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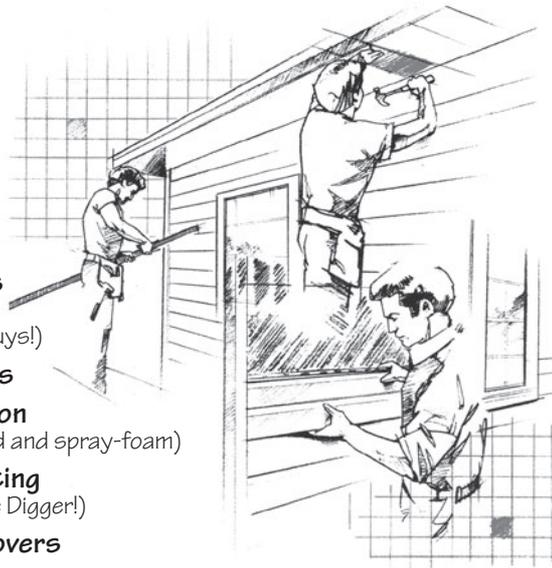
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OUR CHOICE OF PAPER

This magazine is printed on paper made by Catalyst Paper. The cover and centre stock are PacificCote, made at Port Alberni. Most of the pages are Electrabrite, made at the Powell River mill.

ON THE COVER

Debbie Vanderkemp, a interior designer who owns Pebble Beach, a design firm and retail store, offers decorating tips in this issue.

Photo by Isabelle Southcott

Powell River Living CONTRIBUTORS



CC DUNCAN & RAYMOND LAVOIE are both passionate about the TrailRider and the opportunity it offers people with mobility challenges.



EMMA LEVEZ LAROCQUE is the Literacy Outreach Coordinator for Powell River. Her job is to raise awareness about literacy in the community.



TRACEY ELLIS is a journalist, writer and former editor of *BC's Dream House Magazine*, *Homes & Living*, *BC Outdoors*, *Sport Fishing* and others.



BRANDY PETERSON is a local realtor who has renovated her own home and helped her grandparents spruce up their new home.



MARIA GLAZE and her family moved to Powell River area in 2007. Since their move, Maria sees something every day that dazzles and delights her. Her camera lets her capture those moments and share the magic.



SCOTT RANDOLPH is the manager of the Powell River Regional Economic Development Society. A former journalist, Scott has many years of experience writing for a number of publications and has worked in the television and radio news industry.

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someone once made a courageous decision.*

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We welcome feedback from our readers. Email your comments to isabelle@prliving.ca, or mail to Powell River Living, **7053E Glacier Street**, Powell River, BC V8A 5J7
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Powell River Living IN THIS ISSUE

Out-of-town shopping can really stink

Seems as though everyone is doing home renovations these days. At least they are on Maple Avenue where I live. The family a couple doors down are building a two-car garage, the folks across the street are renovating their kitchen. The homeowners on the corner recently added a new deck and redid the exterior of their home.

In this issue of *Powell River Living*, you'll find home renovation stories, tips on what to do to get your home ready for winter, design tips from a pro and information from our advertisers on who to call when you need a specialist!

Home renovations usually end up being more involved than originally planned. Most homeowners will be able to relate to a story on page 15 about a home renovation that never seemed to end.

If you have an ugly bedroom that needs some help, be sure to check out our Ugly Room Makeover contest on page 20.

There's an important story about some of the unsung heroes of our community, Powell River Search and Rescue, that begins on page 9. We also have a story about Clayton Isherwood, a young Texada Island baseball player who has his sights on the big leagues, on page 14.

October 16 to 22 is Small Business Week. Those of us who own or work for small businesses know the term can be misleading

as small business is a key economic driver in BC. Not only do small businesses make up 98 per cent of all businesses in BC but they provide many goods and services vital to the health of our communities.

Our world is changing and sometimes it is hard to keep up with what is happening outside of this ferry dependent community of Powell River. It is important to shop locally whenever possible. If everyone shops online and out of town, local businesses won't last very long. If no one buys deodorant locally, businesses won't carry it and then when you run out of deodorant you won't be able to dash to a store at the last minute and pick some up. In the meantime, while you are waiting for the ferry to come in and take you out of town to buy your deodorant or waiting for your on-line order to arrive, you'll smell pretty bad. That's why it is so important to shop local. That's why it is important to generate enough business so local businesses remain healthy and strong and in business. Support local businesses and shop local whenever possible. It's the only way local businesses will be able to remain in business. [PR](#)

Isabelle Southcott

Isabelle Southcott, Publisher • isabelle@prliving.ca



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What's up? POWELL RIVER



Sliammon girl at International Conference

Ta'Kaiya Blaney, the 10 year-old Sliammon First Nation singer who stood up to Enbridge pipeline in March, was one of 20 champions to represent We Canada at the Tunza International Youth and Children Conference in Indonesia last month. We

Canada brings attention to the Canadian government to urge it to be more sensitive to sustainability. At the conference, Ta'Kaiya hosted three workshops for kids and sang at the closing ceremonies. Ta'Kaiya was also featured on CityTV last month in a documentary special and has been asked to travel across Canada and speak at First Nation Elementary Schools where she will discuss her concerns about the environment.

New community alerting system

A new emergency alerting system was recently installed in Powell River.

Now residents and businesses in the City can be quickly contacted via telephone in an emergency, said Dan Ouellette, Director of Fire and Emergency Services.

The new system means resources that might have been needed for a door-to-door campaign may be used elsewhere. One Call Now's map-based emergency notification system can target calls to a specific neighborhood, street or even geographical area. "In the event of an emergency, such as an evacuation order or a safety message for a specific area, the system can phone thousands of residents within minutes," said Ouellette.

The race is on!

Municipal voters will go to the polls in November to vote for city council, regional board and school trustees. Nominations close Oct 14. Election day is Nov 19.

Smaller, slower ferry now in service

If you are planning to travel to Comox between now and mid December, you'd better check the ferry schedule before you go! The Queen of Burnaby is getting a \$12 million refit. BC Ferries paid \$2.8 million for the Queen of Burnaby in 2000.

She has been replaced by the slower Queen of Chilliwack while the work is going on and a modified sailing schedule is in place. The first sailing out of Little River, Comox is at 5:30 am.

For the schedule you will have to go to bcferries.com as the corporation is no longer printing the All Routes Schedules.

Take it to The MAX

If you haven't heard **Matt Anderson**, what are you waiting for? The blues guitarist and singer-songwriter returns to Powell River after touring with Stuart MacLean and CBC's Vinyl Café. He's at the Max Oct 5 at 7:30 pm.



Ballet Victoria dances to music from Bach to Pink Floyd at 7:30 pm on Oct 14. Iconic music of the past and present mix with an international palette of choreographers for a hard-core ballet performance.

Winnipeg-based singer/songwriter **Steve Bell** has enjoyed serious commercial success over a prolific solo career that has spanned two decades, but he has flown rather under the radar in terms of media recognition. More of a singer-songwriter than a gospel singer, he is relaxed, and, according to Root Music Canada, "his



metaphors aren't full of clouds and fire and mountains; he write of roads and fields, of laundry, and dancing." The Powell River Ministerial association presents Steve Bell's Kindness Tour at the Max on Oct 21 at 7 pm.

The Saturday morning **MET Opera** HD Live broadcasts and *Opera Insights* kick off Oct 15 at 9:55 am with *Anna Bolena*. Don't miss



Opera Insights with John Silver Oct 11 from 6 to 8 pm. Next up is *Don Giovanni*, Oct 29 at 9:55 am.

Kids of all ages will want to take in the **Halloween Family Show** on Oct 30 at 2 pm with Wells and Woodhouse vaudeville, slapstick and juggling team. Come in costume and win a prize.



Part-time "Sound" writer nominated

BC author and CBC radio personality Grant Lawrence has been nominated for a \$60,000 literary prize for his debut book, *Adventures in Solitude: What Not to Wear to a Nude Potluck and Other Stories from Desolation Sound*. The inaugural Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction honours the very best in non-fiction published each year.

Earlier this year, Lawrence was named a finalist for the Edna Staebler Award for Creative Non-Fiction and for a BC Book Prize, the Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize. He also won the Bill Duthie's Booksellers' Choice Award for best book published in BC.

"Brandy, thanks to you and everyone who helped we now have the perfect house in a warm and caring town. I know we will be very happy here in our new home and we owe you a very big thank you for all the time and help you have given us. Thank you."

— Pete & Pauline, Max & Lucky

Brandy Peterson is happy to let her clients speak for her.



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A community where dreams come true

Thank you Powell River!

Dear Powell River Living:

Every month since we moved to Powell River I have looked forward to your monthly issues...in fact I have every one since that move in May 2007.

More recently I have been a part of an amazing adventure. In your August issue my husband, Raymond Lavoie and I had contributed an article with regard to the Powell River Mobility Opportunities Society's "Garage Sale & Access-Ability Awareness Day" in our efforts to fund raise for Powell River's own TrailRider. Many others read it but there was someone special who also read that article. Kristine and her friend Julie came here from Vancouver on their own adventure visiting Powell River, Lund and Savary Island for the Labour Day long weekend.

