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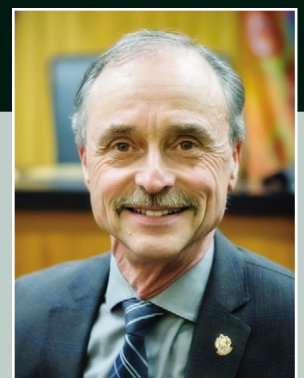
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Harlequin Duck

How wonderful to see the Harlequin in the wild! They love the fast flowing streams and can navigate rapids easily. The young downies adapt to this very quickly.

Harlequins are a diving duck, and like thousands of other birds, must winter on the Pacific Coast - in Alaska, down to California and in Siberia. I watched them dive and swim along with heads submerged, looking for food. Right now, it's the end of the salmon spawning in rivers, so they are getting salmon eggs that get washed down the river. They also dive for snails, chitons and crabs.

All ducks, gulls, swans, and loons that feed in water must leave the lakes or streams that freeze over in winter. They migrate to the ocean waters during those cold months.

So spend some time at the ocean, you never know what nature has in store for you.

~ Rod Innes 



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ON THE COVER

Children toboggan down the snowy streets of Townsite in 1954.

Photo courtesy of the Powell River Historical Museum and Archives 1967.1.4841



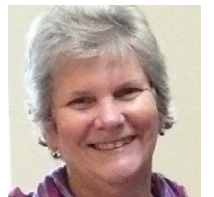
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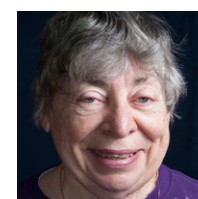
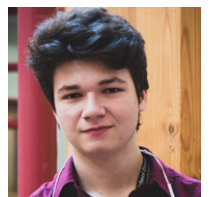
CONTRIBUTORS

Like her mother, **KATHY BENNETT** also feels that same sense of giddy excitement when she find cards and/or letters in her mailbox from friends and family. And she continues to write an annual Christmas letter. But, Kathy does admit to loving e-mails as well. Kathy also enjoys belonging to the Senior Memoir Writing program through the Library.



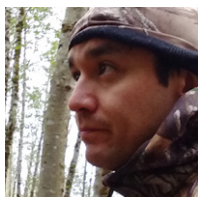
ANDREW BRYANT is a self-employed conservation biologist who specializes in the science and management of threatened species. With a Ph.D from the University of Victoria, Dr. Bryant has worked all across Canada on red-shouldered hawks, burrowing owls, hibernating bats, old-growth forest songbirds, aquatic plants, grizzly bears, rare butterflies, sundews and Vancouver Island marmots and on spider monkeys in Costa Rica. He enjoys photography, paddling a canoe, problem-solving, and learning more about the history that brought us to where we are.

MAX CHIASSON is the photographer who shot the photo on page 54 to go with the story about Grease. He is a Grade 12 student at Brooks Secondary School, a dedicated music maker, photo taker and part-time camera operator. Portraits and sound design are his specialties. You can find more about him on Instagram at: max.chiasson



BARBARA ANN LAMBERT is a retired teacher who taught for the Powell River School District for 30 years. Her passion is local history and she has published seven books. Barbara Ann married local farmer Stuart Lambert and lived in Paradise Valley before moving to her current home on the waterfront.

JORDAN MITCHELL was born and raised in Tla'Amin by way of Powell River. Father of three, he enjoys many team sports and outdoor activities of all kinds, especially camping, fishing and hunting. An avid hunter for the last 10 years, he is always looking for ways to expand his knowledge and experiences.





PUBLISHER'S MESSAGE

Take action this winter - that's what hope is about

"And now these three remain: Faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

We begin this issue with a story about Hope on Page 6. On one level, this is a story about dwindling Chinook salmon stocks – on another it's a story about hope for future generations. When only one-fifth of the predicted number of Chinook returned to Lang Creek to lay eggs this fall, the folks at Powell River Salmon Society were worried. However they still have hope – they are working towards finding the cause of the low returns, and searching for solutions.

Hope is like that. When people have hope they believe in a powerful way. It is the fuel that keeps our faith alive.

As the days of December grow increasingly darker and shorter and the march towards winter solstice on the 21st continues – our faith can waver. Keeping the faith can be challenging at this time of year. Having the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen and holding onto that belief isn't always easy.

In light of all the doom and gloom, one might wonder

why bother going to church this Christmas? That's the question we asked our leaders of faith. To find out what they have to say turn to Page 30 where Father Teeporten of the Catholic Church begins by weighing in on the year that was for Catholics across the world. Although our local faith leaders all touch on something different, the message about love is constant.

Christians gather to celebrate the love of God. As a community, we celebrate our love of each other. We all need love, but some will be alone this Christmas. They may be elderly, sick, fighting with their family or just alone. Although we enjoy giving and receiving gifts, caring for others can enrich your Christmas in ways you've never imagined! For many, being part of something bigger like the annual Christmas sing-along at Willingdon Creek Village and the hospital or the Christmas Day Dinner at Westview Baptist Church fills a need no material object could ever do. Our story, "Spread the cheer, share the joy" beginning on Page 24 highlights three ways you can help others this Christmas.

This issue of *Powell River Living* is filled with gifts. Gifts of stories, gifts you can give family and friends this Christmas, but it is also a gift to our readers. Every month my wonderful team put their heart and soul into creating the best possible magazine. This month's magazine is the largest single issue we've ever put out. A lot of long hours, late nights, and missed lunches went into it. A lot of love, passion and pride, too. Throughout it all we were fuelled by faith, hope and love. In the end, none of this would have been possible without you, our families or our friends, for it is your love that sustains us during the long, dark days of winter and lights up our hearts like the brightly coloured bulbs on the Christmas tree.

Thank you for being part of this great community. Merry Christmas to you and yours and all the best in the New Year. [PRL](http://www.prliving.ca)

ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT | isabelle@prliving.ca

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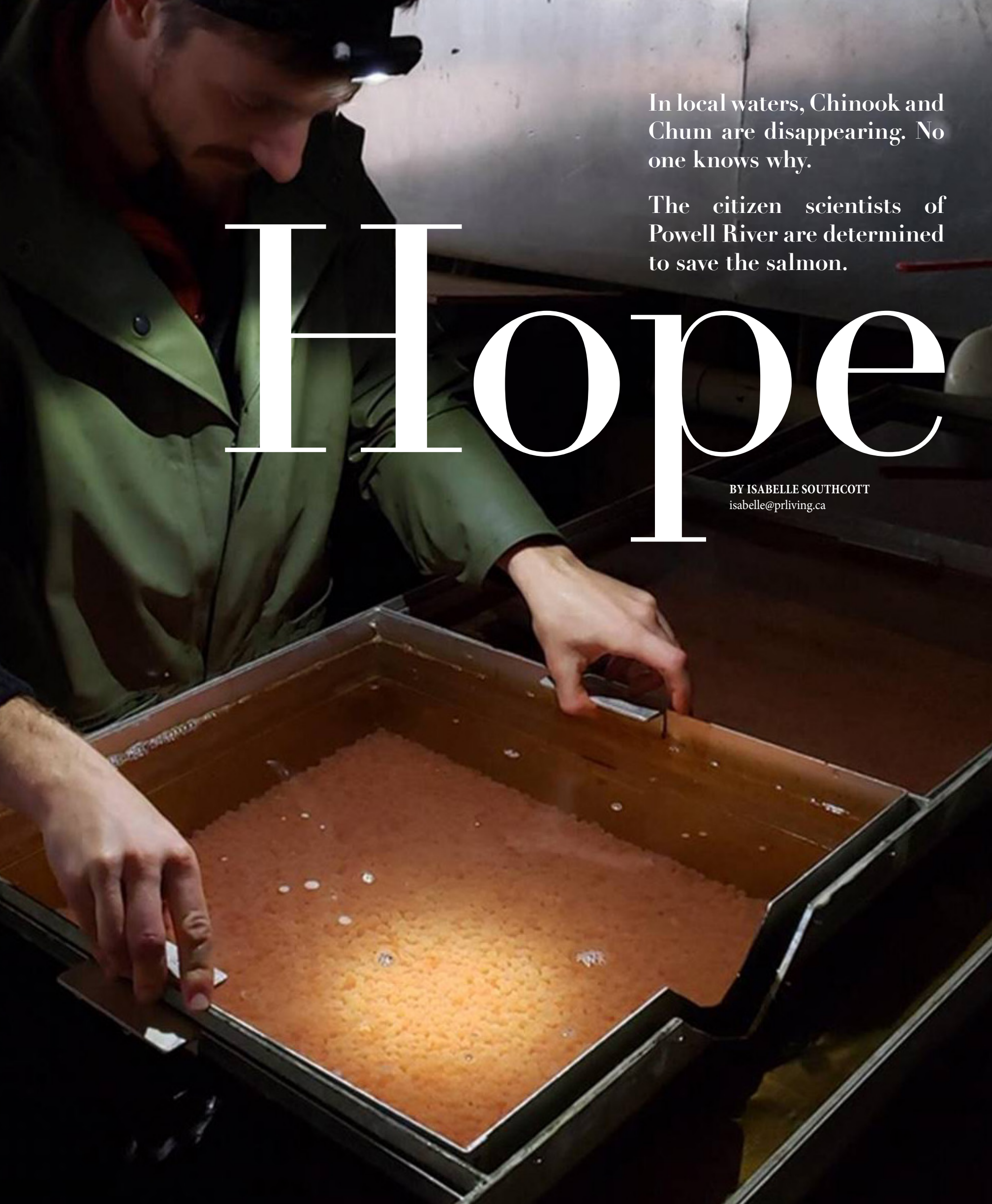
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A man wearing a green jacket and a headlamp is focused on his work. He is leaning over a large, rectangular metal tray filled with a thick, orange-brown substance, likely salmon eggs or a similar biological sample. His hands are positioned at the corners of the tray, possibly to steady it or to carefully examine the contents. The background is dark and industrial, suggesting a laboratory or processing facility. The lighting is dramatic, with the headlamp providing a strong light on the man's face and the tray's contents.

In local waters, Chinook and
Chum are disappearing. No
one knows why.

The citizen scientists of
Powell River are determined
to save the salmon.

Hope

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT
isabelle@prliving.ca



Salmon always return to their home stream. Except when they don't. Ed Oldfield and the rest of the crew at the Powell River Salmon Society are worried after low Chinook salmon returns this fall.

Only one-fifth of the predicted number of Chinook returned to Lang Creek. And the number of Chinook that returned the year before wasn't much better.

Based on historical data, the Powell River Salmon Society predicted 1,000 Chinook would return to Lang Creek this fall. Fewer than 200 were seen. There were also lower numbers of Chum salmon this year: 4,000 rather than 12,000, Ed told *Powell River Living* magazine.

On one hand, these declining numbers don't come as a huge surprise. While spawning numbers of salmon are down in the Powell River area, this issue reflects an overall pattern that has been increasing along the Salish Sea for more than 25 years.

On the other hand, most Powell River anglers would tell you the fishing has been good the past couple of years. People were catching plenty of Chinook in the waters off Powell River. So the poor returns are a surprise to many.

"People think the fish stocks are coming back and are healthy but overall numbers are down," he says.

Ed quit fishing years ago and although he doesn't expect everyone to do as he's done, he would like people to be careful and take only what they will use. "Don't fill your freezer up with fish and then throw it out in the spring," he implores.

This year, Big Qualicum Hatchery bailed out the Alex Dobler Salmon Centre. "They gave us 500,000 eggs," says Ed, noting that should translate into 500 fish returning to

Powell River in four year's time. "Historically we get one out of 1,000 back."

Female salmon lay 4,500 to 5,000 eggs, said Shane noting that the fish grow up and are caught by fishermen and eaten by seals. "The fish we get back at the hatchery are the ones that have made it after all these other factors have been taken into account. One of the reasons we put them out there is so they can be caught," said Shane Dobler, manager of the Powell River Salmon Society.

It's not unusual for a hatchery to help another out during low return years, although Powell River has been on the giving

"We can just put fish into the water. What happens once they're in the ocean, we can't do anything about."

*- Shane Dobler,
manager of the
Powell River Salmon Society*

side until now. But the donation from Qualicum is not a long-term solution.

The Powell River Salmon Society owns and operates the Alex Dobler Salmon Centre at the mouth of Lang Creek that is used for stock assessment as well as collection of broodstock, egg takes and educational experiences. This two-acre site is unique in its ability to enumerate returning fish to Lang Creek. Over the past couple of months, the site has been busy with volunteers collecting eggs from returning salmon.

"Volunteers make it happen," says Shane.

But Shane and those volunteers are worried about what happens after they diligently raise those eggs to smolts and release them into the creek.

They swim 3,000 to 5,000 kilometres before returning home to Lang Creek. The vast majority of them will die along the way – eaten by predators, killed by plankton blooms, caught in nets or on hooks, or



Celebrating Citizen Scientists

The first three stories in this issue are all about local folks who have become vital environmental voices.

Read about:

Ed Oldfield's commitment to salmon: Page 6 to 10

Barbara Lambert's report on changing local snow patterns: Page 11 & 12

Andrew Bryant hopes you'll count birds for Christmas: Page 15.

Plus!

Look for Jerry Eskes' plea for a healthy water supply to Cranberry Lake in January's issue of PRL.

NEXT GENERATION: Left, Powell River Salmon Society fish technician Tyler Bartfai inspects an incubator full of Chum salmon at the Duck Lake Hatchery. Above, a Chinook egg hatches at the Mill Hatchery.

Photo left by Shane Dobler


This photo by Tyler Bartfai



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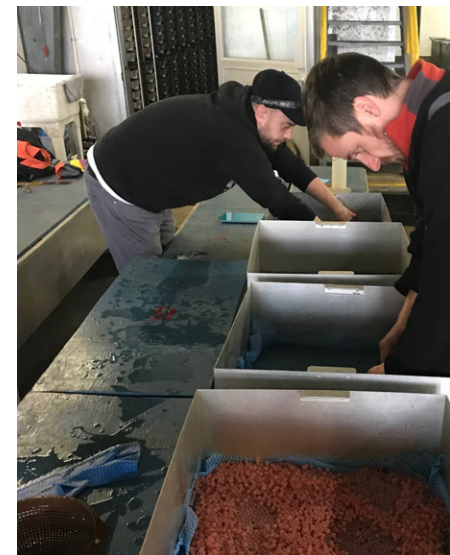
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fallen victim to any of the myriad hazards that face a little fish in a huge ocean. But what has made the numbers drop so dramatically?

No one knows exactly why the salmon didn't show up this year but Ed is hoping Dr. Brian Riddell, CEO of the Pacific Salmon Foundation, who will speak at the Powell River Centre Hotel at 7 pm on Wednesday, December 5th on "The Salish Sea Marine Survival Project: Findings and Next Steps," can shed some light on the issue.

Did toxic plankton blooms kill the fish? Did the seals and sea lions eat more? Is it because of the water temperature? Does better technology (heated boats, downriggers and electronic fish finders) mean recreational fishers are taking more fish?

Right now these are just guesses.

What we do know is that the Coho fishery collapsed in the early 1990s and Chinook numbers have declined in the last 25 years.

We also know the Salish Sea Marine Survival Project has been collecting baseline data for the last four years so scientists can begin answering questions like these. Ed, a retired schoolteacher and artist, and John Sinclair, retired Crown Counsel, are among those who have been collecting that data. They run a 140-kilometre route collecting water samples 20 times a year and are among the many volunteers who use their own fishing vessels to do oceanographic surveys in nine overlapping areas. John's area is Lund;

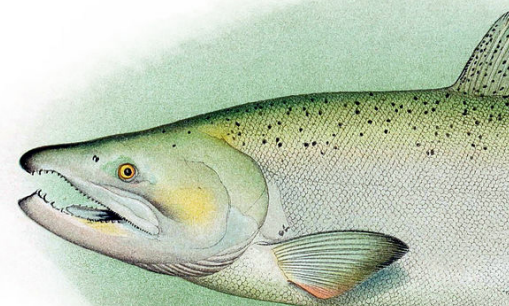
SALISH SEA SURVIVAL

What: A presentation by Dr. Brian Riddell, CEO of the Pacific Salmon Foundation, on "The Salish Sea Survival Project: Findings and Next Steps."

When: Wednesday, December 5, 7 pm.

Where: Town Centre Hotel

Ed's is Powell River but John often helps Ed out on the Powell River route. In one day, they can collect data from more than 100 sites throughout the Strait of Georgia and Juan de Fuca. That information is transmitted using a smartphone app and uploaded to an oceanographic data



management system at the University of Victoria – where it is made freely available to anyone.

"There is some science being done to find out why they are disappearing but we are still in the early stages," said Ed. "There have always been fish and there have always been sea lions; there is some-



COUNTED: *At left, A pair of Chum salmon in the spawning channel at the Alex Dobler Salmon Centre. Below left, Laura Terry, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Community Advisor delivers the Chinook eggs from Big Qualicum Hatchery. Centre, Powell River Salmon Society's assistant manager Phil Makatsuem and fish tech Tyler Bartfai load Chinook eggs for transport from the Mill Hatchery to the Duck Lake Hatchery. Below right, school classes visit the Alex Dobler Salmon Centre to view egg takes and learn about the life cycle of the salmon. Powell River Salmon Society volunteers Vicki and Rod Tysdal answer questions and provide information to students.*

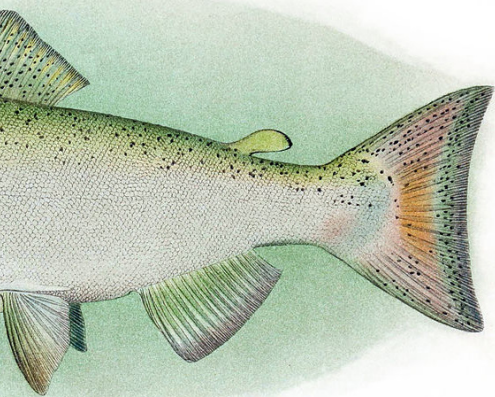
Photos by Shane Dobler



thing else happening out there.”

If something doesn't change soon, recreational anglers are most likely to take the biggest hit. “You can't tell sea lions that they can't eat more than one fish a day,” says Ed.

The Salish Sea Marine Survival Project was designed as a five-year, \$20 million, ecosystem-based, interdisciplinary and transboundary study involving government, universities, private consultants, local communities, and not-for-profit groups to address one key question: What are the primary factors affecting juvenile Chinook, Coho and Steelhead survival in the Salish Sea marine environment?



Since it was launched in 2014, researchers have been studying young salmon growth, health, and diet in the Salish Sea; tracking fish and marine mammal movements; monitoring marine conditions; and developing innovative technologies to answer critical questions facing salmon recovery and sustainable fisheries. The

“People think the fish stocks are coming back and are healthy but overall numbers are down.”

