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Shoppers set sights on Seattle

A shopping, dining and dancing mecca

By **MHAIRRI WOODHALL**
 Special to The Okanagan Sunday

With the loonie rivalling the greenback, we decided to follow the herd of Canucks south of the border for a weekend of discount shopping. After spending the better part of a day digging through piles of purses and fighting our fellow countrymen for last season's must-haves, we bid a somewhat exhausted farewell to the world of bargain bedlam in Tulalip and set our sights on Seattle.

Birthplace of Starbucks, Jimi Hendrix and the grunge movement, Seattle promises an eclectic mix of hip districts brimming with boho boutiques, chic shops, budding culinary gems, urbane wine bars and cozy cafés. For three-days we toured, dined and danced our way through the Belltown, Capitol Hill and Queen Anne districts to seek out Seattle's top sites, spots and shops.

BELLTOWN

This once seedy neighbourhood, home to industrial sites, used-car dealerships and low-rent apartments, is now a vibrant shopping and nightlife district sprinkled with luxury condominiums, live-work lofts and the occasional dive bar, which helps to retain the area's gritty history.

Cool, hard-to-find labels and custom threads are found at Kuhlman's under the Ace Hotel, where hipster tailor and owner Ian Kuhlman creates and recreates unique pieces to fit your style. Screened tees, perfectly-sized custom jeans and beautifully tailored suits for guys and gals are some of the fine finds at Kuhlman's.

Baby & Co, on the border of Belltown has been a Seattle staple since 1978. Posh lines from international fashion houses are hand selected by couturier veteran Jill Donnelly, who worked under the original owners Baby and Uri before taking the helm of this unconventional and trendsetting shop.

Given that Belltown is host to some of the region's finest culinary masters, we booked a tour with Seattle Food Tours to quench our thirst for local knowledge and fill our bellies with some of Seattle's delicious dishes. The two-and-a-half hour walking tour includes a colourful,



Photo contributed

Seattle Space Needle towers above the Asian Art Museum in Capitol Hill's Volunteer Park.

comedic commentary on Belltown's history and a visit to six restaurants. Highlights of this \$46 tour included sushi at the two-time James Bear nominee Shiro Kashiba's restaurant Shiro's, and the legendary Frontier Room for critically acclaimed barbeque in a country-chic setting.

Belltown also boasts a happy hour and nightlife scene. Après-shopping, head to Rob Roy between 4 and 7 p.m. for half-price food, \$1 of any drinks and free Goldfish Crackers. Classic cocktails and a home-style menu draw a consistent after-work and late-night crowd.

End the night with muddled martinis and dancing at Karma Martini Lounge.

CAPITOL HILL

Artsy, indie and free-spirited best describes the Capitol Hill district of Seattle. Northeast of the downtown core, this area was at the forefront of the grunge movement, and offers a plethora of small coffee bars, book stores, galleries, shops and eateries.

With over 150,000 titles in stock, the family-owned Elliot Bay Book Company has won a place in the hearts of Seattle locals and visitors alike.

Grab a coffee at the in-store cafe and browse through the wide selection of best-sellers, hand-bound books and signed first editions.

Retail Therapy, a shopper's nirvana, flogs an assortment of unique wares from around the globe. In addition to silky slips, cheeky cosmetics and handmade jewelry, this quirky boutique features an art gallery in the back that showcases local up-and-coming artists.

To add a bit of culture to your trip visit the Asian Art Museum in Capitol Hill's Volunteer Park. Housed in a restored Art Deco building, the museum's large collection includes tapestries, ceramics and stone-carvings from China, Japan, India and Southeast Asia. Admission is \$7, and complimentary on the first Thursday of each month.

Stop for a glass of wine at The Local Vine, which offers a selection of more than 100 wines by the glass. This wine bar is the perfect place to unwind after taking in the sites. We felt at home sipping on a chilled glass of chardonnay, snacking on tapas and using the free Wi-Fi to update our Facebook status.

Another foodie favourite on the Hill is the modern-Mexican restaurant Barrio. The Rock Shrimp Ceviche, Dungeness Crab Chile Relleno with butternut squash and dry-cured chorizo and melt-in-your-mouth Churros with Xocalatl Chocolate earned our heartfelt recommendation.

