150 things you should know about BC

The things on this list were compiled by Beverley Rintoul for *On My Own,*
the newsletter for Lone Members of Girl Guides in BC, in July 2008.
Someone else might have chosen different things.

1. BC is **95 million hectares.**
2. There are **4.31 million people** living in BC.
3. We are the **third largest province.**
4. BC has an **official tartan**. It has five colours, each with its own significance: blue for the ocean; white for the dogwood; green for the forests; red for the maple leaf; and gold for the crown and sun on the shield and flag. The tartan was adopted in 1974.
5. **Provincial bird**: Steller's Jay
6. **Provincial flower**: dogwood
7. **Provincial mammal**: Kermode bear
8. The **provincial Coat of Arms** has as its centrepiece the shield of the province originally granted by King Edward VII in 1906; the remaining elements of the Coat of Arms were granted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1987. The stag and the ram represent the former colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia. The royal crest (the crowned lion standing on the crown) wears a collar of dogwood flowers and sits atop the golden helmet of sovereignty. Traditional heraldic elements of a wreath and mantling are in Canada's colours. Our provincial flower, the dogwood, appears a second time entwining the motto which translates as *Splendour without diminishment*. See a picture here: http://www.protocol.gov.bc.ca/protocol/prgs/symbols/symbols.htm
9. The **provincial flag** was adopted in 1960 and replicates the provincial shield. The Union Jack on the shield symbolizes our colonial origins. Our geographic location between the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains is represented by the wavy blue and silver bars and the setting sun.
10. There are **27,000km of coastline** in BC.
11. BC has **850 provincial parks/protected areas.**
12. The **first Governor** of BC was James Douglas, 1858 – 1864.
13. Steven L. Point is our **28th Lieutenant Governor** and the **first native** to hold the position.
14. BC joined Canada in 1871 as the **sixth province**.
15. The **world's largest hockey stick** is in Duncan, at the Cowichan Community Centre. It was built for Expo '86, is 205 feet long and weighs 28,118 kgs.
16. Golden has the country's **longest covered pedestrian bridge**. You can see a picture here: http://goldenadventures.ca/Gallery/Kicking-Horse-Country-Golden-BC/IMG_0839.
17. The **Park Bridge**, just east of Golden, opened in fall 2007 and is 405 metres long and 90 metres high. To see a picture, watch for the BC150 ads on TV or go to www.th.gov.bc.ca/kickinghorse/index.htm.
18. When you travel in BC you can camp, stay in a hotel or motel or in a **treehouse**. Free Spirit Spheres on Vancouver Island rent spherical hanging rooms for the night. See photos at www.freespiritspheres.com/index.htm. In Cherryville you can stay at Fiddlesticks in a more traditional treehouse.
19. The Squilax Hostel, part of Hostelling International, has most of its rooms in three converted Canadian National **cabooses**. For more info see www.hihostels.com/dba/hostels-Shuswap-Lake---HI-Shuswap-Lake---Squilax-General-Store-and-Hostel-011085.en.htm.
20. **Women were given the vote** in 1917.
21. The **first place in BC to have electricity** was the Moodyville Sawmill on Burrard Inlet. They turned the lights on in 1882.
22. The **first baseball game played under lights** took place 3 July 1931 in Vancouver's Athletic Park.
23. Just outside Prince Rupert, there is the "**Home for Lost Soles II,**" a western Red Cedar which locals and tourists alike nail their shoes to.
24. In Boswell, on the south arm of Kootenay Lake, there is a **glass house** made entirely of embalming fluid bottles. There's a photo and some history here: www.kootenayrockies.com/attractions/glasshouse.html
25. **Nanaimo Bars** were invented in, you guessed it, Nanaimo!

