbacks are accessible to whale watchers. Humpback Whales mate every 2+ years and after a year's gestation period a 15 foot, 2 ton calf is born. Due to commercial whaling, less than 2000 of these whales are found in the northern Pacific. Now an endangered and protected species, the numbers are slowly increasing.

KILLER WHALE (ORCA)

The killer whale is the largest dolphin; a shiny, black creature with white patches above and behind each eye, on the chin and throat extending along the belly. The body is robust and powerful with a blunt, round head and slight beak. The male averages 27 feet and weighs up to 11 tons; the female 23 feet, 8 tons.

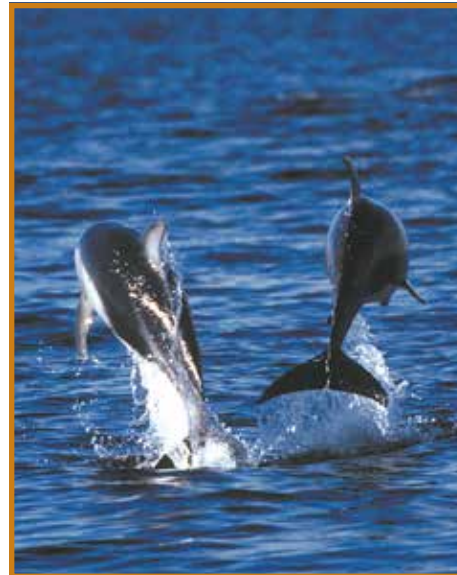
The orca is an extremely fast swimmer, exceeding speeds of 30 mph, it spyhops and breaches often, making it a wonder for whale watchers. Its blow is up to 10 feet high and often has a loud, explosive sound.



This intelligent creature remains in a family pod of 5 to 20 for all of its life. They will eat anything that swims or floats (except humans) including seabirds, turtles, other cetaceans (including great whales), seals, sea lions, all types of fish and squid. The orca has 3 basic sound types including a click, whistle and a scream.

GRIZZLY BEARS

are not native to Vancouver Island but they are nearby. They are found all along BC's North-west Coast. Most notably, Knight Inlet, is home to Glendale Cove which boasts one of the largest concentration of grizzly bears in British Columbia. The cove offers nutrient rich sedge grass in the spring and early summer, an abundance of berries in the late summer and fall, and of course, the large run of salmon up the Glendale River which is the bears' staple diet before hibernating for the winter. Wilderness tour operators can whisk you into the area to witness this amazing site.



A population of 260 killer whales frequent the waters of the BC coast. They are listed as not threatened but reduced salmon stocks may be affecting the growth of northwest populations.

DOLPHIN

Pacific White-sided Dolphins have a dark grey or black back broken by white or light grey stripes along the flank characterizing this dolphins coloring. The beak, front edge of dorsal fin, flippers and flukes are dark; the belly white.

This fast, powerful swimmer loves to bow ride and surf; they often leap and somersault. They are nearly always found in groups of less than 50 animals. Primary foodstuff is squid and small fish. This animal is considered common and not endangered.

BALD EAGLE

This large eagle is a blackish colour with a white head and tail and a heavy yellow bill. The call is a squeaky cackling with thin squeals. Look for eagle nests in tall trees or on top of a cliff; here two or three white eggs are laid. This bird is primarily a fish eater but also eats carrion and crippled waterfowl.



BLACK BEAR

The black bear is a bulky and thickset mammal. Approximately 150 cm long and with a height at the shoulder that varies from 100 to 120 cm, an adult black bear has a moderate-sized head with a rather straight facial profile and a tapered nose with long nostrils. The ears are rounded and the eyes small. The tail is very short and inconspicuous.

A black bear has feet that are well furred on which it can walk with the entire bottom portion of the foot touching the ground. They are very strong and can be seen digging along the shoreline turning over boulders and tearing out roots, stumps, and old logs when searching for food.

The normal colour is black with a brownish muzzle and frequently a white patch below the throat or across the chest.



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Along The Route



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Along the Route...

Freight being dropped off at a logging camp in Nootka Sound.



Early morning mist shrouds the forested shoreline departing Kyuquot, entering Esperanza Inlet.

Commercial fishing boat at dock in Kyuquot.



Log booms dot the coast at active logging sites.



Fish farms are situated in remote locations throughout Nootka Sound.



Rafts of otter are abundant in Tahsis Inlet.

Ancient totem lying on the forest floor at Friendly Cove.



Photo courtesy Air Nootka

GOLD RIVER

Gold River is located at the west end of Highway 28, a scenic one hour drive from Campbell River. Many visitors use it as a base for exploring the surrounding wilderness and rainforest trails, accessing the Nootka Trail, or as a gateway to Nootka Sound.

