

TOWN TALK

CENTENNIAL REVERENCE FOR THOSE WHO FELL AT VIMY RIDGE



MALCOLM PARRY

OLD SOLDIERS: Pipe Major Mitchell Bain of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada played a four-century-old lament, Flowers of The Forest, at the regiment's 100th annual Vimy memorial service and reunion dinner. None survive from that nation-building battle, but Bain has a link.

Convalescing from injuries sustained at Vimy Ridge, his grandfather, Cpl. George Bain, met and married a woman named Martha. The family they raised later in Merritt, B.C., would include piper Bain.

At the memorial, Seaforths commanding officer Lt.-Col. Paul Ursich greeted one of his predecessors, Col. David Fairweather, 97. Fairweather fought in 1943's bloody struggle for Ortona, Italy, beside another subsequent Seaforth's commander, Brig. Bert Hoffmeister, whose daughter-in-law Pat Hoffmeister attended the ceremony.

IN THE PINK: Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival founder Linda Poole filled the Stanley Park Pavilion with folk celebrating the 11th annual kickoff. Only the trees were tardy about decking themselves in pink blossoms. Marking the event's Japanese inspiration, several restaurants provided tuna tataki, tori-shio ramen, trout aburi and such-like. Ecumenically, Scherene Auchterlonie played Cape Breton fiddle airs as models paraded Norwegian Oleana garments from Julia Manitus's Urbanity store. Poole's necklace incorporated a festival-commemorating \$15 silver coin designed by friend Jan Poynter. But no one had briefed Poole, who recruited another friend to snag the last remaining one from an Ottawa-region post office.

INSIDE THE BOX: Architect-authors Michael Green and Jim Taggart launched their 196-page book, Tall Wood Building, in Inform Interiors' short concrete building recently. The two envisage 40-floor (say 150-metre) towers that would benefit from pre-fabrication, just-in-time component deliveries and minimal construction incursion. Although somewhat resembling giant violins, such structures could match the sound-attenuation characteristics of concrete buildings, Taggart said. Of course, wooden structures stretching to 140 metres were built over a century ago, albeit without windows. Still, these ships withstood being stressed by tempestuous winds while crashing into and partly cantilevering themselves from towering and ever-moving waves.

MAST MASTER: Super-yacht pioneer Ron Holland still designs large, fast (but not wooden) sailing vessels such as the 77.6-metre M5 with a single 88.5-metre mast too tall to clear Lions Gate Bridge. Holland's recently written 240-page memoir, All The Oceans, spans six decades from dinghy-sailing in his native Auckland's Hauraki Gulf to cruising locally aboard 7.6-metre sloop Kia Aura. A foreword by media tycoon Rupert Murdoch, who owned a Holland-designed 56-metre ketch for 10 years, includes: "Many people think of sailing as a leisurely activity with endless sunbathing and cocktails on deck, but big yachts are extremely powerful and you've got to know what you're doing." Peter Willcox, who skipped Greenpeace's 40-metre protest vessel, Rainbow Warrior, will talk about pal Holland at the False Creek Yacht Club April 13.

UH-OH: Late Sun reporter-columnist Bob Hunter was Greenpeace's founding president. Less ecologically, he owned and temporarily lived in a smoky VW van, then drove a tired Plymouth sedan. Mislaying that unloved beater while celebrating with



Former recipient Jaimey Hamilton sang at a Children's Wish gala and admired High Gear Motorcycle Training's BMW 700GS

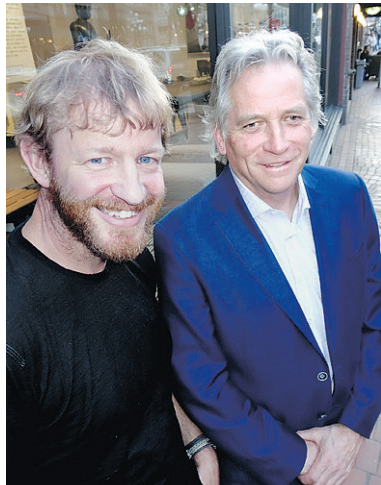


Idris Hudson and Geekender chief Fairlith Harvey staged a benefit for sex-trade workers in Health Initiatives for Men's Transitions program.