26. Nanaimo is home to the annual **bathtub race** held each year at the end of July. Participants race "modified" bathtubs in a loop from Nanaimo Harbour to Departure Bay, but the original race in 1967 was across Georgia Strait to Vancouver. See: www.bathtubbing.com/index.php
27. Kimberley is home to the **world's largest standing cuckoo clock**.
28. Mackenzie has the **world's largest tree crusher**. To find out what a tree crusher does see www.mackenziechamber.bc.ca/tree_crusher.htm.
29. In 1778, Great Britain's explorer, Captain James Cook, reached Nootka Sound and became the **first white man to set foot on British Columbian soil**.
30. In 1793, Alexander Mackenzie became the **first European to travel overland to the BC coast**.
31. 100 Mile House has **cross-country skis** that are 12 metres long. To find more big things in BC check out www.bigthings.ca.
32. The Fraser River is home to **six types of salmon**.
33. In 1954, BC hosted the Empire Games (what the Commonwealth Games were called until 1970) and those attending witnessed the **Miracle Mile**. Roger Bannister, the first man ever to run a mile in under four minutes, and John Landy both completed the race in less than four minutes. There is a statue to their achievement at the entrance to the PNE. Oh, Bannister won the race.
34. The **top 10 languages** spoken are now (according to the 2001 Census): English, Chinese (including Cantonese and Mandarin), Punjabi, German, French, Tagalog, Spanish, Italian, Korean and Dutch.
35. Because of our ethnic diversity, we also have **diversity in the food** available to us. Each culture coming to our land imports its favourite foods from home, and now you can find foods from all corners of the planet at your local grocery store.
36. In 1899, 7,500 **Doukhobors** left Russia because they did not believe in violence and refused to do military service. In 1908 many of them moved again, this time to the Boundary-Kootenay region of BC. They are vegetarians, since they do not believe in taking life, and lived communally, farming together. Today, most Doukhobors do not live communally, although many of the most active of them still live in the Kootenays and do participate in Doukhobor organizations and groups. See: www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/settlement/kids/021013-2041-e.html or www.usccdoukhobors.org/index.htm for more information.
37. In 2007, modern-day voyageurs commemorated explorer **David Thompson** and his native wife, Charlotte, by paddling the Columbia River from its source to the American border. www.canadianvoyageur.com/crb/index.html
38. Okanagan Lake is home to **Ogopogo**, called N'ha·a·itk by the Salish. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ogopogo
39. Cadboro Bay near Victoria has a sea monster called **Cadborosaurus**. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cadborosaurus_willsi
40. BC is also home to **Sasquatch**, who has inspired Sasquatch Days in Harrison Hot Springs and become one of the mascots of the 2010 Olympics. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sasquach
41. Until 1997, the **world's largest chopstick factory** was in Fort Nelson.
42. Dawson Creek is **Mile 0** on the Alaska Highway.
43. The Western Grebe is a red-listed water bird, meaning it is endangered, which nests in only two or three places in BC. Salmon Arm holds a **Grebe Festival** in May when you can usually see them "dancing" on Salmon Arm Bay. To learn more about the Western Grebe see: www.llbc.leg.bc.ca/Public/PubDocs/bcdocs/327560/westgrebe.pdf. To watch the grebes dance see: www.youtube.com/watch?v=_2YfOdWp0pk.
44. The Trail Smoke Eaters were the last amateur team to win a **world hockey championship**. They won twice, in 1939 and in 1961, and it was 33 years before any Canadian team won again. To find out more about the Smokies look for Murray Greig's book *Trail on Ice: A century of hockey in the Home of Champions*.

45. Skier Nancy Greene, originally from Rossland and now living near Kamloops, was named **Canadian Female Athlete of the Century**. She won gold and silver medals at the 1968 Grenoble Olympics and overall World Cup titles in 1967 and 68. Her total of 13 World Cup victories is still a Canadian record. She won 17 Canadian Championship titles in all disciplines.

46. In 1938 Annabelle Mundigel was the **first person to swim from Vancouver to Bowen Island**. Not until years later did she reveal that she had slipped out of her bathing suit shortly after starting, handed it to her mother in a following boat, and swam the rest of the way covered only by a layer of lard. Yards from the island, she put the suit back on.

