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May 2008
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Powell River Living

MAGAZINE

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Sliammon traditions
and motherhood

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Sliammon Elder Elsie Paul with daughter Marlane Christensen and some of her grandchildren. See story page 7.

PHOTO: Isabelle Southcott

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THIS ISSUE

WENDY ADAMS teaches grade one at Henderson Elementary School. She says she has the best job there is because everything is so exciting for her students. She is a member of Powell River Sunshine Speakers.



GERRY GRAY was an editor and longtime columnist for The Powell River News. He moved to Powell River in 1963 and worked in the lab of the Powell River mill for 30 years. He has been involved with PRACL for many years.



VALERIE KASTELAN has been employed as a psychiatric nurse in Powell River for the past 14 years. Currently, she is the community/residential nurse at Powell River Mental Health and Addiction Services.



JANET MAY is at the chauffeur, banker and cook stage of motherhood. She is surprised at how stimulating and satisfying the job can be. She is looking forward to Mother's Day this year.



SEAN PERCY is a Powell River native, who started his career with the Powell River News in 1990. Since then, he has held positions in most areas of the newspaper industry. He comes to us from Hub Publications in the Hay River, NWT, and is glad to be home.



SUZANNE ROWELL is an Office Clerk at City Hall and has lived in Powell River most of her life. She has an eight year old daughter.



WILL STURGEON has worked in the navy, for the Coastguard, as a cowboy and professional farrier. He is a long-haul trucker and occasional freelance writer who has been published in several magazines and written four books.



*Happy
Mother's
Day*

OUR COLUMNISTS

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*In this life we cannot
always do great things.
We can only do small
things with great love.*

— Mother Teresa (1910-1997)
Humanitarian; Nobel Peace Prize recipient

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Publisher's Message

By Isabelle Southcott

Welcome home, Sean Percy

Serendipity is such a great word but it is one I rarely get to use so I thought it particularly serendipitous that I could use it to describe a chain of events happening in the life of Powell River Living Magazine.

I am absolutely thrilled that Sean Percy has returned to Powell River and has joined the Powell River Living team. I used to work with Sean at The Powell River News and have always admired his talent and dedication. When he moved to Hay River to work as the managing editor of the Hay River Hub we kept in touch and exchanged many emails when I embarked on the great adventure of Powell River Living Magazine. Sean helped me from afar, offered advice, suggestions, encouragement and most of all, he believed in the magazine and me.

So when he told me he was planning on moving home, moving back to Powell River, we began to talk about what opportunities there were and everyone knows, that where there is a will, there is a way. You have to have faith in this serendipitous process and we do.

Sean is an amazing photographer, excellent writer, designer and manager. His marketing and sales skills are top notch; he knows what is necessary to create an effective ad campaign and has the ability to create the graphics to go with it. Sean

knows the publishing industry inside out from the community newspaper perspective and will bring those skills to Powell River Living.

All of that is important but none of that would matter to me if Sean was not a genuinely good person. Sean Percy is one of most decent people I have ever met. He shares the same enthusiasm, beliefs and values that I do for Powell River and the magazine. He is a man of character, deep morals and values and we are truly blessed that another native son has come home with his family.

Sean will be visiting many of this community's merchants in the coming months as he and his wife Lauri and their two young children get settled in their new home.

Southcott Communications, publisher of Powell River Living Magazine, will be looking for more opportunities as we expand the communications end of the business and the magazine itself.

Change is always exciting but scary too. You must always believe in something bigger than yourself even if there is no proof that it will work or it exists. I am lucky, I have faith in Powell River, I have faith in Sean and the rest of the Powell River Living team, I have faith in this magazine and I have faith that life will unfold just as it should, one step a time.

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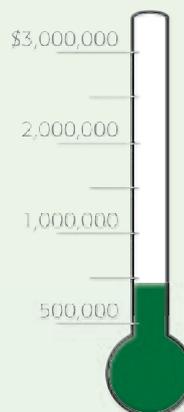
The goal is to have Powell River's CAT Scan bought and operational in 2009. POWELL RIVER LIVING supports the Pass the Hat for the CAT campaign. We will keep you updated on the progress. In the meantime, can you help?



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CAT Scanner Campaign, 5000 Joyce Ave, Powell River, BC, V8A 5R3



Catch the spirit!

Bruce Denniston Bone Marrow Society Spirit Run

By Bill Whyard

My family and I moved to Powell River from Whitehorse, Yukon in the fall of 1989. Bruce Denniston had died in February 1989 and, when we arrived, there was still talk of Bruce Denniston and whether or not the old RCMP station on Marine Avenue had somehow contributed to his demise. I was impressed that the Bruce Denniston Bone Marrow Society had been started as a positive reaction to the loss of Denniston.

I have been running recreationally for years as I find a physical workout at lunch hour to be healthy.

When the society started the Spirit Run it appeared to me to be a great fundrais-

er. Its various distances, (5 km, 10 km and half marathon) were also attractive and I did my first Spirit Run in 2002, the second year it was held. It seems the event has grown each year and since it is a fundraiser I round up pledges before each run.

The eighth annual Spirit Run, which will be held on May 11 this year, begins at 9:30 am (for more information visit www.dennistonsociety.com or call 604 485-8488) is a pleasant family event and I particularly like the fact that it is a run and not a race. For me, running is an individual sport that gives me time to think about things. For the Spirit

Run, I can reflect on Bruce Denniston and how his loss was turned into a positive thing, namely the Society and its fundraising components like the Spirit Run. Also, because this activity is not a race, participants set their own pace and, of course, the route is located on the Willingdon Beach Trail which is a lovely place to run.

It is a great event and anyone considering joining should do so. It's a good way to ease into running (or walking) but don't forget it's also a fundraiser. So pick up a pledge sheet, knock on a few doors (most people willingly support this cause) and join the Spirit Run.



AND THEY'RE OFF:

Organizers of this year's Spirit Run are hoping for a fabulous turnout and fabulous weather!





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Family Glue: Sliammon traditions and motherhood

By Janet May

“Tell her about the belly buttons, mom,” says Marlane Christensen and we become children again waiting for the story. Elsie Paul settles in her chair and begins. “We do this today,” she explains, “We take the piece that falls off the newborn baby’s belly button and we don’t throw it away. We dry it out and seal it in a tight container and bury it in a safe place where animals can’t get it. That is the root or the anchor for the child. That shows where that child belongs and the child will always come back. In the past, when babies were born at home, we used to do that with the afterbirth.”

Marlane Christensen and Elsie Paul tell me that the umbilical cord represents lifeblood. By keeping it safe, the family is also caring for the spiritual health of their child. “It is an old tradition and has been practised for a thousand years or more,” says Marlane. Elsie affirms, “These traditions are the glue for our family. They are very meaningful.”

Sliammon First Nation traditions did not include a day to celebrate mothers. Instead, Elsie tells me “we would celebrate motherhood everyday. Mothers and grandmothers worked around the home and looked after many children, not just their own. There were always lots of kids in the village. If the women went out berry picking or in the canoe, they



SIX GENERATIONS: Elsie Paul holds the baby basket that her grandmother made from cedar and cherry barks. Elsie’s daughter Marlane Christensen (left) is grandmother to the most recent baby that slept in the basket: Elsie’s great grandson Greydan, son of Jordan Mitchell and Cindy Lessard. The basket has seen six generations from Elsie’s grandmother to her great grandson.

would bring their babies with them.” Babies were carried in cedar root baskets and placed nearby while the women worked. These beautiful baskets are a tangible connection to the past, and Elsie treasures the basket that her grandmother wove for her daughter Jeannie. All the babies since have used it. The most recent resident was Elsie’s first great grandchild Greydan Lessard Mitchell, born October 2006.

Generations of family surround Elsie in her living room. There is a painting of her grandparents by Debbie Dan, and 16 grandchildren in a row watch her from above the window. Many of the grandchildren are a similar age and grew up together, more like sisters and brothers than cousins. Marlane laughs and tells us that her nephew “Cody calls me auntie mom.”

Marlane has friends from outside Sliammon whose families are scattered and haven’t seen each other for months or years. She can’t imagine living like that. “Our culture evolved around the nucleus of the family,” Marlane explains. The elders were the teachers, not in a classroom, but by

doing things with the children and telling stories that illustrated a respectful way to live. They taught children what was expected of them. “Grandparents were the educators and the parents were the workers. That is critical to keep our society healthy.”





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► I have to bring it up. We need to talk about the residential schools. Both women nod sadly. "That was very bad for our families," Elsie says, "It is not any one person's fault, but it happened and we must acknowledge it. And we need to heal." "It was a crushing blow to our society," continues Marlane, "It took away the purpose of life for a grandmother. What is the purpose of life of a mother, if your children are going to be taken away to be brought up by someone else? I feel so protective of my grandson, I cannot imagine letting him go, letting him grow up away from family."

