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NOVEMBER 2013

**SENIORS: SCAMS, FLYING, FACEBOOK & INDEPENDENCE | WWII THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES**

# November 2013

# Happening at the Complex

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pre register for programs marked with *		<b>Table Tennis \$2/per</b> <i>Adult Drop-In:</i> Tues @ 1-3 pm Wed @ 6:30-9 pm Thurs @ 7-9 pm & <b>Youth Ages 10-17 @ 3:30-5 pm</b>		1 *Parent & Tot Swim Lessons	2 <b>Craft Fair</b> Powell River's Own Craft Fair November 1 & 2	
3 <b>Pickle Ball</b> — @ Ocean view school Adult Drop-in \$2/ per Mon 4:00-6:00pm & Wed 6-8pm *Pre-purchase play tickets at complex		5 * Weight Room Orientation—Adult Noon-1 pm	6*Classic Social Dance 5 Classes 7-9 pm <b>Pickle Ball—6-8pm</b>	7 Everyone Welcome Toonie Skate Thursdays 3:30-5 pm	8 <b>PIZZA</b> *Pizza Night at the Pool 7-9 pm	9 See...Displays, Demonstrations, dance, music & sample ethnic food
10	11 <b>Remembrance Day</b> Everyone Welcome <b>Swim or Skate</b> NO Pickle Ball today	12 Free Seniors Day 	13 <b>FREE Seniors Skate</b> 11:00 am-12:30 pm *Change Workshop Roche 6-8 pm	14	15	16 <b>Come enjoy!</b> Celebration of Cultural Diversity 10 am-3 pm Upper Complex level
17 <b>New!</b> <b>Frosty Family Skate</b> Noon-1:30 pm <b>Sea Snake Sunday</b>	18 *Front Crawl Technique 2 classes 	19	20 <b>Starting today!</b> * Tai Chi - session 2 5 classes 7-8 pm <b>Pickle Ball— 6-8pm</b>	21 *Weight Room Orientation—Adult noon-1 pm	22 Drug Awareness Swim 7-9 pm Toonie Night	23 <b>Winter/Spring 2014 Leisure Guide</b> Delivered in the Peak Nov 30 Registration Begins
24	25 <b>Purchase tickets Xmas Lights Bus Tour Dec 15 or 16</b> Limited seats available	26	27 1:30 pm <b>Aquacise Appreciation Raffle</b> *Weight Room Orientation—Youth 5:30-6:30 pm	28 <b>Last day Youth Table Tennis @ 3:30pm</b> 	29 Food Bank Swim 7-9 pm 	30 <b>Experience Winter Wonderland Starting Dec 13</b> Book your party!



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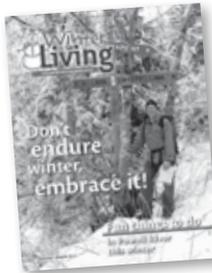


A publication for Powell River's "off-season"

Published Jan 15, 2014

From January to March, our full-colour *Winter Living* issue showcases the best of region to adventurous locals – and it's designed to attract the burgeoning off-season tourist market.

For the 3,000+ people who have moved to Powell River in the last five years, to the region's 110,000 annual visitors (and their local hosts), this is your chance to reach out. Tourism research tells us that top activities for visitors include shopping for arts and crafts (68 percent do it when they're here) and fine dining (41 percent). Tell your business's story – in a season when we all need a little boost.



Contact your ad rep today to book your spot:

**Sean at 604 485-0003 or sean@prliving.ca**

**Suzi at 604 344-0208 or suzi@prliving.ca**

**DEADLINE: DEC 20, 2012**

Stories and features planned:

**Arts section**

- \* Images of a West Coast winter – a spread featuring local painters
- \* Powell River Film Festival

**Food section**

- \* Powell River chefs' best recipes for fire-cooked meals
- \* Cheers! We crawl PR for the best boozy / appy warm-ups

**Tourism section**

- \* Coming soon!

**Home section**

- \* Wood vs gas vs oil
- \* How to be married for 50+ years

**Adventure section**

- \* Hunting, for environmentalists
- \* Surf scoters (birders)

**Fitness section**

- \* A strong core: top PR fitness gurus share their best moves
- \* Work-outs for children and teens

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**Powell River Flu clinics**

Date	Time	Location
Nov 6 – Seniors and Everyone Welcome	9:30am - 2:30pm	Powell River Recreation Complex 5001 Joyce Ave
Nov 7 – Seniors and Everyone Welcome	9:30am - 2:30pm	Powell River Recreation Complex 5001 Joyce Ave
Nov 15 – Family Clinic <b>by appointment – phone 604-485-3310</b> (for families with children ages 10 and under)	3:30pm - 5:30pm	Powell River Community Health 3rd floor - 5000 Joyce Ave
Nov 18 – Texada Island	10:00am - 2:00pm	OAP room / Gillies Bay Texada Island
Nov 19 – Seniors and Everyone Welcome	10:00am - 1:00pm	Cranberry Seniors Centre 6792 Cranberry St
Nov 20 – Seniors and Everyone Welcome	10:00am - 1:00pm	Cranberry Seniors Centre 6792 Cranberry St
Nov 27 – Everyone Welcome	12:30pm - 3:30pm	Evangel Church 5139 Manson Ave
Nov 28 – Everyone Welcome	12:30pm - 3:30pm	Evangel Church 5139 Manson Ave





15



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### ON THE COVER

Mushroom man, Johnny McDowell, takes a bit out of a pine.

Photo by Pieta Woolley

## Powell River Living CONTRIBUTORS



**JOHN CARTER** moved to Powell River six years ago with his childhood sweetheart after a chance encounter with a Powell River resident who was visiting England.



**LINDA WEGNER** is researcher, public speaker and writer with nearly 1,000 articles to her credit. She owns Words of Worth. Her book, *3D Success: Changing Careers in Mid-life* was a finalist last year with The World Guild.



**CAROLEANN LEISHMAN** studied ballet, jazz and modern dance as a kid, performed in Holiday on Ice in Europe and has a diploma in Dramatic Arts. She has taught dance, theatre and figure skating.



**PIETA WOOLLEY** is Powell River Living's special projects coordinator. She's worked in newsrooms at *The Georgia Strait*, *The Tyee*, *The Hay River Hub* and as a freelancer.



**ELAINE STEIGER** was born in Powell River and with her husband Max, operated Mountain Ash Farm. Now semi-retired, she tends a large garden and operates The Basket Case, a custom gift basket business.



**GRANT WORKMAN** was, in 1953, one of four Powell River Air Cadets chosen to go to Sea Island to earn his Pilots Wings. In 2011 he attended his Brooks high school reunion, a visit that sparked a website in honour of those who served in World War II.

**OUR CHOICE OF PAPER** • This magazine is printed entirely on paper made by Catalyst Paper. The cover and centre stock are Pacific-Cote, made at Port Alberni. Most of the pages are Electrabrite, made at the Powell River mill.

*Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant with the weak and the wrong. Sometime in your life you will have been all of these.*

Dr Robert Goddard (1882-1945)  
American professor, physicist and inventor



We welcome feedback from our readers. Email your comments to [isabelle@prliving.ca](mailto: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

## The month before

November is the month before. The month before Christmas, the month before the shortest day of the year, and the month we remember.

This issue of Powell River Living pays tribute to those who served and sacrificed their lives for our freedom. On November 11, Remembrance Day ceremonies will take place at the Cenotaph and Dwight Hall in the Townsite. Powell River Living remembers on Page 11, with Grant Workman's story about a website he's creating to honour veterans. There's a story about World War I veterans on Pages 19 and 20. Linda Wegner's story on Page 14 about a woman who writes cheery letters to soldiers she will never meet and prays for them gives hope to our military as they serve our country.

In *Small child, big war*, John Carter recounts his experience as a child in England during World War II. John is one of the writers published in *Slices: A Memoir Anthology* that will be launched by the library this month.

The mushroom story on Page 7 takes us to another world where 'shrooms are king. From a walk in the woods with Johnny McDowell to mushroom buyers and sellers, mushrooms mean serious business.

This issue has a focus on seniors. Powell River Living's Pieta Woolley had a blast interviewing retired schoolteacher Selina Smith about her hobby, flying. When Selina asked Pieta if she'd

like to fly, she jumped at the chance. Pieta's story on Page 15 traces Selina's flights, from her first solo trip to the friends she's made and the places she's flown.

Seniors Dorothy and Glenn Adams share their story on Page 13 about the Grandparent scam. Stay home longer on Page 16 provides useful information for seniors who would like to remain in their own home longer. Seniors who find themselves overwhelmed with the advances in technology – and there are many – need not to be afraid. You're not alone! There is help out there and it is possible to learn how to Facebook, email, and figure out the new remote control on our TV. VIU's ElderCollege and the Adult Literacy program offer support should you find yourself tearing your hair out.

Bears are a problem for many this fall, including senior Elaine Steiger. On Pages 21 and 22, she shares her bear tales and talks about what can, and can't, be done about it.

Powell River's third Celebration of Cultural Diversity takes place on November 16 at the Recreation Complex. It's a great way to get to know what a fabulous mix of cultures we have living here and discover the many amazing skills, foods and traditions. See story on Page 27.

Our *I Made the Move* series continues on Page 12 and *Everyday Heroes* features the RCMP this month on Page 31.

November also means an end to Daylight Saving Time. Be sure to set your clocks back by one hour as it comes to an end at 2 am on Sunday, November 3.

Thanks for reading! 



Isabelle Southcott, Publisher • [isabelle@prliving.ca](mailto:isabelle@prliving.ca)



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# Hunting, for vegetarians

Geezers & gourmands pursue local fungus

By Pieta Woolley • pieta@prliving.ca

The phone rings, and mushroom buyer Shelley Labree presses it to her springy curls. “Uh huh,” she says, and hangs up. “Chantrelles are \$1.75 a pound right now,” she announces to the dozen-or-so muddy-shoed pickers who have assembled in the old Edgehill Store on Manson Avenue. No one grumbles, but faces

droop. They were worth \$2 a pound minutes before.

Ups and downs—this is the way the mushroom game is played. Each autumn for the past 33 years, Shelley has left her work as an esthetician—nails and facials—to drive her van around coastal BC, following the rains and the mushrooms.

This year isn’t terrible, she said. Four buyers are operating in Powell River right now, compared to eight in a good year. But that’s not stopping the die-hards.

“Once a mushroom picker, always a mushroom picker,” she said, as she weighed a basket of soft and floppy, bright orange chanterelles. “It’s a lot like fishing and hunting. They live to pick. We get them in here from six years old and up. One guy was just in who’s turning 88 this month.”

