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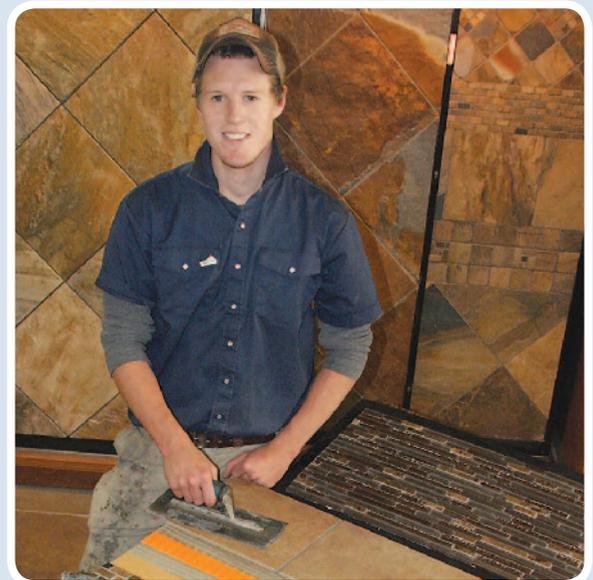
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# Powell River LIVING

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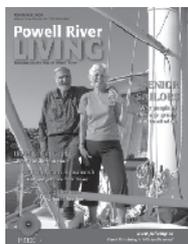
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Dale and Marg McNeill enjoy "messaging about in boats" and keep their sailboat *Inscrutable* at the North Harbour.

Photo by Gary Greico

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We welcome feedback from our readers. Letters can be sent to [isabelle@prliving.ca](mailto:isabelle@prliving.ca), faxed to 604.485.8381, or mailed the old-fashioned way to PR Living, 3932 Manitoba Ave, Powell River, BC V8A 2W6.

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## THIS ISSUE

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**JULIE GROSHAK** was born in Powell River and after education, travel and career has returned to this beautiful community with her family and they're loving it! After years as a licensed private investigator, she's now a Director with BeautiControl Inc.



**SYLVIA KEET-PEEBLES** is a retired pediatrician who gave up her license earlier this year. She is founder of the Powell River Citizens Peace Panel, a mother and a grandmother.



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*Holding anger is a poison. It eats you from the inside. We think that hating is a weapon that attacks the person who harmed us. But hatred is a curved blade. And the harm we do, we do to ourselves.*

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# Powell River Living IN THIS ISSUE

## Seniors make this a better place

Seniors are critical to the future of Powell River. Retirees buy real estate. Traveling seniors stay in our hotels and campgrounds. The coffee klatch supports local restaurants. There's no denying that the older crowd has a huge impact on this community's economic and social well-being.

For further proof, take a look at this community's many volunteers. You'll find lots of grey hair! As Gary Grieco points out in his article on the North Boat Harbour, one-third of marina members are retired folks. As our Blast from the Past points out, our seniors have a tradition of hard work and self-sacrifice — a tradition from which we would all do well to learn.

November 11 is Remembrance Day. Take time to remember those who served. Take time to remember those who fought, those who lost loved ones and those who died for their country.

We had so many great stories submitted for the November issue of Powell River Living that we were unable to fit them all in the paper copy. But on our website you will find additional content like a poem, *A Soldier's Letter Home*, written by the late Sergeant Thomas McIlwraith and a story about the late Don McGregor, well-known Powell River resident and son of war hero Jock McGregor.

The Bible says that "Grey hair is a crown of splendour" yet all too often, the wisdom gained when obtaining those grey hairs is lost to future generations because it is not shared. That's rarely the fault of the seniors. They're usually more than willing to share their experiences and stories. Younger generations sometimes pass off the wisdom of the elderly as old wives' tales or the ramblings of old men. That's a mistake.

We should honour and respect our elders. Yet, in one study, four percent of Canadian seniors reported being abused or exploited — usually by a family member. Most seniors who suffer abuse have been cut off from their community. In itself, that's a good reason for them to stay involved in their community. Seniors need to be active in the community — both for their sake and the sake of the community.

Seniors are being asked to play a big role in the Orca Bus program, passing on their wisdom and helping make a success of the early years for the children who live here.

Our community is a better place when seniors are active in it. [PRL](#)

*Isabelle Southcott*

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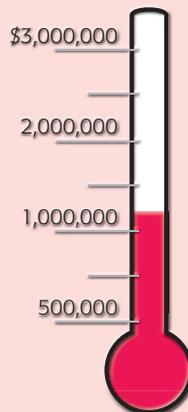
## Pass the Hat for the CAT

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?



**TOTAL AS OF  
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\$1,116,809**

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To make a donation, please mail your cheque to Powell River General Hospital CAT Scan Campaign, 5000 Joyce Ave, Powell River, BC, V8A 5R3

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# Van for the CAT Scan

Somebody will start the year off with new wheels

Felix Massullo, owner of Massullo Motors, donated a brand-new 2008 GM Uplander van to Dave Harper and Rod Tysdal of the Powell River Hospital Foundation. The Uplander, with a suggested list price of \$26,715 is the grand prize in the Pat Thomson CAT Scan Campaign's upcoming raffle.

Harper, chair of the CAT Scan campaign, and Tysdal, co-ordinator of the campaign's New Year's Eve Gala which includes live and silent auctions, said the draw for the snazzy new van will take place at the Gala, to be held at Dwight Hall on New Year's Eve. The Rotary Club will as-



**PROUD NEW OWNERS:** Felix Massullo (at right) with Dave Harper (centre) and Rod Tysdal of the Powell River Hospital Foundation in front of the 2008 Chevrolet Uplander grand prize.

sist with the sale of the \$20 raffle tickets, which are available at Massullo Motors, the Town Centre Mall, Anderson's Men's Wear, from members of the Rotary Club and the Hospital Foundation.

"The fund now stands at about \$1,116,809, a little over one third of the projected \$3-million cost," Harper said. "The community can be proud of its contributions to date, but obviously we still have quite a long way to go."

The Foundation, with the support of the Powell River Health Care Auxiliary, invite ideas for further fundraising. "We hope to reach our goal next year," said Harper. **RL**



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# North Harbour important to seniors

## A sound harbour strengthens the economy

By Gary Grieco

If Westview is the heart of Powell River, then the North Harbour Marina must also be considered a vital organ. It's not just a place where boats are kept, but an important part of the social fabric for a great many of Powell River's seniors. A safe and secure marina helps to define a city, and can also be measured in economic terms by attracting businesses and people who choose to come and stay. This city-owned and operated marina is not a private club for the privileged. Rather, it is an integral part of the community that is open to all Powell River residents and a major attraction for many retirees who have their choice of where to live on the coast.

A third of marina members are retired folks like Dale and Marg McNeil, who love to live in close proximity to the sea, 'messaging around' in boats. "Some retirees would rather have a boat instead of a trailer, tent, or cottage," according to Dale. In the McNeil's case, the sailboat they built named *Inscrutable*, is their choice as both home and cottage and stays moored in the North Harbour when they're not out cruising the coast. The McNeils enjoy good health and get plenty of exercise in what many would consider an enviable lifestyle. But they are concerned about the future of the marina and the current state of the docks. "East wind gales have snapped off rotten pilings, and floats have come loose with boats attached," according to Dale.

"Reconstruction of the North Harbour is important to Powell River," believes Marg, a retired Powell River teacher. "Communities like Powell River have to compete with other cities in providing amenities like good hiking trails, outdoor facilities, library, and a functioning harbour to attract the influx of new retirees coming to the coast."

A part of the new economy for Powell River and many coastal communities is retirees and tourism. Powell River

has traditionally relied on an abundance of natural resources used in fishing and forestry. But in these times of worldwide economic uncertainty, local mill downsizing or even outright closure, it is vital that Powell River make the best use of all its natural resources to maintain a viable economy and stable tax base for its citizens. An equivalent new tax base must replace any major tax base that we lose, or individual taxes will rise. Retirees attracted to Powell River in large numbers will be part of that new tax base.

People are drawn to Powell River by the relaxed lifestyle, friendly people, and lower housing costs in one of the most beautiful areas on the Sunshine Coast. They may come from the Prairies or the interior of BC, but one thing many seem to have in common is the desire to own a boat and live by the sea. It's like a rite of passage, and they might by-pass this community if moorage is not available. Harbour Master Jim Parsons states, "I have a wait list of people from other areas preparing to retire to Powell River if they can get moorage for their boats. In some cases I have to recommend they look at other areas, like Campbell River."

The North Harbour has been in a state of flux for many years, with repairs to the docks being one of the options. A new risk assessment prepared by Chris Small Marine Surveyors indicates the marina is at the end of its life, and poses a significant liability to the City of Powell River, with a worst case scenario being the marina closing and leaving hundreds of boaters high and dry.

The November 15th referendum will decide whether or not reconstruction of floats will be carried out in the near future under the City of Powell River's plan. The funds are in place and have been earmarked and approved by the Province.

"The price tag for the reconstruction and reconfiguration of the North Harbour is not to exceed \$6 million, and is an investment in Powell River's economic future," according to >>>



**INSCRUTABLE:** Dale McNeil aboard his boat, The Inscrutable. More text is needed here, and a better cutline, too.

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► David Douglas, Powell River's Chief Financial Officer. "The intent is that the borrowing for the North Harbour will not affect your taxes, but rather, the users of the marina will pay moorage fees that are sufficient to cover the annual debt payments and annual operating costs." Moorage rates will be increased to \$5.10 per foot from the 2007 rate of \$3.20, but will still be on the low end compared to other marinas. One example is Campbell River's 2007 rate of \$6.08, which is under review for an increase.

Harbour Master Jim Parsons says, "An added benefit of a reconfigured North Harbour is that boats currently occupying space in the south harbour could be relocated to the new north harbour, opening up more moorage for visiting boaters, which adds tourist dollars to the local economy."

How do you measure the economic benefits of a sound harbour to Powell River, or the effects of an enhanced social environment? Len Shelton, 74, and his wife Dorrie have been cruising BC's waters for 51 years. They built their first boat in 1959 and kept it in the South Harbour,

before becoming one of the North Harbour's first members when it was completed in 1978. Len retired from the mill in 1979. "The boat harbour has to be there for the next generation and their grandchildren," he says. "The people I know down there are all retired and the boat harbour is important to them. Taxpayers have to understand that they do not have to pay for it."

Another retiree who haunts the North Harbour docks is Dave Graham, a relative newcomer to Powell River. His passion is fishing. He spends summers and winters with a line trailing in the water from his 18-foot 1957 Sangster run-about. "I would hate to think about a Powell River without a harbour where I could moor my boat."

Investment in their waterfronts by other coastal cities such as Nanaimo, Sidney, Comox, and Campbell River has paid great dividends for all their citizens, whether they own boats or not.

A new North Harbour is one of the most important building blocks in laying a foundation for the sustainability and future growth of Powell River. A sound harbour will strengthen the local economy by attracting new people with varied skills who will help diversify a commodity based economy and form part of the new tax base.

A waterfront facelift will contribute to Powell River emerging as one of the most desirable and liveable small cities in North America. 

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## Charred parachute a reminder of war-time sacrifice

By Gerry Gray

*A series of events last year resulted in Geoff Warren, a relative newcomer to Powell River, receiving his uncle's partially burned Second World War parachute from two sisters living in a small village in Belgium. Geoff's journey up to that day led him along a number of paths, one of which was to a former long time Powell River family.*

Geoff Warren, a retired RCMP officer, lost his uncle, George R.M. Warren, in August 1943 when his Halifax bomber was shot down by a German night fighter. His plane was on its way home to England after a bombing mission over Nuremburg. George, an Ottawa boy, was the tail gunner, 19 years old, and the only member of the eight-man crew who did not survive the crash. His seven crewmates all safely parachuted from the bomber. One was soon captured and spent the remainder of the war in a German POW camp. Six made it back to England through Belgium and France, over the Pyrenees, and on to Spain and Gibraltar. Their escape was only possible with the help of Belgian underground escape lines. Many 'helpers' were betrayed, identified to the Gestapo and suffered terrible torture; a number were executed.

The aircraft had crashed on a field in Belgium owned by the Fouquet family. A German military investigations team soon arrived at the crash site and moved, uninvited, into the Fouquet's farmhouse. The family was not pleased with this arrangement but were powerless to keep them out. They decided to treat the intruders civilly and there was no trouble. At the end of the crash probe and just as they were about to leave, a German officer carrying George's charred parachute came to

the house and gave it to one of the sisters saying: "To a fallen comrade and a thank-you for treating us so civilly." The sisters were given the name of the dead flyer, his Squadron (10th RAF), and saved the relic for any Warren relative who might come to visit them and the crash site. The Fou-

quet sisters waited 64 years for a relative to visit — finally it happened last year. While living and working in Holland in the early 2000s, Geoff Warren visited his Uncle George's gravesite in Gosselies, Belgium. On the same trip he drove southwest to the gravesite of another uncle (his mother's brother) buried in Normandy. Signalman William James McKay was buried with honour in Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian War Cemetery near Caen, France in July 1944. At that time he knew little of their war history.

In 2002, Geoff and his wife moved to Powell River. Geoff lost his father and mother in May 2005 and January 2007 respectively. After the loss of his mother, he decided it was time he "got off his butt" and did some family research. "It takes some people years to find this type of information but with much luck it only took me a couple of months," he said. Perhaps his RCMP training had something to do with it; that and a lot of help from folks in Europe.

In February of 2007, Geoff made contact with David Mole, a resident of northern England and past-president of the RAF 10 Squadron Association. In an effort to find out more about his Uncle George, Geoff had placed requests for information on several British RAF related websites; David was the first to respond. "This man spends a great deal of time

and effort researching WWII Bomber Command crash sites and has helped many people around the world connect with former comrades and/or their family," said Geoff. David had previously visited the crash site in Belgium where he met the Fouquet sisters who asked if he had any knowledge of the Warren family in Canada, and spoke of the parachute they wanted to pass on.

In April 2007, Geoff joined up with David. They visited George's grave together, and then drove to the crash site to retrieve >>>



**NOT FORGOTTEN:** Sgt Geoff Warren as a young man in the RAF. At right sits Geoff Warren with some of the memories and pieces of his uncle's life.