- Ed Oldfield


project is now in its final year.

Saving the salmon is a complicated puzzle that likely includes a variety of factors ranging from predation to global warming – none of which will be solved in Powell River alone. But the Powell River salmon enhancement staff and volunteers will keep doing what they can.

“Without intervention this rhythm of decline will naturally affect future salmon stocks causing bigger problems for the ocean's ecosystem and the British Columbia economy,” says Shane.

“We can just put fish into the water,” says Shane. “What happens once they're in the ocean, we (the Salmon Society) can't do anything about.”

What they can do is keep putting fish in the water. And they can hope that combined efforts from all sectors of society will improve survival in the oceans.

“Our community-sustained and volunteer-based salmon enhancement efforts have been impressive. We will continue to make our best efforts to find solutions that will make our community program self sustaining.” 



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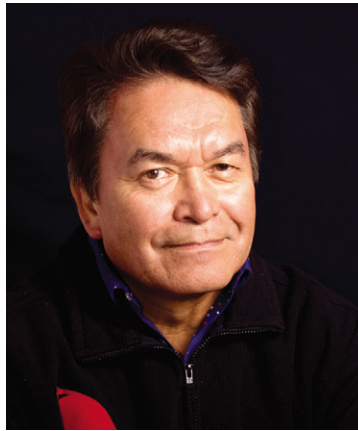
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On October 20, Powell River voters elected a new Board of Education.

The new Board assumes the responsibility for governing the education system in a progressive and educationally sound manner and is fully accountable to the public.

In Canada, education is a provincial responsibility. Under the School Act of British Columbia every School District is required to have a Board of Education and they take on much of the responsibility for the operation of public schools.

The Board meets in the boardroom of School District 47's administration building at 4351 Ontario Avenue. A public meeting is

usually held once a month during the school year and unless otherwise indicated, meetings are held at 4 pm on the third Tuesday of each month.

Question Periods are held at all Regular Meetings during which the public may raise any concerns except for matters usually considered in Special Closed Meetings. There is one Question Period at the beginning of the meeting and another at the end.

The Board may reply to questions where policy has been established or the information is of a general nature. Other questions may be referred for further study.

Delegations are placed on the agenda if a request is made in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer seven days prior to a Regular Meeting.



HOCKEY SWEATERS: Kids play on the thick ice on Cranberry Lake in about 1950. Photo courtesy of the Powell River Historical Museum and Archives 1961.1.1095

Warmer winters are a cold comfort

BY BARBARA LAMBERT

At the beginning of the twentieth century, winter was winter on the West Coast, with heavy snowfalls and seasonal low temperatures which lasted three to four months of the year. Records for the Townsite show an average depth of 11 inches of snow in the winter months from 1924 to 1941.

Homesteaders, such as the Duke and Stanley families, struggled for survival in Horseshoe Valley, near Stillwater. In 1915, the Duke family had great difficulty surviving their first winter, when temperatures remained well

below freezing, and a total of 12 feet of snow fell, staying at depths of six feet from November to March.

The Dukes had arrived at their homestead with few provisions, leaving their main supplies at the Brooks, Scanlon and O'Brien logging camp, near Lois Lake. They had to delay picking up their supplies due to snow drifts, and the condition of the ice on the lake, which was too thin to walk on but too thick to row a boat on across to the camp.

For an entire month they survived on venison and rice without salt.

After the ice was thick enough at Deyzel Lake for ice

"Winter is no longer winter like it used to be when I was a young mother, and first came to Westview in 1950. The changes in climate are probably due to global warming."

- Ruby Roscovich

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LESS SHOVELLING, FEWER SNOWBALLS THIS CENTURY: Above, boys play in the snow outside Henderson School - now Henderson Park - in 1945. Right, Powell Lake in winter. Right, bottom, shovelling out the car from underneath a wet load of coastal snow might not be everyone's idea of a good time, but this guy seems to be happily sweating it out.

Photos courtesy of the Powell River Historical Museum and Archives: N02060a; 1967.1A.4522 and N01724a

fishing, a welcome change of diet came with fresh trout.

James Stanley, his wife Sarah, and son Golden, arrived in Horseshoe Valley in March of 1916; however, they were unable to avoid the late winter.

On their journey to their homestead they tramped their way through an unexpected snow fall, four feet in depth, and, to add to their difficulties, ice had formed on top of the snow.

Sarah's legs became sore and chaffed from walking through the frozen snow. At one point, during this very difficult and dangerous journey, six-year-old Golden Stanley disappeared into a snow bank before being rescued and he was carried the rest of the way on his father's back.

They eventually arrived at their destination, a small abandoned shake cabin buried under a pile of snow, with their meagre possessions of blankets, provisions for a few days, a coop of chickens, and the family cat!

Children in the area, from Stillwater to Lund, enjoyed the recreational activities of the season: snowball fights, making snowmen, sledding, ice hockey, and outdoor skating.

Stewart Alsgard, former mayor of Powell River, remembers the winter fun he had as a child in the 1940's when he attended Cranberry Lake School. As soon as the snow started falling in November, all the classes headed with Principal Jim Devlin for the lower playing field to build snow forts, which were defended from their assailants with a storm of missiles - hard packed frozen snow balls.

Classes also marched down with their teachers to Cranberry Lake when the ice was thick enough to skate safely on. The skaters formed long lines, linked hands, and skated across the entire lake, swinging from side to side, trying to get the ice to roll! After school, Stewart and his friends headed for the flooded field at Scott's farm, near the lake, to play ice hockey.

In 1948, Cranberry Lake froze 18 inches and was as solid as rock. Charlie Parsons, who lived by the lake, welcomed skaters to the property; he cleared an area for parking, constructed benches, and opened up a coffee and doughnut stand. Water for the coffee came from a nearby stream, and washing-up water from the lake.

This small time Ma & Pa commercial operation was a great success; however, it drew the attention of the authorities who demanded a business licence! Charlie chose to ignore the edict.



Tug-Guhm

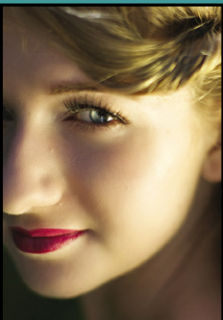
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“In 1948, Cranberry Lake froze 18 inches and was a solid as rock. Charlie Parsons... cleared an area for parking, constructed benches, and opened up a coffee and doughnut stand.”

- Barbara Lambert

Frequent skaters on Cranberry Lake were the deWynter family. Hannah deWynter, a war bride from Holland, had brought her skates with her to Canada - as a child she had skated on frozen canals near her home.

Another popular spot for skating in the 1940's and 50's was a small pond on Tom and Peal Lang's farm in Douglas Bay, near Black Point. Bert and Irene Pritchard, who owned a summer cottage in the area, organized skating parties for friends from the Powell River Company in the Townsite.

Joyce Morris (Pauling) lived on Oak Street in the Townsite in the 40's. Joyce recalls after a heavy snow fall, the road being blocked off so the children could safely sled down the street. At the old Henderson School children with warm wool coats, hand knitted scarves and gloves, enjoyed snow ball fights and building snowmen in the school yard.

The winter of 1950 was so cold, icicles formed on the dam side of the Townsite houses at Riverside; Jack Dice remembers families at Riverside closing off all their bedrooms and living by their stoves in the kitchen.

Ruby Roscovich (1916-2018), long-time Powell River resident noted:

“Winter is no longer winter like it used to be when I was a young mother, and first came to Westview in 1950. My boys Glen and Dale used to make snowmen, have snowball fights, and sled down the steep, ice-covered hill from Manson to Joyce Avenue every winter.”

In the twenty-first century, a snow fall in Powell River is now a three-day wonder, and it is a rare occasion when Cranberry Lake freezes over and the ice is thick enough for outdoor skating. [PRL](#)



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95.7 Coast FM CITY TRANSFER SAFEWAY

Bird Count Needs You

BY ANDREW BRYANT

It's that time of year again. Armed with binoculars and warm socks, bird-watchers will soon be out in force to take part in the *Christmas Bird Count*.

This annual event is the longest-running example of "citizen-science" – ever. It started in 1900, with 27 participants counting 89 species (and 18,500 birds) at 25 locations from New Brunswick to California. I'm amused to remember that they used mail to organize themselves, and published the results in a paper journal called *Bird-Lore* produced by the Audubon Society.

For years, if you were a serious academic and wanted to learn about

the trends in the numbers or distribution of, say, Canada Geese, you'd visit your local university library and pore through a series of actual books, transcribing numbers with pen (or, if you're like me and prone to making mistakes, pencil).

Things have changed.

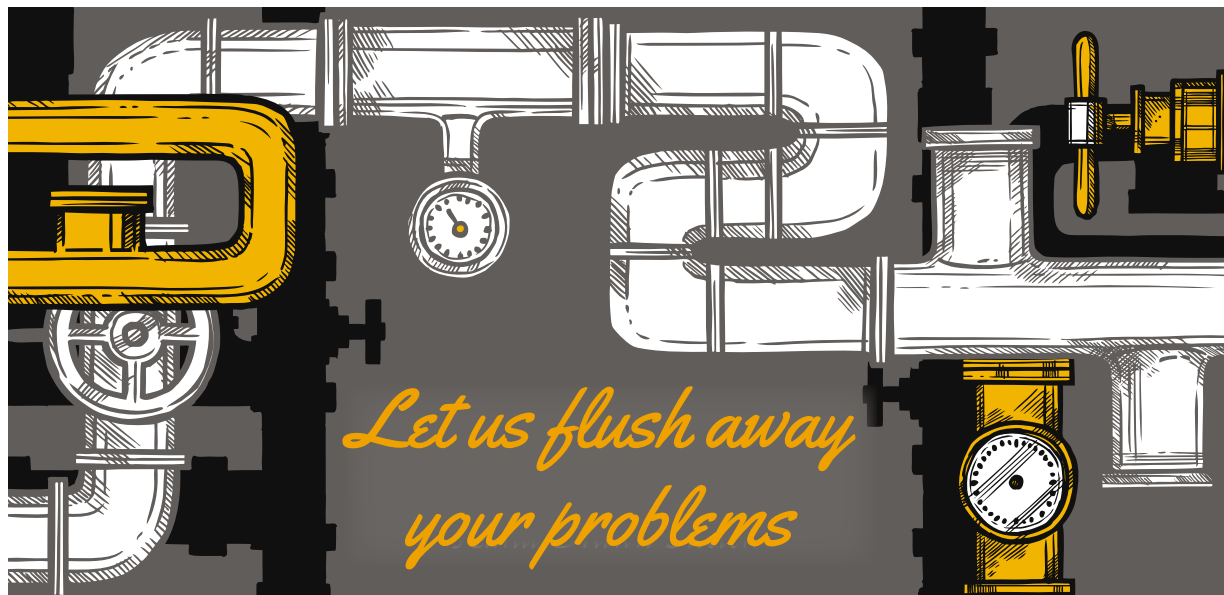
Last year saw thousands of participants (62,000+), each one systematically recording birds seen or heard within a specified "count circle". There were over 2,500 such circles throughout the Americas, and a few in far-flung places like Guam and Bermuda. Over 56 million birds were tallied (representing 2,326 species).

The scientific value of this ongoing exercise has been enormous. The



HOW MANY VARIED THRUSHES DO YOU SEE? One. The little orange and black bird is a Varied Thrush. Up top is a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, and the little brown bird singing is a Fox Sparrow.

Photos by Andrew Bryant



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- Advocating to solve accessibility issues
- Advocating for complete street principles in all city plans
- Advocate for bus shelters and benches
- Advocate for extended HandyDART hours
- Work with municipality to develop and implement safe scooter guidelines and provide training to seniors
- Explore the feasibility for a contact/information person for seniors
- Develop a list of expert contacts that can support seniors
- Consult with seniors during one luncheon about their desired info-topics

What other ideas do you have?
Email us or drop your idea in a suggestion box.

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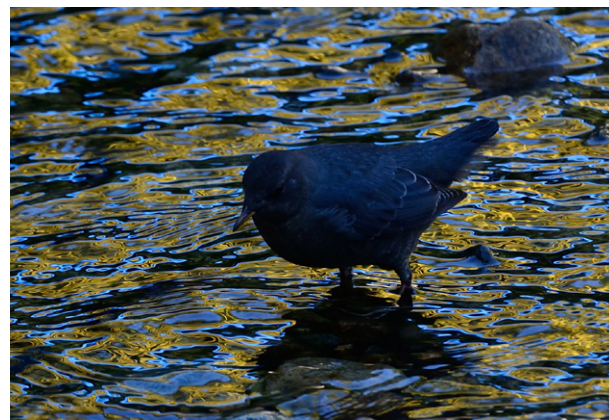
prsc18@gmail.com

Suggestion boxes located at:

Recreation Complex Lower Foyer
Powell River Public Library
Town Centre Mall by Lotto Booth



BRING YOUR BINOCES: Ioni Wais (left) checks the scene at the 2017 Christmas Bird Count - possibly the largest citizen science effort in the world. Last year's counters found Bald Eagles and American Dippers. *Photos by Andrew Bryant*



"It's FUN. It's an excuse to learn about some of the other creatures that we share the planet with. Most of all, it's inherently useful."

- Andrew Bryant

Audubon Society maintains a bibliography of scholarly papers based upon *Christmas Bird Count* data - and there are hundreds of titles.

These include some truly riveting works such as:
Characterizing species-abundance distributions across taxa and ecosystems using a simple maximum entropy model

or
*Large and irregular population fluctuations in migratory Pacific (*Calidris alpina pacifica*) and Atlantic (*C. a. hudsonica*) dunlins are driven by density-dependence and climatic factors.*

Whew!
Perhaps more usefully (for me) I can also boot up my laptop and view all those count circles on Google Earth (try it - it's pretty cool). Or I can download data concerning numbers of resident Canada Geese in the

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

What: Groups count from dawn till dusk, and then gather over a potluck dinner to compile the results. You can also participate by watching birds at bird-feeders at your own home!

When: December 22

How to participate: Anyone can participate but you must first register with the compiler, who assigns you to a specified group within the count circle.

Contact: Andrew Bryant andrewbryant@shaw.ca (604-223-1874)

Interested in our club?: www.malanat.ca

Powell River (BCPO) count-circle. That's pretty cool too. And contrary to popular belief, geese numbers show no significant increase in recent years.

The **Malaspina Naturalists** have been helping out with the Powell River count since 2004.

You don't need to be an expert bird-watcher - indeed we need note-takers and drivers as well. In fact, perhaps the very best thing about the Christmas Bird Count is that you get to hang out with, and learn from, more experienced birders.

It's FUN. It's an excuse to learn about some of the other creatures that we share the planet with. Most of all, it's inherently *useful*.

Join us! **RL**

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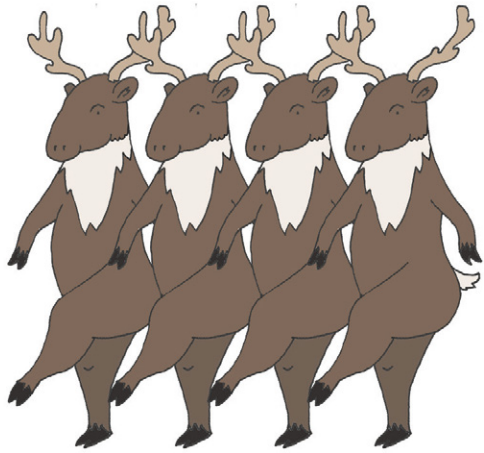
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The Hunt

BY JORDAN MITCHELL

Not so long ago, our ancestors the world over hunted for survival. Out of necessity for meat, hides and the plethora of other uses the animal provided.

Here on the coast, blacktail deer were a staple. Thousands of years of practice to hone the skills to be successful. Completely in tune and fully integrated as part of the ecosystem. Humble and respectful of the gifts that nature provides us.

Here we stand today with so many modern tools. Rifles chambered in every imaginable calibre capable of effectively shooting out to preposterous distances. Instantly acquiring exact target distances, wind direction and speed and compensating for elevation for pinpoint accuracy. As scientific as you can imagine and then some. Clothing in every conceivable camo pattern and material capable of withstanding every level of inclement weather. Silent, lightweight, and some even with technology built in to help mask our scent. Battery powered jackets with built in heaters. Tree stands, ground blinds and decoys. Spotting scopes and binoculars to help us cover ground without moving. Archery equipment is a far cry from sticks and sinew as well. Compound bows,



TIME TO BE STILL AND CONSCIOUS: Jordan Mitchell waits in the woods like his ancestors did. He is motivated by the "primal and pure" feeling of being a part of the forest environment.

Wishing Powell River

hope, peace
love & joy

this Christmas.



Merry Christmas

Joe Huetzelmann & Company thanks all our customers for another wonderful year. We look forward to many more.

Joe
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"To me, the enjoyment is not when a deer gets taken down. Immersing myself in that space, that environment, gives me access to a part of my brain and body that no other activity provides. Primal and pure. Overwhelming humility is unavoidable."
- Jordan Mitchell

recurve crossbows and compound crossbows that are super quiet, very fast and deadly accurate at their effective range - a range which is extended regularly with innovation and technology.

Innovation. Technology. Cornerstones of our story as a species. Constantly striving to be more effective, efficient and productive. When applied to hunting, it is my feeling that they have distanced us from our humble beginnings in deeper ways.

Getting in and out of hunting areas is easier, faster and even convenient. ATVs, side by sides, and Argos. Dulling our motivation and senses from their former razor sharpness. Setting us apart from the animals we hunt. Conquering the ecosystem. Terms like "trophy hunting", "big game", and "small game" diminishing the heart of the experience. Trivializing it and turning it into a sport, or commodity.

To me, the enjoyment is not when a deer gets taken down. Immersing myself in that space, that environment, gives me access to a part of my brain and body that no other activity provides. Primal and pure. Overwhelming humility is unavoidable. Our relatively feeble senses of smell and hearing are no match for deer who spend their entire lives pursued by wolves and cougars. Far more effective hunters than us, despite all our fancy tech.

A person can get lucky and be in the right place at the right time but ultimately there is no substitute for putting in the time afield. Time learning your hunting area. Time tracking, patterning and learning behaviors. Time reading wind direction, daylight hours and the effect of moon phases. Time being completely in those moments where possibility is heavy, thick and pure. Time that leads to

moments where your heartbeat is so loud you can barely hear anything else. Where the difference between success and failure is one wrong step or movement. Most opportunities at an ethical shot will only be a few seconds. All that time you've put in is worth it for those few seconds.

Whichever method of hunt you choose, try allowing yourself to feel included in the environment. As a part of it.