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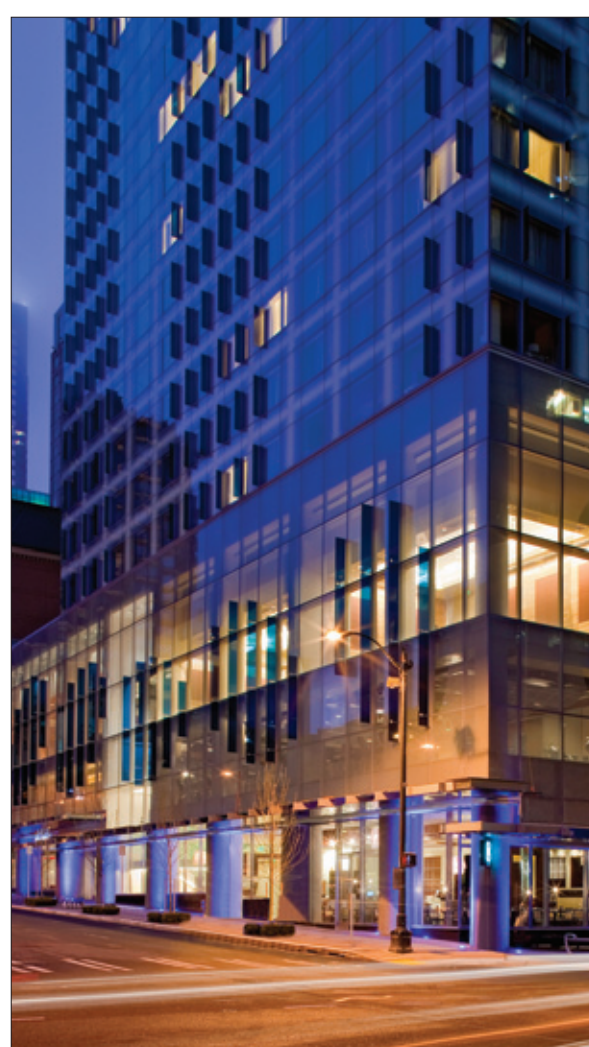


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Smartphone app can help with Newfoundland lingo

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. (CP) — Have you ever heard the word "moreish" used to describe an especially tempting dessert?

What does it mean if a Bell Island ferry is solo on the tickle?

And what, exactly, is the weather like if it's mauzy?

These are just some of the words and phrases that might throw the first-time visitor to Newfoundland and Labrador. Luckily, there are dictionaries and even a smartphone application to help set things straight, b'y.

The Newfoundland Tongue, by Newfoundland writer Nellie Strowbridge, explains that moreish is a word used when people want more of whatever they're eating.

Example: "My lord, that's morish. I ate it like I stole it."

The Bell Island ferry on Conception Bay is solo when just one of two year-round vessels is running on the "tickle," or narrow strait between the island and Portugal Cove, about a 20-minute drive west of St. John's. You might hear ferry updates using such phrases if you

listen to local radio reports.

And mauzy, according to the Dictionary of Newfoundland English, is a word you'll hear to describe foggy, warm weather that may include misty rain.

Strowbridge spent 20 years collecting contributions for her book and is always keeping lists of new sayings.

She recently told her granddaughter that she was tabbity, meaning she had a fussy appetite, she said from Pasadena, N.L.

"Her mother had not heard that word. I grew up with it and hadn't thought of it as vintage Newfoundland."

Many phrases and speech patterns descend from the Gaelic once spoken by Irish settlers or the dialects of those who hailed from the West Country of England. In fishing outposts that were isolated for much of the last 500 years, ways of speaking held fast.

One of Strowbridge's favourite sayings is: "Hoist mae a coob, woot" which translates as "Give me a kiss, would you?"

Quick talk with abbreviations — the friendly term "boy" becomes "b'y" — can also be traced to the need to quickly communicate on fishing boats in rough, windy weather.

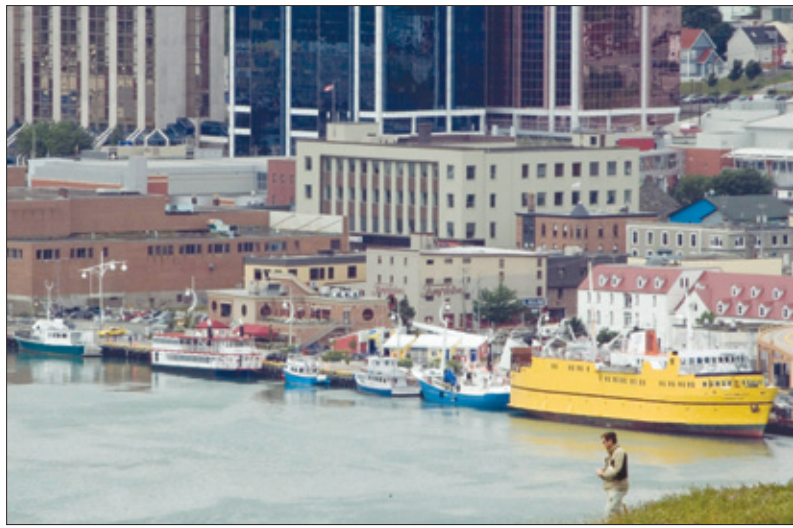
The traveller who explores smaller communities in the province may well encounter unfamiliar language.