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► the parachute from the Fouquet sisters, Eva and Georgette. A civic presentation of the parachute was made in the Haulchin Town Hall. Among those attending the ceremonies were former members of the Belgian underground/resistance, local people who had helped George's crewmates hide following the crash, and uniformed Canadian and British Air Force officers stationed in Belgium. The Mayor presented Geoff with a pewter plaque of the town's crest and has hopes of erecting a memorial where the plane crashed. David Mole presented Geoff with a painting of George in his RCAF uniform; as a model, the artist used a photograph taken in 1942 in Ottawa. After the ceremonies and a special luncheon, a large group attended the crash site, placed crosses where the plane came down, and a bugler played the Last Post. That evening a church service was held followed by a ceremony at the town cenotaph in honour of George and his crewmates.

Geoff stopped off in Ottawa on his way back to Powell River and gave his aunt - George's last remaining sibling now 92 years old—a remnant of her youngest brother's charred parachute and the painting of George. When Geoff returned to Powell River he continued to help investigate what happened to the seven crewmembers who survived the crash. It was already known that three did not survive WW2. Of the remaining four, it has since been learned that one died 15 years ago in Australia. Another, Victor Davies, is still alive and well in England where he lives with his wife, Vera. Last month Victor's daughter Cheryl replicated her father's walk over the Pyrenees. Geoff and his new friends in Europe carry on with the search for the two remaining crewmates. Their names are: John (Jock) McCallum, from Blantyre, Glasgow, Scotland and Norman Lawrence, from Highbury, London, England; both were born in 1921. Geoff asks anyone knowing of these two (or with relatives in the UK who may wish to join the search) to please contact him at 604 485-8434. **PR**

## The Powell River connection

**During his search** for information concerning his Uncle George's war history, Geoff learned some details concerning David Mole's father, who also flew with 10 RAF Squadron. He and his entire crew were killed in 1944 when their Halifax bomber was involved in a multi-plane collision over France. The bomb aimer on David's father's aircraft was William Leese from Powell River.

Geoff offered to help in the search for information on the families of the 32 airmen killed in the 1944 mid-air collision. Because of the Powell River connection, he concentrated on the Leese family. He learned that the three sons of long time Powell River residents Robert and Mary Leese left Canada and served as airmen during the war; two did not survive, William and Robert (Robin). Both are memorialized on the Powell River cenotaph.

The third son, Richard (Dick) Leese, left Canada in 1937 to join the RAF, served with 95 (RAF) Squadron and was known to have survived the war. It was recently discovered that Richard did not return to Canada after the war. Rather, he had met and married a girl in Wales while posted there with 95 Squadron. They stayed in Wales until the mid-60's when Dick brought his wife and two daughters to Canada, but not to Powell River. They settled in Prince George for a few years but then returned to Wales. Dick Leese passed away in 1999. Contact was just made with his daughter, Roma, who is quite interested in her Powell River 'roots' and it is hoped that one day she can visit Powell River to see the birthplace of her father, Dick.

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# Vote

Saturday, November 15

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The longest-running "touring guitar festival" in North America. Each year, IGN founder Brian Gore of San Francisco is joined by three of the world's foremost acoustic guitarists to perform their latest original compositions and exchange musical ideas in a public concert setting.

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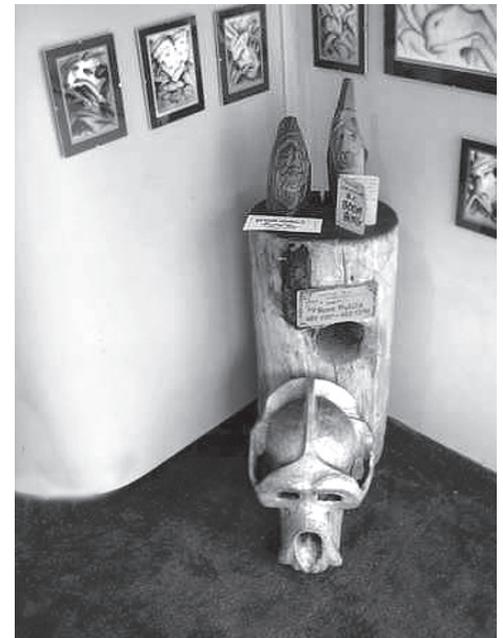
# Art Walk on Marine

A gallery full of Christmas ideas!

Each year at the beginning of the Christmas season, Artique hosts an Open House. This year the gallery is inviting the other galleries on Marine Avenue to join in by opening their doors on Friday evening, November 21 to celebrate with an Art Walk, making it a stimulating and vibrant art event.

It will be an opportunity to enjoy art, food, drinks, entertainment and to meet and talk with the artists.

Artique is an art cooperative, a community of 24 visual artists within the larger community of artists in Powell River. There is an exciting variety of art on display here: painting, carving, pottery, wood turning, books, jewellery, fibre art, fabric collage, soap and candle works and art cards. This year they celebrate their fifth year in operation. Artique's operating principles are simple: each artist is an equal member who shares in keeping the gallery operating and thriving. The recent influx of established artists in Powell River is exciting and has resulted in some of them seeking out Artique for gallery space to display their work. They now have a waiting list of artists who have been successfully juried but who they are not yet able to accommodate because of lack of display space for certain types of art. It's a testament to how rapidly Powell River's



arts community is growing.

Deborah Turney Zagwyn, one member, is an author and illustrator of 10 children's books, all available in the local library. It is somewhat unusual for an author to illustrate her own books. Deborah's watercolour illustrations are vibrant and true to the atmosphere of her delightful books.

Meghan Hildebrand, another member, creates stunning mixed media urban abstract paintings which are slowly giving way to elements of nature. **PR**



**VOTE  
Debbie Dee  
FOR COUNCIL**

**DEE, Debbie**

**Decisive,  
Determined  
& Dependable**

Vote for Aaron Marie Reid if you:



- want someone who will speak up for you
- think someone with children in the school system should be on school board
- want a fresh face and someone you trust representing the future of our children
- want a better working relationship between City and School Board

On Nov. 15, vote  
**Aaron Marie Reid**  
for School Board

Powell River  
**LIVING's**

*Holiday Gift Guide*

With the holiday gift-giving season just around the corner, *Powell River Living* asked some of our advertisers what they sell that would make a great gift. Answers ranged from the traditional to the very unexpected. We hope you'll enjoy this selection of gifts available in Powell River, and we hope it helps you find what you're looking for this season.

*Under \$15*

Choose your scent in soaps, bubble baths, foot balms, body butters, shaving soap, muscle and joint bath soaks, hand and body lotion and more from Soap 'n' Stuff, made in Powell River. We loved the Crème Brulée Body Butter. It makes you want to nibble on the body it is applied to—which might be just what you're looking for. Available at **Malaspina Massage** for \$5 for a small container and \$9 for the larger size.

There's nothing like a homemade gift. But if you don't have the time (or the baking skills), a container of homemade cookies



from **Bakewell's Restaurant** will fit the bill perfectly. Small containers are \$5 and large ones are \$10. They even come wrapped.

Traditional favourites are never wrong. Pick some wall art or a table lamp that will go with the recipient's décor, and they need not be expensive. Beautiful wall décor and lamps start at only \$8 at **Your Dollar Store With More.**



**The Burger Family<sup>©</sup>**  
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**ELECT**  
**Jim Palm**  
FOR CITY COUNCIL

**WHAT DO I STAND FOR? WHAT DO I BELIEVE IN?**  
That it is possible to have a transparent and accessible city government. I believe in hard work, innovation and consultation. And I believe in Powell River, today, and in the future.

I believe in bringing people together to work on common goals; collaboration brings better results. This is what we need to get Powell River moving forward again.

- Positive and enthusiastic
- Committed to Powell River
- Collaborative & innovative
- A good communicator

**Together we will! • Vote JIM PALM**



► Looking for an inexpensive stocking stuffer? **Select Video** has VHS tapes for \$1.99. After all, do you really need to watch *Beaches* in high-def?

Is your loved one a fan of A&W Root Beer (and who isn't?) give them the real thing, so they can enjoy a cold one at any time. Authentic mugs sell at **A&W** for \$2.99 for the baby mug, \$4.99 for small, \$6.99 for regular and \$9.99 for the large size.

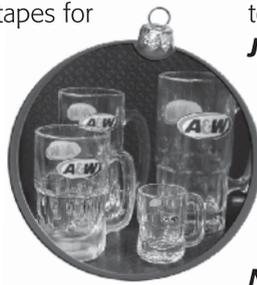


This year's most popular dog toys are the hard rubber Good Cuz with legs, the Bad Cuz with horns and the Other Cuz with a face and stumpy legs. No dog can resist these! Among their huge selection of pet toys, **Rainbow Valley** has these for \$8.95 for the small size and \$13.95 for the large size.

### Under \$25

Put a twist on a traditional Christmas gift by giving Cowboy Kickers, plush Western-style slippers—a real treat for your feet.

Adult and youth sizes for \$34.95 and toddler sizes for \$24.95 at **Jumpin' Jodhpurs**.



Let the sun shine on your friends and family even on the darkest days, with celestial metal wall art from **Mother Nature**. This piece is \$24.99. Various sizes and prices are available.



Your car can look new with a good polish, and the best is available from **Pinetree Autobody**. The pink is an overall polish, while the blue is a cut polish for taking out fine scratches. It's \$15

for the small bottle and \$20 for the large. Stop by and they'll give you a demonstration.

Gift cards have become a popular and useful gift, and at **Safeway**, you can get gift cards not just for groceries, but for partners ranging from Home Depot to Ticketmaster to Starbucks to The Keg. You choose the denomination.



Give the gift of the most romantic story of all time. *Romeo & Juliet*, a full length live classical ballet plays Feb 5 at **Max Cameron Theatre**. Call the box office at 604 485-9633 to get tickets for \$22 each, \$18 for seniors and students and \$12 for children 12 and under.

Mini Persian area rugs in a wide assortment of brilliant colors and captivating designs, make a gift that has a touch of elegance. **Ken's Personal Touch** has rugs for only \$24.99.

Make your gift personal, with a favourite photo on Mugs, T-Shirts, Mouse Pads or Coasters with **Shirt Disturbers** heat transfer. Most items are under \$20.

### Under \$75

You can never have enough flashlights, and this 3-in-1 tripod flashlight from Stanley provides flexibility of use as three individual flashlights or combined for full power as one. Plus it has hands-free tripod and rotating heads. Practical and cool! It's \$36.99 from **Valley Building Supplies**. >>>



On Nov 15th,  
vote for

# Chris McNaughton

### Realizing community values:

- Economic diversity and jobs
- Diversifying the tax base
- Transparency in government
- Meaningful dialogue with residents
- Partnerships with other governments
- Infrastructure improvements
- Developing a sustainable community
- Getting the job of government done
- Opportunities for young families to live work, and invest in Powell River

### Elect Chris McNaughton to City Council

*"I believe there should be open dialogue with the community and debate at council meetings over important community decisions."*

I am interested in hearing your ideas: 604.483.9597 • [chris.mcnaughton@shaw.ca](mailto:chris.mcnaughton@shaw.ca)

Chris McNaughton is the president of Tourism Powell River, a member of the Westview Waterfront Project Committee and a member of the steering committee for the sustainability charter for Powell River. Powell River Labour Council has endorsed Chris as a candidate.

➤ A gift of vehicle maintenance can really last. A car wash at **Blue Tree** is \$25 and an oil change (particularly useful for parents who worry about the care their children might not be giving to their wheels), is \$50.

Friends don't let friends go into winter without having their vehicle ready. A gift package at **El's Auto Tech** to winterize a vehicle, including filling the windshield washer fluid with the right stuff, checking the antifreeze and radiator, and putting in some lighter oil, costs \$55 to \$75, depending on the size of the vehicle.



Girls can never have enough hoodies for school, and this Zip Hoody from Fox can be found where you might not have thought of doing your Christmas shopping—

**Coast Auto Big-O Tires**. They start at \$45. This Matrix design is \$74.95. Coast Auto carries the full line of Fox clothing.



Find a wonderful selection of one-of-a-kind fused glass pendants, with a silver snake chain and silver accent at **Pacific Reflections Glassworks** Stained Glass & Fusing Studio. Pair it with matching earrings for under \$75.

"Foxy" Jewellery ranges from \$22-\$50 has been featured in People and In Style magazine. Beautifully designed necklaces, earrings and rings are available at **Simply Bronze** at Crossroads Village.

Decadent and delightful custom-made baskets start at \$50 at **Aaron Service & Supplies**. They may contain Fair Trade certified organic coffees, teas, syrups, chocolates, specialty candies, cookies, and many more surprises.



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Friday, Nov 7 • 7–9 PM

Join us for a night of fun and pizza. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

### ZAMBONI FAMILY SKATE ICE PLAY

Sunday, Nov 9 • Noon–1:30 PM

Bring along your camera to capture on-ice fun and games, plus a chance to sit on the Zamboni driver's seat.

### JAPANESE COOKING (the main course)

Thursday, Nov 13 • 7–8:30 PM

This class includes creating rice bowls and beef/teriyaki chicken. Register now!

### ART HISTORY: A QUICK OVERVIEW

Tuesday, Nov 18 • 9:30–11 AM

Informative pictorial slide presentation for the progression of art from prehistoric to 20th century.

### DRUG AWARENESS SWIM

Friday, Nov 21 • 7–9 PM

Ages 4–14 years • \$1 admission!  
Regular admission applies to all others.

### SNOWMAN WALL HANGING WORKSHOP

Saturday, Nov 22 • 10 AM

This is a make it & take it beginner how to project. All you need is thread and a portable sewing machine. Register now.

### IN THE EVERGREEN THEATRE

Tickets for both events available now at the Complex

## Good Rockin' Tonight

Thur & Fri, Nov 5 & 6 • 7:30 PM

## Ballet de Printemps

Sat, Nov 29 • 7 PM

Sun, Nov 30 • 2 PM

Remembrance Day is Tuesday, Nov 11  
COMPLEX IS OPEN NOON–4 PM

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► Make their meals beautiful with Sophie Conran by Portmeirion dinnerware 4-piece settings for \$39.99 from **Huckleberry Hutch**. They're safe in the microwave, freezer and oven and you can choose from many complete pieces.

