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“ IT TAKES PATIENCE  
TO CATCH THE FISH OF A LIFETIME. ”



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## THE SAME PATIENCE THAT IT TAKES TO SELL YOUR HOME OR HELP YOU FIND YOUR DREAM HOME... TOM HASSAN HAS BEEN ONE OF WEST VANCOUVER'S TOP AGENTS FOR OVER 22 YEARS.

- #4 Prudential Sussex Realty (British Columbia) 2011, 2012.
- #1 Agent in Ambleside, Cedardale, Dundarave, Sentinel Hill and Queens, 2011 (Based on REBGV- Units Sold)
- 40+ sales in West Vancouver in 2011 and 25 sales to date in 2012.
- Highest selling Land Value sale on Sentinel Hill in 2011 and 2012 (1010 Braeside and 960 Younette).
- 2nd Highest selling home in Ambleside-Dundarave-Queens for 2011. Listed and Buyer by Tom (2040 26th, \$4,030,000)
- Highest Land Sale in Ambleside without a view for 2011 (1349 Mathers, \$2,180,000).
- Top 130 Agents in Vancouver in 2011 and 2012 (10,000 Agents).
- Lifetime resident of Ambleside- Sentinel Hill area.

Choosing a Realtor who **specializes and lives in your neighbourhood** provides a definite competitive advantage when buying or selling real estate. My goal is to attain the highest sale price for your home. Whether buying or selling, I commit to providing the highest level of customer service and integrity. **Call me today for an up-to-date home evaluation at 604.809.9777**

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# THE VANCOUVER SUN

100 YEARS STRONG

FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2012 | FINAL EDITION

BREAKING NEWS | VANCOUVERSUN.COM

## Historic water levels put pressure on Hydro

Heavy rains, higher-than-normal snowpack has increased stress on dams across the province

BY GORDON HOEKSTRA

VANCOUVER SUN

Melting snow and record rains have forced BC Hydro dam managers into an unprecedented balancing act this summer: spill water to keep dams at safe levels, but not so much that communities are flooded.

Kelvin Ketchum has been managing dam water levels for BC Hydro for more than two decades, but he's never seen anything like what's happened this year at reservoirs around the province.

A higher-than-normal snowpack and torrential rains in June and July have pushed BC Hydro's reservoirs in the Interior and northern B.C. to historic levels.

This is the first time since BC Hydro's largest interior dams were built in the 1960s that water has had to be spilled in the same season at all of its major dams: the W.A.C. Bennett and Peace Canyon dams in northern B.C., and the Mica, Revelstoke and Duncan dams in the southern Interior.

Spilling at the John Hart Dam on Vancouver Island has reached levels

not seen in 25 years.

Ketchum said while water managers are always vigilant, the high reservoir levels this year have increased pressure more than ever.

"This is a time of lots of stress around here," said Ketchum, manager of systems optimization.

So far, the effects of the historic water levels have been kept to a minimum,

but more rain is forecast in the southern Interior for today and for the weekend.

On Thursday afternoon, BC Hydro issued an advisory it has had to increase flows by 10 per cent from the Hugh Keenleyside Dam on the Arrow Lake Reservoir.

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DINING

## Restaurants divided over new wine rules

Bring your own bottle, but it will cost you

BY KIM NURSALL

VANCOUVER SUN

Patrons can now bring their own bottle of wine to B.C. restaurants and take home what they don't drink.

New liquor laws announced Thursday by the provincial government allow the wine to be opened and served by participating restaurants, which may charge a corkage fee. Six other Canadian provinces, including Alberta, Ontario and Quebec, already allow so-called BYOW — bring your own wine.

But restaurant owners are divided over the change, according to an industry representative.

Luc Erjavec, Canadian Restaurant and Food Services Atlantic vice-president, said restaurants that are not supportive of BYOW may set higher corkage fees — upwards of \$25 per bottle to discourage people from bringing in their own wine. Conversely, Erjavec said, restaurants that favour the practice may use corkage as a marketing tool.

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## FISHING DEJA VU

More than 40 years after reeling in a 19-kilogram chinook, Tom Hassan and his father Les landed the same sized fish on a trip to Vancouver Island this past week. (Right) Tom and his brother Doug pose with the fish caught in 1969. » A8

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BREAKING NEWS: VANCOUVERSUN.COM | FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2012

FOUR-HOUR FIGHT

## A fishing trip down memory lane

Realtor, father return from north end of Vancouver Island with 19-kilogram chinook — just like the one they caught in 1969

BY GERRY BELLETT

VANCOUVER SUN

There's nothing more charming than fishing stories, and every father and son who ever dipped rods in the water together will have their favourites.

Realtor Tom Hassan and his dad Les, a retired North Shore doctor, are no exception.

On Tuesday, they returned from a four-day fishing trip to Quatsino Lodge on the north end of Vancouver Island after catching a 19-kilogram (42-pound) chinook.

For Tom, it brought back memories of his most memorable day's fishing — a summer night in Pender Harbour long ago when he and his brother and his older brother Doug pulled in another 42-pounder after a four-hour battle.

Hassan was only five at the time and the monster they hauled into their boat that night was almost as big as him.

"That was the first time my father and I pulled in a fish that size and 43 years later we've managed to do it again," said Hassan.

A lot of fishing trips have come and gone since that night in 1969. "Fishing was a big part of our family life. It's been a pastime since I was five and it was something that's bonded us," said Hassan.

Five years ago, his dad suffered a stroke that limited his activities and when Hassan took him fishing last year, it was a bit of a challenge.

"He's quite frail and last year he wouldn't even pick up a rod," he said. But this year, after the operators of Quatsino Lodge installed a special

chair in the stern of one of their fishing boats, father and son could once again enjoy fishing together.

It's not the same watching someone else fish. Dad is unable to stand up in the boat, but with the chair he could sit down and land a fish.

"At 78, he was the first guy in the boat to see we had a fish on the line — the rest of us were just sitting there eating peanuts," he said.

Each of the four days they fished they caught their limit and both came home with plenty of chinook and coho.

But no fishing experience could surpass that night in Pender Harbour when he, eight-year-old Doug and their dad went out for something to do before the two brothers were put to bed.

"We left at about six or seven o'clock and right inside Pender Harbour we had a fish on the line. It took us four hours to land it in the dark because we were only fishing with a 12-pound test line.

"I'll never forget it. In the end the fish came off the line but it was so exhausted that it lay on the surface and dad and Doug scooped it into the boat."

This was in the days before cell-phones so while they fought the fish, Hassan said his mom was ashore worrying why they hadn't returned before dark.

"She thought the boat had sunk so she was very relieved to see us and the big fish we had," he said.

Their fishing tale would make the pages of *The Vancouver Sun* along with a picture of the two brothers sharing a bathtub with the fish.

"The week before, my dad had entered *The Vancouver Sun* Fishing Derby and hadn't caught a thing," Hassan said.

"Then we caught this fish. It would easily have won first prize if we had landed it a week earlier," he added.

## Plenty to catch on the coast this summer

Sports fishing this summer has been good in parts of the B.C. coast, says Peter Fibiger, who runs Victoria-based SportfishingBC.com.

"In the Queen Charlottes it's been extraordinary and on the west coast of Vancouver Island it's been good as well," said Fibiger.

Those planning a fishing trip can scan the website for information on how the fishing is in various parts of the province, he said.

Anyone planning to fish should have the proper licence and be familiar with catch restrictions and regulations, which can vary from region to region. The regulations are published by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

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Gerry Bellett, Vancouver Sun