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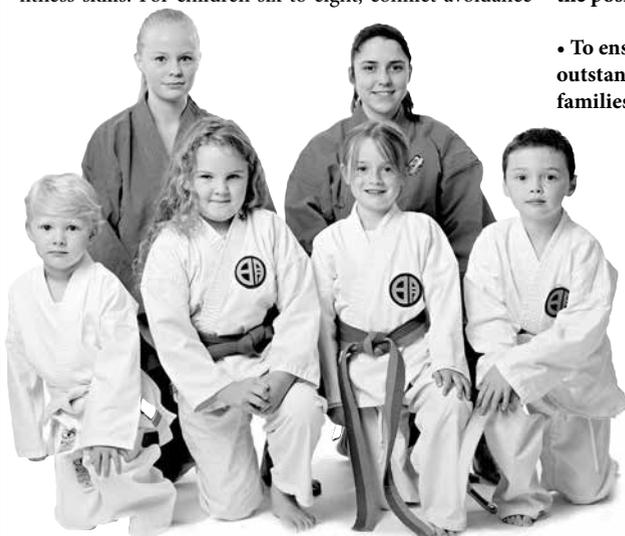
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ON THE COVER

Long Wu, 17, from Ordos, Mongolia, visiting with the Sino Bright international school, stacks rocks on the beach along the Willingdon Beach trail seashore.

Sean Percy photo

POWELL RIVER LIVING CONTRIBUTORS



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PIETA WOOLLEY is Powell River Living's special projects coordinator. She's worked in newsrooms at *The Georgia Strait*, *The Tyee*, and *The Hay River Hub*, and as a freelancer for many other publications. Sea Fair blew her mind!



LEE MACKENZIE is an artist, writer, and entrepreneur. She has reinvented herself more than once. These days she works as an artist and for the RCMP.

Should you find yourself in a chronically leaking boat, energy devoted to changing vessels is likely to be more productive than energy devoted to patching leaks.

— Warren Buffet (1930–)
American business magnate



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 Tel 604.485.0003

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Powell River Living IN THIS ISSUE

Our Powell River summer

Can you believe the amazing weather we've been having this summer? Sunny, hot and dry! While it's great for beachgoers, the hot weather has dried out the woods, so be ultra careful if you're camping or hiking so as not to set anything on fire.

As much as I love the heat, I know that some folks, particularly seniors, find it unbearable and spend many hours in air-conditioned buildings. My dog, Hunter Pumpkin, thinks the best spot in the house is lying on my bed with the fan blowing gently across his fur. That is, when he isn't swimming in the lake or ocean.

Summer is a time to spend with family, friends and be lazy if you can. If you can't be lazy, then maybe you've opened up your home to an international student, as I have. Powell River has several groups of international students here this summer from China and Mexico. We have two teenage boys from the Sino Bright School in China who are part of School District 47's program (their classmate, Mongolia's Long Wu, 17, is on the cover; there's a story about the students on Pages 10 and 11). The students participated in the Sea Fair parade, saw the fireworks and many are going to the RCMP musical ride!

But before you get to that story, there's another totally cool story you'll want to check out about Powell River's marble lady on Page 6 and 7. Susie Chamberlain hasn't lost her marbles, in fact this dynamic hairdresser has more marbles than most of us will ever have — some 20,000.

For many of us, summer wouldn't be summer without a glass of old-fashioned lemonade or a cold beer or a grown-up summer drink. The team at Powell River Living has put together a summer sampler on Page 9 that gives readers a roundup of what's available locally.

Powell River is a mecca for rock climbing and climbers come here from all over to challenge the terrain. On Page 12, Christie Dionne tells journalist Pieta Woolley a little about the climbing culture in Powell River.

North America's fastest growing racquet sport is now being played in Powell River. While the name 'pickleball' may sound odd, no cucumbers are injured in this hybrid between table tennis, badminton and tennis, as you'll discover in our story on Page 13.

A coming-of-age celebration is special in any culture — but some celebrate it with a little more flair than others. We had a chance to peek in at a local Quinceanera. On Pages 16 and 17, learn about the traditional Latina 15th birthday ceremony for young women.

Our monthly 'I made the move' column, on Page 24, opens the real estate section this month. If you're visiting Powell River be sure to learn why it is a good time to buy here — and live here — now.

And finally, Sean Percy's roundup of 'Seven things to do on the Salish Sea,' will give you some fun ideas of what to do this summer!

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Thanks for reading,



Isabelle Southcott, Publisher • isabelle@prliving.ca

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She inherited 20,000 marbles

Now it's a 3 am obsession

By Isabelle Southcott • isabelle@prliving.ca

Brightly-coloured balls with swirls and curls, and cat eyes made of glass, onyx, china and clay snuggle tightly into glass bottles and clear plastic drawers at Sooz' Dooz on Nasichuk Road.

"This is my marble collection," says Susie Chamberlain sweeping her hand towards the back counter of her home-based hair studio. Marbles of every size, shape and colour are nestled in cases. Some, like the blueberry swirl, look good enough to eat.

There are shooters and mibs, alleys and aggies. More marbles than most of us have seen in our lifetime.

Susie has more than 20,000 marbles in her shop. Her marble collection is a conversation piece, but it's more than that. It's also tied up with family memories.

"In 2010 my late brother-in-law George discovered he had cancer and was dying," said Susie. "We'd phone him almost every day and see how he was doing. He was always upbeat and positive about everything. "He collected things like guns and Cadillacs and marbles. He was a chemist at heart and loved glass. Once in a while he'd get feeling down and I'd say, what's your latest marble? We'd talk about marbles and he'd always feel better."

"His kids didn't want his marble collection so I ended up with it."

Susie, who is also an artist, didn't know a lot about marbles.

"When I got his marbles they were all in old Nabob coffee jars along with his stack of books on marbles. I started to sort them and read about marbles."

At 3 am when she couldn't sleep, Susie would be out in her



BIG AND SMALL: Marbles come in many colours and sizes.



ONE OF THE MULTITUDE: Susie Chamberlain holds up a giant, and a very collectible marble from her collection.

shop sorting marbles.

"It went on for months and months. I was totally intrigued. I kept reading and learning more about the different types of marbles."

She isn't alone in her fascination with the pretty orbs. People have been playing marbles and marble-like games for thousands of years. Clay balls have been found in archaeological sites in Egypt and First Nations burial grounds. They've even been discovered in Aztec pyramids.

Susie learned that you categorize marbles by the year, maker, type of glass, and specific name. "For instance, this is a 1920 Akro Agate oxblood."

The value of a marble is determined by its size, color, maker, design and the company that made it. Susie has sold some of her



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marbles, including two sulphide marbles with clay sculptures inside the glass — for \$150 each.

Susie has marbles from Italy, China, Germany, England and the United States. “This one has copper in it, and this one has mica in it. This glow-in-the-dark marble has uranium in it and this black one with the white stripes is called clam broth,” she says leafing through her *Marble Bible*. “It’s valued at \$125.”

Marbles are graded by size. Some have single ribbons of colour, others double ribbons. Some are chipped or misshapen. “Look at this one,” says Susie. “It isn’t cut square.”

Most of us are familiar with Cat’s Eye marbles. “They’re the most common,”



says Susie. “They were made in the US before the turn of the century.”

Then China started mass-producing marbles and they declined in value.



To an outsider looking in, the variety seems endless—and Susie’s knowledge vast. “There’s still so much I don’t know yet,” she says, modestly. [PXL](#)



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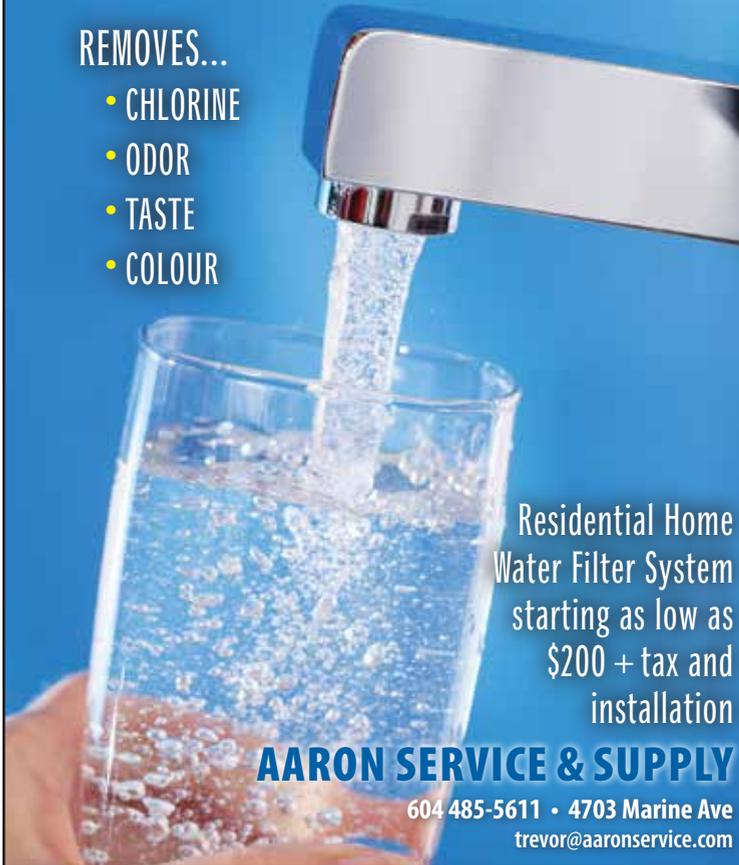


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SUMMER BEVVIES

Thirsty? Powell River has the answer! With everything from old-fashioned lemonade to great beer to the sophisticated Connie Sour, there's something to quench everyone's thirst on a hot summer day.



OLD-FASHIONED LEMONADE

Summer just wouldn't be summer without kids selling thirst quenching lemonade at roadside stands. For years, youngsters like these have made a bit of pocket money while exercising their entrepreneurial skills at the same time. Here Hayden Upton, 10, Darby Kealey, 11 and Ella Kealey, 8 work their Manson Avenue stand.

PERIWINKLE FARM COUNTRY CORDIALS

Fran and Simon Cudworth make delicious homemade cordials and sell them at the Kelly Creek Friday Night Market. They make a variety of cordials depending on what's in season. In early spring they made elderflower, strawberry, rhubarb, salmon berry and huckleberry cordial. They also make fennel and sour cherry cordials. The cordials are mixed with water that they carbonate with own soda stream machine.



CONNIE SOUR

Edie Rae's Café recently introduced the Connie Sour, the ultimate grown-up summer drink for gin lovers. It goes down well with tapas and the company of good friends on a hot sum-



mer's evening. The Connie Sour is a gin and tonic served tall with JP's homemade lime sorbet and fresh minced basil. Once you've had one Connie Sour, you'll be hard pressed not to have another!