"If you hear an expression you don't understand, don't mind asking what it means," Strowbridge said. "Newfoundlanders enjoy explaining aspects of our culture. Often, this helps us realize how unique are expressions we take for granted."

For those who want a cultural leg up, there's the handy and very popular Whaddaya App translator for Android and iPhones.

The application is named for the common Newfoundland greeting: "Whaddaya at?" or "What are you doing now?"

It includes such phrases as: "My son, the flies are right maggoty here today." Newfoundland Allan Hawco,



The Canadian Press

The boat-lined harbour in St. John's, N.L., is the backdrop for a hiker on Signal Hill.

star of the St. John's-based CBC-TV hit Republic of Doyle, recently drew laughs from the audience as he tried out a few typical sayings for George Stroumbouloupoulos on Stroumbouloupoulos Tonight show.

"Stay where you're at 'til I come where you're to," Hawco explained, means: "Stay there until I arrive."

"What's after happening now," he said, is simply: "What just happened?"

Place names such as Red Head Cove or Joe Batt's Arm make more sense when you consider they were usually named from the water and refer to fishing rights, said Philip

Hiscock, a folklore specialist who also studies language at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's. An "arm" refers to an ocean inlet, Hiscock said.

"Newfoundland place names go back 500 years or more before printed maps. You had to have really good indications of where you were in a boat."

Visitors should also know that the term "Newfie" is as loathed as it is accepted, and so-called Newfie jokes can be highly offensive.

Some think of "Newfie" as "the other N-word," Hiscock said. "It's a complicated word."

Seattle

Continued from page B5

QUEEN ANNE

The Queen Anne district is a mélange of grand 19th century architecture, stylish restaurants and famed Seattle attractions. Upper Queen Anne is a charming residential community with historic homes, tree-lined streets and parks, quaint shops and spectacular city views. In the Lower Queen Anne you'll find tourist hot spots like the Space Needle, Children's Museum and Pacific Science Centre.

In the heart of the Queen Anne, is Seattle's only community-organized farmers market. Each Thursday afternoon in June through October, local producers gather to sell freshly baked breads, heirloom vegetables, organic cheeses, wine and a variety of

gourmet prepared food.

Music is engrained in the Seattle culture, and anyone with an appreciation for sweet sounds should definitely visit the Experience Music Project across from the Space Needle. This cutting-edge audio sensory museum includes interactive exhibits on the legendary Jimi Hendrix, Nirvana and other music icons, as well as an incredible collection of industry memorabilia. The \$15 ticket price also includes admission to the critically acclaimed Avatar Exhibition at the Science Fiction Museum.

As cheese and chocolate lovers we were thrilled with The Melting Pot fondue restaurant. Our sinfully delicious and decadent "Big Night Out" four-course meal started with bread dipped in a gooey concoction of melted cheese and wine. The second course was salad (this helped to reduce the guilt as-

sociated with eating a vat of cheese), followed by a steak and seafood entree, which we masterfully cooked in Coq au Vin.

IF YOU GO

We chose to stay at the luxurious and centrally located Hyatt at Olive 8. It offers chic, modern rooms with iPod docking stations, an indoor-pool and eco-friendly spa and restaurant. A great way to save on Seattle sightseeing is to purchase a \$59 City Pass, which includes admission to the Space Needle, Pacific Science Center, Seattle Aquarium, Seattle Harbour Tour and the Experience Music Project. Two more of our top Seattle nosh spots are the Purple Café and Wine Bar for an elegant post-shopping lunch, and the Waterfront Seafood Grill for spectacular harbour views and succulent seafood.

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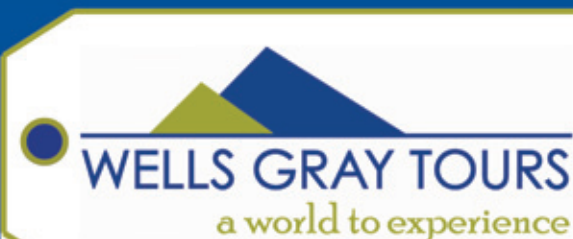
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