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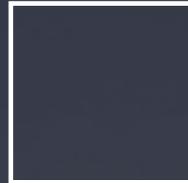
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ON THE COVER:

Gary Shilling sets up an antique letterpress for printing. The Patricia Letterpress Group is one of many stops on the qathet Studio Tour this month. You might even get a "The World is Your Oyster" poster if you stop by. See Page 49 for more. *Photo by Stuart Isto*



For a good time... solve problems

Back in 2009 I was covering the lead up to the Vancouver-Whistler Olympic Games, and officials worried that the world was coming, and would see Vancouver's problems. The transportation gridlock. The open-air drug market on East Hastings. The housing crisis.

I called an international branding expert in the UK for comment. He said something that will stick with me forever. "Every city has problems. What people are really interested in is, what is your city doing to solve your problems?"

It's a sentiment I'm mulling as we kick off our local election coverage this month (starting on Page 19). This region indisputably has plenty of unique and pressing problems. But the really interest-

ing thing isn't the problems; it's the story about how we grapple with them, how they'll be solved.

Similarly, the new Tla'amin language coordinator Randolph Timothy Jr. is hoping to solve the problem of how to get everyone learning the ʔayʔaʃuθəm orthography (see Page 33). I think he's nailed it, by making it casual and fun.

Many of us have become so used to self-isolating and conversing mostly with our cats, that facing the crowds of

August's festivals (Page 35) may feel about as appetizing as a bowl of Friskies. Local counsel-

or Rick Berghauer weighs in with some easy strategies to enjoy being with people again (Page 6).

I hope your August is filled with innovative solutions.



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

PIETA WOOLLEY



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“

To have a stable existence. Not to be too worried about whether or not I'm going to have a warm bed to sleep at night. Food in my stomach and my bills paid and to just to be able to give back to the community...

- Aaron Demeester, **Page 16.**

”

AUGUST'S CONTRIBUTORS



RANDOLPH TIMOTHY JR is Tla'amin Nation's new language coordinator, and author of qL's newest monthly column. He has worked all over Western Canada. See Randolph's new column, *ʔayʔajuθəm? You got this, on Page 33.*



ELANNA EAGLE grew up in Powell River and spends her free time doodling. She's passionate about digital art and hopes you enjoy it too! *See Elanna's Inland Lake colouring page on Page 8.*



JORDANA PANGBURN (she/her) is passionate about environmental and LGBTQIA2S+ activism. She grew up in qathet and now attends school at the University of Victoria. *See Jordana's story on Pride on Page 46.*



CURTIS YUNGEN found this month's gnome! The Powell River Garden Club is celebrating the Year of the Garden with a region-wide find-the-gnome summer. Will you be next?

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Ready to dive back in

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

It's good to be together again.

How wonderful it will be to attend Blackberry Festival's street party and mix and mingle with people we haven't seen in ages when we walk up and down Marine Avenue on August 19!

Finally, after two long years of not being able to gather, we can get together with masses of friends, neighbours and meet newcomers to this community.

Nothing could be better. Right?

For some, yes, but for others, yes and no. Yes, they want to see people again, but the thought of getting together en masse after being told for so long that social gatherings aren't safe, is causing them discomfort and social anxiety.

When they think of attending one of qathet's signature events, like Blackberry Festival or the Sunshine Music Festival, they feel anxious – really, really, anxious. So anxious that they may just stay home.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, staying at home and limiting social interactions became key tools in the fight against the spread of the virus. We got used to a new way of living, we got used to social distancing, to wearing masks, to staying home, as social gatherings were cancelled and large get-togethers were deemed too risky.

"Our society and government did a good job getting us to take seriously the need to stay safe and keep others safe during the last two-plus years of the COVID lock downs," said Powell River's Rick Berghauer, a certified counsellor with the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association. "We were told that social contact was dangerous and that it was selfish to be in close contact with others, so why are we surprised that when many of these precautions are lifted, we feel afraid and anxious to re-engage like we used to?"

As more people got vaccinated and infection rates slowed, restrictions loosened. Many people were thrilled to be able to reconnect with family and friends, but at the same time, they felt worried and anxious.

Rick says we need to cut ourselves some slack and recognize that this new social anxiety is not necessarily a disorder, but more accurately is a natural consequence of fear and new learning that has taken place about what we believe it takes to be safe.