MAKE YOUR OWN

For a perfect deck drink, Jackie McLuckie at Westview U-Vin suggests Raspberry Peach Sangria. Sweet, ripe raspberries mix with juicy peach undertones for a fruity, refreshing and easy summer drink. And with just 5% alcohol, it's not too dangerous. "I like to drop some frozen berries in it, or some people like to add soda," says Jackie.

KOMBUCHA KRAZE

If there's a new kid in Powell River, it has to be Kombucha. "It's a fermented health beverage that has been brewed for over 2,000 years that was first started in Russian and China," says Matt Klasen, who owns Raincoast Kombucha with Christina Maitland. Kombucha is a fizzy, fermented drink made of sweetened tea, live bacteria and yeast. It is fermented by a symbiotic colony of bacteria and yeast.

Matt and Christina have been selling kombucha at the Open Air Farmers Market and the Kelly Creek Friday night market on a small scale up but plans are underway to expand production. Kombucha flavouring is



done with organic tea and locally grown ingredients. It is made in a certified kitchen. Raincoast Kombucha offers seven different flavours. "We want to make Powell River the kombucha capital of BC," says Matt. Their tag line? "Bringing culture to the west coast."



BLACKBERRY ALE

The innovative folks at Townsite Brewing are bringing back the popular BLACKBERRY FESTIVALE, a seasonal fruit beer brewed annually. Blackberry FestivAle is Townsite Brewing's seasonal salute to Powell River's favourite fruit, the humble and ubiquitous blackberry. It's brewed in time for the August Blackberry Festival and its flagship event, the Blackberry Street Party! Blackberries provide a tart and subtle backdrop for this wheat beer. Fruity aromatics compliment their unfiltered round-bodied summer sipper.

Blackberry Festivale is available at Townsite Brewing along with all their other craft beer. But hurry! This is brewed in limited quantities and is best enjoyed immediately.



MIST WINE FOR SUMMER

Popular this summer at Squatter's Creek Wines has been their Cru Orchard Breezin' mist wine kits. Many clients have participated in wine clubs where they have crafted and shared six selections of wine, taking home a variety of delicious fruity wines to chill and enjoy on the deck or up the lake with family and friends. These red, white or blush wines are embellished with delicious fruit flavours, such as Blackberry Blast, Acai Raspberry Rapture, Pomegranate Wildberry Wave, Raspberry Grapefruit Revolution and Peach Perfection. [PRL](#)

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Ask about our new Refer-A-Friend program

International education

Beijing to Brooks and beyond

By Isabelle Southcott • isabelle@prliving.ca

Shortly after 1 am on a hot July night, 27 teenagers from China disembarked from a Pacific Coastal charter into the welcoming arms of their Powell River host families and program organizers.

The students attend Sino Bright, a BC-China school partnership that offers classes China. Students study the British Columbia curriculum, with the goal of learning English, earning a Dogwood diploma and attending post secondary in North America.

"This is the first time we have had this program here," said Yufang Sun, Sino Bright's CEO. But, adds President Quan Ouyang, it's the first of many. "It's a long term thing."

The campus is located at Oceanview Education Centre but programs run out of other School District 47 facilities as well. This summer, students are taking credit courses in drama and information technology at Brooks Secondary School and experiencing Canadian culture and family life with their homestay families. On weekends, they're off on sightseeing adventures to Haywire Bay, Seafair, UBC in Vancouver and UVic in Victoria.

Some are from Sino Bright's Beijing campus, others from Xi'an, where the Terracotta Warriors are found; Qingdao and Linyi, both nearly the size of New York; Kaifeng, where China's oldest Jewish and Muslim communities are; Guangzhou, an inland city of 12 million, close to Hong Kong; and the southern, intellectual city of Kuming.

School District 47's superintendent Jay Yule says the partnership will provide opportunities for Powell River students and teachers to participate in academic and cultural exchanges. "It will promote economic development and diversify culture," says Jay.

This partnership changes many lives. First, the lives of the students them-

selves are enriched by their experiences. And when they return to China they will share their international experiences with friends and family in their own country. "It's not just the international students who benefit from this partnership. They bring all their great experiences with their homestays and with Canadian culture back to China," says Yufang.

Powell River also benefits. The homestay families are exposed to another culture and there's the opportunity to make new friends. There's also the economic spinoff from this arrangement to consider.

"After graduating in China, they will all choose to go to Canada or the United States for university," says Yufang. "Nine-



FIRST OF MANY: Sino Bright School's president Quan Ouyang and CEO Yufang Sun and their daughter Liyan, here with SD47 superintendent Jay Yule, brought 27 students to Powell River in July for a six week summer credit course.

ty-five per cent of our students choose Canada."

Mayor Dave Formosa welcomed the Sino Bright students to Powell River. "We are pleased as a community to host the students here and see the facilities at Haywire Bay being enjoyed knowing that there will be more to come. It's a wonderful opportunity for Powell River to have cultural diversity here and to have the opportunity to learn from our guests. This is the start of bigger and better things to come!"

Sino Bright students were equally enthusiastic. Richie Jin, 16 says: "I think Powell River is the most natural and beautiful town I have ever been to. You have the forest, the sea and lots of wonderful people living here. You should be very proud."



DRAGON BOATING: One of the adventures for Sino Bright students was dragon boating on Powell Lake.

Coral Ji, 16 says: "I think the people are very nice and friendly. The environment is very peaceful. This is a wonderful place and I would like to live here."

Fifteen-year-old Lareina Li likes being able to breathe the fresh air every day. "I am happy and excited to study here," she says.

Rachelle Warman is administering the program for the school district. Besides receiving credits for drama and information technology, students receive English instruction every morning with Rachelle and Brandon Peters. On Tuesdays and Thursdays they have music and art electives as well as a dance elective with Sheridan Dance and a fitness elective with Coast Fitness.

The Sino Bright students loved their overnight adventure at the School District's new Haywire Bay facility. "They couldn't get over how fresh the air was and how bright the stars are when they were up at the lake," says Rachelle.

Sino Bright is a BC-Certified offshore school. "It is one of the most famous and most successful offshore schools in China with close to 3,000 students. It has been operating for almost 10 years," says Quan.

Powell River is a very suitable community for international students to come and study. For most students, this is the first time they've travelled outside of China.

"Powell River is excellent as an international education centre. It is a quiet, safe and secure place with beautiful weather. Powell River is an educational paradise," Quan adds. 

SPONSORED ARTICLE

One family's homestay experience

Friendship bonds from Beijing to Townsite

By Isabelle Southcott • isabelle@prliving.ca

Having a homestay student or three is like having another country visit you in your very own home.

This is the third time that my children, Matthew, 16 and Alexander, 14 have welcomed international students into our home.

It's a win-win situation for all of us. We learn about their country, they learn about ours. We make new friends and have experiences we'd never have otherwise.

This summer we have Sam Cheng from Beijing and Fred Zhang from Xi'an, two 15-year-old boys from Sino Bright Schools in China, staying with us for six weeks. Our Maple Avenue home in the Townsite is just three blocks away from Brooks Secondary School where the boys attend classes during the day, so it's easy for them to walk to school and walk home at the end of the day.

Alex loves having a built-in friend to

take fishing and go to the movies with while Matthew enjoys having another kid other than his little brother in the house!

I like meeting people from other countries and exposing my own children to different cultures and customs.

The Chinese boys are helpful and polite. They tell me that I am a good cook. I'm still not sure if they really think so or: a) they are just extremely polite, or b) they're used to boarding school food and even my cooking tastes good! The ultimate compliment was when Sam told me that my oven-baked chicken was better than KFC!

"People in the community have really opened their arms and embraced our international students," said Rachelle Warman, who is administering the program for the School District, as we watched students prepare giant puppets



for the Seafair Parade.

"I feel like my host families are an extension of this program. The families have all been wonderful. Without them, this program would not succeed."

As much as the community impacts the international students, the international students impact the community.

"There's about \$40,000 going into the community with the homestay [students]," says Rachelle.

Money also flows to businesses that provide classes and programs to the students. **PR**

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A moment with a few

Powell River's rock climbers

By Pieta Woolley • pieta@prliving.ca

Head craned back and eyes squinting against the sun, Dylan Merrick is standing below the towering, grey granite wall at Stillwater Bluffs. It's a good 25 metres high, with boulders below. When he climbs, there's little room for error.

The 22-year-old Big O Tires mechanic has pitted himself against Powell River's rocks for two years. Dylan represents the latest generation of Powell River kids who have discovered the exhilaration of testing the strength of their bodies, and the swiftness of their minds, climbing the challenging local cliffs.

Splashing against the boulders, the ocean booms. The air smells like seaweed and minerals. Dylan surveys the cliff named "Preview" and begins his ascent. His fingers and feet find crevices and tiny ledges, he's figuring and pulling himself up and over, each movement a calculation and a risk.

Below him, holding his rope (or 'belaying'), is Christie Dionne, 36. She's a 20-year climber, a first aid attendant, and she uses her rope skills for Powell River Search and Rescue — as did her late husband and climbing partner Colin Dionne.

"Get your foot out of the rope," Christie instructs Dylan, when he's about three metres up. He struggles, biceps to toes tensed, just hanging on. He loosens his foot from the rope, pauses for several minutes, and finally scrambles back down. Nothing lost. Earlier, he conquered the top in a different spot.

With tidy blond hair and a boyish, lanky body, Dylan looks like a "typical" MEC-model climber. But he's the only one of the trio who does.

Pixie-like Christie, at barely five feet tall, says she grew frustrated as a teen, climbing with Powell River's strong-armed boys and men. It wasn't until she discovered the strength in her feet, and was inspired by her famous climbing doppelganger Lynn Hill, she found she could keep up and even surpass her thicker peers.

And Rob, with a classical European barrel-chest on a 51-year-old body, looks less than nimble — though he's been climbing these cliffs for four decades, first with his brothers. He claims he's not up to climbing today.

Yet as Christie belays Dylan up the rock face, Rob gracefully melds to the cliffs, and moves out over the ocean around the point, above the sharp barnacles, around the far corner of the wall until he disappears. He has no rope.

