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JANUARY 2022

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qathet REGIONAL DISTRICT

qathet Regional District holds regularly scheduled Board and Standing Committee meetings at #103 – 4675 Marine Ave, Powell River. Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings, virtually or in person. Closed meetings are conducted by resolution in accordance with the *Community Charter*.

Planning Committee

4:00 pm

January 11, 2022
February 15, 2022
March 8, 2022
April 12, 2022
May 10, 2022
June 14, 2022
July 12, 2022
August 16, 2022
September 6, 2022
November 08, 2022
December 6, 2022

Finance Committee

4:00 pm

January 19, 2022
February 16, 2022
March 16, 2022
April 20, 2022
May 11, 2022
May 18, 2022
June 22, 2022
July 13, 2022
August 17, 2022
September 21, 2022
November 16, 2022
December 7, 2022

Committee of the Whole

4:00 pm

January 13, 2022
February 17, 2022
March 10, 2022
April 14, 2022
May 12, 2022
June 16, 2022
July 14, 2022
August 18, 2022
September 8, 2022
November 10, 2022
December 8, 2022

Regional Board

6:30 pm

January 27, 2022
February 24, 2022
March 30, 2022
April 28, 2022
May 26, 2022
June 30, 2022
July 28, 2022
August 25, 2022
September 29, 2022
November 1, 2022 *Inaugural Meeting*
November 24, 2022
December 20, 2022



POWELL RIVER REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT

Regional Hospital District Committee of the Whole

3:45 pm

January 13, 2022
March 10, 2022
April 14, 2022
September 8, 2022
December 8, 2022

Regional Hospital District Board

6:15 pm

January 27, 2022
March 30, 2022
April 28, 2022
September 29, 2022
December 20, 2022

Additional meetings may be scheduled.

For more information, please contact
Michelle Jones, Manager of Administrative Services

Notice of 2022 Budget Meetings

Meeting dates and times can be viewed on the Regional District website at qathet.ca.

The qathet Regional District will meet to consider the proposed 2022 budgets and 2022-2026 Financial Plan at the Finance Committee meetings on **January 19 and February 16**. The Regional Board will adopt the budget on **February 24, 2022**.

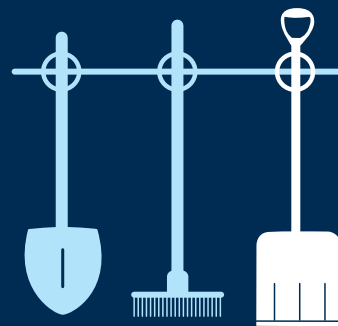
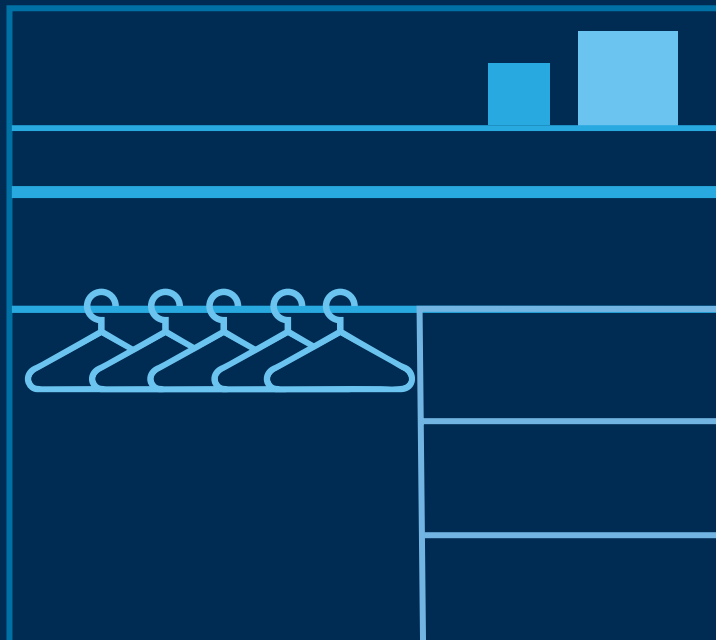
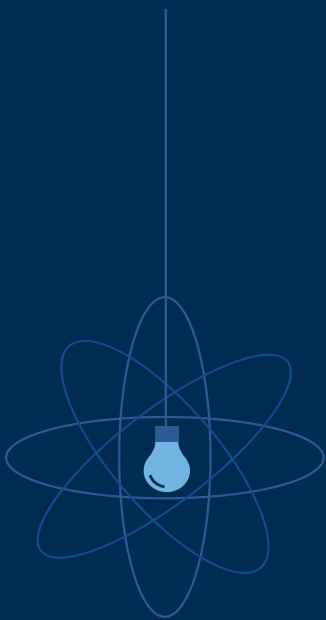
The 2022 Regional Hospital District budget will be considered at the Regional Hospital District Committee of the Whole meeting on **January 13, 2022**. The Regional Hospital Board will adopt the budget on **March 30, 2022**.

Linda Greenan, Manager of Financial Services

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SUNSET OVER THE MILL:

The Powell River paper mill smoke-stack silhouetted against a winter sky. In December, the mill announced an "indefinite curtailment." Coverage starts on Page 6.

Photo by Abby Francis, Local Journalism Initiative reporter.



Predictions? No way.

Typically in January, we run a staff piece called "Predictions."

It's a tongue-in-cheek way to reflect on the year before, and poke a bit of fun at ourselves. We didn't write one this year. Between the indefinite curtailment of the mill, the weird weather, and the pending doom of the Omicron variant, none of us are feeling ready to predict anything—even in jest. Instead, we are simply feeling reflective—ready to take a breath after too much 2021.

Kicking that off with gusto is the Powell River Museum's public engagement coordinator, Joëlle Sévigny, who curated 110 years of photographs for a special mill spread on pages 6 to 11. Looking at the faces of the employees, it's easy to see the contentment and security the jobs promised for so long. Maybe those jobs will come back with a



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

PIETA WOOLLEY

new industry, and maybe they won't (See What's Next, Page 12). No predictions, just hope that we'll use our hearts and brains to bring our best solutions to those 240 acres.

Even in the midst of the pressures of 2021, qathet folks are taking their good values into 2022's unknowns. PROWLS continues to rescue wildlife

(including this feisty falcon, Page 32); service clubs continue to meet and raise much-needed funds (Page 25); local experts are willing to help us become better people (pages 21 and 24); and jehjeh Media (Page 39) is working hard to recover and teach ayajuthem.

qathet is, I predict, the very best place to spend 2022, whatever this year brings. 🦅



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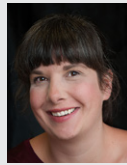
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“

I pulled it out and gave it a good shake to clear the water from its beak and lungs, and lo and behold it came back to consciousness, looking around in a bit of a panic as it regained its senses.

- Mike Robinson, **Page 32.**

”

JANUARY'S CONTRIBUTORS



KARA FOGWELL is one of the owners of The VK Wellness Initiative. She is also a clinical counsellor and registered social worker with the organization. **See Kara's story, Setting Goals that Lead to Change, on Page 24.**



BILL LYTLE-MCGHEE is a retired teacher with a Masters' degree in special education. He is a director with qathet Climate Alliance. **See Bill's story, Hydrogen Fuel Seems Eco-Legit, So Far, on Page 19.**



BILL MCKINNON is a commercial diver, technical diver and underwater photographer who has lived here since 2004. **See Bill's photo of a Pacific Spiny Lumpsucker on Page 27.**



SHELBY GEORGE is from the Tla'amin Nation and is an intergenerational residential school survivor. She is proud of where she comes from. She has been working with jehjeh Media for the past year. **See Shelby's column on Page 39.**



JOËLLE SÉVIGNY is the program and education manager at the Powell River Historical Museum & Archives. She enjoys deep diving into the archives and sharing local history. **See Joelle's section, Paper City, starting on Page 6.**

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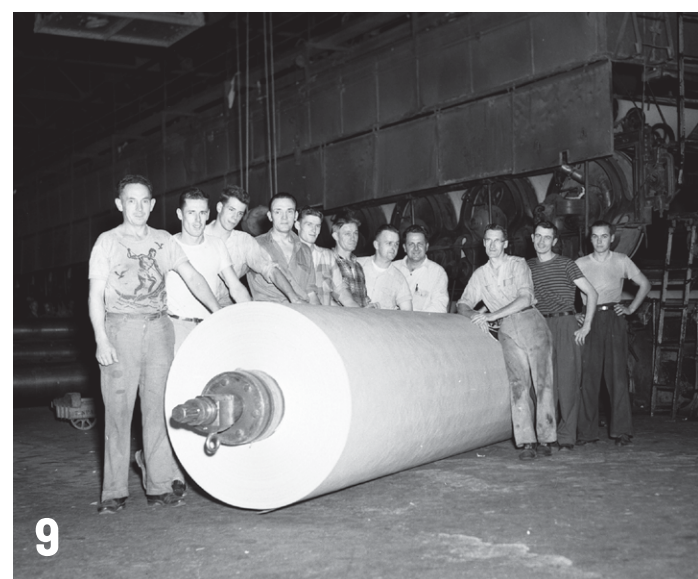
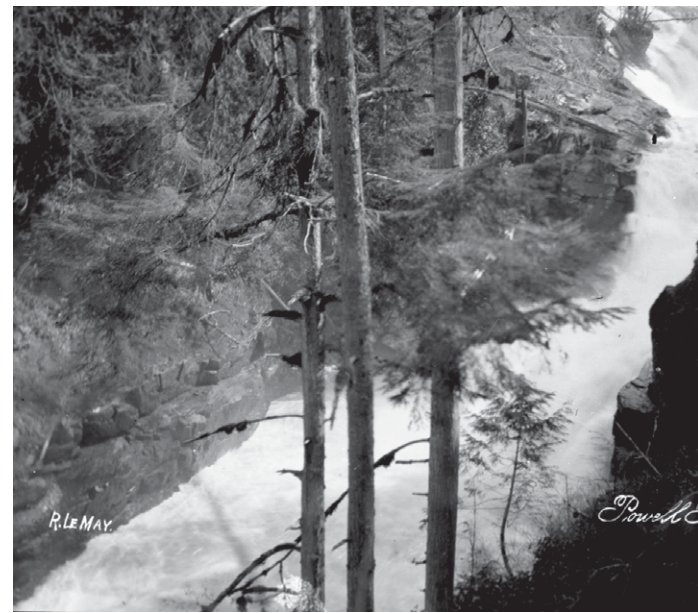


Paper City

1912 to 2022

- 2019 Paper Excellence
- 2005 Catalyst Paper
- 2001 Norske Skog
- 1998 Pacifica Papers
- 1960 MacMillan Bloedel
- 1910 Powell River Company

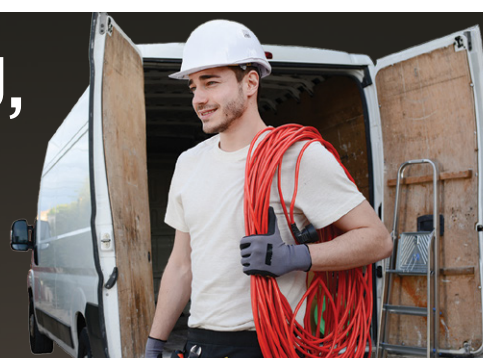




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From all over the world to make paper

The photos pictured in these few pages are only a glimpse of those who have worked at the Powell River Mill during this last century and the variety of departments they served. They all have their own stories to tell.

In 1901, the BC government issued 21-year pulp leases to encourage industrial development in the province. One of these leases was the village site of tisk^{wat}; part of the Tla'amin

Nation's traditional lands. This lease was first purchased by the Canadian Industrial Company and in 1908, it was bought by Dwight & Anson Brooks and Michael Scanlon. A year later, they incorporated the Powell River Company.

In 1910, construction of the mill, as well as the dam, was in full swing and by April 1912, No. 1 Paper Machine produced the first saleable roll of newsprint. It was a first in the province—no other mill in BC had yet to produce paper. From there, a whole company town grew, and attracted workers from around the world, with the promise that there was always work at the mill.

Always expanding, by 1964 the construction of No. 10 Paper Machine and a new kraft pulp mill was announced. If a decade can be identified as the height

of paper mill operations in Powell River, it would be the 1960s. This is when the Powell River Company held the title of being the highest producer of wood fibre pulp and paper newsprint in the world. During this time, one in 25 newspapers in the world was printed on Powell River newsprint!

Following this height, in 1971, No. 1 & 2 Paper Machines were officially retired—a trend that kept up in the following decades. Although No. 11 Paper Machine was built and later rated best in the world in 1985, by the 1990s, the newsprint market around the world was depressed. As we know, this trend has also continued to this day.

Nevertheless, from the first roll of newsprint in 1912, to all the mill expansions and new paper machines, to today in 2022 as we face the curtailment of Catalyst tisk^{wat}, the mill has always played an important role in the community, and its history will always live with us.

Blast from the Past is written monthly by Powell River Historical Museum and Archives public engagement coordinator Joëlle Sévigny.

✉ ljysevigny@powellrivermuseum.ca

THE EARLY DAYS:

Previous page: The mill and Townsite, aerial view, looking North in 1960 – the height of the mill.

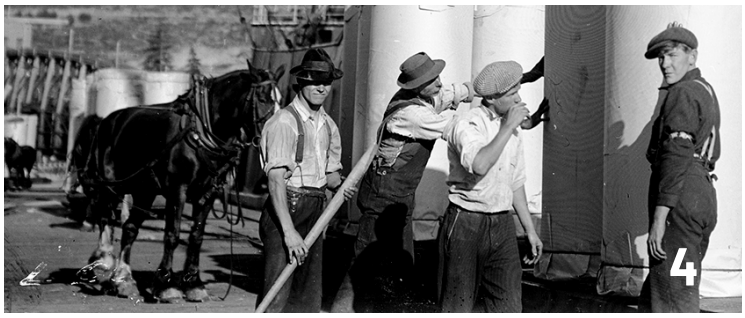
1. Building the dam, culvert, 1911.
2. Rod LeMay photograph of the Powell River Falls in 1909.
3. Trucking paper on a three-wheel truck, 1915.
4. Loading paper on a ship with horses, 1915.
5. Dam construction workers, 1911.

6. Mill labourers standing with the first rolls of paper produced at the Powell River mill, 1912.
7. Famous photo of paper machines No 1 and 2 and crew, 1912.
8. Train with load of paper, 1923.
9. Paper machine #8, speed record 2000 FPM with reel and crew, 1954.
10. Mill machine shop, undated.