It's easy to find a great gift with the great selection of giftware, glassware, homemade jewellery, Christmas Decor and decorations at **Ladybugs** at affordable prices and table linens from \$49.99 to \$74.99.

Let them think of you when they cosy up with a comfortable and beautiful **Beyond the Bed** spa robe and slipper set for just \$70.

Relaxation. They'll never be more relaxed than with a 35-minute deep tissue hot rock massage at **Wave's Hair & Body Salon**. The half-hour treatment is \$35. After they've had hot rocks, they'll never go back to a regular massage.



The high-definition disc wars are over and Blu-Ray is the winner, so it's time to upgrade. Bring your friends and family up to speed with a Sony Blu-Ray player for \$299 from **Sound Attraction**.

Your special lady will look her very best this Christmas season with a Rusk flat iron and styling products gift set for \$129.99 from **Split Endz** in the **Town Centre Mall**.

Got the need for Speed? Check out the selection of skateboards including the Speed Demon. Starting at \$78. Find them at **Armitage Men's Wear**.

Give the lady in your life the gift of fashion from **Carol's Boutique**. Choose dress slacks, blouses, jackets or buy the whole outfit for just \$284.



### Under \$300

Stock up on hostess gifts and wow them with a gift of your own making—your own wine. A batch of wine from **Westview U-Vin** is 30 bottles and starts at \$133. But don't wait, good wine takes time!

If you really want to help someone this holiday, help them make sure their car doesn't rust out. Rust Check from **Hi-Tech Auto** is the ultimate in vehicle maintenance. It costs just \$130 a year and guarantees that the vehicle won't rust.

### If money is NO Object!

A watch that never needs a battery is hardly a new idea. But this one also never needs to be wound. It gets its energy from light. The Citizen Eco-Drive at **Osca Jewellers** comes in a variety of styles. We like the Riega, with 32 diamonds and mother of pearl and sapphire crystal. She will too.



Show her how much you really care with a loaded Solstice GXP. In a 5-speed automatic, with air conditioning (yes, on a convertible) >>>



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*For the man who has everything but doesn't want to wash it!*




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And what better place to get it, than the store with her name?



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Phone: 604 485-9878

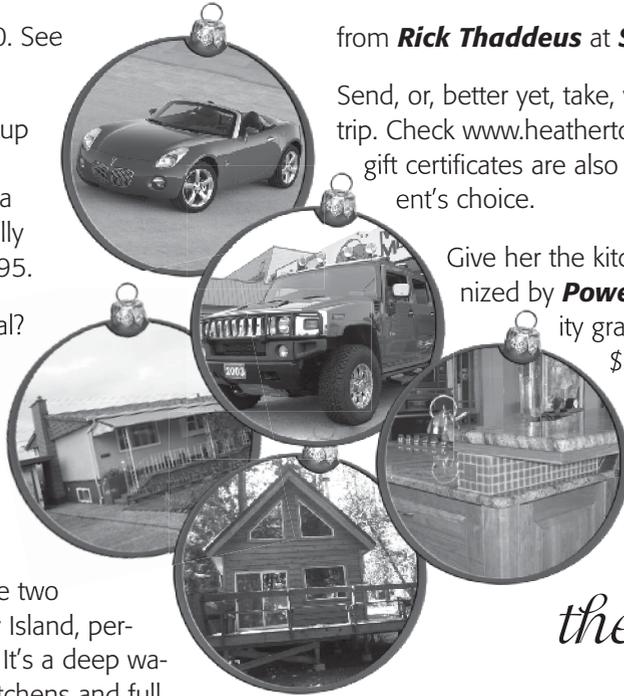


➤ and in red (of course), it's just \$39,900. See **Massullo Motors** for yours.

Want a gift that will go anywhere? Pick up a Hummer H2 from **Coast Auto**. This is a 2003 in excellent condition. It has a 6.0 litre V8 with an automatic and is fully loaded, including a sunroof. Just \$28,995.

Really want to surprise someone special? Give them a house. They'll never miss a sunset with this ocean view home in a desirable location on Joyce Avenue. Call **Deserie Hooff** at **Coast Realty** at 485-4231 or her cell 414-8408 to get the details on his \$309,900 home.

Give, or get, a holiday home, with these two cottages on one lot on beautiful Savary Island, perfect for a family compound or a rental. It's a deep water view lot, and both buildings have kitchens and full bathrooms. The property and buildings are just \$339,000



from **Rick Thaddeus** at **Savary Island Real Estate**.

Send, or, better yet, take, your loved one on a **Heather Tours** trip. Check [www.heathertours.com](http://www.heathertours.com) for the upcoming schedule, or gift certificates are also available for future tours of the recipient's choice.

Give her the kitchen of her dreams with a project organized by **Powell River Custom Tile & Marble**. Quality granite countertops range on average from \$5000 to \$10,000, completely installed. Call for a free estimate. **RL**

*Please donate to a charity in the Spirit of Giving for Christmas.*

Powell River Brain Injury Society proudly presents  
5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FUNDRAISER!

**Tickets selling fast! Book your table now!**

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A BLUES & BURLESQUE REVIEW  
Saturday, Nov 22 • Dwight Hall

For your entertainment, we once again present Vancouver's

**Incognito Blues Band & Cross'd Lovers Burlesque**

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**Diamond Reverse** draw

TICKETS \$30 or reserve a

Table of 8 & SAVE \$20!

Available at Powell River Brain Injury Society, 4735 Marine Avenue

Bar by Powell River Rugby Club

Oyster Bar by Manzanita

*Manzanita & Old Courthouse Inn are offering a dinner and room special for that night.*

## VOTE Marshall, Troy



As an educator, tradesperson and father, I have a vision of Powell River that includes families and youth. I am committed to the future of Powell River, a place where my children, and their children, should prosper. I believe in Powell River.

- ✦ Strongly support local Economic Development
- ✦ Diversifying the City's tax base
- ✦ Local government must be accountable to citizens
- ✦ Enhance education and create opportunities for youth & families
- ✦ Maintain and grow the arts, sports & recreation and community planning

### Troy Marshall

for Council

*I am committed to working with community partners to ensure choices and opportunities for the citizens of Powell River.*

**Troy Marshall for Council**

# When driving is no longer possible

Age bring about changes

By Sylvia Keet-Peebles

**H**ave you noticed the new fleet of taxis in Powell River?

Gone are the old gas-gobbling taxis of the past, and the new ones are gas/electric Toyota Prius environmentally friendly, super sleek transport of the future!

The transformation of taxi service in Powell River took place towards the end of the summer.

Dave Formosa, owner of Powell River Taxi Company, says like many other businesses, his has been suffering from high fuel costs so he looked at the pros and cons of going with hybrid vehicles. Even though purchasing hybrids is much costlier than buying a regular vehicle, the environmental impact is significantly less. Lower maintenance costs, the fact that they are cheaper on

gas and good for the environment are part of the reason that \$120,000 was invested to purchase four brand new Toyota Prius hybrid cars.

As I marvelled at the change, and how much more comfortable and efficient the taxis have become, the analogy struck me that as we get older how nice it would be to get a brand new super sleek body, but I would like to keep the memories, experience and wisdom gained over the years.

As a senior who no longer drives a car, I found being without my own wheels to be a debilitating experience at first, until I learned to adjust and discover that although I had lost the convenience of my own car, I was cutting down my environmental footprint, and saving the cost of gas, maintenance and the annual insurance premium.

Looked at in this new light I have come to enjoy the sense of relief of having someone else take care of all those things, and now all I have to do is call a taxi and usually within 15 minutes there is a cab at my doorstep... It's a new-found freedom!

I have more time to work in my garden, on my computer and keep in touch with friends and colleagues across the country, and more time to read and relax, although the days I do go downtown are really busy days.

As Helen Keller was known to say about

her blindness: "When one door closes, another opens: but for so long we look at the closed door before noticing the new doors that have opened up."

This is so true in my experience with discovering taxis over the past eight months.

Another benefit from taxi rides is that you meet all the drivers, and over the past few months I have gradually learned their names.

Robert, Rick, Dave, Norman, Phillip and Philip, (took a while to get these two sorted out), Ken, Russell, Randy, Brandon, Steve and Myk. It took a few months for my aged brain to get them right, but it's amazing how one adjusts if one tries, and gradually the names have all fallen into place.

There's a philosopher, a politician, a student, a dog lover, and much more, all good company as one travels to an appointment or shopping.

Of course there's always the bus, and that is a pleasant trip when I can remember to catch it, but when I have a big load of shopping, a taxi is much more convenient. An added benefit I have found when waiting for a taxi is to sample my favourite brand of ice cream at the Sweet Shoppe!

These days when our imprint on the environment is so important, for those of us not in such a mad rush, taxis are a new way of living. **PRL**

## Powell River Picks

### Top 10 Movies

Provided by Select Video

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. What Happens in Vegas     | 6. Run Fat Boy Run                     |
| 2. Iron Man                  | 7. Sex in the City                     |
| 3. 88 Minutes                | 8. Happening                           |
| 4. The Love Guru             | 9. Indiana Jones... Crystal Skull      |
| 5. Don't Mess With the Zohan | 10. Journey to the Centre of the Earth |

### Top 10 Books

Provided by Breakwater Books

1. Food Security for the Faint of Heart, *Robin Wheeler*
2. Brisng: Inheritance, Book 3, *Christopher Paolini*
3. Animal, Vegetable, Miracle, *Barbara Kingsolver*
4. Pain Free: A Revolutionary Method for Stopping Chronic Pain, *Roger Gittines*
5. The Presence Process, A Healing Journey, *Michael Brown*
6. Worry Therapy, *Daniel Grippio*
7. Radical Forgiveness, *Colin C Tipping*
8. Along the Edge of the Salish Sea, *Eagle Walz*
9. Blackberries: Recipes from Powell River, *RM Dufour, ed.*
10. Hulks: The Breakwater Ships of Powell River, *John Campbell*

## Powell River Women in Business

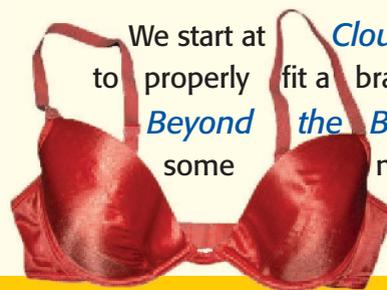
"Women empowering women in business."

**Please join us at our November meeting...**

Friday, Nov 14 at 7:00pm • Cloud Nine, 4566 Marine

Contact Bonnie • [bonnie@prliving.ca](mailto:bonnie@prliving.ca) • 604 485-0003 to attend

Finally... a networking and marketing group just for women in business



We start at *Cloud Nine*, where we will learn to properly fit a bra... and be uplifted. Then to *Beyond the Bed* for décor ideas and some networking.

Sponsored by Powell River Living Magazine



Tigger guarantees the Best

## Rainbow Valley

PET • FEED • GARDEN • FARM

Great New Buys Arriving Every Day!

Tigger says: "We have a great selection of pet toys for your best friend this Christmas."

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# Preserving Memories

News, stories and sweet mustard pickles

By Dawn Miller

Fall brings back memories of cooking and preserving food with my grandmother. She vividly remembered the Depression, so every year she made sure that she “put down” lots of food for the winter.

Pitting cherries, plums and peaches was messy, sticky work. By the end of each canning session, we would all look like multi-coloured modern art masterpieces. Apples were sorted, with the best ones stored to be tucked into school lunches and the gnarled ones peeled, cored and turned into pies,

each carefully wrapped and labelled with masking tape recording the date.

Produce from the garden turned into crinkly beet pickles cut with a zigzag blade, dilled beans crunchy and green, and circles of bread and butter pickles to put on sandwiches. And my favourites: sweet mustard pickles with onions and green tomato relish.

One of the best parts was when “the aunties” visited from Winnipeg. We would cook big batches of perogies to put in the freezer, made with all different fillings: potato and

cottage cheese, sauerkraut and pork, and some with plums and cherries inside. We had to pinch the edges very tightly so they wouldn’t split when they were boiled. Afterwards, we would fry the savoury ones with bacon and onions and serve them with sour cream. While we worked, the aunties filled Grandma in on all the news about people she knew back on the prairies and then retold favourite family stories.

I used to think we were preserving food; I realize we were preserving memories. **RL**

Integrity, Commitment and Fairness.

Elect Sandi **TREMBLAY** to Council

On November 15th



**SKATING CLUB**

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# Treacherous river crossings, rain, cold, black flies...

## So why was this our associate publisher's best hike ever?

By Sean Percy

When we stepped off the end of the logging road and into the untracked wilderness of Sims Creek, I immediately began re-thinking the wisdom of agreeing to go on this trek.

We dropped into dense forest with an understory of devil's club. My friend Dave says the scientific name for this plant should be *Satanus pokeuinthebuttus*, but its real scientific name is *Oplopanax horridus*. Either way, it has nasty brittle yellow spines that seem to leap off the plant and into your skin if you get too close. Fortunately the devil's club soon thinned out. But then the going got steep, and the brush got thick.

Three days later, I was huddled under a stump on a steep mountain slope as night and rain poured down, wondering if I would get out alive.

But let me fill in the blanks, before you get the wrong idea. It was a great hike.

One of my most trusted friends, Caleb Allen, asked me if I'd be interested in hiking part of the proposed route between Powell River and Squamish, starting from the Squamish side. The idea of such a road has been bandied about since long before I was born. As long as I can remember, Councilor Bob Astrope has propounded the virtues of such a road. Allen is a surveyor who has spent some time examining the route with

the expertise of his father, Glenn Allen, another surveyor. The Allens wanted to see if building a road was really possible. It's one thing to look at the maps and satellite images, but it's something else to put your boots on the ground.

So, in my blissful ignorance, I agreed to join him. After that, I learned that a group had tried a similar route in August of 1970, planning seven days. After two weeks, they had bailed out at Queens Reach at the top of Jervis Inlet. By the end of our first day, it was pretty clear why. The brush is thick, the terrain is steep, and we had made only about five kilometres. Sticking roughly to the terrain a road would follow, however, we found that while the going was tough with no trail, nothing would physically prevent a trail or a road from being built.