Lanky men with leathery faces wait their turn at the scales, their baskets and bins piled high, filled with fungi. The earthy, wet smell of mushrooms, fresh from the forest floor, hangs heavily in here. The store is sparse; a few tables, some courtesy candies in a basket, a table with a scale and a receipt book dot the abandoned shop.

Chanterelles are the most common edible, and white, pithy pines the most coveted. Shelley also buys the tripe-like “colis” or cauliflower mushrooms, fleshy salmon-coloured lobster mushrooms, and others. She sells them to distributors who bring them to Europe and Japan.

Shelley’s crew represents, for the most part, the old guard—those who have been picking for decades, supplementing their incomes and getting some free exercise, while they’re at it. But they’re no longer alone in the forest.

An earnest new cookbook-toting mycophile community has sprung up here and elsewhere, in love with creamy chanterelle sauces and their food sustainability mission. Inspired by a handful of new books such as the Cowichan Valley author and farmer Bill Jones’ *The Deerholme Mushroom Book: From Foraging to Feasting* (2013), they’re learning to tell the poisonous from the edible.

At Powell River’s recreation complex on a recent Saturday, 21 of these newbies gathered for a workshop with local mushroom (and elk and moose) hunting personality Johnny McDowell.

“There’s mushrooms everywhere here,” he told the group. “It’s extra money! It’s crazy! They pay ya to go exercise.... You’ve gotta know what’s good and what’s bad, and then you go out there and you give it.”



**CAPS FOR CASH:** For 33 years, Shelley Labree has traded caps (and stems) for cash. Inset: Basket full of pines, the most sought-after and valuable mushrooms in the forest.

*Tug-Guhm*  
GALLERY & STUDIO

Tug-guhm... “sun” in coastal Salish, is also the name of Debra Bevaart’s studio gallery. The gallery is a showcase for more than 40 local artists, with a theme of strong coastal imagery. Debra’s own stone sculptures are brought to life on-site.

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**PERFECT!** Johnny McDowell really loves mushrooms.



**CHANTRELLE GOLD:** Chad Mansell finds forest gold.



**MEALS READY FOR TAKING:** Erica and Ken Cawley find dinner on the ground.

Then, he led the group into the forest behind the complex. Erica Cawley, back from Simon Fraser University for Thanksgiving, found a handful of mushrooms with dad Ken Cawley.

"That's supper!" said Ken.

In fact, most of this group was more interested in eating mushrooms than selling them.

Chung Choo found a lobster mushroom, and first-timer Chad Mansell strode over logs, in pursuit of chanterelles. No one found enough to make a trip to a buyer worthwhile.

But there's lots of time, yet. Mushroom season could last until Christmas, if the frost stays away.

And, it seems, there's as much appetite for picking as there are local mushrooms. In the grocery line up at Quality Foods, a cashier told a customer she's been pick-

ing, and the customer said that he, too, has been out this year. Parked along Duck Lake Road one recent weekend were cars and vans, as their drivers mined the woods for mushrooms.

Back at Shelley's, pickers come in a steady stream.

One man in a navy sweatshirt places a basket of pine mushrooms on the table. They weigh 11 pounds. Not bad, at \$9 a pound, but a disappointing haul compared to a decade ago, when they sold for a whopping \$250 a pound. This basket—which would fit in a shopping bag—would have been worth over \$2,000.

"Some of the stories would blow your mind," said Shelley.

That's true. But beware, said Johnny, after he told a tale about a 1.5-pound pine: "You'll find the BS is big with mushroom pickers." **RL**

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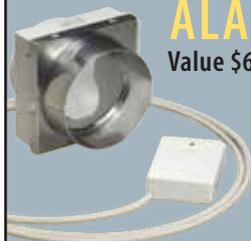
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ter quality on most items than you will find at Powell River merchants. True, you may at times find cheaper items out of town or online, but by the time you factor in shipping or ferries, your savings evaporate. And heaven help you if you need to get some advice or return an item to an out-of-town or online retailer.

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# this season

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From treasures unearthed in the bookstores to novelties at gift shops to one-of-a-kind art to everything a knitter would want, Marine Avenue shops have all sorts of gifts.

So whether you're gift shopping for the holidays or treating yourself to a snazzy new computer or beautiful new blinds, you'll find just what you're looking for, along with a helpful smile and home-town service, at Marine Area businesses. 

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# Website remembers

## Senior's project honours servicemen

By Grant Workman

### Where my respect for soldiers began

I was born in Edmonton Alberta in 1935, so I grew up in the war years, with each and every day seeing the sky filled with aircraft. Edmonton at that time was a hub for training Commonwealth airman, and the ferrying of aircraft to the Soviet Union.

I was given the first name Grant, after Grant McConachie, a well-known Canadian Bush Pilot at the time. He later went onto become the CEO of Canadian Pacific Airlines.

So I had a good start in life on my love of aircraft. My father was discharged from the R.C.A.F., in 1946 and he and my mother moved to Powell River that year. I was in the middle of my school year, so I moved out in July of 1947.

In 1953, I was one of four Powell River Air Cadets chosen to go to Sea Island to earn our pilots wings, but I washed out on my medical. There went my career as a R.C.A.F. pilot.

### Struck by the cenotaph

In August of 2011 we attended Brooks' 57th reunion. My wife and I decided to walk around the Townsite.

At that time I randomly took several photographs, the Cenotaph being one of them. This spring I had some spare



**AIR CADET:** Grant Workman in full uniform as an Air Cadet in 1950.

time on my hands between projects, so decided to try to think of a better way to remember and recognize these brave men, who made the supreme sacrifice. All we had to remember them was their last names and initials cast onto a bronze plaque.

### A craving to know more

It was at this time that I came across the Powell River Museum and the section on the servicemen who served in WWII from the Powell River area. My first thought was a Wall of Heroes, a photograph of each serviceman displayed in a public area somewhere in Powell River. At this time I had photographs of 13 of the 55, I soon realized that I would never complete this task in my lifetime, so I decided instead to create a website in their honour. My ultimate goal now, is to have a photograph of each of them and some personal information on just who these brave men were. **RL**

### Got a story?

West Kelowna senior Grant Workman is looking for photos and stories about Powell River's fallen WWII soldiers, for a remembrance website he's creating. If you'd like to contribute content, he can be reached at 778 754-1635 or at: yumasnobirds@shaw.ca. The website address is pruhoww2.weebly.com.

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# Powell River Living I Made the Move

## They wanted to live on the coast

**S**cott, Linda, and Niall Standidge are thrilled to call Powell River their new home.

Growing up in Castlegar, Scott always wanted to live on the coast. He worked in the sawmill industry for 21 years—including seven on Vancouver Island—before becoming his own boss. Upon moving, he started up a company called Bounce-N-Slide Inflatables.

Linda grew up in Surrey and moved to Castlegar to complete her teacher training, where she met Scott. She is currently staying at home with their two-year-old son Niall and enjoying every minute of it. In high school, her allergies inspired her to make her own body care products. She now has a small line of bath, body, and beauty products called Happy Life Farms. She also has a passion for baking, with a twist... desserts with vegetables in them. Her favourites include avocado cookies, white bean blondies, and red velvet beet cupcakes.

Niall is a car enthusiast and has a collection of cars, trucks, and motorcycles that would put Jay Leno to shame.

### Why did you choose to move to Powell River?

**Scott** • Growing up, my dad loved going fishing in Pender Harbour and Lund so we made trips out here every summer. It wasn't until we took a day trip over from Campbell River that I was reminded of how beautiful it was here.

**Linda** • It is the perfect combination of small town, friendly people, great shops, and beautiful beaches.

### When? Where from?

**Both** • We moved here in July from Campbell River. We had been there for only two years but had to relocate once we saw how amazing it is here!

### What surprised you about Powell River once you moved here?

**Linda** • I was amazed by how many people we met here who absolutely loved living here. You just don't hear that kind of thing. The people here are so warm and welcoming too ... not standoffish. It's fabulous!

**Scott** • Yeah, the people are so friendly. It's really awesome.

### What made you decide to move to Powell River?

**Linda** • We want to live a self-sustainable life and acreage is much more affordable here. It helps that it's coastal and beautiful too.

**Scott** • I love the size of the town and the fact that there is virtually no traffic.

### Where is your favourite place in Powell River?

**Linda** • Honestly, my back yard. We lucked out and scooped a place on the ocean so we have an absolutely amazing view.

**Scott** • The Farmers' Market.

### How did you first hear about Powell River?

**Linda** • When we lived in Campbell River, we were avid Costco shoppers so we often saw the ferry sign to Powell River. I asked my husband if we could go there for a day trip and the rest is history.

### What would make Powell River a nicer community?

**Linda** • I would love to see all of the empty businesses full in Powell River. Ethnic shops, co-ops, wedding salons, whatever. Maybe increased small business grants could help make that happen.

**Scott** • Nothing, it's perfect just the way it is.

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

**Linda** • Diversify. It sounds like the current



mayor is on the right track. While the mill and forestry are great assets to this community, you cannot rely on them to carry the town like in the past.

**Scott** • I would never even consider being mayor ... that's far too complicated.

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

**Linda** • Probably the mayor's office. I would love to hear about all of the innovative ideas they are coming up with to make this amazing community even better.

### What are Powell River's best assets?

**Linda** • Where to begin... Willingdon Beach Park, Pebble Beach Park, Family Place.

**Scott** • All of them! Everything about Powell River is fantastic.

### What is your greatest extravagance?

**Linda** • I adore baking so we regularly indulge in sweet treats. However, I incorporate vegetables whenever possible. Cauliflower cheesecake anyone?

### Which talent or superpower would you most like to have?

**Scott** • The ability to heal people.

**Linda** • I would love to be able to produce food with a snap of my fingers so that nobody would ever go hungry again. **PR**



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# Almost scammed!

Savvy couple beats granny-targeting con artists

By Isabelle Southcott • isabelle@prliving.ca

About a year ago the phone rang at the Adams house. “I was out at the time,” says Dorothy. “Glenn answered the call.”

The voice on the other end sounded like their eldest grandson, Jordan. He was supposedly in Montreal, attending a friend’s wedding. “It was quite within the realm of possibility that he would be in Montreal,” said Dorothy.

“And it sounded like him,” Glenn added. “He said a fight broke out outside the hotel and some guy pushed him and then he pushed him back. This guy fell and hit his head, and the next thing you know, the police were there.”

The caller continued by saying that he was in jail and had to appear in court.

“Then a so-called lawyer got on the phone saying he needed two money orders of \$1,299 each, sent through Western Union.”

