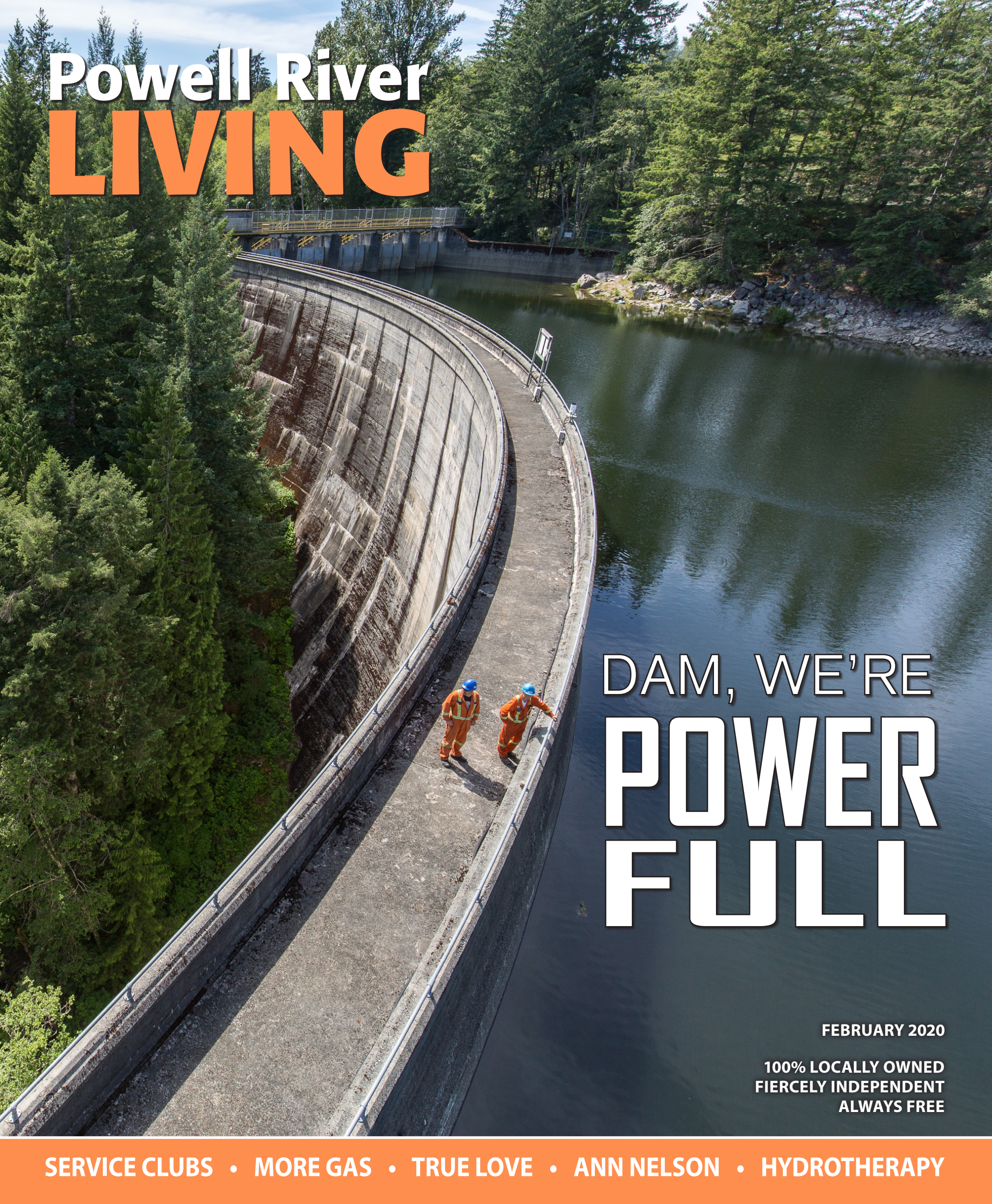


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Attend a meeting!

The schedule for Regular Council meetings and Committee of the Whole meetings is posted on the Public Notice Board at City Hall. Schedules are subject to change – when necessary, notices will be issued noting revisions to the date, time and place or cancellation of a meeting. Minutes and agendas are available online at powellriver.ca.

Committee of the Whole Meetings are held on the Tuesday of each week of a Regular Council meeting at 3:30 pm in Council Chambers at City Hall. Please note that the schedule is subject to change. Notices of Council and Committee meetings and agendas are posted on the bulletin board in the foyer at City Hall and online at powellriver.ca.

2020 Regular Committee of the Whole Meetings:

- January 14
- February 4 and 18
- March 3, 17 and 31
- April 14
- May 5 and 19
- June 2, 16, and 30
- July 14
- August 18
- September 1, 15 and 29
- October 13
- November 3 and 17
- December 1 and 15

Regular Council Meetings are held the first and third Thursday of the month at 7 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 6910 Duncan Street, and are open to the public. Minutes and agendas are available online at powellriver.ca.

2020 Regular Council Meetings:

- January 16
- February 6 and 20
- March 5 and 19
- April 2 and 16
- May 7 and 21
- June 4 and 18
- July 2 and 16
- August 20
- September 3 and 17
- October 1 and 15
- November 5 and 19
- December 3 and 17

Finance Committee Meetings are held in Council Chambers at City Hall at 3:30 pm

- January 23
- February 27
- March 26
- April 23
- May 28
- June 25
- July 23
- August 27
- October 22
- November 26

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Evening Grosbeak

I first saw the Evening Grosbeak at my parents' place at Mowat Bay in the winter of 1984.

Their range is quite extensive: across the Southern part of the coniferous forest belt in the Canadian provinces and down into Mexico.

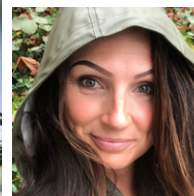
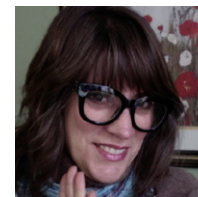
In the winter when the food gets scarce, the flocks, numbering in the hundreds, wander far in the valleys and plains. They are in search of Maple or Dogwood seeds, Wild Cherry pits, and other fruit and seeds. Their powerful beaks enable them to crack open these rock-hard seeds.

The Latin name means "Evening Night-singer." This is the female. Photo taken with my Hasselblad Elm on Ektachrome ISO 80 Pro. 

– Rod Innes

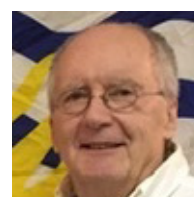


KIRSTEN CLARKSON is building a life with a man she loves and her son and mother-in-law on a farm north of town. She has 25 years of experience coaching actors, but she has a new love in coaching confidence and creativity. She also thinks Kath & Sam are the bees knees.

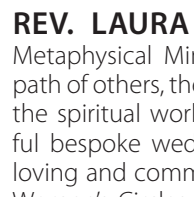


HEATHER CLAXTON has been a Powell Riverite for 40 years. She has nurtured a romantic connection to the trees, ocean, and every living thing in between. Her positive and quirky personality intertwines perfectly with the unique and colourful community she calls Powell River! Heather's words of wisdom: Eat~Laugh~Explore.

JOYCE CARLSON, born and raised in Powell River, retired after 45 years in the community newspaper business. She is continuing with volunteer work, which she has done since high school, that includes serving as chair for the Powell River Festival of Performing Arts.



DAVID DOYLE is a Canadian Plains Research Fellow, retired First Nations schools principal and secretary of the Friends of Louis Riel Society seeking justice and mercy for Métis leader Louis Riel. David's book *Louis Riel, Let Justice Be Done* won an Independent Publisher's Silver Medal for Canadian non-fiction in 2018 and was a finalist for the Ryga Social Justice prize.



REV. LAURA KEW is an ordained Metaphysical Minister who honours the path of others, the earth, the universe, and the spiritual world. She performs beautiful bespoke wedding ceremonies for all loving and committed couples, facilitates Women's Circles, and chooses to be surrounded by love and positive energy.



LIBBY MCDOWELL was born & raised in Powell River. She didn't appreciate what a wonderful area it was for a child to grow up in – a fact that became evident once she started Sandra Tonn's Memoirs for Seniors Class. "Initially I thought I was writing for my grandson, Carter, but after sharing some stories with my daughter I realized I am writing for both my children, Matt and Carleen, as well."



GARY SHILLING is actively engaged in the cultural community of Powell River. A marketing and communications professional – he applies his practical knowledge to all aspects of the artistic visioning, financial stability, and organizational readiness of the Friends of Film Society of Powell River and their annual Film Festival. In assuming the responsibilities of Executive Director for the Society, Gary is focussed on strengthening the role that film plays in the cultural and economic fabric of Powell River.

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ON THE COVER

Evolugen employees inspect the Lois Lake dam.

Photo courtesy
Evolugen





IN THIS ISSUE

What does the future hold for service clubs & volunteering?

How can we help?

For the better part of a century, Powell River's service clubs have been asking this question. They take on projects – big and small – (see stories beginning on Page 6) and do everything from building bridges and cabins to running annual festivals. Without their blood, sweat and tears, Powell River would be a much different community.

Struggling with a huge drop in membership, many service clubs wonder about their future. To find out why, I took a deep dive into the declining membership issue. I discovered that we still have many people volunteering their time to make this community a better place but they are doing it in different ways.

There's a strong contingent of committed volunteers running the Powell River and District United Way, the Powell River Health Care Auxiliary (the Economy Shop), the Powell River Community Foundation, The Carlson Club, The Legion, MCC, Salvation Army, The Powell River Hospital Foundation and countless other

organizations and churches. Some people only want to spend their time tackling hands-on tasks; they aren't interested in attending regularly scheduled meetings. So, although the model of how we serve may be changing, the people of Powell River are still volunteering their hearts out.

When it comes to hearts out, love is in the air this month as three of Powell River's most romantic couples reflect on their courtship and commitment to each other. Our Valentine's romance series begins on Page 13 and features stories about love in the woods, a surprise wedding and love in the root beer!

Helping is what the Powell River Hospital Foundation does and when Powell River needed a hydrotherapy pool, the foundation it took on. I remember when the pool first opened in 1993, I had recently moved here and was a reporter working for the Powell River News. I took a photo of a smiling Dave Harper, hospital foundation chair, pants rolled up to his knees, dipping his toes in the pool. The community was proud that the

foundation had raised over half a million dollars for the pool because we were and still are a community that cares for our people. When I read *Powell River Living* editor Pieta Woolley's excellent story about the hydrotherapy pool (page 18) and how Vancouver Coastal Health may not fix the pool our community raised funds for, it frustrated and infuriated me. Our community has been incredibly generous in taking on an increasing number of projects either downloaded upon us by the government or ones that we've deemed necessary for the well-being of our people. That VCH would even consider abandoning the hydrotherapy pool is appalling. Where do they think people recovering from knee surgery, those with MS, Parkinson's Disease, and other mobility issues will receive the physiotherapy they need? (Bathtubs are not an option).

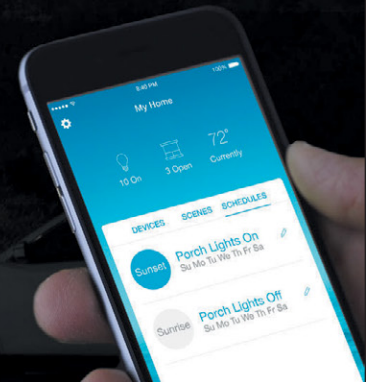
Thanks for reading, and enjoy this issue!

Im Southcott

ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT | isabelle@prliving.ca

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They built Powell River.

They're behind nearly all of our big events. They raise hundreds of thousands for local causes. They've given generations of locals meaning, purpose and lifelong friendships.

Now, many have disbanded and those that remain are struggling for new blood.

In 2020, is the era of the service club over?

LONG LIVE SERVICE CLUBS (OR WE'LL LOSE POWELL RIVER AS WE KNOW IT)

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT | isabelle@prliving.ca

When Pat Krell joined the Order of the Eastern Star service club in February 1987 she was a single mom, living in Townsite working for what is now called the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

She joined because 50 members were needed to form a chapter here.

Pat, whose dad had been a Mason, knew what the Masonic family was all about. She'd served on the council of Job's Daughters, the Masonic affiliate for young women.

But once the chapter was up and running, she was hooked.

"It became important to me because of the work the Eastern Star does," she explained. "My mum passed away from cancer and at that point most of the money

we made from fundraising went to support cancer initiatives like dressings for cancer patients."

But "The Star," as she calls it, is about more than that. "The people I'd been on Council with at Job's all became Star members." She met new people locally and beyond when she attended BC & Yukon Grand Chapter sessions. "I've met people from all over: Whitehorse, Quesnel and even the United States. You meet a lot of people through service clubs and make a lot of good friends," says Pat, who has been secretary, on and off, for more than 20 years. In recognition of her dedication, Pat was presented with a commission to the Grand Chapter of Georgia in early January.

Over the past 20 years, though, she's seen her club dwindle from 50 members to just 12 active members – and they're all over the age of 60. Their newest member joined about three years ago.

For those members who remain, it's difficult to accomplish as much as they'd like. "We do what we can," says Pat. The local order gives a \$500 scholarship to a Brooks student each year, donates money for service dogs for children with autism, provides free dressings for cancer patients, and supports other cancer-related initiatives.

The Order of the Eastern Star is not alone in its membership woes. Some long-time Powell River service clubs have already disbanded: the Loyal Order of the Moose (1925 to 2008), the Women of the Moose (1950 to 2008), the Lions Club (1946 to 1984 and 1992 to 2017), The Powell River Knights of Pythias Lodge #48 – the first fraternal group founded in Powell River (1912 to 1986), the Pythian Sisters (1916 to 2000), the Elks of Canada and Job's Daughters are no longer active. Some of Powell River's remaining service clubs, including Kiwanis

CLUBS



IMAGINE A POWELL RIVER WITHOUT SERVICE CLUBS: Rotary members volunteer hundreds of hours to make the Festival of Performing Arts (see Page 40) happen, according to long-time Rotarian Joyce Carlson. Here, pianist Jaid Kerzakow and dancer Katie Dohm perform at last year's festival: the 75th. *photos by Robert Colasanto*

Who originated the Powell River Festival of Performing Arts? **A Service Club did, of course.**

The Powell River Music Festival started in 1945 with both the The Pythian Sisters White Temple #11 and The Powell River Knights of Pythias Lodge #48. Eileen Brown was one of the ushers at the music festival many years ago and remembers that she and the others would put on their white dresses and escort people to their seats.

She joined the Pythian Sisters when she was 16. She's now 96.

The Pythian Sisters became dormant in Powell River in 2000. With the Knights of Pythias already closed, and faced with declining membership, closing their club was their only option.

Rotary took over the music festival in 1987 – the same one that starts on February 22.



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Powell River Health-Care Auxiliary

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Where do your donations go?

When you drop off a donation or make a purchase at the Economy Shop, or buy an item at the Gift Shop, where does your contribution go?

It all stays in Powell River. It goes to help purchase equipment for the Hospital, Willingdon Creek Village, Evergreen Extended Care, and run programs like the Red Cross HELP office, free TV, Youth Volunteers (formerly Cadets & Candy Strippers), escorts, and more. It also helps:

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and Rotary, have far fewer members than in their heyday and are making changes to attract members. Rotary and Toastmasters recently announced a partnership to allow their members to grow professionally while making a difference in the world at the same time.

Across Canada in the 20th century, service-built communities took on projects that went beyond the responsibility of governments. The burgeoning middle class acted on their social obligations to their fellow citizens with sons and daughters often following their parents into these same associations and learning the intrinsic benefits of helping to build their community.

Locally, it would be impossible to overstate the impact of service clubs – even now. Members build parks and playgrounds, fund scholarships, organize events including the Powell River Festival of Performing Arts, Soap Box Derby, Preschool Carnival, Easter Egg Hunt, and Bike Rodeo. They help out at Dry Grad and Blackberry Festival and have funded amenities such as the climbing wall at Townsite Market, the library's Makerspace, a shelter at the dog park; volunteers monitor the Kiwanis Lifeline and much, much more. Our community would be a much different place without them.

Why, then, is membership declining? The simplest answer, in some cases, is that long-time members are dying of old age and clubs are unable to attract new members. For example, Marilyn Brooks, a 25-year member of the Powell River Lions Club, (which aided children with disabilities), said that when the club disbanded two years ago, it had just 10 elderly members (only one was under 65). "To chair a meeting, you have to be able to hear," she quipped.

Marilyn believes that social shifts over the last 40 years can be blamed for declining membership.

"The younger generations aren't interested in joining service clubs the way the previous generations did," said the Lions' Marilyn. "With two people working they're tired by the end of the day and don't have time."

The Eastern Star's Pat agrees times have changed. "When people have kids, they are both working."

In other words, without a parent at home during the day, evenings and weekends fill up with domestic chores, which both parents are responsible to manage. It's this phase in life that historically filled service clubs' new members rosters.

It's an analysis many groups share.

Long-time Rotarian Ross Cooper added, "Young people are very civic-minded and want to contribute but they don't want to go to a meeting or belong to something. So, the structure of the past is in conflict with the future. Adaptation is the only way for the torch to be passed on."

However, Kiwanis president Robert Maitland doesn't think there's an easy answer. "Young people today don't seem to want to join service clubs, and I don't know why."

Kiwanis' 18 members recently undertook a membership drive, during which they directly approached 100 locals their own members had identified as potential candidates. The result? Zero new members.

Are there other reasons why people aren't joining service clubs like they used to? Are we just lazier than our predecessors? Are we slactivists: content to support a political or social cause using social media rather than showing up, volunteering in person and helping out? Or is it because we're so protective of our time that we don't want to attend weekly meetings and recite pledges?

Declining membership for service clubs isn't unique to Powell River. All across the country, they're hav-



HAPPY TO HELP: Members of Powell River's 100 Plus Women Who Care (top) love raising and donating money to local non-profits; Order of the Eastern Star member Pat Krell (centre left) recently recognized for her long-term commitment was installed as the newest Grand Representative to Georgia; while Rotarians Deborah Jenkins and Dan Devita (right) cook up a feast for a community Christmas breakfast; Kiwanis Club members make a donation to the Powell River Food Bank and Brooks Interactors pack bags for the Everybody Deserves a Smile Project.

ing a difficult time attracting and retaining Millennials and Gen Xers – the 25- to 55-year-olds. As long-time members age and pass on, the future of many organizations is uncertain.

One organization that is thriving is 100 Plus Women Who Care. It isn't technically a service club, but perhaps it's a model for the future. The two-year-old group currently has 162 members, more than any other local service club. Spokesperson Tara Chernoff says they always welcome new members. "The more members we have, the more impact we have," she says.

100 Plus Women Who Care meets four times a year and members are required to bring \$50 to each meeting (or \$200 a year). No volunteer hours are required but members are asked to attend the four, one-hour meetings annually.



Tara thinks this model is attractive because it's easy and effective. In just over two years the group has collectively raised over \$100,000 for local non-profits in Powell River. Meetings nurture a positive vibe and members leave feeling good about their contribution. As well, every single dollar goes to the non-profits as there are no admin or overhead fees.

"Any costs that would normally be incurred are donated by local businesses," said Tara. The Town Centre Hotel donates the meeting space and Community Forest gave the group a matching grant for 2019. As well, non-profits receive a platform to connect with over 100 supportive, community minded people. The group recently launched a junior membership for youth. Their commitment is \$20 per meeting.

First Credit Union's retail manager Lorraine Allman is a member of both the Sunrise Rotary Club and 100 Plus Women Who Care. She recognizes that what she gets out of the two models is quite different. "The biggest punch for me is how much financial impact 100 Plus Women can have on an organization, with very little personal time commitment, for \$200 a year," she says.

