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James Thomson Elementary School (604) 483-3191
Thursday, April 3, 2014, 1:00-2:30pm

Westview Elementary School (604) 485-5660
Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 1:00-2:30pm

Edgehill Elementary School (604) 485-6164
Wednesday, April 23, 2014 1:00-2:30pm

Texada Elementary School (604) 486-7616
Friday, April 25, 2014, 9:30-11:00am

Henderson Elementary School (604) 483-9162
Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 10:30am-12:00pm

Register by calling the school.

For more information, contact Rita John at 604-485-6271 ext 2244 or rita.john@sd47.bc.ca

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SO THE CAMERA LOVES YOU • We asked three Powell River photographers...



Tara Burnett
What should you NOT do to look great in your wedding photos?

Don't meet your photographer for the first time at the wedding. A main factor for looking great in your wedding photos is to trust your photographer and to relax. With all my wedding clients, I offer a complimentary engagement session to get used to being in front of the camera as well as getting to know me.



Patricia Sparks
What should you NOT do to look great in your wedding photos?

Don't try new skin care close to the wedding. Work with your esthetician on a good skin care regimen at least three months before the wedding. Don't leave hair and makeup to the last minute. Have your makeup done under natural light. If having wine on the wedding day, stick to white so your smile stays radiant!



Jennifer Kennedy
What should you NOT do to look great in your wedding photos?

Do NOT wear too much makeup - keep it natural! There's a misconception that brides need to wear a LOT of full-coverage makeup for photos. I can't think of anything more uncomfortable than wearing it in the heat of summer. Let your natural beauty shine! And smile!

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ON THE COVER

The Emerald Princess, photographed before she became covered in sea life.

Photo by Doug Pemberton

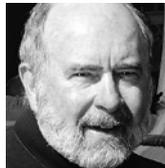
Powell River Living CONTRIBUTORS



MIRIAM ABRAMS developed a love of writing and health at a very early age. Ever since, she has had great hopes of becoming an author of young adult fantasy/fiction, as well as studying to be a fitness instructor. Miriam has also completed her level 10 piano and continues to take lessons at the Powell River Academy of Music.



MELISSA LEIGH is a professional bookkeeper with a growing interest in the Canadian tax system. Aside from her accounting-related work and studies, she is an avid gardener and a beginning boater – perfect pastimes for a four-year Powell River resident.



Vancouver-based marine zoologist and diver **NEIL MCDANIEL** has been photographing underwater since 1969. He shoots films for IMAX and the Discovery Channel, and his images have been featured in *Equinox*, *En Route*, and now *PRL*.



Diver and photographer **DOUG PEMBERTON** resides in Vancouver, and has photographed animals underwater in the South Pacific, Caribbean, Mexico, Mediterranean, Red Sea and all three coasts of Canada. He has also been an associate and contributing editor for *DIVER* Magazine.



Powell River's **JENNIFER SALISBURY** is working on her Doctorate in Education in adult learning. She is an author, business owner, engineer, business retention and expansion coordinator for PPREDS, and former Canada's Greatest Know-It-All contestant.



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

Preparing for tomorrow

There's always something to learn.

Children learn so quickly. They go to school, take music lessons, swimming lessons, skating, play hockey, soccer, dance and baseball. They're hungry to acquire new information and skills and they soak it up like little sponges. They want to get better. They want to improve.

There's no doubt that kids learn fast. However, it sometimes takes adults longer – particularly when they're juggling other responsibilities like a job and family at the same time.

It takes me ages to learn new programs on my computer, iPhone or other technological devices. My teens seem to be able to figure it out in no time flat.

Sometimes adults think they're good enough. They've graduated, got a degree, a job or whatever. In reality, there's always more to learn because the world keeps changing; if you don't keep up, opportunities will pass you by.

Keeping up with what is and what will be is a constant challenge for Powell River schools. They are preparing students for jobs that don't even exist yet. Yet they're doing an admirable job.

We salute Powell River's educators and the rest of the staff who work with our children preparing them for tomorrow. Not only are they with students in the classroom but they, and others, volunteer their time for many activities outside of school

hours. It's true; it takes a whole community to raise a child.

Our first story this month features Alex Rawnsley, the voice of hockey in Powell River. As the Powell River Kings play-by-play announcer, Alex calls it like he sees it. With playoffs underway, *Powell River Living* caught up with Alex and asked him about his job with the Kings. His story, "From Awful to Amazing," begins on Page 6.

Powell River Living's popular "I Made the Move" column continues on Page 16. When we originally started this column we thought it would only run for a year but after hearing how much our readers like it, we decided to keep it going!

Jennifer Salisbury is convinced that Powell River is the centre of the universe. On a recent trip to the States, Jennifer experienced first hand the six degrees of separation theory. Don't miss her story on Page 22.

Powell River is well known to divers everywhere. Twenty-five years ago, the mermaid sculpture at Saltery Bay was sunk. That sinking put Powell River's Mermaid Cove on the must see list for divers touring BC, says Associate Publisher and avid diver Sean Percy in his story, which begins on Page 24.

Nothing beats a good love story. Beginning on Page 26, you can read the story about the romantic way that Tom Spencer asked Candice Cole to marry him and how photographer Jen Kennedy captured images every step of the way!

International Women's Day is March 8. It's a time to remember the many contributions women make to society and just how far we have come. Our special women's day section begins on Page 29. Happy reading!



Isabelle Southcott, Publisher • isabelle@prliving.ca





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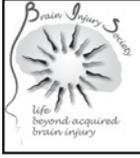
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April 12-14 **Weekend Casino** - Lower Mainland

April 16-17 **"On Golden Pond"** - Sid Williams Theatre, Courtenay

April 28-30 **Island Casino Hop** - Vancouver Island

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From awful to amazing

Alex Rawnsley is the voice of the Kings

By Isabelle Southcott
Isabelle@prliving.ca

Alex Rawnsley, 26, shakes his head when he looks back at his first play-by-play hockey broadcast.

"It was three hours, and it was awful – but it was amazing."

The awfulness in that 2007 broadcast isn't surprising. Having grown up in Australia – land of rugby and cricket – he had never picked up a stick or even watched a Hockey Night in Canada broadcast, until he immigrated here in his late teens.

While he always enjoyed sports, such as boogie-boarding on the white sandy beaches near his home, he dreamed of becoming a veterinarian, or a fighter pilot.

Yet at 19, he found himself behind the microphone in Prince George, without much prep time, announcing his first hockey game.

"I found out I was doing it a few days before. I'm sure I got pretty tongue tied, and I didn't know the players. And there were 17 minute intermissions to fill," Alex recalls. "But it's like your first time doing anything. You try it, you get better."

Now he's on-air three hours a game, 58 times a year, broadcasting the Kings action on Sun FM.

This month, as the Powell River Kings make a playoff run for the BC Hockey League championships, he'll be the voice local fans tune-in to for exciting play-by-play and knowledgeable commentary. The fifth playoff game will

be his 200th on-air Kings game.

There's no mistaking Alex's distinctive accent as he paints pictures with his words. "I imagine I'm the only Australian born play-by-play hockey broadcaster in this country. I can't verify that but I'm pretty sure."

THE EARLY YEARS

Alex grew up on the Gold Coast, a sunny, tourist centre on the Pacific Ocean in Queensland, Australia. He moved to Nanaimo when he was 15.

He and his mother had visited relatives in BC several years earlier, and ever since tried to find a way to move back.

"Then early in 2002, we applied for visas not really thinking we'd get them. But we got them, and decided to come."

They sold everything they owned and put the rest in four suitcases. Then they filled three boxes with sentimental items they couldn't bear to part with and stored them under a friend's stairwell in Australia. Three-and-a-half weeks later, they hopped on a plane and came to Canada.

In 2003, Alex graduated from Nanaimo's Wellington Secondary School.

"The school had a fully functioning TV studio and I just started playing. I took film twice because I liked it so much. I spent a lot of time in the TV studio and decided that that this was where I wanted to be."

After graduating, Alex took a year off and moved to Vancouver. "I volunteered at Shaw TV on a



program called Urban Rush and applied to BCIT's Broadcast TV program. "I loved control room directing. I loved live programming in studio but didn't want to do anything in the field."

"We originally came [to Canada] for one year," he says. Then one year turned into three and three turned into five and Alex became a permanent resident of Canada with dual citizenship.

THE VOICE OF THE KINGS

A few months after graduating from BCIT in 2007, Alex had just landed his dream job as live news director for CKPG TV in Prince George. Sports wasn't part of his contract.

"I was always interested in sports. I knew I wanted to be involved in sports



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IN THE BOX: Alex Rawnsley ditched Aussie boogie boards and his old career goal – fighter pilot – to become the voice of the Powell River Kings. See (well, hear) the 26-year-old in action this month as he announces BC Hockey League playoff games.



but wasn't sure how."

When the Williams Lake Timberwolves came to town and needed an announcer, and the regular announcer for the Prince George Spruce Kings, Ron Gallo was busy, he asked Alex to fill in.

And so, after three hours of awful and amazing, Alex was hooked.

In 2009 he announced for an indoor soccer team, the Prince George Fury. He spent two seasons doing play-by-play for the BC Major Midget League's Cariboo Cougars, an opportunity that was set up through a friend and co-worker, Al Bristowe.

In 2011 when an opportunity with the Kings opened up, he and his then-girlfriend Maija Lund moved to Powell River, where she works as a teacher-on-call with School District 47. With Bachelor degrees in Mathematics and Education, it didn't take too much convincing for Maija to move to Powell River, closer to

her family in Gibsons.

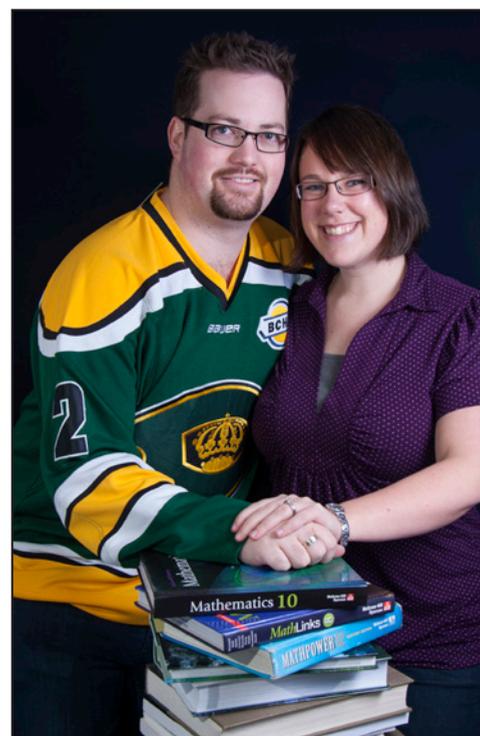
Finally, in 2012, he was hired on by Sun FM as a news reporter.

During the week, Alex would chase news and sports stories for Sun; after hours he'd write the Kings team blog, game recaps, previews, team and alumni news.

"Once I got the taste of play-by-play during the 2010-2011 [Cariboo Cougars] season, that's where a lot of my time was going. When the job here became available, I had to apply."

The Kings have had a good season, he says. "They've been in the top five of the BCHL (BC Hockey League) standings all season. They went through a bit of a rough patch in mid-February but secured a spot in the playoffs and home ice advantage for the first round."

Before each game Alex spends hours reading and researching the individual players, past games and the teams. "A lot



of this stuff doesn't go on air, it's a lot of reading blogs and news articles. I have a cheat sheet that I created – an Excel spreadsheet – with short form notes about their history. It's a quick backgrounder about each player so I have a tidbit about them handy. It's a lot of short-term memory work trying to figure out who's



The Powell River Public Library is for **film buffs**

Curious about film? So is **Patrick Barclay**, 20, a Brooks Secondary graduate and doppelganger of *Northern Exposure's* famed filmie Ed Chigliak.

He's helped the library expand its already impressive collection of over 1,500 titles, by requesting new art films. This year, inspired by *The Seven Samurai* and *Nacho Libre*, he produced his own five-minute short for the Powell River Film Festival 2014, *Mongral 90*.

What's on at PRPL

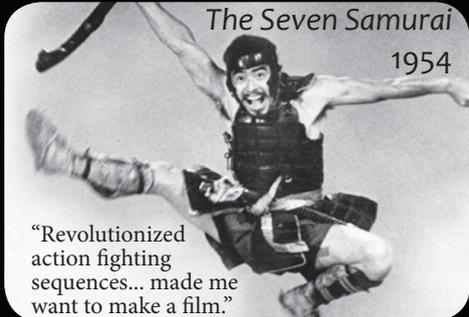
Moe Clark Workshop
March 8, 2 to 4 pm
Transform a poem into a performance with creative vocal dimensions.

Moe Clark Performance
March 8, 7 to 9 pm
Cranberry Hall - Free

Cut Out Dolls For Young Designers
March 15, 10:30 to noon
United Church
Grades 3-6 can create a 2D doll and dress it up in duds.

Pow Town Ink Club
March 28, 3:30 to 5 pm
This club is perfect for graduates of the Library's Go Graphic series or for teens who are already drawing and writing their own strips.

Patrick recommends:



The Seven Samurai
1954

"Revolutionized action fighting sequences... made me want to make a film."