Glenn told the caller that he’d have to speak with his wife before he sent any money. He hung up and called Dorothy on her cell phone.

“I rushed home,” said Dorothy. “We were upset but we weren’t suspicious at first because we’d never heard of anything like this.”

Then Dorothy suggested that they call their grandson. “We called him and he was in Vancouver and was just fine.”

The pretend lawyer called back and when Glenn told him that he’d just spoken with his grandson the phone went dead.

Two months later, the Adams got another call. This time it was from a woman who said she was their granddaughter, Janis. “She was crying. She said she’d been in a car accident and that she’d been drinking and would lose her license if anyone knew.”

Instantly, the Adams were suspicious. This time the fraudsters wanted \$2,000 sent through Western Union. The Adams called the office where their granddaughter worked and discovered she was just fine.

You’d think that was enough. But this past September, the third call came in. This time, it was from someone who identified himself as Wesley. “Grandpa, Grandpa,” the voice cried. “What’s wrong?” Glenn asked. “I got into a car accident and I have a broken nose and two black eyes. I was talking on the cell phone and you aren’t supposed to do that.”

A so-called lawyer came on the phone and said there would be no charges and Wesley would be released if the Adams sent a money order for \$2,495 to Laval, Quebec through Western Union.

This time, Glenn was on to them. “I said, ‘Did you call your mom?’ He said, ‘No.’ Then I said ‘It’s too bad your dad isn’t around to help you.’”

The voice at the other end said: “I know. I miss him so much.”

Glenn laughed at that answer. His grandson’s dad was alive and well!

Glenn asked a few more probing questions before the caller realized it was the end of the line and hung up.

RCMP Constable Tim Kenning says the ‘emergency’ or ‘grandparent scam’ has been around for years. The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre says there’s been a marked increase in the number of complaints in the last few months.

Victims don’t usually verify the story until after the money has been sent – and by then it is too late. In fact, callers specifically say that they don’t want other relatives to know what happened.

About a year ago, Kenning said a con-artist called his own Grandma claiming that he’d been in a car accident and had wrecked the car. “She didn’t fall for it,” said Kenning. “It is a known fraud but it is very hard to track and investigate. Before you send any money, investigate!”

The RCMP and Kenning’s grandma aren’t alone in watching out for these scams. In fact, the Powell River branch of Western Union recently directed a local senior to the police station, because they were trying to send money to a family member ‘in distress’.

The Adams created their own made-in-Powell River solution. Now their grandchildren have a secret password they can use if they’re really in trouble! **RL**



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# A welcome word from home

## Writing to Canada's deployed soldiers

By Linda Wegner

Susan Oldale can't forget the diorama she saw while visiting Ramparts Museum in Ypres, Belgium.

"I can still see the step ladder leading down a trench to a room; it still catches me. There was [a lifelike depiction of a soldier] leaning against a wall with two small snapshots in his hand. He had tears in his eyes," she told *Powell River Living*.

When questioned by her son, Luke, Susan explained to him that the soldier may have been holding pictures of his parents, not knowing if he'd see them again. The scene and thoughts of her own 19-year-old son wouldn't leave. Her quest for an answer to her question: "How can I help?" began with a Google search. Typing in Write to any Canadian Soldier yielded information on where and how to address letters.

Now committed to letting a Canadian soldier know that someone was thinking of them and praying for them, she chose Kabul, Afghanistan as the destination. The recipient might never know who she is but that's not the point. "We were told not to expect a response but knowing that my letter touched someone and knowing that their spirits were lifted even before it was opened is satisfying."

Once committed to corresponding to this unknown soldier, her next question was, "What do I write?"

"First of all, I tell them that I am thankful for the job they are doing and that I am praying for them. Then I just talk about every day things; for example, one day I was at Mowat Bay catching bullfrog tadpoles and I mentioned that. There's nothing too heavy, just a basic outline of family activities," she explained.

As in every undertaking, sometimes there are surprises. In this instance an unexpected letter arrived with unanticipated news: "On one occasion my letter went to Ontario [where mail is cleared], addressed to any soldier in Kabul. The sergeant looked at it and knew that one of his boys was from Powell River. He directed the letter to him. As it turned out, that soldier knew one of Susan's relatives through a connection with Junior Forest Wardens."

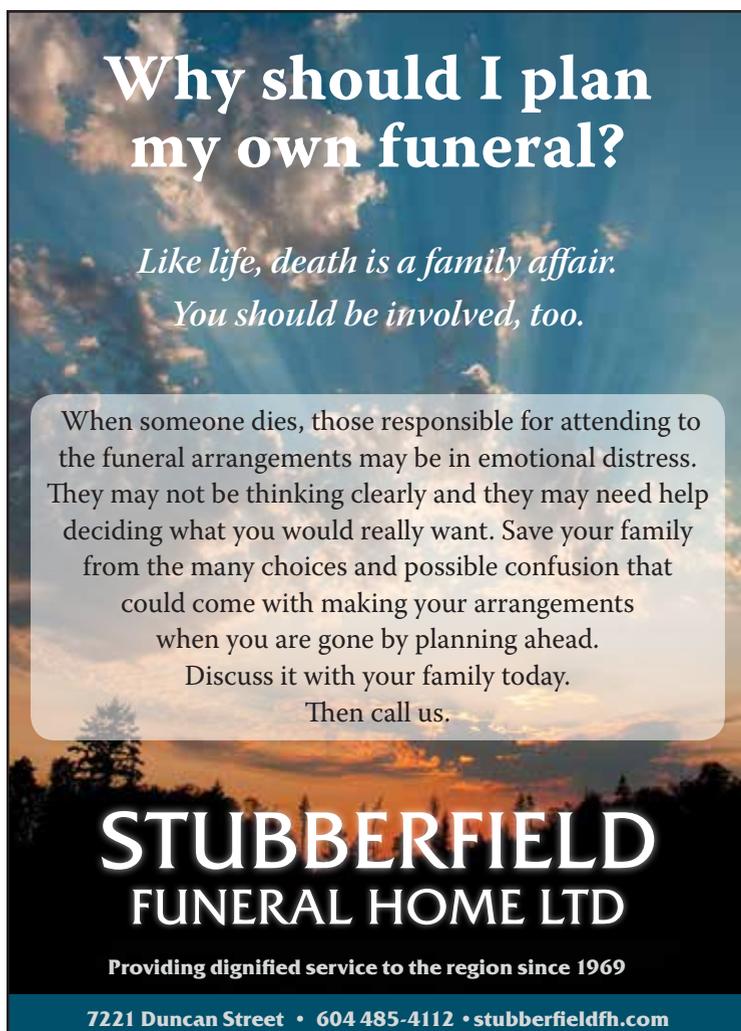
As once more our nation pauses to remember the sacrifices, past and current, of Canadian soldiers, Susan's commitment is a reminder that there's no news like good news from home. 



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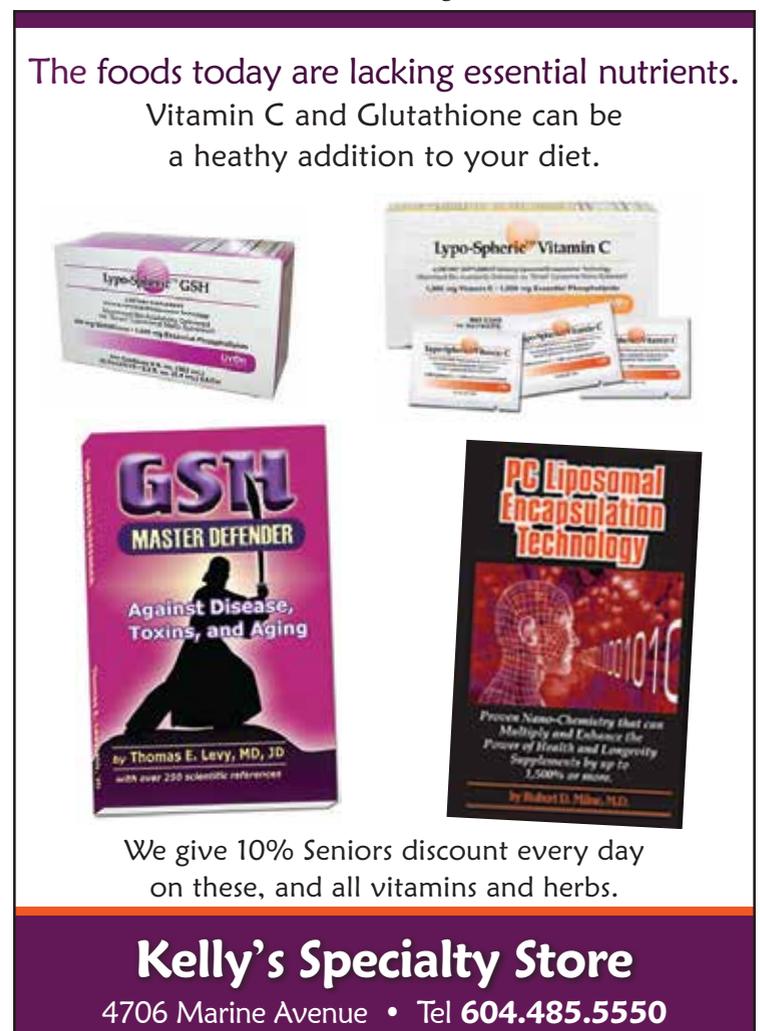
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# Freedom, friends, and \$100 pie

## Bold retiree pilots Yankee Yankee Fox Trot over PR skies

By Pieta Woolley • pieta@prliving.ca

Today is a blindingly-bright fall day and Selina Smith wants to show me her airplane. It's parked in an open hanger at the Powell River Airport, a beige and red 1948 Stinson with yellow stripes on the propeller, about the size of two refrigerators stapled together, with wings.

Standing on the tarmac, I can't see her anymore. She's in the hangar's shadows behind the plane. I don't know what she's doing. Suddenly, the whole airplane comes rolling out into the sunshine. Selina, with her hands braced and her toes digging, is using her 5'4" 64-year-old body to move the machine.

She rolls it around so it's facing the runway. She looks at me and asks in her Londoner's accent:

"You want to go for a ride?"

Well, of course I do.

Buckled in, she turns dials and knobs, then drives the plane into position. Rolling down the runway feels just like driving in a truck. Then, we're in the air. The airport is dropping away, the ocean is sparkling, and the sky is opening itself up to this little airplane.

This is Selina's 23rd year flying. When she was 40, a 70-year-old woman flew her back from Vancouver in a two-seater, and she was hooked by the inspirational, can-do senior. The next summer—as a middle-school teacher, she had the time off—Selina took flying lessons in Pitt Meadows. Just a few years later, she bought her plane. It's known as "Yankee Yankee Fox Trot" to other pilots and crew.