Traditional clubs, like Rotary, give her a more rounded, grounded experience. "I joined Rotary to meet new people outside of my normal circle and to network. I appreciate physically doing things for people and our community – but that is also the reason traditional clubs

"I joined Rotary to meet new people outside of my normal circle and to network. I appreciate physically doing things for people and our community – but that is also the reason traditional clubs have difficulty recruiting. Most people are afraid of having to give too much of their time and may be a bit nervous to walk through the door and join."

– Lorraine Allman

have difficulty recruiting. Most people are afraid of having to give too much of their time and may be a bit nervous to walk through the door and join," she says. She thinks traditional clubs need to allow people to come on their own terms and not feel pressured into doing more than they can manage.

Powell River Living's manager of accounts receivable Alena Devlin, a mother of three young children, is a member of 100 Plus Women Who Care.

"I may not be able to donate my time to local organizations but this group allows me to donate in a way that is easy and I know that my contributions are helping local charities in a big way."

While 100 Plus Women Who Care is a formidable fundraising model, it doesn't replace the role of traditional service clubs: the hands-on helping, the camaraderie between generations and across social divides, and the commitment to a higher moral purpose.

It's hard to imagine a future Powell River without service clubs. No memorial bricks at the Viewpoint. No water park, no pavilion, no children's playground and no adult exercise equipment at Willingdon. Who would organize the Festival of Performing Arts? Who would help organize the Brooks Jazz Dinner and collect their silent auction items? Where would all the money come from that service clubs raise to donate to bursaries? There'd be no Rotary Interact to teach high school students the value of service work or provide them with the opportunity to travel to other communities to look at career options, or change places with another student on the other side of the world.

Without service clubs, Powell River and the world would be a different place. Much of what we take for granted would be gone, including the opportunity for personal growth, networking and the chance to help others, and to make a difference in the world as a group. The work that Rotary has carried out world-wide for the past 30 years to stamp out polio would never have happened. There would not be a 99.9 per cent reduction in polio cases world-wide without this huge international effort. Think of a Powell River without a Kiwanis Village and Manor – where many of our low income and elderly live.

The Eastern Star's Pat Krell feels sad about this seeming end-of-an-era. She hopes the Order will recover. But she also knows that the world is changing.

"I am hopeful that the younger generation will realize that without service clubs many of the things people take for granted will not happen." **PRL**



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Chamber Music Concert June 25
Symphony Concert: Week 2 June 26
Sail to the Symphony..... June 27

Ask not what service clubs can do for you

Ask what you can do through Service Clubs

Rotary International

Motto: Service Above Self

Local beginnings: The Rotary Club of Powell River (evening club) started in Powell River in 1955. The morning club, Sunrise, launched in 2010.

Height of Membership: 50-plus for just one club.

Membership now: 33 in evening club, 17 in morning club.

Projects: Include the Rotary Pavilion at Willingdon Beach; the Willingdon Beach water park; Powell River Millennium Rock at the viewpoint; Palm Beach playground; shelter at the Westview Dog Park, picture frame near the ferry; Pop-eye characters at Willingdon Beach; The Knuckleheads/Rainy Day Lake project; Adopt-a-Highway (keep sections of the highway clean); annual Bike Rodeo; Morocco medical/dental project; the Brooks Jazz Dinner; Taste of Art—auction and slow dinner; historic pictures at the Airport; the ARC Garden project; the art sculpture at the library and Willingdon Beach preschool playground. Both clubs fund students to attend “Adventures in ...” program and provide bursaries to Brooks students. They support Cadets, PRISMA, and the Polio Foundation. They have also organized the Powell River Festival of Performing Arts for many years.

Want to join? The Rotary Club of Powell River meets at 6:30 pm Wednesday evenings at Julie’s Airport Café. The Rotary Club of Powell River Sunrise meets Tuesdays at 7:15 am at the Town Centre Hotel except for the third Tuesday of the month when they meet at noon. Dues are \$300 a year for the morning club and \$400 for the evening club.

Rotary, the world’s first service club, was formed in 1905 when Chicago lawyer Paul Harris called a meeting of a few business acquaintances. Today there are more than 1.2 million members, with Rotary clubs operating around the world.

There are two Rotary Clubs in Powell River (the evening club was chartered in 1955 and the morning club in 2010). In the early years, Rotarians contributed to the community by initiating the Sea

Fair and the Willingdon Campground, said long time Rotarian and evening club membership chair Ross Cooper. Between the two clubs they’re able to maintain a membership of over 50 Rotarians.

In his executive role as membership chair Ross struggles with what he calls “commitment issues.” To accommodate modern busy lives, the evening club formed an auxiliary called Friends of Rotary. The 30 “Friends” members help with work parties and specific projects. Rotary also has a strong high school club, Brooks Interact, and is currently forming a Rotary Club for 18 to 30 year-olds.

As to why people should join, Ross hopes they will see value in participating and contributing to our community and those in need around the world through a very impactful organization.

“Ask yourself, ‘When the last service member is too old to build or raise money for those community improvements, then who will do it?’”

Order of the Eastern Star

Motto: Dedicated To Charity, Truth And Loving Kindness

Local beginnings: Order of the Eastern Star (OES), Grace Chapter, started in Powell River in 1921. It was one of the first lodges organized in Powell River. It was active in community affairs and became dormant in 1981. Powell River Chapter #97 was instituted in 1987 and constituted in 1988.

Height of membership: 65

Membership now: 25

Projects: Every year the OES gives away a \$500 scholarship to a Brooks student, donates money for children with autism, provides free dressings for cancer patients, donates to cancer research and donates to the Powell River Oncology Unit.

Want to join? Ladies must have a masonic relationship (husbands, fathers, brothers, uncles, grandfathers, great grandfathers and step-relatives). Men must be Masons in good standing. Meetings are held one afternoon a month (November to March) and one evening a month (April, May,

September and October). Call Worthy Matron Sharon Cairns at 604-483-9402 or Secretary Pat Krell at 604-483-2237.

Order of the Eastern Star (OES), Grace Chapter is an International Masonic organization dating back to the mid 1800s in the United States. It is open to men and women with a mission to support charity, education, fraternal and scientific goals.

In Canada, the Order of the Eastern Star has been worried about membership for more than 20 years. Their high point was immediately after World War II and the Korean War, when returning vets chose to be Masons and their wives chose to be Eastern Stars but those members are dying and they aren't getting new members.

Freemasons

Motto: To Be One, Ask One

Local beginnings: Triune Lodge #81 started in Powell River in 1916. Brought here by Dr. Andrew Henderson.

Projects: The Masons support the Food Bank, the Community Resource Centre, Transition House, and the Cancer Car program. Every year since the seventies, the Masons have helped local students by awarding bursaries.

Height of membership: 1931 when 10 per cent of adult BC Protestant men were Freemasons.

Want to join? The Lodge, like all beneficial service clubs and groups, is always looking for new members but they do not solicit membership. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month in the Lodge, beneath Dwight Hall and have been since the 1920s when the Lodge was built. If you are interested in learning more about the Masons, phone 604-449-2808 and leave a message or email contact@triunelodge.com.

Although the Freemasons Lodge is not a service club, Freemasonry is probably the oldest fraternal order in the world, originating from the Masons in the 11th century who built castles, cathedrals, abbeys and parish churches. Around 1580, in Scotland, the first official Lodge of Speculative Freemasonry was formed, and it spread throughout the world. In Powell River, they designed Dwight Hall, the brick Post Office, the Court House and the Bank of Commerce building.

The Knights of Columbus

Motto: In service to one, in service to all
Local beginnings: Started in Powell River in 1963.

Projects: Their main fund raiser every year is their Charity Appeal ticket sales in the Town Centre in front of CIBC where a pickup truck is parked. They make \$3000 to \$3500 annually with all proceeds from ticket sales in Powell River remaining in Powell River. They donate

two \$500 scholarships for students going on to post-secondary education; the Henderson breakfast; the Christmas Cheer fund; Special Olympics; Faith and Light; and Inclusion BC. They put on a monthly pancake breakfast which is open to anyone; hold a children's Christmas party; an annual basketball free throw competition at Assumption School and help widows and people in need. One of the first ambulances in Powell River was made possible by the Knights in the early years.

Height of membership: 120

Membership now: 97

Want to join? The Knights meet once a month. Dues are \$30 a year. Any Knights of Columbus member can help with membership and there is also on-line registration at KofC.org. Contact Don Bourcier at 604-413-1153 or Travis McDonough at 604-489-0737.

The Knights is a fraternal organization for practicing Catholic men. The Powell River group was formed in 1963, has 97 members and is one of about 16,000 worldwide. Original charter members who are still members include Les Adams, Dan Behan, Andy Culos, Felix Masullo, Elio Cossarin and Lionel Desilets. Current Grand Knight is Don Bourcier.

Kiwanis

Motto: Changing the world, one child at a time.

Local beginnings: Started in Powell River in 1960.


Height of membership: 45

Membership now: 18

Projects: Fundraising for food banks, school breakfast and lunch programs, scholarships, Therapeutic Riding, Canadian Tire Jump Start, Cadets, Kendra MacLeod, medical travel expenses for people with lower incomes and a family who had to leave their home due to fire. This club also runs the annual Soap Box Derby.

Want to join? Meetings are held the first and third Tuesday at 7pm at Kiwanis Annex or the meeting room at Kiwanis Manor. Dues are \$90 per year. To learn more contact Robert Maitland at rkmaitland@gmail.com or 604-578-8465.

Over the past few years, Kiwanis has picked up new members after volunteering at events they've been at, such as Logger Sports, the Santa Train and Soap Box Derby. But for the past 25 years or so, 18 has been the average number of members.

Kiwanis started in Detroit in 1915 – as an all-male service club with a mission to build communities, and soon after, to help children. It became international in 1919, and now has 550,000 members worldwide with clubs on every continent. Women were invited to join in 1987. 

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Meat drew me into the Legion

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT | isabelle@prliving.ca

I've lived in Powell River since 1993 and have visited the legion several times, but up until last fall, I'd never heard tell of a meat draw.

Thanksgiving wasn't far off when my friend Maggie Hathaway said she'd introduce me to the meat draws at the Legion. I'd had my first taste of the time-honoured tradition a few weeks earlier while visiting a friend on the lower coast and was fascinated by the idea of a meat draw. "The Ace of Spades Draw is even bigger," Maggie told me. "For that draw, you buy tickets and if your number gets picked you get to go up and draw a card. If you draw the ace of spaces you get to keep the kitty," she explained. "You should have seen a couple of months ago when the pot got up to \$1,400. It was packed."

Although meat draws aren't as popular today as they once were (it could have something to do with the burgeoning number of vegetarians), those who were lucky enough to have their number called, were still pretty happy.

The lottery tradition dates back to England in the late 1560s when the first lottery draw was held by St. Paul's Cathedral. The odds of winning were about one in 16,000 for Queen Elizabeth I's lottery; the odds of winning the Lotto Max jackpot are one in 33,294,800 for a \$5 play. This makes Lotto Max harder to win than Canada's National Lotto (odds of one in 13,983,816).

Those of us who do play the lottery — and approximately one-quarter of Canadians play weekly — have heard those odds many times before. Pay \$2 and your odds of becoming a millionaire are approximately 1 in 14 million.

Those odds are so long that you are three times more likely to be killed in a traffic accident driving 16 kilometres to buy your ticket than winning the jackpot.

The odds of winning a meat draw at the Legion are better. Much better.

About 40 people sit together at tables chatting and drinking. They've purchased their tickets for a Saturday meat draw. Most people are seniors, some are super seniors. There's only one person who is under 50 and it isn't me.

People are having fun talking, actually talking, to the person beside them. They're not on their phones. They're looking their neighbour in the eye, listening to what they're saying and then responding. It's really quite radical. And totally refreshing.

The fun gets underway with a turkey draw or, I should

day, several turkey draws. My friend wins a turkey but I do not. I am disappointed but this was not unexpected as I rarely win draws. When my friend wins a second turkey, she flashes me a smile and hands me a coupon explaining that I can claim my frozen dead bird on the way out.

I am ecstatic. "Thank you," I say.

Some legions draw for baking. Pies and cookies are popular, so are the 50/50 draws. Legion volunteer Terry McCune has been an associate member for 17 years. He and Rod Hadwick, a 40-year full member, sell tickets for the Saturday meat draw. Another crew does the Sunday one.

At the meat table, the wheel spins around until it stops and a number is chosen. The lucky winner comes up and selects a package of meat.

Homegrown fundraisers like these let the legion fund their charities which are extensive. Though played year-round, meat raffles are also a form of entertainment that gets people out of their homes during the long, dreary winter months.


"It's the way we get through the winter," said Powell River Legion president Merv Byers, he says. It shows that people want to gamble but like to do so in a socially beneficial way.

The Legion here has about 430 members — including 100 new members they've signed up in the last year. Legions across the country are experiencing membership issues as the veteran population decreases, he said. "More restrictive laws and lifestyle changes are keeping more and more people at home rather than attending a club setting for socializing and entertainment."

Besides the social aspect, the Legion offers a diverse selection of activities such as darts, pool, cards, carpet bowling, dancing, and live entertainment.

The Powell River Legion hosts a monthly steak/chicken barbecue and the branch has donated more than \$150,000 to a number of community organizations in the past five years with funds they raised through meat draws and raffles.

"We recently built an outdoor deck to take advantage of the 'million dollar view' from our premises and will complement that view early this year with an in-house short-order kitchen offering appetizers and meals," he said.

"I am proud to say our establishment has a reputation as a friendly place. I have nicknamed it the 'Hugging Legion' in recognition of that friendliness." 

Valentine's Day! Wedding planning season!

TRUE LOVE



Firewood started these flames

BY KIRSTEN CLARKSON

When we bought our property, it had a tree that would turn our house into a duplex if a strong wind came. We called Sam from Full Scope Falling.

Sam was pretty impressive in his work and my husband Mark invited him in for coffee. We chatted about making a new life in Powell River, and he told us about his love, Kathleen.

Kathleen Richards was born in Toronto, where she grew up to do time on the 44th floor in a TD office, in a wardrobe of pantyhose and despair. At 25 she followed her heart into silviculture. She moved to Powell River, bought a property and lived alone for eight years. She didn't really get to know her neighbour. He was pretty quiet.

Sam Richards (left in photo with Kathleen) was born

"He found the perfect dead tree... and he cut it down and right there that was when I fell in love with him. He eyed it. He looked up. From side to side. Like fallers do. And he laid that tree down perfectly between two other trees. Didn't knock off a branch. And I was just like, 'That's a man. That's a real man. That's what I want.'"

– Kathleen Richards

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in the house he lives in now. He's seen his ups and downs in trees and tragedy.

Sam's family paid \$40 for two homes in 1965. His dad cleared the land and moved the houses to the property



before Sam was born. When Sam was seven his dad died and when he was nine his mum had to sell the property. They moved to town.

At 25, Sam moved to his Grandmother's old home. Next to his old house.

The house that Kathleen now owned.

They didn't meet. For eight years. Kathleen walked her dog this way and Sam walked his dog that way.

One day Sam came by and asked if he could take her out to get some wood. They went for a drive.

"He found the perfect dead tree... and he cut it down and right there that was when I fell in love with him. He eyed it. He looked up. From side to side. Like fallers do. And he laid that tree down perfectly between two other trees. Didn't knock off a branch. And I was just like that's a man. That's a real man. That's what I want... He had that tree down and limbed and in the back of the truck in half an hour. He was so graceful. I think that's what I love about him most. He's not a hack... he's like poetry to watch."

Kathleen smiles and blushes as she tells the story. It's easy to see how someone can fall in love with her.

Sam's pretty easy to love too. Every birthday or anniversary Sam makes or buys Kathleen art. He carved her a three-foot-tall killer whale. It looks beautiful in their home.

Home... is where the heart is. **RL**

5 tips for planning your Powell River wedding

BY LAURA KEW

YES! They said yes!

Now the fun begins!

Planning a wedding can be daunting, but it doesn't have to be stressful. Having the wedding of your dreams means having a clear picture of what needs to be planned.

1. When, What & Where?

Once you decide on a date and time, make inquiries to ensure the date is available at your chosen venue. Will it be a rustic setting? Indoors or outdoors? Powell River has beautiful options for venues: gorgeous heritage indoor settings, parks, gardens, islands, docks, backyards, or barefoot on a sunny beach. Our weather can be a mixed bag on any given day—so make sure you have a Plan B if it is an outdoor venue.

2. Who will perform the ceremony?

Powell River has several options: if you are part of a church, your pastor or priest can perform your ceremony. Marriage commissioners are appointed by Vital Statistics and perform civil ceremonies; independent officiants may offer an alternative style. Once you find the officiant that fits with your needs, retain them right

away – most are booked at least a year ahead. Ensure they are licensed to perform legal weddings in BC, as there is no quick and easy way to get licensed online!

3. Who do I need to hire?

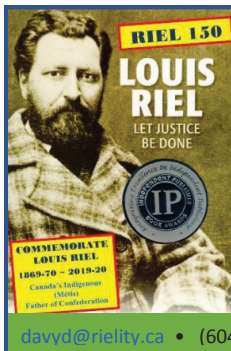

Fortunately we have some great professionals here to make your wedding go smoothly. Wedding or event planners, a great selection of caterers, disc jockeys, shuttle buses, bands, quartets, serving staff, set up and tear down crews—delegate as much as possible so you can relax and enjoy your special day!

4. What will I need?

Tents, tables, chairs, catering equipment? Shuttle bus? DJ? Plan far ahead, as some things can be a challenge to find in our remote location, or can be booked already if your date is a popular one. Limited availability can impact your chosen date.

5. How will guests arrive?

A beautiful but remote setting like Powell River can pose a challenge when trying to plan your event. When inviting guests from afar, travel and accommodations are important considerations. You will want to plan with the comfort of your guests in mind, and give them time to explore this gorgeous area. Get those invitations mailed months ahead of your date to allow ample time for travel planning. **RL**

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Surprise! It's your wedding

BY HEATHER CLAXTON

As my friend and I pulled into the Palm Beach parking lot on August 11, I wondered what the big event was. There wasn't an empty place to park.

It was soon after we made our way down to the grass that I realized all those cars were there... for me. My 40th birthday party! A surprise!! Let me tell you that every Leo loves a party, especially when it's for them.

But I wasn't expecting what was about to come next.

I remember seeing my sisters standing in the crowd with happy tears. I remember seeing all the food and flowers. And I remember seeing all the shock on everyone's faces (mine included!) when they realized this birthday party was quickly turning into a wedding.

My girls whisked me off to get changed into a gorgeous little floral dress which fit to a T. They made sure I had all the traditional components: borrowed, blue, old, and new. They handed me my gorgeous bouquet and pushed me out the door so I could begin the walk to my soon-to-be husband!

The following 20 minutes were a blur, but I vividly remember saying "YES!"

It wasn't entirely shocking, though. Over the two months previous, amongst all the "you're getting old" jokes, I very 'tongue in cheek' poked Rob with "I better be married by the time I turn 40!" Well, one of the many things Rob does well ... is listen.

Since I was old enough to understand what a wedding was, I had absolutely zero desire to plan one. Place settings, center pieces, bridesmaid dresses, guest list, a venue, the menu, flowers, decorations. Every single aspect stressed me out. The only part of planning a wedding that didn't make me want to lose my lunch, was knowing that I'd be making a life long commitment to the love of my life. That I would do a million times over!

So, since I made the "joke," with the help of a few of my most favourite and incredibly sneaky girlfriends, and Rob's amazing family, he organized a surprise wedding without any of the birthday guests knowing, grandma included! He knew deep down that I wanted our special people there standing beside us on the day we would one day say our vows to each other.