Ivan's Childhood
1962

"Very beautiful. A daring story about children and war time."



Spirited Away
2001

"Visually haunting. A classic."

who. You can prep and prep but you'll probably only use 10 to 20 per cent of what you prep."

But there are times when he needs all that information and more. When glass breaks or when there's an injury, there can be a lot of air to fill. At times like these, Alex relies on his gift of gab and his background work.

It's up to him to keep folks tuned in so they don't tune out.

"I believe that there are very few people sitting listening to everything I say the whole game word by word. They have it on in the background, while they're doing something else but then all of a sudden I raise my voice, they feel the excitement, and that draws them in."

Though he recently parted ways with Sun FM, he's staying on as the play-by-play announcer. He likes being busy. "I like the balance. A lot of the hockey work comes in on weekends and after hours."

Whenever Powell River hears that distinctive Australian voice on air, they

don't need to wait for him to say "I'm Alex Rawnsley and you're listening to Kings hockey," to know who it is. The accent gives him away every time. **PR**



Alex Rawnsley ♥ Lund!

When Maija Lund suggested that her Aussie boyfriend buy a bumper sticker that says 'I Love Lund,' he smiled and dug his heels in. It wasn't that Alex Rawnsley doesn't love Lund but rather, he felt that he wanted to do something more.

And so he proposed on February 2. Alex had known for a long time that he wanted to marry Maija, in fact they'd talked about it quite a few times but she thought he'd pop the question this summer when they were in Australia.

"I'd had the ring for a month but I was waiting for the right time," says Alex. He didn't want to wait till the summer because he knew that Maija would want to share the news right away with her family who live in Gibsons.

Finally the right day dawned. It was sunny and the couple decided to go on a hike to Manzanita Hut on the Sunshine Coast Trail.

"Will you marry me?" Alex asked Maija.
"Yes," she said!

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"When my son Alex lost a jacket he'd purchased on sale at **Armitage Mens Wear**, he was upset. I stopped by the store the next day and told Ron what had happened. All the jackets were gone but Ron said he'd see what he could do. Next thing you know, Ron called. He'd managed to find a replacement for my son and sold it to me at the same great price! Both Alex and I were thrilled. Thank you Ron!"

- Isabelle Southcott

New schooling for a new era

Learning gets personal at the Powell River School District, where educators strive to find **the right fit** for each student.

Don Fairbairn • Director of Instruction, School District 47

THE PROVINCE of British Columbia is heading into its fourth year of a dynamic change in our education system that has been defined as Personalized Learning.

One would think that since the BC student achievement levels continue to score in the top-ten rankings in worldwide assessments there would be little need and, in fact, maybe even some danger, in introducing paradigm changes to what is obviously a very successful system. The world, however, is not standing still and continues to change at an accelerating rate. With that fact in mind, there is an obvious need for our education system to also be changing to meet the challenges that today's society demands of its population.

There are many elements of our current system that will remain as an integral part of Personalized Learning, but in a somewhat different format and context. The need for students to continue to develop a high level of competency in the core skills of reading, writing and numeracy will remain at the forefront of educational requirements. It is now, though, also a necessity for our students to acquire a high level of understanding of current technological e-advances and the skill set to use them as a matter of course. Beyond that is the need to prepare students for jobs that, due to our constantly evolving society, don't even exist today. To meet the goals associated with the jobs of the future, it is essential that students learn how to learn independently, electronically and through hands-on experiences. Personalized Learning attempts to develop those areas in a way that addresses the individual needs, interests and abilities of each student. The end result needs to be the full range of competencies, skills and knowledge that are required to succeed in the 21st century. The articles in this special section outline the unique approaches that our schools are using in their own version of Personalized Learning for their students.



“Every child deserves a champion – an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they can become the best that they can possibly be.”

- The late American educator and TED speaker Rita Pierson

CONTACT US • School District #47

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Westview Elementary School

Jamie Burt • Principal

THIS IS a very exciting time for Westview Elementary! After many years of planning, we are finally in our beautiful new facility.

WE ARE absolutely thrilled with the start we have had. We have worked hard at maintaining our tradition of providing students with a strong academic core while also providing excellent opportunities in music, the arts and athletics. We also have put an increased emphasis on skills that we feel will be essential for our students in the future such as: critical thinking, problem solving, creativity, communication, collaboration and technological literacy and are finding interesting and unique ways to work these into all of our students daily experiences.

One of the many advantages our new building offers is the creation of new learning spaces. For example, our Learning Commons is a large, flexible space that allows students opportunities to further explore their interests in a variety of different ways. The beanbag chairs are popular with our avid readers, access to our netbooks allows students to further their research and the layout of the area is perfect for groups to collaborate. Our multi-purpose room has a state of the art kiln and is attached to a fully operational kitchen. Teachers and students have taken full advantage of this space to enhance learning with multiple cooking projects, elaborate artwork and multi-class presentations. Our new high school sized gymnasium has helped to breathe life back into our intramural and extracurricular sports activities as well as our daily physical education programs. As well, our new state of the

art music room has contributed to the continuation of our incredible music programs. The elementary junior jazz program and our school choir are housed here and complement our daily music lessons.

Environmental and sustainability education continue to be a major focus across the curriculum at Westview. Our team of intermediate student leaders help staff model and educate others throughout the year as we continue to decrease our school's carbon footprint. Recycling programs are abundant throughout the school, as well as heat and water consumption awareness, and the impact that every day jobs can have on our environment.

We are very proud about the strong educational foundation that Westview offers our students and we are excited about the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead in meeting their unique learning needs.



Texada Elementary School

Rhonda Gordon • Principal

DESPITE THE influx of ten dynamic Kindergarten students this year, Texada Elementary School remains small by any standard, with just 35 students.

THIS, AS well as the close and enduring student relationships and the relative isolation of Texada Island factored into the continuation of a "Social and Emotional" focus this year. We wanted to capitalize on the family feel, which pervades the school, while also ensuring students develop a sense of self and community.

We've approached our goals for Social and Emotional development in some unique ways. We began an indoor project designed to give students an idea of what it means to grow their own food, to take responsibility for the growing, and to learn about sustainable farming. With the help of farmer Tom Read, students tended and harvested two crops of indoor grown micro-greens. As an adjunct, we also began composting in earnest. Our plan is to expand the gardens to a larger outdoor space, at which time compost will be essential. A Fall highlight was the whole-school field trip to Tom's "Slow Farm," where we saw firsthand the work Tom and his wife Linda do to provide nutritious organic produce to our community.

The second large-scale project currently underway involves a partnership with the Texada Island Heritage Society, which operates the Texada museum and archive in the building next-door. Students in grades five to seven, with help from museum volunteer Peter Lock, are learning about the history of their community. They are researching various aspects of pioneer living on Texada: jobs and economy, education, agriculture and transportation, and preparing a timeline of Texada pioneering history. The culmination of the unit will involve gathering historical direct source information from senior Texada residents. The end result will be the creation of a primary source document, which will be archived in the museum for reference by future generations.



Kelly Creek Community School

Tawnie Gaudreau • Principal

AT KELLY CREEK Community School, staff and students work to establish a positive learning environment that meets the needs of all of our learners.

AT THE heart of our school is a very strong sense of community. By providing multiple opportunities for children to connect with one another and with their surrounding natural environments, we are establishing a lifelong commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability and helping our students to develop a strong sense of community, belonging and acceptance with one another.

Many of our students participate in the provincial Destination Conservation program. This year, the focus of the program is on food and resources. Students are exploring the different ways that food is grown and how food waste and the energy resources required to produce our food impact our health

and the environment. We are working with Vanessa Sparrow in the beginning stages of designing a functional and aesthetically-pleasing school garden for all to enjoy. The impact of hands-on learning activities such as these cannot be replicated via textbook and it is expected that the garden will become a source of pride and accomplishment for all of our learners.

Kelly Creek's Outdoor Adventure Program is in its third year and continues to be a success. Through a variety of outdoor experiences, students are engaged in activities that enhance their leadership skills and positive self-concept through learning in a real life setting.

Students at Kelly Creek play an active role



in their own learning and are offered a variety of learning experiences and choices to meet their individual learning needs. Our goal is to provide every opportunity for our children to become well-informed global citizens who will use educational technologies to apply knowledge to new situations, analyze information, collaborate, solve problems, and make decisions in an informed manner.

James Thomson Elementary School

Jasmin Marshman • Principal

WELCOME TO James Thomson Elementary, a school in the midst of a paradigm switch to personalized learning. Just watch us thrive and grow!

OUR STUDENTS are so fortunate to experience many varied activities that will help them mature as students. Our school garden continues to provide many learning opportunities, as well as involvement in our own food production chain from planting seeds, to nurturing, to harvesting, and then to the table for their own consumption.

Our Discover Imagine Grow School yard (DIGS) project has begun the transformation of our primary play area, and is now gearing up to add a mural and First Nations art throughout our black-top play area.

The Farm to School program continues to incorporate learning opportunities for our students about where food comes from and provides opportunities for students to make informed choices about what to eat and drink to optimize their health.

Academics are very important to us at James Thomson. We have reserved the morning half of our day to provide optimum learning opportunities for all our students, through grade-specific math classes and leveled reading instruction, all aimed at improving the life chances of our students. Our goal is always to address the whole child, and strive to instill in them real life lessons that they can take with them far beyond their elementary years.



Henderson Elementary School

Scott Fisher • Principal

HENDERSON ELEMENTARY is The Little School with the Big Heart. At Henderson, we recognize that healthy young people learn better, achieve more and make contributions to our community.

WE ENCOURAGE the link between family and community members in our school and place importance on having them be a part of our students' formal education. Several generations of families take the opportunity to participate in school activities such as attending assemblies, coaching teams, volunteering in classrooms or our Breakfast for Learning and Hot Lunch programs.

Henderson has had the good fortune to have small classes, which allows us to maximize support for students. We emphasize the building of strong foundation skills. Our programs master and then extend upon fundamentals. Our energetic teachers focus on each individual learner to help them

reach their potential. This dynamic staff works together to promote health into all aspects of school and learning. Staff and volunteers model and teach our children the life skills and community connections to make good choices. The integration of technology into all our classrooms facilitates and enhances student learning.

Henderson encourages healthy lifestyle choices that promote student health and well-being. Our athletic teams promote the positive values that teamwork and competition instill. The Caring Kids and Roots of Empathy programs build a safer, caring school environment. At Henderson it is our collective responsibility to help children identify and have a better understanding of who they are. We provide them the opportunities to safely explore the



possibilities of who they will become.

Henderson students have opportunities to learn, to succeed, to fail, to take risks, and to develop new relationships in a safe, caring and healthy environment.



Edgehill Elementary School

Kristen Brach • Principal

AT EDGEHILL Elementary, we pride ourselves on staying up-to-date with current research on how best to meet the needs of all of our students.

WITH THE rapid changes in our world today, students need to be prepared with a different set of skills than schools provided in the past. We have many staff members involved in district and provincial committees working together to be able to embrace these changes in a positive way.

Equipping our classrooms with technology that helps assist with instruction has been a focus for several years. Most classes have projectors, many have interactive whiteboards, we have three carts of laptops and a number of iPads so that technology can be integrated into the regular classroom rather than having children travel to a lab.

The environment continues to be an important issue in our school and in our world. We have a committed group of parents, teachers, and students who consistently address environmental issues. Our Destination Conservation team created a Reduce, Re-use and Recycle waste reduction campaign and a "Wear a Sweater Day" when the school will turn down the heat to conserve electricity.

Academic success is always at the forefront of our planning, but having a welcoming school for all students and parents is also a high priority. There is a continuous emphasis on meeting the needs of each individual child by building on their strengths, interests, and emotional well-being. Our goals in all of these areas are showcased and addressed through a variety of activities including Literacy Day, Read for the Top, Destination Imagination, Inter-school sports, and special fun days. At Edgehill, staff and students actively pursue the ideals of our school code of honour:

"We take care of ourselves"

"We take care of others"

"We take care of our place"



Brooks Secondary School

By Kathy Rothwell • Principal

HOW DO WE educate our students to take their place in the 21st century? More than ever we need a system which fosters economic independence, cultural understanding, social responsibility, and personal engagement.

OUR EDUCATION system must increasingly be customized to fit student circumstances.

At Brooks Secondary School, we continue to strive to provide more options in course choice and delivery. For example, continuous learning is offered in a combined Math 10/11/12 class where students determine the pacing which works for them. Socials 10/11 classes are combined in a team teaching model with a self-paced component. For some students one semester to complete a subject is insufficient, for others, it is too much.

We have discovered, that in many cases, traditional methods of classroom instruction are just not working anymore. Personal Growth PE 10 is a great example of where teachers have created a program for students to chart their own personal fitness and design a plan to fit their specific needs.

Our students are the 'digitized society' and many are already connected to the internet for course work. Our student population continues to shrink but we provide options and develop the great pool of student talent through our online programs which offer the variety of courses that students (and the greater community) are demanding.