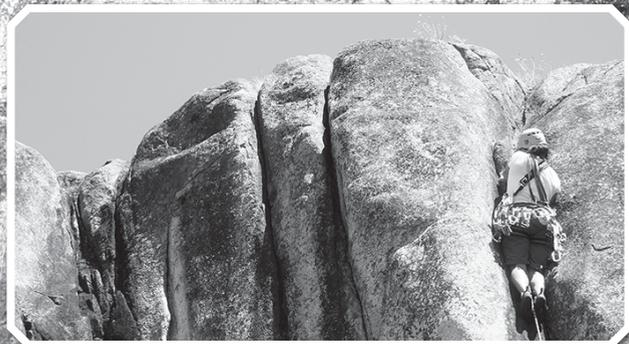
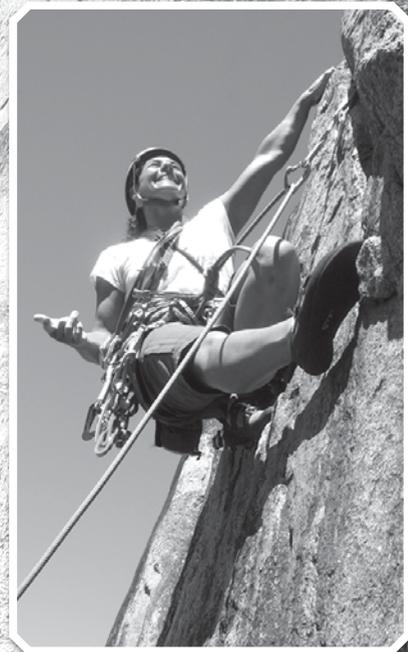
Often, shows about climbers focus on the carabiners and quickdraws, the ropes and anchors. But it's clear watching these three — the equipment is an aside, a nod to safety — this is about them, not their stuff.

"Every climber secretly wants to be Spiderman," Rob explains, as Christie swiftly glides up the cliff — effortlessly, it seems.

"Climbing clears my mind, it focuses me," says Christie. "It's like doing ballet on rocks."

It's not just locals who are enticed by the cliffs. Travelers from as far away as New Zealand come to Powell River to climb. The status of first ascents is potent, and the region offers so much undiscovered terrain, Christie explains.

But for these three, part of the core of the city's climbing crew, it's also a drive, a community, bonfires after dark, relishing each other's success, and moments like this, alone with the cliffs and ocean, in the bold sunshine. **PR**



Powell River's in a pickle

Join latest craze at the Complex!

By Isabelle Southcott • isabelle@prliving.ca

"Pickleball?" I said slowly trying not to giggle, as I wrapped my tongue around the foreign-sounding word. "Pickleball?" I repeated, totally convinced that I'd somehow misheard the label given the new racquet sport Patti Coburn claims is all the rage these days.

"Yes pickleball," said recreation complex's program coordinator with a straight face. "It's really called pickleball but it's not about pickles."

In case you haven't already heard, pickleball is the hottest racquet sport out there. It's a cross between badminton, tennis and ping-pong. According to legend, pickleball was invented in 1965 by future Washington state congressman Joel Pritchard and named after his dog Pickles.

If you drop by the complex this summer between 1 and 3 pm on a Monday or a Thursday, you'll see pickleball in action. Better yet, wear your runners and comfy clothes and give it a try.

Once the ice goes back in the arena, it

will be moved to Oceanview Educational Centre. Plans are already underway to create a Powell River pickleball club.

The United States Pickleball Associa-



tion estimates that there are more than 100,000 active players in the States. It's a relatively new game in Canada but still, there are more than 5,000 players here.

Pickleball participation amongst seniors in BC is growing rapidly, with a 42

per cent increase in participation in the 2011 BC Seniors Games compared to the year before.

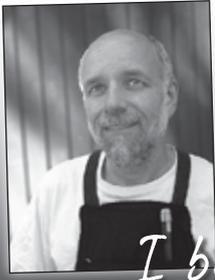
"It's the fastest growing racquet sport in North America," says Patti.

Played on a court with a net in the center with rules similar to table tennis, the game can be played by singles or doubles.

"It is a good cardio game, fun and uses the skills of the racquet games, but it is easier because of the size of the court and there is no overhand serve or smash — only underhand," says Patti

Pickleball is a favourite with seniors but it is also becoming increasingly popular amongst boomers too. Powell River pickleball player Vivian Thickett notes that "it's a sport anybody — even people with minor mobility issues — can play."

Vivian says that the veteran players have been helping the beginners. This winter, they plan to have a pickleball clinic and future plans include building an outdoor pickleball court at the tennis courts in the Townsite.



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Mari Okazaki, a mother of three, originally from Japan, resides in Chilliwack BC. She comes from a background of Health and Physical Education. Her father's passing from a simple medical accident led her to study alternative methods to maintain and regain the physical health of her family.

In 2006, Mari met **Tadao Yamaguchi (Chiyoko's son)** of **Jikiden Reiki Institute** through her original Reiki teacher. Being Japanese and having been looking for an origin of Reiki, she knew right away she wanted to study Reiki with him. She was amazed by the depth of Jikiden Reiki's teaching and connection to Japanese histories that is unknown to many people.

Mari has been dedicated to her Reiki practice daily and has been teaching Reiki since 2007. In May of this year, in Kyoto, Japan, she became one of only 12 Dai-Shihan (teacher trainers) in the world.

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Jikiden Reiki teacher	• Mari Okazaki
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Contact	Mari Okazaki 604-703-8098 or himawarimari@telus.net www.jikidenreikiwithmari.com



TOO MUCH FUN: Powell River pickle ball players get a good workout and have fun at the same time!

In June, pickleball play officially got underway at the rec complex. Less than a month after launching, more than a dozen players escaped the sweltering heat of a July day to play pickleball in the cool of the complex.

"I love pickleball," says Rheal Leon. "It's a great sport."

Patty Catcher is pickleball newbie. "I heard about pickleball from a good friend. I used to play squash and racquetball," she says, "so I thought why not?"

Players say there are only two rules when it comes to pickleball. "Have fun and get the ball over the net!" says Vivian. **PR**

• EQUIPMENT •

You don't need a lot of equipment to play pickleball. Some comfy **workout clothes** and a good pair of **runners** and you're good to go! **THE PADDLE** The pickleball paddle is like a table tennis paddle but bigger. The best quality paddles are made of light-weight fibreglass and come in a variety of bright colours. **THE BALL** The pickleball ball is similar to wiffle ball, but made out of a heavier, rigid perforated plastic and has smaller holes. The balls come in three colours, white, yellow and orange.

Pickleball will be offered through the Complex as a registered program this fall.

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Just in case

Mobile unit is ready

By Ariana Biagi

Powell River emergency workers are now even more prepared, thanks in part to the Mobile Emergency Communication Unit (MECU).

The unit, a mobile trailer with three ham radios, will service the Powell River Regional District in case of emergency.

"We're an emergency communication centre," said Ryan Thom, emergency program coordinator for the Powell River Emergency Program. "For searches or earthquakes, we're like a back-up."

"Radio has always had an unofficial role [in emergencies]," said Powell River Texada Emergency Communication Unit (PRTECU) volunteer Russell Storry. "We've just formalized what's always been there."

Small enough to be attached to any pick-up truck, the trailer can be towed to the scene of an emergency.

Once on scene, the radio crew can then communicate both locally and globally.

"[The radios] allow us to communicate around the world or across the street," added Derek Poole, a PRTECU volunteer.

Radio frequency isn't their only method of communication. The radios can also send and receive emails, even without Internet access.

The trailer has been a labour of love. Even with funding from Regional Emergency Services, it has taken almost two years for



READY TO HELP: Emergency workers Fred Van Samang, Ryan Thom, Derek Poole, and Russell Storry are happy they have a new mobile trailer for their communications equipment.

the once empty shell to become the fully functional emergency communication unit it is now.

Storry, for whom radios have been a lifelong passion, was first approached with the idea for the trailer by then Fire Chief Dean Gerhart.

"[Gerhart] asked the radio club if we would be interested," he said. "Then they sponsored the training, and it finally happened when the two governments merged."

"It's come along nicely," said volunteer Fred Van Samang. "We add what we need based on our findings in practice."

So far, the trailer has been summoned to the scene of an emergency only once, when a woman and her daughter went missing near Duck Lake last October.

Both mother and daughter were found before radio communication services were required.

The team holds meetings once a month to run practices with the equipment. They also participate in "The Net" every Wednesday, accessing radios from various locations to ensure that communication runs smoothly.

"Our biggest challenge right now is getting more people involved," said Storry.

With 10 volunteers, they are always looking for more people to help with the initiative. **PR**

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Teenage dream, Salvadoran style

Local Quinceanera celebrates growing up with flair

By Pieta Woolley • pieta@prliving.ca

Back in 1984, then-15-year-old Mayra Funes was the girl at the centre of Powell River's first Quinceanera—a traditional Latina 15th birthday celebration. Mayra, who left El Salvador when she was six, recalls wearing a pink dress, and dancing with her father. That was it. Compared to the party she threw for her own daughter this summer, it was small.

"Powell River is so much more cultural now than it was then," Mayra said, explaining why she and her daughter, Santana Huetzelmann, 15, chose to throw a spectacular Quinceanera at the Senior's Centre July 13. "There's so much more variety of culture here now."

Outside the centre's door in the evening sunshine, four pairs of teen *dames* in white, strapless dresses and *chamberlains* in black suits waited, along with The Quinceanera, Santana, and her escort,



YOUNG PRINCESS: Santana, 15 with her mother, Mayra at her Quinceanera.

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brother Blake Huetzelmann. As each couple entered the hall, hands clasped high, they were introduced by name to the 60 guests. Then, the five couples danced a waltz—their 21st century feet clearly relishing the formality of the traditional steps.

"I've watched them practice for three months," said Mayra, who admitted tearing up several times over the evening—including during the waltz. "All their effort made the dance."

Santana waltzed with her stepfather, Bill Venables. Then, Mayra gave Santana her last doll—in a replica of her Quinceanera dress—to symbolize the end of childhood.

The decadent cake included two layers iced with thick white buttercream and pudgy royal blue roses, separated by columns, a glowing fountain, two additional layers jutting out the bottom, and the

whole thing festooned with tulle ribbons. On the top, the cake's queen: a Latina Barbie doll wearing a satin gown, matching Santana's beaded dress.

A perfectly new world celebration, the Quinceanera mixes traditional Aztec initiation ceremonies, and Catholic rites. Now, American-style over-the-top party culture has added another layer—with Barbie-like ball gowns, swag bags, choreographed dance numbers, and feasts.

But the meaning remains. This is when the community recognizes that a girl has become a young woman. While initiation into adulthood is a backbone of most cultures—from Bar Mitzvahs, to vision quests, to debutante balls—it's something mainstream Canada largely ignores. High school graduation marks an achievement, but there's really no comparison to the formal induction of a child into the role and responsibilities of adulthood.



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Brandy Peterson



CELEBRATORY DANCE: Santana twirls at the hand of her stepfather, Bill, in her 'first' dance as a young woman in society.