When she returned to Vancouver, Kristine emailed PRMOS, intrigued by what we were doing and asked how the fundraising event went. We communicated back and forth, updating each other and she mentioned she would like to make a donation in honour of her Great Uncle Arvo Tuomala who had passed away earlier this year just short of his 90th birthday. He was born in Finland and lived a very active lifestyle walking, cycling and running up and down his stairs well into his 80s. Years ago he travelled to British Columbia with his older brother (Kristine's grandfather) looking for work. They were unsuccessful and returned to Ontario. BC's landscape is similar to that found in Finland and many Finns had emigrated here. I told her we were coming in to Vancouver to pick up a TrailRider on loan from British Columbia Mobility Opportunities Society on Granville Street.

It happened that she wasn't too far from there and asked if we could swing by her place so that she could see it. We did and she tried it, called her friend Julie, who also came over



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to try it out. We chatted more about how we were continuing to fund raise and what goals we had for the Powell River community. Kristine said she would like to donate funds so we could buy a TrailRider and presented us a cheque for \$4,000 towards our first one. Of course Raymond and I were blown away; it left me almost speechless — apparently not an easy thing! Kristine's donation will be acknowledged by naming the TrailRider "PRMOS 1" in honour of her Great Uncle Arvo. Kristine and Julie both have health care back-

"Raymond and I were blown away; it left me almost speechless"



grounds, one being a physiotherapist and the other an occupational therapist whose intrigue was heightened as to how the TrailRider could enhance the lives of people with physical challenges. I wanted to share this with you, Isabelle and all the amazing staff you have who help you put together *Powell River Living* each month.

Our excitement that week didn't end there. When we returned home there was a message on the answering machine from Colleen Bratseth of the Health Care Auxiliary saying they were in support of our request and had voted to purchase two TrailRiders. I'd played back the message while Raymond was in the shower—I was so emotionally excited and yelling he had no idea what was going on. We are ecstatic about how we have gone from having a dream, a goal and now a reality that TrailRiders — plural, not just

Powell River Sketches

Emma Lake

Drawing by Lowell Morris • www.LowellMorris.com

The backcountry around Powell River offers splendid alpine hiking and scenery. Fall is a good season to venture out, as the snows have usually melted over the summer, temperatures are cooler, and there are no bugs!



a single TrailRider, will be wheeled through our trails in Powell River.

Thank you *Powell River Living* and everyone else who has supported us and to Kristine and Julie for visiting and to the Health Care Auxiliary for believing in and helping Powell River achieve its goals.

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TRANSITION TOWN POWELL RIVER

When help is needed...

Count on Search & Rescue

By Isabelle Southcott

On July 6, Rhea Woodley was hiking with a group of others on Scout Mountain when she slipped and fell down a 20-foot bluff. She landed on her back, just missing a couple of large rocks. Luckily, one of the hikers had a GPS and a cell phone and they were able to call for help.

"When the Search and Rescue arrived they were laden down with ropes and gear, ready to carry her out," says Charlotte Styles who was part of Rhea's hiking group. "It was soon realized that the terrain was too difficult to do that and a helicopter was ordered."

Don McLeod has been managing Search and Rescue for the past 20 years. "I was at work when the call came in around 12:15," he says. Rhea had to be taken off the mountain by helicopter so Don worked at getting helicopter assistance for the evacuation and setting up the harnesses.

Five hours later Rhea was finally delivered to hospital in Vancouver. She had three cracked vertebra and two broken ribs.

"The whole team was wonderful," says Charlotte, "but we were especially impressed by the number of Search and Rescue people who took the time from their day and their work to come out. I think we take these people for granted. They are a very dedicated group who are drastically underfunded."

Don McLeod, a 50-something realtor, has been a volunteer with Search and Rescue since he was 16 years old. He has selflessly volunteered hundreds of hours of his time.

He remembers the very first time he went out on a search almost 40 years ago.

"I heard a call on the radio," he recalls. "They were looking for helpers to find a missing lady. I found her, floating on the breakwater."

Powell River Search and Rescue responds to a dozen or so calls a year. "We've done 11 calls so far this year," says Don.

Search and Rescue specialists are highly trained volunteers who are trained under the Justice Institute of BC. They are not paid for the time they spend training and they are not paid for the time they spend conducting searches.

Powell River has 40 members. "Fourteen is a good turnout for a call because it can be in the middle of the day when people are at work," he says.

Luckily there are some very fit retirees volunteering with Search and Rescue these days who enjoy going out in the bush.

When Don went on his first Search and Rescue mission in the early 1970s, the group was not nearly as well organized as it is today. "If they got a call out in the middle of the night in the bush they



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HELP IS HERE: Volunteer SAR manager Don McLeod oversees a rescue operation.



ON THE GROUND: After being helicoptered off Scout Mountain, Rhea Woodley was taken by ambulance to hospital in Powell River and then flown to Vancouver.



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wouldn't muster until 8 am the next morning. They hoped that the person walked out during the night."

The sooner Search and Rescue is contacted when someone goes missing, the better their chances are at finding them in good shape. "Our calls are diverse. It can be mushroom pickers, lost hunters or overdues."

GPS and Spot Messengers are inexpensive and people who go out in the bush should have these, since cell phones often don't work in the bush, Don says.

There are more than 950 incidents in BC every year with over 1,100 people involved.

This past June, a 14-year-old boy walked away from a group of 18 kayakers in Grace Harbour. He thought he knew a short cut. His group looked for him until 9:30 that night then called the RCMP who contacted Search and Rescue.

Because it was dark by the time Search and Rescue were called, they couldn't do much of a shoreline search.

"We had organized for the Coast Guard to take us out at first light but the Campbell River Coast Guard circled the area at 1:30 am and found him covered in scratches," said Don.

The boy was fine.

"The group leader was ecstatic with the work and the people involved. He was extremely ecstatic when he found out there wasn't going to be a charge."

Search and Rescue volunteers take their jobs seriously. "I have some phenomenally committed guys," says Don.

Outdoors man Randy Mitchell is Search and Rescue's main training guy while Andy Infanti is in charge of radios. Derek Poole and Don are both trained managers.

These volunteers train regularly. In addition to regular training, the rope team trains a couple of Saturdays a month. "We



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ON FOOT: Search and rescue volunteers search on foot and by air.

have six or seven guys who specialize in rope training and the rest of the crew works with them setting it up," says Don.

Powell River Search and Rescue lost a key member of its rope team recently with the death of Colin Dionne. "Luckily the rest of the rope team had trained under him," said Don. Colin was one of the rope responders to the Scout Mountain incident with Rhea in July. "I understand it was his last call out," says Charlotte.

Colin was a 12-year member. "He was one of us," says Don.

In fact, he was so highly respected by rope teams all over the province, he was

often called upon to help establish protocols for new operating procedures.

These are the committed, highly trained Search and Rescue volunteers that Powell River depends on but take for granted. These are the people who respond when a rider jumps on an ATV with another person wearing only flip flops, shorts and a tank top and are reported missing 12 hours later. These are the people who will look for a missing child or someone with dementia at any time of the day or night.

These are the highly trained volunteers of Powell River Search and Rescue who are there when you need them.

These are the people you can count on. **PR**

Before heading out on your ATV

There's more to preparing for an ATV trip than filling up the quad.

"Every year we get people who just jump on their ATV with flip flops and a summer top and head out in the bush and then get stuck out there. Cells do not work out there, and it gets dark an hour earlier in the bush," said SAR manager Don McLeod.

McLeod recommends that people go prepared with food and warm clothes, and tell someone where they're going and when they will be home.

In addition to the proper safety gear, such as helmet and pads, training on the use of an ATV is vital.

Andy Perkonig of Industrial Quality Training Services teaches ATV safety courses.

The basic course is 5 to 7.5 hours and costs \$100. You can reach Andy at 604 483-5395 or andy.perkonig@iqts.ca.

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I look forward to working with you – I can be reached at **604 485-0420**

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Never too late to learn

Getting unstuck

By *Emma Levez Larocque* • emma@powellriverliteracy.ca

If you're ever wondering whether you should take on a challenge and you're looking for a little inspiration, think about Nadine Shelton. She's a young mom of three children: Austin, 6, Annika, 3, and Isaac, 5 weeks. A year ago Nadine was working at a local sandwich joint trying to make ends meet. She realized that she needed to find a better-paying job, and in order to do that she needed to upgrade her education.

"I want to be a Residential Care Attendant, and for that I need English 12 or the equivalent," she says. "I went to VIU and enrolled in the English program and took the assessment. I was placed in Grade 10, but I failed, and I eventually stopped going. It was just too hard."

Nadine was told she had a disorder related to reading comprehension, but it wasn't anything as fancy as that. "I just couldn't read well enough to understand what was in front of me." Instead of giving up, she looked around for a tutor. Being on a tight budget, she couldn't afford to pay for one. That's when she found the CALL (Community Adult Literacy & Learning) program.

