

# HEARTH & HOME POST

COASTAL WEEKLY

*Stories from the edge of the Pacific*

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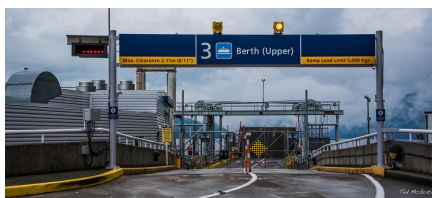
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## BC Ferries Adds Sailings at Horseshoe Bay

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*Horseshoe Bay ferry berth, Langdale sailing*

WEST VANCOUVER, BC. BC Ferries increased sailings from Horseshoe Bay to Langdale this spring to meet growing Sunshine Coast traffic, the Vancouver Sun reported. The move added morning and evening trips for commuters and weekend travellers

heading to Gibsons and Sechelt. Terminal staff noted heavier vehicle loads as more families bought property on the coast while working in Vancouver. The paper described long but orderly queues on Friday afternoons and predicted demand would rise again when summer tourism began. Local merchants welcomed the extra sailings, saying reliable ferry service kept grocery shelves stocked and visitors coming through the quieter winter months. Engineers completed minor dock repairs at Horseshoe Bay without cancelling sailings, and ticket agents opened an extra lane for prepaid commuters. Sunshine Coast MLA Thomas Benson said improved schedules would help students and hospital staff who crossed the inlet daily. Gibsons grocers said Friday produce deliveries arrived on time for the first time in months after the schedule change. Deckhands said the extra runs gave crab fishers a faster trip home after long shifts on the Strait. Langdale terminal added portable ticket booths before the May long weekend crowds arrived. Nanaimo-bound travellers changed ferries at Horseshoe Bay without long waits on weekday mornings.

*Adapted from Vancouver Sun, March 18, 1965*

## This Week in Western History

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### 1960

#### BC FERRIES CORPORATION CREATED

The province created BC Ferries to link coastal communities after the Black Ball Lines dispute.

### 1958

#### DEAS ISLAND TUNNEL OPENS

The Deas Island Tunnel linked Richmond and Delta, shortening drives to the US border and Tsawwassen ferry.

### 1974

#### WHISTLER SKI RESORT EXPANDS

Garibaldi lift improvements drew more winter visitors to the Coast Mountains north of Vancouver.

## Memories

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### 1963

#### FERRY DAYS

The car deck smelled of salt and exhaust. Kids counted seagulls from the railing on the crossing while parents rolled down windows for the first blast of sea air.

### 1959

#### RAIN

November meant wet wool and steaming windows. Boots lined every porch on the block, and the radio carried ferry delay reports between the weather forecast.

### 1966

#### HARBOUR WALK

Sunday afternoons on the causeway meant fish-and-chips wrapped in paper and seaplanes buzzing overhead before the harbour lights switched on.

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## From the Archives

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# Victoria Harbour Cleanup Opens Waterfront Walk

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*Victoria Inner Harbour promenade, late summer*

VICTORIA, BC. City crews finished a waterfront cleanup along the Inner Harbour in 1967, opening a paved walk from the legislature grounds toward the float plane docks. The Times-Colonist said the project removed old rail spurs and warehouse debris left from earlier industrial use.

Tourists and residents began strolling the route on evenings and weekends, watching seaplanes land and fishing boats tie up at the causeway. Merchants on Government Street reported more foot traffic. The paper called the walk a small step in a longer plan to make the harbour a centrepiece of civic life. Garden clubs donated benches and planters for the new promenade, and the city promised lighting along the route before the summer cruise season. Harbour master Captain James Reid said cleaner access would help small tour operators load passengers safely. City archivists photographed the old spur tracks before crews removed the last rails. Victoria tourism board planned guided harbour walks for visiting cruise passengers. Evening strollers paused at the causeway rail to watch the lights come on across the water. Shopkeepers said weekend sales picked up once families could walk the full harbour loop without muddy detours. The cleanup crew stacked salvaged timber for reuse in marina repairs along the outer docks. Hotel porters said visitors asked for harbour maps at the front desk before setting out after supper.

