



Reflections

news from the Ocean Light

MAGNIFICENT INLETS OF THE GRIZZLY

embodies all that compels us to help save this part of the world. These are trips not only to the heads of the coast's great inlets in search of wildlife, but journeys of our souls.

The head of one of these inlets, like so many on this part of the coast, is a lush green estuary, an ethereal place, seemingly tucked away from the rest of the world – a place of calm and tranquillity, peace and restoration—the best of the natural world. As we enter this place, everyone is on deck, absolutely quiet, drinking in the magnitude of the beauty of this magnificent place. As we round the last corner we feel like we are entering a monument, through gates of granite that tower thousands of feet above us. Everyone, binoculars in hand, scour the estuary for any sign of movement. The tide is high, making the estuary look as if it is floating. What could actually be an old log, suddenly stands...revealing a dark underbelly, chocolate brown legs and a shaggy overcoat. Then two more stand...a mum Grizzly and her two cubs.

Thus begins two weeks of magic in the making. Grizzly bears, sometimes with cubs in tow, dine on the tall sedge grasses of these estuaries. Our walks reveal their delicacies including cow parsnip, skunk cabbage, wild onion, plantain, chocolate lilies, and ripening salmon berries.

As the alpenglow of a perfect sunset glided across the snow capped mountains high above us, and the bears ambled slowly back into the tree line, we all sighed a happy sigh and went below to enjoy our own delicacies – Crab, Orzo, and a fresh spring salad followed by cheesecake, whipped cream and berries for dessert.

IN MEMORIAM: Our trips that Alistalah (Ed Martin Sr.) helped lead on the Ocean Light were always filled with magic – the magic created by his descriptions of the old way of life, stories of his beautiful homeland, his family and the laughter – he brought plenty of laughter to the Ocean Light! Thank you Ed for all you so generously shared with us, (except those soaks in bone chilling streams), thanks from all of us who have been fortunate enough to travel with you on the Ocean Light. We miss you.

Thank you to all!

The year 2005 started out with much excitement as Ocean Adventures purchased our 54 foot Hatteras Long Range Cruiser and brought her home from California. While no boat could ever replace the simplistic beauty of the Ocean Light, the new ship, (named Great Bear II), promises to provide all of us with better views to the outside and far more space and privacy on the inside.

Ocean Adventures has been working with Raincoast Conservation Society to put an end to trophy hunting on our coast. A historic transfer has occurred, whereby Raincoast became the sole owner of one of the largest, (20,000 square kms.), exclusive commercial trophy hunting tenures in North America. We congratulate everyone at Raincoast, their supporters and our many guests who have helped make this happen! As Eleanor Roosevelt once said "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

Whether it was seeing a mother grizzly with her cubs in the tall, swaying grasses of Kynoch Inlet, or being surrounded by feeding humpbacks in Gwaii Haanas, or watching twin white Spirit Bear cubs climb like monkeys in a wild crab apple tree

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Photo: Klaus Pommerenke

Reflections from our past season

GWAII HAANAS

“GWAII HAANAS”, a Haida name meaning “Place of Wonder or Beauty”, was not to disappoint the guests and crew, again, in 2005. The marine life, highlighted by extraordinary whales sightings; walks through the ancient Haida villages guided by Haida Watchmen; hikes to enjoy the old growth forests and creek swims; feeling the wind in the sails of the Ocean Light; discovering the beauty of anchorages by kayak; fishing, crabbing and enjoying the gourmet cuisine of chefs Katie and Joseph, all added to the experience that is Haida Gwaii.

Introducing guests to our long time friends at the old Haida villages is always a highlight of Gwaii Haanas – whether it’s Golie at Hotsprings making us feel like we’ve “come home” or Frank and his family at Tahnoo, our guests always appreciate meeting our Haida friends.

