

LAUTENS: Now-infamous bump rattles the teacups

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This
JUST IN
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We in West Vancouver put the world's crises in calm perspective.

Global markets falling. Faith in the prime minister shaken, or stirred, depending on your martini recipe. Is Greece collapsing — still, since the Peloponnesian War? Is UBC's ivory tower only plastic? Is Justin Trudeau more than a pretty haircut? Mike Duffy, saint or sinner?

The above do not ruffle West Vancouverites. The great issue recently rattling our teacups was:

The bump.

Yes, the construction bump on Lions Gate Bridge. It threatened to destroy Western civilization, even West Vancouver, which is harder. (Did it affect North Vancouver people too? We didn't notice.)

Bump, bump, bump-a-de-bump. Bumps without the grinds.

Someone must be screaming: "This would never have happened if the transportation plebiscite had passed!" Others bellowing: "I blame Stephen Harper!"

Only in West Vancouver would this amount to more than a hill of beans.

Jiggling our crystal set, we learned of this impudent bump while on an island where the gods forget to wind the clock. On returning to what is called reality, the bump crisis led us to consider driving home via the Second Narrows. But, in my dedication to investigative journalism, I chose to brave the bump.

No question. It was a bump all right. As Gertrude Stein memorably (if you remember) said about a rose: A bump is a bump is a bump.

My long 29-year-old English car might have undignifiedly scraped bottom. No problemo for our workhorse domestic van, though.

The road people said they'd fix the bump. Didn't. Some drivers claimed they made it worse.

A second shot at smoothing the man-made pesky pothole was declared a success. But irreparable damage has been done to public confidence. In West Vancouver.

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