"I was so grateful to find the CALL program. They set me up with the perfect match for a tutor. At that time I had two kids and I was pregnant, so my schedule was very hectic. Georgina [Coustalin,

my tutor], has been so patient and flexible — it's a huge reason why I have gotten through this. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for her. I don't know many people who would give up their time for free to help someone they don't even know."

After six or seven months Nadine completed her Grade 10, and at the beginning of the summer she received her diploma in the mail.

"It's amazing the difference that made. It made me realize I could do it, and that it was worth it to keep trying, knowing that I had the support I needed to keep going."

Nadine started working on her Grade 11, and the day she got home from the hospital after having Isaac she received more good news: she had been nominated for, and won, a Canada Post Community Literacy Award recognizing her achievements.

"I was in disbelief; I couldn't believe that I had won!" Many of Nadine's friends and family, as well as Mayor Stewart Alsgard, Councillor Maggie Hathaway (on behalf of MLA Nicholas Simons) and Councillor Jim Palm were present at the awards ceremony. "It was great seeing how proud my mom was, and to show my kids that I had done this! To be acknowledged felt really good after trying so hard for so long."

All of this has changed the way she looks at life, Nadine says.

"Before I kind of felt stuck. I



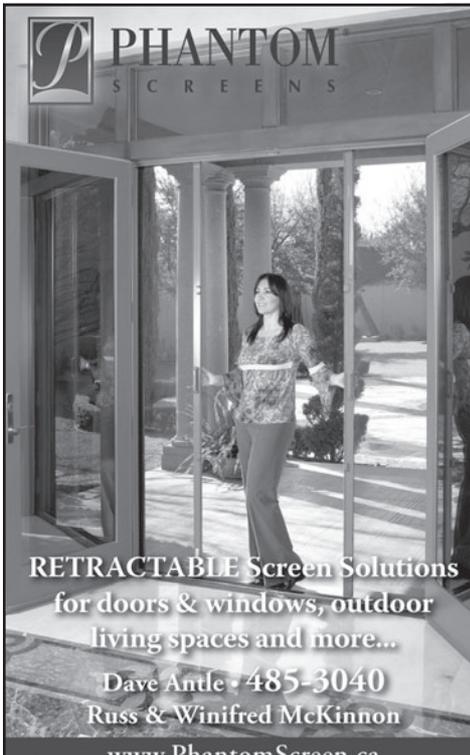
CHANGES: Nadine Shelton is taking life into her own hands, and making changes for herself, and her family.

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Re-elect
Aaron Marie Reid

didn't know what to do. You see people you went to school with, who are your age succeeding and moving on in life, and you're stuck."

Having kids was a good incentive, too. "That was one of the reasons I wanted to do it. Having children makes a huge difference in the way I make my decisions now." Nadine is looking forward to a bright future in which she will be able to help her children with their homework when they need her. And she has that Residential Care Attendant certificate directly in her line of view.

"All you can do is try," she says. "If you fail, you've got to get up and keep trying."

If you would like to know more about being a learner or tutor with the CALL Program, contact coordinator Deb Calderon at call@prepsociety.org.

Never Too Late To Learn is a literacy awareness campaign that is sponsored by the Powell River Literacy Council and Powell River Living Magazine. It focuses on adult learners in the community who strive to make Powell River a better place by strengthening their own skills while contributing to the community. If you know of an adult that would be a great feature, please contact Emma at emma@powellriverliteracy.ca.

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POWELL RIVER		
Community Health Care Workers & First Responders	Monday, October 24 4:00 pm – 7:30 pm	Powell River Community Health 3rd Floor – 5000 Joyce Avenue
Seniors Flu & Pneumo Clinics	Tuesday, October 25 Wednesday, October 26 9:30 am – 2:30 pm each day	Recreation Complex Upper Level 5001 Joyce Avenue
	Thursday, October 27 9:30 am – 2:30 pm	Cranberry Seniors Centre 6792 Cranberry Street
Everyone Welcome Clinics	Wednesday, November 2 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Evangel Church 5139 Manson Avenue
	Thursday, November 3 3:30 pm – 7:30 pm	
	Wednesday, November 9 9:30 am – 11:30 am	Cranberry Seniors Centre 6792 Cranberry Street
Family Flu Clinics For an appointment call (604) 485-3310	Friday, November 4 9:15 am – 11:30 am	
	Monday, November 7 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Powell River Community Health 3rd Floor – 5000 Joyce Avenue
TEXADA ISLAND		
Texada Flu & Pneumo Clinic	Friday, October 28 10:00 am – 2:00 pm	OAP Room Gillies Bay, Texada

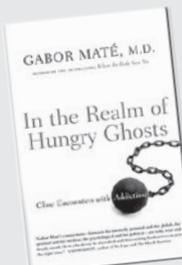
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Physician, activist and bestselling author of multiple books including *In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters with Addiction*; *Hold on to Your Kids*; *When the Body Says No*; and *Scattered Minds*.



I encourage students experiencing emotional pain not to attempt to self-medicate with drugs but to seek help from caring and capable adults. Dr Maté

4children.ca presents

Dr Gabor Maté

Dr Maté's research suggests that trauma, addiction & healing may have deep roots in a child's early years. Dr Maté will be speaking on his bestselling book *In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts*, focusing on trauma, addiction and healing. He has an incredible presentation regarding addictions and their possible causes.

Where: Evergreen Theatre at the Complex
5001 Joyce Avenue, Powell River, BC

When: Monday, November 7, 2011
(Full day, including lunch)

Cost: Regular \$135; Group rate (10+) \$100 each

Deadline: October 14 for regular & group rates
Late registration \$175

Pre-registration required. Register online at www.4children.ca

The relationship between emotional stress and disease, and mental health and physical health, is often considered controversial within medical orthodoxy. Dr Maté argues that too many physicians seem to have forgotten what was once a common assumption: that emotions are deeply implicated in both the development of illness, addictions and disorders, and in their healing.

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Play ball!

Texada Island player sets sights on big leagues

Baseball is opening some big doors for Clayton Isherwood.

Clayton began playing baseball with his father Terry Woods and grandfather Glyn Isherwood in his backyard on Texada Island.

Clayton was seven years old when he first began playing with Powell River Minor Baseball. "I've always been a pitcher," he said. "As soon as I picked up a ball I knew."

When he entered junior high school, Clayton began playing baseball in Comox with the Blizzards. "Just because it was a higher level of baseball and it was more challenging."

As Clayton's game improved, more and more opportunities came his way. He began spending weekends in Comox

League along with Powell Riverite Josh Croft, who plays shortstop.

In October 2010, Clayton was selected to play for Team Canada. Since being named to the Canadian Junior National Team, Clayton has been on three trips with Team Canada, one to Florida, one to



Clayton
ISHERWOOD
Pitcher

BORN • 5 May 1994
DRAFT ELIGIBLE • 2012

THROWS Left
BATS Left
HEIGHT 6'-1"
WEIGHT 170 lbs
FAV. TEAM Toronto Blue Jays

AWARDS

- Pitcher of the Year, 2011 BC Premier Baseball League
- Rookie of the Year, 2010 BC Premier Baseball League
- Gold Medal, Bantam National Championships
- Gold Medal, Peewee Western Championships



WINDING UP FOR THE BIGS: Clayton Isherwood pitches for the Canadian Junior National Team; he will attract attention from the big leagues when he becomes draft eligible next year.

but because of school, he couldn't make the mid-week practices. "When summer started, I stayed with a player friend over there so I could go to practice during the week."

These days Clayton plays for the Parksville Royals of the Premier Baseball

Cuba and one to the Dominican Republic.

In Florida last year, he played against the prospects squad for his favourite team, the Blue Jays.

He has his sights on playing in the big leagues someday soon, and, according to his coaches, it's a very real possibility.

"I've had a few university and colleges talk to me and offer scholarships," he said. At the present he is undecided but he's thinking about going to Houston because it is one of the top colleges in the United States and he's been offered a full scholarship there.

"I'm hoping to go to college for two years and then get drafted to a major league baseball team," said Clayton.

There's a lot of pressure on a pitcher. "The pitcher pretty much controls the game and the pace of everything," said Clayton.

This past summer, both Clayton and Josh played for Team BC at the Canada Cup in Moncton, NB. **PRL**



Not your average renovation

Labour of love

By Isabelle Southcott • isabelle@priving.ca

In 1984 Rob Higgin drove by a house near Donkersley Beach and thought, "I could do something with this house... this would be a fun project."

But the house he liked wasn't for sale and Rob wasn't in the market for a house.

Ten years later, when Rob's father wanted to invest in a piece of property, it was. "I called Vince Hernandez (realtor) and Vince said I've got two properties for sale but you probably won't like one of them."

Turns out the one Vince thought Rob wouldn't like was the one he liked the best.

In 1994 Rob bought the house that is now called Higgin's Inn. "That was my first foray into being a landlord and having tenants. Turns out I wasn't very good at it."