As common as extravagant Quinceaneras have become amongst American Latinas—they've even been featured on *Say Yes to the Dress* and other TV shows—they're still rare here. Perhaps Mayra and Santana are on to something, though; with Mayra's recognition that

Powell River folk are becoming more conscious of their own cultures, could this Quinceanera represent the first of many cultural initiations in town?

Taylor Morcan, 14, has an Irish background, and said her family has a special celebration for 18th birthdays, but nothing

like this. "I think it's very cool," she said. "It's a party, and all her friends and family are here." Guest Carmen Eadie, 15, said she's never seen anything like the Quinceanera before. "It makes Santana feel like she's a step closer to being grown up," she said, noting that her generation reaches adult status at around 20, in reality.

Guest Maritza Rost, a best friend of Mayra, is 56 now—but she recalls her own Quinceanera in Panama, with deep fondness. "I was very quiet and studious, and my father was very strict," she said, noting that both her parents worked two jobs, and had to save for her modest celebration. Her dress was white and gold, she remembers even four decades later, and she wore it with a crown.

"For me it meant happiness, and becoming older," Maritza said.

For Santana, this Quinceanera helped connect her to her culture, in a city with a very small Latino population. It's a touchstone she'll take with her as she pursues her dream to become a teacher—the moment she and her community witnessed her transforming from child into a young woman. **PR**

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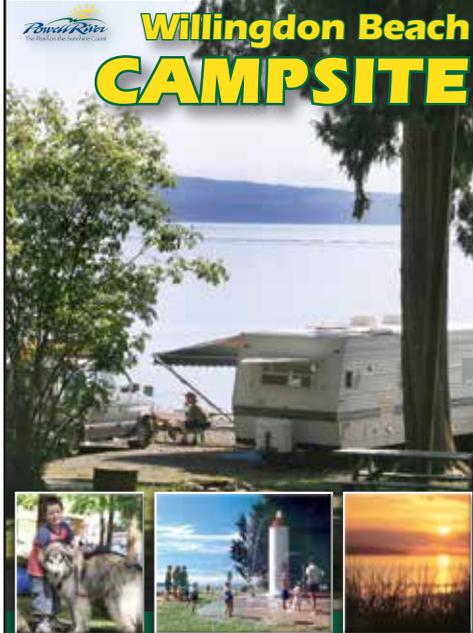
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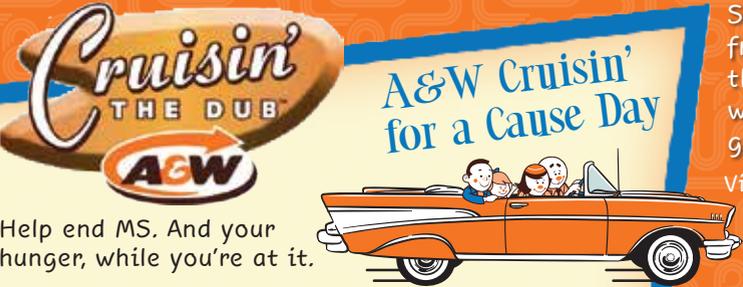
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Dessert • Max Pagani's traditional recipe for Bear Tooth Pie—it's a three-layer dessert, with maple walnut, espresso and chocolate mocha ice creams, on a chocolate graham crust.

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Recommended dishes

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Entrée • Pesto Salmon Burger featuring fish from Lois Lake, on a ciabatta bun, with choice of sides.

Dessert • Local baker Tania Jalbert's gluten-free organic sweet potato chocolate brownie cake (co-owner Keith Allen claims it's the best chocolate cake he's ever eaten).

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Recommended dishes

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Dates stuffed with goat's cheese and wrapped in bacon

Phyllo pockets stuffed with fire-roasted tomato, onions, artichoke hearts, zucchini, carrots and garlic

Drink • The Connie Sour: a gin and tonic served tall, with lime and fresh minced basil sorbet

WHERE | TOWNSITE BREWING

Experience • Impress your out-of-town guests when you pull up to the swank brick heritage building, and order a growler (or three) of something special.

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Blackberry FestivALE • Our first and so far only fruit beer is tart and refreshing. Pale purple in colour this beer would be lovely next to an open-faced grilled goats cheese sandwich drizzled with honey and a side garden salad with blackberry vinaigrette.

Westview Wheat • While this beer is round in body it has a nice delicate citrus flavour. It pairs perfectly with eggs and anything with a bit of tang. Roasted red pepper omelet's would be an ideal match.

Zunga • Our golden blond is patio pint perfect. Order anything off the sandwich menu, grilled ham & cheese, salmon salad or bacon Brie and apple would suit this beer to a T.

Suncoast • This pale ale can handle a little heat and loves cilantro and citrus. Spicy Prawn Tacos would be right up the alley.



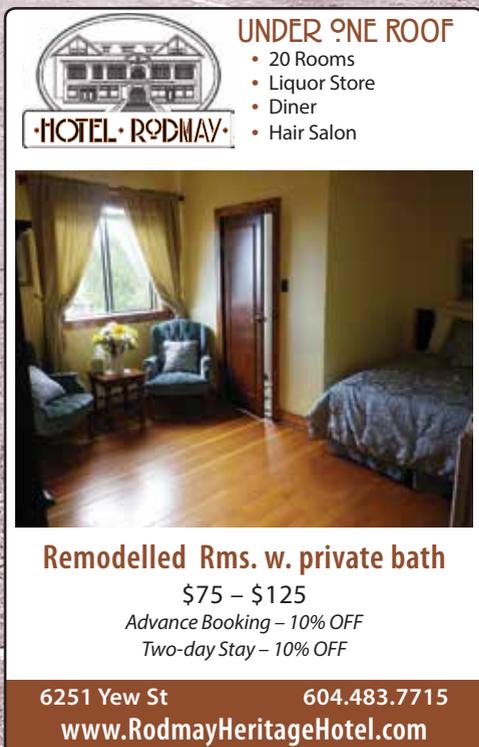
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Who?	What?	Ages	Offerings	Rates	Contact
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THE POWELL RIVER LIVING PARENT'S GUIDE TO FALL ACTIVITIES

Powell River Gymnastics Club	Recreational and competitive gymnastics	5+	One, two or three hour sessions, separate classes for boys and girls	\$194 for 15 sessions (About \$13 per hour-long session; special pricing for siblings. See Web for details)	prgymnastics.ca
Powell River Gymnastics Club	Parent and tot drop-in, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday	up to 4	An hour of frolicking and fun	\$8 per session, or 10 tickets for \$70	prgymnastics.ca
Powell River Gymnastics Club	Preschool classes	Three & four year-olds	One hour coached class	\$194 for 15 sessions (About \$13 per hour-long session; special pricing for siblings. See Web for details)	prgymnastics.ca
Powell River Gymnastics Club	Cheerleading	5+	Twice a week practices, one or two hours	\$194 for 15 sessions Special pricing for siblings. See Web for details)	prgymnastics.ca
Recreation Complex	Swimming lessons	Babies+	Parent and tot; preschool; child and teen lessons	\$47.85 (30 min) \$53.70 (45 min) for 10 lessons	604 485-2891
Recreation Complex	Recreation programs for kids and teens	5+	Recreational skating; pre and postnatal, storytime, and mom and daughter yoga; special events; childminding for 0 to 5 year olds; family pickleball, family geocaching and family hiking	See guide	Leisure Guide comes out on August 23
Canadian Martial Arts Academy	Karate classes in a traditional dojo	4+	Little Ninjas (4 to 5); Little Dragons (6 to 8); Junior Karate (9 to 12); plus cardio karate	\$19+ per month	604 485-8255, cmaakarate.com
PR Disability Sport Club	Wheelchair Basketball	All ages	Competitive team with weekly practices	FREE!	Lindsay Peake at 604 483-8387 disabilitysportclub@gmail.com
PR Skating Club	Basic skating skills to competitive figure skating	Preschool+	CanSkate; Preschool Learn to Skate; Star Academy; Skate Canada competitive/Test, starts September 30.	Please inquire	Nicole Rumley 604 487-0418 rumleysk8@shaw.ca
Sheridan Dance Academy	Mom and babe dance	Two to four (and moms)	Thursdays, 4 to 4:30	\$8 drop-in	sheridandanceacademy.ca 604 485-0023 or 604 485-0233
Sheridan Dance Academy	Recreational, precompetitive and competitive dance	3+	Ballet, boys and mixed Hip Hop, musical theatre, jazz, tap, ZumbAtomic	\$82.50 (half-hour); \$160 (hour) weekly for Sept to Dec—see Web for deals and detailed pricing	sheridandanceacademy.ca 604 485-0023 or 604 485-0233
Powell River Academy of Music	choir programs	Kindergarten to teens	Apprentice choir (K to Gr 2) Boys and Girls choirs (Gr 2-4) Academy Singers (audition, Gr 5-8) Youth Choir (ages 15 to 20)	Please inquire	powellriveracademy.org 604 485-9633
Powell River Academy of Music	Early childhood music	Six months to seven years	Baby music (6 months to 3 years) Preparatory music (3 to 5 years) Orff: after school prep music (5 to 7)	\$75 for 10 lessons	powellriveracademy.org 604 485-9633
Powell River Academy of Music	Private lessons theory and history conducting	Inquire for ages	Voice; piano; organ; accordion; harpsichord; violin, viola, cello, bass; flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone; trumpet, trombone, French horn, tuba; acoustic guitar; electric guitar; percussion	Please inquire	powellriveracademy.org 604 485-9633
Powell River Academy of Music	Drama; Speech Arts Musical Theatre	Inquire	Acting and vocal skills to major musical productions	Please inquire	powellriveracademy.org 604 485-9633
Powell River Academy of Music	Visual arts	8 to 14	Drawing, painting, clay and sculpture, plus art history and contemporary art	\$60 per month	powellriveracademy.org 604 485-9633
Skylight Arts Studio	Art classes	Preschool+	Develop visual language through paint; clay; collage; instillation and stop motion.	Sept to Dec \$192 to \$224	skylightart.ca 604 413-1452

Cops for Cancer

Ken Hees, cycling newbie joins in

Every fall, more than a hundred law enforcement and emergency services personnel brave all types of weather as they ride for up to two weeks across the daunting terrain of Vancouver Island, Northern BC, the coast of British Columbia and the Fraser Valley.

This year, Powell River RCMP Corporal Ken Hees will ride for Cops For Cancer from September 18 to 26. Ken was not a bicycle rider prior to making this commitment so the learning curve was steep. He's realized there is a lot more to cycling than just being in shape! In addition to learning about cycling, Ken is thankful for the support local businesses have given him through donations and for the generosity of the citizens of Powell River.