As we work to 'personalize' education we must accept that the education of yesterday was suited for a previous century. We must challenge what we take for granted, make learning more relevant, and create a system where adaptation and creativity are the rule not the exception. With this in mind, the Brooks teachers are working to create a system where many students will self-direct, self-pace, and chart their own course, covering the basics of education but embracing much more as they prepare to take their place in the world.



Partners in Education

Stephanie Hall • Coordinator

THE PARTNERS IN Education (PIE) program is Powell River's distributed-learning school. 'Distributed learning' is a term that describes schools that enrol students who do their school work primarily at home. **THE DIFFERENCE** between traditional homeschooling and being enrolled in the PIE program is that 'homeschoolers' are merely registered with a local school, while PIE students have a BC certified teacher involved in the development of their student learning plan as well as in the assessment of how each student is progressing in relation to the prescribed learning outcomes for their grade.

Distributed learning is becoming increasingly popular as students (and parents on their behalf) look to find flexibility and meaning in education. The BC Ministry of Education has been paving the way for DL schools as part of their agenda to promote Personalized Learning for the 21st Century. Programs like PIE allow students to work at their own pace and have more flexibility in how they demonstrate their understanding of the topics covered. Students taking DL courses often are, or quickly become, self-motivated and self-sufficient; skills that are exceptionally useful when they go on to post-secondary education.

For those students that struggle with particular subjects, the individual instruction they receive from parents and teachers is invaluable. Some other reasons families choose DL are prolonged illness resulting in missed schooling, heavy involvement in a particular sport or fine art, and increasingly, students experiencing anxiety in bricks and mortar schools. No matter what the reason, PIE teachers are experienced, caring professionals ready to help create a personalized program to meet any student's needs.



Special Education

Theresa Verdiel • Special Education Coordinator

“MEET THE Learner where they are at...” Education is all about determining where a student is at, and providing them with the support they need to move forward and be successful. How to teach diverse learners in the classroom? This is true for all educators whether or not they have students with special needs in the classroom. It has to do with how instruction is delivered.

Successful people read a lot! The most efficient ways to acquire information is through reading. In order to best support students, they need to be accepted for who they are, and how they acquire information. This means considering various ways to support all learners, especially in the area of reading, which is fundamental to all other subject areas.

In Powell River, School District #47 is very fortunate to have the support of the Powell River Rotary Club in providing the CALS (Computer Assisted Literacy Solution) program. The CALS program is a computerized literacy program that teaches foundation skills for reading. The CALS program is ideal in terms of Differentiated Instruction. It provides children who cannot read, individualized help. CALS is a self-paced teaching program that teaches, assesses and motivates the student. A student's reading is assessed and depending



on their results, the program instructs them in the five critical areas of reading: Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Comprehension, and Vocabulary. Ongoing assessment and progress monitoring provide robust data to inform instruction and show students' reading progress.

CALS is engaging for students. Those working with students have witnessed them as being eager to do the program, engaged throughout, and motivated to come back!



Ready, Set, Learn!

By Rita John • Early Learning Coordinator

READY, SET, Learn is again being offered to three and four year old children in School District #47 schools. (See ad in this issue on Page 3 for dates.) Each year, activities are adapted slightly and this year is no exception. Sessions will continue to focus on school readiness and will present steps both children and parents can take to encourage positive school experiences. Positive experiences at school help to create a disposition in children that embraces learning.

Preparing children for school optimally starts well before children are five. The mini-school day will bring children into the library, music room, kindergarten and gym. Ten-minute stations will be set up in each location. Before the event starts, and after children have visited the stations, there will be time for parents to talk to school staff and ask questions.

Participants at each school will be limited to 15 children, to encourage more intimate experiences for adults and children. Parents are asked to phone the school to register their child. Participating families will be offered a book and a bag of supplies that can be used at home to extend the activities offered at the event.

It doesn't matter what school families choose to attend for Ready, Set Learn. Positive experiences at any school makes adapting to school easier.

Families are welcome to visit as many schools as they like.

COME AND ENJOY A MINI SCHOOL DAY DESIGNED FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN.

For more information call (604) 485-6271 or the school you would like to attend.



SCHOOL DISTRICT 47

CONTACT US • School District #47, 4351 Ontario Ave, Powell River, BC V8A 1V3 • 604 485-6271

The reason why

Learning from our homestays

By Isabelle Southcott
isabelle@prliving.ca

The other day, a woman asked me why we have ‘homestays.’
“It’s not for the money,” she said. “I just had one and you really don’t make that much.”

I agreed. The money certainly helps, but if you were in it for the money alone, you wouldn’t do it. Here is what I told her:

I am not able to take my children to visit places like China and Japan but I’d like them to meet people from other countries and learn about their cultures because I believe this will help them become more tolerant and accepting of others. I did a lot of travelling when I was younger and I know that travel broadens your horizons and can shift your perspective. I want my kids to be exposed to all kinds of different people who look different than they do, talk differently than they do, think differently than they do and have had different experiences. Having a ‘homestay’ means that we can experience all this and more.

We also meet new people and make new friends. We learn about new foods and how to cook different dishes. Yes it is work, but I have found that anything in life that is worthwhile is always work and work is not a bad thing. I have been able to help some kids and they have helped me. For this, I am grateful.

Yesterday, my children and I received three lovely cards from Sam, a 15-year-old boy who stayed with us in the summer through the partnership between School District 47 and Sino Bright. His note to me brought tears to my eyes.



CURRENCY EXCHANGE:
Sam Cheng, top, taught our whole family about gratitude, and we met a true friend.

Here is what he said:

Dear Isabelle,

You are a strong and kind woman. Your heart is full of love. I can feel it, and I appreciate it. When I was in Canada, you took care of me as your own child, which no others could do the same. Thank you. Happy spring festival.

Sam

To Alex, my youngest son, he wrote:

Dear Alex,

Firstly, thanks for comforting me and all. You are a great friend. I have to admit it. Can you climb the wall next to the tennis court on your own now? I am looking forward to playing parkour with you again. Happy spring festival.

Sam

These are just some reasons why we have ‘homestays!’

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REGISTRATION



FOR: **New Students or In-District Transfers**
KINDERGARTEN to GRADE 7
For the 2014/2015 School Year

DEADLINE: **March 31, 2014**

Kindergarten Students ☺ Please bring proof of age (child must be 5 by December 31, 2014). A birth certificate is preferred. (The Ministry of Education stipulates that parents may defer the enrollment of their child for not more than one year.) Register at your school of choice by March 31, 2014. (After March 31, 2014, register centrally at the School Board Office. *) All School District 47 schools will have full day Kindergarten programs.

Westview Elementary ☺ Register at Grief Point Elementary.

French Immersion (K-1) ☺ Register at James Thomson Elementary.

Partners in Education Program (new registrations) ☺ Register at School Board Office.

Grade 1 to 7 students new to Powell River or students wishing to transfer to a school outside of their catchment area must register at their school of choice by March 31, 2014. (After March 31, 2014, register centrally at the School Board Office. *)

Elementary students registering after March 31, 2014 are not guaranteed enrolment in their home catchment area or at their school of choice as registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration forms are available at schools or can be prepared in advance by downloading from www.sd47.bc.ca/Schools/Pages/registration.aspx

*The **School Board Office** is located at
4351 Ontario Avenue, Powell River, BC V8A 1V3



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Powell River Living I Made the Move

Wind researcher and librarian blow into town, after awesome camping trip

Katie Kinsley and Ben Crawford moved to Powell River from Vancouver in 2013. After finishing up a Master's degree in Library Sciences at UBC, Katie was offered a job as an adult services coordinator at the Powell River Public Library and moved here in February.

Ben, who is originally from Indiana, is working on his Doctorate and working for a wind energy developer. He was able to move here in April. "Lucky for us," says Katie, "Ben's work has a lot of flexibility so he could come up to Powell River and join me." The couple enjoy canoeing and backpacking and love exploring new places.

How did you first hear about Powell River?

Katie • The very first time I heard of Powell River was from some friends in Vancouver who had done the canoe route. They raved about all the wildlife they had seen.

Both • One of our first trips as a couple was a camping road trip. We headed up the Sunshine Coast and camped out at Okeover. It rained all night, but in the morning it was gorgeous. We were blown away by the natural beauty! At that time we had no idea we would be living here a few years later.

What surprised you about Powell River once you moved here?

Katie • The creativity. This community is just filled with artists, writers, soap-makers and all sorts of creative thinkers! It's very cool.

Ben • For me, it's the diversity. The number of people from all over the world who choose to make Powell River their home.

What made you decide to move to Powell River?



COZY COUPLE: When they're not swimming, camping or reading, Ben Crawford and Katie Kinsley ponder cycling and falafels.

Katie • We were ready to leave the city and wanted to move to a smaller community where we could easily enjoy the outdoors. Another big part of it was the library. I had just finished school and was looking for a job and I really liked the vision of our library. It's been great so far.

What is your favourite place in Powell River?

Both • One of our favourite places to walk is Stillwater Bluffs – we always take visitors there. And, the lakes. we just can't believe there are so many swimming options.

What would make Powell River a nicer community?

Katie • It's already nice, but I would love to see fewer empty storefronts, particularly in Cranberry. Also, falafels... someone should open a falafel shop!

What are Powell River's best assets?

Katie • The people. Like I said earlier, so many creative people and people passionate about their community. It's really refreshing. The Sunshine Coast Trail with all its cabins is also pretty phenomenal.

Ben • The access to amazing outdoor recreation with no crowds. The relaxed vibe in the community.

If you were mayor what would you do?

Both • Better cycling infrastructure.

What superpower would you like to have?

Ben • I would like to have animal morphing power.

Katie • That's a good one. I want that too. If I had to pick another one, I would choose teleportation. **PR**



Wondering what your home is worth?

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Brandy Peterson

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Contest alert

Sharpen your pencils and write a story about compassion and kindness for the Compassion Day Challenge story contest!

Your story must be about a compassionate act or kindness done by you or that someone else has done to you. It could also be about a compassionate act or kindness that you observed done to someone else.

Winning entries will be published in Powell River Living magazine and read at the Compassion Challenge Day on May 23 at Willingdon Beach.

On that day Powell Riverites are challenged to record and complete 10,000 acts of compassion and kindness.

For info visit www.thecompassionchallenge.org.

Max length: 500 words

Deadline: April 15

Questions: isabelle@prliving.ca

Enter by emailing your story to contest@prliving.ca

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A safe, welcoming and inspired classroom is where we start, so each child can benefit from our strong academic program. Here, Grade 7 Assumption students Haley Spent, 12, and Liam Schreiber, 12, read to Grade 2 students Jacob Brown, 7 and Brynn Reid, 7.



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A note about tuition:

Tuition costs about \$230 per month, per child. That amount is tax-deductible, regardless of family income.

If you are sending your child to public school -- and also paying for tutoring or other enrichment activities that we offer on site -- you may find that you save money by choosing Assumption Catholic School.

Meeting students' needs:

- ✦ Small classes
- ✦ Strong academic program
- ✦ Uniforms
- ✦ Strong emphasis on creating a safe, welcoming and inspired space for learning
- ✦ Relevant religious instruction

Meeting parents' needs:

- ✦ On-site preschool available five mornings per week
- ✦ Bussing schedules custom-made to meet families' needs
- ✦ Regular communication between parents, teachers and administration; our doors (and email!) are always open

They inspire one another

Wildwood artists find meaning in natural world

By Isabelle Southcott

isabelle@prliving.ca

When Debbie Dan moved to Powell River over 30 years ago from a logging camp in Narrows Inlet, she naturally gravitated towards the arts community. She volunteered to help out by taking entries at a juried art show at the recreation complex.

It was there that she viewed the work of local artists, including that of photographer Rod Innes, for the first time. “Rod’s photo won,” Debbie recalls. And it advanced to a provincial juried show in Vancouver.

Rod is a professional photographer. Debbie, a painter.

The couple share a love of nature and animals and like to immortalize it. Debbie, with brushes and canvas; Rod with his camera.

“We admire each others work,” says Debbie, “and we encourage and are

supportive of each other.”

These days, they’re able to work on their art full time but it wasn’t always like that.

Debbie worked as the curator at the Powell River Historical Museum, and recently retired after almost 22 years. Rod worked at the mill for many years, and ran a photographic studio called Midnight Colour.

Debbie and Rod are united by art and united by love.

“When we were younger we were very involved in the local arts community,” says Debbie. “We both participated in shows here.”

But the similarities don’t end there. “Our belief systems are very much the same,” says Debbie. “We both love art and creativity. I am so inspired by Rod’s



CREATING AND RELATING: Visual artists Rod Innes and Debbie Dan in their Wildwood home – and studio.

photos, I use them for reference in my painting.”

Debbie likes painting people and nature, and her paintings always tell a story. She uses all mediums.

“I also like to do whimsical fairy tale pieces. Sometimes, I will write a poem to go with my paintings.”

Debbie began drawing when she was big enough to hold a pencil. She drew farm animal, mostly horses.

When she was 13, she was given her

Carol is selling her beautiful bread bowl home!

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SATURDAY, MAY 24

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Ages 7 and up (Adults, too!)



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Volunteers needed • 604 487-9332



Powell River Town Centre Mall

VIU thanks Carol Sansburn for three decades of contribution

Carol Sansburn is retiring from her position as Educational Advisor at Vancouver Island University this month.



