

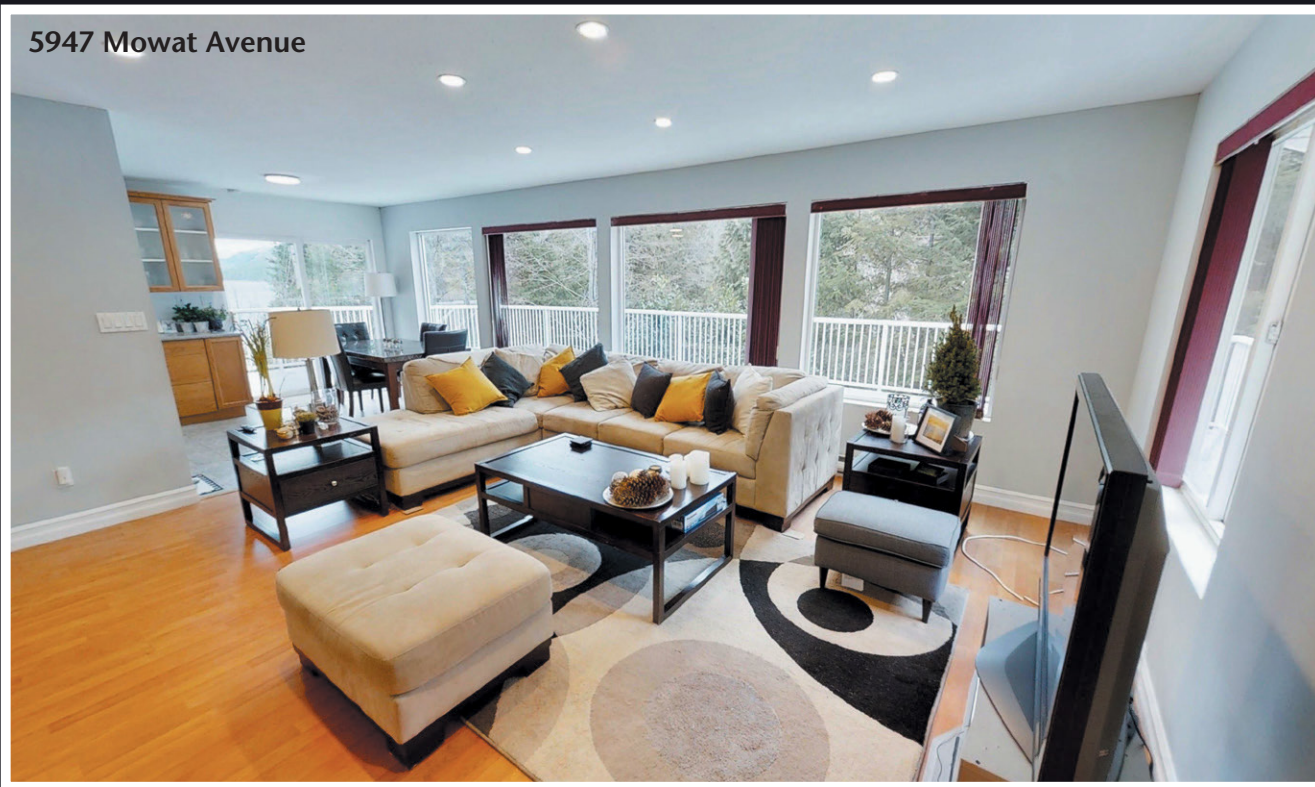
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1. Switches and plug gone. 2. Fewer pot lights. 3. Buttons on ottoman. 4. Dark circle on rug. 5. Yellow cushion turned black. 6. Extra shelves on glass kitchen cabinet. 7. Missing deck railing spindles. 8. Coaster on coffee table. 9. Lower rail on coffee table. 10. Tree by window is taller. Bonus: Far left valance different colour.



Powell River
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Ready to make a change this year? I have helped many seniors sell their beloved family home to now enjoy something smaller and more manageable. Sellers are benefitting from this current market, getting the price they want for their homes and sometimes more. If you, a family member or friend are thinking of selling, I would love to help.

Valerie



A lot changes in 15 years!

Our name has changed a few times. But our focus on serving you has never changed.

BY COLIN WHITE, PORTFOLIO MANAGER,
WHITE LEBLANC WEALTH PLANNERS/
iA PRIVATE WEALTH

Congratulations to *Powell River Living* on celebrating 15 years! It is wonderful to celebrate such an impressive milestone with you in what has been a particularly challenging time for the print media.

There have been many changes over the last 15 years, some more significant than others.

The corporate name on the sign has changed a few times over the years, first when the Goodman family sold its interest in Dundee Wealth to the Bank of Nova Scotia who renamed us HollisWealth and then sold us to iA Financial. Who, by the way, has recently decided to rename us iA Private Wealth. Although shifting corporate names has never significantly impacted boots on the ground, it is nice to be wanted by so many different groups of shareholders! Aside from those changes, reliable eyewitness reports have noticed that Paul's beard is now significantly longer than it was back then (epic, is how it has been described), and Shirley is enjoying retirement in glorious Powell River.

Paul's son-in-law Taylor Lance is still in the office, and we've added some new faces from outside the family. Sara Boulton has now been with us for two years, working at the front desk, keeping things organized and helping us stay in touch with clients. Dan LeBlanc spends regular time in Powell River, providing support to clients in our Managed Account program. In his downtime, Dan can reliably be found enjoying a round of golf at Myrtle



Point. Colin White, who some residents know for his annual portrayal of "Santa", is also a regular visitor to Powell. Colin works alongside Taylor and Sara, providing an additional level of support to our clients. Rounding out the team is Josh Sheluk, not only a talented Portfolio Manager but a guy who's willing to don an elf costume to give Santa a hand at the Toy Drive.

Fifteen years ago, the office was run with the state of art practice standards available at the time. While many advisors and offices were offering front-loaded or back-loaded mutual fund sales, Paul and the team had moved past that to do a better job for the clients. Working as a team 15 years ago was also a bit avant-garde as many, if not most, advisors worked completely solo.

What has never changed is our team's focus. Much like *Powell River Living*, we know our job is to serve the people of Powell River and help make this fantastic community an even better place to live and work.

We've continued improving the services we offer to our clients. We have largely moved past commission-driven products by using commission-free products and charging a visible monthly fee. We've added significant resources to our ability to provide financial planning, tax planning, insurance planning, and estate planning services. We are also among the few advisors in Canada licensed to manage money on a discretionary

basis and have a platform that allows us to use products from all publicly available providers without limits. In terms of our commitment to the community, we have partnered with our friends at Underwriters Insurance to create an annual toy drive, and have worked with the Canadian Mental Health Association to deliver free programming in Powell.

What will the next 15 years hold? We have no idea. As we live through this global pandemic, we should all be a bit less confident about what the future might hold. What we do know is that we will remain committed to the community of Powell River and will try to do our part to continue evolving and helping, in whatever ways we can.

This information has been prepared by White LeBlanc Wealth Planners who is Portfolio Manager for iA Private Wealth and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of iA Private Wealth. The information contained in this article comes from sources we believe reliable, but we cannot guarantee its accuracy or reliability. The opinions expressed are based on an analysis and interpretation dating from the date of publication and are subject to change without notice. Furthermore, they do not constitute an offer or solicitation to buy or sell any of the securities mentioned. The information contained herein may not apply to all types of investors.

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~ Advertising feature



Sometimes you have to rock the boat to get where you want to be.



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ON THE COVER:

Yeah, that's us. We're wearing the magazine, quite literally. Left to right, Isabelle Southcott, Sean Percy, Suzi Wiebe, Pieta Woolley and Alena Devlin decked out in fabric printed with the covers of the past 15 years worth of magazines.
Photo by Sean Percy and Alex Southcott



You did it, PR!

Each month, *Powell River Living* is the product of literally hundreds of locals. A few of whom you see, such as the staff whose pictures appear on this page, and the month's main writers and photographers for the issue, which are recognized opposite.



IN THIS ISSUE

PIETA WOOLLEY

But most contributors fly under the radar.

I'm thinking of those such as realtor Charlie Bai, who sent in the Cantonese characters and pronunciation for "I Love You" for Page 10. The folks at the School District office who work hard to get their message right each month in their ad, on Page 11. Giovanni Spezzacatena, who consistently sends me updates on arts news. Lindsay Strayhorn, the Pathfinders leader, who coordinated the photos and writing of the 100 years piece, on Page 42, but let her troop take the credit. First-time advertisers such as Crafty Quilter and Dan Dupuis, who worked with *PRL* sales reps to step out into these pages. And,

of course, Guadalupe and Robert Dufour who made the swag *PRL* staff are sporting on the cover.

Each month for the past 15 years, it's been the same dynamic. The community pulls together to make a magazine.

As editor and designer here, I think of my job like a symphony conductor, or lead cat-herder. A week before press time, this magazine often feels like chaos. But like magic every single time, it settles onto the pages and showcases the best of Powell River.

PRL is Isabelle Southcott's excellent vision - a blending of the old community newspaper values, with the time and resources to put out a more visual, more thoughtful publication. Instead of trying to keep up with the 24-hour news-cycle online, *PRL* is slow stories. Local stories. Your stories.

Thank you for pulling together, Powell River. It's been a riot.



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We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada



PRL is your magazine!

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PRL

“

Stories can inform, they can heal and they can bring a community together. They help us figure out who we are and what we care about... Thank you Powell River for 15 beautiful years.

- Isabelle Southcott, **Page 20.**

”

FEBRUARY'S CONTRIBUTORS



VANESSA BEATRIZ GOLENIA is a former New York based writer currently living in Canada as a COVID refugee. Find her work on *Longreads*, *The Rumpus*, *Mr. Beller's Neighborhood*, and bathroom stalls around the world. **See Vanessa's story, Family Day, on Page 53.**



REV. LAURA KEW is an ordained Metaphysical Minister who has performed hundreds of local marriages. Reach Coastal Life Celebrations, at coastallifecelebrations@gmail.com. **See Laura's story, Couples Get Creative, on Page 8.**



MAC HEIN is a 16-year-old photographer. He was born in Vancouver and goes to Brooks Secondary. He likes taking photos of nature and wildlife. **See Mac's photo of a Muscovy duck illustrating January's wet weather on Page 40.**

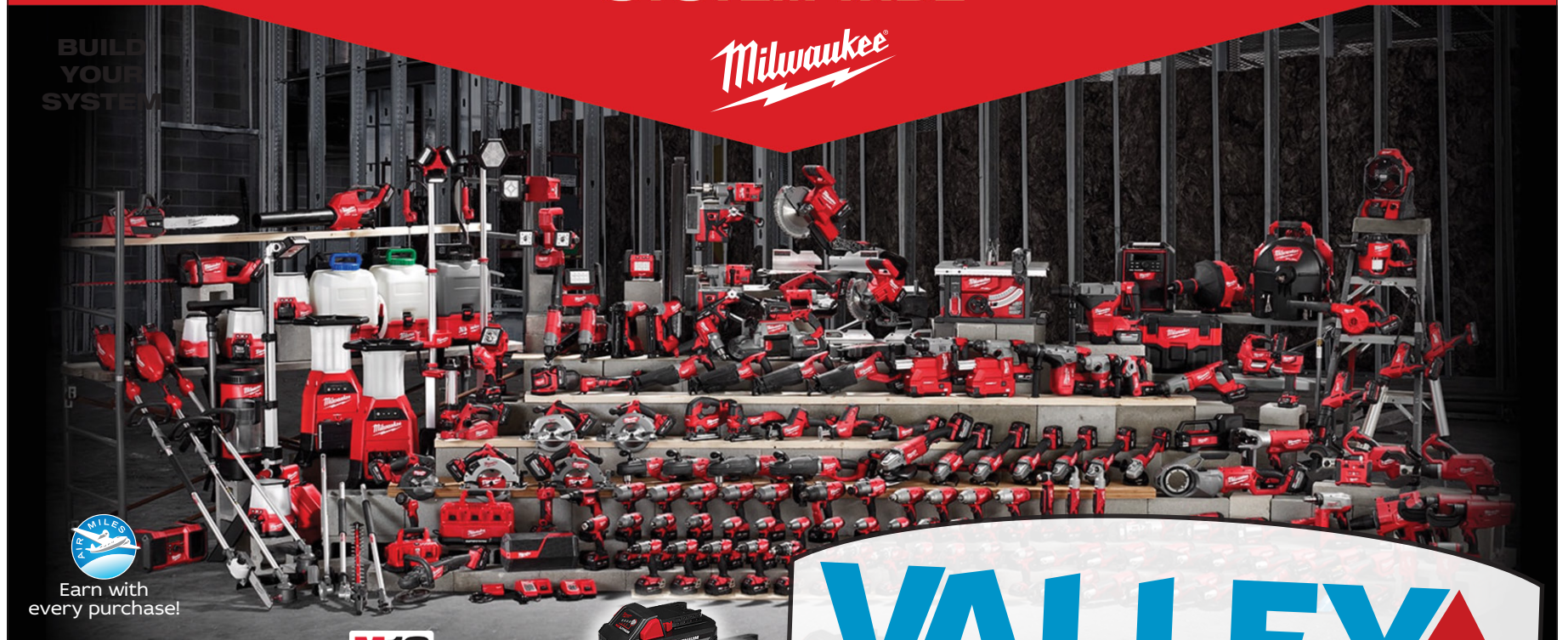


AARON REID is a Powell River born, self-employed bookkeeper with 25 years' experience, and owns Banking On It Bookkeeping. She is mum to two teenagers, a wife and a school trustee. **See Aaron's story, Identity Theft, on Page 41.**



SONYA HARRY is half-Tla'amin and half-Tahltan. She grew up in Powell River and has worked with the Tla'amin Nation as the language coordinator since December 2019. **See Sonya's new Column, Word of the Month, on Page 43.**

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In The Age Of COVID, **A Wedding**

BY ROBIN MORRISON

An Emily Carr moment in a magical place led me to propose to my partner, Ray Hogan. We were exploring an isthmus in the Nuchatlitz area on the west coast of Vancouver Island, a kayaker's mecca, when I popped the question. Now, this was not planned, not part of the trip!

I think this action is a significant one that takes courage and love. I was as surprised as Ray at the romantic gesture (and glad he said yes).

That was in early August 2020. Daily COVID-19 numbers continued to climb, anti-maskers were protesting, businesses were stepping up their safety protocols and people were getting fined for large gatherings.

We decided late September would work for the event, weather permitting, as we chose an outdoor venue: Stillwater Bluffs. Since September was another wet month of 2020, I scouted out the local stores and stocked up on umbrellas. It's always a gamble when negotiating with Mother Nature, so I tried to be as prepared as possible and in spite of COVID restrictions, we managed to create a special ceremony.

A shout out to Teresa Harwood-Lynn for officiating. Teresa was perfect for the occasion – calm, gracious, patient; her attention to detail and willingness to work with us on the agenda of what comes where and when made the event stress-free. COVID restrictions did not.

I love planning small, intimate gatherings, so a wedding reception - small scale - would be easy, or so I thought. On the Monday before the big day, BC's Provincial Health Officer Dr Bonnie Henry announced a return to "Stick to 6."

Some groans of frustration and heartfelt disappointment later brought us to a retraction of E-vites. The initial plan was to have two wine and appie times of two-hour duration each, with some live entertainment – an accordionist, a ukulele player and a guitarist.

Each mini-reception was to have 14 people max attending, with charcuterie boards, fruit trays, some dips and

crackers, served with wines of course!

I had stocked up on face masks and clear visors, hand sanitizers and wipes. A big revamp of plans changed the group to a core bubble. We masked up and listened to the guitarist, our sole entertainment, that night in house.

Two couples and my son were guests at the outdoor ceremony (a gathering size that was still allowed at the time) plus the JP, photographer and Byron, our friend's dog. Under an overcast sky, our merry band set off for the appointed spot. Some friends had inadvertently provided me with my bouquet – colourful zinnias from their garden; Shaulalee Yates gave me the perfect upcycled wedding dress made from a linen tablecloth. The groom, dressed in colour-coordinated attire, completed the picture. We packed a Thermos of coffee, some dress shoes for pictures; music in a cellphone and blue tooth speaker; brought some mini biscotti, Baileys and apple juice to toast after the signing. And, of course, umbrellas.

Now most of you know, Stillwater Bluffs is a beautiful spot to commune with nature, listen to the sea, the seals, otters, sea lions, birds... so why wouldn't we have some fellow hikers pass by during the ceremony? There were some who walked by (quickly) and know this: your presence was a part of the place not an intrusion.

Would the special day have been any different if it weren't for this pandemic? Dramatically so! YES! More family and friends invited, hired coordinator, caterers, entertainment and so much more time spent organizing, collaborating and considering of decisions.

Yet, we treasure the intimacies of that weekend with that small group of family and friends. The low-key approach was perfect for us and we felt safe following the COVID guidelines.

In spite of our disgruntlement and disappointment, making certain our guests felt safe was worth the sacrifice. Our wedding was enhanced with poignant moments of shared laughter and love, now treasured memories as we continue to mark time in the Age of COVID. **RL**



Couples get creative to celebrate their love

BY REVEREND LAURA KEW

2020 was an untenable year for all of us, but even more so if you were planning to get married. With strict guidelines in place, wedding planning took a complete left turn.

Beginning the year with 24 bookings, I was happy

I admire the tenacity and enthusiasm of those who are willing to embrace a new normal and not let a global pandemic get in the way of celebrating their love.

to perform five in my capacity as a metaphysical minister. Most couples have postponed until next wedding season, in hopes that COVID-19 will subside and dream wedding plans can continue. Several cancelled entirely; maybe the stress of the situation was just too

much. The disappointment from nearly all was the inability for loved ones to travel and share in their special day.

The five that I did perform went ahead with a more casual feel and a reduced guest list; limited to very close family and friends who live locally. One bride told me she was thankful for a smaller wedding, as she wasn't comfortable with a big celebration, but felt pressure from her family to host one. She told me it was a great excuse to pare things down to what she really wanted.

Limited wedding venue op-



tions was a concern for some, but all made the best of backyards and outdoor spaces like Palm Beach and Spirit Stage on the wharf. Socially distancing guests was easier than many expected, with the warmth of the occasion eliminating any awkwardness. One couple had custom masks made for their guests featuring their wedding colours – an appreciated gesture and a fitting keepsake.

I performed a wedding on Texada Island on a rocky beach, perched on a large outcropping on a beautifully sunny day. Guests gathered with an abundance of space for distancing, and the love of the few special people who gathered made for a spirited celebration.

My bookings are picking up as newly engaged couples begin their wedding planning. With restrictions still in place I admire the tenacity and enthusiasm of those who are willing to embrace a new normal and not let a global pandemic get in the way of celebrating their love. Here is hoping that 2021 will be healthier and filled with love for everyone. **RL**





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Congratulations Isabelle on 15 years.

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BLAST FROM THE PAST

JOËLLE SÉVIGNY

Old railbed perfect for new romances

Love is in the air this month and everyone knows that it is customary for young couples to seek privacy from the watchful eyes of others. Many moons ago, Powell River once had a perfect escape for young couples known as Lovers' Lane.

One of the most well-known and documented Lovers' Lanes was located at the site of The Michigan & Puget Sound Railway. This railroad went through the Townsite and down to Michigan Landing (now called Willingdon Beach).

When the rails were removed in the late 1920s, the Powell River Company graded the roadbed. This resulted in a narrow two-mile stretch, with lovely trees meeting overhead, providing coolness and "retreats where new loves may be born, and old loves renewed." (1929 Digester).

It is said that hundreds of romances have bloomed and flourished over the years on Lovers' Lane, under the wild cherry blossoms.

It was especially a favorite for outings at dusk. Pairs strolled along the trail, past the Chinese Laundry and past the stables. Some of these early structures vanished over time but the trail remained.

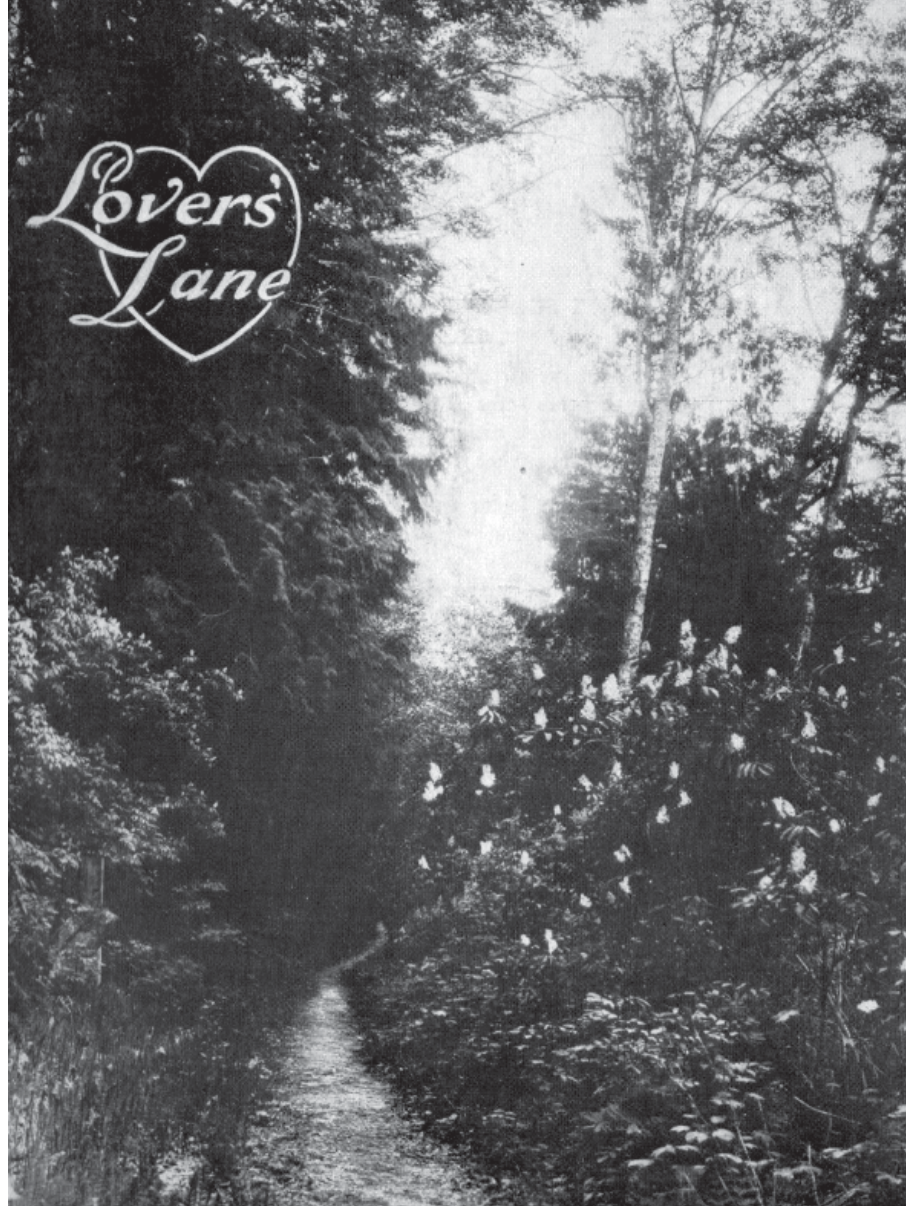
"Hundreds of romances have bloomed and flourished over the years on Lovers' Lane..."