At the start of the season, every rider commits to raising a predetermined amount of donations. To accomplish this, several events are planned in the months leading up to the ride. The upcoming events are a Pole Sit and hot dog sale in the Quality Foods Parking lot on August 10, a duck race with a 50/50 draw at Blackberry Festival on August 16. On September 20, the ride will be coming through Powell River and there will be a spaghetti dinner with a silent auction at the Town Center Hotel. Tickets available at the RCMP detachment or the Town Center Hotel.

Donations help the Canadian Cancer Society fund the best pediatric research and life-saving clinical trials in Canada. Since 1997, BC officers have raised \$29 million.

Money donated to Cops for Cancer is also used for the operation of Camp Goodtimes, an empowering summer recreation program at Loon Lake in Maple Ridge. The camp provides a safety-minded, medically supervised and fun week of activities for children affected by cancer and their families at no cost.

In Canada, an estimated 850 children a year under the age of 15 will be diagnosed with cancer. However, due to the successful treatment of most cancers, about 82% will survive at least five years past their diagnosis.

Please visit copsforcancerbc.ca to make a donation and find out more about this worthy program. 



Operation: OUTHOUSE

Story & photos by Wendy Goodwin

In April's magazine, I wrote about an abandoned public campsite on Powell Lake that several cabin owners and other volunteers have been fixing up. I'm very happy to report, our call for a new outhouse has been answered!

Technology teacher Ken Cawley and five Brooks woodworking class students—Quentin Gagnon, Brian Tuck, Skyler Thickett, Scott Lawson, Brandon Boese—made the outhouse at school. Contractor Justin Behan brought them up



the lake, with the outhouse.

Powell River Community Forest donated the money, as they did for the picnic tables. We completed the job on Friday, June 14th, and I supplied lunch for the crew. After the work party and photos, some had a swim and they headed home.

My husband Paul and I painted the outhouse the next day. It's up and running, christened and open for business. How cool is this? 



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Big Apple inspires local culture

Powell River's Art Benches

By Lee Mackenzie

Two years ago, when Powell River artist Ursula Medley visited the villages of Lower Manhattan, she noticed beautiful and often unusual benches in front of businesses.

"It seemed to me to be so community-friendly," says Ursula. "A perfect place to sit and rest, chat with a friend and people-watch. Tourists could sit and enjoy the benches. People could meet their friends, take a break while shopping. It would be an excellent project to revitalize Marine Avenue."

As a director of the Malaspina Art Society, she quickly adapted the idea into something unique. "I saw in my mind, benches throughout Powell River, mainly on Marine Avenue," she says. "But instead of each bench being unique in itself, I saw them as a place to display the works of many of our local artists."

Ursula contacted Powell River's Jackson Cedar Products. Gary Jackson designed a cedar bench that was just right for the project. Together Ursula and Gary customized the original design to include the panel on the back.

"I knew it was perfect because it was comfortable, sturdy and had a place for your coffee. And it was made of cedar which is such an historic material on this part of the coast."

Local artists were invited to create an image for the back panel, either painted or carved. Businesses in the area stepped forward to purchase the benches. The City of Powell River agreed to help with



MALASPINA ART: Ursula Medley and Gerry Chabot show off one of the new art benches.

installation. The 25 benches were installed at sites from Saltery Bay to Lund.

This project celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Malaspina Art Society. The community is invited to attend the grand opening at Art in the Park on August 17 from noon to 6 pm with free public painting on canvas, a silent auction, cake cutting and demos.

"I was overwhelmed with the beauty of each design," says Ursula, "and how each artist put their best work into the piece. Although we had a bit of a theme, each creation is unique and unlike any other. And the artists were so thrilled that a piece of their work would be there for everyone to see, whether passing by, or stopping to take a break."



There's a map available online at art-powellriver.ca. It shows the location of the benches and the images the artists created. [RL](#)

Pinetree has, for the third time, been named among the **Top 15 Autobody Shops** in BC in customer satisfaction. ICBC hires the independent company AutocheX to call each customer who has had an ICBC claim fixed and asks them to score the shop on quality of repair, speed, and customer service.

"You have to be in the top 99% to get this award, so even a few bad ratings can make a difference, so I'm really proud of my staff, and really appreciative of our customers," says owner Neil McKenzie. **"After 30 years, we are still excited to be providing Powell River with quality repairs."**

Neil started Pinetree in a Quonset hut on Pinetree Road south of town

with one employee. Today, the business sits on 8,100 square feet on Franklin Avenue in central Powell River, with 10 employees.

"We're thrilled to get this award because, really, it's from our customers!" says Neil.



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Powell River Living I Made the Move

It began with a sunset wedding on Gibson's Beach...

When Nicole and Matthew Bordignon decided they wanted to get married on a beach at sunset, they looked for the perfect place to realize their dream. They found it in Powell River.

"After all it is one of the top 10 places in Canada to watch the sunset," said Nicole.

The couple married in 2010. Later that year, they began talking about where they wanted to live and raise a family. "I remember telling Matt before we knew about Powell River that if I could choose to live anywhere it would be somewhere there was mountains with lakes and ocean nearby. He laughed, later telling me "I don't know how I'm going to come up with that, I don't think a place like that exists."

Once they decided to move, they began doing their homework.

"A lot of places were too expensive for us to afford a home. We looked at Powell River. There were a handful of homes that we were watching on MLS but we had to move where the work was. Matt is a cabinet maker and I'm a legal assistant/receptionist and an aesthetician."

In January, 2011 they drove to Powell River and handed out his resume. In February, Matt landed a job with The Woodworks.

Nicole stayed in New Westminster at first to see how it all worked out. Matt loved his job and Powell River and he continued to check out real estate.

"One evening I got a call from Matt "You need to come up this weekend. I found it. I'm pretty sure your going to love it." So that weekend I flew up and met our soon to be new home.

It was perfect.

They hired Villani and Company to do the legal paperwork. When they were signing documents with Rob Villani, he



asked Nicole what she did for a living. "I told him and he mentioned he had a position available for receptionist. I gave him my resume and I got a position as the receptionist."

The following year, Nicole also began working part time with Image 1 as an aesthetician and later that year she accepted a full time position there.

Why did you choose to move to Powell River?

Both • Powell River really chose us. We wanted to get out of the city. There were three major features we were looking for. Oceans, lakes and mountains. We both needed work and we wanted to settle and purchase a home so we also needed affordable housing. Powell River was able to check off all the above and more.

When did you move to Powell River? From where?

Nicole • We officially moved May long weekend of 2011. Matthew moved first and stayed with a friend until we found a home to pur-

chase. We moved from New Westminster.

How did you first hear about Powell River?

Nicole • I heard about Powell River through a friend.

Matt • Through Nicole

What surprised you about Powell River once you moved here?

Matt • The amount of access we have to the "back 40." We can go for hours driving and exploring and it's all connected some way or another.

Nicole • Endless amounts of trails and roads.

What is your favorite place in Powell River?

Matt • Hmmm it's a secret. It's where everyone else isn't.

Nicole • It's not one place specifically but "the view" in general is my favorite. I love driving around town and seeing the view. I love wherever I walk/hike there is an amazing view. It's really breathtaking.

What would make Powell River a nicer community?

Both • Having a road that connected to Whistler and not having to rely on the ferries.

If you were mayor of Powell River what would you do?

Both • Bring the community together to raise the funds to build the highway to Whistler and boost our tourism.

If you were a fly, which wall in town would you like to inhabit?

Matt • I would be flying—I wouldn't be on a wall.

Nicole • I'm with Matt here. If I could have wings, I would be flying and enjoying the view!

What are Powell River's best assets?

Matt • The amount of outdoor activities that can be done year-round.

Nicole • I would have to say it's trails.

Which talent or superpower would you most like to have?

Nicole • Teleport or to fly for sure.

Matt • Being able to control time. I would love to prevent those Monday mornings from coming around! 

Calling all newcomers!

Have you lived in Powell River for five years or less?

If so, you're a newcomer. And, as a newcomer, you're invited to join the Newcomers' Club.

The Newcomers' Club is the idea of Liz Matthews, herself a newcomer, and with the support of Powell River Diversity Initiative's "Welcoming Communities Project," the club has come to life.

Two meetings have been held so far and members attended a play together and went on a hike. For more information, or if you'd like to share your ideas for activities, please email Liz at ematthews971@gmail.com.

If you know of someone we should feature in "I made the move", please email isabelle@prliving.ca with your idea.

Secretly spectacular

Living in Powell River



Country life meets city

If you choose to make Powell River your home, you already know why this place is secretly spectacular. For those who haven't made that decision yet, however, perhaps a little perspective could be helpful.

Rudy Nielsen sells and assesses land throughout BC, and consults on developments throughout the mainland, coast and islands.

Powell River realtor Carla McKamey was born in Powell River, but lived and worked in Mission, Edmonton and Terrace before moving back to the coast.

They're both fans of rural living. Powell River Living caught up with them to chat about what Powell River offers—and who should be moving here.

PRL: Carla and Rudy, you could live anywhere—why do you choose to live in rural BC?

Rudy Nielsen: For me, it was all about my kids. I was home early, my wife didn't work. I camped every weekend, taught them how to fish, how to do everything.

I appreciate all the parents who take kids outdoors. I'd advise that to anyone. You got young kids? Get the heck out of Vancouver. Get them camping and fishing.

BC offers a lot of things. The summers are gorgeous. There's lots of golf, an ocean to go boating on, it's a pretty good place for retirement.

Carla McKamey: In this size of community, you really get to know your neighbours; people look out for each other. You can be more of a part of the community.

PRL: Carla, who do you see moving here from outside?

CM: In the past year, with the mill hiring, we're seeing some young professionals. For the most part, it's retirees from the Lower Mainland and Alberta. We see people coming with a five year plan—not ready to retire, but they want a spot waiting for them.

PRL: Rudy, are people still moving out of the cities?

The market for selling existing homes is not as high as it was a

How many seniors?

About 23 percent of Powell Riverites are aged 65 and up—a relatively small percentage compared to other cities in the region. However, even here, we're rich in seniors; across Canada, they represent about 15 percent of the population.

Tellingly, British Columbia has seven of the top 10 Canadian cities boasting large populations of people aged 65 and up. Could it be the lack of snow?

Population aged 65 and over:

Qualicum Beach, BC • 47.2%	Gimli, MB • 31.1%
Parksville, BC • 37.1%	City of Nanaimo, BC • 30.9%
Sidney, BC • 36.9%	Nanaimo suburbs • 30.1%
Eliot Lake, ON • 35.1%	White Rock, BC • 29.4%
Creston, BC • 33.1%	Wasaga Beach, ON • 29.1%



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few years ago. People are not getting the price they wanted for their house. This is the crew who bought 40 years ago for \$50,000 in Burnaby—the people who saved their pennies and ate macaroni so they could make house payments. Their house is their retirement. So they're waiting for the [pre-crash] 2007 price to roll around again.