"I never knew how my car worked, but I had to learn how my plane worked to get licensed," said Selina in an interview at

Julie's Airport Market. Colourful model planes hang by threads overhead.

"One of the most exciting moments of my entire life was my first solo. It doesn't hit you right away because you're so busy, but then it does: 'Oh my goodness I'm flying by myself!'"

"Flying is exciting. It's something not everyone does. It's a small community, and I've made lots of great friends. I like being able to get to different places quickly [such as Yukon, Eastern Canada, and fly-ins as far away as Kentucky.]"

She jokes that she'll daytrip to Chilliwack for that airport's famous pie—which she calls "The \$100 pie!"

The Okeover resident appreciates how flying has broadened her horizons; it's easy, she said, to just befriend work colleagues. As a pilot, though, her peers are mostly men, mostly seniors, usually adventurous, and represent a wealth of life experiences.

Seen from 125 feet above, the steam from Catalyst Paper blows north, a unique weathervane for pilots.

Selina flies south over the water, and back towards town.

As she described earlier at Julie's, seen from above, the city of Powell River looks like a tiny speck on the coast, a friendly blip in an otherwise vast ocean and dark forest.

She's not sure how long she'll keep flying, she says—though the 70-year-old pilot who inspired her hobby flew past 80.

She lines the nose up with the runway, and brings the plane in for a smooth landing. Back at the hangar, she pushes it into place with her bare hands again—an inspirational, tiny, tough, adventurous senior. **PR**



**SENIOR FLYER:** The most exciting moment of retired teacher Selina Smith's life was her first solo flight—at age 40.

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# Age in place

## What you can do to stay home longer

By Isabelle Southcott • isabelle@prliving.ca

Pauline Bradley wants to remain in her own home as long as possible. It has everything she and her pets, two dogs and one cat, need. It is centrally located, has a lovely garden, a view and is nice and bright.

But several years ago, this 84-year-old retired schoolteacher and counsellor's back problem worsened, until going up and down stairs became almost impossible. Her split-level home, where she's lived for 13 years, has a front door that can be reached only by stairs—both going up to the main level, and going down to the lower level.

She knew she had to change something. So, the 84-year-old modified her home.

"I am going to live in my own home until I'm 100 years old and beyond that, I have no plans!" she declared.

Determined to age in place, she had two stair lift chairs installed. The lifts mean that Pauline no longer has to climb stairs. She had another stair lift chair installed outside this past summer, which makes it easier for her to go outside and enjoy her beautiful garden.

"I use both floors," she told *Powell River Living*. Her living room, kitchen and bedroom are upstairs. Downstairs is a family room, utility room, bathroom and more bedrooms. "I had to do something and I was quite determined to stay. I like



this house because its nice and light and I love the garden."

Pauline is never quite alone. She wears a lifeline and has a monitored security alarm system in her home.

Pauline grew up in Essex, England. She taught in Hong Kong where she met her late husband Leonard. They moved to

Powell River in the 1970s to teach at JP Dallos Elementary School.

Other modifications Pauline has made to her home include installing a walk-in shower. Stephen Cantryn, with Custom Tile & Marble, is retrofitting Pauline's walk-in shower. He has worked with many people over the years who want to stay in their home as long as possible.

"People are delaying moving into a care facility by 10 or 15 years," he said. "When they retrofit their home, they don't have to move immediately and can enjoy the quality of life they've chosen. Retrofitting a home suits the demographics of the future of Powell River. There are a lot of homes here that have the ability to be a multi-dwelling."

Adaptive furniture can also make life easier for people with mobility issues. Pauline recently purchased an adjustable bed from Westcoast Furniture, that lifts her up to a sitting position. This means it is much easier to get in and out of bed. Electric lift chairs will ease you to a sitting or reclining position.

Other seniors choose to add a suite to their home for a live-in caregiver, says local builder Wes Brown.

It is possible to modify your home and your life, if you are determined to remain home longer. **RL**

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## MEMOIR MANIA

# Age + adventure = Slices

**What books have you authored?** I've written travel books and ghost written natural health books, but most of my experience is as a newspaper and magazine journalist. These days I have a more personal focus writing creative non-fiction in the form of literary essay and memoir.

**When did you start writing?** I wrote poems and puppet show scripts when I was eight or so for my younger brothers and me to act in.

**As writers, why do seniors ace it?** Seniors are amazing! They have exactly what it takes to be good writers - life experience, maturity, insight and dedication.

**Which fictional senior do you admire?** I loved Constance Beresford-Howe's protagonist in *The Book of Eve*. She just up and walks out on her husband of 40 years for no concrete reason in a completely unplanned, unprepared, spontaneous gesture. I love the unexpected, and characters who discover strength and freedom through experience.

### Slices Book Launch

*Hear some stories, buy a book and help us celebrate!*

Saturday, **November 2**, 2-4pm, at Cranberry Seniors Centre (6792 Cranberry St, at corner of Cranberry and Manson). The Library launches its publication of *Slices: A Memoir Anthology*. Author readings begin at 2pm sharp, followed by a celebration with refreshments.

### Slices at the Museum

*A perfect place to hear slices of life!*

Tuesday, **November 12**, 12:30-1pm at the Museum, 4798 Marine Ave (across from Willingdon Beach). Go back in time with a variety of surprising and entertaining stories read by authors. Seating is limited.

### Slices at Breakwater Books

*A literary evening of creative memoir!*

Thursday, **December 5**, 6:30-8:30pm at Breakwater Books (6812 Alberni St). Author readings at 7pm sharp with refreshments, book sales and signings before and after.

*Keep your eyes and ears out for more Slices author events around town through November and December. Slices is available for purchase through the Library and at Kelly's, Creative Rift, Breakwater Books and Coles. All proceeds, other than commercial percentages, go to programming for seniors through the Powell River Public Library.*

For more information about *Slices*, Memoir Writing, Read to Seniors or Books on Wheels contact Sandra at the Library, stonn@powellriverlibrary.ca or 604-485-8667



### Top pick by Sandra:

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# TOWNSITE IS WHERE IT'S AT!

## Fiddlers and fishermen among Townsite's fallen

**T**hey were WWI soldiers, certainly. But long ago, brass names at the top of the cenotaph at Townsite's Veteran's Park were also the names of young, funny, hard-working Townsite men.

For Remembrance Day, Powell River Historical Society collections manager Teedie Kagume unearthed a special issue of the *Powell River Digester* from 1929, which contains a glimpse of the personalities behind the stone.

"The bachelor quarters in Riverside were thinned out to a great extent when the first lot left for the 29th battalion," the *Digester* reads. "At first a man's chances to join up were slim indeed if he had more than six teeth missing, even if the rest of his make-up compared favourably with Hercules."

The *Digester* author, R. Allen, then breathes some life into names of the men who died: G. Cole, T. Lant, A. Black, R. Welch, C. Moodie, T. Simmons, W. Stanley, S. Stewart, H.A. Carter, R. Bryanton, R. Birkenshaw, and G. Washington. They volunteered near the start of the war the Great War, which began in 1914-99 year ago. That was just a few years after the Powell River Company started processing the peninsula's logs.

"No one mourned his disability more than Bill Stanley," R. Allen wrote. "Bill memorized all the eye test cards... Eventually, Bill managed to enlist in 1916 in the Artillery. There he remained until his eyesight was found to be more than a little below average. He was transferred to transport work with the ambulances in which service he was killed in 1918. A South African, Bill had red hair, and in Britisher's rights, he was a red pepper.

"Of the rest of the Riverside colony much could be told. Sid Stewart, who kept up the hilarity at Blubber Bay, when the Riverside concert party was stranded. Blubber Bay was then little more than a lime kiln when the party found themselves there, minus transportation to Powell River. Sid, with his legs dangling






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7:00 pm - 7:30 pm Admission \$5 at the door  
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over the wharf, manfully fiddled away, while...the rest of the party danced the Highland Fling.

"Sid Stewart and Tommy Simmons joined up together and went west in the trench side by side in action with the 29th.

"Ralph Bryanton, junior member of the [newspaper] finishing room, who made life a bag of surprises for the... staff and roll buckers; George Washington who, in the capacity of a sergeant major without pay, taught military aspirants the rudiments of "form fours" [marching drills] in the open spaces of the lumber yard; Charlie

Moodie who left Powell River to join the original 7th [Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force]; Gordon Cole, enthusiast hunter, fisherman and one of the early pioneers of Powell River; Tommy Lant, one of the finest sportsmen of our early days, and an original owner of the firm Wilshire and Lant [Clothing Co.], situated on the present site of the upper company store; Harry Carter of the old sawmill crew; Dick Welch who logged in this area from Thunder Bay to Lund."

In 1929, a decade after the Great War ended, the Ex-Servicemen's Association had raised enough funds to

erect a cenotaph for the 12 who fell in combat. More than 4,000 people came to see the unveiling of the rock-remarkable attendance, given that the total population was around 4,000 at the time. [PR](#)

*It needs no martial music or ceremonial drill,  
To keep verdant in our memory,  
your graves on Flanders' Hill  
Your wartime comrades miss you  
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From *Old Pals*, by Maurice Dunn.

*In the program for the dedication of the WWI cenotaph, 1929*

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If you want to stretch your legs a little, Crossroads Village is within a kilometre of the Rec Complex, hospital, doctor's offices and pharmacies, as well as the bulk of the Powell River business district; you could park for the day at the Village and walk.

So whether you're stopping for some flowers or food on the way home from work, or shopping for gifts for that hard-to-please person on your list, you'll find what you need at Crossroads Village. **PRL**

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# Too close for comfort

## Backyard bear scares unnerve residents

By Elaine Steiger

Over the past two years, I've had several close encounters with bears in my own yard. Last year we had picked most of the cherries, and then a bear climbed the tree (only a few feet from our door) and finished the picking, but broke many branches. This year he came before the cherries were even ripe and cleaned the tree out, breaking more branches.

In my yard, twice during daylight hours, I've almost walked into the bear. My instinctive reaction was to raise my arms and tell him to get out of here – and thank goodness it worked! It's very unnerving!

In the last few weeks several bears have come, usually around 5 pm, to feast on the hazelnuts. One is a very large bear. When he stands on his hind feet, he must be well over six feet tall. He doesn't leave when I yell or make loud noises. I resorted to purchasing bear bangers (at a cost of \$17 for the launcher and \$25 for six cartridges), but it takes two cartridges to discourage his appetite.

