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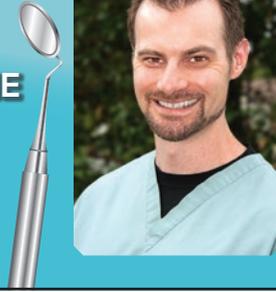
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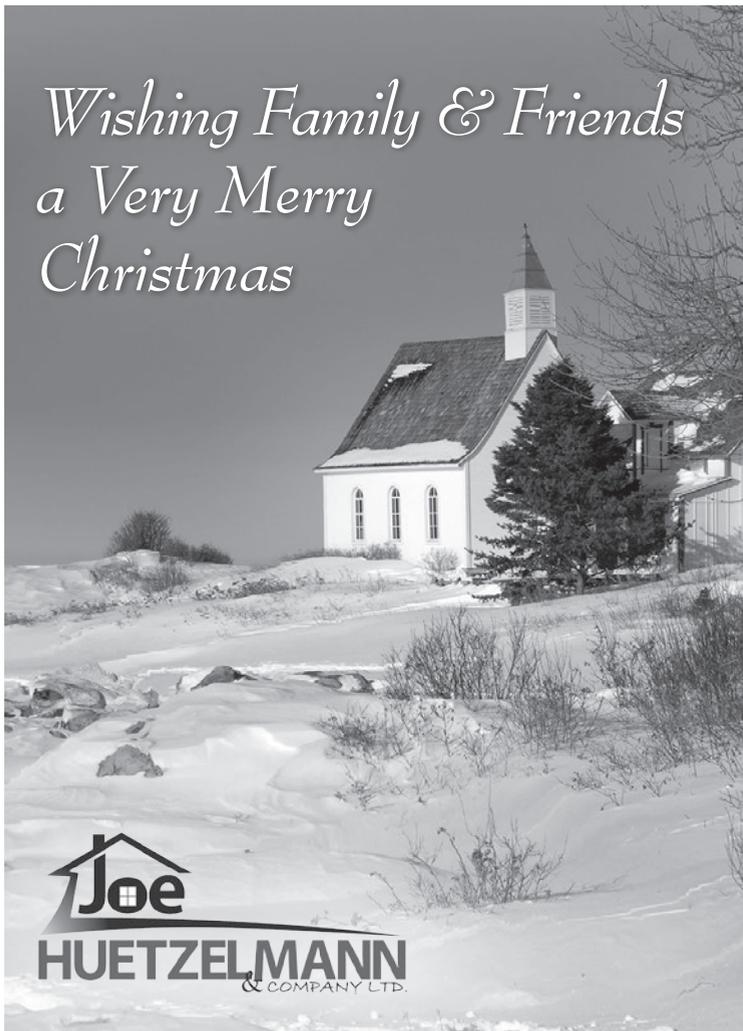
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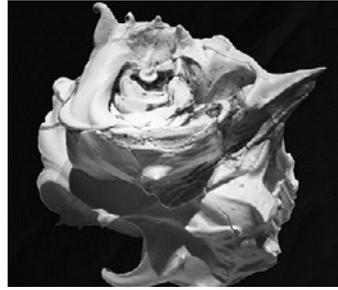


City of Powell River
Powell River
Regional District

 **BC Transit**



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ON THE COVER

'Tis the season. Santa finds it hard to resist all the baking that Mrs. Claus does at this time of year.

Photo by Isabelle Southcott

Powell River Living CONTRIBUTORS



LIZ BRACH is a teacher at Assumption School. She and students at the school have been making and selling AIDS angels for several years.



LYNN McCANN was born and raised in Powell River, where she is well known and appreciated for both her sincere gift of helping others, and for her unflinching sense of humour. Her latest goal is to finish her book of memoirs.



DAGMAR MCKENZIE is a retired teacher and member of the Sunshine Gogo grannies.

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

Albert Schweitzer (1875 – 1965)
Theologian, philosopher, physician

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

Noteworthy

In the November issue, a story about Terri Glen requires a clarification. She retired to Powell River with her husband Bob Abbott after 34 years in the airline industry.



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 
Celebrating the season

All too often we take things for granted. At least I know I do. My family, friends, the fact that I have a roof over my head and food on the table. But when terrible disasters like Typhoon Haiyan strike we realize how lucky we are and do what we can to help.

Sometimes we want to help but don't quite know how. It's easier at this time of year than at other times as many people give to food banks, churches and other charities.

Although community begins at home it goes much further than that. We are part of a global community and do what can to help family and neighbours, near and far.

This issue of Powell River Living celebrates others. We celebrate Lynn McCann's Christmas memories of a time many years ago when her son and daughter transformed into the butler and butless and prepared an early Christmas dinner on pages 7 and 8.

Many of us will be celebrating Christmas with family and friends. We'll be creating memories while spending time with loved ones. But not everyone is so lucky; some have no one to spend the holidays with. The Salvation Army's community Christmas dinner reaches out to folks right here in Powell River to make sure everyone is able to enjoy the warmth of the season and a yummy turkey dinner.

We continue to celebrate with a story on page 13 about the good work of Christmas Cheer, The Powell River Food Bank. We move on to helping at an international level with a story about AIDS Angels and totes made by the Sunshine Gogos on page 15. Money raised from the sales of the angels and totes is used to help children and grandparents who have lost family members to the AIDS pandemic.

Breakwater Books and Ecosentials are swapping shop – literally – later this month. Breakwater will move into Ecosentials old space and Ecosentials into Breakwaters. To find out the scoop on this exciting change read the story on page 19.

All I want for Christmas is a ferry schedule that works and prices we can afford. We don't have that right now but local leaders are working hard to make that a reality. Beginning on page 20, journalist Pieta Woolley gave the BC Ferries story the Powell River Living treatment and asked what would it take to make the ferries affordable and the schedule work?

We decided to have some fun this year and came up with 14 predictions for 2014. If you want a good giggle, turn to page 32 where you'll find outlandish predictions like "BC Hydro discovers cheap energy can be harnessed from children's laughter," and more.

As we enter the final month of 2013, I'd like to thank you all for reading and contributing to Powell River Living. Because of you, we have grown from an idea to an issue to a reflection of this wonderful community my children and I call home.

Merry Christmas and God bless. **RL**

Isabelle Southcott

Isabelle Southcott, Publisher • isabelle@priving.ca



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wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday season.

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Best in Canada!

Why did our library win award?

You may have heard that, back in September, the local library won a national award. Why? The shelves are full of books. You can check them out... or not. Oh, yeah, borrow eBooks and eReaders, too. Isn't that just, like, what libraries do?

The Council of the Federation Literacy Award was for "outstanding achievement, innovative practice and excellence in literacy." Ours is the only public library to win that award in the nine-year history. Here's what sets apart the Powell River Public Library from the biblio riff-raff:

1. Regular programs

Unlike libraries of the past—which were primarily book collections—Powell River's is abuzz with programs. Whether it's computer training, kids' book clubs, the human library, or trivia nights at the local pub, the library has become an attractive, interactive hub of activity.

2. Not just reading. Writing. Creating.

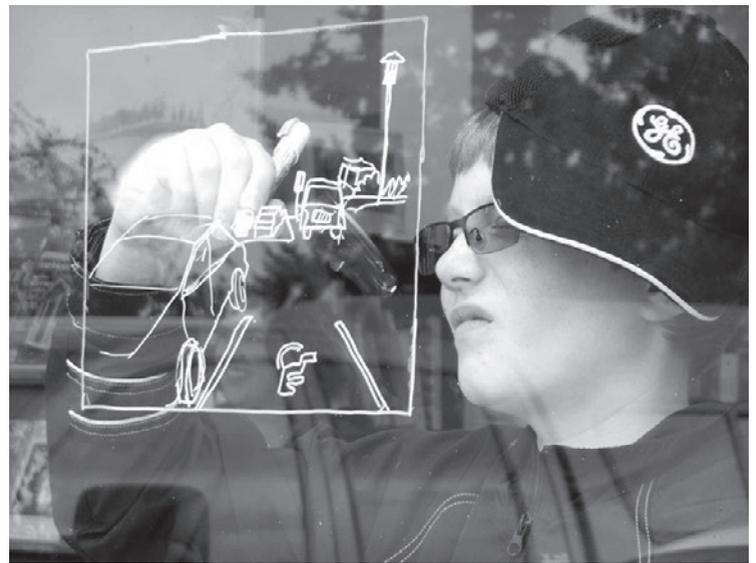
The innovative seniors' memoir-writing program, teen video and graphic writing workshops turn the traditional library function on its head. People come to the library to write stories. The library published *Slices*, a book of seniors memoirs. That just doesn't happen.

3. Small but mighty

With a budget about the same as a branch library in a city—hours are longer, book circulation is higher, programs are more extensive, and the presence in the community is as vigorous as a main urban library. It punches above its weight class, in other words.

4. Specialized functions

A grant-writing workshop for local nonprofits, a TechSavvy series on computer skills, DIY home brewing, saltwater fishing



EXPLORING NEW FRONTIERS: At the graphic novel workshop this fall, Braedon Van Gorkom helps rocket the Powell River Public Library to new frontiers.

and even how not to get lost in the wilderness. This library aims to match community members with expertise in the form of both people and books. Literacy, in this sense, is about getting the tools to engage deeper and know more.

5. Futurism

Libraries know they need to change. While other libraries continue to lend and process books, waiting for the inevitable decline of bound-book reading, Powell River's has pursued programming, electronic information and community development as new ways to invoke literacy and knowledge. **PR**



Brandy Peterson

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An early Christmas surprise

Memories come back

By Lynn McCann

Christmas is the season for surprises, but it was only November 29, so I was truly unprepared for what awaited me when I got home from work that night.

My son Shawn, nine, always enjoyed wearing his Sunday suit, but his sister Wanda, 11, hated dressing up. She thought it was a dirty trick to be born a girl and to her putting on a dress once a week for Sunday school was considered pure torture. Imagine my surprise when I was met at the door by both Shawn and Wanda all dolled up in their Sunday finery, each with a neatly folded napkin draped over their left forearm.

“Welcome home,” said Shawn with a flourish, “I am the butler.”

“And I,” announced Wanda, with an air of importance, “am the butless.”

The butler and butless each grabbed one of my arms and propelled me into the living room where I beheld “the tree.”

With the help of their sisters, Laura, five, and Tina, 12, they had put up and decorated the artificial Christmas tree, all by themselves. Never before in my life had I seen a tree quite like it! I was so overwhelmed by the sight of it – placed right there in the centre of the living room – that I was not paying attention to my feet, tripped over a cord, and was sent sprawling onto the floor.

Only then did I realize the electrical cord was not attached to a living room wall, but to an outlet in the hall, with an extension cord so taut it stretched parallel 12 inches above the floor. Back on my feet I gazed at the unique tree-decorating job. The top third of the tree was pulled over into an up-side-down U-shape. The tip of each branch had a minimum of three



SURPRISE: One Christmas, many years ago, Wanda, Shawn, Tina and Laura gave their unsuspecting parents a surprise they will never forget.

Straight from the Hearth

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for a merry & bright Christmas season*

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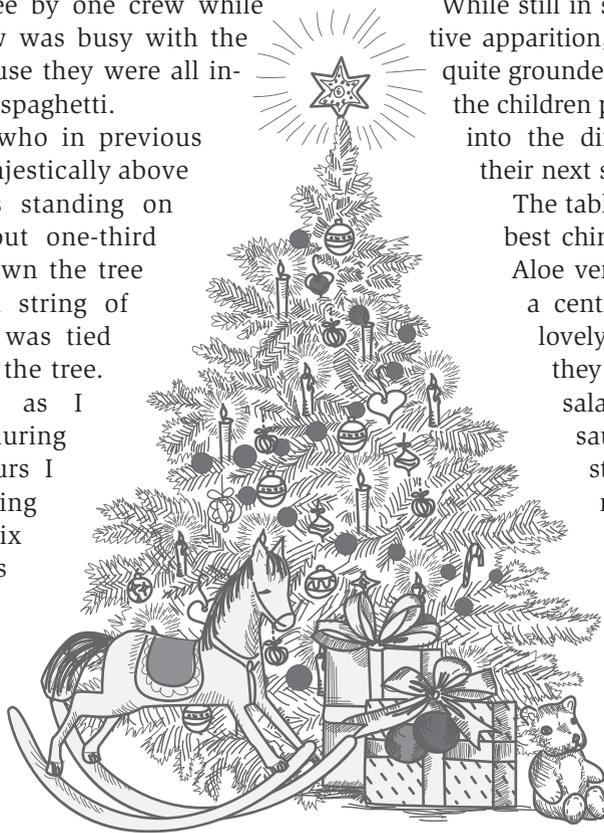
We would like to extend a special holiday greeting to the many volunteers who generously contribute their time to our communities and to regional district services:

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Agricultural Advisory Committee
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**POWELL RIVER
REGIONAL DISTRICT**

tight loops of garland, each held secure with two twists into and around the trunk, resulting in each tree tip touching the trunk. The lights must have been put on the tree by one crew while the other crew was busy with the garlands because they were all intertwined like spaghetti.