Most critical to our trip (not counting wading up to our mountain oysters across the swift and frigid Sims Creek) was the pass below Casement Mountain, where we crossed over from the Squamish watershed into the Jervis watershed. For a road, it would be costly. That's probably why Astrope and the Third Crossing Society propose a much cheaper tunnel through the mountain to the south. For hikers, it proved even more challenging. Already behind schedule, we decided to

try a shortcut down the slope to the west. The slope ended in drop-offs impassable without climbing gear. We spent our fourth night precariously bivouacked under the stump in the rain, wondering if we'd be able to get back up the rain-soaked slope in the morning. Already overdue, we decided to head back the way we came, rather than risk even further delays if we tried to find another route down. While our predicament illustrated the ruggedness of the country, it did not reflect on the viability of the proposed route, which wisely takes another tack on the opposite side of the valley.

The rain and the return direction of our trip dampened our spirits, but as we headed back down through the pass and looked back into the valley below Mount Casement, I couldn't help but be reminded of spots I had visited in Jasper and Banff National Parks and Glacier National Park in Montana. It was stunningly beautiful, with mist pouring off the Tinniswood Glacier, across the flower-speckled meadows, and down the creek. Only a handful of people have seen it, and it's a sight I'll remember long after I forget the cold, the bugs and the devil's club. 

For maps, photos and more on this story, visit [www.prliving.ca](http://www.prliving.ca)

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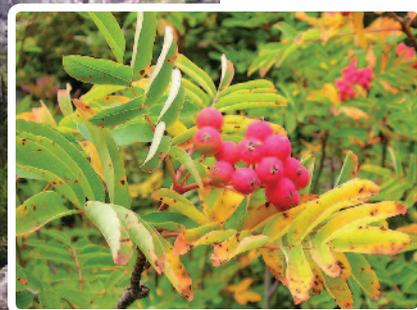
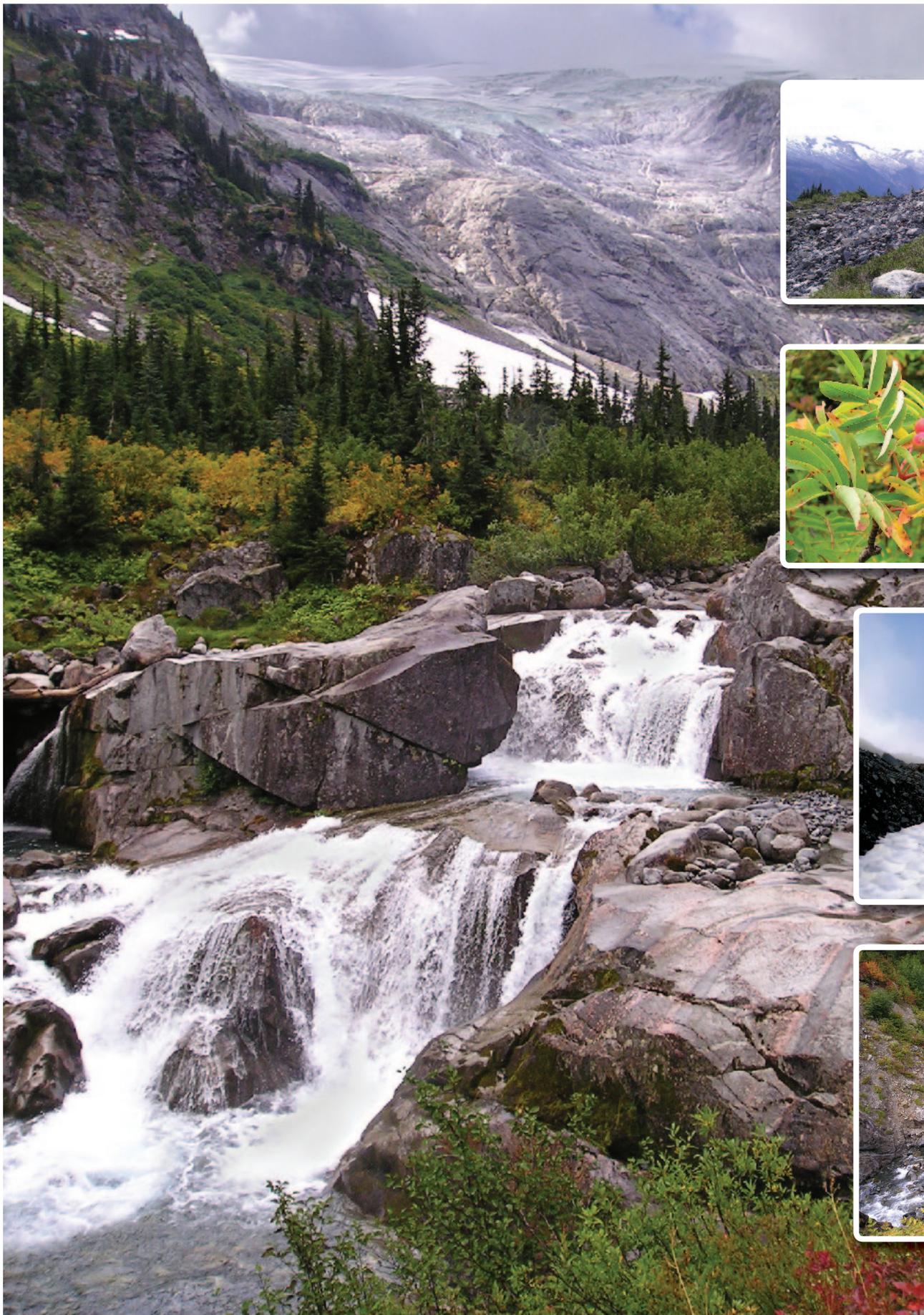


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# EXPLORE Powell River Casement Creek

*Photos by Sean Percy*

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- Toilet **30%**
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- Laundry **20%**
- Kitchen and drinking **10%**
- Cleaning **5%**



The City of Powell River is fully committed to the concept of a sustainable environment

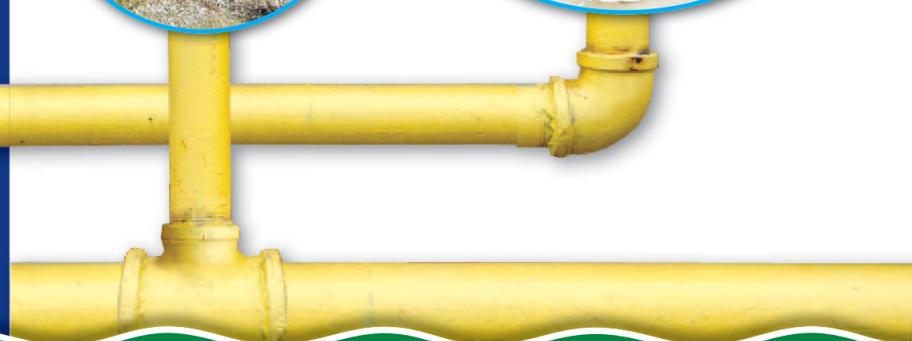
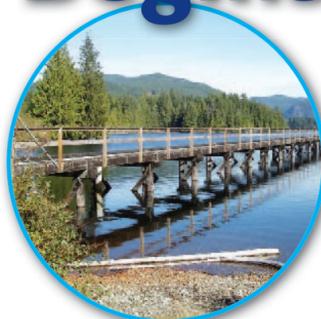


and we are working actively to incorporate "green" initiatives into our operational procedures. A public education process will be an important part of this program. We believe these initiatives will result in City practices that embrace environmental integrity, social well-being, cultural awareness and economic prosperity.

Last fall, City staff introduced part 1 of these initiatives to our citizens and this year's component is to share ideas on how we can ensure the sustainable use of water. A better understanding, on the part of our residents, of the supply, distribution and consumption of water should make us all more aware of what we can do to conserve water

**- You can make a BIG impact!**

## Water Conservation Begins at Home



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## Drinking Water: the underground story

The City operates two independent supply and distribution systems: The Powell Lake system supplies water to Wildwood and the Haslam Lake system supplies water to Cranberry Lake, Townsite and Westview.

From the intake drinking water is first screened, then chlorinated. At Powell Lake it is pumped up to the storage tank on Chilco Avenue so that gravity can move it through the water mains (pipes) under the streets of Wildwood. As the pressure in the water mains builds up, it is reduced through PRV Stations (pressure reducing valves).

From the main there is a 19mm (3/4") copper or plastic water service to your house. On your water service, just before it crosses your property line, there is a shut-off valve (in the boulevard). This is used to turn your water supply off in an emergency.



### TOP TIP TIPS

- When washing dishes by hand, don't rinse them under a running tap. If you have two sinks, fill the second one with rinsing water. If you have only one sink, stack washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a pan of hot water.
- Use washing up liquid sparingly as this will reduce the amount of rinsing required when washing dishes by hand.
- Use a plugged sink or a pan of water. This saves running the tap continuously.
- When boiling vegetables, use enough water to cover them and keep the lid on the saucepan. Your vegetables will boil quicker and it will save you water, power and preserve precious vitamins in the food.
- Flow controlled aerators for taps are inexpensive and can reduce water flow by 50%.
- Don't use running water to defrost frozen food. Ideally place food in refrigerator to defrost overnight.
- Catch running water whilst waiting for it to warm up. Use it to water plants, rinse dishes or wash fruit and vegetables.
- If you have a leaking tap, replace the washer or other components as required. Dripping taps can waste 30 – 200 litres of water per day.
- Insulate hot water pipes. This avoids wasting water while waiting for hot water to flow through and saves energy.
- Make sure your hot water system thermostat is not set too high. Adding cold water to cool very hot water is wasteful.

Imagine living in a house without running water or modern washing appliances... For some this might be utopian paradise but for most it would be a nightmare. Running water is an incredibly valuable resource with an endless list of applications and uses in and around the home.

Chlorination of Water from Haslam and Powell Lakes



**What you can do to reduce water consumption:**

### Rainwater:

Collecting rainwater locally can help us reduce our need to consume precious drinking water in our gardens, laundries and toilets.

### In the bathroom:

Check for leaks in your toilet tank fittings by putting a small amount of food colouring into the tank. If the colour appears in the toilet bowl (without flushing), you have a leak to fix.

If you are replacing your toilet, it must be a low flow toilet. They use 6 litres or less per flush as opposed to 15-20 litres. As of Jan 1, 2009 Provincial Legislation says newly installed toilets must be dual flush.

For more great ideas go to [www.livingwatersmart.ca](http://www.livingwatersmart.ca)

**EVERY DAY** more than 700 litres of water flows from our taps without us giving much thought to where the water comes from, how it gets to our homes and businesses, and how much of it we use. Water conservation over the last 15 years has played a significant role in reducing the amount of drinking water we consume daily.



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WORKING FROM PASSION!



## Powell River Living FAMILY MATTERS

By Isabelle Southcott

*The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good.*  
— Samuel Johnson (1709–1784)

This quote was penned by the man who made his living as a journalist, poet, moralist, novelist, literary critical and editor. Many of us have heard it before but how many of us actually live by these words? How many times have we simply brushed someone off, walked away or pretended that they didn't exist because they didn't fit in with our world?

Most of us have at one time or another and if you are one of the few who has always reached out and helped someone in need, you are indeed a better person than I am.

If you've fallen short of the mark in the past, don't give up. There will still be plenty of other opportunities in the future to make up for the past. You and I will be able stretch our hearts, to reach out, to help and touch not only those who are easy to love but also those who need it so much.

This lesson became abundantly apparent to me on November 25 last year. That date stands out in my mind for three reasons. One, it is exactly one month before Christmas; two it is my brother-in-law Gregg's birthday

and three, on that day my sister, Francesca, did something that I will never forget.

Francesca and Gregg live in a condo in Vancouver. They have good jobs and work hard. They've lived in the same condo for over 15 years and know who their neighbours are.

One of their neighbours, a man named Rich, is a homeless man. He sleeps in the overhang area in their building and had for over a year. He spreads his sleeping bag and his worldly possessions to the left of the back door late each night and packs his stuff up in the morning.

Like many other people who find themselves homeless, Rich struggles with demons; his is alcohol.

Shortly after Rich adopted her building, Francesca began talking to him. He was always polite and bit-by-bit she learned his story. It was a sad one. Rich was no longer just the homeless guy; he was Rich. He was their homeless guy.

Francesca and her neighbours in the condo began taking Rich under their wing. They gave him gift certificates for the Starbucks on the corner. They gave >>>

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► him food he could eat with his very bad teeth. They made a point of checking up on him without interfering, as Rich was a proud man and wanted to be left alone. He liked his corner and if another homeless person would try to set up camp on his territory he would chase them off.

I spoke to my sister on November 25 last year and asked her what she'd bought her husband for his birthday as they love each other very much and she loves nothing more than spoiling her husband.

"Oh, just a card this year," she said.

"Just a card?" I said. She'd never given him just a card. I was dumbfounded. "Is there something wrong?" I asked.

"Isabelle," she said quietly. "Gregg has everything he needs. I didn't get him a birthday gift this year. Instead of buying a gift for Gregg I went shopping and bought Rich new clothes and a new sleeping bag. I wrote Happy Birthday on Gregg's card and told him that instead of a birthday gift this year we would be outfitting Rich for winter."

I was silent as I thought about what my sister had done. Not only was I touched by her kindness and thoughtfulness but I was impressed by how she had noticed

the need that existed in her own backyard and how, instead of turning away or leaving it to someone else to help, she had taken it on herself.

There are and always will be people who need our help. Sometimes it

is just a kind word, a helping hand. Sometimes it is much, much more. Sometimes it is easy. Sometimes it is hard. What can you do to help someone else? More importantly, what will you do? **RL**

### Want to learn to...

- ✂ Express yourself clearly
- ✂ Speak in front of a group
- ✂ Think on your feet
- ✂ Give tactful, useful feedback
- ✂ Overcome nervousness
- ✂ Serve as a leader?

## Toastmasters can help!



Call **Barb 485-2732** or **Kevin 483-9052** and let us tell you about Toastmasters' Thursday lunch and evening meetings. We are supportive, welcoming & fun!

### A dream that helped many

Thirty years ago, on November 6th, 1978, a dream was about to come true for one special lady. She was instrumental in bringing about our chapter of TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 2736.

Her name is **Margaret Schindler**. She was the leader of the chapter until ill health forced her to step down.