Pairs strolled along the trail, past the Chinese Laundry and past the stables."



Because of the popularity of the trail, in 1950, the Lions Club repaired and renewed the romantic 'old rustic bridge' across the stream, just before the entrance to the beach. In the 1960's, the campsite was built on part of the trail and now what remains of Lovers' Lane, which was widened over time, is the Willingdon Beach Trail.

However, the Powell River region has been home to more than one Lovers'



LOVE AMONGST THE PRICKLES: The two-mile trail from Townsite to Willingdon Beach has been an escape for lovers - young and elder - for decades. Top: 1929 Digester cover. Left: 1907 railway to Michigan Landing, AKA Willingdon Beach.

Photo courtesy of the Townsite Heritage Society.

Lane. Another was located at Myrtle Point close to the old log dump, and similarly to the one in Townsite, it was created after the railroad was removed. There was also a Lovers' Lane at Stillwater, Haslam Lake and Lang Creek by what is now the salmon hatchery.

*Blast from the Past is a monthly historical column written by the Townsite Heritage Society's coordinator Joëlle Sévigny. The THS tells the history of Townsite from 1907 onward. **PL***

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Just a few of qathet's

Love languages

χαλνομεῖ
(Pronounced Hag-no-mitch)

Ti amo!

Ki shaakiihitin
(Pronounced ki-sha-gih-tin)

Je t'aime

我爱你
(Pronounced wo ài nì)

Ich liebe dich

I Love You

Which "I Love
You" sounds most
romantic to you?

Tla'amin, Italian,
Michif, French,
Cantonese,
German
or English?

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annual edition of

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*Powell River's ONLY magazine dedicated
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More than a grower's or diner's guide, *Home Grown* also takes you
behind the scenes to see who is creating food, where and why.

We'll look at how you can grow your own, and share maps and
instructions to help you find **where to get locally-produced food.**

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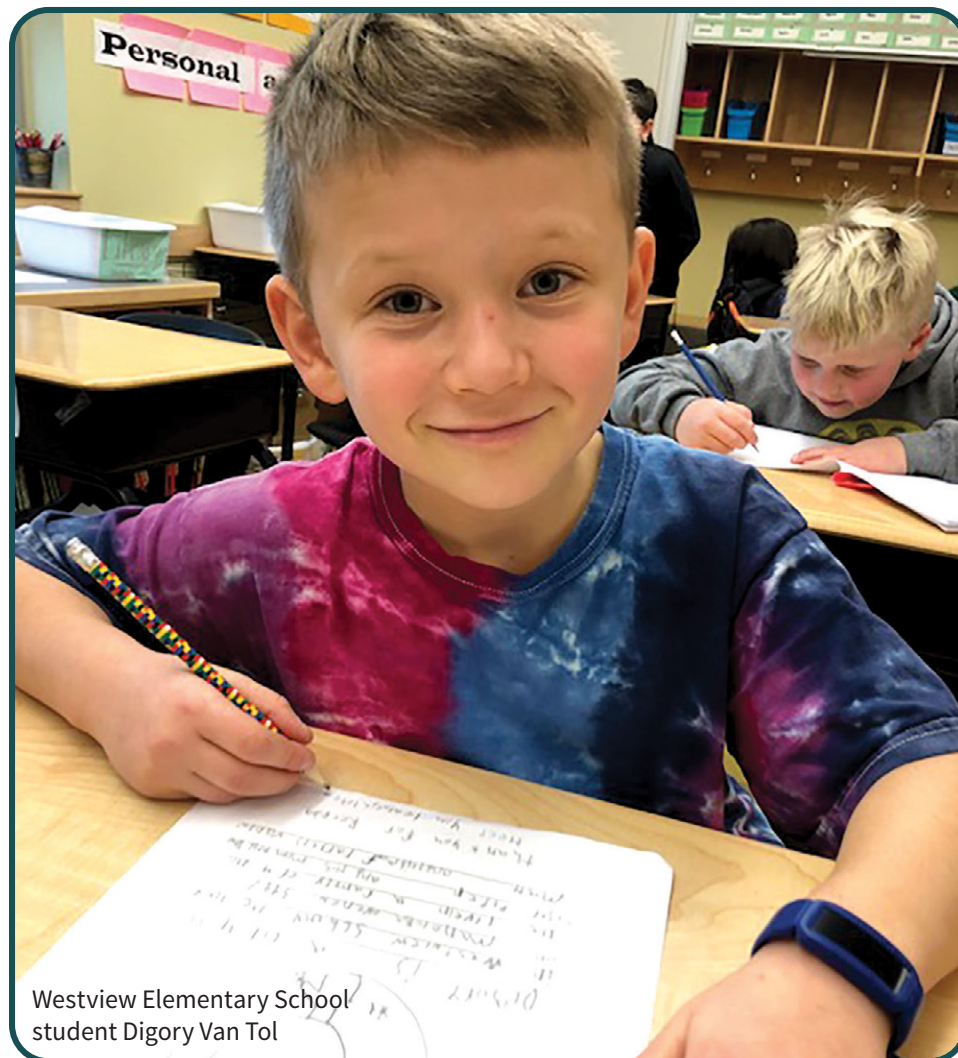
DEADLINE IS APRIL 9

“They see the improvement and are proud of it. They all want to showcase their growing skills - it is really exciting as a teacher. You want nothing more than for students to recognize their potential.”

- Caroline Hoekstra, teacher,
Westview Elementary School

Writer's Workshop

is where the magic happens



Westview Elementary School
student Digory Van Tol

Educators at School District 47 (SD47) are working to improve writing outcomes among elementary school students. One approach has been to provide ongoing opportunities for teachers to work together to establish Writer's Workshop in their classrooms.

SD47 Teacher Calico Clark, who provides mentorship support for Writer's Workshop, says it's a student-centered framework for teaching writing. The approach is based on the idea that students learn to write best when they write frequently, for extended periods of time, and on topics of their own choosing.

“We know that choice is a big part of motivation,” says Calico.

She adds that students need three things to grow as writers: ownership of their own writing, direct instruction from their teacher, and support from their peers. The writing workshop framework also gives students lots of time to write. The ultimate goal is that we want to empower kids to see themselves as writers,” said Calico.

Kristen Brach, SD47's Director of Instruction, is impressed at how Writer's Workshop allows all students to learn together regardless of their current skills and abilities. Everyone can experience success using this model.

Calico first used Writer's Workshop with Henderson Elementary teachers, Erin Hodgins and Jane Brockington. They both saw a lot of growth in their students' writing and are still using it in their classrooms today. Calico is now supporting Writer's Workshop in other class-

What is Writer's Workshop?

- Daily writing
- Teachers provide explicit instruction
- Teachers share models of good writing
- Students select their own topics to write about
- Provides opportunities for all students to be successful
- Creates a community of writers who learn from one another

rooms and schools.

This school year, several teachers at Westview Elementary planned and implemented a writing unit together using Caroline Hoekstra's and Kirsten Roberts' classrooms for Calico to demonstrate teaching practices.

Caroline, who teaches Grade 4, says it changed how she teaches.

“I had to let go of the idea that my teaching would bring everyone to a certain level of writing. Instead, this approach has reminded me of the importance of meeting students where they are, modelling for them specific tools to use to improve, giving students daily practice and time to share their work.

Seeing students recognize the improvement of their writing and acknowledge the progress of their peers is

really wonderful.”

She says the change in student's writing is remarkable. Not only do they apply the strategies to their daily writing, they also recognize when others use the same strategies when they read books together. Most importantly, students identify as writers.

“They see the improvement and are proud of it. They all want to showcase their growing skills - it is really exciting as a teacher. You want nothing more than for students to recognize their potential.”

Kirsten Roberts is a new teacher at Westview Elementary. She teaches Grade 5/6 and says Writer's Workshop has helped her implement meaningful daily writing.

“It has created a positive classroom environment surrounding literacy in both writing and reading. Using picture books to examine writing elements, my students have found more joy in reading,” she says.

As Writer's Workshop is individualized it meets all students where they are at and brings them forward.

“One of the most important aspects of Writer's Workshop is choice,” says Kirsten.

“Rather than working on the same journal prompt, students can choose what topic they would like to focus on and share their voice. These choices keep students interested and invested in their writing.

“Through our Writer's Workshop, I have seen tremendous growth in my writers. However, the most important thing to come out of our Writer's Workshop is that students identify themselves as writers, and when you believe in yourself, that is where the magic happens.”



SCHOOL DISTRICT 47

Want to learn more? Contact us.
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The beginning of

Powell River Health Region case counts:

January to July 2020: 0

August 2020: 1

September 2020: 38

October 2020: 0

November 2020: 4

December 2020: 10

To January 23, 2021: 1

Total: 54 of about 20,000 people
Zero health facility outbreaks

Please keep in mind:

Case counts only reflect those who go for testing.

Case counts can change significantly within days.

Case counts may rise faster if more infectious strains of this virus become widespread. See prcomplexclinic.com/covid-news-powell-river/

BY POWELL RIVER PHYSICIANS COVID-19 STEERING GROUP

The first COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Powell River in January, and with them a sense of excitement and hope that we are seeing the beginning of the end of the pandemic.

Care Aide Hailey Unger was excited to be among the first to be vaccinated.

"I felt a bit nervous the night before, just because it is something new. But I am confident in the research I have seen regarding vaccine safety, and once I got it, I felt very relieved and grateful to be in one of the first groups in town

to be offered the vaccine."

Hailey's daily work involves caring for the elderly and she sees the vaccine as one more step she can take to protect herself, her clients, and her family. "It's one more layer of protection against the virus, and it gives me some peace of mind."

The process of getting vaccinated was carried out seamlessly by the administering nursing staff, she says. The way it all rolled out eased any anxiety she was feeling.

"The nurse I saw asked me about allergies, previous reactions to vaccines, and then she went through information about the vaccine, as well as side effects that I might experience one to two days after the injection.

"She gave me the shot – which was done and over with before I even realized what was happening. I waited for 15 minutes to make sure there was



In just three hours

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

When • Saturday, February 20, 1 til 4pm.

Where • Theme will be announced on the Powell River Public Library and *Powell River Living* Facebook pages, at 1pm, February 20. (Don't have Facebook? Send a note now to contest@prliving.ca requesting the theme, and an email will be sent to you at 1 pm on Feb. 20. Or phone Isabelle at 604-483-1786.)

Who • Categories for teens and adults.

What to write • Short (200 words or less)
Long (500-1,000 words) fiction or non-fiction.

Prizes • Long stories in both teen and adult categories: **\$150 first place**, and \$25 second place. Other prizes will be given, too!

How to submit • Send your stories to contest@prliving.ca by 4 pm.

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

For more information, email isabelle@prliving.ca.
Winning entries will be published in the April 2021 issue of PRL.

Write to **WIN!**

Exercise your brain!
Win prizes!
Enjoy fame!

Additional prizes from:



the end of COVID

no immediate reaction, and then I was done!”

The only side effects Hailey experienced were a bit of soreness at the site of the injection, and a bit of fatigue the same day.

“My experience with this vaccine was a positive one, and I’m grateful to have had the opportunity to get it.”

Over the coming weeks and months the vaccine will be available to more people in our community, according to the provincial roll out plan, which you can see on the BC Government’s website.

Understandably, people have questions about the vaccine, and there are many resources that provide reliable answers. These include Health Canada, Immunize BC, and the BC Centre for

Disease Control.

The Powell River Division of Family Practice puts out weekly updates which includes information with a local perspective. You can see them at prcomplexclinic.com/covid-news-powell-river or on facebook @prdivisionof-familypractice.

Seeing vaccines coming to Powell River provides a sense of relief, Hailey says.

“At the beginning of the pandemic I felt a lot of uncertainty and stress and worry,” she says, “but I think as time has gone on and we’ve seen how well Powell River has been doing as a whole, it’s reassuring to see that we are all working together and moving forward to get through the pandemic as a community.” **PL**



PEACE OF MIND: Care aide Hailey Unger was among Powell River’s first recipients of the vaccine in January.

Photo courtesy of the PRDFP

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Collaborative budgeting

qathet Regional District (qRD) administration and operations are governed by the *Local Government Act* and *Community Charter*. Each year the qathet Regional District must undergo an annual budgeting process.

The annual budgeting process provides a road map to the organization, and assists in the day-to-day management of the qRD. The budgeting process enables the qRD to set their service tax rates for the year, assess liabilities, and to plan for capital financing and any property acquisitions or dispositions.

In addition, the annual budgeting process feeds the Five-Year Financial Plan, which outlines five-year operational and capital planning and asset management for the entire region.

Whenever possible, the qathet Regional District works collaboratively with local stakeholders, as well as the Provincial and Federal government to acquire grant funding to help pay for services and projects to reduce the tax burden on our residents.



Making a Five-Year Financial Plan



Notice of 2021 Budget Meetings

The qathet Regional District will meet to consider the 2021-2025 Financial Plan at the Finance Committee and the Regional Hospital District 2021 budget at the Regional Hospital District Committee of the Whole meetings between January 2021 and March 2021. Meeting dates and times can be viewed on the Regional District website at qathet.ca.

- Linda Greenan, Manager of Financial Services



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MUST BE NICE... RETIREMENT ON SAVARY: But Juanita Chase really, really earned it.

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

For the last 27 years, Juanita Chase has answered the phone with, “Hello, Savary Coast Realty.” These days she simply says hello.

On December 31, Juanita retired. She spends her days enjoying the island she fell in love with 42 years ago.

Back in 1978, Juanita and her late husband Brian lived in Southern California. Brian, a Canadian, wanted to move to BC. “We were looking for a business

to buy,” says Juanita. “Brian’s cousin was a realtor in Comox and he saw that the Royal Savary Hotel was for sale. He put a deposit on it and told us we had to fly up that weekend and look at it.”

Juanita loved the island instantly. The bond she felt with Savary was something she’d experienced only once before in her life—when her daughter Gina was born.

Although Savary was love at first sight, Juanita had some reservations about the hotel. The Royal Savary was a summer business and they were viewing it in the off-season.

“It was in winter disarray; there was mold on the counters,” Juanita recalls. But the clincher was the ancient wringer-washer sitting in the basement. Juan-

ita took one look at that washer and went outside to cry. “I sat on a log and said: ‘How am I supposed to do hotel linens for 25 rooms in that?’”

Yet Juanita was ready to make a change and leave smoggy Southern California behind her. With a Master’s degree in education—she’d taught primary school and reading at St. Bernardino Valley College—Juanita and Brian wanted something different but Juanita hadn’t envisioned it would include a wringer washer and a clothesline for hotel laundry.

“Brian’s cousin said he’d go in on the hotel with us,” said Juanita. “His lovely French wife Marielle said she’d look after the kitchen with me.”

And just like that, they bought the hotel.

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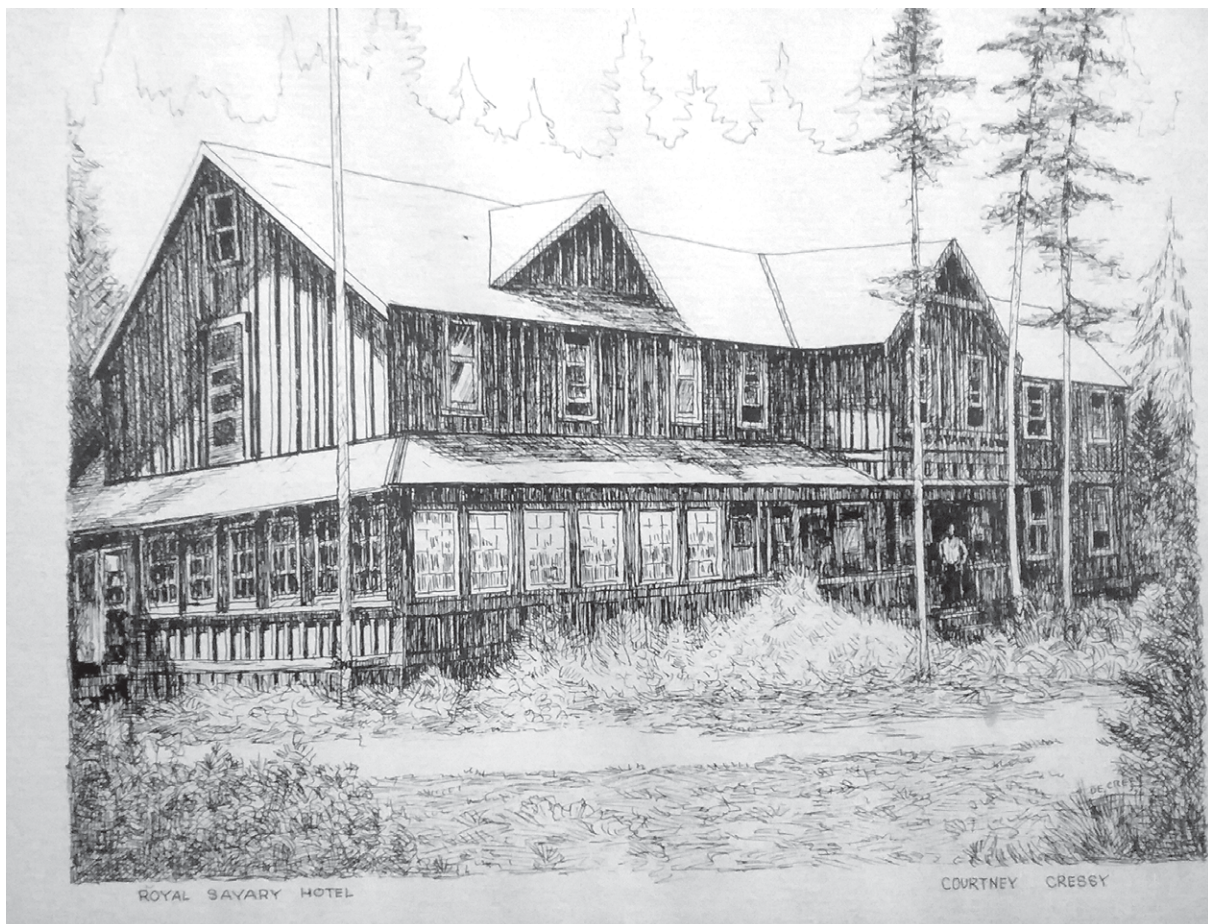
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93 YEARS ON SUNNY SAVARY: The Royal Savary Hotel, built in 1928, became the Royal Savary Lodge after Juanita and Brian Chase bought it in 1978. It was at Indian Point, on the westernmost tip of the island.

But it wasn't just any hotel, it was The Royal Savary Hotel, established in 1928 at Indian Point. One of the first things they did was change its name to The Royal Savary Lodge because that's what it was.

A week after the Lodge opened, Marielle discovered she couldn't help in the kitchen, as they'd been approved to adopt a baby.

But everyone managed.

Juanita has never regretted their decision to move to Savary. Gina helped at the hotel, taking guests out to the best clam beds. Juanita remembers looking out the window one day soon after they'd moved and watching nine-year-old Gina playing with the two boys next door. They were building a raft to play on. Back in California, her daughter had been nine going on 14 but on Savary, she was a child again doing all the things a child should do. She attended the two-room school in Lund.

Juanita and her husband ran the hotel for a few years and then in 1980, decided to shut it down for good. Soon after they purchased it, a building/fire inspector paid a visit and presented them with an enormous list of all the changes and upgrades that needed to be done to the old building.

"Brian had served in the Vietnam war and was sprayed with Agent Orange," Juanita explained. "He had cirrhosis of the liver and we knew he would not live that long." They looked at that list and knew that Juanita wouldn't be able to handle it on her own so they closed the lodge. It was demolished in 1982. Brian died in 1985.

"Even with the closing of the lodge, we knew we wanted to stay on Savary. We saw a couple of areas where we could fill a niche. Propane tanks had to be taken to Lund to be filled and we had an opportunity to have propane delivered by barge from Vancouver

to Savary so we started a propane business on Savary. About the same time we saw a need to start a land taxi business to deliver folks to their cottages. Both of these businesses allowed us to get to know everyone on the island and we learned that some property

Cabin fever: prices are hot on Savary

In 1983, Juanita Chase remembers, you could purchase a small undeveloped building lot on Savary for \$2,000.