47. In Britain they have **lawn bowling**. In Italy they have bocce. France has petanque. Because of BC's multi-culturalism we have all three. There is a lawn bowling association [www.bowlsbc.ca] and to find people who play the other two check out your nearest Italian cultural centre or association de Francophone.

48. Kootenay Pass, between Salmo and Creston, is the **highest highway** in Canada at 1,775 metres.

49. The completion of the "Big Bend" Highway, linking Revelstoke and Golden, on 29 June 1940, made it possible to **drive all the way across Canada.**

50. The **Trans-Canada Highway** was opened on 30 July 1962 at Rogers Pass in the Rockies making it possible to drive right across Canada on one highway.

51. Prince Rupert has the distinction of being the **cloudiest city** in Canada.

52. Lower Post is the **northern-most village** (settlement) in BC with a population of 113.

53. With 17,400 people, Fort St John is the **northern-most city** in BC.

54. Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows have an extensive **dyke system** to protect low-lying land from flooding by the Fraser, Pitt and Alouette Rivers. 3,546 hectares of land are protected and the by-product is a great trail system for walking, biking and horseback riding. Because the dykes are surrounded by wetlands, they are also a great place to bird watch.

55. **Emily Carr** is famous for her paintings of BC's north coast, but in the Victoria neighbourhood where she lived she was famous for pushing her pet monkey, Woo, around in a baby carriage.

56. Sparwood has the **world's largest dump truck**. You can see it here: www.sparwood.bc.ca/About Sparwood/Visitor Info/The Truck/index.html

57. The open-pit copper mine at Logan Lake is so large it can be **seen from the moon**.

58. The **most deadly avalanche** in Canada occurred in 1910 in Roger's Pass. A slide came down one side of the steep valley and while workers were clearing it another came down the opposite side and buried 62 people under 10 metres of snow. Between 1895 and 1911, 200 railway workers were killed by avalanches at this spot.

59. The five **highest waterfalls** in BC:

Della	440 metres
Takakkaw	253 metres
Hunlen	253 metres
Helmcken	137 metres
Twin	80 metres

60. The five **deepest lakes** in BC:

Quesnel	530 metres
Adams	457 metres
Powell	418 metres
Chilko	366 metres
Owikeno	366 metres

61. The five **largest lake**s in BC:

Williston	1773 square kilometres
Atllin	735.5 square kilometres
Kinbasket	529 square kilometres
Babine	495 square kilometres
Kootenay	407 square kilometres

62. The five **highest mountains** in BC:

Fairweather	4663 metres
Quincy-Adams	4153 metres
Waddington	4019 metres
Robson	3954 metres
Root	3920 metres

