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# THE TRI-CITY NEWS



## FEATURE: So you call yourself a British Columbian...

By Kate Trotter The Tri-City News  
Jul 30 2006

There's more to enjoy on B.C. Day than glorious scenery, interesting people and a dynamic culture. Plenty more, including murder, intrigue, geography and alien visits. Here's a sampling of the quirky and illuminating websites about our province ready for viewing:

[www.bcpl8s.ca](http://www.bcpl8s.ca)

The ultimate B.C. website for anyone who remembers avoiding looking over the edge of the Fraser Canyon by focussing on licence plates. Christopher John Garrish has spent years creating what he justifiably boasts as "one of the most comprehensive histories of the licence plates for a single jurisdictions to be found anywhere on the web."

[www.celinerich.com/discovery/history.php](http://www.celinerich.com/discovery/history.php)

The Historical Markers phase of The Discovery Project involves exploring the history of South East Vancouver. Some tidbits:

"1880s" Marine Drive was created by Col. Richard Moody and a crew of Royal Engineers. It was originally called River Road and was infamous for mudfields and potholes.

"1886" North Arm School was built, and the entire school measured 22' x 34'. Students travelled through dense forests to attend and had to be wary of bears, coyotes and cougars. Some came from Lulu Island in rowboats. The register for 1899 shows 475 incidences of students arriving late, a high number considering the student population.

[www.vancouverhistory.ca](http://www.vancouverhistory.ca)

Fabulous site, as is everything Chuck Davis (author of the official Port Coquitlam history book) turns his hand to. Best feature is a Hall of Fame where you can check to see if you have famous relatives.

"On June 29, 1878" 128 years ago... the



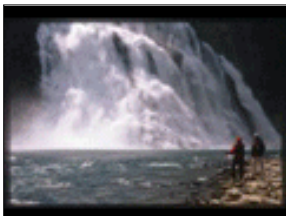
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[Surrey Leader](#)  
[Aldergrove Star](#)



Moodyville Tickler, Burrard Inlet's first newspaper, appeared. It had a very brief, tongue-in-cheek existence. For example, the more you paid for your obituary, the more glowing it became.

[www.michaelkluckner.com](http://www.michaelkluckner.com)

Gorgeous water-colours of buildings, captured as they slowly turn to dust. Kluckner's art backdrops his intimate and friendly stories that inspire others to add their reminiscences.

In the late 1970s, I spent a lot of time in the Coalmont area, camping along the riverbank and sometimes walking into the hotel along the railway tracks for a beer and a little conversation. It was always a tough place – Coalmont, that is – populated by some of BC's home-grown hillbillies. For years, there was a sign on the Coalmont Emporium, perhaps the only commercial building erected in town since 1912... stating that women ought to beware as Coalmont was full of bachelors. Gradually, the populace has aged and moved away, with only the original general store, the meat market and the hotel remaining from the early years of the century.

[www.chilcotin.bc.ca/observatory](http://www.chilcotin.bc.ca/observatory)

The Tatlayoko Think Tank Ltd., in partnership with North Island College (NIC), School District #27 Cariboo-Chilcotin, TELUS, CITS/PLNet, Industry Canada and the Tatla Lake School, has established an online observatory at the Tatla Lake School.

The concept of the project is that a student will be able to schedule access to the online telescope. At the appointed time, the student will connect to the telescope server via the internet, take control of the telescope, slew it to the object of interest, image that part of the sky with the CCD camera attached to the telescope, download the image to the student's home computer, study it and incorporate it into his/her lab report to be handed in electronically for grading.

[www.hbccufo.org/](http://www.hbccufo.org/)

Parallel-flying orbs, strange lights and objects shaped like sunny-side-up eggs are all reported on this B.C.-based site that's a clearing-house for UFO reports. It includes book reviews, an archive of past sightings and surveys, such as "Are UFO sightings on the increase?" The response was 64.84% yes, by the way. The name stands for Houston, B.C., Canada because it's run by Brian Vike, from Houston, B.C., who is a great UFO researcher, our sources say.

[www.ufobc.ca](http://www.ufobc.ca)

UFO\*BC is a non-profit society registered with the province of British Columbia. The functions of the group are to gather local (B.C. and Yukon) sightings, investigate them as fully as possible and to make the

public aware of the phenomenon. In the  
"Supernatural"™ British Columbia section, it  
includes reports of crop circles in Vanderhoof,  
information on the Cadborosaurus and alien visits in  
Abbotsford:

"She says four times in the last five years she has  
awoken from hazy scenarios with vague memories of  
aliens probing and inspecting her with medical tools  
and lasers, adding she awakes with burned skin,  
scars on her forehead, ringing ears and severe  
headaches. "There is no explanation of why I woke  
up like that,"™ she says."

[www.vanishingtattoo.com](http://www.vanishingtattoo.com)

"The Vanishing Tattoo web site and documentary  
film series are devoted to the amazing history,  
powerful rituals and extraordinary social significance  
of tribal tattooing in many different cultures around  
the world." This Vancouver-based site has more  
tattoo culture, history, links and information,  
including:

"Harris Poll, 2003, estimates that fully 36% of  
those aged 25 to 29 have one or more tattoos.

"According to the American Society of  
Dermatological Surgery, in 2002, 50% of the millions  
of Americans who get a tattoo eventually want it  
removed.

[bigwavedave.ca](http://bigwavedave.ca)

Feeling land-locked? Check out windsurfing,  
kiteboarding and kayaking weather info for Victoria.  
The site features webcams, current wind reports with  
auto updates, weather stats, forums and photo  
galleries.

