

**June 10, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MR10-034**

NIC instructor makes waves on the cover of Westworld Magazine

North Island College Instructor David Pinel's passions for kayaking and marine wildlife are getting noticed. He and West Coast Expeditions, the company he co-owns, are on the cover of the *Westworld Magazine* this summer, as part of a feature on the re-introduction of sea otters to Vancouver Island's West Coast.

Pinel guided Comox Valley writer Andrew Findlay and local photographer and fellow NIC instructor Boomer Jerritt around Kyuquot Sound where the sometimes playful and always hungry sea otters are coming back after fur hunters decimated their populations 100 years ago. Four decades after being re-introduced, about 3,200 sea otters now live in coastal B.C. waters and an estimated 1,200 of them make their home in Kyuquot Sound.

"I found out that it was going to be the cover about a month and a half ago," Pinel said. "It was a wonderful surprise and I'm very pleased with the story that Andrew weaves together."



At North Island College, Pinel teaches and coordinates NIC's Coastal Adventure Tourism Programs, where students learn marine-based guiding and tourism skills needed to work at sea kayaking companies, sports fishing resorts, wildlife touring operations, guiding outfits and interpretive centres.

Pinel's two professions – teaching and guiding – appear to be made for each other. "As NIC is a smaller college, many of our instructors, like Boomer and me, practice our profession in a hands-on way every day," explained Pinel. "We love what we do and our students benefit from the practical knowledge we offer."

North Island College offers a five-month Coastal Adventure Tourism Certificate and a two-year Adventure Tourism Management Diploma. NIC students are taught by top

industry leaders, such as David Pinel, and they can expect many classes to take place in the rich marine and wilderness environment that is Vancouver Island.

For more on the Coastal Adventure Tourism Certificate or the Adventure Tourism Management Diploma visit www.nic.bc.ca.

Dave Pinel's biography and a slideshow of the otters at Kyuquot Sound can be found at West Coast Expeditions' website at www.westcoastexpeditions.com.

Westworld Magazine is the quarterly magazine of the British Columbia Automobile Association (BCAA). With a circulation of more than 476,300 readers, it offers a mix of local, regional and international travel features – unique stories and adventures by Canada's top writers that entertain, inform and inspire. Check out Pinel in the summer issue.

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