The more you get afield and have the experiences that teach you where we stand, the more you will want to. The patience and discipline you learn is invaluable. There is an indescribable quality and value to the pursuit and the lessons from it that I wish more people could feel. This world is a gift. My gratitude towards it grows with each passing hunting season.

I hope that it grows for you too. 

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2	3 Shinny Hockey 14 & Over 11:45 - 1:15 pm Stroller Skate (Strollers allowed) 1:30 - 2:30 pm	4 Shinny Hockey 50 & Over 10:00 - 11:30 am Everyone Welcome 5:00 - 7:00 pm	5 Rink closed Dec 5 & 6 for Winter Wonderland setup	6	7 Shinny Hockey 14 & Over 11:45 - 1:15 pm Winter Wonderland Opening Night Everyone Welcome 7:00 - 9:00 pm	8 Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome Noon - 2:00 pm
9 Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome Noon - 2:00 pm Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome 6:00 - 8:00 pm	10 Shinny Hockey 14 & Over 10:00 - 11:30 am 	11 Shinny Hockey 50 & Over 11:30 - 1:00 pm Winter Wonderland Hamper Skate Bring a food donation Everyone Welcome 5:00 - 7:00 pm	12 Shinny Hockey 14 & Over 11:45 - 1:15 pm 	13 Shinny Hockey 50 & Over 9:45 - 11:15 am Winter Wonderland Toonie Skate 3:45 - 5:45 pm	14 Shinny Hockey 14 & Over 11:45 - 1:15 pm Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome 7:00 - 9:00 pm	15 Winter Wonderland Skate With Santa Everyone Welcome Noon - 2:00 pm
16 Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome 10:00 am - Noon Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome 6:00 - 8:00 pm	17 Available for Private Rentals	18 Shinny Hockey 50 & Over 11:30 - 1:00 pm Adult/Senior Skate 11:00 - 12:30 pm Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome 5:00 - 7:00 pm	19 Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome 6:00 - 8:00 pm	20 Shinny Hockey 50 & over 9:45 - 11:15 am Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome 3:45 - 5:45 pm	21 Parent/Child Hockey 5:00 - 6:30 pm Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome 7:00 - 9:00 pm	22 Breakfast with Santa Skate If registered for Breakfast with Santa (see right) 10 am - Noon Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome 6:00 - 8:00 pm
23 Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome Noon - 2:00 pm Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome 6:00 - 8:00 pm	24 Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome 11 am - 1:00 pm	25 Christmas Day Complex Closed 	26 Boxing Day Opens 10:00am Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome 11:00 am - 1:00 pm Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome 2:00 - 4:00 pm CLOSED at 4 pm	27 Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome Noon - 2:00 pm Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome 6:00 - 8:00 pm	28 Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome Noon - 2:00 pm Winter Wonderland Everyone Welcome 6:00 - 8:00 pm	29 Winter Wonderland teardown No public skating

■ I MADE THE MOVE ■

West Coasters at heart

British expats Emma and Oliver Bashford spent 20 adrenaline sport filled years in the Sea to Sky corridor before moving to Powell River this summer. Craving a tranquil life near the ocean, they've swapped their snowboards for paddle boards and are loving life by the sea. Their dog Indie has been kept happy this summer exploring the local biking trails — always in the lead, of course!

Why did you choose to move here?

Emma and Oliver • Whistler (and the whole Sea to Sky Corridor) was getting increasingly busy after the re-building of Highway 99 for the 2010 Olympics. On top of that, house prices kept rising, making it unaffordable for us to buy a house with a yard. Powell River has the tranquility and natural beauty we were craving without the crowds — plus the ocean and plenty of opportunity for outdoor adventure!

When? Where from?

Oliver • At the beginning of June from Whistler.

What surprised you once you moved here?

Emma and Oliver • How peaceful it actually is! On our first evening here (after a full day of moving) all we could hear was the sound of the lapping ocean and birds from our deck. Heaven. Everyone's been so friendly too which is lovely. We love the small town vibe, both being from small villages in the U.K. originally.

What made you decide to move here?

Emma • We felt we'd outgrown Whistler and living in a ski resort was no longer a priority. I'd had a dream of living on the West Coast since living in Bolinas, California in my twenties and Powell River fit the bill — serene, spectacularly beautiful and with abundant outdoor adventure. Plus here we could afford a home with a yard and veggie plot. The simple pleasures! There's mountain biking here for Olly, Mount Washington just across the



NO GONDOLAS ANYWHERE: Emma and Oliver Bashford aren't missing living in a resort.

water and the ocean to explore...kayaking is calling!

Where is your favourite place?

Oliver • We both love hiking and love the views from Scout Mountain. And the beaches — Second Beach and Savary. But we'd have to say our favourite place is our deck!

How did you first hear about us?

Emma and Oliver • We first visited Powell River on a camping trip en route to Savary Island in 2011. Also, we've been visiting friends in Lang Bay for the last five years so we slowly got to know the area more and more.

What aspect of your previous community do you think would benefit Powell River?

Emma and Oliver • A ski resort. Only joking!

What challenges did you face in trying to make a life for yourself here?

Oliver • On our third trip to Powell River to view homes

last winter we found one we loved but had to find a buyer for our Whistler townhome ASAP! Thankfully a buyer popped up for our Whistler home at the last minute.

If you were mayor, what would you do?

Emma • Address the shortage of affordable homes, both rental and owned. And environmental issues — reducing plastics — a ban on bags and straws would be a good start.

What are Powell River's best assets?

Emma and Oliver • The ocean, spectacular sunsets, lakes and forests. Easy access to outdoor adventure and the Sunshine Coast Trail.

What is your greatest extravagance?

Emma • Wine and chocolate!! Travel and education.

Which superpower would you most like?

Oliver • I'm not sure if it's a superpower but I'd like to be able to travel through time. **RL**

Happy Holidays

Wishing you holiday cheer and a happy New Year from all of us at First Credit Union!

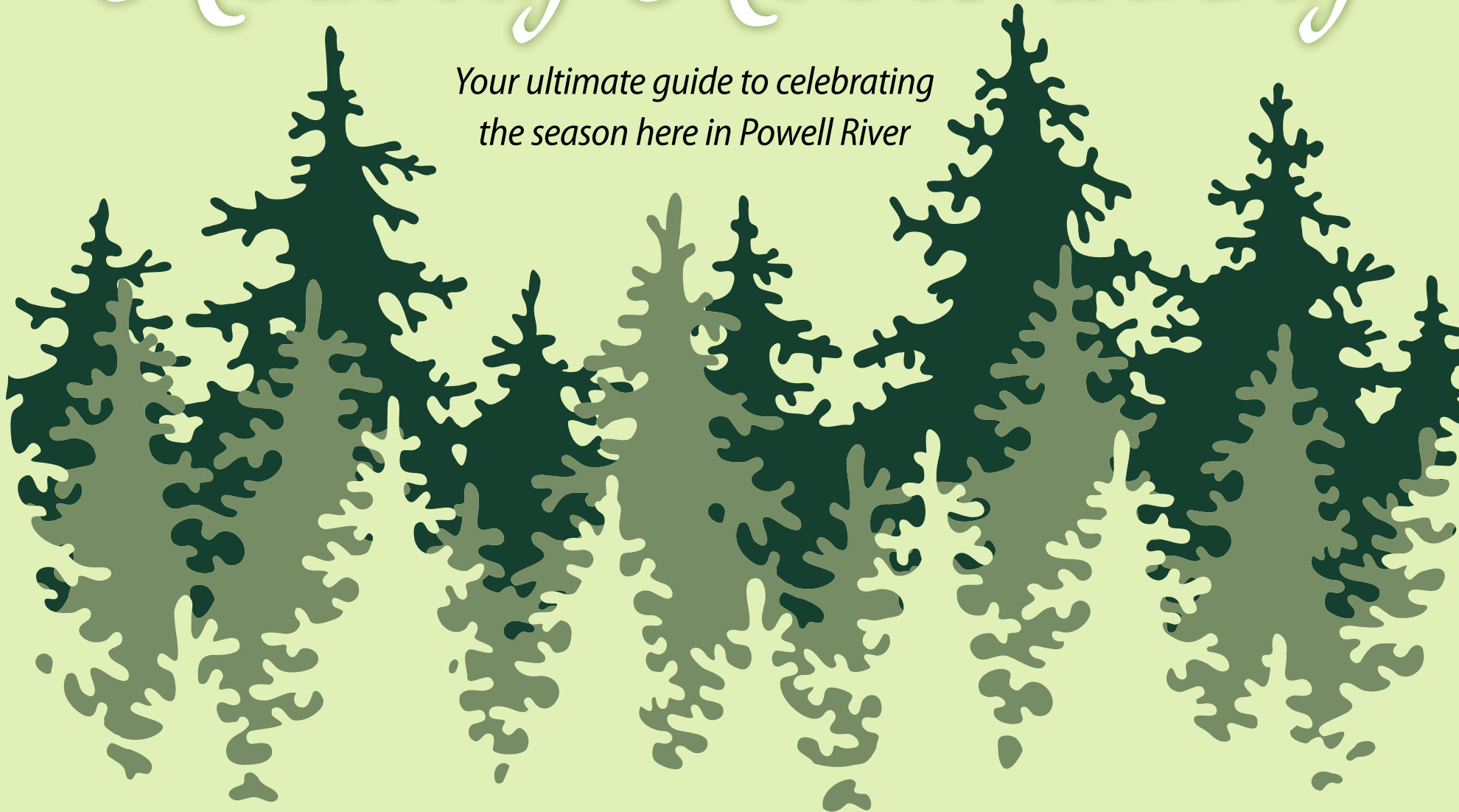
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PRL's 2018

Holiday Hootenanny

*Your ultimate guide to celebrating
the season here in Powell River*



Spend time

Share the joy on Christmas Day

Page 24

Create

Artistic inspiration for decorating
your home for the holidays

Page 28

Window painter shares
her inspiration

Page 40

Reflect

Christian leaders respond with
grace to a tough question

Page 30

Give

PRL's local books-round-up

Page 30

Support the Food Banks

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Are you Naughty or Nice?

Our all-local gift-giving catalogue

Page 56

Bake

Powell River's best cookie recipes

Page 34

Be in nature

The annual Christmas Bird Count

Page 15

Act your age

A generational Christmas chart

Page 39

Go to all the events

Your ultimate holiday planner
to feel all the feels this season

Page 47



Merry Christmas

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from the Marquis family.



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Spread the

Season's Greetings

from the qathet Regional District
Board of Directors

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

Volunteer Fire Departments:
Malaspina, Northside, Savary Island & Lasqueti Island

Area D (Texada Island) Official Community Plan
Planning Advisory Select Committee

Texada Island Airport Advisory Committee

Savary Island Dock Advisory Committee

Texada Island Community Heritage Commission

Texada Island Recreation Commission

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Solid Waste Management Plan Review Advisory Committee

Lasqueti Island Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee



qathet
REGIONAL DISTRICT

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT
isabelle@prliving.ca

Christmas Sing along

No talent required, just real holiday spirit!

Do you like to sing Christmas carols? Do you want to spread some holiday cheer?

If you have time at 11 am on December 25 consider this: singing Christmas carols for the residents of Willingdon Creek Village and at the Extended Care Unit at 11:45 am on Christmas Day.

It's easy, says Peter Behr, who has been organizing the Christmas Day Sing for the last few years.

"We often go to ECU, Willingdon Creek Village and the hospital, especially if we have enough people to split up into two groups," says Peter.

"This is not about being great singers, but about bringing joy to those in our institutions who may have nothing else happening Christmas Day," he added.

There are no practices beforehand. People just show up and sing. If you have a guitar, bring that too! People are also encouraged to bring their well-behaved dogs.

CAROL FOR RESIDENTS

What: Annual Christmas Day carolling at Willingdon Creek and Extended Care

When: 11 am at Willingdon and 11:45 at Extended Care December 25

How to get involved: Just show up and sing!

The Christmas Day sing along started in the 1980s with a group called the Holiday Project.

Song sheets are passed out and someone musical generally leads the group.

"It is heart warming to see a sick person, head down, start to look up and maybe smile and sing along with us. We get smiles of appreciation from the hard-working staff who must work Christmas Day," said Peter.

Rob Hughes and Julia Adams and their two young children attended the

"This is not about being great singers, but about bringing joy."

- Peter Behr



cheer ★ share the joy

Not everyone has family and friends they can spend Christmas with - this can be a lonely time. So, many locals choose to share their December 25. You can too.

Christmas sing-along last year. Rob says they want to show their children that Christmas means more than giving presents.

“We’re trying to model for our kids that Christmas is about connecting with others and that giving time is more important than giving things. Music is something we can all share and the hospital is a good place to bring a little joy at Christmas,” Rob told *Powell River Living*.

Dan Dyble has participated in the Christmas sing along for several years. “I don’t remember exactly which year I was first invited by Peter and Margaret. It must have been around 2002 or 2003. Something about the idea of people leaving their homes to simply bring happiness to others who could not be in their family homes seemed right so I showed up,” said Dan. “That first year, there was one person who, though bed ridden and in great pain, was drawn to join in the song as we sang at his door. He had a voice that surpassed the best of us. It was beautiful and it rang through the halls with a brightness and joy that resonated



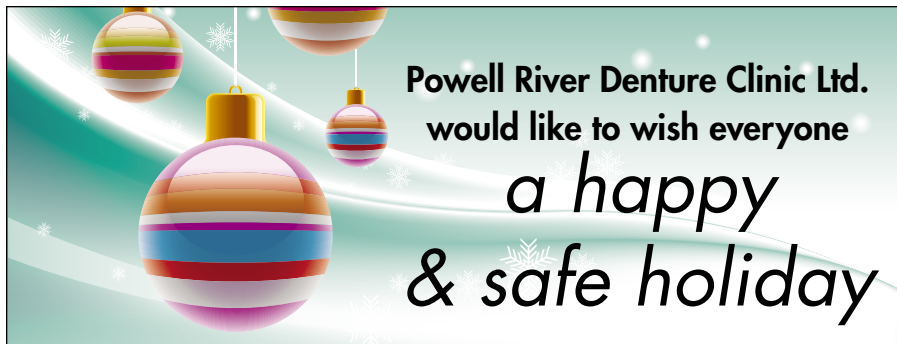
in every wall and corner.”

Every year there is one or more people who are truly touched by our presence, said Dan.

“This adds community, ensures our focus is on others. Every year there is a slightly different mix of singers. I always meet someone new. It’s a place that felt like community for us when we first came; now it is our community.”



MAKING MUSIC: Carollers bring the music of Christmas to residents of Willingdon Creek Village, Extended Care Unit and the Powell River General Hospital. *Photos by Peter Behr.*



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LONELINESS NOT ALLOWED: Dana and Tesla Brown volunteered at the Westview Baptist Church Christmas Day dinner last year - designed for folks who would ordinarily be alone.

"I will bring the joy!"

- Dana Brown, 7

Christmas Day dinner

There are many reasons why people find themselves alone at Christmas. Maybe you just moved to Powell River for a new job and your family is elsewhere, maybe your spouse has passed away and your children live in another part of the country or world, or maybe you're sick and in hospital or extended care. There are as many reasons as there are people says Margaret Cooper, organizer of Westview Baptist Church's Christmas Day dinner.

"We get a real cross section of people," says Margaret. People who are alone, older people who have no family here and people who are struggling. "Some people come and bring friends or neighbours and others come to be part of the evening."

A full turkey dinner followed by dessert is provided free of charge by the church. Last year about 100 people attended (advance registration is required) and 40 people volunteered their time and talent to cook, serve and clean up.

The dinner gets underway at 5:30 pm on December 25 with appetizers. Dinner follows at 6 pm and then dessert. There's a carol sing and it is all over by 8 pm.

"It's a nice place to have a good Christmas dinner," said Margaret. "It appeals to people who don't have anyone else to spend Christmas with."

Margaret and her husband Ted are often alone at Christmas. Their daughter lives in the United States and she usually doesn't make it home for Christmas. In 2011, Margaret wanted to hold a big Christmas dinner for anyone who wanted to be part of a community meal on the actual day itself. (Several other churches and organizations hold Christmas dinners in the weeks and days lead-

EAT OR SERVE DINNER

What: Westview Baptist Church offers a free Christmas Day turkey dinner, carol sing and more to anyone who would otherwise be alone.

When: December 25, 5:30 pm to 8 pm

Where: Westview Baptist Church

How to register to eat or volunteer:

Call the church at 604-485-9607, email admin@wbchurch.ca or contact Margaret at 604-485-2143 or margaretcooper@shaw.ca.

ing up to Christmas but to the best of our knowledge, Westview Baptist is the only one offering a meal on December 25). "I thought it sounded like a good idea," she said.

It is open to anyone from the community - people don't have to belong to the church. If you wish to volunteer (two hours is all that's needed) or attend the dinner please call the church at 604-485-9607, email admin@wbchurch.ca or contact Margaret at 604-485-2143 or margaretcooper@shaw.ca.

Last year, Dana and Tesla Brown and their mother Charlese volunteered at the dinner. The twins, who were then six, served appetizers, said Margaret.

At first they weren't sure what it was all about but they were keen to help out. Here's what they had to say when their mom asked them if they'd like to help out.

"Yes," said Dana. "I will bring the joy!"

"Sure, as long as I don't have to kiss anyone," said Tesla.

Many people go home with gifts as door prizes and other draws take place during the evening.

"It's an enjoyable and rewarding way to spend Christmas Day," says Margaret. "It's a lot of work but it's a lot of fun."

Hospice volunteers

Last year Cathy Fisher and Patti Anderson were two of the many hospice

"I love volunteering. If you just try it you want to race right back and do it again because it makes you feel so good!"

- Patti Anderson



COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY: Powell River Hospice volunteers Cathy Fisher, Maureen Campbell, Georgia MacLennan, Linda Dupuis, Patti Anderson.

volunteers visiting with someone who was dying during the Christmas season. They spent the month before Christmas holding hands and just spending time with someone as they neared the end of their life.

"We go where we are needed," said Cathy who volunteers at the hospital once a week. "I visit with people who may not have family around or anyone else to visit with them."

Patti volunteers at ECU twice a week. She sits at a table and talks to people during mealtimes, helps with puzzles or goes with them on outings to the movies or restaurants. She began visiting seniors when her uncle was in ECU and after he

passed, she kept going.

"Wherever there is a need, we will fill it," she said.

Cathy was prepared to spend Christmas Day with her client but she passed away on December 23.

Both women love how festive it is at the hospital, ECU and Willingdon Creek in the days leading up to Christmas with school children, choirs and visitors but they say the need for visitors continues after the 25th.