"The most recent sale of a similar lot was \$92,000. Waterfront cabins at the wharf area were a few hundred thousand dollars. Now they're selling for \$2 million and up."

In other words, bare land on Savary has increased by nearly 2,900 per cent in less than 40 years.

These days, Savary has a summer population of over 3,000 with numbers peaking for the August long weekend. Permanent residents, of which there are about 50, say the island almost vibrates. Last year the number staying year-round doubled, with people living in their cottages year-round due to COVID and being able to work from home, Juanita said.

Although these figures aren't official, Juanita believes about 50 per cent of the island's property owners come from the Lower Mainland; 20 per cent from Powell River; 20 per cent from Vancouver Island; 10 per cent from Alberta. Despite popular belief, only a handful of Americans own property on the island.

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"I would tell them all about Savary and how wonderful it was. One day someone said to me, 'You should become a realtor.'"

- Juanita Chase

owners rented their cottages when they weren't using them. When delivering people to the cottages, I would tell them all about Savary and how wonderful it was. One day someone said to me, you should become a realtor." And so she did.

Juanita took the courses and worked under John Zaikow (supervising broker) for two years.

"I only wanted to sell Savary because that was what I knew," she said.

So at the age of 50, she launched a new career. Two years later, Juanita went out on her own and launched Savary Coast Realty.

Now that she's retired, Juanita plans to spend more time with her long-time partner Eric Ferriera and enjoy cruis-

ing the waters surrounding Savary Island. Eric owns a backhoe, clearing and septic system business and offers lot preparation and septic installations for Savary and Hernando Islands.

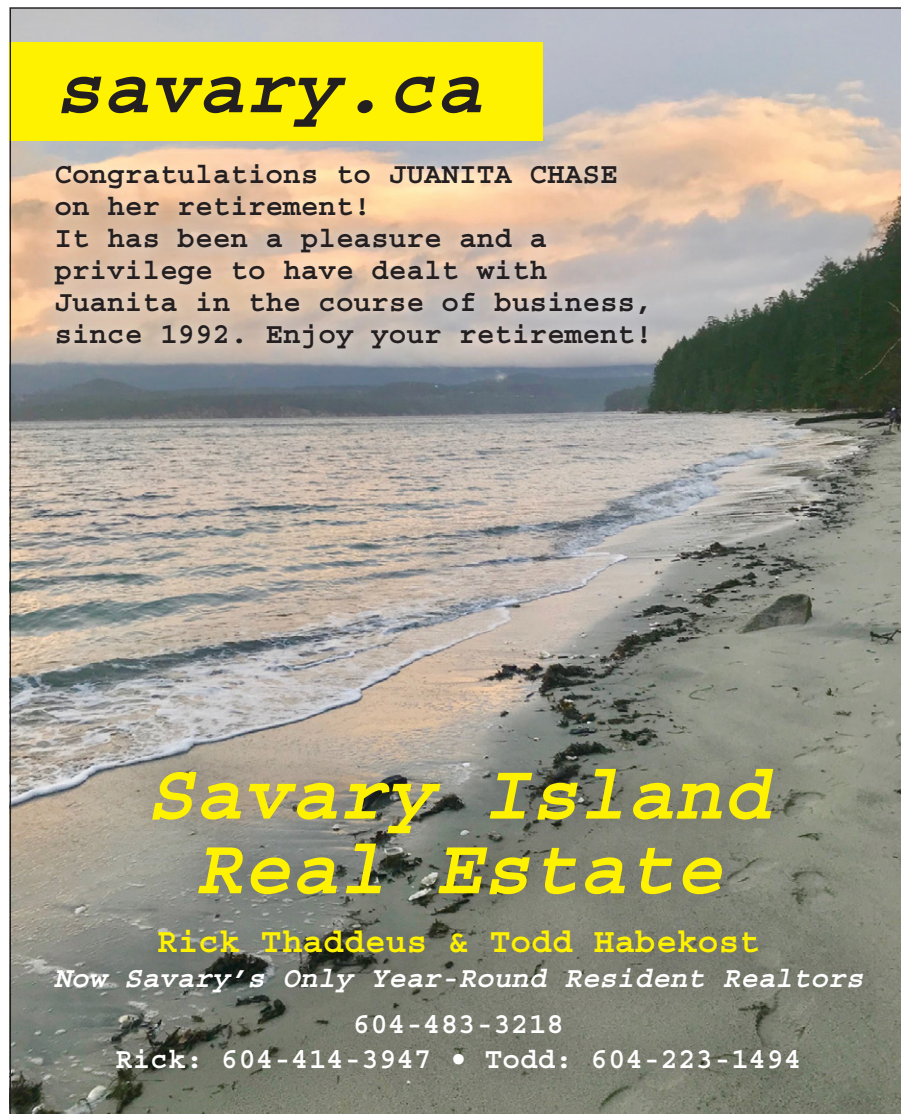
Daughter Gina began working for the Lund Water Taxi in 1989 and two years later she married Al Wood, business owner. A lot has changed over the years including an expansion of their fleet and barge service. Today, Gina and Al also provide fuel, and own the land taxi business which runs six trucks during the summer months.

Beyond business, Juanita has dedicated her life to Savary. She spent 25 years as a first responder for the Savary Island Volunteer Fire Dept, retiring two years ago. She also co-founded the *Savary Island News* with Heather Allen in 1982.

Chronicling the history, stories and characters of Savary Island, the newsletter, which was at one time weekly, now publishes ten times a year and has about 200 subscribers who receive it via email or snail mail. The *Savary Island News* is just one of Juanita's passion projects and one that she doesn't plan to give up any time soon.

"The issues haven't changed," she laughs. "They're still talking about potholes in the road!" **PL**

| isabelle@prliving.ca



savary.ca

Congratulations to **JUANITA CHASE** on her retirement!
It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have dealt with Juanita in the course of business, since 1992. Enjoy your retirement!

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 **WelcomeBC**

• 2006 •
Birth of a community magazine

Isabelle Southcott first published *Powell River Living* in February 2006 as a grayscale free-distribution community magazine with some colour pages. Five thousand copies were printed. The first staff team included **Barb Rees** and **Robert Dufour**.

PRL wins Chamber of Commerce, New Business of the Year Award.

• 2007 •
Finding our Feet

Powell River Women in Business was co-founded by Isabelle in 2007.

At the Western Magazine Awards *PRL* is a Best New Magazine finalist.

Bonnie Krakalovich joins the staff, first in advertising and soon as office manager.

• 2008 •
Extending into the Community

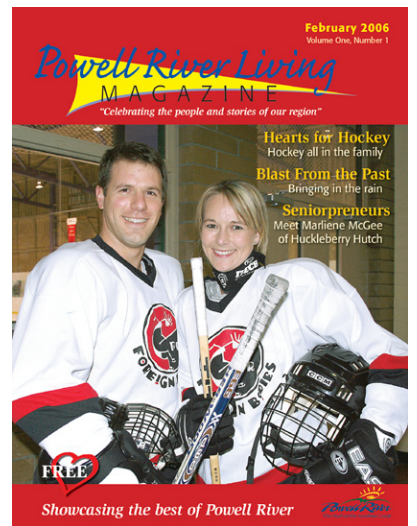
Isabelle's former colleague at the *Powell River News*, **Sean Percy** joins the staff as Associate Publisher.

At the Chamber of Commerce Business Awards, *PRL* is runner up as Small Business of the Year.

PRL organizes a one-time *Powell River Business Fair*.

Powell River Living went from 10 issues a year to 11 when we began publishing issues in July and in August instead of a single, combined summer issue.

First issue



• 2009 •
Recognition!

Powell River Chamber of Commerce awards *PRL* runner-up honours in Home Based Business.

Isabelle is also named a runner up as Entrepreneur of the Year.

• 2010 •
The vision gets bigger

Home Grown local food and agriculture magazine launched, ongoing.

The office moves from Isabelle's basement to 7053E Glacier Street.

More than words

Powell River Living reflects the soul of our community

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

Powell River Living magazine celebrates 15 years in business this month. To me, that's pretty significant. First, because like most small businesses, the first five years were tumultuous – each month I'd wonder if we'd be in business the next month. And second, because I can see the impact of what this community has created here at *Powell River Living*. It's something I'm very proud of – and you should be, too.

When I look through the thousands of pages we've published, I see the people and places we all care about; I see how much this region has changed since 2006; and I see how much the magazine itself has grown, thanks to the immense contribution by local



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10-year issue

• 2014 - 2017 • New visions

ZEST health and wellness magazine launched, ongoing.
Best of Powell River contest launched, ongoing.

Loggers Sports Guide launched 2016. Paused in 2020 due to COVID.

Ferns and Fallers glossy magazine is published from 2014 until 2016

Comfort and Joy launched: Dec. 2016. Shelved in 2018.

Powell River Pet Expo: 2017. One year only.

• 2018 & 2019 • Growing again

Chamber of Commerce names PRL "Small business of the year" in 2018.

The Quickie Writing Contest is launched, ongoing.

Accounts receivable manager **Alena Devlin** joins the staff

• 2020 & 2021 • So much change

Powtown Pumpkin People community event and contest launched, ongoing.

COVID reduces our events section - but also drives up circulation of the magazine

PRL celebrates 15 years!

Powell River Living gets a re-design with help from Brigit Sirota-Goldammer.

• 2011 • Trying new things

Winter Living launches in 2011 and runs until 2014, after which we began publishing a January issue of PRL.

'Are you smarter than a sixth grader?' community event hosted by PRL and SD47. 2011 to 2014.

• 2012 & 2013 • Getting polished

We brought the graphic design in-house and the magazine went to full colour.

Sales & Marketing consultant **Suzi Wiebe** joins the team.

Pieta Woolley joins the staff and is soon named editor.

writers and photographers, and of course my staff.

This past summer, as we were scrambling to put together a magazine during COVID's pressures, Stewart Alsgard dropped by the office to chat about the magazine. Stewart was the son of the owner of *The Powell River News* and *Town Crier* (where I was a reporter from 1993 to 1995), Mayor of Powell River, and much more (see his story on Page 25).

He congratulated us on producing such an excellent publication and said he wished I could have met his father, the late Al Alsgard. Stewart's remarks got me thinking about how, when you do this work month after month, you don't always get to hear what your readers think about when they pick up the magazine.

So, because this is our 15-year anniversary, and be-

cause Stewart is so knowledgeable, I met with him in January to hear more about his thoughts on *Powell River Living* - and publishing in general.

In short, Stewart believes that when Powell River people write stories about Powell River people, they're more than just words on a page. They're accounts of happenings, of history being made, of emotions brought to life, and what matters to those who live here that are shared with the community.

Stewart says *Powell River Living* magazine reminds him of the weekly newspapers of his childhood, when locals contributed and personal touches were so important. He remembers how citizens would share their own anecdotes with his father, the founder of the *Powell River Town Crier*, and how he would ►



15 YEARS IN BUSINESS:
Earning those gray hairs



"When I look through the thousands of pages we've published... I see how much the magazine itself has grown, thanks to the immense contribution by local writers and photographers, and of course my staff."

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mold them into stories that touched the heart of readers.

“The news really reflected the soul of the community,” says Stewart.

When his father published *The Blue Book: Powell River's first 50 years* in 1960, the book represented what weekly newspapers, like his, were about: prominent columnists, news, politics and community. Reporters covered social events, local government, clubs and organizations, sports and more.

And stories were told differently back then, word counts were much longer as most published a broadsheet instead of a tabloid.

“It was not unusual to publish a 10,000-word article - a long exhausting procedure to read and to write,”



EXTRA EXTRA: Robert Dufour, Isabelle Southcott and Barb Rees as the first issue of *PRL* arrived in 2006.

says Stewart. “*Powell River Living* reflects today’s format with shorter stories written by different members of the community. Fifteen years into this, and you’ve brought a fresh approach to the community,” he says.

Readers wrote and contributed to his father’s papers much like readers contribute to *Powell River Living* today.

“People are involved in this magazine of yours. And by doing so they give us a window into their lives,” says Stewart. “Congratulations on achieving 15 years of commendable community publishing. A veritable

cascade of stories, profiles, achievements, success stories, initiatives, inclusion, new citizen experiences, Tla’Amin participation, and community contributions, *Powell River Living* plays an important role in promoting our entire community and brings together many citizens to share their experiences and encourage others to do the same. That has been accomplished and opens a great future.”

It’s true, I believe. Stories can inform, they can heal and they can bring a community together. They help us figure out who we are and what we care about.

Like Stewart, I also came up through newspapers. I cut my teeth on the obituary desk.

I remember picking up the phone at the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* and hearing a voice on the other end say: “This is Snow’s Funeral Home, I have an obituary for you,” or the assignment editor yelling “Obit line one!”

I remember being a cub reporter and how old Ace Foley would pop in to check up on the weekend staff, while smoking a big fat cigar as he walked around the newsroom.

And I remember riding the elevator to the composing room and cutting words and sometimes paragraphs off the hard copy of my story so it would fit on the page. When I moved here in 1993 to work for *The Powell River News* (the same newspaper that Stewart’s father bought in 1945) they were still cutting with an X-acto knife before gluing words and pictures in place on the page with hot wax.

So much has changed since those days. Now, everything is done on a computer and finalized before the magazine is sent to the press in the Lower Mainland. It’s mind-boggling how this business has evolved and changed from when I got my start almost 40 years ago.

Today, I’m pleased to be pioneering a publication that takes the best of newspapers from Stewart’s childhood, and formats it for a 21st century audience. Like our predecessors, we’re a locally owned, fiercely independent, community publication.

Connecting our community since 2006, *Powell River Living* is more than just words on a page. This magazine lives beyond these pages and pictures as it enters the homes and hearts of the people who live here.

Thank you, Powell River, for 15 beautiful years. **PRL**
| isabelle@prliving.ca

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY TO RAISE A MAGAZINE

In February 2006 the first issue of *Powell River Living* rolled off the press and a new magazine was launched.

Each issue since then represents hundreds of hours of work by staff and the community. Without *Powell River Living*, there would be no *Powell River Living*. Just as it takes a community to raise a child, it takes a community to produce a community magazine. *Powell River Living* would not be celebrating its 15th anniversary without our community.

To our advertisers, thank you for trusting us to get your message out.

To our readers, thank you for making us part of your life and for taking the time to read us - and for supporting the advertisers who make these pages possible.

To all the people who contribute stories and photos, write letters, share event info, confirm facts, make suggestions, or even bring us cookies, thank-you.

And finally thanks to our small but committed and talented staff. They include: Associate Publisher/Computer Geek Sean Percy; Editor/Graphic Designer aka Stats Goddess Pieta Woolley; Sales and Marketing Whiz Suzi Wiebe; Office Manager Alena Devlin; Rack Stackers Poppy and Parnell Shandler; Bookkeeper Lisa Beeching (since 2006); Proofreaders Roberta Pearson and Nicole Tomasic (Dalhousie University Law student); Writer and Carleton Journalism student Morgan Pepin; Thomson River University Student Lauren Davis; Columnists Juliette Woods, Jonathan van Wiltenburg, Joelle Sevigny, and Sonya Harry; our many freelancers, photographers, contributors, friends; and, last but not least, Scoti-pride’s Acadian Jig, the office dog.

~ Isabelle Southcott

Isabelle, I clearly remember the day you came to see me to tell me about your new business idea and get my opinion.

Well my friend,
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Elaine Steiger



Gary Shilling

Gary Shilling

Executive Director
Powell River Film
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The Powell River Film Festival has been an advertiser in *PR Living* since the first issue. As the third executive director of the Film Society in 20 years, their editorial and advertising support has been a critical part of our success. *PRL's* care for the community is unmatched – the recent investigative reporting on high gasoline prices is my favourite example of their community advocacy. Thank you to Isabelle and the *PR Living* team for all the great work you do!

Kim Miller

Manager
PR Chamber
of Commerce

I remember the first magazine, was so proud of you and your team, and thrilled to have copies in my office to give out.

I love to get home after a long day to enjoy the magazine with my tea, look through the beautiful scenery photos, read about local people I know, and read about community happenings.

We also have a common goal to support and promote our business community. Thank you for your strong support of the annual Business Awards.

Tracey Ellis

Executive Director, Tourism Powell River

All of us at TPR have watched *PRL* magazine grow over the past 15 years into the “must have” publication it is today.

At the Powell River Visitor Centre, it is the pub-

lication we put into the hands of visitors and those who seek to move here.

We tell them this publication alone will give them the character of the town and everyone in it.

Elaine Steiger

Entrepreneur, PR Women in Business

A few free publications have been tried in Powell River, but I think the main reason that Isabelle and her team have not only survived, but thrived, is

the fact that it is a genuine community magazine – truly reporting and celebrating living in this beautiful city of Powell River.

Nicholas Simons

MLA, Powell River-Sunshine Coast

PRL has brought the best of Powell River to its readers near and far for the past 15 years.

One only has to read the pages of this home-grown

magazine to see that our community truly is a hidden gem on the Sunshine Coast.

I look forward to many more years to come.



Kim Miller



Dave Formosa

Dave Formosa

Mayor, Powell River
DAVIC Group

I remember the day clearly when Isabelle Southcott sat in my office telling me about a new community venture she was considering – a free monthly magazine about and for the citizens of Powell River.

The early years were

a struggle, as with any new business, but Isabelle persevered and built her *Powell River Living* into a success because her vision was simple: good news and uplifting stories about our community.

As Mayor, I want to celebrate *Powell River Living's* 15 years with Isabelle and her entire team and look to reading my *PRL* for years to come.

Happy 15th, Powell River Living!
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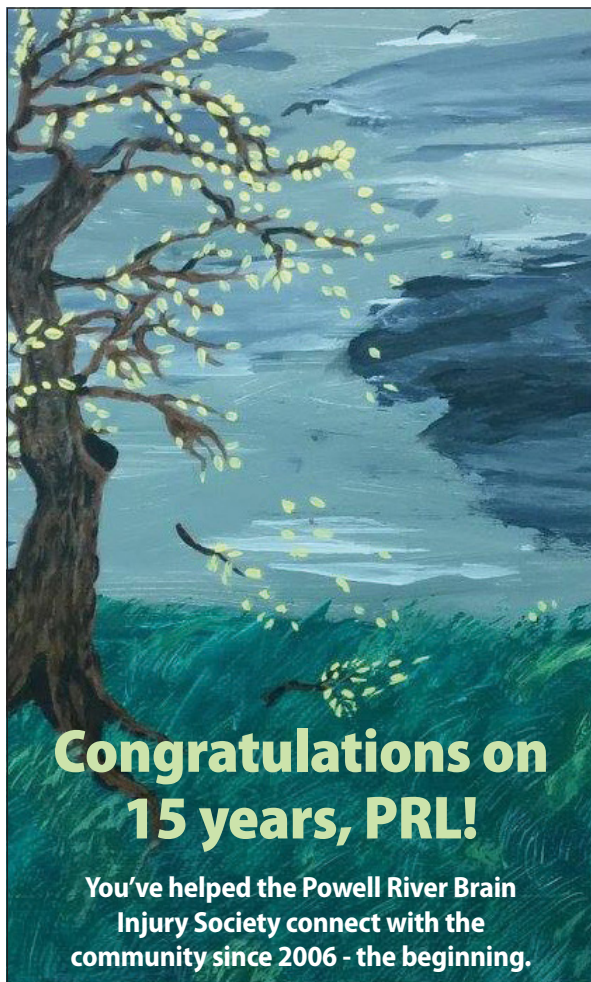


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A freshe

BY SEAN PERCY

When we were planning our 15th anniversary edition, we gave a lot of thought to whether a re-design of the publication was necessary.

The last time we overhauled the look was for our 10th anniversary, and we hadn't changed our nameplate/logo since 2008.

Traditional magazine wisdom says you should update your look every few years, but we're also big fans of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." And we don't think the magazine was broken - our readership and advertiser support for the magazine has never been higher.

Still, the design was beginning to look a little dated, and as the publication has evolved over the past few years, some design inconsistencies have crept

in. Perhaps most importantly, we wanted to address readability. If you're like us, as we all spend more and more time on screens and make more rotations around the sun, small type is getting harder to read.

We had some ideas of what we wanted to accomplish, and we have a talented team that's done a great job over the past 15 years. But we also recognized that sometimes a fresh pair of eyes can push us in new directions.

So we looked around at some of the talented local designers we admire and chose Brigit Sirota-Goldammer of Niche Market Designs. There's probably no greater challenge than designing for people who are designing every day (and who, we admit, are picky and maybe a little too set in their ways), but Brigit not only helped us with some specific new looks, but gave us some great advice that we hope will make the magazine better every month.

We asked Brigit to tell us a little about her process in coming up with the designs she suggested for *Powell River Living*. **PL**

Design school with Brigit Sirota-Goldammer



I started my design career as a young apprentice at the *Georgia Straight* in Vancouver where, for almost 15 years, I learned not only about the newspaper business, but also about the arts, culture and music scene that was a big part of what we covered.

Trading city life for the country, I started work at a bold little Whistler design agency called Origin. It flourished, and I too gained a wealth of experience in tourism marketing and design while growing my love of the outdoors.

After the 2010 Olympics I started a business on my own called Niche Market Design (nichemarketdesign.ca), and have since grown a clientele in marketing tourism, food & wine and Indigenous businesses.

Missing life on the coast I moved to Powell River in 2015, and today I am still smitten with this community, the ocean and its great outdoors.

When you look at a magazine as a designer, what are you looking for?

Brigit • Fun typography, good use of (white) space, interesting images and of course clever and engaging editorial. A bit of playfulness always helps!