The angel, who in previous years stood majestically above the tree, was standing on her head about one-third of the way down the tree attached to a string of lights, which was tied to the base of the tree. (There were, as I learned later during the many hours I spent untangling the tree, six sets of lights in all.) The decorations and tinsel were beyond description—truly a sight to behold.



I got the distinct impression that if a light cord snapped the tree would blast off through the ceiling and soar across town!

While still in shock over this festive apparition, and before I was quite grounded on my feet again, the children pulled me excitedly into the dining room to see their next surprise.

The table was set with our best china and crystal, our Aloe vera plant serving as a centerpiece. It was so lovely. In the kitchen they had prepared a salad and had tomato sauce in a pot on the stove and, because no one was allowed to turn on the stove without parents at home, there was a huge pot of cold water into which a box of spaghetti noodles had

been added, just waiting for some heat.

The kids and I had been so involved in the kitchen surprises (including me attempting to rescue the spaghetti) that we didn't hear the door open when my husband Tony came home. We did become aware of his presence, however, when we heard a tremendous crash followed by "What the &#%!@?!"

The kids were so excited to see their father. "Dad, Dad! Are you surprised?" they chanted. He was beyond surprised. He was flabbergasted.

Once seated at the table, Tony and I were delighted to find that the kids had prepared beverages—vodka and cherry Kool-Aid for us, and alcohol-free Kool-Aid for them. After numerous festive refills, I found the supper was almost palatable and the tree took on a glow all of its own.

We were mellow, Tony and I, when the children gathered around for their announcement.

"We decided," said Tina, "That we're going to celebrate Christmas this year by having surprises!"

"Every day!" added Laura.

"Oh God," we prayed, "Have mercy!" **PR**

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Shop on Marine Avenue this Season

There are many good reasons to shop at home this holiday season, but the best is probably the simplest: Home is where the heart is.

However, even if you feel no loyalty to local businesses or your home community, there are still good reasons to shop at home. You'll be hard-pressed to find better prices or better 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.

Another good reason to keep your shopping dollars at home, especially come gift-buying season, is that you'll find really unique items in Powell River stores. Nowhere is that more true than among the eclectic retailers along Marine and Willingdon Avenues.

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. [PR](#)



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Sunshine Coast Trail

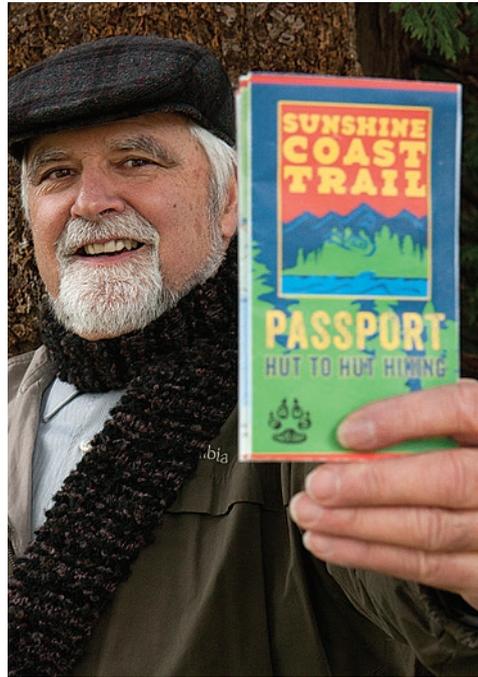
Your passport to adventure!

A new initiative for Powell River's Sunshine Coast Trail highlights huts located all along the trail and partners local businesses and organizations. The Sunshine Coast Trail (SCT) passport is the perfect stocking stuffer this Christmas.

Here's how it works:

Purchase a passport for \$5 from Tourism Powell River, or one of the participating businesses. Hike out to one of the huts along the SCT and take a photo of yourself with the hut behind you. Take your photo to the corresponding business (detailed in the passport) and collect one of 12 unique stamps for your passport (each participating business has a unique stamp). When you have collected all 12 stamps visit Tourism Powell River for your completion stamp and certificate!

"The Sunshine Coast Trail passport is something we have wanted to do for a long time," says Eagle Walz, president of Powell River Parks & Wilderness Soci-



PASSPORT CHECK: Eagle Walz displays the new Sunshine Coast Trail Passport. Get yours, then hike the trail to get it stamped.

The Sunshine Coast Trail passport is the perfect stocking stuffer this Christmas.

ety, the organization responsible for the trail. "According to Tourism Powell River, the SCT is now the biggest tourism asset this community has. The passport is going to be a wonderful souvenir for people who come to Powell River to hike the trail – and a great incentive for locals to get out on the trail and visit the huts again, or for the first time." The passports are available now at Tourism Powell River and supporting businesses. All proceeds from this project go towards the maintenance and enhancement of the trail. For more details, please visit sunshinecoast-trail.com. **PR**

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Help someone else this Christmas

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If you want to feel better about yourself, help someone else. It's easy, really. And there are so many ways you can help others in Powell River especially at this time of year. You help when you give to the Salvation Army, the Christmas Cheer Committee and the Food Bank. This year, more than 650 hampers will be filled in Powell River and distributed over the holiday season thanks to the good work of volunteers, local churches, schools, businesses and individuals who care.

Christmas Cheer

For more than 40 years, Christmas Cheer's volunteers have been packing hampers with food and toys so those who need a helping hand during the holidays aren't left out. "This Christmas we expect to do 300 hampers," says Sandra Carmen, president.

"We have some families who find themselves in difficulty over Christmas so we do what we can to help them have a good Christmas."

How can you help?

Christmas Cheer welcomes all **financial donations**. Mail your cheque to Christmas Cheer, c/o Cherrie Hunter, Treasurer, 7318 Glacier Street, Powell River, BC V8A 5V4. An official tax receipt will be issued.

Participate in the **Adopt-a-Family** program: If you would like to provide a hamper for a family, you can purchase groceries for Christmas dinner and other groceries to help through the Christmas season. The cost for a family of two is \$200 or \$400 for a family of four. Call Sandra at 604 485-2142 or Lesley Ford at 604 485-6682 for more information.

A donation of toys or gifts: To ensure that every child receives a toy or gift worth \$20 or more at Christmas, you can purchase



HELPING OTHERS: BJ and Krista Loder are the new Salvation Army captains in Powell River. The Loders and their children will be busy helping others this Christmas.

Merry Christmas



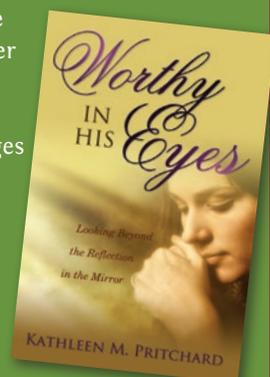
We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to being of service in 2014

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www.prfutures.ca

Give a Gift that offers HOPE

Local author, Kathleen Pritchard, shares her story of hope and faith after acquiring a brain injury. She encourages others: "Life is precious. Embrace it today."

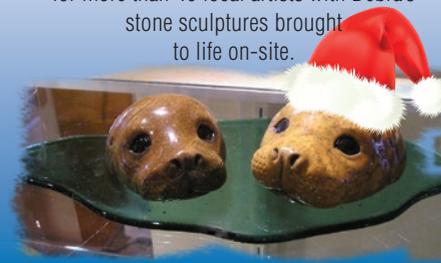


Kathleen's book, *Worthy In His Eyes*, is available at Cole's, Breakwater Books, Chapters and Amazon.ca

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a toy and choose a child's name tag from the Christmas Cheer tree at Wal-Mart and leave the gift with store staff. Alternatively, you may contact toy coordinator Marilyn Lewis at 604 485-2621 to arrange pick up or to drop toys off.

Powell River Food Bank: In the last five years, there's been a 23 per cent increase in the number of people using the Powell River Food Bank. More seniors are using the food bank than in the past, says manager Gina Kendrick, "and 32 per cent of our users are children." Fourteen per cent of users are people with

*The Powell River Food Bank
helps between 550 to 1,000
people a month.*

disabilities. Interestingly enough, eight per cent of clients are not on assistance but are the working poor who have minimum wage jobs and struggle to keep food on the table.

"We help between 550 to 1,000 people a month," says Gina.

The food bank wouldn't be able to do what it does without community support. "Every penny we raise is spent here," says Gina. Cash donations receive a tax-deductible receipt.

"I thank everyone who puts a hand in their pocket to help another person. Perhaps with your help, everyone will have a happy holiday."

Salvation Army: Late last month, The Salvation Army launched its annual kettle campaign. Their trademark kettles and ringing of the bells are synonymous with Christmas. This year, Captains BJ and Krista Loder, the new Salvation Army captains in Powell River, are at the helm of this campaign.

The Loders, who spent the last four years in Manitoba, are originally from Newfoundland. "It's our biggest fundraiser of the year," said BJ. "The money goes towards our Christmas hamper program and supports other programs that run during the year."

Programs like the community lunch program, which runs from Monday to Friday, are open to anyone. "We get a mix of people from those who really need it to the elderly to people who don't want to cook to people who just come in for fellowship."

The Salvation Army also runs a food bank. "We couldn't do any of this without our volunteers," says BJ. "They are dedicated to helping and feeding people... they even come in on their holidays."

Winter is particularly difficult for those on a tight budget as they have heating bills to deal with and they can't grow food outside.

How can you help? Donate to one of the many kettles or drop off non-perishable food or a cheque or cash at the Salvation Army's office on Joyce Avenue. Any cheque over \$10 will be issued a tax receipt.

The Salvation Army also accepts winter coats, socks, hats and mitts for the Coats for Kids and Families Campaign. This year, the Salvation Army will pack 250 Christmas hampers. "We accept donations of toys, gifts and food," said BJ. [PR](#)

Five-month VIU career solution for any age: Auto Service Tech



Even as a child, Troy Lawson loved cars. As an adult, the VIU Automotive Service Technician (AST) program helped transform his early passion into a vibrant career.

For the past seven years, he's built on those AST skills – earning his red seal as a certified mechanic at VIU Nanaimo – while working at Powell River's Massullo Motors. Not bad for someone in his mid-20s! And a practical education solution for any age.

"If you have a previous background in electrical or computers and are looking for a career change, no matter what age you are, the knowledge you have would make you a great candidate for the Automotive Service Technician program," he advises.

As the youngest student in his AST program, Troy recalls that the camaraderie and mentorship in the multi-age classroom made

learning enjoyable, and helped prepare him for a job in the real world. He said that this program gives the opportunity to work in different areas – not just with cars.

The five-month program involves daily lectures, seminars and demonstrations, as well as extensive practical training in a functioning automotive shop setting. The course curriculum reflects today's technology and the needs of the industry. Many recent graduates work in Powell River as auto techs, service writers and in parts sales – and some have furthered their careers into heavy duty mechanics and marine mechanics.

Can you see yourself in this program? Contact Alison Turley for more information: 604-485-8029, or alison.turley@viu.ca.

Adults welcome! Program runs January 20 – June 27, 2014

This full-time comprehensive program is designed to prepare students for a career in the automotive repair industry • Student loan eligible.

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The fight against AIDS

Turning the tide in Africa

By Dagmar McKenzie & Liz Brach

December 1 is World AIDS Day and many Powell Riverites are doing what they can to increase awareness and funds. Their efforts are focused on Sub Saharan Africa where 15 million children under age 17 have lost one or both parents to HIV AIDS. It is the grandmothers who are often left with the staggering demands of feeding, clothing and educating these children. And so it is grandmothers in Powell River who feel compelled to respond.

Gogos make tote #1,000

The Sunshine Gogos (grandmothers and grandmothers) are one of almost 250 grandmother groups across Canada who raise funds and awareness for the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, an initiative of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. They support African grandmothers raising their orphaned grandchildren.

You have probably seen the Gogos' booth at local events with its colourful display of crafts, Kazuri jewelry (made by



GOGO GRANNIES! Sunshine Gogos proudly display tote number 1,000. Left to right: Janice Rayson, Dagmar McKenzie, Maureen Tierney, Maggie Hanson.

African women) and the very distinctive tote bags found throughout Powell River. Major fundraising events like Beyond Scrabble, a Textile Art show, and a Film Night, have also helped to bring in donations and raise awareness about the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa.

The Gogos hit a major milestone this fall when bag number 1000 was made by Maggie Hanson, the Gogo Guru behind the volunteer tote bag production line. Maggie chose an African print and hunted down specific wooden beads in Vancouver for this special bag. How it will be sold and who will be its new owner are still to be determined.

Tote bags take three to four hours to make after the fabric and supplies have been sourced and made into kits. The \$40 price tag has not changed for seven years.