"I think volunteering needs to happen all the time," says Cathy. Patti agrees. "I love volunteering. If you just try it you want to race right back and do it again because it makes you feel so good!" **RL**

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BLOW OFF TRADITION: Hand-made pom poms are an unexpected and texture-rich ornament; artist Megan Hildebrand makes them. Left, sparse and clean decor compliment artists Laurel and Haley Hunt's living room. See below for more.

Decorate

Need inspiration for a new holiday look? Us too! So we asked a handful of local artists how they'll get their homes fresh and festive for December 2018.

1. Megan Hildebrand

When we moved into our house in Cranberry we found a previous year's Christmas tree in the backyard. It had dropped all of its needles but was still beautifully bushy. We brought it in and put on just pink lights and dehydrated orange slices.

It was gorgeous.

It was really nice in front of the window because it still let the daylight through.

I don't go for Christmas colours or plastic decorations. We made dozens of feet of pennant flags from colourful recycled sheets that we put up for any special occasion, even outdoors.

My sister and I added homemade pompoms to the pennant flags which looks so fun. Pompoms are very fun and addictive to make and make fantastic tree decorations and look great on gifts too. There is always yarn in all kinds of colours at the local charity shops so it's easy on the wallet.

2. Haley and Laurel Hunt

We always go for the Charlie Brown

style tree. Uncultured, imperfect, skinny, but wonderful for showcasing all our decorations.

We often make a popcorn and cranberry garland, and we hang it outside after the holidays for the birds to eat. Our decorations are a collection of treasures amassed over the years; straw stars, vintage glass baubles, handmade and hand painted figures.

We also have a lot of birds. Since I was little we always put doves at the top of the tree, and we have a very funky collection of gaudy and colourful birds of all varieties we have given to each other as gifts over the years. We try to decorate together as a family each year, on or close to Christmas Eve. It makes it all extra special on Christmas day.

3. Wendy Drummond

The great snow of 1996 found me hunkering down with my two sons for a very unique Christmas on the northern tip of Haida Gwaii, Langara Island. My eldest son, 19 at the time, was care-taking a fishing lodge and instead of flying him out, the owners flew myself and my younger

son, in. It was a very grand adventure... flying in on December 22 in a small float plane just moments ahead of the winter storm that would paralyze the Lower Mainland and Victoria. I was told to keep the 'baggage' down as there would be little room for 'extraneous' Christmas bits. It was me, Adam, the turkey, and rolls of plaid ribbon that were tossed out of the plane into a Zodiac as the waves were too great for the plane to dock.

Once settled and warmed, we set out to find the Christmas tree. Selecting a wee bit of a 'Charlie Brown' tree we decorated it with bows of plaid, other found trinkets of shell, driftwood and colour paper. It was the very best of Christmas trees and Christmases ever! The simplicity of what we had to share, the cold, snowy, stormy weather, the natural beauty of the lodge and its surroundings, enveloped us in the magic for just a few days.

These ribbons are now 22 years old, and my sons each have a handful of them for their own decorating, sharing, and stories affirming that truly, less can be more!

4. Gina Page

I once taught a little boy who lived on Texada and whose mother was a policewoman. One Christmas she gave me eight Christmas ornaments—stars and bells—that she had crocheted in white cotton. Another set of decorations were ones I made together with my friend Bet-

ty who lived with her husband out near Stillwater. She and I created ornaments out of white clay and hand painted the little bells, stars and snowmen once they had been fired. Betty worked with some of my students at Kelly Creek Elementary School. She died quite young from cancer. Every year when I put those decorations on our tree, I think of that kind mother and of my friend Betty.

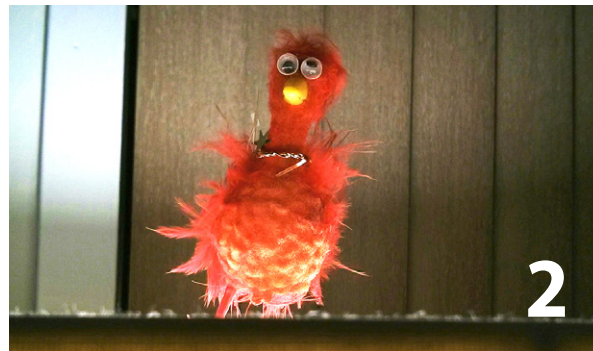
5. Alfred Muma

We haven't used a purchased newly cut Christmas tree in years. Instead we decorate our wonderful Norfolk Island Pine Tree on Christmas Eve. We brought it from Ontario 34 years ago when we moved to BC. It is now just about seven feet tall.

When we lived in Haida Gwaii the multi coloured lights went up one angle of our story and a half semi A frame roof, down the other side and then along the deck railing. Because our house was on the highest street above the community, our light display could be seen by everyone as they went through town.

Now here on Texada we have white rope lights for the flowering plum tree and some of the blue lights on the apple tree by the fish pond. The lights are for our own visual pleasure.

The mystery for this year is: will our display of lights grow? [PR](#)



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One tough year One enduring faith

Each year, PRL asks local faith leaders a question at Christmastime. This year, they really rose to the occasion.

Residential schools; sexual abuse cover-ups; Trump's 'Christian' backers who are anti-refugee & anti-poor: considering 2018's dismal headlines, why might a skeptic darken a church door this season?

Father Patrick Teeporten, Assumption Parish, Roman Catholic Church

When Windsor Castle burned, Elizabeth II referred to the year as an 'annus horribilis'.

This is what we have lived through this past year. It is with great shame and ongoing pain that we Catholics bear the barrage of these ongoing news stories. We pray in repentance and in sorrow, for the wider and local Church to wake up and make changes to its policies and procedures. God help all victims of sexual abuse, and their family members.

In the Canadian church, we are now very scrutinized: each person in pastoral ministry must do yearly seminars on how to avoid causing harm to others. We sign

a code of commitment, and we remember our brothers' destructive actions every day.

But why come to Church on Christmas Eve? Because we believe God's love is still there, in the community of the faithful. Love will overcome, that's why love was born in the manger.

In the Christian religion, this God of love makes himself vulnerable and exposed to indignities and mistreatment. Christ is born to a family on a forced excursion through the census, his parents experience the lack of hospitality of the Bethlehem innkeepers, the young male children his age are slaughtered by Herod.

In founding a Church, Jesus continued to expose himself to suffering. He had human beings to work with, and many of these have failed him miserably. Somehow he thought it was worth it all: to entrust a message of hope to weak and stumbling people.

It's my prayer that our Church, and other Churches, will learn from these painful lessons in the past, and regain the trust of society. This will take real measures of outreach, strong measures of risk management, and a commitment of all believers to protect the innocent.

The flame of love still flickers, and invites, on Christmas Eve.

Have a happy
and blessed
Christmas

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Rev. Dr. Paula Sampson Faith Lutheran Church

The failings of institutional Christianity do not remove the need many humans feel to connect in a meaningful way with an Existence beyond themselves.

Franciscan Richard Rohr says, "Christ is the language Christians use to speak about true Being," adding that other faiths have equally valid terms.

At Christmas, Christians celebrate the earthly arrival of their holy "vocabulary" in the person of Jesus. Jesus' ministry disclosed many truths, first among them the realization that the divine and the physical are inseparably interrelated. Therefore, loving God and neighbour means loving our earthly habitat also.

This makes the spiritual practice of active care for creation not only worthwhile but vital.

Our endangered planet, entrusted to all humanity, Christian and otherwise, urgently needs immediate human love and attention. Their rediscovery of Christian creation spiritualities makes many churches relevant places which embrace the commitment to safeguard the integrity of God's creation.

Rev. Faun Harriman St. David & St. Paul Anglican Church

The days are getting shorter and the nights longer. Often at this time of year there is a sense of being enveloped in darkness. We get up in the dark, go to work in the dark and return home in darkness.

We can certainly do things to mitigate this such as warm blankets, hot chocolate and roaring fires. They all help but bolstered by a 24 hour news cycle we can be overwhelmed by the "darkness" and the brokenness of the world.

I read the other day on Facebook "But do not be dismayed or overcome by it all. Instead remember that all things break and yet all things can be mended. Not with time as we are told but with intention. So go "love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits for the light that is in you."

In a few weeks we celebrate the Light that broke through the darkness, the light that penetrated the world bringing hope, peace, joy and love. Born in a dimly lit stable perhaps a cave this particular infant promises to never leave or abandon us but remains forever dispelling all darkness then, now and forever.

Take heart, live in hope and breathe in that good news. Be well, and many blessings during the Christmas season and always.

Katie Alescio Living Water Foursquare Church

A church skeptic might darken our door this season because we serve a loving God. People choose to do things that do not represent Him well, myself included sometimes, but some people also represent Him extremely well, and that is only discovered when one chooses to give a community a chance. Being in a relationship with Him, as part of a faith community, is the best thing I've ever done. He is good, slow to anger, exuberant in love, abounding in grace, and those who seek Him find Him – skeptics included.

Rev. Mary White Powell River United Church

The clergy is not the church; the church is the people. A conscientious clergy is guided by the needs of the congregation. The church is all about the people attending worship not the clergy. This is evident by the stability of the congregation. Clergy tend to be transient and move approximately every five years.

In a gathering of church community, people connect on a spiritual level. We come together in faith and spiritual community.

More than ever, spiritual practice is worthwhile and necessary. Globally the Church is in transition. We are shifting from the concrete human concept of our experiences and moving toward a deeper recognition and acceptance of our spiritual actuality.

Being open to older, sometimes ancient traditional spiritual practices is an opportunity for congregations to experience their spiritual presence. I believe that we as a church have an obligation to the community of faith to offer spiritual practices from a variety of sources.

"There are different kinds of Spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them." 1 Corinthians 12:4

Rev. David Wulkan Powell River Reformed Church

The Christian story is good news. It is a story of hope, meaning and purpose. It is a story that calls us to be honest about the brokenness in our own lives as well as the evil in the world.

It calls us to face reality head-on without cynicism or despair. It calls us to trust someone greater than us to restore us and creation.

The story reveals that God is among us in the person of Jesus, who has dealt with sin, evil and death decisively in his death and resurrection.

Despite the many failings of Christians, Jesus' story is true. God is good, faithful, just and merciful.

As Christians, we gather to celebrate the love of God, to reaffirm our trust in Him, to spur one another on to love and good deeds and to ask that he would continue to make us and all of creation whole once again.

Come and celebrate what God has done.

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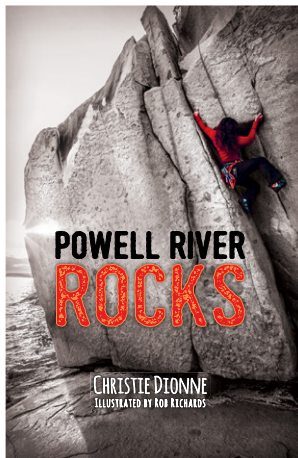


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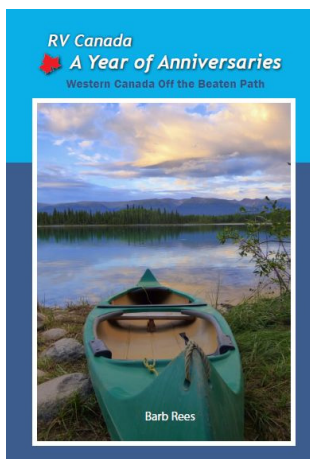


Powell River Rocks

By Christie Dionne

When I started writing this book I had just lost my husband, best friend and climbing partner, Colin Dionne. He was one of the few original rock climbing pioneers in Powell River. I began compiling the scattered handwritten drawings and notes that we had, then I started working with another local climbing pioneer, Rob Richards, who had more drawings and notes squirreled away. We had a book launch party in April 2018 and Rob passed away June 18. So this is a historical record, a dedication to some amazing people, and a comprehensive guide to climbing here.

Where to buy: At Thick, Basecamp Coffee, Powell River Tourism and in Lund at Terricentric Coastal Adventures, \$35.

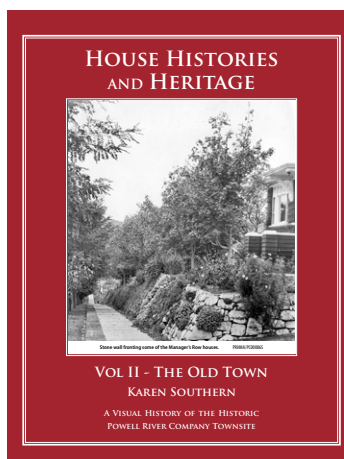


RV Canada: a Year of Anniversaries

By Barb Rees

These are stories about the trip Barb and Dave Rees made from Northern BC to Whitehorse, and over to Haida Gwaii, and resources for RV travelers. Readers will enjoy wilderness roads, spectacular scenery, a Indigenous festival, parks and friendly people. This is the sixth book in the RV Canada series from coast to coast.

Where to buy: Purchase the books for \$22 by contacting Barb: dreambg1@telus.net or order at: www.write2dream.com

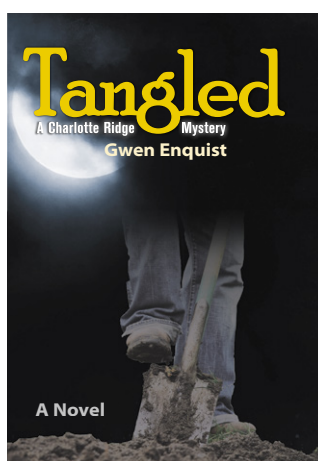


Vol II House Histories & Heritage

By Karen Southern

A visual history of the Old Town of the Powell River Company including all the buildings still standing from the early period of 1910-16. Buildings of this era were designed by Danish Master Builder George Ingemann. This includes Henderson House and all but one of the Managers' homes. Features Rod LeMay photographs. Vol I (\$30.) covered the histories of all the early buildings not standing today. It is hoped that Vol III may also be available in 2018 which covers 400-800 blocks of Marine and Willow.

Where to buy: \$45 for sale at Henderson House, Coles and Paperworks.

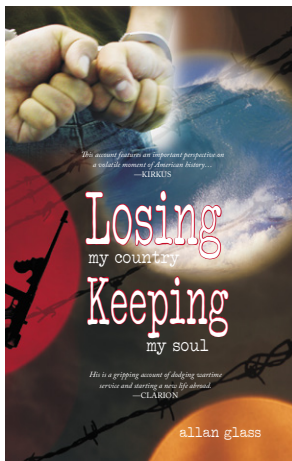


Tangled

By Gwen Enquist

A young doctor vanishes. Her husband, Adam Chandler is soon in the bullseye as a suspect in her disappearance. Love, betrayal and jealousy swirl around the case and around RCMP Constable Jessica Morell who is young and keen to be involved. When a skeletonized body is found, the pressure is on to find Chandler, who has himself disappeared.

Where to buy: At craft fairs (\$20) and Kindle editions



Losing my Country; Keeping my Soul

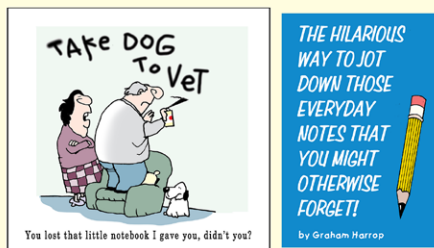
By Allan Glass

Allan was born in Miami, Florida, graduated high school in 1965, and entered junior college. After one and a half years he was suddenly drafted into the Army, spending four months in training, and given orders for Vietnam. Allan was flown to San Francisco to await his flight to Vietnam. Instead, Allan went AWOL and remained on the run for a year.

Where to buy: At craft fairs (credit cards accepted) and from my house (alglass@live.ca). \$25 paperback; e book \$4.99 on iTunes, Kobo, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Friesen Press Bookstore.

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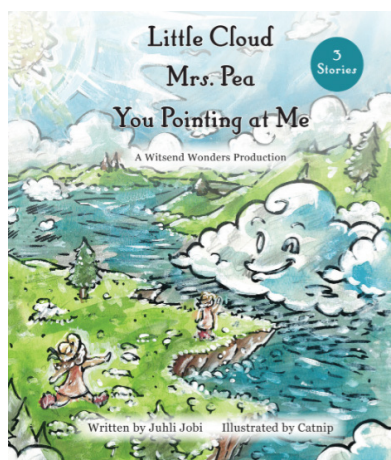
A 'Living Together After Retirement' notebook

By Graham Harrop

The follow-up to the popular "Living Together After Retirement" collection! This delightful little cartoon notebook will add a sparkle to your day. This is one of five titles published by Graham in 2018; the others are *Here Comes The Sillybus!*, *My Trip Through the Rockies*, *River Cruise Diary*, *Oliver: My Own... Um... Book*, and *The Sunshine Coast Is...*

Where to buy: gryndstoneandfusspotpress.com and at stores around town

Books for Children

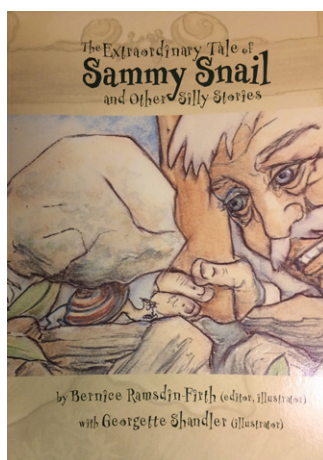


Little Cloud, Mrs. Pea, You Pointing at Me

By Juhli Jobi; Illustrated by Catnip

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Where to buy: At the Winter Market; Basecamp; Velma's Candy, Tea & Gifts; Ecosentials; Paperworks, Tourism PR; Tug Guhm Gallery; Pollen Sweaters; and Soapy Dragon Boutique (pop-up store in the mall). Also available online at www.witsendwonders.com or on Facebook Witsend Wonders.



The Extraordinary Tale of Sammy Snail and Other Silly Stories

By Georgette "Poppy" Shandler and Bernice Ramsdin-Firth

A children's book based on stories her Great Grandpa Bill made up. *The Extraordinary Tale of Sammy Snail and Other Silly Stories* is the result of stories her father told to Poppy and her sister and later his grandchildren but never to grownups. Poppy's art brings the stories to life. This book and a previous book, *When I Was Little*, by David Stallard and illustrated by Poppy.

Where to buy: At the *Powell River Peak* and at The Magic of Christmas Craft Fair, Upper Foyer Powell River Recreation Complex from 10 am to 4 pm on December 8. [PRL](http://PRL.com)

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and a
Happy New Year
Powell River!



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Councillor
George Doubt



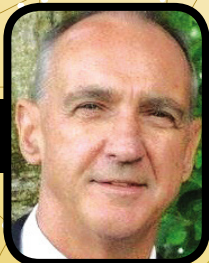
Councillor
Cindy Elliott



Councillor
Maggie Hathaway



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The coast's cutest cookies

A member of the Powell River RCMP puts a new twist on a traditional recipe with Ginger Mounties!

