

## Brief summaries of the songs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *Saanich Songs*

DRAFT: October 13, 2024

Entries *in italics* will be new to the second edition. Several other songs are on the way.

**Our History:** Looking to the past to help understand today.

- ***Annexation:*** *A traditional song that gives some insight into what was going on when the fateful decision was made to keep the Saanich peninsula part of Canada. The Island south of the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel could easily have become part of the United States, as happened everywhere west of the Great Lakes.*
- **Butterfield Waltz:** A romantic song about a sea captain whose wife could see her husband's ship ply the waters of Finlayson Arm from her kitchen window (Don Chambers)
- ***Big Old Train:*** *A nostalgic wish for the trains that used to run all through the Peninsula. There were three different rail lines (Luann Burton)*
- ***The Bitter End:*** *A rousing ballad telling a tale of murder and piracy in the Salish Sea just off Sidney Island, 1924 (Bruce Coughlan)*

**It's a Great Place To Live:** Songs giving a sense of the joys of living on the Peninsula.

- **I'm Goin' Everywhere Man:** A parody of Hank Snow's "I've Been Everywhere" that serves as a geographical introduction to the Peninsula, reciting the many names given to its charming places (Don Chambers)
- **Deep Love, Deep Cove:** A tribute to the beauty of the Peninsula and the joys of returning after being away for a time (Bruce Bowman, Dale Baglo, Duncan Meiklejohn)
- **Island Home in the Salish Sea:** A celebration of cycling on the Peninsula, flowing over to a poetic portrait of this place (Casey Edge)
- **Salish Sea:** A song that reflects the tensions of trying to reconcile the joys of living on the Peninsula with the understanding that we displaced entire nations in our colonization of the region (Daniel Cook)
- ***Low Tide on Pat Bay:*** *A poetic reflection on the sights and scenes of the world near Deep Cove when the tide is out (Farrell Boyce)*

- ***The Arbutus Tree:*** *A portrait of the arbutus tree which is an iconic member of the local flora, the shade of which creates a very special, secret place for relishing the delights of living here (Alan Moberg)*

**Romance:** Songs that speak to the intimate relationship between passions for the Peninsula and those dedicated to significant others in our lives.

- ***Malahat Moon:*** *Looking back, from a long ways away, this song tells of the thrill of remembering the sight of the moon over Finlayson Arm and how it inspired a magical memory of love and companionship (Bryon Thompson)*
- ***Little Town by the Sea:*** *A reflection on how, almost immediately, Sidney became home for some folks from away, and how this place became the inspiration (Edie Daponte)*
- ***Keep On Growing:*** *Passions for gardening become intertwined with the passion for a certain gardener in this poetic reflection (Farrell Boyce)*
- ***Putting Out to Sea:*** *The thrills of sailing are catalogued—sea birds, names of local places. But through it all, the siren song of a lover persists (Tark Hamilton)*

**Fantastic Sea Creatures:** The ocean has always been the inspiration for fantastic creatures and tales. The waters surrounding the Peninsula are no different, with a wide range of sea critters inhabiting our song writers’ imaginations.

- ***The Norris Beach Mermaids:*** *Stalwarts who swim in the ocean, even during the cold seasons, are celebrated, harkening to visions of mermaids and their seductive music (Wendy McBride)*
- ***Call of the Cadborosaurus:*** *A blow-by-blow account of an encounter with a fantastic sea creature off the shores of Browner Bay. Who needs Loch Ness or Okanogan Lake? (Tark Hamilton)*
- ***Luigi, the Opera-Singing Octopus:*** *Inspired by a visit to the Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea, this song is an empathetic reflection on what the life for one of the captive creatures could possibly hold (David Wilkie and Denise Withnell)*

**Social Commentary:** While it’s a pretty good life on the Peninsula, it’s not perfect. There are a few things that “get in one’s craw” and deserve mention as potential improvements.

- ***Ode to Hartland:*** *This tune reflects upon our propensity for throwing away much too much stuff in our garbage. The sadness of our main landfill site destroying a once-was lovely creek valley is well captured (Robert Anderson)*

- **The Bloody, Bloody Broom:** An imported plant from Scotland, the broom, has become a major bother in many areas of the Peninsula. This tune is a parody of the beautiful Scottish song, the Broom o' the Cowdenknowes, telling of how the Scottish Broom has become a scourge here (Sam Gardiner)
- **Official Community Polka:** *The convoluted language of many legal documents, aka bureaucratese, is a problem for many readers of "plain" English. This song takes aim at this for the Town of Sidney's "Official Community Plan" offering a most appealing alternative (Farrell Boyce).*

**To Do with Music:** These songs celebrate the finding that music is a big part of community life on the Peninsula.

- **Deep Cove Farewell:** *Written as a closing song for Deep Cove Folk evenings, this song embodies many of the values and appeals of spending an evening together sharing music (Shelley Posen)*
- **Our Old Piano:** *A winsome reflection about the tales an old Peninsula piano might be able to tell (Tark Hamilton)*

**People:** This emerging category involves songs that deal with specific people and social groups on the Peninsula. Hopefully, more songs will emerge in the future to fill out this aspect of our lives here.

- **Deep Cove Gals:** *This song is a localized parody of the traditional "Cape Cod Shanty" once sung lustily by fishers and whalers on the east coast (Tark Hamilton)*