Dedication, commitment, extensive knowledge, thorough follow-up are words that describe Carol during her three-decade-long career at VIU contributing to the lives of students. She started instructing math in the ABE program, then added educational advisor and administrator to her career tapestry. Carol is well known for going the extra step to provide comprehensive services to students and support to new staff. Her work helped to ensure the sustainability of the campus. Beyond the VIU walls, she nourishes community connections sharing her talent as a pianist and volunteering with Special Olympics. Upon retirement, she will have more time to unfold her fun-loving side playing with her six grandchildren. Her VIU colleagues thank her for her steadfast support and encouragement. She will be missed.

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Soil amendments including bone and feather meal, lime, worm castings and more. See us for fencing, tools and much more for your lawn and garden



ARTIST'S PATH: Debbie Dan's exquisite harvest painting "The Messengers."

first set of oil paints. And she's never looked back.

"I come from a family of artists," says Debbie. "My grandfather on my mother's side was an artist, my mom was an artist and some of us kids are too...My mom's side of the family is Metis and I drew a lot of First Nations people when I was a teenager growing up in Peace River Country."

Rod moved to Powell River in 1946 with his parents and lived at the cabins in Mowat Bay. "I had a camera at an early age," he recalls but his interest really took off when he moved to Ocean Falls at the age of 18. On the boat up, he met a man called Vaughn Neilson from Denmark who knew how to develop film. "He made a darkroom in his closet. When he put the paper into the developer and this image



HUMMING ALONG: Rob Innes captures a hummingbird using flash and patience.

began to appear, it was like magic."

Little things, he says, can open up a whole new world.

Rod moved back to Powell River. He got a job at the mill and started a photography business on the side. He shot weddings, anniversaries, sports, team portraits. "I really love people," he says. "Shooting wedding photos is the window to portrait photography. When you are doing weddings, you are taking photos of people. I had some incredible pictures of people outdoors and you get back lights on the dresses and the hair."

A chance meeting with Gunner Haggelund, a well-known photographer in Norway, opened other doors for Rod. "We'd go out photographing together. He used Hasselblad cameras." From then on it was Hasselblad - a high-end Swedish camera - all the way.

Rod is well known for his nature photography. These days he works with digital cameras and video cameras. "I have come close to a lot of nature," he says.

"Rod has a gift," says Debbie. "He's able to move around out in nature. Animals often come very close to him. It seems obvious to me that they understand that

he would never hurt them."

Rod has made videos about insects, such as ladybugs as well as bears, and woodpeckers and posts them to youtube.com. and Facebook. His wildlife photography has been published in several national and international magazines.

One day he took pictures of a weasel taking baby robins out of a nest near a creek at Timberlane. "The weasel took the first one, then came back and took the second and then the third," Rod remembered,

"This is part of nature as she also had young to take care of."

Over 600 of his flora photos and 160 of his fauna photos are on UBC's 'Electronic Atlas of the Flora of British Columbia' Web site.

His favourite place to shoot is the Wildwood bluffs. "There are so many beautiful, native plants at the top of the Wildwood Hill. They are so abundant, it amazes me."

From hummingbirds to river otters to insects to native plants, to water and ice images, he's shot it all.

"I always say I'm not going to take too many pictures but I always do," he says. "I always do." **RRL**

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Townsite,
is where it's at!

Married to Townsite

Getting married? Hmmm, where should you have the wedding? Reception? Stag? Stagette? Where should your guests stay?

May we suggest the Townsite?

Think about it. There's a lot to do and see, eat and drink and great places to stay in the Townsite all within walking distance.

Accommodate your guests

Your out-of-town guest could stay at the Old Courthouse Inn, The Island View Lodge or The Rodmay Heritage Hotel. They all offer something unique.

The Old Courthouse is a beautiful historic boutique hotel. Brimming with antiques and curios, this hotel was built in 1939 in Tudor Style architecture. It once housed the courts, jail, police station and all the other provincial government services. The building has been totally renovated and updated but still maintains that feel of another era.

The Rodmay Heritage Hotel has hotel rooms, a liquor store, a pub called McKinney's, a hair salon and a banquet room all under one roof. There are plans to open a café soon. The hotel opened in 1911 and was added onto in the twenties and thirties. Its grand lobby with its double sweeping staircase has been used by

many couples as a backdrop for photographs.

Spice up that awkward time between events

Once your guests are settled, may we suggest taking them to the Townsite Heritage Society's headquarters at Henderson House on Walnut Street? There you can sign them up for a tour of the Townsite.

If you want to give them a unique to Powell River experience, you have to take your guests to visit Townsite Brewing where you can sign up for a free brewery tour (every Saturday at 3 pm) and beer tastings. This microbrewery is located in the Townsite and is home to award winning craft beer.

A smashing ceremony & reception

But where to hold the big event? There are a few terrific choices in the Townsite.

The Patricia Theatre is Canada's oldest continuously running movie theatre and has been in its current location since 1928. This elegant building has oodles of character and is run by Ann Nelson and her son Brian. With her steel-trap memory, Ann, can tell you all about the history of the Townsite. The gardens surrounding the theatre are absolutely gorgeous.

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Your place to eat and greet



And then there's Dwight Hall. Built in 1927 the Powell River Company, the mill owners constructed the majestic Dwight Hall, a two storey wood-framed building, to serve as the social and cultural community centre of the Townsite. It was said to be one of the grandest halls of the day in British Columbia.

Located at 6274 Walnut Street, it was formally opened on August 20, 1927 with 800 Powell Riverites and local dignitaries attending. Dwight Hall is owned by The City of Powell River and is often rented out for large events such as weddings, receptions and other functions.

If you really want to keep it all in the Townsite, why not get married in St. David and St. Paul Anglican Church or have a marriage commissioner perform your ceremony in one of the historic buildings?

For a smaller ceremony or reception, consider Studio 56 in the historic Bank of Montreal. It has been recently renovated with beautiful wood floors and huge bar made from the old bank wickets.

Let's party

Everyone will need to eat, and there are many wonderful options in Townsite.

If you're looking for a fabulous view of Powell Lake, nothing can beat The Shinglemill. There's both a restaurant and a pub area where they provide unscheduled live music and are able to host private parties of up to 70 people.

Eddie Rae's Café in the Old Courthouse Inn offers breakfast and lunch during the winter and will begin offering evening meals again in late spring.

The Hub 101 Cafe, Bar & Bistro is a happening spot for anyone who wants to have a great meal or spend the evening having drinks and great appies. Special events pop up all the time, be it trivia or a great band, so The Hub has lots on tap to keep you entertained.

McKinney's, the Rodmay's pub, offers free salsa dancing on Friday nights and live music every Saturday. The hotel also has a banquet room that can be rented for special events.

The Granada Restaurant celebrated its 40th anniversary last year. Known for its Greek food and pizza, the Granada also caters to large events.

And it's all within easy walking distance in the Townsite. 

Planning a Wedding?



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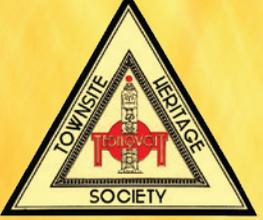
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Six degrees?

Powell River is the centre of the universe

By Jennifer Salisbury

I left Powell River on November 1, 2013 for a trip hop-scotching through the United States for work and for family. My husband Mike and I concluded our trip in Maui.

When we left home I was very sad. I thought I would not have any Powell River stories or connections until my return.

Boy was I wrong.

Six degrees of separation

Thanks to a group of college kids and Kevin Bacon, there's a theory that each person is related to every person on the planet by no more than six degrees. For example, if I know someone and they happen to know my mom, that is one degree of separation.

It is hard to believe that the seven billion people on this planet are so closely tied together. But a recent trip to the United States proved my theory about Powell Riverites – and no more than say, three – at most, degrees of separation to anyone in the US.

In fact, I would argue that all roads lead back to Powell River in some way shape or form. There were three bizarre occurrences while on our trip to prove my point.

Destiny in Denver

Never having been to Denver before, Mike and I explored the area to find a Bass Pro Shop – which I had to pry Michael out of – and just about every restaurant you could name, including Mike's favourite, the Brazilian steak restaurant where they walk around with meat on a stick and shave pieces off onto your plate.

Somewhere in our journey we had a conversation with a hotel manager, and we mentioned where we're from. Wait for it.

"Powell River – Hmmm, I think our maintenance guy is from there."

In a few minutes the maintenance guy was standing with us at the front desk. "You guys are from Powell River?" "Yes. Are you from there?" "Yes, and I still have family there. Are either of you in Toastmasters?"



HELLO IN HAWAII: Jennifer Salisbury finds Powell Riverites in the strangest places... such as Maui, and Denver.

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“Well, as a matter of fact, yes, I am, and Mike has been in the Powell River club also.” “Oh, then you must know my brother: Neil McKenzie.”

Bingo. One degree of separation.

Serendipity in the South Pacific

After we arrived in Maui, my mother and I decided we would travel for a girl's getaway to the Big Island. We rented a convertible mustang, and stayed at a resort.

We went for teppanyaki – you know, the type where they cook the food on the table in front of you? Mom and I sat down next to a lovely family with a young boy who was colouring.

The husband, who was seated next to me, and I got involved in a conversation. Yadda, yadda, yadda. The conversation winds around and he asks “Do you know Jack Barr?” Uh, yep, I know Jack Barr. And of course he texted Jack right while I was sitting there. Bingo. This reconfirmed my theory that all roads lead to Powell River.

Less intuition, more intention

The best indication that Powell River is the centre of the universe is that it seems to follow me wherever I go. Don't believe me? I

have been to Maui just about every winter since I came to Powell River eight years ago. Facebook helps connect us. It does not take long to see Powell Riverites taking selfies at Maui shops.

I know they are there, but do we want to see them? Well, I wouldn't be a Powell Riverite if I didn't let them know I was “on island.” It seems that when we run into a Powell Riverite on Maui that they know where the other Powell Riverites are on Maui – or even in Hawaii.

See, I told you. Powell River is the centre of the universe. 

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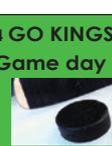
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30 Please Register early for Classes marked with *	31 Pickle Ball Schedule: Ask about the Tournament Mondays 4-6 pm Wednesdays 6-8 pm Saturdays 1-3 pm Pay for tickets at the Complex \$2 Play at Oceanview School Gym				29  Harry Manx Evergreen Theatre April 25, 2014 8 pm Reserved Seating Tickets \$35 at Door \$40	

Diva of the deep

The original story of Powell River's most famous 25-year-old

By Sean Percy • sean@prliving.ca



MEETING HER MAKER: Sculptor Simon Morris visits his first bronze cast project, the Emerald Princess, 60 feet below the surface of Mermaid Cove near Saltery Bay. *photo by Neil McDaniel*

It seemed like a good idea over a beer at Expo 86.

Sculptor Simon Morris's casual comment over that beer would eventually result in the sinking of the bronze mermaid at Saltery Bay, 25 years ago this month.

Powell River diving legend Jim Willoughby was at Expo 86, running the diving tank display for Dive BC. The beer garden was nearby. Naturally Jim and other divers would migrate there in the afternoon.

Jim's late wife Jodi had suggested creating an underwater statue as an attraction for divers. Jim loved the idea and got things rolling, with a stone sculpture soon in the works. But the statue had smashed to smithereens when a rope broke while loading it. Jim was bemoaning the loss of the project while visiting with fellow diver Simon Morris.

Simon had been working as a diver in the Arctic. In his spare time, he'd been dabbling with small abstract welded steel sculptures. But today, he was having a beer with Jim. He's still not sure why he said what he did. "I said I could make a mermaid out of bronze," recalls Simon.

"You know how to do that?" said Jim.

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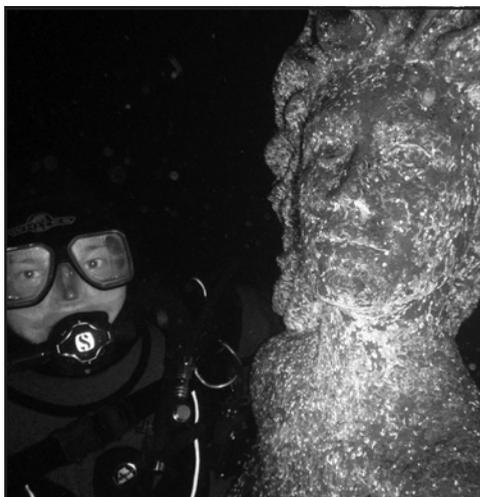


SEA CHANGE: She was a shiny bronze beauty when first placed in the ocean in 1989 (top left). But the tides wait for no woman, and encrusting life has covered the Emerald Princess, occasionally completely obscuring her features, as in 2009 (top right). But mostly, volunteer divers keep her cleaned of larger growth, with only small bryozoans and tubeworms showing revealing her age (below). *photos by Neil McDaniel and Sean Percy*

“No, but it can’t be that hard. I’ll learn,” said Simon.

“If I’d known how much work it would be, I’d have run a hundred miles the other way,” says Simon.