No one ever imagined the popularity of the bags. On several occasions the Gogos have discussed the end of production fearing that the market has been

December 2013 Happening at the Complex

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Register Now! Don't miss out! Christmas Lights Bus Tours Sunday, December 15 & Monday, December 16 Time: 6:30—8 pm *Must pre-register		3 	4 Powell River Chorus Wassail 7:30 pm 	5 Community Toonie Skate 3:30—5:00 pm	6 Theatre Now! Presents 3 Jacks & A Jill Performances—December 1,6,7 & 8 Evergreen Theatre	7
	Aquatic Center is CLOSED for Upgrades December 2—15 The Weight Room will remain open		11 No Seniors skate No Adult /Stroller skate	12 Community Toonie Skate 3:30—5:00 pm	13 Child Minding - Last Day December 12 Last Belly Dance Class	14 Santa will be here! Holly Jolly Family Skate Party 10:30—12:30 pm
15 	16 *Christmas Lights Bus Tours Dec. 15th & 16th	17 	18 Last Tai Chi Class	19 	20 Plan to Attend Winter Wonderland Public skate times daily—check schedule 	21
22 Jingle Bell Family Skate Noon—1:30 pm 	23 	24 Christmas Eve Open 6 am—Noon 	25 Merry Christmas Complex Closed 	26 Boxing Day Complex Open Noon—4 pm 	28 Additional Shinny hockey times on arena ice planned during the holidays Check the Holiday Skate Schedule 	
29 Plan to Attend Winter Wonderland Public skate times daily—check schedule 	30	31 New Years Eve Open 6 am—Noon Last skate 10—11:30 am Winter Wonderland 	1 New Years Day Complex Closed HAPPY NEW YEAR 	2 Time to register for new Winter programs offered at the Complex! Copies of brochure are on line . Register on line or at the Complex.	3 	

[PRComplexFitnessNews & PRComplexLeisureGuide](#)

Register by calling (604) 485-2891 or www.powellriver.ca



STUDENTS HELP: Assumption School school students enjoy helping others by making AIDS angels.

flooded but the bags just keep selling. Powell Riverites buy the bags not only because they are beautiful but because they wish to support the grannies and orphaned kids stricken by the AIDS pandemic.

To inquire about the bags or for more information about the Gogos please call Maggie Hanson at 604 485-4339 or email maggielhanson47@gmail.com.

AIDS Angels

Another Powell River group, the African AIDS Angels, raises over \$1,000 each year through the sale of beautifully crafted angel ornaments. Each angel is named after a child who has died of AIDS. The angels are made at work parties, which include school children, grandmothers and friends. Money raised from the sale of

angels buys tuition, food, medicine and other necessities.

The African AIDS Angels organization, which is based in Victoria, earmarks some of the funds to help establish food self-sufficiency in Sub Saharan Africa.

The angels can be purchased for \$5 at local craft fairs, Paperworks Gift Gallery, Breakwater Books and Image 1 Beauty Salon. For more information call Liz Brach at 604 483-3428.

Hygiene kits

The Timberlane Quilters' Guild responded to a challenge issued by Barb McCormack and prepared 60 hygiene kits for Days for Girls International. The kits are on their way to Georgetown, South Africa. Each kit enables a girl to attend school uninterrupted for three years. The more education a girl receives the more likely she will marry later, have fewer children, speak up for herself and contribute to her community. The more years she has in school, the less likely it is that she will contract HIV AIDS.

For more information on this project visit the Timberlane Quilters' Guild at timberlanequiltersguild.ca.

The Sunshine Gogos will be selling tote bags and AIDS Angels in the hospital lobby on December 13, 8 am to 4 pm. [PR](#)

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MLA, Powell River - Sunshine Coast
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in the New Year!

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Our offices will be closed over the Holiday Season

4675 Marine Ave, Powell River
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Powell River Living I Made the Move

Powell River: A place to call home

Trevor and Clare Mervyn are part of the next generation moving to Powell River. Clare is a visual communication designer and photographer with a love of typography, tea and the ocean. Trevor is a carpenter and a musician. He is the creative force behind the electronic/indie rock band, Texture & Light. The band (which features Clare on bass) recently released their debut album, *The Hard Problem of Consciousness*, which topped the CBC Radio 3 national indie chart for two weeks in a row. Trevor and Clare are both active members of The Powell River Friends of the Library and The Powell River Community Radio Society.

Why did you choose to move to Powell River? When? Where from?

Both • We moved here just over two years ago from Vancouver. We were tired of being overworked and underpaid, we were fed up with renting, and it seemed like every weekend we were going to great lengths to get out of the city. We were looking for somewhere to cultivate a slower life and be creative. We wanted lakes, ocean, culture, and community. We wanted time and space.

What surprised you about Powell River once you moved here?

Both • The number of artists/creative people pursuing their craft and dreams here. The number of young families and other urban refugees that had stories just like ours—escaping the city to focus less on careers and more on life. On the other hand, we're also constantly surprised that there are people who see the town as dying. Our circle sees a town that is changing and is very alive—a town that's on its way up in a big way.

What made you decide to move to Powell River?

Trevor • We rented a cabin in Lund for a weekend getaway three years ago. It was our first time on the upper coast. We were instantly struck by the beauty... and then we saw the real estate prices. We went back to our city lives and couldn't stop looking at houses on MLS. We even put up the recreation map on our apartment wall. The second time we were here we looked at 20 houses in 24 hours. The third time we were here we moved into our lovely little Townsite house.

Clare • The possibility of building a life where we were able to purchase a home, contribute to a community and make a differ-



ence. The opportunity to get away from the 9 to 5 rat race and have more time.

Where is your favourite place in Powell River?

Trevor • Out on my friend's boat on the chuck or in my canoe on a lake. Out in the woods with our dogs. Pretty much anywhere that I can't hear or see civilization. That being said, I'm also very fond of Costa Del Sol and walking down the streets of Townsite.

Clare • I'm happy anywhere in the forest or anywhere I can see the sun setting. I could spend all day sitting on Second Beach. The rocking chair in front of my wood stove is pretty nice too.

What would make Powell River a nicer community?

Trevor • This place is amazing as it is, but since you asked: A new library for a start. Marine Avenue revitalization - that stretch has the potential to be the prettiest little main street in BC. Development of the South Harbour area. A venue dedicated to live underground music. Development of the Townsite Mall eyesore. Keeping the trees in Millennium Park, Stillwater, and Valentine Mountain. Styrofoam recycling. A brewery—oh wait....

Clare • When we were first looking into moving here I was having doubts about the economics of the town. Then I read an article about the planned new library on the old arena site and it really excited me. I was thrilled to learn that the town was putting time and money into a new state-of-the-art cultural community space—which on our first

visit I felt was really lacking—and in that ugly vacant lot too. It gave me confidence that PR was indeed a place that was worth moving to.

What are Powell River's best assets?

Trevor • The natural beauty and amazing access for outdoor activities. The cost of living. The weather. The artist community. The sustainability community. The volunteer base. The lack of sprawl and box stores. The ability to grow/forage/catch your own food. The fact that we're only five hours from Vancouver but it feels like we're a world away.

Clare • The hiking/biking trails, Sunshine Coast Trail and huts, the artist community, the emphasis on local food—our organic farms and markets—focus on sustainability.

If you were Mayor what would you do?

Both • Stop focusing on the mill. We know it's a very sensitive subject, but we have to realize that the mill is not the future of this town. We need to start focusing our time and money on promoting other things—such as our vast outdoor resources and activities, tourism, arts and culture, and our community spaces. Take a stand against coal on Texada and make a very public fuss about Island Timberlands cutting down trees in treasured community spaces. We'd focus on sustainability and promoting and protecting our natural assets. **RL**

If you know someone we should feature in I Made the Move, please email isabelle@prliving.ca with your idea.

Try something new in January

Square dancing is great fun!

Instead of sitting at home on Tuesday evenings this winter, come on down to the Rancho Hall and try square dancing.

Pop by the hall on a Tuesday night and see why so many people are trying this popular activity that will have you stamping your feet and moving to the music.

New classes get under way in January and they're held every Tuesday night.

The local Star Dusters Club loves hosting dance parties. Not long ago, they welcomed 40 dancers from Vancouver Island. That day there were eight squares dancing up a storm.



UNITED: Square dancers are a happy bunch. Here Ray and Deb Schmidt (Parksville), Dorothy and Bob Simpson (Nanaimo), Fran and Roger Archambeault (Courtenay) and Wendie Harrington, (Nanaimo) share a group hug.



DANCIN' UP A STORM: Local dancers Shainil Jessa and Ron Berg prom-enading at a Star Dusters dance.

The next dance party won't be held until April when the ferries return to regular scheduling. Local caller Gord Ruedig developed the West Coast style of square dance where the multiple moves are pared down to an essential 40. This abbreviated format allows new dancers to master the basic moves in a few months so that they can soon be enjoying dancing with more experienced dancers. West Coast dancing has been adopted by the Upper Vancouver Island Square Dance Association, and these Sunday dances are a fun way to get together with out of town dancers. For more information, contact Graham Lyon, 604 485-6130. [PRL](#)



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Biz switcheroo

Same faces, new places

By Sean Percy • sean@prliving.ca

When Sean and Ruth Dees first started serving coffee in their Alberni Street bookstore, they had no intention of it becoming a booming cafe. And when Melissa Call started Ecosentials on Marine, she had no idea how quickly she would outgrow her space.

Now the two businesses are trading place to achieve their goals.

Sean and Ruth want to simplify and focus on the bookstore. So while they'll serve coffee in their new Marine Avenue location, they won't be offering soups and quiches. But cafe regulars will find a welcome replacement in the cafe being opened as part of Ecosentials, and run by Carol Sigvaldson, the operator of the popular but defunct Flying Yellow Bread Bowl.

"We're just so squeezed here," says Melissa from behind her tiny desk in a tiny office at the back of Ecosentials. "People ask for new products and we have nowhere to put them."

She'll go from 1,600 square feet to 4,800 square feet. The cafe and shop will operate upstairs, with an expanded and renovated commercial kitchen. Starting Jan 6, the downstairs will serve as the temporary location for Ecosentials while the two businesses make the switch and the kitchen renovations are made upstairs. The larger space will allow Ecosentials to offer more locally produced food. In the kitchen Carol will create fresh, organic dishes for late breakfast and lunch.



MAKING MOVES: Sean Dees, right, is moving Breakwater Books into the former home of Ecosentials. Melissa Call, left, is moving Ecosentials into the space vacated by Breakwater Books.

"People who loved the Flying Yellow Bread Bowl will love the Yellow Bowl at Ecosentials," says Carol.

Melissa hopes the kitchen will serve as a production facility for more people to make value-added products.

Meanwhile, the bookstore owners will close Christmas Day and reopen in their smaller location on January 15. The number of books and actual bookstore space will remain about the same.

"We're thrilled," says Sean. He says he's glad to be getting out of the food business, which he's been in for 24 years, including the eight years at Breakwater. But he can't leave it completely. They've purchased about \$10,000 worth of fudge-making equipment, and will be selling the sweet treat at the bookstore. **RL**

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Breakwater Books and Ecosentials are trading places!

Breakwater will focus more on books,
while Ecosentials will expand its
offerings, with lots more organic
groceries, produce and local
products, and introducing a cafe
run by Carol Sigvaldson
of the Flying Yellow
Bread Bowl.

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Breakwater Books & Coffee

Is the sun setting on BC Ferries?

Communities face big changes

By Pieta Woolley • pieta@prliving.ca

A demand for \$18.9 million in “savings.”
A contentious consultation process. Slashed routes.
And communities on the brink of taking up their pitchforks
and storming... something. With mounting debt and fewer
ferries users, something's gotta give.



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Fixing the Ferries

We're smart people. We can do this.

Instead of listing problems, Powell River Living has asked community leaders to present their solutions. The lobbying efforts of the past haven't worked. So how can we get reasonable service, affordable fares, and something that resembles a functional highway?

JACK BARR, President of the Powell River Chamber of Commerce

Solution • A concentrated, business-led lobby

At press time, the Chambers of Commerce in Nanaimo and Sechelt had just added their support to the process initiated here: a research-based, business-led lobby aimed at improving service—for the sake of the economy.

"We want to organize a central meeting, maybe in Nanaimo," said Jack. "We're looking at a roundtable of 70 people, and we'll have suggestions that we think might work. Each community has its own needs and difficulties. One solution is not necessarily going to work for all."

Jack suggested that some solutions might include re-organizing BC Ferries as a public-private partnership (as the Massey Tunnel replacement may be); decentralizing the ferries administration; build smaller ships locally and run smaller ships, and others.