Kim Spencer-Nairn launched the Capture Photography Festival.

a friend, Hunter delightedly reported it stolen. The wait for insurance compensation was ending when wife Bobby drove him to revisit the convivial pal. Spotting a grimy jalopy angled partly across a nearby West End sidewalk, she said: "Hey, Bob, isn't that your car?" **SETTING IT STRAIGHT:** Max Wyman will be honoured with the debut arts-commentary award in his name, but won't receive its \$5,000 prize. **BEST SHOTS:** Founder and executive director Kim Spencer-Nairn launched the month-long fourth Capture Photography Festival with a squeeze-in at the Contemporary Art Gallery. Following that event, 167 participants exhibited in 50 galleries and other locales. All 8,000 copies of a deluxe, 160-page cata-



Architects Michael Green and Jim Taggart had 100 folk fill the Inform Interiors store for the debut of their Tall Wood Buildings book.

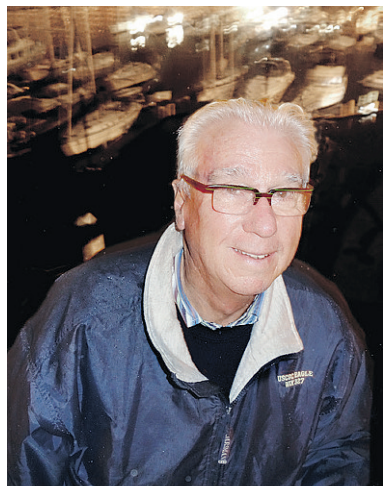
logue were snapped up, too. This festival has definitely clicked. **COME TRUE TONIGHT:** With the Autoform dealership's dream cars removed, Jessica Hollander chaired a gala that reportedly raised \$375,000 for the Children's Wish Foundation to fund seriously ill youngsters' dreams. Recovered leukemia patient Jaimey Hamilton, 17, who'd had CWF professionally record another self-written song, performed her Forget The Peace. It included: "My scars are starting to age and all that's left is a scrape of where it used to hurt ... Take me by the hand. I'll show you a surprise, I'll show you what you never realized." **SO THERE:** Idris Hudson and Fairlith Harvey staged Circo



Former Seaforth Highlanders of Canada commanding officer, Col. David Fairweather, 97, attended the regiment's Vimy memorial and reunion dinner with current CO, Lt.-Col. Paul Ursich. PHOTOS: MALCOLM PARRY



Founder Linda Poole launched the Cherry Blossom Festival with wine, Japanese food from many restaurants and few trees yet in full flower.



Super-yacht designer Ron Holland, whose M5's mast is too tall for the Lions Gate Bridge, has written the All The Oceans memoir.



Piping for those who fell at Vimy in 1917, Seaforth Highlander Mitchell Bain recalled that his injured grandfather met his wife-to-be there.



To sail "extremely powerful" yachts like Ron Holland's 58-metre Ethereal, "You've got to know what you're doing," Rupert Murdoch said. RON HOLLAND

Disco at Odyssey nightclub to benefit the Health Initiatives For Men organization's Transitions program. It prepares men for work and social relationships outside of sex work, said Hudson, who is a Transitions coordinator. Harvey is artistic director of the Geekenders burlesque and revue troupe. As for such career-switching, Prostitute Empowerment Education Resource Society (PEERS) staffer Amanda Bonella said of enrolled

Jessica Hollander chaired a gala that reportedly raised \$375,000 for the Children's Wish Foundation to fund seriously ill youngsters' dreams.

women in 2002: "They're easily employable because they have been working, they have excellent communication, selling and telephone skills, they can work shifts and long hours, they're good at conflict resolution." **DOWN PARRYSCOPE:** As new members of the 100 Resilient Cities network, our citizens' resilience to city hall's wacky ways must be an inspiration to the other 99. malcolmparry@shaw.ca 604-929-8456