Perhaps he knew my wedding wishes so well because our friendship has been so long.

Starting nearly 25 years ago, Rob

and I had a mutual group of friends that enjoyed doing all the west coast weekend adventures together. Skiing, bush campfires, weekends in the city, hanging out in the back of pick up trucks watching meteor showers at Duck Lake... you know, the usual Powell River stuff. But we were just friends.

As the next few years passed, we all began our own individual lives; many of us moved away and lost touch. Then, at a pivotal moment in 2014, everything changed.

That moment happened in a friend's kitchen. I walked in and Rob was cooking his famous "fall off the bone" ribs. I had a bowl of salad in one hand and a bottle of wine in the other, but my attention quickly focused on him. We hadn't seen each other in years and neither of us was expecting the sparks of electricity that started flying within minutes of locking eyes. As soon as he embraced me with his warm, kind, strong hug, I knew something special was happening!

From that moment... Rob became my Bear. He became my love, my protector, my very best friend, and my forever guy. Within two weeks, we were both comparing lists of the places we wanted to run off to and elope.

Five years later, there we were at Palm Beach.

I stopped short when I saw my grandma standing outside waiting for me with tears running down her cheeks and a little smile. She grabbed my hand and told me, through shock and amazement, that "today is mine and Puppa's wedding anniversary!"

My Puppa passed away three years ago and their marriage was always one that I looked up to and admired. He was her Bear, her protector, her best friend, and her love. At that moment, Gram and I knew he was there with her, watching over the two of us with love. I felt truly honoured to share such a special date with two people I loved so much.

Rob and I exchanged our vows with the ocean sparkling in the background, our dog standing between us, and all our family and friends gathered around sharing their love and support.

Although it all happened so quickly, there was a powerful moment of calm. I was looking into his focused bright green eyes, holding his warm hands on that perfect day, in that perfect moment, and I knew I was the luckiest girl in the world.

He was my husband and I was his wife. **RL**



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Note: Nominators do not have to be a member of Powell River Women in Business, nor do nominees.

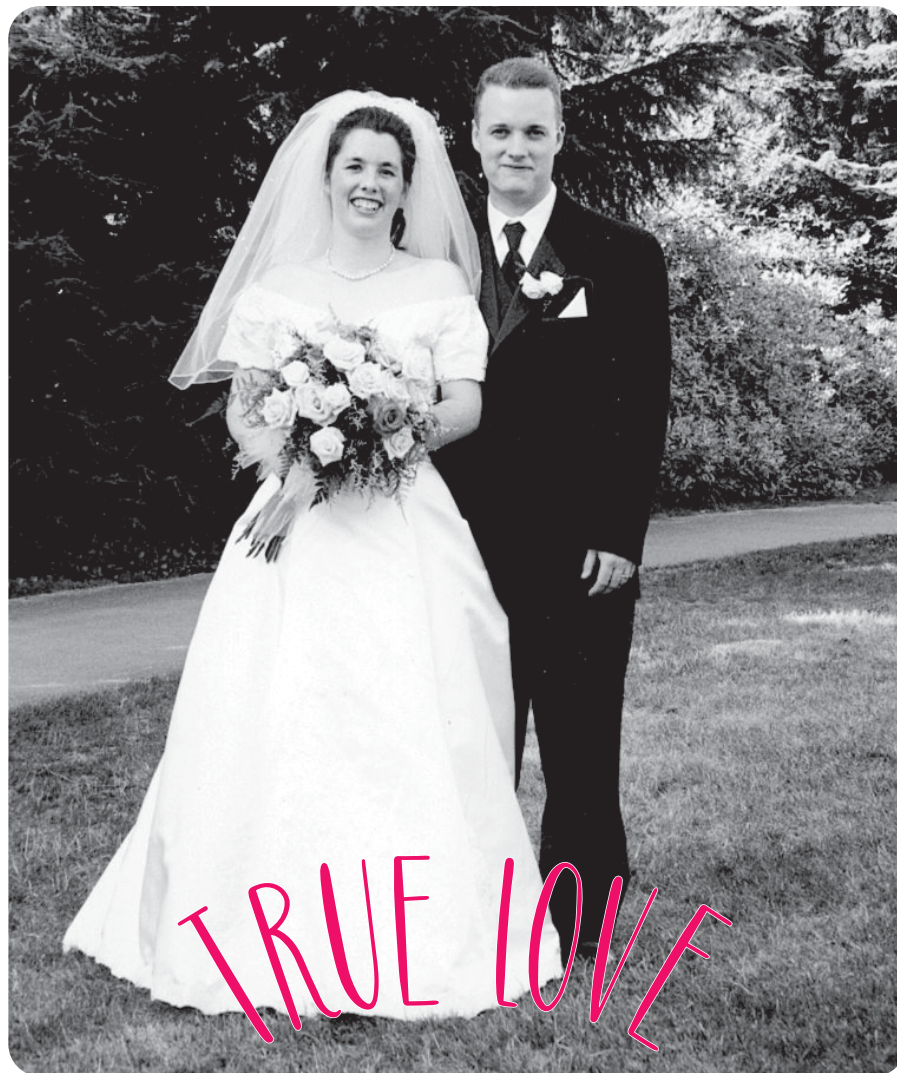
To nominate someone and download a form, visit our website at prwomeninbusiness.com. Completed nomination forms can be emailed to info@prwomeninbusiness.com. Nomination forms can also be picked up at: The Nutcracker Market at 201-4741 Marine Avenue; Powell River Living magazine at 7053E Glacier Street.

Awards Dinner

We look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of the amazing and awesome women in our community again this year. Tickets for the awards dinner available April 15 at the Nutcracker Market.



prwomeninbusiness.com



'There's something in the root beer'

BY PIETA WOOLLEY | pieta@prliving.ca

Back in the late 1980s when the local A&W stood where MCC is now, 15-year-old Nicki Newsham's first job was about to change her life forever. She was a car hop for the burger joint, running root beer floats and Teen Burgers to cars.

"The uniforms weren't cute; we had no rollerskates," she recalled. "I remember the visors and the navy blue polyester pants."

Still, a group of teen boys would show up regularly. Her friend, another car hop, had a crush on one of the boys, and Nicki just assumed he dropped by to see her friend. The friend asked Nicki to get his phone number for her.

"I just said, 'Hi, can I get your number for my friend?' And he offered me a ride home," said Nicki. "It didn't work out too well for her."

The boy was, of course, Matt Lister, then 17 and a new graduate of Max Cameron Secondary. The two dated, moved in together, had their daughter Katherine, and the rest is history.

The constant in their relationship for the past 30 years has been A&W. Nicki managed A&Ws in the Lower Mainland while Matt went to school, then they returned to Powell River when the owners of the original A&W offered to sell it to them. They bought it, of course, and are still running the restaurant 13 years later.

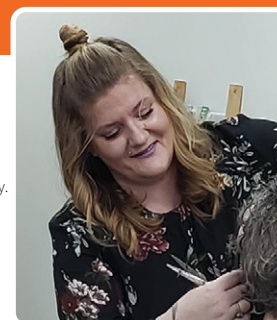
Is it a romantic place?

"We always joked in Abbotsford that there was something in the root beer, there were so many pregnancies there. Magic root beer," said Nicki. "We have two ex-employees [in Powell River] getting married in March and having a baby later in the year. Working here, the staff really does become like a family." **PR**

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Terrible middle-of-the-night fire decimates Wildwood food farm

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT | isabelle@prliving.ca

More than \$37,000 had been raised by the end of January to help Hatch-a-Bird-Farm in Wildwood rebuild following a fire on January 25 that destroyed many of their buildings and farm equipment.

The fire, which broke out around 1 am razed their store front, tool shed, food storage shed, seed starter room and one of their chicken coops. Farm owners Peter and Helena Bird also lost most of their farm tools, freezers full of meat, soil and seeds for this season's crop production, and the majority of their laying hens. A few greenhouses were also impacted by the blaze.

Farm worker Taylor Carr, who has been working at the farm since last summer, launched a GoFundMe campaign to help the Birds rebuild. Unfortunately, the Birds did not have farm insurance.

"We are reaching out to the community asking for support to help them start over," said Taylor. Hatch-a-Bird-Farm has been an institution in Wildwood for 30 years supplying locals with meat, produce and eggs.

Neighbour Lisa Daniels, who owns Windfall Farm with her husband Mike, lives just across the field from the Birds. She stood in her field at two in the morning and watched as the fire destroyed her friend's property.

"It's a farmer's worst nightmare and to just stand there and watch it was just horrific. All I could think about was their pigs and cows...pigs are inside at night in this weather and they have a lot of animals. My heart was just breaking. It's one thing when your garage burns down but when your barn burns down, lives are lost."

A lot of farmers don't have insurance, said Lisa. The



FARMER'S NIGHTMARE: The Birds lost a barn, a coop, 40 chickens and so much more.

cost is prohibitive and the hoops farmers have to go through in order to secure insurance makes it unattainable for many. "You can't protect yourself totally; people have all sorts of flammable stuff inside their barns."

The Birds had insurance until recently but cancelled it after they had a flood and their insurance claim was denied.

The timing couldn't be worse. At the beginning of a new year crop production begins to ramp up for spring and many new animals are on their way. "It's one thing to have to replace a deep fat fryer that gets lost in a fire," said Lisa. "It's totally another thing to rebuild your flock of laying hens," she said, noting it takes time to raise them to the point where they can reproduce.

"They've fed this community for years and have really made a difference in making local food, especially local meat, available. They are fulltime farmers and contribute so much to the health of the community with the

HOW TO HELP THE BIRDS:

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- Irrigation supplies (hoses, sprinklers etc) – \$1,500
- Propagation room (seed starter trays, heating pads, tables, bins, thermostats, starter lights, etc) – \$4,000.

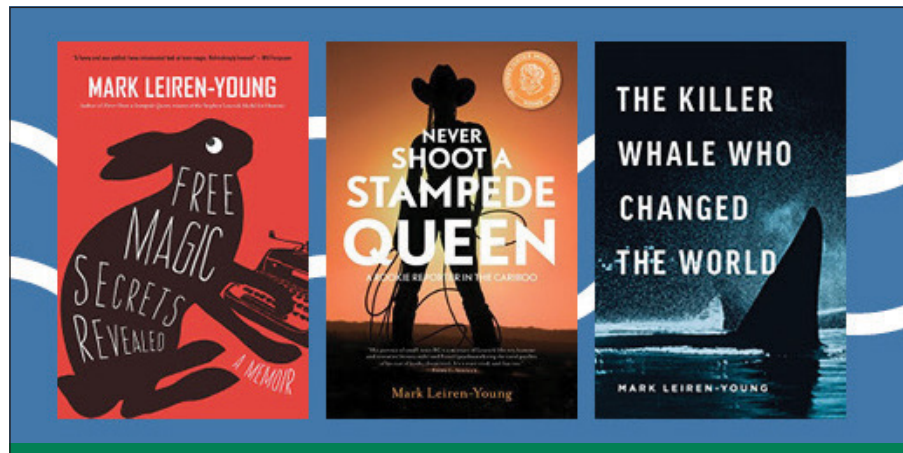
If anyone has any old freezers, farm tools or a two-row potato planter to donate, please contact Peter and Helena Bird, or see gf.me/v/c/pj6n/help-rebuild-hatch-a-bird-farm-after-fire

food they raise," said Lisa.

"I hope the community supports their GoFundMe page and helps them get back on their feet."

The Birds were out of town when the fire occurred. No people were injured, but the Birds need to rebuild the several buildings that were lost in the fire.


Although much was destroyed, the two 100-year-old barns containing the large livestock were spared along with the Bird's main home and the workers' residence, thanks to Powell River Fire Rescue. [PR](#)



BC Writers Series


The BC Writers Series is back for year two!

Join award-winning author, journalist and playwright, **Mark Leiren-Young** for a talk about his writing career, featuring his books, *Never Shoot a Stampede Queen* and *The Killer Whale Who Changed the World*.



Friday February 28, 7 to 8pm
First Credit Union Community Room

With special thanks to the Powell River Friends of the Library



info@prpl.ca • 604-485-4796 prpl.ca

Eat with your farmer!

Fundraiser to replace Exhibition Grounds Quonset Hut

Raise the Roof Dinner

2nd annual!

Wed, March 4 at 6 pm at the Great Hall of Brooks School

Hosted by: **Powell River Farmers' Agricultural Institute (PRFAI)**
 Food by: **Brooks & VIU Culinary Arts** and brought to you by local farmers

Tickets: **Top Shelf Feeds** (Corner Duncan St & Manson Ave) or fireweedjazz@gmail.com

Who: **Everyone Welcome!** Price: **\$45** Drinks: **Cash bar**

Come meet local growers & market vendors and enjoy the delicious fruits of their labours!

Farmers, can you help?

Could you put aside some products for the dinner?
 We are asking for donations of: Pickles, relishes, squash
 Canned or frozen fruit/berries & vegetables ■ Meat products

Every donation is helpful.
Advertising of your name and product donated will be well displayed.



In hot water

Locals living with MS, arthritis, Parkinson's disease and other challenges have lost a key amenity at Powell River Hospital. Can we find a solution?

BY PIETA WOOLLEY | pieta@prliving.ca

Back in the early 1990s, Diana Yenssen was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, a disease that attacks the central nervous system and can cause movement problems, chronic pain and depression, among much more. But her symptoms were manageable, thanks to the hydrotherapy pool at the Powell River Hospital.

"I credit being able to perform exercises in the warm water there as one of the factors that has allowed me to remain pretty mobile 30 years in to my MS," she said.

For the past year, however, the pool has been out of service. Chronic malfunctions have caused it to shut down frequently since it was built 25 years ago. Now, it may be closed forever.

The pool needs \$75,000 in repairs to re-open, according to Ken Dickson, the President of the Powell River Hospital Foundation, the organization that raised the \$510,000 to build the pool in the first place.

To Diana and other frequent users of the pool – those living with fibromyalgia, Parkinson's disease, arthritis, those recovering from knee and hip replacements, and other mobility challenges – the closure is devastating. Unlike the pool at the Recreation Complex, this small, purpose-built pool is comfortably warm, and features a moveable floor, helping clients get in and out of the water with ease, and personalize their exercises.

"The warm water... allowed me to perform one-legged balance yoga poses like Tree, Eagle and Warrior III. It also helped make other poses more effective and safer for me to do. Being in the water made doing leg circles and lifts, squats and other strengthening exercises properly, possible," said Diana.



WARM & WELCOMING: Hydrotherapy is a common physiotherapy treatment for people with all kinds of mobility issues, from arthritis to those recovering from knee surgery (even some Vancouver Island veterinary clinics use hydrotherapy on dogs). Powell River's hospital pool, which has been in use since 1993, has been closed for the past year because it has been leaking, along with other chronic problems. Its future is currently being decided by VCHA.

"I would hate to see the community lose this valuable and underutilized resource."

The story is, of course, more complicated than a \$75,000 fix might suggest.

Both Ken and the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority note that the pool has been significantly under-used over the past several years.

And, Ken said that in conversations he's had with hospital administration, they're wondering if the space and money would be better put towards another option, such as a fourth dialysis chair so locals wouldn't have to travel to Sechelt (an issue *PRL* covered in March 2016.)

Why is the pool under-used in a region with a large population of seniors and people living with disabilities? Part of the reason may be connected to how physiotherapy is funded. The service was covered by BC's Medical Services Plan before 2002, but was de-listed by the then-newly elected BC Liberals. Now most locals must pay for physiotherapy either through extended health benefits, or out-of-pocket. Perhaps fewer people are seeing physiotherapists and taking part in hydrotherapy, for financial reasons?

THE HOSPITAL FOUNDATION NEEDS YOU, GENERATION X & MILLENNIALS



Dave Harper was an early chair of the Hospital Foundation when it was inaugurated in 1989. He's now 77 years old, and is hoping to pass the nonprofit to younger heads and hands.

"Your stamina goes," he said, looking a good decade younger than his age suggests. "I'm one of the oldest people there, and the longest-serving. I can supply the wisdom, but we need younger people to do the work."

Some of the Foundation's purchases over the years include an ultrasound machine; helipad night lights, and of course, the \$1.8 million CT scan machine, the biggest fundraising effort in the Foundation's history.

How it works is, the Hospital administration will request a piece of equipment, and pledge to staff it and maintain it with VCHA funds. The Foundation will consider the request. If members take it on, they start fundraising.

The Hospital Foundation is just one of several long-time Powell River organizations who are looking to Generation X and the Millennials to continue their good works in to the future (see pages 6 to 13).

"People have got to give back," he said.

It's not a thankless job, either.

"People will come up to me and say, 'Thank you. That CT Scan saved my wife's life.' That's why we do this work."

Take the first step by visiting prhospitalfoundation.com

Coldest Night is a super-fun, family-friendly fundraiser raising money for hungry, homeless and hurting people across Canada.

On February 22, in communities across the nation, Canadians will walk together, raising awareness nationally, and raising money for services in their own communities.

In Powell River, money raised supports the work of the local Salvation Army, which includes providing meals, affordable housing, a community outreach van, and much more.

coldest*night
OFTHEYEAR.ORG

Raise awareness • Raise money • Get a toque

Come walk with us!

0-10: Free

11-17: Pay \$25
or raise minimum of \$75

Adult: Pay \$25
or raise minimum of \$150

The toque is for anyone who pays the fee or raises the minimum.

604 485-6067

Registration is NOW OPEN at cnoy.org/powellriver

Walk
2, 5, or 10
kilometres
You choose!



On **Saturday, February 22**, meet at the Salvation Army at 4500 Joyce Avenue
4 pm • Registration opens
5 pm • Opening Ceremonies
5:15 pm • Walk begins
6 pm • Registration closes
8 pm • Route closes

Between 6 and 8 pm a warm, light meal will be served to all walkers and volunteers.



it's cold out there
feb. 22, 2020



walk with us! #cnoy20
The Coldest Night of the Year is a family-friendly walk that raises money for charities serving hungry, homeless, and hurting people in our community.

walk / donate / volunteer / share / cnoy.org

BRING BACK THE POOL: Diana Yenssen has had Multiple Sclerosis for 30 years and says the exercises she was able to do in the Powell River Hospital Hydrotherapy Pool relieved her symptoms, but she hasn't been able to use it for the past year.

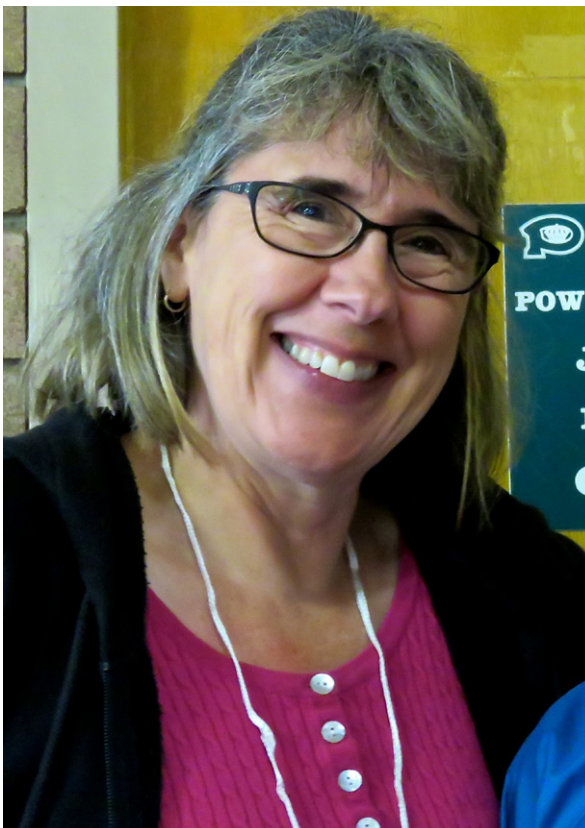
Also, there was pressure on hospital staff to keep the pool open in the evening – a staffing challenge, said Dave Harper, a long-time member of the Hospital Foundation who was chair during the fundraising campaign for the original pool.