Residential school students were removed from the family nucleus and had no adults to nurture them with hugs and loving words. The children were beaten if they spoke their language and girls were not allowed to speak to their brothers at

all. They grew up without learning about their culture and without learning parenting skills. "I have heard a man with tears in his eyes remembering how he had not known how to show affection to his own children," says Marlane, "This damage will continue into the next generation." Recently the Canadian government acknowledged the past harm and is beginning to hear from people who have suffered. Elsie and Marlane agree that it needs to be done sensitively, recognizing that the revelations will bring hard feelings forward and that the survivors and the whole community will need emotional support.

Elsie went to residential school for one year only. For the rest of her childhood, she was brought up by her grandparents, experiencing many of the ancient traditions. For Elsie, territory, family, and cul-

ture are interwoven. It is hard for her to see her children and grandchildren leaving Sliammon for work and schooling, but she knows that the world is changing and she is proud of their confidence and drive. "I know that they will have a different way of earning an income. I am very appreciative that they are interested in the culture. They are very respectful of our teachings."

Elsie Paul's traditional name, Qaxustala's, means a welcoming person, with a wealth of knowledge, who shares her culture. Elsie embodies that meaning for her family and the greater community. "There is more to life than making ends meet" she reminds me. Satisfaction and inner peace are a kind of richness; family ties are wealth. "My family is very close knit, and I am very thankful for that." 

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Native son returns home

Sean Percy joins Powell River Living team

by Sean Percy

Why he left his home in the South to roam 'round the Pole, God only knows.

— Robert Service, in THE CREMATION OF SAM MCGEE

There are a million reasons for a Powell River boy to come home. Mine are aged two and four.

Though I have not lived in Powell River for almost a decade, it has always been home. My time away has been spent in the little community of Hay River, Northwest Territories (population 3600). Each summer, and occasionally in spring and winter, I returned to Powell River to visit friends and family, and, twice, to be with my wife when she bore our children where we could be close to family. I was born and raised here. My parents are here. My wife's parents and siblings are here. So the decision for us to move back to Powell River is far from surprising or unexpected.

However, as I prepared to leave Hay River, I realized that a piece of me will remain in the North. Northerners often say that if you make it three winters in the North, you're a lifer. While that's clearly not true in my case, I can see why they say that. Leaving the North was not easy. Robert Service wrote of the North, "There's a land—oh, it beckons and beckons, And I want to go back—and I will." And I suspect he's right. I'll probably go back to the North, but only for a visit.

Powell River has once again become home, and I couldn't be happier to have it so.

Firstly, I'm thrilled that my daughter, who turns two years old this month, and my son, four, will grow up close to their grandparents. There's a heritage they can receive from their grandparents that is very special. Add to that the free babysitting available from grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins, and we have a winning team. If parenting were a hockey game, we just got backed up by the entire lineup of the Pittsburgh Penguins (sorry Ottawa fans.)

Secondly, there's the living in Powell River. Unlike many of my schoolmates, who couldn't wait to get out of town, I knew



LAST REAL WINTER: The Percy family in Hay River, NWT. From left Lauri, with Isaac, Sean and Ella.

that even if I left, I'd one day come back to this beautiful community. And I have. Twice.

I first left in 1994 to spread my wings, both with a career as a reporter and to serve where there was a greater need for Jehovah's Witnesses, in Hay River, Northwest Territories. But I lasted only a year in the North, as my roommate's sister caught my eye and lured me back home to Powell River. We were married in 1997. Fortunately, the Powell River News was willing to take me back again, this time as a senior reporter. Two years >>>



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► later my wife and I decided it was time to really head out on our own, and again we looked North. I left the Powell River News for the second time in 1999, and that venerable newspaper closed down just a few months later.

The Hub, the newspaper in Hay River, also took me back, this time as managing editor. Since the publisher had moved to Calgary, I was left to more or less run the place, and oversaw the shift from dark-rooms, film and wax paste-up to digital cameras, computer pagination, direct-to-plate printing and full-colour reproduction. I picked up a lot of experience, knowledge, and, if I may toot my own horn a little, a fistful of newspaper awards in categories from feature writing to sports to advertising to photography. We even operated a little photo studio on the side.

The Hub also gave me the chance to experience what I had previously viewed as the “dark side” of publishing—advertising. But the more time I spent with advertisers and the business community, the more I realized how important that information was to readers. Whereas we in the pub-



SPRING BREAKUP: Little Ella's first, and last river breakup of yes, the Hay River. Will she even remember?

lishing industry draw clear lines between “advertising” and “editorial,” most readers don’t make the distinction in the same way, and with good reason. Advertising is information important to readers. The store hours or sale details can be just as important to one reader as the insightful article on the latest industrial or social development may be to another.

Isabelle Southcott was a former co-worker at the Powell River News, and I had always viewed her as a bit of a big sister. When she headed out on her own to build Powell River Living, I was delighted for her, and offered what little gems of knowledge I had gathered in my northern experience. I was also, I admit, a little jealous. The magazine seemed like such an exciting project. So when the opportunity arose to join the team with my move back to Powell River, I was thrilled.

In the coming months, I’ll help connect you with some of Powell River’s great businesses. I’ll also share with you some diving and outdoor recreation activities, and other adventures in Powell River living.

It’s great to be back. 

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Opportunities for family care home providers

By Valerie Kastelan

Many of us take for granted the simple necessities that make our lives comfortable. Sadly, individuals with a serious and persistent mental illness face complex challenges. You can't turn on the TV these days without hearing about people with mental illness and it is almost always portrayed in a negative light. One in ten people experience some form of mental illness and one out of 100 have severe and persistent mental illness. Mental Health Awareness Week, May 5-11, provides a chance to challenge those negative images.

In 1998, the Family Care Home Program was created in Powell River after the closing of the only group home. With housing dollars from the health authority, families and individuals were asked to come forward to help and there was an amazing response. With the help of mental health clinicians, their clients were matched with one of these families. The family care home provides a safe and secure home, sometimes for the first time in the client's life. The care provider helps with day-to-day activities, including shopping, meal preparation, medication management, going to appointments, socializing and time management.

Powell River Mental Health and Addictions has had tremendous success and some clients have found a home that they can enjoy for years to come, often becoming part of a new family. One client is quoted as saying that "these past few years have been the best years of my life". The client's expenses are paid through housing dollars and the family care home provider is compensated as well. This is vastly different from the images we see on TV from Vancouver's downtown eastside.

It is not only the clients who benefit from this program. Paul and Deborah McIsaac have been family care home providers for the past eight years. In those years they have helped many clients during both short and long term placements. Paul says "the bottom line is that we enjoy living together and experience a greater dimension to our lives because of each other." Their clients have become a "family of friends" and they simply include the clients in their normal day-to-day activities.

"We currently have 20 clients living in family care homes in Powell River and we have about 10 clients who are awaiting placement," says Nora Koros, man-

ager of Mental Health and Addictions. "There is not a lot of turnover and we find that clients are being placed successfully for years in the same home. We are now in a position to fund more care homes and are asking families/individuals to step forward."

Maybe you are wondering what to do with the spare bedroom or suite in your home and you want to make a difference in someone's life. For more information on becoming a family care home provider call Valerie Kastelan at 604 485-3300.

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

—Winston Churchill (1874-1965)
British politician; statesman; orator

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Donate your dividends

By Isabelle Southcott

Powell River's Marg Simonetta has come up with an innovative fundraising idea for the CAT Scan Campaign.

When the provincial government issues its \$100 carbon tax rebate (climate action dividend) in June of this year to every man, woman, and child, Simonetta proposes that everyone in Powell River takes that cheque and donates it to the CAT Scan fundraising campaign.

"When it was announced that we would all be getting \$100 from the government my first thought was I will donate mine to the CAT Scan campaign. I am putting out a challenge to all citizens who use our local hospital to do the same because every penny helps."

CAT Scan Campaign treasurer Ken Needham hopes the idea catches on.

"We really hope we can get some response from this. I was quite thrilled when I heard that Marg was involved with this and wanted to promote this whole issue."

Needham says that people can donate their climate action dividend cheque at any local financial institution and the First Credit Union.

