



Dear Mobile Sauna Supporters,

Recently we were interviewed about mobile saunas for a video segment on ShawTV. The interview started me thinking about what makes our saunas unique and important.

Our saunas were originally built for the East Van house rental experience and to visit forest festivals. More than just nice designs they are responsive to the environment that created them. Over the years our habitat has changed and we have adapted to new circumstances. Our sauna community is always growing, yet shared house rentals with sauna parking opportunities are not as common as they once were, the city is more vigilant with parking bylaws, and some riversides require more nimble saunas than a truck or trailer can provide. Our sauna designs have changed to make good on new opportunities.

However, a sauna is more than just an design dialogue. Without people it's just an empty wooden box, a concept of design and aesthetics. It's the people using the sauna and the culture they embody that crafts the sauna experience that makes it worthwhile. A lot of saunas are just brochure features that sit unused, some are turned into storage rooms, and in some hotels and apartments they are heated up but empty. Many saunas in hotels and recreation centers are regularly filled with awkward strangers. These saunas can be great for a sweat. Yet it's the social community that makes the sauna the important experience it is, with stories and conversations, in the company of old friends and new ones. Together they develop a unique sweat culture that's not based on a shared openness and common vulnerability that is a little bit different with every week and each new location.

I think that's why it's important that we keep developing these unique community-supported events. This year we've continued to develop mobile sauna projects, improving the sauna sessions experience, and build on the strengths of the BCMSS. As you read about our progress and plans in this newsletter, take a moment to express gratitude and respect for our amazing supporters and all those who make this tradition possible. I would like to invite you to join us and make a contribution to the BC Mobile Sauna Society and support this amazing and unique community initiative.

Sincerely,

Karlis Kalnins,

BC Mobile Sauna Society Director



BACKYARD Sauna Residency



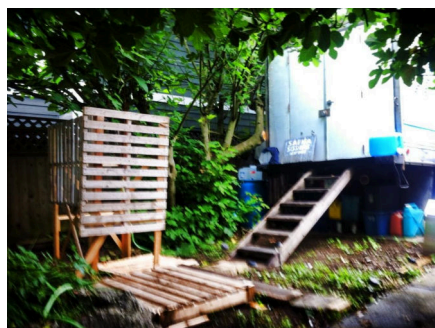
The Story

Good news was waiting as we came back from summer sweat hiatus: the saunatruck had found a new backyard residency just off Commercial Drive in the heart of East Van. Quite possibly the best yet: central location, off-street parking, and a lush garden in a protected backyard. Our sauna crew got to work on the site preparation, removing a section of fence, relocating a compost, radical fig-tree pruning, and constructing a new shower zone in time to get the truck moved into a tricky parking position to start the sauna season in September. Like all good houses in Vancouver this one was scheduled for re-development starting after March, but we looked forward to 7 months of great sweats with our fantastic new hosts.

Alas, our big truck wasn't bylaw-friendly in the neighbourhood. The city informed us we had two weeks to remove it but with some inquiries we managed to get a 30 day extension until the middle of December. In the remaining weeks our hosts have been trying to get 3 months of sweat out in three weeks, and doing quite a good job of it.

Sauna host Fiona Marion: "Sauna sessions at our house has been pure

magic. The sauna truck has come in like a new housemate with benevolent magic powers, bringing joy, big-hearted people and great memories. As we face renoviction next year, we have demanded defiantly that good times happen in this gorgeous house and fig tree backyard. It has been a stripping down of pretense and a real-hearted time of friendship and fun. Thanks for the clever shower construction, for all who participated in the chip and cookie and freestyling boogying laughing livingroom times. Thanks for the sweatris and the -16 cold bucket plunges. The jokes made to alleviate the stress of gentrification or getting our fence plowed in by a car that slipped on ice. Thanks for the amazing potlucks and the shared music, crystals, tarot, dirty jokes and good stories. It's been a great time. See you in the next one xoxoxoxo"



SAUNATRUCK SETUP NEAR
COMMERCIAL AND 1ST AVE



GABRIOLA SAUNA HOST MEGAN SHOWS
SAUNA CHICKEN HOW TO OPERATE THE
STOVE.

Gabriola Sweats

The 2001 saunavan trailer has a new residence on Gabriola Island. Megan Walker is presently hosting our regular sunday night tradition from this new snug forest location in the North end, Phase 4 area. Contact us for details if you're on or are planning a visit to Gabriola!

Modular Mobile Sauna

Our shopmaster George Rahi is is hosting a our newly completed sauna tent design concept, it's designed to be installed in driveways and patios yet disassembled and moved by truck when required. We're excited to test and refine the idea, and enjoy an new series of sauna sessions!

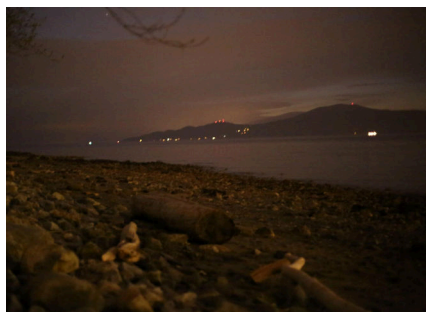


NEW TENT SAUNA INTERIOR

More Sauna Adventures

At the end of our residency at Gropp's Gallery in April, we headed for the beach. What should have been an easy mission was halted when we discovered our batteries had been stolen from the truck. One week later with new batteries in place we were on our way to a sweaty evening at Spanish Banks. Our man George Rahi brought his extended camper schoolbus to join us and provide lounge support.