Dave isn't thrilled with the story of this pool. The \$510,000 took three years to raise, and many local individuals and businesses were generous with their donations. That it has not been a stable, well-used amenity is frustrating.

Vancouver Coastal Health Authority sent this statement: "The hydrotherapy pool at Powell River Hospital is in need of repairs and remains closed while we assess the scope of the work required. While this assessment is underway, there are other options available in the community for people who have utilized our pool. We will let the community know what our next steps will be once the assessment is complete."

Is there a possible solution to Powell River's lack of a hydrotherapy pool? Both Ken and Dave suggested that the Recreation Complex might be a better location for a purpose-built facility. First, because the Complex has the infrastructure for pools already. And second, because the pool is staffed well.

Elsewhere in BC, physiotherapy-led hydrotherapy programs happen in recreation facilities. For example, Watermania in Richmond has a physiotherapy office attached to it. Hydrotherapy also happens in public recre-



"[The Hydrotherapy pool] allowed me to perform one-legged balance yoga poses like Tree, Eagle and Warrior III. It also helped make other poses more effective and safer for me to do...

I would hate to see the community lose this valuable and underutilized resource."

– Diana Yenssen

21. The review will go to City Council in May or June.

Ray Boogaards, the City's director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, said administration is hoping that the current facility has another 20 years of life left in it. The pool was modified from a 50-metre competitive pool in the 1990s to include the leisure pool and hot tub available today.

How hard would it be to modify the existing arrangement for hydrotherapy?

"It would be significant," said Boogaards, noting that the very warm water used for therapy likely wouldn't serve other users, and a hydraulic floor is costly.

In the meantime, Diana and her peers who depended on hydrotherapy to keep their bodies flexible, stable and mobile, are out of luck. [PR](#)

ation facilities such as Bonsor in Burnaby and Delbrook in North Vancouver.

But perhaps here it's not this obvious.

In January, coincidentally, the Recreation Complex began an architectural review process to evaluate how much more life the 44-year-old facility has in it, and to ask the public what they would like, in the future. You can fill out a survey at participatepr.ca until February

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ARTS
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 Feb 22 at James Hall • Workshop on Feb 23

Spotlight concerts
 Feb 24 & 25 at Max Cameron Theatre

Vocal & Choral
 Feb 26-29 at Evergreen Theatre & James Hall
 Workshop on Feb 29

Strings
 March 1 at James Hall

Speech Arts
 March 2 & 3 at Evergreen Theatre

Dance
 March 4 & 5 at Evergreen Theatre • Workshop on March 5

Grand Concert
7 pm Friday, March 6 at Evergreen Theatre

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 Club of Powell River

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SUNDAYS 1-3pm

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Feb 9	Love Bugs & Valentine's Cards
Feb 23	Masks
March 8	Rings & Fridge Magnets
March 22	Popsicle Stick Monsters
April 5	Butterfly Art & Flower Bouquets

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prtowncentre.com **604.485.4681**

Gas prices stuck again MP & MLA are on it

BY PIETA WOOLLEY | pieta@prliving.ca

At the end of January, regular unleaded in Comox was selling for just under \$1.30 a litre. In Metro Vancouver, it was the same (but they pay 12.5 cents per litre more in taxes than we do, so it's really selling for the equivalent of \$1.18).

Here in Powell River, prices at most gas stations have been stuck at about \$1.46 since *Powell River Living*, with MLA Nicholas Simons and MP Rachel Blaney, hosted the gas prices town hall December 15. That's down from 159.9 a litre, where it was stuck for nearly six months of 2019.

We're stuck, again.

We're still paying at least 15 cents more per litre more than our neighbours, for reasons no one has explained. Someone is making good money off of us – about \$30 per driver per month. Who?

To answer that question, both our MP and MLA spent January following up in Ottawa and Victoria.

In the House of Commons, MP Rachel Blaney will soon present the petition signed by 108 Powell Riverites at our Town Hall. The petition asks for Industry Minister Navdeep Bains to: "Order an investigation of collusion and price-fixing, through the Competition Bureau Canada, of gasoline vendors in Powell River."

Bains will have 90 days to respond. *PRL* will post on Facebook a video of Rachel presenting the petition, when it's available.

"I am looking forward to presenting Powell River's



ALOHA, FROM CHEAPER GAS: An anonymous Powell River resident, on vacation in Hawaii, sent this photograph and a calculation that shows gas there is the equivalent of \$1.35 a litre, Canadian. He pointed out that, though Hawaii's gas has to be shipped much farther from its source (Alaska) than Powell River's (Vancouver), prices remain relatively low there. He also pointed out Hawaii runs two refineries, which is associated with cheaper fuel.

fuel prices petition in the House of Commons very soon and receiving a reply from the Minister," said Rachel. "In his previous letter, the Minister said that the Competition Bureau will enforce the Competition Act when there is concrete evidence to do so. I have written the Minister again explaining what we know and asking for him to instruct the Competition Bureau to start an

investigation. I will share any reply from the Minister with the community as early as possible. As your federal representative, I pledge that I will use all the tools I have to get you answers."

Helpfully, five Powell River individuals and businesses have given *PRL* their 2019 gas receipts, to prove the case to the Competition Bureau that prices didn't change throughout much of 2019. If you have gas records you'd like to share, please send them to *PRL*, or bring them in.

In a letter to the Minister, Rachel wrote: "Smaller, rural communities cannot be allowed to be victims of anti-competitive activity for lacking the capacity or resources to conduct a thorough investigation of their own before involving the Competition Bureau. As the Minister responsible for the Competition Bureau it is my understanding that you have the authority to instruct the Bureau to begin an investigation. On behalf of the people I represent in the Powell River area, I request that you do so."

Meanwhile, MLA Nicholas Simons has asked for a meeting with the Minister responsible. The Minister has the authority to ask the BC Utilities Commission to look at records related to Powell River's fuel businesses, and determine how local prices are set. He expects they'll meet in early February. Nicholas will also present the Town Hall petition to the BC Utilities Commission in the Legislative Assembly this month.

"I am hopeful that we'll soon find out why Powell River's fuel prices are so high," said Nicholas.

"Maybe this is a bit of a test case for the BCUC under our new legislation. When citizens, media and your political representatives work together this efficiently, you'd hope that we could at least get some answers. But we'll see – stay tuned." **PRL**



In just three hours

What • Powell River's second annual **Quick Writing Contest**. AKA 'The Quickie.'

When • February 29, 1 til 4pm.

Where • At the Library - or anywhere your laptop goes.

Who • Categories for teens and adults.

What's being written • 200- and 1,000-word fiction and non-fiction stories. The theme will be announced at 1pm, February 29.

Hosted by • The Powell River Public Library and *Powell River Living* magazine.

For more information, email Mark at mmerlino@prpl.ca. Winning entries will be published in the June 2020 issue of *PRL*.

Exercise your brain! Win prizes! Enjoy fame!

Small changes • Big results

Modifying for Mental Health

“Ding, ding, ding.” An old-fashioned hand bell rings outside Henderson Elementary to let students know it’s time to come inside.



School District 47’s Strategic Plan 2019 to 2023

Support the mental health needs and well-being of students to improve student achievement and success.

ongoing professional learning and support strategy. Nicole is excited by Henderson’s recent mental health achievements. She says it is important to create a calm atmosphere for students to learn in.

“In my room, (set up for students with special needs) there’s a fireplace projected on the wall.” This adds to the overall calming ambiance. Students come to the Learning Centre/Sensory Room “if they’re angry or upset. It’s a place where they can come to calm down.”

Some kids turn off all the lights, others sit in the swing. Some days, there’s an obstacle course set up but there’s always a quiet corner where kids can snuggle. An added bonus are the two therapy dogs who visit the school regularly.

All students and staff operate under the ‘healthy bodies, healthy minds’ philosophy at Henderson that was implemented last year. Fitness Fridays see the whole school – all 100-plus students and staff – get together and do a school walk, stretch together outside or do stations at the gym to music.

Students are also encouraged to burn off excess energy on the stationary bikes that can be found in the classrooms. The healthy bodies/healthy minds spill over to lunch hour and beyond.

At noon, Henderson teachers Corey Gordon and Jerrold Mendoza organize hockey, volleyball and ping pong games for students.

“The staff here is what makes it so amazing,” says Nicole. “We work together, learn together and support students. We foster a sense of belonging in all students, everyone is unique and we embrace it.”

In fact, the staff room is filled with laughter and everyone, says Nicole, “likes to be here.”

Wellness Breaks are also commonplace at Henderson. Students take five minutes to refuel, get a snack, a drink, take a stretch or a breath of fresh air.

Wellness afternoons take place one afternoon per term and students learn about something that is good for them such as how to make ‘nice cream’ (a dessert made with frozen bananas and fruit) or sing karaoke, an activity that gets students to sing and move!

What is Mental Health Literacy? And what is the District doing to enhance it?

Mental Health Literacy is the knowledge and understanding of how to develop and maintain mental well-being.

It includes identifying risk factors and being aware of signs of mental health challenges; knowing how to and where to access help when needed as well as reducing stigma around the topic of mental health.

The District has introduced three programs to enhance Mental Health Literacy:

1. Changing Results for Young Children (CR4YC) – a collaboration between Community Early Childhood Educators, School District Early Childhood Educators and Kindergarten Teachers that focuses on enhancing social and emotional competency.

2. Healthy Bodies / Healthy Minds - a pilot project at Henderson Elementary that instills a calm learning environment, and empowers students and staff to be conscious of their own mental health, and care for it.

3. ERASE – Expect Respect and a Safe Education - part of the Ministry of Education’s Safe School Strategy which includes mental health and well-being resources, services and tools for students, parents, and educators. Available at erase.gov.bc.ca.



SCHOOL DISTRICT 47

Want to learn more? Contact us.
School District #47
4351 Ontario Ave 604 485-6271
www.sd47.bc.ca

I MADE THE MOVE

Political songwriter looking for co-conspirators

Originally from Quesnel, BC, Loren Halloran emerged as a no-nonsense musician. Starting Toronto Conservatory piano lessons at age five, he went on to play, record and tour in bands such as Charriot, Sphynx and Buckshot gaining both AM and FM radio airplay. Sphynx was the first rock band to have a music video done with CKVU-TV Vancouver in 1980.

Later, Loren recorded with members of the David Foster Band that earned him airplay on 150 stations Canada-wide. He went on to write and record *Highway of Tears*, *Swept Away*, a song to honour two

murdered women in Duncan BC; *Will to Succeed*, a song gifted to the David Suzuki Foundation, and many others, including the theme song for the Cowichan Capitals hockey club called *Ignite the Ice*. His passion for writing didn't end there.

Loren made the cut on the Songwriters of BC CD in 2017 and published his first novel called *The Mysterious Ledge*, which is in the local library. This expensive passion was made possible by a grocery management and community project background. He is searching for musicians to play with and is already on his third book.

Why Powell River?

Loren • I have a daughter and grandson here and have always enjoyed visiting in the past.

When?

Loren • This happened quickly, over the past three months or so.

Where from?

Loren • I lived and worked in Duncan, in the Cowichan Valley.

What surprised you once you moved here?

Loren • The abundance of wildlife, sea life and birds, especially eagles.

What made you decide to move?

Loren • I was asked if I would consider relocating to Powell River, in my semi retired state. I was excited for the opportunity.

Where is your favourite place in Powell River?

Loren • As a writer, I'm inspired by the na-

ture here. My favourite place to visit is the park by the ocean in Tla'amin Lands. The view, too, of Harwood Island makes me want to buy a kayak and explore more.

How did you first hear of Powell River?

Loren • I was a sales rep in the late 1980s and visited a number of times. Years later my daughter moved here and eventually stayed.

What could make Powell River a nicer community?

Loren • Seems the people here are nice enough. I like the community spirit and the charitable support given by local business and clubs.

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

Loren • Finding my own place to live was really difficult and the ferry costs are expensive. I've already experienced being stuck on one for an additional three hours due to the weather.



THE PIANO MAN: A recently-retired grocery manager, Loren Halloran is concentrating on his life-long creative pursuits in music and writing. He's looking for musicians to play with.

What would you do if you were mayor?

Loren • More new development of affordable housing. I see the development progressing in the city which is a plus because prices here seem expensive, especially for gas and food. I understand there are plans in place for these concerns.

What are Powell River's best assets?

Loren • Great personalities in the grocery stores, nice children's play areas, ie Willingdon, good musicians and beautiful hiking trails. This opportunity in the

magazine is thoughtful too.

What is your greatest extravagance?

Loren • Can't get enough coffee and conversation while meeting new friends in the local coffee shops

Which talent or superpower would you most like to have?

Loren • I'd love to make the ocean totally transparent to be able to see the many sea creatures in their natural habitat. I would also provide everyone with a happy heart and positive attitude. **RL**

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MADE IN
POWELL RIVER

Power River

DAM GOOD: The Powell River dam (above) and the Lois Lake dam (from page) are owned by Evolgen, and generate renewable power exclusively for the Paper Excellence mill.

Evolgen by Brookfield Renewable generates a vast amount of hydroelectricity in the Powell River area and across Canada. If you stand on the bridge between Townsite and Wildwood and face the ocean, you can see one of its dams, which connects to the Powell Lake Generating Station. The other is upstream from the Eagle River Bridge, on Lois Lake; which connects to the Lois Lake Hydroelectric Generating Station and is just south of Lang Bay.

Evolgen is the company's new identity; before that, you knew it as Brookfield Renewable, and before that, Brascan Power. The company is based in Quebec and operates 36 renewable power facilities throughout the provinces of British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec.

What's your product?

Renewable power. Here, we own and operate two hydropower facilities, located on Lois Lake and the Powell River. Together, these dams generate 80 megawatts of capacity—the equivalent to powering 34,500 homes annually. We're proud owners, operators and developers, leading Canada's clean energy evolution through creative renewable energy solutions that reflect our dedication to operating sustainably and collaboratively with our communities.

Who are your customers?

Our energy is sold to Paper Excellence's Powell River Mill.

Where did your idea come from? When?

Our Canadian heritage dates from the 1970s, with our Powell River presence beginning when we bought a portion of the local dams in 2001 (and completed the sale in 2013 by acquiring the remaining interest in Powell River Energy Inc. from Catalyst Paper). The dams have been in place since the Powell River Paper Company built them in 1910 and 1931.

What changes have you made since then?

Between 2011 and 2018, we've invested considerably in operational improvements, which included replacing the dam spill gates, hoists, and bridge deck. Additionally, last year within the region, we supported nearly ten local charitable organizations, including the Powell River Child, Youth and Family Services Society, Powell River Foodbank and the Powell River United Way and partnered with more than 85 local vendors.

How has your business changed since it launched?

We work in much closer partnership with Indigenous groups and all of our communities. For example, recently, in partnership with the 'Namgis First Nation (at Alert Bay), we designed and built our Kokish Hydro Project. Our organizations worked in collaboration to ensure that the Kokish project represented our joint values and was environmentally, socially and financially sustainable.

The project was designed to protect the river's

complex ecosystem, especially as it relates to the fish species that are integral to the 'Namgis First Nation's culture. To ensure the long-term health of adult and juvenile fish populations in the river, the project deploys some of the most innovative wildlife protection measures in North America, including specially designed screens, gates, a fish ladder and fish fence.

In addition, we regularly engage local communities, regional and provincial authorities as part of our public safety outreach programs in the areas where we operate. This engagement is crucial given the numerous recreational activities in and around our facilities that are available for the public to enjoy, including fishing, hiking and boating.

Who's on your team?

Number of people you employ?

In British Columbia, our facilities span along the Columbia, East Twin, Hystad, Kokish, Lois and Powell Rivers.

Our team of 18 highly-trained local operational employees maintain, monitor, and repair our renewable power facilities, ensuring the longevity, efficiency and safety of those facilities. Of those, 14 are employed in Powell River. They are: Barb D'Angio, Debby Stanyer, Darcey Colonel, Paul Collings, Randy Gerhart, Bryan Lacey, Steve McNeil, Morag Morrison, Joel Gagnon, Al Hernandez, Craig Mayenburg, Laurie Beamin and Brian Pickles. [PRL](#)



Rob Villani



Stacey Fletcher



Katya Buck

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City Transfer through the years...

1945 - Jack Fast registers City Transfer (1945) Ltd.
1947 - Bert Long and partners buy City Transfer

1969 - Bert Long buys out partners and runs company with his son Harold



1920 - Rusty Matheson runs a horse and wagon in Townsite under the City Transfer name.



1925 - The fleet, Ernie Liebenschel owner. City Transfer was sold 3 times before Long and Barret purchased it.



1945 - The City Transfer fleet when the company was registered included some classic automobiles.



1960s - In the mid-1960s, City Transfer had a moving division.

Transport business celebrates 75 years

The Long family has been around the transportation business a long time. But the family business, City Transfer, has been around even longer. This year, City Transfer is celebrating 75 years. But the roots of the company go back even further.

It was formed a century ago, in 1920, when Rusty Matheson began running a horse and wagon, and eventually a Model T, in the Townsite.

A couple of sales later, Ernie Liebenschel had six

trucks carting lumber, fuel, ice and coal throughout the community. He also offered an ambulance and hearse service. In 1945, Jack Fast bought the business and registered it as City Transfer (1945) Ltd. and sold it in 1947 to Bert Long, Art Barrett and Bill McPhalan. By 1956, City Transfer relocated out of Cranberry to Duncan Street location. Bert Long had bought out his partners by 1969 and it became a father-son business with his son Harold Long.

Harold purchased and officially took over the business in 1979. In 1984, Harold bought Sunshine Transport and Powell River Barge from Hank McFadden. From 1985 to 1990, tug runs were made from Vancouver to Powell River three days a week. In 1990, City Transfer bought its own tug and expanded delivery to five days per week.

In the meantime, PR Metal Processing Inc. was established in 1985 as a father-son business with Harold and his two sons Phill and Craig to remove surplus scrap metal from the mill site. It became Augusta Recyclers, named after Bert's wife, and continues to operate the waste transfer site.

In 1993, City Transfer purchased Peninsula Transport enabling them to provide a freight service covering the entire Sunshine Coast. Harold and his sons built up a barge ramp and terminal facility in Port Mellon's Hillside Industrial Park, and transport freight and fuel from Richmond to the lower Sunshine Coast.



1979 - Harold Long takes over business - buys out his Dad..

1984 - Harold buys Sunshine Transport and Powell River Barge

1993 - City Transfer buys Peninsula Transport to provide a freight service to the entire Sunshine Coast.

2003 - Centralized dispatch and administration moved to 7141 Duncan Street.

2013 - Harold Long dies in plane crash. Craig Long, who had been running the company with his dad, takes over as CEO with brother Phill Long as VP of Development



1968 - Harold with daughter Brenda. City Transfer has long been a family affair.



1980s - General hauling and storage warehouse at 7095 Duncan Street



2020 - Paul and Richie Royce (top) are two of nine lease operators that complement the company fleet (bottom).



2020 - Kyle Tougas (top), Theo Ferriera, and Michele Stewart (bottom) at the current office.

Harold's ambitious expansion and acquisitions created the Long Group of Companies, with many subsidiaries and partner companies. In recent years, Craig, now the CEO and CFO of the company with a knack for paperwork and numbers, has consolidated many of those companies under the City Transfer banner.