I have been told that I can expect bear sightings because of where I live (bush behind me and alongside a creek) in Cranberry. Other than the cherry tree and hazelnuts, there are no other attractants. I use three freezer composters; garbage is in the basement, no barbecue, no bird feeders. I have two fenced gardens where I grow several types of berries, and many vegetables.



Our family has lived on this property for 70 years. Lot 450 was our playground as kids. We used the trail to Cranberry Lake for swimming daily in the summer. We never saw bears or worried about them.

Government policy and individuals took care of bears, problem or not. This

has changed in the last few years. There are now dozens of bears living within city limits. There are no natural predators (other than perhaps grizzlies). The conservation officers only remove bears if the bear poses a threat to human life or property, or if the bear has grown accustomed to human food or garbage.



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In most cases contact with bears will end safely with the bear's voluntary departure.

Unfortunately, in the last several years, bears have moved closer and into town. Bears are born and raised within the town. They are used to humans. They are "town bears" – but are still a wild animals.

I could live with an occasional sighting or see bear droppings in my yard when they have walked through at night. What is very disturbing is the

fact I am no longer comfortable working in my yard, always looking around to make sure I don't have another close encounter. I worry when my grandchildren visit.

I have talked to many people in the past few weeks and have heard many "bear stories". A few no longer barbecue and are not comfortable sitting on their patio. Some people think that we have invaded the bear's territory and they have a right to be here.

I think that there are too many bears within the city limits and that it is only a matter of time before there is a serious incident. The conservation officers do not know how many bears there are but say there are "dozens." At the start of this I thought that something had to be done (by the powers that be) about the bears. After research I still think that the bear population has to be monitored somehow and kept to a reasonable number. But I also know that I have to become more aware of the bear's habits and behaviour, although I am still extremely uncomfortable when outside working.

What to do? Remove the fruit and nut trees? Or enclose them with electric fencing? Except the city bylaw prohibits electric fencing in the zone where I live. Keep a supply of bear bangers or pepper spray on hand? Will they get used to the noise and flare? Acquire a dog – although at this point I don't know if I want the responsibility of being a dog owner.

Become used to their visits? I don't think this will ever happen! **PR**

### *What to do about 'your' bear* – by Elaine Steiger

According to literature from the Wildlife Branch, BC is bear country. No matter where you live, you will be near bears or bear habitat. They are active between May and October, but especially during August and September.

We can't expect bears to change; instead, we must modify our own behaviour to allow bears and people the freedom to live near each other safely.

If you spot a bear, remain calm (easier said than done when you are closer to the bear than the safety of your house!) Often the bear is just passing through and if it finds no food source will simply move on.

Keep away from the bear – bring children and pets into the house and hopefully it will leave.

Once the bear has left, ensure there are no attractants available – garbage, pet or livestock feed, wild bird feeders, open compost, barbecues, fallen fruit.

If the bear is aggressive, call the Conservation Officer Service or local police.

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# It's showtime!

A far, far off Broadway musical revue

By CaroleAnn Leishman

Just when you realized you are in withdrawal from lack of musical theatre stimulation, you can fret no more! Far Off Broadway is back and with so much musical theatre overload. You will be vibrating for months!

Last year I had grand plans for producing and directing *Annie: The Musical*. I held auditions, I cast a lot of cutey-pa-tooty little girls, we started rehearsals, and just as everything was looking swell I got really sick. My gallbladder decided it didn't like me anymore and went into convulsions and lit itself on fire, much to my utter dismay! So the show was postponed until the fall.

When summer came to an end and I was all healed up, I prepared to dive into rehearsals again, just as we lost the Community Band due to a lack of musicians. Several cast members could no longer commit. I decided this was an opportunity to show off the talent we have in this

## Broadway Musical Revue

Nov 7, 8 & 9 at 7 pm and Sunday, Nov 10 at 1 pm in the Evergreen Theatre at the Recreation Complex. Tickets are on sale at Ecosystems, Breakwater Books & Coffee, The Patricia Theatre and the Complex Box Office. It's Showtime!

town by expanding the musical into a Broadway Musical Revue.

The kids are amazingly adorable as the orphans in *Annie* and the two leads will knock your socks off with their powerful voices; there are some truly emotionally stirring performances in the *Les Misérables* section and there is plenty of comic relief in *The Producers* and *Mamma Mia*, not to mention some pirates hijacking the stage, some yodelling, quite a line-up of showgirls and some very entertaining and diverse dance performances.



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# SMALL CHILD, BIG WAR

## Vivid images of life and death from WWII

By John Carter

**T**he War" broke my nose! Three stray bombs that were jet-tisoned by a lost bomber blew three very large holes in a meadow near our small village. My mother's desperate attempt to shelter under the large kitchen table resulted in her dropping me nose first into the base board.

The only other casualties were some roosting birds, frogs from the pond and my big black and white rabbit called Horace. He suffered a heart attack and was duly buried with full honours the following day.

Life in the comparative peace and safety of a small village in the west of Cornwall protected us from the true horror, devastation and grotesqueness of a bitter European war.

When I was four years old, I watched the night sky erupting with red, orange and sudden white flashes that seemed choreographed to the sound of distant explosions. It somehow seemed disassociated from the bombs dropping on the docks at Falmouth, some nine miles away.

The bombers had done their job well. The fuel storage tanks were feeding the spectacular colours that mesmerized me. I remember feeling sorry when the colours eventually faded and the excitement waned. There was no need to feel differently until the next evening at supper, when I overheard my parents discussing how Percy Barker's wife would cope with four children on her own. Percy's body, along with two other workers', was never recovered.

Falmouth harbour was a prime target for the German Luftwaffe. It was the first port as you entered the English Channel and had great strategic importance.

The nearest fighter base was at Portreath, just three minutes flying time from Falmouth, and sat on the cliff tops just two miles from our house. As a consequence, Spitfires and Hurricanes (the fighter planes of the day) were a regular feature in our local sky.

It was whilst sitting on the top step leading to the garden behind my Grandparents' house, that I witnessed the vivid horror of war first hand.

There was a sudden ear-splitting noise. The scream of tortured engines filled my senses with awe and fright in equal measure. A twin-engined German bomber wove erratically and desperately, hugging the steep sides of our valley. It was so low over our houses, I was sure our chimneys would vanish with its passing.

Close behind the bomber came a spitfire waiting for a clear shot at the already crippled aircraft. It was like a slow-motion sequence. I can still see the orange flames and black smoke trailing from one of the German's engines. The black swastika and cross seemed to fill my vision. It was so close, that through the Perspex nose I could see the helmeted head of one of the crew. Just missing the chimneys, the stricken plane twisted and turned desperately seeking relief from the pursuing fighter.

The spitfire was relentless and went hurtling after its wounded prey with its engine snarling like a rabid dog. My heart was pounding, and I found myself screaming for my grandmother.

We heard with not a little satisfaction that the bomber had indeed been shot down over the nearby cliffs, and blew up on impact.

For me the situation had posed no danger. Indeed, it was exhilarating and something to boast about to those who missed the death of the Huns. I had seen the crew - white faces, black masks... the Enemy.

Years later the same picture drifts into my mind and I imagine the terror and desperation of those young men hurtling at breakneck speed in a burning coffin, about to be blown out of the sky. Now I can feel no satisfaction for the destruction of our "Enemy." I wonder who the families were somewhere in Germany, who had received the knock on the door that would tell them their sons were dead. I guess I was the last person to see them alive.

Shortly after the event, our normally-peaceful Sunday morning was shaken by the sound of a huge explosion that rattled our windows and sent everyone rushing outside. A pall of thick black smoke rising above the railway embankment instantly



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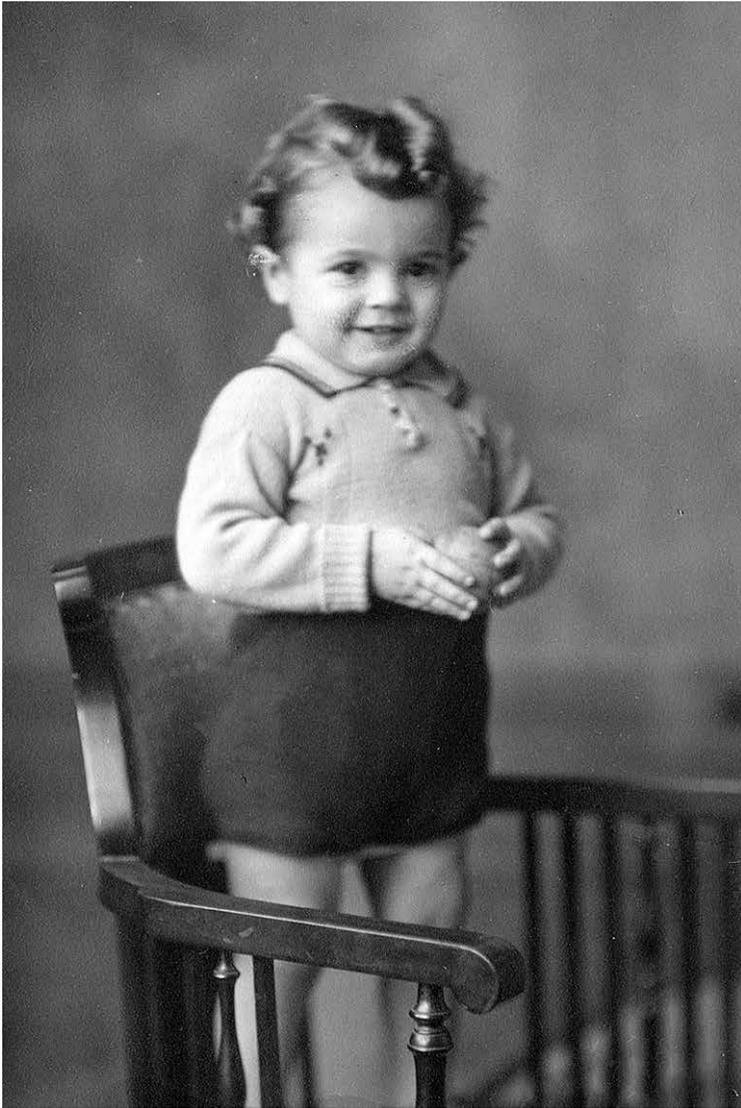
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**A CHILD OF THE WAR:** John Carter at 18 months of age.

identified the source as the gunpowder factory in the hamlet of Tuckingmill, less than a mile away. Several workers were killed. None from our village, and none who were known to my parents. I wonder if anyone remembers them now.

The war was nearly over when I started school.