We would like to express our gratitude for the friendship of K’ils Xaaydaga (Wesley Pearson) and know that his passing leaves a huge hole, not only in the hearts of his family and friends, but in the life of the Haida community. The many memories of Wes and Bubby that so many visitors, families and friends share, will keep them alive in our hearts forever.



Beach at Tahnoo



Photos: Flynn Ryan



Estuary in Fiordland

Thank You to All cont'd

with their black mom looking on; or witnessing the traditional dancing of the Gitga’at in Hartley Bay, the future looked very bright indeed. Yet, there is still much to do. Industrial logging still threatens the homes of animals and their greatest food sources. Trophy hunting is still going strong, condoned and even promoted by the current Liberal government of B.C.. Fish farms continue to flourish despite research telling of the terrible affects it has on our wild Pacific salmon.

The dedication of environmental groups such as Raincoast and Valballe, the inspiration of the First Nations cultures whose traditional lands we visit, the passion and energy of our guests and crew, and the reverence we feel for the lands and the animals we visit, all touch each of us in such profound and personal ways. We thank all of you for your dedication in helping keep the “Wild in Wilderness”! This edition of “Reflections” is in honour of you!

Eric & Trish

Special Thanks

to all our family and friends who helped out as crew this year: Mum, Dad, Flynn, Sandi, Al, Katie, Joseph, Jesse, Diana, Darren, Gwen, and Ken.

Although the weather on B.C.'s north coast is seldom predictable, the sun did shine at the most crucial times during

ISLANDS OF THE SPIRIT BEAR, WATERS OF THE HUMPBACK



The sun was there to spotlight tiny white cubs as they swung through crabapple trees, white and black bears fishing in the creek below the platform, and humpback whales as they seemed to fly out of the water and thunder back into the sea. Many exceptional moments with the bears were experienced but the highlight for the crew and Sam, was certainly sharing the small white cubs and mum in the crab apples trees with the Elders from Hartley Bay. (We're sure the little bears knew for whom they were performing!) Witnessing the traditional dancing of the school kids of Hartley Bay as they performed in their Cultural Centre; meeting Teri and Marven's new baby Nelson; and sharing stories and treats with our friends in the village, added so much to our time in Hartley Bay.

Soaking in the hot springs on the polished rocky shores of Bishop Bay, one can forget everything of the outside world. As the lacy boughs of cedar trees hang from the forest canopy and the mist rising from the water wraps around you like a warm blanket, the only sound that can be heard may be that of songbirds, the howl of a distant wolf, or the blow a humpback as it surfaces in the bay in front of you.

Special thank you to Marven and Richard for sharing Moksg'mol, your knowledge, your traditions, and your great sense of humour with all of us--you both have added so much more than you realize, to the experience of guests and the crew of the Ocean Light.

For the 3rd year in a row, we were carefully scanning every wild crabapple tree for signs of the little white cub we'd first seen in 2003. (While her black twin's coat always seemed shiny and sleek, Fuzzy's always seemed to turn to fuzz in the mists of the rainforest.) True to form, Fuzzy was again spotted--high up in a crabapple tree, feasting on the sweetest of the crabapples. Perhaps this explains why she seemed to be the fattest Spirit bear on the islands!



White Cub 2004
Photo: Trish Smyth

White Cub, who we've now named Fuzzy, in 2005
Photo: Don Kessler

White Cub 2003
Photo: Sam Caton



Black and White
Photo: Trish Smyth

Our 2006 Schedule

GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

August 14th - 19th	Bella Bella Return	BOOKED - Custom Trip
August 22nd - 31st	Bella Bella - Hartley Bay	BOOKED - Custom Trip

SPIRIT BEAR

September 4th - 10th	Prince Rupert return	\$3250 + 7% GST *
September 12th - 18th	Prince Rupert return	\$3450 + 7% GST **
September 20th - 26th	Prince Rupert return	\$3450 + 7% GST **
Sept 28th - Oct 4th	Prince Rupert return	\$3450 + 7% GST **

* inc. one full day at bear viewing platform ** inc. two full days at bear viewing platform.