Despite many obstacles from a stroke, and several other medical problems, she gained her KOPS (Keep Off Pounds Sensibly) status, which means she reached her goal weight. She lost it, but fought back and regained her KOPS status.

But through all this, sometimes barely able to walk, she still makes it to the weigh-ins and meetings.

Margaret is such an inspiration to all of our members.

She will be honoured in November 2008 on the anniversary of the start of our chapter.

The look of pride on her face each time one of our members gains their KOPS status shows she knows that her efforts to start our chapter have been well worth it.

And we are very thankful to have her with us.

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# Train that Brain

By Dawn McLean

Studies show that aging well could mean going back to school. Dr Robert Snowdon's groundbreaking Nun Study showed that a study group of nuns had an astonishingly low incidence of Alzheimer's disease compared to the average population. Snowdon hit the jackpot when he discovered a filing cabinet in the basement of their residence containing the essays written by novices, nuns who are now in their 80s, 90s and 100s. Snowdon found that there was a correlation among those who wrote word-dense essays and were optimistic in attitude: these women were far less likely to develop Alzheimer's. Not only did these nuns follow a high folic diet, had spiritual and social connections, these women were teachers: generally they were well educated. Most continued to teach, and to learn, long past the average age of retirement. Does being a life-long learner stave off dementia?

Local Scott Glaspey, who teaches people the game of bridge is adamant about the mental payback of learning this game. "Many studies show that brain sports fight Alzheimer's. Bridge is always mentioned in these studies. It is a brain sport! It keeps the mind fit." Along with the social benefits of joining a bridge group, a new or seasoned player is giving the brain a good workout.

Online versions of games such as Scrabble or Sudoku are easily available for the cyber-savvy. Prefer a more personal approach? Vancouver Island University's ElderCollege offers low-cost classes in Spanish, word processing, card-making, digital

photography, and tracing your genealogy for people who are 55 and older.

The public library also caters to seniors, offering audio and large print books. For those who cannot get to the library, a books-on-wheels service is provided. The library's Valerie McKeen says that their computer tutorials are popular where they show folks how to set up an email account or surf the Internet.

The library carries many different newspapers and the reading area is popular with the regular patrons. Check out the website, "Seniors Side, a guide to clubs, organizations and services available to Powell River's senior citizens" at [www.powellriverlibrary.ca/seniors%20side.htm](http://www.powellriverlibrary.ca/seniors%20side.htm).

Here in Powell River we are fortunate to have an extensive network that caters to seniors. So eat your spinach, join a club, read a book, sign up for a class, and cheer up. It's good for your brain. **RL**

To learn more about Dr Snowdon's Nun Study, go to [www.nun-study.org](http://www.nun-study.org). His book, *Aging with Grace*, is available at the public library or for ElderCollege members, the VIU library at the Powell River Campus.



**SLIAMMON ELDER:** Elsie Paul



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# Powell River Living FOR ART'S SAKE

By Jessica Colasanto

If you've been in our local coffee shops, you've probably noticed free art postcards by the **Alof!i** group. These cards are a way to promote Powell River businesses and events, and Alof!i vows to use good design, eye-catching images or a dazzling one-liner to make promotion a joy for the eye and mind.

The **Cranberry Art Collective** has three paintings featured on the newest batch of postcards. The collective, housed in the Community Living Place on Artaban Street, began several years ago and has grown into a very successful program. Run by the Powell River Association of Community Living for adults with developmental disabilities, participants range in age from 19 to 55, and there are often as many as 12 working in the art room at one time.

Along with acrylic on canvas, the artists also craft wind chimes, candles, bead works, and are even beginning to delve into multi-media projects. The works are offered for sale at extremely reasonable prices. Finished pieces adorn the halls of the Community Living Place, which is open to the public weekdays from 9 to 3, and there are always works on the go in the art room.

**Larry Romanovitch**, a member of the collective, was recently chosen as a finalist in the *Pan Canadian Art Exhibition—Artists First!* His entry, a black and white portrait of Canuck goalie



**SHIPPING OUT:** Larry Romanovitch gets ready to ship his portrait of Roberto Luongo to a national exhibition in Ottawa.

Roberto Luongo, will hang in Ottawa from November 18–21. The exhibition celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Canadian Association for Community Living, and gives artists with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to showcase their work in a professional artistic setting before an international audience.

Romanovitch also has a piece, *A Friendly Game of Quidditch*, featured on one of the Alof!i postcards. Annie McKOne's *Blue Gekko* is another, along with *A Mind's Eye* by André Denis. Check them out, send them to friends, and visit the Community Living Place if you'd like to see more.

The **Malaspina Art Society** has a brand new calendar available just in time for the holiday season. They make great gifts—local art and printed locally! For a preview and to place your order online, visit [www.artpowellriver.ca](http://www.artpowellriver.ca). The calendars are \$20 and proceeds will join funds for a dream of having a public art gallery here one day.

**James LeClare** is featured in this month's Malaspina Art Society Exhibition at the Vancouver Island University campus on Selkirk Avenue. Stop by to

view his oil paintings; the show hangs through November 26. To view more of his work, visit [www.lovingcreations.ca](http://www.lovingcreations.ca). November 28th brings us the opening reception of next month's exhibition, the acrylics of **Hana Louise Braun**. **RL**

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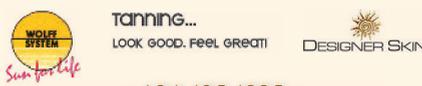
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## POWELL RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT • NOTICE OF ELECTION

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is given that an election by voting is necessary to elect one Director for each of the electoral areas "A", "C" and "D" for a three-year term December, 2008–December, 2011. The persons nominated as candidates are:

DIRECTOR FOR:	SURNAME	USUAL NAME	JURISDICTION OF RESIDENCE
Electoral Area "A"	ASHWORTH	William	Jordan Street, City of Powell River
	BRABAZON	Patrick	Sturt Road, Powell River • Electoral Area "A"
	PIELLE	Vern	River Road, Sliammon • Electoral Area "A"
Electoral Area "C"	MILNE	Katheran	Douglas Bay Road, Powell River • Electoral Area "C"
	PALMER	Colin	Random Road, Powell River • Electoral Area "C"
Electoral Area "D"	BROWNJOHN	Les	Coleborn Street, Van Anda • Electoral Area "D"
	MURPHY	Dave	Crescent Bay Road, Van Anda • Electoral Area "D"
	NIKIRK	Glenda	Gillies Bay Road, Gillies Bay • Electoral Area "D"

**VOTING AREA** – Electors eligible to vote in this election are all those who meet the qualifications for elector registration and who reside or own property in the jurisdiction for which voting is taking place, as described below:

**Electoral Area A** • North side of the city boundary to Toba Inlet, including the communities of Sliammon and Lund, and Savary Island and Hernando Island

**Electoral Area C** • East side of Whalen Road to Jervis Inlet.

**Electoral Area D** • All of Texada Island.

### ELECTOR REGISTRATION

There is no need to pre-register to vote as the registration of all electors for this election will take place at the time of voting. You will be required to make a declaration that on voting day, you met the following requirements:

- Canadian citizen, 18 years of age or older,
- resident of BC for at least 6 months,
- resident OR registered owner of real property of the jurisdiction for which voting is taking place for at least 30 days immediately preceding voting day, and
- not otherwise disqualified by law from voting.

**VOTER IDENTIFICATION At the time of voting, ALL VOTERS must present two pieces of identification (at least one with a signature). Picture identification is not necessary. The identification must prove both residency and identity. Examples: driver's license, medical/care card, passport, utility bill, tax notice, letter, etc.**

**Non-resident property electors** must produce 2 pieces of identification (at least one with a signature) to prove identify; proof that they are entitled to register in relation to the property; and, if applicable, written consent from the majority of the property owners.

### VOTING OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL VOTING:	8 am–8 pm on Saturday, November 15, 2008 at:
<b>Electoral Area "A"</b>	• Lund Community Centre, Sorenson Road, Lund BC and • Sliammon Health Centre, Salish Drive, Sliammon
<b>Electoral Area "C"</b>	• Kelly Creek School, Zillinsky Road, Powell River, BC
<b>Electoral Area "D"</b>	• OAP Room, Old School, Gillies Bay Road, Gillies Bay, B.C. and • TACT room, old Elementary School, Waterman Avenue, Van Anda, B.C.

ADVANCE VOTING: 8 am–8 pm on Wednesday, Nov 5 and Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008 at:

**Electoral Areas A & C** • Regional District Office, 5776 Marine, Powell River

**Electoral Area D** • TACT room at the old Elementary School, Van Anda, B.C. and

• Regional District Office, 5776 Marine Avenue, Powell River (entrance off Dogwood).

**MAIL BALLOT VOTING** is available for an elector who: has a physical disability, illness or injury that affects their ability to vote at another voting opportunity; expects to be absent from the regional district on general voting day and at the times of all advance voting opportunities; or regularly resides in any electoral area where their only access from their residence to a voting place is by boat or aircraft. Mail ballot package must be requested in person, by mail, fax or email. Phone requests will not be accepted. Electors, candidates and candidate representatives may look at the list of persons who have requested a mail ballot.

Requests must contain the following, printed information:

- Your full name & mailing address
- Your property address (to ensure you get the correct ballot)
- Method by which you wish to receive your mail ballot package: pick up at the Regional District office; regular letter mail to your mailing address; regular letter mail through Canada Post to an alternate address that you provide when requesting your mail ballot package.

Requests must be submitted to: Pat Christie, Chief Election Officer.

**The last day to request a mail ballot is Thursday, Nov. 13, 2008**

**VOTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEES – SCHOOL DISTRICT 47** GENERAL VOTING: 8 am–8 pm on Saturday, November 15, 2008 at:

<b>Electoral Area "A"</b>	• Lund Community Centre & Sliammon Health Centre
<b>Electoral Area "B"</b>	• Grief Point School

<b>Electoral Area "C"</b>	• Kelly Creek School
<b>Electoral Area "D"</b>	• OAP Room, Old Gillies Bay School, • TACT Room, Old VanAnda School

#### DECLARATION OF ELECTION BY ACCLAMATION:

**Electoral Area B** Stan Gisborne of Padgett Road, Powell River is declared elected as Director of Electoral Area "B" for a three-year term from December, 2008 to December, 2011.

**Electoral Area E** Merrick Anderson of Teapot Road, Lasqueti Island is declared elected as Director of Electoral Area "E" for a three-year term from December, 2008 to December, 2011.

**For more information on all voting matters,** contact Pat Christie, Chief Election Officer:

Powell River Regional District office  
8:30 am–4:30 pm, Monday–Friday (except holidays)  
5776 Marine Avenue, Powell River, BC V8A 2M4  
Phone: 604 483-3231 • Fax: 604 483-2229 • Email: pat.christie@powellriverrd.bc.ca

*Pat Christie, Chief Election Officer, October 20, 2008*

# Why Millennium Park is important

## Consider it an investment

By J Michael Thoms and Janet Alred

**W**hat are you willing to pay to keep Millennium Park? As we head to the polls for municipal elections, we'll be asked to decide on the Park's fate. The discussion will be split between two fundamental issues: personal costs in property taxes versus people's ideas about forest benefits.

The two issues are not opposites or in conflict. Studies found that a large area of preserved forest within a housing district positively affects property values by up to 20% across a community. Accordingly, the preservation of Millennium Park will cost you money in taxes but add additional value to your home.

Out-of-town buyers assess whether a town projects a positive image and an urban forest is a much valued town benefit. Today, a key factor that creates a positive impression of a town is the presence of a large wooded space and a majority of buyers are willing to pay more for homes in a community that contains a preserved urban forest.

A large wooded park creates more appreciable values than a scattering of small parks. Consider the positive impression that Stanley Park generates for Vancouver and how that park contributes to people's desire to live in the city.

We wanted to ensure that these findings were true of Powell River so three local realtors were asked to explain the studies that Thoms had reviewed, and asked if they believed the same facts apply to Millennium Park. They all agreed without hesita-

tion. They told him how they take out-of-town buyers to the park for a walk in order to increase their willingness to buy in Powell River.

Even if you believe that you live too far from Millennium Park to realize any increase in the value of your home, one great attribute of Millennium Park is that its boundaries touch or come very close to the four communities that constitute Powell River. An existing system of trails connects all of our communities to Millennium Park. If a trail to the Park is within 20 minutes of your home, the preservation of the Park and the trail will positively affect the value of your home.

If the Park referendum fails, or if Millennium Park's preservation status remains in limbo, property values may fall.

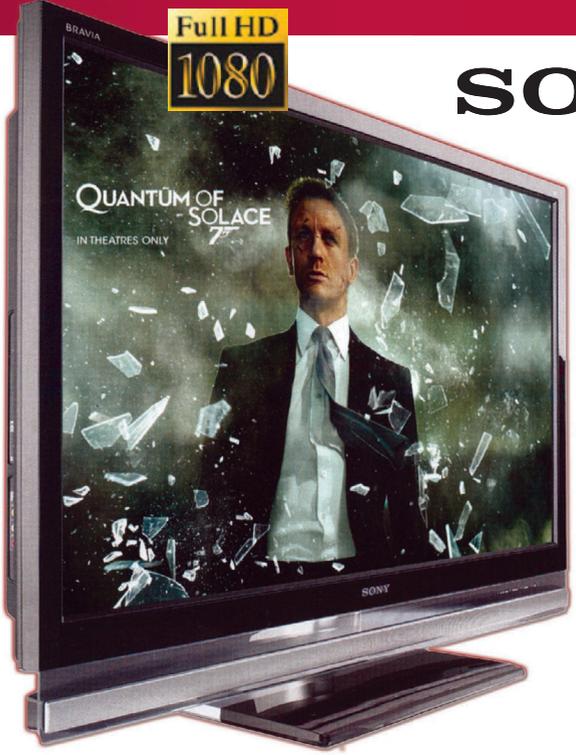
On the other hand, the preservation of Millennium Park will increase the value of all properties in Powell River at rates higher than your personal taxation costs for its protection.

In writing this article, we have deliberately avoided any discussion of the health, clean air, recreational, and wilderness values associated with the preservation of Millennium Park. We should consider the preservation of Millennium Park as an investment in our properties, lifestyle, values, and community. [PR](#)

A list of the studies read to research this article can be seen at [www.sunshinecoast-trail.com](http://www.sunshinecoast-trail.com).