My mum walked the mile or so to school with me each day. As we passed the last cottage before going through the road tunnel under the railway embankment, we were joined by Pat.

She was a small, undernourished little girl with blue eyes and straggly blond hair that always seemed dirty. Her clothes were threadbare and her cardigan was an ill-fitting hand-me-down. Mum said the family were very poor and Pat often went hungry.

I didn't care. I loved her wistful look and her soft blue eyes. I loved it when we walked together and if we were not kicking stones, blowing dandelions or eating blackberries we held hands and ran.

We also sat together in class.

Then one cold, wet morning Pat wasn't there, she was sick. By evening she was gone. They said it was diphtheria and my mother anxiously questioned me: had I spent time with her at school? Had she breathed over me?

"It's catching," said Mum. "Don't you understand?"

I understood only too well. That lovely little face, that often poorly and wistful little girl was gone and I would never see her again. I felt so sick and so alone.

No one seemed to care about her in life and now she was gone. I wondered if that would be the same for me?

That was my first experience of losing someone I loved, and it is still a painful memory.

My war was undramatic compared to much that was experienced by millions of people at that time, but the memories help mold who we become.

It's funny though, the thing I remember most vividly of all is Pat's face as she waits at the mouth of the tunnel. **RL**

John Carter's writing is also featured in *Slices: A Memoir Anthology*.

## Salmon spawn safely, thanks to Sea Cadets

"I've always been in awe of how Myrtle [Creek]'s wild coho survive this amazing [14-kilometre] struggle at the end of their life, in spite of everything we humans throw at them: road pollution, development, logging, removal of natural cover, water pumps, dogs, horses, fertilizer, toxic chemicals, and recreational vandals."

Esther Dyck, a consultant with the Myrtle Creek Stewards Society, would like to recognize the Malaspina Royal Canadian Sea Cadets for helping to sustain Myrtle Creek as a spawning ground. Last month, the group shovelled nine tons of spawning gravel – a small mountain – from Tom and Elsie Parsons' farm into the creek. The job took the crew from 9 am to 4:30 pm.

"They did it with humour and respect and honoured the salmon environment all without complaint," said Esther.





## Powell River Living BUSINESS Connections

By Kim Miller • office@powellriverchamber.com

I just returned from a whirlwind tour of southeast **China** with 16 BC Chamber managers on a business mission familiarization tour. We had sessions with dignitaries and looked at possibilities for joint projects in smaller communities, tourism opportunities, and we found time for some sightseeing.

From going on board the fastest train in the world, to cruising the Grand Canal (the longest man-made canal dug over 1,300 years ago), to walking around Tiananmen Square, climbing the Great Wall (4,000 miles long and 2,000 years old), to visiting the equivalent of New York's Wall Street in Beijing's business district, to praying at an ancient temple built in 1420 AD, it was overwhelming. As we all know, many Chinese visit Canada as tourists and many have decided to attend our education institutions. China and Canada have an extremely close bond and I see this only expanding in the coming years.

**LumberJack Bistro and Deli** at 4493 Marine Avenue is now open. Owners Kirk and Carly Nolin moved here four months ago from Kamloops with their one-month-old son Jack. Carly is originally from Powell River and wanted to be closer to her family. The couple look forward to serving you breakfast and lunch or meeting you for coffee.

**Powell River Outdoors** has moved to 4466 Marine Avenue across from the Westview Hotel. "The month of November will be spent organizing and getting the bugs out," said owner Sam Sansalone. "We're planning a grand opening for early December." Sam will continue to offer the same service and supply you with all your hunting, fishing, camping and outdoors supplies. The new location is wheelchair accessible. The phone number is now 604 485-4868.

**Mills Office Productivity** is opening a new location at 6251 Yew Street in Townsite, offering next day delivery on office supplies to businesses in Powell River. Mills is BC owned and operated for 65 years with 100 employees and five locations throughout the province. If you are interested in a free catalogue contact **Jenny Garden** at 604 414-8811 or email jgarden@mills.ca.

**Dancing Tree Gallery** is now open in Crossroads Village. Owner Darlene Caldwell was born and raised here and has moved her home-based pottery business into a retail space. She has a kiln in the store so she can work there. The gallery has eight stall spaces rented to local artists. Visit or call the gallery at 604 414-9644.

**Linda Wegner** is the new constituency assistant to **MP John Weston**. Watch for a Chamber luncheon in January with Weston and North Island **MP John Duncan**, to talk about the boundary

changes coming into effect, which will move Powell River into the North Island federal riding.

The Rodmay Heritage Hotel will re-open **McKinney's Pub** later this month. A Dolly Parton tribute night on November 30 with bands and performances will be the pub's first big night back.

**Townsite Brewing** has been honoured once again at the BC Beer Awards! Pow Town Porter is a repeat winner taking second place in the Porter/Browns category, and the winter seasonal Bière d'Hiver Winter Ale took third in the Strong Beer category. "It's an exciting time for the BC craft beer industry, and we are proud to be part of the family!" said director of sales Michelle Zutz, who was on hand to accept the awards at the 4th annual event held October 19 at the Croatian Cultural Centre in Vancouver.

Flights to and from the **Texada Island Airport** in Gillies Bay resumed on October 25. Dave Murphy, the Regional District's Director for Texada Island said the result was good news for KD Air and the people of the island. The Regional District had voluntarily surrendered the airport certification, which on October 4th resulted in the shut-down of scheduled flights to and from the airport. On October 11, the Regional District and KD Air jointly submitted an Aerodrome Authorization Application package which resulted in the issuance of a Civil Aviation Aerodrome Authorization by Transport Canada. **RL**

### Fiscal year is ending AGMs a-coming

What do you have to show your  
Board, funders or shareholders?

*Well done! This is the first time we've had an Annual Report worthy of our history. In my day, we had a stapled loose-leaf report. Very bare bones. Told the story only in the simplest way. Thank you for all your work on this accountability record.*

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Medical Director, UCHSS, Hazelton, BC  
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# Don't just stand there: drape a sari

## Hands-on diversity event aims for understanding

Come for the henna tattoos, stay for the origami and pad thai.

The organizer of this year's Celebration of Cultural Diversity hopes Powell River will smell, talk, taste and touch their way to a new appreciation for local cultures.

"To make this as interactive as possible, exhibitors will answer simple questions," said Ann Nelson. "For instance, you may ask someone from Japan how to write your name in Japanese, or someone from Germany how to say 'please' and 'thank you' in German. This is a fun way to meet and get to know you neighbours."

Some vendors will wear their national costumes, and incorporate photos and textiles in their food booths—which include Dutch, Indian, Vietnamese, Japanese and Thai cuisines. As well, a huge National Geographic map will be on the wall and visitors are welcome to post a coloured dot on the map, indicating their family's country of origin. For children, special activities include drumming and storytelling. Get your 'passport' stamped

at each booth, and win prizes.

Ann is the founder of the Powell River Arts Council, which hosts this event with the City of Powell River and the Powell River Employment Program's English as a Second Language Settlement Program. Preserving culture has become a part of the local Arts Council's mission, after the province expanded the agency's mandate. It's necessary, Ann said. Skin colour judgments and misunderstanding about immigrants are still common in Canada, she noted.

By bringing everyone together, the festival will entertain and engage visitors, while they learn from each other.

Plus, Ann said, "There's always wonderful food." **PR**

### Celebration of CULTURAL DIVERSITY

- Takes place **Saturday, November 16** from 10 am to 3 pm, upstairs at the Recreation Complex.
- **Arts and crafts vendors** and those who wish to do demonstrations, contact Jeanette Jones at [ccd@prepsociety.org](mailto:ccd@prepsociety.org) or 604 223-3077.
- **Cultural, heritage and art exhibitors**, contact Kelli Hederson at [eslap@prepsociety.org](mailto:eslap@prepsociety.org) or 604 485-2004
- Vendors interested in selling **food**, contact Evangeline MacDonald at [evangelinamacdonald@gmail.com](mailto:evangelinamacdonald@gmail.com) or 604 485-2004
- **Performers** and those wishing to put on workshops are asked to contact Ann Nelson at [thepatricia@shaw.ca](mailto:thepatricia@shaw.ca) or 604 483-9345.



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# A tale of two techies

Seniors break through the grey firewall

## Charles Macelli

The space bar. The shift button. How to roll a mouse. These are mysteries to many of the seniors Charles teaches at Elder College, at Vancouver Island University. Yet every single senior he's ever taught has been able to learn to use a computer, and conquer the internet.

"Elders are very persistent," he said. "Teens get computers, but when they don't get something the first time, they give up. They throw a tantrum. Frustration hits everyone, but elders, they want to get it. They're devoted to getting it right."

Some seniors, Charles said, have heard horror stories about the internet – that it's full of scams, and that online banking isn't safe. Some won't go on the internet at all. That's why he's designing a course specifically for seniors to learn about the internet, and staying safe online.

There's a lot that's worth the pursuit, he said. He Facebooks with his daughters – one in Vancouver, and two in Alberta. He helps people as far away as Arizona sort out their computer problems. And, he plays a lot of video games, he said, including a very realistic flight simulator, right in his living room. [PR](#)



Digital devotee

Retired high school teacher

Tech-savvy win:  
He teaches other seniors computer skills at Elder College.

**CHARLES MACELLI:** Says any senior can conquer the digital world.

### ElderCollege at VIU

Contact 604 485-2878

- Nov 1 • 9 am Microsoft (MS) Word basics
- Nov 4 • 10 am Introduction to Macintosh Computers
- Nov 6 • 9 am MS Word basics
- Nov 13 • 9 am MS Word Intermediate
- Nov 15 • 9 am MS Word Intermediate
- Nov 18 • 10 am Introduction to Macintosh Computers
- Nov 20 • 9 am MS Word Intermediate
- Nov 22 • 9 am MS Word Intermediate
- Nov 25 • 10 am Introduction to Macintosh Computers
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counter but was able  
to board because  
of her e-ticket.



**TERRI GLEN:** Learned to Facebook like a champ.

## Terri Glen

**R**eclining on a chaise lounge in her impeccably decorated Town-site home, Terri has a cell phone, an iPad, a laptop, and a TV remote within reach. While she learned to operate some early flight reservation computer programs for her job with Air Canada, technology was never a part of what Terri was about. Until now.

With a five-month-old grandson living a five-hour flight away in Ottawa, Terri is what's known as a 'highly motivated learner.' She wants to see his little face while she chats with him. Several months ago, she visited Community Adult Literacy and Learning (CALL) and was assigned a tutor. Now she texts, Facebooks, Instagrams, sends e-cards, listens to Songza, Pinterests, and Facetimes with baby—though she still prefers cable to Netflix.