Ginger Mounties

Submitted by Kevin and Nicole Day

- 3 cups flour
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 1½ tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp ground cardamom seeds (Ecosentials sells this in bulk, so you can just buy a little!)
- ½ tsp ground cloves
- ¼ tsp ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp ground black pepper (I double or triple this)
- ⅓ cup chopped crystallized ginger
- ½ cup softened butter
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- ½ cup fancy molasses

Whisk together flour, soda, and spices. Set aside.

Finely chop crystallized ginger.

Beat butter and sugar until light and fluffy.

Add egg.

Add crystallized ginger and molasses.

Slowly beat in dry mixture until smooth. Knead into a ball, divide into two balls, slightly flatten into discs and wrap in plastic wrap for about 2 hours at room temp.

Roll out to about 1/4 inch thick. Place on parchment-lined cookie sheets

Bake at 350°F for about 9-13 minutes





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Sugared Walnuts

This is a favourite Christmas treat of Ann Nelson, co-owner of The Patricia Theatre.

- 1½ cups sugar
- ½ cup water
- ¼ cup honey
- Pinch of salt
- 1 Tbsp vanilla
- 4 – 6 cups walnuts (or pecans)

Combine sugar, water, honey and salt. Cook to soft ball (or to 242°F).

Remove from heat, add vanilla and nuts. Stir until syrup becomes creamy and white.

Turn onto waxed paper to harden. Once hardened break into individual pieces.

The Townsite Heritage Society puts on a festive spread when they celebrate the holidays with a carol sing and Christmas treats. These are a few of their special recipes.

"The Top of the Stove Cookies were favoured old recipes from my cousin Jean. They are sweet, quick and easy to make, and are a hit with the young and old alike."

~Linda Nailer, Coordinator Townsite Heritage Society



Top of The Stove Cookies

Maple Flavour

- 2 cups brown sugar
- ½ cup milk
- ½ cup butter
- ¼ tsp maple extract
- 3 cups rolled oats
- 1 cup coconut (unsweetened)
- Optional - Small handful of nuts (your choice)
- 3 tsp vanilla


Bring the first three ingredients to a boil. Remove from heat and immediately add remaining ingredients and mix. Quickly drop by spoonfuls onto waxed paper and let cool.

Option - If you want to add another dimension of flavour, drop them onto a greased cookie sheet and bake at 300°F for 15 minutes.

Chocolate Flavour



- 2 cups white sugar
- 6 tbspcocoa
- ½ cup milk
- ½ cup margarine
- 3 cups rolled oats
- 1 cup coconut

Bring the first four ingredients to a full rolling boil. Quickly add oats and coconut and mix.

Drop by teaspoonfuls onto waxed paper and cool. 



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prhealthcareaux.ca or find us on Facebook

SATURDAY SHOPPING IN DECEMBER!

In addition to regular hours (M-F 10-4), the Economy Shop will be open **3 Saturdays** in December for your shopping pleasure!
Dec 8, 15 & 22 from 10am-2pm

Holiday Closures: Economy Shop is closed Dec 24, 25, 26, 31 and Jan 1.
Hospital Gift Shop is open 10-2 Dec 24 & 31. Closed Dec 25, 26 & Jan 1.
Red Cross Loan Cupboard open normal hours except closed Dec. 25, 26 and Jan 1.



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FRESH CREW: Savanna Dee, operations manager for the Powell River Action Centre Food Bank, and volunteers Todd Dagenais, Holly Peterson, and Melissa Tookey, invite everyone to support the Food Bank by donating to the third annual Stuff the Trailer campaign December 4 to 15 at Safeway. Here they are pictured with fresh produce donated by Terra Nostra Farm.

This time of year is especially difficult for members of our community with lower incomes.

Heat is always an added expense during the winter and the free fruit and berries of summer are long gone.

The people of Powell River and Texada Island are a generous lot and have a history of helping those who are less fortunate. If you would like to help fill the shelves of local Food Banks, join the crew from 95.7 Coast FM for their 2018 Food Bank Fundraiser with Stuff The Trailer

on December 4 and 15 at Safeway.

Kim Wall, Operations Manager for Coast FM, wants to beat last year's goal and she's challenging every business and individual to help out.

On Saturday, December 15 Coast will broadcast live from Safeway from 11 am to 3pm with live music, hot chili & buns, cake, and good cheer for their final push.

They will be joined by Chor Musica at 11 am, and at noon by Tyler Bartfai. Gitta Nielsen – winner of The People's Choice Award on *The Shot* – will be on at 1 pm, followed by Denis and the Menaces. In the past two years, Stuff The Trailer has helped raise almost \$100,000 for the Food Bank.

Feed the food banks

STUFF THE TRAILER

What: Donate food packages to local Food Banks

When: December 4 to 15

Where: Safeway on Joyce

How to help: Read the blurb at left for the full list... but you can: Bag groceries, food and cash donations, buy some hot chili (being sold by Food Bank volunteers), bring family and friends out for a community event on December 15.

"In the past two years, Stuff The Trailer has helped raise almost \$100,000 for the Food Bank."

- Kim Wall



Nicholas Simons
MLA, Powell River-Sunshine Coast

Happy Holidays
and a very merry 2019 to you!

From Nicholas, Rob, and your whole holly jolly team

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Texada Island Food Bank

Powell River Living asked Pauline Fleming, Manager of the Texada Island Food Bank, for an update on the island's operations.

How many people do you serve?

Pauline • In 2017 we served 268 households, for a total of 406 people.

What was the most gratifying moment from last year's campaign?

Pauline • Anytime the call for need is made to our community, it is always answered, either with food, funds or volunteers. All of our donations are from the generosity of businesses, qathet Regional District grant-in-aid, Powell River United Way and the public on Texada. We have a volunteer team of 10 to 13 people.

How can we help?

Pauline • Non-perishable food donations may be put in the baskets at the Gillies Bay General store, the Texada Market and the First Credit Union in Van Anda. We will be happy to accept turkey coupons for our December needs. Donation tins for cash are at the Gillies Bay Store, the Texada Market and the Credit Union. Alternately, you can mail donations to PO Box 233, Van Anda, BC V0N 3K0 or deposit in the food bank account at First Credit Union.

PR Action Centre Food Bank

Powell River Living caught up with Savanna Dee, Operations Manager, for the Powell River Action Centre Food Bank to see what the need has been like in Powell River in 2018.

How many people did you serve:

Savanna • So far this year we've served 1,233 individuals; including 346 children (28 per cent), said Savanna.

We've had 5,467 visits for an average of four visits per person. Out of a total of 758 people; 307 (40 per cent) of our clients are on disability, 55 (7 per cent) on OAP, and 92 (12 per cent) on Employment Insurance. This year's numbers are similar to last year.

We are signing up new people all the time, which shows us that previous users lives may have improved. **PR**

WHO'S HELPING?

- Assumption SchoolScare Hunger Campaign. We received just over \$1,200 in food and cash! Thank you!
- Brown Bag Food Drive organized by Latter Day Saints. In all we received \$7,473 worth of food.
- Walmart Fight Hunger Campaign: \$6,662 in total. \$4,662 was local contributions and the rest from Food-banks Canada was raised by Walmart.
- Bake Sale at First Credit Union. This raised a few hundred dollars.
- Loggers Sports. The Food Bank received \$1,275 in donated food.
- Rotary built the Greenhouse at the Brain Injury Society, and we have received a lot of good fresh food from it.
- Farmers market farm vendors receive a tax credit equal to 25 per cent of the value of food donated. We have an employee present at every market to receive food and other donations. So far in 2018, we have received thousands of pounds of fresh produce (over 4,700) through this incentive from Aaron Mazurek's Terra Nostra Farms alone! Aaron donated fresh produce valued at over \$11,000. "The clients are ecstatic to have such good value items in their hampers," says Savanna.
- West Coast Fish Culture also qualifies for the tax credit. Last year, they donated \$6,435 worth of fish. So far, they's more than doubled their donation to \$13,393.
- The Food Bank's new van was funded through a Community Forest and The City of Powell River grant.

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IT'S TIME TO ZERO IN ON WASTE

With the recent approval of the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) the qathet Regional District has begun implementing the initial stages of the Plan to reduce, reuse, recycle and manage our waste.

2017-2018

- The City of Powell River launched an organics pilot program for the collection of yard waste and food scraps from 377 homes.
- A new solid waste bylaw was adopted that clearly defines tipping fees, prohibited waste, recyclable materials and stewardship materials creating a set of standards for recycling and waste disposal within the region.
- Changes to how we sort waste at Augusta Recyclers came into effect in October, 2018.

2019-2020

- Starting January 1st, 2019 there will be a garbage tipping fee increase of \$5 a tonne.
- The establishment of a Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee. Look for posting in the new year.
- The Marine Avenue “old incinerator site” cleanup and landfill closure.
- The completion of the Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) detailed design.
- The construction and commissioning of the RRC.

2021

- **RRC fully operational**

The Resource Recovery Centre and Transfer station at the site will facilitate a one stop drop that will bring our region closer to Zero Waste. The remaining (approximately half) portion of the cleaned up site, not required for RRC operations, will be available for community amenity.

For more information on the approved SWMP visit

qathet.ca

look under Solid Waste & Recycling

Proposed access to the RRC

Proposed RRC facility

Proposed green space

Proposed Overflow/Event Parking

Willingdon Beach



qathet
REGIONAL DISTRICT

#202 - 4675 Marine Avenue
Powell River, BC V8A 2L2
T. 604.485.2260
administration@qathet.ca



WINTER WONDER WINDOW: Sabrina Upton brings her whimsical style to Springtime Garden Centre's Christmas Store. Below: Sabrina's realism.

Unlimited inspiration

Art teacher challenges herself with many styles

You may have spotted this gal splashing color on windows around town. Seen above beside her window painting at Springtime Garden Centre's Christmas Store, Sabrina Upton always looks forward to this seasonal enterprise.

As adored as her window creations are, Sabrina's most treasured talents lie on wood and canvas. From hand crafted baby blocks to nature scenes, she has much to offer and can confidently paint anything you request.

Her preferred style tends toward realistic depictions of wildlife with a suggestion of wonder. Inspired, she says, by

artists Robert Bateman and Bev Doolittle and fuelled by a childhood immersed in wilderness.

"As a child, we are full of wonder. We believe in endless possibilities. Painting gives me back a hint of that when adult life may seem to say otherwise.

"Do I love what I do?"

"Emphatically both Yes and No! Ha!

"My art is the product of hard work; relentless hours brush in hand pursuing realism, balanced by the urge to simply play with paint and let the colors flow. I believe this conflict to be a strength; A blend of reality and imagination."

In the last few years, Sabrina has added



"My art is the product of hard work; relentless hours brush in hand pursuing realism, balanced by the urge to simply play with paint and let the colors flow." - Sabrina Upton

belly cast finishing to her list of services.

"I really love sculpting!" she exclaims, "And pregnancy belly casting is unique.

It captures a special time. I am given a rough hardened cast and apply several layers of cool wet plaster that must be shaped and smoothed. After the final sanding and sealer, the cast becomes my canvas."

A former art teacher from Skylight, Sabrina is in the process of starting up a home based business out of her art studio, where she will offer classes and birthday party packages.

Gumboots Studio is expected to be up and running by summer of 2019.

For further information or to contact Sabrina, please visit her website gumbootsstudio.com **RRL**





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Christmas through the ages

So many of our holiday experiences are determined by age. Also, by our species. Try writing a response for each category on behalf of your favourite pet. For example, for the cookies category, my chickens might say, "Throw the crumbs in the yard! We're starving!"

- Pieta Woolley, editor

	You're a kid	You're a teen	You're an adult without kids	You're an adult with kids	You're grandparent age
Travel	Hwy 101, squished in the backseat, feeling vomity	Cycling to your crush's house, gift in your pocket	Cuba! Hawaii! Paris! Tokyo! Oslo!	Ferrying vomity kids around the province	You are what other people travel to
Santa	Is coming to town. He's at the mall.	Was invented by The Man, man	Seasonal lingerie inspiration	Exists. Really. I swear. Stop asking.	You're married to him
House décor: outside	Snowballs – if it snows on the West Coast.	Not too cool for snowballs.	Strings of Edison lights. Real mistletoe.	LED lights, plastic garlands and ornaments	Fundraising wreaths, glass bulbs from 1970, inflatable Rudolph
House décor: inside	Messy room, Elf on the Shelf, seasonal Scholastic books	Ironic strings of coloured lights brighten up your dark, dark room	Pinterest-inspired foliage from your latest snowshoe jaunt through the backcountry	A million dishes, seasonal laundry pile, knotted lights strings	Cards from your many friends who still do cards.
My gifting strategy is:	I make them at school	Super cheap and super thoughtful	The perfect gift from indie stores for everyone	Visa	I start in October. For last-minute gifts, Powell River's November Craft Fairs.
Tree	Inspect for possible candy canes	Secretly inhale the beautiful scent	Chopped from a farm, colour coordinated to Pantone standards	Chopped from Stillwater with kids! And crossed off the list. Next...	Artificial pre-lit tree from 1970.
Cookies	Yes to chocolate chips, no to anything with molasses	All the cookies. I'm growing.	No thanks. I'm keto.	My pants don't fit... but maybe one more.	I made 20 dozen fancy cookies and exchanged them with friends.
Skype	All the grandmas and grandpas	Your crush	Your old travel buddies from Australia.	Phone held above head for maximum pointy chin	All the grandkids
Maybe this year I'll get...	To fly to the North Pole and choose an elf	A car	Another dog.	An afternoon on the couch	To see everyone
Grossed out by:	Your parents smooching under the mistletoe	Your parents' consumerism	So. Much. Meat.	Your own consumerism	Screen time at the table
Holiday dread	Clothes as presents	Family photos	Pressure to have kids	Visa	Food waste
All I want for Christmas is:	Presents	Love	Joy	Peace	Hope



To you and all of your little critters.

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POWELL RIVER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS AWARDS

This space sponsored by:
Powell River LIVING

NOMINATION FORM

ENTREPRENEUR(S) OF THE YEAR

A person(s) who has the unique skills and exceptional initiative to assume the risk of establishing a business, which has been open for at least 12 months. Submissions for this award should be for one person or a maximum of two equal partners.

BUSINESS NAME

OWNER/MANAGER/CONTACT NAME

HOME-BASED BUSINESS AWARD

A home-operated business that consistently shows excellence and quality in service and/or merchandise.

BUSINESS NAME

OWNER/MANAGER/CONTACT NAME

CUSTOMER SERVICE

A business that provides its customers with consistent excellence in service that goes beyond customer expectations. It also encourages its staff to meet the changing customer needs and stands behind its products or service with minimum customer inconvenience.

BUSINESS NAME

OWNER/MANAGER/CONTACT NAME

NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

A business operating for not less than 1 year and not more than 2 years that has gained an expanding positive reputation.

BUSINESS NAME

OWNER/MANAGER/CONTACT NAME

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

A business with fewer than 20 employees that has demonstrated superior quality in all aspects of business operation and shows a commitment to the community through its involvement.

BUSINESS NAME

OWNER/MANAGER/CONTACT NAME

TOURISM AWARD

This business has demonstrated a superior ability to satisfy visitors' expectations through their services and/or products. This business provides and promotes an outstanding visitor experience and actively encourages the growth of Powell River & Area as a destination.

BUSINESS NAME

OWNER/MANAGER/CONTACT NAME

ABORIGINAL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

This award goes to a business that is Aboriginal owned and operated in the Powell River region. The business shows leadership and dedication to the preservation of its cultural values and identity and creates positive growth within the community.

BUSINESS NAME

OWNER/MANAGER/CONTACT NAME

FORESTRY SECTOR AWARD

A large or small business that shows excellence in communications and/or innovation in forestry, forest management or a forest-related industry.

BUSINESS NAME

OWNER/MANAGER/CONTACT NAME

The three awards below require that nominators provide written comments as to why the nominee deserves the award. Please attach a separate sheet or email to office@powellriverchamber.com

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

A business owner or manager who creates a positive, fair, and supportive environment for all employees, while maintaining and even exceeding employment standards and safety policies. This employer models integrity and excellent communication skills. **(Nominations must be accompanied by comments as to why this employer deserves this award. Attach your comments in a separate sheet, or email to office@powellriverchamber.com.)**

NOT FOR PROFIT EXCELLENCE AWARD

A not-for-profit organization that has recognized a need within our community and who through community responsibility, innovation, growth, sound business practices and community partnerships has served our community with vision and integrity.

BUSINESS NAME

OWNER/MANAGER/CONTACT NAME

AGRICULTURAL AWARD

This business has distinguished itself and shown leadership by promoting the betterment of agriculture in our city. This award will be presented to an agriculture-related business who has made outstanding contributions in the advancement of agriculture.

BUSINESS NAME

OWNER/MANAGER/CONTACT NAME

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

An employee of a business who goes above and beyond customer expectations, delivers exceptional knowledge of the products and services and makes a consistent positive contribution to their workplace. **(Nominations must be accompanied by comments as to why this employee deserves this award. Attach your comments in a separate sheet, or email to office@powellriverchamber.com.)**

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Enter only one business per category on this form. Duplicate nomination forms for the same business are not necessary. All entries will be submitted to a **judging panel** for final decision.

Deadline for nominations is Friday Jan 18, 2019. All businesses must have been operating for a minimum of 12 months to be nominated. Mail or drop off your completed nomination form to Powell River Chamber of Commerce 6807 Wharf Street, V8A 1T9.

Or enter online at powellriverchamber.com. Multiple submissions are permitted. Enter now! Enter often!

Your name: _____

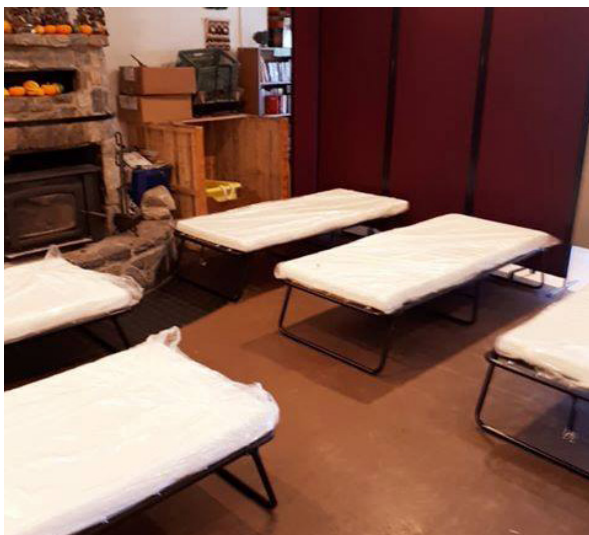
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BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARD

(BUSINESS OF THE YEAR)

A business that has been in operation for more than 5 years and has consistently offered outstanding service and/or product to its customers, and displays a strong commitment to community involvement. A business that contributes to the social, recreational, cultural and overall well-being of the community. **(Nominations must be accompanied by comments as to why this business deserves this award. Attach your comments in a separate sheet, or email to office@powellriverchamber.com.)**

WHAT'S UP



Winter shelter now open

A 20-bed temporary cold weather shelter opened last month at the Community Resource Centre. Until now, the closest beds outside emergency shelter spaces were in the Comox Valley. The shelter was opened in response to increased demand. The CRC will continue to offer resources by day and at night, furniture is moved and cots are set up. The shelter is funded through the provincial ministry of housing and is open seven days a week until the end of March.