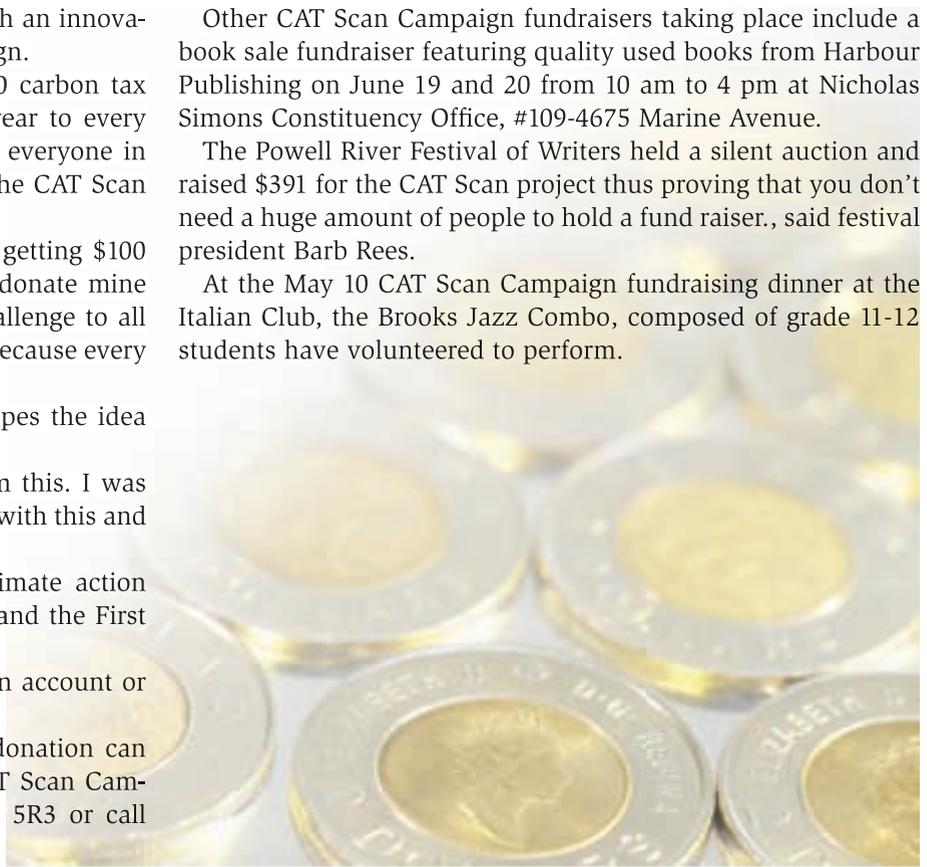
"They can go in and sign it over to the CAT Scan account or send us their own cheque," says Needham.

Climate action dividend cheques or any other donation can be sent to the Powell River General Hospital's CAT Scan Campaign, 5000 Joyce Avenue, Powell River, BC V8A 5R3 or call 604 485 3211, ext 4349.

Other CAT Scan Campaign fundraisers taking place include a book sale fundraiser featuring quality used books from Harbour Publishing on June 19 and 20 from 10 am to 4 pm at Nicholas Simons Constituency Office, #109-4675 Marine Avenue.

The Powell River Festival of Writers held a silent auction and raised \$391 for the CAT Scan project thus proving that you don't need a huge amount of people to hold a fund raiser., said festival president Barb Rees.

At the May 10 CAT Scan Campaign fundraising dinner at the Italian Club, the Brooks Jazz Combo, composed of grade 11-12 students have volunteered to perform.





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Fairview Bay Trail Hike **Sat, May 31**

This trail is the newest addition to the Sunshine Coast Trail. It is a relatively easy hike with only one hill at the beginning. Hike is 4–5 hours, so bring your lunch and water.

Far Off Broadway **May 1–3 & 8–10**

Prisoner of Second Avenue by Neil Simon.

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Clouded vision

Looking for the real Powell River

By Will Sturgeon

Angry wave crests foamed over the submerged port rail. Blasting wind-shifts rocketed into the headsail, quivering the leech, easing our heel, before knocking us over again. Teresa knelt over the stern, white knuckles squeezing the railing, ashen face convulsing as she paid the price for my refusal to turn back from the summer storm buffeting Malaspina Strait.

We were almost abeam Van Anda on Texada Island. A few hundred yards more and I'd be able to lay Westview on the mainland shore when I tacked over. I knew Tess wanted me to pull in...but the sailing was exhilarating!

Twenty knots howled from the northwest, gusting twenty-five. A glorious July sun broke free from behind another towering cumulous, sparkling the water. An endless parade of five-foot waves marched towards us, tossing our little ship, and my wife's stomach with their tumultuous passing, as they hurried imperviously southward. Like King Lear's tormented soul, my inner struggle mirrored the surrounding storm. Stand on, or pull in?

The choice was a no-brainer. We'd been to Westview before; there was nothing there for the travelling sailor except jam-packed docks, a fish and chip shop,

and an old pub. Did I want my floating money-pit crammed up against another, with yet another one forcibly scraping alongside of me?

The government dock was always overfull in the heat of the summer sailing season. Like genetically programmed salmon returning instinctively to their spawning grounds, schools of holiday-seeking sailors shed the responsibilities of their lives in Seattle and Vancouver and swarmed northward towards Desolation Sound, the Octopus Islands, and points north. After a year of spending money on their boat, they were eager to let loose and spend some on themselves. Pender Harbour on the lower Sunshine Coast was a favourite destination of most. The Garden Bay Pub, and Vancouver and Seattle Yacht Club Outstations offered easy moorage, good food, and holiday ambiance. Lund, with its historic Pub, and the welcoming tranquility of Thulin Passage were only a long daysail away. Geographically and logistically, Westview couldn't compete, viewed only as an emergency bailout spot, not a destination.

Those that did stop in usually found a negative surprise. With Westview's small breakwater-obscured harbour always half full with its home-based commercial

fishing fleet, and another 25% occupied by a permanent collection of rustic and character vessels that rarely left, the remaining dock space filled fast. Most sailboats' right-turning props walked to port in reverse, pulling the stern to the left regardless of the Helmsman's efforts on the wheel. Unfortunately, Westview's south harbour forced a blind forward port turn on entering, and a starboard turn to the right to reverse into any opening...if there were one.

More often, the unsuspecting skipper discovered a congested tangle of rafted power, sail, and commercial vessels overflowing the docks and crowding the minimal channel, necessitating full stop; implement plan B. Few seemed to have a Plan B. The ensuing chaos as holiday-only sailors struggled against wind, contrary prop walk, congestion, and inexperience, provided mesmerizing entertainment, unless your vessel lay in the firing line. With no magnetic allure ashore to offset this seemingly permanent situation, most seaborne travellers dismissed Westview from their future options.

I didn't. Westview was exactly what I wanted. Ambiance is a subjective term. I was comfortable with Westview's coastal, working-waterfront, small town persona. >>

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► Unlike the ‘big plastic’ crowd—mega yacht, mega credit card, mega ego—I felt right at home here. So did the wife. So much so, that years later, we bought a house for our future retirement.

But indulging one’s subjectivity does not excuse the responsibility to remain objective. People looking in mirrors only see themselves. People on holiday bring their ‘selves’ with them. Few leave their attitudes and preferences at home so that their holiday experiences will encounter an unbiased neutral slate. Like all passing sailors, I initially saw Powell River with tourist eyes, viewed through the limiting and clouded prism of Westview, yet Powell River is so much more.

The outdoor spirit thrives on fishing, boating, canoeing, diving, hiking, camping, cycling and off-roading amid endless majestic scenery from Powell to Khartoum Lakes, from Wildwood to Saltery Bay. Community spirit is evident from the support for the Powell River Kings to Kathumixw, from garden clubs to the Farmer’s Market. Yet how many impressionable souls arriving by ferry, bus, or personal vessel have judged this pearl of the Coast by the whorled, chipped, rough-edged exterior view of its shell—Westview dock? How many left with a dismissive finality not to look again, let alone to look more deeply through this clouded mirror for the potential beyond?

When I wandered the docks, the fore-shore, the alleys and through the Marine Avenue shops on my many visits, I absorbed the paradoxical atmosphere of friendly people keen to help a passing customer, but obviously intent on daily activities in a life that would carry on long after the ‘accidental tourist’ was

gone. Westview was business-focused, and local-needs focused. The summer tide of tourists would only flood a few seaside blocks around the harbour, and never swell to crest the hills hiding the



city beyond. Because of the space limitations of the harbour, that tourist tide would never amount to much, so no special precautions against flooding need be taken. No special programs or services or

preparedness plans need to be researched or readied. Any tourists coming off the docks could be filtered and absorbed though the existing services in the immediate area. They’re only staying overnight anyway, so really, there’s no need to do anything to cater to them. Perhaps it was my writer’s analytical nature, but despite the welcoming friendliness, I still felt a sense of dismissiveness, like a tolerated TV commercial interrupting the main entertainment program of Life. As much as the tourists couldn’t see through the clouded mirror to see the greater Powell River, perhaps the locals too were blinded by their own mirror, and couldn’t see the potential rewards beyond the trickle of tourists.

Meanwhile, life and obfuscation continue. The northern harbour development is derailed, the south harbour delayed, and shore-based service development ignored, while the main portal through which most visitors pass into this gem of a city continues to skew the welcoming and supportive intentions of its people. From Gibson’s to Nanaimo, and Chemainus to Campbell River, coastal towns have revitalized their waterfront to better their image, and better their services to both locals and tourists alike. Revitalizing doesn’t mean denying the town’s history, but celebrating it. How can a town with so magnanimous and majestic a community spirit that its reputation rivals the all-encompassing scenery be so limited in outlook? How can the decision makers of one of the so-called ‘cultural capitals’ of Canada look at themselves in the mirror? Or is that the problem—they only see themselves?



