

THE *Best* OF HIDDEN *Victoria 96*

From bagels and beach fires to poets and patios, our annual picks for the top of the town

By MONDAY STAFF

IN MONDAY'S first Best of Victoria issue in 1985, someone wrote in that we should stop doing polls. Well, who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks. Eleven years later we've taken that writer's advice: this year's collection of the city's greatest, grooviest and gaudiest was collected without asking you, the reader, what's what.

We've also added the word "hidden" to the title. There are two reasons for this. First, we wanted our reporters to shine light into Victoria's unknown corners. And second, we wanted to do something different. Media junkies know that our decade-old Best of Victoria concept was borrowed by another local newspaper last year. In fact, they liked Monday's idea so much, they bought the company.

But we didn't ignore readers' salutes entirely this year. In the mix you'll find 20 Best of the Best, marked with our special ribbon icon. These are the places, businesses and people who have racked up the most Best Of kudos in the last 11 years, a measure of staying power against the tides of change.

And if you miss getting your two bits in, we'd be happy to hear from you. Did we miss the mark? Pass by a quirky corner of your neighbourhood? Fax operators are standing by.

BEST PLACE TO SEE A MOVIE

ERIC MARTIN PAVILION,
2334 Trent
ROXY THEATRE,
2657 Quadra

While the rest of the planet suffers through the traditional summertime mind melt at the box office, Movie Monday at the Eric Martin Pavilion has recently featured *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *The Wedding Banquet*, and *Thirty-two Short Films About Glenn Gould*—free. The Roxy keeps a hand in the popcorn with two little words: love seats. Too bad the movie selection has gone so mainstream.

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