

# Chocolate ink lets print maker eat his own words

**Demo coming:** Rembrandt's Chocolate owner supplies edible ink to pressman game inventor, helps print a real book

**Peter W. Rusland**  
News Leader Pictorial

**I**nk-stained wretches are usually reporters.

But not when that ink's perhaps Canada's only edible kind, made by Duncan chocolatier Ernest Horvers.

Rembrandt's Chocolates' co-owner and Seattle artist Bill Ritchie will display their etching-printing prowess using Horvers' chocolate ink and one of Ritchie's presses June 27 at Duncan's Old Firehouse Wine Bar.

They'll show how to print from an etched copper plate on Ritchie's personal-size etching press.

A limited number of copies of their novel, *Rembrandt's Ghost in the New Machine* — made with real ink — will be available too.

The pair's venture into printmaking — as master painter Rembrandt printed with black ink in the 17th century — started when Ritchie asked Horvers to make chocolate etching ink so youths playing Ritchie's game for kids could try printmaking the way Rembrandt did, without a real mess.

Ritchie found Horvers after simply Googling 'Rembrandt' and 'chocolate', then noticed the Duncan chocolate shop's name.

"It's nice for kids to use chocolate because they can lick their fingers," said Horvers, who owns Rembrandt's with



courtesy Ritchie and Horvers

**Duncan chocolatier Ernest Horvers and Seattle artist Bill Ritchie have combined for some of the tastiest writing imaginable.**

wife, Lysette.

"I thought chocolate would be nice for a children's game.

"It's pure, dark chocolate; you can eat it. Bill's totally into printing presses, and saw Rembrandt's original press in Amsterdam."

Retired Washington-State professor Ritchie roughly fashioned real presses, and his little WeeWoodie model, after the old master's press.

Horvers' chocolate ink doesn't melt as it spreads thinly on paper, he explained of his rare invention.

"I've never seen a print made in choco-

late before ours; I think it's a first for Cowichan — probably for Canada."

Their *New Machine* novel traces the exploits of a professor bound for a Halloween party dressed as Rembrandt, then winds up in 1660s Amsterdam.

Copies will be available June 27 at the wine-bar press session.

## Your ticket

**What:** Chocolate Printmaking

**When:** June 27, 5 to 7 p.m.

**Where:** Old Firehouse Wine Bar, 40 Ingram St., Duncan

**Tickets:** Free