What is good design?

Brigit • Well that's a big question because like art, design is a personal preference, but I think it comes down to a balance of contrast - whether its page layout, photography, sculpture or building design, contrast is what creates intrigue.

When you started on the PRL redesign, what problems were you hoping to fix?

Brigit • I wouldn't say there were problems, but my first thought was to freshen up the fonts, and then to help create some space - previously it felt like every space was filled with something; the pages needed 'breathing room'.

How did you fix them?

Brigit • By adding bold fonts to create contrast, and to not be afraid to leave white space!

What's different about redesigning PRL than other publications you work for?

Brigit • Most of the work I do now is branding and corporate work, online pieces or glossy magazine ads, so it's nice to get back to my roots and work on a publication again. Here I got to play with and present a number of different logo and cover styles, then design the inside page elements to match the new look.

What's interesting about the new fonts?

Brigit • The main typeface is a fresh take on a retro headline style, plus it has a nice variety of bold and light fonts to play with.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Brigit • PRL staff have been great to work with as they are hands-on, they 'speak my language' and impressed me with how quickly they took my suggestions and turned them into their own.

n-up for our 15th

Meet Barlow & Charter

They're our new fonts.

As part of *Powell River Living's* re-design, and with excellent advice from Brigit Sirota-Goldammer, we have completely overhauled our font usage.

We were looking for fonts that would be readable but also lighten and brighten the magazine's look.

The "flag" on the front page, and our logo, contains **Campton**, a geometric font similar to Montserrat or Avant Garde, but a little more modern, and, much to our liking, designer René Bieder gave it a more interesting "G".

For our headlines, caption and most sidebars, we chose **Barlow**, in part because it's condensed form is still highly readable, and partly because it comes in so many useful weights. The fact that designer Jeremy Tribby named it after press and internet freedom activist (and Grateful Dead lyricist) John Perry Barlow was just a sweet bonus for our new headline font. It also delights us that Barlow is a variable font. Thanks to the latest technology in the graphic design software we use (Adobe InDesign and Illustrator in particular),

variable type gives us near complete control over height, weight and width for various situations. Hopefully we'll use this power responsibly.

Here, we probably didn't. This blurb is in our new sidebar text, which is Barlow Semi Condensed. It's attractive for short pieces, but tires the eyes out for longer blocks of text like this.

For our regular body copy - what you spend the most time reading - readability was our primary concern, and we went with traditional characters. **Charter** is a serif typeface designed by Matthew Carter in 1987 for Bitstream Inc. Charter is based on Pierre-Simon Fournier's characters.

Although the inspiration dates from the 18th century and this version of the font itself is more than twice as old as the magazine, we found that it not only played well with our headline font, but it was eminently readable. The high "x-height" makes it, we believe, easier to read than the Minion font we've used for the past five years.

We'd love to hear your feedback.

| sean@prliving.ca

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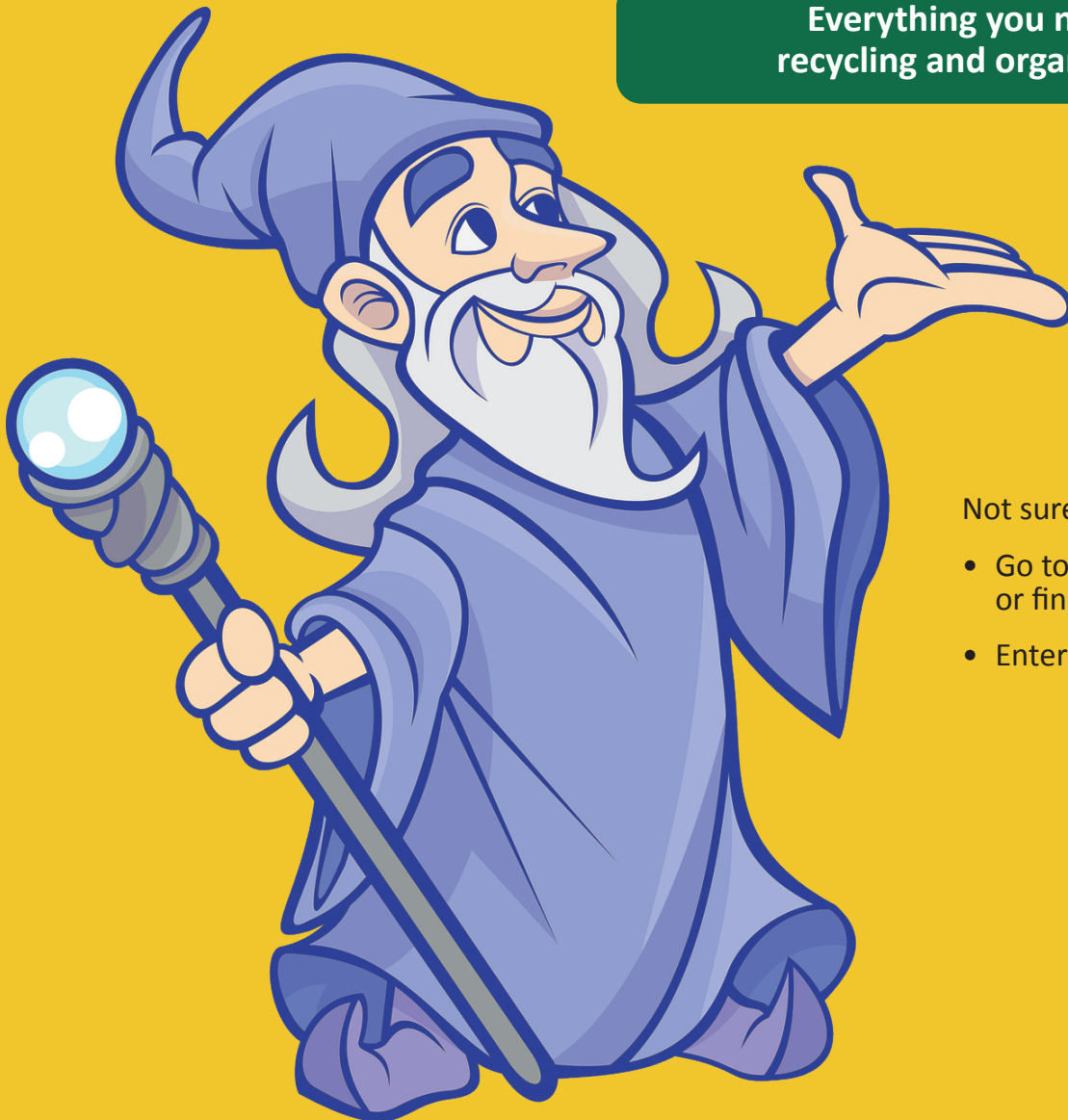
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Paperboy takes Powell River

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

Stewart Alsgard, Retired Naval Captain, Provincial Coroner, businessman, teacher, and Powell River Mayor from 1999 to 2011, grew up in the community newspaper business. Born in 1935 he was the son of Powell River's most eminent early newspaper publisher, Al Alsgard, and publisher of a newspaper on the lower coast and assistant general manager of *The Powell River News* in the 1960s.

Al was working at the mill and with his father at Alsgard's Hardware store in Cranberry when he founded the *Powell River Town Crier* in 1933. He launched his publishing career by printing advertising flyers on an old mimeograph machine in the attic of the family's Church Street home in Cranberry.

Although the *Town Crier* started out as an ad sheet, stories soon crept in as people began adding their voice to the publication through their writing.

"People wanted to contribute to it," said Stewart in an interview at his

lovely Grief Point home. "Dad thought that to add to its appeal, he would also write – he was a great illustrator too."

Al's weekly column, "I'll Take Vanilla," was popular with both readers of the *Town Crier* and later the *Powell River News*. "I'll Take Vanilla" featured everyday experiences of locals, often full of humour, acts of community service and recognition, events and situations.

The family business had Stewart's mum and aunt stapling and collating in the attic, and with Al distributing it, the fledgling paper grew.

"Then came the idea of leaving it on doorsteps," said Stewart who soon embarked on a career as a paperboy.

After seeing a friend's new bicycle, Stewart campaigned for one of his own. His father promised to pay for half of it if Stewart could sell subscriptions to all the houses on his route that hadn't subscribed already. Stewart did and his father kept his promise and a new bike appeared.

Stewart and his pals had a bike bri-



THE MAN FROM PAPER CITY: Former mayor, coroner, naval officer, newspaperman and paperboy Stewart Alsgard, 85, at his home in Grief Point. His father Al Alsgard, who worked at the mill, started the *Town Crier*.

PHOTO: @MILESARBOUR

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gade to deliver the weekly paper and soon they were whizzing through Cranberry delivering papers to all the houses on their six Cranberry routes. The boys were proud of their jobs and proud to be paperboys.

One day Stewart had the bright idea of numbering each bike to match its route. He went to the bank and asked for the large numbers used in the daily calendars and the boys hung them on their bikes on paper day.

By the early 1940s, the *Town Crier* had outgrown the Church Street attic so the family bought property on Cranberry Street that consisted of a shed and a chicken coop.

"Mom's dad, Grandpa Wick, was a carpenter," said Stewart, "and he built the new house on Cranberry Street. The shed was renovated and in there went the press, the linotype machine (a hot metal typesetting system) and a bindery. Everything needed to put out a newspaper."

At 14, Stewart's friend Stan Plisson loved the newspaper business and pleaded with Al to take him on. "He was just a kid when he started with Dad," Stewart recalls. (Stan stayed in the newspaper business and went on to become the publisher of the *Powell River News*. Other names from the past surface as Stewart looks back over the years. Gerry Gray, an alderman, was a popular columnist for many years. Gerry also had a column in *Powell River Living*. Eva Mosley and Jack Hanna worked in the print shop. "These are the personalities that stood out because they were always there.")

One day young Stewart was skating on Cranberry Lake when one of his pals ran up to him and said: "Your dad's newspaper is on fire!"

Stewart ran up Cranberry hill as quickly as he could and when he reached home, he realized he'd run home with his skates still on! "The place was badly burnt. They thought it was gone but they were able to salvage the building enough so they got the paper up and running within a week and were able to print the paper."

Not long after the fire, Stewart decided he wanted a sibling. "All my little mates had sisters and brothers and I did not." (His parents lost their first child Beverly Anne two years before Stewart was born). When December rolled around Stewart told his parents that he wanted a baby sister for Christmas and along came Gale a year later.

The *Town Crier* was just the beginning for Al. While winning many newspaper awards for his work there,

One day young Stewart was skating on Cranberry Lake when one of his pals ran up to him and said: "Your dad's newspaper is on fire!" Stewart ran up Cranberry hill as quickly as he could and when he reached home, he realized he'd run home with his skates still on!



Al purchased the *Powell River News* from Les Way in 1945. "There wasn't room in Powell River for two newspapers so they tossed a coin and Dad won and bought Les out."

Al started the *Coast News*, which he later sold, at Halfmoon Bay with Ernie Parr-Pearson. In 1964, he established the *Peninsula Times* in Sechelt.

Al loved being a scribe. "He could really write; he was passionate about it," says Stewart. The infamous mother of community newspapers Ma Murray, founder and publisher of the *Bridge River-Lillooet News*, was a friend of Al's. "I remember her from newspaper conventions," said Stewart. "She bought a linotype from Dad."

Stewart met politicians and leaders who came to visit Powell River and inevitably ended up meeting with his father. They'd all have dinner together.

"Jimmy Sinclair was the Liberal MP for this riding. He lived in Vancouver but came to Powell River with his family (who later included his

daughter Margaret, mother to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau)."

Stewart also remembers Tommy Douglas visiting the family home and how, when he met him years later in an elevator in Ottawa, Tommy remembered exactly who he was. "People like this passed through our household," he recalled.

When the sad and tragic Dinner Rock disaster of 1947 occurred, Al covered it. "Dad knew about it very quickly," recalls Stewart. "We drove to the dock at Westview and I could see the white hull from the dock."



WHEN THE NEWSPAPER BECOMES THE NEWS: The Town Crier building on fire in January 1942. Note the skates in the bottom left corner. Stewart Alsgard's father Al Alsgard started the newspaper from his home in 1933.

Three children and two women died when the 145-foot passenger *MV Gulf Stream* hit Dinner Rock on her way between Westview and Lund on October

11, 1947. Movie Tone News (a newsreel that ran from 1928 to 1963 in the United States) sent a camera crew from Vancouver to cover the shipwreck and

Al took all the official photographs. In those days, there was only a dirt road between the community and Lund and response times were slow compared to today. Once Al got his photos and information, he rushed back to Cranberry to put out a special edition of the paper.

"Me and my little mates rushed around yelling EXTRA, EXTRA, selling papers at a nickel a pop," recalls Stewart.

Although ink may be in his blood, Stewart's true love has always been for ships.

He remembers going to a newspaper convention in Quebec with the family when he was 13. "For me the big attraction was the trans-Atlantic steamers which came into Quebec. Dad said he'd take me to see them at the Cunard dock and when we saw the 20 thousand tonne *RMS Scythia* I said to myself, one day I'm going to drive one of those things."

And he did. Stewart graduated from

University Naval Training Division at the University of British Columbia and obtained his degree and a teaching certificate from the university. He taught school in BC and England, travelled to Australia and New Zealand and then came home and rejoined the navy. He served several sea and shore appointments and rose through the ranks to the position of Captain.

He was the naval aide-de-camp to the Governor General of Canada, a member of the UBC Senate, two-term Chamber of Commerce president, founding chair of Powell River Community Futures, and local business (Books & Stationery) owner. Stewart became the assistant general manager of the *Powell River News* in 1961 and publisher of the *Peninsula Times* from 1964 to 1967.

But before all that, Stewart Alsgard, the little boy from Cranberry Lake, was a paperboy. **RL**

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Cantankerous eagle becomes a caring foster mum

BY MERILEE PRIOR

It was a cold, blustery afternoon when a call came to the Powell River Orphaned Wildlife Society for an eagle with a broken wing on the Stillwater Main logging road, right under the power lines. We guessed she had hit the line in the fog.

I was away, so I called in some brave volunteers. They found her just before sunset, and she chose to leap rather than be captured: she went over the bank, crashed through the brush and landed on a ledge about six meters straight down. They could not get to her.

Michelle Pennell had an answer: she called Julian Welp, climber extraordinaire, who arrived, tied his climbing gear to his truck and went over. The eagle did not like the look of Julian either, and she dropped down to the next ledge, another six metres down through more brush. By now it was dark and it was starting to snow again, so Julian reluctantly came back up. I was on the phone, anxiously telling them to leave the bird and stay safe.

A call to OWL, the raptor rehabilitation facility in Delta, gave us hope. Wait two days, we were told, and she will be weaker, and we could try in the daylight.

Two mornings later, the Stillwater volunteers, Linda and Henri Samson, were back out and she was easy to find - she had not moved. Henri scouted out a route down, while I collected Michelle and went to meet them. Henri and I bushwhacked our way around to

come at her from below. From there, it was an easy catch. We put her in a duffel bag and turned to go, only for her to slash the bag open and drop free! No gentle catch this time - she was wrapped up like a burrito, her legs firmly held while Henri carried her up. She went to OWL the next morning.

They worked on her for two months, but in the end, the wing was not stable and she was not flying. Instead of euthanizing her, they kept her as a foster mum for eaglets that came in over the summer. She was an excellent mum, feeding, grooming and teaching the six eaglets that she was given. One of the young ones came from us, a nest in Stillwater. A granddaughter, perhaps?

In November, she was moved to a large flight cage as a temporary measure. The staff were shocked when she flew the length of the very long cage, straight up to the highest perch, then gave them a look that dared them to catch her again. I got a very happy call that said she would be coming back after some flight conditioning.

It was quite a crowd who gathered to see her off. We went back to the exact place, and the trucks and crews very kindly allowed us to release her there. She came out of her kennel, strode across the road and flitted up onto the bank, where she took her time looking around. She then flew down the road, landing high up in a tree, again checking to see where she was. Then she flew off, free again after all that time.

We wish her well!



TAKE THESE BROKEN WINGS: Left, PROWLs volunteer Henri Samson wraps this broken-winged eagle in a blanket to keep it safe after it ripped through a duffel bag. Right, no one thought this eagle would fly again. So when she did, a large crowd of humans gathered to see her off.



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LAST VISIT TO THE POOL: Former long-time Regional Hospital District Director Stan Gisborne visits the soon-to-be-dismantled hydrotherapy pool at Powell River General Hospital in January. Stan wanted his photo taken with the pool. His son Mark Gisborne, acting as his caregiver, snapped the photo before an administrator told them they weren't allowed to take photos. Mark - now a hospital district director himself - argues that the pool is a public facility paid for by community donations - and one that should be repaired instead of demolished.

Photo by Mark Gisborne

Want more opioid addictions?

Then go ahead and get rid of rehabilitation services, says hospital board director

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

Stan and Mark Gisborne dropped by the Powell River Hospital in mid-January to see the hydrotherapy pool one last time before it's removed. Mark, who sits on the Hospital Board representing the regional district, noticed yellow stickies on the empty pool's equipment. He figures it will soon be gone.

Stan had routine heart surgery five years ago, and woke up at St. Paul's with "Locked in Syndrome". He is now quadriplegic but still has full sensation; he had been hoping to use the hydrotherapy pool since he returned home in 2016. But VCH administration denied the requests made by their family physician.

His son Mark, the qathet Regional District director for Area B, has been caregiving for his father since then, along with other family members.

"The only rehabilitation services my father receives locally is 100 per cent private," said Mark.

Both Stan and Mark have been advocating to retain the therapy pool, which was paid for by community donations through the Hospital Foundation in 1993. But Vancouver Coastal Health Authority isn't consulting the community, says Mark. In fact, when the two were snapping photos in the pool, they were approached by hospital administration and told to leave.

It's the latest in a series of conflicts over VCH's decision to close rather than repair or rebuild the

\$510,000 pool dating back several years. PRL first covered the hydrotherapy pool a year ago, when Diana Yenssen approached the magazine about it. She has Multiple Sclerosis, and found relief from the disease's pain and stiffness in the warm, accessible water-based therapy programs since the 1990s. The programs were suspended 10 years ago, but patients continued to use the pool.

Diana revealed that the pool had chronic mechanical problems, and was frequently closed throughout its life. Hospital Board Chair Ken Dickson confirmed VCH said the pool needed \$75,000 in repairs to continue to function.

Since then, Mark said, the local Hospital Board,

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and this community had been promised a report from VCH on the future of the pool months ago, but it was not delivered. At a health board meeting in November, a representative from VCH said he would only discuss the pool in-camera – so there is no public record of what was said.

Mark claims that in a recent online Open Board Forum meeting with VCH, both he and Stan posted questions about rehab services, which were removed by administrators and left unanswered, Mark said.

In an email in response to *PRL's* questions, VCH's communications department confirmed that the pool is being removed to make way for a six-chair dialysis unit, which will be open by this coming summer.

The dialysis unit is also a much-needed facility; in 2016, *PRL* ran a story about the now-late Myrna Leishman's struggle to commute for dialysis to the Lower Coast three days a week – a common routine among Powell River seniors with kidney disease.

Dialysis is a priority here, but so is the hydrotherapy pool, said Mark. It didn't have to be one over the other.

"Rehabilitation and therapy services in this province are understaffed and overworked. People are prescribed opioids and other pain killers to deal with their untreated ailments. Without rehab services people of all ages are turning to opioids for pain management," he said. "BC lost more people in 2020 from overdoses than from COVID19. We have a public health emergency."

VCH wrote that the agency abandoned the pool, "in part because there are other options in the community."

There are no plans for similar amenities at the Recreation Complex. So *PRL* asked VCH specifically what other options there are in the community. Mark and Stan said that there is no similar therapy or pool in Powell River, even in the private sector.

"It is not realistic to transfer a quadriplegic to Vancouver and back for an hour-long physiotherapy session, or to gain access to the GF Strong therapy pool."

In a statement provided to *PRL* at deadline, VCH communications said these alternatives are available:

"The Powell River Aquatic Centre is offering pool access to the children's pool, which is warmer than the regular pool, for people who wish to do hydrotherapy."

"VCH therapists continue to provide a range of inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services to residents of Powell River and we are committed to continuing to deliver quality patient care." **PR**

| pieta@prliving.ca

Why is the hydrotherapy pool closing?

From an email from the VCH communications department, answering *PRL's* questions:

- Following the closure of the pool in December 2018, a thorough internal review and assessment of the pool's structural elements was completed and the estimated cost for necessary repairs was determined to be prohibitive.

- VCH has not offered programming in the hospital pool as part of its care services or physiotherapy program for 10 years, in part because there are other options in the community, and because therapy resources have been devoted to other inpatient and outpatient therapies. Many hospitals have moved away from operating therapy pools and use of community pools for aquatic therapy is more common.

- The community dialysis unit at Powell River General Hospital is being expanded to meet increasing patient demand and provide this essential care in a brighter, more comfortable setting. The expanded unit will be located in the hospital's former therapy pool space. There will be six dialysis stations in the new unit, doubling current capacity. The new unit is expected to be ready to serve the community by summer 2021.

- When the current unit faces more demand than capacity, Powell River dialysis patients have to travel to Sechelt or even further three times a week to receive treatment. Having added dialysis stations in Powell River will increase access to this essential care and ensure people in the community can receive this treatment closer to home without the added stress and burden of travel.

- VCH is very grateful for the support provided by Powell River Hospital Foundation, Powell River Health-Care Auxiliary, Rotary Club of Powell River, Powell River Lions Club and others in the community who helped raise funds for the construction of the pool, and renovations and repairs over the years.

- We also appreciate the support of the community as we continue to meet the evolving health care needs of our residents.