63. Henderson Lake, on Vancouver Island, received more than nine metres of rain in 1997. That's the Canadian record for **most rain in one year**.
64. Uclulet, on Vancouver Island, holds the record for the **most rain in one day,** receiving 489.2 ml on 6 Ocotober 1967
65. Cape St James is the **windiest** place in the province.
66. The place that averages the **most snow in a year** in Canada is Mount Fidelity, with 15 metres.
67. The **most snow to fall in a single day** was at Tahtsa Lake – 145 centimetres on 11 February 1999.
68. Victoria, on average, receives the **least snow** in Canada, usually having less than 47 cm fall each year.
69. Kamloops averages the **hottest summers** in Canada. Over the course of June, July and August, the temperature averages 27.2° C.
70. The railway to link Canada was part of the deal bringing BC into confederation. The Mt Macdonald tunnel, through Roger's Pass is 17 kilpmetres long – the **longest in North America**.
71. Andrew McCulloch, the chief engineer of the **Kettle Valley Railway**, south of Kelowna, was lowered from the tops of cliffs in a basket to survey its route.
72. When the trans-Canada railway was built, the steepness of the grade through the Rockies made it difficult to get the trains through. To lessen the grade, the **spiral tunnels** were built in 1909. To learn more about the railway, and see a great drawing of the spiral tunnels, look for the book *The Kid's Book of Canada's Railway* by Deborah Hodge with illustrations by John Mantha.
73. In 1857 **gold** was discovered on the north Fraser River. 25,000 people travelled through Victoria on their way to the gold fields.
74. The **second gold rush** happened in 1862 when Billy Barker found gold in the Cariboo.
75. Barkerville became the **largest city in western Canada** with the influx of over 100,000 miners seeking their fortune.
76. On 9 January 1965, four people lost their lives when 47 million tons of rock and earth slid down Johnson Peak onto the highway east of Hope. The scar left by the **Hope Slide** on the mountain is an awesome sight to see.
77. Greenwood, population 625, is the **smallest city in BC**.
78. Vancouver is BC's **largest city** with a population of 578,041.
79. Wikipedia lists **422 communities** in BC, from Abbotsford to Zeballos. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_communities_in_British_Columbia
80. BC is divided into **29 regional districts**. Find a map here: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/DATA/pop/maps/RDmap.asp.
81. Prince Rupert has the **third deepest natural harbour** in the world.
82. The many skiers and snowboarders who flock to BC would be surprised to learn that the makers of a 1900 **CPR promotional film** were not allowed to show any snow! Because of this, it took them two years to film..
83. During the Second World War, those of Japanese descent were considered dangerous and were sent to work camps and internment camps across Canada and away from the BC coast. There were eight camps in the interior of BC at Kaslo, New Denver, Tashme, Roseberry, Slocan City, Lemon Creek, Sandon, and Greenwood. In New Denver, you can see what the camps were like at the **Nikkei Memorial Internment Centre**. There is also a traditional Japanese garden. For more information: www.newdenver.ca/nikkei/nikkei.php.
84. Sandon is considered a ghost town, but people do live there – two of them are members of Guiding! In Sandon's hey day you could **walk on water**. Carpenter Creek was channeled into a wooden flume and boarded it over to create another street. To learn more about Sandon: www.slocanlake.com/sandon.
85. The Silversmith Powerhouse at Sandon is the **oldest continually operating power plant** in western Canada. It started creating electricity in 1916.

86. The railway was important for bringing BC into Canada. There are several **railway museums** around the province including the Revelstoke Railway Museum [www.railwaymuseum.com]; the Canadian Museum of Rail Travel in Cranbrook [www.trainsdeluxe.com/cmrt_temp/index2.html] and the West Coast Railway Heritage Park in Squamish [www.wcra.org]. Many museums have something about the change trains brought to our province.

87. During the 1862 Gold Rush, someone imported **camels** into the Cariboo to use as pack animals. They weren't very happy in BC and were such a nuisance they were banned after four months. Their owners set them free and they lived wild for a while in the mountains of BC.

88. Cranbrook, in the east Kootenay, had a problem with **stampeding elephants**. In 1926 something spooked the Sells Floto Circus elephants and all 14 of them stampeded through town and into the bush. Seven had been recaptured by morning and a few more were found eating apples in someone's orchard the next day. Charlie Ed escaped capture the longest. He was renamed Cranbrook Ed and appeared at the Cranbrook Fall Fair, several weeks after escaping. See city.cranbrook.bc.ca/historyframe.htm.

89. White Sturgeon are prehistoric looking fish which live in rivers flowing into the Pacific ocean. In1887 the **largest sturgeon** ever caught was hooked in the Fraser River. It weighed 630 kilos.

90. Pacific grey wales which live off BC's coast, **migrate further than any other mammal** – 16,000 kilometrees round trip from our northern coast to Mexico.