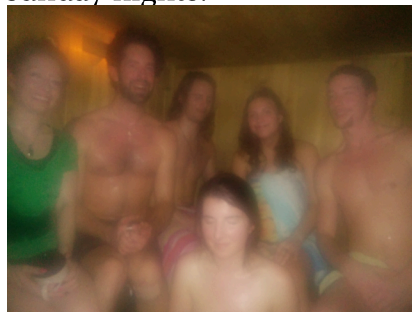
Our next stop was our new residency at the new Redgate aka the Rainbow Connection (RC) on Hastings street. This new studio space included a built-in shower and a big loading bay that was just the right size to connect with the back of the saunatruck. East Hastings is a tricky place, however. A second set of batteries, battery cables, and endured a lot of graffiti in the several months we spent sweating at RC. When our run was done here it was off to Hino Vancouver for some much needed repairs and cosmetic detailing (with much



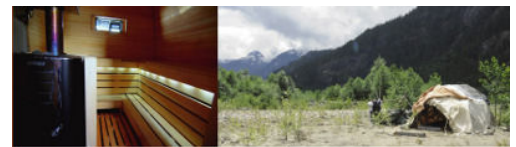
VIEW FROM THE BEACH AT SPANISH BANKS



ADRIAN INSPECTS THE RAINBOW SAUNADOCK UNDER CONSTRUCTION (assistance from Amy Walker) before our big summer mission for a private event in Squamish. The next stop was a new residency at Graveley and Commercial until our city-mandated relocation in December (read the full story on the Backyard Residency on page 2). As is our habit, with the move came another Spanish Banks mission with lots of new faces from this semi-public event. We ended the year at a new location in deepest East Van (12th and Rupert) but with a great parkside location, just in time for our 13th sauna anniversary. Our fantastic new hosts are jamming, serving tea and keeping the sauna hot on Sunday nights.



NEW YEARS SAUNA JANUARY 1, 2014



Mobile Saunas

a compendium of modern nomadic sweats
Kārlis Otto Kalniņš



Mobile Sauna Book

Our mobile sauna book finally had a long-overdue launch event on February 6. The evening presentation by the author included a discussion of mobile saunas and a slideshow of some outstanding examples from this international collection of sauna trucks, sauna buses, sauna wagons, sauna cars, sauna bikes, sauna trailers, sauna boats, sauna floats, trail sweats, bastuflotten, bastubats, banya trucks, banya tents, and other mobile sweats. The presentation concluded with a sneak-peek at the BCMSS's latest mobile sauna design. For book orders visit our website for information.



LA ROUL'HOT: A MOBILE SAUNA IN FRANCE.

BCMSS Society News

The BC Mobile Sauna Society is the organization that makes these sauna sessions possible. As a community-supported sauna, volunteers and donations are essential to our operation. Once again the society's yearly budget was provided for by your donations and support. Weekly donations at the sauna provided for our costs of fuel and sauna upkeep, as does our online paypal campaign, where members can make an automatic regular monthly contribution. This year we also provided sauna services



ADRIAN AND ALICIA AT THE U-CRAWL FUNDRAISER.

for a private function which provided us a budget for additional truck maintenance.

Sauna scout Alicia organized a U-crawl bike & beer tour around East Van with the proceeds going toward an upcoming BCMSS projects. Our Spanish Banks missions was important as well. We're looking forward to more fundraisers this year. We'd like to expand to provide more sweat events in more locations, but to do this we need your continued support.

Also important are the efforts of our volunteers who continue their time for cleaning, fuel runs, sauna setup and organization. Our heartfelt thanks go out to our contributors and volunteers who together are helping to make this society possible and keep the sauna hot.

Interested in getting more involved?

Here are some ideas:

- Follow our website blog or [@saunasessions](#) on twitter, or "like" our website. Then you can stay up-to-date on our latest developments and share BC Mobile Sauna Society information with your friends.
- Support BC Mobile Sauna Society directly through a donation. Make a donation online at our website [sauna.saunasessions.ca](#)
- Volunteer your skills and time for fuel and towel runs, mechanical and construction jobs, fundraising, and developing new projects. Contact us and let us know you'd like to help out.
- Come and join us for a sweat. Bring a good friend. The quality of our sauna experiences depends upon the people there and the moments we share. Contact us for current locations.

Support the BC Mobile Sauna Society

For more than decade our organization has been sustained by donations, generous benefactors and occasional fundraisers. To continue we need regular contributions of time and money to meet our goals and operating budget. For the results we deliver, we don't need a lot, but we can't do it alone. We need your help. Your support is essential to ensure the BC Mobile Sauna Society continues to develop and provide unique sauna community experiences. We gratefully accept your contributions to support our endeavours. To learn more about how you can make a donation, please visit our website or contact us at:

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Web: sauna.saunasessions.ca

