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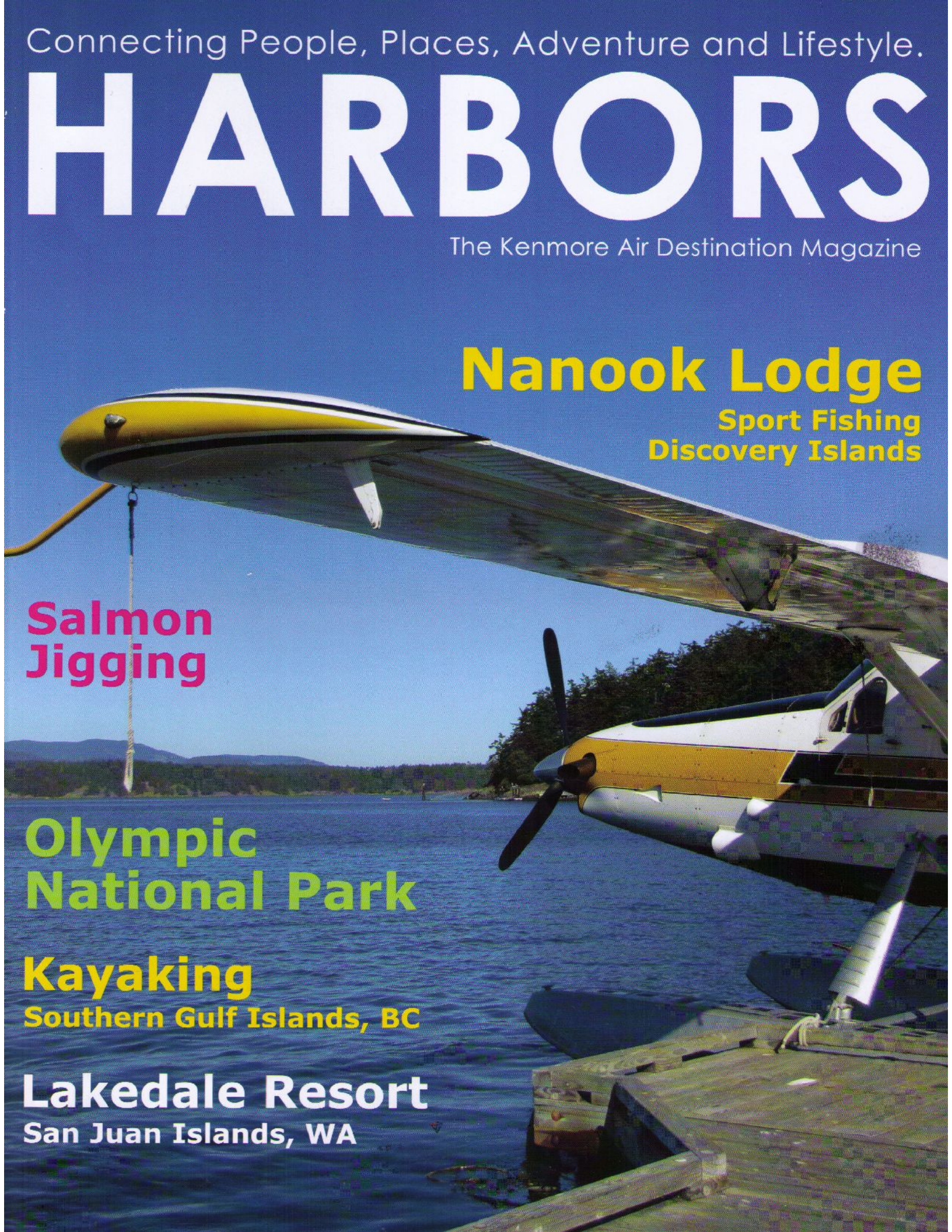
Olympic
National Park

Kayaking

Southern Gulf Islands, BC

Lakedale Resort

San Juan Islands, WA



Fairholme Manor, Victoria, B.C. By Allen Cox

A short drive from the Kenmore Air terminal in Victoria's Inner Harbour, you'll find Fairholme Manor. This five-star boutique inn is located on its own acre of land a stone's throw from Government House in the elegant, old-world Rockland district.

If Victoria were a cake, Fairholme Manor would be its delectably sweet icing. Innkeeper and cookbook author Sylvia Main acquired the 1885 Italianate mansion eleven years ago and successfully created one of the Northwest's most acclaimed inns.

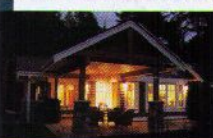
"The mansion was a private residence," Main says. "We updated everything and, in the process, uncovered many of the building's original features, which we preserved and incorporated into our design."

Main wasn't going for a Victorian





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B&B, but instead a European inn with clean lines and modern features. She has combined contemporary and period design elements and furnishings, resulting in uncluttered suites and common areas that offer a sophisticated yet comfortable luxury, a perfect base from which to explore this charming city.

When asked which of the six suites her guests tend to prefer, Main replies: "Many people ask for the Olympic Room or the Grand Suite, but others who want to spend less love The French Country Garden Room. I have repeat guests who have stayed in every room."

No matter which suite you call home, one thing that draws guests to Fairholme manor is the quiet. With no busy street or traffic noise, and with the inn situated in an acre of gardens, bird-song is likely the most prevalent sound you'll encounter. The Rockland district is perfect for strolling; the inn is only a five-minute walk to Craigdarroch Castle and Greater Victoria Art Gallery, two of the city's best attractions.

While enjoying the garden surroundings and ocean and mountain views, Fairholme Manor's guests are also lucky to have one of Canada's best-selling cookbook authors at the helm in the kitchen. Main's book, *Fabulous Fairholme Breakfasts and Brunches*, available at the inn or at major outlets, is stuffed with a collection of the inn's palate-pleasing recipes you can duplicate at home.

In Fairholme Manor's light-filled dining room, guests savor the true tastes of Vancouver Island. Main cultivates her own organic vegetable and herb garden on the inn's grounds. Fresh organic eggs are delivered to the kitchen door, and all ingredients that make it into the kitchen's celebrated recipes are locally sourced.

"I'm working on a new book," says Main. "It will be released in the Spring of 2012 and will include more recipes and sections about entertaining."

Your hosts at Fairholme Manor will pick you up at Kenmore Air's

terminal, or if you prefer to explore Inner Harbour and Downtown Victoria upon arrival, they will pick up and transfer your luggage and welcome you at the inn at your leisure. <http://www.fairholmemanor.com>. ✈️