"If you want to keep up with your kids, you have to keep up with them on the computer," she said, noting that her daughter is an avid Facebook user (and posted vacation pics from Italy during this interview), but her son won't accept her friend requests (there are some things a son doesn't want his mother to know, she acknowledges, with a wink.) "Learning about computers keeps my mind active, it keeps you young and awake," she said. "It keeps you out of the 'cranky stage' where you're so set in your ways."

CALL, she said, gave her the confidence to "just play with stuff until it makes sense." **RL**

### Seniors, start your computers...

Many options exist to help you get your feet wet.

**Powell River Public Library** • 604 485-4796

*Intro to Microsoft Word* • Nov 5, 9–10 am

*Using the Internet* • Nov 19, 9–10 am

**Community Adult Literacy & Learning** • 604 413-1021

*One-on-one computer tutoring*

**Cranberry Seniors Centre** • 604 414-9456

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*Advanced Computing* • ednesdays 1–2:30 pm



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"A Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Max Cameron Theatre at Brooks Secondary on December 17, 2013

**Audition Date and Time**  
Friday, Nov 15, from 3:30 – 6:30 pm  
at Max Cameron Theatre 5400 Marine Ave, Powell River

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AUDITIONING,**  
604 483-3900 (Max Cameron Theatre office) to register

For information, contact  
Jacquie Dawson, Theatre Manager  
[jdawson@sd47.bc.ca](mailto:jdawson@sd47.bc.ca) or 604 483-3900

**www.MaxCameronTheatre.ca**



# Powell River Living EVERYDAY HEROES It's all part of the job

By Isabelle Southcott • isabelle@prliving.ca

*The sound of wailing sirens wakes you in the middle of the night. You roll over. It's 3 am. Someone, somewhere, needs help. You snuggle back under the covers, comforted by the knowledge that Powell River's emergency personnel are on the job.*

This month, *Powell River Living's* **Everyday Heroes** series takes a look at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

**W**ith his boyish grin, Tim Kenning doesn't look like the kind of guy who chases bad guys, hands out speeding tickets and carries a gun.

But he does, and it's all in a day's work for this member of the Powell River detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Constable Kenning originally planned to be a teacher. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo, with a double minor in physical education and business management.

He began working for a credit union, but didn't enjoy his job. A friend applied to become an RCMP officer, and he decided to do the same. Kenning accompanied his friend and they both wrote the preliminary exam. "I passed it," he said. "Then I got the package in the mail and applied. A year later, I was sent to Depot in Regina."

Kenning's first post was in the Okanagan, where he met his wife Louise. The couple is expecting their first child in February.

"Being from Nanaimo we tried to move back to the coast," he said. "Louise was born and raised in Powell River so we were happy to come here."

During an ordinary day, Kenning attends the morning meeting to discuss anything that is relevant and important that is ongoing. "Then we prioritize our ongoing investigations with all the new ones coming in."

Some days he deals with assaults, other days it might be a break and enter, an alarm going off, mischief, an accident or a stolen car. "You never know."

The police also speak to school students about issues such as internet safety and bullying. "We start with DARE (a drug awareness program) in elementary school and we teach them that the people wearing the uniform are approachable."

The worst moment of his job is when he has to knock on the door of a next of kin to tell them that someone they loved has passed away.

"I think that is something I will remember forever, but it's all part of the job."

The best thing about being a police officer is the variety of the work, he says. He also enjoys the opportunity to participate in charity work such as Cops for Cancer. "I've done two tours with Cops for Cancer," he said. "One here and one in the Kootenays."

A career with the RCMP is filled with opportunities. "There are specialized sections such as dogs, helicopters, boats, major crime and forensics," said Kenning. "You learn the ropes while doing general duty. You learn how to do the job, interact with people and discover where your interest might be."

Kenning is interested in the ocean and is thinking about the marine division. "Who knows where this job might take me?" **PR**

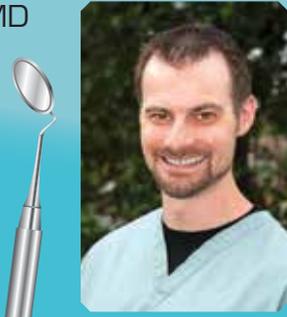


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# Operation Christmas Child

Have you ever wondered if something you did could make a positive impact on someone else's life? You can reach out to a needy child abroad by filling a shoebox full of thoughtful items. The child on the receiving end is often poor, homeless, suffering from famine, natural disasters, ravages of war and living in an underdeveloped country.

Since 1993, over 100 million shoeboxes have been filled. The generous residents of Powell River supported Operation Christmas Child by giving 671 shoeboxes last year.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse,



an international humanitarian aid organization. It gives children hope and Samaritan's Purse gives them a future.

Shoeboxes are available for pick up at Your Dollar Store With More in Crossroads Village, Valley Building Supply on Padgett Road, as well as several churches and schools. Texada Transfer has generously offered to ship shoeboxes to the main distributor free of charge for the third year.

Please do not use boxes larger than a regular shoebox. Choose a boy or girl and an age category and then fill your box with simple items such as school supplies, games, balls, bar soap, comb, hand towel, hair clips, a t-shirt, socks, underwear, mitts, gloves, etc. Do not include items such as war toys, playing cards, soft candy, gum, toothpaste, or liquids that may leak, melt, freeze or break.

Filled shoeboxes need to be returned for shipping by November 10th. Please include \$7 for each shoebox for shipping and other related costs. Either cash, or cheque made out to Samaritan's Purse, is acceptable, or donate online. For more info contact Trudy Anderson at 604 485-5345 or Sharon Wright at 604 485-2329. [PR](#)

# Masquerade Gala tops Festival of Trees

One of Powell River's premiere community Christmas events is getting a bit of an overhaul this year, and promises to wrap up with a big bash.

The Festival of Trees, an annual fundraiser by the Powell River Association for Community Living, begins Nov. 15 and ends Nov. 23 with a Masquerade Gala Dinner and Auction.

Julie Akre, this year's Festival coordinator, says the traditional tree display will, as always, be the focus of the event, but that the gala dinner is being given a shot in the arm with new activities and performances.

The event begins with the lighting of the trees at 7 pm on Nov. 15, at the Town Centre Mall. The band "Inclusion" will play at the free event.

Viewing and voting then continues until Nov. 22. A family fun day is set for Nov. 17 from 11-3 by donation.

The \$50-a-plate wrap-up event is at Dwight Hall on Nov. 23. It's catered by Chef Dave Bowes, with music by Walter Martella and Cathy Reckenberg. After dinner, Vancouver Island recording artist Emily Spiller will drop some of her live looping, layered harmonies. Check out some of her work at [soundcloud.com/beaconhillrecords](http://soundcloud.com/beaconhillrecords).

The dinner will also feature a fire spinning performance, live painting, and auctions.

Tickets are available from the Sweet Shoppe, or by calling Julie at 604 414-5916.

The event replenishes the PRACL Wish Fund, which provides special medical needs and equipment, as well as activities, trips and the Snoezelen Room.



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**Nov 1:** Patricia Theatre's 100 year Anniversary Party: 6:30 doors open; 7pm live stage show, then Singin' In The Rain screening. \$5

**Nov 2:** Slices: A Memoir Anthology. Celebrate the library's just-published book -- a collection of skillfully-written, compelling short memoirs by local seniors. The event features readings, refreshments, books for sale, and author signings. Cranberry Seniors Centre: 2 to 4pm.

**Nov 2:** Post-Halloween Pumpkin Drop-Off, Compost Education Centre (4752 Joyce) 10am to 2pm.

**Nov 2:** Patricia Theatre's 100 year Anniversary Party. 10am to 12:30pm guided tours; 2 to 3:30pm *Reunion in London 1944*, plus pre-show vintage news reels and cartoons; 3:30 to 4:30pm open house, tea and birthday cake; 7pm *Casablanca* with pre-show entertainment and a no-host wine bar; 9:30 to midnight, live adult vaudeville / burlesque show, \$5, with a no-host wine and beer bar and snacks on sale.

**Nov 3:** Patricia Theatre's 100 year Anniversary Party: 10am to 12:30pm guided tours; 2 to 4pm "Another Opening, Another Show" parlour concert to introduce the Patricia's new baby grand piano.

**Nov 3:** B3 Kings Festive Jazz at the Max Cameron Theatre; Denzal Sinclair, vocals and drums; Chris Gestrin on a Hammond B3 organ; Cory Weeds on sax, and guitarist Bill Coon. 7pm to 9pm.

**Nov 5:** Library documentary screening *Birdmen: The Original Dream of Flight*. Documentary about the history, present of future of people's trial-and-error pursuit of flying on their own, like birds. The Hub 101, 7pm to 9pm

**Nov 5:** Watch the 60-minute documentary about called *Undefeated* featuring Powell River's own Hank Cummings. It provides a unique glimpse into the challenges and triumphs faced by individuals living with Parkinson's disease. It is inspirational, encouraging but also real and raw. At the Max Cameron Theatre at 7pm.

**Nov 6 & 7:** Flu clinic. Everyone welcome. Recreation Complex 9:30am - 2:30pm.

**Nov 7:** A Far Off Broadway Musical Review, with numbers from *Annie*, *Les Miserables*, *The Lion King*, etc. At Evergreen Theatre, Recreation Complex. 7pm.

**Nov 8:** A Far Off Broadway Musical Review, 7pm at the Evergreen Theatre.

**Nov 9:** Met Opera Puccini's *Tosca* at the Max Cameron, 10am.

**Nov 9:** A Far Off Broadway Musical Review, 7pm at the Evergreen Theatre.

**Nov 10:** A Far Off Broadway Musical Review, 1pm at the Evergreen Theatre.

**Nov 11:** Remembrance Day breakfast @ the Legion, 7am, downstairs.

**Nov 11:** Remembrance Day service: 10am Dwight Hall; cenotaph and minute of silence, 11am, Veteran's Park.

**Nov 12:** Free senior's day at the Recreation Complex.

**Nov 12:** Basic Mexican Cooking workshop, Powell River Food Security Project 6pm (register).

**Nov 12:** Author readings from *Slices: A Memoir Anthology* @ Museum, noon to 1:30pm.

**Nov 13:** Free seniors' skate, rec complex.

**Nov 14:** MacBeth: National Theatre Live Broadcast HDTV 7pm to 9:30pm.

**Nov 16:** Celebration of Cultural Diversity, Rec Complex, 10am to 4pm.

**Nov 18:** How to get Six Meals from One Chicken workshop, Powell River Food Security Project 7pm (register).

**Nov 19:** Advanced Fermentation workshop, Powell River Food Security Project 7pm (register).

**Nov 19:** Library's Trivia Night at The Hub 101 7pm to 9pm.

**Nov 20:** Jane Coop piano concert at the Academy Hall, 7:30pm, \$22.

**Nov 20:** The first Progressive Social Business Fair. The event will take place over several venues and include products and information from dozens of Women in Business members. Think flash mob meets business fair meets progressive dinner! For more information please email [info@prwomeninbusiness.com](mailto:info@prwomeninbusiness.com).