Smash Sundays

A competitive/casual weekly meet up to play Super Smash Bros for the Nintendo Gamecube, Wii U and soon to be Nintendo Switch will take place every Sunday from 2 to 6:30 pm at the Town Centre Hotel, upper board room. Entry fee is by donation. We have spare controllers you can borrow but please bring your own if you can. All skill levels and ages can participate in the action. Come meet new friends, gain the ultimate bragging rights and see who is the best at Smash Bros. Join our Facebook page "Powell River Smash Bros," for more info.

~Brady Chan


Can you help?

Volunteer Powell River has some great opportunities for you!

Powell River & District United Way is looking for a Strategic Development board member. If you have passion for grant sourcing, building business plans, or creative thinking around revenue generation we want to hear from you! Help us explore a variety of resource development opportunities.

Evergreen Care Unit is looking for Secret Santa Elves. Once a month come to Evergreen to sort, de-lid and count pop cans and bottles to prep for drop off to the bottle recycling depot. Money raised is used to purchase Christmas presents for the 74 residents who reside at Evergreen. With the support of volunteers we are able to improve the quality of life for our residents.

Willingdon Creek Village Seniors Residence is looking for people to visit with seniors. The volunteer will be matched up with a resident and a visitation schedule will be set based on both of your availability. The volunteer is invited to visit with, read to, play a game with or listen to music together. Orientation and introductions to be provided.

If you can help please contact Volunteer Powell River at vprdesk@gmail.com or phone 604 485-2132 

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A Thought For The Day

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~ Bahá'í Writings



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Welcome back
DEZ HOOFF
to Royal LePage Powell River!

Nothing says home like Powell River and we are very happy to welcome Deserie Hooff back home and back to Royal LePage Powell River.

Dez started with us as a REALTOR in 2008, then relocated to Alberta in 2012 where she continued to sell real estate, helping families and investors. With a fresh approach and the past experience of being a marketing associate for a top-performing city team, she brings competitive marketing strategies to your listings and contributes valuable input to your buying choices.



DEZ HOOFF

Cell: 604 413-3035 Web: dezgetsyouhome.com
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Powell River
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

BY KIM MILLER | office@powellriverchamber.com



Don't forget to nominate your favourite businesses for this year's Powell River Chamber of Commerce's business awards. Turn to Page 42 in this issue to fill out the nomination form or do it online at powellriverchamber.com. The Chamber expects lots of entries, especially in the new category Employee of the Year.

Red Seal Chef Curtis Vollmin will cater groups of two to 10 people. By providing the services of a private chef in your own home, **The Pop Up Chef** is perfect for people who would like to entertain small groups, dinner parties and anniversaries. Curtis, who trained in Italy and has more than 20 years of experience, was most recently the private chef for Powell River Sea Kayak on Kinghorn Island. You can contact Curtis at cvollmin@icloud.com or call him at 604 815-9574.

SignPro has moved to 7053 Glacier Street (beside *Powell River Living* magazine). Owners **Craig McCahon and Jennifer Geertsma** are excited about the move which takes them out of a home-based business situation into the Westview business district. Craig grew up in Powell River, then moved to Australia where he spent 30-plus years managing his own sign business in Cairns. He moved home three years ago. Jennifer, who comes from an arts background, has extensive experience in the sign industry. "We have grown so much in the last year that we needed a larger space," said Craig. For more info visit SignPro at their new location, visit their website at signprobc.com or contact them at create@signprobc.com or 604.578.0510.

Jack Barr is the new president of **Sunshine Coast Tourism**. Jack, who is the past president of the Powell River Chamber of Commerce, was chosen at last month's annual general meeting. He joins **Martin Prestage**, past president; **Christine Hollmann**, vice president and **Heather Newman**, treasurer.

The Modern Peasant is under new ownership. **John D. Walls** of House of Culinary Magic has purchased the Marine Avenue restaurant from **Laurence Dowding**. The restaurant has reopened with the same name but a new menu. John describes it as a French Bistro that is conscious of giving good value. The most expensive item is a \$23 main course. Tasting flights of scotch are a specialty, and patrons will be treated to occasional magic performances. Open 11-2 and 5-9, Thursday to Monday, with tapas from 9 to midnight Friday and Saturday. John will continue offering catering services through House of Culinary Magic.

Debbie Duyvestyn has sold **Coast Fitness** to **Melissa Sloos and Nichole Strickland**. Debbie says she's focusing on the family's **Coast Berry Farm** operations. "For the past 10 years I have had the amazing opportunity to passionately fulfill my dream of creating and building a business and community in fitness, yoga and health in Powell River. Along with my team we managed to exceed beyond all my expectations," said Debbie. Melissa and Nichole have been with Coast for several years and will continue to work hard to ensure clients receive the same on-going high standard of care, service and classes they have in the past. No major changes planned for the time being and Debbie will continue teaching classes.

Dylan and Ingrid Parsons, owners of **Relay Rentals**, recently expanded the services they offer Powell River residents with the purchase of a certified and independently owned **Winmar Property Restoration Special-**

ist franchise. Winmar offers 24/7 emergency response dealing with water, fire, wind and asbestos remediation services as well as renovations for both commercial and residential facilities. Visit them at 103-7105 Duncan Street, call them at 604-485-7335 or check out their website at www.winmarpowellriver.com.

Darryl Craig, who has 16 years experience in the Powell River financial services industry, opened the **Mandeville Private Client** office in Powell River last month. Darryl's background is in preserving and creating wealth for families. He prides himself on providing customized financial plans and solutions. Mandeville provides clients with access to private and alternative investment opportunities. Darryl can be reached at 604 489-0727 or email dcraig@mandevillepc.com. His office is located at #4-4313 Alberta Avenue.

PR Glass Shop is moving to #107-7373 Duncan Street (the former ICBC Claims office) effective January. According to owner **Richard Nordentoft**, customers and employees will now have access to a larger work area, a newly designed showroom, more parking and wheelchair accessible door openers. "We will have room for more products and service displays," says Richard who looks forward to serving everyone even better in the future! The phone number for PR Glass remains the same at 604-485-7500

The Soapy Dragon, a local maker holiday boutique, will be open at the Town Centre Mall from December 1 to 31 beside Telus and The Source. This collective of local small business owners and artisans brings together locally curated items, hand crafted products and unique art. This collective includes:

- **Powell River Natural Soap Lady:** Handcrafted soap and body products created with ethically sourced ingredients, 100% essential oils, no artificial scents or colors.
- **Juniper Dragon Handmade:** Sustainable, locally handmade, children's clothing and green living accessories.
- **Wandering Pups BC:** Handmade all natural & vegan dog treats.
- **Cedar Weaving by Sosan:** Sustainable & hand harvested woven cedar jewelry.
- **Jumpin' Jodphurs:** Canadian made boots, slippers & moccasins
- **Alice's Fresh Pasta:** Freshly roasted gourmet snack nuts & raspberry lemonade syrup.
- **Patricia Sparks Art:** Professional artist specializing in realism, portraits and commissioned art.
- **Wise Woodworx:** Husband and Wife team transforming West Coast wood burls into jewelry, bowls and fish bonkers.
- **Two Bros & a Bow:** Local Mom, creates hair accessories, 100% merino wool hair bows, headbands & more.
- **Juhli Jobi:** Multi talented jelly artisan and author of children's book via Witsend Wonders Productions.

Former city councillor and forest management professional **Russell Brewer** is the **City of Powell River's** new Chief Administrative Officer. Russell will replace outgoing CAO **Mac Fraser** who will retire this month. **Mayor David Formosa** said he was delighted when he heard that Brewer had applied for the position. "When Russell decided not to run for council in this past election, I was concerned the City was losing one of its best assets, so I was very pleased when he chose a different race." Russell has a deep and intimate knowledge of

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Welcome
TODD HABEKOST
to Royal LePage Powell River!



We are pleased to welcome Todd Habekost to the Royal LePage team.

After working in distribution and logistics in Vancouver, Todd is delighted to be working close to his home on beautiful Savary Island. Having recently completed his REALTOR® training, Todd is looking forward to helping people get all the information they need to make good buying and selling decisions for Savary Island, Lund and Powell River.

TODD HABEKOST

Cell: 604 223-1494

Email: ToddHabekost@royallepage.ca



Powell River
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED



Pillar of local Chamber sells store

After more than 20 years as manager/franchise owner of **Powell River's RONA store**, **Pat Hull (above right)** has sold the business to **Bruce and Audrey Allen**, their sons **Michael (above)** and **Stephen** and their daughter, **Nancy**. The official date for the business transfer is December 3. The Allen family also own and operate a RONA Store in North Vancouver and

while it is their current intention to continue living in the Lower Mainland, they will maintain a strong presence in Powell River. Pat, a long-time board member with the Powell River Chamber of Commerce and a valued member of this community, has been hired to work with the Allens in Powell River during a one-year transition period.

the City's internal workings, its culture, and Council's vision for the future of the community. Given his management experience with the **B.C. Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development**, he has the knowledge, skill and drive to serve Powell River diligently and faithfully, said Dave. Russell looks forward to serving Powell River in this new role "I am passionately dedicated to public service and the long-term resiliency of Powell River. I am excited to continue building on the collaborative relationships we have with the **Tla'amin Nation**, the **qathet Regional District** as well as other agencies and organizations."


Jeremy East and his wife **Susanna** are the new owners of **Westview U-Brew**. The couple moved here from Langley in May when Susanna, a certified professional accountant, took a job with **Reid Hunter**. Jeremy is a millwright by trade, so is looking forward to tweaking the systems at the brewery. He has been an avid home brewer for several years. He grows local hops and will be introducing new All Grain Beer recipes in January.

Ward Morcan, the Powell River manager of **Nelson Roofing**, has begun a side business sharpening knives. Ward inherited the sharpening equipment from his father, a partner in the former Tru-Value hardware and rental shop here in Powell

River. Ward charges just \$1 per inch for most knives, and he can also sharpen scissors. He's operating the knife sharpening business from home both evenings and weekends. Ward's phone number is listed in the phone book, or find him on Facebook to arrange your knife or scissors sharpening.

Aaron Reid was acclaimed chairperson of **School District 47's board of education** at the November 20 meeting. **Jackie Timothy** was elected vice-chair. Aaron represents Henderson Elementary School and has been a trustee for 10 years. This is her fourth term as a school trustee.

Patrick Brabazon was acclaimed chair of the **qathet Regional District Board** for 2019 at the inaugural meeting of the board on November 6. Director Brabazon represents Electoral Area A. This distinction marks the fifth year in a row that the Board have looked to Patrick for his leadership.

The Townsite Market at 5831 Ash Avenue will hold its grand opening celebration on Sunday December 9 from 12 pm to 4 pm. The celebration will feature entertainment and free popcorn and hot apple cider. All of the vendors in Townsite Market are small local businesses, many of them artisans. **The Powell River Climbing Co-op** will have an open house as well. 



Wishing you and yours
happy stories
 this holiday season and in 2019

Powell River LIVING





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all great health
and happiness
in 2019.

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DEC. 7 TO 9
WEEKEND



Winter Wonderland opens
Edgehill Carnival
Crafternoon
Carols by Candlelight
Santa arrives at the Mall

DEC. 14 TO 16
WEEKEND



Santa Train
Harbour Lights
Grease
Jingle Jog
Carols at the Patricia

DEC. 21 TO 23
WEEKEND



Rowdy Reindeer Show
Jazzy concert with Walter Martella
Breakfast with Santa
Solstice events
Daniel Richard at Zayka



Much more is happening in December. Check out PRL's full coverage of events on Pages 49 to 55.

Cozy up to

5

December

don't-miss holiday events for kids

1. Santa Train

Up at the Open Air Market, the guys who run the miniature train decorate the woods with thousands of lights. Go for a ride, and stay for the bonfire, music, treats and much more. Three nights this year. See Page 51.

2. Harbour Lights

At the South Harbour, the boats hang Christmas lights, and Ryder Spick brings his lit-up truck. Free hot dogs and cider. Get there from the entrance to the seawalk on Marine, or from beside the Westview ferry terminal. See Page 51.

3. Rowdy Reindeer Show

The talented Library staff have put together another classic puppet show. They'll perform it on December 22 at the Library - an event that includes music, refreshments and much more. Load up on your books & videos for the holiday! See Page 51.

4. Winter Wonderland

Skate through a magical Christmas-lit-up forest at the Rec Centre... indoors! You can even enjoy your cocoa in the woods. The unique Powell River event starts December 7 and runs through the holidays. See schedule Page 21.

5. Something spiritual

Pageants, nativity events, movie nights, carolling and special Christmas Eve worship services: you don't have to be a member of any church to drop in and experience the spiritual side of the season. See all on Pages 50 & 51. [PRL](#)

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Anji Smith fotos

An Introduction to the Self-Employment Program

Ask us about attending. Call 604-485-7901.

Wednesday, January 2 from 9:30 am to 4 pm

The next session will be Wednesday, February 6 from 9:30 am to 4 pm



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Wishing our community a safe and happy holiday season! We look forward to serving you in the new year.

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The Employment Program of British Columbia is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.



Plan your December

Big December Dates

January 1

**Polar Bear Swim
2019**

Whistle blows at noon. Willingdon Beach. Bonfire & Free Hot chocolate. Organized by Pow! Town Roller Derby

Sunday, December 9

Grand Opening, Townsite Market

Noon til 4 pm, at the old Powell River Stores building on Ash Street

Monday, December 10

Last day of Hanukkah

Friday, December 21

Winter Solstice

Sun rises at 8:13 am, Sun sets at 4:19 pm. Total daylight: 8 hours and 6 minutes.

Friday, December 21

Last day of school before Winter Vacation

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve

See Page 50 for worship services

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day & Stat Holiday

Wednesday, December 26

Boxing Day

Monday, December 31

New Years Eve

Tuesday, January 1

New Years Day & Stat Holiday

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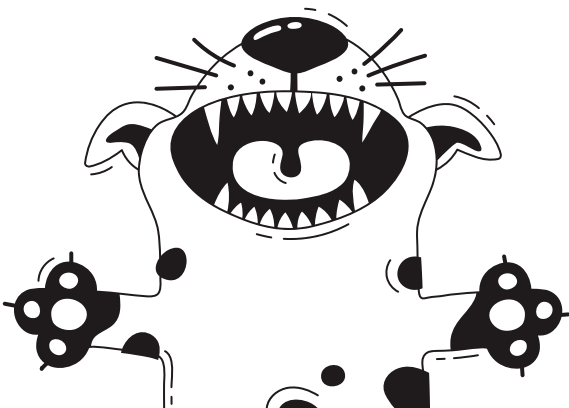
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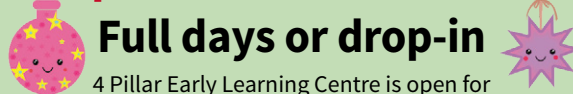
Suzi Wiebe suzi@prliving.ca 604-344-0208

Sean Percy sean@prliving.ca 604-485-0003



Early Learning Centre

Open Christmas Break!

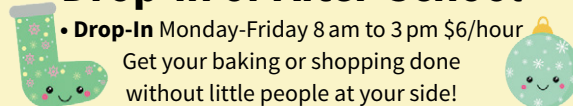


4 Pillar Early Learning Centre is open for

- **Full days** 8 am to 5:30 pm
- **Pick-up from Edgehill School** 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm
- **Preschool** 9 am to 3 pm
- **Drop-ins** are \$6/hour Mon-Fri 8 am to 5:30 pm

Holiday Crafting

Drop-in or After-School



• **Drop-In** Monday-Friday 8 am to 3 pm \$6/hour
Get your baking or shopping done without little people at your side!

- **Pick-up from Edgehill School** We will pick them up at the school at 2:45 and walk back to 4Pillars and do some fun Christmas crafts until you pick them up at the end of your day. Tues-Wed-Thur 2:45 to 5:30 pm \$6/hour

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Where to Worship on Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24

United Church Family Service

6 pm, Powell River United Church

Westview Baptist Services

4 & 6 pm.

Traditional Eucharist with Candlelight

4 pm, St. David & St. Paul Anglican Townsite.

Evangel's 'God With Us'

6 pm, Evangel Church. A candlelight service with live music, carols and a short Christmas reflection

Kelly Creek Service

5 pm, Kelly Creek Community Church.

Reform Service

7 pm Powell River Reform Church

Catholic Mass

Assumption 7 pm; Sacred Heart Tla'Amin 10 pm; St Gerard's Wildwood also at 10 pm (not at midnight)

Family-Friendly Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6 pm Living Water. Join us for a big-screen storybook, Scripture & Christmas carols

Salvation Army Candlelight

6:30 pm at Salvation Army



Spiritual December

Sunday, December 9

Evangel Kids Presents: "Angels Say What?!" A Christmas Production

10 am, Evangel Church

White Gift Service

10:30 am Powell River United Church.

Friday, December 14

Family Movie Night: "The Star"

6:30 pm Living Water

Saturday, December 15

4C Family Nativity Event

4 to 8 pm, Powell River Reform Church. Nativity, dress-up, crafts, food, prizes, games & a movie. See ad on Page 31.

Evangel Christmas Banquet

5:30 pm, Evangel Church

Sunday, December 16

Christmas Pageant

10:30 am Powell River United Church

Breakfast with St Nicholas

Following 10 am Sunday Mass, Assumption Church.

Friday, December 21

The Longest Night Service

6 pm, Powell River United Church

Solstice Yoga

2 pm, Cranberry Hall. With Sandra Tonn

Christmas youth carolling

7 pm. Followed by hot chocolate and desserts. St Gerard's Wildwood

Saturday, December 22

Confession

10 am to noon, Assumption.

Christmas Vespers

4 pm Powell River United Church. Join Austin Parise and friends.

A Jazzy Christmas concert with Walter Martella & Friends

7:30 pm, admission by donation. St. David & St. Paul Anglican Townsite.