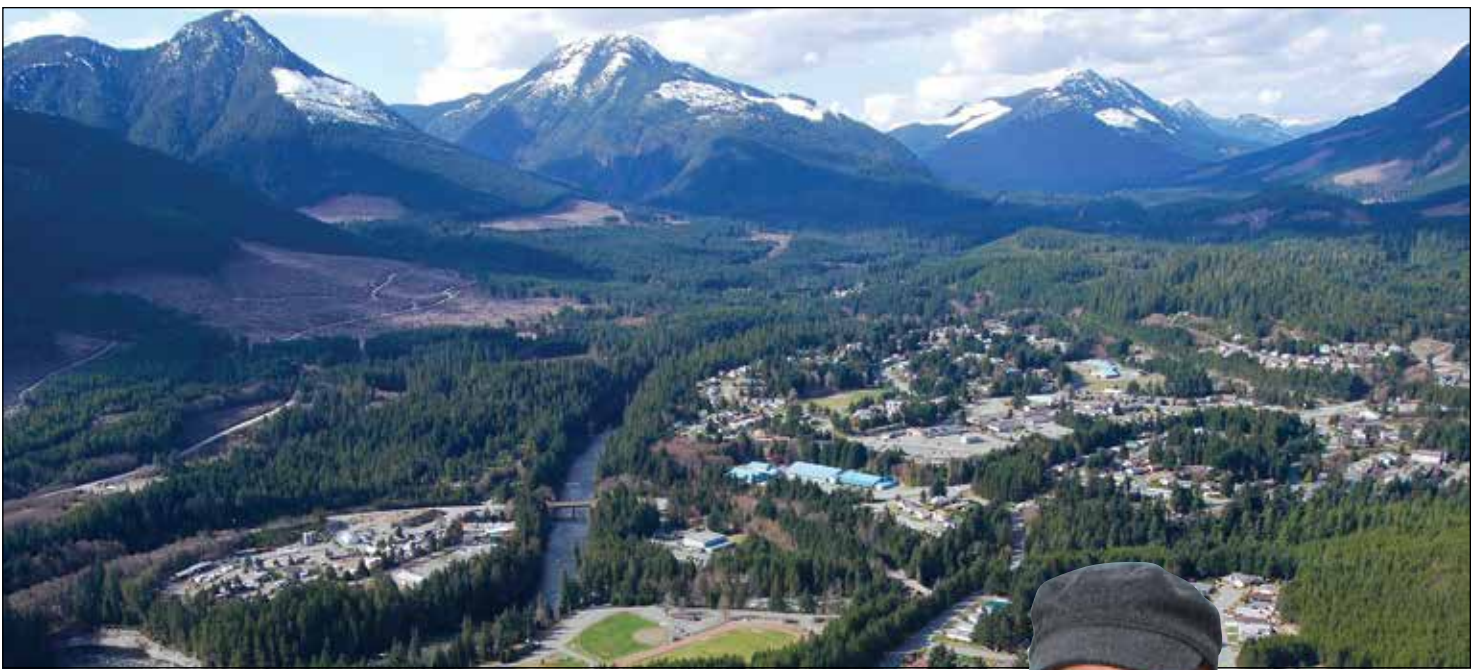
The Municipal Wharf at Gold River is home port to the MV Uchuck III, Air Nootka seaplane service, and the launch point for sportsfishing enthusiasts.

Gold panning attracted Chinese miners into the traditional territory of the Mowachaht and Muchalaht peoples in the 1860s, and the name Gold River first appeared on maps in 1871.

In the early 1960s the Tahsis company logged at the mouth of the river. In 1964 they began building a 750 ton-a-day bleached kraft pulp mill there, because of the flat delta land, the deep-sea access for ocean-going freighters, and the steady source of water.

The Company also selected a site eight miles east of the mill on which to build a town to service the needs of the mill and in 1965 Gold River, a resource-based community appeared; it was Canada's first all-electric town, and the first in Canada with underground wiring. Incorporated in 1965 as a District, it re-incorporated itself in 1972 as the Village Municipality of Gold River.

In the late 1980s, the mill added a paper manufacturing component, thus creating a short-term building boom and increasing employment. However, newsprint prices soon collapsed amid a glut of new supply, the cost of wood chips increased, and high interest rates proved so crippling that in 1993 paper production shut down. In 1998 the original mill ceased operations



permanently.

As working families moved away, many of the houses in the town were sold at auction- some to Europeans. Since then Gold River has reinvented itself as a west coast tourism hub.

Recently the focus of the local economy has diversified to include adventure tourism, capitalizing on the incredible natural surroundings of the village and region.

Each year, hundreds of new visitors discover why this region is considered "The Cave Capital of Canada". The Upana Caves are easily accessible and offer novices a safe, self-guided introduction to the sport of spelunking. If you would rather get your exercise above ground, choose from rock climbing at Crest Creek Crags, mountain biking on one of the most challenging trail systems in Western Canada, or hike one of our many picturesque trails.

For wildlife viewing opportunities, take a prearranged tour of the Conuma Hatchery located 36.5 km past the Gold River Info Centre to watch them spawning; visit the Conuma River Estuary via the Moutcha Bay access road to catch a glimpse of black bear, elk or black-tailed deer.

Gold River continues to impress fisherman with consistently large and lengthy runs of Chinook, Coho, Sockeye and Chum Salmon. Fisher men and women can enjoy sheltered, relaxed fishing in the protected waters of Nootka Sound or they can venture off-shore to enjoy a true wild west coast fishing or marine wildlife adventure.

Visitors to Gold River have a number of choices for accommodation in hotels and B&B's as well as great restaurants to enjoy and galleries that exhibit the work of local artists. Other amenities include a Visitor Center, two campgrounds, aquatic and community centre, golf course, service stations, grocery store, liquor store, post office, drug store as well as



Photo: Neil Havers

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Village of Gold River



The Gold River is famous for steelhead and salmon fishing. This is a fly fisherman's paradise. It also offers up deep pools to cool off in the summer months.

other shopping opportunities. Continued on page 20.

Within the community there are baseball fields, basketball and tennis courts, playgrounds, churches and incredible hiking and biking trails. So for a day trip or a longer excursion check out Gold River and the surrounding area. Consider also a visit to Antler Lake, Star Lake and Scout Lake.

For more information contact the
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THE ARTISTS OF GOLD RIVER

While in Gold River we invite you to discover the creative and diverse artwork that is inspired by the natural beauty and history of our area. As you enter town you will notice a large carved boot which commemorates the 'Great Walk' from Gold River to Tahsis. The creator, Lee Yateman, using a chainsaw, skillfully carves anything from boots to bears. He has carved custom items such as turtles, monkeys and a life size miner. You can view more of his work at www.gogetlee.com.