This summer large gatherings are once-again taking place throughout qathet. Weddings, concerts, awards celebrations. In July we had PRISMA, Canada Day Celebrations, Townsite Days and more. This month we have Blackberry Festival with the popular street party, the Sunshine Music Festival, the qathet Studio Tour, and the Powtown Shakedown Music Festival.

Meriko Kubota, qathet's Regional Social Planner, thinks the pandemic impacted us the most through social isolation and separation. "We are not out of the pandemic, and the issue of social isolation and separation remains critical," she says. "I would argue that it has always been critical, and I have come to learn that social isolation is very harmful to our

wellbeing and limits our ability to thrive."

Research has also shown that the longer one stays in isolation or disconnection from others, the harder it is to re-connect and join in community events, gatherings, and general outings, she added.

Both Meriko and Rick say it is important to be kind as we re-emerge.

"We must remain kind in supporting our continued journey through COVID-19," says Meriko. "Check in with yourself regarding your own comfort levels and consider that it may be difficult to ask for the boundaries you need to feel safe."

If you are a host or facilitator of an event, be generous by continuing to offer space for distancing and by creating a foundation of awareness and welcome for those to remain masked if they choose to do so. "The more we offer these options, the more we limit the risk of ostracizing others," she added.

Rick says it's time to replace the mantra of fear with a new message of loving kindness and it needs to start with ourselves.

In addition to concerns about health and safety, people with social anxiety are likely to be worried that their social skills are rusty and about doing things right – messing up social norms by making a misstep or not knowing what to do.

"Our inner critic is alive and well in the minds of most of us and loves to message us with thoughts of "what if" as we re-enter social events," says Rick. "What if people notice my discomfort and feel awkward around me? What if I don't know what to say or cut them off and speak over them? What if I get too close and make someone feel unsafe or if they get too close and make me feel unsafe?"

In re-entry, these sorts of negative thoughts are natural and need to be noticed and acknowledged. "Before we venture into the many social events that are once again being planned, we need to acknowledge our worries and replace them with thoughts of kindness towards ourselves. Focus on telling yourself that some re-entry anxiety is normal, and you will feel safer and more comfortable in time with practice," says Rick.

As other people also navigate re-entry, extend to them the same loving kindness and patience you are wanting to offer yourself. Others around us may come across as awkward and overly serious at first. They may reject our offer of a handshake or a hug. They may ask us to take a step back. We will need to choose to look for the best in each other and resist the temptation to become offended, he says.

When in social situations, take a breath before speaking. This is a great way to not interrupt others or nervously say something we later regret. This can slow things down and brings a sense of peace to engaging together.

As we re-enter social interactions and events, such as Blackberry Festival, that so many of us have missed and longed for, let's remember to be kind to ourselves and repeat the loving messages we all need to counter our fear and anxiety. 🗣️



Blackberry Fest Street Party August 19

Saturday, August 6

Lund Daze

August 6 & 7

Texada Blues and Roots Festival

August 8 to 14

10th Anniversary qathet Pride celebration

August 13 & 14

Texada Sandcastle Weekend and Skim Jam

Friday, August 19

Blackberry Festival Street Party
& QF Fireworks

August 26 & 27

Edible Garden Tour

August 27 & 28

qathet Studio Tour

September 3 & 4

Sunshine Music Festival

September 23

PR Kings First Home Game of the Season

September 24 & 25

Fall Fair

See more
in the events
section,
starting on
Page 35

to the crowd?