Sunday, December 23

Traditional Services

Sunday services at most churches.

Lessons & Carols

10 am, St. David & St. Paul Anglican Townsite.

Confession

11 am to noon & 3-5 pm at Assumption. 9:30 to 9:50 pm at Sacred Heart 11:30 to 11:50 pm at St. Gerard's

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day mass

10 am Assumption Westview.

Morning prayer with music

10 am, St. David & St. Paul Anglican Townsite.

Help brooks students help out

Brooks Students for Change: Saturday, December 8 – Bottle drive 11 am to 3 pm.

Collecting bottles for school and community meal programs through the United Way.

Jingle Jog: Sunday, December 16 – 9:30 am walkers, 10 am runners. Willingdon Beach.

Organized by Brooks. Raising money for The Food Bank.



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www.stdavidandstpaul.com

Dec 22 ☩ 7:30 pm *A Jazzy Christmas Concert with Walter Martella & Friends*

(admission is by donation

- proceeds go to a local charity)

Dec 23 ☩ 10 am *Lessons & Carols*

Dec 24 ☩ 4 pm *Traditional Eucharist with Candlelight*

Dec 25 ☩ 10 am *Morning Prayer with music*

Everyone welcome!

Hope Joy Peace Love

The Rev Faun Harriman



Christmas & Advent

Join Us

Sunday, December 9th • 10:30am

White Gift Service (donations to Christmas Cheer)

Sunday, December 16th • 10:30am

Family Christmas Pageant

Friday, December 21st • 6:00pm

Longest Night • Service of Light

Saturday, December 22th • 4pm

Christmas Vespers with Austin Parise & Friends

Sunday, December 23rd • 10:30am

Traditional Church Service

Monday, December 24th • 6:00pm

Christmas Eve Family Service

Monday, December 31st

New Years Eve BBQ 4:30 to 6pm • Movie 6:30pm

**POWELL RIVER
UNITED CHURCH**



www.PowellRiverUnitedChurch.com
604-485-5724 • Duncan & Crofton



Special Moments

Evangel Pentecostal Church

Kids Christmas Production

December 9, 10am

Evangel Christmas Banquet

December 15, 5:30pm

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 6pm

Inviting you and your family to join us this holiday season. We hope you have a blessed Christmas.

- Pastors Lucas and Lisa Mitchell



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Do All the Holiday Things

To December 6

The Grinch at the Patricia Theatre
7 pm nightly 1:30 pm weekend matinees

To December 31

11th Gingerbread House Contest
Entries to be brought to the Town Centre Hotel between Dec 2 & 5.

Tuesday, December 4

Stuff the Trailer kick-off
At Safeway. See ad on Page 31.

Friday, December 7 to 28

Winter Wonderland
Skate through a magical forest indoors. See Page 21 for details.

Friday, December 7

Edgehill's Christmas Carnival
5 pm to 8 pm. at the school.

Weekend, December 7 & 8

Homesteaders Craft Fair
Cranberry Seniors Centre. Friday 5 to 8:30 pm, Saturday 10 to 4 pm.

Carols by Candlelight

Dwight Hall. Call 604-485-9633 to see if there are tickets remaining.

Saturday, December 8

Magic of Christmas - Home-based Business and Craft Fair
Complex, 10 am to 4 pm.

Brooks Students for Change

Bottle drive 11 am to 3 pm. Collecting bottles for school and community meal programs through the United Way.

Sunday, December 9 to 24

Santa at Town Centre Mall
Daily from 1 to 4 pm (Dec. 24 to 3 pm).

Tuesday, December 11

Beer & Buy at Townsite Brewing
4 to 8 pm. Rodan & Fields, doTerra, Picked Collective and Westerly Studio at the brewery; \$2 off 16oz beer with purchase.

Wednesday, December 12

Free Christmas Lunch
Salvation Army. See ad below for tickets.

Wednesdays December 12 & 17

Pet photos with Santa
At the Town Centre Mall from 1-2 pm.

Weekend, December 14 to 16

Santa Train
5-8 pm Paradise Exhibition Park. Night rides surrounded by Xmas lights. Bring a new unwrapped toy or nonperishable food item for the Salvation Army.

Saturday, December 15

Family Christmas Concert
ARC Centre on Alberni. With the Powell River Community Band and guests. inclusion PR event.



MERRY CLUCKMAS: Mother Nature's Donna Blower (AKA Santa) holds PRL editor Pieta Woolley's chickens Ginger, Jade and Dinah, at the fifth annual Pet Photos with Santa event at the store Nov. 25.

Harbour Lights

At the South Harbour 5-7 pm. Bring the whole family and enjoy decorated boats, hot-dogs and warm cider. Ryder Spick and his Christmas truck will join us again. Please wear appropriate footwear.

Sunday, December 16

Carols sing-a-long at The Patricia
2 pm with Santa & Mrs. Claus. Joanne Hansen on Piano

Sunday, December 16

Jingle Jog
9:30 am walkers, 10 am runners. Willingdon Beach. Organized by Brooks. Raising money for The Food Bank.

Weekend, December 16 & 17

Christmas Lights Bus Tour
6:30 pm, starts at the Recreation Complex. Register at the complex or call 604-485-2891.

Monday, December 17

Chor Musica Winter Solstice Concert
7:30 pm, James Hall. \$18.

Saturday, December 22

Breakfast with Santa
At the Recreation Complex. Call 604-485-2891 to register for 9 am or 10 am seatings.

The Rowdy Reindeer Show

10:30 am, Library. Family-friendly event featuring a puppet show, stories, music, refreshments & more.

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Dinner
Westview Baptist Church, 5:30. For those who would ordinarily be alone. To eat or volunteer, see Page 26

Carolling at Evergreen

11 am at Willingdon Creek and 11:45 at Extended Care December 25. Just show up and sing. See Page 24.

Salvation Army Church & Community Services
Serving with our hearts to God and our hands to the people of Powell River

PLEASE JOIN US

<p>Giving Hope Today Dec 12 • 11:30-1:30</p> <p><i>Ongoing until Dec 24, Christmas Kettle shifts available at five locations throughout town.</i></p> <p>For info call 604-414-4102 or 604-485-6067.</p>	<p>Community Christmas Lunch at The Salvation Army. For FREE tickets call 604 485-6067. Music provided by the Community Band.</p> <p>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at The Salvation Army.</p>	
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4500 Joyce Ave ☎ 604 485-6067 ☎ salvationarmypr.ca

Westview Baptist Church

3676 Joyce Ave
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604 485-9607

"Always a Place For You"

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
December 24 • 4 pm and 6 pm

Regular services
December 23 and 31 at 10 am

All regular Sunday Services 10 am
Muffins & coffee 9:30 am
Oskar Arajs, lead pastor
Martin Wriglesworth, community life pastor
wbchurch.ca

MAY

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Just come as you are. Everyone welcome.

Christmas Eve Service

5 pm

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Come home for Christmas

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Sacrament of Reconciliation
(Confessions)

At Westview:
Dec 22 10 am to 12 pm
Dec 24 11 am to 12 pm & 3 pm to 4 pm

At Tla'Amin:
Dec 24 9:30 to 9:50 pm

At Wildwood:
Dec 24 11:30 to 11:50 pm

Christmas masses

December 24
At Westview 7 pm
At Tla'amin 10 pm
At Wildwood 12 Midnight

December 25
Westview 10 am

Father Patrick Tepoorten
604-485-5300

Happy Holidays

STROKE RECOVERY ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
POWELL RIVER BRANCH

The Stroke Recovery Group meets Tuesday mornings, 9:30-12:45 at the Legion (6811 Alexander Street). Call Sandy at 604 489-0024 or Diana at 604 483-6142 for info.

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Until January 29

Thermal show at VIU. See ad on Page 26.

To December 6

Dr. Seuss' *The Grinch*

7 pm Nightly 1:30 pm Weekend Matinees

December 7

Ski Movie Night

6:30 pm at the Cranberry Hall. \$10 cash only. Family friendly fundraiser for the Knuckleheads Winter Recreation Association and Ski Powell River.

Saturdays December 8 & 22

Acoustic Saturdays

TC's Pub 9:30 pm – 12:30 am

Saturday, December 8

Varmint

8 pm, McKinney's. \$5

Sunday, December 9

Crafternoon at Townsite Brewing

3 pm, bring a craft to work on

December 13 to 15

Grease! By Brooks Theatre Company

Tickets at Brooks office or at the door. \$10. See ad on Page 25.

December 15

GD/BC

McKinneys, 9 pm. Grateful Dead tribute.

Family Christmas Concert

ARC Centre on Alberni. Community Band and guests. inclusion PR event.

December 16

Carols sing-a-long at The Patricia

2 pm with Santa & Mrs. Claus. Joanne Hansen on Piano

December 17

Chor Musica Winter Solstice Concert

7:30 pm, James Hall. \$18.

December 21 to 23

Daniel Richard in concert

Royal Zayka

January 9

The One Voices Choir starts up

A choir for all voices. 6:30-8 pm. Location TBA. singitpowellriver@gmail.com. 604-483-1451.

January 11 & 12

Banff Mountain Film Fest

At the Max. See ad Page 18.

February 8 to 17

Powell River Film Fest

See ad Page 37.

December 7

Kings vs. Salmon Arm

7 pm, Hap Parker

December 7 to 28

Winter Wonderland

Skate through a magical forest indoors. See Page 21 for details

December 16

Jingle Jog

9:30 am walkers, 10 am runners. Willingdon Beach. Organized by Brooks. Raising money for The Food Bank.

Saturday, December 23

Sea Snake Afternoon

2-3 pm at the pool

Dec 24 to Jan 6

Special skating and swimming schedules at the Rec Complex

Jan. 4

Kings vs. Wenatchee

7 pm, The Hap

Jan 6

Kings. Vs. Cowichan Valley

3:30 pm, The Hap

Learn something new

December 5 & January 2

Intro to the Self-Employment program

See ad on Page 16.

December 5

The Salish Sea Marine Survival Project: Findings and Next Steps

7 pm, Town Centre Hotel. Dr. Brian Riddell, CEO of the Pacific Salmon Foundation will speak about the struggles of local salmon. See story Page 8.

December 8

Karen Southern reading – House Histories and Heritage Volume II

2 pm, Library. Local historian Karen Southern presents *House Histories and Heritage Vol 2: The Old Town* on the history of Powell River's Historic Townsite.

December 13 & 14

Book Repair Workshop

At the Library. Join expert bookmaker Stuart Isto and learn how to repair books with damaged binding. Spaces are limited. To register call 604-485-4796 Ext. 206.

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FROM ALL OF US AT
TOWNSITE BREWING



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This New Years Eve...

*Celebrate like
an Italian!*

Powell River Italian Community Club New Year's Eve Party

Monday, December 31st
Doors Open at 8p.m.

Party Favors, Midnight Snack and Champagne included
Featuring the Jim Baron Band

Tickets \$35
Available at Massullo
Motors, Underwriters
Insurance or Club
Executive

No minors

For further information
please call Dan at
604-485-6061



New Years

Monday, December 31

New Years Eve BBQ & Movie

4:30 - 6pm BBQ and Movie - 6:30pm.
Powell River United Church.

New Years dance / potluck appies

8pm, The Legion. With Ron Campbell and the Walter Martella Dance Band.

Reform Church service

7 p.m., Reform Church.

Italian Community Club New Year's Eve Party

8pm. Music by the Jim Baron Band. Party Favors, Midnight Snack and Champagne included. No minors. Tickets \$35 each are available at Massullo Motors, Underwriters Insurance or Club Executive. See ad on Page 52.

New Year's Eve Dinner

6 to 9pm, Seaside Bistro. Live Music with Renelle & Dawson. Reservations required.

New Years Party

At the Assumption Hall \$50 per person Buffet dinner by Perina Canil and music by Mike Lang. Champagne at midnight and light snacks. Safe rides home by donation as well. Tickets can be purchased at the Medical clinic Associates on Joyce or message Laura Passek.

New Year's Eve Dance with Denis & the Menaces

Carlson Community Club, 4463 Joyce Avenue. Doors open at 7:30pm. Tickets on sale in advance at the Club. \$15 for members, \$25 for guests. Everyone brings an appetizer!

January 1

Polar Bear Swim 2019

Whistle blows at noon. Willingdon Beach. Bonfire & Free Hot chocolate. Organized by Pow! Town Roller Derby. **PRL**



Give gift certificates to the Tea & Tarot event at Henderson House. January 19, 1 to 4pm

For tickets: 604-483-3901 or thetownsite@shaw.ca

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Tarot Readings

\$25

\$20 for THS members.

A fundraiser for Henderson House and the Townsite Heritage Society.

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We are thrilled to announce, after a long build out process, that Townsite Market in the middle of the historic Townsite commercial district is close to being ready to open and that our grand opening celebration will be:

Sunday December 9th from 12 pm to 4 pm

The celebration will have entertainment and free popcorn and hot apple cider. All of the vendors in Townsite Market are small local businesses, many of them artisans. The Powell River Climbing Co-op will have an open house as well. Please come down and help us celebrate.



The Fiddleback Shack

Reimagined vintage and other wood furniture with a focus on milk paint and other natural and non-toxic finishes.



Seaside Aenfae Boutique

A curated children's boutique featuring ethically crafted clothing, accessories and shoes.



Kaleidoscope Coast Creations

Lively, vibrant refinished furniture & unique hand-painted plant pots.



Base Camp

Coffee roastery in the heart of Townsite. Opening early 2019.



The Owl & Bear

Herbs and curiosities. Come find something interesting.



Townsite Fruit & Veg

Simply affordable fresh fruit and vegetables.



Eunoia Fibre Studio and Gallery

Originality and sustainability in your choice of clothing and accessories for you and your home.



Powell River Climbing Co-op

A not-for-profit indoor rock climbing gym. Fun, fitness, and community.



Hearth & Grain

Baked goods with flavour and integrity. Opening early 2019.



Turadh Fine Art

Curated selection of artworks featuring local and Canadian artists, owned and operated by local artist Anna May Bennett.



Coastal Thrive

Ethically made sustainable clothing and accessories for men and women.



Just Soul Food

Treat yourself with a delicious plant-based treat from Just Soul Food.

5831 Ash Avenue

Artisan booths and tables still available for rent.

For more information contact us on Facebook @Townsitemarket

Look at me I'm Sandra Dee

It's 1959 and Rydell High's senior class too-cool-for-school Burger Palace Boys are stealing hubcaps and acting tough while the gum-snapping, chain smoking Pink Ladies are looking hot in their bobby socks and pedal pushers.

The student production of *Grease*, the popular musical, highlights social issues such as teenage pregnancy, peer pressure, gang violence, love and friendship.

New to Powell River and the arts community is theatre arts teacher Jennifer Didcott who is directing and producing the show.

"It's a student and community effort to bring this classic musical to the stage in Powell River," said Jennifer.



WE GO TOGETHER: Jaxyn Ole, 17, as Danny Zuko, and Lauren Huguet, 15, as Sandy Dumbrowski. The producer suggests a minimum audience age of 10. Why? The show is probably racier than you remember - though of course very mild by 21st century standards.

Photo by Brooks Grade 12 media arts student Max Chiasson

"Roy Carson, our music director, and Sydney Spent, our choreographer, are passionate teachers dedicated to creating memorable musical events for our schools.

"Loretta Cameron has pulled together an amazing wardrobe for our cast complete with brightly coloured poodle skirts and leather jackets. Suzanne Barclay, Leah Babcock and her team of students at VIU are working on creating vintage hairstyles worthy of James Dean and Annette Funicello!"

The joy of youth and universal themes of love, rebellion and belonging are timeless which is the secret to the musical's long-time popularity.

Jennifer adds, "We all remember our first love, our gang of best friends and the struggle to define our identity. For many of us these themes are a distant memory, for the youth of our community it's happening now. I've always wanted to produce *Grease* and am so thrilled to work with such a dedicated and talented cast and crew of students."

Grease, by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey, graced the stage in 1971 in Chicago, and this year is the 40th anniversary of the film that starred John Travolta and Olivia Newton John.

"I found the film version glosses over the deeper relationships of the characters that are beautifully written in the original musical. I look forward to sharing these discoveries with the next generation of *Grease* fans."

GREASE ON STAGE

What: Brooks Secondary presents the classic musical

When: December 13 to 15, 7 pm

Where: Max Cameron Theater

Tickets: \$10 from Brooks front office or before the show.

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Merry Christmas from T&R!

Thanks Powell River for the opportunity to serve you. We love doing business in our home town, and we appreciate your support. May your holidays be filled with truckloads of joy!

T&R will close at 3 pm on Friday, Dec. 21 and remain closed until opening Wednesday, Jan. 2.



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from our family to yours

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POODLE PRODUCTION: Loretta Cameron sews costumes for *Grease*, on stage at The Max this month.

Seamstress whips up a colourful swirl for *Grease*

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT
isabelle@prliving.ca

“Once you put a child in a costume they become the part.”

Loretta Cameron has seen this happen time and time again. To many, Loretta is the costume lady – she’s been making costumes for school productions since her own son Scott was cast as The Beast in *Beauty and the Beast* in 2007.

“Together with other moms, we sewed and manufactured all the costumes from scratch,” she said. “This was a huge project – it excited me and showed me the huge need for costumers in our community. I love creating costumes but I also love that kids can do this. Without costumes you can’t have the play!”

Loretta began making her own clothes when she was a teenager. “We didn’t have a lot of money to buy new clothes and mom taught me how to sew.” In middle school she took sewing class and from there, her love and interest just grew.

She made Halloween costumes for herself and her husband Michael and their two children, Scott and Jessica, and for family friends.

Loretta has continued to sew costumes for Brooks and for other theatre groups as well. She opened Cameron’s Costumes in the basement of her home in 2009 as she was approached for more and more costumes for many different occasions. She sewed over 400 costumes and revamped others as needed. “I had at least 800 costumes in stock,” she said.

But the demand became more than she could handle as a single seamstress and she sold the business (now

HAVE A DRESS TO DONATE?

Costumer Loretta Cameron is still looking for old grad dresses to be donated for the dance off competition. “*Grease* has a lot of strapless dresses with three-quarter length tulle skirts. Many of them had sequined tops.” If you have an old grad dress to donate, please contact Brooks Secondary School.

called Little Shop of Costumes) in 2014. “It is still a great resource for me. Megan [Skidmore, the current owner] will be lending us jackets and other things for the play.”

Loretta’s focus changed to grad and wedding dress alterations after she sold the business. It’s time-consuming work but fulfilling because dresses often have to be altered and there aren’t a lot of people who are able to do this.

“But sewing costumes is still a huge passion and I enjoy helping the schools with their productions,” she said. “I do it because I love it but also because there is a need for this.”