**Nov 21:** Chamber of Commerce luncheon and presentation at noon at the Town Centre Hotel. Representatives from Fortis BC will be sharing small business incentive programs that your business can get involved

## Kids: beat the rain

*You want to get out of the house and off the couch, but who wants to go out in the rain? We have the solution with the following fun events:*

**Nov 9:** Best Book Club Ever: again! At the library, 10:30am to noon.

**Nov 16:** Coats for Kids and Families: winter clothing give-away next to Sears, 10am.

**Nov 17:** Frosty Family Skate at the recreation complex, noon to 1:30pm.

**Nov 17:** Sea snake at the pool! 2:30 to 3:30pm.

**Nov 18:** Fred Penner live at The Max, 7:30pm.

**Nov 29:** Kids swim free at the pool, when they bring a nonperishable donation to the food bank. 7 - 9pm.

with and future plans. Must RSVP, \$15 at the door.

**Nov 22:** United Way and PR Kings Hockey Club wine and cheese tasting event: 6pm to 10pm Powell River Town Centre Hotel.

**Nov 22:** Drug awareness twoonie night at the pool. 7pm to 9pm.

**Nov 22:** Rick Scott - Home Routes House Concert 7:30pm.

**Nov 23:** Community grant writing workshop at the Library, 9am to 5pm.

**Nov 23:** PR Therapeutic Riding Christmas Open House 11am-3pm at 4356 Myrtle Avenue - (Therapeutic Riding Centre). Photos with Santa Claus and the Horses. Bake Sale, hospitality table with free hot drinks and sweets.

**Nov 23:** Festival of Trees, Dwight Hall, 5pm.

**Nov 23:** SPCA Pet Photos with Santa, 11am to 2pm, \$10, in Town Centre Mall.

**Nov 24:** SPCA Pet Photos with Santa, 11am to 2pm, \$10, in Town Centre Mall.

**Nov 27:** Breast Health Information session 7-9pm. No cost. Talk about breast health, news about the BRCA gene, what is thermography and where does it stand with regards to mamograms and ultra sound, some nutritional information etc. For info, call 604-489-0200.

**Nov 30 to Dec 1:** Texada Island Festival of Trees and tree lighting ceremony.

*Please submit calendar items to  
[sean@prliving.ca](mailto:sean@prliving.ca) by the 20th of each month*

## Christmas? Already?

*Get a jump on the holiday shopping season with some great local arts and crafts at the following fairs in November:*

**Nov 1 & 2:** Powell River's Own Craft Fair at the Recreation Complex, Friday, 5 to 9pm, Saturday 11am to 4pm.

**Nov 2:** One-Stop Shop for Christmas. Support small businesses at this fair! Lower hall, Assumption. 10am to 2pm.

**Nov 16 & 17:** Dwight Hall Christmas Fair @ Townsite, 10am to 4pm

**Nov 19 & 20:** Lund Christmas Craft Fair, Italian Hall 10am to 4pm.

**Nov 22 to 24:** Christmas Craft Sale, Timberlane Avenue, at the Rancho next to the Fine Arts building. Nov 22 2 - 8pm; Nov 23 10am-3pm; Nov 24, 10am-3pm.

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# What's up?

## POWELL RIVER

### Texture & Light on vinyl & digital

Powell River band Texture & Light is set to release their debut album *The Hard Problem of Consciousness* on November 5 as a vinyl LP and a digital download. The album was produced and performed by Trevor Refix. The live band consists of five members – Trevor Refix on vocals and guitar, Clare Mervyn on bass, Kevin Turpin on lead guitar, Tony Colton on synths, and Lyell Woloschuk on electronic percussion. Visit [www.textureandlight.ca](http://www.textureandlight.ca) for more info and stay tuned for upcoming live shows.



### I'm the map, I'm the map

In the last year, more than 30 community groups made community maps: a medium to express ideas, thoughts, and feelings about the past, present, and future. The Powell River Diversity Initiative and the Malaspina Art Society have partnered together to host a community mapping art exhibition called *Mapping the Heart of Powell River: Community Reflections* at Vancouver Island University (Powell River) from November 6 through to December 3, 2013. Opening reception takes place Thursday, November 7 at 7 PM.

Maps include a "henna map" made at the Art of Women's Health Conference and intergenerational mapping with Olive Devaud residents and School District 47's Jade Coast students.

On November 5, the public is invited to submit their own maps for the exhibition, at 6 pm at Vancouver Island University. For more details contact Megan Dulcie Dill at 604 414-7020 or go to [www.artpowellriver.ca](http://www.artpowellriver.ca).



### Inbox

We welcome feedback from our readers. Letters may be edited for length. Email [isabelle@prliving.ca](mailto:isabelle@prliving.ca), or mail letters to *PR Living*, 7053E Glacier Street, Powell River, BC V8A 5J7.

#### Dear Powell River Living:

I just wanted to say thank you to you and your staff for their diligent work on this magazine. I look forward every month to your articles. However, this month [October] especially, I read every article and eagerly looked forward to the next one. I believe this issue was the best EVER. Thank you, again.

*Darlene Haigh*

### Mistaken identity

In last month's issue we incorrectly identified a sketch of a First Nations village as being Sliammon. It was not. However, the sketch did help inspire Vi Isaac to create the above painting.

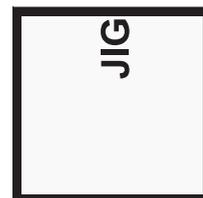
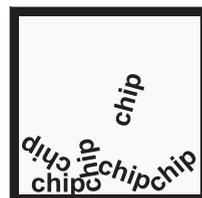
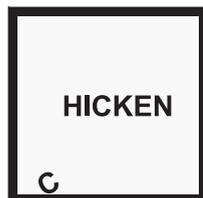
### People Love Turtles. Yes, yes they do.

Powell River's own Terry Brown and Jude Abrams have released their educational film *People Love Turtles*. The 30-minute documentary showcases the Western Painted Turtle – an endangered species that lives on the Sunshine Coast. The duo filmed the enchanting, beautiful green and red turtles underwater and on land, at Ruby Lake, on the lower Sunshine Coast.



*Puzzle River*™

Guess the hidden saying, phrase or word(s) suggested by the pictures!



Last month's answers:

- In the doghouse
- A sign of the times
- Its always darkest before the dawn

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## Powell River Living FACES of EDUCATION

### Man-of-all-trades Len Crivea retires

A kid tries to flush a pudding cup down the toilet at school. It plugs and overflows. Toothpicks are shoved into a classroom keyhole. The lock jams. A kid is acting strangely on the school bus. No one can figure out why.

Since 1988, staff at School District 47's schools have known who to call when things go wrong on school property: Len Crivea.

Paper towels in the sinks causing floods. Hairspray into smoke detectors setting off alarms. A crawl space in the old Max Cameron wall-papered with centrefolds from a famous magazine.

"They're usually not being bad, or wilful," he says, explaining why students can be hard on school property. "They just don't always know what they're doing."

At the end of December, though, the jovial, professional grandfather-of-three will retire.

He's ready, he says, after 47 years working in Texada's mines, and at the School District. And by now, he claims, he's seen it all. His position, the manager of operations and maintenance, has him at work by 6:30 am, overseeing the rollout of the school buses and checking in with their 11 drivers. Are the buses safe? Are they clean? He talks to his 12 custodians and five maintenance and grounds staff, to support their work keeping the schools and other facilities in top shape. And, he responds to problems.

Someone smells a gas leak. An empty bus rolled into a ditch. The sprinklers caused a flood on the weekend. He's on it, 24/7.

"We're a necessary evil," he says laughing, describing his department. "Seriously, though, the most enjoyable part of my job is the people I work with. I'm amazed at how they're willing to just do anything, to provide a great learning environment. We keep the schools clean, and warm. It's all part of what we do."

Len's skills will be a challenge to replace – technically, and personally.

He was born in Kelowna, and spent his early years living in a tent with his family at Boston Bar, while his father worked as a contractor for the Fraser Canyon Highway (#1 Hwy). Later, they moved to East Vancouver, and finally to Texada Island in 1964, where his dad mined and he finished high school. While Len had plans to go to BCIT after high school for mechanical drafting, he'd have to wait one year after high school to start. He hit the mines in the meantime as an oiler, and never left.

"Wait a year? No way! I was making too much money in the mines."

For the next 21 years, he worked and apprenticed, picking up tickets as a heavy duty mechanic; a motor vehicle inspector; a millwright; a fourth class power engineer; plus welding and blasting. He was president of Local 816, the Texada branch of the United Steel Workers of America. For his last years at the mine, he was a supervisor. He and his wife Carol had a daughter and a son. He was a Scouts leader for several years. Then, in 1988, Carol said she was ready to move to the city. That's when Len found work with the school district.

Since then, he said, he's had the privilege to work with a fantastic crew. The staff numbers have been nearly halved since he began, due to declines in the number of students -- from about 3,400 to 2,200. Technology has changed, too, he said. In the past, when pipes burst (or students shoved things into pipes), they'd have to take a chainsaw to the wall to find out where the problem was; now, cameras catch problems.



**GRANDPA!** Len Crivea holds a photo of his three grandchildren; he's putting his considerable trades skills to work building adaptive furniture for his grandson, who is a little person.

"I really believe in multi-skilled tradesmen," he said. "We need to know how to do everything from unplugging the toilet to working the weed-eater."

In his 25 years with SD47, no child has ever been in a school bus accident.

His daughter and son-in-law are both teachers in Richmond, and have three children. Their middle child, Conner, is a "little person," and Len has been busy using his trades skills to build a number of pieces of adaptive furniture for him. They also went to Disneyland with him in 2010, for a Little People of America convention.

For his retirement, he has a brand-new fifth-wheel and an appetite for travel (they're planning a 2014 trip to San Diego for another Little People of America convention); a 2.5-acre property in Cranberry in need of developing, and an amateur golf swing. In his younger days, he logged his property on Texada and built the family home. But after nearly 50 years as a tradesman, he's done.

As of January 2014, the position will transfer to Troy Marshall. He's the current coordinator of SD47's Dual Credit Programs. **RL**



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