Two and a half years later, on March 11, 1989, with the help of Dive BC and vol-



**Mermaid Celebration
Saturday, March 15**

Dive

A non-sanctioned public dive at Mermaid Cove. Simon Morris, the sculptor, will be there from 11 am to 3 pm and will dive.

Party

At the Beach Gardens. Master of Ceremonies Donnie Reid. Speaker Simon Morris. Special guest Jim Willoughby. Share your mermaid memories. No host bar at 6 pm. Buffet dinner at 7. DJ music and dancing. Tickets \$32.50.

unteers from Powell River, the nine-foot bronze mermaid “Emerald Princess” was sunk in 20 metres of water off Saltery Bay Provincial Park.

“It was a life-changing statement. I’ve had a pretty successful and lucky and interesting career is a sculptor,” Simon told *Powell River Living*. “The mermaid was the start of incredible journey for me.”

He has since crafted a sister mermaid that sits below the waves off the Caribbean island of Grand Cayman. He also cast two life-size figures of sailors at the wheel of a schooner that sits in Hero’s Square at Cayman’s capital city, Georgetown, in honour of those lost at sea. Smaller sculptures are housed by collectors around the world, from the Maritime Museum in Vancouver to Taiwan. Later this year, the new 13-foot tall “Guardian of the Reef” bronze statue to be placed underwater in Grand Cayman. The 13-foot tall statue will raise awareness of the fragile nature of the marine environment in Grand Cayman and around the world.

The mermaid has also brought fame and fortune to Powell River. It’s a favourite site for local divers. While the dive industry has suffered setbacks over the past few years, the Mermaid Cove dive remains on the must-see list for aquanauts touring BC, and it’s often the destination for weekend trips from Vancouver.

Local volunteers have maintained the mermaid, occasionally cleaning it of some of the growth that quickly accumulates on her.

“I’m really pleased with how she looks 25 years later,” said Simon, who recent-

ly dove the site for a documentary filming session. “She’s aged a lot better than me.” Rumour has it the mermaid is patterned after Simon’s wife, Melanie, whom he met through family friend Jim. While Simon didn’t confirm the rumour, he admitted that “Melanie has aged better than I have, too.”

This month, a Who’s Who of the BC dive scene will be on hand for a 25th anniversary celebration of the sinking of the mermaid at Saltery Bay. Simon and Jim will be joined by photographer Neil McDaniel and ocean pioneer Donnie Reid and many other diving celebrities. **RL**

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A proposal to remember

A scroll, a ring, and a walk in the woods

Once upon a time in Powell River, a beautiful young woman named Candice Cole met a great guy named Tom Spencer.

It didn't take long before they became friends. Soon, they felt like they'd known each other forever. Then Cupid struck. They fell in love. Before long, they realized they were made for each other. But time together was in short supply.

Candice was studying to be a dental assistant in Nanaimo, and Tom, well, he worked as a heavy-duty mechanic in Fort McMurray.

Candice missed Tom. She planned to get professional photos taken of the two of them together along with Kiwi, their beloved teacup Chihuahua.

"I'd heard good things about Jen Kennedy, so I asked Tom to contact her," said Candice.

Meanwhile, Tom had been doing some thinking of his own.

"I had been planning to buy Candice a ring and ask her parents' permission," he told *Powell River Living*. "Then I got a stroke of genius and called Jen the photographer and said, 'What would you think if I proposed to Candice during this photo shoot?'"

Jen loved the idea and even had a couple of other suggestions

for Tom on how he could keep the photo shoot natural so Candice wouldn't suspect a thing!

Jen, who is good with calligraphy, volunteered to create a scroll with the words 'Will You Marry Me?' and hide it and the engagement ring along the trail in the woods.

Between Fort McMurray and Powell River, the two plotted and planned by email, careful not to let Candice suspect anything. As Tom says, "She is the sniffer dog of surprises!"

Finally the designated day arrived, and Tom went to visit Candice's parents to ask for their blessing.

As July 17 was his mother's birthday, it felt right asking the woman he loved to marry him on that day.

After Candice finished work, she and Tom met Jen near the trail behind Oceanview. Candice, of course, believed they were simply doing a photo shoot.

Tom was nervous; his hands were sweating but he did his best to appear natural. He had to pretend it was the first time he'd met Jen when in actual fact he'd met her hours earlier to go over the final plan.

Jen had hidden a few jokes along the trail so half way through

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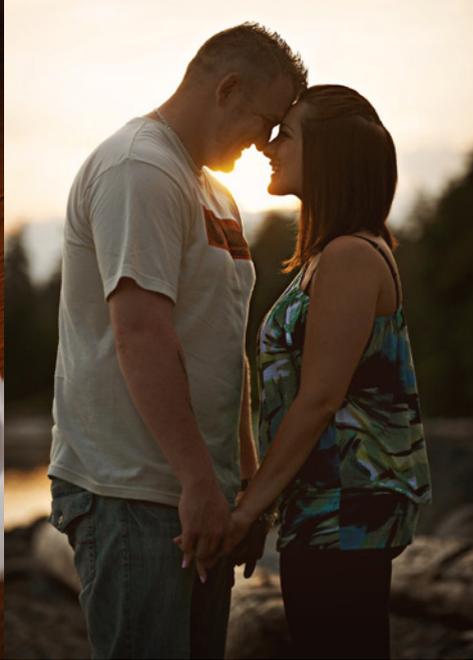
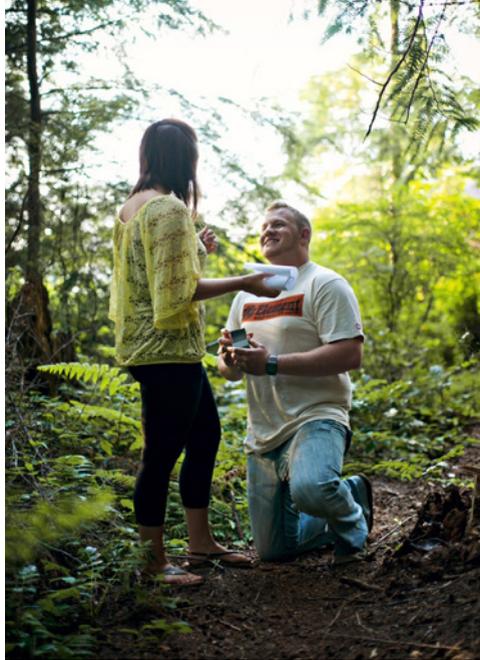
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SNAP! CAUGHT ON CAMERA: When Tom Spencer asked Candice Cole to marry him, he brought along a ring, a note, and a photographer. What they lost in convention they more than made up for in images – which last a lifetime and beyond. *Photos by Jennifer Kennedy*

their walk, when she said, “Pick this up, do this, tie the dog up, there’s something that Tom is going to read you,” it all appeared quite natural.

Candice bent over, picked up the scroll and read the words, “Will you...” and just stopped.

It was then that Tom retrieved the ring from Jen’s camera bag and went down on bended knee and proposed.

And Candice said yes!

The couple just bought their first home and haven’t yet set a date for the wedding but judging by Tom’s romantic streak, you can bet it will be a wedding to remember. **RL**



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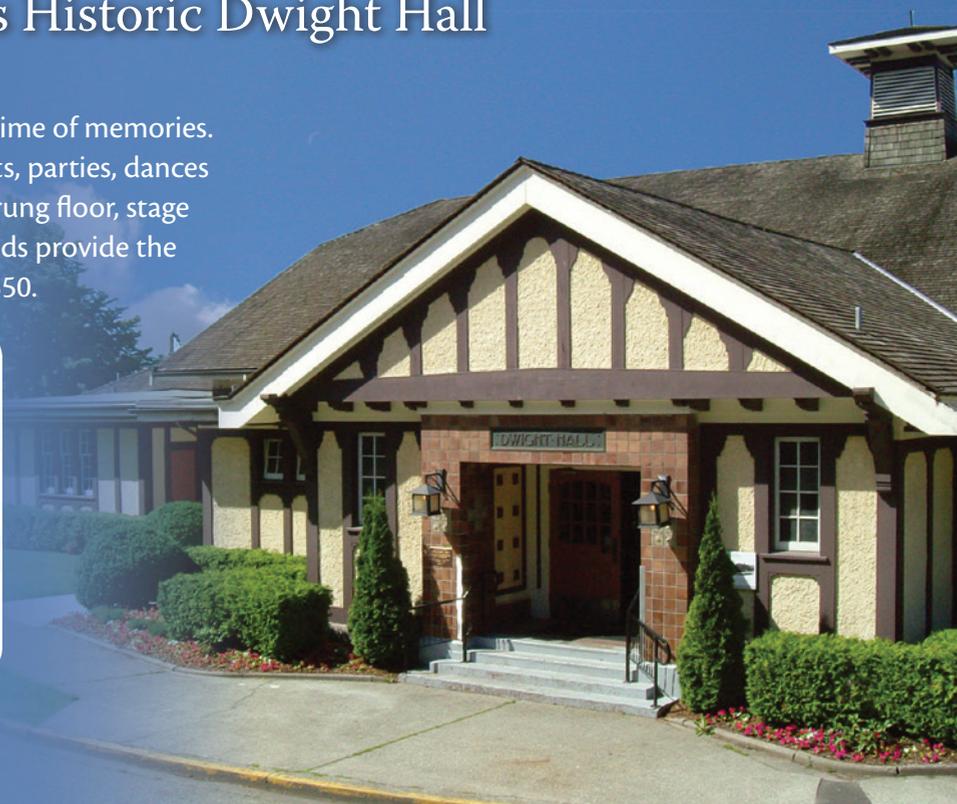
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Powell River Living BUSINESS Connections

By Kim Miller • office@powellriverchamber.com

Marika Varro has sold the **Tree Frog Bistro** to some Vancouver-based investors, but will stay on as general manager for at least a year. Marika says the new owners want to use the Tree Frog model for new restaurants located on Vancouver Island and in the Interior, and she hopes to be involved in helping open those new restaurants.

Powell River's top cop is heading to Vancouver Island to become the new police chief for Oak Bay police department. **Andrew Brinton** starts his new job on April 22. Andy, 51, will be temporarily replaced here by the current second-in-command, Sgt. Rod Wiebe, until the position is posted and a replacement chosen.

Heather Tours is celebrating 10 years in business. In 2004 Heather Tours started out as a fully-licensed and insured, locally-owned and operated travel agency and charter bus service, offering escorted theatre, concert, sightseeing and casino tours to the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island.

In celebration of **First Credit Union's** upcoming 75th Anniversary, First Credit Union & Insurance and Westview Agencies recently announced that they will be giving away \$10,000 in **Community Impact Funds** to local non-profit organizations in the communities they serve. The Community Impact Funds, to be awarded annually, are one-time donations to non-profit organizations that contribute to the social, health, economic, or environmental well-being of communities. Deadline to apply for the 2014 funds is March 15, 2014. The successful applicants will be announced at the First Credit Union annual general meeting in May.

Tourism Powell River has launched the **Smile! Service Awards**. You can nominate your favourite customer service person to win an award and recognition from Tourism Powell River. "Statistics have shown that many first-time visitors are using their trip as

a scouting trip and are often planning to return. How we treat visitors while they are in our community influences their return trip planning. Often a visit can result in a permanent move to our community," says Visitor Centre manager Tracey Ellis. To nominate your customer service person you can name them on the Smile Awards Facebook page, email the person's first name and business name to info@discoverpowellriver.com, or drop off a nomination at the Visitors Centre.

Tourism Powell River also offers training for businesses who would like to see staff deliver excellent customer service. Contact Tourism Powell River for information on **WorldHost** customer service training or about becoming a WorldHost certified business! For more information contact Tracey Ellis, Tourism Powell River Visitor Services Manager, at 604 485-4701 or by email at tracey@discoverpowellriver.com.

After Glow Hair Salon owner Holly Barnes is moving April 1st to the space being vacated by Dragonflyz on 7030 Alberni Street. Holly says she has grown out of her space with Simply Bronze Tanning Salon, and is taking on two new hairstylists at the new location. After Glow's number remains the same at 604 485-2075.

Myrtle Point Golf Club has hired a new General Manager. **Steve Phillips** and his wife Wendy are moving from Vancouver Island. Steve brings over 20 years experience in the Golf Industry as a Head Pro and General Manager. He has worked at clubs in Alberta – and most recently in several clubs across Vancouver Island. Steve started here this month.

Angela Gross has launched **Wee Explore Outdoor Early Learning Centre**, after moving here from Haida Gwaii when her fisheries-officer husband was transferred here. Her background is in outdoor recreation and resource management, early childhood education and Montessori. In Haida Gwaii she helped people set up daycares and resources for parents as a Ministry of Children and Family Development support person. The Wee Explore centre is a pre-school type operation for children aged 3 to 5 and operates from 8:40 to noon, all year, including spring break and summer. The centre is on a treed acre at 5760 Grenville Street, off Warner, in Cranberry. Most activities happen outside, but they go inside when the weather requires. Call 604-414-0434 or weeexplorelearning@gmail.com. [PRL](#)

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International Women's Day

What does it mean to Powell River women?

Women are a driving force in Powell River's economy and the warp and weft of our social fabric. But all too often, we don't take the time to recognize our accomplishments.