Seriously...

CONGRATULATIONS to RAINCOAST for successfully buying out the largest guide/outfitter tenure on B.C.'s coast. Please visit www.raincoast.org and read "Christmas Comes Early for the Bears . . ."

Learn more about salmon farming, logging practices, and the latest findings on coastal wolves, whales and dolphins on Raincoast's amazing website. See how you can help preserve British Columbia's global treasures!

CONGRATULATIONS to VALHALLA WILDERNESS SOCIETY for their recent success in saving the lands of the Wild Horses of the Chicoutin! To learn more about this and other issues that Valhalla is working on, including their work with Spirit Bears, visit www.savespiritbear.org.

The Last Logbook Entry - Ocean Light by Captain Eric



Photo: Klaus Pommerenke

October 2/2005 - 1735 hours - Point Atkinson - Vancouver Harbour, speed 7.8 knots - course - Due east. Fought southeast winds to 30 knots, and seas for 10 hours from Powell River. Seas calm now. Darren, Ken, and Eric on board. Another safe season now over.

2006 will mark the first year that we don't head north on the 'Ocean Light'. Taking her place will be our new ship, the "Great Bear II". It is not without some sadness as the Ocean Light has been our home on the water every summer, and carried us safely wherever we have voyaged. Without a doubt, she is a beautiful boat and we hope that she finds a new owner that will care for her as we have. The need for more room, a second bathroom with proper showers, staterooms, and of course, a warm dry pilothouse for the Captain, started us on our search for a new ship. For those of you that have traveled with us on the Ocean Light, you will always have those memories. For those of you traveling with us for the first time, your experiences are about to begin on the Great Bear II!

OCEAN ADVENTURES

NEW 'Great Bear II'

Starting our 2006 season, our new 54 foot Hatteras Long Range Cruiser, will be serving guests on British Columbia's coast.

This amazing new ship will afford guests private staterooms and 2 bathrooms complete with separate showers; increased water supply; amazing viewing from the salon and pilot house while staying warm and dry; more outside areas with cover for rainy or very sunny days; lots of cushioned seating on the forward deck or topside on the flying bridge; and a dining area with a 360 degree view to the outside.



The maximum number of guests on board will be 6, with an increase in not only space and privacy, but an increase in included services. Gone will be the days of bringing your own sleeping bag, towels, etc. We will now supply all the bedding you'll need. We will supply each guest with their own towel and face cloth for the week and fresh hand towels will be put out in each of the bathrooms, each day. We will still recommend that guests bring their own "beach style" towel for those times we visit hot springs, creeks, lakes or the beach. Gone will be the days of having to bring hip waders – when needed, a selection of sizes and styles will be available on board when you arrive. The ship will be outfitted with three kayaks for exploring and enjoying the serenity of our anchorages.

Some of our more popular dishes will still be served, but new recipes are, as we speak, being tested for the new galley. The chef(s) will now have a full size oven, a 4 burner stove, a microwave oven and a dishwasher!! The galley on the new ship offers far more prep space for us and a place for you to sit and visit with us while we are creating your next extravaganza.

This wonderful new ship will enable us to offer trips more year round. If people are visiting Vancouver, for example, for a weekend,

it will now be possible to book with us for a dinner out, a night out or even the whole weekend at really anytime of the year. We are also going to be looking for ideas from you for new trips to new areas on our amazing coast. Is there a destination or areas that we have not offered in our regular schedule, that you would like to explore? If so, please let us know and it could be one of our exciting new trips!

*Experience the Wild
in Wilderness*

as we travel through the heart of the
Great Bear Rainforest

For further information on the new boat, extra destinations we may be offering and/or to book your next adventure, email us at info@theoceanlight.com or call our office in North Vancouver: 604-812-9453. Please feel free to contact us with ideas for new destinations!

www.theoceanlight.com