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# It Makes Sense

## Vote Dave Formosa for City Council



**During these uncertain times, it makes sense to elect someone who:**

- Has proven business experience
- Has a strong history in Powell River
- Is a Chamber of Commerce president
- Is committed to saving mill and forestry sector jobs
- Is committed to bringing in outside investment
- Can help manage liability and not have liability manage the City.
- Will work to find space for a library
- Supports and works for parks and green spaces
- Has led the Chamber in bringing the re-beautification of Powell River to the forefront
- Supports families and individuals in need in the community

**On Nov. 15th, vote for someone who is passionate and works hard for Powell River**

*If you want a good job done, give it to a busy person*

# Formosa for Council

# Citrine

November's birthstone

Not only November's birthstone, citrine is also the planetary stone for the Sun Sign of Virgo, and the gem for 13th and 17th wedding anniversaries.

Citrine is a type of quartz ranging in colours of yellow, to orange to dark reddish-brown. Citrine crystals can also form together with amethyst or smoky quartz to form a bi-coloured quartz called ametrine.

Almost all citrine available on the market today is heat-treated amethyst. Natural citrine is pale yellow to pale orange, much lighter in colour than the heat-treated material. All heat-treated varieties have a red tint; natural citrine does not.

Most citrine comes from Brazil, but almost all of the Brazilian material is heat-treated amethyst. Natural citrine can also be found in the Ural Mountains of Russia, in Dauphine, France, and in Madagascar.

Citrine may be mistaken for the more expensive orangish-yellow topaz and, at times, may be sold as topaz by dishonest gemstone vendors.

Citrine is believed to help the heart, kidney, digestive tract, liver and muscles. It promotes creativity, helps personal clarity and eliminates self-destructive tendencies.



Information supplied by Osca Jewellers

**Powell River LIVING** thanks the following for making the **POWELL RIVER BUSINESS FAIR** such a success!

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Neil McKenzie  
Barb Rees  
Vicky Lundine  
Jim Palm  
Ian Henderson

Michael Stewart  
Xavier Bauby  
Marielle Benson  
Jacquie Dawson  
The Culinary Arts students

and a special thanks to Rebecca Legge and her dad, Peter Legge

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First CREDIT UNION

# Operation Christmas Child

## Shoe boxes from Powell River

Eleven days after flying into Uruguay, Trudy Anderson and Jill Buckley of Powell River had visited twelve distribution centres, touched the lives of over a thousand children and knew exactly why the Operation Christmas Child shoe box program is so important. Each year, 7.6 million children across the world receive Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes filled with toys, hygiene products and school supplies, of which nearly 550 are donated by people in Powell River.

Trudy Anderson has run the program in Powell River for 10 years and has brought back inspiring stories to challenge our community to double the number of shoe boxes to 1,000 during the drive in November. In Uruguay over 27% of the people live under the poverty line. "Many children in Uruguay aren't having their basic needs met for a number of reasons, so you can imagine

their excitement when the shoe boxes arrive," says Trudy. Operation Christmas Child is a division of Samaritan's Purse which has created 250 health, education, shelter and feeding programs in 70 countries around the world. Beyond the 61 million shoe boxes distributed since 1993, Operation Christmas Child opens the door to communities and accesses their need so that relief can be given. What continues to inspire Trudy after 10 years of volunteer efforts? "It started out as a way to show my three kids how fortunate they are to live in this country and now it's turned into my passion to advocate for the program and challenge every Powell Riverite to fill a box and make a significant difference in a child's life," says Trudy.

Powell River businesswoman Eve Camenzind owner of Your Dollar Store with More in the Crossroads Village, has been a long time contributors to the shoe box

program by making ready-to-go shoe boxes filled with gifts and offering her products at a discounted price. "Giving back is a big part of my business, says Eve. "We actively support Powell River based programs throughout the year and the shoe box drive is our opportunity to reach beyond and impact the global community as well. It's all part of our commitment to better our community."

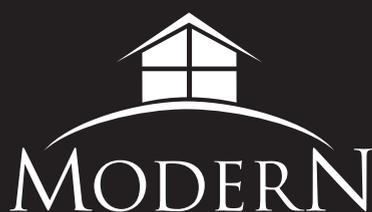
Shoe boxes are available now at Your Dollar Store with More, Safeway or by calling Trudy Anderson at 604 485-5345. They can be dropped off at Safeway, your participating community group or by calling Trudy between November 16 to 21. Please remember to include seven dollars in the box for shipping costs. There is a higher need for shoe boxes for children age 10-14. For more information visit, [www.samaritanaspurse.ca/occ](http://www.samaritanaspurse.ca/occ).

Let's collect a thousand shoe boxes, Powell River! 



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# Elder abuse: it does exist

## And what we can do about it

By Ron Koros

**E**ighty-one-year-old Mrs G didn't know how she would be able to continue maintaining her home. It seemed like an ideal solution when her son, who had some financial difficulties, moved in with her and it didn't seem unreasonable when he began talking to her about power of attorney and how it would make it easier for him to help out with the maintenance of the house and paying bills.

Mrs G's hairdresser, who would make home visits, was concerned that Mrs G's son was taking the liberty of meeting her at the door and cancelling Mrs G's hair appointments. On the one occasion that she did see Mrs G, because her son had gone to town, the sight of a bruise worried her on her arm. Mrs G nervously blamed it on an old lady's clumsiness.

Next door neighbour, Bob noticed that the normally very well dressed Mrs G, who loved nothing more than being out in her yard, rarely ventured out anymore and always looked unkempt.

As you read the story of Mrs G you've likely picked up on all the warning signs of a potentially abusive situation. Unfortunately, this isn't a rare occurrence. One in ten seniors will be the victim of physical and/or emotional abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Hopefully most of us would recognize such warning signs, if we ever faced them, and would take appropriate actions, such as notifying police. The more important question is

"what can we do to protect our senior citizens from being victimized in such a way?"

As we rush through our busy lives we tend to overlook, dismiss and possibly resent the objects, events and even people, that are moving at a slower pace than we are. One such group of people are the elders in our lives. Our grandparents, elderly aunts and uncles, old friends of the family, aged neighbours and community acquaintances.

The elderly in our lives have done so much for us, and sacrificed in ways that we can't even comprehend, that it would seem unthinkable to not honour and respect them on a daily basis. Once a year, on November 11th, we set aside some time to recognize the sacrifices of those who have served our country, many of whom are now elderly and many more that have passed away in recent years. But what happens the other 364 days of the year? Our love is never tested more than when someone we love becomes difficult to be with; sometimes simply because of the slow pace of their lives, or the overwhelming saga of chronic pain, or even the bitter resentment at getting older. There are many who have failed the challenge of staying connected with such people. The result of this failure is a community in which isolation and increased vulnerability is a fact of life for many elderly folks.

The past generation has been indoctrinated in the "no one has the right to tell me how to raise my children or care for my family" mentality. We used to know our

neighbours and were not afraid to speak up when something didn't look right. Now we can't turn away fast enough and if our gaze lingers a little too long, we may be shouted at to "mind your own business."

We've seen the result of that kind of community. It may not even be appropriate to call that a community. No one is advocating a busybody mentality. It just comes down to getting to know your neighbours, especially the elderly or other vulnerable people.

- 1 Walk around your neighbourhood regularly (multiple benefits).
- 2 Say "hi" to people and introduce yourself and which part of the neighbourhood live.
- 3 Offer your neighbourly services especially to the elderly: "if you ever need a hand," "if you need a ride to an appointment" or "if anything ever worries you or makes you feel threatened, give me a call."
- 4 Talk with neighbours about things they might need to know about such as "Have you gotten any of those phone calls that tell you you've won a prize but need to press a number to claim it? You know that's a phone scam, right?"

Small steps that can make a big difference. There's an African Proverb that says "it takes a whole community to raise a child," well it takes a whole community to keep safe its most vulnerable members.

For more information on Elder Abuse or other issues facing older adults, contact the Seniors One Stop Information Line at 604 485-3310. **RL**

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## Powell River Living BUSINESS Connections *By Kim Miller*

**A**s of March, smoking has been banned in all indoor public spaces with the exception of First Nation ceremonial tobacco use. To help businesses comply with the *BC Tobacco Control Act*, free no smoking signs are available by calling the chamber. For more info visit [www.health.gov.bc.ca/tobacco](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/tobacco).

**Shirt Disturbers** has moved to 9832 Albion Road, at Hwy 101 and Victory Road. They do custom printed sportswear and clothing, engraving, photo transfers and signage. Contract them at 604 487-0487 or [shirtdisturbers@shaw.ca](mailto:shirtdisturbers@shaw.ca)

Shirley Storey is the new office coordinator for **Plutonic Power Corporation's** Powell River office. Shirley has lived in Powell River for 21 years and raised three children here. She worked for the **Bruce Denniston Bone Marrow Society, Powell River Child, Youth and Family Services** and **Powell River Community Health**. She can be reached at 604 485-5486.

Jomichele Seidl is the new Assistant

Chief Librarian at the **Powell River Public Library**. She oversees public access to library services, outreach programs and partnerships. "I love the natural beauty of Powell River, and the sense of being in a friendly, unpretentious community. I'm so lucky to be part of the industrious, service-oriented team that provides library service here."

Brenda Neall is a second generation Powell Riverite with deep roots here so it's not surprising that she has come 'home' after 38 years away. Brenda owns a home-based pottery studio/showroom called **Down to Earth Clayworks** located at 2107B Mahood Road. Brenda expects to have the studio/showroom open in mid-November. In addition to producing pottery, offering studio tours and demonstrations, she also offers beginner pottery classes. Contact Brenda at 604 487-0970.

David Parkinson, coordinator of the Literacy Now Implementation Project, encourages everyone to get involved with

the activities of the **Powell River Literacy Council**. An exciting development is the new Powell River Adult Learning Initiative, which will start up in the next few months with a \$30,000 grant from the BC Ministry of Advanced Education. This partnership between the **PR Employment Program Society** and **Vancouver Island University**, will be run out of the Community Resource Centre, and will provide one-on-one tutoring for adults seeking help with basic literacy skills, numeracy, computer literacy, upgrading and certification. Find out more from David at [literacypr@prepsociety.org](mailto:literacypr@prepsociety.org) or 604 485-2004. **RL**

*Do you have changes at your business you'd like Powell River to know about? Call me at 604 485-4051 and I will get your info into the next issue of Powell River Living.*

*If you would like to receive monthly updates and community event invitation, send me your email address and I will add you on our email list.*



VISION, LEADERSHIP, COMMITMENT  
**Stewart Alsgard**

### STEWART ALSGARD ♦ *Vision, Leadership, Commitment*

Since I first became your mayor, our City has seen the positive results of the initiatives we have put in place. In the next three years I will continue this momentum in the following areas.

- ♦ **Economic development-advocacy:** Planning, employment opportunities and Tourism
- ♦ **Sustainability:** A Clean, Green Powell River.
- ♦ **Fiscal Responsibility:** Will continue with Realistic Budget Planning, Practical Solutions
- ♦ Continue to press for **fair distribution of tax revenue** from Federal and Provincial governments
- ♦ **Core Services:** Major Focus—Maintaining Superior Water Quality
- ♦ **Extended Transit Services**
- ♦ **Affordable Housing** and Rental Opportunities
- ♦ **Accessibility** Planning for Core Areas and Sea Walk
- ♦ **B.C. Ferries** are Our Highway, Our Lifeline, Our Right
- ♦ **Cultural Capital** of Canada: Continue the support & development of the Arts
- ♦ **First Nations Accord:** Foundation for Future Development and Positive Growth
- ♦ **Partnerships** with Vancouver Island University, School Districts 47 & 93, Labour and Business to Provide Training and Jobs for Our Youth
- ♦ **Waterfront Development** and Millennium Park
- ♦ Support the establishment of a **Community Children's Charter**.

We have a strong and unique community. Much has been accomplished and much will be accomplished. Together we are capable of accepting the challenge to create a prosperous, sustainable community for all our citizens and our future.



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*The new configuration will meet the current demand for appropriate-sized berths.*

*The marina has a limited life of about 30 years; that time has now expired and reconstruction is required.*

# The North Harbour Marina

On November 15, 2008, the City of Powell River is holding a referendum asking Powell River residents to consider the following question:

*“Are you in favour of the City of Powell River adopting North Harbour Marina Improvements Loan Authorization Bylaw 2214, 2008, to authorize the borrowing of a sum not to exceed six million dollars(\$6,000,000) over a maximum term of 30 years, for the purpose of carrying out infrastructure upgrades in the North Harbour including the reconfiguration and reconstruction of floats.”*

## **The North Harbour is a public facility for residents of Powell River.**

The North Harbour is an important part of the social and economic structure of our community. It is not a private yacht club nor is it a rich gated community. The North Harbour marina is a public dock facility which is available to the citizens of Powell River who own a boat and wish to moor it in Powell River. The North Harbour Marina is a safe and secure harbour.

Powell River has to compete with other cities in providing amenities such as safe hiking trails, recreation facilities, arts and culture facilities, educational facilities and other facilities, including a functioning harbour, to attract the new people moving to the coast. A safe and secure marina helps to define a city as a coastal community. It also adds to the economic diversity by attracting businesses and people who choose to invest and live in our City. The marina is an integral part of our community.

## **What will happen with the boats in the harbour during construction?**

Two methods of construction are currently being considered:

**Option 1** • Reconstruct the North Harbour in three phases. Phase one would be to remove and reconstruct the middle section of the harbour’s infrastructure. Phase two would be to remove and reconstruct the south most section of the harbour’s infrastructure. Phase three would be to remove and reconstruct the north most section of the harbour’s infrastructure. If the three phase approach

were to be used, the majority of boats would be left in the harbour and would be shuffled around as each phase progresses. This would be the most expensive way to proceed with the project. It also exposes the reconstruction project to an extension of construction time, construction cost overruns and liability with regard to potential boat damage.

**Option 2** • Reconstruct the North Harbour in one phase, this would mean that the all the boats would be removed from the North Harbour. As many of the larger boats as possible would be accommodated in the South Harbour, other boats would need to be hauled out of the North Harbour or would need to find temporary alternative moorage. This option would include removing all the infrastructure in the North Harbour, completing all the dredging, pile driving, breakwater repairs, shoreline work and float replacement. This would be the lowest cost of construction methodology and lowest risk with regard to construction time and lowest risk of cost overruns. Additionally, there would be minimal liability concerns with regard to boat damage.