The house Rob bought was built in 1956 as a one and a half-storey home at the bottom of Courtenay Street on Willingdon Avenue. It was owned by Caesar Piazza at the time.

When the City put in the north boat harbour parking lot, Caesar's house had to go and so he barged it south to Donkersley and put it on a lot on Douglas Bay Road. Then he added a main floor to the house.

Well, sort of.

"The main floor had perimeter walls and a concrete floor. It was a big, vacant open place that he used for storage. There was no drywall or plumbing," says Rob.

Caesar lost heart with the house after health authorities wouldn't let him develop it further and put it up for sale.

"The house had three suites and there were some tenants. Sometimes they were rented, sometimes not."

Soon after buying the place, Rob discovered there were water



MASTER AND HIS CANVAS: Rob Higgin has been renovating his house near Donkersley Beach since 1994. Today this house operates as an Inn.

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issues. "In the summer there often wasn't enough water." In 1998, Rob and his family sold their home in Wildwood to move to Higgin's Inn full time. "We knew we had to do something about the water so we put in a \$10,000 sewage treatment system."

Then he plumbed, insulated, drywalled and finished the ground floor so he and his family could live in that space. Luckily, Rob is a carpenter and he had two sons to help with the work.

"In early 2000 a big storm blew my roof right off. The whole top floor was exposed to this southeast storm that was pounding in on us. I called Pat Hull at 11 pm at night and said: 'I need a big tarp!'"

Rob met Pat at the Powell River RONA store that night and bought a huge tarp. The wind was still blowing fiercely when Rob turned to go. "Pat said: 'I'm coming with you,'" Rob told *Powell River Living*.

They arrived back at Rob's house and the two went up on the roof and were trying to devise a way to fasten the tarp down with strapping. But the wind was blowing too hard and Rob was scared it would pick the tarp up like a sail and take them both off the roof.

"Finally I said to Pat, on the count of three we'll unroll the tarp to windward." They did and the wind laid it flat for them to nail the strapping down. Mission accomplished. To this day, Rob can't thank Pat enough for his help that night.

"What a friend."

After the storm died down Rob assessed the damage. "The top floor had never been built right in the first place. The windows leaked, it was depressing the ceiling joist below."

Rob decided there was no point throwing good money after bad and that he was going to do things right. "Now was the



ENTER: Like most of Higgin's Inn, even the doors are unique.

time to do a renovation and extend the roof," he said.

Rob added a concrete foundation and support beams. "Before doing the foundation, we had the whole front yard excavated. We removed 30 truck loads of dirt in order to create a level entry and a nice front yard."

For the next four years, everything was an excavated mess. "There was dirt everywhere. I added 18 feet to the top roof. I stripped it off completely so the new roof extended 18 feet past the old roof and that allowed me to have covered sundecks."

The object was to keep the weather away from the front of the house so the winter storms couldn't wreak havoc.

Rob used torch on roofing because "it

is like dinosaur skin." Between 2000 and 2005, the focus was on the front of the house and the top.

In 2005 Rob had to go to Calgary to work, so for two years, nothing happened in terms of renovations.

"I was working for a guy in Calgary who said he'd underwrite the finishing of the house if I'd agree to work for him permanently. At the time it looked like my best option so I agreed to it."

Rob came back to Powell River to do the renovation work. He went another \$140,000 in debt believing he had financing in order. "Then the guy in Calgary decided the project was too big and it would take me too long and he decided not to underwrite me."

Now Rob had "debts all over town," that he needed to deal with.

"So I went looking for financing and the Credit Union came to my rescue and financed it. To this day I do not know why but they stepped up to the plate and said 'We will see you through.'"

With the help of the First Credit Union, Rob was able to meet their construction schedule and finish the renovations to sufficient standards. "But there are still lots of things to do around here.... I have been working on it as the money comes in."

These days all that remains of the original house are the outside walls on the second floor and the roof edges.

The three storey Higgin's Inn consists of 4,500 square feet of "heated space" under the roof plus additional covered sundeck space for each suite.

This past summer was the first summer that Rob operated the property as an Inn. "The best part was the people I got to meet. Having people with their feet under my table in the morning gives you a

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BRIGHT BATHROOM: The bathroom in this three-bedroom suite is spacious and well-lit.



DETAILS: The smallest details, such as the brass edging on the kitchen counters, have been taken into consideration.

window on the world.”

Rob enjoys the yard work the most. “The yard is the other part that is really my love. I planted 22 trees, birches, fruit trees, a Lombardi, poplar and mountain ash.”

Rob has held some concerts and workshops at Higgin’s Inn. “We had Shari Ulrich here for two concerts. We had Jonathan Byrd and Raymond Corin. Jadea Kelly and Sara Fitzpatrick on the violin. We had The Francois Bourassa jazz quartet here as part of our home concert series.”

He’d like to do more concerts this fall and winter featuring local talent.

“This has been a labour of love,” he says pointing to cottonwood kitchen cupboards made with wood that he and his daughter Theresa salvaged from the beach. “It’s been a family project—one that was a challenge all the way through.”

Next summer, Higgin’s Inn will have two suites available for rent. There’s also a workshop and boat building shop where you can build a boat and pull the floors out to lower the boat downstairs onto a trailer.

“A good renovation is definitely a labour of love,” he says. “I had no idea where this journey would lead but I have no regrets.” **R/L**

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Bright & BOLD

Economy influences decorating

By Isabelle Southcott
isabelle@prliving.ca

Did you know that during a recession colours trend towards stronger, brighter tones?

Deb Vanderkemp, owner of Pebble Beach Creations, says that bright colours make people feel happier and more optimistic. “Bright colours trigger us to buy more, they give us permission to purchase. Browns, grays and blacks do not.”

Glenda Behan, who works at Pebble Beach laughs. “I guess that’s why I just bought a new purple sweater,” she says.

Vibrant colours started making a subtle come back in 2008. The colours were muted and appeared in muddy tones at first before they became clearer and more vibrant. Bright colours didn’t appear overnight. “You saw the colours coming back in a subtler version at first like smoky amethyst and then they slowly introduced the vibrant colours back until they became more and more saturated.”

Before that everything was urban chic with blacks, browns and lots of grays.

And fabrics? Well they have a punch now too.

Deb has some great advice for people who decorated their house pre recession with lots of grays and beiges. “Now, just add those hits of colour!”

Hit of colour

In fact, Deb had a customer in the other day who had a beige living room. “She said she needed something bright and so she bought a bunch of bright pillows.”

Simple, says Deb, yet highly effective.

Patterns and colour

Prints are popular too. “Before the recession, there were no prints. Everything was monochromatic and there was no texture. Now

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Powell River

we're seeing lots of patterns in large-scale prints and not small fussy ones. And it is in the patterns that you will find colour."

"The texture," says Deb, "can be found in the neutral colours like browns, beiges and grays."

Bones of a room

"If I am doing a living room, I like the bones of the room to be a neutral," says Deb. "It's easier to change a little chair than it is to reupholster an entire sofa or sectional."

You can add colour on an accent wall, with your drapes or with an area rug. And when you redecorate, it is important to look at the different levels in a room—the floor, wall and ceiling.

Stay current but...

Believe it or not, there's a difference between being trendy and staying current. "You want to keep current but you do not want to be so trendy that you are changing everything every five years. Keep the bones of your room neutral," Deb advises, "and accessorize in bright colours."

A touch of glamour

"Accessories are a little more glamorous than they used to be and that give us a good sense of personal worth. When you have pretty things around you, you tend to feel better about yourself."

Light fixtures

Ten years ago light fixtures were black iron and smoky glass. "Look at them today!" said Deb. "They are beautiful. They

sparkle and have gold finishes. They look like an art object. They have glamour."

Style shift

In the last three or four years there has been a dramatic swing from one style to another. "It's probably due to the economy," says Deb. "In 2005 we had Tuscan with wrought iron and the earthy organic look and then the recession hit and everything trended towards brighter colours with more sparkle and greater clarity."

Believe it not, Powell River is not years and years behind the rest of the world when it comes to home decorating. "People think that Powell River is five years behind when it comes to home décor, but we aren't," says Deb. "I have Kravet's (the largest textile supplier and manufacturer in the world) just released a fabric collection here in the store." [PR](#)



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Who has the ugliest bedroom in Powell River? Is it you? Your neighbour? Your mother-in-law?

Boy! Do we have a contest for you!

Send us a photo, or two, or even three, of your ugly bedroom to enter it in the *Ugly Bedroom Makeover Contest!*



All you have to do is email your photos to isabelle@prliving.ca and you could win paint from Sunshine Décor (Benjamin Moore paint) and the expert advice of Powell River interior designer Deb Vanderkemp.

This contest is open to homes located within the Powell River Regional District.