A TALE OF TWO BUSES: On the left is Powell River's Sunshine Coast Connector, a private bus that runs between Powell River and Vancouver - though less and less as the company can't afford to provide daily or even weekly service as a business. The next trip is in May 2021. On the right is BC Bus North, another private company that runs four buses constantly across Highway 16 in northern BC, but it's subsidized by the Province and the Federal government.

Not enough **b**us

Other BC regions have vibrant, publicly-funded inter-city transportation. Why not here?

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

From Prince Rupert to Prince George, many different kinds of bus systems carry people where they need to go. For example, BC Transit serves the small regions – including the 231-kilometers covered by the Smithers system, from Kispiox to Burns Lake.

The Northern Health Connections bus ferries seniors, people with out-of-town health appointments and others from Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, Terrace and elsewhere all the way to Vancouver for between \$10 and \$40 (that is, \$40 from Smithers all the way to Vancouver – an 1,147-kilometre trip.)

That bus service is subsidized by the BC Ministry of Health and the First Nations Health Authority, among others.

The Ministry of Transportation funds 12 First Na-

tions community vehicles which are operated by local nonprofits and agencies.

Tying it all together is BC Bus North, a three-year-old private transit service that goes all the way from Prince Rupert, to Prince George, to Fort Nelson, to Valemont, subsidized at \$2 million a year by Victoria and Ottawa. For \$65 or less, you can get from city to city. It's the only private bus company in BC that the Ministry of Transportation subsidizes.

All of these efforts are coordinated by a five-year-old regional working group which includes BC Transit, Northern Health Authority, local governments, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and of course the Ministry of Transportation. Together, they administer the Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan, ensuring safe, accessible rides are available over what is known as the 'Highway of Tears,' a known site of

many murders and disappearances, especially of First Nations women.

Prioritizing safe transportation across the North should be a clear priority of government, and it is. But safe, accessible inter-city transportation should be achievable everywhere in BC.

Here in Powell River, even transit within the region is spotty (see story on Page 34), and the private bus to Vancouver won't start running again until May.

Why is inter-city transportation so thorough elsewhere, and so inconsistent here, given that it's largely paid for by the same governments? You'd think the goal would be consistency across BC.

In an email from the Ministry of Transportation, the inequity is explained like this: "The Province consults with local leaders to determine how we can best support each region.

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“In the north, after consulting with local leaders to gain a better understanding of the impact of Greyhound’s service elimination in northern B.C., it was concluded due to the unique nature of the north and the distances between communities, it was important that the Province provide stable and reliable inter-city ground transportation services.

“This ensures that people have continued access to safe and reliable transportation to get from one northern community to the next. This way, residents who have to travel outside their community for jobs, appointments, school and other essential purposes are still able to do so.”

Powell River hasn’t attracted the same kind of investment so far. But the good news is, two current efforts are underway to improve bus service between Vancouver and Powell River.

First, several elected and government officials are working together towards a solution based on a shared funding model between BC Transit and local governments. The qathet Regional District, the City of Powell River, Tla’amin Nation, BC Ferries and the Sunshine Coast Regional District have been meeting with on Zoom, trying to pull together a plan.

BC Transit’s liaison with this area, Rob Ringma, grew up between Powell River and Vancouver Island, so he understands the challenges that come with living in remote communities.

“It’s a chicken and egg situation,” he explained, noting that many local governments are hesitant about investing in more transportation, when they’re not sure the demand is there to support it. “Local governments and taxpayers need to be willing to absorb the cost until such time as ridership has caught up with the expenses.”

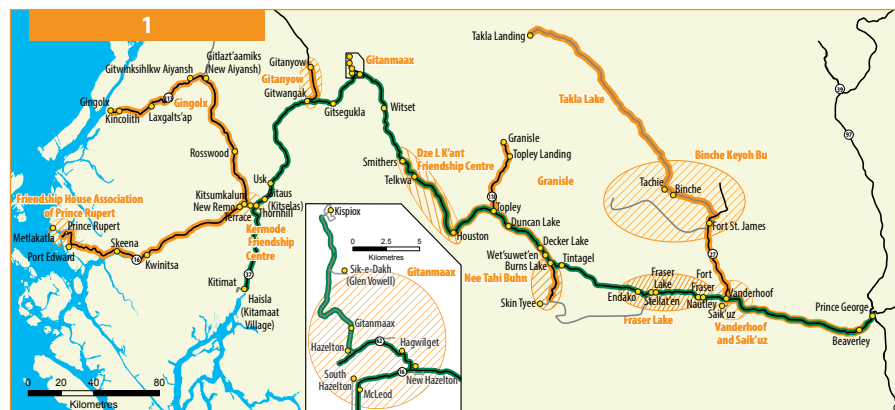
Later this year, he said, BC Transit is refreshing the five-year service review for this region.

Qathet board chair Patrick Brabazon, a long-time advocate for public transit and a member of the working group, said he feels hopeful this multi-government solution will materialize into a regional transit agency that can coordinate transportation through three re-



SEEKING 5,000 SIGNATURES: In this pre-COVID photo from 2019, Rae Fitzgerald and Diane Wolyniec dropped by the PRL office to show us the 2,000 signatures they’d collected in support of a consistent, affordable bus to Vancouver. They presented the petition and signatures to local governments, but so far, no solution has been secured. Now they’re at it again to put pressure on elected officials. Watch for their petition on Facebook and at Quality Foods.

WHAT BC IS CAPABLE OF: A map of the impressive, Europe-like public transportation network in Northern BC.



gional districts. It may take some time. Governments move slowly – especially when multiple agencies have to collaborate on something new, he said.

However, that wasn’t true in the North. When Greyhound pulled its service along Highway 16 in 2017, Victoria and Ottawa collaborated quickly on a public-private solution, BC Bus North.

The owner of the Sunshine Coast Connector bus proposed a partnership with BC Ferries and BC Transit in 2019, and again in 2020. So far, Dmitry Tyun-

in said, it hasn’t come to fruition.

In 2015, thinking that demand was high for a connecting bus between Powell River and Vancouver, Dmitry bought three buses to serve the route, a 40-seater, a 24-seater, and a smaller bus. It wasn’t long before he realized the market was not that big.

“We didn’t get enough people – just four or five a trip,” he recalls, noting that he adjusted pricing, schedules, and frequency to try to make the route work as a business. Running the bus in the summer turned a small profit; run-

ning it in the winter resulted in debt.

Dmitry still has the buses. If the Ministry of Transportation is interested in subsidizing his private bus company like it does Bus North, he’s in.

Second, Powell River’s two most vocal bus lobbyists are at it again.

“If I get cancer and have to go to Vancouver for treatment, I’d rather just die.”

Those are the extreme words of Rae Fitzgerald, a Powell River senior who has been advocating for a transportation solution between the two cities for close to two years. With her friend Diane Wolyniec, the duo spent late 2019 sitting in the Quality Foods foyer collecting over 2,000 signatures in support of a bus.

At the time, the Sunshine Coast Connector had stopped running temporarily. They brought their petitions to both City Council and the Regional District.

They’re frustrated by the continued lack of a bus, so they’re planning another signatures drive. They’re hoping for 5,000 this time – hopefully enough to make a bus materialize.

“We shouldn’t have to fight for something so sensible,” said Rae.

“It’s normally students coming home on the weekends, grandparents travelling back and forth, medical appointments.”

If those are not convincing enough arguments for better public transportation, the environment is.


In November 2020, the Ministry of Transportation announced that, over the next decade, three levels of government will be putting \$1.2 billion into BC Transit’s 130 communities for “new and replacement buses, including battery electric and compressed natural gas, smart technologies (including NextRide), advanced fare technology, new and upgraded transit facilities, new transit exchanges, park and rides, and new bus lanes.”

That money is also designated for the North, where it will provide, “safe, affordable travel for Indigenous communities, residents and organizations through BC Bus North and the BC government’s Highway 16 Transportation Action Plan.”

| pieta@prliving.ca



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Will the Ministry of Transportation fix our inter-city problem?

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

In an email to *Powell River Living*, the BC Ministry of Transportation claimed that “every region in the province has inter-city bus service,” either public or private. While this region has neither a public or private bus to the Lower Mainland running currently, you can catch a bus to the Westview ferry terminal and then at Little River into downtown Comox. Is that enough?

Here’s what else the Ministry wrote:

Apart from Bus North, where else in BC does the Ministry of Transportation fund private companies to run regional transportation services?

MOT • Apart from BC Bus North, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure does not fund private companies to run regional transportation services.

The majority of the province has inter-city bus service thanks to the private sector.

When Greyhound left BC in 2018, the north was the only region without inter-city bus service.

Due to the unique nature of the north and the distances between communities, it is

important that we do what we can to provide inter-city transportation services.

Does the Ministry of Transportation offer the same formula to BC Transit in all communities, or do some communities get proportionally more money from BC Transit? And where?

MOT • The B.C. government’s priority is to ensure that transit is affordable for people across B.C., and also to support BC Transit in delivering reliable and safe service to passengers.

That’s why this ministry subsidizes BC Transit’s operating expenses.

The Victoria Regional Transit System (VRTC) is the only BC Transit system that has access to a regional Motor Fuel Tax (currently 5.5c/L)....

Under this model, local governments - or in Greater Victoria’s case the Victoria Region Transit Commission - are responsible to fund their own share of transit operations. They retain 100% of all transit revenues.

Additionally, under the federal-provincial Safe Restart Agreement, which is cost-shared 50/50 by both governments, \$86 million has been allocated to BC Transit communities.

Government’s commitment to public transit in BC Transit communities is not limited to operating cost subsidies.

Over the next decade, the B.C. government, the Government of Canada, and local governments - the Victoria Regional Transit Commission for Greater Victoria - are partnering to fund \$1.2 billion in transit investments in communities served by BC Transit.

More information here: news.gov.bc.ca/factsheets/delivering-reliable-efficient-and-green-public-transit

Has the Ministry of Transportation developed a plan for replacing the lost Greyhound services with a public or semi-public system? Please send me any records of these discussions.

MOT • Every region in the province has inter-city bus service.

Private sector operators are now providing service on the routes vacated by Greyhound in 2018 except for two:

Valemount to Kamloops

Although Northern Health Connections has a service between Valemount and Kamloops, available to those with medical appointments, mobility challenges, or who

The B.C. government’s priority is to ensure that transit is affordable for people across B.C.

are over the age of 60.

Fort Nelson to Watson Lake

The inter-city bus landscape is an evolving one, since the onset of the pandemic, the Passenger Transportation Branch (Branch), Passenger Transportation Board (Board) and ICBC have taken steps to minimize the impacts of COVID-19 on the motor coach industry, in addition to the provincial and federal governments’ established financial relief programs.

In a changing landscape, we will continue to work with our federal counterparts for long-term solutions for the private inter-city bus sector, as it is an important part of our transportation network.

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Please note that we will be closed on Monday, February 15th to observe the Family Day Holiday.

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qathet's car / bus dilemma



BY PIETA WOOLLEY

Owning a car is expensive. Buying it, fueling it, insuring it, maintaining it and fixing it when it breaks: these are hundreds-of-dollars-a-month costs.

In most places in BC, people who cannot afford a car, are too young to drive, don't have a driver's license, or have a disability that prevents driving, are able to take public transportation – such as a bus – to work.

But here in qathet, the bus isn't a realistic solution for many people. For example, the Stillwater bus doesn't run Thursdays or Sundays at all. It's the only bus serving people living south of Pacific Point Market.

To catch the bus from Saltery Bay, you have to call ahead, and can only catch it twice a day... but not on Thursdays or Sundays. The last bus serving south of town leaves Town Centre Mall at 5:40 pm four days a week (or 2:30 pm Saturdays). Anyone working past then – or Thursdays and Sundays - in retail, health or hospitality is out of luck.

When qathet Regional District chair Patrick Bra-bazon was first elected to represent Area A (north

of town) – back in 2005, there was no bus. He was shocked, because he witnessed widespread poverty there. Indeed, Lund has Powell River's lowest incomes. The median family income for the lower-earning half of Lund families is just \$27,105, or \$2,259 a month – before tax. Half of families there, in other words, realistically can't afford a car.

"Lund residents wanted a bus service so they could get to work in the morning, make a living and come home at night," Patrick said.

He and others lobbied the Province to co-fund a bus, and secured two-days a week service to Lund. After years of advocacy, a third day will soon be added. Now the people who elected him can catch a bus

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Tuesdays and Fridays. The first bus leaves Lund at 11 am. The last bus returns at 4:05 pm. You'd need a very understanding boss to accommodate three days of work a week, from 11 am until 4:05 pm.

Within the city limits, the bus travels more frequently. The three routes serving Townsite/Wildwood, Upper Westview and Grief Point run every hour or half-hour weekdays, between about 7 am and 10 pm, less on the weekends. In addition, the Zunga Bus pilot project is a federally-subsidized bus-on-demand system using an app that serves the City only for one year, starting in early February.

The City has allocated up to \$170,000 from the Climate Action Reserve Fund towards the Zunga Bus pilot. \$200,000 is covered through the Federal Built in Canada Innovation Program.

Most of the City's costs are for the drivers' salaries.

Generally, BC Transit bus service is a shared cost between riders, who pay about 20 percent of the cost in fares; local governments (through property taxes and other revenues), which pay between 10 and 30 percent of the cost; and the Province, through the

Ministry of Transportation's BC Transit, which pays between 47 and 67 percent depending on the type of service.

For qathet, the 2020 requisition for transit operating costs south and north of town was \$131,642, or about one-third as much as the qRD spent on the Powell River Public Library. Of course, the qRD does not have absolute control over how much transit is delivered here; that is negotiated with the Province.

Bus fares are \$2.25 each way for adults on most routes, or \$18 round trip for a family of four, depending on the age of the children. The Texada bus, which includes ferry fare, is \$8 for adults.

What do relatively low levels of transit service



mean for the region?

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BY PIETA WOOLLEY

How much data should BC's gas stations, fuel shipment and storage companies, importers and others have to disclose to the BC Utilities Commission?

That's the question the BCUC is trying to decide in a quasi-legal proceeding this winter (find it at bcuc.com, under the heading, "Hearing for Confidential Information Framework for Fuel Data Reporting.")

Back in 2019, the BCUC started studying why the price of gas in BC is so much higher than in other provinces. Because fuel companies didn't want to crack their books for the Commission, the BC Government passed the Fuel Prices Transparency Act, to force fuel companies such as Shell, 7-11, SUNCOR and more to justify their pricing to the BCUC and ultimately, the public.

Not surprisingly, they didn't want to do it. Parkland, the company that owns Chevron, challenged the ask. So now the BCUC is part-way through this process of deciding how much data fuel companies must disclose, whether they can aggregate their data by region or sector, and what, if anything, the public gets to see.

Here's where it gets interesting. *Powell River Living* is an intervener in the proceeding – an official voice at the table. We are the only members of the media represented there, in what is a crucial moment for gas pricing fairness in BC, and whether reporters from

Cranbrook to Haida Gwaii can properly report on fuel as an essential resource. It's *PRL's* voice, and the voice of the BC Public Interest Advocacy Coalition – two lawyers representing BC's seniors – up against the voices of nine major fuel companies, including Husky, Imperial Oil and Shell. Wish us luck.

In addition, the public was asked to send in letters of comment. From here, Glenn Holstein has "interested party status." And six people from across BC wrote in to argue in favour of transparency, as the price of gas has a huge effect on their lives – and they expect fairness.

Since October 2019, *PRL* has been running investigative articles about the price of gas in qathet, which is typically substantially higher than in neighbouring communities, and often doesn't vary across time as it does elsewhere. Is that because of monopolies, collusion, or legitimate market forces? As a reporter, I'd like to be able to answer that question using real data. But because fuel is controlled by private companies, I have nothing at my disposal – yet – to convince local fuel suppliers to show me their books.

In December 2019, *PRL* co-hosted a Town Hall with MP Rachel Blaney and MLA Nicholas Simons, and the late Colin Palmer, which attracted provincial media.

This community sent a petition to Victoria's Legislative Assembly, which Nicholas read in early March 2020, and was accepted by the government.

We also sent a petition to the House of Commons, asking for the federal Competition Bureau to investigate. Rachel read the petition in the House, and it was accepted by the Minister responsible, but he didn't order an investigation, and the Bureau hasn't initiated one so far.



Little
old PRL
versus

Big Gas

in the fight for
fuel price fairness



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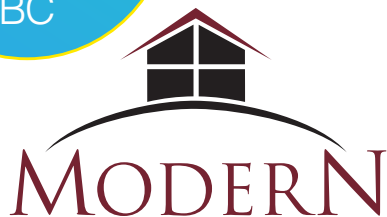


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“If the public perceives that they are the victims of monopoly or anti-competitive behaviour on the part of their fuel suppliers [and no one has the power to investigate], the public will ... correctly conclude that they live in a de facto corporatocracy.”

This BCUC process and the *Fuel Prices Transparency Act* are our best bet at this moment, I think, for ensuring the price of gas is fair in the future.

PRL's intervener submission to the BCUC is a whopping 2,600 words, and it was submitted on January 5. By mid-February, the panel evaluating the submissions and letters of comment will summarize what was said, ask questions of the interveners, and we'll have the chance to submit again, based on what's been said so far.

Here are some quotes from PRL's submission:

“I am disappointed that no other members of the media registered as interveners. Media's job is to seek out information and commentary, and tell the truth in the public interest. Overwhelmingly, this panel will hear from fuel suppliers who wish to keep potentially-illuminating data confidential.”

“Populations served by community media depend on their vehicles more than their urban counterparts. Homes and industries are often spread out; think farms, or smelters. Driving distances is a reality for many rural folk. In addition, those in small centres depend on the honesty of their fuel suppliers more than those in urban centres, because competition is limited – not just among gas stations, but also among those who ship and store fuel. In other words, small centres are particularly vulnerable to the effects of monopolies and anti-competitive activities among fuel suppliers.”

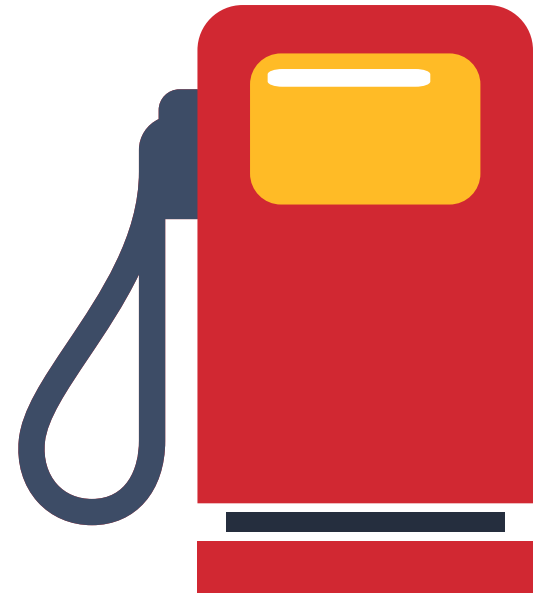
“Local media is the only non-governmental mechanism to investigate fairness in pricing. It is the only local mechanism – and fuel price fairness is very much a local issue, rather than provincial or national. And

A Thought For The Day

“O people of the world, you are
all the fruit of one tree and
the leaves of one branch.”



~ Bahá'í Teachings



yet, reporters are hobbled by the closed books of the businesses that determine prices, and ultimately, fairness.”

“Among those who are aged 25 to 34 – prime child-bearing years – three quarters of Powell River families have a median income of \$55,430 or less. Half of this 25-to-34 demographic lives on a median household income of \$36,950 or less. Nearly all of these families must drive a vehicle to get to work and the grocery store.

Given the skyrocketing costs of housing, food, and other goods in BC, that missing monthly after-tax \$30 in a one-car family, or \$60 in a two-car family – especially among those who bear the additional costs of raising young children - matters greatly for 75 percent of households.”

“If the public perceives that they are the victims of monopoly or anti-competitive behaviour on the part of their fuel suppliers, and the federal Competition Bureau refuses to investigate, and the BCUC cannot complete its work due to lack of data, and community media is powerless to investigate, the public will rightly lose trust that government is acting on their behalf. Instead, they will correctly conclude that they live in a de facto corporatocracy.”

“In Canada's most remote region, Nunavut, fuel is imported, stored and distributed by the territorial government. The Petroleum Products Division's mandate is to break even, and it does so - even under extreme conditions on Baffin Island, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot - selling gas currently for \$1.09 a litre. Nunavut's PPD does not operate under a veil of secrecy; it's a public body that is transparent - and still manages to deliver fuel efficiently to remote customers.

“As a journalist, I wonder at the difference between Nunavut's publicly accountable fuel supply system, and BC's corporate demand for confidentiality. Who benefits when unchecked corporations control such a crucial resource? Who pays the cost?

Surely the answer to BC's gas prices quagmire is not state control.

There is a middle ground between Nunavut's public system and BC's secretive corporate control. Transparency to the public - not just to the BCUC - is that middle ground.” **PRL** | pieta@prliving.ca

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~ *Karen May, Texada Island*
Rosebank Cottage by the Sea

“Great reporting of local news, cultural and business events in our community.”

~ *Michael Cameron*
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Just a quick note to congratulate you on an outstanding *Powell River Living*; a really gutsy issue. Great range of subjects, wonderful content, much food for thought. We are truly lucky to have you.

~ *Lot Sparham*



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“We put a *Powell River Living* magazine in each of our rental cottages for our guests to read. It tells them all about the geography, lives, festivals and basically stories about our local area. A magazine a month makes a good reading library for our guests.”

~ *Elaine Thoma*
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~ *Kelly Sketchley*
River City Coffee Roasters

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~ *Valerie Griffiths*
Griffiths Real Estate, Royal Lepage

Love the magazine - read it cover to cover. Ads too!