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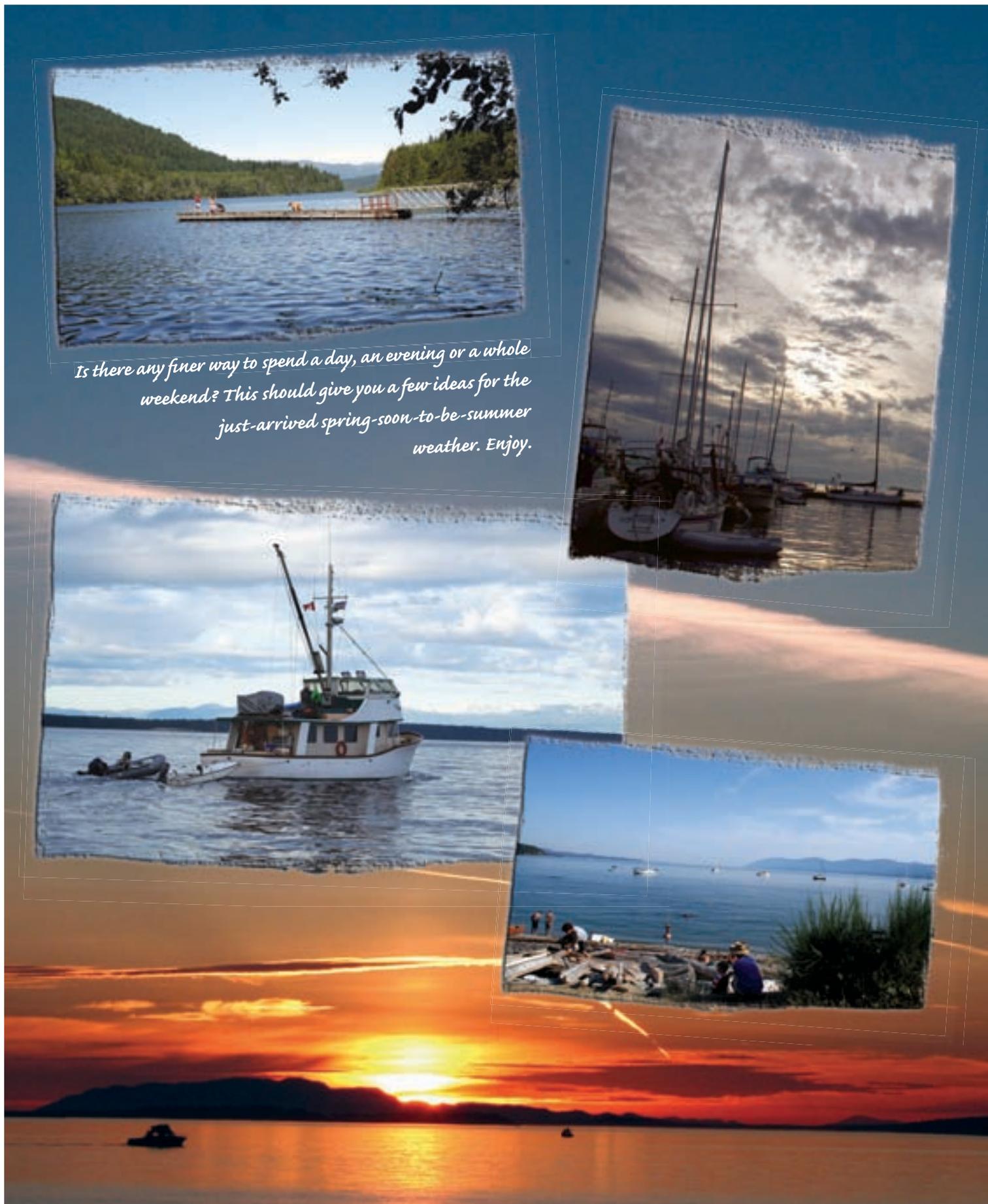


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On Powell River's waters



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Here Fishy Fishy

Local author's new book

Writer Heidi Sullivan has a new book out. "Here Fishy Fishy: Fabulous Fishing Techniques in Powell River Waters," was released last month and is available at Breakwater Books.

"The sport of fishing on the ocean and lakes can be exciting, enjoyable and rewarding in many ways by creating or strengthening family bonds and making new friends. Knowing what you are doing is fun, especially when you catch fish," said Sullivan.

Sullivan has been busy teaching fishing workshops about knot tying and casting at Kelly Creek Community School. For more information, call 604 487-4321.



SOMETHING FISHY: Heidi Sullivan and her new book, Here Fishy Fishy: Fabulous Fishing Techniques in Powell River Waters.



ICY WET, AND FUN, TOO: Trigve Grimsrud, 16, participated in Mount Washington's annual Slush Cup last month, capping off a fabulous year of skiing at the mountain.

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Emerald

May's birthstone

Spring is a time of new growth and re-birth and the intense brilliant green of the emerald, May's birthstone, is as refreshing as a spring garden after a rain.

The Ancient Egyptians mined emeralds in the eastern desert region 2000 years before Cleopatra. During Cleopatra's time, she claimed the emerald mines as her own as this was her favourite gem.

In the 16th century, the Spanish Conquistadors were amazed to find the native people wearing emeralds larger and more magnificent than any they had ever seen. Although the natives attempted to hide their emerald mines, the Spaniards soon



discovered and conquered most of them. The Muzo mine, in today's Colombia,

remains the source of the most prized emerald specimens. Other sources include Brazil, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Madagascar, Nigeria and Russia.

Emeralds belong to the beryl family of minerals, grows slowly within metamorphic rocks and is restricted in size by the rock, making large emeralds rare, and costly.

Some people believe that wearing an emerald brings wisdom, growth, and patience. These qualities are essential for a successful and lasting love which may explain why the gift of emerald is considered symbolic of love and fidelity.

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All dogs living with in the City of Powell River are required to **wear a current license**, available at City Hall, 6910 Duncan Street.

Reminder for Dog Owners

- Dogs are not permitted at **Willingdon Beach** and **Mowat Bay Park** from May 1 to September 15.
- **Dog friendly parks** with clean-up bags include: Larry Gouthro Park, 3 locations on the Seawalk, entrance to Willingdon Beach Trail, Sunset Park, Lindsay Park, Old Arena Site, and Grief Point Park.
- Keep our parks clean for everyone – please immediately clean-up after your dog.

Questions or concerns regarding animal control may be directed to City Hall at 604 485-8600

Medal winners

Brooks students excel at skills competition

Powell River students continued to excel in skills competitions for trades and applied technology at Skills Canada competitions this year.

Representing Powell River in the Regional Skills Canada Competition last month were: **Zach Legge**, Automotive Service; **Colin McKenzie** and **Travis Chase**, Cabinet Making; **James Drake** and **Stephan Fogarty**, Computer Animation; **Chris Chalupiak** and **Marinna Hansen**, Culinary Arts and **Danielle Ickringill**, Welding, said Jim Palm, career education counsellor for School District 47.

Legge won a gold medal in Auto Service Technology and advanced to the provincial competition where he finished seventh. James Drake and Stephan Fogarty, won gold in Computer Animation; Chris Chalupiak won silver in Culinary Arts; Travis Chase won silver in Cabinet Making; Marinna Hansen

won bronze in Culinary Arts and Daniel Ickringill won bronze in Welding at the regional competition.

Legge is enrolled in Malaspina University College's automotive technician program, a dual credit program between School District 47 and Malaspina.

Chalupiak, who won the silver medal in Culinary Arts, is also enrolled in a dual credit program.

"This is the third year in a row that we have had someone go on to the provincials in auto service technology," said Palm. "That shows us that the Malaspina University instructor Dan Light is doing a great job."

Palm said Skills Canada competitions are good because it gives the school district and Malaspina University the opportunity to shine and show off what the students are doing.

"They are all happy and doing well, they've tapped into what they are pas-

sionate about doing," he noted.

Each student is unique and when they discover what they are passionate about amazing things can happen.

For instance, Legge, who won the gold medal in auto service technology at the regional competition, went to Nanaimo recently planning on handing out his resume.

"The first door he walked through was Woodgrove GM and they offered him work experience and a job after he's finished with his work experience," said Palm. "The jobs are out there."

Half of Dan Light's students have job offers already and all his students from the last two years are working at jobs in their chosen field. As well, several graduates have continued their education and are working on the third year of their apprenticeships through Malaspina University.

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Living Green

By Emma Levez-Larocque

Green spring cleaning

Cleaning house is a wonderful way to welcome spring into our homes. But as you open your cleaning cupboard, take a close look at what you find inside. Are you using non-toxic cleaning products and practices? If you aren't, you might want to consider it—for your family's sake, as well as for the earth.