[www.poopvictoria.ca](http://www.poopvictoria.ca)

If cam shots of Victoria-area beaches are too  
precious, try this site, home of people opposed to  
outfall pollution. According to the site, the Victoria  
Capital Regional District pumps 120 million litres of  
raw sewage into the Strait of Juan de Fuca every  
single day.

For people who use the net to learn, not play, try  
these two:

[www.singinst.org](http://www.singinst.org)

"General intelligence: A complex supersystem  
with interdependent, internally specialized  
subsystems structured into levels of organization.  
Perspectives from neuroscience, cognitive and  
evolutionary psychology."

[www.pactac.net](http://www.pactac.net)

"The Pacific Centre for Technology and Culture is  
a unique interdisciplinary institute for research  
focussed on the impact of technological change on  
culture, politics and society."

[www.projectmofo.com](http://www.projectmofo.com)

Pretty sure this is a graphic design and website company but, maybe not. Go to samples and try Lythic Blue. Fascinating.

[www.tedharrison.com](http://www.tedharrison.com)

Ted Harrison found the colour and joy of northern Canada when he lived in Yukon but now he lives in Victoria so he makes it on the list. His work is happy and friendly, even as sorrow intrudes. His spouse was overtaken by Alzheimer's and he painted "Walking Alone" as a tribute to all caregivers, and fundraiser to help others

He lives with Maggie, their faithful Paisley Terrier. "We walk the road of life together towards a new future. The clouds have parted and I can now see the light of hope and promise which, alas, only illuminates my path."

[www.hempology.com](http://www.hempology.com)

It's B.C., okay?

Archive of articles on marijuana-related topics, including crime, property seizure, medical use etc.

[collections.ic.gc.ca/craigflower/](http://collections.ic.gc.ca/craigflower/)

Scottish colonists founded Craigflower Farm near the Coast Salish Village site, Kosapsom. In 1855 the Census of Vancouver Island lists the following at Craigflower Farm: 76 whites, 34 between ages 1 and 20, 42 between ages 20 and 60, and 100 tons of turnips (among other things). Great site with inventories of artifacts.

[www.canadianmysteries.ca](http://www.canadianmysteries.ca)

"In the spring of 1864, a series of killings took place that sent a chill across Canada. It was the deadliest attack ever made by Aboriginal people on immigrants in western Canada. The blood of the fourteen dead men that spilled into the Homathco River before dawn on the morning of April 29th, 1864 was only the beginning. By the end of May, 19 road-builders, packers and a farmer would be dead. Within six weeks, an army of over 100 men had arrived in the area to hunt down the killers.

"This web-based challenge invites you to immerse yourself in a real Canadian mystery" examining the evidence and appreciating a bigger picture of Canadian history, one that shows the inexorable westward movement of European settlers into the territories occupied by Aboriginal peoples."

[www.arivernever sleeps.com](http://www.arivernever sleeps.com)

It's about fly fishing but the bird song and babbling brook are enough to warrant a visit even by non-anglers.

[www.bcbiodiversity.homestead.com](http://www.bcbiodiversity.homestead.com)

Mosses, horsetails, bugs... they're all here in an online database with information and photographs of the entire range of British Columbia's amazing biological diversity (biodiversity) from flowers and ferns, to shrubs, trees, parasitic plants, mushrooms and mosses to amphibians, bugs, slugs and more.

[www.folklore.bc.ca/](http://www.folklore.bc.ca/)

Who would have thought there'd be a folk song about fishing off Haida Gwaii? Or that the body of a young man who drowned in supposedly land-locked Cultus Lake was found at Mud Bay near White Rock? Full of stuff you didn't know you didn't know.

[ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/bcnames](http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/bcnames)

Did you know that Trotter Bay was named in 1945 by the Hydrographic Service upon completion of a detailed survey of these waters, after Mr. W.W. Trotter, manager of Lagoon Bay Cannery in 1943; Trotter had contributed local knowledge of the area to the survey and reported several dangerous rocks in this vicinity. Maybe you're descended from Edgar Dewdney. The Dewdney Trail provided an all-British Columbia route from Fort Hope to the Wild Horse Camp, to enforce the gold tax which prospectors had previously managed to avoid by using the steamboat routes on the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers into the United States.

[www.livinglandscapes.bc.ca](http://www.livinglandscapes.bc.ca)

This project fostered by the Royal BC Museum is a journey to the lands defined by the Peace, Columbia, Thompson and upper Fraser rivers. It's a challenge to manoeuvre, but worth clicking the links.

[www.mala.bc.ca/homeroom](http://www.mala.bc.ca/homeroom)

If the foregoing wasn't educational enough, visit the homeroom and read about Dick and Jane, or the history of education in B.C.

[www.bcnewsgroup.com](http://www.bcnewsgroup.com)

Okay, this is a bit of a rah-rah but the biggest newspaper group in Canada "the one that owns The Tri-City News" is based in B.C. From this site you can access more than 100 local newspapers that give the lowdown from Prince Rupert to Castlegar, and the Arrow Lakes to Williams Lake.

"this list was compiled by Kate Trotter (no relation to W.W.) with help from BheandÁjin Clugston, Richmond Review; Dale West, Castlegar News; Bill Phillips, Williams Lake Tribune; Rod Link, Terrace Standard; Keith Norbury, Victoria News (he came up with the really brainy ones); Wanda Chow and Michael McQuillan, Burnaby-New Westminster NewsLeader; and Jim Zeebe, Saanich News.