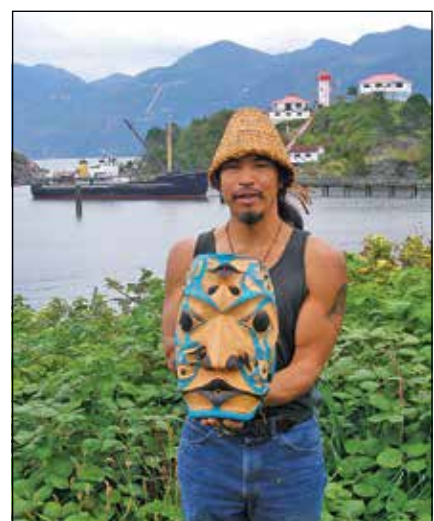
Clayworks Café & Gallery (and the studio of North Island Clayworks) is located on the corner of Muchalat and Industrial Park Place, just over the Gold River on your way to the waterfront. Customers are greeted with the aroma of fresh organic coffee, home-made baking, fresh soups and sandwiches as well as a full breakfast menu. The artists display and sell their pottery throughout the Cafe. Their studio is located next door and they offer tours to visitors who are interested in seeing a demonstration at the potter's wheel or would like to learn more about the process. Their gallery also supports the work of other local artists in the form of photography, paintings, cards, cranberry preserves and wood turning. You may find the perfect gift or a keepsake of your trip to Gold River at Clayworks Café & Gallery. Visit their website at www.clayworkscfe.com or like them on Facebook.

The Art Center is located in the Village Square Plaza and features the work of some of the local amateur and professional fine artists. Drop by the Arts Center to see the artists at work.

If you are making the trip to Friendly Cove don't miss the handcrafted work of local native artist **Sanford Williams**. In the summer months Sanford makes Friendly Cove his home. Visit Sanford at the Cove and see him carving a mask or any other piece that he may be working on. www.sanfordwilliams.com

Bill Maximick, a prominent West Coast marine artist resides in the Comox Valley. He has been painting images of Nootka Sound and the MV Uchuck III since his first commission in the early 1980s. To date he has created close to a dozen paintings of the Uchuck. Over the years he would help out on board, taking trips to enable himself to photograph the west Coast he loves which is reflected in his many paintings.

You can visit him in his gallery in Courtenay, BC or see his work at www.billmaximick.com.



First Nation's Artist Sanford Williams makes Friendly Cove his summer home where he spends his time carving masks and sculptures.

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The MV Uchuck III



MV Uchuck I shown towing the hull of the future MV Uchuck III.

THE MV UCHUCK III

Continued from page 4

A Vancouver dockyard had stripped the vessel of its mine sweeping equipment after it had arrived in 1948, and in 1951 the Uchuck I went to Vancouver to tow the hull and superstructure of the minesweeper to Port Alberni. The conversion mirrored that done on the Uchuck II but became complicated when finding parts became more and more difficult, but luckily, Victoria's Capital Iron Works broke up old ships and sold off parts.

Mast derricks and life boats came from the CPR Princess Mary, engine room telegraph and steering came from the Princess Victoria (a River Clyde vessel) that had sailed around Cape Horn in 1904, cargo winches from the Princess of Alberni, and other bits and pieces from twenty or so other ships.

The main engines, two 500 h.p. 8-268A Cleveland Diesels came from a US Navy Sub Chaser.

Upon completion the Uchuck III could move along at twelve knots, and carry up to 100 day-passengers and 70 tons of general cargo including three or four cars.

On August 1, 1955 the M.V. Uchuck III went into service on the Ucluelet run, the Uchuck II moved to the Bamfield run, and the Uchuck I was laid up and sold the following year. By the 1950s roads began to come into some West Coast communities and when logging roads on either side of the Island Mountains connected such coastal communities as Ucluelet and Tofino with Port Alberni, Uchuck traffic dropped dramatically.

The Uchuck II moved to Nootka Sound in March, 1960, to begin the first sched-

uled run made possible by a three mile government built link which joined the roads of two forest company systems and thus provided access to the head of Muchalat Arm from Campbell River. At this time Nootka Sound and adjoining arms and inlets had the Tahsis Sawmill started by the Gibson Brothers in the late 1930s, an old shutdown mine at Zeballos, a Mission Hospital at Esperanza, here and there a few small logging operations, and a larger one at Gold River. At first traffic remained predictably light, but slowly the new service caught hold and traffic increased. Though the Uchuck III finished her last run in Barkley Sound on June 10, 1960, the service did not end.

Two former employees of the Company, Dick McMinn and John Monrufet, continued it by chartering the Uchuck I for a time, and then chartering and later buying the M.V. Lady Rose. They operated it for the next 25 years before selling out to one of their employees, Brooke George, who operates the service today.

Murray Marine Services of Alert Bay chartered the underused Uchuck II to run from Kelsey Bay to Port McNeill, Beaver Cove, Alert Bay and Sointula, replacing the Lady Rose which moved down to Barkely Sound.

In 1961 the Uchuck II returned to Port Alberni and for the next four years the vessels alternated in Nootka Sound, the Uchuck III in the summer when traffic was heavy, and the Uchuck II in winter when traffic was lighter. In 1966 the Provincial Government bought the Uchuck II which after being converted, became the Sointula Queen and ran children from Sointula and Alert Bay to Port McNeill until July of

1973.

Changes were coming, in 1979 the shipping company itself changed hands when Dave Young and Walt Winkler bought the shares of George McCandless, the survivor of the original partnership. In 1980 the Senior Surveyor of Canadian Steamship Inspection advised that he would soon have difficulty certifying the Uchuck III to carry passengers and that thought should be given to acquiring another vessel.

With nothing available in North America that could be dropped into place, with the cost of refitting an older vessel too great, and with the cost of a new vessel out of the question, the Company decided to go with the "devil it knew", and embarked on a twelve-year rebuilding program. In consultation with Canadian Steamship Inspection, the upgrading of the Uchuck III took place at her annual refits and inspection periods so as not to interfere with scheduling.

The vessel received new hull planking above the waterline and on the main deck, new engines, winches, wiring and electronics. Very modern castings effectively stopped water leakage, the killer of wooden vessels. All interior spaces were refurbished and refinished. Today, the Uchuck III is in better condition than ever.

In 1982 the service expanded to include

Kyuquot Sound. The B.C. Ferry Corporation, a new charterer, wanted to combine two subsidized runs by eliminating the Fair Harbour to Kyuquot service.