PRL: Is waiting a good choice?

RN: Depends on how financially set you are, and how your health is. If you have any health problems or stress, or you don't like the neighbourhood, get out. Some want that last bit of money—if the grandkids are going to university.

PRL: What are the movers looking for?

RN: When they retire, people don't want to just sit there and watch TV. They want to fish, golf, stay in shape, go to community centres. They're trying to make every year stretch.

CM: They want an ocean view, gardening, and level entry does help. In the Townsite, they like the heritage homes, the small yards they can manage, and the great view.

PRL: Carla, what would you tell tourists who might not be thinking about moving here yet?

CM: When you come to PR, you can have the lifestyle you've always dreamed of. It's all here. Fishing, hiking, biking—the trail systems are amazing. It's the country lifestyle with the amenities of the city. **PR**

Myth? Busted!

Myth • The view is pretty, sure, but there's nothing to do.

Busted! A meaningful life, true community, professional excellence, a rich cultural scene. If you want it, it's here. From award-winning brewers, to environmental activism, to artist cooperatives, to TEDX talks, to religious communities, to oceanside yoga, Powell River attracts innovation. Always has.

Myth • Because Powell River is so isolated, health care is very limited

Busted! The hospital offers a 24/7 ER; kidney dialysis, an ICU, mammography and other diagnostics. Plus, there's excellent extended care and assisted living options. And, a full range of complementary and alternative practitioners.

Myth • Kids don't get the same opportunities here as they do in the city

Busted! Eco-French immersion teaches language and ecology; the Coast Mountain Academy allows senior high students to go Grade 11 and 12 mostly outside; free summer camps for Grade 7 students; free science camps for elementary students; pre-professional classes in dance and music at a fraction of urban course fees; top-performing minor hockey and gymnastics programs... plus, kids can play and bike outside—freedom.

Myth • Groceries are more expensive

Busted! Safeway, Quality Foods, Save-On-Foods, Wal-Mart, Shoppers Drug Mart and indie grocer Mitchell Brothers, plus others all offer food prices that are competitive with any market. The local farmers' markets and fish boats sell fresh and local produce at rates far below similar urban sellers. Farm gate organic free-range eggs sell for as little as \$4 a dozen.

Myth • The ferries will ruin my life

Busted! It's not a big deal. Really. We think of it as enjoying a beautiful cruise at the start of each trip!

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4199 HWY 101



Live comfortably with your kids or your aging parents in this three-bedroom beach-side home. A covered deck means year-round enjoyment of the view. Host weekends for friends, midnight swims, campfires in the summer. Cozy winters in the den with your woodstove.
 • \$279,000

10746 MARINER WAY



Gorgeous wood beams and paned windows appoint this rural house, at the doorway to Desolation Sound. Harvest your own vegetables, fruit and fish nearly year-round, just 20 minutes to downtown Powell River.
 • \$399,000

7859 TRAFFE RD



Private, quiet, and just five minutes from downtown, this beach-side three-bedroom offers plenty of land for a garden, visitors, and projects. It's also walking-distance to a golf course, and, of course, steps to fishing, swimming, and beachcombing.
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7 Things to do on the Salish Sea this summer

By Sean Percy • sean@prliving.ca

Powell River is a jumping-off point to many adventures. We asked local adventurers to choose a few ocean-going activities, but, of course, they each listed far too many for us to fit in these pages, so we culled those down to seven that we think really give you the flavour of the local ocean and what it offers. Once you've scratched these off your bucket list, you'll discover many more adventures await on the Salish Sea.

1 Mitlenatch Island

Often called the Galapagos of the Georgia Strait, Mitlenatch looks like little more than a grass-covered rock—at first. But it boasts a rich biodiversity found nowhere else. In spring, you can walk the trails among yellow, purple and white wild flowers and watch fuzzy seabird chicks hatch. With just half the rainfall of nearby Campbell River, prickly pear cactus grows, as do a wide variety of unexpected plants. A 3.5 hour zodiac tour with Terracentric Adventures (www.terracentricadventures.com) is \$95 or take a 6-hour lunch tour for \$139, which gives you the chance to get out and hike. Locals get a 15% discount on all tours and rentals, as the company wants to encourage more residents to explore their back yard.

2 Paddle & Pint

Kayaking is an intimate way to explore the Salish Sea, and Terracentric's "Paddle and Pint" Monday nights is a great way for local residents to try the sport and learn a few techniques in a social atmosphere. It's just \$25 for a single or \$35 for a double kayak. The group usually spends a couple hours on the water, then heads over to Boardwalk, where, if you buy some food, they will throw in a pint of Townsite Brewing ale.

3 Paddle a traditional canoe

Your understanding of the Salish Sea is incomplete without learning how the Tla'amin people travelled the ocean. Take a five-hour cultural canoe tour through *Kwoo Kwahk Thys*, also known as the Copeland Islands. I'Hos Tours (ihostours.com) paddles through the traditional territory of the Tla'amin people aboard the *Cheech Lem Chi Chia*, a 35-foot Salish style canoe, for \$139 per person. Along the journey, you will hear songs and stories of the Salish people, and learn of the area's history.





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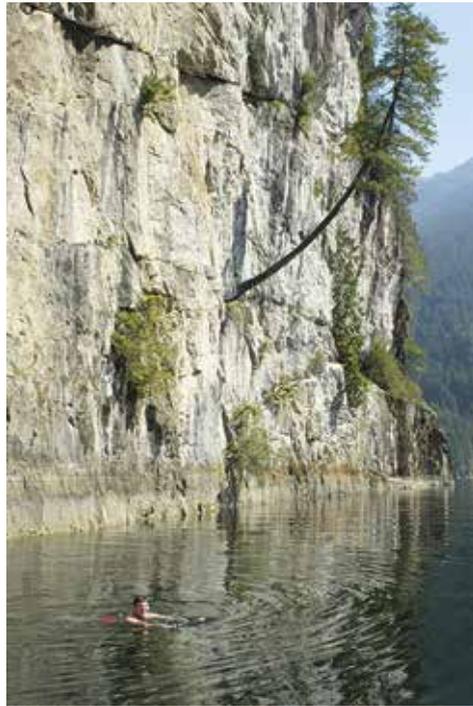
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4 Toba

If you're using Lund as your base of exploration, it's expected you will tour Desolation Sound. But to get a sense of the ruggedness of this waterscape, you need to go further. Here, the scenery becomes more dramatic. You'll enjoy the waterfalls and the steep fjord walls, but also the quiet, away from the traffic of Desolation Sound. A day trip in a Zodiac with Terracentric is \$229, or customize it with an overnight stay in the Toba Wilderness cabins and add some kayaking. Or take a week-long paddling tour to Toba with Powell River Sea Kayak (www.bcseakayak.com) for \$1325.



5 Princess Louisa Inlet

A magical spot on the Sunshine Coast, and consistently rated as one of the world's top scenic destinations, is remote Princess Louisa Inlet. This glacial fjord has awed and inspired generations with its gigantic granite walls rising steeply out of the ocean, seemingly to the top of the world. Cliffs above world famous Chatterbox Falls are well over a mile high! Water in the Inlet is usually calm enough to show reflections of the surrounding faces.

Known as *Swiwelát* to the people of the Sechelt (*Shíshálh*) Nation this area has always been a special spot. Sunshine Coast Tours (www.sunshinecoasttours.ca) offers \$144 boat tours to the inlet from Egmont, but will also run tours from Saltery Bay for larger groups.

6 Perseid & Phosphorescence

Paddling on the Salish Sea is amazing any time. But when shooting stars are both overhead and below, it's downright

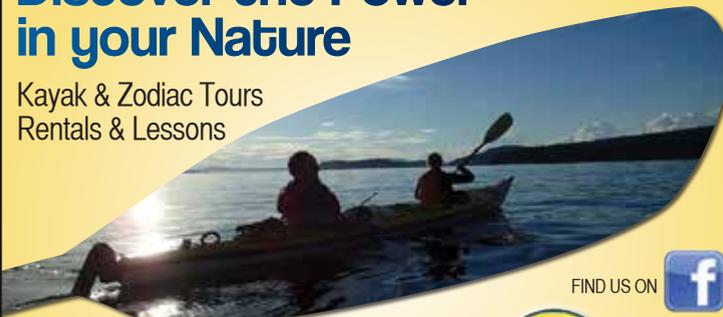
surreal. Enjoy this living light show after dusk when your paddles stir up tiny bioluminescent plankton, commonly, if incorrectly, referred to as "phosphorescence". In the dark water, the little critters look like shooting stars, or "fairy dust in the water." Combined that with the Perseid meteor shower that lights up the sky through August and peaks August 12, and you have the makings for a stunning paddling experience, described by some as reminiscent of an LSD trip, without the side effects. If you don't have your own watercraft, you may need to sweet talk a kayak tour operator, but most will arrange post-sunset tours if convinced you won't get lost in the dark. Or try an overnight meteor show tour, since peak viewing is around 2 am.

7 Snorkel

The Salish Sea is a world-renowned destination for scuba divers. But during the warmth of summer, there's no need to don dry suits and tanks to explore the wonders beneath the waves. Just put on a mask and snorkel and wade into the ocean anywhere along the coast. A wetsuit and a pair of fins will expand how long and far you can explore. Any of the local beaches offer decent snorkelling, though rocky shores have more life. Mermaid Cove at Saltery Bay campground is one of the top spots, with easy access to the water. Emmonds Beach north of town and Shelter Point on Texada Island are other good snorkelling locations. Watch for sea stars, nudibranchs and anemones. See how many different species of fish you can spot; if it's fewer than 10, you're not looking hard enough. Powell River Sea Kayak (www.bcseakayak.com) offers snorkelling tours for \$55 for a two-and-a-half hour tour in Okeover Inlet, or make it part of a seven-hour kayak tour for \$119 and explore a spot in the Desolation Sound Marine Park aptly called "The Aquarium." [PRL](#)

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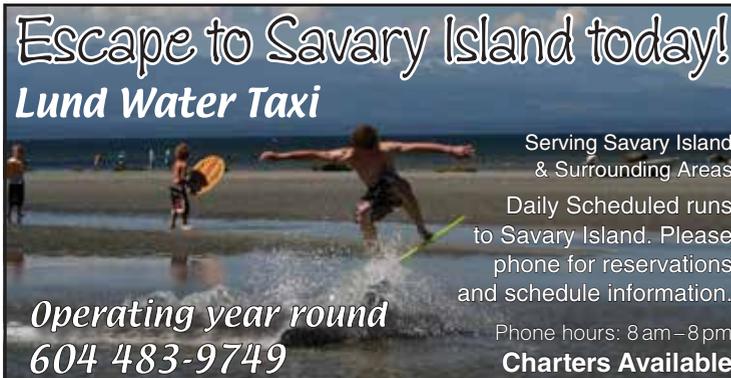
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Tug-guhm... "sun" in coastal Salish, is also the name of Debra Bevaart's studio gallery. A showcase for more than 40 local artists with Debra's stone sculptures brought to life on-site, strong coastal imagery is the theme of this gallery.