Off-gasses from toxic cleaning products are one of the major contributors to poor indoor air quality, according to Health Canada (other sources include new furniture, carpets and paint). Poor air quality contributes to asthma and allergies of varying severity. But it's not only air quality these cleaners endanger. We all know to keep them out of children's reach—why? Because if they swallow them, they will likely die. We all know to wear gloves when we are using them—why? Because if they touch our skin, they may cause irritation or burns. Organizations including the American Lung Association to Health Canada to the Environmental Protection Agency warn that using chemical cleaners without proper ventilation can lead to severe breathing difficulties, dizziness and a plethora of other lovely side effects. Why are we keeping these toxic items in our homes? Because they're only way to get rid of all the horrible germs that give us colds, flus and other horrifying deadly diseases? Hardly.

The first thing we need to consider is whether it is even healthy to live in a home that is "cleaner than clean". Many of the cleaning products available for sale in stores today declare themselves to be "antibacterial"—they will rid your home of every germ that dares to live there. But scientists have argued that eliminating your environment of all bacteria can actually endanger your natural im-

mune system and be detrimental to your health (http://articles.webraydian.com/article6440-Antibacterial_Cleaning_Products_Harmful_To_Your_Health.html). Furthermore, there's a lot we don't know about what's in the cleaners we bring into our home because, incredibly, companies are not required to list all the details (see <http://www.cbc.ca/consumers/market/files/home/cleaners/>). Don't be caught in the trap of thinking that if it's being sold in stores, it must be safe to use. At one time DDT was considered a wonder-chemical and "experts" recommended that it be sprayed on the walls of children's rooms to keep mosquitoes away.

For decades before us our parents and grandparents cleaned their homes with products that mostly came from their kitchen shelves—old standbys like baking soda and vinegar. Natural cleaners are better for a number of reasons. First, they don't provide the off-gasses mentioned above. Second, they don't leave dangerous chemicals behind on kitchen counters and other places where they can be absorbed into our food and bodies. Third, they can go down the sink without a second thought. Being non-toxic, they won't pollute the environment around your home when they leave. And fourth, if you make them yourself, they're much cheaper.

But, do they work? There's no doubt that switching to natural cleaners requires a change in mindset. Non-toxic cleaners will not dissolve the dirt and grime you find around your house, so there is definitely more elbow grease involved. You may need to do some searching around for alternatives—some natural cleaners definitely work better than others. You may also need to change the way you think about what clean is—does it actu-

ally mean clean, or does it mean smelling clean? This was a big one for me—I grew up thinking that the smell of Pine Sol or lemon-scented all-purpose cleaners meant that something was clean. It took a while for me to believe that something could be clean and not smell at all.

The shift to natural cleaners can be a big change, but you, your family, and the earth will be healthier for it. Here are some tips to help you get started:

- 1 Go back to the basics. Baking soda and vinegar have served very well for decades. These natural cleaners can be used for a whole slew of cleaning challenges. Vinegar (or club soda) is a great cleaner for glass or mirrors. Baking soda is a great deodorizer—sprinkle it on carpets before vacuuming, in the cat's litter box, or in combination with vinegar to clean and deodorize drains.
- 2 Use equal amounts of borax and baking soda scented with lemon or peppermint essential oils for a wonderful all-purpose cleaner for countertops, sinks, bathtubs and more.
- 3 Stay away from disposable cleaning wipes, mops and dusters. Use rags from old clothes and a mop that you can use repeatedly instead.
- 4 If you opt to buy natural cleaners instead of making your own, read their labels carefully. Some good companies to look out for include Seventh Generation, Ecover, Nature Clean, Simply Clean, Pink Solution and Citra-Solv.
- 5 Some great books which include recipes and ideas for green cleaning: *Clean House*, *Clean Planet* by Karen Logan; *Ecoholics* by Adria Vasil; and *Green Housekeeping* by Ellen Sandbeck.

Good luck, and happy, healthy spring cleaning!

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Family Matters

By Isabelle Southcott

Don't worry, be happy

Have you ever notice how some people always seem to be happy? They have a smile on their face, say a friendly hello and have this inner glow that's hard to explain. Do you suppose it's because they have no worries, no financial pressure or stress in their lives? Do you think it's because their lives are absolutely and positively perfect?

Or do you suppose that they have discovered how to live a positive and happy life? How to focus on the good rather than the bad?

We all have stresses and worries but some people are able to cope with them better than others. Some people can leave their jobs at the office and let go of troubling thoughts while others let problems eat away at them.

Letting go is one of life's lessons that is often difficult to learn.

There's this tale about problems that goes like this. If you had a group of people and asked them to throw their problems into a pile in the middle of the room and then choose a set of problems most people would dive in to get their own. It seems that as humans, we are more comfortable dealing with the known rather than the unknown.

In 2005 I was fortunate enough to win a Canadian International Development Agency journalism award. Because of this, I was given the opportunity to travel to Tanzania to learn about CIDA's international cooperation and development projects. I learned many lessons while in Africa and was struck time and time again by how happy and how genuinely friendly the African people seemed despite the fact that they were living in

Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.

— Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965)
Theologian; physician; Nobel Peace Prize winner

poverty. Politeness seemed ingrained in adults and children. Friendly smiles were everywhere. One phrase I heard time and time again that stuck in my mind was

Hakuna Matata. This Swahili phrase means "no worries" and it was popularized around the world by the Disney movie, The Lion King, where living for the present and leaving memories in the past became a key phrase and lesson in the movie.

We make choices in life every single day. We can choose to be negative or angry or we can choose to be positive and happy. We can choose to see the good in people or we can look for the bad. We can begin the day in a grumpy mood because we weren't ready to get up when the alarm clock went off or because it is raining and it was supposed to be sunny. But remember, one negative thought leads to another negative thought and if you let it, pretty soon your whole day will seem like an insurmountable chore.

Begin the day in a positive frame of mind, smile at the world and the world will smile at you.

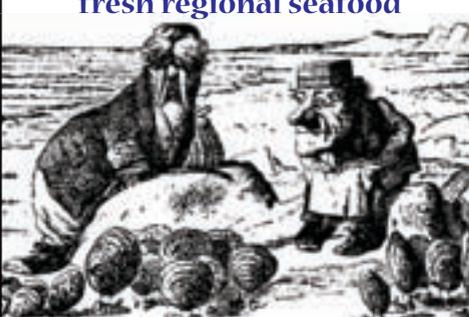
It's all about attitude. Change your attitude, change your life. So when you get up tomorrow morning ask yourself, "Am I going to be the kind of person everyone wants to talk to or will I be the grouch? Your attitude will go a long way toward determining how your day goes."

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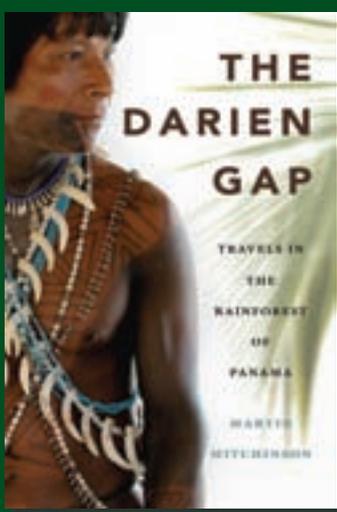


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Reuniting dogs and their people

By Suzanne Rowell

Dogs are our faithful and loyal companions. I have had five canine friends in my life, each one with its own character and charm. As a child, I had Desi, a Rott-Shepherd cross who would run around the block when let off his leash then collapse exhausted in the shade of a fir tree in the middle of Duncan Street. Then came Kokanee, a German Shepard who knew his way around town. Not too long after he came into my life he showed up at the back door of the Complex to wait for me to finish work at the pool. He would also visit his friend Marlow who lived a kilometre away from us, his mother who lived beside Edgell store and his sister Sai, who stayed at Willingdon Beach Campground when she was in town. Their sense is incredible, it wasn't the best habits for my dogs to have but thankfully they never were harmed or caused harm.

There are many reasons why a dog may wander—to socialize, to seek out food, or because they are curious. We work to ensure their security and safety but they do get out. In my job as support for the City's

Bylaw Enforcement Department, I have received many phone calls from frantic owners that their dogs are missing, or from someone who has found a dog. If the dog wears a tag I can reunite dogs and owners and it feels good to do this. Echo, Butch, Daisy and Jessie are a few of the canines that have wandered away from their homes that I have reunited with their owners. To date we have about 800 dogs licensed in the city. All dogs that live within the City of Powell River are required to wear a license.

We didn't think there would ever be another after Kokanee but then came Appollo an older large dog adopted through the SPCA. Appollo was a Saint Bernard-Lab cross, with an oversized tongue that hung out the side of his mouth. He wan-



REUNITED: Bylaw enforcement officer Garry Palmquist, with Kayla and Suzanne Rowell's daughter, Chloe.

dered a couple of times but only to Marlow's house (we think Kokanee left directions). A behaviour that Appollo came with was if you were over four and a half feet tall and you took off running Appollo would be hot on your tail. He came with this behaviour, not the most desirable but he "Frankly" only caught up with one runner. This is a good reason to keep your dog on a

leash while off your property. Dogs can be unpredictable. We think we know what they are going to do but they may surprise you and it could be an unpleasant result.