Photos courtesy of the Powell River Historical Museum & Archives



3



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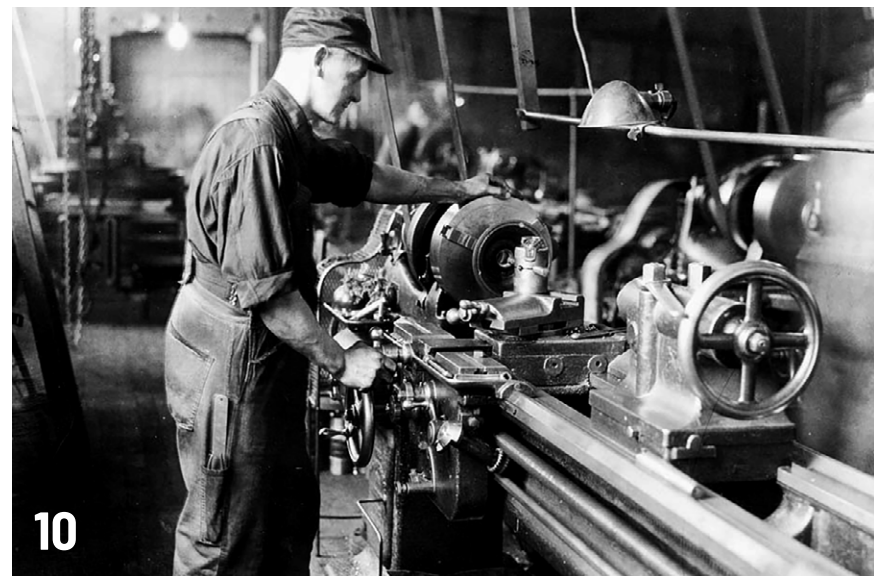
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2



5



10



BLAST FROM THE PAST

JOËLLE SÉVIGNY

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WOMEN AT WORK: Above, some of the first women employees of the Powell River mill during the Second World War, 1943. Left, women in the paper testing lab. Top left, multigraph department, stencil typing for multigraph, 1951.

Photos courtesy of the Powell River Historical Museum & Archives

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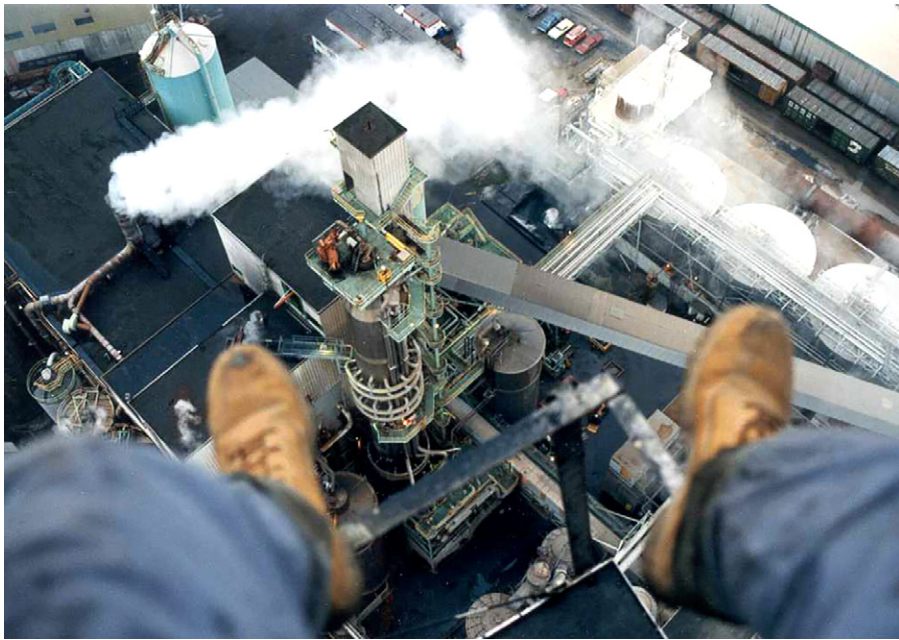
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SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS: Above, The boots of a mill worker as he looks down on mill structures from a very high vantage point, 1988 (by Ross Lane). Top right, Norske Canada closing of the Kraft Mill in 2001. Right, Pacifica Papers worker driving a clamp truck, 1998. Far right, Mill rescue team. The heavy rescue team was sponsored by MacMillan Bloedel, Powell River Division and the Powell River Fire Department, 1988.

Photos courtesy of the Powell River Historical Museum & Archives



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What's Next?

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GOOD TIMES: Generations of great jobs, stability, philanthropy, taxes, and community, gone. *Photo by Abby Francis*



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BY PIETA WOOLLEY

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Dave Formosa

Mayor, City of Powell River

Catalyst Tisk^wat's closure "hits close to home," says Mayor Dave Formosa. His son-in-law works there, and is raising three children, Dave's grandchildren, on mill wages. He feels "tremendous empathy for the employees, the jobs lost, and the businesses that will suffer for a while."

After years of deals and negotiations to keep the mill financially viable and running, the mill's closing wasn't a surprise to Dave. He was surprised at how quickly it happened.

However, he isn't worried about the long-term economic loss for this town. First, even without a mill operating on it, the site itself still has value because of the dams, deep sea port, and waterfront location. Therefore, Catalyst Tisk^wat's taxes won't crash like they did in Campbell River, he believes, because the company didn't go broke. So they are still able to pay their taxes for the valuable industrial site.

More importantly, the site has already been identified as the likely location for a hydrogen fuel plant—a project that has been under development for a year with Renewable Hydrogen Canada (RHC see renewableh2canada.ca/) working with Catalyst, the BC Government, and the City of Powell River (see Page 19 for qathet Climate Alliance's story about this). The plan is, RHC will

try to buy the 240-acre site from Paper Excellence, and likely also lease out parts of the package to other enterprises, if successful.

"We're hoping that we'll be able to hire people back in a best case scenario within 12 to 18 months, if things progress swiftly now that the paper mill had curtailed indefinitely. Hydrogen means several hundred jobs in phase 1," he says. "It could be a new green energy site. It doesn't get better than this in today's world. It all plays into another 100 years of prosperity for Powell River. I've been involved long enough to know that this opportunity is real, so let's hope the parties can make a deal on the site."

After being Mayor for just over a decade, Dave will not run again in 2022. The next election is October 15.

Meriko Kubota

Regional Social Planner

On December 1, mill employees received the sudden news of an indefinite curtailment and the offer of jobs at other Paper Excellence mills: an indirect way of saying that, after 110 years of making paper, the mill is closing. For Meriko Kubota, her first thoughts were for the mental and financial wellness of the employees and their families.

"As a community, we can provide empathy and support to our fellow mill workers whose roles will no longer exist as of February 1," she said.

"At the City I am collaborating with my colleague, Scott Randolph, Director of Properties,

Development and Communications to try and organize economic and social supports for mill workers. Every mill worker's situation will be different, whether they are mid-career, or close to retirement, and whether they are caring for children or aging parents. I consider the family members of each mill worker and how the impacts of employment have a ripple effect on family members, including children. We know that through COVID there have been increased mental health concerns for children."

Meriko is working with staff at the City, Work BC, the province's rural development office, Uni- for Locals 1 and 76, First Credit Union and other agencies to create a web of support for workers and their families, and to help them transition to other work.

Andrew Adams

Mayor of the City of Campbell River

Andy Adams moved to Campbell River in 1992, when it was a pulp town. The mill there was then the major employer and tax base, as it still was in 2010, when Campbell River's mill closed.

At the time, the loss was devastating, he recalls. Not only were all those jobs lost, but the taxes dried up (because BC Assessment puts non-operating mills in a lower tax bracket. See sidebar, Page 15.) The next year, residential property taxes soared 13.6 percent.

"It was extremely difficult and controversial," he says. Andy ran for mayor in 2014—and won—on a



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“Do not build a firehall right now,” was his advice to Powell River. In the broader scope, he means that the financial hit will be real. His government looked ahead 10 years to plan for tight budgets, not hiring into vacant positions, reducing some services, and even constraining his first love: parks and recreation.

But he also points out Powell River is in a vastly different situation than Campbell River was 12 years ago, for better and for worse. On the relatively bright side, far fewer households depend on the mill here for income. And on the less sunny side, things have changed since 2010. At the time Campbell River’s mill closed, both forestry and aquaculture were booming in his region, meaning that jobs with similar salaries and skill sets were plentiful. That’s no longer true.

While Campbell River has successfully diversified over the past decade, the City has been struggling to find a new future for the site. It has gone through three owners; none has developed a significant new industry (the latest one, Calgary’s Quicksilver Resources Canada Inc, just bought the former mill this summer). The most exciting thing to happen was when Jason Momoa filmed the Apple TV series *See* on the former Catalyst site.

“You have a lot of pioneers and senior people in Powell River that have had long and successful careers at the mill and will be passionate about its future,” Andy advised. “The City needs to engage with those people, and with those who don’t have that history, and gather the community’s ideas. What do they envision Powell River might look like in five to 10 years? And they need to engage with Council to make a strategic plan to sustain the short-term financial hit.”

Shane Dobler

Executive Director, Powell River Salmon Society

For nearly 30 years, the Salmon Society has annually hatched millions of fry in a facility below the foot of Ash Street, on land it leases from the mill. It’s a significant part of BC’s community salmon enhancement program—the largest producer of Chinook and Coho, a vitally important effort on all fronts.

The PRSS has 80 years left on its original 99-year lease with Pacifica Papers, with the building being originally donated by Macmillan Bloedel.

The water comes from the dam. “Hopefully we’ll be able to retain that water supply, as the hatchery needs water,” Shane says. “We have every reason to believe that we will.”

“The people, however, are irreplaceable. The impact to the community will be felt by our organization. The employees who lost their jobs are the same people who contribute to our fundraising efforts, and donate their time to our operations. The mill’s tradespeople have always been so great about coming in to do repairs, and that all changes now. There’s no one down here to call. It’s like losing that really great neighbor—the best, actually.”

Shane says the Powell River Salmon Society will work with the City and any new developers as things transition in the coming years to ensure the community hatchery has a solid future where it is now.

Ann Nelson

Long-time Townsite Heritage Society Director, and Powell River Arts Council founder and past president

When Ann Nelson moved to Powell River in 1977, the mill was booming. Her husband was hired for the expansion of the new #11 paper machine and kraft mill. The mill had just gifted the new hospital land, and the merchantable timber on it, with which to start building. With ample tax revenues, the City built the new recreation complex “in a great burst of confidence.”

“We were fat and sassy,” Ann explained. “Then, in 1983, we realized we’d lost the stranglehold on the newsprint market as the developing world started to produce it. The mill announced a lay-off of 25 percent of the workforce top to bottom, from executives to sweepers.”

That was the turning point, Ann says. Unlike other mill towns that had the rug pulled out from under them, Powell River was gifted 40 years of letting go, of transforming, of preparation for the time beyond a mill. She credits Dave Formosa for keeping it run-

ning for so long, when he worked for Sliammon Development Corporation in the early 2000s, and now as Mayor. But those days are over.

“We’ll never be a single smoke-stack town again,” she quips. “And it’s just as well that we’ve adjusted our thinking to accommodate that reality.”

Instead, Ann points out that the mill land does not belong to the City; it’s a private entity and local governments and citizens don’t have much influence on what it will become. However, she hopes locals understand the seriousness of the situation, and are willing to be open to reinventing the town.

International education had great potential, she believes, “if we had played nicely with the China-based Sino-Bright,” which, at the time, we did not. Her fear: that, as an industry, serving street-involved people with addictions and mental health challenges will eclipse all other potential investment in this region.

Rick Hopper

Powell River Kings Hockey director of operations

Back in 1998 when Rick Hopper was brought to town to run the first Junior A team here, the team’s name was under consideration. Across the country teams with names like the Edmonton Oil Kings, Brandon Wheat Kings and Pembroke Lumber Kings made the Paper Kings a great moniker for Powell River’s entry into the BC junior league. The Powell River Paper Kings became synonymous with the little town that was the world’s largest producer of newsprint. “Paper” was dropped about 20 years ago, he recalls, and it has been simply the Kings ever since.

For a century, hockey and the mill have been conjoined twins in Powell River, with the company recruiting hockey players from across Canada to play on the senior Regals and offering them jobs. The town’s first arena was built with volunteer labour and opened in 1955. The Kings home, the Complex, opened in 1975, only 20 years later.

“Dig into almost anything in this community and it’s hard not to see the connection to the mill,” he said. “The mill started it, but it’s not going to be the thing that ends it. I believe that its legacy will live

For the New Year, Get Your New Glow On with these **January specials**



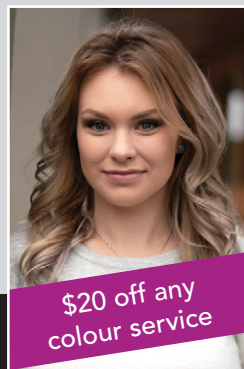
Annette Rae
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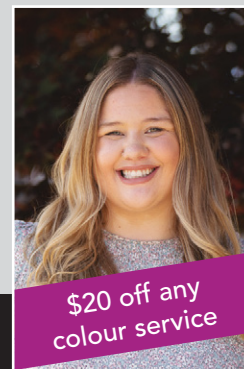
Monique Giles
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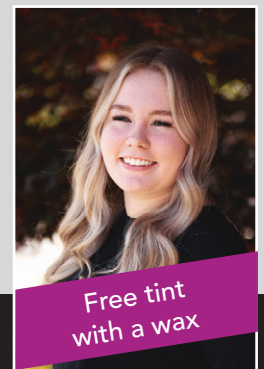
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How much will the mill have to pay in taxes after it shuts down?

The 240 acre parcel on Powell River's waterfront that belongs to Paper Excellence is currently taxed in the 'major industry property' category, as defined by BC Assessment. That's the same provincial agency that assesses the value of your home annually for residential property taxes.

If the mill closes and sheds its infrastructure, it will be reassessed in October 2022, and potentially put into a new tax category for its 2023 taxes—one with a significantly lower tax rate. In the meantime, a citizen recently asked Powell River City Council to undo the tax break it has historically offered the mill while it was a major employer.

Campbell River lost vast municipal tax revenue from its mill property when it closed in 2010. How our mill's taxes will change is a waiting game.