"Let's come up with a solution," said Jack, noting that he's expecting to have a solid proposal by mid-2014. "Then we can go to government. If we have the backing of the BC Chamber of Commerce, the economic development societies, and grassroots, then we feel we have a very strong case for making changes. That's proactive. Complaining for the sake of complaining without constructive solutions is counter-productive at this point."

ALEXANDER NETHERTON, professor of Canadian and comparative politics, VIU

Solution • Change how BC Ferries is governed

Unlike other regional transportation systems in the province, the communities serviced by BC Ferries have no direct control. At TransLink, for example, a Mayor's Council of all mayors in Metro Vancouver controls the executive; it appoints the board of directors, appoints the TransLink



NEXT STEPS: Unsurprisingly, hundreds of anxious Powell River and Texada Island citizens showed up at the meetings organized by BC Ferries and the Ministry of Transportation in November. What's next, for these resourceful, engaged communities? A mega-movement by coastal chambers of commerce; and perhaps, a grassroots letter-writing campaign.

Commissioner, and approves plans.

"The Ferry Advisory Committees are not effective [at forcing change]," Alexander said. "Coastal communities don't have a say."

Alexander pointed out that ferries are struggling with serious cost pressures, including fuel. And, this government is under pressure to keep spending levels down. The reality is, he said, ferries will need increasing levels of government subsidy to keep them running and affordable. But he doesn't hold out hope that ferries will ever go back under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation.

A wise, future-looking BC would consider running passenger-only vessels, he noted.

BILL CRIPPS, Chair, Powell River Ferry Advisory Committee

Solution • Document the problems

This is D-Day, Bill said. Since he started chairing the Ferries Advisory Committee six years ago, he said communication has degenerated and over the past two years, "the process has become broken. Too many things are happening before we get an opportunity to discuss them," he said. Bill also noted that there has been a track record of truly excellent consultations as occurred with their terminal projects.

"The Fiscal Fairness process—that's the only way to deal with this," said Bill. "That, and public outrage. People need to get out and document how these cuts are affecting them."

DAVE FORMOSA, Mayor of Powell River

Solution • Reach out to other British Columbians

Since early in 2013, Powell River leaders have been pursuing a solutions-oriented lobby of BC Ferries, Dave said. To kick it off, the Fiscal Fairness report was commissioned locally, to demonstrate the policy principal that the ferries are a part of BC's public transportation system—and must be funded properly as an issue of equality.

"We pay for highways, bridges, into the province for the 80 percent; the rest of the province also needs to contribute to ferries. To not is to be treated unfairly...."

"We were making some progress. Subsequently, we had the bomb dropped on us with these massive cuts."

Dave says that he has faith in the system: that a rational lobbying effort will sway government and British Columbians.

"I'd be satisfied if BC Ferries was brought back into the Ministry of Transportation, and that BC Ferries be treated like the highway. We're not asking for free ferries

like they have in the interior – why are those free?"

How much, Dave, should a trip from Powell River to Comox cost, for a car and driver? "\$20 to 25 one way."

NICHOLAS SIMONS, MLA, Powell River-Sunshine Coast

Solution • Noise and responsible government

Over the past decade, Nicholas has met with four Ministers of Transportations. He has presented petitions, written letters, asked questions in the Legislative Assembly's question period, supported legislative motions and private members' bills. He's written op-eds, organized and participated in public demonstrations, and encouraged public input. Government has heard from the Ferry Advisory Committees, First Nations, the Islands Trust, regional districts, municipalities, chambers of commerce, community associations, tourism organizations, sports organizations, students' and seniors' groups.

The government has heard the fiscal fairness recommendations, Nicolas said. Politicians know what our communities' challenges are.

"This government couldn't manage a bathtub race," said Nicholas. "Could you imagine closing highways without contemplating the social and economic impacts on communities?"

These reasonable, rational, respectful actions are apparently not working, he notes.

He says he's very pleased that the chambers of commerce are stepping up, because to get the government's attention everyone needs to make a lot of noise. "We've had so-called consultations that make the cynic cynical. We've hit a stone wall."

"Should people use civil disobedience? Well I don't recommend anything illegal – I've sworn an oath. While civil disobedience in the past has resulted in positive social change, there are a few other options people might try."

Nicholas says that change will come in 2017 if BC elects a different government.

SCOTT RANDOLPH, Manager, Powell River Regional Economic Development Society

Solution • Look elsewhere for better systems

The financial structure of BC Ferries is broken, Scott believes. With \$1.4 billion in debt, and that debt growing each year, service cuts are just a band-aid.

"Government needs to undertake a full restructuring of the corporation to deal with the debt load," Scott said. "They need to work with communities and build a system that's going to work in the long term that's affordable."

Scott noted that ferries systems in Scotland, Norway and Alaska offer reasonable rates and reliable service – so it is possible for a government to deliver excellence in marine transportation. Even the African Island of Madagascar has an efficient ferries system, he noted.

"If they can do it, why can't we?"

Tell the Minister

Want to reach the Minister of Transportation and let him know how the ferries cuts and fares will impact you? The Hon. Todd Stone can be reached at minister.transportation@gov.bc.ca. His deputy, Grant Main, can be reached at deputyminister.transportation@gov.bc.ca. By regular post you can reach them at PO Box 9055 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria, BC V8W 9E2.

JOSEPH MOORE, sociology professor, VIU

Solution • Focus on politics, refuse consultations

In Joseph's class on social movements, he teaches that successfully creating change has a formula. He advises that the fight for ferry service should begin with convincing arguments that already resonate with people: keep making the comparison between highways and ferries, he said. Really, the Lower Mainland needs convincing; that's the part of the province with the most concentrated votes, and a bulk of Liberal seats.

"Keeping it a big public lively issue is important," he said. "Don't get sucked into these consultations. The endless consultations suck time and energy. And they can take the focus away from politicians."

Joseph noted that public goods, such as health care and public education, emerge and remain when citizens fight for them.

"Sometimes those fights have to get nasty," he said.

COLIN PALMER, Chair of Powell River Regional District

Solution • Send a letter

For the past four years, Colin has coordinated a group of 13 regional district chairs, and the Ferry Advisory Committees. He's working with the mayor and the Chambers of Commerce.

"Between those three, we're trying to influence the government," said Colin. "At this stage, they're listening, but they're not acting on what we're telling them."

If nothing else, the immense debt load carried by BC Ferries means everyone in the province is impacted by the corporation. The issues of seniors fares and gambling onboard are red herrings, he noted; people are being distracted from the large, political issue of the chronic underfunding of ferries.

"Don't blockade the ferries," he advised. "That doesn't worry them at all. It just stops your own community moving. We just have to pound away."

Change will come, he believes, if all kinds of people write letters (not petitions) to the Minister of Transportation, the Hon. Ted Stone.

"We need letters with suggestions – not 'you're a rotten minister who should resign.' But 'Hey, this is affecting me and my life, and how it is, and what are you going to do about it?' We need a multi-level approach. Citizens write letters, the chambers of commerce lobby, the Ferry Action Committees advise, the Regional District chairs too.... Everyone's got to do it." **RL**



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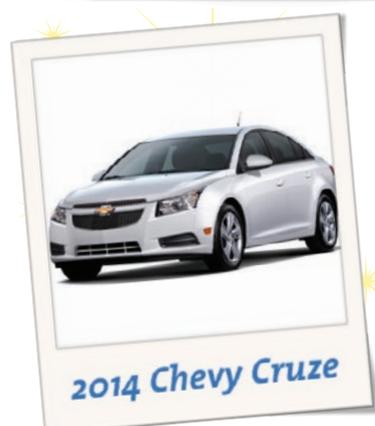
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Pigs gone, disco ball remains at McKinney's Pub

The Rodmay's pub: it's been known as The White Jag, The Tropic Room, and way back in 1911, it was named for the hotel's original owner, Andrew McKinney. The pub that crouches on Ash Street reopens on December 6 as "McKinney's" once again, and history nuts will have a ball – a disco ball – in the storied tavern.

First, there's what you can see: the decor. No longer is the pub divided into 'Ladies & Escorts' and 'Men's' sections – all genders can sit together now. The room is a tastefully-eclectic mélange of

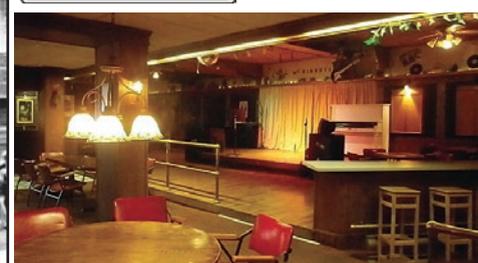
styles: stained-glass lamps from the early 20th century; the original wood bar; a 1950s juke box featuring records of Donny Osmond singing "Love Me," and Willie Nelson crooning, "To all the Girls;" the sizzling 70s stage and sparkling disco ball; and some modern polishing.

Second, there's what you can't see: the history. Way back in 1911, McKinney's hosted an open bar on opening night, and "a couple of guys jumped up on the pool table in their hob-nail boots and linked arms to dance around," Peggy Bird and



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Karen Southern imagined in their book, *Pulp, Paper and People: 75 Years of Powell River* (1988). "A fight broke out in the corner between a German and a Canadian, both burly men.... Andrew McKinney looked from them to the felt on his new table and his face dropped lower than the water over the new dam."

Just 100 feet away, a pig farm added a certain je ne sais quoi to the neighbourhood. McKinney sold the 31-room hotel in 1917—the same year prohibition came to BC—to Rod and Mae McIntyre (if you're swift, you may have picked up on the origin of the name, "the Rodmay.") It stayed in the family until 1957.

Two things happened that year. Accordion-playing war vet and local Teen Town organizer Al Mantoani bought the hotel, ditching his job with the Powell River Company's sulphite department. And, Mrs. Mae McIntyre aban-

doned her long-time suite, which Al converted into a cocktail bar.

The apex of the Rodmay's glamour seems to have been during this era. The Tropic Room was swinging. Upstairs, Woodward's redecorated the Rainbow Room with a totem pole motif. Seven independent businesses operated out of the hotel at that time, including Rexall Drugs, a stockbroker, a barber, and Adar's Quality Shoes. And, adding to the mystique, was "Noshiki's Electrified Steam Massage" in Room 3 in the hotel, owned by Mrs. C.A. Prushaw.

McKinney's was closed in July of 2012 because it was in need of extensive repairs—all part of maintaining a 102-year-old building. The repairs are complete and the pub is re-opening under the management of the hotel's owners.

We'll see if they have more luck than the original McKinney's, in keeping those hobnails off the pool tables! [PR](#)

Care for a drink, sir?

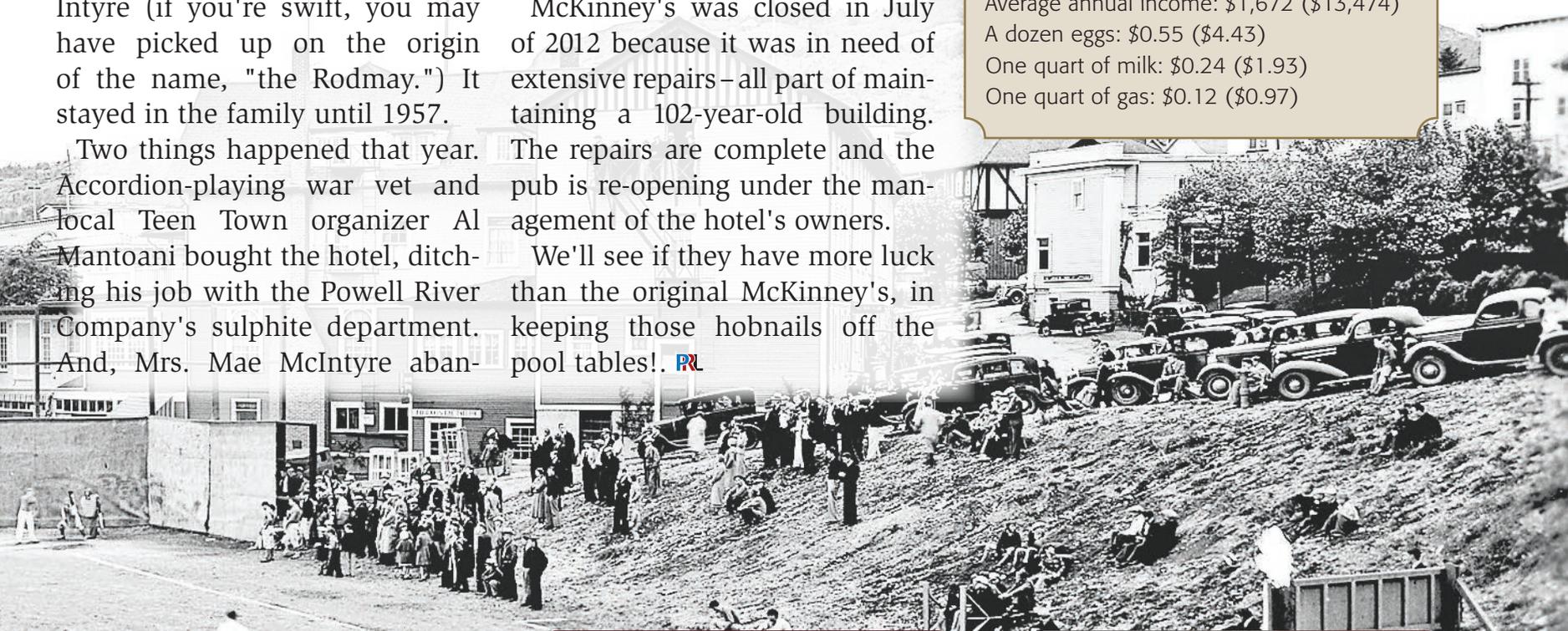
Drinks on offer at the *Tropic Room*, in the Rodmay Hotel, Powell River's swank *Mad Men*-era drinking hole.