~ *Marguerite Stonehouse*



FRESH AT THE LUND RESORT AT KLA AH MEN: Linton Novak (above) brings decades of global kitchen skills to the 101 Bar & Grill. Follow the restaurant's Facebook and Instagram pages for daily specials.

Executive chef Linton Novak's global culinary experience inspires the menu at the Lund Resort at KLA Ah Men. He's cooked for kings, presidents, and professional athletes in large private yachts and elaborate kitchens all around the world and now, he's cooking for Powell River.

"I've worked in eight different countries and 12 different cities," including Russia, India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Hungary, Georgia and Kazakhstan, Linton told *Powell River Living*.

A graduate of the culinary arts program at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Linton moved to Russia as a young man. "Being overseas was fun. Moscow was still like the wild west and I saw a lot of new and interesting things."

Working as the sous chef at The Moscow Aerostar Hotel gave Linton the opportunity to teach cooking to the staff there. It took time for him to understand that not every new recruit is willing to "work long hours, for not much pay under strenuous conditions," as he did when he was a new chef. "When I was a student I worked for free! I had three different jobs just to get the knowledge I was hungry for," he says.

Once he understood this, he became a better chef teacher, he reflects.

Eventually though, Linton got tired of being overseas and wanted to come home.

At the time, home meant Calgary, Alberta where he grew up and spent time working for upscale Canadian Pacific Hotels and Resorts (many of which are now Fairmont properties.) However, in 1991, he came to BC to work with the Waterfront Centre Hotel in Vancouver when it opened and fell in love with the West Coast. So, when he decided it was time to move home for good, home meant BC.

Linton put his travels behind him when he moved to Powell River in April 2019 and took charge of the restaurant at the Lund Hotel.

"Cooking is my blessing that I can give people. To me, every customer is a very important person."

Linton brought with him the flavours and experiences he had working in kitchens all around the world and has incorporated them into the distinct local Coast Salish Tla'amin menu.

Today, the executive chef at The Lund Resort's 101 Bar & Grill is focusing on looking after Powell River's locals and visitors. Although the winter menu is a smaller one, it's still interesting and diverse and Linton has received rave reviews for his noodle bowls and special desserts. The majority of the menu offers in-house recipes made by Linton.

Looking ahead, Linton wants to focus more on fresh fish and hopes to have an expanded menu of what this area has to offer with a daily fresh fish board.

Vegetarian dishes, falafel sandwiches, pizzas on Friday and of course burgers every day are always popular. Be sure to check the schedule as winter hours see the restaurant open from 12pm to 7pm Wednesday and Thursday; 12pm to 8pm Friday and Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sunday. Closed on Monday and Tuesday.

Although Linton cooked for the last king of Saudi Arabia and Russian goalie Vladislav Tretiak, who are arguably important people, he says that everyone he cooks for is just as important.

"I love this job, I love people. Cooking is my blessing that I can give people. To me, every customer is a very important person," he says. **RL**

Fresh Tla'amin flavours inspire world-renowned chef in Lund





AT LEAST THE DUCKS WERE HAPPY: With a week left to go in January, we've already blown through the month's average rainfall; the sky dripped 185mm on us in just 24 days, whereas the average January in Powell River brings just 166mm across 31 days. This Muscovy duck wandered over from Pebble Beach Farms and into the lens of teen neighbour Mac Hein. "I learned the basics of photography from my mentor and my dad's friend Jorge Alvarez," he said. *Photo by Mac Hein*

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

The COVID-19 vaccine will be rolling out in our community in the coming months.



DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?
We can help.

- Visit prcomplexclinic.com/vaccines for local vaccine information;
- Or talk to your doctor or nurse practitioner.

A message from
Powell River
physicians



Scholarships



Each year Powell River Community Forest offers three (3) scholarships of \$3,000 each to Powell River students entering (or already enrolled in) a forestry or natural resource management university program or in forestry-related occupational trades and training programs.

May 31, 2021 deadline for 2021 scholarship applications.

Visit our website for more information.



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prcommunityforest.ca

IDENTITY THEFT

Protect yourself. Because if thieves can scam Revenue Canada and one of Powell River's most experienced bookkeepers, the rest of us are certainly vulnerable.

BY AARON REID

It started out like any other day. I had sent an e-transfer and the recipient was experiencing a delay in receiving it, so I logged into my online banking to double-check the details.

However, I noticed something odd with my accounts. I have a savings account that I pay little attention to with a balance containing thousands of dollars – funds that should not have been there.

When my daughter was born, I got the idea to open an account and have my child benefits direct deposited to this account. It is then transferred out

into an RESP for my kids. I didn't want to come to depend on those funds and thought putting it away for their education was a good option.

It was upon looking into that account that my misadventure into life as a victim of identity theft began.

Now, to be clear, the internet and I are not strangers. Confidentiality, passwords, online banking, virtual programs and activities are a daily part of my life as a bookkeeper. But, it turns out that some of the businesses and agencies that we trust with our personal information are not as careful with it as we are.

There was a deposit to my savings ac-



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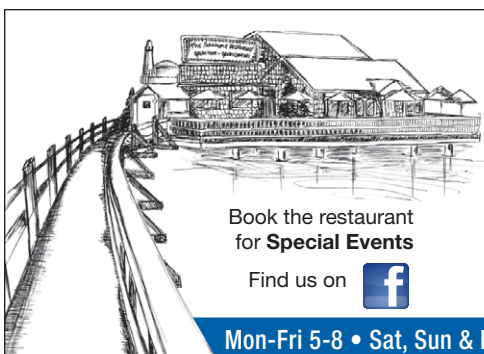


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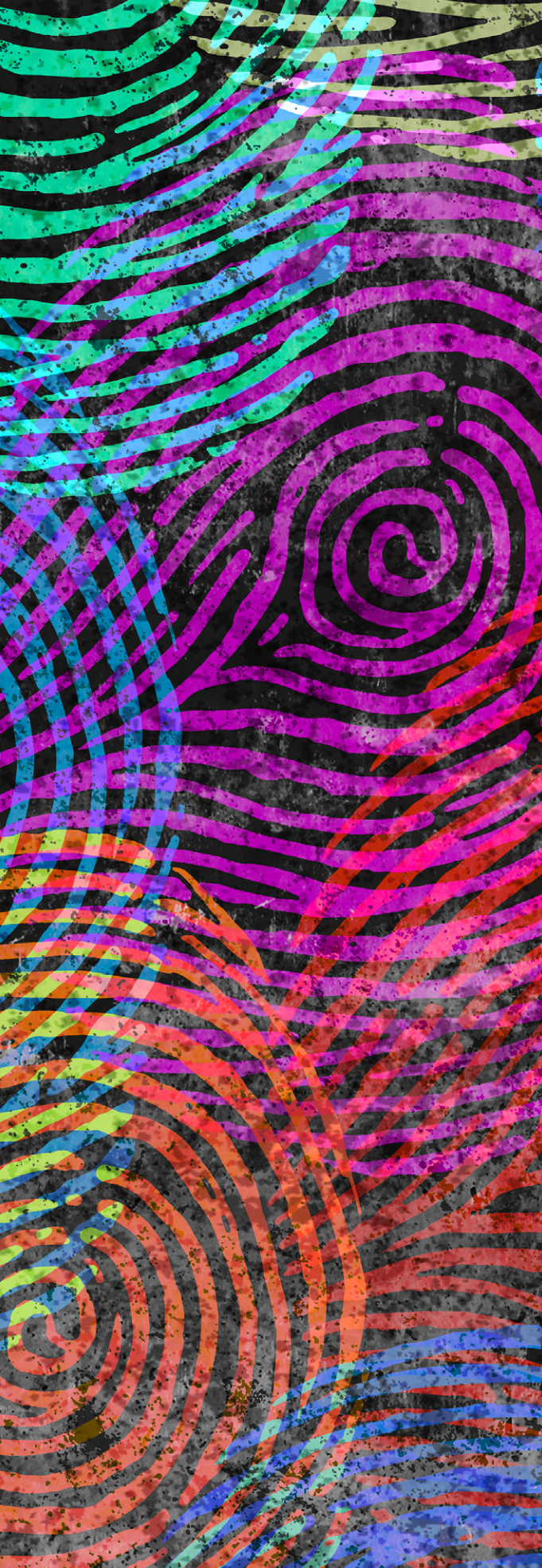
There's always a reason to come to Lund! Here are more...

- ▶ **Valentine's Dinner • Feb 14 • 5 pm & 7 pm seatings**
Romantic Dinner for Two • Prime rib with scallops & prawns, cheesecake & more
- ▶ **Spring Dining Adventures • March 6 & 7 - North Africa**
Music and tastes of Tunisia, Liberia & Morocco including lamb, makroudh & more

**Family Day
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count from the Government of Canada. It was a tax refund for 2019, which I had not filed yet.

I am self-employed so I am required to make tax instalment payments throughout the year to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). This tax refund was issued when a fraudster filed a false tax return under my name and kindly changed my marital status to single, as well.

I determined these details by logging into My Account with CRA and viewing my account online.

I called the CRA fraud line to report what had transpired. They agreed that a return had been filed in my name and my marital status was changed.

I was informed that they would not update any of this false information until I filed a new replacement return for 2019 and mailed it in along with a letter explaining the circumstances.

They were also going to revoke my online access until they had completed a full investigation as, at this point, I had no idea how I had been compromised.

The next day after writing everything out in detail, I decided to call the RCMP to file a complaint.

My next steps were to call both Equifax and TransUnion to report that my identity had been stolen and I needed to have flags placed on my accounts in the event anyone inquired about my credit or tried to open any new accounts.

I had my credit card cancelled and a new one issued and contacted my bank who indicated that they won't issue a new debit card but would just make a note on my account.

In the meantime, my anxiety levels were at an all time high. I was wracking my brain trying to figure out how on earth I had been compromised like this. How did this happen?

It came to me the next night like a light bulb in the dark. I had received a letter from Desjardins a month or so beforehand indicating that an "ill-intentioned" employee had accessed confidential customer information including first and last name, date of birth, social insurance number, address, phone number, email address and details about banking habits. In essence, everything a scammer would need to steal someone's identity. I had glanced at the letter when I had received it, but with everything pandemic going on at the time, I didn't pay it the attention I should have and set it aside. I have a Staples card and a Brick card and both are underwritten through Desjardins. My life had been put into complete turmoil not because I

had not cleared my cookies or re-used the same password or left a browser screen open, but because I had filled out a credit application with a company who did not secure my data.

The Canadian government does not issue new social insurance numbers, even when it can be proven that yours has been compromised. This means that I will spend the rest of my life closely monitoring my credit and bank accounts and worrying what has been or will be applied for in my name.

Even though the CRA acknowledges the 2019 tax return filed in my name is false, they won't remove it

from my account or stop sending me money that doesn't belong to me until they have processed my mailed-in tax return. They are months behind in processing due to the pandemic. In the meantime, they keep sending me GST refunds and other benefits I don't really qualify for because my account currently reflects that I am a low-income single parent with two children. I am still locked out of my online CRA access and I will need to mail paper-based tax returns for at least the next three years. Each time I contact CRA, I must go through "enhanced security protocols" to verify I really am who I say I am. This involves a code word, a numbered password, the names and birthdates of my children and information from a random line of a random tax return I've

"My anxiety levels were at an all time high. I was wracking my brain trying to figure out how on earth I had been compromised like this. How did this happen?"

- Aaron Reid

filed in the past – which they choose at the time of the call. This is after the hours on hold to actually get through to an agent, if the system doesn't choose to hang up on me first.

The silver lining in all of this is that I had myself set up for direct deposit with CRA. The refund (which is my money) was deposited into my account rather than being mailed out and the criminal did not change my deposit information or address. I think this was an oversight on their part and am grateful for that small win.

The lesson for others is to keep an eye on your bank accounts, get access with CRA and monitor your personal tax account, monitor your credit to make sure things aren't being applied for without your knowledge. For everyday protection, change your passwords often and don't re-use them. There are apps available to help you track your passwords as well as to generate difficult ones that would be next to impossible to hack.

Unfortunately, some people make their living from defrauding others – don't make it easy. **PL**



Rob Villani



Stacey Fletcher



Katya Buck

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Due to COVID-19, all appointments at this time will be by telephone, e-mail or video, except for signing of documents.



ᑭᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦ WORD OF THE MONTH

SONYA HARRY



ᑭᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦᐱᑦ word:

ᑭᐱᑦᐱᑦ

Phonetic spelling:

jeh-ajeh

English word:

Relative

The word for family is very important—this includes family and friends who are close. Family has always been a culturally significant idea for us. It was to measure who would be there during the times of hunting, during times of hurt, and while we paddled through the Georgia Straight.

Family can mean a lot of things to a lot of people. I've included a canoe journey photo as culture coordinator Drew Blaney has referred to a lot of these instances of "canoe families."

Pronunciation QR code:



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100

Years of Guiding in Powell River

BY THE SECOND POWELL RIVER PATHFINDERS

Girl Guides of Canada is celebrating 100 years of guiding in Powell River! PC Wade, wife of the Anglican minister, started Powell River's first Girl Guide company at St. Paul's church. Although membership has changed through a century, the spirit of guiding in Powell River lives on.

Our Pathfinders interviewed two retired members for this project. Through Zoom and email, these women shared fond memories of events from when they were girls and leaders in Powell River.

Beverly Falconer joined Girl Guides of Canada in 1942. There were no cookies at this time. Beverly went on to become a leader in our community. As Brown Owl, she once took her Brownies unit to Pihl's farm, near Lund, to see horses. Unfortunately, there were no horses, but there was a pig!

The Pihl boys at the farm showed the Brownies how the pig could be a "splendid bucking bronco." Naturally, the girls wanted to try what the boys had done and, on that day, one Brownie named Wendy became "the pig riding queen."

Lynn McCann was also a Girl Guides leader in Powell River. As a girl, she joined Brownies in 1957 and later was a Guide in Beverly Falconer's unit. At this time, a box of cookies cost fifty cents.

Lynn's fondest childhood memory is from taking a swimming test in Brownies. Lynn and her friend, Karin, told the other 18 girls about fish with huge teeth and big, buggy eyes. Unsurprisingly, only Lynn and Karin jumped in the water. Karin so scared herself with her own stories that Lynn was the only Brownie to earn her swimming badge that day.

When their Brown Owl found out what had happened, Lynn and Karin were in huge trouble! **RL**





WITH A PACK ON OUR BACKS AND A SONG IN OUR HEARTS: Guides through the years. Photos courtesy of the Second Powell River Pathfinders.

Top • The First Guides of Powell River, 1923.

Far left • Bev Falconer (adult, left) with her Brownies unit, 1964.

Centre • Church parade, representing St. John's United Church, 1967.

Bottom far left: Patrol leaders camp at the Crowther property on Okeover Inlet, circa 1947. Brenda (Cooper) Cameron, Chub (Vincent) Anderson, Bev (Falconer) Carrick and Janet (Moore) Hawk.

Bottom centre • The Sixth Powell River Guides, 2018.

Below • Guide leaders in a parade. The float says "Be Prepared," the Guides' motto.

Bottom • Guide camp at Maude Bay, 1962.



Open House

qathet Regional Housing Needs Assessment

Attend one of the Virtual Open Houses

Tuesday February 16, 2021
from 7 to 9 pm

Wednesday February 17, 2021
from 1 to 3 pm

Register by sending an email to:
qathetregionalhousingneeds@gmail.com

If you live in qathet Regional District, the City of Powell River, or are a Tla'amin Nation member, we need your help!

Let us know which session you wish to attend and what community you live in and we will send you the meeting link and password the day before. If you cannot Zoom in, we can provide you a telephone number so that you can participate by audio.

Opportunities to Participate

- Zoom in live on February 16 or 17, 2021
- Request a hard copy of the presentation and provide your comments by mail
- View the recorded version of the Open House on www.ParticipatePR.ca after February 19th, 2021.

The purpose of the Open House is to review the recommendations and gather community feedback.

In August 2020, over 530 of you completed the Community Survey. Over 30 people participated in Facilitated Round Table meetings. Several meetings were held with the City, Regional District and Tla'amin staff and Housing Advisory Committees. With this input, and using census and building permit information, we have prepared a draft plan with recommendations for increases in affordable and market housing stock.

Thank you for participating and providing your important voice.

To learn more about the Open House or to request a hard copy mail out, call 1-800-764-2218 or visit ParticipatePR.ca

Your input is vital to help us understand your housing needs!



BUSINESS NOT AS USUAL

Flowers help us celebrate even when we're apart

Shawna Graham and Kim Lewadny take time to stop and smell the flowers when they prepare special orders for customers at Flowers by Cori-Lynn.

Flowers by Cori-Lynn located at 104-4801 Joyce Ave is a flower and gift shop that has been serving Powell River for 33 years. Shawna Graham purchased the business in May 2009 and has three part time employees and four casual employees.

What concerned you most about your business as the COVID-19 pandemic began?

Shawna • I was most concerned about whether we were going to be able to keep our doors open and how that would look for me and my employees.

What opportunities did you see?

Shawna • When I knew I could keep the store open during the pandemic, I realized we were going to be able to reach our customers' loved ones with gifts of flowers and provide even more of a sense of comfort to people who couldn't see each other in person.

What have you been doing that you haven't done before the pandemic? Have your customers responded to the changes you've made?

Shawna • Our day-to-day operations have mostly stayed the same. We've reduced our hours - we're now open Mon-



EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES: After a close call in late 2019, Flowers by Cori-Lynn has bounced back during the pandemic, say owner Shawna Graham (above right with employee Kim Lewadny.)

day to Friday 10 am to 4 pm, Saturday, noon to 3 pm, and closed on Sunday. We have also implemented the standard COVID-19 precautionary measures and cleaning protocols.

Which pandemic-response government programs have been helpful to you? What do you wish was provided?

Shawna • I didn't need to access any of the government programs personally but I am grateful that the government provided CERB to my employees.

Have you received any help, support or inspiration?

Shawna • I am inspired by the amount of support I have received from my husband, my employees and my customers. In September 2019 through to January 2020, I was under a lot of stress because my business was not doing well

and I thought I may have to close. February 2020 turned out to be a great month which helped me to breathe. Leading into the pandemic, I was feeling confident that I would be okay for at least a couple months. Then our customers kept ordering flowers and business picked up and we got really busy. We are doing really well now thanks to our customers.

How has the pandemic impacted your customers, your staff, you and your family?

Shawna • We are all doing our best to stay positive, follow the protocols that have been put in place and work through the difficulties that come our way when we are faced with life that isn't anywhere close to normal. Life brings many occasions - births, deaths, birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and weddings. Since we can't share these occasions together, we all share the same disappointments and yet try to find the positive in all of it. It is the only thing that keeps me going.

If you could go back to January, what advice would you give yourself?

Shawna • Trust, surrender, believe, and receive. Trust the process, surrender when I need to, believe that all will be okay in the end - not as I think it should be, but as it is meant to be - and receive with an open mind and an open heart.

What changes do you think you'll retain?

Shawna • We can get through anything. In the future, I will do my best not to take anything for granted.

What's surprised you most during this time?

Shawna • How busy we have been! I really didn't expect to have the year we had. It was one of busiest years I have had in almost 12 years of owning Flowers by Cori-Lynn and one of the most successful years we have ever had.

What are you looking forward to most about getting back to normal?

Shawna • I am looking forward to visiting my family and friends and giving each one a hug. **RL**

If you know of a business we should include in this column that has pivoted during the COVID-19 pandemic by thinking outside the box, please email your suggestions to isabelle@prliving.ca

WHERE YOU BANK MAKES A DIFFERENCE

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WHAT'S UP

Tide guide sales help salmon

The Powell River Salmon Society's annual local Tide Guide has been the cornerstone fundraising effort of our charitable organization for more than 20 years. One hundred percent of the earnings from the Tide Guide goes towards the enhancement of local salmon.

We continue to print our Tide Guide, even in the face of a digital age, for a few precious reasons. While calendars and tide schedules are easily accessed online, the paper guide gives comfort to those who still love small pleasures like checking out a book from the public library or keeping a physical copy handy on the counter at home. The guide doubles as a calendar and promotes the local businesses who support the PRSS with funding and donations; it also includes fun facts regarding salmon, oceans, and wildlife preservation. The Powell River Tide Guide is available at over 50 locations around town.



Shane Dobler
Manager, Powell River Salmon Society

Temporary rentals needed

Life Cycle Housing Society is looking for temporary rentals to accommodate seniors who will be displaced when their homes are removed or demolished from the area known as Moose Village in Cranberry to make way for a new housing project.

Life Cycle will re-house the residents after the project is complete. The new Cranberry Place project will replace eight units in the former "Moose Village" on Cranberry Street at Dieppe Crescent with 24 new homes for families and seniors.

Life Cycle has proposed to keep the development more compatible with the building style of the surrounding neighbourhood with a mix of two-storey townhouses and two-storey stacked units in four separate buildings along with a common laundry/meeting building.

While the units are being built, those now living in Moose Village require temporary homes. The Society is seeking anyone who might have an unrented suite that they could make available for some reliable independent seniors for 12-16 months to rent. For more information, visit lifecyclehousing.com.



SUMMER IS COMING BACK: And you'll want to plan a trip to the Powell Forest Canoe Route, like the Byrne family did last summer (above, Ellen paddles while Elliott looks on). See story below to learn more about what you can do to help this local asset even during the chilly months ahead.

Canoe Route upkeep concerns prompt Tourism PR to consider non-profit society

Tourism Powell River is working with a newly formed committee to address local and visitor concerns around the upkeep of the Powell Forest Canoe Route.

"Over the summer we fielded a number of concerns and complaints that centred around the canoe route including route and portage deterioration and partying at canoe route campsites that had vehicle access," said Executive Director Tracey Ellis.