C'mon and get those photos in! **Contest closes November 10.** To find out more, give us a call at *Powell River Living Magazine* at 604 485-0003. [PR](#)



Anything can be fixed Even a pink fireplace

By Brandy Peterson

My grandparents recently moved into a new home that needed some fixing up. One thing on the list to improve was the rock fireplace that had been painted over in a drastic, Pepto-Bismol, kind of pink. As a house warming gift I offered to paint over the pink and restore the natural rock look. After great customer service from Julie Howes at Benjamin Moore, I set out with eight small tester cans of latex paint, an inexpensive paint brush, a sea sponge, a few paper plates and a magazine picture of a beautiful rock fireplace. I began at 9:30 pm and experimented with putting different colours on different rocks. Once the colours were just about right, I dabbed on some complimentary shades ovetop to give dimension to the rock. I finished by lightly brushing white around the rock edges define the transition. I was back at home and happy with the outcome by midnight. [PR](#)

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Nine fall fix-ups for you to take on

When the temperature drops and days get shorter, we begin shifting our focus from outside home improvement projects to inside ones. Because your home is also a major investment, it makes good sense to protect that investment. Here are some projects that will help you get your home ready for winter.



CHECK FOR ROOF LEAKS

Roof leaks always seem to happen at the most inconvenient times — such as in the middle of a winter storm. Roofs seldom leak from worn out shingles but rather problems usually arise from a loose shingle or a gap in the flashing where the roof and the chimney meet.

To find roof leaks before they happen, inspect your roof thoroughly using a flashlight. Climb up into the attic where plumbing vents or the chimney meets the roof. From the outside, inspect the same area with binoculars or go up on the roof and see if there are missing shingles or loose flashing or worn out plumbing vent boots.

TEST SMOKE ALARMS & CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

Most house fires occur during the fall and winter so now is a good time of year to test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. It is a good idea to vacuum or dust detectors to remove dust and grime and replace old batteries with new ones. You should get in the habit of “testing” your alarms monthly by pushing the test button to make sure they are in working order. If you still do not have a carbon monoxide detector, go buy at least one and put it near the bedrooms since most carbon monoxide poisonings take place at night.



SERVICE YOUR HOME HEATING SYSTEM

Did you know that as much as half of the energy used in your home goes to heating and cooling? That’s why it makes sense to make smart decisions about your home’s heating and ventilating systems.

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Increasing your insulation is fairly easy to do and probably the cheapest way to reduce home heating costs. Most homes don’t have nearly enough insulation. It is

recommended that you have at least 19-inch deep batt insulation or 22-inch deep blown in insulation.



CAULKING

It is a good idea to inspect the caulk around windows and doors in the fall. If you find some have failed, re-caulk. If your doors do not have a firm, tight seal when they close, install weather stripping.

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A programmable thermostat is ideal for people who are away from home during set periods of time because it puts them in control of their home’s temperature and energy consumption. You will reduce your winter heating bills by at least 10 % by using a programmable thermostat to implement a heating schedule that allows your house to cool down at night or when

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you are away and warm up before you wake up or return home.

TURN OFF THE OUTSIDE WATER VALVES

If you forget to turn off your exterior water valves you could have a mess on your hands as water leaks and burst pipes are no fun! Get in the habit of turning off all those exterior water valves you used during the summer to water your garden



now! Another good idea is to turn off the main water valve whenever you leave your home for a few days or more. This will limit potential pipe breaks when temperatures drop below freezing.

CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS

Clear your gutters and downspouts of debris like leaves and twigs and repair any problems you find.



CHECK YOUR CHIMNEY

Inspect your chimney annually and have it cleaned if necessary. Newer wood stoves cause less build-up in the chimney than their predecessors. If your chimney check shows a clean pipe, congratulate yourself on efficient burning. If not, it may be time for an efficiency upgrade—both for your pocketbook and wood supply, and for the environment. **RL**

Fire Prevention Week

October 9 to 15, 2011

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- Had your central heating system cleaned & inspected?



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Bathroom gets face lift

Making the most of our space

by Isabelle Southcott • isabelle@prliving.ca

As the before photo of this bathroom shows, it needed a total reno. Not only were the avocado green toilet, tub and sink at the end of their life span, they were butt ugly. A washer and dryer had been housed in the bathroom and we decided to move it to another part of the house in order to open up the space.

The bathroom had been finished in wood paneling which had been painted green. The paneling was removed and it was dry-walled and painted. A new floor was installed.



The sink, cabinet, toilet and bathtub surround were purchased from Valley Building in Powell River. The flooring was purchased from Rona's Flooring Centre. The fixtures came from Pete's Plumbing, all here in Powell River. [PR](#)



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Powell River Living BUSINESS Connections

By Kim Miller • office@powellriverchamber.com

Taw's Embroidery & Promotional Products on Marine Avenue now offers customers apparel alterations, such as zippers, hems, waist adjustments and more. Stop by Taws Cycle & Sports and see Shelley Monday to Friday 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Robin Zohner has opened **Serendipity Pet Spaw & Boutique** with Lex Smith as groomer. Both love animals and Lex has been a dog groomer for a long time. All dogs at their spaw will get a mini-massage, and toenails will be buffed rather than given a straight cut. Dogs may also be given Reiki. They are using natural, botanical shampoos and have playpens for the dogs to wait in. The Spaw is located on Alberni Street beneath Breakwater Books. For more info call 604 485-6390.

Katrin Roth von Szepesbela is joining **Villani & Company** as an Associate Counsel. Katrin holds a degree in Banking & Finance and a Bachelor of Laws degree. She is presently working towards her Master of Laws degree specializing in out-of-court dispute resolution. Katrin's law practice includes business law, wills and estates, real estate, family law, administrative law, employment law, civil litigation, and dispute resolution. In addition, Katrin is a mediator and offers mediation, arbitration, individual or group conflict coaching, ombuds services, neutral fact-finding investigations, collaborative law, restorative justice, custom conflict management & dispute resolution seminars, and workplace policy drafting.

The Powell River Chamber of Commerce will host an evening **Business Mixer** on Oct 19 at the Town Centre Hotel from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. There will time for socializing, networking and in general meeting folks in business. Everyone is welcome. Cost is \$5 for members at the door.

Don't miss the Chamber's **luncheon** at 12 noon Friday November 18. Called, Grow your Business by Cultivating the Peace within You, you will discover ways to enhance your creativity and find new ways of breathing life into your business. Tickets are \$15. Please RSVP by calling Kim Miller at the Chamber office at 604 485-4051.

Beauty & Bliss Photography, owned and operated by Candace Roadknight, is a photography studio that specializes in custom, artistic outdoor portraiture for children, teens, and young adults. Candace can be reached at beautyblissphoto@gmail.com.

The Chamber's newest member, **Whistler Air**, sees an opportunity in Powell River and has established two trips a day between Powell River (Shinglemill on Powell Lake) and downtown Vancouver (Coal Harbor). Owner/operator Mike Quinn says the direct float plane service will take up to nine passengers and luggage. Based out of Whistler and established about 26 yrs ago, Mike says he hopes one day to set up a more permanent home in Powell River. Call 1-888-806-2299 for reservations or more info.

A new book in the series Coastal British Columbia Stories has been released by Powell River Books and is available in local bookstores now. Local author, Wayne Lutz's latest book, **Farther Up the Strait**, the Strait of Georgia serves as the backdrop for boating adventures on the nearby chunk. The Kindle e-book version and other e-book formats are available on-line. For more info visit www.powellriverbooks.com or attend a book signing at Coles on Oct. 14 from 1-5 pm.

Anita Dobbins has opened **The Green Room Beauty & Spa** on McLean Road. She offers manicures, pedicures, Swedish, sports and aromatherapy massage, facials and make-up. For more info visit thegreenroombeautyandspa@hotmail.com or phone 604 487-1427. 

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ENGLISH SUBTITLES
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Business retention and expansion

Info base in the works

By Scott Randolph • srandolph@prreds.com

Organizations concerned with the development of business and employment in the Powell River region haven't had a solid source of information on the health of companies in the region. Often analysis of the local business climate is based on Census Stats (which are usually dated or too general) or using anecdotal information. Another common occurrence is that local agencies find they have to 'react' to obstacles that will affect business and employment levels instead of being 'proactive,' dealing with issues before they arise.

To answer to these issues, the Powell River Regional Economic Development Society in partnership with the Powell River Community Futures Development Corporation and Powell River and District Chamber of Commerce is undertaking a Business Retention and Expansion program in the region. Interviews will be done with companies in the area utilizing the Executive Pulse Software provided through the BC Business Counts program to gain a better insight into the challenges, constraints and opportunities so we can better assist and foster local business expansion. The interviews will primarily be conducted with companies in the following sectors:

- Manufacturing
- Professional Services
- Resource Extraction
- Tourism & Hospitality
- Retail/Commercial
- Construction & Trades
- Agriculture
- Public Sector

The interviews will cover topics such as human resources, land requirements, financing and other support needs. Information generated in the interviews will be inputted into the Executive Pulse program, which will give local development agencies and government the ability to properly analyze the health of business in the region and identify emerging issues. The interview process will also help identify specific issues businesses are experiencing so they can be immediately referred to the appropriate agency to provide assistance.