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- Manhattan: \$0.75 (\$6.04)
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- Bottle of wine: \$3 to \$5 (\$24.18 to \$40.29)
- Best bottle of Champagne: \$8 (\$64.47)

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FOR KIDS: CREATIVITY & UNDERSTANDING
Reading a top gift, says kids' illustrator

How did you become a children's services coordinator? In my younger years I wrote and illustrated ten children's books. I didn't know my bookmaking and presentation experience would put me in good stead for a job.

Children should BE READ TO more... because the curiosity and understanding that is sparked by reading is deeply satisfying and lifelong. There is no better gift for a parent to give a child.

My favourite book when you was a child was... *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, by C.S. Lewis.

Were you an early reader? No. My parents were very playful with language though. They loved good poetry and very bad puns and took time to read (and sing) to me. They never expected me to skip the picture book stage and get on with chapter books.

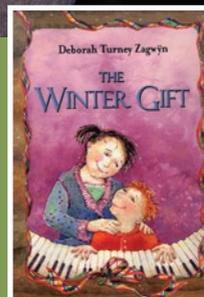
What should children get out of reading? Reading unplugs the frenetic world and airs out the space between our ears.



DEB ZAGWYN
CHILDREN'S SERVICES COORDINATOR
POWELL RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Written by Deb:

The Winter Gift by Deb Zagwyn
"To write a Christmas story I cared about, I needed to examine my own world and what mattered to me. So this was it: my aging parents were downsizing. Winter arrived with a vengeance that year and it was really iffy whether they could make it for a first Christmas at our house. They did, and they brought music. That was the gift! The story of Cleo and Simon and Gramma in *The Winter Gift* was based on that Christmas."



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.

Poetry SLAM competition

Spitting hot fire of spoken words
Saturday, **December 7**, Doors open at 6:30, poetry starts at 7. Cranberry Community Hall at 6826 Cranberry Street. Poems no longer than three minutes. Competitors should have three poems ready.

Jingle Bell Babies

Parent and tot singalong
Saturday, **December 14**, 10:30 am to noon at the Library. Gather your lap-sized little ones and join Deb Zagwyn and Devon Hanley at the Library for a bell-jingling tummy-tingling family-mingling rug-rat singalong. There will be Christmassy stories and cheery puppetry. Devon's guitar is guaranteed to keep those chubby toes a-tapping.

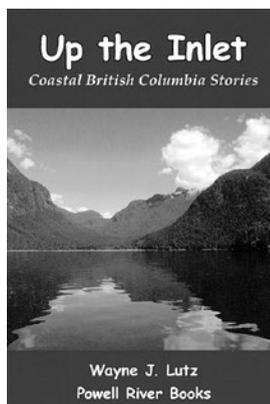
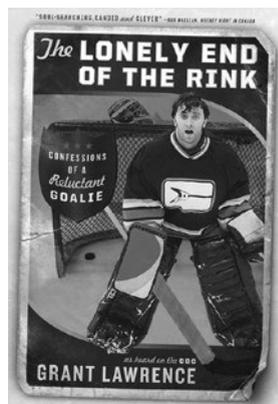
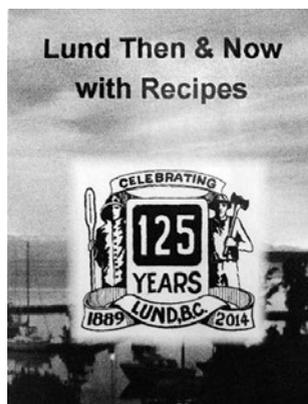
Don't forget, children's story time is at a new location: Westview Elementary School, 10:30 am, Wednesdays.

For more information about Library programs, visit www.powellriverlibrary.ca or call 604-485-4796.

BOOKS & MUSIC

Local authors and musicians shine

Powell River has some incredibly talented writers and musicians. Some have published new works in the last couple of months and their offerings are available locally. Breakwater Books carries a fantastic selection of local music and books that will please everyone on your list.



BOOKS

With a cabin in Desolation Sound, we'll happily claim CBC's Grant Lawrence as one of Powell River's own! Last month Grant was in Powell River to launch his second book, *The Lonely End of the Rink: Confessions of a Reluctant Goalie* (Douglas & McIntyre, 2013).

Grant's first book, *Adventures in Solitude: What not to Wear to a Nude Potluck and Other Stories from Desolation Sound* (Harbour, 2010), became a national bestseller.

If you like to eat (and who doesn't?), *Lund Then & Now With Recipes*, by Rayana Blackwell is a must. Sales from this cookbook/Lund history book, benefit the Northside Volunteer Fire Society and the Lund Community Society. Inside you'll find recipes by The Boardwalk Restaurant alongside snippets of Lund's history. Lund celebrates 100 years in 2014 and this book is a wonderful keepsake of a special community located at the end or the beginning (depending on your perspective) of the road.

Richard Wright and Brin Wilson have released a new poetry book called *Fishing Downstream* (Carriage Books, 2013). Published in Powell River and printed by CMG Printing, this poetry is as local as it gets.

Wayne Lutz's new book, *Up the Inlet: Coastal British Columbia Stories* (independent, 2013), features tales of the inlets of coastal British Columbia, where the mountains drop into the sea, and lifestyles focus on self-assurance and a different sense of purpose.

Slices: A Memoir Anthology (independent, 2013) by 36 local writers is available at local bookstores and the Powell River Historical Museum. The stories capture slices of the authors lives and take readers as far away as Burma, England and Africa to an ice rink in Toronto and as near as Powell River.

Local writer Eva van Loon's book, *The Thyroid Resurrection—From Dead to Dynamic Without Drugs* (independent, 2013), was launched last month. The author decided to take her dead thyroid for a third opinion—with surprising results and the discovery of deep connections among the ailments that plague so many.

Stranger Skies by Katje van Loon is a fantasy novel and available in ebook now. Katje has another book called *Broken Sleep*, scheduled to come out in December.

MUSIC

Just in time for the holidays, Walter Martella has released his fifth album: *Improviso*. A sophisticated background for dinner parties, or for listening alone, the dozen piano solos are improvised, all-in-one recordings.

"This album is very introspective and very relaxing," said Walter. "It's also intellectual. People tell me that whenever they listen to it, they always hear something new."

Martella grew up in Powell River, playing in school bands and singing with the boys choir—which he now directs as part of his position as music director of the Powell River Academy of

[Improviso offers] a sophisticated background for dinner parties, or for listening alone, the dozen piano solos are improvised, all-in-one recordings.

Music. He holds a degree in music from the University of Victoria, attended the Banff School of Fine Arts, and completed the Intense Conducting course at Vancouver's BC Choral Federation. For the past two decades, he's taught music, played gigs, and conducted choirs here and away.

"I'm always inspired to play music, and I wanted to capture my best playing of these songs," he said. *Improviso* is available at Rockit Music, Breakwater Books, and the Academy of Music.

Texture & Light released their debut album last month as a vinyl LP and digital download. *The Hard Problem of Consciousness* topped the CBC Radio 3 national indie chart for two weeks in a row last month.

Sam Hurrie has a couple new CD's out. *Goin' Down Camp* and *Cox and Hurrie Revisited* are both available locally.

Blues/roots guitarist and vocalist Sam Hurrie's music experience goes back over 40 years to when he first started playing in elementary school in Toronto. He is a busy performer, fronting his own electric blues band, doing solo acoustic gigs and doing weekly jams in the Comox Valley and festival work. Sam is sharing some of the history behind the music, the fascinating stories of the wonderful characters who wrote the songs. 



Powell River Living BUSINESS Connections

By Kim Miller • office@powellriverchamber.com

Massive Graphic has moved back to its home base at 4220 Joyce Avenue. The owners have newly renovated a studio on the property. The phone number will be the same: 604 485-3091. Or check out their new website at www.massivegraphic.ca.

The Duncan Street space that was occupied by Massive Graphic and Impact Signs (which has been sold) is being taken over by an expansion of **Coast Fitness**. Debbie Duyvestyn and her team are renovating to add a new reception area, as well as a child minding space, more retail space and a hot yoga studio. The expansion doubles the space to nearly 3,000 square feet. The opening of the renovated side is planned for January 2.

Madeleine Somerville recently moved to Powell River with her daughter, and husband who grew up in the area. She has taken over the position of **Literacy Outreach Coordinator** with the Powell River Employment Program Society, and will be raising awareness and developing literacy initiatives within the Powell River community. Madeleine is a voracious reader, a devoted writer, and is excited to create meaningful connections in our community through a mutual love of literacy that extends far beyond basic reading and writing skills.

A new pet boarding facility opened this month. **Dogworx Pet Ranch**, led by Milan Van De Mark and Will Jackson, has leased the space formerly known as Dogwood Kennels. Ann Seale is still running her training program out of Dogworx, and the ACCESS program will also run at that location. Contact Dogworx at 604 414-5184 or visit www.dogworx.ca. Dogworx offers a couple of new services in addition to cat boarding and dog boarding. Doggie daycare is a drop-off service, while pick-up and play gives pets five hours of play and a trip to and from the Nootka Street location, where a full acre has been fenced so the dogs can run. Milan says they hope to fence all five acres. They have housing for 32 dogs. Dogworx is open 7 am to noon and 4 pm to 9 pm.

Breakwater Books and **Ecosentials** are swapping places. Breakwater will focus more on books, while Ecosentials will install a commercial kitchen to accommodate a café run by Carol

Sigvaldson, formerly of the Flying Yellow Bread Bowl.

The **Moon Snail Artisan Bakery** has moved to the mainland from Savary Island. Founder and head baker Ken Palfrey completed Vancouver Community College's Baking and Pastry Arts Program, and was able to spend a work-study component at Victoria's excellent Fol Epi Bakery. Ken worked for several establishments in Vancouver before returning to the Powell River area. He is the winner of the 2013 Powell River's Best Baker Competition. With spouse Lynn Price as general manager, Ken continues to produce French-style levain sourdough loaves as well as all-butter croissants, pastries and cookies. Visit the bakery and grab a coffee or sandwich at 7053C Glacier Street.

Barry Kosturos and Roberto Ius have moved **Priority One Heating and Cooling Ltd** into the old telecom building in Cranberry beside the pub. "We just outgrew our space on Duncan," said Barry. Cranberry is a central location where the company's 10 employees can reach most customers in 10 minutes if necessary. The new location also allows them to combine office and reception with storage and shop space, making it easier to keep track of parts and equipment. **Louise Williams** continues to share space with the Priority One team for her Dominion Lending Centre mortgage business.

If you're serious about your coffee (and who isn't?), you'll be glad to meet Margot and Nathan Jantz. The couple have expanded **32 Lakes Coffee Roasters**. They had been dabbling in the business with a roaster that handled a couple pounds of beans at a time, and you may have seen their products at the Open Air Market. But they have now set up a larger roaster in the garage of the old Bank of Montreal building in the Townsite. It's capable of roasting 12 kilograms of beans at a time. Nathan has figured out how to attach it to his computer so he can get consistent roasting, and he shops the world for the best beans at the best season. They'll be selling three single-origin coffees, as well as a couple of blends. Beans will be available at the markets, as well as at Studio 56 above them and at Ecosentials. Watch for tastings at Studio 56 and a future opening of a retail store in the Townsite. Check out their Facebook page or the website at www.32lakes.com.

Paul Hirst of **Powell River Pest Control** has returned to Powell River to continue to run his business. "It's heartwarming how many people are happy to see me back," he said. If you need rodent or insect control, please contact Paul at 604 223-3400 or email paulhirst21@yahoo.ca. 



