

## Happy New Year

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### Our View

Each New Year, the Review takes a look into the future, and makes some tongue-in-cheek predictions. Here's our look into 2006.

The infamous fastcat ferries will begin a successful route between Nanaimo and Vancouver, with the help of the many former BC Ferry workers who have now gone to work for the American company. Premier Gordon Campbell protests that the new ferries' fares are far too low to allow BC Ferries to compete.

Ian Bruce, after failing to gain a seat on municipal council or in the Legislature, is appointed to the Senate.

Clive Tanner, ever inventive entrepreneur, holds the first annual Peninsula Book Crawl. He is quoted as saying this is much like a pub crawl, only for smart people.

Murray Coell, tiring of his provincial role, gets an acting job, cast in the remake of The Invisible Man.

MP Gary Lunn throws over his political career to become a jet pilot, moving to Cold Lake, Alberta.

The Town of Sidney, always looking for innovative ways to use the waterfront and bring in tourists, has a wall built underwater along the seashore, making an underwater walkway for orca whales. Keeping them closer to town allows SeaQuest Adventures to take tourists whalewatching, and save gas at the same time.

Reg Teeney has a statue made of King Neptune that looks strikingly like Denis Paquette. He has the statue erected in the centre of his underwater dive park.

Tourists who want to stay dry can view both the underwater park and the whales on camera in the new ecology centre, at the new hotel on the new Sidney waterfront. Oh, and the hotel actually has rooms to let, too.

In a stunning decision, North Saanich council unanimously agrees to the building of a bridge between Land's End Road and the Malahat. Toll booths are automated one-armed bandits.

Central Saanich council, in equally stunning decisions, agree to extend water services to Senanus Drive residents, and to build an arts centre/drive-in movie theatre at the corner of Keating X Road and West Saanich Road.

Richard Paquette, CEO at the Victoria International Airport, bans all planes that make any noise at all from entering Peninsula air space. The airport closes, and the new, multi-storey glass-windowed departures area is turned into a huge aquarium.

Saanich Peninsula Hospital, after months of fighting with the Vancouver Island Health Authority over surgical services, strikes out on its own, opening an orthopedic specialty clinic. They add a new innovation -- a chef training school. Doctors and patients from near and far flock to SPH because the food services are so good. Specialty of the house: filet of Waldner.

Premier Gordon Campbell declares that other hospitals have to meet these new medical and hospitality standards.

The News Review staff completely loses its mind and holds a photo contest for the best-looking cat on the Peninsula. The winner would be immortalized with a giant mural on the side of the new Marker hotel, visible to both the boaters passing by and all those on Beacon Avenue. We predict at least 1,000 entries.

MLAs vote to give themselves a 15 per cent raise. Oh wait. That was 2005 news.