August is festival month



Skim Jam August 13



Texada Sandcastle Weekend August 13 & 14



Blackberry Fireworks August 19

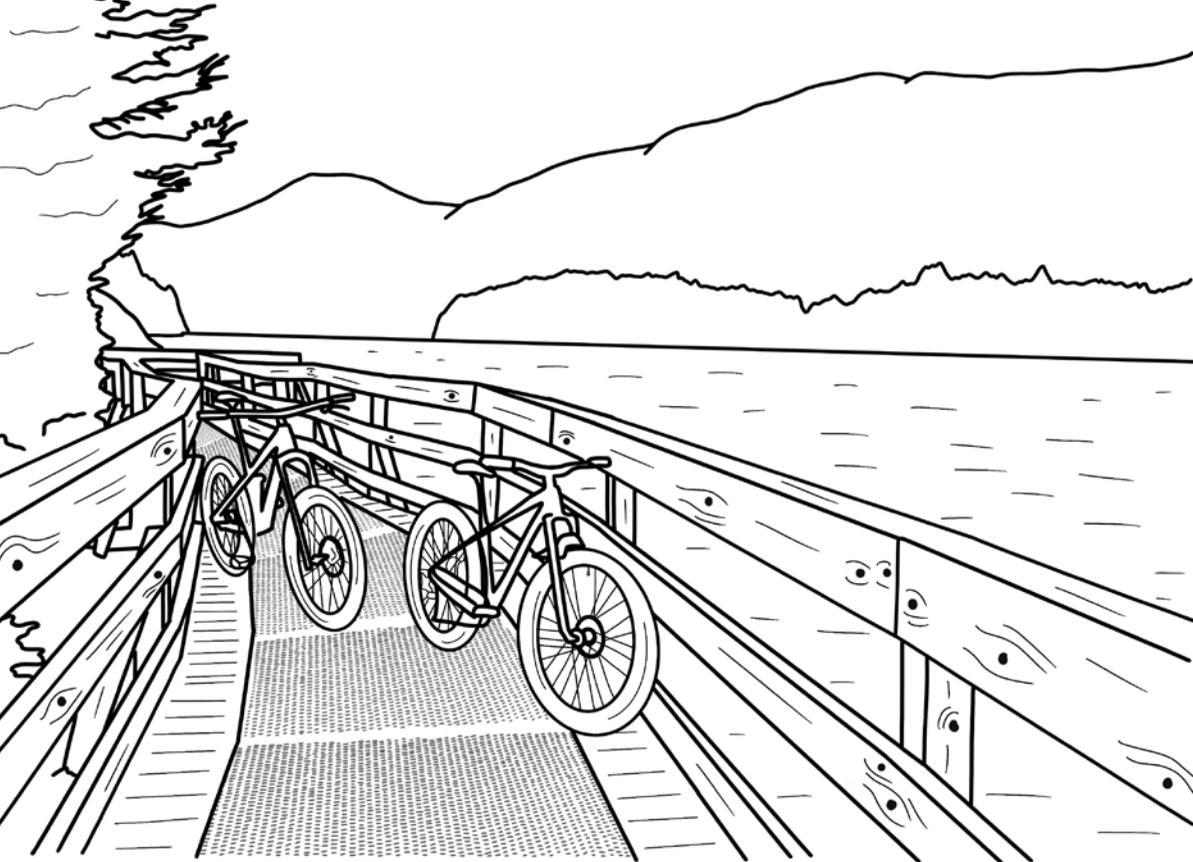


Sunshine Music Fest September 3 & 4

“What if people notice my discomfort and feel awkward around me? What if I don’t know what to say or cut them off and speak over them?”

[Instead of worrying,] focus on telling yourself that some re-entry anxiety is normal, and you will feel safer and more comfortable in time and with practice.”

- Rick Berghauer



Camp

From the comfort of car camping with fully-loaded coolers, to the sweaty satisfaction of summiting a mountain, August is *the month* for camping.

Tourism Powell River's summer staff rounded up their recommendations. How will you spend your summer holidays?

COLOUR ME CAMPING: Artist Elanna Eagle drew this colouring page of the Inland Lake Trail. Find more of her work at etsy.com/ca/shop/EagleCreate and on Instagram @Eagle.Create.

We fell in love with Creekside Campground when car camping with our tent. When tenting there is nothing better than a grassy campsite and Creekside has them in droves. A burbling creek winds its way through this beautifully-treed camping area. Yet you're just five minutes away from Palm Beach and Donkersley Beach. A gathering area with a stage calls for a family reunion to have a sing-a-long.



Everyone raves about the hut accommodations on the Sunshine Coast Trail, but we rave about some of the fantastic spots to camp along the way. **Elephant Lake** (pictured), Feather Cove (backcountry camping permit required – BC Parks), Appleton Canyon, Tony's Point, Little Sliammon Lake (Shangri La), Confederation Lake, and Coyote Lake are our favourites, discover your own on the Sunshine Coast Trail.

Squatters, danger trees, vandalism close some local campgrounds

BY SEAN PERCY

Car camping may be a little more complicated in qathet this summer, thanks to the temporary closure of two popular free campsites.

Nanton Lake and Dinner Rock campgrounds are closed for the summer and possibly longer.