*Adapted from Victoria Times-Colonist, May 6, 1967*

## Questions of the Week

**I.** *Do you remember your first ferry crossing on the coast?*

**II.** *Which harbour or dock felt most like home to you?*

### TALK ABOUT IT

- ◆ What did rainy afternoons sound like in your house?
- ◆ Did you ever watch seaplanes or fishing boats from a pier?
- ◆ What seafood meal do you still think about?

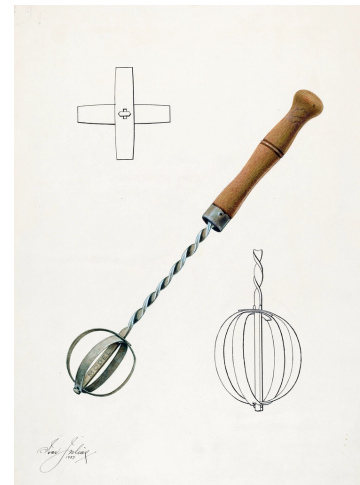
## From the General Store



### Kerosene Lamp

Circa 1940s

A kerosene lamp on the kitchen table lit homework and card games when the power flickered out in a winter storm. You trimmed the wick, checked the chimney, and carried the warm glow from room to room. Did your family keep one ready on the shelf?

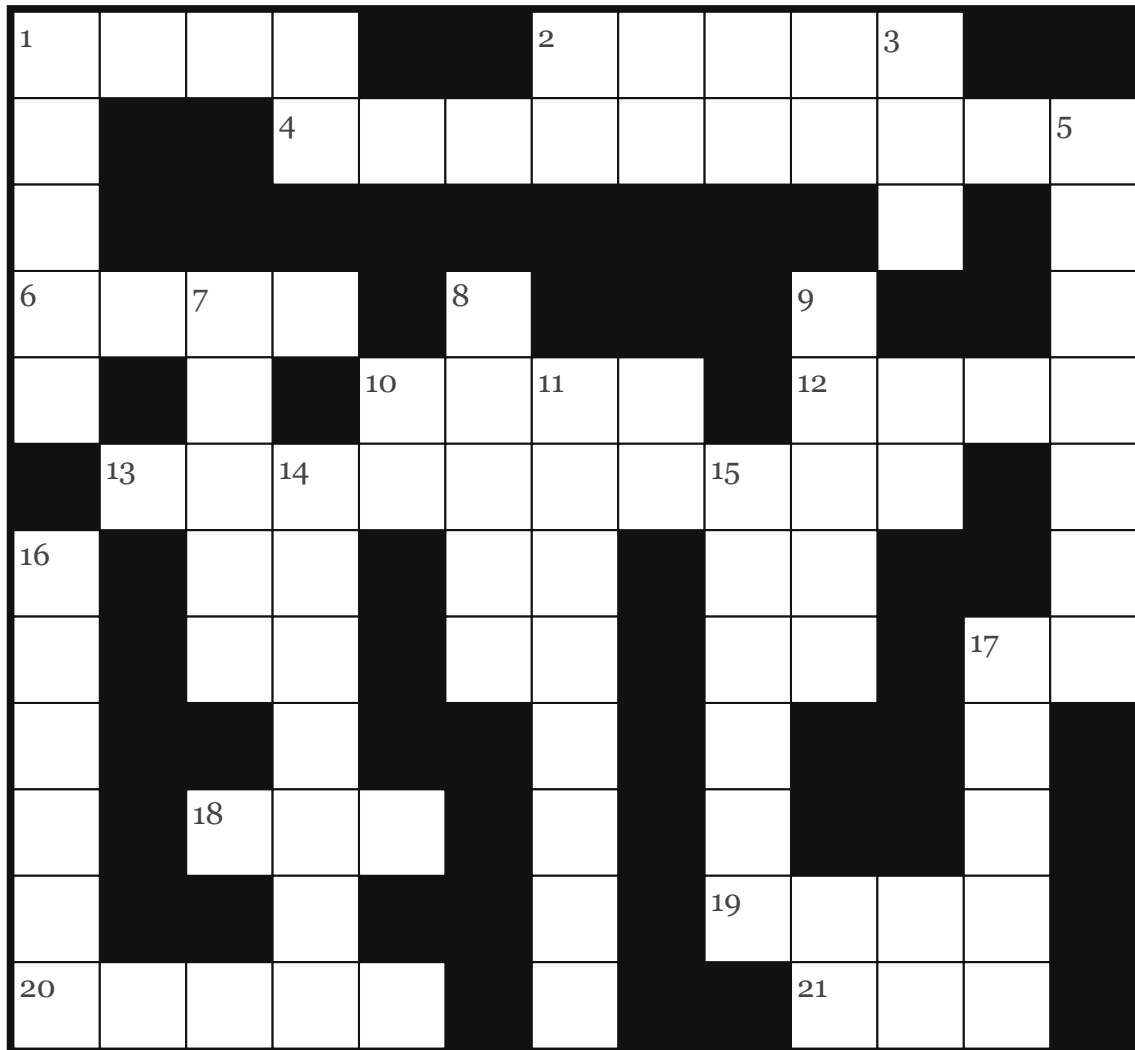


### Hand-Crank Egg Beater

Circa 1930s

Before electric mixers, a hand-crank egg beater hung on a hook beside the stove. You turned the handle while someone held the bowl steady for pancakes on a rainy morning. Whipped cream for dessert took a strong wrist and a little patience.

## Weekly Crossword



### Across

1. Bird on the pond at the park
2. Wrist or pocket timepiece
4. Kept in albums on the coffee table
6. Words exchanged at the altar
10. Supervisor on the factory floor
12. Quiet break on the front porch
13. Practice of neat handwriting
18. Tied on a gift or in hair
19. Devotion shown at an anniversary
20. Sunday dinner carved at the table
21. Quart checked under the hood

### Down

1. Short road leading to a house
3. Felt worn to the market
5. Story of past events in a textbook
7. Steering circle in the family car
8. Brownd slice at the breakfast table
9. Bored holes for a shelf bracket
11. Packed and thrown in winter play
14. Buttons thread and ribbon for sewing
15. Book of songs in the pew rack
16. Made house calls with a black bag
17. Lobby where travellers checked in

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## Then & Now

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### THEN

In the 1960s, many coastal towns relied on weekly freight boats for mail and groceries. Ferries ran fewer sailings in winter, and families planned trips around the tide and the weather report.