Currently, Powell River's residential property taxes and fees are in-line with other close-by municipalities.

Total property taxes and charges on an average-priced home, 2021

	Residential property taxes, plus parcel taxes and average user fees
Powell River	\$4,240
Port Alberni	\$3,724
Parksville	\$4,207
Sechelt	\$5,168
Squamish	\$5,787
Vancouver	\$8,043
Victoria	\$5,758
Whistler	\$8,326
Campbell River	\$4,668
Courtenay	\$4,305
Comox	\$4,332

The "average" house price is determined in each community. For Powell River, that house is valued at \$383,653.

Note: this data was taken from the 2021 summary of taxes and charges on average-price homes, found at: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/local-governments/facts-framework/statistics/tax-rates-tax-burden



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on, and the people of Powell River should be proud of their paper making heritage, but change is inevitable.”

After his first retirement from hockey Rick started a cabinet and furniture making company. He was involved in the original PR WOOD that initiated the Powell River Community Forest. “The original concept was to help value added wood manufacturers get access to wood from the forest,” he recalls. “That never really happened, but the end result is far better; the Community Forest has been instrumental in providing funds for so many fantastic projects.”

Rick’s been involved with hockey here at every level, having coached the Kings and Regals and served as minor hockey’s director of operations for the past four years. He was just named director of hockey operations of the Kings. He sees a bright future for the Kings and the sport: “You can’t find a better place for young hockey players to come; it’s safe and secure, we have a terrific facility and a history of hockey excellence. I see Powell River being a hockey training destination with not only a Junior A hockey club but an academy program capable of attracting student athletes from around the world, just like what happened in the early 1900s when they built the mill.”

Steve Brooks

*Townsite revitalization investor
(Townsite Brewing, Townsite Mall, Base Camp and more)*

Given COVID’s continuing impacts, and now the closing of the mill, Steve Brooks says, “It’s going to be a brutal year for small businesses here in Powell River.” Loans that owners took out during COVID will need to be paid back while restrictions continue, but the supports have dried up.

“I always try to be a realist, but I’m on the pessimistic side now and it breaks my heart,” he says.

Even though Steve has been investing here since 2004, he is under no illusions about how tough it is to make a living in qathet outside of major industry or government jobs. Tourism is seasonal and generally pays poorly, he notes. Small businesses in small towns tend to remain small.

“Nothing is as easy or as straight forward as it should be,” he said. “If you don’t have hungry people chasing opportunities and getting on the phone and being a part of organizations, the opportunities don’t just come knocking at the door. That’s the nature of life.”

Attracting tech jobs here—a plan he was pushing years ago—is less viable, given the skyrocketing cost of homes and lack of rental accommodations. The buildings and resources on the mill lands are vast, but realistically, many of them are at the end of their lives and will need to be demolished, he says. Investors will weigh the opportunities and liabilities here

against many other coastal towns in BC. Powell River, he said, desperately needs a long-term financial vision for itself.

All of that said, Steve believes in this region. Tourism will boom here through 2022 and potentially beyond. New folks who brought their jobs with them from Vancouver and Edmonton are being paid well. Hydrogen fuel may have potential. The City’s planners are doing a great job reaching out to people, he said.

“It is fragile,” he said, “unless we really get our act together and start aggressively bringing good jobs here. It’s going to be problematic if we just turn into a tourism and retirement community. Retirees are not big spenders.”

Ron Woznow

*President of the Westview Ratepayers Association,
may run for Powell River Mayor again in 2022*

After the mill’s recent announcement, Ron Woznow found himself recalling a moment in 2018. He’d met a Gibsons-based boat builder who was interested in relocating his business. Ron arranged meetings with Derek Jantz and mill executives. Unfortunately, Ron says, the mill was uninterested at that time.

Ron believes the waterfront site should be used for local benefit. “No more pie-in-the-sky thinking,” he says. “We need to engage people like Derek Jantz, Tye Leishman, Marjorie Ryan, Isabelle Southcott and Dan Stevens - a group of nuts and bolts business people who have demonstrated that they can build a business from scratch and grow it.”

Powell River’s chronic mistake—looking overseas rather than in house for innovators and investors—should not be repeated. Ron, who spent part of his working life negotiating investments and raising money for large nonprofits, insists that “there’s money all over the place” for viable, long term business opportunities.

“In 2022 we could certainly have boat building at the mill, in 2023 a state of the art sawmill processing local logs and in 2024 a start-up company of engineers and machinists working on how to use hydrogen as a fuel rather than converting it into a hydrocarbon.”

Warren Behan

*Commercial and residential realtor,
owner of Royal LePage, Powell River*

Warren Behan’s brother and uncles spent their whole careers at the mill. He met many of the younger people who moved here to work at the mill in the last 10 years when he sold them their homes. He’s friends with many older mill workers. He also knows

many folks whose work isn’t directly for the mill, but who depend on Paper Excellence as a main customer. So of course, his thoughts are with those who have lost their jobs.

As a realtor, he also knows that a site like the 240 acres belonging to Paper Excellence—with aging buildings, machinery, and likely site remediation necessary—won’t evolve quickly into a new, functioning enterprise—although all of the resources there have “great potential.”

Instead, he’s hoping that Paper Excellence will want to get smaller opportunities happening quickly through leasing out parcels of the site.

Boat storage and repair would be a natural fit, he said. So would a destination marina capable of hosting larger boats; qathet’s four coastal marinas can’t accommodate vessels over 65 feet long, and all are currently at capacity.

Paegé Maltais

Lund Harbour Authority manager

The wait lists for vessels at the Lund Harbour are long indeed (see Warren Behan’s post above), confirms Paegé Maltais. They’re long in winter, and even longer in the summer. So certainly, she believes, a marina at the old mill site would get used—especially if it could accommodate some large vessels over 65 feet long. And especially if the marina was its own destination, with restaurants, shops and services.

“It would definitely boost business in Townsite,” Paegé said.

In fact, Paegé had several compelling ideas for the former mill lands.

“I think it would be wonderful to see a small aquarium featured, such as the one in Ucluelet. This aquarium is run as a non-profit, houses only local species and is focused on education, conservation and has a “hospital” for rehabilitating marine creatures which are then released back to their native environment,” she said.

“Personally, I think this is far more interesting and relevant than attracting large, fossil-fuel-powered motor vessels to our (wish they were more) pristine waters.

“Another idea is affordable housing. Perhaps a portion of a marina dedicated to liveaboard vessels.

“There are currently several initiatives to recover “ghost gear” from the ocean. I know locations are being sought to receive, clean and reuse or recycle old fish nets etc. There may be funding available and this could create off-season employment.

“I’m sure there will be many excellent ideas from our locals. Although devastating in the short term, I think it’s an exciting time and could be an excellent opportunity to do what Powell River does best—lead by example!” 🐾



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PROMISING: In traditional regalia, Erik Blaney attended the fall re-naming ceremony at Catalyst Tisk^wat. Weeks later, the mill shut. *Photo by Abby Francis*

Unfinished business between Tla'amin & Paper Excellence

BY ABBY FRANCIS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

"We are working closely with the Hegus John Hackett and the Tla'amin Executive Council to ensure the steps we take in building this new relationship are thoughtful and measured."

That's what Catalyst Paper Excellence stated in a media release on September 24, 2021, when the company announced the re-naming of the local mill to Catalyst tisk^wat.

Less than three months later, on December 1, Catalyst made another announcement: the indefinite curtailment of this mill.

So what does this mean for the relationship Catalyst and Tla'amin created?

Well, for the most part it's pretty uncertain, according to Tla'amin spokespeople.

Erik Blaney, Tla'amin Executive Council member and Housepost (elected member in charge of a department) for the lands and resources department, says, "the mill has honored our request to change their name to tisk^wat, and allowed us to hold a naming ceremony on our traditional village site.

"The indefinite curtailment is something that has completely blindsided our Nation."

Moving forward, Erik says that Tla'amin is open to having communications with Catalyst tisk^wat for any economic opportunities that could arise in the future.

In an emailed statement, echoing their initial name-change announcement, Catalyst states, "We are working closely with the Hegus John Hackett and the Tla'amin Executive Council to ensure the steps we take in building this new relationship are thoughtful and measured.

"Despite the challenges faced by the mill, we remain very much committed to continuing to build out an approach that explores opportunities together."

"We would like to expressly thank and raise our hands to the Tla'amin

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Executive Council for their graciousness and patience with us as we learn and grow. Reconciliation efforts aren't always going to be easy conversations, but the professionalism and responsiveness of the Council has made this process a very positive one for our company."

So what comes next?

In an email, Catalyst's public affairs manager Brenda Martin wrote, "Paper Excellence is engaged with our governments and potential partners investigating promising new opportunities.

"The facility has advantages that make it very appealing to industry such as unique access to deep water, natural gas, electricity, and water supplies, as well as its existing biomass boiler with power generating capacity, wastewater treatment and solid waste disposal infrastructure.

"It is Paper Excellence's long-term goal that the site continues to provide meaningful employment and economic activity in Powell River."


Tla'amin Executive Council member and public works Housepost, Dillon Johnson says, "My heart goes out to all the families whose livelihoods are at stake as a result of the recent announcement.

"We will be continuing our discussions with Paper Excellence Catalyst re-

"We don't know yet what this shut down will mean for our relationship... but we are looking forward to picking up discussions in January."

- Dillon Johnson

garding opportunities for collaboration at the site. We have taken a few first steps in our new relationship so far with our ceremony, the name change, sign unveiling and we have been working together on a draft Memorandum of Understanding that has identified a number of potential joint initiatives.

"We don't know yet what this shut down will mean for our relationship and the future of the site, but we are looking forward to picking up discussions in January." 



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Hydrogen fuel seems eco-legit, so far

BY BILL LYTLE-MCGHEE
QATHET CLIMATE ALLIANCE

Hydrogen is found in great quantities on Earth combined with other elements such as oxygen in water and hydrocarbons such as natural gas/methane (CH₄).

It is barely present in the atmosphere at 0.00005 per cent due to its relative lightness by which it escapes gravity into space. There is virtually no pure hydrogen on Earth because it is so reactive. Currently, most hydrogen used in industry is made from natural gas/methane in the steam methane reforming process, also producing carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases.

However, pure hydrogen can be made from water using electrolysis which requires an abundance of electrical energy. The hydrogen purified this way is labelled “green” hydrogen and is considered renewable in the sense that renewable energy was used to produce it, hydro, solar or wind for example.

Hydrogen produced from natural gas/methane involving combustion to produce steam to separate the molecules of hydrogen from the carbon is not considered green even if the carbon released is captured and stored. This is referred to as “blue” hydrogen. If the emissions are not captured and stored, it is referred to as “grey” hydrogen, and there is no real or net climate benefit.

Hydrogen’s use as a fuel is widespread and there are many current applications from automobiles, trucks and buses to long haul shipping, mining and many industrial processes.

A fuel cell is used in which the hydrogen is combined with oxygen to produce electricity. The fuel cell reliably powers electric engines. The only by-product is water. Hydrogen packs about three times the energy of an equivalent weight of gasoline.

Canada is already one of the larg-

est hydrogen producers in the world. Some Canadian-developed technology is using excess wind, solar or hydro power to produce hydrogen cleanly and economically.


There are some drawbacks to hydrogen. It must be compressed or liquefied to a temperature of about minus 250°C to be transported and that requires energy, lots of it. At present, nearly all production is from high-carbon sources and the use of electrolysis is slow and expensive. Hydrogen is also very bulky and expensive to transport and store. A whole new set of safety standards would need to be developed for wider societal applications, and negative public perceptions are also challenging.

With regard to the local potential for hydrogen production, there is little doubt that the mill site has everything necessary to get into it on a large scale, including ocean shipping. Certainly the water and hydroelectricity are there

for the production of green hydrogen. From a climate perspective, using natural gas / methane as feed stock or for energy in the steam methane reforming process is not climate friendly at all unless the resulting carbon emissions are captured. Another experimental hydrogen production method starts with biomass and decomposing organic waste.

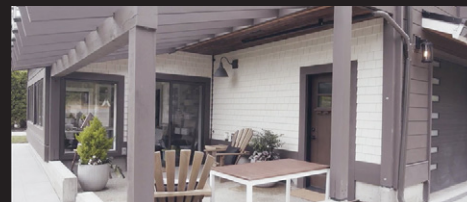
No doubt it would be better to have the mill site operating and offering employment rather than sitting vacant and inactive, but hydrogen production is not considered a labour intensive industry, although there is certainly lots of money involved.

Its current benefit in the area of jobs lies more in the transportation end of things, as well as the maintenance of other industrial activities which would likely be curtailed due to a lack of a source of clean energy.

There is a lot of research and development going on in the hydrogen business these days and hopefully the production of large quantities of truly green hydrogen is at the top of the list. 



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YOU KNOW YOU SHOULD BUT...

Screens: taming the ultimate parent trap

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

Am I the only one who knows what I need to do to improve my health, but for some reason don't? I KNOW I shouldn't overindulge on candy cane hot chocolates in December, I KNOW I need to be disciplined about my exercise routine; I KNOW I should limit screen time and I KNOW self-love and self-care should probably rank higher on my list than sorting through my odd sock drawer. Yet I procrastinate.

It's a new year and for some of us that means taking stock of where we are and where we want to go. This month, *qathet Living* magazine looks at screen time—an issue that can turn sane adults insane as they struggle to limit their children's time online—and causes them to shake their own heads as they realized they've just spent two hours going down the rabbit hole of Facebook or Instagram.

For some insight and inspiration on how to go about doing what we know we should do, I reached out to Corey Matsumoto, owner of PR Macs and fa-



ther of a nine-year-old; Gordon Hoffman, father of four and a Family Enhancement Counsellor at Powell River Youth and Family; and Tarra Tipton, a social worker with VK Wellness. We asked them to weigh in on screen time in the first of a series called *You Know You Should But...*

Corey and Gordon have to monitor their own screen time and their children's screen time—something that's not always easy to do. How much screen time is enough? Too much?

Today parents fight with their kids over screen time, they fight with themselves, and with each other over how much and how to limit it.

Three years ago Pieta Woolley, editor of *qathet Living*, shared an 'aha moment' with me when she returned from a spring break ski camp with her two children. They were staying at her mother's condo in Vancouver.