This arrangement worked out well: the chartering corporation paid less in total but more to Nootka Sound Service, and thus eased the strain of the early '80s recession which coincided with the rebuilding

In 1994 the company changed hands again with Dave Young and Walt Winkler stepping out. Fred and Sean Mather and Alberto Giroto stepped in and today the MV Uchuck III loads cargo for logging camps, fish farms and communities in Nootka and Kyuquot Sound. Year round they provide passenger service, accommodating traveling tourists wishing to explore this historic area.

Chief Engineer Frank Crowther



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Early Exploration



IN 1774 THE SPANISH BECAME THE FIRST EUROPEANS TO SIGHT THE ENTRANCE OF NOOTKA SOUND

When the *Santiago*, out of Monteray and under Captain Juan Perez, anchored off Nootka at Estevan Point which he named Punta San Esteban after one of his officers Esteban Jose Martinez.

Here he traded with the First Nations people for furs, but made no landing. Because the Spanish did not actually land and then take formal possession, the British would not acknowledge Spanish sovereignty over the area. This exploration oversight would later prove costly to Spain.

On March 29, 1778, in search of the Northwest Passage, Captain James Cook with two vessels, the *Resolution* and the *Discovery* sailed into Nootka Sound looking for a sheltered bay in which to make repairs.

As Cook's ships arrived the Nootka people came out to meet them in canoes; this meeting was the first cultural exchange here between one of the more powerful First Nation's groups and Europeans.

On March 31, Captain Cook anchored in Resolution Cove and while repairs on the ships continued, trading took place between the natives and Cook's men. The Nootka offered various animal skins for trade, particularly the sea otter, but also offered such goods as carvings, spears and fish hooks. In exchange they wanted knives, chisels, nails, buttons and any kind of metal.

The presence of iron among the Nootkas amazed both Cook and his men and the origin of this iron has never been traced, but may have come about through an overland trade route already established by the Nootka. They used a trail from Tahsis up the Tahsis Valley to Woss Lake; from there to the Nimpkish River and onto Nimpkish Lake they traded with east coast Vancouver Island natives, who in turn traded with groups on the Mainland.

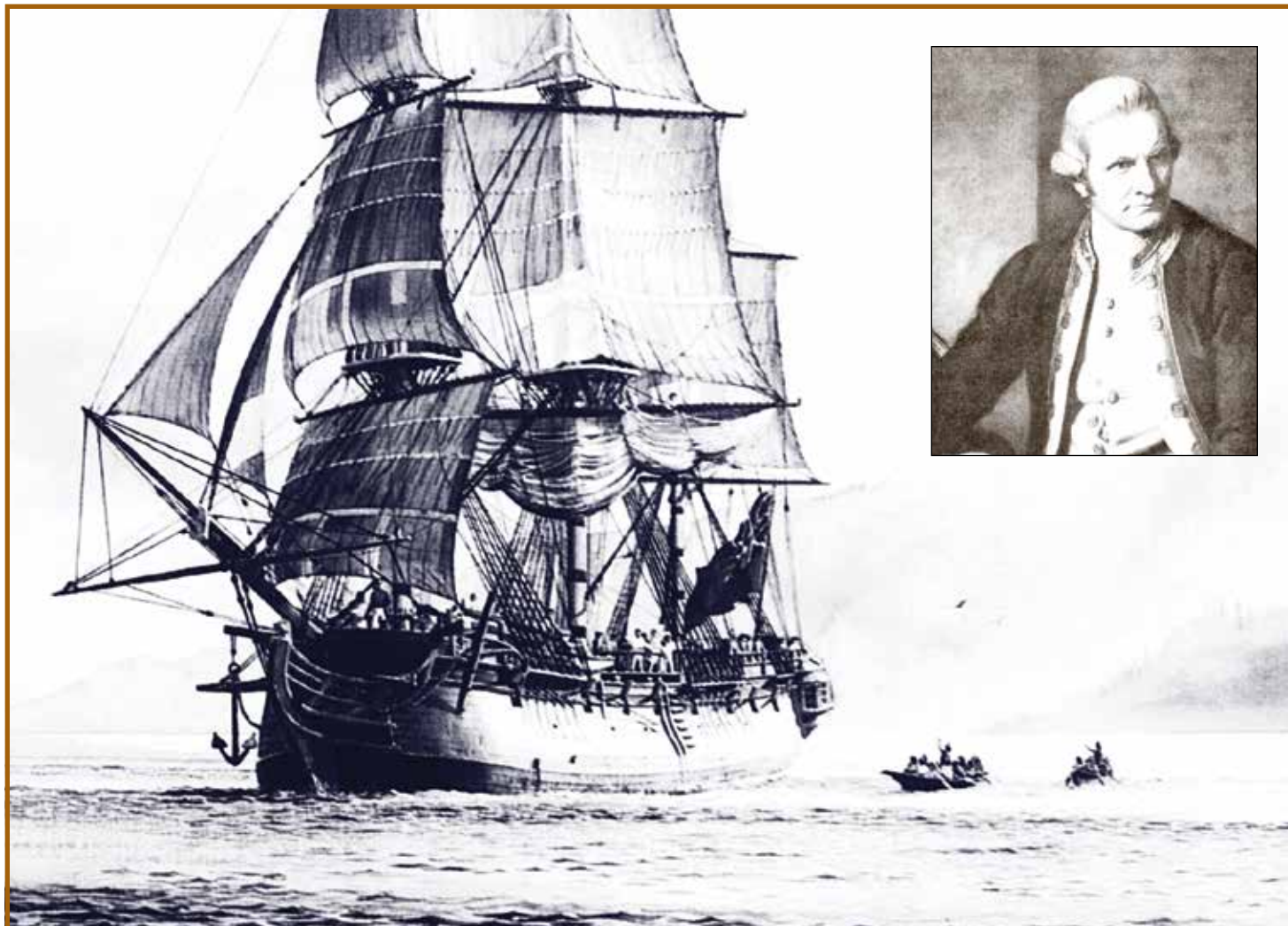
Repairs finished, Cook explored the rest of Nootka Sound, stopping at the Nootkan Village of Yuquot where John Webber, his shipboard artist, made water-colours of the sights and peoples. His illustrations provide a fairly accurate picture of both the dwellings and the way the life among the people at that time.

