

WOODEN BOATS

Small boats round out some of coastal legacies to be found at the

By Shendra Hanney

There is a feast of smaller wooden boats gathering for this year's Wooden Boat Festival, August 1 to 4.

Included with an Allen Farrell dory and a Larry Westlake handliner will be two classics that have been part of Sunshine Coast history for well over half a century.

The *Lorill A*, a 1951 rowboat built by Lorill and Bryon Hanney in Halfmoon Bay, is unique in that she had to be restored before she was launched just 4 years ago. (See *Harbour Spiel*, December 2004.)

Joining her will be *Balandra*, a 22'6" sloop designed by William Hand, built by Collin Hanney and launched in 1945.

Two brothers, two boats and a host of sea-life experiences which culminate in their ongoing legacy at the fourth annual Wooden Boat Festival.

Collin and Bryon Hanney began their sailing adventures in 1937. They



photo submitted

Collin Hanney's daughter, Corlynn, out for a row in Bargain Harbour in the *Lorill A*.

discovered the Sunshine Coast on the little 16-foot sloop *Seaglide* that was built by Bryon.

They sailed out of Howe Sound and made their way upcoast following the shoreline.

Eventually they came to Sechelt, where they stopped to trace their further route from a map at the old hotel on the waterfront.

They explored Smugglers Cove, Secret Cove, and upon rounding the point into Bargain Bay, they met Allen Farrell — thus beginning a lifelong friendship.

Collin was inspired by Allen to build his own sailboat and *Balandra*

was launched in 1945, the same year his daughter, Corlynn, was born.

Indeed, only three-months old, Corlynn sailed through the Yuculta Rapids and points beyond, cradled athwartships on the forward locker top.

Since there were no roads past Halfmoon Bay until the 1950s, *Balandra* became the ferry to this favourite destination where three years later Collin bought the family retreat property.

Balandra enjoyed numerous adventures, of which I became a part as the second "first mate" over the next 52 years.



Collin Hanney archive photo

The 22' 6" sloop *Balandra* awaiting her launch in 1945.



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Sunshine Coast Wooden Boat Festival August 1 to 4



Collin Hanney archive photo

A group gathers for the 1945 launch of *Balandra*. Collin Hanney built *Balandra* and launched her the same year his daughter Corlynn was born, also in attendance held by Hanney's mother, third from the left.

Balandra's skipper "crossed the bar" in 1997, joined by Bryon just last year leaving Corlynn and I as stewards of their legacy.

The *Lorill A* was restored by Bryon four years ago and Corlynn, as well as Bryon's family, will continue to enjoy her from home base in Pender Harbour.

Balandra's journey has now reached a major crossroads.

While she is still sailing at the age of 63, the time has come for her restoration, her rebirth and ongoing journey.

Following the Wooden Boat Festival, *Balandra* will be donated to SALTS (Sail and Life Training Society of Victoria).

At the SALTS Heritage Shipyard, she will be expertly restored, and given the opportunity to sail on new adventures well into the 21st century.

Funds raised from the sale of the newly restored *Balandra* will be used to help support SALTS and their efforts to provide positive, life chang-

ing experiences for youth aboard their beautiful tallships.

A win-win choice for *Balandra* about which I believe Collin would be pleased.

Launched long before the computer age, *Balandra's* history, her restoration and her new journey can

now be shared via her website, under construction, at www.balandra.net.

Corlynn and I will raise a glass of appreciation for Collin and Bryon's enduring legacies that we are privileged to share at the Wooden Boat Festival.

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