"We've made a lot of structural and organizational changes to better define the services we offer," said Craig.

The family has established the marine and transportation terminals, to allow for future development on the eight acres it owns here near the mill, and the eight acres it has near Port Mellon. It also has seven acres at its Richmond facility, but that is working at near capacity.

"Technology has brought us a long way," said Phill, who gravitated towards the information technology and led the charge for implementing web-based software and other technological developments.

Today, technology allows City Transfer to respond to the growing demand for just-in-time deliveries of fuel, groceries and other goods. Smartphone apps for drivers, real-time video conferencing and dispatching, GPS

tracking and software to virtually build loads have all helped the company speed up and make shipping more efficient.

Phill is also the one most likely to get his hands dirty in the business—he grew up making deliveries and welding repairs on barges. He has also designed and re-designed the company's barges and barge ramps, as well as heading construction of the municipally-owned barge terminal near the mill in 2011.

Both sons credit Harold's vision of using regular barge service for the success of the company.

"We're not a tug and barge company—we're a transportation company that happens to use tugs and barges, as well as flat deck trailers, refrigeration trucks and so on," said Craig. They still use BC Ferries regularly to transport goods—in fact they're one of BC Ferries' biggest customers—but transporting trailers on barges is far more efficient.

The company moves up to 40 trailer units back and forth to Powell River and Port Mellon each day.

"With the barges, you have a couple of tug engines

chugging along, instead of a bunch of trucks driving up and down the peninsula. Can you imagine if we showed up on the first ferry every day with 40 trucks?"

"Greener by Design" is the company's description of their commitment to decreasing green house gas emissions. "We save 1,100 tonnes of carbon per year by using the barges," said Craig.

City Transfer renews its fleet of trucks every five years so that it can remain efficient, uses hybrid electric/gas vehicles, and is closely watching the development of electric-powered vehicles and ships.



Family First

Bert Long, above with wife Augusta, believed in the idea of a family business, and that focus has been passed down through the generations.

Harold, top left, worked the business first with his dad, Bert, and later with his sons Craig (centre left) and Phill (bottom left).

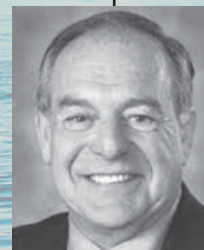
After Harold's tragic death, Craig became CEO and Phill is Vice-President of Development.

What's the secret to a strong family business?

"Family first, without compromise, then business," says Craig. "My grandfather and father taught us strong values and work ethic."

Quick Facts:

- 55 employees between Powell River, Gibsons and Richmond.
- Warehouse facilities in Powell River and Gibsons
- Marine Terminals at Powell River, Port Mellon (Gibsons), and Richmond
- Services offered: Freight of all kinds, dangerous goods, transportation services, marine transportation, marine terminal storage and services, complete freight logistics
- Next day service between Vancouver and Powell River / Sunshine Coast
- Fleet: 24 delivery trucks / 80 trailers / 2 barges 200' x 50' each





BLAST FROM THE PAST

Ghost Rails

BY JOËLLE SÉVIGNY

Since I've moved to Powell River, the sound of a train whistle is but a forgotten memory. Yet, I remember that trains do in fact exist whenever I go to Vancouver Island since one of the first things you pass on your way into Comox is just that; a train crossing!


Today, one of the only remaining railways in our part of the coast is the one used at the paper mill and the miniature one in Paradise Valley! However, if you look back 100 years ago, Powell River had a number of railroads. They were visible just walking in town.

You can see this in the 1911 photograph demonstrating the Michigan and Puget Sound Railway crossing the Powell River Company Railway line on the intersection of 2nd Street (now Ash) and Oceanview (now Marine Avenue).

Overall, there were about 16 railways operated by different companies in this upper part of the Sunshine Coast. Most of the railroads were predominantly used to transport timber, however two of them served as transportation for mining and quarrying activities.

Thus, for logging purposes, the railway lines often ventured from settlements out far into the backcountry. The Eagle River and Northern Railway which began at Stillwater (then known as Scow Bay) went all the way up to Spring Lake.

In later years, with logging going further and further back into the mountains, using railways became impractical and so they were eventually replaced by logging trucks.

When you're hiking in the area, you can often see old wharf pillars in lakes; if you look carefully you can also see old rail lines in the forest; and if you're looking harder, you may even find old railway equipment half buried in the earth. 

Blast from the Past is a monthly historical column written by the Townsite Heritage Society's board member Joëlle Sévigny.



FOR LOGGING & MINING, NOT TRAVEL: Top, in 1911, the Michigan and Puget Sound Railway crossed what's now Ash and Marine. Below, the same railway crosses the Powell River, about where the Wildwood Bridge is now.

The Blanket Exercise

A unique participatory workshop where participants are able to experience some events in Canadian history as they relate to First Nations people in a very impactful way with a simulated experiential learning format. Everyone is Welcome with Love

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Local history champion wins top honour

Whoot Whoot! A big round of applause goes to Ann Nelson, one of this year's Heritage BC award recipients.

Ann will receive an Outstanding Award for Distinguished Service in recognition for her work as a volunteer with Townsite Heritage Society and an original, long-time Townsite promoter. The awards ceremony takes place in May in conjunction with Heritage BC's annual conference in Chilliwack.

Here's what will be read about Ann at the awards ceremony.

"Ann moved to Powell River, with her husband and son, in the 1970s and here she found a focus for her passion for tradition and heritage. For over 40 years, she has volunteered with a commitment to promote the value of the Townsite within the neighbourhood and also within the larger community of Powell River.

"She has been the force driving the revived annual Heritage Home and Garden awards and a mix of fundraising ideas. She produced the 100th anniversary celebration in 2010, and played a strong role in the acquisition and restoration of Henderson House Living Museum, promoting the importance of restoration of



BC HERITAGE WEEK DISPLAY

What: This year's theme is "Bringing the Past into the Future." Come see historic photos, albums of old photos, old heritage *Digesters*, and slide shows from early days.

When: February 18 to 22

Where: Town Centre Mall

For sale: Karen Southern's *House Histories-Volumes I, II, III, IV* (final volume just released), available for sale, 1941 *Powell River Cookbook*, *White City*, Historic Townsite T-shirts, Townsite Art postcards.

the house in its original form to provide inspiration and a 'teaching lab' for building owners in the National Historic District.

"Ann Nelson has been an outstanding contributor and non-stop volunteer."

Powell River Living magazine publisher Isabelle



JAZZING IT UP: After decades of work and a grand vision that helped attract new investment into Powell River's Townsite neighbourhood, Anne Nelson, left, is being recognized for her contributions by Heritage BC. She also runs The Patricia Theatre, a foundation of Townsite's link between the past and present. Her succession plan for the theatre involves the Powell River Film Society. See Page 35 for more.

Painting by Arthur Nouwens

Southcott, who worked on the application with one of the magazine's talented proofreaders, Roberta Pearson, and several other volunteers, says this award is significant for several reasons.

"Not only does it shine a light on the Townsite but it also celebrates Ann Nelson and her tireless, passionate commitment to the preservation of heritage in the Townsite. Winning this award is a feather in the Townsite Heritage Society's cap and is something that the whole Powell River community can be proud of."

The timing of the announcement is also important, said Isabelle, noting that February 17 to 23 is Heritage Week in BC and this year's theme is Bringing the Past into the Future.

Ann's friends and supporters at *Powell River Living* magazine couldn't be prouder of this significant accomplishment. Congratulations Ann!

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you find at the
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Clothes Climbing
Grocery Crafting
Kids Baked Goods
...and so much more!

WHAT'S UP

Free air for lingcod egg counters

Local divers are being invited by the Vancouver Aquarium to survey lingcod egg masses in local waters, and the local dive shop will help pay their way.

Salish Sea Dive owner Gary Lambeth says he'll give free air fills to anyone who submits a survey to the aquarium.

Lingcod egg masses look like styrofoam blocks and are relatively easy to spot in the depth range of sport divers. Their size and abundance are also a good indicator of the health of lingcod stocks, so the aquarium has a long-running program using data from sport divers to monitor the health of lingcod stocks.

Surveys should be done before March 8. Go to research.ocean.org/survey/lingcod

Farmed food sought

Local farmers are reaching out to their fellow farmers for food and produce to showcase at an upcoming fundraising dinner.

The Meet Your Farmer/Raise the Roof dinner will be held March 4 to raise funds for the Quonset Hut at the Exhibition Grounds.

In preparation for that event, growers are being asked to put aside a few products for the dinner. Organizer Ros Sherrard says the group is particularly looking for donations of pickles, relishes, squash, canned or frozen fruit, berries and vegetables, and any meat products.

Donated food will be crafted by the VIU and Brooks Culinary Arts students into the dinner at the Brooks Great Hall on March 4 at 6 pm.

"The event is an opportunity for the community to meet local farmers and Farmers' Market vendors," said Ros.

Tickets are \$45 and are available from Top Shelf Feeds or email Ros at fireweedjazz@gmail.com.

What's next for Rec Complex?

The City launched a public engagement process last month to help them decide on a rehabilitation plan for the Recreation Complex.

Parks, Recreation and Culture director Ray Boogaards said the City is creating the plan to prioritize facility upgrades to

respond to the community's recreational and social needs for the next 20 years. For the plan to succeed, public input is key.

A survey on participatePR.ca is open to engage with the community.

"We need to come up with a plan of action that is supported by the community through this public process," said Ray. "We know there are improvements that have to be made, but what does the public want? Do they want to see a water slide? Do they want to see changes to the aquatic centre, the rink or the arena? Do they think our fitness room is big enough? Do we need to look at accessibility?"

Help 1,000 seedlings

The central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh set a new Guinness World Record after 1.5 million volunteers planted more than 66 million tree saplings in just 12 hours along the Narmada river.

In Powell River we have an opportunity to plant 1,000 fir seedlings on local properties for free.

It all started with a delicious meal in partnership with The Little Hut Curry and Malaspina Land Conservancy Society. Lesley Thorsell approached restaurateur Mohinder Singh, to plan a vegan/vegetarian meal to raise money to plant trees locally. People get to socialize and enjoy a three-course meal and at the same time plant trees for the future!

We raised \$500 which equalled 500 trees at the nursery we contacted. The nursery was so impressed with this concept that they matched our order as a donation. This means 1,000 trees can be locally planted by local people for local enjoyment and carbon sequestration. The focus is carbon capture as trees are the most efficient carbon capture machines on the planet and one of the leading solutions to reducing climate change.

We have people coming forward offering to assist with tree planting from schools, Girl Guides, local conservation groups but we will need many more interested parties. If you are available to plant Douglas Fir seedlings during Earth Month April 1-30th or you have land that you would freely like to have trees be planted on for future generations please email info@malaspinaland.ca or lthorsell@yahoo.com.

— Lesley Thorsell



Step towards Reconciliation

The Blanket Exercise has been designed to create a greater understanding and helps everyone build better relationships between First Nations people and non-First Nations people.

It is a step on the reconciliation journey.

It takes about 45 minutes to go

through the exercise, and 45 minutes to do a debriefing—each person around the circle is invited to comment on how the exercise was for them.

There is a \$10 fee and potluck lunch. For more information visit the blog section at powellriverunitedchurch.com or to register call 604-485-5724.

Women, working in harmony

On Thursday, Feb. 20 in the Art Centre above the Library, Julia Adam of the One Voice Choir will be doing a workshop for Women in Business called Working in Harmony.

"Group singing can be intimidating for some, and this is part of why it can be a great team-building exercise. I plan to structure the evening much like a typical One Voices choir night, with a particular slant on team-building and 'Working in Harmony'. My approach in this setting is to create a safe singing and musical environment to support people in pushing their collective comfort zone and hopefully feel better and more connected by the end.

The workshop is at 5:45 pm. It's free to WIB members, \$5 for non members.

For more info, contact the WIB president at isabelle@prliving.ca

Avalanche course

The Knuckleheads Winter Recreation Association would like to remind everyone that, if you're in the backcountry this

winter, you are in avalanche terrain. Planning to recreate? Learn more at: www.avalanche.ca/tutorial/avalanche-terrain/avalanche-terrain-exposure-scale

New garden in Cranberry

The largest garden in the City of Powell River was recently completed at the site of the ultra-violet water treatment facility in Cranberry.

"It's about 16,000 square feet. It's massive," said Parks Supervisor, Mike Kaban.

The new landscaping that wraps around the water treatment facility on Haslam Lake Road will require much less maintenance and expense than go into Powell River's showcase gardens which can be found at City Hall and Dwight Hall.

"When the facility was built, there was no landscaping done. The property was left with piles of concrete rubble, construction debris and it was overgrown with trees and blackberry brambles," said Mike.

Building the garden was a team effort. The entire Parks crew spent weeks removing alders and blackberry, and sling-ing soil, rock and mulch. [PR](http://prliving.ca)



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Louis Riel Commemoration

Remember the 150th anniversary of the Red River Rebellion and the *Manitoba Act* with Powell River's Métis community. Musicians, storytelling, cultural artifacts. Bannock, venison stew and beans. Prizes.

Sunday, Feb 16th at Community Resource Centre 1-4pm

This space available to non-profit organizations, courtesy City Transfer



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Our staff have joined the Westview Agencies team and will work together to serve you under our new name – The Co-operators.

Your coverage and policies are not changing

Rest assured knowing that there is no change to your coverage or policies. You'll enjoy the comfort of familiarity while gaining access to a Canadian-owned company that has been helping Canadians protect what matters most for over 75 years.

Thank you for your trust and continued loyalty. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (604) 485-4217.

We encourage you to drop by and visit us in February at:

The Co-operators – Crossroads Village
4871 Joyce Ave #109, Powell River, BC V8A 5P4
(604) 485-7931

Monday – Saturday 9am to 5pm

Frequently Asked Questions

Who do I contact and where should I go to discuss my insurance?

Starting on February 1, 2020, your files will be transferred to our new office: The Co-operators Crossroads Village, 4871 Joyce Ave Unit 109 in Powell River (former office of Westview Agencies). Our staff have also moved to the new location, so there will be lots of familiar faces.

What can you tell me about The Co-operators?

The Co-operators Group Limited (CGL) is a Canadian-owned co-operative that has been helping Canadians protect what matters most for more than 75 years. Their business decisions are guided by their co-operative principles and they make people a priority. To learn more about The Co-operators, its history and its commitment to the communities it serves, visit www.cooperators.ca/en/About-Us.

Can I still work with the same agent I already know and trust?

Yes. Our staff are joining The Co-operators team at our new location and look forward to serving you in our new home.

What will happen to my claim?

If you have a claim in progress, nothing changes. Your claim will continue to be managed by the person already assigned to your file.

Will my coverage, policy or payment options change?

No. Your coverage, policy and payment structure will all remain the same. We will continue to offer the convenience of a payment plan with the option of monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual payments.

How can I connect with The Co-operators?

Visit www.cooperators.ca to learn more and connect with them via Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.



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WITH
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sean@prliving.ca

Hear this

Powell River Hearing will be expanding into hearing conservation in 2020. If you work in noise that exceeds noise exposure limits you should have your hearing tested annually. **Powell River Industrial Hearing** (a division of Powell River Hearing) now operates a mobile industrial hearing van that will be able to come to you, making it easier for employers to comply with Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 7.8 – Noise Exposure. To learn more contact **Jerald Formby**, Authorized Industrial Hearing Technician at 604-208-3334 or **Shannon Miller**, owner of PR Hearing at 604-485-0036.

Robbins buys Reid Hunter

Daryl Robbins has expanded to Powell River. The Co-mox valley accountant and notary has opened a branch of **Robbins & Company** in Powell River. Daryl purchased **Reid Hunter** CPA and has rebranded it. **Susanna East**, well-known to Powell River as an owner of Westview U-Vin U-Brew, has been named branch manager, and the other accountants who worked there have stayed on. Former owner **Kel Reid** is consulting for the new owner for the next year to ensure a smooth transition. The company offers accounting services, financial planning, corporate and personal tax preparation, family trusts and estates, bookkeeping, business planning, budgeting and staff training. Visit powellriveraccountant.ca, call 604-485-9790 or visit the new office at 4313 Alberta Avenue, across the street from Assumption Church.

Influential Women Awards

Nominations are now open for the Tenth Annual Influential Women of the Year Awards presented by Powell River Women in Business.

There are four awards categories: Outstanding Business Owner of the Year; Outstanding Employee of the Year; Outstanding Home-Based Business of the Year

and Outstanding Volunteer of the Year. Nominators do not have to be a member of Powell River Women in Business, nor do nominees. To nominate someone and download a form, visit prwomeninbusiness.com. Completed nomination forms can be emailed to info@prwomeninbusiness.com. Nomination forms are also available for pick up at The Nutcracker Market, 201-4741 Marine Avenue or *Powell River Living* magazine, 7053E Glacier Street.

This year's theme, '1920 to 2020', celebrates how far women have come in the last 100 years and the committee is planning an exciting and informative evening to showcase some of the changes that have taken place. Celebrants are encouraged to adopt the style of dress from the 1920s! "We'll have prizes for best costume this year," said Women in Business president Isabelle Southcott. "Some of the ladies are planning on dressing as flappers and silent screen stars."

The awards dinner takes place May 20 at the Town Centre Hotel. Tickets available at the Nutcracker.

Accountant bridges Alberta and BC

When Edmonton accountant Song Hu visited Powell River in the summer of 2016, she wasn't looking to set up a new shop. But she fell in love with the community, so when business opportunities came up in 2017, she jumped in. Song opened Uvision Chartered Professional Accountants (operating as Song Hu and Associates, CPA), on February 1 at 4699 Marine Avenue. She's also still operating her Edmonton firm. Song sees the needs of providing professional accounting services for clients who operate in both provinces. "My employees are located in Edmonton, Alberta and work for clients in both locations. I will be hiring employees locally when it is needed," said Song.

The Marine Avenue office is 650 square feet, including a reception area, two main offices and lunchroom.

Song says Powell River is in need of more CPA accounting firms that can provide not only full cycle accounting and tax services, but assurance services, such as review and audit. Plus, Power River's business owners need more support in selecting bookkeeping software, such as Quickbooks, Quickbooks online, Wave, Xero, and Sage, etc. "We are a full practice CPA firm that can prepare, review, and audit financial statements. We are trying to be a paperless accounting firm, too."

Song also does accounting and tax services, includ-

ing financial statements, corporate and personal income tax returns, as well as providing succession planning and business reorganization services. Contact song@uvision.ca, or call 604-499-8080.

Colab opens this month

Powell River's first coworking and collaboration space will soon be opening its doors. Coastline Colab is a space for freelancers, entrepreneurs, non-profits and remote employees to work, connect, collaborate and learn. On Thursday, February 6, Coastline Colab will have a "soft launch" for the public to come and use the space, learn more about upcoming programming and events and how to become members.

The space offers an open concept work space, dedicated desks, private meeting room, phone booth, teleconferencing equipment, high speed internet, and kitchen lounge with an AV setup. Local artist Theo Angell designed and built the Colab's furniture with local reclaimed wood and recycled materials, creating a unique and beautiful space ready to bring our community of creative entrepreneurs and change makers together. The official launch will take place on Friday, February 28. Coastline Colab is located at 6975 Alberni St Suite 201, above the library in Crossroads Village. Visit coastlinecolab.ca or their Facebook page for more details. Coastline Colab is a project of the Powell River Creative Economy and Innovation Initiative.

Taxes are going up

Powell River property owners are looking at a property tax increase of 4.8 per cent. City of Powell River Chief Financial Officer Adam Langenmaier said the increases are necessary for the City to continue to offer its current level of services. "The alternatives are to either find additional sources of revenue or look at possibly reducing services."