After almost a month in Nootka Sound, Cook and his ships left the area laden with furs and a better understanding of the Nootkan people. Once back in England, news spread of Cook's expedition and the high prices paid in the Far East for their sea otter pelts. This news particularly excited fur traders; Cook's maps and observations helped open up the Pacific Coast to further trade and exploration.

Unfortunately, Cook, didn't see the results of his findings: he had been killed in the Hawaiian Islands in February, 1779.

In 1785, British Captain James Hanna from China in the *Harmon* became the first commercial fur trader to arrive in Nootka, the first of hundreds who would make their way to the West Coast as a result of the published accounts of Cook's voyage.

Hanna's second trip, on the *Sea Otter*, was not so successful because he had been



Captain James Cook and his ship 'The Discovery'.

beaten there by the Captain Cook and the *Enterprise* which had bought up all the skins. On departing, the owner of the vessels left John Mackay with Maquinna and thus Mackay became the first white resident of British Columbia.

During this period both Spain and Britain sought to expand their colonial possessions and, as a result, Nootka Sound and the North Pacific region became important in the plans of both of them. The Russians also recognized the political value of the area, but the Americans, while seeing political advantages, seemed interested in only its commercial viability.

Many British expeditions, after Cook, arrived to trade with the Nootka. One expedition, commanded by John Meares, arrived in 1786; then in 1788, Meares built a small trading post at Friendly Cove. The Spanish, like the British, realized the importance of the area with its rich resource of sea otter pelts and lands to conquer. Their desire to solidify Spanish sovereignty there was further threatened by the movement of Russian explorers down the coast after the same prizes. Therefore, they decided to build a fort at Friendly Cove.

In 1789 Esteban Jose Martinez returned to build that fort. He wasted no time in establishing one at Friendly Cove, but for no known reason abandoned it a few months after arriving. Some months after his departure however, Spain re-established the fort. In 1790 Francisco de Eliza accompanied by three ships, arrived in Nootka; a small Spanish village soon arose on the shores of Friendly Cove.

With both the Spanish and the British claiming the area, tensions quickly grew. During Martinez's brief stay in 1789 he had not only built a fort, but had also seized British ships, stating that the vessels were violating Spanish sovereignty.

These events triggered the Nootka Controversy, which brought the two countries close to war. Spain claimed the territory as a result of the Perez expedition of 1774; Britain based its claim on Cook's actual arrival at Nootka in 1778 and on Meares' purchase of land from Maquinna in 1788.

The first Nootka Convention of 1790 partly resolved the impasse. France, Spain's traditional ally, was involved in the French Revolution and would be of little help, thus Spain returned all seized property and recognized that the West Coast was now open to both Spanish and British traders.

Though war no longer threatened, many unresolved disputes still existed over the territory. In 1792, Britain sent Captain George Vancouver to meet with Bodega y Quadra, the new Spanish commander of Nootka. Though friendly, they could come to no agreement on behalf of their respective countries. Vancouver further ascertained that Spain would not fight for Nootka, and that trade was now the main Spanish focus.

In Paris, in 1793 Britain and Spain signed a second Nootka Convention and trade at Nootka continued to flourish. In 1794 they signed the third and final Nootka Convention. The following year with Spain's

colonial empire in decline, the Spanish dismantled their fort at Nootka, and thus gave the British sovereignty over the area.

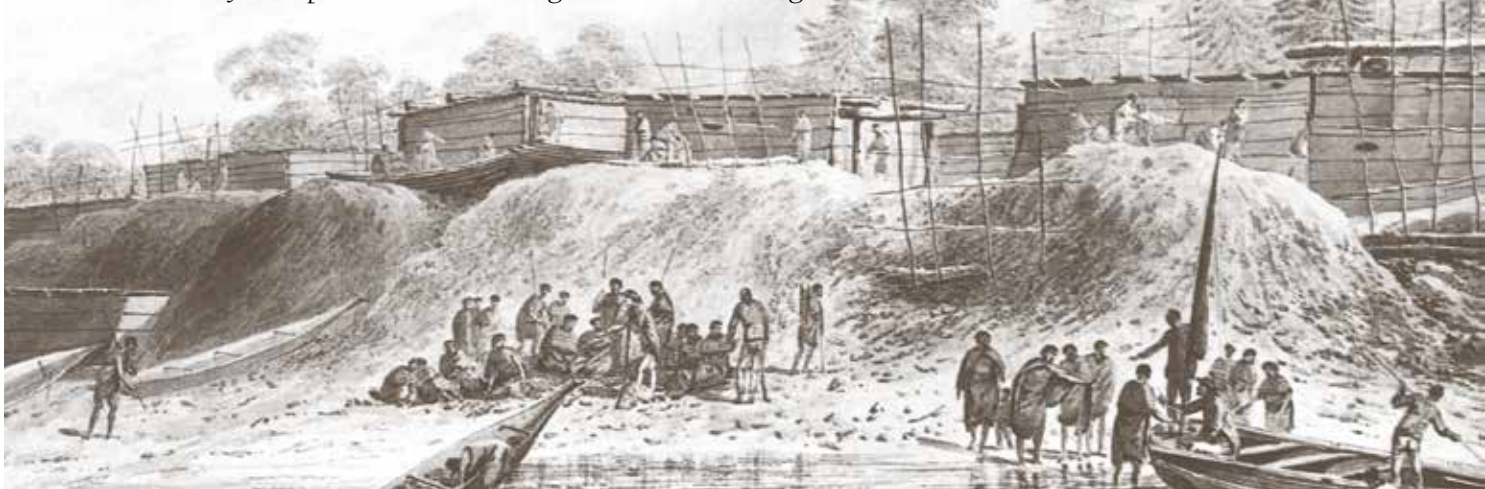
For twenty years the Nootka people and Friendly Cove had been the centre of Pacific coastal trade. Maquinna had become one of the most powerful and famous of the Northwest Coastal chiefs. Despite European influences, the culture of Maquinna's people had changed very little, although they had come to rely on the goods obtained through the fur trade.