Her biggest challenge is the budget she’s given for costumes. “Material is expensive and not readily available in Powell River.” Time is another challenge as many costumes are needed in a short window of time.

The Powell River Health-Care Auxiliary Economy Shop is a huge help. “I have a list on the wall there that says what I need. The school gives them a donation at the end.”

Even with these challenges, Loretta still manages to pull it off.

For *Grease*, Loretta says she’s working on gold head scarves and poodle skirts with lots of poof!

“We’re going for dramatic colours on stage to create a bold and beautiful atmosphere.” **PR**

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THE

LIST

Nice



1. Sockwell socks from Fits to a T

These compressions socks have stretchy spandex throughout the sock, providing comfort and support. They have a graduated compression leg, turn welt top, arch support and seamless toe closure. And they look great!

2. Diffuser from Kelly's Health Shop

Thanks to its small size and its natural elegance, this Carrara mist diffuser will bring you calmness and serenity. It will invite you to travel and escape while diffusing your favourite essential oils.

3. Buick Encore from Massullo Motors

From its sculpted front fascia and grille to its standard LED-accented tail lamps, the Buick Encore compact luxury SUV offers a sleek, athletic look that's designed to stand out. The Encore gives you the power and efficiency to take on every twist and turn.

4. Toque from Simply Bronze

This Messy Bun Toque by CC is available for \$28 at Simply Bronze. The soft acrylic knit is 7" high x 9" wide with a 3" hole on top that is great for messy buns and ponytails. Keep your ears covered on cold days, but show off that fabulous hair.

5. True Blue lenses from Iris

Don't wear glasses but have heard that blue light might be harmful when you're using your electronics? Not all blue light is harmful, so TrueBlue are non-prescription glasses help filter out the "bad" blue light! TrueBlue glasses are offered in adult and children frames.

6. Grinders from Tla'amin Convenience Store

These salt 'n' pepper grinders are made in Canada and suitable for anyone on your list - because who can't use a little more spice in their life? Quit shaking out pre-ground salt and pepper - keep it fresh!

7. Salmon carving at Tug Guhm Gallery

While Debra Bevaart is probably most famous in Powell River for her seal head carvings, she also turns stone into whales, sea lions, bears, and salmon as pictured here. Visit the gallery in Lund for a huge selection of art by the region's top artists, curated by Debra herself.

8. Thermostat from Canadian Tire

The Nest Learning Thermostat, now in its third generation, just keeps getting better and smarter. No more confusing programming - Nest learns the temperatures you like and programs itself. Get the new Nest for \$329.99 from Canadian Tire.

9. Wiffo Waffles from Fruits & Roots

Waffles aren't just for breakfast when you choose Wiffo Waffle Mix. The Savory Waffle Mix includes sun-dried tomatoes and rosemary. There's also Herb & Cheese and Sweet (Maple Syrup & Vanilla). Purchase the dry mix at Fruits & Roots Juice Bar, the Nutcracker Market or on line at wiffowaffle.com. Or call ahead to get frozen waffles at Fruits & Roots.

10. Blundstones from Pagani & Sons Shoes

Leather, lined with - what else - leather! How comfortable can a Blundstone boot get? Now in a classic hue we call Redwood. This is a boot that stands tall and comfortable all year round.

11. Pet Beds from Top Shelf Feeds

Treated with Teflon fabric protector, they're safe for your pet, but machine washable and repel stains, dirt and liquids. They look newer and stay cleaner longer and they're made to fit inside crates and carriers. Start at \$15.99 at Top Shelf Feeds.



Have the people on your list been naughty or nice in 2018? If you're playing Santa, you get to decide.

Nice? Treat your little angel to something splendid from this page. Naughty? Reward your little rebel with something scintillating, next page.







1

1. Underwear from Armitage Men's Wear

With 2UNDR, you'll notice the heavenly softness right away. The Swing Shift line caresses the skin with the finest beechwood fibre. The material resists shrinkage and is less likely to fade or pill as a result of friction, and remains soft even after repeated wash cycles. Available in many colours and prints, including camo, from Armitage Men's Wear.

2. Mountain bike at TAWS

With a completely redesigned geometry and no-compromise component selection including dropper posts and 1x drivetrains for all price points, the newly released 2019 Norco Fluid FS captured the attention of Canadian Cycling Magazine. Get it for \$2,999 at TAWS.

3. Suspenders at Thunder Bay Saw Shop

Keep those pants up with quality suspenders from Thunder Bay Saw Shop, specially woven to hold up to constant stretching. Choose between clip or button styles in a variety of colours. Grey Husqvarna suspenders start at \$21.99.

4. Chocolate from the Nutcracker

Got a sweet tooth hankering for the old country? Find UK treats & chocolates: Thornton's, Galaxy, Cadbury and Mini Moo (Dairy, Gluten & Soya Free) at The Nutcracker on Marine Avenue. They also have cookies from Germany & Poland and other tasty treats to serve when entertaining. Don't forget the pate, cheese and crackers!

5. Market Bag from Westerly Studio

Westerly Studio has the ultimate market bag that makes a perfect holiday gift. Whether shopping, going up the lake or to Savary, this bag will be a go to. The bag is Fair Trade has a waterproof interior and holds 135 pounds.

6. Grilled Cheese at Fruits & Roots

The Triple Threat Grilled Cheese is made with 7 Sprouts smoked gouda and cheddar with Daiya mozzarella, pickled red onion between two Herb & Cheese Wiffo Waffles with house-made chipotle ketchup. This is vegan and gluten free.

7. Giggewater from Capone's Cellar

The aptly named Giggewater brand believes in balance and creativity in life, so their bottles are unique and almost as fun as the contents. Find Prosecco, Cava and Frizzante with different packaging!

8. Bath Bomb from Beyond Bliss Spa & Suites

Spa services make wonderful gifts, treat someone to the gift of relaxation. Early Bird Gift Card Special: Purchase a \$100 gift Card and receive a free blissd Bling Bomb (a bath bomb with a ring inside), a \$30 value.

9. Poncho from Pollen Sweaters

Available in either the same wonderful wool their sweaters are made, or from soft bamboo, ponchos from Pollen are a great alternative to a rain jacket, look perfect with jeans and boots on a chilly wet day, and can even replace your couch blankets on a cool winter's eve.

10. Feed your buds at Mother Nature

Innovating Plant Products packages an all-you-need starter kit for feeding your plants, ideal for hydroponic applications. To get growing, see the experts at Mother Nature, where they can connect you with all you need, including this \$99 3-part High Output Garden system.



7



6



8



9

11. Seafood at Tourism Powell River

Gifts from the sea and St. Jean's Cannery on Vancouver Island. Choose from smoked mussels or oysters, shrimp or salmon pate and canned smoked sockeye and smoked albacore tuna from BC waters and more. Prices start at \$3.99. [PR](#)



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Teresa's final card

Powell River Tarot: a community reading, by Teresa Harwood-Lynn

Teresa is available for individual readings, parties and special events. You can contact her directly at 604-485-5620 or by email at teresaann@telus.net

One only has to look at the ebb and flow of life to see the major arcana's 21st card, the “World”, in motion. When the World appears in a reading it usually indicates a sense of achievement, fulfillment and accomplishment. Everything has come together, and you have achieved what you have set out to do. If you have ever started out on a journey, that took you to places you would never have imagined that is the World at work.

The woman, in the center of the card, looks back towards her past, as she moves forward in the direction of her future. She is encircled by the laurel wreath, the symbol of victory.

The symbols, in the corners of the card, are four signs of the zodiac; Leo, Taurus, Scorpio and Aquarius. These represent the stars aligning and all the elements coming together.

The tarot is considered to be cyclical in nature. The World is the last card of the major arcana and is followed by the first card, the Fool. When we have achieved what we have set out to achieve we can be assured that the Fool will appear in short order to start us out in the direction of our next adventure.

In 2016, when I first began writing Tarot articles for PRL magazine, I had no idea where it would lead. Looking back now I can see that



all the seemingly unrelated stars were in order; I knew how to read the tarot, my writing mentor, Deb, was encouraging me to write and Isabelle's horoscope writer had just announced their retirement.

With my 32nd article now complete I feel the World's sense of fulfillment and completion. It has been an interesting and insightful journey, but now it is time to take the advice of this month's card and stop to reflect. This will be the last of my tarot articles. I'm not sure where the cards will take me next, but when I look back I will see that

THE WORLD
ACHIEVEMENT
FULFILLMENT
ACCOMPLISHMENT
COMPLETION
MASTERY

the stars have already begun to do their thing.

But what about you? What if you have not yet fully completed what you set out to do? Look back at where you have come from; you may discover you are closer than you think. If loose ends are dangling take a closer look at how you can tie them up. The World reminds us to stay active.

As I write this final article the Fool is already appearing and nudging me forward. In January I will be helping with a fundraiser for the Townsite Heritage Society that will see the launch of four new tarot readers in Powell River, in March VIU will offer another Intro to the Tarot class.

If you'd like to know about either of these events, or to talk about how you can learn to read the tarot for yourself and friends you can email me directly. [PRL](mailto:teresaann@telus.net)



CARLA MCKAMEY



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 from my family to yours

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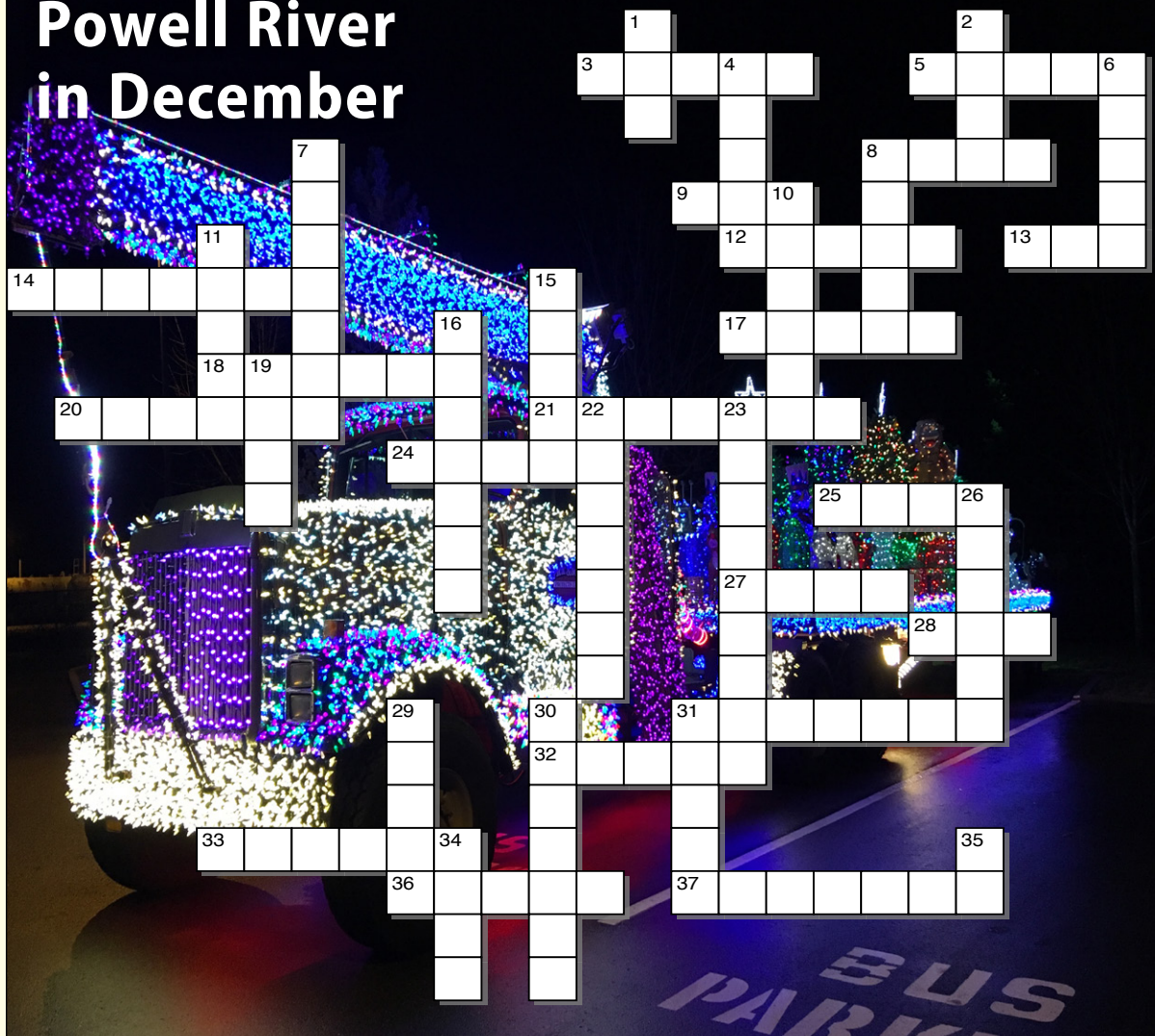
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DC
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 Point Zero

Etnies
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Arcade Belts
 Barefoot Venus
 and many more...

Powell River in December



Across

- 3) Ministers urge you to keep this
- 5) Joy, or yelling for your team
- 8) Waste plan acronym
- 9) Jingle or slow run
- 12) Santa's rail-bound sleigh
- 13) Don't worry about singing, just share this
- 14) Salmon or warm breeze
- 17) Stuff trailer to deposit food in these
- 18) City CAO, school trustee
- 20) Winter wonderland footwear
- 21) Red bus light, salmon lure, or exhibitionist
- 24) Waffle brand from Fruits & Roots
- 25) Boat bottom, or outgoing RONA owner
- 27) British immigrant or alpine lake
- 28) Winter shelter location, abbr.
- 31) scientists or Kane
- 32) Artist Sabrina
- 33) Ryder's truck has lots of these
- 36) Sammy is this in Poppy's book
- 37) Enquist's tale, yours if you lie

Down

- 1) Brooks photog and theatre
- 2) Hardy Boys' friend, or salmon
- 4) Teresa's cards
- 6) What reindeer, but not you, get at the library
- 7) Recipes for these in this issue
- 8) Christmas truck driver keeps it clean
- 10) Brooks play
- 11) City's new finance guy, for sure
- 15) Film fest's high ground
- 16) Decorating tipsters
- 19) Education board chair
- 22) Costumer Cameron
- 23) Ducks or romance
- 26) Brooks' Sandy
- 29) Harbour light bearers
- 30) Jordan Mitchell's pursuit
- 31) Bird event does this on you
- 34) We get less of it these days
- 35) Oldfield, or Mr.

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Merry Christmas

Wishing you all the best in 2019

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**Solution for last month's puzzle:
Helping Powell River**

Christmas Letters

Starting around mid-November and throughout December, Christmas cards with enclosed letters would arrive here in Powell River from the relatives in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Alberta.



WAITING FOR LETTERS: Kathy Bennett with her older sister Theresa at their family's mailbox on Padgett Road. Winter of 1955.

Last Word

WITH KATHY BENNETT

Kathy wrote this story as part of the Seniors Memoir Writing Program at the Powell River Public Library

These annual offerings were pretty much the only connection that Mom and Dad had with their siblings, parents, cousins, and friends from the Prairies.

Around about the time of our mail delivery each day Mom would be looking at the clock and asking of anyone and no one in particular, “Has anyone seen the mail lady come yet?” As soon as Mom saw the mail lady’s station wagon, she would dash out of the house, cross the road, and reach into in the mailbox for the treasures that awaited her.

With a coffee cup in one hand and a letter in the other Mom would read and re-read each letter several times over in case she missed something. She would store all this information away in her mind so that throughout the year she could recall what was said every now and again, savouring it like sucking on a long-lasting hard rock candy.

The letters spoke of the weather, the crops, and the canning season. Who got married, who had babies, who died. Who was sick, injured or on medications. Who moved and why. Sometimes newspaper clippings were included in the letter of events that took place during the year, or there’d be a funeral card, or jokes cut from farming magazines. Our Aunt who was a nun included a Holy card in her letters for each of us kids.

The letters were handwritten. English wasn’t anyone’s first language in our family tree and spelling mistakes were found on every line. The handwriting was sometimes hard to decipher as these were farming people. People who wielded shovels, hay rakes, and horse harnesses. Their hands were large and calloused with knobbed fingers, not used to handling a pen at the end of a long, hard day of labour. I imagine they sat at their oilcloth-covered kitchen tables, sipping coffee from thick mugs, and wondered what to write to our family so far away—how to summarize their year on paper. These people were extraordinary storytellers. That came easy to them. As natural to them as milking cows and feeding chickens. But writing a letter was different. It was difficult. If they were lucky, they had a Grade 6 or 7 education. Many of them had even less.

After Mom had read and re-read their letters she would carefully cut the return address off each envelope and tuck them in her address book, even though she already had everyone’s addresses written in that book. Every year she did this. And as the years passed that address book of hers was crammed full of envelope corners.

And every winter Mom faithfully wrote everyone a Christmas letter by hand in return. Telling her siblings, parents, cousins, and friends about our life on the Coast. Our weather, our crops, and our canning season. But it was harder for Mom to write about the people here. Who would know about them? Although, there were a few relatives that made the drive out and met some of the friends and neighbours we had here. Sometimes Mom included clippings from the *Powell River Digger*, a local pulp and paper magazine about the mill.

Then in the 60’s our family acquired a heavy-duty typewriter. Mom didn’t know how to type, but that didn’t deter her. She’d browse the keyboard for each letter then bang that key with her finger. Mom felt that a letter written on a typewriter gave it a stylish look. More legible, too.

Once mom had finished reading and re-reading the letter that had arrived, the cards were hung from the string that festooned the living room walls. They encircled not only our living room, but our hearts in their cocoon of love and best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. They made us feel closer to these people that lived so far away.

In later years, as dementia began to claim Mom’s life, I began to take over the letter writing for her. The initial addressing of each envelope was a nightmare for me. I had no idea, and by this time neither did Mom, where people lived. Whether these bits of paper choking in her address book were recent return addresses or old ones. Were the ones she’d written in her book more accurate? I wanted to sort through these addresses and toss a good portion of them out. That is, until I saw the look of horror on Mom’s face—that I should even think of doing such a thing. These return addresses were a tangible connection for mom to hold onto. As though by holding onto that address, she was holding onto the person who had written it.

Were Mom’s letters received with as much reverence by the relatives as their letters were received by Mom? When I took over Mom’s letter writing I began to realize how much it meant to everyone. Mom’s cousin Pete Gerlinsky still writes to me. He’s in his 90s, in assisted living, and I find myself getting choked up with emotion when I read his sweet, hand written, spidery scrawl, thanking me for my letter then telling me of the weather, the crops, and the canning season. Who got married, who had babies, who died. Who was sick, injured or on medications. Who moved and why. [PRL](#)



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