International Women's Day, March 8, is a time to remember the work done by brave women who helped carve out the space for us to reach our potential.

Of course, that work continues today, even here in our own community, as women take a leadership role in business and politics, at home and abroad. Walk into any business in Powell River, from retail to forestry, and you'll find women not just in the front office, but making decisions that affect our economic future.

We asked some of our community's female business leaders to tell us what makes them tick, and what they hope to see from women in Powell River in the coming year.

Gaylene Massullo

Westview Agencies

Why: I really enjoy helping people to find insurance coverage that best suits their business operations. I get a lot of satisfaction from meeting new people and getting to know my clients; I feel like I am a part of their team.



Other passions: Spending countless hours with my horse, Bree, preparing for this year's show season in the dressage ring. I also enjoy helping young equine enthusiasts!

I hope to see more women in business in Powell River. We can learn a lot from each other; I'd like to see us network together more often.

Marika Varro

Tree Frog Bistro

Why: I get great satisfaction when a day or a function goes well and customers leave with a good taste in their mouths.



Other passions: I love hiking, biking, watersports and reading biographies.

I hope I never lose my interest in finding a need and filling it. I thought about retiring, but I still want to do something, because I really enjoy working with people. I'd like to see, throughout the world, women treated equally and respected for what they do. I think the government could provide more information for women entrepreneurs.

Janmeet Kaur

Little Hut Curry Restaurant

Why: I always wanted to cook, learn and interact with people around me. My business helped me to fulfil this.



Other passions: Being a homemaker and keeping my house immaculate. My husband keeps buying and I keep maintaining them!

I hope to maintain and run my business successfully and also be socially and environmentally responsible by adopting good practices where I can.

Kim Miller

Powell River Chamber of Commerce

Why: As the manager, I love working for and with local businesses.

Other passions: I enjoy fellowship at the morning Rotary club and the good work we are doing in the community. I also enjoy every moment I spend with my grandkids.



I hope to help many more women in business promote their unique skills and expertise, through the Chamber. Networking connections and social events are just some of the ways. I also hope that when my granddaughter grows up there will be more sustainable employment within our community so she can raise her own family here as I have done.

Jackie Marjerison

Westview U-Vin U-Brew

Why: I enjoyed working here so much, I bought into the business. People are really happy when they're making their own beer and wine, and it's great to interact with them and help them.



Other passions: My family, hockey and Powell River. A long walk on a crisp day. And I enjoy a good bottle of wine, of course!

I hope that more women will consider taking the leap and owning their own business. It takes a lot of courage, but the rewards are well worth it. I enjoy the freedom and being in control of my own destiny. You get out of it what you put into it and I know women here have so much to give.

Eve Camenzind

Your Dollar Store With More

Why: I love working with customers and enjoy the human interaction. Finding new products and trends keeps me on my toes.

Other passions: Toastmasters, volunteering with community organizations, and running.



I hope: I'd like to see more women taking the plunge to run their own business, despite how scary it may seem. Women In Business (WIB) is a great support and networking group and I encourage women to join. Owning your own business gives you a tremendous amount of freedom and satisfaction. It's important to recognize what you need to stay happy. For me, it's that freedom. It keeps the smile on my face.

Maggie Hathaway

**City Councillor
Constituency Assistant
to Nicholas Simons,
MLA**



Why: Making our City a better place to live and assisting people resolve issues at both the local and provincial levels.

Other passions: Golf, curling, walking and time with friends and family.

I hope to see Powell River become the best little City it can be. I hope to see a continued gender balance in positions of power and authority.

Vivica Watson

**Powell River
Cruise & Travel**



Why: I love travelling and sharing my experience with others. I have the best job in the world and after 26 years in the business, still look forward to coming to work every day.

Other passions: I enjoy cooking (especially in Italy), weaving and golf.

I hope to see more women become entrepreneurs and business women while remaining true to themselves. Jane Goodall once said: "What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make."

Phoebe Kingscote

Horses of Tanglewood



Why: It began 20 years ago as a practical way to financially support my horses, and give myself an excuse to go riding a lot. Quickly it became rewarding on many other levels; and the center of my social life as well as a small business. Wonderful people from around the world, come here because of the horses and our beautiful forest trails.

Other passions: Personalized therapy through horses, photography, gardening, rustic woodwork, travel and adventure.

I hope: I hope everyone who rides here will take away good memories of their experience, and that the horses and I play a memorable role in making a few dreams come true.

Linda Wegner

**Words of Worth,
Constituency Assistant
to John Weston, MP**



Why: I am privileged to live and work here. While transitioning from another community seemed overwhelming at first, the wonderful support and friendship I've experienced have far exceeded my expectations.

Other passions: I love playing the piano and singing with the residents of ECU, Olive Devaud and the Sunshine Centre. I also love public speaking and am part of Toastmasters and Area Governor for Powell River and the Comox Valley.

I hope that as business owners we will continue to work together to keep Powell River a vibrant business and socially responsible community.

Northside Firefighters

**Rossella Bradly
& Ann Snow**



Why: We are fulfilling a need in our community, learning a lot, and enjoying the camaraderie of being certified fire fighters.

Other passions: Helping others through volunteering and educating. We take turns training the fire fighters for emergency medical responses. Also Rossella likes hiking and kayaking and Ann plays the bagpipes.

We hope everyone will lead healthy, safe lives, prevent fires, and drive carefully so that they won't need our fire department's emergency services.

Natalie Cacciola

Enrae Design



Why: I love technology and I've always loved being creative. Graphic Design and Web Development allows me to mix two of my passions together as a career.

Other passions: My family, swimming in the ocean and hiking up high in the mountains, my Mac, and a good bold cup o'coffee.

I hope to work with small, local businesses and help them grow by providing visually appealing print and web design. I'd love to see all of these talented, driven local women combine their skills and ideas together, and help each other reach their goals.

Linda Whiteley

Beyond the Bed



Why: I help people choose how they decorate their homes. It's very personal and I love that. When you buy quality products they give excellent value because you don't replace them as often!

Other passions: My wonderful partner Pat and step-kids. The store dog Lily; Mia the cat; gardening; boating up Desolation Sound. I love being part of Women in Business group where we brainstorm with other women in business and learn from them.

I hope people see the benefits of shopping locally, keeping our dollars in town. Women are the driving force of most decisions and therefore we are the ones to speak up and make changes.

Valerie Griffiths

**Realtor®
Coast Realty Group
(PR) Ltd.**



Why: I love helping people, always have. I like being in charge of my own destiny, being my own boss.

Other passions: My family is number one. I am an avid reader and love being out enjoying all the beauty Powell River/Savary Island has to offer.

I hope to see more women becoming involved in politics, this will really help make a difference in our future. Women need to help each other out, support each other, enjoy each other's company and I really hope that my four daughters will enjoy their lives as much as I enjoy mine.

Karin Westland

**Leadership Ecology
Adventure Program**



Why: I am passionate about helping young people feel a sense of belonging that includes the natural world. It is inspiring to see the bond formed between learners and wild places.

Other passions: I love my family and feel passionately about making time for my husband and toddler. Singing and dancing are my greatest release. I also enjoy spending time on "the trail." Both running and hiking I find invigorating.

I hope we can find balance in our relationship to each other and the natural world. I hope to continue to work in this capacity throughout my career. It is a dynamic educational landscape!

Nancy Howlin

Westview Agencies

Why: I enjoy helping others and meeting new people. I love that I work in an office that can do both of those things with highly skilled, experienced staff. I enjoy the people I work with and the company I work for; great people, great company!



Other passions: Community. Bringing two things I'm passionate about together - Kings Junior A Hockey & children. I'm very proud to be part of the Read Program.

I hope that we can continue to grow our business so that we can give back even more to the community.

Aaron Reid

Banking On It Bookkeeping

Why: I love helping people in achieving their goal of successful business ownership and operation.

Other passions: I enjoy playing slo-pitch and darts, reading and spending time with my family at Fraser Bay.



I hope to see more small businesses thrive in this town. I'd like to see Powell River thriving once again and have opportunities for more people to move back here to raise their families.

Barb Cooper

Westview Agencies QTrade Asset Management

Why: I love helping people to navigate all stages of their financial needs, ultimately helping them to get what they want out of life.



Other passions:

Spending time with family and friends. I enjoy curling, hiking, biking, and cooking. I love to take in all Powell River has to offer from the PR Film Festival to hiking the Sunshine Coast Trail

I hope Powell River continues to be a wonderful, unique place to live. We have a lot of challenges coming our way and it is my hope that we continue to prosper and grow.

Suzi Wiebe

Southcott Communications & Powell River Living

Why: I love helping people get their message across visually.

Other passions: My family, sports (especially playing and coaching hockey), travel and a great glass of wine.



I hope to see more women in non-traditional jobs that will help reduce the wage gap and help secure a better balance between work and family, to build stronger community.

Isabelle Southcott

Southcott Communications & Powell River Living

Why: I love telling stories, and the magazine is a great way to help people meet people and get to know our community.

Other passions: An early morning run, my two amazing teenage boys, my Nova Scotia duck toller, skiing at Mount Washington, Toastmasters, and a good cup of coffee.



I hope to connect the people of Powell River and create a greater understanding of this wonderful community by telling stories in *Powell River Living*. I believe that everybody has a story. Without stories, the world would be a dull and dreary place.

Pieta Woolley

Southcott Communications & Powell River Living

Why: I have a lot of questions about the world, and journalism gives me the tools to answer them.

Other passions: My kids and husband, my canoe, travel, art galleries and bookstores, newspapers and coffee shops.



I hope that by the time my daughter grows up, she'll have the tools to create an invigorating family life and a satisfying work life. I hope that as leaders, women will step up on the environment and a new, realistic green economy much more intensely than in the past. We have lot of things that we need to get right in a very short amount of time.

Kristy Cote

First Credit Union

Why: I love being committed to a company that brings pride of heritage, community focus, innovative ideas, and superior customer service to our community.

Other passions: My three daughters and my husband! Learning about new cultures; my family has hosted almost 20 international students over the past nine years. I also enjoy photography and online scrapbooking.



I hope that other women receive the same support from their employer (that I have) to be a hands-on and active mother while also achieving success in the workplace. This healthy balance makes it possible to achieve success in both roles.

Michelle Challe

First Credit Union

Why: I have the opportunity to meet people who are passionate about their business, which is perfect because I love helping people and businesses achieve their goals. Community is important to me and I'm proud to work for a company that makes such a positive impact.



Other passions: My family, camping, and especially fishing! I'm passionate about Powell River and the incredible beauty and lifestyle that it offers.

I hope that our community continues to grow and prosper, that local people and businesses continue to support each other.

Marni MacLean

First Insurance

Why: I enjoy giving people peace of mind that the things they love & cherish are protected. I especially love guiding young people or couples through the purchase & insure of their first home, sharing their excitement for their future.



Other passions: My amazing son, Breast Cancer Awareness, Yoga at T-Fit, reading, heated card games & great laughs with my friends.

I hope that the insurance industry can continue to be a solid career choice for women – in Powell River and province wide. I've had the privilege of working with many intelligent, fantastic women who can be trusted and respected in our field.

Shannon Stevens

Image 1 Salon & Spa

Why: We make people feel good! Our work is creative and each day is spent in a fun, upbeat environment amongst talented friends (stylists and estheticians). Image 1 is current, hip, trendy and happy. We're like *Cheers*; our clients are part of the family.



Other passions: Family time, hiking, beachcombing, cooking, painting.

I hope to provide superior service with the highest level of quality workmanship, professional advice, understanding and care. To create style and sophistication in Powell River – that our community embraces hair and esthetics as a form of expression. That Image 1 clients look and feel their best.

Jessica Madden

Jay's Place Café

Why: I love cooking and pleasing people with food creations from the pantry. It's a great way to stay in touch with the community.



Other passions: I enjoy playing fastball and spending time with family and friends.

I hope to see more families eating cleaner and healthier foods. I'd like to see more people taking time out to sit down over a great meal and just talk.

Kitty Clemens

Pro-Active Nutrition

Why: I love helping people get their health back.

Other passions: I love teaching and doing workshops, especially the ones that are hands-on or where taste testing is involved. I also enjoy to garden and knit.



I hope to be more involved in the lives of Powell Riverites and reaching out with my knowledge to help you take charge of your health. I offer a Diabetes Support Group, a safe place where you will learn how to Thrive rather than Survive, and get the support and the tools you need to become an active partner in your own health. We meet at my office the first Tuesday of every month at 10 am (cost \$10).

Stella Gillies

Kelly's Specialty Shop

Why: To keep myself and family as healthy as possible in today's world, and to help others to do the same.



Other passions:

Gardening principally, growing our own fruit and vegetables organically, canning, preserving and freezing for winter consumption.

I hope: To see more women of all ages take their lives and health in hand, and pass that knowledge on to their families and friends - just as our grandparents did. My business is just as exciting now as it was almost 40 years ago.

Tereza Pavel

Tereza's Day Spa

Why: I enjoy helping people look and feel their best after a treatment in my cozy salon. Nothing beats a relaxing massage or an invigorating facial for providing a healthier disposition and combating "Father Time."