91. There are 2,010 **schools** in BC – 1,655 public and 355 independent.

92. There are 27 **ski hills** in BC.

93. There are 54 **cross-country ski clubs** in BC. www.crosscountrybc.ca

94. There are more than 225 **golf courses** in BC.

95. In 1977, Terry Fox, from Port Coquitlam, was diagnosed with bone cancer and had his right leg amputated above the knee. While he was recovering, he planned the **Marathon of Hope**, a run across Canada to raise money for cancer research and raise awareness about cancer and what its survivors could do. On 12 April 1980, he started in St. John's, Newfoundland but 143 days and 5,373 kilometres later on 1 September he had to give up his run because the cancer had spread to his lungs. He died on 28 June 1981. Since then, at Marathon of Hope runs in communities all over the world, $400 million has been raised. For more information: www.terryfoxrun.org/english/home/default.asp?s=1

96. Rick Hansen has lived all over BC. In an accident in 1973 he lost the use of his legs after a spinal cord injury. Despite this, he went on to become the first physically disabled person to receive a degree in physical education from UBC. On 21 March 1985, he started out on his **Man in Motion** tour, traveling around the world raising money for spinal-cord research and raising awareness in communities. After 34 countries, he arrived home, in Vancouver on 22 May 1987. For more information about the continuing work of his foundation see www.rickhansen.com/

97. Patrick Morrow, from Invermere, was the **first person to climb the Seven Summits**, the highest mountain on each of the seven continents.

98. The Slocan Valley is called the **Silvery Slocan** for good reason. Between 1892 and the first World War, $35 million worth of silver, lead and zinc was mined in Silverton, New Denver, Sandon and the surrounding area. That's more than the value of all the gold from the California, Cariboo and Klondike gold rushes combined!

99. As you drive through Radium Hot Springs into Kootenay National Park, you will pass a fence decorated with carvings. This is the **Home of a Thousand Faces**, home to woodcarver Rolf Heer and his goats. Rolf's carvings are made using driftwood, stumps and other bits of cast-off wood. He is also well known for his long, multi-person skis, which he has shared with people from all over the world. For more about Rolf, including 360° shots of his home, see www.radiumwoodcarver.com/index.htm.

100. There are 71 **libraries**, encompassing 240 branches, and 16 reading centres in BC. To learn more about libraries in our province see www.bclibrary.ca.