Now we have little Coco, a Shiatsu cross. She is stretched out beside me with her cat, Dash. Yes she has a cat for a companion. She wears a licence and I hope that it is something that we never have to test.

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Dinner by Willingdon Beach

Check out The Beach Hut's new menu

By Isabelle Southcott

The Beach Hut is truly a family affair these days with both Janet and Jeff LaMarsh and their two children Greg and Jillian all working in the business.

The LaMarsh family moved to Powell River from Ponoka, Alberta in December 2006 after falling in love with the community while vacationing here.

"We came to Powell River to check it out and my husband was offered a job at the mill while we were on the ferry on the way here!" said Janet. "We stayed for three weeks and just fell in love with it."

At the time, Janet was working as a teacher's assistant for elementary school students in Alberta so she had to go back to work at the end of August. "My husband stayed and worked at the mill with Island Scaffolding."

Janet began to think about moving and decided to see what would happen if she put their house in Alberta up for sale. It sold.

"We were due for a lifestyle change and we liked the lifestyle here."



FOR THE BEST VIEW IN TOWN: Try picking up a meal at The Beach Hut. Janet LaMarsh and her children Greg and Jillian also work in the business.

Jeff found a nice house for sale in Powell River and Janet looked at on line and they bought it. "By December 29, 2006 we were on our way." The following December, Janet noticed

that the Beach Hut was for sale. Jeff was working in Calgary but despite the distance, they were able to purchase the business.

The couple is no stranger to the food business. "Jeff used to work as a cook years ago and I worked in the hospitality industry for 15 years before I started teaching."

Since the couple opened The Beach Hut for business on March 16 this year they've had nothing but good response. "People are glad to see that we are staying open through the day. We're focusing on good burgers and good ice cream. To us, less is more. We want to do what we do well and we want to be able to serve our customers quickly."

Along with locally made salmon burgers, The Beach Hut is now exclusively serving Nestles ice cream. Hours are 8 am to 8 pm at this time of year.



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The City of Powell River proposed **Five-Year Financial Plan** 2008-2012 was presented to the **public at a meeting** held on Thursday, 17 April 2008 at the Recreation Complex. The Financial Plan is compiled based on the best information available at the time of preparation. This is a **working document** subject to amendments as directed by Council. Further information is available on the City's website: www.powellriver.ca

Where are your tax dollars being spent?

The City of Powell River provides many services to its citizens. The majority of taxation and fees are spent on providing services including: Fire and Emergency Services, RCMP, Bylaws, Parks Recreation and Culture, Government Administration, Public Works, Waste Disposal, Engineering, Development Services, Transportation, Water system and Sewer system.

Additionally:

- The City spends funds on statutory expenditures (audit of financial records, Annual Report, other reporting requirements);
- City contributes funds to organizations that provide services to the City and its citizens (Tourism, Library, Museum, Economic Development);
- City transfers funds into reserves to be spent at a later date;
- City makes debt interest and principal payments;
- City spends funds on capital improvements;
- City transfers funds to liability accounts as financial obligations arise;
- The City generates revenues from most of the services, but in many cases, the expendi-

Schedule A

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
REVENUE	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Municipal property taxes	13,218,251	13,091,897	13,456,569	13,884,648	14,340,378
Utility taxes	433,117	449,300	467,272	485,963	495,682
Grant in lieu of taxes	119,257	126,445	130,238	134,146	138,170
Sewer levy	2,258,760	2,326,523	2,396,318	2,468,208	2,542,254
Water levy	1,393,000	1,434,790	1,477,834	1,522,169	1,567,834
Sale of services	3,892,325	4,167,096	4,506,683	4,572,334	4,639,069
Other revenue	1,062,072	764,560	808,256	813,418	820,652
Government grants	5,991,895	693,832	695,832	697,832	699,832
Return on investments	482,150	509,933	515,032	520,183	525,384
	28,850,827	23,564,376	24,454,034	25,098,900	25,769,256
EXPENDITURE					
General Government	4,894,361	4,933,618	5,039,564	5,184,745	5,244,685
Transportation Services	3,354,098	3,456,211	3,399,505	3,490,890	3,584,813
Environmental & Public Health	363,172	371,597	379,772	388,127	396,666
Protective Services	4,312,958	4,413,510	4,531,896	4,649,464	4,770,113
Water supply	1,008,971	997,071	1,017,012	1,037,353	1,058,100
Sewer services	1,365,623	1,320,321	1,369,727	1,374,122	1,424,604
Parks, Recreation & Culture	3,532,010	3,627,131	3,712,918	3,788,239	3,879,992
Debt interest payment	356,137	291,387	792,025	789,660	769,660
Capital & Carry Forwards	14,410,542	9,084,500	3,099,772	2,654,198	3,249,640
	33,597,872	28,495,346	23,342,190	23,356,798	24,378,274
NET REVENUE (EXPENDITURE)	(4,747,045)	(4,930,970)	1,111,843	1,742,101	1,390,983
Transfer to reserves/surplus	2,192,681	1,959,854	1,717,599	1,703,595	1,683,866
Transfer from reserves & surplus	3,473,823	687,650	1,080,400	655,656	627,527



Business Connections

By Kim Miller

Thanks to everyone who contacted the chamber office after the last issue to give me your business news. Lots of changes are happening and it's great for the Chamber to know, so that when residents and tourists ask I can give them lots of recommendations and resources.

First off, congratulations to **Mark Dollevoet** of the Powell River **Brick** store for being awarded the Franchise of the Year award at the company's annual meeting in Edmonton, Alberta.

Tourigny and Marce, Wood Artisans is a new workshop/studio/gallery. They are located at 5287 Manson Avenue, just two blocks north of **Edgehill Store**. **Dominique Tourigny** is a 35-year Master Cabinetmaker and his wife **Brenda Marce**, a visual artist. Together they have created Powell River's first "Wood Only" art gallery offering furniture, home décor items, cremation urns and wonderfully unique gifts. If they don't carry what you're looking for they can make it. Open from Tuesday through Saturday 10 am to 4 pm or by appointment call 604 483-4428.

Westview Agencies is happy to welcome **Greg Babcock** as a new employee. You may remember him from **Myrtle Point Golf Club**. Greg has been with Westview Agencies for 4 months now and is now a Level 1 Licensed Insurance Broker. Greg would be glad to help you with any of your insurance needs. Westview Agencies is in the process of installing a new computer software program in order to enhance product offerings and ser-

vice. Westview Agencies mission statement is to provide the best possible insurance coverage, reasonably priced, written by financially sound insurance companies and tailored to your specific needs.

Need your blinds cleaned or repaired? Check out **Nu-Brite Venetian Blind Store** located at the corner of Joyce and Marine Avenue. Just behind **Thunder Bay store**. They would love to hear from you at 604 485-2919.

Knight Piésold Consulting are the lead engineering and environmental consultants to **Plutonic Power**. They have just joined the Chamber and looking forward to setting up a local office. They hope to be active in the community and are employing a number of local and First Nations subconsultants and service providers.

After visiting family in Powell River several times, **Barb Ouellette** fell in love with this friendly, thriving community and moved from Calgary last year. As an accounting technician with 35 years experience, Barb registered **Barbara A. Ouellette Accounting Services**. Her forte is setting up Simply Accounting systems and training small business owners to do their daily accounting. Barb has done troubleshooting and has done forensic accounting. She works independently or in tandem with the client's accounting firm to initiate, simplify, cleanup, replace or upgrade systems. Call Barb at 604 485-9697 or email barboue@shaw.ca

Tickets for the **Powell River Youth Ambassador** pageant are on sale at the Complex. Local businesses and groups support the nine youth in this year's program. On Saturday, May 17 the new Royalty will be crowned.

Do you have any changes within your business you want Powell River to know about? New managers, new owners or are you moving locations? Call me at the Chamber office at 604 485-4051 and we will get your info in the next issue of Powell River Living.

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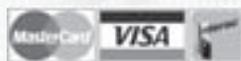
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Blast from the past

The village of Cranberry Lake

By ~~Ge~~y Gray

The village of Cranberry Lake was dragged, kicking and screaming into the 1955 amalgamation of the four communities (Westview, Townsite, Wildwood) to form the Municipality of Powell River. The reason for the reluctance was that Cranberry had \$4,200 in the bank and the other three had none. Therefore, the question was “What’s in it for us?” For 10 years after the event, village seniors met every Saturday morning at Jack Hanna’s Quality Printing shop to bemoan the loss of Cranberry’s independence and how the folks in Westview were ripping them off. The same complaints were aired monthly at the Cranberry Ratepayers Association meetings. However, most were ignored at the council table.