Nevertheless, despite the changes there was no lack of controversy. In 1803, the *Boston* under Captain Salter was anchored some three kilometres up the inlet from Friendly Cove. After quarreling with Captain Salter, Maquinna led an assault and killed all but two of the crew. One of them was a sailmaker named Thompson and the other was John Jewitt, a metal worker. Both became Maquinna's slaves for nearly three years, until rescued by Captain Hill of the brig 'Lydia' out of Boston.

After being liberated Jewitt published a story about his experiences.

By the early 1800's, with the decline of that important fur trade, Nootka Sound faded into obscurity. With the sea otters nearly wiped out, even more drastic changes would occur with the coming of permanent settlements on the West Coast. Nevertheless, the profusion of Spanish names on the map of B.C.'s coast will always remind travelers of the coast's early international history.

Early European traders arriving at a Nootkan Village.





The Art of the Load

Story: Alberto Girotto Photo: Neil Havers



THE ART of the LOAD

The MV Uchuck III has been moving cargo for over 60 years. Today, it is a highlight experience for our guests.

At first you might think there isn't much to moving cargo, but there is an art to it. The Kyuquot trip for example, is always our busiest trip for cargo. As we do this trip once a week our customers count on us to get their freight to them in a timely fashion and in good order.

Although the Uchuck is 140' in length there is only so much room for cargo. Everything has to fit and be organised for loading and off-loading in an orderly fashion to accommodate the many stops we make on our routes. This process is what we call the "Art of the Load".

The Mate onboard is in charge of the loading process and generally has the final decision on where and how the cargo is stored (below and on-deck) prior to sailing. If the Captain is concerned with the way any freight has been loaded he will overrule the Mate. More often than not, this is not the case.

Prior to loading, the Mate reviews the cargo and paperwork onboard, where it is going and how much of it. From there, a cargo plan is discussed between the Mate, Deckhand and dock staff and the loading begins.

The winches or cranes on the MV Uchuck III are union purchase in configuration where the operator runs two cables from two electric motors; one on the port and one on the starboard side of the vessel. The operator raises the cable on one side and lowers the cable on the other side

to create the lateral movement required for moving cargo. Though this process is efficient, very few ships in the modern era use this loading system for cargo. With the union purchase system the MV Uchuck can lift up to 10,000 lbs on any one lift.

In general, freight that is long or cumbersome goes on deck. The remaining cargo goes below into our cargo hold where it can be stacked and secured for transportation. Perishable items, such as dairy products, meat and produce must be hand stowed into freezer and cooler units also located in the hold.

The mate primarily runs the cargo winches onboard the MV Uchuck III and has to consider the different shapes, weights and sizes during the loading process. When the ship leaves port it must be trim; meaning not overweight or loaded heavier to either the port or starboard side.

Some of the cargo you will generally see transported includes groceries, propane, lube oils, wire, fish feed, building materials, shellfish, and various parts and furniture to name a few. The oddest cargo ever shipped onboard; portable toilets (full), beehives, a phone booth, crew cab trucks.

The MV Uchuck III leaves port with roughly 60-70 tons of cargo and makes between 8-12 stops, depending on the route. Our stops include logging camps, fish farms, fish lodges, and the communities of Tahsis, Esperanza, and Kyuquot.

What appears to be an 'Eagle's Nest' is actually coiled log boom wire.

Photo: Neil Havers



ZEBALLOS

Flanked by towering forest-cloaked mountains, Zeballos sits at the head of Zeballos Inlet, gateway to Nootka Sound, world-famous for salmon fishing and kayaking opportunities.



The inlet was named by Captain Alejandro Malaspina in 1792 after one of his lieutenants, Ciriaco Cevallos.

The discovery of gold in Zeballos in the 1920s resulted in a massive influx of miners and adventurers. The historic buildings in the village are a living reminder of those frontier days.

The small but informative Zeballos Heritage Museum tells the tales of the gold rush and the resulting boomtown with pictures and artifacts. Shady boardwalks and walking trails wind through the estuary and along the river, providing visitors with an opportunity to enjoy the native plants and wildlife of the rainforest.

The Zeballos River estuary, a bird watcher's paradise, has been designated a Wetland Reserve by the Ministry of the Environment and the Nature Trust of British Columbia. With the river running through the center of the village there's not much need for a nature channel on TV.

During the salmon spawning season in the fall, the river teems with fish. Bears and eagles that arrive to partake of the annual feast can be watched from the Sugarloaf Bridge. Trumpeter swans drift down the river, competing with the seagulls for newly laid salmon eggs.

Zeballos has become a hot spot for kayakers accessing Catala and Nuchatlitz provincial marine parks, the islands of Kyuquot Sound

and the rest of the spectacular northwest Pacific coast of Vancouver Island.

Kayaks are available for rent for visitors wanting to explore the estuary where kelp fronds sway in the waves. Kingfishers dart by as you drift in the sun while seals and sea otters pop up and down checking your progress. Eagles soar overhead while great blue herons stalk through the tidal flats. Humpback whales frequent the inlet as well.

A municipal dock can accommodate oceangoing ships, with full facilities for recreational boaters and floatplanes, including coin operated showers. A Forestry Recreation site at Fair Harbour is ideally located for continuing your adventures with explorations of Tahsis and Amai Inlets or the beautiful ocean beaches of Rugged Point Provincial Park.

For the more adventurous, Rugged Mountain and the slab in the Nomash are well-known to rock-climbing enthusiasts.

Limestone erosion along the Quatsino River has produced thousands of caves. Artlish Caves Provincial Park and Little Huson caves can be accessed just off the road into Zeballos.

For more information:
Zeballos Village Office: 250-761-4229
Zeballos Heritage Museum: 250-761-4070
www.zeballos.com

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Village of Tahsis



Photo: Neil Havers

TAHSIS

Tahsis means 'Gateway' or 'Passage' in the language of the Mowachaht First Nations people who have lived in the region for hundreds of years.