101. Libraries in our province have more than **11,300,000 books.**

102. Each BC **library patron borrows**, on average, 9.5 things from their library per year.

103. You can relive **gold rush** history at Barkerville, including seeing a session of Judge Begbie, “the hanging judge,” in action. www.barkerville.ca/newindex/index03.html
104. Fort Steele is also a **living history museum**, with gold panning, demonstrations, and street theatre re-enacting scenes from the community’s history. www.fortsteele.ca.
105. Fort Langley lets you experience **life as it was during the fur trade**. To learn more see www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/bc/langley/index_e.asp
106. Burnaby Village Museum shows you **life in the 1920s**. Ride on the 1912 carousel while listening to the 1925 Wurlirzer. For more information: www.burnabyvillagemuseum.ca/
107. Starting at the California/Mexico border and winding its way through three states, the **Pacific Crest Trail** is 2,650 miles long with its last nine miles in Manning Park.
108. Burns Bog is the **largest domed peat bog** in western North America. It covers 40 square kilometres and is home to black bear, deer, coyote, beaver, carnivorous plants, Labrador tea, and a sunken tractor. You can learn more about the bog, the importance of its unique eco-system and how to visit at www.burnsbog.org.
109. BC is also home to the **largest temperate rainforest** in the world. Our rainforest has the highest bio-mass on earth – the largest number of living organisms per hectare – but no monkeys!
110. Osoyoos is home the **only desert** in Canada. It is home to many rare species found only in this dry, hot region. To learn more see www.desert.org.
111. Near Osoyoos is **Spotted Lake**. Its spots are caused by high concentrations of magnesium sulphate (Epsom salts), calcium and sodium sulphates, plus eight other minerals and traces of four more, including silver and titanium. www.osoyooschamber.bc.ca/spotted.htm
112. At Boston Bar, in the Fraser Canyon, you can ride an air tram (a cable car) across the Fraser River at **Hell’s Gate**. This is the narrowest part of the river and, if you don’t want to ride the cable car, there is a foot-bridge. For some reason there is a giant rocking chair, too. For more roadside attractions see www.roadsideattractions.ca/bc.htm.
113. The **Capilano Suspension Bridge** was originally a hemp rope bridge built in 1889. In 1903 it was replaced with a wire cable bridge. It is 137 metres across the canyon and 70 metres above the Capilano River. www.capbridge.com
114. **Stanley Park** was opened by Vancouver Mayor David Oppenheimer 22 September 1888 and dedicated by Lord Stanley, the Governor-General of Canada, on 29 October 1889. It is 404.9 hectares and has approximately 500,000 trees. The famous seawall is 8.8 kilometres. The storm of 15 December 2006, which blew down many trees and seriously damaged the seawall, wasn’t the first storm to ravage the park. In 1962 Hurricane Freda brought winds of up to 145 kilometres/hour and flattened 20% of the trees in the park. www.vancouver.ca/parks/parks/stanley/index.htm
115. The Nickelodeon Museum, in Revelstoke, is the **only mechanical music machine museum** in Canada. It is full of juke boxes, player pianos and music boxes. http://revelstokenickelodeon.com/index.html
116. Chilliwack Municipal Airport coffee shop is famous for its **pies**. They have over 50 kinds of homemade pie and more than a dozen types of cheesecake. To see the list and read Barbara’s baking tips see www.airportcoffeeshop.com/pages/menu.htm.
117. The Stawamus Chief is the **second largest granite monolith** in the world. The 700 foot cliff attracts climbers, although climbing is restricted at during the time the peregrine falcons are nesting. For more information: www.stawamuschiefpark.ca.
118. Maple Ridge has a clock with a **mechanical horse** that rears up every hour. See a photo here http://flickr.com/photos/mando_gal/495252032.
119. It is believed that the first peoples of BC **crossed from Mongolia** via a land bridge and travelled south many thousands of years ago.
120. The coastal First Nations believe that the **Raven found the original human** in a clam shell. You can see a picture of Haida artist Bill Reid’s sculpture of Raven and the First Men here: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Bill_Reid_raven.jpg