For years Cranberry residents enjoyed telephone service, a good water supply, paved roads, a transparent village commission and a strong tax base. Businesses thrived in the community of 1,500 (1955 census) with its well-stocked general store (Bosa Mitchells); a bowling alley, pool hall, a roller skating rink and in the wintertime an outdoor ice rink on Cranberry Lake.

The community was incorporated as a village in 1942. First commissioners were Ray Weaver (to become first reeve of the Powell River Municipality), Norman MacIntosh, and Jimmy Ford (replacing Al Alsgard). Helping the commission run the village were Jack Brooks, H.J. Parry, Archie McKenzie, Bon Gela, Ernie Liebenschel, R.S.W. (Bob) Johnson, secretary who eventually became the first secretary of the future municipality.

In the early 1930s the Cranberry Ratepayer’s Association came into play and as Bessie Banham, the reigning scribe of the era remarked: “The organization was noted for its lively meetings.” That description would fit even today. The formation of the association was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tracey. The executive chosen was Archie McGeachy, president; Mrs. Tom Haddon, Vice-president; and charter members were Ernie Liebenschel, Ed Bernier, Henry Culos, H.J. Parry, Ernie Maple and Ernest Brooker.

The organization started the ball rolling to obtain light and water for the district when, in 1930, electricity became available to the outlying district from the Powell River Company. This initiative resulted in the formation of Cranberry Light and Water District. H.J. Parry, Arthur Longstaff and Eddie Goddard were the first trustees.

Cranberry Lake gained its name from the lush berries that flourished in the marshy lowlands surrounding the small body of water. Sliammon people had harvested the fruit for years before three prospectors; George Smarge, Magnus P. Olson and George McFall came looking for mineral deposits in 1910.

Early Townsite settlers soon found that the juice from the cranberries was a welcome addition to their sparse supplies, which came up the Coast by barge and scow from Vancouver or Seattle. However, there was plenty for all, even the bears who came out for a feed. Meanwhile the three intrepid prospectors discovered a likely deposit and filed a claim for a 52-acre mineral claim. A road was pushed through but the enterprise failed after the claim was cancelled when the mining inspector found the deposit was mica, not feasible for mining.

The road they constructed to connect with the Townsite proved to be the incentive pioneers needed to look at the area



DOWNTOWN IN 1931: Part of Cranberry's business district, almost 80 years ago.

Photo courtesy Powell River Historical Museum

with a view of building homes. An orchard was planted where the veteran’s houses now stand and soon a farm came into being supplying the settlers with fresh milk and meat. Cranberry was on its way!

One of the attractions for people to move into the community was it was far enough away from the noise and smell of the mill which by this time was well underway. Another was the



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► land was cheap and there was plenty of it. Smarge was one of the first to build then his partner McFall constructed a house nearby. Unfortunately, both houses were destroyed by fire in 1915.

Undaunted by the loss Smarge moved to Wildwood while McFall built on the other side of the lake, planted another orchard, raised pigs and established a dairy. Owing to the shortage of milk McFall only sold to mothers with babies. Nobody gave up easily in those early days when “make-do” was the order of the day.

Perhaps the most significant event that ensured Cranberry’s future was the start of the Cranberry Road, connecting Poplar Street in the Townsite to what was to become the main street of Cranberry. If anyone today complains of potholes, they should know what their forefathers put up with on the road to Powell River. It was built over mud and sand. Over the bog at the top of the hill 18-foot cedar blocks were put down to add some stability to the road. Planks were laid over the mud and when it rained these boards became rafts. If a driver let his vehicle slip off a plank it was a days’ work to get it back up. However, it was a passageway no matter how crude, and commercial vehicles were able to access scows and barges to take their wares to the marketplace. The road worked the other way also and new entrepreneurs started businesses that flourished as the area population increased. In 1915, Mowat and Wasser built a shingle mill at Mowat Bay. A road was built to connect with the fledging Cranberry Road so the product could be shipped by scow to Vancouver. Unfortunately the mill, which employed five men, shut down in 1919.

Dr. C.R. Marlatt bought the company and built a lumber mill on the site. With the increasing population needing houses his company, Local Lumber Co. Ltd. supplied most of the lumber. However, when the timber from the Edgehill district ran out logs had to be hauled with a donkey engine from Powell Lake and the added expense forced the mill to close.

The first subdivision development was Parryville, built by H.J. (Bert) Parry who arrived in town from Vancouver in 1922. He purchased adjacent to Lot 450 and pitched a tent for the family to live in until he could build a house. Houses were at a premium at that time so Parry put in a few small cottages and rented them out. Nearly everyone who came to Cranberry in those days spent some time in Parryville, which became the center of town.

His next venture was a business block built in front of his home facing Cranber-

ry Road. Four stores moved in and Cranberry had a business center

The stores were Haddads Dry Goods, Farrara’s Grocery Store, A. Smith, a butcher and Alsgard Furniture Store (which burned down in 1929). Because of the lack of available water in the district many homesteads were destroyed by fire. Fires became so frequent that a volunteer fire department was organized by Ernie Liebenschel. He became the first chief and businessmen purchased hoses and equipment. Later a truck and more



CRANBERRY DAYS FUN: Andy Anderson (1888–1977) participating in the 1968 event.

Photo courtesy Powell River Historical Museum

equipment were purchased. Soon W. Jamieson, an engineer, designed a water distribution system.

Around this time, a telephone system was planned but ran into difficulties from regulations banning the use of telephone poles because of high voltage. However that was overcome and a deal was cut. BC Telephone Co. would bear the expense of cutting down the voltage and the district would pay the cost of changing the transformers. Thus, Cranberry had the first telephone system in Powell River.

By 1929, Cranberry could boast of a complete shopping district with 21 business establishments. Liebenschel’s Transfer and Coal business, Scotty’s Transfer Co. and later Overwaita Cash & Carry store added to the established businesses like Tom Ahola’s Hardware Store, Adolph Smith’s Butcher Shop and others.

In about 1945, Al Alsgard, publisher of the Powell River News and Town Crier, made a disquieting suggestion. In an editorial he floated the idea of amalgamation of Powell River, Westview, Cranberry Lake and Wildwood. The Powell River Co., which was going to get out of the real estate business because of the high taxes,

supported this suggestion to have the Townsite assume municipal responsibility.

The idea grew legs and soon amalgamation was on everyone’s list of things to think about. Over the next few years’ meetings were held in the four communities, which would be affected. Pros and cons of ratepayers and village committees were discussed and finally, after nearly a decade, a caretaker council was named on Oct. 15, 1955. W.G. Harris was elected reeve of this council. Other members were: J.S.P. Johnson, B.M. Macintyre, Ed Bernier and R.S. Lyons. A date (Dec. 21) was set for an elected municipal council. Ray Weaver nosed out J.P. Dallos for the office of reeve. Others elected were Molly McLaren, Jimmy Court, Bob Gela, both Cranberryites, and Ted McComber.

When the municipality was settled in and started spending money Cranberry Lake’s worst scenario came true. On a per capita basis, Westview used the lion’s share putting in roads, water systems, streetlights to new subdivisions and not much came back to Cranberry even though \$4,200 was their contribution.

However, it was a self-contained community and what had to be done they did themselves and that made Cranberry unique. Self-contained and willing to help their neighbours. That sense of togetherness still holds true and was exemplified in the summer of 1967 when the first Cranberry Days were held at Lindsay Park.

This was an idea that emanated from the Ratepayers Association and carried out by members of the community. To raise money for the event Cranberry businessman donated \$1 a year. That money meant ice cream; hot dogs and pop could be sold at 1930 prices. A parade through the streets of the village to Lindsay Park was well attended and most of the community marched along with it. At the park there were bathtub races, tours of the Lake aboard Charlie and Gerry Parsons’ houseboat “The Queen of Cranberry” and swimming races at Whytes Beach. A great day.

Another annual event was the Park Avenue baby parade, a showcase for babies born since the last parade. Parents dressed up, balloons floated over the crowd and citizens from other communities dropped by for the celebration.

One last word on the Amalgamation. A quote by James D. Baird, deputy inspector of municipalities from Victoria: “Local government is the cornerstone of democracy in the nation. Only by a strong and united local administration can we hope to have a healthy municipal, provincial or federal government.”

The most important job of all

By Wendy Adams

I have often pondered the fact that in our society, we need a license to drive, a license to hunt, car dealers have licensed mechanics to fix our vehicles, a University degree and certificate to teach—every occupation I can think of has some amount of training. We even prepare expectant parents for giving birth, providing free prenatal courses. In the hospital you are taught how to feed, change and bathe your newborn. Then there are the follow up visits to weigh, measure and assess the baby's general health. But then what? When it comes to actually raising our children, one of the most important jobs of all, our society doesn't provide any formal training in being a parent.

If there were a course in parenting, what would a parent need to know? What can we teach prospective parents about raising their children? What is really important?