"The board felt the best way to address these concerns was with the formation of a committee of interested parties."

The committee met monthly to outline strategies to help support the canoe route as it is a big draw for visitors to this area. The discussion included the need for a non-profit society to become a "friend of the canoe route."

"We know how dedicated our outdoor user groups are to local attractions and wonder if now is the time to see the Powell Forest Canoe Route receive the same kind of attention," said Tracey.

This process will begin by determining if local volunteers are interested in helping.

To evaluate interest in a new not-for-profit

it to advocate for the Powell Forest Canoe Route, you're invited to participate in a survey at surveymonkey.com/r/H2BJHXT. The link can also be found on the Powell River Visitor Centre Facebook and Powell Forest Canoe Route Facebook pages. If you're interested in a public meeting on Zoom, email info@discoverpowellriver.com.

How to have a studio arts tour

Malaspina Art Society has a survey that will go out early next week that will look at whether and how to have a qathet Region Studio Arts Tour in 2021.

This survey is open to potential participating artists and potential visitors to art studios/home locations. For more information please visit the link at artpowellriver.com, or go to surveymonkey.com/r/BDGQWTD

Celebrate women's achievements

The Art Centre Powell River Public Gallery will hold an International Women's Day exhibition on March 8.

At this time, they've issued a call for artists and community collaborators in any media.

Respond in a creative way for a gender equal world. Celebrate women's achievement. Take action for equality. #ChooseToChallenge

For more info visit powellriverartscouncil.ca

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Our personal food choices are one of the most powerful individual climate actions. Choosing plant-based meals over meals with animal products improves human health and our planet’s climate stability.

Climate Action Powell River is developing a community cookbook to inspire you to try the favorite plant-based meals of your fellow community members - start a local, culinary journey. Share your favorite, plant-based recipe and a personal note and/or picture (optional) by submitting it to climateactionpr@gmail.com.

~ Elena Martin

Firehall gets new owner

School District 47 purchased the former Cranberry Fire Hall from the City of Powell River.

“This is a government-to-government transaction,” said Mayor Dave Formosa at the January 21 council meeting. The school district leased a portion of the building from the City for a number of years to house

and maintain its school bus and vehicle fleet. The City stopped using the property as a firehall in 1984.

“Being a Crown Grant property, the use of the property is restricted to firehall, school and ancillary education purposes. Since it is no longer used as a firehall, the only other logical owner was the School District, said the mayor.

The City agreed to sell the firehall to the School District for \$500,000. Under the Crown Grant rules the City was restricted from selling the land the building rests on for a profit but will transfer ownership of it to the School District as part of the transaction.

Film festival online

The Powell River Film Festival has gone 100 per cent online this year.

Last month, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced that the lockdown in BC will be extended until at least February 5. As the festival runs from February 5 to 16, organizers had no choice but to cancel the in-theatre festival at the Patricia Theatre.

As much as they were hoping to return to their be-

loved venue, it will just have to wait until a later date. All screenings will be online only.

Behind the scenes, Festival Coordinator Linda Krepinsky has been building our online festival and it is now ready! You can go directly to it at prfilmfestival.eventive.org. On this secure site, you can purchase Festival Passes and individual tickets as well as view trailers and read the synopses of the programmed films.

The films will all be available for viewing from February 5 to 16 and can be pre-purchased now.

Keep fishing line out of landfills and oceans

You can now recycle your fishing line in Powell River. Thanks to an initiative spearheaded by Rob Chalmers, there are stations at the north and south harbour where people can safely dispose of their fishing lines while keeping them out of the landfill or ocean.

The fishing line will be sent to a fishing tackle manufacturer that recycles fishing line. **PL**



MAIL BAG

We welcome feedback from our readers. Letters may be edited for length.

Email your comments to isabelle@prliving.ca, or mail an old-school letter in the post to **PR Living, 7053E Glacier St, Powell River, BC V8A 5J7.**

Isabelle and everyone at Powell River Living,

I’ve always loved your magazine but this year I felt the love and support pouring out of your pages! It really helped. Have a happy, healthy 2021!

~ Wendy Twomey

To the editor re. The importance of Fuel Prices.

Something that stands out from the pandemic is the concept of what is essential. What items are necessary for our society. Water is an essential. The Internet is also necessary to operate in our society.

While it may not be the case for some, most people require automobiles to operate in our society. Farm equipment requires fuel. Virtually every service you receive is affected by the price of fuel either directly, or indirectly.

We are moving in a direction away from petrol, but

for now it is still a necessary essential product like water, or internet.

Petrol is a product that very few companies can even provide. It can easily venture into the territory of oligopoly and anti consumer practices.

If the provision of fuel is being exploited for unfair profit somewhere in the supply chain then it will have a detrimental effect on essential goods and government services.

As such it should have sufficient government oversight. I applaud the efforts being taken by the BC Utilities Commission to look into the matter of setting standards for BC’s *Fuel Price Transparency Act*.

And a big thanks to *PR Living* for all the hard work they have done on this important issue.

~ Mark Gisborne,

qathet Regional District Area B Director

Editors note: See page 36 for more on this story.

To the editor,

I always enjoy *Powell River Living* magazine.

The informative article about Janet May and the old growth forest, or former forest concerns was thought provoking.

Their website wasn’t included in that article but having it included makes it easier to look further into it: www.qathetoldgrowth.ca

~ Deirdre Follett

Hi Isabelle,

Thanks again for running the Pow Town Pumpkin People contest. I actually had no intention of entering the contest, but it sure was fun.

“Miss Kentville” is actually named after a small town in Nova Scotia that holds a Pumpkin People contest every year. I was able to see the displays for myself in October 2019 and this was definitely my inspiration.

The whole community of Kentville participates in their Pumpkin People contest, as you who have seen it will remember. I sure hope you and I both get back there again. Soon!

My entry was found in the garden space at Evergreen Extended Care. It was to allow staff, family members (but most importantly) the residents something to see as they looked out the big front window.

Although Miss Kentville retired in early November, she’s since been replaced by a few other characters and others will continue to grace the garden space. Thanks to Julia for donating the Pumpkin, too.

~ Sharlene Reid

Correction

In January’s issue, we credited the “What Kind of Environmentalist Are You?” quiz to Climate Action Powell River. In fact, it was a collaboration between Pieta Woolley and Cynthia Barnes with the support of Climate Action Powell River. **PL**

YOU'RE OUR STAR!
Powell River Women in Business congratulates our founding member, **Isabelle Southcott**, on 15 years of making Powell River better through the pages of **Powell River Living** magazine.



Join today and make a difference to your business and your community
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Always helping us engage with our community--thank you, PRL!

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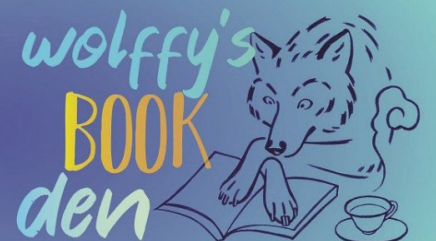
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I MADE THE MOVE

Film family looks forward to a post-pandemic events season

We are a family of four: Me: Melanie Beacon, my husband Neil Every and our identical twin three-year-old daughters Willow and Teagan Every. I am currently employed as a remote writer for a production company out of Vancouver and I am also an esthetician of 22 years. Neil has been working in film and television for 25 years and is currently writing an animated TV series. Neil also runs a videography company Pandroid Media providing consulting, filming and editing services to all manner of clients big and small.

We love goofing around spending time in the great outdoors, attending community events (pre-COVID) and supporting local shops, farms and artisans.

Why did you choose to move here?

Melanie • We moved here from White Rock BC. We have wanted to move here for years. My mom grew up here and the rest of my family has moved up here over the years. I also have extended family here as well and have visited at least once per year my whole life. We love how beautiful, safe and laid back it is here.



WRITERS RETREAT: Melanie Beacon, Neil Every and twin three-year-olds Willow and Teagan busted out of Metro Vancouver to live close to family.

What surprised you once you moved here?

Melanie • How busy it has become with traffic.

What made you decide to move to Powell River?

Melanie • The pandemic really brought the decision to the forefront. Being away from family is always hard but to suddenly feel like you might be forced to stay away from them for long periods of time due to the restrictions for travel was heart breaking.

Where is your favourite place here?

Melanie • Willingdon Beach. It has a lovely park for our kids to play, the stunning view from the beach, the trails, the little water park and ice cream stand. It has it all.

How did you first hear about Powell River?

Melanie • Been coming every year my whole life. Lots of family here.

What would make this a nicer community?

Melanie • An attempt to fix the housing crisis. Everywhere I go people are talking about the fact that they do not have appropriate housing for their family size. Right now we are living as a family of four in a 700 square foot home and paying \$1,500 in rent plus utilities per month AND we are constantly told how lucky we were to find that.

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

Melanie • Same as above. More housing.

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

Melanie • Due to the restrictions associated with the pandemic we are struggling to make friends and find a place for ourselves within the community.

If you were mayor, what would you do?

Melanie • Work to fix the housing crisis.

What are Powell River's best assets?

Melanie • Definitely its beauty and abundance of outdoor activities.

What is your greatest extravagance?

Melanie • Food. I love good food and am willing to spend more to have the elevated experience.

Which talent or superpower would you most like to have?

Melanie • To fly of course! Ahaha. **PL**

If you know of someone we should include in this column that has moved to Powell River in the last year, please email your suggestions to isabelle@prliving.ca

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BUSINESS AFFAIRS

SEAN PERCY

Specialty fitness biz thrives

Christine Parsons has launched a new fitness business aimed at those not quite ready for regular fitness programs. **Thrive Community Fitness** bridges the gap between acute care services and mainstream fitness programs. Many residents also have a desire for gentle, low-intensity physical activity programs, says Christine. “Our programs address those needs and are open to all, not just older adults, as we know there are many citizens who are looking to manage chronic conditions or pain as well. Our staff consist of health practitioners as well as fitness professionals.” Christine, formerly the Health & Fitness Coordinator for the City, is working with seven other staff at two studios in the Laszlo Tamasik Dance Academy at 7280 Kemano Street. “It was time for a new adventure for me and I believe these programs and services are greatly needed.” Contact Christine at thrivecommunityfitness@gmail.com, call 604-578-0500 or visit the website thrivecommunityfitness.ca.

Curious about new owner?

Studio Curious, the little curated gift shop located on the sunny side of Marine Avenue, has a new owner. **Jenna Brownlee** is now the sole owner of the shop, which carries local-made artist pieces including art by Autumn Skye Morrison, jewelry by Stoned & Beautiful, natural medicines by Wild Spirit Apothecary, “and the list goes on,” says Jenna. The shop also houses a collection of crystals and other-worldly pieces. Studio Curious is at 4690 Marine Avenue and on Facebook.

New brokerage snags four realtors

A new real estate brokerage has opened in Powell River. **460 Realty** has been expanding rapidly on Vancouver Island, and has now landed on our shores. It’s a fresh look in the local real estate scene, but you’ll recognize the familiar faces of **Josh Statham**, **Max Pagani**, **Bill Bailey** and **Dustin Ville-neuve** (all formerly of Royal LePage) at their new office, opening soon in Crossroads Village at #118 - 4801 Joyce Avenue. “It was important to us to return to our independent roots,” said Josh. “We are excited to bring a local ‘boutique’ option to town, which I believe will be

popular here.” 460 Realty was started in Nanaimo by former Coast Realty GM Randy Forbes and has expanded to Parksville, Ladysmith, Qualicum, Port Hardy, Ucluelet, Tofino and now Powell River. “A real commitment to community is the only way to do business,” says Randy. “Agents who go the distance” is the company moniker. “Opening in Powell River is a natural progression,” said Josh.

Countertop stars form Constellation

Getting a custom countertop in Powell River is about to get faster, easier and more affordable, according to two local contractors who are launching **Constellation Countertops**. **Graham Chapman** and **Marcus Canning** have been living and working here for the past three years. “Marcus and I both have countertop experience and have spent decades in the construction industry. We felt there was an opportunity to put that experience to work in Powell River,” said Graham. Currently, most countertops here are installed by out-of-town companies, said Graham. “We can offer the same quality or higher and better customer service with better prices,” he said. Constellation Countertops lead times, from measure to install, are just two to three weeks – shorter than the usual Powell River standard. Constellation deals with quartz, granite, marble, and other long-lasting durable products. The company is opening a storefront at 4561 Marine Avenue – across from Basecamp. Because of the pandemic, it is open only by appointment, but has samples and displays of cabinets and sink countertops. For more information, visit constellationcountertops.com

New digs for wellness

The **VK Wellness Initiative** has moved into a new space that includes a group therapy/meditation studio. Wellness consultants **Vanessa Maureen** and **Kara Joy** can now be found on Alberta Avenue in the newly renovated spaces above Paparazzi Pizza and beside Robbins & Company, below Assumption School. Or find them at vkwellness.ca

Savary resident realtors

Todd Habekost, formerly of Royal LePage, has joined **Rick Thaddeus** at **Savary Island Real Estate**. With the recent retirement of Juanita Chase’s Savary Coast Realty and a spike in interest in island retreats, Rick says he has been swamped, but there are not enough properties available to meet the high demand. Find them at savary.ca. **PL**

| sean@prliving.ca

3

ways to stick it to The Man (or think about it)

1. Capitalism Perverted

Income inequality infects Powell River as much as anywhere else. *PRL* ran some of the numbers in the January issue, and more on Pages 34 & 37. Author Wayne Armitstead offers explanations and solutions. Join him on Zoom via PRPL Feb. 27.

2. The New Corporation

Remember *The Corporation*, the 2003 film written by UBC law professor Joel Bakan? The 2020 follow-up is screening at the PR Film Fest, showing how today's businesses are using social justice messaging to stay powerful. See Page 52.

3. The Quickie

We're not telling what the subject is til 1 pm February 20, but this is your chance to stick it to The Man in writing... and you may get published and win a prize. Also, you can just be literary. No revolution necessary. See Page 12 and Page 55. -PW

February in qathet



To February 13

Pacific Connections art show by Prashant Miranda

Tidal Art Centre open daily 3 to 7 pm.

Prashant also has a short animated film screening at the Powell River Film Festival this month.



Tuesday, February 2

Groundhog Day

February 5 to 16

Powell River Film Festival

Online. 12 films plus shorts, local to international features. See story on Page 52 and ad, with all films listed, on Page 30.

Sunday, February 7

Superbowl

Friday, February 12

SD47 Pro-D Day

Lunar New Year

Saturday, February 14

Valentine's Day

Dinner at the Boardwalk. See Page 41.

Monday, February 15

Family Day stat

February 15 to 21

Heritage Week BC

Theme: Where do you find heritage? See Page 57 for story.

Tuesday, February 16

Mardi Gras / Carnival / Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday, February 17

Ash Wednesday

Saturday, February 20

Dispatches from Ray's Planet - A Journey through Autism

2 pm, Zoom. Claire Finlayson, a skilled Sunshine Coast storyteller, will discuss her journey to understand the complexities of her adult brother's symptoms of ASD. To register mmerlino@prpl.ca

Friday, February 26

Purim

February 26 to 28

Festival of Performing Arts

Online edition. See story on Page 57.

Saturday, February 27

Capitalism Perverted: Exposing The Sources of Income Inequality

2 pm, Zoom. Financial advisor and educator Wayne Armitstead presents his study of the recent global financial crisis. To Register mmerlino@prpl.ca

Coming up in March:

March 8

International Women's Day Exhibition

March 13 to 19

Virtual Francophone week

March 20 - April 6

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Film Fest a “curated journey” from your couch

Festival Executive Director Gary Shilling recommends:

BY GARY SHILLING



Monkey Beach

Watch for Tla'amin member Ta'Kayia Blaney in the cast of this film that takes place on BC's North Coast, based on the book by Haisla / Heiltsuk author Eden Robinson. A film about reconnection with the land, its denizens and the secrets it holds, Monkey Beach is also a testament to Indigenous women's ability to not just endure trials but to emerge from them empowered.

Last year's Powell River Film Festival (PRFF) was a huge success – record audience numbers, fabulous program – good food, music and performances. Then in March, COVID-19 hit. The Patricia Theatre closed, masks became a required fashion accessory, and community gatherings were limited to 50 people maximum.

The Film Society came up with a plan for 2021, a hybrid festival, with films in the theatre and online. We devised a strategy for reserved seating and a fun way to space out 50 people in the theatre – we called it “bistro seating.” Then the bomb dropped – no gathering of people of any size, anywhere – and the festival went entirely online.

In 2002, the first Powell River Film Festival was held in the high school gym as the “Reel Love Film Festival.” In 2004, the Film Society was incorporated under the BC Society Act, and in 2005 registered with the Charities Directorate of Revenue Canada.

In 2012, the society moved its screenings to the Patricia Theatre, where it continued to host its annual Film Festival until 2020.

In 2021, the Festival was moved to your living room.

Watching films online is not a new thing – we all “Netflix and chill” on a regular basis. However, the critical cinema and dialogue that the festival seeks to program and encourage, is not as readily viewed and engaged in at home. Who hasn't bailed on something that doesn't grab our attention in the first 15 minutes? The home envi-

PR FILM FEST - ONLINE

When: February 5 to 16

What: Powell River's 18th annual festival, featuring 12 full-length films and several shorts. You can buy a full-access pass or individual film passes.

Where: See prfilmfestival.ca

ronment just has too many distractions and alternative options to keep us committed to a story that might require a little bit of work to interpret.

Last year, PRFF introduced Film Philosopher Cafés – and we gathered at Basecamp Townsite, often with the director in attendance, to discuss the film from the evening before. The dialogue was engaging and our minds opened by the variety of interpretations of the cinema we gathered together to see.

This year, we're alone together, sitting on our couches and connecting online with our loved ones. The good news is that this year we get to share our gem of a festival with the rest of the province, and give others some insight into one of the things that makes Powell River great.

The 2021 festival is a curated journey of 12 films that are certain to provoke a response. We've also added a number of local free shorts to entice you (see a still from Prashant Miranda's short on the previous page). Invite your family and friends to join you in watching some of the best local, BC, Canadian, and world cinema, without leaving your couch. **PL**

The New Corporation: The Unfortunately Necessary Sequel

The film reveals how the corporate takeover of society is being justified by the sly rebranding of corporations as socially conscious entities. The film is a cry for social justice, deeper democracy, and transformative solutions



The Reason I Jump

A Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award winner at Sundance, the film is a revelatory work of education and a vital act of advocacy. The subject is autism, and the source material is a book by Naoki Higashida, who lives with the condition and who, at age 13, wrote a ground-breaking account.



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PANDEMIC PARTNERS: Powell River artist Ursula Medley and her American daughter-in-law Vanessa Beatriz Golenia on the Blackwater Creek Trail. This power duo is about to celebrate Family Day February 15.

Family Day: quintessentially Canadian, imperfections and all

BY VANESSA BEATRIZ GOLENIA

If you would have told me that one day I'd be 36, unemployed, living with my mother-in-law in an old mill town in Canada, I would have choked on my own spit and asked you — *where did I go wrong?*

After a decade of bouncing between New York City and Los Angeles, of thinking of myself as a perennial city girl — here I am, in Powell River — living a life I never imagined, thanks to COVID.

Some days, I think back to my former pandemic-life in Brooklyn. I wonder if our neighbors are still going only as far as their fire escapes for fresh air. If friends are still washing their clothes by hand in bathtubs because the laundromats are closed. And if the six roommates who lived in that small apartment downstairs haven't killed each other yet. Every day that I get to walk alone through Powell River's emer-

FAMILY DAY LONG WEEKEND

When: Monday, February 15 is the Provincial Stat holiday, but SD47 also takes off Friday the 12. Four days off!

What: This is sort of the 10th anniversary of Family Day in BC. It was introduced in 2011 by Christy Clark while she was running for the leadership of the BC Liberal Party. Fun fact: the first Family Day wasn't observed until 2013.

Things to do: As of press time, nothing had been announced due to COVID restrictions, which last until February 5 at midnight.

ald forests, I'm bewildered by how lucky I am to be here. Who knew that falling in love and marrying a Canadian would one day be the equivalent to winning the lottery?

With the exception of a few short visits, I had never spent much time in Canada before COVID. As an American, my impression of Canadians was — *they look like us, they speak like us, they're basically us if we were forest creatures.* What I've learned over the last



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seven months of living here, is that Canadians are so not us.

If there's one word I could use to describe Canada, it's *wholesome*. I've observed Canadians pay it forward by buying complete strangers their coffee order in a Starbucks line. I was stunned when I read the CBC news headline in October — "Canadians have returned 830,000 pandemic benefit payments." I had to reread the headline to make sure I understood that correctly. 830,000 people *voluntarily* returned pandemic relief payments to the government because they didn't feel entitled to it. That would never happen in the U.S. Not when Americans have had to protest and resort to spray painting politician's homes just to get a \$600 stimulus check.

Even the graffiti here tries to spread a positive message. In a bathroom stall at a restaurant, I noticed a tag written in black sharpie that read — *it's about love, love the enemy*. The first time I drove behind the alley of the Powell River Public Library someone had graffitied an expletive towards Trump, and someone else then crossed it out and spray-painted *Peace*.

On TV, I've discovered *Battle of the Blades* (Canada's version of *Dancing with the Stars*) and marveled at how Canadian it is that the contestants are hockey players instead of Hollywood celebrities, and how instead of competing for outrageous amounts of prize money, contestants on *Battle of the Blades* skate for charity.

Over Christmas, I learned that Canada Post replies to over a million Santa letters sent to the North Pole. The letters are answered by postal workers in 39 different languages, including Braille. No postage necessary. There are even social workers on hand in case children ask for complicated requests. This is quite different from the USPS Greetings from Santa program which requires parents to send the personalized response themselves, in addition to a prepaid first-class stamp.