"We were all sleeping in the living room, and my preteen son wouldn't turn off his tablet at night," she said. "So at midnight, I finally took it away. He was furious. In bed, he started rhythmically kicking the wall. Then he got out of bed and switched on and off the light. On and off. I asked him to stop, of course. He wouldn't. On and off. So I picked up his tablet, put my foot on the coffee table, and smashed it over my knee.

"It took two good smashes to shatter it, and the sound was so very satisfying. I can still hear it. Little bits of tech junk splayed and scattered all over the floor. The surprise on his face was poignant; usually I'm pretty even keeled. Although he was horrified by the loss of his tablet, it didn't take him long to forgive me.

"Do I regret it? Absolutely not. To this day, neither he nor his sister wonder if I'm serious about taking away

#goals

You Know You Should But... is a new series written by qL publisher Isabelle Southcott. It's about taking care of yourself and those you love, and encouraging healthy goals. It's also about why it's so very hard to make real change.

their screens. I am dead serious. And it won't be pretty.

"Ultimately, I'd love to throw a cell phone off a BC Ferry, mid-sailing. To see it fly through the air and land in the waves with barely a splash."

"Sometimes life hands you a moment. A sunset. A concert. A perfectly-cooked piece of salmon. But for a parent, nothing—nothing—feels quite as sublime as a well-executed screen smash."

That may be true... but smashing tablets is not an everyday solution to setting reasonable screen limits. For a less rage-y and more wisdom-fueled approach, read on:

Corey Matsumoto

Owner, PR Macs

Nothing says "please, may I have just a little more iPad time" like entrepreneurial parents whose productivity gets flattened by the curve. My partner-in-child-raising has a home-based herbal tea and wellness business and works at the only health store in town. I sell and service computers for personal and home office use. We were practically born for COVID.

But now that life has mostly returned to normal, I've found it difficult to rein in that extra screen time. There's al-

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ways work to be done on the property, and besides: The iPad's attention-absorbing powers can be used for good.

There are plenty of apps that provide educational benefits and encourage problem solving. Many of my daughter's extra iPad time allowances carry a "thinking games only" caveat. Finding quality brain-engaging apps isn't an easy task in a sea of duds, but there are gems like Thinkrolls and Zen Sand. (TIP: the good ones cost money and your time is worth it.)

No matter how beneficial an app may be, too much screen time can be draining on the psyche. Unlike with electronics, we as biological, emotional beings need to recharge by unplugging and engaging in fulfilling real-life activities like hiking, creating, or even just playing with our pets.

It's important to note that addictions start silently and seem innocuous at first. I was fortunate to grow up well before electronic devices became so ubiquitous, but by early high school, computer gaming had crept into my weeknights. Bedtime slowly shifted from 10pm to nearly midnight. Soon 2am was normal. I still remember the sound of the computer fan droning long into those silent nights. It wasn't until one night when I heard my dad's alarm clock go off that I was forced to

realize I had a problem.

2D adventure games like King's Quest and its ilk were my Achilles heel, but the 3D arcade game Dragon's Lair informed me that games were only going to get more realistic and addictive. I quit computer gaming in 1988 and have never touched them since. World of Warcraft and Fortnite have no power over me—but I am forever hard-wired to collect "potentially useful" junk thanks to those old quest games.

I'm not an expert on children's screen usage, but from what I've gathered it's best to limit grade school-aged kids to a maximum of 1-2 hours per day of screen time. Younger toddlers should have much less time (if any) while their brains are in that critical early development stage. High school kids—good luck—I mean....

The takeaway from my experience is that kids may not have the ability to detect when a habit becomes an addiction, so it's important to talk to them early on. Monitoring usage is equally critical.

By Tarra Tipton

*Registered Social Worker
The VK Wellness Initiative*

The inability to regulate screen time is due to the fact the behaviour be-

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comes compulsive in nature, or as some would call it, a behavioral addiction, or process addiction, in an individual.

“The person may find the behavior rewarding psychologically or get a “high” while engaged in the activity, but may later feel guilt, remorse, or even create excuses for the behaviour due to the consequences of that continued choice.”

As compared to a substance abuse addiction or even to other process addictions, screen time addiction may seem relatively harmless, and certainly many people can use their phones, TVs or video games without ever developing a problem. However, compulsive screen time can interrupt a person’s ability to connect positively with others and have healthy relationships, maintain responsibilities at work, and make choices that support their physical and mental health. “Ultimately, these behaviours can lead to isolation from the real world, losing their ability to function in day to day tasks, or ability to be with family or friends,” she says.

By Gordon Hoffman

*Family Enhancement Counsellor
Youth and Family Powell River*

How much screen time is too much?

I didn’t send my son to rehab over video games... but I did think about it.

Our family of six has noticed over the past decade and a half that technology and screen-time have become an ever-increasing part of our lives. Can we draw a line between engaging as a family in the absence of a screen, and healthy interactions with to-

day’s technologies? We do need to ensure that our children are educated in emerging technology, but what is the cost?

When we think of the term “mental health crisis” we think of behaviours befitting institutionalization, but really, we are facing a global crisis when it comes to screen-time. When we prioritize the short-term gratifications over our basic needs, the problem is very clear; while maybe not meeting the textbook definition of addiction, there are certainly markers in our behaviour that would fall under these criteria. We prioritize our devices over our sleep, face-to-face interactions with others, our safe operation of our vehicles, amongst many other behaviours.

Cold-turkey is not the answer, or evolving technologies will leave us behind, but how can we set boundaries when it comes to screen-time?

A. Internet Service Providers have placed the ability to limit content and connection time at our fingertips. By setting quiet times for our WiFi, we can encourage better sleep practices for ourselves and our youth (but be sure to tell them you’re doing it, otherwise they may be up all night troubleshooting their connectivity issues).

B. Taking steps to disconnect from devices and reconnect with friends and family. In our house our devices are banned from the dinner table, and highly discouraged at times when the family is together.

C. If somebody whom you are trying to connect with is immersed hopelessly in their phones, politely asking “Is everything okay?” is a perfect nudge to call their attention back to the conversation.

D. Get outside, disconnect and enjoy this backwoods paradise that we call the Sunshine Coast. 🌲



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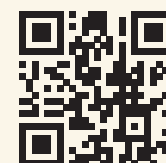
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Setting goals that lead to change

BY KARA FOGWELL

It is the beginning of yet another year. A time for new beginnings and planning for the year ahead. So many of us experience the motivation that comes along with a new year and new possibilities, but how many see these changes come to fruition?

Change is a fascinating process and one that has gained the attention of research in behavioural science. This field has led to a specific model of change called the “transtheoretical model” or “stages of change,” as explained in *Changing to Thrive: using the stages of change to overcome the top threats to your health and happiness* (2016). What I love about this is it gives us models for making changes we want to see happen in our lives. I also love that it honours change as a process rather than one simple action step.

Many people want to see change happen as fast as possible (nothing wrong with this), but skip the ever-so-important stage where we prepare for the change we must make. This stage is appropriately called *preparation*.

The key element in preparation is setting goals that the change will accomplish for you.

I want to offer some quick suggestions for effective goal setting to help you better prepare for the change you are looking for this year. Instead of rushing into what you think is the best way to change, take some time to work through this scientifically-based process that we use in our Wellness Planning programs.

Tap into your emotions—What do you feel needs to change? (Are you feeling frustrated, sad, guilty, excited, or grateful about anything?)



Empathic behaviour change—Share your experiences and emotions with another person.

Write down your goal—Don’t get too technical about this, simply write, type, or voice record what you want to see change.

Consider and record how your life might be different if this changed for you.

Remember, this is only one of the six stages of change, so after goal setting, and some other planning and preparation, you need to take action.

For a more detailed discussion about goal setting and change processes, see VK Wellness’ latest Blog at vkwellness.ca/blog.

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Still here, mostly. Still helping, a lot.

Meeting and raising money: it's what qathet's service clubs do. Both are challenging during the pandemic.

In spite of the tough times, most local clubs are bravely barrelling through.

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

At one time, qathet had a plethora of active service clubs. Today, only three remain: Rotary's evening club, Knights of Columbus, and Kiwanis.

Zoom, masks, hand sanitizer, and social distancing have all changed the meeting landscape. For the evening Rotary Club of Powell River, not networking in person has been tough.

"We miss being together for meetings," says club president Sara Mitchell-Banks. "Some people have been part of this Rotary Club for over 25 years and

have developed life-long friendships. Like other people, we had to learn how to use technology to meet online. For all of 2020 and most of 2021, our club met via Zoom. Some members did not join us at all on Zoom, but we have managed to keep most members engaged. We now have hybrid meetings where people can Zoom in or attend in person if they are vaccinated."

Most years, Rotary hosts an exchange student from another country, but their 2020 exchange student had to return home at the end of the year because of increasing travel restrictions due to the pandemic.



LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY: Service clubs make a difference. Above, The Rotary Club of Powell River sponsored this mother to become a teacher in the slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh, and helped fund a school. Right, Read To Me is a program that supplies every Kindergarten student in qathet with a book and bag.



Despite the challenges, the evening Rotary Club managed to achieve a great deal on both a local and international level, including a \$1,500 dona-



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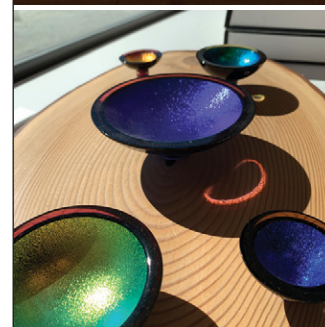
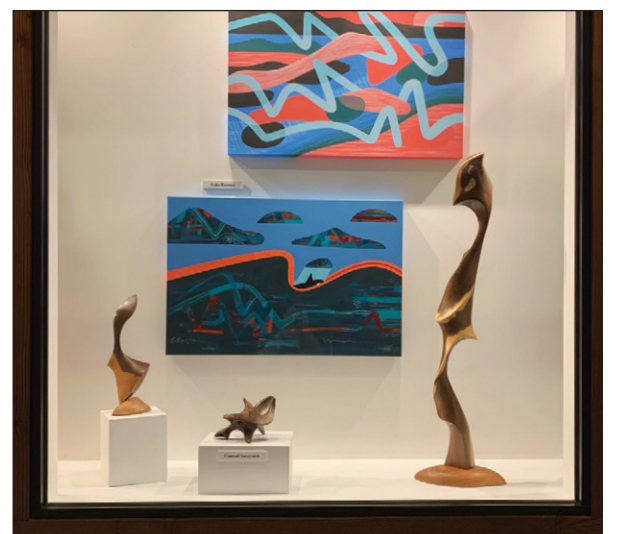
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tion to Powell River Search and Rescue for an AED and a garden survival kit for a South African family. They helped women in Bangladesh to become teachers; sponsored a film school student, two students for virtual Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and two students to attend Rotary's Adventures in Citizenship program. They supported several other local organizations including Therapy Dogs, Books for Me, Christmas Cheer, Everyone Deserves a Smile, Tla'amin's gift program during COVID, local high school student bursaries, and the Festival of Performing Arts. All this while exceeding goals for donations to PolioPlus and the Rotary Foundation, and attracting new members.

Rotary's morning club didn't fare as well as the evening club, said Terry No-reault, the club's last president. They called it quits in October. Was it COVID that killed the morning club? "It's complicated," he said. "COVID did not help and the lack of physical presence at meetings certainly hurt, but there was more to it." For instance, nobody was willing to become the next president (or other leadership roles) and they didn't have any success in bringing in



WHO'S A GOOD THERAPIST?: After a Zoom presentation by Powell River Therapy Dogs founder Deb Maitland, the Rotary Club of Powell River donated funds to the organization.

new members, he added.

All that, tied into virtual meetings that some refused to attend, meant a tough couple of years.

Membership in service organizations has been declining for the past 20 years.

On a local level, it has hit this community pretty hard. As well as the end of the Sunrise Rotary Club in Powell River, we've lost others over the years, including the Moose and Lions.

The last two years have been challenging for Powell River Knights of Columbus, says Grand Knight Don Bourcier.

Up until last year, they sold tickets and raffled off vehicles, generating over \$3,000 from tickets sales that was then distributed to local charities. In 2020 they gave out cash prizes only and all ticket sales were done online using credit cards only.

"Our proceeds from ticket sales last year was \$0. We received just over \$500 commission for selling tickets. We added another \$200 to that amount and donated to three local charities. This year ticket sales are better," he said.

Public events, including their month-

ly pancake breakfast, and special dinners, have been cancelled since last year.

"A number of the Knights monthly meetings were moved online, but they are back and offered in a hybrid format. Still, the attendance at meetings has declined."

Kiwanis shut down their book and garage sales when the pandemic was declared in March 2020 and started socially distanced meetings once per month, said club president Robert Maitland.

"Some of our members aren't into Zoom yet. We lost two members who didn't want to risk their health.

"In July 2020 we started book sales by appointment. A person could call in for a half-hour time slot and fill a shopping bag of books for \$5. These sales were held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am till 12 pm. We later added Saturday as well," he said.

Kiwanis decided to focus on one group per quarter and have supported Adopt a Family; Therapeutic Riding; Girl Guides of Powell River; Cops for Cancer; Christmas Cheer; Camp Good Times for children with cancer; and others.

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The 12 words of 2021

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

The 2021 word of the year, according to Oxford University Press, is “Vax.” Like, vaccine. Not bad, OUP, not bad. But 2021 was such a harrowing time, especially here in qathet, 2021 deserves at least 12 words of the year. Here are our suggestions. If you have others, please send them in!

1. Pfizer / Moderna / Astra Zeneca

Can you believe it’s only been a year since the very first locals got jabbed? Now we’re all experts on brands of COVID vaccines, and most of us are double or triple vaxxed. Try explaining that to your 2019 self.

2. Alpha, Delta, Omicron

These are, of course, names for COVID variants. They’re also letters of the Greek alphabet. Everyone has heard of some Greek letters because they’re names of sororities and fraternities in American blockbusters. For example, Lambda Lambda Lambda (*Revenge of the Nerds*); Delta Nu (*Legally Blond*); Phi Kappa Psi and Sigma Nu (*Animal House*) and Lambda Omega Omega (*Van Wilder*).

Now, we’re getting an excruciating crash course in the less popular Greek letters. Up next: Pi (as in 3.14...), then Rho, Sigma, Tau, Upsilon, Phi, Chi, Psi and to finish it off, Omega. If we get to the Omega variant in 2022, does COVID end too?

3. Vax Pass

Again, try explaining “digital vaccine passport” to your 2019 self. It’s impossible. There’s just too much.

