

Tide Table Rat Pond

April 14, 2022

Millarville to Tofino, British Columbia

Tide tables aren't something we Millarvillarians spend much time studying; high and low tides don't vary much on Rat Pond.



Rat Pond is the closest body of water to our place. (So named because they harvested muskrats here during WWII, to make hats and mitts for soldiers.)

We are traveling to Tofino for the Easter weekend. My brothers, sister, and in-laws from Saskatchewan will join us. We prairie folk spend a lot of time studying the weather and we talk about it constantly, but the comings and goings of the tide rarely enters the conversation.

Reading tides is a way of life in Tofino. Surfers want to know when ocean swells will be at their peak, beach hikers seek a time of day when there will be a wide expanse of sand, and boaters judge the depth of submerged obstacles by studying tide predictions.

I decided to become familiar with Tofino tide tables before we go. It wasn't difficult to find one, *Tide Table Tofino* is a common search on Google.

If I am reading this chart correctly, high tide will be at lunch time Saturday, and the tide will be out when the sun sets, a great time for a walk on the beach.

Based upon this Tide Table I also predict that surfers will be at home smoking dope Saturday; both the temperature and the wave height predictions are disappointing.

		Days 0-3 Weather Summary: Light rain (total 7mm), mostly falling on Tue afternoon. Low air temperatures (max 7°C on Mon night, min 3°C on Tue night). Winds decreasing (fresh winds from the SE on Tue afternoon, calm by Wed morning).						Days 4-6 Weather Summary: Mostly dry. Low air temperatures (max 8°C on Sat afternoon, min 4°C on Thu night). Wind will be generally light.							
Change units		Mon		Tuesday 12		Wednesday 13		Thursday 14		Friday 15		Saturday 16		Sun	
Time of Day		night	afternoon	afternoon	night	afternoon	night	afternoon	afternoon	night	afternoon	afternoon	night	afternoon	afternoon
Wave Height Map	See all maps														
High Tide height (m)		10:40PM	10:15AM	11:21PM	2:50	11:11AM	11:30PM	11:58AM	10:25AM	12:44PM	10:58AM	1:28PM	1:26AM	2:14PM	3:24
Low Tide height (m)		4:28AM	1:07	4:33PM	0:01	5:15AM	1:09	5:33PM	5:57AM	6:09PM	6:37AM	6:43PM	7:17AM	7:18PM	7:58AM
Swall (m)	direction	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Wave Height (m)		3.0	2.5	2.2	1.6	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	1.0
Period (s)		10	11	10	9	8	8	18	18	16	16	15	15	14	14
Wind (km/h)		W	W	W	W	W	W	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW
Today's sea temperature in Tofino in 8.8 °C (Statistics for 11 Apr 1981-2016 - mean: 9.4 max: 10.9 min: 8.4 °C)															
Summary		some clouds	some clouds	rain showers	rain showers	cloudy	light rain	rain showers	some clouds	clear	some clouds	some clouds	clear	clear	clear
Rain mm		-	-	2	2	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
High °C		7	6	6	8	8	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	8	7
Low °C		4	4	6	3	4	5	4	5	6	4	5	6	4	5
Chill °C		3	2	1	2	6	5	5	5	6	4	4	3	4	5
Sunrise		6:37	-	-	6:35	-	-	6:33	-	-	6:31	-	6:30	-	6:28
Sunset		-	8:16	-	-	8:12	-	8:14	-	-	8:15	-	8:16	-	8:17

Unsurprisingly, I got a "no results" response when I Googled...

...Tide Table Rat Pond

Potlatch

April 15, 2022

Tofino, British Columbia

Potlatch is defined in part by Wikipedia as, “the reaffirmation of family, clan, and international connections...”

By this definition, the Paton family is having a *Potlatch* over the Easter weekend. We will host it where the ritual began, on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

The Paton Family - reaffirming the clan on a Tofino beach.

Wikipedia goes on to describe potlatch activities: “Traditional potlatches involve music, dancing, singing, storytelling, making speeches, joking and games. The recitation of oral histories is a central part of many potlatches.”



A traditional Potlatch ceremony.

The Paton Family potlatch celebration in 2022 involved most of these elements,



....and a few more.

One of the regular features of a Paton Family Potlatch is the secretive *In-Law Meeting* ceremony.

I am not entirely sure what transpires at these events, but the participants seem to get a lot of satisfaction ventilating on the faults and flawed habits of core family members.

The In-Laws, seen here looking out over the ocean, pondering questions like; *Why are they all so bossy?*



The very first *In-Law Meeting*. Glen (far left), Terri and Jayne (middle, not sure which).