Other passions: My family is my first priority: my husband, and my two beautiful children in Vancouver. I miss them every day. I love my pets and music, but since moving here two years ago, I have a new passion: gardening.

I hope to contribute in any small way to the well-being of this my new home and community in Powell River. I hope to find more ways of connection with neighbouring communities in order to flourish our local economy.

Carla McKamey

Realtor® Coast Realty Group (PR) Ltd.

Why: My Dad was a Realtor, he was my role model, hero and inspiration in my becoming a Realtor®.



Other passions:

Spending time with family and volunteering with ACCESS (raising and training compassion therapy dogs.)

I hope: I would like to see a mentoring system that supports women who are currently in business and for those that are looking to start a business. Being able to discuss your ideas with a mentor may save time and possibly avoid costly mistakes.



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Taxes: A Family Affair

By Melissa Leigh, Great Owl Bookkeeping

There are financial advantages in preparing taxes within a family unit. While most people are aware of the various expenses that can be claimed against the year's income, not everyone knows that an individual's expenses can be claimed by another family member.

The result of transferring these tax credits could be the creation of a spousal amount or a lower tax bracket -- and reduced overall taxes payable. Depending on family specifics, the following expenses may be transferrable: medical expenses, charitable donations, tuition fees, children's fitness and arts credits, monthly transit passes, and the disability amount.

The disability amount is a valuable credit that needs further mention. In 2013, the disability tax credit was \$7697. Added to

the basic personal amount of \$11,038, an individual could earn \$18,735 before paying taxes; and if the individual has little or no income, the year's disability amount can transfer to a supporting person. To apply for a disability certificate, there are strict criteria to meet; however, if eligible, the disability amount could be backdated ten years.

With rules and procedures changing each year, personal tax reporting can be a daunting endeavor. Claiming eligible tax credits is every citizen's right, and the extra time spent on tax preparing can be rewarded with an increased standard of living for individuals and families.

To learn more about specific tax advantages, check out the Canada Revenue Agency's user-friendly web site (www.cra.gc.ca), invest in personal tax software, or work with a tax professional. **RL**

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A growing concern

By Jonathan van Wiltenburg • edenhort@gmail.com



With my first article of the 2014 season I thought I would write a note of encouragement and suggest a somewhat revolutionary idea that may help us all finish all those gardening tasks.

With both my parents getting older (sorry mom!) it has been interesting to watch how they spend their time. Grandchildren seem to be top priority, with us kids second. And by the time you add in a bit of crappy weather and some personal commitments, gardening definitely does not hit the top of the “things to do” list.

Even being away for three weeks out of the month can morph a small gardening chore into a massive undertaking. And this is where the danger lies. I can see it on my Dad sometimes. He looks beaten up. Although he loves his garden at times he feels like he is an utter slave to it.

So how do you deal with this dilemma? Do you have any tricks of the trade to stop the ball busting?

Well actually, I do, and it is simple. Hire some help! I know gasp. I might as well have suggested ripping it out and paving it.

For many people around these parts (the land of do-it-yourselfers, and yes I am one of them too) hiring someone to do some odd job is akin to being tar and feathered and then pranced around the neighbourhood in a wheelbarrow by the guy with the nicest yard. I can hear the conversation on the ferry already: “This guy’s gardening article says to hire help? What’s with this?”

I mean no disrespect. It may stray slightly from of the unofficial Powell River doctrine but it is not as sacrilegious as you might think.

Here is how I think we could look at it.

Firstly, it relieves you from the guilt, stress and sheer irritation of doing those jobs you cannot find time to do (or more realistically you will never do). Burdens such as this can weigh heavily on your soul and will suck the life and energy right out of you. It feels really good to get the crappy jobs done, and do the things

you enjoy most in the garden.

Secondly, it supports local business or a young person with needed funds. Maybe the money is helping someone go to university or maybe supporting a new family. Instead of just seeing the money going out the door, see it as an investment in your community as the money stays here and will be passed on to others within our community.

Thirdly, it creates relationships, and often throughout different generations. But keep in mind in order for the relationship to work you must find the right employee. Set up the business to succeed with good communication, and perfectly clear goals and outcomes. If you hire a professional you may get the added bonus of learning some skills. Choose personalities that jibe with yours, it can be a wonderful experience for everybody.

If you’re still not convinced and you’re still bent out of shape about the cash, well it is really not that much money. Having someone come by for a couple hours a month to mow or weed for you (and you will be surprised what a good labourer can do in a couple hours) will cost you around 50 bucks. That’s three bottles of wine. Come on!

I know way up here most of us consider the Upper Sunshine Coast the land of milk and honey, and there is no doubt about that. But let’s open our sweet milky minds to the idea that hiring your neighbours is a not a waste of money or something to be ashamed of.

I am not saying its bad to do everything yourself, but what I am saying is there may come a time when you are too busy, too sick, getting older (and wiser), too lazy, or just feel like supporting others. It is okay to hire someone to help you get through the work that needs to get done.

Invest in others and in turn your community and I am sure it can be a positive experience.

Happy gardening! **PRL**

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The cycle of life

Lessons from a baby bird

By Miriam Abrams

In the summer of 2010, I had my first close-up of death. Before then I had never lost a loved one that was near enough to my heart to leave an unforgettable imprint on it. I knew people that passed away, sure, but at the time I didn't completely understand the implications death carried with it, nor did I want to.

But no human being can boast a life without loss. Loss defines gain, sorrow defines joy and in the long run, even though it seems like the end of the world in the moment, these experiences only strengthen us. It was morning, maybe 10:30, and I was taking Tia (my dog at the time) for a walk.

As we left the driveway, I heard a high-pitched cheep coming from the grass somewhere near my father's truck. Tia ran over and started pawing at something—trying to play with it or eat it I still don't know—and the cheeping reached a frantic pitch.

I yanked on the leash, pulling her out of the way, and bent down to see what it could be. At first I thought I was seeing things, but then I realized that I was indeed staring down at a tiny, down-covered bird. My excitement was instant! Gently picking it up, I cradled it in my palms and carried it into the house to find a nice little box for it to settle down in. Possibilities were racing through my head; maybe I'd actually get to raise this baby bird to adulthood! I would be its "mother" and take care of it and even teach it to fly.

My summer had just become interesting. I thought to call the vet and ask an opin-

ion on how to help it recover from the traumatizing event of getting pawed at by an animal fifteen times its size. I can remember the smile on my face drooping slowly as I listened to the woman tell me, "Just put it in a dark place and leave it alone. It'll probably die by the end of the day, birds like that don't usually make it."

Well if anything, that only made me more determined for it to live. And it did. After a couple of days I decided to name it Bella, after the nickname my best friend's Italian crush had given her, and it fit perfectly; in my eyes this baby bird was the most beautiful thing I'd ever seen. I fed Bella soggy dog kibble mixed in with baby food, pinching up the concoction with plastic round-tipped tweezers.

You should have seen her! Every time I brought her out into the sunlight, her little yellow beak opened automatically, as if she knew food was coming. She would gulp it down as fast as she could and then ask for more, tweeting insistently. Within a week her fluff was disappearing, leaving delicate sleek feathers in their place, and her eyes grew brighter and more alert.

The first day I found her, she could barely balance on the flat surface of four fingers, now she could jump up and down on my pinkie without a problem.

One day, around the week and a half mark, I introduced her to my father's garden and wow did she love it! I dug up worms for her and tore them in half, teaching Bella how to feed herself by poking her with them until she snatched their writhing bodies from my hand. And after every meal, she would perch on the edge of a bucket and dunk her entire head into its watery depths, shaking the droplets in every direction. She then proceeded to actually drag herself through the dirt and even roll. I swear she had some dog in her. By the time two weeks had arrived, Bella was flying around the house, chirping her head off.

Even when I took her outside and let her loose, at the sound of my voice she was at my side in an instant. One time she



Tiny Bella worked her way into Miriam Abrams' heart four years ago. The little fluff of feathers enjoyed eating and frolicking in the garden. Photos by Miriam Abrams

flew onto a high branch and my mother couldn't get her to come down so I went outside and sang her name in a light falsetto, making sure she could see me.

Within seconds she had landed on my foot, whistling all about her brief adventure and what I'm sure must have been a very detailed description of her bird's-eye view. Then the day came. It was very foreboding with windy grey skies scattering rain across the ground, almost like tears. I went into the garden, calling out to her as usual only to be met with silence. I knew there was always the chance of her flying off, and I was pretty confident that she would be able to fend for herself but then just as I was leaving, I saw something out of the corner of my eye.

There she lay, floating beak down in the water. I remember the flash of horror that ripped through me as I yelled for my father. He tried to revive her, but the poor limp body lay sodden in his hands, eyes closed. I cried all that day, wondering how something so terrible could happen to such an innocent creature.

But that is the cycle of life. You are born, you live, you die; it's God's design. And despite the sad ending, I took away a beautiful experience from it all. You see, I got to witness perfection at its height. Bella was perfect. I often think back to that summer and wonder if I would have preferred to have never gone through those two precious weeks but I always come away with the same answer; no.

You can't wish life away simply because of its inevitable death, what kind of world would that make?

Instead we must appreciate the beautiful things we see and hold them in our memories, knowing that even though they pass on there will always be something fresh and wonderful to give us a whole new reason to smile. **RL**



BELLA : She loved human company.



presents the Fourth Annual Powell River
Influential Woman of the Year

awards to recognize the contributions of women as business and organizational leaders in Powell River.

Nominate a woman you admire!

Two Powell River (region) women will be recognized with awards as influential women in business or community. Judging will be done by a panel of local business and community members.

TO NOMINATE A WOMAN YOU ADMIRE:

1. Tell us in 500 words or less why she should be considered for the award.
2. What is your association with the nominee?
3. Include your contact information: name, email and daytime phone.

Category A • Influential Business Woman Award

Include with your submission the following information about the nominee: Name, company, job title, telephone and email address.

Award Criteria

- Has been in business/workforce for at least two years
- Has demonstrated professional integrity
- Has provided exceptional customer service
- Has proven to be valuable to the community

Category B • Influential Woman Award

For non-profit community organizations

Include with your submission the following information about the nominee: Name, organization, title or role, telephone and email address.

Award Criteria

- The organization is a not-for-profit organization.
- The organization has existed for at least two years.
- The services or programs meet a community need and make a significant contribution to Powell River.
- Programs are innovative, sustainable and measurable.

AWARDS CEREMONY DINNER

Wednesday, April 16 at 6 pm at Tree Frog Bistro

\$35 (\$45 non-members) includes appetizer, buffet dinner & dessert

(Join WIB during April & the \$10 will be deducted from your membership fees)

Get your tickets at Beyond the Bed, Relish Interiors or at the March WIB event

Email nominations to info@prwomeninbusiness.com,
or drop them at Beyond the Bed or Relish Interiors

Completed nominations must be received not later than 5 pm, March 31, 2014

Sponsored by Powell River Living Magazine



Human aware

I'm writing on behalf of the black bear families that I live amongst in Lang Bay. On either end of the beach there lies an active salmon spawning stream. With that come the bears;

mothers with their young, and lone individuals. They come and go as they always have and we have learned to appreciate their company.

Myself and the many other families that live here are, as they say, "Bear Aware." We lock up our garbage, pick our fruit/nut trees, fence in our livestock and have proper composts. For the most part, the bears don't bother with the composts; they prefer the bird feeders.

History shows black bears build their dens near shorelines, spawning streams and low alpine woods. This is where all the abundance of nature's food supply exists, and we humans also enjoy these same comforts.

But with all due respect to the person who wrote a letter in the February issue of *Powell River Living*: "I believe that bears within city limits, especially those who have taken up living here should be killed," I hope you too have your opportunity to get back to the true nature of this region we live in.

We can all live in harmony with every animal that calls this place home, too. The natives have for thousands of years and we can all keep that going!

When was the last time there was a black bear attack with in Powell River?

So maybe the next time we see a black bear in town, instead reacting out of fear, we can take a step back and remember where we live and whom we live with. Let's learn and pass on the proper "Bear Aware" education and the respect that these majestic animals deserve, so that we can all enjoy the wonders of living in such a beautiful place, so close to the wild neighbours we have chosen to live with.

Matt Klasen



Brandy Peterson

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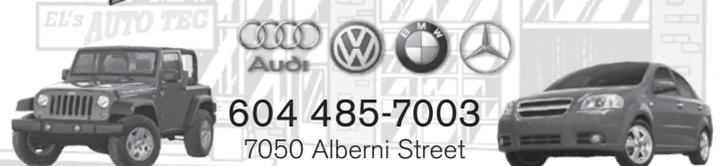
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MOT goes social

What other ministry of transportation manager updates the public on Twitter AND Facebook?

Clint Monson, Ministry of Transportation's (MOT) area manager, who lives in Powell River, thought it would be helpful to have a Facebook page to provide updates about road conditions, closures, and emergencies. The links would also allow people to provide feedback.

In short, it's awesome. With up-to-the-minute road news and even photographs, Clint takes the time to share the "whys" and "hows" of the sometimes-boggling world of a provincial ministry. For example, from February 22: "Light snow coming down but Highway 101 still bare and wet (was pre-salted). Side roads may have wet snow and be slippery. Plows are out."