4. Atmospheric River

A river, but in the sky. That’s what hit BC in mid-November. It’s the weather quirk formerly known as a “Pineapple Express” that starts near Hawaii and dumps on to the West Coast of North America—with increasing frequency.



PANACEA TO THE PANDEMIC: Pacific Spiny Lump suckers have caught the eye of local divers. Here in qathet, it’s PSL season all year. Photo by Bill McKinnon

Basically, a giant “I told you so” from the climate change watchers.

5. Weather Bomb

What even is this? It sounds terrible. After a weather bomb downed several trees and knocked out power here in late October, the CBC’s meteorologist Joanna Wagstaff explained that “it’s not a made-up term,” but is a real thing called “bombogenesis”—a rapidly-intensifying low-pressure system. This one set the all-time record in BC.

6. Heat Dome

This is indeed a new term, coined this summer when a ridge of very high

pressure trapped air underneath it, not letting cool air in, and baking qathet under three days of record-setting temperatures of 36, 36.6, and 38.4°C.

7. Sumas Prairie

In mid-November, Sumas Prairie flooded, and we learned it’s much more than some of Canada’s most fertile agricultural land and where much of our meat comes from. It’s a former lake, drained 100 years ago, on the traditional territory of the Sumas First Nation.

Sumas Prairie farms depend on the Nooksack River staying put, and the Barrowtown Pump Station for drainage. It’s home to millions of farm animals.

having a collective moment, that several regional local organizations adopted the moniker, included a number of the region’s largest Facebook groups. The Powell River Historical Museum is in a name change process. And of course this magazine changed from *Powell River Living* to *qathet Living*. What will the City of Powell River do about its name? A committee is looking into it... stay tuned.

10. Tisk^Wat

Paper Excellence renamed the Powell River mill “Catalyst Tisk^Wat” in late September, as a move toward reconciliation... after the industry was complicit, for 110 years, in removing the Tla’amin Nation from its traditional village site, Tisk^Wat, at the mouth of the river. Two months later, the company announced the end of the mill as we know it, and the land was not returned.

11. Hydrogen Fuel

Paper is so 20th century. But hydrogen fuel? That’s achingly 21st century—the latest “transition” solution to keep global warming under two degrees. And, it may fill the defunct mill lands with well-paid workers (see Page 13 and 19). Like LNG, it’s backed by a provincial strategy and a lot of talk. We’ll see. Expect much more talk and hopefully some action in 2022.

12. Pacific Spiny Lump sucker

2021 wasn’t all COVID and climate change crazies. If you’re a diver in qathet, it was also the year win which searching out these tiny fish trended.

Why? Their cuteness factor is a panacea to everything that ails us—“little ping pong balls that swim like an overloaded helicopter,” local scuba diver Sean Percy rhapsodized. “This is the year a tiny fish became cooler than nudibranchs.”

Finding them requires patience, and searching in areas divers usually don’t.

We all have a Pacific Spiny Lump sucker in our lives—or we should. We all need a reminder that there’s so much more to life than the headlines of this stressful era.

pieta@prliving.ca

8. Reconciliation

This was the year “reconciliation” truly went mainstream. Nearly six years after Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission wrapped up, an unmarked graveyard was found next to Kamloops Residential School. In response, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a National Truth and Reconciliation Day for September 30.

9. qathet

Again with the Johnny-come-late-lies, the Powell River Regional District changed its name to qathet Regional District back in 2018.

It wasn’t until 2021, when we were



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Weird weather: Part I

Is extreme weather like BC experienced in 2021 the new normal? That's the question that seems to be on everyone's mind as we head in to 2022.

It's certainly been a symptom of climate change, agree two locals in the know: qathet Regional District manager of emergency services Ryan Thoms and City of Powell River sustainability planner Anastasia Lukyanova.

This month, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter Abby Francis compares the weird weather of 2014 to that of 2021. Next month, editor Pieta Woolley will report on how local governments are planning for the weird weather of the future. In the meantime, can we interest you in a hat or some warm socks? See Page 42 for more.

Heat Dome

From June 25 to July 1, we lived under a heat dome. Temperatures were extreme here, reaching a new record of 38.4°C. BC set a new record for highest heat ever recorded in Canada, at 49.6°C in Lytton—much of which burned down. Nearly 600 people died due to the hot weather. Thousands more had to evacuate their homes.

Fire season

1,635 fires / 869,255 hectares burned (In 2020, there were 637 fires that burned 347,104 hectares—less than half. 2018 set BC's record with 2,117 fires burning 1,354,284 hectares). Fortunately, qathet did not experience any major fires or smoke this year.

Drought

The heat dome was the introduction to weeks of summer drought throughout much of BC, including the Sunshine Coast. Gardens died, wells dried up, and salmon and trout struggled to survive in local rivers. Rain began again in earnest in September.

Tornadoes

A water spout formed off the Vancouver Airport, then touched down as an official tornado at UBC November 6. Smaller water spouts also appeared off Harwood Island here in qathet.

Weather Bomb

On November 8, much of qathet lost power and four downed trees on Highway 101 halted transportation to and from Lund. The third and most intense wind storm in three weeks was the result of a record-setting drop in pressure over just 24 hours.

Floods

In mid-November, a series of atmospheric rivers hit the West Coast of BC. qathet got off relatively unscathed; some logging roads and basements got swamped. But the Fraser Valley agricultural land that feeds us meat and dairy was devastated.

White Christmas

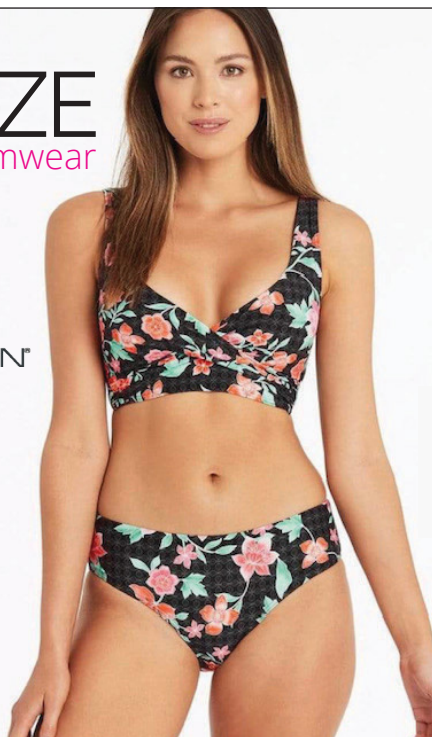
At press time, the BC government had issued a special weather advisory for a series of snow storms over the holidays, and a significant cold-snap. Will this be extreme enough to be considered "weird"?

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2014 VERSUS 2021: Flooding hit qathet harder in 2014 than it did in 2021. Here, the Tla'amin salmon hatchery was under water in 2014 – reducing salmon returns five years later. *Photo courtesy of Tla'amin Nation*

2014's weather was even weirder here

BY ABBY FRANCIS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

It was a stormy October night in 2014, when a massive flash flood raged over the Tla'amin salmon hatchery.

Logs, leaves and mud clogged the hatchery river fencing. The river overflowed into the protected area.

“It was actually very similar to the downpour we received just a few weeks ago,” says Scott Galligos, a Tla'amin hatchery technician. “The flood itself lasted just about 48 hours. There was a lot of salmon escapement.”

So many salmon escaped, in fact, that the hatchery couldn't take eggs that year to enhance the populations of chum, coho, chinook and pink.

“Salmon are on a four to five year cycle, so the impact on their numbers would have been noticeable in 2019,” says Scott.

Indeed, 2019 was the worst year of salmon returns, according to hatchery manager Lee George, who had said that they were the lowest chum salmon numbers the hatchery had ever seen.

The amount of damage, clean-up time and repairs from the flood would have been in the tens-of-thousands of dollars, making it difficult to even estimate a total cost amount, explains Scott.

“We had, and still have, a very brave, dedicated

crew.”

The hatchery is located in an area with very steep terrain, and the river is fed by a lake. When it reaches above one meter it is considered a flood; the hatchery usually has about three floods each fall and winter.

“However, the 2014 flood was something I've never seen before,” said Scott.

Weather-wise in BC, 2021 was similar to 2014. Both years featured wildfires, droughts, heat domes, torrential downpours, and floods. In fact, 2014 hit qathet much worse than 2021 did.

The storm on October 21 and 22, 2014 brought about 100mm of rain; the average rainfall for the entire month of October is 185mm. The October storm caused Tla'amin's hatchery flood—the only weather event to ever damage Tla'amin infrastructure, besides the wildfire of 1918, which burned down the entire village.

The second terrible storm from 2014 took place in the beginning of December. qathet was met with rainfalls of 202mm in just a week. The average amount of rain qathet receives throughout the entire month of December is about 146 mm.

The December storm led to six different landslides south of town, and one disastrous landslide that occurred north of town near Atrevida Road, cluttering the area with debris of logs, rocks and mud. The landslide also damaged homes. This storm caused issues in many areas of qathet with drainage and sewer systems; Cranberry was reported to have had multiple drainage problems, due to an overloaded system.

Besides the flood damage 2014 did locally, the en-



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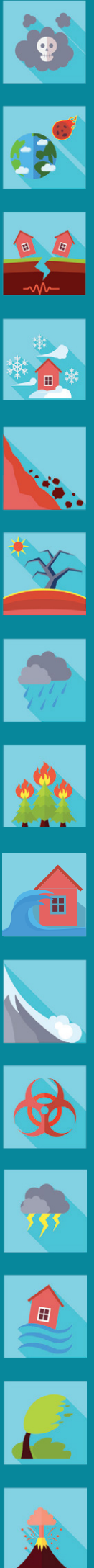


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Province entered a heat dome, which created BC's third hottest summer on record, leading to one of the worst wildfire seasons that British Columbia had yet to face, with around 370,000 hectares of land burned.

The storms that occurred in October and December had an impact on other areas too.

Comox and Port Alberni also suffered substantial weather damage. Courtenay and Delta even declared local states of emergency.

The instances from 2014 and 2021, demonstrate single weather events becoming more severe, impacting one another, making incidents like wildfires and floods much more extreme.

When intense heat is mixed with a drought, it makes the wildfire season worse.

When burned land is met with a sudden downpour of rain, more floods and landslides occur.

In 2014, qathet had a very dry summer, with little rain, until October, when it was hit with an overwhelming downpour, adding severity to the hatchery flood.

While 2014 mirrors what happened in 2021, 2014's severe weather was less intense than the severe weather the entire province has been met with in recent years. And yet, the 2014 events affected qathet much more than 2021 when looking at damage caused.

Provincially, 2021 was a disastrous year of weather – hitting BC with much more than just wildfires and torrential rain. The powerful heat dome scorched the province through June, July and August, as droughts became worse, making the fires stronger and easier to start. Wildfires struck BC much earlier than the usual fire season and lasted much longer. Over 860,000

hectares burned. British Columbia was smoked out, Kelowna recorded its worst air quality ever. However, the wildfires weren't alone.

qathet saw not one, but two rare waterspouts of notable size in front of Harwood Island during the summer. Although there nothing was damaged by these, it is very rare to see a weather event occur like that in June.

The fall came and Vancouver was met with an unusual tornado that touched down at both UBC and an airport.

This led into the atmospheric river drenching the south coast, leaving many towns and cities throughout the province flooded, and damaging every highway into and out of Vancouver. Days later, Merritt, still suffering from flooding, received snow and freezing temperatures.

Luckily, the Tla'amin salmon hatchery was prepared for 2021's storms.

"This year the fence repairs had just been completed, from the 2014 flood," Scott says. "The team had been very concerned about flooding this year.

"The crew had been very proactive; the stock board was removed, and two hour shifts were taken on by the crew for two weeks, all throughout the day and night, babysitting the fence. They even went into the roaring river to clean it if needed," says Scott.

Despite all of these severe weather events, 2021 has not been the worst year for weather; in fact it wasn't even BC's worst year for forest fires, despite how much it felt like it was. The worst wildfire season was in 2017. 2021 was the third worst year for wildfires, which took 2014's place, when looking at the past 10 years. abby@prliving.ca



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HEART OF QATHET

Big impact, low time commitment

The Powell River Chapter of 100+ Women Who Care is a volunteer run group created to make big change!

Over 150 women meet for one hour, four times a year, to hear presentations from three local not-for-profit organizations. Members vote for one of the organizations to receive a \$50 donation from each member, for a collective donation of approximately \$5,000. Currently these funds are matched by the Powell River Community Forest Society, making the donations total approximately \$10,000!

The group has donated over \$177,000 to local organizations since 2017.

Nancy Howlin serves as the Presenter Coordinator for 100+ Women Who Care. Her role is to contact the nominated organizations and invite them to present to the membership. It sounds simple, but it can take a lot of time and energy to track down the volunteers who run our local non-profits. The group appreciates her kind, compassionate leadership – they couldn't run the group without her!

How and when did you start working with 100+ Women Who Care?

Nancy • I joined 100+ Women Who Care as a member when the organization was established in 2017 and then I was invited, shortly after, to be one of the committee members.

What attracted you to 100+ Women?

Nancy • I love that it brings like-minded women together in such a positive, worth-

while cause. It empowers us to help make a difference within our community as well as learn about all the amazing work that is done in Powell River.

What part of the work is the most satisfying?

Nancy • Connecting with people from different organizations and learning about the resources we have in Powell River. I have learned so much about our local non-profits and the services they provide. There are thousands of people in our community who volunteer their time to help vulnerable children, support women leaving abusive relationships, care for people requiring end-of-life support, nurse sick animals back to health, provide food to people who are experiencing hardship ... the list goes on and on.

What part of the work do you find the most challenging?

Nancy • That we can't help everyone! We only choose one recipient per meeting. There is so much need in our community, it would be awesome to be able to help all the organizations. It's also a challenge to know who all the non-profit organizations are in our community. We are hoping that if there are organizations who have not yet presented to our group, that they'll reach out to us to put their name on the presenters list.

Nancy • What do you wish other people knew about the work 100+ Women Who Care does?

Nancy • For me it's really what we facilitate. It's a venue for different organizations to have a platform to let our membership



FIRST MEETING: Back in 2017, 100+ Women who Care's first donation was for the Community Resource Centre: \$7,800.

know about the good work they do. It might lead to some members joining different committees that they didn't know were within our community – they could find volunteering opportunities or even be able to direct others to resources that they may not have known are available.