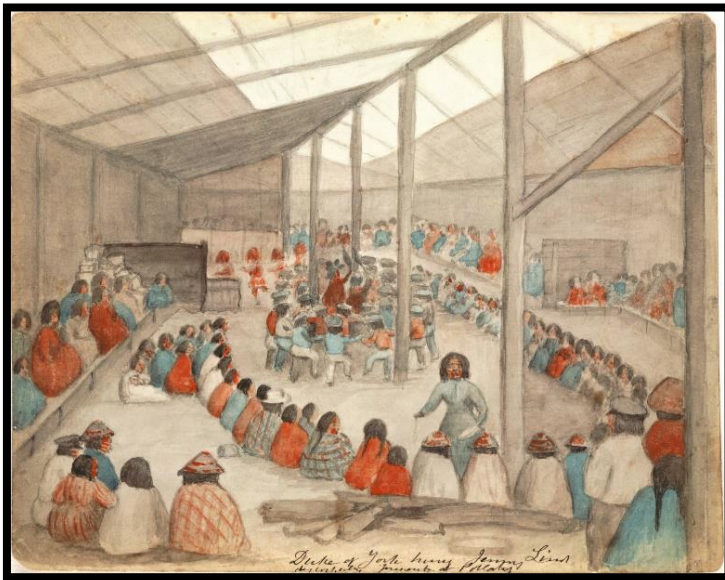


Outlaws - Brad and Val



There was a time when we couldn't have legally held such an event. Potlatches were banned in Canada from 1884 until 1951.

A traditional potlatch ceremony involved giving away or destroying possessions and valuable items to demonstrate the owner's wealth and power. When Europeans arrived on the scene, with their predisposition to accumulation of wealth, they couldn't understand the Indigenous tradition of destroying belongings. The Europeans resented the practice of burning Hudson's Bay blankets, copper pots, and other trade goods they had exchanged with First Nations people.



Missionaries and government agents, who considered potlatch "a worse than useless custom", lobbied the federal government to ban the ceremony, resulting in this amendment to *The Indian Act* – April 19, 1884:

"Every Indian or other person who engages in or assists in celebrating the Indian festival known as the "Potlatch" or in the Indian dance known as the "Tamanawas" is guilty of a misdemeanor, and liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than six nor less than two months."

Woman distributing potlatch.

The first person to be charged under the law was a Sto:lo man from Chilliwack, Bill Uslick, who horrified Indian agent Frank Delvin by giving away all his goods, "practically left himself destitute." He was arrested February 1, 1896 and sentenced to two months in prison.

The second person charged under the Act was Kevin Paton (left), for spending all his cash on pie and ice cream.



Higher Ground

Good Friday April 15, 2022
Tofino, British Columbia

Living by the sea is wonderful, but I am happy we weren't in Tofino 58 years ago today.



On Good Friday 1964, tectonic plates grinding together beneath the Gulf of Alaska set off a magnitude 9.2 earthquake. A giant tsunami rose along the Alaskan panhandle and rippled down the Pacific Rim, advancing at 700 kilometres per hour. The first of two rogue waves reached the sleeping town of Tofino in three and a half hours.

Brad Paton, living by the sea.

The first wave swamped Tofino then travelled south along the coast and up the narrow fjord to Port Alberni. The 5' wave caused minor damage along the way, but it had the positive effect of alerting the Island's population to the fact that a significant hydrological event was occurring.

The second wave hit an hour after the first; a full-blown 14' tidal tsunami.

When the wall of water made landfall at Tofino, residents of the town were already making their way to higher ground. They left their homes and possessions behind to face the blast.



Alberni Inlet is a seventy-five-kilometre funnel; wide at the mouth, narrowing as it approaches the town. The Venturi effect, of water moving in a confined space, caused the tidal wave to rise in the

fjord valley and the water's velocity to increase exponentially. The devastation caused by the tsunami's second wave was violent and widespread.

Just when it seemed the worst was over, the wave reversed and flushed back down the inlet, taking what was left of homes and businesses with it. A raft of debris floated back to Tofino, and out to sea.

55 Island homes were destroyed and another 375 were damaged on Good Friday 1964. The wave demolished a pulp mill, marinas, and every other business in its path. 5000 people were left without work, many were homeless.



Mrs. Miller and her three children were forced to retreat to the safety of the attic as water from the first wave entered their home. When the second wave hit, the entire house lifted and began to float. The Miller family was relocated a half mile upstream, while riding in the attic.

The Good Friday tsunami caused the equivalent of \$750,000,000 property damage in the Tofino – Port Alberni corridor. Thanks to the warning wave, not a single human life was lost.

If we get a tsunami warning this Good Friday, we will follow the little guy on the right and head for ...

... higher ground.



Jayne Paton, practicing Tsunami survival techniques.

Some Conditions Apply

April 16, 2022

Tofino, BC

New vehicles are difficult to find these days. Supply shortages worldwide have made it almost impossible to get your hands on one, but I may have a solution. I stumbled upon 125 brand new cars in a hidden location south of Tofino. The cars are older, but they have 0 km and are exceptionally clean.



In March of 1972 a 10,500-ton freighter the Vanlene, left Japan destined for Washington State. The ship veered 200 miles off course due to faulty navigational equipment.

The fully loaded ship ran aground near Austin Island in Barkley Sound.

The bow of the ship lodged on a reef and stayed above the waves; the stern took on water and sank. Captain Lo Chung Hung sent out a distress call, which was answered by a tugboat operating nearby. All 39 crewmen on board survived but the ship and half its cargo were destroyed.