The Business Retention and Expansion program is not a one-time project, but rather a continual process, that will be run long into the future. **PR**

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Chamber sign helps unite the coast

Working together for business

By Isabelle Southcott • isabelle@prliving.ca

The opening of a new visitor information park on the lower Sunshine Coast is a recent example of how our Chamber of Commerce organizations are working together for the benefit of the entire coast.

The Gibsons and District Chamber of Commerce spent over a year working on the new park located at the bypass into Gibsons. A previously uninhabited area was transformed into a landscaped Visitor Information Park which now serves as a backdrop for visitors to read maps of the region and look at unique offerings in each area of the Sunshine Coast. As well, there are convenience facilities, vehicle and bicycle rest areas, park benches and local information.

Kim Miller, manager at the Powell River Chamber of Commerce, spent a recent day with the Gibsons reps touring them around Powell River and meeting with organizations, business people and local government representatives. "The Gibsons Visitors Park and most importantly the sig-

nage, will be instrumental in enticing folks to come further up the coast. It has been our pleasure to be involved with this project," said Kim.

"The panel board, encompassed in a beautiful log structure, is a visual display of ads, community events and festivals that take place on the entire Sunshine Coast," said Michele Platje-Devlin, president of the Gibsons and District Chamber.

"The park invites visitors to stop and access more information, orientate themselves and view highlighted places of interest, businesses and services," she added.

Two panels at the visitor information sign cover the map of Powell River and area. Powell River events are also included on the community board in the event listing section.

"The Sunshine Coast needs to work together. We thought it was important to work with Powell River on this project," said Michele.

She said there has been increased com-

munity integration and participation between all the communities on the Sunshine Coast in the last year and a half. "The Visitor Bureaus are now working together to market the entire Sunshine Coast and because of this they have more buying power."

The travel ambassadors promote the entire Sunshine Coast on BC Ferries. "So when people come off the ferry they are met by a cohesive representation of the entire Sunshine Coast in the form of a map and community board. They can see the Sunshine Coast in its entirety because it is all mapped out and easy to find!"

Michele hopes that in the future the Lower Sunshine Coast and the Upper Sunshine Coast can share speakers and business resources which will ultimately lead to more opportunities to work together.

To learn more about the Visitor Centre Information Park project or sponsorship opportunities please email Michele at exec@gibsonschamber.com. 

The weather was great for our
3rd Annual Carnival for Kids
 The **Kiwanis Club of Powell River** would like to thank our co-sponsors Quality Foods/Marshall Hrynyk, Soap Box Derby crew of Andy McLeod, Kim Martin, Joe Huetzelmann, and The City of Powell River. Huge thanks also go to our crew, volunteers and our unsung heroes. Without you we couldn't have done it.

We would also like to Thank:

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We apologize if we have missed anyone.

Proceeds go to Kiwanis Club of Powell River.
Watch for next year's Carnival and Race on May 27.



Powell River Regional Economic Development Society
salutes
SMALL BUSINESS
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All in the family

Growing up with A&W

By Tracey Ellis

You know you grew up in Powell River if a family treat was a trip to the A&W drive-in in the old Chevy where dad had a papa burger, mom a mama burger and you got a baby burger with a baby root beer. Eating in the car was the best and I have fond memories of the car-hop girls bringing the food to our car and hanging the tray filled with food and frosty mugs of root beer on our window. How cool was that?

Nicki Lister was one of those car hop girls at the old Powell River A&W Drive-In. Now she and her husband Matt are the owners of Powell River's A&W Restaurant.

"Not only did I carhop at the old A&W, Matt and I met there," says Nicki. Keeping things family, Nicki's mother worked at A&W too. "I found an old pay stub of hers from 1969," says Nicki. Back then the going rate for a car-hop was 25 cents per hour. "We were an A&W family growing up," adds Nicki. "It's always been part of my life."

And Nicki stayed with her A&W family throughout her career, becoming an area manager in the Lower Mainland where she oversaw the running of six to eight A&W restaurants at any given time.

Then the call came from Powell River and Nicki saw an opportunity. "The old owners were looking to retire and asked me if we wanted to buy the restaurant. I called my husband at his workplace to ask him what he thought of the idea. The answer was one-word: "Sure!"

"I never would have thought how life takes you," says Nicki. "Opportunities happen—good opportunities like living in this beautiful place." While she says she was happy to leave Powell River to grow and learn, she says she really appreciates coming back.

"Now we can say we have that balance between our home life and work life," adds Matt.

And just like we cruised the 'Dub when we were teens, the turnouts Thursday evenings in the summer welcome everyone



WE'LL DRINK TO THAT: When Matt & Nicki Lister discovered the Powell River A&W was for sale they jumped at the opportunity.

for food and fun whether they arrive in classic cars, custom wheels, vintage cars or trucks or on motorcycles. Cruisin' the 'Dub Club members flash their club card to get the special of the week. This informal club consists of an email network of members dedicated to the cause of cruisin'. During the third week of August A&W kicks it up a notch with Cruisin' for a Cause, raising \$2,000 locally and over \$1 million from the A&W family across Canada. "We had 64 cars turn up this year and we couldn't be more thankful for the support Powell River showed for our cause—the MS Society of Canada."

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affiliated with A&W in the United States), the Listers are part of a large family indeed. And they carry on the tradition of family in their employees: from grandma to teen, their family represents our family. "We keep a positive work environment," says Nicki, who keeps a special place in her heart for the teens who work at A&W. "We offer them key positions to help them build a good resume for when they go away to school." And the Listers see some of them off on their journey with a scholarship.

It all starts with the root beer. That frosty mug filled with happiness. I was keen for my Australian husband to try it out when he first arrived in Canada. "Ugh!" he exclaimed. "It tastes like gargle!" But he was quickly converted and now loves root beer as much as I do. Reactions from tourists can be mixed, Nicki admits. But sipping a frosty mug with the Great Root Bear is just part of the Canadian experience for many.

We all have our favourites, whether it's the Teen Burger, Papa, Mama Burger or any other choice in the family of burgers, there's just something about the way they're made that brings me back to my childhood each time I bite into one. And when I think of onion rings...well, there really are only A&W onion rings, aren't

there? But there's been some family members missing all these years and A&W recently brought them into the fold: The Uncle Burger with its premium cut of five ounces of sirloin beef and cheddar cheese with a new sauce complemented by red onion. Most recently, A&W introduced a great new taste combination worthy of the name Grandma, a prime rib burger.

"It has to be really special to be called a Grandma Burger," says Nicki. "Grandmas are traditionally the anchor of any family." Grandma comes with a tangy side of horseradish sauce and is topped with caramelized onions and au jus sauce.

"The flavour just bursts in your mouth," says Matt. "It's so good!" And good is delivered starting with breakfast from 6 am to 11:30 am, but you can order burgers and fries from 6 a.m. to midnight. Something my three-year-old son will be happy to know, as he's a dedicated French fry guy.

What's next on the menu? We'll just have to wait and watch for a new menu idea in the coming months. "We have an idea what it is," says Matt, "but we'll just have to wait and see."

Cue the Great Root Bear and the tuba: Ba-Dum, Ba-Dum, Bump, Ba-Dum Ba-Dum-Dum.... **PRL**



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Exit opportunities

A matchmaking service for business

Between 2011 and 2016, nearly 4,000 Vancouver Island area business owners will be asking: “What do I do with my business when I retire?” More than a thousand will close down. Two thousand hope to sell but haven’t yet begun the process. If all these business owners closed down, more than 9,000 jobs would be lost.

“I see this as a train coming down the tracks and it’s going to hit small communities in drastic ways,” Evelyn Clark, Venture Connect project coordinator, said at a recent Powell River Chamber of Commerce luncheon. “You can expect 25% fewer shops and services in the future in the Vancouver Island Coastal Region.”

The impact these statistics have on the local economy is staggering. Recognizing what was in store, a regional initiative headed up by Community Futures in Port Alberni, began working on this issue.

“In a nutshell, we want to assist people in the region who are buying or selling a business,” said Pam Krompocker, Executive Director of Powell River Community Futures.

Small business succession is consistently identified as a key issue for business owners. Without a succession plan, small business owners can lose return on their investments and leave the communities where they operate without the services and jobs they depend on.

A new pilot project called Exit Opportunities, will help keep established businesses, and the jobs they create, by helping business owners in passing on their expertise to eager entrepreneurs. Exit Opportunities will link interested business purchasers to small business owners who are in the process of, or thinking about, exiting their business.

The Venture Connect team works to match business opportunities to new business leaders. Clark says her Ven-

ture Connect team offers a wide variety of services to assist business owners sell. “They also help buyers work through the challenge of buying a small business. If you don’t know how much your business is worth, where to find a buyer or seller or what the next steps are for your business, Venture Connect can coach you through all that and more!”

In Powell River, there are 30 businesses for sale. Many of those business owners wish to retire and if they can’t sell their business they will simply end up closing the doors. “We are trying to help the next generation by putting businesses in their hands,” said Krompocker.