## **What if local boaters do not fill the harbour?**

The City is confident the North Harbour will fill with local boaters. Currently there is a waiting list with more than 90 boaters waiting to enter the harbour. If the North Harbour does not fill, the City will look at other avenues to generate revenue including allowing annual moorage contracts to out of town boaters, allowing temporary or short term moorage where space permits, as well

**VISIT [www.powellriver.ca](http://www.powellriver.ca) FOR MORE INFORMATION**



as considering transient moorage. Moorage rates will be set to cover the operating costs, debt interest and principal payments as well as an amount to be transferred into a reserve for future maintenance.

#### **Economic benefits**

A new North Harbour is one of the most important building blocks in laying a foundation for the sustainability and future growth of Powell River. The boaters in the harbour contribute more than just moorage fees to the City. Many marine related local businesses that service and repair boats and motors or sell marine or fishing products, rely on marina activity. Other marine related businesses such as fishing charters, dive charters, eco-marine tours and bare boat charters operate from the marina. The construction of the marina facility will be by public tender and local contractors and suppliers will have the opportunity to secure employment for local workers. A waterfront face-lift will contribute to Powell River emerging as one of the most desirable, livable, small cities in North America.

#### **Why is the Marina being reconfigured?**

When the North Harbour was constructed in 1976 it was designed to harbour smaller boats. Over the years there has been a change in the local boating community resulting in less demand for the smaller

berths in the harbour. At the same time, demand has increased for the larger berths. Under the new reconfiguration the harbour would be able to hold 315 boats, (98 boats that are 24 feet and under and 217 boats that are 25 feet and over). There will be a larger number of berths and the configuration will meet the current demand for appropriate sized berths.

#### **Why has the maintenance not been kept up?**

A marina is like a car, you maintain it and care for it but it has a limited life. A marina has a limited life of about 30 years. Over the past 32 years the City of Powell River has regularly maintained the North Harbour. The City has replaced many rotten plywood sections on the floats as well as cupping concrete sections of the main floats. Additionally, the City has made repairs to ruptured, chipped and broken concrete caps which created tripping hazards. The repairs done over the years are now failing. The majority of repairs needed are structural; flex in piles, twisting fingers and main floats and the poor condition of the dock structures all need immediate replacement. The original concrete/wood construction of the floats had a estimated useful life of approximately 30 years. That time has now expired and reconstruction is required.

*The North Harbour Marina is a public dock facility available to the citizens of Powell River.*

*Construction of the marina facility will be via public tender. This will offer an opportunity for local contractors and suppliers.*

*A safe and secure marina helps to define a city as a coastal community.*

**VISIT [www.powellriver.ca](http://www.powellriver.ca) FOR MORE INFORMATION**

# Seniors needed to help children succeed

## Success by 6

By Heather Gordon

If we could paint pictures representing the brain activity surging inside a small child's head, we would see the formation of intricate pathways, streams of silky reds, yellows, and blues pouring through the mind, flashes of electric brilliance rebounding behind the soft shell of a tiny forehead, shaping the way this small person will embrace the world.

From before birth to the age of six, miraculous things happen inside the human brain. Scientists are only starting to understand the significance of these early years. When young children grow up in a healthy environment—when they feel safe; when they hear stories, voices and music; when they connect deeply with people they love and trust—the brain is free to develop and grow. Success By 6 works to give all children the best possible start in life.

Powell River Success By 6 is a gathering of community people who believe that children matter, not just to their parents but to all of us. We are a collection of ordinary people who give our time and energy to make our community a safe and happy place to grow up in. Under the direction of a volunteer Council of Partners (local business people, early childhood specialists, retired teachers, parents, church leaders, community development professionals, social workers, senior citizens, health professionals) Success By 6 works to create better outcomes in Powell River for children 0-6 and their families.

Powell River has also been blessed with a growing community of retired folks. Through Success By 6 and the local research initiative *Understanding the Early Years*, we have come upon the growing trend of linking generations to create good outcomes for both children and seniors, called Intergenerational Programming.

A hundred years ago, households made up of three generations were common, with interactions common between every generation. With the Industrial Revolution came the shift to urban lifestyles; the intergenerational household lost its significance. When it became increasingly common for both par-

ents to work outside the home, childcare centers answered the needs of working parents and elder-care communities answered the needs of their aging grandparents. The attempt to meet the needs of every age group developed a more segregated society.

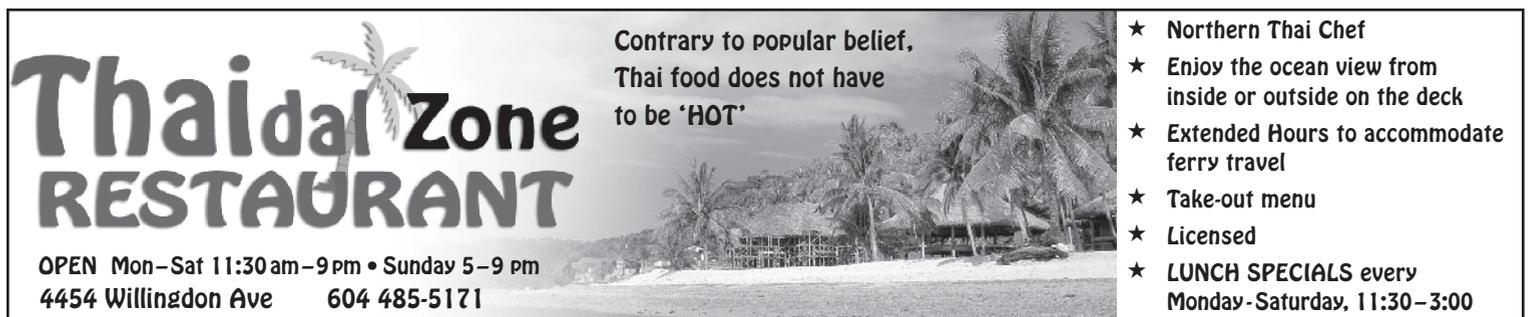
The positive blending of generations yields social benefits at every level. Children and young people develop stronger personal social skills; values, culture and information are preserved and shared; and individuals feel a greater sense of connectedness to the world.

During a recent training at the Macklin Intergenerational Institute in Ohio, we learned that isolated seniors often suffer from loneliness, helplessness and boredom. And children, particularly children 0-6, can benefit enormously from meaningful relationships with adults who have time for them. Young children thrive on individual attention and flourish through singing, reading and stimulating interactions. The Macklin Institute trains communities to begin local initiatives that build bridges between generations.

While many of our seniors in Powell River are active 'young seniors', they may be looking for ways to connect with the local community, building networks of extended 'family' locally, finding a way to give back to the community that is their home.

Success By 6 has developed the ORCA Bus (On the Road with Children's Activities) which will create opportunities for generations to grow together. The bus will travel from Saltery Bay to Lund bringing fun, snacks, and resources for young children and their families.

The ORCA bus will be run by volunteers—seniors in particular! Volunteers are needed to read with children, to prepare snacks, to drive the bus and to be part of the fun. While the ORCA bus is under construction, volunteers are desperately needed to help us get the bus on the road. If you or someone you know would like to give us a hand for an hour or a week or would like to volunteer to be part of the ORCA team, please call Kim at 604 485-3090. Powell River's children and families need you. **RL**



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# Celebrate with the *Festival of Trees*

Catch the spirit and support PRACL

By Isabelle Southcott

There is no better way to start the festive season than by visiting or participating in the Powell River Association for Community Living's 13th Annual Festival of Trees.

The kickoff to Christmas will be held at the Powell River Town Centre Hotel from November 25 to 30.

This year, the festival kicks off once again with the Lighting of the Trees That takes place on Tuesday, November 25 at 7 pm. The Powell River Community Choir performs after the official opening. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

There will be a craft night on November 27 beginning at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$20.

"Come out and make a wreath or centerpiece for the holidays with the help of skilled crafters," said festival coordinator Yvonne Boese. She says that tickets to this popular event were sold out last year.

"We have 15 large trees and a good assortment of wreaths and children's trees for viewing. This year we have a lot of new tree decorators and people are focusing on environ-



mentally friendly products and green trees."

The Santa Claus brunch on November 29 is a family favourite as it includes a picture with Santa and a special gift for the children.

Boese says they have lots of great donations for the auction that will take place on Sunday, November 30 along with the Gala dinner, which is the closing event of the festival.

"This is where the final bidding on trees and wreaths also takes place," says Boese.

The Festival of Trees is always a highlight of the Christmas season and it is the Powell River Association for Community Living (PRACL)'s main fundraiser. Money raised is used for the wish fund, which helps provide PRACL's clients with opportunities they would not have otherwise.

Many volunteers are needed to help with the festival. If you are interested in helping call Yvonne Boese at or 604 485-5663 or 604 223-0502 (local number).

Event tickets are available at PRACL's office on Marine Avenue or at the festival. [RL](#)

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# Powell River Living LIVING GREEN

By Emma Levez Larocque

## How green is your ride?

**W**ith seemingly endless hikes in the price of gasoline, and growing attention to environmental costs of gas-powered transportation many people are considering other options. Some are thinking about walking or biking more or even car-pooling. But cutting a vehicle from your life completely is a huge and often impractical step in today's world.

The age of the car has had one of the most significant impacts on human civilization. With the freedom that cars bring we can work a long distance from where we live. Cars make life more convenient—forgot that key ingredient for dinner? No worries, just drive back into town to pick it up.

But this fantastic flexibility does not come without a price tag. The environmental costs have been evident for some years: an increase in smog alerts every summer, air quality issues in cities, rising incidents of asthma—the list goes on. On an economic level there is a constant underlying threat of our deeply imbedded dependence on oil. According to an article from March 2006 on [www.hybridcars.com](http://www.hybridcars.com), “oil provides 97% of the fuel used by America's enormous fleet of trucks, trains, planes, ships, buses and cars.” What will happen when we run out, or it becomes too expensive for the average consumer? A bigger question than it's possible to tackle here; for now let's focus on the car.

Even if we cut down on the amount we use our cars, there will still be a big problem. It's unlikely that people are going to stop

using cars and take to the streets en masse on foot, bicycle or other forms of non-motorized transportation. It's even impractical to imagine that everyone could get around with shared public transportation. If we are going to continue to be so dependent on the car, we need to look for alternatives. Car companies and innovators have been working on this issue for years, thankfully, and as a result a pretty long list of alternatives exists today, and more are coming. If you are looking to buy a new car, your job is going to be a little more complicated. Here is a rundown on what is available today—and coming in the near future:

**Small Cars** • In recent years smaller cars have been selling like hot potatoes. They are fuel-efficient yet practical, cute yet relatively inexpensive. They can fit into parking spaces that normal cars can't, and they can turn on a dime. Today the Toyota Yaris is one of the most popular small cars getting about 32 miles per gallon (MPG) with a base price tag of about C\$12,600. Other popular small cars include the Smart ForTwo (efficient but underpowered and very small), the Mini Cooper, which gets 36 MPG and the Honda Fit at 31 MPG. Small cars are a good option for many people nervous about trying newer technologies—look for the Toyota IQ and the Volkswagen up! in the next couple of years.

**Hybrid** • Currently the greenest vehicle on the road, hybrids are fuel-efficient and reasonably priced (starting around \$22,500). >>>

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➤ There are a variety of hybrids available, giving the consumer choices ranging from a mid-sized car like the Toyota Prius (46 MPG) to the GMC Yukon Hybrid truck (21 MPG). Despite initial consumer concerns about hybrid technology and batteries, these cars are proving themselves. They have been available in Japan since 1997, in the US since 2000, and reported cases of electric or battery problems have been rare (hybridcars.com). Most of the major car manufacturers are now producing at least one hybrid, and many more expected to hit the market over the next few years.

**Plug-In Hybrid** • This is the hybrid of the future, expected to hit the market around 2009. These hybrids will get a fantastic 100 + MPG, and can be plugged into the electric grid. Those being pre-advertised range in price from \$18,500 (the VentureOne) to \$80,000 (Fisker Karma).

**Diesel** • Low emissions, high efficiency and superior performance are the trademarks of new generation diesel vehicles like the Volkswagen Jetta TDI (35 MPG). Biodiesel, an alternative fuel made from soybean or canola oil, can be used instead of petroleum-based diesel fuel which reduces hydrocarbon, carbon monoxide and particulate emissions drastically. On the other hand, because they rely on the production of food crops the environmental costs of production must be weighed, and the effect on the production of food for humans and animals considered.

**E85 Ethanol** • E85 vehicles can be difficult to find, but an increasing number of vehicles can run on an 85 per cent blend of ethanol. Some of those available now include the Chevrolet Impala E85 (22 MPG at \$23,000) and the Ford F-150 E85 truck (11 MPG at \$23,000). Similar to biodiesel ethanol is a renewable fuel that comes from agricultural feedstocks, so the true net pollution should be considered by the consumer before buying into Ethanol as a solution.

**Hydrogen** • Although a few hydrogen-powered cars may be available soon, those in the industry have expressed doubts that hydrogen cars will ever be affordable enough to be a mainstream reality. In any case, it's unlikely that these vehicles will be readily available to the general public in the foreseeable future.

**Electric** • Vehicles that are powered by electricity offer a promising future. The technology has been improving for a number of years, and many of the electric cars that will be hitting the market in the next couple of years are rumoured to be affordable and reliable. Think City, to be released in 2010 will start at under \$30,000 and be completely highway capable. Electric cars have been around for longer than most of us know — check out the movie Who Killed the Electric Car or [www.sonyclassics.com/whokilledtheelectriccar](http://www.sonyclassics.com/whokilledtheelectriccar) for more info. The time of the electric car seems to be here, and these vehicles should be widely available in the next few years. **RL**

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# From Italy to Powell River

The story of Anita Silvestrini

By Julie Groshak

As Anita Martinig lay in the grass in the mountains, watching the clouds go by in the blue sky, she would imagine another world where she would be able to wear nail polish like the grown up ladies she saw in the city the time she went there with her father. She knew in her heart she was destined for things beyond the hills of her tiny village of Rodda, in Italy (northeast of Venice). She was only 10 years old. In a few short years her life would change forever.

