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THE CAPITAL AND VANCOUVER ISLAND

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Ahousaht man found dead inside sunken boat

Boater apparently on way to work at fish farm when tragedy struck

CINDY E. HARNETT
Times Colonist

Damage to the hull of a boat that sank off Vancouver Island's west coast, claiming the life of an Ahousaht man, is being investigated as the cause of the incident.

The lone occupant was about six kilometres from Tofino when his body was found in a freshly sunken vessel, said Capt. Colin Henthorne of the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Victoria.

A mayday call went out at 11:21 p.m. Friday and was relayed by Tofino coast guard radio a minute later. The man said the boat was taking on water.

The damage to the hull suggests some sort of possible impact, said Capt. Sean Morris of the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre.

When the mayday call went out, the coast guard vessel Cape Ann and a Royal Canadian Air Force Cormorant helicopter were immediately dispatched.

The boater did not give an accurate position, forcing search crews to locate him, Henthorne said. This was compounded by the likelihood he was moving, trying to get to shallow water, he said.

The man had set out from Flores Island, a small island in Clayoquot Sound populated mainly by members of the Ahousaht First Nation. The boater was apparently headed to work on a fish farm in Cypress Bay, about 11 kilometres

north of Tofino between Flores Island and Tofino, when he encountered trouble.

His 21-foot aluminum boat had a cabin and was equipped with two 150-horsepower motors, GPS and radar, according to the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre.

Henthorne said he believes the boater likely had two choices: stay in the cabin and steer the boat to shallow water, or stay outside and be ready to abandon the boat in frigid water.

"The choices are not good either way," he said. At 12:11 a.m., the Cormorant crew reported they were 10 minutes from the scene, making their expected arrival time 12:21 a.m., about an hour after the mayday call went out.

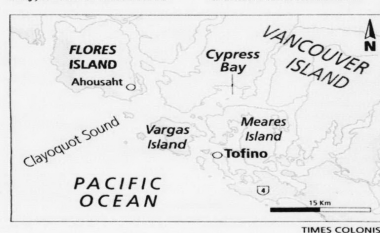
The Cape Ann arrived at 12:46 a.m. The vessel was "freshly sunken with a person trapped inside," Henthorne said.

Search-and-rescue technicians dove into the cabin of the vessel and located one person. The man was transported to Tofino hospital by coast guard lifeboat, Henthorne said.

"The lone occupant had not survived," Henthorne said.

Tofino and Ahousaht RCMP and the B.C. Coroners Service are investigating.

The man's name is not being released until his family has been notified, charnett@timescolonist.com



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Bernard Boerkamp puts his cigarette butt into a special disposal unit on Broad Street. The Surfrider Foundation, which plans to install six more units around Victoria, will collect the cigarette waste and have it recycled.

Smokers, butt in — in the bin

Campaign aims to recycle cigarette garbage into useful products

JEFF BELL
Times Colonist

Local members of the Surfrider Foundation have a simple message for smokers: Hold on to your butt.

The environmental group's multi-city campaign urges smokers to dispose of their cigarette butts somewhere other than streets, parks and beaches, proclaiming: Beaches and Streets Are Not Ashtrays.

For now, there is a single disposal canister for spent cigarettes on Broad Street next to the Victoria Event Centre, but the plan is to add several more.

Six additional units have been ordered and places to install them will be identified, said Lucas Harris,

vice-chairman of Surfrider's South Island Chapter.

"We're just chomping at the bit to start getting these things out there and spread the word in the community so that people see them in the street."

Smoker Bernard Boerkamp walked past the Broad Street container Friday and said he welcomes it.

"I always look for places like this," he said, cigarette in hand. "The streets are full of butts."

Another fan is Darren Douglas, part of the Downtown Victoria Business Association Clean Team. Douglas's regular routine has him picking up all sorts of trash from streets and

sidewalks, and he said cigarette butts are always in good supply.

He said you can find butts almost anywhere, but they can be a real problem outside night spots.

"Years ago, they used to have ashtrays everywhere," Douglas said as he made his rounds along Broad.

He said he is all for having disposal units geared to smokers, but questioned whether they would be used. "Like garbage cans, people throw their stuff right beside them."

Surfrider plans to ship the collected butts to TerraCycle, a recycling outfit.

"One of the focuses of Surfrider is to get cigarette butts out of ocean, out of the garbage stream, off the ground," said Mike Redpath, a member of the group.

"Cigarette material is recyclable."

Plastic from cigarette filters can be used in building pallets, while the leftover paper and tobacco can be composted.

Redpath organized the effort to get the group's first disposal unit in place just before Christmas.

While there are a few similar units around the city, the Surfrider chapter hopes to create the first widespread program, Redpath said.

"Nobody likes cigarette butts on the ground," he said.

Cigarette butts are also prominent source of garbage when Surfrider conducts its periodic cleanup efforts on local beaches, Lucas said.

A cigarette butt recycling program launched in Vancouver in November established 110 collection points in that city's downtown area. jwbell@timescolonist.com

Search goes into third day

Times Colonist

A second full day of searching Saturday did not turn up any sign of a 59-year-old woman believed to be missing in East Sooke Regional Park.

The woman's name has not been released but a photograph of her has been distributed.

"We had our RCMP vessel out on the water, and we had a private helicopter assisting," said Sooke RCMP Staff Sgt. Steve

Wright late Saturday afternoon.