Councillor George Doubt, Finance Committee chair, said "things are costing more money and we have a \$10 million debt for the new wastewater treatment plan (WWTP) that we have to start paying off. Council has some difficult decisions to make."

A new property tax levy will fund debt associated with the WWTP.

The average residential property owner will pay \$3,037, an increase of \$138 (4.8 percent) from 2019, including \$53.32 towards the WWTP. **PR**

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Feb 17 Steak & Kidney Pie	March 2 Liver & Onions with Mashed Potatoes & Veggies

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**FEBRUARY 7 TO 9
WEEKEND**



Powell River Film Festival
The Last Flapper
Mixed Bonspiel
Exultation
Coastal Water Bird Survey

**FEBRUARY 14 TO 17
LONG WEEKEND**



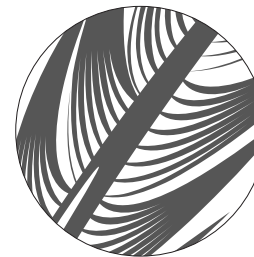
Valentine's & Family Day
Louis Riel 150
Savannah Sipping Society
Rock the Rink
Peewee House Tourney

**FEBRUARY 21 TO 23
WEEKEND**



Coldest Night of the Year
Blanket Exercise
Festival of Performing Arts
The Next Generation Dance
Ms. Panik & Texture & Light

**FEB 28 TO MARCH 1
WEEKEND**



The Quickie
Mark Leiren-Young
Wozzek: Live on Screen
Dub at the Pub
Live Voltage

Much more is happening in February. Check out PRL's full coverage of festivals and events on Pages 32 to 43.

5 February

events Métis leader Louis Riel would like, because they inspire inclusiveness, equality and reconciliation

1. PR Film Festival

It's boot camp for your heart and brain. From February 7 to 16, dramatically enhance your empathy, with films about health care in Mexico; mid-life ennui; the suburbs of Paris, cancer; assholes; Colton Bouchie's legacy, and so much more.

2. The Blanket Exercise

If you haven't been a part of one of these sessions yet, here is your chance. The Powell River United Church hosts this participatory workshop, aimed to promote reconciliation, on February 22. (Incidentally, two decades ago, editor Pieta Woolley worked for

the Toronto-based nonprofit that first designed this workshop.)

3. Coldest Night of the Year

A fundraiser for locals sleeping rough and struggling with poverty, CONY is a national, annual event. Walk 2 to 10 kilometres on the evening of February 22. Collect enough donations, and you get a snazzy toque.

4. World Day of Prayer

Gather at St. David & St. Paul Anglican Church in Townsite March 6, for this women-led international and ecumenical initiative which promises



"Informed prayer and prayerful action." This year, participants from 170 countries will take part in praying for Zimbabwe.

5. Riel 150th Celebration

Canada has come a long way in

recognizing Louis Riel's contributions to this country—stopping just short, though, of naming him a "Father of Confederation." Celebrate his rejection of colonialism and his vision for a nation based on

equality and inclusiveness on February 16 at the CRC. -PW

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Planning an event?

Here's some new help:

Before you begin planning your next event, take a look at Tourism Powell River's new event planning guide.

While no two events are the same; there are several steps you can take to jump-start the planning process, keep on track, and maximize your event's success, says Tracey Ellis, executive director of Tourism Powell River.



"The key to any successful event is preparation," says Tracey. "This guide offers specific information relevant to the Powell River area from who to approach to book a venue to how to be a trash-free event."

The guide will be available in February at www.powellriver.info.

Wear your toque: it's cold out there



We at the Salvation Army, we feed many families, who are unable to fully support themselves, through our Food Bank and Community Lunch programs. These programs allow for those who struggle with living costs to have their money go a little further over the month.

This year, as in past years, the funds raised will go towards those who are hungry, hurting and homeless in our area.

Vouchers for our local Salvation Army Thrift Store, with the many needs that people may have, are another way that The Salvation Army is in and for the community of Powell River. We help with clothing and household items when that need arises.

This winter Powell River has been blessed with the opening of supportive housing. Unfortunately, there are still those who need assistance. We are developing what we feel is a better way to assist those who are still challenged for proper accommodations, practical and food resources.

On Wednesday nights, volunteers will be around town with our Emergency Di-

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

What: A national fundraiser; here, it raises money for the Salvation Army's outreach programs. Raise enough funds, win a toque. cnoy.org/powellriver or call 604-485-6067

When: February 22; walk begins at 5:15 pm, registration at 4 pm. See Page 18 for more.

Where: Starts at the Salvation Army on Joyce Ave. Walk for 2, 5 or 10 kilometres.

saster Truck bringing good hot meals, coats, hats and gloves to the people who need it most.

By walking and collecting pledges or becoming a sponsor, through the Coldest Night of the Year you will not only feel what it is like to be in the cold, but by collecting funds it allows The Salvation Army to not only maintain these programs, but allow them and so many more to grow.

So join us on February 22, 2020 as we walk in support of those who need us most.

— Kerrin Fraser

Big February Dates

Friday, February 14

Valentine's Day

Special meals! At The Boardwalk: see Page 15. At the Shinglemill, see Page 13.

SD47 Pro-D Day Skate

Noon til 2 pm, free skate at the complex (rentals \$2)

Sunday, February 16

Louis Riel Red River Rebellion 150 Celebration

1 to 4 pm, Community Resource Centre.

Monday, February 17

Family Day Skate

Noon til 2 pm, free skate at the complex (rentals \$2)

February 18 to 24

National Heritage Week

See the display at Town Centre Mall, and Page 25 for more!

Thursday, February 20

WIB meeting

5:45 pm, The Art Centre. See Page 28.

Saturday, February 22

Coldest Night of the Year

(see left)

Monday, February 24

Meatless Monday Potluck

5:30 pm at Ecosentials. Bring a vegan dish to share and your own plate and cutlery. meatlessmondaypr.com

February 25 & 26

Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 4

Raise the Roof Dinner

6 pm, Great Hall at Brooks School. A PR Farmers Agricultural Institute fundraiser for the quonset hut at the Open Air Market. \$45. See Page 17.

Friday, March 6

World Day of Prayer

1:30 pm, St. David & St. Paul Anglican. International, ecumenical initiative. A day of "informed prayer and prayerful action" for Zimbabwe.

Sports

Mondays

Sober Sports

7 to 8 pm, Westview Elementary. \$3. See Page 37.

Friday, February 7

Kings vs. Alberni Valley

7 pm, Hap Parker Arena. T&R Contracting will be on-site with info about qathet Community Justice.

February 7 to 9

Mixed Open Bonspiel

Theme: Your Pants are Weird

Saturday, February 8

Kings vs. Alberni Valley

5 pm, Hap Parker Arena

February 14 to 16

Peewee house tournament

Friday, February 14

Rock the Rink

7 to 9:30 pm. Skate to live music!

Free Skate

Noon til 2 pm, rentals \$2. Rec Complex.

Friday, February 21

Kings vs. Victoria

7 pm, Hap Parker Arena

Saturday, February 22

Kings vs. Victoria

5 pm, Hap Parker Arena

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Learn something new

Wednesdays

SMART Recovery Meetings
6:30 pm, CRC. See Page 43.

Tuesday, February 4

Community Health Clinics public meeting

7 to 9 pm, Trinity Hall (United Church). Panel presentation by a local MD, the President of BC Association of Community Clinics and a health researcher. Sponsored by Powell River Voices.

Wednesday, February 5

Raising Resilience; 5 strategies to calm anxiety in children

6:30 to 8 pm, Kelly's Health Shop. With Michelle Riddle, OT, HNC. See Page 12.

Sunday, February 9

Coastal Water Bird Survey

1:30 to 3:30 pm. See right.

Monday, February 10

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop

1 pm. Hosted by Mother Nature (location is off-site). \$20. Contact Mother Nature Home & Pet to register.

Wednesday, February 12

Natural Approach to Anemia and Fatigue

6:30 pm, Kelly's health Shop. Please RSVP to kellystore@telus.net or 604-485-5550. Seating is limited. See Page 12.

Thursday, February 13

Intro to RESPs

11 am, PR Public Library, free

Glyn Williams-Jones – "Canadian Volcanoes"

7–8:30 pm, Trinity Hall (the United Church on Duncan). One of the volcanoes Glyn's group monitors is Mt Meager – the closest volcano to Powell River (only 115 km away!)

Saturday, February 15

Growing Your Business

2 pm, Library. Business funding, business loans and strategies for growing your business. Registration is required: call 604-485-4796 Ext. 206.

Wednesday, February 19

Essential Oil make & take

6:30 pm, Kelly's health Shop. Please RSVP to kellystore@telus.net or 604-485-5550. Seating is limited. See Page 12.

Friday, February 21

Virtual Reality – A Discussion

5 pm, Library. Come to this insightful talk where VR developer Kieran Fogarty will present an introduction to the rapidly changing world of Virtual Reality.

Saturday, February 22

Blanket Exercise and Potluck

10 am to 1 pm, Powell River United Church. See Page 24 for more.

Counting Crows

If you know these are *not* crows but oystercatchers (or are willing to look them up in a bird book), join the Malaspina Naturalists for their next citizen science outing February 9. Meet at 1:30 pm at the Westview Viewpoint. No experience needed, but please bring binoculars and a bird book if you have one.

Photo by Andrew Bryant



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Live Music

Friday, February 7

Oliver Swain in concert

7:30 pm Cranberry Hall. Doors open at 7 pm. \$20.

Saturday, February 8

Exultation – Sarah Hagen and Brendan McLeod

7:30 pm, Max Cameron. Piano, stories and poems. \$25, students under 18 free.

Bob Marley Birthday Bash

9 pm, Wildwood Pub

Al Antolovich Memorial Show

8 pm McKinney's

Sunday, February 9

Francesca Mirai in concert

7:30 pm, Wildwood Pub

Friday, February 14

Sing Out: An evening of song with Laurence Cole

6:30 pm, Cranberry Seniors Centre. \$10 to \$25. For info or to register: singitpowellriver@gmail.com

Saturday, February 15

Powell River Film Fest closing party with Chor Musica performance

7 pm, The Patricia. Screening of *The Men's Room*.

Heron / Tremblers

9 pm Wildwood Pub

Paul Black Band & Friends

6:30 pm, Stardusters Hall. \$20 advance tickets from RockIt, \$25 at the door.

Sunday, February 16

Gerry Barnum

7:30 Wildwood Pub

Friday, February 21

Ms. Panik and Texture & Light

9 pm, Wildwood Pub

February 22 to March 6

Festival of Performing Arts

See Page 19 and 40.

Saturday, February 22

Country Icons concert

7:30 pm Max Cameron. \$45

The Burying Ground:

Country Blues

McKinney's

Sunday, February 23

Renelle and Dawson

7:30 pm, Wildwood Pub

Friday, February 28

Live Voltage

9 pm, McKinney's

Saturday, February 29

Dub at the Pub

8 pm, Wildwood Pub. With The Chad and Papa D. Sliding scale \$1 to \$20.

Sunday, March 1

Brent Mason in Concert

7 pm, Mary Mary Café (Texada)

Thursday, March 12

PRISMA Spring Concert

7:30 pm, Max Cameron. See Page 10.



50 choirs want to come to Kathaumixw 2020: the most ever

A crowd favourite from 2016 International Choral Kathaumixw is returning this summer.

Sweet Scarlett, a choir of six women from Vancouver, entertained audiences on stage with their engaging personalities and quality of their singing. They were runners-up in two competition categories: Chamber Choir and Adult Equal Voice Choir.

Artistic director Walter Martella has spent months listening to audition tapes from choirs hoping to be accepted to this year's festival that takes place June 30 to July 4. "We had nearly 50 applications, the longest list I have ever seen."

Accepted choirs come from Canada,

United States, Philippines, Uganda, Poland, Estonia, Czech Republic and Slovenia. Four choirs are from BC.

Powell River Academy of Music staff is now in the process of finalizing details with the choirs and they are working to ensure everything is done so they are able to make the trip to Powell River.

Organizing committee members will meet more frequently from now until the festival starts.

Walter Martella is working with guest conductors and artists on the program for the Gala Opening Concert that takes place Tuesday, June 30.

Tickets and packages go on sale on April 15.
– Joyce Carlson



TOP 10 IN CANADA: According to Chatelaine Magazine, The Patricia is the country's best single-screen. Photo courtesy of the Powell River Museum & Archives. Processing by Gary Shilling.

BY GARY SHILLING | with files from
Nina Mussellam and Ann Nelson

We get a lot of good things from the Romans – including how to put on a spectacle. Circus Maximus was their biggest amphitheater and could hold over 250,000 people. It was occasionally flooded for mock naval battles, complete with ships.

Unfortunately, this kind of live entertainment is not scalable – so film special effects were invented, and movie theatres to show them in. Canada has more than 3,000 cinemas, and we spent more than \$3.5 billion dollars there in 2017.

The first public screening of a film in Canada took place in Montreal on June 28 1896, with Vancouver following in 1898. The first Canadian films were produced in the fall of 1897 and were made by James Freer, a Manitoba farmer, depicting life on the Prairies. These early films promoted immigration and were sometimes pro-

Large Popcorn, Extra Butter

Saving Canada's silver screens is a 90-year-old project, from snack sales to film festivals like ours.

duced by the government and Canadian Pacific Railway.

Cinema came to Powell River at the "first" Patricia Theatre in 1913, which was designed for both motion pictures and live entertainment. The original structure made way for the Veteran's Memorial in front of Dwight Hall.

Construction for the "new" Patricia Theatre started in the early summer of 1928 and took about 4 months to complete. The influential architect, Henry Holdsby Simmonds – also responsible for the Stanley Theatre (1930)

in Vancouver and the Odeon theatre chain, designed it. The seats came from New York, the organ from California, and the draperies from Seattle.

The Patricia Theatre was built right on the cusp of change from silent films to sound. Many of the new medium's biggest attractions came from vaudeville and the musical theater, where performers such as Al Jolson, Eddie Cantor, Jeanette MacDonald, George Burns and Gracie Allen, and the Marx Brothers were accustomed to the demands of both dialogue and song. The

POWELL RIVER FILM FESTIVAL

When: February 7 to 16

Where: The Patricia Theatre, Townsite

See more: prfilmfestival.ca, or at the kiosk at Town Centre Mall

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“In 2019 [at The Patricia], more than 25,000 admissions were sold, and nearly 12,000 buckets of popcorn. Over the course of the year 78 different films were shown at more than 400 screenings, plus the Film Festival.”

– Gary Shilling

first Hollywood ‘blockbuster’ sound film was released in 1927, starring Al Jolson in *The Jazz Singer*.

By the early 1930s, the talkies were a global phenomenon and sound equipment was installed at the Patricia in 1930. They helped secure Hollywood’s position as one of the world’s most powerful cultural/commercial systems. But as the Great Depression set in, and profits dropped, desperate theatre owners sought new ways to make money.

Popcorn was introduced as a snack food around 1840, and by the 1900s, popcorn vendors were at circuses, parks, and pushing their carts on the street. Popcorn was big business. Movie theatre owners began installing popcorn machines inside their theatres, and soon, concession stands were integrated into the designs of theatres and became an important part of the experience. A movie and a bucket of popcorn became the go-to entertainment choice for cash-strapped moviegoers everywhere.

Popcorn was introduced to the Patricia’s operations by Myron McLeod in 1955, with a machine and candy counter installed in the Lobby. Before then, treats were bought next door at the Sweet Shop and smuggled in. In 2001, an archway was created connecting the lobby with the adjacent storefront, providing space for the concession lineup.

The business of owning and running the Patricia Theatre has changed hands only four times in the over 100 years of operation. Most recently, Ann Nelson and her son Brian took on the theatre in 2002. In 2019 more than 25,000 admissions were sold, and nearly 12,000 buckets of popcorn. Over the course of the year 78 different films were shown at more than 400 screenings, plus the Film Festival.

On a global scale, filmmaking is big business, with huge distribution networks and gargantuan budgets. In 2019, Walt Disney was the top-grossing distributor with almost 34 percent market share and gross revenues of more than \$3.8 billion dollars. The number of actual tickets sold in US movie theaters in 2019 fell 3.6 percent year-over-year to 1.25 billion tickets. That’s down

PATRICIA FOREVER:

HOW WE’RE BUCKING THE TRENDS TO REVITALIZE OUR HISTORIC SINGLE-SCREEN FOR THE FUTURE

The wheels are in motion for The Patricia to transition to community ownership in 2021 under the guidance of the newly amalgamated Powell River Film Society (formerly The Friends of the Historic Patricia Theatre Society and the Friends of Film Society of Powell River, which ran the local Film Festival). The mandate of the society combines a desire to preserve the building for generations to come, and to bring the best of cinema and entertainment to the community.

At the Patricia Theatre, named in 2019 at the top of the 10 best movie theatres in Canada by *Chatelaine* magazine, the plans are to preserve the historic aesthetic, while upgrading comfort and cinematic quality. As the longest continuously running movie theatre in Canada, it has a commitment to its place in history and importance to the community.

Some of that preservation work is physical. For example, The Society recently fundraised \$15,000 dollars to patch the roof, and the work is currently underway. This repair is necessary to prevent any further damage to the interior of the theatre. The full replacement of the roof, which needs to be done in the very near future, is estimated to cost approximately \$90k.

And, some of that work is delivering a diverse and delicious program. This month’s Powell River Film Festival is an example of a non-profit, charitable society expanding the business model, artistic engagement, educational opportunities, and revenue sources to improve the sustainability of the venue and to maintain the vital connection to the greater world of cinema culture for this isolated community, as well as helping to preserve a significant piece of built heritage.

– Gary Shilling

21 percent from “Peak Ticket Sales” in 2002, when box offices sold 1.58 billion tickets. In fact, the number of tickets sold in 2019 was the lowest since 1995 even with the population growth over that period.

Despite these big numbers, independent, small-town cinemas like the Patricia Theatre are facing increasing challenges on how to remain viable in this age of streaming and fragmentation of its customer base. Access to Hollywood product remains a daunting challenge.

Major studios used to work through local distributors who appreciated the value of small markets – now consolidation has pushed out these theatres from opening films in their first weeks and instituted minimum play times that are beyond what makes good business sense for small populations.

Increased film rental costs also contribute to the challenges, with big producers like Disney taking more than 64 percent of ticket revenue.

In 1981, the futurist Faith Popcorn coined the term “cocooning”. She posited that the need to shelter one’s self from the harsh realities of the world and a desire for fantasy adventure, would find more people isolating themselves at home. Online shopping, social media, and home theatres would focus people on their in-home lifestyles, and satisfy their communal needs without physical contact.

The challenges in getting people out to a movie theatre today are complex and are being addressed with a number of different approaches. As an example, Landmark Cinemas has created what they call “The Xtreme Experience” where the audience sits in premium wide rocker seats, with a wall-to-wall wrap around



COMING SOON TO THE ONLY THEATRE NEAR YOU: Don't miss the 14 films at this year's Powell River Film Festival, screening February 7 to 16 at the Patricia. Top, *nipawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up* is one of three indigenous Canadian films at the fest, this one a prairie story starting with the shooting death of Colten Bouchie. Middle, *Parasite*, a South Korean class-conscious comedy-thriller, just won Best Foreign Language Film at the Golden Globes, and has four nominations going in to this year's Academy Awards. Bottom, Juliette Binoche battles mid-life ennui and social media in *Who You Think I Am*.

screen, and Dolby Atmos 360 degree sound. Seating can be reserved in advance and the concession stand operates more like a restaurant. Whether the large investment required to make this kind of experience pay off will be returned – time will tell.