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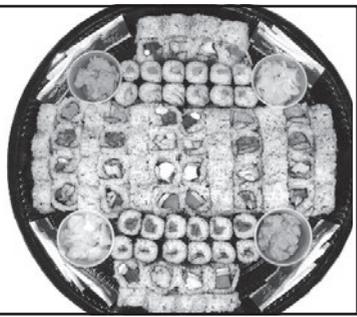
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Not such happy holidays

Blue Christmas offers hope in the darkness

By Pieta Woolley • pieta@prliving.ca

*I'll have a blue Christmas
without you
I'll be so blue, just thinking
about you
Decorations of red, on
a green Christmas tree
Won't be the same dear,
if you're not here with me*

Walk down the 'Christmas' aisle at several local stores, and the aesthetic is the same. Sparkly gold and red. Images of happy kids frolicking in snow. Brightly coloured bulbs.

Christmas—like many other cultural holidays worldwide—brings light to the darkest time of the year.

But Christmas, with its obsession with the happy, can leave those who are truly living with darkness feeling a little flat. Or worse.

Reverend Maxine Pirie understands

those feelings. In her many years working at hospitals in pastoral care, and her work as a United Church minister, she hears from the people she serves that Christmas can be a particularly painful time.

Relatives and friends who have passed away are missed at celebrations. Empty nesters mourn the loss of their children who have left home. Loss of health or a job can turn the season bleak.

That's why she offers the community's only "Blue Christmas" service (see sidebar).

"It acknowledges that Christmas is not always a happy, joyous time," she said in an interview at her office. "You don't always want to feel the joy. And listening to everyone else expecting you to have a grand time, you can start to feel guilty



or angry. So the service is about, even though you may not be feeling it, there is hope, and support and love there."

Maxine says she seeks to walk alongside those who are grieving;

she lives with her own sadness at Christmastime. Years ago, she and her sister were both pregnant with boys. Her son, Zeke, died at birth. Her sister's son Cid was born two weeks earlier. Each year, she would watch her nephew Cid and imagine what same-age Zeke would be like at that age. Then, Maxine's sister and three children, including Cid, who was 10 years old, were killed in a car crash.

"I went into a tail spin," she said. "Over time, I became understanding towards the pain I saw in others. Because I've

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been on my own journey, I now understand that often, there's no answers when you want answers."

And that, in short, is what led Maxine to become a minister, her desire to walk with people in their darkness, and help them see the light. Even at Christmastime.

Writing through grief

Personal journal therapist Ray McGinnis stopped by Powell River in November to lead a "Journaling through Grief and Loss" workshop at St. David's Anglican Church. "Some people call this the seventy-nine-cent therapist," said Ray, referring to the cost of buying a notebook. "This is about affirming and valuing our own thoughts and feelings." For Christmas, Ray recommends these three journalling exercises:

Unsent letter Write a letter to a person or a feeling. Express what you wish you could tell them.

Acrostic writing Write a phrase, such as *My losses this Christmas*. Then, write as many relevant words as you can think of starting with each of the letters, and working down the phrase.

Captured moment List 10 memories you treasure. Then choose one, and take 10 minutes to write what the sort of what the memory is about. **RL**

The challenges of the holidays

If you or someone you love has clinical depression, bipolar disorder or schizophrenia, you might want to pick up a copy of *Recovering from Mental Illness*, which was written and produced entirely in Powell River this year. Danita Senf edited the 36-page project. She's the regional coordinator of the BC Schizophrenia Society, and notes that the holidays can be a particularly disturbing time for those of us who live with, or around, mental illness. Her own son, an athletic and academic champion, had a psychosis when he was 16 and landed in the psych ward. Both he and she had to change their ideas about his future." We need to see that they are still magnificent perfect human beings," she said. "At Christmas, there can be a lot of 'if only's.' But it's important for everyone to understand that things can and will get better. That there is hope." The book is available at pharmacies, medical offices, Brooks Secondary, and other resources around town.



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14 Predictions for 2014

Much will change in Powell River in the coming year. And since here at *Powell River Living* we have our fingers on the pulse of the community, we felt it our duty to help our neighbours brace for what's next. We've analyzed the data, grilled the movers and shakers, and looked into our crystal ball, and these are things that we think are going to happen.

Turn the page to read our predictions and start planning for the coming year. Or something like that.



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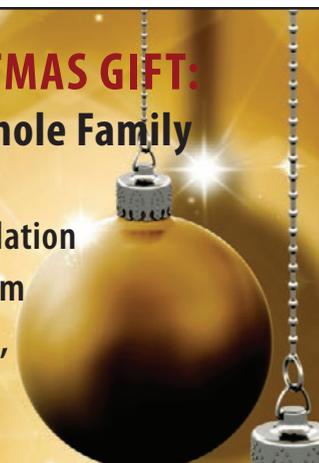


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14 Predictions for 2014

1 Powell River Dollars are adopted as the new local currency for all of BC. The provincial economy thrives, and Kevin Wilson's portrait gets embossed on the new three-dollar coin, the "Zungie."

2 Instead of exporting coal from Texada, Lafarge discovers what China really craves is blackberries. The coal storage facility expansion is converted into a blackberry storage facility expansion. All protests are cancelled.



3 BC Ferries keeps executive salaries modest. Hourly ferry runs are established on all routes. Drove of people travel both ways for \$20 a trip (car and driver). The proceeds are used to build the road from Powell River to Squamish.

4 Vancouverites discover that the Powell River region offers camping spots that are available (even on long weekends), inexpensive and awesome. Then they discover that the homes here are also available, inexpensive and awesome. Suddenly, 500,000 Vancouverites move to Powell River. By November, properties in Cranberry are selling for \$1.5 million a pop, and you can pick up a condo in Kitsilano for \$69,000.

5 A \$2 billion federal grant arrives to fund Powell River's fish mall / Centre for Excellence for Aquaculture. But there are strings attached. It must be built in conjunction with the new Powell River Public Library and a pub—to you know, cover expenses. Awesomeness ensues.



6 Wildwood, Cranberry, and PR South property owners are given the 'okay' to shoot bears. Out-of-control apple crop plugs sewers and blocks roads.

7 Semi-local Grant Lawrence, 42, CBC radio host and author of *Adventures in Solitude: What Not to Wear to a Nude Picnic and other stories from Desolation Sound* (2010) and *The Lonely End of the Rink: Confessions of a Reluctant Goalie* (2013), finally runs out of memoir material.

8 Pine mushrooms reach new record in value: \$300 a pound. BC's infamous "war in the woods" gets ugly.

9 Real mermaids, as alluring as Victoria's Secret models, are discovered at Mermaid Cove. Snooty yachters still bypass Powell River en route to lavish vacations at Savary and Desolation Sound.

10 Poplar and Ash is the new Haight-Ashbury. Skinny, glasses-wearing hipsters from across North America descend on Townsite for an ironic 'summer of 2014' be-in.

11 BC Hydro discovers cheap energy can be harnessed from children's laughter. Instead of a 26 percent increase, BC Hydro rates drop by 80 percent. Catalyst Paper becomes profitable again, and employment reaches 4,000. Of course, all new employees are hairy Pixar monsters.

12 MLA Nicholas Simons skips the whole MLA-to-Premier-to-Prime Minister thing. Instead, he replaces Ban Ki-moon as Secretary-General of the United Nations, and a great peace settles over all the lands.



13 Sliammon's final treaty is signed off, but no one actually reads the 256-page document all the way through. Locals discover that it included a typo: instead of a transfer of 8,322 hectares to Sliammon, 83,222 hectares are transferred, incorporating the entire Powell River region. Clint Williams is the region's new Super-Chief, and the "reconciliation" process takes on new meaning.

Where will you be to ring in 2014?

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14 A Sasquatch gets discovered living on the Knuckleheads. He's trapped and brought to VIU, only to discover... that's no Sasquatch. It's disgraced Toronto mayor Rob Ford, taking refuge in back-country Powell River. "Okay, I'm not really a Sasquatch," Ford admits. "I ask for forgiveness, I've apologized, and I want to move on... to Lund." **RL**



Harvesting the forests

The new organics

By Pieta Woolley • pieta@prliving.ca

By her late thirties, Susan Canning had built a swish life in downtown Vancouver. A fashion designer who had found her niche making costumes for the burgeoning film industry, she lived in pre-trendy Strathcona, with her graphic-designer partner. And yet, she had the nagging feeling that their urban lifestyle wasn't enough. They both wanted more.

Susan's family had deep connections to the land. Both her mother and grandmother were avid gardeners. And, her brother-in-law was a fisherman. After careful consideration—it took them three years—Susan and her partner bought several acres of waterfront in Desolation Sound, 10 minutes by boat from Okeover Inlet. That was 1986. The couple started a shellfish operation: clams, mussels and oysters.

Diversifying five years ago, the consummate entrepreneur and “plantophile” opened Wild Westcoast Rainforest Products, a business selling dandelion and vanilla syrup, huckleberry stir-fry sauce, dried wild mushrooms, sea asparagus, nettles, watercress, pickled bull kelp, and many other products. She sells locally at Ecosystems and the farmers markets, but her hungriest customers are in Vancouver—at the crowded farmers and holiday markets, and at Edible Canada, on Granville Island.

“There's huge interest in these kinds of products,” Susan, now 60, says, during an interview over coffee. “People know they are out of touch with nature. Look at the pots of flowers everywhere. In last decade, there's been an explosion of gardening. As we destroy the earth, there's this unconscious feeling—people want to reconnect. Also, there's so much information about the contamination of basic food. We have an epidemic of IBS [irritable bowel syndrome], and gluten allergies—people are looking for the purest things to eat.”

Apart from the marketability of Wild Westcoast Rainforest, Susan explains, she craves the sensual pleasure of gathering—which she calls “a challenge and a joy.” The feeling of the plants on her hands, and red huckleberries, remind her of bright Christmas ornaments, the satisfaction that she is not harming the plants or the earth by harvesting. The potential for wildcrafting businesses to grow, she said, is as big as the forest.

“Generally, there's not much wildcrafting that goes past the local farm markets. Can it be done? Absolutely,” she says, mentioning two of Canada's largest operations: Forbes Wild Foods in Ontario, and Quebec's Gourmet Sauvage. “My interest in wildcrafting comes from my in-

terest in plants and being in the coastal forest. I call them ‘the new organics.’ That's my term. They're the ultimate in purity.” **RL**



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Check out SLAM!

Spoken word poetry competition

By Isabelle Southcott • isabelle@prliving.ca

When Shaw TV video journalist Raji Kabli was in high school she discovered a form of poetry that changed her life.

“I learned about spoken word poetry in Grade 11 English class and I was so taken with it that when I ran for student council president my whole speech was a spoken word poem. The school went wild. Everyone got really excited, people were cheering and I won.”

Before Raji discovered spoken word poetry she didn't think she was very good at English. “My spelling was bad, my brain moved faster than my pen and I missed words. I thought I wasn't good enough and why bother trying.”

Then she discovered the competition aspect of spoken word poetry: Slam. She got three poems together and headed off to the Toronto Poetry Slam. “I was so nervous, I didn't tell anyone I was going. I had been writing and writing and I wanted to showcase my writing.”

There were over 100 people at the Toronto Slam that day with 25 people vying to compete. Everyone's name was thrown in a hat but Raji's wasn't one of the names picked. Undaunted, Raji tried again at the July Slam and the August Slam. Still, her name wasn't chosen.

*My legs were shaking,
I was so scared but I got
up on stage and did it.
It felt so amazing!*

“In September, I was getting ready to leave for Korea to teach ESL. I tried again but didn't get chosen again so I told the organizer that I was leaving the next day

and that this was something I really, really wanted to do! They put me in as the sacrificial poet.”

That meant she wouldn't compete but would be scored by judges to calibrate their judging.

“My legs were shaking, I was so scared but I got up on stage and did it. It felt so amazing!”

Raji's confidence grew as she continued to perform. After Korea, she pursued a postgraduate degree in conflict resolution. Then she went to Japan to teach English.

“I came back and wanted to throw myself into Slam but there was nothing in the York region. I thought why do I have to go to downtown Toronto and Mississauga for Slams so I started the York Slam and it's still going. It has to be one of the coolest things I've ever done.”

Raji moved to Powell River in January of 2013. One of the first things she did was look to see if there was a Slam Poetry competition in her new community.

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SLAM POET: Raji Kabli loves the art of the Slam.

There was. Raji will be competing at the Powell River Slam on December 7 at the Cranberry Community Hall.

Powell River has other champion slammers and Nola Poirier is one of them. Nola entered the first Slam held in Powell River in 2011. "It was so much fun, I've done a few of them since then."

Nola, who is a writer, also performed the jilted bride monologue at the Arthur Black event hosted by the Friends of the Library.

Part of the fun at a Slam has to do with audience appreciation, says Nola. Although anyone can enter, certain rules must be

followed. Some people, often first timers, prefer the open mike portion of the evening. "There's no reason to be intimidated. People are in all sorts of different places from beginners to very experienced," she says.

Nola likes how you push your own personal limits when you compete. "It's about getting up and speaking in front of people and trying to deliver."