121. There are more than **200 Native bands** in BC. (This all depends how you count them – see www.gov.bc.ca/arr/treaty/alpha_a_g.html and www.first-nations.com) To find out which First Nation is in your part of the province, see www.moa.ubc.ca/pdf/First_Nations_map.pdf.
122. BC is known as "**Hollywood North**." There are major studios in Greater Vancouver, some known for their special effects. A lot of movies have been filmed in the Lower Mainland, but filming has also taken place all over the province from Campbell River to Sparwood and Nelson to Stewart and all points in between.
123. There are **35 disc golf courses** in BC. Called flying disc or whirl disc or Frisbee® golf, it is played on a course, much like golf, but with specially designed baskets instead of holes. A player has a full repertoire of discs of different weights and sizes to make any shot possible. To find out if there is a course near you see www.bcdss.bc.ca/ssi/courses/courses.shtml.
124. According to BC Stats, there are **1,138 species of vertebrates** in BC.
125. Over **250 species of birds** nest in BC, 162 of which nest nowhere else in Canada.
126. In the fall, several farms in BC create mazes in their corn fields. Look for them in Quesnel, Ladysmith, Pitt Meadows, Chilliwack and Surrey. There might be more!
127. Van Dusen Gardens in Vancouver has a **"traditional" maze** of 3,000 cedars. http://vancouver.ca/parks/parks/vandusen/website/index.htm.
128. The Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Chinese Garden was the first **classical Chinese garden** built outside of China. 52 master craftsmen from Suzhou in China spent a year in Canada building the garden with the help of local tradesmen.
129. In 1986, a transportation and communication exposition was held in Vancouver - **Expo '86.**
130. In 2010, BC will host the **Winter Olympic Games**. To find out more: www.vancouver2010.com/en
131. **BC Ferries** has 38 ships serving 47 communities on 25 routes. The S-class ships are the largest at 560 feet and the Nimpkish is the smallest at 111 feet.
132. BC's other ferry system, the **inland ferries**, is run by the Ministry of Transportation and is considered part of the highways. There are 14 ferries in this system. www.th.gov.bc.ca/marine/ferry_schedules.htm
133. The Kootenay Lake Ferry is the **longest free ferry** ride in the world.
134. There are **97 hospitals** in BC.
135. **Peace Arch**, on the border between BC and Washington state, opened in 1921 after seven years of fundraising and building. In 1930, the park around the arch was expanded and developed with funds raised by school children on both sides of the border.
136. Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan is a quadriplegic who co-invented, with engineer Paul Cermack, the **TrailRider**, a one-wheeled device that allows the wheelchair-bound access to trails (with assistance) which a normal wheelchair would not be able to cope with.
137. Along with a helipad that has never been used, the main branch of the post office in Vancouver has a **giant stamp** painted on the roof.
138. Caravan Farm Theatre near Armstrong does unique **outdoor performances**. This past winter, the audience became part of the King's entourage, travelling through a winter wonderland in horse-drawn wagons, in Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale*. www.caravanfarmtheatre.com/default.html
139. The **largest earthquake** in BC's recorded history was on 21 August 1949. It registered 8.1 on the Richter scale and was centred just off the west coast of the Queen Charlotte Islands.
140. On 22 December 1958 a French adventurer completed a **swim of the Fraser River** from Prince George to New Westminster's Pattullo Bridge. In September 1995, Fin Donnelly spent 21 days swimming the length of the Fraser to bring attention to the pollution in the river.
141. Indian Arm was served by a **floating post office,** the only one in the British Empire, until 1970. The MV Scenic served in this post starting in 1932 carrying mail, freight and passengers. Residents could mail grocery orders and have them delivered with in a couple of days. For more see: www.belcarra.ca/reports/Indian_Arm_Floating_Post_Office.pdf and www.belcarra.ca/reports/MV_Scenic_Memories.pdf

142. There are two **cricket leagues** in BC: the BC Mainland Cricket league with 47 teams, including one from Seattle; and the Victoria and District Cricket Association, with 14 teams. Between them they have 25 cricket pitches. To find out when and where to watch them and learn some of the rules – they have a "law" which says they must have a 20-minute tea break – see: www.bcmcl.org or www.vdca.ca/index.jsp.
143. If you are in Vancouver you can spend some time **learning forensic techniques** at the Vancouver Police Centennial Museum. They have displays of police equipment and uniforms, confiscated weapons and technological advances in policing. Their education programs include *Forensics for Kids* and *Mini Police Academies*. www.vancouverpolicemuseum.ca/index.htm.
144. BC has its share of **haunted places** and in Victoria, Vancouver and Burnaby (maybe other places, too) you can take a tour. Kelowna has an orchard haunted by children; the Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver has the ghost of an acrobat and the old main library at UBC had an old lady in a white dress.
145. The Lieutenant Governor, the Queen's representative in BC, lives at **Government House**. www.ltgov.bc.ca/govhouse/default.htm
146. Government House has **14.6 hectares of garden**, maintained by a volunteer organization, The Friends' of Government House Gardens Society. The garden is host to many events including the free summer series *Music on the Lawn*. www.ltgov.bc.ca/gardens/default.htm.
147. There are **79 Members of the Legistlative Assembly** (MLAs) elected to govern BC. www.leg.bc.ca/index.htm
148. Not long after women received the vote, Mary Ellen Smith became the **first woman MLA**, first finishing her husband's term of office when he passed away and then being elected in January 1918.
149. In 1892 Frances Rattenbury won a competition to design the new **Parliament Buildings** in Victoria. He went on to design the Empress Hotel, in Victoria, and courthouses around the province, including Vancouver, Nanaimo and Nelson. www.leg.bc.ca/_media/flash/place-swf.html.
150. There are **16,513 Members of Girl Guides** of Canada – Guides du Canada in British Columbia.