### NOW

Today, BC Ferries runs year-round schedules with online reservations, but coastal towns still measure distance in sailings, not kilometres.

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### THEN

Rain on cedar shingles meant drying wool socks by the stove and listening for the ferry horn through a wet afternoon.

### NOW

Gore-tex and heated car seats changed the gear, but November still brings the same grey skies and steaming windows along the shore.

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## A Little Laughter

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- ◆ Why did the fisherman bring a ruler to the dock? To see how long the wait would be.
- ◆ What did the ocean say to the shore? Nothing, it just waved.
- ◆ Why do seagulls fly over the sea? If they flew over the bay, they would be bagels.
- ◆ How does a ferry captain greet the morning? All aboard for coffee.
- ◆ What sits on the bottom of the ocean and trembles? A nervous wreck.

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## Did You Know?

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- ◆ Ferries: BC Ferries carries more than 20 million passengers each year across the coast.
  - ◆ Rain: Vancouver receives rain on roughly 160 days per year, shaping porch habits and ferry delays.
  - ◆ Salmon: Five species of Pacific salmon spawn in BC rivers and streams each autumn.
  - ◆ Islands: Vancouver Island is the largest island on North America's west coast.
  - ◆ Lighthouses: BC once had more than 50 staffed lighthouses guiding night traffic along the shore.
  - ◆ Forests: Coastal BC rainforests include cedar and hemlock trees over 1,000 years old.
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## Poetry Corner

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### *Harbour Light*

The gulls wheel over quiet water,  
The ferry horn fades down the bay.  
A light keeps watch beside the harbour,  
And tide turns slowly toward the day.

### *Rain on Cedar*

The porch boards darken after noon,  
While cedar needles hold the mist.  
The radio hums a ferry tune,  
And boots dry slow where lines are kissed.