The Mowachaht maintained a permanent winter settlement in the protected inlet, and used a network of trails up the Tahsis and Nimpkish River Valleys in order to cross the mountains and trade with the native villages on the eastern side of Vancouver Island.

Located in the heart of historic Nootka Sound, this area is becoming well known for scuba diving, caving, sea kayaking, hiking, bird watching and wildlife viewing; add in excellent salt water fishing and the opportunity to land some of the largest salmon and halibut caught in B.C.

Starting in May resident six gill sharks and their inquisitive juveniles are seen regularly in 30 feet of water, right here in downtown Tahsis.

Tahsis has become known as the "Caving Capital of Canada" with its vast networks of caverns in nearby hills, including Thanksgiving Cave the longest in B.C. at 3.4 miles.

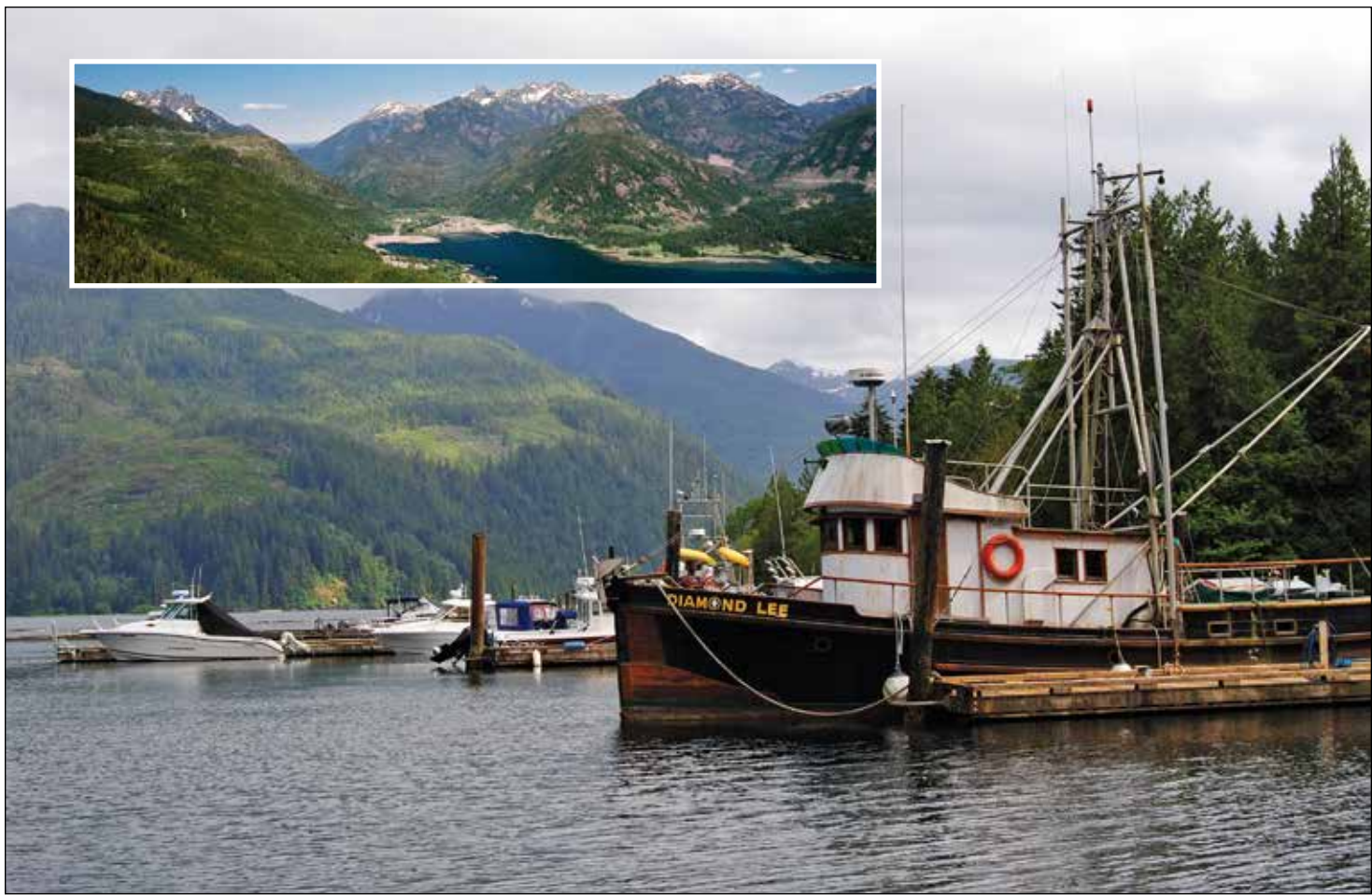
Black bears and eagles are especially plentiful and in the fall, drawn into the town site by the Chinook and Coho Salmon spawning in the Tahsis River which provides incredible photo ops.

For those who want to experience the wild Pacific coast at its most rugged, the Nootka Trail offers a challenging hike comparable to the West Coast Trail, but without the crowds, fees or reservations.

The exposed western coastline of Nootka Island provides excellent conditions for expert kayakers and surfers seeking extreme sport, with waves arriving daily from Japan, and is known as a hot spot in the world wide surfing community.

For those who prefer to explore the picturesque original townsite, there is a relaxing historical walking tour and newly established Museum depicting life as it was since the 1940s. Enjoy a leisurely stroll on the Tahsis Leiner Estuary Boardwalk Trail.

The Annual Westview Marina Fishing Derby takes place the 3rd weekend of August with anglers competing for thou-



The Village of Tahsis is a premier ecotourism destination with unparalleled outdoor recreation, stunning coastal scenery and an historic town site. Tahsis offers an abundance of nature activities for tourists and residents alike such as fishing, hiking, caving, wildlife viewing, diving and all manner of water sports.

sands of dollars in prizes. Past winners have hauled in Chinook salmon that tipped the scales at over 40 lbs.

The starting point for your adventure is the "Tree to Sea Drive, The Road to Adventure." Pick up your map at the Visitor Centre in Gold River!