"A UNIQUE STOP AT THE END OF THE ROAD"



A growing concern

By Jonathan van Wiltenburg • edenhort@gmail.com



Herbaceous perennials for dry shade

In all well-tended gardens, a lot of time and effort goes into planning: choosing the best possible location for each plant. Dry shade can be challenging. These areas tend to be under trees or along hedges, and are extremely difficult to keep plants looking happy and healthy without large amounts of attention and water.

This month, I thought I would recommend a very small list of herbaceous perennials that can handle a dry shade environment. Of course, many of our native plants will obviously suffice for this list too. Please send your question to jonthan@edenhort.ca. Happy gardening!

Epimedium, *Epimedium x versicolor* 'Sulphureum' • A lovely plant with appealing heart-shaped coarse leaves that turn burnt red in autumn. They're followed by dainty yellow flowers that appear in early spring. Slower growing, and competitive once established, this plant is perfect for growing under trees where light, space, and moisture can be slim to none. Low maintenance, 8-12" height with spreading growth habit.

Hakone Grass, *Hakonechloa macra* 'All Gold' • A beautiful draping yellow grass that will light up any bit of shade. Native

to Japan, it has become a popular species to have throughout the garden or in a shady pot. Slower growing, low maintenance, height 12". Spreading growth habit. A lovely plant.

Hosta • One of the most popular plants bought worldwide and grown for its large beautiful fleshy leaves that come in a plethora of yellow, white, green or combination thereof. Once established, hostas can handle both winter moisture and summer dryness. They are an excellent option for a pot in a shady location and a truly wonderful addition to any West Coast garden. Low maintenance and fairly fast growing. Can be prone to slug damage. Height 12-24", spread 12-24."

Other herbaceous perennials include:

- Coral bells, *Heuchera species*
- Lily of the valley, *Convallaria majalis*
- Japanese Anemone, *Anemone x hybrida*
- Oxalis, *Oxalis oregana*
- Pachysandra, *Pachysandra terminalis*
- Siberian Bugloss, *Brunnera macrophylla*
- Siberian Squill, *Scilla siberica*
- Sword fern, *Polystichum munitum*
- Wood fern, *Dryopteris filix-mas* PRL

Priorities for August

- 1 Irrigate. With all this beautiful weather it is important to water deeply. Five minutes here and there won't cut it. Be sure to stick your finger in the soil. It surprises me every time how shallow the water penetrates.
- 2 For a winter garden, plant out your beets, chard, extra leeks etc. It is too late to plant seeds for cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, or Brussels sprouts. Take a trip out to the local nursery and purchase starts that will mature in time for winter harvest.
- 3 Be on the lookout for pests and disease. Aphids, cabbage white moth, powdery mildew, blackspot, and tomato blight are the main culprits. To control aphids, blast them with a strong stream of water. For cabbage white moth, remove by hand picking. If infestation persists, spray with BTK. If it's wet, cover your tomatoes.
- 4 To keep those summer annuals looking fresh and beautiful, deadhead and prune them regularly.
- 5 Sow your colourful biennial ornamentals for next year — poppies, foxgloves, English daisies, wallflowers, and forget-me-nots.
- 6 Take a few photos of your garden this year for your records. It is always nice to look over in subsequent years. Also an excellent aid when you go to edit.
- 7 Check fruit's ripeness, and pick as soon as possible to alleviate bear confrontations. If you are overrun with fruit, find someone to share your harvest with.
- 8 Feel free to sneak a few new potatoes for a meal. It doesn't get any better than that.
- 9 Order from a reputable bulb supplier — the sooner the better. Fall bulb planting is just around the corner.
- 10 Harvest young and often; keep those plants producing.
- 11 Flip your compost pile. If it is dry and crumbly and not breaking down quickly, you may need to add some water. If it smells and is sopping wet you may need to cover it with a tarp and let it dry out. Remember, your compost pile is a living system that needs proper amounts of water, air, carbon, and nitrogen for rapid efficient breakdown.

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Powell River Living BUSINESS Connections

By Kim Miller • office@powellriverchamber.com

The PR Chamber of Commerce welcomes Cory Carr, with **Investors Group**, as the new representative for the Chamber's Group Benefits Plan here in Powell River. Cory brings a wealth of enthusiasm and knowledge to the role, and we are happy to have him as our regional representative. Cory is an advocate for local business and has served on the board of the Powell River Chamber for the last three years. We also want to thank Don Allan [who just stepped down as rep] for all the great work he did for the last four years."

Christine Parsons is the new coordinator for **Success By 6**. Christine and her family moved to Powell River four months ago. Her husband was born and raised here and she has extended family in the community as well. "I am familiar with the many programs and services for chil-

dren and families in Powell River and am excited at the opportunity to learn more, share my experiences and collaborate with the many organizations, committees and volunteers that make Powell River and its surrounding areas the strong, vibrant, family oriented community that it is," says Christine.

Pinetree Autobody is one of 15 body shops in BC to win ICBC's customer satisfaction award for 2012. This is the third time in the past eight years that Pinetree has been presented with this prestigious award. The 2012 AutocheX Premier Achiever Award recognizes collision repair shops across North America for achieving excellent customer satisfaction scores. The surveys are conducted independently by AutocheX and track key award criteria such as the shop's ability to keep the customer informed, provid-

ing on-time deliveries and quality repairs, and the customer's willingness to recommend the shop to family and friends.

Erik Blaney (*Tiy ap thote*) and Miel Creasey launched **I'Hos Cultural Tours** in June, offering zodiac tours, canoe and kayak tours, as well as traditional cedar weaving workshops. Zodiac tours start in Lund at \$89 for adults. Hear the songs, learn the teachings, view the pictographs. Erik has been guiding and working in the Desolation Sound and surrounding areas for almost two decades. Coming from a family of traditional language speakers, weavers, drummers, singers and dancers he incorporates these into his own life and started the tour company to share the knowledge and practices of the Siammon (Tla'amin) Salish peoples. Book at www.ihostours.com or call 604 483-1308. **RL**



Malaspina Art Society gratefully acknowledges the funding and cooperation of the Vancouver Foundation, the Powell River Community Foundation, and the Powell River Arts Council for the 25th Anniversary Bench Project. We also wish to thank Jackson Cedar Products and all the artists involved, particularly Ursula Medley for her dedication and vision.

Now you can get one of the designs in your home!
The society will auction off the original art during **ARTS ALIVE IN THE PARK August 17 & 18.**



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What's up? POWELL RIVER

They ran the whole thing!

On July 13 & 14, five Powell River runners completed the entire 180-kilometre Sunshine Coast Trail in a relay-style "race". They covered roughly 30 kilometres per day per runner, with the exception of ultra athlete Steve Gould, who covered two legs — 64 km, on the second day, after running 31km the day before. Fellow runners (pictured) were Craig Dunbar, Pat Walsh, Joseph McLean and Joel Nordman. It's the first known unsupported relay of the entire trail, and it took them just under 31 hours. Runners carried their own food, water and supplies. Though they spotted only one bear, which left them alone, though Steve says he did suffer wounds from angry hornets. The relay was to determine whether a large-scale 100-mile race could be hosted on the Sunshine Coast Trail, and the answer is a resounding yes, says Steve,

who has competed in ultra running races around the continent, and is currently training for a race over Mt Blanc in France.



The European race will be a cakewalk compared to the SCT, he says. "This trail is technically very challenging." But, thanks to PRPAWS and the hiking clubs, the trail was clear of debris and windfall from the winter, Steve reports. With more than 6,000 metres of elevation gain (and same loss) during the race, it's just 2,000 metres from the equivalent of running up Mount Everest. Knowledge gained from this tour will be applied to logistical and safety planning for a future race. "It would require a lot of volunteers, but it would be an awesome run that would put Powell River on the map, not just for runners, but for hiking, too," says Steve. [PR](#)

Cruisin' the Dub

Mark August 22 on your calendar and plan to visit A&W. Not only can you support multiple sclerosis research but you can take in a great car show. On that day, \$1 from every Teen Burger sold will be donated to help end MS. Cruisin' for a Cause gets underway at 6 pm. You can also donate money to the cause by giving it to your cashier from now until August 22 or donate online at [## Inbox](http://www.cruisinfora-</p>
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We welcome feedback from our readers. Letters may be edited for length. Email isabelle@prliving.ca, or mail letters to *PR Living*, 7053E Glacier Street, Powell River, BC V8A 5J7.

Dear Powell River Living:

When travelling by ferry to Powell River in early May, I happened to pick up *Powell River Living* magazine. The lovely story of Ruby Duck caught my attention, so much so, that I cut out the article and sent it to my daughter in Halifax. She has three young children ages 1-5, who I knew would enjoy hearing about Ruby. The children loved her story.

Returning to Powell River at the end of June, I once again picked up *Powell River Living* and to my delight found a postscript on Ruby. She had since earned her own book! As I was heading east in a few days time, I picked up a copy so I could deliver it in person to my grandchildren. However, Ruby's story will not end in Halifax.

The family is relocating at the end of July and in September my young grandson will be entering grade one in Rochester, New York. I'm sure Ruby will make it to "show and tell" at his new school where he can "treat each day as a new adventure" and "expect new friends everywhere."

Thanks for sharing your wonderful life lessons Ruby, and thank you Maria for sharing Ruby Duck with us.

Vicki Kosterewa



Walk for the animals

Scotiabank and the BC SPCA Paws for a Cause...Walk for the Animals event hits Willingdon Beach on Sunday, September 8. This year's event is a fundraiser for the new community animal shelter. Registration is from 12 to 1 pm, followed by a walk on the Beach Trail for canines and their human companions. There'll be food and entertainment, a silent auction, nail clipping, dog games, a Doggie's Got Talent competition, and prizes for top pledge collectors and most talented dogs.

The shelter, which opened in May, has already assisted many animals, improving their health and finding them forever homes. As the largest fundraiser of the year, this event will help fund the ongoing work of the shelter. Pledge forms are available at Scotiabank, Rainbow Valley Pet & Farm Supplies, Westview Vet Hospital, Powell River Veterinary Hospital, Paws & Claws, and the Powell River SPCA Animal Shelter, or online at www.sPCA.bc.ca.