The campsite at Nanton Lake has more than 100 trees identified as at risk of falling, and has been

closed since spring, awaiting approvals and funding to remove the danger trees, according to Luke Clarke, district recreation officer for Recreation Sites and Trails.

North of town, Dinner Rock Campground, which is managed by the provincial and Tla'amin governments, is open to day use, but closed to camping. That's in part due to needed tree and road work, but also because long-term campers were squatting on

the site and ignoring short-term stay rules.

The tiny campground at Lewis Lake is also closed due to vandalism.

Luke suggest campers instead use other sites, such as Khartoum Lake, which recently had some upgrades, or municipal and regional sites. He also recommends a trip to Texada to enjoy the beautiful, but under-used, Shingle Beach fee-for-service campsite, or the free campsite at Bob's Lake. **PL**



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Everything you need for a vacation-to-remember can be found at **Shelter Point Regional Park**. From hot showers to food ready to serve from the concession, all the comforts of home can be found here in a beautiful forest setting where two bays come together. Explore local trails, visit the Van Anda museum, and bring your favourite paddling product for adventures on the Salish Sea at Gillies Bay or Shelter Point.



RV /
Glamping



Canoe/
kayak
camping

Paddle to the **Copeland Islands** from Lund for a beautiful ocean adventure. Backcountry camping permits (BC Parks) are required. This unique ecosystem offers bays for snorkeling, coves for exploring and even cacti, yet is a short distance from Lund. Bring your field guide for flora and fauna identification.

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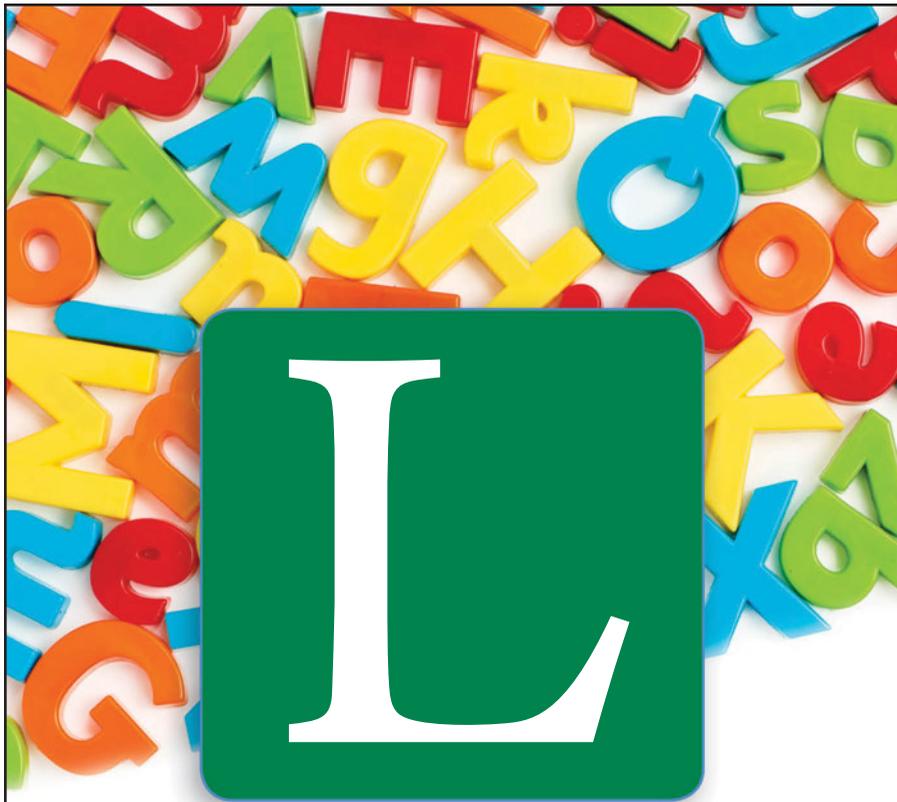
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The Last Resort for survivalist camping is at the end of the road (Goat Lake Main). This is for extremists of all kinds – rock climbers, scale Bear Tooth Mountain (from Goat Lake) or Mount Alfred Glacier to test your skills against the unforgiving Coastal Mountains. This hut is tricky to find, check with Visitor Centre staff before you go! *Photo by Sawyer Gowans for Beartooth Photos.*

Start planning your camping adventure today, drop by the Visitor Centre for information and insider insights. All you need is a campsite and good company. Staffers that helped compile this article and images are: Tracey Ellis, Emily Fahey, Melanie Anaka and Charlotte Leahy-McHugh and volunteer extraordinaire is Mike Leahy. 