Adam Cramb is another seasoned Slammer who will be competing in December. Adam, who has competed here, in Vancouver and on Vancouver Island, was working on a piece



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called *Horses, Donuts and Police Sirens*, when he spoke with *Powell River Living*.

"I used to do poetry in high school and in the evening I would do short poems at parties. I've never stopped writing."

Adam likes the fact that the poetry he writes for Slams can be as contemporary as he wants it to be. "I find that people like to be taken on a mental journey and recreate formations of words into phrases that create new meanings of familiar truths."

Don't miss Powell River's next SLAM on Saturday, December 7. Doors open at 6:30 pm, performance begins at 7 pm at the Cranberry Community Hall, 6826 Cranberry Street.

SLAM is a spoken word competition where the brave, bright and loud get on stage to share their words in front of a hollering, cheering, supportive crowd. At the end of the night a poet is selected as the reigning word warrior. All ages are welcome, all skill levels are encouraged. Following the competition, a poetry open mic will be available. Come compete or come enjoy, everyone is welcome. **PR**

About SLAM

SLAM is the competition aspect of spoken word poetry. There are usually 12 competitors (Slammers) in a Slam. Three rounds are held which is why competitors need to have three different poems... one for each round. Each poem must be under three minutes.

Details for competing performers: A SLAM is carried out in a series of rounds. How many rounds depends on how many people participate up to a maximum of 12 poets. If you want to perform, have at least three poems ready that are under three minutes each. You are docked points over three minutes. Poems do not have to be memorized, but it is encouraged.

You can register to compete by emailing pogostix@runbox.com or you can sign up at the event between 6:15-6:45 pm, first come, first served. Admission is by donation.

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(Hunter was the only one to show up for the staff photo shoot. Everyone else was too busy putting together this great magazine!)



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Hunting for adventure

Prospector's tales are pure gold

By Isabelle Southcott • isabelle@prliving.ca

In the early 1960s when Bob Mickle first started prospecting, he travelled over to Texada Island with a couple of other young adventurers and a guide. They knew gold collected below the high-tide line, at low tide.

"All we found was some black garbage on the west side of Texada which we threw back in the water," he said, during an interview at Kiwanis Garden Manor, where he now lives.

Disappointed, they returned to the boat, and told the guide they threw some black stuff back in the salt chuck.

"He said, 'You dummies, that stuff is black gold!'" Bob chuckled. "I learned the hard way.... Did you know that gold can be black?"

It turns gold, he learned, when cleaned with acid.

His current life, in an assisted-living facility where his meals are made and his room is tidied, couldn't be more different than the scramble of his prospecting days. In his 80s, he still thinks about the adventures that he led. "You know, an old prospector never finishes prospecting."

Bob didn't start out chasing metals. In 1955, he moved to Powell River from White Rock to work as a carpenter / handyman. Nearly 11 years later, a walk in the Bunster Hills changed his path. Having previously lived in the mining town of Vidette Lake, he knew a bit about gold, silver and copper.

"I had a copper kit [a chemical kit containing acid paper test strips] and I had knowledge of geology. I spent the next day there [at Bunster] and found more copper and molybdenum."

So he staked 60 claims.

"I quit my contracting job and kept staking and sampling. The next year I optioned it to [the Quebec-based, internationally-operating] Noranda Mines."

His kit was simple: a compass, a magnifying glass, a pick, and a shovel, and a gold pan. In addition, Bob used a diamond drill that was invented by two men from Texada Island. "It was revolutionary. It was light and portable and could be carried in a backpack."

The first step in a prospecting business is staking the claims. Then the prospector can option that claim to a mining com-



pany who will do the development work. The prospector may get cash up front and could get shares in the company. When the property goes into production, royalties are paid to the prospector.

His business thrived. Bob was partners with Paddy and Mary Boylan for 20 years. They had claims on the Lewis Lake and Tin Hat Mountain site.

"I had properties in New Zealand and Mexico.... and all over," said Bob.

"He became a professional prospector, a successful one," interjected Bob's friend and fellow prospector Bob Perry.

"I have the ability to see things that other people miss and I have the tenacity to keep going. Some people call that stubbornness."

That stubbornness can be a good thing. In 1969, he was flying in a seaplane over Powell Lake in a blinding snowstorm, when it crashed into the water.

"The water was mighty cold. There were no shoulder straps back then. I hit the instrument panel and was knocked out cold. The water brought me to and we managed to undo the lap belt and I swam out with the other three people. We climbed up on the pontoons and were within half an hour of drowning when a man came along in a boat and picked us up. He'd been up the lake checking on his cabin."

That kind of peril is just a memory, but Bob's work continues. Even now, his local claim is under development. [PR](#)



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We are truly blessed to find ourselves living in Powell River and our young family couldn't be more delighted to be here. With our four children six years and under, (our youngest being born in Powell River this past July) we quickly felt at home here and, we are excited to be a part of the good work The Salvation Army is doing in this community.

Now the Christmas season is upon us. Although many of us may stretch our wallets a little more than we should this Christmas, many in our community will do without... unless we help them.

At the Powell River Salvation Army, we want to make Christmas a time of love and joy for all by helping those in need in our community through our Christmas Assistance efforts. We can only do this with your help. It is only by your generous donations that we can provide assistance for those in need and give them hope in their circumstances. Many of you may have helped us at The Salvation Army in the past. Or perhaps you have thought about helping but have not actually taken the steps to do so. This year is your chance to give hope to this Christmas.

Please fill out the form below and help us Give Hope Today!

The Salvation Army has a proven track record that goes back 130 years in Canada. It is now one of the world's largest providers of social services.

We look forward to working together with you to bring hope to our community at Christmas time and all through the year!

Merry Christmas & God Bless

Captains B.J. & Krista Loder



The Salvation Army 2013 Christmas Appeal

4500 Joyce Ave, Powell River, BC V8A 3A6

Yes, I want to give others hope today.

Here is my gift of \$ _____

Family Name (print) _____
or Company name _____

First Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Receipt requested? Yes [] No []

Thank you

How it crumbles

With world-class pastry artists working in town, it's nearly impossible to resist the sights and smells... especially at this time of year. Here are five top treats from around town.



THE MOON SNAIL ARTISAN BAKERY • *Swiss meringue* with salal berry reduction, by Ken Palfrey & Lyn Price. Marshmallowy on the inside and crisp on the outside, this is a delightfully light bite. Local flavour in a European-style confection. 7053 Glacier St • 604 414-6197



COTTAGE CREEK BAKE SHOP • *Cranberry Orange cookie*, by Janet Lyon. A healthy Christmas cookie, this is made with whole wheat and oatmeal, local farm eggs, raisins, fresh orange and dried cranberries. cottagecreek@telus.net • 604 414-0616



JAY'S PLACE • *Candy-coated sugar cookies*, by Jessica Madden. These cookies are a childhood favourite of Jessica's. She remembers making them with her grandmother. 4593 Marine Ave • 604 485-9118



NANCY'S BAKERY • *Ginger Cookie*, by Nancy Bouchard. This recipe from a molasses-smudged page in her grandmother's cookbook. It's crunchy with sugar on the outside soft and chewy on the inside, and rich with ginger. In Lund • 604 483-4180



MANNA FROM HEAVEN • *Shortbreads*, by Jamie Lavallee. These are delicate, creamy, melt-in-your-mouth shortbreads made with real butter. Jamie uses a variety of stylized stamps. 4598 Marine • 604 483-1703

Powell River Living EVERYDAY HEROES

Falling tree changes paramedic's future

By Pieta Woolley • pieta@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 speaks with a paramedic with the BC Ambulance Service.

One morning in November 2011, Grant Wood was out with a crew, cutting hemlock snags up behind Lewis Lake. For the 20 years before, he'd worked as a faller. This morning was nothing new. He sawed a leaning tree, and it didn't fall; he waited, as regulations required. Then, he walked back towards it, tripped in a hole, and the tree crashed on to his head.

Grant was half-kneeling at the time, but lay down on his back. Because he is also a paramedic, he knew how scary his situation was. He called his partner on the radio, and lay still.

"It took about four minutes for the crew to get there, as I lay there, I self-diagnosed," he said. "I moved my hands, and I was relieved I could do it. I moved my legs, and my head, and I was happy I could do that. I was just so thankful I could move all my limbs."

While he had avoided paraplegia, he was pretty beat up. With one crushed and two fractured vertebrae, and the bottom of both his legs crushed, a team of paramedics from Powell River General—colleagues and friends—picked him up by helicopter. Seven months later, he was back on the job as a paramedic. But his forestry career? Over.

Grant, 45, is one of four full-time and 16 part-time paramedics who work for BC Ambulance Service in the Powell River region. When something terrible happens—as it does about 2,500 times a year here (or eight times a day)—they bring their calm demeanour, leadership skills, and medical knowledge to keep people alive and comfortable until help arrives. "Most people think we're ambulance drivers," he quips.

Grant's story is unusual, as he's circled around emergency services for two decades, before settling into his field in his mid-40s. After graduating from Brooks, Grant began work as a faller here in Powell River. By 1993, he had trained as a forestry firefighter, which he continued to pursue alongside falling and working with paramedics as an auxiliary, while he raised his four children. In 2004, the local BC Ambulance chief asked him if he would like to work as a paramedic. Though he just held an Occupational First Aid 3 ticket at the time, he joined up... while still firefighting and falling. Three years later, he went to the Justice Institute and certified as a Primary Care Paramedic, falling in love with the work.



"I'm an adrenalin junkie," he said. "But the real reward is the gratification I get from truly helping someone. It's not every call. But occasionally you really make a difference in someone's life. It's an incredible feeling."

Some days are gifts. Grant recalled a time he was doing CPR on a patient in the emergency room.

"He woke up and said, 'I was just talking to my father.' His father had, of course, passed away. You could hear a pin drop in the ER."

Other days stand out because they're bad. When he drives down certain Powell River streets, or past certain addresses, he is reminded of patients he's lost,

"The best and the worst thing about being a paramedic in a town this size is the same thing," he said. "You get to help people you know and love. And, you have to help people you know and love." **RL**



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What's up? POWELL RIVER

Breaking boards!

Lion's Coins for Kids

At the Santa Claus Parade December 8, watch for the Santa's sleigh and reindeer float. For the 18th year, Powell River Lion's volunteers and firefighters will be collecting coins in support of the BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities. Money collected helps support summer camps, the Easter Seal House, and other important medical facilities. The parade begins on Marine Ave at 3 pm.



Popular cartoonist shows artwork

Artist **WENDY BROWN** will show her work at Vancouver Island University during December.

Wendy Brown is a full-time artist and writer living in Powell River. She studied fine art at Ontario College of Art. She has worked as an art director in publishing and advertising, as an illustrator, editorial cartoonist and as a teacher.

Brown has had numerous solo and group shows in Ontario and in BC. Her work hangs in private collections in BC, Ontario and abroad. She is represented by Artique Gallery in Powell River and by Tug Guhm Gallery in Lund.

This show, entitled **HOME**, is a celebration of her 20 years as an artist on the West Coast. The group of acrylic and pastel works are a notated, chronological exploration of the work she did when she arrived here 20 years ago from Toronto, up to and including the work she is doing now.

There will be a **RECEPTION** in at VIU on **DECEMBER 5, from 7 to 9 pm**. Everyone is welcome. The show will hang until to January 6.



Six to nine year old students from the Canadian Martial Arts Academy demonstrated the art of board breaking to a packed room of proud parents, relatives and friends. The students broke boards with their hands first and then with their feet.

Kids' art show



Skylight Art Studio presents their first student fall art exhibition at Studio 56 Art Gallery, (5813 Ash Avenue—the old Bank of Montreal Building in the Townsite), December 6 to 31.

Opening reception is from 6 to 9 pm on December 6. Everyone is invited to view over 200 pieces of clay, paintings and drawings. "Students are also working on a 2 by 3 foot canvas," for the exhibition, says David Perrin, owner of Skylight Art Studio. "There will be quite a variety."

Puzzle RiverTM

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

LIKE
LIKE, Jr.

LOVE

CALLED
CHOSEN
CALLED
CALLED
CALLED
CHOSEN
CALLED
CALLED
CALLED

Last month's answers:

- Like a chicken with its head cut off
- Let the chips fall where they may
- The jig is up

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

© Alan Morgan

Dec 2: Santa arrives at Town Centre Mall; he's available for photos daily through the 24th.

Dec 2: Aquatic centre is closed for upgrades until Dec 15

Dec 2: Municipal Pension Retirees Association december meeting, noon at the Cranberry Seniors Centre. Please bring an appetizer for a potluck lunch.

Dec 4: Christmas Concert and Wassail, with the Powell River Chorus featuring Andy Rice. Recreation Complex Evergreen Theatre, 7 pm. \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door.

Dec 5: Opening night reception for cartoonist Wendy Brown's show 'HOME' at VIU. 7 to 9 pm.