The building is an example of the Spanish Revival expression of the Arts and Crafts movement, which is rarely seen in Canada and more common to California, Florida and Texas. In addition, it is one of only a handful of surviving atmospheric theatres in all of Canada, where the architectural elements and ornamentation evoke a sense of being outdoors. This was intended to make the patron a more active participant in the setting.

The Film Society is committed to restoring its original murals, décor, stained glass and metal canopy and flag pole – elements that define its unique position amongst heritage buildings still doing what it was designed for more than 90 years ago. Superb acoustics, sightlines and proportions are the hallmark of a timeless, professionally designed building. Its full restoration will be spectacular! [PRL](#)

Film

To February 6

Star Wars: the Rise of Skywalker
7 pm, The Patricia

Through February

Display: Books that were made into films
At the Library, plus DVDs. Titles will include *Goldfinch*, *Hunger Games*, *Glass Castle*, *Little Women*, *Harry Potter*, *Handmaid's Tale*, *IT*, *Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*, etc.

February 7 to 16

Powell River Film Festival
See www.prfilmfestival.ca. All films at The Patricia.

Friday, February 7
7 pm Opening Party
8 pm **Assholes: A Theory**

Saturday, February 8
1:30 pm. **Pain & Glory**
7 pm **Parasite**

Sunday, February 9
1:30 pm **One Day in the Life of Noah Piugattuk**
7 pm **Frankie**

Monday, February 10
7 pm **And then We Danced**

Tuesday, February 11
7 pm **When We Walk**

Wednesday, February 12
1:30 pm **Midnight Family**
7 pm **Who You Think I Am**

Thursday, February 13
1:30 pm **Les Misérables**
7 pm. **nipawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up**

Friday, February 14
1:30 pm **Sometimes, Always, Never**
7 pm **The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open**

Saturday, February 15
1:30 pm **The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open**
7 pm Closing Party with Special Guests
8 pm **Men's Room**

Sunday, February 16
1:30 pm **Men's Room**

Sunday, February 9

The 92nd Academy Awards
5 pm on ABC, or you can stream it. Nominees for Best Picture are: *Ford v Ferrari* • *The Irishman* • *Jojo Rabbit* • *Joker* • *Little Women* • *Marriage Story* • *1917* • *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood* • *Parasite*.

Wednesdays starting Feb 12

Stop Motion Animation
3:30 to 4:30 at the Library. Ages 8 to 12. Drop-in. Free.

Feb 19 & 20

Jojo Rabbit
7 pm both evenings, and 1:30 pm matinee on the Thursday. Cinematheque series, The Patricia. \$8.75 per seat.

Feb 26 & 27

A Hidden Life
7 pm both evenings, and 1:30 pm matinee on the Thursday. Cinematheque series, The Patricia. \$8.75 per seat.

Saturday, February 29

Wozzeck: Met Opera Live on Screen
10 am, Max Cameron. \$27 adults, \$24 seniors / students.

March 4 & 5

Fantastic Fungi
7 pm both evenings, and 1:30 pm matinee on the Thursday. Cinematheque series, The Patricia. \$8.75 per seat.



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The '20s roar into Cranberry

Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald (1900-1948) was a writer, dancer, painter, and the wife of author F. Scott Fitzgerald. She was known for her beauty, originality, and high spirits.

Her husband dubbed her “The First American Flapper,” a title that eventually haunted her. Because Zelda was high profile and she and Scott were one of America’s darling couples, and because Zelda was very opinionated and a woman, she was diagnosed with schizophrenia and put into an insane asylum. The play *The Last Flapper* takes place on a particular day where Zelda goes into her psychiatrist’s office and discovers that the Doctor has left for the day on an emergency. Finding herself alone, she rummages through the Doctor’s office while talking about her condition, her life and her thoughts. Zelda died in a fire that night, trapped in a room, waiting for electro shock therapy. The play takes place on the last day of her life.

The play is being produced by the



ZELDA FITZGERALD: The glamorous wife of *Great Gatsby* author F. Scott Fitzgerald is brought back to life (and death) by Stephannie Miller in this one-woman show.

THE LAST FLAPPER

When: 7 pm, February 7 & 8

Where: Magpie’s Diner

Tickets: \$20, available at both Basecamps and at Magpies

Townsite Actors Guild. Stephanie Miller, a professionally trained actor residing in Powell River, plays Zelda Scott. William Luce, the playwright, based the play on the writings of Zelda Fitzgerald. [PRL](#)

On Stage, Art, Books

To March 7

Luke Ramsey: Aggregates
The Art Centre.

Thursday, February 6

Read to Dogs
3:30 to 4:30 pm, Library.

February 4 & 18

The Contemplative Stitch – Boro
6 pm, Eunoia. \$45 plus \$10 supplies.
With Wendy Drummond.

February 7 & 8

The Last Flapper
7 pm, Magpie’s Diner. Townsite Actor’s Guild’s one-woman show. See left. \$20.

Saturday, February 8

Shards of Emily
2 pm, Library. Local writer E.C. Hadle’s testament to preserving your integrity while surviving tragedy, violence and disease.

Sunday, February 9

Craft for kids: Love Bugs & Valentines cards
1-3 pm, Town Centre Mall, free.

Monday, February 10

Deadline: What is Love? Writing Contest

Submit your story in person at the Town Centre Mall office, or email it to cletcher@prtowncentre.com. Prizes!

February 14 to 16

The Savannah Sipping Society
See more on Page 39.

Saturday, February 22

The Next Generation
7 pm, Evergreen. Laszlo Tamasik fundraising show for dancers’ competition fees. Tickets at the Peak \$20



Orcas & Stampede Queens

The first visiting writer for the 2020 BC Writers Series at the Powell River Library is... Mark Leiren-Young! Playwright, novelist, comedian, memoirist, performer and much more, this creative machine is on deck February 28, 7 pm, at the Library. Coming up in this series are Kathy Page, Chelene Knit and Monique Gray Smith. www.prpl.ca.

February 24

1 pm and 7 pm, Evergreen. New! Spotlight Concerts showcasing the music programs at Powell River schools. Non-adjudicated.

Sunday, February 23

Craft for kids: Masks
1 to 3 pm, Town Centre Mall, free.

Friday, February 28

BC Writers Series 2020 kick-off with Mark Leiren-Young
7 pm Library. See Page 17

Think you’re hot? Try The Quickie.

For the second year, PRL and PRPL are hooking up for a three-hour writing contest Saturday, February 29. Last year’s adult long-form winner was Colleen Mudry (see left). There’s a youth category, too!



Wednesday, February 19

Needle Felting as a surface design and mending technique
6 pm Eunoia. With Diana Roxburgh. \$35 plus \$10 materials.

February 22 to March 6

Festival of Performing Arts
See Page 19 for more, and visit events.solarislive.com/PRfestival for the full schedule: piano, vocal and choral, strings, speech arts, and dance.

Saturday, February 29

The Quickie
1 to 4 pm, The Library or wherever you are. See ad on Page 20.

The Way Home: A Memoir
1:30 pm, Gilles Bay Seniors Centre. Local writer Terry Faubert presents her own story about how she, as a naive single mom, built her house in the forest in Lund.

Friday, March 6

Festival of Performing Arts Grand Concert
7 pm Evergreen Theatre

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GETTING THEIR GROOVE BACK: See actors Tricia Andrews, Tina Thompson, Nicole Narbonne, and Trina Isakson face all the horrors of middle age with aplomb.

Romance yourself this Valentine's

BY TRICIA ANDREWS, PAT HANSON,
AND TINA THOMPSON

Are mundane midlife routine and dark winter doldrums getting you down?

Theatre Now! has just the ticket to cheer you up, transforming the Evergreen Theatre into a warm and elegant veranda in Savannah, Georgia where four southern women share incredible life lessons through drama and comedy.

A chance meeting of three women at a yoga studio is the beginning of the adventure. Friday night 'happy hour' introduces a 'humdinger of a gal' who becomes the fourth and their life coach.

Trina Isakson plays Randa, an uptight architect who has recently been fired. She discovers she has no life outside of her work, but that is about to change...

Tina Thompson plays Dot, a recent widow whose main form of entertainment is reading steamy large print library books. Little does she know...

Nicole Narbonne plays Marla-faye, a divorced nurse turned liquor rep.

THE SAVANNAH SIPPING SOCIETY

What: The newest production by Theatre Now!

When: February 14 & 15 at 7 pm, and 16th at 1:30 pm.

Where: Evergreen Theatre

Tickets: Ticket price for Friday and Saturday is \$15, Sunday matinee is \$13. Tickets are available at the door, from cast and crew, River City Coffee, Rockit Music and Farmer's Gate (cash only).

Her 'tomcatting' ex ran off with a young dental hygienist. Little does he know...

Tricia Andrews plays Jinx, a make-over artist embarking on a career as an 'over the top' life coach. Change is in the air...

Come and watch as these middle-aged women gain back their confidence through wonderful (and not so wonderful) challenges. Much to their surprise, they discover something much deeper... true friendship at its finest.

The play is directed by Brian Liddle, and the music director is Al Dicken. **PRL**



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THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT: All Festival of Performing Arts concerts are by donation. What will be this year's surprise hits?

Photos by Robert Colasanto

76th Powell River Festival of Performing Arts New concerts showcase school music programs

BY JOYCE CARLSON

This is the 76th time the Powell River Festival of Performing Arts has been held, making it the longest running festival in this region.

For the past 18 years, it has been sponsored by The Rotary Club of Powell River and organized by a committee that includes both Rotarians and community volunteers. Many more volunteers come out to assist with other duties such as adjudicator's secretaries, drivers, crowd control and ticket sellers for the Grand Concert. Parents, other family members and long-time festival devotees provide a supportive audience for amateur performers throughout the two weeks of the popular event.

Disciplines in the festival include Piano, Vocal and Choral, Strings, Speech Arts and Dance. In the beginning back in 1945, Piano was the largest component of the festival along with Elocution, now called Speech Arts, which continues to have high registration because of support from School District 47. In more recent years, Vocal and Choral have expanded, as has Dance, which was added to the festival five years ago.

Adjudicators are all in place for the various disciplines. Many participants wish to be adjudicated and in addition are working to attend the Performing Arts BC provincial festival which takes place in Cranbrook from June 2 to 6.

New to the festival in 2020 are performance opportunities entitled "Focus on Youth and Focus on Community." The plan is to have three 45-minute concerts

Plan to see Performances
 Feb 22 to March 6

- Piano** Feb 22 (James Hall)
- Vocal & Choral** Feb 26 to Feb 29 (Evergreen/James Hall)
- Strings** March 1 (James Hall)
- Speech Arts** March 2 to 3 (Evergreen)
- Dance** March 4 & 5


New Spotlight Concerts Feb. 24!
 10:30, 1 pm and 7 pm, Max Cameron Theatre. Showcasing the music programs at Powell River schools.

Grand Concert March 6

on Monday, February 24, in the Max Cameron theatre, at 10:30 am, 1 pm and 7 pm. The time slot is traditionally scheduled for band and instrumentals in which individual entries were not forthcoming.

More festival information, including a full schedule, will be available at events.solarislive.com/PRFestival. All sessions are open to the public and donations are gratefully accepted at the door to assist with expenses in running the festival.

In addition, the festival receives generous support from the City of Powell River through Powell River Arts Council for the in-kind donation of the Evergreen Theatre in Powell River Recreation Complex and School District 47 for the use of Max Cameron Theatre at Brooks Secondary School.

Also, Powell River Academy of Music donates the use of the James Hall for Piano and Strings sessions. 

In May, Powell River Living will publish the 10th annual edition of

Home Grown



Powell River's ONLY magazine dedicated to agriculture and local food

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DEADLINE IS APRIL 13

Now I Sing Loud!

BY LIBBY MCDOWELL

In 1966 when I was 10 years old, I joined a girl's choir under the direction of Mrs. Bowes (later known as Margaret Ferguson).

Young girls from all parts of town would gather together after school in the basement of the United Church one day a week. Our weekly rehearsals were always full of smiles and laughter as we learned our songs. We would either sit on the floor in a circle or gather around the piano to sing.

One day when we were standing beside the piano, Mrs. Bowes was getting us to sing a particular song. We seemed to be going over it a lot and finally she mentioned to us that the Powell River Music Festival was happening in a few weeks and she was hoping some of us would sing this song as a solo.

I wasn't too sure what all that meant. As the weeks passed, I continued to gather around the piano with everyone else. A few days before the festival Mrs. Bowes was naming the girls who would sing a solo and my name was not mentioned.

She kindly explained to me after that there was no sense me singing in the Festival because I always sang so quietly no one would be able to hear me.

I told my mum. She didn't take me to Dwight Hall (where the Festival was held in those days) on the night of the Festival that my whole choir was performing. I was very disappointed especially since everyone was to wear matching empire waist dresses with delicate red roses on a navy blue background and I knew mum had worked hard to make it for me.

When Mrs. Bowes asked my mom why I hadn't been there, my mum was a little huffy and said "Well you told her there was no use her going because no one would be able to hear her."

Poor Mrs. Bowes replied "I definitely wanted her to be a part of the choir. I just meant there would be no use her singing a solo!"

Luckily the choir was asked to sing at the Grand Concert on Friday night so I did get to perform and wear my dress. We sang "Let's Go Fly a Kite" complete with choreography.

The next year, when it was time to do a solo, I was determined that I was going to do it. I practised really hard.

"I would go down in the basement and sing at the top of my lungs and then call up to ask mum if she could hear me. I would sing in the bathroom with the window open knowing full well that our neighbour was out in her garden. One day it paid off when she complimented my singing. Yay! I knew I had been heard!"

— Libby McDowell

I would go down in the basement and sing at the top of my lungs and then call up to ask mum if she could hear me. I would sing in the bathroom with the window open knowing full well that our neighbour was out in her garden. One day it paid off when she complimented my singing. Yay! I knew I had been heard!

Finally the day of competition came.

I was so nervous that I felt like I was going to be sick. Dear old Mrs. Farnden was the lady that took the registration cards as the competitors entered the waiting area. She was a small woman with a kind smile who reminded me of my Grammy.

She later told my mum that I looked like I was going to the guillotine. I had to wait in a side room off the main stage until I heard the bell that signalled to me it was time for me to take my place on the stage. My knees wobbled as I grasped the handrail and climbed the small staircase up to stage level.

I came around the corner and there was Mrs. Bowes sitting at the piano smiling in anticipation. I slowly walked to the front of the stage and took my place in the crook of the piano.

When I tried to gaze out at my mum I was blinded by the spotlights. All I could see was a small strip of floor right below the stage and the rest was like a bright golden sunset. It was actually very pretty and served to block my view of the bespectacled adjudicator in his serious suit with pencil at the ready.

Far off in the distance I heard the piano begin playing the introduction so I gathered my focus, took a really deep breath and began to sing.

From that one deep breath to the sound of the audi-



REFORMED: From the quietest voice in the choir to an award-winning soloist, here is Libby McDowell at age 12, in 1968. 42 years later, she's with the Academy Chamber Choir.

ence's applause is still all a blur. Somehow I managed to exit the stage and find my seat.

When it came time to award the certificates, I was awarded third place! There were a few of the other competitors who were a little surprised and one in particular that gave me the evil eye, but I was completely thrilled.

From that day on I was eager to perform and there are now numerous trophies with my name on them in the Festival's display case at the Recreation Complex!

I stopped taking private lessons from Mrs. Bowes when I was 17. At the time, I was working on the piece "Caro Mio Ben," an arietta by Giuseppe Giordani. I never had the opportunity to perform it.

More than 40 years later I joined the Powell River Chorus. A couple years after that I wanted to audition for the Academy Chamber Choir and so started to take lessons from Nancy Hollman to "dust off the pipes".

When she asked me to perform in an end of the year recital I performed "Caro Mio Ben" – 42 years after I had started to learn it with Mrs. Bowes! [PRL](#)

Libby McDowell is a part of the Powell River Public Library's Memoir Writing Program. To learn more about the program, visit [prpl.ca](#).

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Celebrating Louis Riel's courage at 150 years

Still so relevant

BY DAVID DOYLE

For the 150th anniversary of the passing of the 1870 Manitoba Act which brought Manitoba into Confederation, the Royal Canadian Mint has issued a Special Edition Silver Dollar commemorating Métis leader Louis Riel with a "Father of Manitoba" coin.

Likewise, Canada Post has memorialized the 1869-70 Red River Resistance led by Louis Riel with a special "Northwest Resistance" postage stamp booklet.

In light of Canada's colonial history, both of these tributes are highly significant. Louis Riel was, of course, eventu-

LOUIS RIEL 2020 COMMEMORATIVE

What: Featuring Métis culture and food, Bannock, Venison stew and beans, with musicians, storytelling, cultural artifacts and a special historical presentation by the Friends of Louis Riel Society. All participants are eligible for door prizes including the Louis Riel Silver Dollar and a book of Northwest Resistance stamps.

When: February 16, 1 to 4 pm

Where: Community Resource Centre, 4752 Joyce

ally hung for high treason for leading uprisings, after Canada purchased Rupert's Land and the North-West Territories and sent a colonial governor to rule the territory.

Fearing the loss of their land and cultural rights, Louis Riel, aged 24, established a provisional government, blocked the Canadian Governor from entering their territory, elected a democratic council of both French-speaking and English-speaking delegates, put down an armed Canadian invasion, and led negotiations with the Federal Government creating the province of Manitoba.



A 150-YEAR-OLD VISION FOR INCLUSIVENESS AND EQUALITY:

On February 16, you're invited to celebrate Louis Riel's achievements with Tabatha Berggren, President Powell River Métis Society and David Doyle, Secretary Friends of Louis Riel Society.

Join us at the **Kings** game Fri, Feb 7 and learn about **qathet Community Justice**
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Louis Riel had a dream of a civilized world embracing all cultures. This dream is celebrated by all Manitobans on Louis Riel Day.

In the age of colonialism, Louis Riel's achievements were earth-shattering.

In the 19th and early 20th century Anglo-Canada, the Métis, mixed-blood sons and daughters of Indigenous mothers and Quebecois and Scottish fur traders, were known as "half-breeds" – a demeaning term for a people considered to be but half-civilized.

Little did Canada's first prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, or his cohorts, imagine these "breeds" would upset Canada's plans for conquest.

Modeled on his Indigenous prairie culture, and the experiences of the American and French revolutions, in 1869-70 Louis Riel presented Canada with a Bill of Rights demanding nothing less than their "British Rights"—which were subsequently achieved in the Manitoba Act of 1870.

However, after Riel's defence of Indigenous and democratic rights he was vilified, his government disbanded and his life put at risk with a \$5,000 bounty on his head. On the run, never knowing if it were safe to water his horse, or sleep in the same bed twice, Riel was outlawed, exiled from Canada.

Suffering post-traumatic stress he was forcibly incarcerated, called "insane." Released, he would be called to Saskatchewan in 1885 where once again he defended his nation. He was arrested, tried, convicted and hanged for high treason.

As Canada has matured over the past 150 years, Riel's role in Canadian history has been re-evaluated.

By the 1960s, the old "Patriot or Traitor" dichotomy was being challenged.



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MÉTIS IN POWELL RIVER RECONCILIATION COMES WITH RECOGNITION.

In 1789, the first Métis to arrive in British Columbia travelled to Bella Coola with the historic Alexander Mackenzie of the North-West Co. After years of neglect, in 1993 the British Columbia government recognized that the Métis culture, rich in spiritual beliefs and colourful traditions, is an integral part of British Columbia's multicultural character and that throughout history, Métis citizens have made significant contributions to the development and success of Our Province.