Had you been involved in charitable or caring work before? What got you started?

Nancy • Through my work I have been actively involved with the Powell River Kings Read Program. My family has also billeted Kings players for nine years. I find it very rewarding to be able to help others.

How has 100+ Women Who Care changed your life?

Nancy • Every meeting we have for 100+ Women Who Care helps remind me to be grateful for all that we have in our community. It inspires me to see how many volunteers we have and for all that our community offers, and to always help where I can.

New Column

This is our first "Heart of qathet" column. Each month, we'll profile one star individual from a local helping agency or group. We hope their stories will inspire you to get involved here in the community.

Do you bring any unique skills to this organization?

Nancy • The best thing about our committee is that we work so well together as a team. We are not only a committee, but a community of great friends.

What would you say to other people who might be thinking about volunteering?

Nancy • Please check us out on Facebook or at 100womenpr.ca. We'd love to have you join our group!

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Feisty falcon relieved to be home

BY MERILEE PRIOR

Last July, after falling from a nest built high in the cliffs on Redonda Island, this lucky falcon nestling was rescued by a tour boat on an excursion in Desolation Sound (see right).

This boat was in the right place at the right time.

Pulling it into the boat, the tourists shook it off and dried it out and called PROWL (Powell River Orphaned Wildlife Society). They later stopped to drop it off, and I identified it as a young merlin, still covered in down. Cold, confused and miserable, it was cleaned up, fed some boneless quail breast, and kept warm and quiet for the night.

The next morning, dry and feisty, it caught the early Pacific Coastal Airlines flight to OWL (Orphaned Wildlife Rescue) in Delta. When I called in the afternoon to see what the specialists had found, their senior rehabilitator laughed: "She's such a big female merlin that she is a young peregrine!"

Rehabilitating a young peregrine, they told me, can be difficult because they are totally dependent on their parents to learn the essential hunting skills. Young ones are often fostered by trained peregrines, who feed them and teach them to fly and hunt. During a peregrine falcon's spectacular hunt-

ing stoop from heights of over one km, these birds, the fastest animal on earth, may reach speeds of 320 kilometres per hour as they drop toward their prey. It is extremely important that the fledglings learn these skills before being sent out on their own.

Our young falcon returned to qathet in November, still cranky and uncooperative. Driven straight out to Okeover dock, this handsome bird refused to leave the cage. The door was opened and we waited for her exit. Nothing.

Eventually I became impatient and shook the cage, even turning it upside down. Still nothing. She only retreated further inside.

Suddenly she seemed to realize things had changed—she was no longer confined and there was no need to be contrary. Hopping out, taking a quick look around, she was quickly airborne, making a great swoop southwards. Then she circled around to the other side of the inlet, where two eagles quickly made their presence known, followed by a group of seagulls.

She landed in a very tall tree, having successfully made her first ever free flight.

There's nothing like a community of many diverse people with many diverse skills to see impossible tasks accomplished!



BY MIKE ROBINSON | TERRACENTRIC GUEST SKIPPER

During the peak of the heat dome that blanketed the province, while on a zodiac tour of Desolation Sound, our clients and I had a once-in-a-lifetime encounter with one of nature's most evolved aerial predators: the peregrine falcon.

My sharp-eyed client Isabel is really the hero here because, as we meandered along exploring the magnificent cliffs on the south shore of East Redonda Island, she spotted a bird in the water.

I glanced at it, noting its head was hanging under the surface and presumed it was dead, but Isabel said she saw its legs moving. We circled back to take a look. It didn't look good; its head had been underwater for at least 45 seconds by the time I got the boat in place.

Not expecting much, I reached in and grabbed it, shocked when I felt the legs kick. I pulled it out and gave it a good shake to clear the water from its beak and lungs, and lo and behold it came back to consciousness, looking around in a bit of a panic as it regained its senses.

We looked it over carefully (Isabel is a doctor), wrapped it in a towel and I started making phone calls. Pretty soon I had Merrilee from PROWLs on the line and she instructed us to bring the falcon to her.

The next day when I returned to the same spot, I saw the mother falcon sitting a few meters above the waterline looking very forlorn and despondent, as you might expect. All I could do was tell her that her daughter was getting a second chance and hopefully they'd meet again in a few months.

Thanks to all the good folks at OWLS and PROWLs! Let's hope these little raptors continue to thrive in our region forever. 🐦



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WHAT'S UP

Local dog groomer appears on Dragons' Den

Local dog groomer Faith Chipman appeared on the Dragons' Den last month to pitch her grooming product, including MarshMello Dematt—a product that detangles and dematts dog fur with plant extracts.

Faith asked for \$37,000 for 25 per cent of her business and although the dragons denied her, she isn't giving up.

Faith has been a dog groomer for more than 20 years. In qathet, she owns Shaggy Dawg Dog Grooming and operates an online store (marshmellodematt.com) to sell her pet grooming products. She created MarshMello Dematt (a dog detangling spray) because she wanted to be able to groom dogs with a product that was silicone and sulfate free.

Her products can be found on social media including Facebook. Despite the growth in her grooming products since she launched that arm of her business nine years ago, and the fact that the pet sector is mushrooming right now, some Dragons said she should be looking for a co-founder to take her business to the next level. Faith was also advised to fo-

cus on the detangling spray and not the other products.

Although the show aired last month, it was taped in May. The entrepreneur comes from Burnt Church, New Brunswick and is a member of the Mi'kmaq Nation. She introduced herself as "from Powell River, BC" on the show. Although she was nervous being on the show she wasn't as nervous as she thought she'd be.

Faith knew MarshMello Dematt was a hit a few years ago when she took it to a pet expo and it sold out within hours. The product is really taking off—Faith celebrated her best month in November and she's been approached by major pet retailers, including chewy.com, to carry her products.

Theme for writing contest

The theme for Powell River's annual writing contest is: "Camping in qathet." Sponsored by *qathet Living* magazine and the Powell River Public Library, entries will be accepted from now until 4 pm Saturday, February 26.

"Instead of announcing the theme on the day of and giving participants just a few hours to write, we decided to an-

nounce the theme in advance," says *qathet Living* publisher Isabelle Southcott.

"So many people have great stories about camping in qathet that we thought this topic would resonate with them."

See Page 32 for full details.

qRD wins award

qathet Regional District won the 2021 Community Excellence Award in Asset Management for their natural asset solution to stormwater runoff at the new Resource Recovery Centre.

Pumpkin People Winners

There were some really fabulous entries in the third annual Powtown Pumpkin People contest in October. Locals got creative and we saw everything from a bride to a nutcracker. The big winner was Cindy McLean in the residential category with "Quicksand" for \$250 and a trophy.

qathet Living magazine thanks Mother Nature and Papparazzi Pizza for supporting this great contest with us.



Commercial • First place: Pumpkin Nutcracker, The Nutcracker; Runner up: Ichabear, Tourism Powell River.

Residential • First place: Quicksand, Cindy McLean; Runner up: Pumpkin lady, Aisha Munroe.

SD47's new mental health hub

School District 47's new mental health resource hub can be accessed by students, parents, staff and members of the community.

The hub, which is accessible through the School District's website (sd47.bc.ca) includes links to actual programs; information about mental health and wellness, and taking care of your positive mental health; and where to find help and sample wellness activities.

Input: City budget survey

Powell River taxpayers are encouraged to visit powellriver.ca before January 16 and show City Council where they want their tax dollars spent. This feedback will be shared with the finance committee as City Council develops the 2022-2026 financial plan.

Print copies of the survey are available at City Hall, the Powell River Public Library and the Recreation Complex. 📄

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I MADE THE MOVE

Just in time, from Abbotsford



The move from Abbotsford to qathet was in the works for quite a while; the Reid family was already building a house in Westview. But just weeks before Sumas Prairie flooded mid-November, Anna had a strong feeling it was time to move the family out of the area. Now, they're here.

"Wife/mother/nana" Anna works from home as an order engineer by day and crafter by night.

"Husband/stepfather/grandpa" Dave works at Pacific Coastal Airlines here at the airport.

"Son/uncle" Brandon is a movie/song enthusiast that can be found gaming or helping others in his spare time.

And "Son/grandson" Ryder is a rough and tumble toddler who is always on a mission!

Why did you choose to move to qathet?

Anna • We always wanted to live near the water but still have the mountains close by and it feels like home.

When? Where from?

Anna • Late Summer / early Fall 2021 from Abbotsford, BC and just before the floods, thankfully. It has been a whirl

HAPPY TO BE HOME HERE: It's not quite accurate to say that Ryder, Dave, Brandon and Anna Reid are qathet's first family of climate refugees, but it's close.

wind of emotions as we still have family and friends that have been affected by the devastation. Some have lost their homes, and many have lost all their possessions. But all of them are coming together to help one another.

What surprised you about qathet once you moved here?

Anna • How windy it is.

What made you decide to move to qathet?

Anna • We talked about where we would like to retire and qathet was top pick. Fishing, hiking and beach exploring.

Where is your favourite place in qathet?

Anna • Gibson's Beach.

How did you first hear about qathet?

Anna • From my mother telling me stories of where she grew up and how she went to a one-room school in Lund.

What would make qathet a nicer community?

Anna • I love it the way it is!

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

Anna • Finding a place to stay while our home was being built.

What are qathet's best assets?

Anna • All the hiking trails, lakes, being surrounded by forests and the ocean.

What is your greatest extravagance?

Anna • Coffee mugs... I have so many that they need their own cabinet.

Which superpower would you most like to have?

Anna • Telekinesis - who doesn't want to move things with their mind? 🦹



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BUSINESS AFFAIRS

SEAN PERCY

Comox company buys T&R

T&R Contracting and Coast Hydro Excavating have new owners. The Atkinson family from the Comox Valley, which has owned Hyland Precast Ltd. since 2008, purchased the two qathet companies late last year.

“When these companies came up for sale, we saw that they were complementary to our business model,” said Andrea Potter, marketing director.

They’re already in the precast, ready mix and sand and gravel business, and the addition of the hydro vac operation allows them to offer additional services in the Comox Valley. Andrea says they were able to retain all the employees who were offered letters of employment and the same services will be available.

“We’ll be able to bring some of our talent and expertise from Hyland into Powell River. Our operational systems and expertise we have developed, allow us to quote and deliver quickly.”

Chris Huber, Hyland’s General Manager, is overseeing the transition. He can be reached through the same T&R number at 604-485-2234. Rachel Atkinson is overseeing operations for Coast Hydro Excavating, and can be reached at 778-318-0242.

Rural Septic Services remains owned locally by Bonnie and Dan Robinson.

Hopper back in the game

Powell River Kings have appointed Rick Hopper as the director of operations. In this newly created role, Rick will oversee the daily running of the franchise both on and off the ice. Rick was the GM/Coach of the Delta Flyers in 1987/88 prior to bringing that franchise to Powell River as the Paper Kings in the spring of 1988.

For the past four years, Hopper has been serving the Powell River Minor Hockey Association as its director of operations.

“What a fantastic opportunity the Kings Hockey Society has given me to come back full circle in my hockey career,” says Rick.

Car co-op

The Coast Car Co-op is working with the City of Powell River to determine community interest in expanding its non-profit operations to qathet. Launched in Gibsons in 2014, the co-op serves 300 member-drivers in the Gibsons, Sechelt, Roberts Creek area.

Drivers can choose from a truck, van, hybrid, or compact car. It provides an affordable flexible transportation option for seniors, families, lower income households, and community organizations.

In addition to a proposed qathet fleet, co-op members would also get access to vehicles from Gibsons to Sechelt plus over 600 vehicles in Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo, and Kelowna (via MODO, a partner Car-share.)

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January in qathet

Sundays

Powell River Farmers Market
12:30 to 2:30 pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds inside the quonset hut.

Saturdays

Uptown Farmer's Market
10 to noon, CRC on Joyce.

Through January 15
qathet Members Exhibition
Tues, Thurs, Sat 12-5 pm.
The Art Centre Public Gallery.

Tuesday, January 4
Schools reopen

January 4 to 8
Extremely high tides expected

Thursday, January 6
Kings vs Victoria Grizzlies
7 pm at the Hap.

Saturday, January 8
Kings vs Surrey Eagles
7 pm at the Hap. A night with Tla'amin, ceremonial drum presentation.

Saturday, January 8

Kick the Clutter, Get Organized Workshop
2 pm, Library. Professional organizer and motivational speaker Ranka Burzan offers an inspirational, fun and informative workshop about how to live and work in an organized space. To register, email mmerlino@prpl.ca

Sunday, January 9
Kings vs Surrey Eagles
1:30 pm at the Hap.

Friday, January 14
Banff Mountain Film Fest
It's still on, but running at 50% capacity, with just 200 people. Films at 7 pm. At press time, just a few tickets were left for Friday's show. Get them at the Peak or TAWS. Due to the reduced capacity, a Saturday matinee has been added.

A Writing Life with Loren Halloran
4 pm via Zoom. Musician and writer Loren Halloran will present the story of being a songwriter, poet, memoir writer, and now author of two young reader novels Dream Mountain and the Mysterious Ledge. To register, email mmerlino@prpl.ca

Saturday, January 15

Banff Mountain Film Fest
Organizer Jim Palm needs your help! Because more than 200 tickets had already been sold for Saturday evening's show when the order was made for reduced capacity, some of those tickets need to be moved to a newly added matinee show (same films, doors open at 1:30 with films at 2 pm). If you can help out by trading your Saturday evening ticket for a matinee, call Jim at 604-414-5960 or email james.palm@sd47.bc.ca. As of press time, tickets were still available for the matinee. Find them at TAWS or the Peak.

Friday, January 21

Tech Savvy - Increasing Your Online Visibility
3 pm at the Library. Learn how to maximize the visibility of your website and social media posts and reach your audience with some simple strategies for optimizing the content you share. To register, email mmerlino@prpl.ca

Kings vs Alberni Valley Bulldogs
7 pm at the Hap.

Saturday, January 22

Kings vs Alberni Valley Bulldogs
7 pm at The Hap.

Saturday, January 29

The Michif Language
2 pm via Zoom. Métis elder Marie Schoenthal will provide a basic introduction to the Heritage Michif language used throughout the Métis homeland. To register, email mmerlino@prpl.ca

March 4 to 13

Powell River Film Festival
See ad on Page 11.


February 11-13

Mixed Bonspiel
Curling Club.

February 19 & 20

Club Bon Accueil Festival du Film Francophone
Patricia Theatre. See ad on Page 18.