About 125 of the 300 new cars on board slipped beneath the waves and remain there to this day.

So, if you are having trouble finding your next new vehicle, you may be able to get a very good deal in Tofino, on a 1973 Dodge Colt...



... Some Conditions Apply.

Speaking of cars from the bottom of the ocean, ...



... Kevin and Jayne rented this slime-green Kia for the trip.

Transformation Mask

April 16, 2022

Tofino, British Columbia

There is something primal about the west coast of Vancouver Island. Walking among the towering cedars and along the beach today, it is as if the modern world doesn't exist.

Paton Tribe, on Long Beach

For one man, that is exactly what happened. John Jewitt's world disappeared while visiting this coast, transformed to a primitive existence.



On March 22, 1803, the frigate *Boston*, carrying trade goods to exchange with *Nuu-chah-nulth* (*Nootka*) people, sailed past this point on Long Beach, and on to Nootka Sound. The *Boston* found safe harbour at Woody Point and anchored there.

Chief Maquinna and a contingent of Nootka warriors were invited on board by the captain, to inspect the ship's goods. Maquinna was much impressed with European trade items, particularly fishhooks, spears and other metal pieces made by the ship's blacksmith, John Jewitt.

Interaction among the sailors and indigenous people was cordial at first. They exchanged furs and food supplies for manufactured goods. On the third day a dispute arose between Maquinna and the captain over a damaged rifle. The riff escalated to the point of violence. By nightfall, the Nootka had killed every man on board, except for John Jewitt and a sailmaker named John Thompson.

Jewitt was spared because of his talent for metal work, which Maquinna highly prized. Thompson wasn't killed because Jewitt convinced Maquinna that Thompson was his father and refused to work without him.

Jewitt and Thompson became slaves to Maquinna. They furnished the Chief with metalwork, in turn Maquinna protected the sailors from his 500 Nootka warriors who wanted them dead.

Jewitt and Thompson lived among the Nootka for three years. Their European culture was stripped away, replaced by a primordial hunter-gatherer existence. Jewitt and Thompson became immersed

in Nootka culture. Over time, they adapted to indigenous ways of life; they learned the language, dressed like natives, and ate what the Nootka ate (fish, clams, oysters, blubber, and whale oil from the sea; venison, bear meat, and fruit from the land).



As time went by and Jewitt assimilated, he and Maquinna became like brothers. Two years along, Maquinna paid a bride-price for a wife for Jewitt. A neighbouring Chief agreed to sell his seventeen-year-old daughter and she became Jewitt's "country wife". The couple lived in an encampment with Maquinna, his nine wives, and 50 other slaves.

Nuu-chah-nulth Transformation Mask

John Jewitt was rescued in 1806 by a passing ship. He and Maquinna parted company as friends. Maquinna agreed to adopt Jewitt's wife and a newborn child and raise him as his own.

Before he died at the age of 37 in Hartford, Connecticut, Jewitt wrote a detailed account of his life among the Nootka. If you care to leave the modern world behind for a while, click the link below.

<https://archive.org/details/narrativeofadven00jewi/page/36/mode/2up>

Jewitt's story takes our *First World* preconceptions, and looks at them through a ...

... Transformation Mask.

Glen, hunting and gathering seafood.



In the Front of the Canoe

April 17, 2022
Tofino, British Columbia

“Nobody sits or stands before him in the canoe.”

This isn't a statement; it is a proper name, an English translation of Chief *Wickaninnish*.

Wickaninnish was Chief of the Tla-o-gui-aht, a sub-tribe of the Nuu-chah-nulth “Nootka” people, around 1800. His tribe often traded with Maquinna's.

In 1803 Wickaninnish was visiting Maquinna's village, where he met John Jewitt. The chief was so impressed with Jewitt's metalwork he offered to buy the slave from Maquinna.



Wickaninnish Inn – Tofino, British Columbia

Maquinna refused to sell, so Wickaninnish rowed back to his home in Tofino.

Presumably, he sat ...

... in the front of the canoe.



The Tribe

April 18, 2022
Tofino to Millarville

Every mile along the winding road to the west coast of Vancouver Island is a step back in time, to a place where wildlife is still wild, where wilderness dominates the landscape. Other than specs of development like Tofino, the west coast looks much like it would have 100,000 years ago.



This is a land defined by rocks and driftwood, sand and waves, cedar trees and other-worldly plants. Harbor seals, bears, eagles (bald and otherwise), whales, otters, gulls, and shorebirds of a hundred different types, hunt along this coast as they have since Chief Wickaninnish lived among them.



Cedar tree-hugger Jayne (left) and a colourful Skunk Cabbage (right)

There is no better place than the rugged west coast to gather as a clan, to take stock of the strength there is in family.

Proximity to water was a welcome reprieve from the effects of a long winter for this group of flatlanders.

The Paton Family Potlatch ended with a renewed appreciation for nature and a commitment to preserve ...

... The Tribe