For the past ten years the Métis nation has been a recognizable presence in Powell River. Joining together under the leadership of former presidents Russell Brewer and Barb Rees the Powell River Métis Society (PRMS) has grown to include over 40 Métis families. Active culturally, the society has grown to be a home to many Métis from across Western Canada. Taking her cue from Louis Riel's inclusive vision, and looking to the future, and the children, new PRMS president Tabatha Berggren, and her board of directors envision the Métis nation taking its rightful place as an Indigenous nation integrated into the very fabric of Powell River.

In 1992 former Conservative prime minister, the Minister of Constitutional Affairs, Joe Clark, led the Canadian Parliament in Session, unanimously passing a Special Resolution recognizing Louis Riel as the founder of Manitoba.

In 2015 Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau recognized Louis Riel made important sacrifices to defend the rights, the freedoms, and the culture of the Métis people: "The ideals that Louis Riel fought for – ideals of inclusiveness and equality – are now the very same values on which we base our country's identity."



NOT QUITE A FATHER OF CONFEDERATION: But, Canada Post has released a stamp booklet.

However, although Trudeau recognized Louis Riel as "a champion of minority rights, a Founder of Manitoba and a key contributor to Canadian Confederation," Louis Riel continued to be denied his place as a "Father of Confederation."

In light of the Canadian government's full commitment to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and the historic 94 recommendations of the Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the question must be asked: how do we implement Louis Riel's ideals of inclusiveness and equality?

The answer is reconciliation. **RL**

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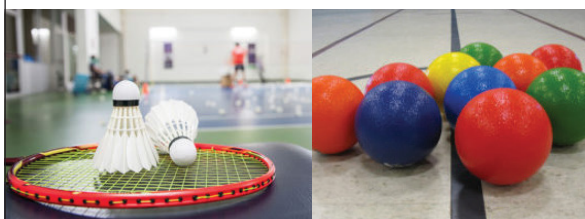


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Be with change: no feeling is final

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Do you periodically catch yourself wishing for the rain to stop, for snow over Winter holy-days, crunchier Autumn leaves, or that the Summer air is just too stifling so perhaps a cool breeze would be nicer? It is curious isn't it?

How we often wish for something "other" and yet neglect to appreciate the variety naturally presented to us.

I won't lie, I am definitely guilty. It's pretty easy to grumble walking through ankle deep slush or when the damp chill sets deep into the bones. We might be used to having control over our atmospheric experiences, sometimes even tightly regulated, with daily routines moving us from air conditioned cars to air conditioned offices, or by wearing sunglasses and utilizing light blocking curtains.

If we are fortunate, we have thermostats to set exactly how warm we prefer our homes, umbrellas to hide under, scarves, toques, and mittens to bundle up with. Perhaps we have a one-foot-out-from-under-the-blankets and the window-open-two-inches favourite sleeping arrangement.

However, there is an aliveness to experiencing change. It wakes our senses and heightens our perceptions. We can even step into discomfort and trust that it isn't permanent, and perhaps holds something of the miraculous too.

Daily ocean dippers know what



ALLOW FOR A LITTLE DISCOMFORT: To fully embrace living, enjoy the changes around you, and push yourself to experiment with newness.

I'm talking about. Fortitude. Resilience. Discipline. Also exhilaration. Mystery. An engagement with our more wildish selves. It brings a presence to what is at hand and settles our monkey mind of racing thoughts.

How do we do this – being with change – without wishing for something different than what is?

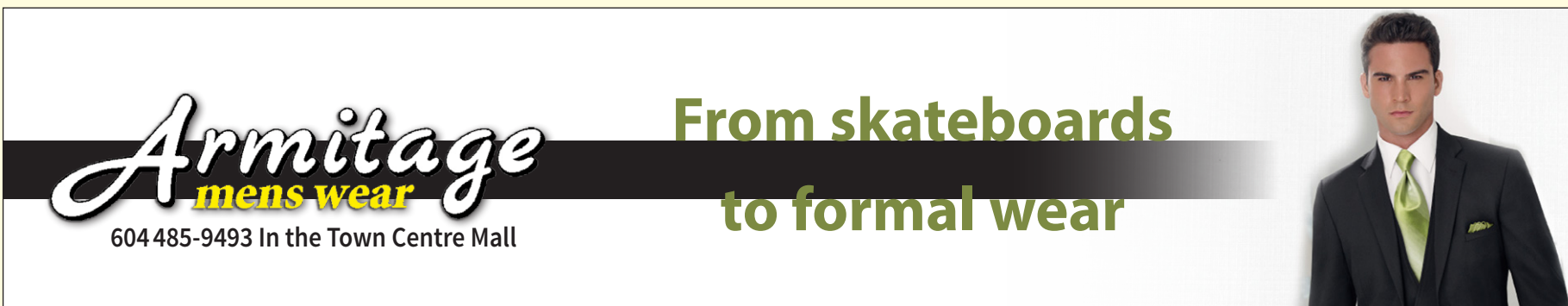
Starting with the little things of our own choosing builds natural flexibility for when those big uncontrollable changes blindsides us. Small things like drinking a cup of coffee less sweet than usual or without cream. Stepping out to the compost,

without a coat, to let goosebumps arrive with their unique sensation.

Cry without wiping tears and let them dry on. Don't sit on your favourite end of the sofa, try every spot in the room. Have the hotter shower or stay a little longer in the sauna.

Discover what is new to appreciate, find what impulse sneaks in, or where your limits really are.

Not every time, but randomly. Humans are creatures of habit, and change is the only constant. Like Rainer Maria Rilke says, "Let everything happen to you. Beauty and terror. No feeling is final." **RILKE**



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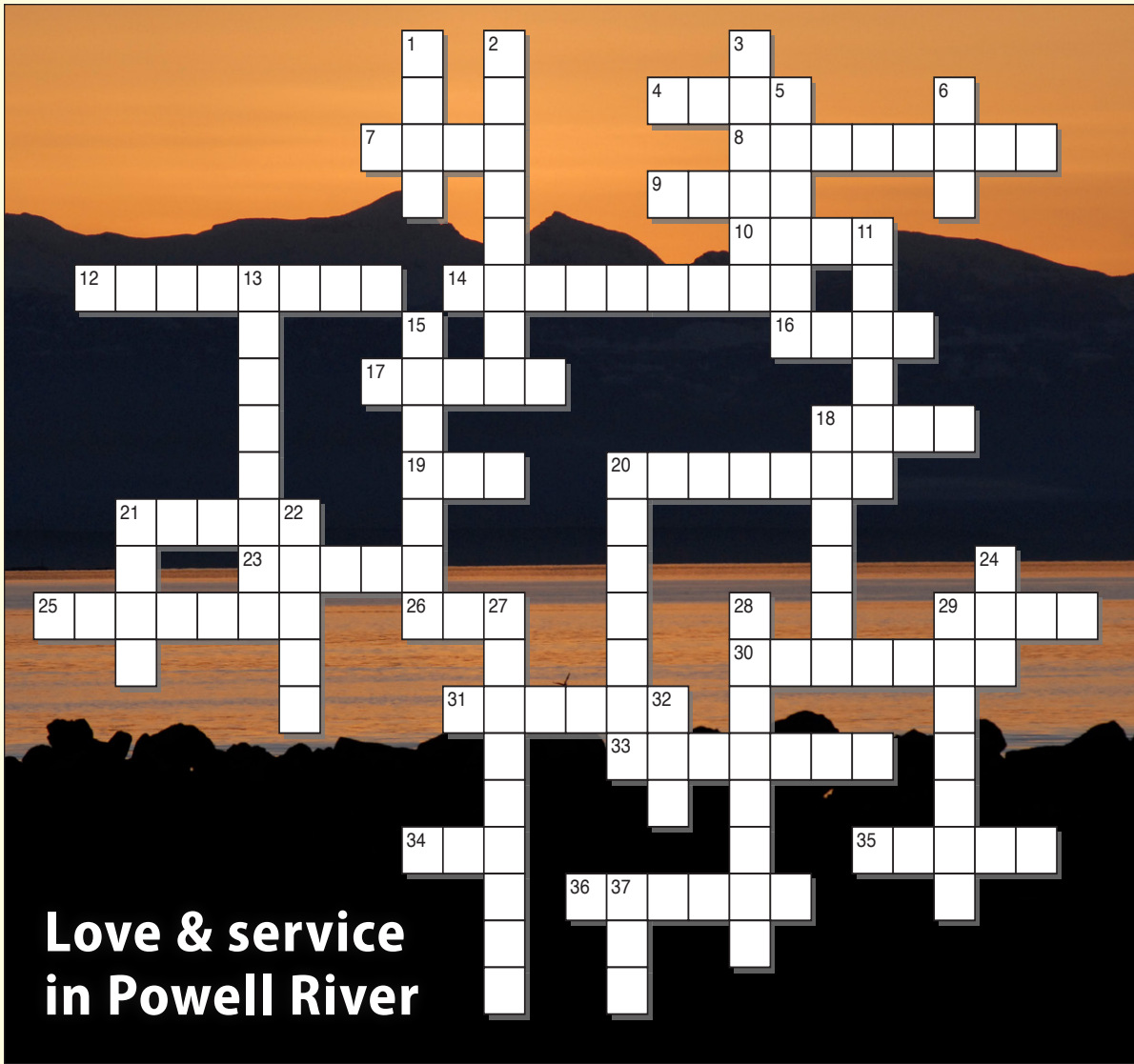
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A Thought For The Day

“The religion of God is for love and unity; make it not the cause of enmity or dissension.”

~ Bahá'í Writings

- Across**
- 4) Farmers trying to raise this
 - 7) Legion's draw not for vegans
 - 8) ___ Oyster Restaurant
 - 9) Crafty Sundays location
 - 10) Former service club named after cervidae
 - 12) Princess or theatre
 - 14) Mountain or love holiday
 - 16) PR's latest drive-thru
 - 17) Other former club named after cervidae
 - 18) Westview U's brew
 - 19) Kat's real man I am
 - 20) Kind of food at Edie's on Mondays
 - 21) Garden Gate nutritionist
 - 23) Coldest night cap
 - 25) Reconciliation exercise not a cover-up
 - 26) Heather's hubby
 - 29) Pairs well with people and chocolate
 - 30) Oyster growing place
 - 31) Regional District
 - 33) Cadam's see-through stove brand
 - 34) Coastal Life minister
 - 35) Fitness pro offers gym to yourself
 - 36) The folks you're closest to

- Down**
- 1) Optometrist lover's fave feature
 - 2) Festival of Performing Arts starters
 - 3) Sweaters, or honey-makers dust
 - 5) Logger
 - 6) Salish Sea spirited product
 - 11) Pictured here
 - 13) Lingerie and other secrets shop
 - 15) The surf side of surf & turf
 - 18) Simply tanned colour
 - 20) Gangster-inspired wine seller
 - 21) Order of the Eastern ___
 - 22) Bridal suite in the TC ___
 - 24) Love trees? Plant this kind in April
 - 27) You eat at, Drifters go under
 - 28) To love others, you must first love
 - 29) Heather's birthday turned
 - 32) Bride's dress, groom's ___
 - 37) Don't know, but I know what I like

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Solution for last month's puzzle: Ice, snow and January in Powell River



Welcome to the Coast, former Royals



Here's how to fit in to our chill family scene.

Dear Harry & Meghan,

Congratulations on ditching your bizarre family situation and moving to the West Coast—at least temporarily!

You could live anywhere. You've certainly travelled everywhere. But, after your recent Vancouver Island vacay, you seem to be considering this place to raise your son, Archie. It's a compliment to all of us BC moms and dads who you certainly saw in action over the holidays. I'm glad we all made coastal parenting look so good.

For the upcoming **BC Family Day February 17**, I've put together a list of top tips to help you transition from Senior Members of the British Royal Family to the Markle-Mountbatten-Windsors, just a seaside family, making your own way in life like the rest of us are: impoverished, and messily.

Here's how it's done:

1. Embrace your family's weirdness

You couldn't have picked a better place to escape from the cult of family perfection. Here on the West Coast, "family" is a loose term. Former step-parents, ex-spouses, long-grown-up foster kids, estranged siblings—these are all part of our kooky extended family groups. No one will judge you. Now, you're just like us.

2. Don't buy that \$35 million Vancouver mansion

If you're moving here for a different kind of life, for goodness sakes, Chip 'n' Shannon Wilson shouldn't be your new Kate 'n' Wills. Vancouver waterfront = status central. Even the dogs are unfriendly. Stick with the wilder coast—Vancouver Island, where the water taxi drivers will put the Paparazzi in their place (or qathet, where the only Paparazzi around is... delicious.)

3. Find cute toddler outfits at Powell River Moms Swap and Shop

Without the Duchy of Cornwall funding Ugg boots for the baby formerly known as "Prince," Archie is due for a makeover. You already gave away his baby stuff on your recent trip through Africa. Here's what he needs for West Coast life: used rubber boots; sweat pants; a hoodie; t-shirts; used muddy buddy; and a bunch of toques. Harry can pick up Swap n' Shop hauls in Powell River, if he's piloting air ambulances again, like he was back home.

Last Word

BY PIETA WOOLLEY | pieta@prliving.ca

4. Decorate your home

It's nearly Spring; may we recommend splurging on an industrial-strength washing machine to clean the mud and sand out of Archie's clothes? Plus, heated floors in your bathroom and a woodstove (it's even damper here than in Kensington Palace, if you can believe it... plus we get *real* fog, unlike London's "fog."). I don't even know what to say about your dogs except... floor mats, essential oil diffusers by the dozen, and Aaron Services has some great deals on wet-dry vacs.

5. Things to be "in-line" for

The throne? Ha! Not here, baby. Instead, you'll spend valuable family time "in line" to speak with a representative from Telus or Immigration & Citizenship Canada; in line for getting Archie into French Immersion; or in line for a Blizzard at Powell River's soon-to-be opened Dairy Queen.

6. Celebrate BC Family Day

Ironically, it always falls on a Monday, when you have already survived a weekend with your kids, and you'd actually like them to go back to school / your nanny / their stylist. But here, we've all traded power and money for a simpler existence. Time is our luxury. Family Day Monday, that kid is yours. So try to enjoy him. We hear Victoria has some fine child-friendly breweries.

7. Speaking of breweries, that beard

There's really only one acceptable line of work for red-bearded dads in BC: brewer. Call your next son "Hugo," and you'll fit in just fine.

Logging is also open to you, Harry. But given the WFP strike, this isn't the time to invest in caulk boots.

8. Also, that hair

As a media person, I pledge I will not harass you or your family, Meghan. But I do have one highly personal, superficial question for you, before I disappear forever. How do you keep your long hair so sleek and non-frizzy when you're hiking on wet, windy Vancouver Island, while your family is in crisis? West Coast moms want to know. Share your knowledge with us and we'll protect you forever.

9. Missing British Stuff?

Obsession with Jolly Olde England is as West Coast as MEC jackets and bannock with blackberry jam. Just look at Victoria's copy-cat double-decker buses and rose gardens. For vittles, both Quality Foods and Save-On-Foods carry a small section of Marmite and Mr. Kipling's Cakes. Netflix has *Derry Girls*. But let's face it—we can't match anything like Britian's bold pagentry, massive museums, or cheap n' greasy chippies. Missing it? Just fly home.

10. A new brand

You'll likely lose your trademarked brand, *Sussex Royal*. Frankly, it was a little pretentious. The West Coast (outside of Metro Vancouver and parts of Victoria) isn't that into status. Lorde, a New Zealander, speaks for us; she can speak for you, too: "We don't care, we aren't caught up in your love affair / And we'll never be royals (royals) / It don't run in our blood / That kind of lux just ain't for us / We crave a different kind of buzz." Instead of 'Sussex Royal', how about, "Sucks to be Royal." Or "Stuff it, Royals!" or just "X-Royals" We'll buy that hoodie, for sure.

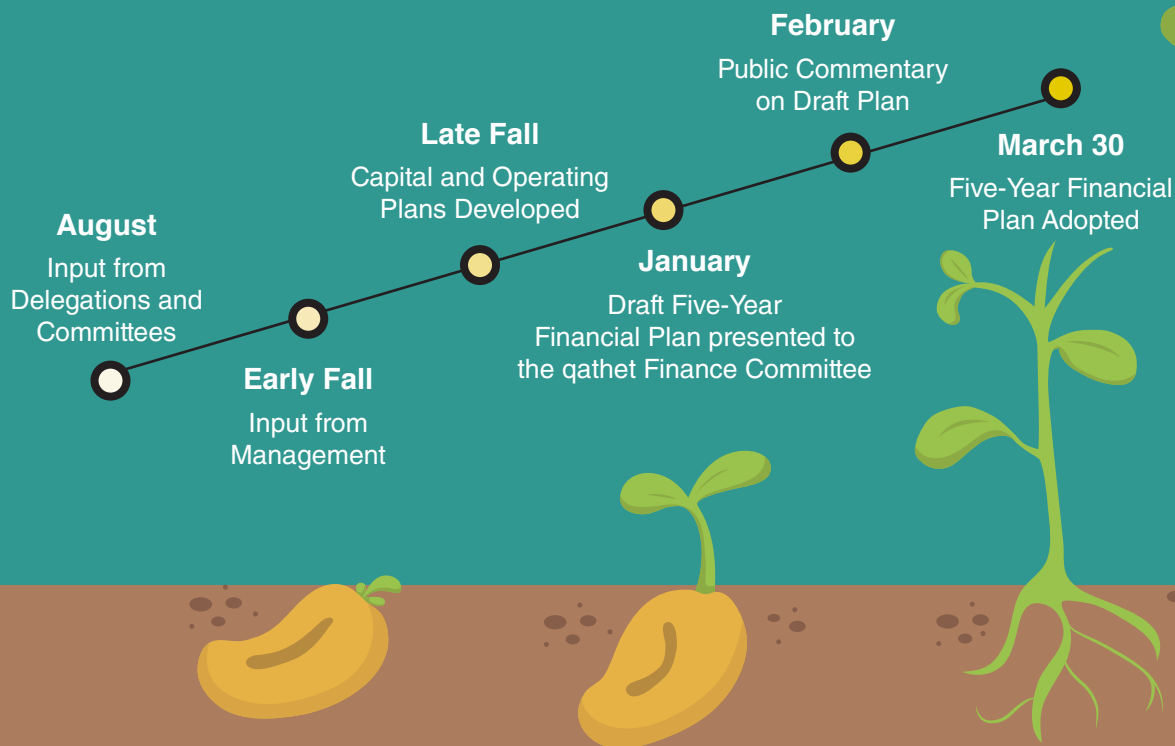
Many blessings on your new life with us,

Pieta Woolley



NO MORE 'SUSSEX ROYAL': Here on the West Coast, the official brand of Harry and Meghan wasn't really our style, anyways. Would you buy this hoodie, instead? [PR](#)

Making a Five-Year Financial Plan



Responsible Management

Each year qathet Regional District prepares an updated Five-Year Financial Plan. The Plan encompasses the operational and capital needs of the Regional District. Budgets are created and reviewed based on Board-approved strategic plans and priorities.

Regional District Launches New **qathet.ca** Website

The Regional District's website is a vital communication tool that helps us in our goal to be open, transparent, responsive and accessible to you.

Our new site has a fresh look and updated content. Advances in navigation tools, mobile compatibility, and functionality will improve user experience dramatically.

The new **qathet.ca** is backward compatible to Internet Explorer, as well as being compatible with Firefox, Chrome, Safari, and modern mobile browsers.

We are eager to ensure that this new website works for you.

If you have any comments or suggestions or if you are unable to find what you are looking for, let us know by emailing administration@qathet.ca or calling us at **604-485-2260**.



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