

T-shirt night at Spinnakers

Around 50 CAMRA Victoria members showed up for the Annual T-shirt Night at Spinnakers on February 13th. Paul Hadfield welcomed us and apologized for the construction mess! Once again Spinnakers is being remodelled, and not for the first time in its 24 years! Glen Stusek, presented Paul with the 2006 CAMRA Victoria Pub of the Year award. Paul acknowledged the contribution of the brewery staff: Lon Ladell (retired), Rob Monk and Tom Grant. Paul said “Having a brewery in a pub is rather like having a kitchen in a restaurant – everyone should have one!... The more brewpubs there are, the more pushing the envelope there is and everyone is a winner.... We live in an amazing place and we have this huge abundance around us and it’s important that we appreciate this..... We bring different kinds of products to the table that you will not find elsewhere: vegetables, sausage, poultry, meat, etc. In the Belgian ales we used local fruit, so they are a local take on what Belgian ales are like. All the brewers share a passion for Belgian beers.”

Rob introduced the three Belgian ales. He pointed out that making them had been a learning experience. The ales were brewed with Cargill’s Special B Belgian malt, which gives the beer a dark colour and raisin flavours. Saaz hops and a special yeast make a well balanced not too sweet beer. The beers were made with 150 pounds of fruit in each 700 litre batch. They all finished at about 7 to 8 percent alcohol. The first made was a cherry, and the fruit was thrown in whole. The cherry pits were a problem, and the fruit did not come through as well as expected. Rob served the raspberry ale first, a bit young but he wanted us to sample it anyway. It had a rich fruity nose and a great raspberry flavour. The cherry did not have as much aroma but had a great flavour. The Blackcurrant was very complex, very dry and interesting flavours. These beers will not be on tap but will be in bottles soon.

The T-shirt contest was judged by Glen Stusek, Maureen Blaseckie and Roy Leeson. The three winners were Rob Simpson, Andrea Archer and Andrew MacElwee. Interestingly these were all commercial shirts. There were some very innovative shirts hand-made for the contest. Perhaps there could be separate prizes for them.

For immediate release:

SECOND ANNUAL CAMRA VANCOUVER BEER AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The Vancouver chapter of CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale Society) BC is pleased to announce the results of our second annual Vancouver Beer Awards. Designed to recognize excellence in both local and regional brewing and beer service in B.C., this year's recipients exemplify the "Best of the Best" in British Columbia's thriving beer culture.

The 2007 Vancouver Beer Award recipients are:

Best Local Brewpub 2007

1. Mission Springs Brewing, Mission
2. Dix BBQ & Brewery, Vancouver
3. Steamworks Brewing Co., Vancouver

Best BC Brewery 2007

1. Phillips Brewing Co., Victoria
2. Storm Brewing Ltd., Vancouver
3. Crannog Ales, Sorrento

Best Local Beer Cafe, Pub or Restaurant 2007

1. The Whip Gallery Restaurant, Vancouver
2. The Railway Club, Vancouver
3. The Raven Neighbourhood Pub, North Vancouver

CAMRA Vancouver congratulates this year's winners for their dedication to showcasing the best of the brewing arts in this province. Through the innovation and craftsmanship of B.C.'s brewers, there has never been a better time to enjoy the ales, lagers and specialty beers of Western Canada.

Comprised of beer lovers, home brewers and brewing professionals, CAMRA BC is a membership organization that is dedicated to the promotion and responsible consumption of better quality beer.

With groups in Victoria, Vancouver, and throughout the province, B.C. beer lovers are invited to join CAMRA BC and to participate in the many brewing-related events held each year throughout our region. You can find out more about joining CAMRA BC on our web site at <http://www.camra.ca/>, where you can learn about upcoming meetings, beer festivals, promotions & events.

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The Craft Brewers Association of British Columbia (CBABC) recently announced the appointment of Gerry Hieter as Executive Director of the association. Matt Phillips, Chairman of the CBABC, said “The CBABC is really delighted. This appointment will allow us to better represent the excellent craft beers of British Columbia to consumers”.

Gerry Hieter is excited over the prospects of the job. “I am looking forward to the challenges and opportunities of working with diverse elements of the CBABC”, he said, He has considerable expertise in the craft brewing industry in British Columbia. He was the first President of Whistler Brewing in 1989, and of Lighthouse Brewing in 1999, and has represented Shaftebury Brewing, Spinnakers Brewpub, and the Sleeman’s group. He is also the Chairman of the Great Canadian Beer Festival.



John A. Mitchell: Canada's grandfather of beer

John A. Mitchell was born in 1929 in Singapore, and was educated in Devon, England. His first job in the hospitality business was at age 21 at London's prestigious Mayfair Hotel. After a year there he became a waiter at the British Hotel Association on the French Riviera. In 1954 he emigrated to Canada and became a bartender at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, Toronto. In 1956 he moved west to the Banff Springs Hotel and a year later further west to the Hotel Vancouver. From 1963 he was bar manager at the Sylvia Hotel, and in 1979 he left to become a partner in the Troller Pub at Horseshoe Bay.

In 1980 John read article in Illustrated London News about CAMRA and the movement to save traditional real ales. In 1981 he visited England and was inspired by CAMRA's vigorous condemnation of bland mega-brewery beer. He brought back some English beers and invited some friends to sample them. All agreed that these were magnificent, interesting, and very different from what was then available in BC. Furthermore, the consensus was that John's homebrew measured up to them. The decision was made to start their own brewery.

John teamed up with Frank Appleton to design a brewery in Horseshoe Bay after reading Frank's article in Harrowsmith Magazine. They started brewing small batches of beer in John's garage. Then came the difficult part: getting the permit for a brewpub. Such things were unheard of in British Columbia. John worked hard until he had successfully lobbied the province to allow microbreweries and brewpubs to exist. However it was decided that the Horseshoe Bay Brewery could not sell directly to the public but had to have a separate outlet. The Troller Pub took on this role and thus became Canada's first brewpub even though the beer was made up the street.

In 1984 John Mitchell and partners opened Spinnakers Brewpub in Victoria. This was Canada's first in-house brewpub. John was the publican and also brewed there for six months. He established his distinctive style on several beers. Mt. Tolmie Dark, and Empress Stout were very English in style and one beer, Mitchell's ESB is (named after him) is still brewed today. In his 1988 New World Guide to Beer, British author Michael Jackson describes John's ESB as "beautifully balanced, the Mt. Tolmie Dark as a classic strong mild, of which Britain should be envious and the Empress Stout as a model of the style."

After two years John left the group and became a consultant. He now resides in North Vancouver. Since 1986 he has worked on various brewery projects. He has been associated with Howe Sound Brewing since its conception and was the original brewer. At Howe Sound his mark is once again seen in such beers as the Baldwin and Cooper Best Bitter. A strong dark beer, Father John's Christmas Ale, is named in his honour

Reminder
from: [CAMRA Victoria Yahoo! Group](#)

Title: CAMRA Victoria - Christmas Party

Date: Saturday December 8, 2007

Time: 7:30 pm - 10:30 pm

Street: 28 Bastion Square

City State
Victoria, BC

Zip:

Notes:

Tis the season for the annual CAMRA Christmas Party. Once again the Maritime Museum, 28 Bastion Square, will be the venue and the food will be courtesy of the members, 7:30 p.m. till 10:00 pm. Bring your own refreshments and a contribution to the pot luck table. If your last name begins with A-J please bring something salty or savoury, K-P something salad like and finally, R-Z something sweet. Please also bring a non-perishable food item that will be donated to a local food bank.