For more information:

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Early morning mist in the Tahsis Inlet. Photos: Neil Havers



The Nootkan People

Photo: Neil Havers

Friendly Cove

Birthplace of British Columbia



In 1966 John Dewhirst and Bill Folan of Park's Canada conducted the archaeological Yuquot Project at Friendly Cove. Evidence indicated that indigenous people had continuously inhabited the site for the last 4,300 years.

In 1992 Yvonne Marshall, then of Simon Fraser University, enumerated 177 archaeological sites throughout Nootka Sound. These studies prove that Nootkan peoples had certainly inhabited the area long before the arrival of the first Europeans.

A Nootkan community consisted of several distinct tribal groups, each one claiming direct descent from a known ancestor. History names Maquinna as the Nootkan Chief who met James Cook, but

for generations the highest-ranking chief of the Mowachaht people bore that title, or name, "Maquinna", a man with special rights and privileges, one holding the highest place in Mowachaht society.

Nootkan villages consisted of three groups: chiefs, commoners, and slaves, the slaves being people captured during battles with other tribes, and normally being people owned only by a Chief. Members of every household accepted rank according

to their relationship to the Chief, and the Chiefs ranked from highest to lowest with Maquinna as the highest ranking Chief in the highest ranking lineage group of his community. Mobility within the kinship saw people move from house to house or even from village to village. Commoners with relatives within a household could claim residence within that household, or if they so chose could go to live elsewhere. Therefore, in order to keep his tribe strong,

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The Nootkan People



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the Chief had to win the respect, loyalty, and support of the people below him.

The various tribal groups lived along the beach in rows of large wooden houses, each with four to six families made up of direct descendants, together with a number of their relatives by marriage. Removable planks fixed to permanent frames formed large pre-fabricated bighouses, with the planks of the sloping roofs easily removed to allow smoke to escape, or on pleasant days to allow light and air to enter. When the tribe moved, they laid planks between their canoes which became platforms on which to place belongings. Once arriving at the new location, these planks fit easily into pre-existing frames to make new dwellings in which they established their home.

The Nootka people changed locations with the seasons, and upon the availability of the fish, berries, wild spuds, medicine roots, or bark and straws for weaving. They moved for instance to Yuquot (Friendly Cove) each February for spring and summer because of an abundance of fish, water, birds, seals, whales and sea otters. The men fished and hunted. The women

gathered shellfish and herring eggs from spruce boughs placed in the water, and picked the wild berries.

In late August, when the rains began, the Nootkans left Yuquot and moved from the outer coast into the nearby inlets and rivers to catch the salmon heading upstream to spawn. These they smoked and dried for winter food, but they also gathered a variety of edible roots, and formed ripened berries into dried cakes.

Toward mid-November the families moved again, to Tahsis, their winter home, where they hunted deer and bear, and fished the rivers. When rain curtailed such activities the time came for feasting and for celebrations. By late December they were back out onto the coast to take advantage of the herring runs, and by the end of February were returning once again to Yuquot.

With the Nootkan lifestyle revolving around such seasonal marine resources, Maquinna had to make certain that he controlled property rights and resources in widely spaced areas. He ensured this by making astute marriage alliances to cement loyalties. The Nootka held strongly to the concept of group ownership over individual

ownership, with his tribe collecting berries, fish, and game on the property controlled by the tribe. Once gathered, they gave it to Maquinna who in turn gave most of it back and thereby made the resources owned by one, but shared by all.

Skilled fishermen, the Nootka used a variety of traps, nets and tools but only chiefs and some selected commoners could hunt the California grey and hump-back whales. Because this dangerous work required skill, preparations began months before the actual hunt began: the hunters not only made and repaired equipment, but also performed elaborate ceremonies and rituals. By April, with preparations complete, Maquinna declared the opening of the whaling season with he, himself, leading the hunt, and his wife conducting ceremonies and spiritual preparations that began early in the morning and ended with the eating of the whale.

The Nootka enjoyed celebrations and held them often. Some marked family and individual events as well as the opening and closing of the herring or salmon seasons. The presence of guests at the feasts and ceremonies served to validate the event and amid much singing, dancing and feasting the host Chief lavished expensive gifts on his guests as thanks for their coming. In such manner he demonstrated his wealth, generosity, and prestige. The most important and elaborate celebration, the potlatch, took place when a high-ranking Chief passed to his sons any rights he himself might possess.



FIRST NATIONS TODAY

The Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation leadership is comprised of a Council of Chiefs. The community still follows the traditional hereditary chieftainship system. One of 14 member nations of the Nuuchah-nulth, the Mowachaht/Muchalaht are currently in treaty negotiations as part of the Comprehensive Land Claim that was presented to the Canadian government in 1980.

Tsaxana, the main village site of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht, is situated 3 kms north of the Village of Gold River. The first construction phase occurred in 1994 with forty-four single family units, an administration building and gymnasium that included an adult education centre and day care facility. Ten additional residences were added in 2009. A temporary Bighouse, the House of Unity, officially opened in the spring of 2011 for cultural gatherings.

Currently, the main economic activity of the community can be found in the Local Government, the forest industry and the tourism sector. The Mowachaht/Muchalaht operate the Muchalaht Marina at Ahami-naquus near the mouth of the Gold River with plans for future development. The nation also owns and manages a six rustic cabin rental business at Yuquot since 1994, offering a unique west coast experience.

One Mowachaht family still occupies Yuquot, the place most consider their homeland. This National Historic Site, the original home of Chief Maquinna and original site of the Whaler's Shrine, was once the only Spanish settlement in Canada.

In December 1996, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada re-commemorated this site, formally acknowledging the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation's history there.

In 2006, Parks Canada and the community completed plans for Niis'Maas, an interpretive centre at Yuquot. The Land of Maquinna Cultural Society, a non-profit society, carries the mandate to preserve, protect and interpret the Mowachaht/Muchalaht's cultural traditions. As part of this program, a Resource Centre at Tsaxana opened in 2006 that houses contemporary and historical artefacts, photographs, books and documents.

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