Some of the businesses that will be for sale are essential services.

People interested in self-employment will be encouraged to look at an existing business that is for sale instead

of starting a brand new business. “If it is an established business and it’s successful, you have a better chance of making it work,” said Krompocker. Like a matchmaking service for people, Venture Connect matches up people interested in starting or buying a business with an existing business that is for sale.

Instead of entrepreneurs going it alone, Venture Connect gives buyers and sellers resources to use including a website; buyer-seller matching; training, planning, coordination and support. “This is not a free service,” said Krompocker.

Venture Connect is a one year project and a partnership between the Province, Island Coastal Economic Trust and Island Coastal Community Futures, who will deliver the project on central and northern Vancouver Island, Powell River, the Sunshine Coast and Howe Sound. [PR](#)



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Time to plant

By Jonathan van Wiltenburg • edenhort@gmail.com



What a season!

As gardeners, we always love to grumble at the weather. I don't know if Mother Nature was playing a practical joke, but the weather has been peculiar this summer. One of the nastiest springs on record was followed by a 6-8 week period of 'real' summer weather, leaving little to be desired on the gardening front.

What championed in the garden this year? You guessed it: stuff that likes it cool. Fabulous peas, cabbage, beets, and carrots were the obvious. Lettuce also did exceptionally well with the best lettuce year I have had. Unfortunately these were not the high stakes bragging species, but definitely something to be grateful for. Happy gardening!

October Priorities

1 Finish up harvesting of summer fruit and vegetables. Store everything well and it will last well into winter.

2 Autumn is the time for planting. If you were thinking of making an addition to the garden now is the time.

3 Early October will be your last chance to rejuvenate the lawn. Do your aerating, topdressing, liming and overseeding.

4 If you have leftover compost mulch, apply to areas of the garden that could use a boost of organic matter.

5 Plant out the remaining winter vegetable transplants in the hothouse or cold frames.

6 If you have areas with bare soil, sow in a good winter cover crop to preserve your garden nutrients and soil structure.

7 Get that garlic in! The earlier you put the cloves in, the more likely they will establish quality roots before the winter.

8 Begin planning out. Remember that you also inter-plant with different early spring flowering annuals and biennials, such as forget-me-nots, English daisies and wallflowers. [P.L.](#)

Jonathan van Wiltenburg has a degree in horticulture and runs Eden Horticulture Services. You can reach him at edenhort@gmail.com.

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Nov 5-7, 12-14	Weekend Casino Trip • Lower Mainland
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Art on The Rock

Textiles, pottery, painting and more

For nearly a decade Maya Pawlak lived part-time on Texada Island. Everything about the place—the scenic beauty, pristine environment and the artistic community—kept her coming back each year. Oh, and there was the gallery she frequented, too.

Over the course of eight years Maya divided her time, living part time on Texada Island and the rest of the year in Vancouver. She became a frequent visitor at the Holtenwood Gallery.

She enjoyed poking around the gallery so much that she bought it 2009. When asked what was so attractive about Holtenwood Gallery she explained that it was the unique local art and relaxed atmosphere that kept her coming back.

“I’ve always wanted to own a gallery with a small coffee shop,” says Maya.

Buying the business was an easy fit for Maya; it also was a natural extension of her employment history, interests and passion for art. “Customer service, good coffee and a solid inventory of distinctive local art keep folks coming back,” she says.

Holtenwood Gallery represents about 50 local, Sunshine Coast and Lower Mainland artists.

“Ninety-five percent of our inventory is local art,” says Maya.

Their work includes pottery, paintings and prints and jewelry. We also carry infused glass creations and a unique beach glass collection.”

While there is no shortage of unique art, maintaining a steady stream of visitors from outside Texada is the main challenge facing the business.

Holtenwood Gallery has had visitors from all around the world as well as from locations all across Canada. The Gallery is located close to the Blubber Bay Ferry terminal, making it a convenient place to visit while waiting for the next sailing.

When asked what makes people want to visit Holtenwood Gallery, Maya pointed out a number of factors that include convenience, beauty, a restful atmosphere and current and upcoming art shows.

“People come here for coffee and to chat. When it isn’t too busy I can sit and chat with them, too,” she said.

But it is the work of talented artisans that truly sets this place aside. Twice a year visitors are treated to shows featuring the local crafts persons and musicians that make Texada Island a magnet for lovers of fine art.

Holtenwood’s last show featured an artist who works in textiles and plans are under development for expanded concerts and exhibits.

“We’re always looking for new things to display,” Maya says. “And we’re open to developing new events, including music.”

Holtenwood is closed in January. The gallery has limited hours from late fall through November but is open in December. **RR**

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Powell River Living COMMUNITY Calendar **OCT 2011**

- Oct 5:** Blue artist singer/songwriter Matt Anderson at the Max Cameron Theatre at 7:30 pm.
- Oct 7:** Ang Li piano performance at the Academy Concert Hall at 7:30 pm.
- Oct 10:** Blessing of Pets, 11 am at the Townsite Anglican Church. All are welcome!
- Oct 14:** Ballet Victoria at the Max Cameron Theatre dancing to music from Bach to Pink Floyd at 7:30 pm.
- Oct 15:** Met Opera HD Live broadcast of Anna Bolena at 9:55 am.
- Oct 15:** Home Grown Potluck Community Feast from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Foursquare Gospel Church Hall at 4640 Manson Avenue. For more info call 604 483-9052 or email transitionpowellriver@gmail.com.
- Oct 20:** Community Futures annual open house from 5 to 7 pm on the second floor of 4717 Marine Avenue.
- Oct 21-23:** Sunshine Coast Art Crawl with 108 open galleries, studios and more from Langdale to Lund. Visit www.sunshinecoastartcrawl.com.
- Oct 21:** Marnie Reckenberg soprano with the Academy Chamber Choir at the Academy Concert Hall at 7:30 pm.
- Oct 21:** Singer/songwriter Steve Bell's Kindness Tour stops at the Max Cameron theatre at 7 pm. Presented by the Powell River Ministerial Association.
- Oct 21 & 22:** The Final Haunt at Henderson. The twisted maze of heart pounding scares begins at 6:30 pm both days. Bring your primal scream and join the dark shadows, if you dare. Silent auction, child minding service, concession & more. Only \$5/head
- Oct 22:** Photo workshop with Darren Robinson. Intimate Sunshine Coast explores the world of macro and close-up photography. 1pm-5pm. Visit darrenrobinsonphotography.com for info.
- Oct 22:** Pacific Salmon Foundation annual gala dinner and auction at Dwight Hall. Reception and silent auction at 5:30 pm. Dinner by chef David Bowes at 7 pm, live auction at 8:30 pm. Tickets at Marine Traders and Powell River Outdoors for \$50 per person.
- Oct 22:** 74th anniversary of the PR Italian Club/150th anniversary of the unity of Italy. Dinner and an evening of entertainment with local talent and La Famiglia Bagnolese (the Bagnolese Family) will perform folkloristic songs and dances. For more information contact Elvio Cramaro at sea50@shaw.ca.
- Oct 29:** Community acupuncture for charity Saturdays. Drop in, by donation. All proceeds go to local charities. Hours: 9:00 - 11:30 am and 1:00 - 5:00 pm. 4898 Manson Avenue. For more info call 604 485-0108.
- Oct 29:** Met Opera HD Live broadcast of Don Giovanni

at 9:55 am.

- Oct 29:** Pumpkin Fest. Stop by and carve a pumpkin at the Town Centre Mall.
- Oct 30:** Halloween Family Show at the 2 pm at the Max Cameron Theatre with Wells and Woodhouse vaudeville, slapstick and juggling team.
- Nov 3:** Canadian Root Fiddler and Stepdancer April Verch at the Max Cameron Theatre at 7:30 pm.
- Nov 4:** Martinis for a Good Cause, 8 pm at the Knack. Proceeds will go to the Bruce Denniston Bone Marrow Society and the Joseph Agius Hospice Suite.
- Nov 7:** Dr. Gabor Maté presents at the Evergreen Theatre regarding trauma, addiction and healing in children. 4children.ca presents this full day, including lunch. Registration deadline is Oct 14. Cost is \$135. late registration is \$175. Register at www.4children.ca
- ORCA Bus:** (On the Road with Children's Activities) programs run Mon-Fri. For full schedule info visit www.successby6powellriver.ca or call Sheila at 604 485-2132.
- Alcoholics Anonymous:** 8:30-9:30 pm. Fridays at United Church basement, Saturdays at Hospital Boardroom, Sundays at Alano Club. For more info call 604 414-0944, 604 485-5346, 604 483-9736. Texada Island: 604 486-0117.
- Mondays:** Pasta Night, from 4:30 - 6 pm (except holiday Mondays), at the United Church on the corner of Duncan and Michigan. Everyone is welcome
- Mondays:** Family Place Garden Group: 10:30 am-noon at the Community Demonstration Garden. Call 604 485-2706 for more info.
- Mondays:** Cinch card games at RC Legion #164, 7 pm. Newcomers welcome. For more info visit cinchgame.net or call 604 485-5504.
- Mondays:** Bike ride at Suncoast Cycle, 6 pm
- Mondays:** Whist Club at the Lang Bay Hall, 1 pm. Contact 604 487-9332.
- Mondays starting Oct 3:** Breast cancer exercise group led by Terri Beck at the Pilates and Fitness Studio on Glacier Street. Sessions are carefully designed for breast cancer survivors in a friendly, fun and cheerful atmosphere. Newcomers welcome - all levels of fitness. No charge. Call Delores 604 487-9279 or Terri 604 485-5876 for more info.
- Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays:** Garage Sale, 4476 Cumberland Place (behind Massullo Motors), 9 am-3 pm. Proceeds to funding job skills training program for people with mental illness. Info: call Sasha at 604 485-0087.
- Second Monday:** at Family Place: "Multiples," a group for parents with twins and more! 10-11:30 am.
- Last Monday:** La Leche League, breastfeeding support, 10 am at Family Place. Call Lynne at 604 487-4418 for info.
- Tuesdays:** Carpet Bowling at the Lang Bay Hall, 2 pm. Contact 604 487-9332.
- Tuesdays:** at Family Place; "Toddler Time"; parent-child open drop-in and circle time 10:30 am-12 pm. "Parent