The search did not continue through the night, but will resume today.

"We'll make a determination at that point as to whether or not we're going to continue," Wright said.

About 50 searchers from several Island communities are involved in the effort, Wright said. A number of them know the woman, who was last seen on Dec. 27.

Searching began Thursday night after the missing woman's husband located her car in the park's Aylard Farm parking lot. Her cell phone and purse were found inside.

The husband had last seen his wife about noon Thursday. He said he knew she was going for a walk but expected her home for dinner.

Juan de Fuca search and rescue volunteers were on the ground by 11 p.m. That night, there was heavy rain



Searchers are looking for a 59-year-old woman missing since Thursday.

and strong winds, and the temperatures dropped to near freezing.

Belief it or not, my fearless predictions for 2014



JACK KNOX
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A new year, time to predict the trends that will shape our lives in 2014.

Jan. 1: Phased-in ban of incandescent lights extends across Canada. Stores no longer stock 75- and 100-watt bulbs.

Jan. 1 — Sale of marijuana becomes legal in Colorado, with Canadian state to follow in mid-2014. End of Prohibition kills market for smuggled B.C. Bud.

Jan. 5 — Centennial Square weed dealers switch to selling incandescent bulbs. Street price is \$1 a watt.

Jan. 12 — After a year in which he gets in a series of scuffles with neighbours and photographers, is sued by a bodyguard for assault, moons on Instagram, shows up two hours late for a London concert, gets in a fight in a Hampton's nightclub, has his monkey confiscated in Germany, angers a couple of ex-NFL players with his reckless driving, gets banned from a Vegas and is filmed urinating in a restaurant mop bucket and cursing at a photo of Bill Clinton, Justin Bieber wins the Golden Globe award for World's Second Most Entertaining Canadian.

Feb. 8 — Hearings begin into Enbridge's proposal to pipe sludge 18 kilometres uphill from Victoria's McLoughlin Point sewage treatment plant to Hartland dump biosolids facility.

Feb. 23 — Russia wins Olympic hockey gold after

Vladimir Putin jails Sidney Crosby for "hooliganism." Rioters leave downtown Vancouver in flames.

"Sorry," they say. "Reflex."

March 6 — Victoria Flower Count reaches record 22 billion.

March 7 — Victoria Homeless Count reaches record 22 billion.

March 21 — Mayor Dean Fortin greets ZZ Top on band's return to Victoria: "I'm a big fan of Duck Dynasty."

April 10 — Prime Minister Stephen Harper is buoyed by poll showing him to be the most popular politician in the country.

April 11 — The country in question turns out to be China. Chairman Stephen moves to Beijing.

May 9 — Seeking to retain Toronto base, Conservative Ontario Rob Ford as prime minister.

May 10 — Doug Ford is appointed governor general/social convener.

June 1 — Having successfully exterminated the

penny, the Royal Canadian Mint replaces the nickel with Canadian Tire money.

June 2 — Protesters outside mint chant, "We want nickel back."

June 3 — Chad Kroeger returns from exile in Los Angeles. "I feel vindicated."

June 19 — NDP Leader Thomas (Sco) In My Sleep Mulcair pulls a groin while gamely attempting to look relaxed and charismatic.

July 1 — This year's Canada Day/Fete du Regardigat casualty count in Victoria:

• Inner Harbour arrests for disorderly conduct: 132

• Flag-as-a-mindless teenage girls hospitalized with alcohol poisoning: 37

• Maple-leaf-painted-on-chest teenage boys who try to drunkenly punch out the Captain Cook statue: undetermined

• B.C. Transit vomit comets: five

• Exhibitionist couples having sex in a window of the Fairmont Empress: another one

July 2 — Ford brothers pay spur-of-the-moment official state visit to Victoria.

July 13 — Brazil wins soccer's World Cup. Rioters leave downtown Vancouver in flames. "Sorry," they say.

Aug. 4 — NDP Leader Thomas (Sco) In My Sleep Mulcair pulls a groin while gamely attempting to look relaxed and charismatic.

Aug. 16 — A Kardashian will get married/divorced/pregnant in a highly public manner. Going out on a limb here.

Sept. 28 — Victoria is devastated by earthquake. Only structure left standing is Johnson Street bridge.

Oct. 14 — Harper capitalizes on inspiration of astronaut Chris Hadfield by leaving Canadian Space Agency projects undisturbed, axing programs at Saanich's Centre of the Universe, shutting Canada's scientific libraries and throwing out a treasure trove of scientific research. Wait, no,

that was 2013.

Oct. 15 — Conservatives cancel Avro Arrow "for old time's sake."

Nov. 7 — CRTC orders broadcasters to stop referring to Justin Trudeau as Prime Minister-in-Waiting McCreamy.

Nov. 18 — B.C.'s liquefied natural gas plants are put in jeopardy by a warning from Health Canada: "Studies show fracking is associated with an increased risk of chronic back pain, significant joint damage and problem pregnancies."

Nov. 19 — Natural gas plans back on track after Health Canada admits confusing "fracking" with "twerking."

Dec. 22 — Caught doing hooters shooters with topless waitress during a trade mission to Colorado, Prime Minister Ford apologizes. "Sorry. So, so, so sorry. It's the Toronto Star's fault. Support our troops. Look, I can carve a bong out of a potato."

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