Dec 5: Slices: A Memoir Anthology author readings at Breakwater Books. 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Dec 6: Skylight Art Studio's first student fall art exhibition. Opening night reception 6 to 9 pm, with refreshments. At the Studio 56 Gallery in Townsite (Bank of Montreal building). Exhibit will run through December 31.

Dec 6: Theatre Now! presents 3 Jacks & a Jill: a musical play based on English pantomime, admission by donation. 7 pm Evergreen Theatre

Dec 7: Young Naturalists Club's Christmas Bird Count for Kids. Learn about the local birds by participating in the annual count. 10 am to noon, Willingdon Beach Campground picnic area.

Dec 7: Tla'amin (Sliammon) First Nation's craft fair will be held from 10 am to 2 pm at Sliammon Salish Centre (4885 Highway 101).

Dec 7: Powell River Stroke Recovery Club's bazaar and bake sale will take place from 2 to 3:30 pm, Evergreen Extended Care Unit.

Dec 7: Friends of the Library book sale featuring book bags. Recreation complex, 10 am til 4 pm.

Dec 7: Create and Play at Family Place, Town Centre Mall, 1 pm to 3 pm

Dec 7: Christmas Tea and Bake Sale: 2 pm Texada Island United Church

Dec 7: Theatre Now! presents 3 Jacks & a Jill: a musical play based on English pantomime, admission by donation. 7 pm Evergreen Theatre

Dec 7: Powell River SLAM spoken word competition, Cranberry Community Hall, doors open at 6:30, poetry at 7 pm

Dec 8: Santa Claus Parade, sponsored by the Marine Avenue Business Association and the Lion's Club. Route: Marine Avenue starting at Westview and going to Alberni. The 2013 theme is The Night Before Christmas. Parade starts at 3 pm.

Dec 8: Nativity Activity night right after the Santa Claus Parade. Refreshments, music, carols, handicrafts, activities. Free, 4 to 7 pm. 4741 Marine Ave (next to Paperworks)

Dec 8: Theatre Now! presents 3 Jacks & a Jill: a musical play based on English pantomime, admission by donation. 1:30 pm Evergreen Theatre

Dec 10: B3 Kings Festive Jazz at the Max Cameron Theatre, 7:30 pm

Dec 11: Powell River Women in Business Christmas Dinner at The Future Chef's Cafe in Brooks Secondary. Limited tickets available so get them soon. \$20 for a 3 course meal and can be purchased at Relish Interiors and Beyond The Bed. info@prwomeninbusiness.com.

Dec 13: Carols by Candlelight at the Dwight Hall, part of the Powell River Academy of Music series. Featuring academy choirs, with organist AY-Laung Wang. \$20. 7:30 pm

Dec 14: Christmas carol sing and concert with a festive lunch, 11 am, Texada Island United Church

Dec 14: A Cup of Christmas Tea ladies and young ladies brunch, 10: 30 a.m. at Powell River Foursquare Church

Dec 14: Jingle Bell Babies workshop at the library, 10:30 to noon

Dec 14: Create and Play at Family Place, Town Centre Mall, 1 pm to 3 pm

Dec 14: Carols by Candlelight at the Dwight Hall, part of the Powell River Academy of Music series. Featuring academy choirs, with organist AY-Laung Wang. \$20. 1:30 pm & 7:30 pm



Fight the festival flab

There's plenty of opportunities to turn that "bowl full of jelly" into a bowl full of steel this month.

Dec 5: Community toonie skate, 3:30 to 5 pm.

Dec 12: Community toonie skate, 3:30 to 5 pm.

Dec 13: Winter Wonderland opening night, recreation complex

Dec 14: Holly Jolly Family Skate Party: 10:30 to 12:30 pm

Dec 15: Jingle Jog, by Brooks Fitness Classes. Pre-register at Brooks office, Avid Fitness, River City Coffee, or online at avidfitness.ca, or register at 9 on event day. Wear your holiday gear! \$10 per person, \$20 per family (all proceeds to the food bank). Walk at 9:30, jog at 10. Willingdon Beach.

Dec 22: Jingle Bell family skate at the Recreation Complex, noon to 1:30

Dec 28: Winter Wonderland Skate 4 to 5 pm followed by a potluck dinner at Powell River United Church

Dec 15: Lessons and Carols, Anglican church in Townsite, 7:30 pm

Dec 15: Sunday school Christmas pageant, 10:30 am, Powell River United Church

Dec 15: Community Christmas dinner at the Carlson Club, by the Salvation Army. Call for free tickets: 604-485-6067

Dec 15: Blue Christmas service (grief and loss), 7 pm, Powell River United Church

Dec 15: Lessons and Carols, at Townsite Anglican Church, 7:30 pm

Dec 15: Evangel Pentecostal Christmas concert, 6:30 pm

Dec 15: Christmas Lights bus tour, leaves the Recreation Complex at 6:30 pm.

Dec 16: Christmas Lights bus tour, leaves the Recreation Complex at 6:30 pm.

Dec 17: Motus O Dance Theatre: A Christmas Carol at the Max Cameron Theatre. 7 pm. Tickets \$5 to \$26.

Dec 19: Henderson Elementary Holiday Concert 1:30 and 6:30 pm.

Dec 19: Texada Elementary Holiday Concert, 6:30 pm.

Dec 19: Christmas hamper skate at the Complex, 3:30 to 5 pm

Dec 19: Chor Musica Christmas, 40-singer men's choir performs at the Academy Hall, 7:30 pm. \$17

Dec 20: Schools close for winter vacation (re-open Jan. 6)

Dec 21: Create and Play at Family Place, Town Centre Mall, 1 pm to 3 pm

Dec 22: Church family participation and dessert night (Christmas concert) 7 pm Powell River Foursquare Church

Dec 24: Family pageant service, 4 pm, Townsite Anglican Church

Dec 24: Westview Baptist Christmas Eve service 4 pm and 6 pm

Dec 24: Faith Lutheran Christmas Eve service, 7pm

Dec 24: Evangel Pentecostal Christmas Eve candlelight service, 7pm

Dec 24: Salvation Army Christmas Eve candlelight service, 7pm

Dec 24: Christmas Eve services 7 pm and 11 pm with communion, Powell River United Church

Dec 24: Candlelight communion service, 11:00 pm, Townsite Anglican Church

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7 pm, Powell River Foursquare Church

Dec 25: Christmas prayer service, 10 am, Townsite Anglican Church

Dec 25: Huge community dinner with carols and entertainment. Texada Island United Church.

Dec 25: Free Christmas dinner for seniors, singles or couples who would otherwise be alone on Christmas. Westview Baptist Church, 5 to 9 pm.

Dec 31: A Night to Remember at Dwight Hall, New Year's Eve Ball with Walter Martella and the Sam Hurrie Dance Band. Presented by the Powell River Academy of Music. Tickets \$50 early bird, \$55 after Dec 17.



Powell River Living FACES of EDUCATION

The kids are the best part of the job

When the husband and wife teaching team of Gerry and Maria Anderson began looking for work, they applied as a package. Negotiating the first few years of teaching is often a scramble, but they were determined to scramble together.

The couple met at the University of Victoria. After they were engaged to be married, the two brand-new teachers were hired by the Burns Lake School District for their first teaching assignments. They taught at the school in the village of Granisle. Maria taught six different subjects while Gerry taught 12 different courses. “We were up to 1 am for the first six months we were there. It was just a blur,” said Gerry.

After four years, the copper mine shut down and half the town moved.

The Andersons wanted to move back to the coast, so they began looking at other opportunities—together.

Gerry was hired by School District 47 in September 1992 and Maria, a few months later. Gerry got a permanent contract on Texada Island in 1993 while Maria worked as a teacher-on-call in Powell River and on Texada.

Two years later an opportunity opened up in Powell River and the couple moved back to the mainland. Gerry worked at J.C. Hill for one year, then Oceanview for 12 years before moving to Brooks. Maria worked at Westview Learning Centre from 1995 to 2002 and then moved to Brooks.

“It was my first experience with a computerized learning system,” she said. “I was working with some behaviourally challenged students at Westview Learning. These students were not succeeding in regular classrooms but when they began at Westview Learning a lot of the challenges they faced in the classroom no longer existed. For some, just a change of environment was all they needed to succeed.”

Today, life is somewhat simpler! They both teach at Brooks Secondary School: Gerry as a math and French teacher and Maria, in the Brooks Online classroom and at night school.

Maria was born and raised in Port Alberni. She always enjoyed school and

playing team sports. “The first time I thought about teaching was in Grade 9. The whole idea of working with students, imparting knowledge and sharing your passion appealed to me.”

Maria’s Grade 9 social studies teacher Mr Mosdell, ran intramural table hockey at noon and coached girl’s touch football after school. “I thought it was so cool how he’d share his academic and athletic interests.” In high school, other teachers influenced Maria’s decision to become a teacher. One was Mr Seredick. “He taught grades 10 and 12 English and coached basketball. He was one of those teachers instrumental in my whole development.”

Maria stayed in touch with her mentors and her elementary music teacher after she graduated from high school. She says watching how these teachers shared their gifts and talents with their students greatly influenced her decision to become a teacher herself.

After high school, Maria entered the education program at the University of Victoria. She majored in geography and earned a minor in history.

Gerry grew up in Penticton. He played

all sorts of team sports as a youngster and saxophone in the high school band.

“I always had an inkling that I wanted to be a teacher but I originally planned to be a computer scientist,” he said. “One day, during an eight-hour session in the computer lab in first year university, I realized that I didn’t want to be doing this for the rest of my life. I’d always wanted to be a teacher but I was fascinated by computer science. That session in the lab convinced me that teaching was what I really wanted to do.”

Gerry, who has specialized in teaching math and French, said his math teacher, Mr Dolfo and his French teacher, Mr Devall, inspired him. “They directed me towards teaching. They had a passion for teaching and they were both punsters like me!”

Maria loves the daily interaction with students and the fact that her job is constantly changing. Her work with Ian MacLaine and Tania Hobson in the Brooks Online classroom is fulfilling. “We offer computer based learning of academic courses primarily for Grade 12 students but also have some Grade 11s and 10’s,” she said. “Some students want a different delivery method of a course or want to learn at their own pace. They may have time table conflicts they’re athletes who travel a lot or students who have other challenges.”

Although Gerry has a Master’s of Education in Administration, he doesn’t have any immediate desire to leave the classroom and enter the world of administration. “Maybe when my own children are older, but right now I enjoy being in the classroom with the kids too much,” he admits.

Both Gerry and Maria, who have three children of their own: Markus, Stephen and Francesca, love working with students. “The best thing for me is to get my students to use their thinking skills and see the growth from the beginning to end. Making them think is important. I also love having a captive audience for my puns,” he joked.

“The kids,” agrees Maria, “the kids are the best part of the job.” **RL**



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8 SANTA HOURS 1pm - 4pm MALL HOURS 11am - 5pm	9 SANTA HOURS 1pm - 4pm MALL HOURS 9:30am - 5:30pm	10 SANTA HOURS 1pm - 4pm MALL HOURS 9:30am - 5:30pm	11 SANTA HOURS 1pm - 4pm MALL HOURS 9:30am - 5:30pm	12 SANTA HOURS 1pm - 4pm MALL HOURS 9:30am - 7pm	13 SANTA HOURS 1pm - 4pm MALL HOURS 9:30am - 7pm	14 SANTA HOURS 1pm - 4pm MALL HOURS 9:30am - 5:30pm
15 SANTA HOURS 1pm - 4pm MALL HOURS 11am - 5pm	16 SANTA HOURS 1pm - 4pm MALL HOURS 9:30am - 5:30pm	17 SANTA HOURS 1pm - 4pm MALL HOURS 9:30am - 5:30pm	18 SANTA HOURS 1pm - 4pm MALL HOURS 9:30am - 5:30pm	19 SANTA HOURS 1pm - 4pm MALL HOURS 9:30am - 7pm	20 SANTA HOURS 1pm - 4pm MALL HOURS 9:30am - 7pm	21 SANTA HOURS 1pm - 4pm MALL HOURS 9:30am - 5:30pm
22 SANTA HOURS 1pm - 4pm MALL HOURS 11am - 5pm	23 SANTA HOURS 1pm - 4pm MALL HOURS 9:30am - 7pm	24 SANTA HOURS 1pm - 3pm MALL HOURS 9:30am - 4pm CHRISTMAS EVE	25 <i>Merry Xmas</i> MALL CLOSED	26 BOXING DAY! MALL HOURS 9am - 4pm	27 MALL HOURS 9:30am - 7pm	28 MALL HOURS 9:30am - 5:30pm
29 MALL HOURS 11am - 5pm	30 MALL HOURS 9:30am - 5:30pm	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE MALL HOURS 9:30am - 4pm	 "Like" us on Facebook >> For a chance to WIN a \$25 Gift Certificate to the Town Centre Mall			

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