- Child Drop-in"; 12:30 pm-4:30 pm. Everyone Welcome.
- Tuesdays:** PR Stroke Recovery Club meets in the Lower Legion Hall from 10 am-1 pm. Contact Trudy Simpson at 604 485-06396 or Rhonda Ellwyn at 604 483-3304 for more information.
- Tuesdays:** Soup Kitchen at Seventh Day Adventist Church (4880 Manson Ave), noon-1:30 pm.
- First & third Tuesday:** Kiwanis Club of PR, 7:30 pm at the Annex on Kiwanis Avenue. For more info call 604 487-9332.
- Tues & Thurs:** Bike Ride starting at RCMP lot, 6 pm
- First & Second Tuesday:** Food Bank, 6812-D Alberni Street, 10 am-2 pm. Call 604 485-9166.
- Second Tuesday:** Living with Cancer Support Group, 1:30-3:30 pm. All cancer patients, survivors and loved ones welcome. For more info call Helen at 604 485-4071 or Carol at 604 485-9115.
- Second Tuesday:** Parkinson Support Group (Jan-June & Sept-Nov), 1:30 pm, Trinity Hall of the United Church. For more info call 604 485-5973.
- First Wednesday:** Family Place: "Stone Soup" cooperative lunch and "Open Space" planning, 12:30-2:30.
- Second Wednesday:** SPCA meets at Quality Foods Boardroom at 7 pm. Everyone Welcome.
- Wednesdays:** Family Place; "Baby and Me"; parent-child drop-in; 10:30 am-12:30 pm. "The open Space"; parent led family programs; 12:30-2:30 pm. Parent-child Drop-in 12:30-4:30 pm. Everyone welcome.
- Wednesdays:** Salvation Army Soup & Sandwich 11:30 am-1 pm, by donation. Everyone welcome.
- Thursdays:** Soup Kitchen at Seventh Day Adventist Church (4880 Manson Ave), noon-1:30 pm.
- Thursdays:** Family Place, parent/child drop-in, 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. Please contact the Parent-Child Mother Goose program coordinator at mothergoose@prepsociety.org for more information.
- Thursdays:** Crib Club at the Lang Bay Hall, 7 pm. Contact 604 487-9332.
- Thursdays:** A&W Cruisers at the A&W parking lot. Bring your cool car or just yourself. Until dusk.
- Fridays:** Family Place, parent child drop in, 12:30-4:30 pm, everyone welcome. Please call 604 485-2706 for information about "Rhythm Circle Time" & "Bi-lingual Playgroup".
- Saturdays:** Knitting Group meets from 11-4 at Great Balls of Wool (4722 Marine Avenue). For more information, contact Roisin at 604 485-4859.
- Second & Fourth Saturday:** Faith Lutheran Food Cupboard is open 12 noon to 2 pm. 4811 Ontario Street (corner of Alberni). Call 604 485-2000.
- Third Saturday:** Senior's Center in Cranberry holds their afternoon of cards, games and scrabble at 1 pm. Please register in advance by calling 604 485-9562 or 604 485-2153. Everyone is welcome.

Please submit calendar items to bonnie@prliving.ca by the 20th of each month





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Powell River Living FACES of EDUCATION

Hansen and Hansen

It's a long time since Ryan met Joanne met as summer students working for the Victoria Public Library. But they're still the science guy and the music girl.

Ryan and Joanne Hansen are both teachers with School District 47. Ryan teaches History 12, Physics 11 and 12 and Math 11. Joanne teaches music at James Thomson and Henderson Elementary Schools.

When Ryan was in Grade 6 he knew he was going to be a teacher because he wanted to show other kids how to do math really well. Then in high school, he discovered he was good at science but absolutely loved history.

"I had to make a choice. I got provincial scholarships and lots of accolades in science and math but my true passion was history."

Ryan made a "calculated decision" and decided to go where the most demand was. He became a physics/math teacher and continued history as his hobby.

Joanne's journey was a bit different. She grew up in a musical family and went on to become an elementary school teacher with a major in language arts and a minor in music.

Everyone in her family played the piano except her brother who played the guitar. Growing up, Joanne would enter the Victoria Festival of Performing Arts. "My music teacher taught David Foster," she says smiling. In university, Joanne taught piano lessons. She achieved a certificate in piano performance from the Royal Conservatory in Toronto.

So how did a science/math guy with a passion for history end up with a woman who loves music?

"I married Ryan because he was good at science and math," says Joanne with a laugh.

Ryan has his own theory. "When I was young I got kicked out of band. I realized I was not a musician and should go with math. I'm a listener. I appreciate music and the arts from a viewing point of view," he says.

The Hansens moved to Powell River in 1989 with their three children. "One of the things that attracted us to Powell River was that they had a boys choir, not that we had any boys," said Ryan. But the Hansens figured that a community with a boys choir must have a good music program, which

Powell River did. "The music brought us here and then we found out this was a great place to live and all the other benefits."

The Hansens have three girls, all grown now. Robyn is 25; Colleen, 24 and Danielle, 21.

Ryan and Joanne have different teaching styles. "If I asked students to start playing the bells they'd tell me to get lost," Ryan



TEAM HANSEN: Joanne and Ryan Hansen came to Powell River in large part because of the music programs here.

says to Joanne. "But you have this ability to get students to play their one note solo because they are the bell person."

Joanne enjoys "catching" students playing their instrument. "I love catching kids in the moment of enjoying doing the musical thing they are doing," she says.

She thinks it's pretty cool that she gets to play the piano and sing songs with the kids. "Being a music teacher, it's almost like a second voice. It's another way of getting their attention without saying: 'Class be quiet.' You play and they all start singing."

Joanne also plays on the worship team at Westview Baptist Church. "This has been good for me as it's taught me to expand my style of playing." By this, she explains, that she plays from a chord sheet at church and often improvises!

These days Ryan is teaching full time but he has been an administrator for a good part of his 31-year career. Now, he says, he is enjoying the pace of teaching and

working directly with students. "I've been teaching since 1981. I taught in Gold River for several years, then I was vice principal for Tahsis before coming to Powell River as the Science Department Head at Max Cameron."

Ryan was vice principal at Oceanview from 1993 to 1997 before moving to Max as a Science teacher and the District Technology Coordinator. He did another administration stint at Max before moving to Brooks to teach. He was vice principal at Brooks for five years before returning to his first love (besides Joanne), which is teaching.

"This is the part that I wanted to do the most," he says. "Teaching is much easier and more natural to me than administration."

Ryan feels lucky to be able to teach all three of his favourite subjects. "I am probably one of the very few in the province who gets to teach physics, history and math at the same time. It's a fairly rare condition."

He holds both a Bachelors and Masters degree from the University of Victoria and says that because he was a strong physics student in university a number of professors told him he was in the wrong faculty. "I could do the work and I wanted to teach."

Joanne has a special knack for connecting with elementary school students and it shows. "Some of the proudest moments for me have been when my choirs have been asked to sing at the Grand Concert during the Festival of Performing Arts," she says.

But her proudest moment must have been at this past festival. In February 2011, her James Thomson Choir was recommended to the Provincial Festival of Performing Arts.

"It was really good for the students," she said modestly.

It sounds like Joanne's gift of teaching music rubbed off on her husband over the years. When the couple's oldest daughter Robyn graduated from Max Cameron, Ryan, who was vice principal at the time, was asked to give the speech for the teachers.

And in his speech was a song.

"I was dreading it," says Joanne. Turns out, she shouldn't have worried at all!

The students loved it. They even gave Ryan a standing ovation when he sang Never Grow Up from Peter Pan. **RL**



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