Or, from February 12: "Just placed a bunch of gravel in the free parking area along the hwy in Lund. Couldn't get the whole area though as there were still some vehicles parked there (closer to the corner)."

Twitter: @TranBC_Powell

Facebook: facebook.com/MoTPowellRiver

What's up POWELL RIVER

Job fair

Career Link is holding its first job fair on Tuesday, **March 11** from 10 am to noon and from 1 to 3 pm at Career Link, 4511 Marine Avenue.

Rob Hughes, Career Link job developer, says the free job fair is a liaison between job seekers and employers in the community.

"This is Career Links' first ever job fair," said Rob. "There will be two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon with about 15 employers there per session."

"They will have a booth, where they can meet job seekers, and accept resumes. We will have an interview room where they can have a personal conversation with a prospect. It's a job versus a career fair. We are looking for employers who have positions to fill and job seekers who are looking to work."

Rob is expecting a diverse range of employers at the job fair.

"At the end of the day, from 3 to 4 pm, career counselor Brody Dangio will be hosting an oil and gas presentation for those interested in working in the oil and gas industry."

Local vets honoured

Grant Workman is working on a website that remembers Powell River's fallen soldiers. This month he's looking for info about the late **Albert (Bert) Moore Carey**. If you have any info please contact Grant at 928-314-4353 or at yumasnowbirds@shaw.ca

Flying officer Carey has no known grave. He was born in Manitoba on Oct. 1, 1912, and was the son of John William Moore and Hilda Mary (Esplin) Carey. Before enlisting, he lived in Royston, BC. He worked for the Powell River Company in the sales and shipping department.

Carey was killed in a flying accident. The R.A.F. Atlantic Ferry Command flew (ferried) new aircraft from the factories in Canada and the U.S.A. Usually from Gander Newfoundland, via Greenland, Iceland and Ireland then onto bases in England, depending on the range of the aircraft being ferried.

New poetry book

Retired Vancouver Island University professor Allan Brown has released a new book of poetry called, *Before the Dark*.

This lovely book with its whimsical cover is dedicated to his late wife Pat, "With her head in the sky and her feet on the pedals," who passed away in 2011.

This book joins Allan's previously published work – his poems have been published in various Canadian and American forums since 1962 and are partly collected in 23 books and chapbooks.

Here's an excerpt from the poem, *Bicycle in the Shed*.

It's a kind of waiting, I think,

A place to be in for a while;

The shed, of course, and the bike too,

Confidently at home here, occupying its space by the wall,

A little bit out from the corner.

A launch celebrating Allan's new book will be held at **7 pm Thursday, March 13** at Breakwater Books. Copies will be available for sale at the launch.



Fire chief thanked

Malaspina Volunteer Fire Department's Fire Chief **Dave Keiv-er** was recently recognized for **35 years** of service as a member of the Malaspina Volunteer Fire Department by Powell River Regional District Chair Colin Palmer.

Dave joined the department in 1978, and was appointed Fire Chief eight years ago. Dave recently received his certificate for completing the necessary training to attain Fire Officer Level 3.

Art show follows love explorers

Award-winning local fabric artist Amber Friedman will display her batik paintings at Vancouver Island University during the month of March.

This is her first showing in Powell River and Amber is excited to invite the community to come and see her newest work. It will be on display from March 6 until April 1.

This colourful series of paintings follows love explorers through storms, their journey finding land and the threads that keep them together. There will be a reception on **March 6th from 7 to 9 pm** and Amber will speak about the process of using natural dyes that she makes from ancient and local trees, flowers and bugs. There will also be a musical art installation featuring Theo Angell.

March 5
Highest tide of this month
 (March 5 to March 31)
 reaching 16.1 feet, at 8:06 am

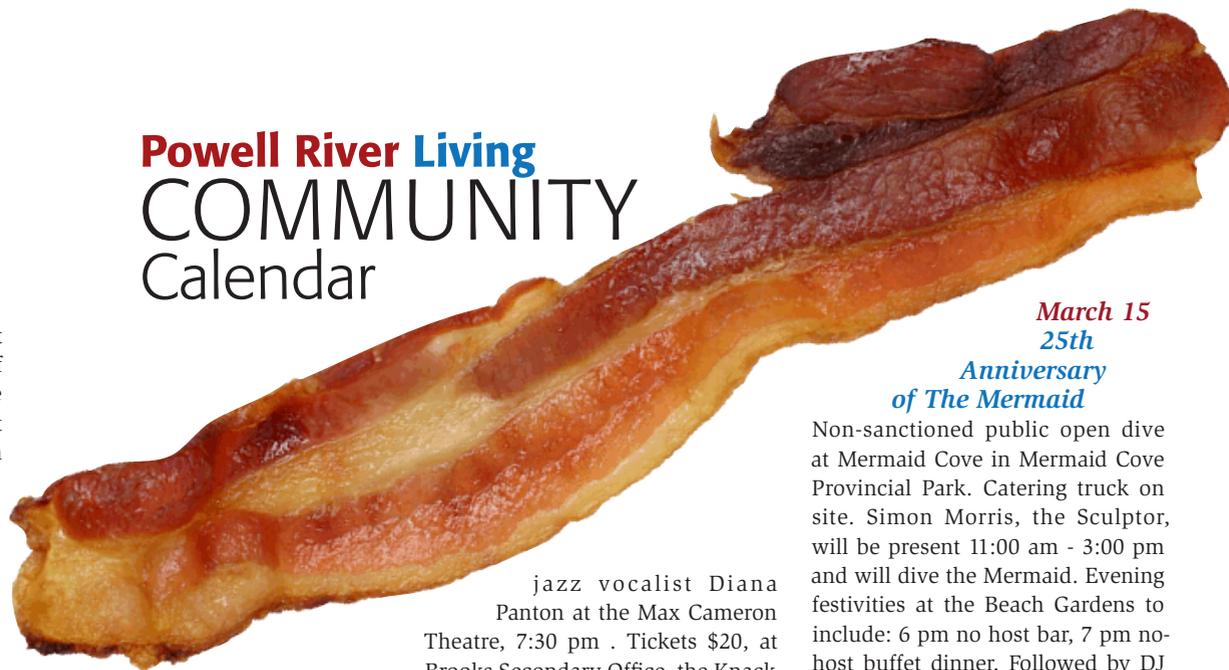
March 5 to April 10
Patricia Theatre Pacific
Cinematheque series

In partnership with Suncoast Cinematheque and the Friends of the Historic Patricia Theatre, the Patricia brings you six more art films. They are: *Philomena* (March 5 & 6); *Watermark* (March 12 & 13); *Nebraska* (March 19 & 20); *Inside Llewyn Davis* (March 26 & 27); *Her* (April 2 & 3); and *Gloria* (April 9 & 10).

March 8
Powell River Festival of
Performing Arts Finale

The Grand Concert takes place at the Evergreen Theatre, 7:30 pm.

Powell River Living COMMUNITY Calendar



March 15
25th
Anniversary
of The Mermaid

Non-sanctioned public open dive at Mermaid Cove in Mermaid Cove Provincial Park. Catering truck on site. Simon Morris, the Sculptor, will be present 11:00 am - 3:00 pm and will dive the Mermaid. Evening festivities at the Beach Gardens to include: 6 pm no host bar, 7 pm no-host buffet dinner. Followed by DJ music and dancing. Public is invited to share "Mermaid" memories.

March 15
Cut-out dolls
for young designers

PR Library event for Grades 3 to 6. Create a 2D doll and dress it up. At the United Church, 10:30 am to noon.

March 15
RIN concert

Live at the Hub 101, starting at 8 pm.

March 17
St. Patrick's Day

March 20
Spring Equinox

March 22
Lowest tide of the month:
 4.3 feet at 4:53 pm

March 28
PowTown Ink Club

Drawing, inking, storyboarding and more! Graphic novel class for teens. No registration. Just show up.

March 28
Open Mike

Texada Arts Culture and Tourism Society (TACT) night, 7 pm at the TACT Centre, Van Anda.

March 29
Crafters' Stash
Reduction Sale

Senios' Centre in Cranberry.

April 3
It Can't be Helped, Shoganai
 Mixed media art show opening at VIU, 7 to 9 pm. New works by Giovanni Spezzacatena.

jazz vocalist Diana Panton at the Max Cameron Theatre, 7:30 pm . Tickets \$20, at Brooks Secondary Office, the Knack, River City Coffee.

March 8
Seedy Saturday Seed
Exchange and Garden Fair

Seed exchange, seeds for sale, workshops, info tables, kids corner, silent auction and much more. 9:30 to 2:30. At the recreation complex.

March 8
Mo Clark Looping
Landscaped Workshop

For teens aged 14 and up, learn how to enhance your spoken word performance with layers, lops and creative vocal dimensions. Free! 2 to 4 pm at Cranberry Hall. Register at szagwyn@powellriverlibrary.ca.

March 8
Mo Clark
Poetic Transformation

Opening spoken word performances by Andrea Black, Inger-Lise Burns and others. 7 pm, at Cranberry Hall.

March 9
Maple Sugar Shack

Traditional French-Canadian brunch celebration. 10am: eggs, pancakes, coffee etc (Brunch is under 5 free, \$5 kids, \$11 members and \$12 nonmembers plus \$2 maple toffee) Noon: walk in the woods. 1 pm: NFB film screenings. Club Bon Accueil. Tickets for sale at the French club.

March 10
Westview ferry terminal
booth scheduled to reopen

March 11
Diana Panton concert
 Brooks Music presents Canadian

March 11
Rob Lutes House Concert

Part of the Home Routes series, Rob Lutes brings his Montreal blues-folk sound to Powell River. Check out his sixth album - *The Bravest Birds* - and samples from his others at his website roblutes.com/music. 7:30pm. Ticket are \$20 and all proceeds go to the performer.

March 11
CareerLink Job Fair

Come meet employers from healthcare, food services, recreation, municipal, manufacturing and trades. Check out the presentation on employment in the Oil and Gas sector for job seekers interested in working out of province or camp work. Refreshments. At CareerLink (103-4511 Marine) 10 to noon and 1 to 3.

March 13
Book Launch: Before the
Dark

Powell River poet Allan Brown launches *Before the Dark* at 7 pm, Breakwater Books.

March 14
Open Mike

Texada Arts Culture and Tourism Society (TACT) night, 7 pm at the TACT Centre, Van Anda.

March 14
School's Out!

Spring Break starts at 3 pm today, and class isn't back til March 31.



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Congratulations on providing outstanding customer service!



Traci Rogers of Wal-Mart and **Dean and Tod English** of Taws Cycle & Sport were among the first recipients of the new **Smile! Service Awards**.



Smile! Service Awards are presented by Tourism Powell River, and sponsored in part by Powell River Living.



Had a great customer service experience?

Nominate someone for a **Smile! Service Award** by emailing the person's first name and business name to info@discoverpowellriver.com or visit Facebook, or nominate them in person at the Visitor Centre at 4760 Joyce Ave.



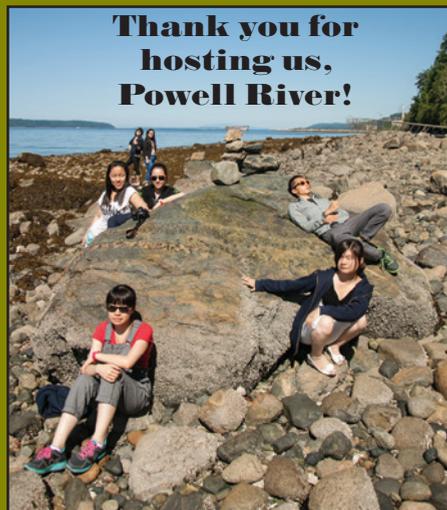
Dear residents of Powell River,

I thank you for hosting the students from Sino Bright in February 2014, and throughout 2013.

Our students come from large cities in China. They will remember forever the fresh air, wilderness and open space they've been exposed to in your community.

We look forward to introducing more Sino Bright students to your beautiful city this year – and for many years to come.

Thank you for hosting us, Powell River!



Thank you to Teachers, Home Stay Families, Administrators and the School Board for this wonderful partnership. Sincerely, Yufang Sun, Superintendent



Sino Bright is a BC Government-certified offshore K-12 school based in Beijing, China. Students spend occasional terms in Vancouver or Powell River. Visit Sino Bright schools at sd47.bc.ca.

éco IMMERSION

French Immersion and so much more!



Éco-Immersion offers the benefits of standard early immersion French and nature-based learning, all taught with engaging teaching methods that draw out a child's natural curiosity for learning.

Register now for Éco-Immersion Kindergarten

at James Thomson School Office or visit www.sd47.bc.ca/school/jt/ProgramsServices for more information.

You'll also join in what is "sprouting" at James Thomson – two innovative school-wide projects:

Farm To School – promotes healthy eating and knowledge about "where food comes from" through locally-sourced meals and related educational projects.

Discover Imagine Grow Schoolyard (DIGS) enhancement project – promotes and expands outdoor learning, play, and healthy activity.

Ask for more details at James Thomson School 604 483-3191



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