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So we thought things were nuts before, eh?

1. Didn't see that coming

On July 16, the Bank of Canada hiked interest rates a full percentage point to 2.5%, the biggest raise in decades. Watch for more hikes on September 7 – the bank's next meeting.

2. Even higher still

In June, the average single family home hit \$856,943 in qathet – more than a third more than a year before. We'll soon see how July's interest rate hike impacts us.

3. Home for a rest

For the first time in years, the majority of qathet homebuyers in June were locals, rather than newbies. And not a single new buyer from Squamish. –PW

Note: all data according to Powell River Real Estate Board monthly stats

Real Estate in qathet

Thinking of buying a place for rental?

Oh Land-Lordy

Most of qathet's rental properties are provided by the private market. But in 2022, becoming a landlord is one tough gig. Ergo, this region's rental homes are disappearing.

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

If he could, Toban de Rooy would sell his beautiful family home near the Penticton Trails right now. He would move his family in to a rental for a few years, and then buy in to the market again when prices have softened – making potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars. That's how sure the IG Wealth Management financial planner is, that home prices are about to take a nose-dive.

But there are two problems. One, his family isn't into it. Their house is their home. They like their lives there. And two, could they even find anything to rent in this wild market?

"Look at what happened in the 70s and 80s," he said. "Gas prices soared, inflation skyrocketed, so the government put interest rates up. House prices fell. Everything that's happening now happened before. So why are we surprised it's happening again?"

In real estate, things are shifting so quickly, reading the pulse is difficult. Prices are softening elsewhere in the country, but so far, not in qathet where prices on single family homes reached an all-time high of \$856,943 in June (July's numbers aren't out yet). Toban notes that BC depends on real estate as a business, and like the tech bubble 20 years ago, and the marijuana bubble of a couple of years ago – both of which

popped – we can expect the housing bubble to pop, too. Falsely inflated markets rarely end well. "In the not too distant future," he said, "we'll see what happens when those who bought during the pandemic at sky-high prices and bargain-basement interest rates have to renew their mortgages and find they can't afford their homes anymore." Pop.

In rental, which no one tracks as closely, the stories from the past two years are scary. Largely because most rentals are provided by investors in the wavy private market. Renters depend on investors buying property and then renting it out as a business. Especially here. In qathet, 95% of housing in the qathet Regional District is owned privately – but just 77% of people own the homes they're living in.

That means nearly four out of five renters here live in suites owned by investors. Those could be basement suites, carriage houses, entire homes or apartment buildings.

Anecdotally, COVID encouraged significant numbers of qathet's absentee property owners to move into their properties themselves, as families and new retirees fled the cities – evicting their tenants to do so. Some owners cashed in during the hottest market ever here, and sold what were once rentals to new folks who evicted the

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tenants and moved in themselves. Scroll through Facebook and count the number of families and seniors desperately seeking rental at any given time. The stories are chilling.

How many suites were lost in the two years from March 2020 to March 2022 isn't yet known. Probably hundreds. In April of 2021, the qathet Regional District released the first Housing Needs Assessment report for this region – right in the middle of COVID, and (sadly) far too soon to garner the full effects of the pandemic on rentals here.

The biggest new private rental investment in qathet – Veyron Properties' 141-unit building on Joyce near the Recreation Complex – has made it through all approvals and permits at City Hall, but no dirt has been moved yet. Veyron didn't return qL's messages to explain why the project has stalled. Construction costs? Shifting return-on-investment numbers?

Undoubtedly, a significant number of rental homes were lost in qathet over the last two years, just as the population rose for the first time in decades, and the price of owning soared beyond what most incomes can afford here.

For renters, business owners trying to find employees, and governments trying to solve the housing crunch, it's a swiftly-worsening mess.



IT'LL GET EASIER: IG Wealth Management financial counsellor Toban de Rooy, with his wife Bryony and daughters Gabriella, Esther and Anika. Toban predicts that in the next few years, home prices in qathet will fall significantly, and make buying homes – as well as investing in rentals – possible for more of us again.

Will the private market step up again for the 80% of renters that depend on it?

Unlikely right now, says Toban. In the past, many of his clients might have bought homes as investments and rented them out. But between February and July, the price of housing here and the Bank of Canada's interest rate hikes – from 0.25 to 2.5 in that time – combined to make investing in homes to rent out nonsensical, he said.