February 26

Deadline for the PRPL / qL writing contest
Theme is "Camping."
See ad on Page 32 for details. 

As PHO orders are continuing to evolve, please double check closer to the date that these events are still happening.



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MAIL BAG

We welcome feedback from our readers. Letters may be edited for length. Email your comments to isabelle@priving.ca, or mail an old-school letter in the post to **qathet Living, 7053E Glacier St, Powell River, BC V8A 5J7.**

Want to be kind? Really listen to those you think you disagree with

To the editor,
"The first to speak in court sounds right— until the cross-examination begins." Proverbs 18:17
"To answer before listening— that is folly and shame." Proverbs 18:13

I wanted to respond to publisher Isabelle Southcott's call for "kindness, love and tolerance" in October's Last Word which dealt with COVID and the recognition that there is more than one way to view the pandemic.

I would add that if there is no understanding of the other side, it is often difficult to get to the point of tolerance, let alone kindness and love. To my eyes, the first step in getting there would be to work toward understanding the other point of view. That is not accomplished by disdain, vilification, silencing, dismissing, banning, condemning, or ridiculing.

It can, however, be achieved by respectfully listening, asking questions, pondering, probing, and honestly dialoguing.

I look forward to seeing thoughtful and insightful treatment of the other side in future articles. Perhaps you could reach out to some of the doctors or others who have written Open Letters to our health officials in recent months. Perhaps you could publish an interview with someone who has lost employment due to current mandates.

What a costly decision. What could possibly be behind such a response? These are not light subjects, but they matter. They matter in our own small com-

munity today, where Isabelle is right, deep divides have formed.

It is easy to criticize what we don't understand. Perhaps instead, we could take a second look, ask a few questions, and really listen. Perhaps if we started listening, we would see that the concern of the other side is not for themselves only, but to find the best path forward for all of us.

Isn't that what everyone wants?

Although a look at the other side may not provoke a change of mind, at the very least it will help to build understanding, and with understanding in place, "kindness, love and tolerance" can follow.

- Sharon Justinen

Learning to say 'qathet'

To the editor,

I wanted to first point out what a great edition December is! It felt like an early Christmas present when I sat down to devour those great articles.

Please tell your staff how lucky we are here in Powell River to have such talent! I also wanted to reach out to see if you would do a story on the new Sliammon Language App that is available. Maybe you already covered this cool technology, maybe not...anyways I downloaded it and it is amazing!

Cindy Mitchell, our new student liaison, got me onto it, and I was able to learn and teach others how to say 'qathet.' I enjoy learning the language and thought you should know. You can find it in the App Store- it's free and so neat. Elsie Paul is speaking, by the way. Keep up the good work.

- Sue Cecconi

Thanks for the well-wishes!

To the editor,

I read your magazine each month and wanted to celebrate the quantum leap you have made this last year. Thanks to Isabelle and Pieta and Sean and all the others for your wonderful devoted work for us all in this growing town.

Wishing you a happy, peaceful holiday and a healthy, inspiring new year 2022.

- Tanis Helliwell

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Learning the language

ᑕᑕᑭᑭᑭᑭ – learning
ᑕᑕᑭᑭᑭᑭ – I am learning

Our commitment this year is to continue learning. Learning is a lifelong process. For many people in our community, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, this is the first time we have had a chance to learn our language.

Fewer than 40 fluent speakers of our language are alive today. Thankfully there are hundreds of learners across ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ-speaking territory!

Join in our commitment to revitalizing ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ this year by learning with us.

Scan the qr code to find six basic language lessons that will teach you introductions, greetings, weather and daily phrases. Learning our language will also teach you the world view of Tla'amin



people. Listen to our language and you will hear how we relate to the world.

Life long learning happens outside classrooms: Tea with ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ – Elders Elsie Paul and Doreen Point shared with jehjeh Media stories, language and laughter about growing up ᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ (strong ayajuthum women). Stay tuned later this month for the release of this video interview on our upcoming live stream.



jehjeh Media is a branch of Taxumajehjeh, whose focus is creating and producing multimedia that shares and normalizes ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ in creative, engaging ways. jehjeh Media is a team of ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ (people) who are committed to ensuring ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ remains a living, growing, language. Learn more at jehjehmedia.ca

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1



2

1. Fewer beach balls

You've spent A LOT of time watching the spinning beachball on that old Mac—you deserve better! You can solve that problem on a budget with something like this 2019 13" Macbook Pro from **PR Macs**.

2. Block out time for yourself

The Speedball Ultimate Fabric & Paper Block Printing Kit from **qathet art + wares** contains everything needed to create beautiful block prints on fabric, as well as an instructional DVD and booklet.

3. Chocolate, orange, and... juniper? Oh yeah.

Built on a base of Brecon Special Reserve Gin, this Brecon Chocolate Orange Gin from **Capone's Cellar** juxtaposes the richness of the chocolate and the brightness of the citrus, creating a fantastically varied flavour profile. Powdery cocoa and silky vanilla succumb to zesty, sweet orange bursts and an unmistakably full-bodied juniper. Dry cassia bark balanced with smooth fresh cream lingers in the mouth. Best served with ice and chilled tonic water. Garnish with cinnamon and a twist of orange.

3

4. Lemon & Honey

Straight from nature, the organic shapes and slow-grown designs inherent to **Collective Interior's** Olive-wood Lemon Press and Honey Dipper elevate prep work and create a statement when used to serve and display.

5. Hot in small spaces

Compact yet strong, the Aspen® wood stove adds warmth and style to small and mid-size spaces. With no manual controls, this is the simplest stove you will ever operate. It automatically optimizes heat output and efficiency throughout the life of the burn, which can be up to 10 hours from each load of wood. There's even a top plate for cheap stovetop cooking – even when the power is out. See one in person at **Cadam Construction's Fireplace & Stove Centre**.

6. Get feeling chipper

A chipper from **Thunder Bay Saw Shop** can help with your winter cleanups. Lightweight and portable, the BXMC34S shown here is ideal for a small rural property. Powered by Honda, it makes quick work of branches, brush, and leaves. Stop by and talk to Dana and the team to help you choose the right chipper for you.

7. Get bowled over

Yarn bowls from **Knitter's Nest** will help keep your yarn from tangling and are designed to feed the yarn as you knit, and keep your skein from falling on the floor or gathering dust. While they're practical, you'll buy one from Knitter's Nest because of their handcrafted warm wood beauty.

8. Needle work

Woven from pine needles, this basketry by Carolynne Hague is a collector's item. You can find it for \$285 at **Tug Guhm Gallery** at the Klah Ah Men Resort in Lund.

9. Jewelry for ... you

You don't need a special time of the year, or even a special person, to enjoy the selection of jewelry at **Tla'amin Convenience Store**. Pick up a set of Indigenous-made earrings or bracelets just for yourself.

10. Clean up in any aisle

This DeWalt 9-gallon dry/wet vacuum cleaner is ideal for small and large cleanups in workplaces such as construction sites. It includes a specially designed handle for easy transport and a powerful, rugged motor for optimum suction performance. Its cartridge filter retains fine dust, small dry debris and wet

For your co gathet hon Top local swag for you and your p

4



materials, and it's washable so you can reuse it many times. Find it at **RONA Powell River**.

11. Beat the blues

With the Christmas decorations gone, add some colour back to your home with a piece of new art. Find paintings, prints, sculpture, textile art, photographs, jewellery or, as shown here, beautiful art glass, at **Turadh Fine Art** in the Townsite Market.

12. Ocean vibes

Found Stone artist Suzi Wiebe is best known for her beach glass art, like this whimsical shadow box sailboat (which can be free standing or hanging). But she also re-imagines old wood pieces, like this sign made from old barn boards. If you love being on the beach or on the water, these are for you.

13. Bigger, faster, greener

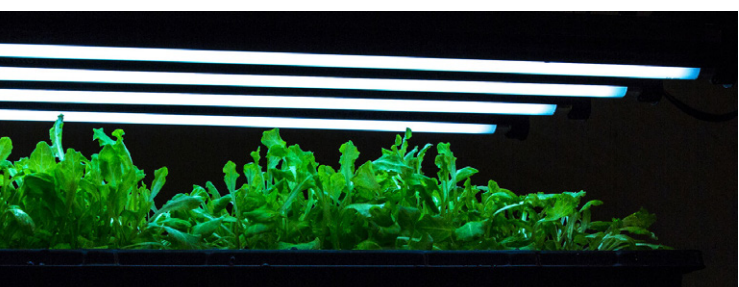
The dark days of winter shouldn't stop you from growing micro-greens, plant starters and more. Thanks to Sunblaster lighting kits from **Mother Nature**, you can keep growing year-round indoors with the best of natural sunlight right into your home. Their T5HO combo kits (from 18" to 48") include light strips, reflectors and covered trays to grow bigger, healthier plants faster.



13



Cozy
me
people





1



2



3



4



5



7



6

For you gathered at Top local swag for you

1. Looking great

When you're zipping along on your quad or motorbike through a qathet trail, you want to be looking ahead, not worrying about your goggles and whether a branch or stick might crack them. So head over to **Two Wheel Tech** and get your hands on a pair of Leatt Velocity 5.5 goggles, which are nearly bulletproof. With permanent anti-fog and great designs, they give perfect vision and protect your eyes, while looking great doing it, so you can enjoy the ride.

2. Fits to a fur-baby

Your furry friends need to be accessorized too! **Fits to a T** carries leather dog collars and leashes handmade by Maya artisan women in Mexico.

3. Knit caps for kids and adults

Seaside Aenfae Boutique is now selling its own house brand of toques! Knit by Ren, they are double layered, wool blend toques that are cozy, luxuriously soft, and washable. These are one size fits all. Adjust the brim as much as you need to get the perfect fit on toddlers to adults.

4. Classic jeans

The jean that looks good on everybody, Allan sits just below the waist and features a classic fit through the hip and thigh. From Silver Jeans, and available at **Armitage Men's Wear**, this straight leg is constructed with performance stretch denim with ultimate flexibility and mobility for guys who are always on the go. Finished with a dark indigo rinse with heavy hand sanding and whisker patterns.

5. Reusables with style

Spoil yourself, not the environment, with these natural bamboo or ebony cutlery pieces to replace single-use plastics. Part of the profits on the sale of these Danica items goes to Education without Borders. Find them at **Owl & Bear** in the Townsite Market.

6. Beach ready

Simply Bronze has the perfect swimsuit for that upcoming vacation. For example, this one-piece from Bond-Eye is a stretchy, one-size-fits-most. It stays in place where you put it. It has wide shoulder straps for support, and adjustable coverage - can be worn mid to full and high or low on the hip. It stretches over small to large bust sizes.

7. Hot heads

These toques from Ladywood are available at **Afterglow Hair Lounge**, just in time for that cold snap. Made from soft acrylic

Go wild Adventure you and your people

yarn, the tight/dense knit construction keeps you warm and fashionable. Choose from regular (7.5" when rolled, 9.5" unrolled) or tall (8" rolled, 11.5" unrolled) in a variety of colours.

8. Pizza anywhere

Take your love of custom pizza to your backyard, or anywhere, with an Ooni gas or wood-fired unit, available at **Valley Building Supplies**. Hot and fast is how you cook truly great pizza – all of the Ooni models get hot as hell (that's 950°F/500°C last time we checked) and cook incredible pizza in only 60 seconds.

9. Darn Tough

Socks may be a traditional gift, but they're a gift with purpose when you give Darn Tough socks from **Pagani & Sons Shoes**. The Merino wool socks live up to the name, and are guaranteed for life. And when they have cool designs like a flaming outhouse, well that's just the topper.

10. Mo' Socks

Thermohair socks are made in Canada out of mohair – the so-called diamond fibre, because it's rare and very strong. Mohair insulates well, but these are also super durable. Everyone needs a pair of these warm super soft and itch free socks! Get yours at **Coastal Thrive** in the Townsite Market.

11. Hiking guide

Plan your hiking season on the Sunshine Coast Trail with the latest edition guidebook, penned by local trail builder Eagle Walz, available at the **Visitor Centre** for \$25.95.

12. Give them wheel envy

Break free from the crowd with the Breakout, not your typical directional spoked wheel. The aggressive swept seven-spoke mesh has a unique horizontal offset giving it even more swagger. The centre cap has a removable logo for further customization. It's available at **Big O Tires/Coast Auto**.

13. Leather weather

For high quality Canadian leather bags, back packs, purses, wallets, look no further than **Paperworks Gift Gallery**. The strong leather in products such as this laptop bag are traditionally crafted by Adrian Kliis.



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A Thought For The Day

“Love manifests its reality in deeds.”



~ Bahá'í Teachings

TAKE A BREAK

Long Night Remedies for Busy People

After Winter Solstice last month, our daylight hours have slowly been increasing each day with a renewal of vital life force from the Sun's course through the sky. Yet the nights are still long and the biting cold is soon to be setting in.

To help us move through this darker, stormier half of the year, many people speak of the “medicines” or “energies” found in the night, often followed by examples such as Dreaming, Resting, Brewing Ideas, Setting Intentions, Self Reflection, Creativity, or Medicine Making. For some of us, this is a natural shift, while for others it reads as pie-in-the-sky impracticality, and for others still, such suggestions seem too cryptic to implement.

I'm here to suggest seamless ways of incorporating these time-tested supports for even the busiest or most overwhelmed of us.

The key here is to think small. For the sake of storytelling, let's imagine ourselves through a day as a busy working parent. Alarm or pets or kids wake us at what feels much too early. Despite pressure to rush awake we take three slow deep breaths while feeling what might be left of any dreams before moving into morning routines.

Perhaps the house becomes noisy, with much to organize and remember as each family member heads out the door for work and school. At some point, during coffee or commute, we touch in with our senses to revel in taste, smell, sight. Maybe it's the cozy feel of wrapping in our favourite scarf or the way moss peeks out from snowy tree trunks.

On to our day job with expected smiley face through a frantic pace. Mid-afternoon a subtle shift within us takes place and we begin to “wear life as a loose garment” rather than tensing under pressure. Dedication to responsibility is present, but we let it melt out of our shoulders, untie the knot in our stomach, and with a soft hand over our forehead busy thoughts release.

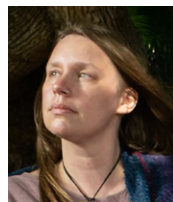
Commuting home we choose to turn off the car radio for a quiet break before helping with homework, house tending, and catching up on the family's day. As we do, a bird keeps pace alongside our car, bringing a sense of confirmation and support.