Born in 1938 the first of three children, Anita helped her father with his work. She felt happy when she overheard him saying that she was more reliable and trustworthy than anyone he knew. With his entrepreneurial spirit, her father struggled and saved until he could afford to purchase one of the few trucks in their area. This enabled him to purchase locally grown fruit and then transport it to the city market. There Anita and her father would work together to sell the fruit. They would then purchase items not available in their village and bring them back to sell. Anita feels those experiences developed her entrepreneurial spirit.

The early years had been difficult. When Anita was just two years old her parents and her father's siblings had moved to North Africa in search of work. Libya had been recruiting large families with manpower to work and develop the area and they were given plots of land. But it was more difficult than they had anticipated as the terrain was



**GENERATIONS:** Anita Silvestrini stands between her two daughters, Janet at her left, and Julie.

barren. Her sister was born while they were there. They moved back to Italy, in time to witness the casualties of war.

Anita was five years old when the war broke out. Her aunts would come to her town to hide from the Rebels because they would rape the women and young girls. Soldiers shot and took their family goose, leaving them without food.

She recalls their neighbor, who became scared when the soldiers came through their area and as he ran to hide, he was shot in the back and was left to die on a rock in his front yard.

When they would hear airplanes, they would panic and run for cover.

How did Anita come to Canada? Her father's sister (Maria) moved to Canada in 1937 - her 'husband to be' had come to Canada and started a life here and then went back to Italy. He then met and married her aunt and moved his bride back to Canada with him. She was here almost

20 years before she sponsored her eight siblings and her parents to move here.

The Powell River Company had advertised for workers. They promised a better life. Anita's father came to Canada alone and was here for one year, to obtain work and save money so that he could send for his wife and three children.

It was the spring of 1952, and Anita was 14 years old. It was difficult leaving friends, family and their home in Italy. But it was so exciting to come to a new country!

They traveled by boat for eight days and landed in Halifax. The train took another eight days to cross Canada and it seemed to take forever. There was so much of nothing in between and it looked so different from Italy. It felt like they were going to end of the world.

Finally they arrived in Vancouver and they thought, "This is good!" They were reunited with her father and then he said to them "Now we have to take a boat to Powell River." (This was before the ferries.) So they landed at the mill, took a taxi through more bush than she had ever seen in her life and went up a hill. Her mom said "This has to be the end of the world." They ended up in Wildwood, where there were lots of relatives and cousins and a whole Italian community. They never felt alone and that was important in those times. >>



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➤ Anita had to learn English and that wasn't easy as she felt that she just didn't fit in. She was older than most of the kids in her class at James Thompson School and she felt more mature than the kids her age. It was difficult.

The following summer she was offered a job and stayed there for four years. She worked to help support the family.

By the age of 18, she was in charge of looking after 40 people for all of their meals and accommodation at the Staff Quarters, three houses owned by the Powell River Company. It also housed the new doctors and nurses as there were no apartments.

Then life got easier; Anita married at age 19 and started a family.

In her 20s she had three children. In her 30s, while raising the family, she worked at the The Bay department store in Powell River and other retail stores over the years. She and her husband were asked to teach ballroom dancing for the college, and did so for many, many years.

She always dreamed of going back to Italy. In 1975 that dream came true and she and her husband loaded up their kids and traveled across Europe in a camper van.

In her 40s she purchased and operated her own retail business, a ladies clothing store called Exquisite Mode.

In her 50s she became a Grandma and retired from retail. She was successful at a network marketing business and learned about natural health alternatives. She learned about antioxidants and the importance of disease prevention in staying healthy. At the time, her two-year-old grandson had asthma and was on medication and a nebulizer – but with alternative help, he was healed. He is 17 and has been free from asthma ever since.

In her 60s, Anita and her husband opened their home as a Bed & Breakfast. Their European hospitality made them perfect for it. Their philosophy had always been, "When you are here, you

are family." Their guests come from all over the world. They arrive as strangers; they shake hands. But when they leave, they are friends and they give big hugs.

Last year when Anita entered her 70s, she knew it would be the next chapter of her life and that she could no longer run the B&B. She was getting tired and had chronic pain. Anita was finally diagnosed with fibromyalgia. Without looking for it, her interest turned back to prevention and healing.

Anita's is grateful for the relief from pain she has finally found and she wants to serve others and help relieve their pain too.

From as early as Anita can remember, she has had a very strong faith and connection with God. She always wanted to follow the rules and do good things for other people, without expecting something in return.

Anita feels she is at the last stages of life and she wants to maintain her health so she can continue to be active and involved in her family and her community. To embrace each day with a passion and to know that she is here for God's purpose. That's all she wants. **RL**

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# Powell River Living COMMUNITY Calendar **November 2008**

**Sunshine Speakers Toastmasters:** Interested in communication, leadership and public speaking? **Toastmasters** meet the 2nd and 4th Thursday, 7 pm in the School District office boardroom on Ontario Ave; also at noon on the 1st & 3rd Thursday. Guests welcome. Barb Rees at 604 485-2732; Kevin Wilson at 604 483-9052.

**Women in Business:** Do you want to make a good impression on clients/customers? Then **Women in Business** is the place for you: a networking group for those working in or owning a business. Call Bonnie Krakalovich at 604 485-0003 or 604 414-3981.

**Sunday: Faith Lutheran Church** Services and Sunday school, 10 am.

**Monday: Bike ride** from Suncoast Cycle, 6 pm.

**Tuesday:** Family Place **Toddler Time** drop-in from 10:30 to noon. Parent-child drop in from 12:30 pm to 4:30.

**Tues & Thur: Bike ride** starting at RCMP parking lot, 6 pm.

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

**Fourth Tuesday: Powell River Garden Club** meets at 7 pm at Trinity Hall, United Church. All welcome.

**Wednesday: Family Place Garden group** 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, call 604 485-2706. **The Open Space** parent led family programs, 12:30 to 2:30 pm. Parent child drop-in 12:30-4:30 pm.

**Thursday:** Parent/child drop-in, 12:30-4:30

pm. **Mother Goose Program** (birth-one year)

**Friday:** Parent child drop in, 12:30-4:30 pm  
**Rhythm Circle Time** (3-5 years)

**Nov 1:** Third annual **Festival of Writers**, French Club on Manson Ave, 9:30-4 pm. Barb Rees, 604 485-2732, or www.festigvalofwriters.com

**Nov 1: Christmas in November** at the Anglican Church, 6310 Sycamore St. Noon-2 pm. Christmas baking, books, crafts, cards, dolls, preserves, raffles. Everyone Welcome.

**Nov 7:** Training session for potential **Therapeutic Riding** volunteers. Grooming and tacking clinic, 10 am to 12 pm; Horse handling & sidewalking clinic, 1-3 pm. Clinics are free, no obligation. Come meet the horses and the team. Call 604 486-0177.

**Nov 8: Horizon Business Awards**, Dwight Hall. Tickets and info: Kim at 604 485-4051.

**Nov 8:** Powell River's **Young Naturalists Club** presents Forest Explorer 10 am-noon, lower parking lot at the Complex. Attendance by donation, but register by calling Janet, 485-0077. Rain or shine, take mom or dad for a walk in the woods. Wear sturdy shoes and arrive early.

**Nov 8: Jazz Vespers.** The Parish of St David & St Paul Anglican Church in Townsite invites you to attend a service of music and meditation at 4:30 pm. Everyone welcome. For more info call 604 483-4230 or 604 487-0750.

**Nov 10-16: Unity in Diversity**, Various locations throughout Powell River. For more info contact Gina Devlin at 604-485-2152.

**Nov 12:** Third **Messy Church** event at the Anglican Church in the Townsite. 4:30 pm. Crafts, stories, songs games, brief worship and supper.

**Nov 21: Martinis for a Good Cause** at River City Coffee. Tickets from The Knack. All proceeds to the Pass the Hat for the Cat. Must be 19 years of age or older.

**Nov 22:** 5th Annual **Blues & Burlesque Revue**, Dwight Hall. Floor show, dance, appetizers,

casino. Call Debbie Dee 604 485-6065.

**Nov 27-29: Rock Island Players** present the popular 1936 comedy "You Can't Take It With You" at Texada Community Hall in Gillies Bay. Doors open 6:30 pm. Tickets \$9 (seniors/students \$6) at the door. From Powell River, the take the 5:40 ferry; return on the 10:10 sailing. For more info, call 604 486-7670.

**Nov 28: Malaspina Naturalists Club** meets at Trinity Hall (United Church). Entomologist Karen Needham from UBC's Dept. of Zoology, specializes in aquatic insects. She'll speak about dragonflies, damselflies and mayflies.

**Nov 28-30: PR Fine Arts Christmas Sale.** Friday, 2-9 pm, Sat & Sun, 10-3 pm at 5395 Timberlane. Pottery, weavers, painting and quilting.

**Nov 29 & 30:** Huna chant, energy work & meditation workshop: www.shambhalarain-bowheart.com.

**Nov 29: Faith Lutheran Church Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale,** 1-3 pm, 4811 Ontario Ave (at Alberni) featuring their famous Christmas wreaths.

**Nov 30: Men's Curling Bonspiel** at the curling club. For more info call 604 483-9551.

**Dec 2: Parade of Lights** on the waterfront from Grief Point to Townsite. Info 604 485-4701.

**Dec 6: Santa Parade** along Marine, Wharf to Alberni Streets. Find out more, 604 485-0172.

**Dec 12-13: Carols by Candlelight**, Dwight Hall. Tickets at Academy of Music, 604 485-9633.

**Dec 6:** Annual **Christmas Bazaar** at Evergreen Extended Care Residence, 1-3:30 pm. Baking, crafts, raffles, white elephant items. Call 604 485-2208 ext 4455 for more info.

**Dec 6:** Special evening of advent music featuring **Bruce & Cheryl Harding**, West Coast performers, at the Powell River United Church at 7:30 pm. Donations at the door.

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## Long serving school trustee says farewell

**A**fter 18 years of serving as a school trustee Ted Cooper has decided it is time to retire.

His interest in education (combined with the fact that he is married to a teacher) first led him to put his name forward as a school trustee in 1990.

"I'm a life-long learner and it turns my crank when that is one of the goals of education. It is very satisfying when you know how to go about learning and researching."

One of the reasons Cooper has enjoyed being a school trustee is that "Everything we do goes through the filter of: 'what is the best thing to do for the students.'"

Cooper describes himself as a bibliophile. "I love books, I can't stop reading." His wife Margaret chuckles and talks about his extensive library.

Cooper was first elected as a trustee for School District 47 in 1990. Cooper has sat on six boards but one board was short term.

Cooper spent a lot of time in post secondary institutions, which gave him a love for education in its broad sense. He attended Hobart Technical College, the University of Tasmania, the University of Melbourne, BC Institute of Technology, University of British Columbia, Regent College, and Simon Fraser University where he did his MBA.

Both Cooper and Pauline Galinski (who is also retiring) have been school trustees for many years but Cooper says that Galinski was still teaching when he was first elected in 1990. "Pauline and Margaret (Cooper's wife) had been team teaching for years and I felt I knew Pauline because they were on the phone all the time."

One of the biggest challenges that Cooper faced during his time as a school trustee was the issue of where to locate the new Brooks school. "I was in favour of putting Brooks at the Complex site because the population was shifting to Westview. The plan was to have a joint school/public library and we would have shared the theatre. But the democratic process won out and Brooks went to the Townsite."

Cooper is proud of the fact that the school board operates as a corporate board. "We deal with everything as a whole - we do not have separate portfolios," he explained. "We have one of the best school boards in

the Province of British Columbia."

He says part of this is because "we have one of the best superintendents in BC."

The strength of the board lies in the fact that members are elected at large and represent the community as a whole. Many other school districts have boards that are elected by a ward system or political alliances which foster polarization.

Cooper was born in East York, Ontario, but he sounds every bit the Aussie. He



**THANK YOU, TED COOPER:** For the almost two decades of service to the community on the Board of School Trustees.

moved to Tasmania at the age of 10½ when his father, a papermaker, was recruited to start up the first mill to make newsprint from eucalyptus. Cooper spent 14 years in Tasmania and six years in the state of Victoria. He met Margaret, a teacher, at Melbourne University, and married.

The couple moved to Canada in 1964 and after moving around with MacMillan Bloedel they were transferred to Powell River in 1972. Cooper was the superintendent of stock preparation before retiring.

Cooper, who has studied the business enterprise for many years, says there are a number of differences between the corporate enterprise and a school administration. All school district administrators started in the classroom whereas mill management need not have worked on

the shop floor. "That is what distinguishes it from a business."

Cooper has enjoyed the challenges of being a school trustee, one of which was the idea of having a teaching kitchen associated with Brooks.

"We did not have the student population to qualify for a teaching kitchen but we lobbied on the fact that we were isolated."

And so the teaching kitchen became a reality.

Although Cooper is saying goodbye, he will continue working with the Powell River Educational Services Society (PRESS), a not-for-profit arms length society that also provides opportunities for First Nations at Toba Inlet. This is a joint venture signed between Klahoose First Nation, Kiewit, Plutonic and Powell River School District 47 back in January 2008.

Now that the camp at Toba is completed, the landmark culinary joint venture to provide food service at the site is up and running. Students will receive trades and technical training with Kiewit and they will be supported by the school district at the Toba site.

Cooper observes that, in times of labour shortages, preparing students for the workforce is not even on the agenda, as employers will take them as they are and do the training themselves. But when there is a labour surplus they are clamouring to have students prepared.

"Our trades and academics programs are doing that, but I'm still an idealist in the sense that I believe the school system has to train the whole person, and academics and trades are not mutually exclusive. The system has to cater to all levels, and provide opportunities for those who are academically inclined and to those who are interested in pursuing a career in the trades."

Cooper is proud of SD47. "Our district is very innovative. It is right out in front with the trades programs and it's environmental sustainably program at Rainbow Lodge."

School District 47 has managed to operate within its budget and initiate projects that other districts say they can't afford.

"And it's because of the boards commitment to Students and the skill of our Superintendent (Jay Yule) and Secretary-Treasurer (Steve Hopkins)," says Cooper. 



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