Considering all this wholesomeness, it shouldn't have surprised me that Canada has an actual holiday called Family Day. When I first learned about it, I have to admit, I cringed. It conjured up images of communal picnics, hot air balloons, and people riding tandem bikes together, which I'd seen when I first arrived in Vancouver over the summer. "Why is Canada so much like Pleasantville?" I remember asking my husband. There was something about it that seemed artificial to me. Put-on, even. As if there was no way this much happiness could be real.

But maybe I only felt this way because most Americans wouldn't know what to do with a holiday like Family Day. Americans need their holidays named after seemingly "important" things like presidents and war heroes and the labor market. If Americans had a Family Day, instead of solving jigsaw puzzles together, they'd probably just spend the day reviewing their stock portfolio. Besides, most public policy in the U.S. seems deliberately aimed against the family. Our maternity leave is insulting. The cost of healthcare and education is outrageous. And we allow guns in our schools despite the tragic number of school shootings. It's a global embarrassment.

But I digress.

This year I will be celebrating my first Family Day as an American in Canada. I haven't seen my own family (my parents, my sister, my cousins and aunt) in over a year because of the pandemic. But if you know anything about Ursula Medley, you know I lucked out in the mother-in-law department. She's one of the strongest, most open-minded, community-oriented women I've ever met. She's generously taken me under her wing and has taught me how to build a fire, how to bake butter tarts and spanakopita, and how to plant a vegetable garden. Exactly the kinds of experiences Family Day is meant to encourage.

Even though I currently find myself in an incredibly supportive family dynamic, I know that's not always the case for everyone. This year in particular, there's so much physical distance separating us. Not to mention the reality that not all families (yes, even in Canada) are wonderful. Some are broken or hurting, and no one should ever be made to feel ashamed for that.

One of the things I've most enjoyed learning about in regard to Family Day is how it supposedly originated. It's been written that the former Alberta premier, Don Getty, proposed the creation of Family Day after his son was arrested and convicted on cocaine-related charges. He wanted

to bring attention to what he viewed as deteriorating family values in Canada.

Whether or not that's true, I like the story. It feels more real to me. It feels less like an ideal, polished version of a family, and more like a nice reminder that no family is perfect. They'll disappoint us, cause us pain, make us rip our hair out. But in spite of it, we try hard to give them our love and forgiveness.

That to me feels genuine.

And dare I say, wholesome. **RL**

"Even the graffiti here tries to spread a positive message. In a bathroom stall at a restaurant, I noticed a tag written in black sharpie that read — *it's about love, love the enemy.*"

~ Vanessa Beatriz Golenia



BFFS - BEST FEMALE FAMILY: Ursula Medley and Vanessa Beatriz Golenia hosting an art retreat together in Espita, Mexico.

Meet The Quickie's literary judges

Write an afternoon delight

On February 20, Powell Riverites of all ages and backgrounds are invited to write either a long story (up to 1,000 words) or a short story (200 words or less) about a topic which will be announced at 1 pm on *Powell River Living's* and the Powell River Public Library's Facebook pages.

THE QUICKIE

When: 1 to 4 pm, Sunday, February 20

What: A free write contest. All online, so you'll be writing from home. See Page 12 for full instructions.

Why: Fame and fortune! Winners will be published in April's PRL, plus you can win cash and gift certificates.

The third annual quick writing contest "The Quickie" will challenge your brain, creativity and writing skills as you work on stories that could see you winning \$150 cash or gift certificates to local businesses. With separate categories for teens and adults as well as long story and short story categories for both age groups, this year's Quickie is totally online and promises to be the best ever.

Free to enter, the contest provides money, fame and bragging rights for winners. (For full details about how to enter see ad on Page 12.)

Not only will *Powell River Living* magazine publish winning stories in a future issue, but our esteemed judges have offered to critique your work! Note, you must make this request when submitting your work to the contest.

Powell River Living asked this year's judges, Karl Siegler, Gwen Enquist and Pat Buckna, to tell us what they are looking for and advice for writers. Here's who they are; see their advice on the next page.



Karl Siegler

A dual German/Canadian citizen, Karl is the former publisher at Talonbooks and adjunct professor at SFU; three-time President of the Association of Canadian Publishers; co-founder of the SFU Centre for Studies in Publishing; served as Vice President and Policy Committee chair at the Canadian Conference of the Arts, and more.

In 2015 he was awarded the Order of Canada for his long term contributions to literary publishing.

A resident of Powell River since 2000, his passion to help build effective cooperative community organizations remains unabated. He is a Director at First Credit Union, a member of the Powell River Academy of Music and PRISMA, and a member and past president of the Powell River Rod & Gun Club.



Gwen Enquist

Graduated as an RN from Toronto General Hospital, with a BSN from University of Toronto and a Masters of Adult Education from the University of British Columbia, Gwen worked as a community health nurse and instructor at Vancouver Island University.

Books and reading have always been her passion, but she didn't start writing until retirement. After 15 years of writing, she has 10 self-published books and a new one to come out this summer.

"I have to credit a supportive group of friends and writers around me for the encouragement and stimulus to keep on keeping on. If you don't try, you'll never know where it could lead."



Pat Buckna

This Powell River writer and author published his family memoir, *Only Children*, in 2019.

Pat is the South Coast regional representative for the Federation of BC Writers as well as a songwriter and composer.

Books and reading have always been her passion, but she didn't start writing until retirement. After 15 years of writing, she has 10 self-published books and a new one to come out this summer.

and photographer for a weekly newspaper, graduated from The Writer's Studio at Simon Fraser University, and is a long-time member of Powell River Library's Memoir group.

He's currently completing his second memoir, tentatively titled *Fleeting Glimpses & Lasting Impressions*.



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Writing advice from The Quickie judges

Karl Siegler

What's the best piece of advice you can give an aspiring writer?

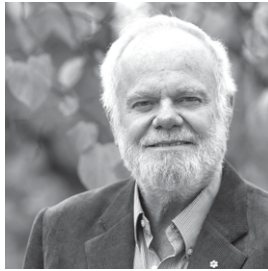
Karl • Don't try to "be" a writer. Just "do" the writing. Writing is a craft, like any other. Learn from "the masters" (your favourite authors). Writing is best learned from reading. Write about what you know of others and the world, the way your favourite authors would.

What are you looking for when judging this writing contest?

Karl • Well-constructed, substantive texts that create a 'Gestalt', (the shape of something within its context), as free of adverbs and adjectives as possible.

What three things should a writer look for in their own entry before sending it in?

- Karl** • a) Have I been clear about what or whom I'm trying to present to my readers?
 b) Have I avoided the use of first person pronouns as much as possible ("I; me; my; mine")?
 c) Is what I have written as useful to my readers as a sweater I might have knit for them instead?



Gwen Enquist

What's the best piece of advice you can give an aspiring writer?

Gwen • Find education platforms that suit you. Multiple options are available for all skill levels including on-line courses, in-person classes, books, podcasts, writing groups, and writers' conferences. Find opportunities for learning.

What are you looking for when judging this writing contest?

Gwen • Opening statements that clearly and simply state a central idea. This idea is supported by material in the body of the piece that expands on the point; simple words, no grandiose language or ramblings.

What three things should a writer look for in their own entry before sending it in?

Gwen • A writer should look to see that the opening has a central idea that is clear to the reader. Look to see that the body of the piece supports the opening statements and is organized. See that there are no unnecessary details that prevent the article coming to the point.



Pat Buckna

What's the best piece of advice you can give an aspiring writer?

Pat • Get all your ideas down on the page as quickly as possible. When you finish, and know how your piece should end, consider rewriting instead of revising.

What are you looking for when judging this writing contest?

Pat • I'm looking for pieces where the writer found an original way to address the theme, one that appeals to me, the reader.

What three things should a writer look for in their own entry before sending it in?

- Pat** • 1) Does every word count – have I removed unnecessary ones?
 2) Does my piece have a beginning, middle and end that will captivate a reader?
 3) Have I avoided clichés, overused and vague language? **PL**



For more information about The Quickie writing contest email isabelle@prliving.com or phone 604-485-0003 or see our ad on Page 12 of this issue.

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Where do you find heritage?

BY ANN NELSON

Have you ever noticed how the formal acknowledgment of an anniversary or a theme in our lives can reawaken a conversation with ourselves and others about that event?

I'm always astounded by how my awareness of the living tapestry that constitutes my 'heritage' is stimulated when Heritage Week rolls around each year. Living and breathing the story of the built heritage surrounding us in the Townsite, daily interactions with our gracious Tla'amin neighbours, revisiting the touchstones of our own, personal cultural history, be it Burns Night celebrations, a ceilidh in the kitchen, Oktoberfest, pysanki and perogies... we are immersed in opportunities to examine where we do, in fact, find heritage.

The experience, for me, of being the product of literally nine generations of settlers on this continent, combined with intermarriage within three distinct and separate indigenous cultures, has encouraged me to be selective with what I celebrate in my personal heritage.

Living here, at the end of the road on Canada's continental frontier, feeds my desire to connect with the mountains and trees and water and critters; it feeds my re-creation of the remembered safe childhood

HERITAGE WEEK BC

When: February 15 to 21

What: Townsite Heritage Society is hosting this year's week at Henderson House Living Museum. Displays, videos, party favours, open house style. Small groups only please.

Where: 6211 Walnut Street. Open 1 to 5 pm Tuesday to Saturday and 2 to 6 pm Saturdays.

gardens and neighbourhoods; it feeds my needs to connect within our mini-United Nations of other incomers and to renew the cultural connections to my 'roots' music, and social interactions; and, finally, it allows me to be part of the community's commitment that is necessary to preserve the built heritage and the stories and the art, as well as ensuring that the millennia of Tla'amin history and traditions are respected, preserved and not over-written by more recent history.

I, personally, find heritage right here, every day of my life, and encourage you to celebrate all the places and ways that you find your own heritage. **PL**

Festival going virtual 2020's FOPA Grand Concert was the last big event pre-COVID

BY JOYCE CARLSON

Powell River Festival of the Performing Arts will have a different look in 2021 when the 77th event will go virtual.

Plans include having individual and dance performances in James Hall at Powell River Academy of Music which will be filmed to send to adjudicators as well as to create a virtual Grand Concert.

Live-streaming is also being investigated as only performers, their teachers and parents will be allowed in the hall because of COVID protocols.

The regular part of the adjusted festival will be held February 26-28.

Following on the success of the Focus on Youth Concerts last year, live-streaming events are being planned for March 16 and 17. Roy Carson is coordinating the concerts with music and theatre arts teachers from all schools in the area.

Last March, the 2020 festival's Grand Concert was the final event of the year in this community with an in-person audience as strict pandemic measures were introduced on March 13, cancelling all large gatherings.

Performing Arts BC will also have a virtual provincial concert in the spring. All performers recommended to provincials in 2020 are eligible to participate this year. **PL**



STAGE PRESENCE: The unflappable Walter Martella

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When: February 26-28, and March 16 & 17

What: Rotary's first online festival

Where: Contact Val Thompson at the academy ValThompson@prambc.ca or 604-485-9633 for more information.



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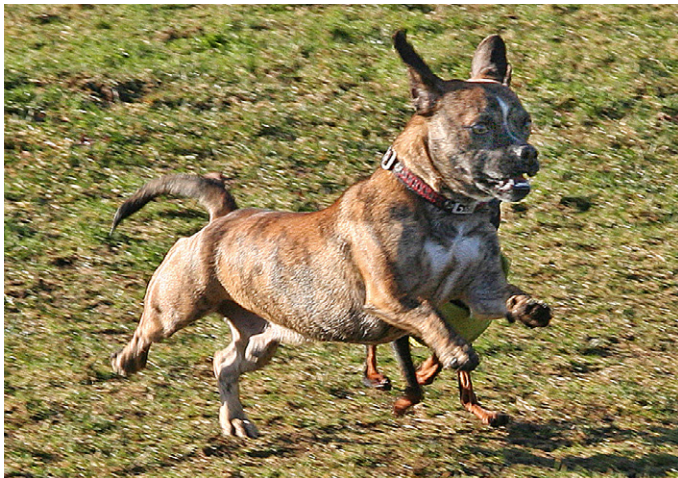
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DELIGHTFUL DOGS: Feeling down? Visit the dog park for a dose of happy, and feel your blues disappear. These playful pups were photographed at the Westview Dog Park behind Mother Nature. Here, my Nova Scotia duck toller Jigs hangs out with some of her friends - and gets down and dirty in her favourite mud-hole.

Photos by Isabelle Southcott



Meet me at the

dog park

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

Psssst. Wanna know a secret? The happiest place in Powell River is the dog park!

Yup, that's right, the dog park.

There's something uplifting about watching happy dogs that makes me smile. It's impossible to be sad when you're around wagging tails, lolling tongues and excited barks.

I'm not the only one who loves the dog park. The dogs do, obviously, but some of the happiest people I've met hang out at the dog park. Most have dogs mind you, but some don't. There's no rule that says you have to own a dog to visit the dog park.

Once a week, my Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Jigs and I meet Maggie and Tory (another duck toller) at the dog park for Toller Tuesday. Sometimes Ruth and Sean and their Cardigan Welsh Corgis Moxie and Kita join us. We bring balls and a Chuck-It and of course treats. When I think about it, it's really not that much different from what I did when my kids were young and I took them to the park.

Dogs and kids both need time off leash.

The cool thing about the dog park is that the dogs are always happy to see their friends. Yes, there's a lot of sniffing going on as they sort out who's who and the pecking order is established. And the humans stand a safe COVID distance apart and chat. We talk about our dogs, life, whose turn it is to throw the ball, and interesting things like that.

Jigs actually starts crying when we turn in the dirt road that leads to the park. She loves it that much. Brooke and Hazel, an Aussie Shepherd, love the park too. Brooke says she always finds interesting people, too, and like me, says they're always happy.

The dog park is almost perfect. The only thing that could make it better for me is if someone was able to fill in the great big hole in front of the covered area. Some dog owners don't give it a second thought, but I do because my dog loves to wallow in the mud. There's a reason why we call her Jiglet the Piglet! **PR** | isabelle@prliving.ca



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TAKE A BREAK

'Small and sweet' vanquishes the overwhelm

I've been noticing a sweetness, an indelible soft strength of the human heart that seems to seep through the rubble of disruption and division present this past year. Perhaps this compassion and kindness is a bit like the water in Aesop's fable, The Crow and the Pitcher, slowly rising until it meets our thirst for goodness and beauty.

I don't believe we are actually built to withstand and process or transmute an entire world worth of hardship. It wasn't long ago our news was mostly of our family or our village. Sometimes travelling to us from across the land, but it came without triggering sights and sounds on hourly replay or constant fingertip doomscroll.

There is a level of alertness and observation required to keep on top of changing rules, recommendations, and protocols. Right down to finding the "stand here" dots or walking the long way around oneway aisles to get to the coffee. Our familiar establishments and well-worn routines have an unfamiliarity to them.

It might feel like background thoughts now, or perhaps they've become fresh habits, but a lot has also been front-and-center alarming, too.

During my years as a neurofeedback tech I learned that even unrecognized levels of such activation leads to a "Fight or Flight" response in our nervous system. I also learned that over time, our nervous system and associated body systems will tire from this and shift into a "Freeze" or "Disassociate" state.

It might show up as having felt panic, anxiety, anger, or fear for an extended time, followed by a period of depression, lack of motivation, or a sense of disconnect with loved ones and the world around us.

Reasonably this may be compounded as safety protocols keep in-person engagement minimal. This may or may not be You, dear reader, but it is likely present



CARING GESTURES: When global and local tensions are just too much, focus on making someone else's day better - and you'll cope better too.

to some degree in many of those around you.

Either way, I offer this, as pebbles in the vase that rise sustenance to parched hearts - find small ways within our reach to tend. Smaller. Smaller still.

Smile extramuch under your mask to the cashier, it is mostly in our eyes anyway. Make a little something; art, a really great sandwich, a hummed tune. Tell the passerby on the

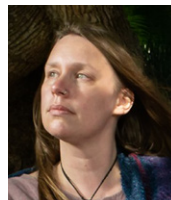
trail that they are in for a beautiful sight. Tidy something simple; your bed, top drawer, or one shelf of the linen closet. Leave a jar of homemade soup at a neighbour's doorstep *Nicky Nicky 9 Door*-style.

Let yourself look out the window and daydream a little. These tiny care packages to yourself and others pack a potent dose of the good brain chemicals, and we could all use a bit more of them these days!

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Can you find these words from this issue?

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 FAMILY
 BRIGIT
 HAGNOMITCH
 NICHE
 HELLEBORES
 HYDROTHERAPY
 QATHET
 FILM
 CURIOUS
 FONT

WOODS
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 GUIDES
 IDENTITY
 CONCERT
 MAGAZINE
 FESTIVAL
 PIETA
 POWELL
 FLOWERS
 LOVE
 DOGS
 DUCKS
 GAS
 THEFT

Wait, what happened to the crossword?

Since 2015, each issue of *Powell River Living* has included a crossword, and while it has a loyal following, some say they find it too difficult. So we're changing it up. Crossword fans need not fear; the crossword will be back! We plan to rotate each month between word search and crossword. What do you prefer? Let us know!

| sean@prliving.ca



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SOLUTION TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE:
How well do you know Powell River?

Hey Judgy-McJudgerson. You're better than that.

There are four cobs of corn on the plate. One is a beautiful, plump, ripe, yellow and white peaches and cream cob of corn, by far the best on the table.

There are three other cobs beside it, all a bit anemic looking, much smaller, the rows slightly spaced, the kernels much smaller. Totally edible but when compared to the fat, juicy cob, they look quite sad.

There are four people at the dinner table. A mom and her two young children and a man. The man is the mom's new friend. He could be a boyfriend but he isn't, at least not yet. Everyone is seated at the table and told to help themselves. The man is the first to go and he takes the nicest cob of corn for himself.

The mother takes this all in and makes a mental note of what just happened. This person puts his own needs ahead of others, even ahead of young children.

She judges him and from that day on, their relationship is never the same. They part ways soon after. In retrospect, she says she knew he was not the right person for her when the corn cob incident occurred.

What would you do if you were at the table? How would you react?

This is a true story. It happened to me many years ago when my children were quite young. Even though many people share stories of things that happen these days and preface them with "no judgement," we all judge. We are human after all.

Our mind judges every experience whether we want it to or not. It filters, categorizes and files everything that happens away.

There's the good stuff, the bad stuff, and the stuff that doesn't really matter so we let it go.

But was this man taking the best piece of corn for himself really bad? The other cobs weren't rotten, just inferior. As soon as I became a mother I began putting my children's needs ahead of my own. That's just what moms do. It's the unwritten rule of motherhood. Because this man put himself ahead of me and my children, I decided that I did not like him anymore. It

was just that simple. No ifs, ands or buts. It was black and white.

Had I been able to exercise non-judgement I would have been able to let go of the automatic decision my mind made. Instead, I reacted and judged based on my own un-checked interpretation. I did not look at it from his perspective. Perhaps he was very hungry. Perhaps he thought, well, I don't live in this house so they probably want me to have the nicest piece of corn. Or perhaps he thought, I'm a man and the others at the table are children and a woman, so I should have the nicest piece of corn. Maybe he didn't think about the corn at all, and just reached for a random cob. I don't know what he was thinking, because I am not him and I didn't see things from his perspective.

These days we are all judging. We see people in grocery stores without masks on and jump to conclusions. Are the mask-free people just jerks, or do they have medical conditions that complicate mask-wearing?

We hear of people going on vacation while there's a provincial health order in place which asks people to stay home and travel only for essential purposes, and we judge.

Perhaps they're feeling above the rest of us, above the rules, and travelling for pleasure... or to get a vaccine ahead of the masses, like the Vancouver millionaire couple did in January, when they flew to Yukon. Or, perhaps they're visiting a dying relative, reaching out one last time. Or to attend a long-awaited medical appointment.

It's hard not to make knee-jerk judgements, but we have to try. It's not our job to be judge and jury.

We don't know someone else's reasons for doing something. To understand where someone is coming from, we need to understand their logic and their past and that's not always possible.

So instead of judging, let's ask ourselves why we feel this way. Is our reaction based on fear? Insecurity? Loneliness? Or something else?

Next time I find my mind jump to judging mode instead of accepting mode, I'm going to try something else and work on what Henry David Thoreau says:

"It's not what you look at that matters. It's what you see." **P.L.** | isabelle@prliving.ca



LAST WORD

ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

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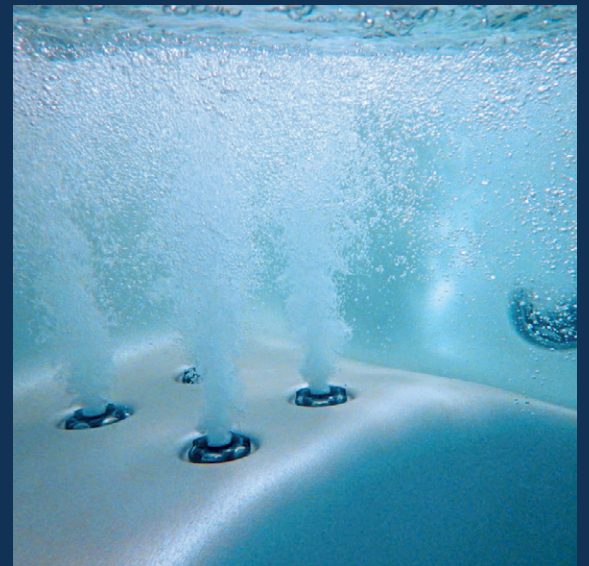
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