Later, while making supper, our family tells us of challenges and frustrations. In response, feelings of love begin to flow into the food being chopped and prayers of peaceful strength are stirred into the cooking pot.

In the late evening, there is a window of opportunity for knitting, doodling, journaling, or other creative pursuits. A time ripe for letting our mind wander, to sort how we feel about something, find what we truly want, and put wishes into something tangible.

Heading to bed before we are too tired allows us to hold a question in mind as we fall asleep. Drinking water for a mid-night bathroom trip is a sneaky trick for two sets of dream insights to remember come morning.

Juliette Jarvis offers sacred living programs online, devotional arts, and divination sessions. Find her at 3FoldBalance.com and SelkieSanctuary.com

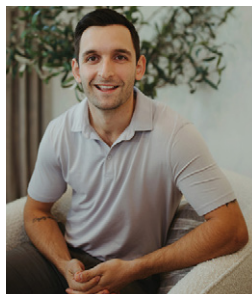


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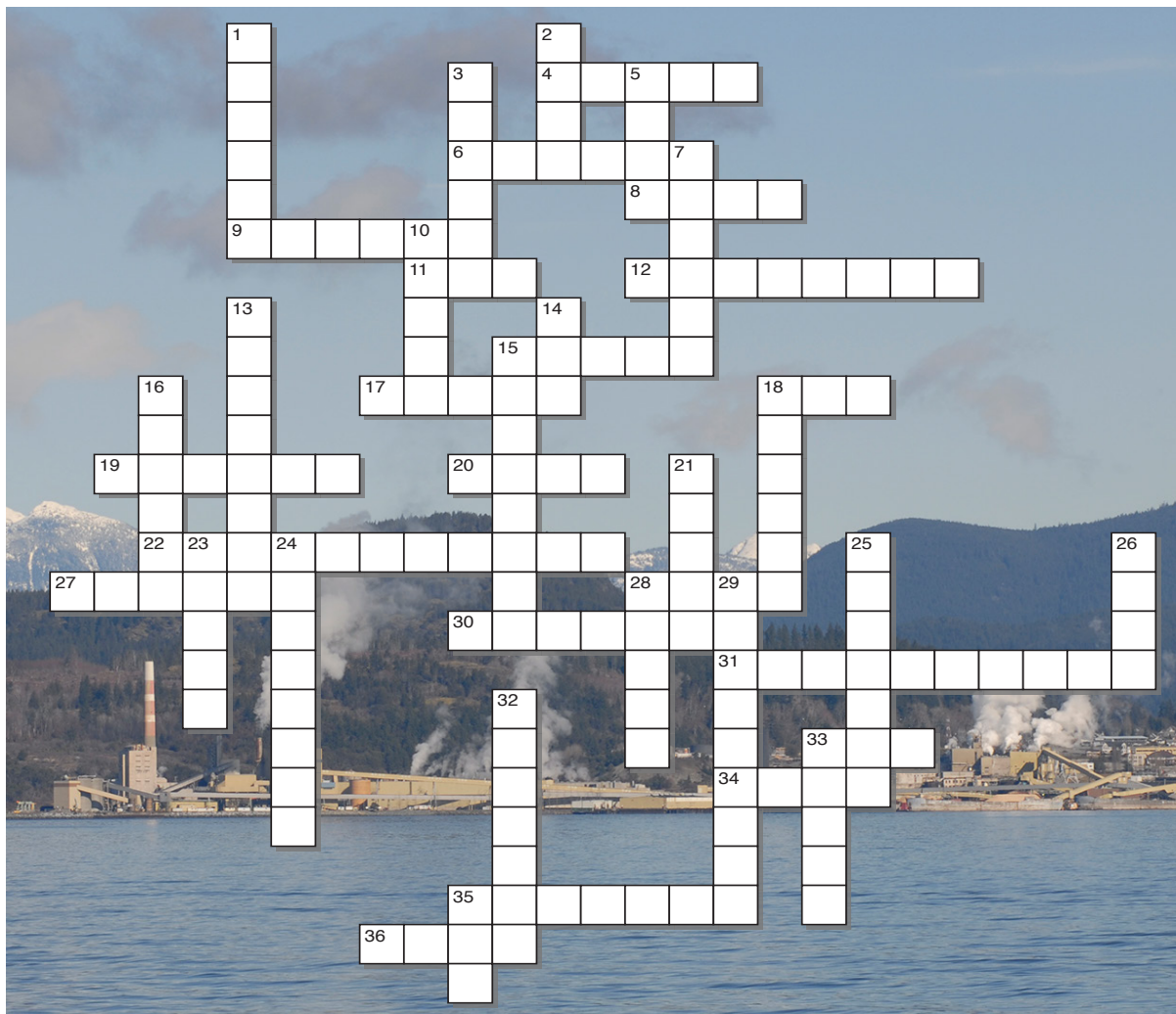
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TAKE A BREAK



Across

- 4) Water power
- 6) Paper Kings' Rick
- 8) Wet fibres
- 9) Closed kraft mill
- 11) Mill's possible next owner (acr)
- 12) Mill-built residential area
- 15) Mill's product
- 17) It used to be just
- 18) Pig, or barky fuel
- 19) Mill starter, school, Townsite entrepreneur
- 20) Factory
- 22) Current from the dam
- 27) Boat parking place
- 28) Be __, be calm
- 30) Paper-making apparatus
- 31) Desirable real estate
- 33) Mill's current owner (acr)
- 34) To turn, or wound cylinder
- 35) Mill site original name
- 36) Score, or aim

Down

- 1) Raptor, Cap's wingman
- 2) Sea transport
- 3) Language media org
- 5) Port's advantage
- 7) Gossip from the mill
- 10) Chemical pulp, or quick dinner
- 13) Oxygen's partner in water
- 14) Beavers and papermakers do it
- 15) Mill owner after MB
- 16) Length occupation
- 18) Comox's new T&R owner
- 21) Choo choo
- 23) Mill chorus: Sea _____
- 24) Agent of change
- 25) MacMillan's partner
- 26) What follows
- 28) Royal hockey team
- 29) Paper for media
- 32) Restrict
- 33) Put to grow, or place making steam
- 35) Payment to government

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Because of the Powell River Company

It's the end of an era.

The announcement that the mill is closing didn't come as a big surprise. Over the decades, there's been rumbles on and off. Still, I felt a tug at my heart and a tightening in my chest as I realized the final chapter had been written on this part of the Southcott family's history.

I was not born a Southcott, but married into and divorced out of the family. When you have children you never really leave a family, especially when you live in a small town.

It's fair to say the Southcott family wouldn't be here if not for the mill. Like many other families, my children's great-grandfather Robert "Bob" James Southcott came to qathet in 1914 (the mill started making paper in 1912) to work for the Powell River Company. He was a member of the carpentry crew known as the Townsite Gang, men who built houses in the Townsite to house the Company's workers.

The houses they built were so well constructed that most of them are still lived in today. Until recently, I owned one of these glorious Townsite homes and appreciated both the craftsmanship and the community feel of the planned neighbourhood.

When I purchased my Townsite home, the kraft mill was no longer operating; I didn't have to contend with that haze of yellow smog, the horrid smell of chemical pulp and the showers of ash that turned white sheets hanging on the line to a dingy shade of yellow. The "smell" that went along with the mill was known around here as the 'smell of money.'

When I was sorting through the basement of the Southcott family home on Cranberry Lake last year after my children's father passed away, I came across an old surveying transit with "No. 1" marked on it. I asked my brother-in-law Rob Southcott about it, and he told me it had belonged to his Grandfather Bob and was the first surveying transit issued in the building of the old Townsite.

On the shelves in the living room and in boxes in the basement, I found stacks of books that belonged to Bob, including *Practical Uses of the Steel Square*, Volumes I and II, 1903 with Robert J. Southcott's name inscribed on the inside.

Bob Southcott was born in Chelmsford, England where he served his apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner. He came to Canada in 1905 and Powell River in 1914. He joined the Royal Flying Corps in 1915 and was a member of the Masonic Order.

Bob returned to Powell River after the First World

War and became Foreman of the Townsite Carpenters. He was also president of the Lawn Bowling Club and the Football (Soccer) Club.

Bob and his wife Alice had four children, one of them was Robert Hugh "Bert" Southcott—father to Rob and Derek (my late ex-husband) and grandfather to my own two children, Matthew and Alexander.

Bert was a man I heard a lot about over the years. He died when his youngest son, Derek, was only 13 years old so neither I, nor my two sons, ever met him. Still, my youngest son is clearly stamped with the Southcott look. If you line photos up of Alex, his dad and his grandpa, you can tell they're all Southcotts.

I've been told when Bert Southcott laughed you could hear it clear across Mowat Bay, where he lived during the early years of his marriage. Like so many others, Bert served in the Second World War; he had



LAST WORD

ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

a reputation of being a crack shot, and some of his maps and a gas mask from that time remain in our home.

Like his father Bob, Bert also worked at the mill—he advanced to a supervisor and then groundwood superintendent. A note in a 1954 *Digester* says his slogan "Let's Make Safety Count," won a contest sponsored by the BC Pulp and Paper Industry.

A beautiful tribute to Bert was written shortly after Bert's death in 1970 by former mill employee and newspaperman, the now-late Gerry Gray. It appeared in his column, *Dateline: Millville*, in the *Powell River News*. Gerry described Bert as scrappy, tenacious, fair and hard hitting. He was, penned Gerry, a man who worked actively towards the betterment of this community. Motivated by a love for Powell River, Bert became a school trustee and a member of the recreation commission.

That love of community and call to serve was passed down to his eldest son Rob, a city councillor who spent much of his working life with the BC Ambulance Service. Rob's younger and only sibling, Derek, and his cousin John Campbell (son of Bert Southcott's sister Winnifred) both worked in the steam plant. They and other family members, including Wendy Mobley and Debbie Haggman and other cousins, were the third

generation of Southcotts to work for the mill.

They were also the last. My own sons, now in their 20s, are pursuing other careers.

The Southcotts are by no means unique in having generational ties to the mill. I guess it's to be expected when a town was built around a company.

Without the mill, there would be no qathet as we know it. Without the mill, we wouldn't have had the top-notch musicians, athletes and dancers who came to settle here, for they were recruited as much for their other talents as they were for their skilled labour when the company was building the town. The proud and benevolent company was a huge part of our community—I remember the lavish annual Christmas parties for the children and grandchildren of mill employees and the fabulous parties for workers, held at Dwight Hall.

Although the mill provided a good living for its workers—Powell River once had the highest per capita income in all of Canada—it wasn't all roses and sunshine over the past years. The mill was founded by forcibly displacing an Indigenous community. In the 1930s, 350 workers were fired for voting CCF and blacklisted. The anti-union Powell River Company hired Pinkerton agents following "the great purge." Despite this, in 1937, 80% of employees voted for the union. Shut-downs, curtailments, financial problems, mismanagement, receivership, and creditor protection made for less-than-stable work, and City taxes. The mill was sold and bought and sold and bought again. It went from the Powell River Company to MacMillan Bloedel, to Pacifica, to Norske Skog, to Catalyst, to Paper Excellence. These changes became topics of conversation around our dinner table over the years, as my late ex-husband would come home and share the latest hot gossip from the rumour mill with me.

It was sad to watch the once-proud mill falter and stumble. It was hard to see it stripped of what many considered its crown jewel—the dam and its water rights—to Powell River Energy (now Evolgen).

Powell River Energy bought a portion of the profitable local hydroelectric dams in 2001, and completed the sale in 2013 (for \$33 million.) Some said that was the beginning of the end for the mill. When Catalyst Powell River went into receivership in 2016, it was forced to sell its remaining share of the dams.

Whatever the reasons behind the final decision, one thing is clear: it is the end of an era of what was once a proud company town.

Goodbye mill town, hello qathet, whoever you may choose to become.  isabelle@prliving.ca



Rob Villani



Stacey Fletcher



Katya Buck



Martin Ostensen

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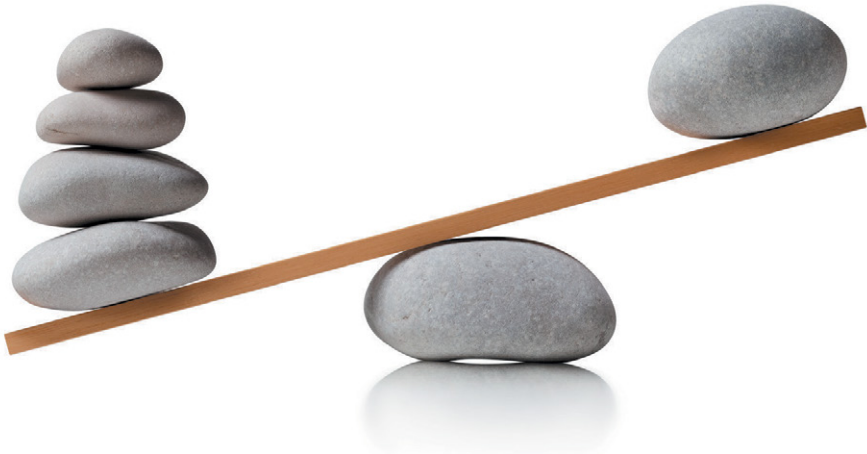
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The budget is a balancing act

Help us make the tough choices



The City of Powell River has launched its annual survey on how you would balance the budget

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Survey closes Sunday, January 16

WE'RE ON A ROLL



JANUARY 2022

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Garbage Day: **A B C D E** Holiday:

Garbage & Recycling Day: **A B C D E** "Round for Recycling"

2022 curbside collection calendars are online at powellriver.ca

A limited number of paper copies are available

Contact Operational Services 604-485-8657

MAJOR PROJECTS 2022

Follow these and other major projects at Powell River's engagement site: participatepr.ca



CONSOLIDATED WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT is on budget and on schedule. Graham Infrastructure enters its second year of work on-site and on conveyance pipelines from Westview, Wildwood and Townsite. Barring unforeseen circumstances causing delays in construction, the facility will be processing liquid waste by the fall of 2022 and be completed by the spring of 2023.

AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS will have significant economic impacts on Powell River and the surrounding region. Once complete, YPW will fulfill federal certification and safety standards, and improve operations for the airport for it to become a critical stimulator and catalyst of regional economic growth and development.



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