The answers to my questions came to me at a most peculiar spot—at an awards assembly last spring. Each month we recognize the students for various academic and social achievements. This particular month our focus was Critical Thinking Skills. Being the grade one teacher, I sat and watched the other teachers present their awards (they save the best for last I tell my students). Many of the students I had taught in years past were recognized, not for the first time. I started to look at the audience—the parents of these thinkers'. We as teachers are certainly responsible for providing an environment that allows children to use their thinking skills, but I know that we

Each month, Powell River Living brings you *A Taste of Toastmasters*, sharing some member's speeches. Learn more from Jim Petrie, 604 485-4355; or Kevin Wilson, 604 483-9052.

cannot take full credit for our great thinkers, they came to us with the skills they needed before they even entered kindergarten.

Finally, it was my turn to honour the students in my class with their certificates. I walked my six little ones to the front of the gym. And then I felt myself stepping up to an imaginary 'lectern'. I faced the parents and said:

As we recognize these children today for their critical thinking skills, we also need to recognize the parents as you are the first teachers of your children.

You have nurtured them and cared for them.

You have talked to your children about the world around them—creating a wealth of background knowledge.

You have listened to them.

You have allowed them to play and have played with them.

You have given them opportunities to explore and have explored with them.

You have read to them.

And you have loved them.

It is for all of these things you have done, as the first teachers of your children, that we are able to honour them today with this award. It is for this that we thank you.

I turned and quietly stepped down from my imaginary podium. At first I felt somewhat embarrassed, delivering a sermon no one asked for. But I felt some comfort in finding an answer to some of the questions I had been pondering. I now know what every parent needs in order to do the most important job of all.

Talking, listening, playing, exploring, reading, nurturing, caring and loving.

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Community Calendar

May 2008

Sunshine Speakers Toastmasters: Interested in communication, leadership, public speaking? **Toastmasters** meets every Thursday to learn in a fun, supportive way. Jim 485.4355 or Kevin, 483.9052.

2nd Tuesdays: Living with Cancer Support Group, 1:30–3:30 pm at Breakwater Books. All cancer patients, survivors and loved ones welcome. Info: 1-888-229-8288.

3rd Tuesdays: Powell River Garden Club meets at 7 pm at Community Living Place.

May-June: Introductory Stained Glass, Intermediate Stained Glass, Mosaic Stepping Stone, Fusing Workshops and Fused Jewellery Workshops at **Q Glassworks**. Call early to register, 604 485-7475.

May 3: Plant sale, cookie walk & tea. 11 am–2 pm, Powell River United Church Trinity Hall, 6932 Crofton St.

May 3: Powell River Lawn Bowling Club Open House starts at noon. 5714 Marine Ave.

May 6: Welcoming the Spirit Pole, 9:30 am–2 pm, Willingdon Beach. Sliammon hosts its annual **Aboriginal Day festivities** with many activities including weaving, drumming and carving demonstrations.

May 8: MS Support Group meets, Malaspina University-College.

May 8: Think Peace Video: A portrait of a 21st Century Peace Movement. United Church Trinity Hall, 7:30 pm.

May 9: Salvation Army hosts **spaghetti dinner**, 6 – 7:30 pm, 4500 Joyce Ave.

May 10: Parish of St David & St Paul Anglican Church has its **Mother's Day Strawberry Tea**, 1 – 3 pm at the church.

May 10: Family Move for Health Day, 10:30– noon at Willingdon Beach.

May 11: Eighth Annual **Bruce Denniston Bone Marrow Society Spirit Run.** Half-marathon and 20k relay leave the start/finish line at 9:30 am, Willingdon Beach. 10k and 5k run/walk start at 10 am. Call 604 485-8488 or visit www.dennistonsociety.com for details.

Until May 21: Kelly Creek Community School will hosts water-colour painting sessions. Contact the school at 604 487-9925.

May 23 & 24: Gwen Enquist book signings. May 23, 1 – 3 pm at Breakwater Books on Alberni St. On May 24 at the Town Centre Mall, 10 am – 4 pm. Meet the author and celebrate her new novel, "Lazy Water."

May 31: Therapeutic Riding's Fourth Annual Renovation Tour, 11:30 – 3:30 pm. Tickets are \$10 and include 15% off at Rocky Mountain Pizza that day for lunch. Tickets must be purchased in advance from Overwaitea, River City Coffee or Your Dollar Store With More.

June 4: PR Early Childhood Educators present their annual **Preschool Carnival.** Gordon Park track, 10 am –noon. If raining, event moves to the Complex. Questions? Call Roxanne at 604 414-9335.

June 8 & 9: Heart & Stroke Foundation **Big Bike Ride.**



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Community funds shared

A number of local organizations shared in the 2008 grants from the Powell River Community Foundation. While many groups are eligible, fewer applied this year than expected. This year's recipients were:

- BC Conservation Foundation: P.R Bear Aware program
- Powell River Community Services Association: Women's Health Network
- Powell River Film Festival
- Powell River Historical Museum
- Powell River District Branch of the SPCA
- Powell River Salmon Society
- Powell River Therapeutic Riding Association
- Powell River Sunset Homes Society



Teacher brings chemistry to life

Passion, enthusiasm and a willingness to teach outside the box are just three traits that make Brooks Secondary School's Colleen Balzer a special teacher.

"I love what I do. I tell my students at the beginning that I am very passionate about what I do," Balzer told Powell River Living Magazine.

Balzer grew up in Australia and Brazil. "I was a missionary kid," she says. Her family was based out of Vancouver and she studied at Simon Fraser University, earning a degree in Chemistry. "I did Co-op education in a number of industrial labs and it showed me what I did not want to do. It showed me that I needed to get out of the lab and that I needed to talk!"

After teaching mini university for a term Balzer realized that she loved teaching kids chemistry.

"I loved up blowing up things," she joked.

Balzer began teaching in Powell River in 1993. She teaches Chemistry 11 and 12, Math 10, Science 10 and BOSS 10 at Brooks.

"BOSS is a learning strategies class for helping students achieve their full potential. It is based on teaching students good strategies to be successful. BOSS is a three-year program that begins in Grade 8.

Balzer says she uses many BOSS strategies in teaching her other classes. For instance, she uses a technique called Cornell Notes in teaching Chemistry 11. "It's a specific note taking process that helps students learn," she says.

Balzer is passionate about chemistry. "There is work to it but it can be fun. I bring that into my class."

Her grade 11 class celebrates Mole Day each year. "It's about Avogadro's number 6.02×10^{23} . On October 23 from 6:02 am to 6:02 pm we celebrate this number."

"Avogadro's number is really important in that it quantifies chemistry. So we pledge allegiance to the mole (number) and we talk about how important that number is because without that number we could not do the chemistry we do today. We sing silly songs, we run about the school saying 'Happy Mole Day' and

students have to explain what Avogadro's number is. It raises awareness and I tell the kids it's just a nerdy way for science geeks to have fun."

Balzer wants to remove the mystery from science and make people realize that science isn't boring. "Chemistry can be really dry. There's a lot of math and notes and more math. You need something to spark it up a bit."

For math students, Balzer holds Pirate Math Day. "I teach Math 10 and this is a way to make trigonometry interesting."

Students spend about four classes preparing for Pirate Math Day. They make pirate maps with bearings and compasses and on the actual day itself they solve each others' puzzles (the maps).

"I do the master map and hide gold coins that they can trade for goodies. We dress up. It's a way to celebrate and have fun with some of the stuff we have to do."

Balzer says there's a lot of material to cover and it can be overwhelming. "This helps kids relax a little."

In between it all, there are labs and demonstrations. "Our school board really supports the value of hands-on learning. They promote the ability for us to do meaningful labs and hands-on activities.

Balzer also has a section in Chemistry 11 where students participate in a forensic analysis lab. It is based on a crime scene. Photos are taken of the "victims" and on each victim there are traces of lipstick, white powder and ink. The scene is set and there are three suspects. "The kids come in, they're given a report and there are crime scene pictures. They have

to analyze the lipstick, white powder and ink. They are given an analysis sheet and have to come up with the answer."

Bringing science to life is what Balzer loves to do. "A lot of my students who have gone on to study chemistry have been girls and they are really enjoying the careers they are heading into in chemistry."



LOVES HER JOB: Chemistry teacher Colleen Balzer loves teaching and sharing her passion for chemistry.

Balzer is married to Tim who is finishing up his PhD in military history. They have two sons, 6 and 10 years old. When Balzer isn't busy teaching, she is juggling family life yet she still manages to find time to make homemade bread—something she perfected while walking the line when the teachers went on strike a few years ago. "I knew money would be a little tight so I started making bread. I made it every day for two weeks. I walked the line with my friend, Carol Cawley, the home economics teacher, who helped me."

Balzer still has fun with her bread. "I barter it for eggs and have even bartered it for wine. It's a good gift and I've brought it in for staff who need a little pick me up."

And kneading bread is always therapeutic especially before or after a busy day in the chemistry lab.



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