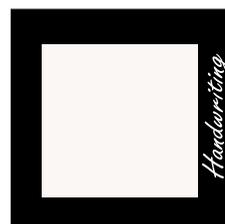
cause2013.ca. When you respond YES on A&W's Facebook event page or Tweet about Cruisin' for a Cause, A&W will make a donation on your behalf.

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Last month's answers:

- Collateral damage
- Few and far between
- Easy come, easy go

Solutions in next issue... or visit our website www.prliving.ca

© Alan Morgan

AMP up your AUG

Powell River Living recommends these snazzy summer events

Aug 1: RCMP Musical ride at 7 pm. Free stable visits 9 am–9 pm at the Exhibition Grounds.

Aug 2,9,16 & 23: Fun in the Sun with Family Place at Willingdon Beach.

Aug 3: Westview Jammer reunion. If you've ever jammed at the Westview Hotel (and what respectable Powell River musician hasn't?), head down to the hotel for a 12-hour jam extravaganza. Music begins at 10 pm Aug 2, but the main event starts at 2 pm Saturday. Free burgers for musicians. Lots of out-of-towners coming. Stop by to reminisce or enjoy the rockin' music.

Aug 10: Make history! Get your best steampunk outfit together and come join us at the Steam Donkey on the Willingdon Beach trail for Tourism Powell River's first steampunk photo shoot! Each participant will receive a free DVD containing the photos. Prizes for best costume! Contact Tracey Ellis, tracey@discoverpowellriver.com, 604-485-4701.

Aug 13: Movie Under the Stars at 8:00pm at Larry Gouthro Park. First Credit Union shows *Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted*.

Aug 17: Arts Alive in the Park 11-7 at Willingdon Beach. Artists, musicians, artisans, writers, poets and more. Demonstrations, food booths, information booths, art for kids. Fun Family games in the sand at the beach, CD painting and hanging and more. www.PowellRiverArtsCouncil.com.

Aug 18: Arts Alive in the Park continues 11-6.

Aug 25: Run The Rock Marathon, walker-friendly half-marathon & a new eight-kilometre run. Last year's flower rock marathon finishers' medals were selected by iRun Magazine as one of the top-10 unique medals in Canada. Runners from Brazil and Germany have already signed up. Details and registration through www.avidfitness.ca/rock/. Registration cost increases on Aug 13. Calling Rob McWilliam for more info at 604-486-0377.

Aug 29 - Sept 2: Reiki retreat with Mari Okazaki at Hemingway Cottage on Savary Island. 604-703-8098 or www.jikidenreikiwithmari.com

Aug 31 - Sept 1: The 32nd Annual Sunshine Music Festival - a celebration of music from across Canada and the world. See world class performances in a picturesque setting at Palm Beach Park on the waterfront. Shop at the craft market and enjoy some tasty treats from the many food vendors.

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

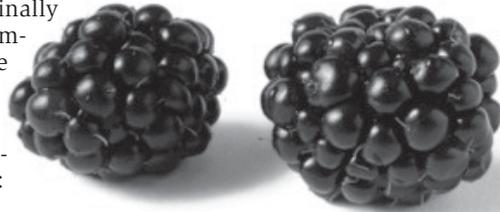
Blackberry Bonanza

Want to party with the Blackberry Fest's coordinator? Offer Cathy MacDonald a blackberry smoothie. That's the Marine Area Business Association executive director's favourite festival treat - even with stiff competition.

When the week-long event rolls into town August 10 to 18, she expects about 100 vendors offering temptations from blackberry key lime pie, to blackberry-infused pulled pork.

This year represents the 20th anniversary of the city's biggest street party - originally envisioned as a simple boost to Marine Avenue's summer traffic.

Now, the newly zero-waste event features:



Aug 10 & 11: Blackberry Days at the Open Air Market. Saturday 10 am–12:30 pm; Sunday, noon–2:30 pm

Aug 13: *Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted*, First Credit Union's *Movie Under the Stars @ dusk* at Larry Gouthro Park

Aug 15: Barbeque rib challenge in the Town Centre Hotel's parking lot, 6 pm. Call 604 485-3000 to enter

Aug 16: Run the Blackberry Mile down Marine Avenue, 6 pm

Aug 16: Marine Avenue Street party, 6 to 11 pm

Aug 16: Quality Foods Festival of Lights 10:10 pm

Aug 17 & 18: Arts Alive in the Park, Willingdon Beach, 11 am–6 pm

Aug 19: Hospitality Olympics at the Shinglemill Pub and Bistro, 6 pm

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Powell River Living FACES of EDUCATION

The new Westview Elementary School

Jamie Burt has to pinch himself as he shows people around Westview Elementary School.

"This is the nicest school in the province," he says proudly. "It's so exciting."

The state-of-the-art school is undisputedly beautiful and practical at the same time. From the welcoming foyer to the



learning commons to the classrooms to the fabulous new gym, Westview Elementary is spectacular.

"We're spending the summer getting set up," says Jamie as he walks past Lorraine Taylor busily unpacking boxes in her kindergarten room. Teachers Lisa Lundell Lewis and Christy Sullivan are unpacking upstairs where the intermediate elementary students have their classrooms.

The school is divided into three sections. There's the commons area with the learning commons, community office and main office, the classroom wing and the multipurpose and gym wing.

The new school has 14 classrooms and offers kindergarten to grade seven. There are two multi-purpose rooms, two pre-

kindergarten/early learning spaces and a community office.

"There's a strong sense of community at Westview Elementary," says Jamie. The pre-kindergarten/early learning rooms will have learn-to-play activity stations that will be available for educators to use. Early Learning Coordinator Rita John will oversee these programs.

"We can hopefully get to know more of the parents and guardians of pre-school aged children and they can get a better idea of how our school operates. It should allow our community to centralize a lot of great programs and hopefully bring more awareness of them to the public. I like it because it will bring more people into the school to see what happens here on a daily basis," says Jamie.

The new school's eye popper has to be the gym. "For an elementary school it's absolutely insane," says Jamie with a big grin on his face as he pushes a button that lowers a screen dividing the gym in two. Half the new gym is still bigger than the old gym was.

The school offers everything from a state-of-the-art stage to a built-in projector and a huge screen, to a score clock, to folding low-profile bleachers in the gym.

"We want to utilize the gym for our students and also host District sporting programs so all students in the community can take advantage of it," says Jamie.

There are portable computer pods and every classroom and learning space has built in projectors.

"Look at our music room," says Jamie. "They've thought of everything. There are acoustic panels on the ceiling and even a sink in the instrument room to wash instruments in."

Down the hall, there's a laundry room to wash jerseys and towels. The multipurpose room can be booked by community members. The school even has one large kitchen that is adjacent to a multipurpose room and a smaller kitchen in the early learning space. There's a kiln just off a multipurpose room.

"On the far side we have the class-

room block," says Jamie continuing his tour. "The primary classrooms (K to 3) are on the lower level and the intermediate classrooms (4 to 7) are on the second floor," says Jamie. The two kindergarten rooms connect and they have their own entrance for drop off and their own playground.

The outside grounds are equally well thought out. There's an outside teaching area accessible from the learning commons that classes can use, new playground equipment on a rubber surface purchased by the school's PAC, racks that will house up to 100 bikes, courts with a ball wall and space for tether ball. "This field is triple the size of the old field," says Jamie. There's also a road hockey court, a basketball court with eight nets and a tennis wall. "Kids are already using the outside play areas," he says.

There's a community path that loops all around the school grounds. It includes a variety of exercise equipment so people can stop at different stations and mix it up a bit.

The public is invited to visit the new Westview Elementary School in August. **RL**

GRAND OPENING

The official grand opening of Westview Elementary School will be held at 9:30 am on September 3, the first day of school. School District 47 trustees and local and provincial dignitaries will be at the opening.

Grade seven students will be acting as tour guides during the community open house which will be held on Tuesday, August 27 from 3 to 8 pm. Principal Jamie Burt will be there, most likely grinning from ear to ear, as he shows people around the new school and answers questions.

"We are extremely excited for the start of the school year. After a lot of planning and hard work by so many people and groups, Westview Elementary School is ready to go. Our students and the entire community are going to benefit. I can't wait," says Jamie.

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The Powell River Regional District is developing a Regional Transportation Plan that will guide future transportation planning. It will consider all modes of water, air and land-based transport within the Powell River region as well as connections with Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. *Your input is valuable and a key part of the planning process.*

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How you can get involved:

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2. Attend a meeting

As part of phase one consultation, three public consultation sessions were held in July and a fourth session is scheduled for Wednesday, August 7th (7 to 9 pm) at the Lund Community Centre.

3. Fill in a survey

Survey questionnaires can be submitted up until August 15th.

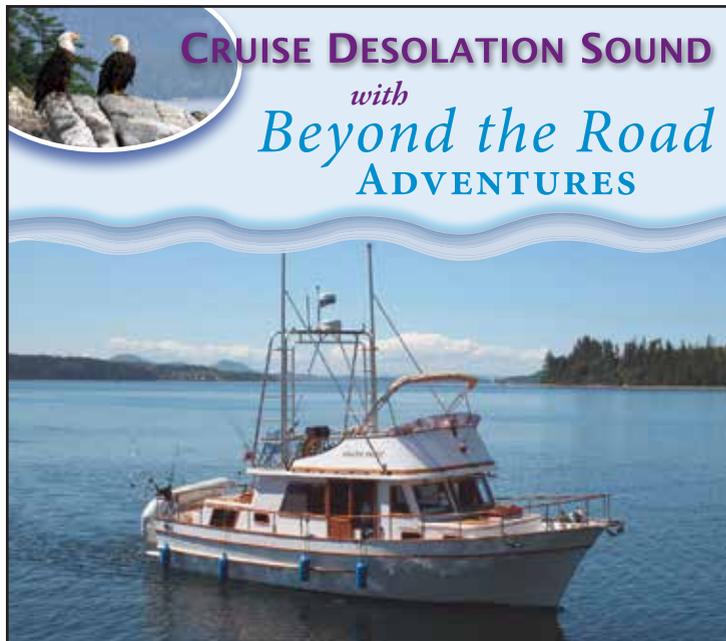
- Go to www.powellriverrd.bc.ca/2013/06/regional-transportation-plan to fill out the survey.
- Stop by in person at the PRRD office, #202 – 4675 Marine Avenue
- Or call 604-485-2260 or email planning@powellriverrd.bc.ca

4. Call us

Contact the Planning Department to discuss your concerns and ideas.



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