For example, he said, in February, you'd need to recuperate in rent \$2,300.04 a month on a \$500,000 home with the minimum down-payment (\$25,000) to break even on just the mortgage (\$475,000 at 2.74%, 25-year amortization). With the increase in interest rates alone, that has increased \$854.06 a month to \$3,039.09 (\$475,000 at 6%, 25-year amortization). Add in property taxes, insurance, and the other costs of owning a

home, couple that with falling real estate prices, and you are left with a very negative return on your investment.

A \$3,000-plus rent will blow the budgets of most tenants. The median household income is \$64,000 here, according to new data released from Census 2021. If rent should cost one third or less of your income, the average household can pay about \$1,600 in rent – though renters tend to be lower-earning than average.

"It would have to be a very special situation to invest," he said. "And, we would have to consider, if there aren't likely asset classes that will perform better over time and cause less headaches (like liquidity risk and specific renter risk) depending on a persons risk tolerance and time horizon."

That said, Toban noted that investing in constructing basement or attic suites as mortgage helpers, or carriage homes, or other add-ons can still be good investments for property owners.

For landlords, there's more to consider than whether the investment will pay.

Kathy Grantham is both a renter and a property manager. She moved back here in 2020, after a long career managing rental apartment buildings in Vancouver. As a renter, she has sym-

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INCENTIVES TO BUILD: Kathy Grantham, 460 Property Management's Licensed Property Manager, is a renter herself. She believes that local landowners need incentives to build and retain rentals, or qathet's desperately-needed new units just won't exist.

pathy for the high cost of rent and the instability that can come with renting.

As a property manager, she has sympathy for landlords, too. Everyone has heard stories about terrible tenants, she said. But what many people don't realize is that landlords face instability, too. The cost of insurance, for ex-

ample, can skyrocket. Repairs, property taxes, and other costs can change, while what they're able to charge for rent can't change drastically year to year for existing tenants.

During COVID, she said, landlords bore the brunt of new rules. Evictions (except in extreme circumstances) were illegal in BC starting March 25, 2020, and some renters simply didn't pay any rent for months. Rental increases were frozen at 1.5% in spite of inflation – though BC may allow bigger increases in 2023 based on the soaring Consumer Price Index.

Here in qathet, she's been surprised about how many local landlords don't know the Residential Tenancy rules. That's true in informal situations such as a tenant living in their own trailer parked on someone's property, as well as more traditional rental homes and suites.

"Sometimes people don't realize what's involved in rental," she said. "They just think, 'Oh yeah, we'll buy something and rent it out.' It can be easier if you find the right tenant and are able to maintain the property. Or, it can be a nightmare."

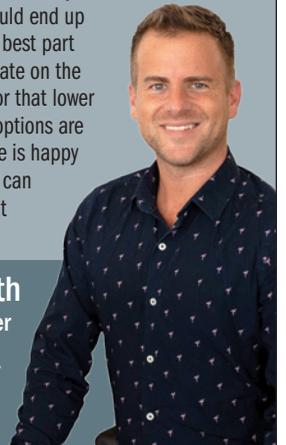
However, she said, rentals are desperately needed here. She gets calls from doctors and nurses who have been offered jobs at qathet General

INSPIRE | GUIDE | LEAD | ACHIEVE



For the best rates, have the conversation early

If you are planning on purchasing, refinancing, or renewing your mortgage in the next 6 months, it would be a good idea to speak with a mortgage professional sooner rather than later to discuss whether or not it's possible to get a rate hold for your upcoming plans. A rate hold is typically valid for 90-120 days and in a rising interest rate environment, 90-120 days can make a big difference in the rate you could have had versus what you end up with for your new mortgage term. Keep in mind that even if your renewal isn't until the end of the year, by having this discussion now you could end up with a lower rate than if you have the conversation in 3-4 months time. The best part is that if rates decrease between now and your expected renewal/closing date on the product you've chosen, your mortgage professional should be able to ask for that lower rate, so it's a win-win for you! If you would like to chat further about what options are available for your upcoming mortgage plans, Jeremy Garth at Zipp Mortgage is happy to help. With eight years of mortgage industry experience under his belt, he can help you put together a plan for your mortgage so you can be confident that your current and future goals and needs will be met.



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This region needs rentals

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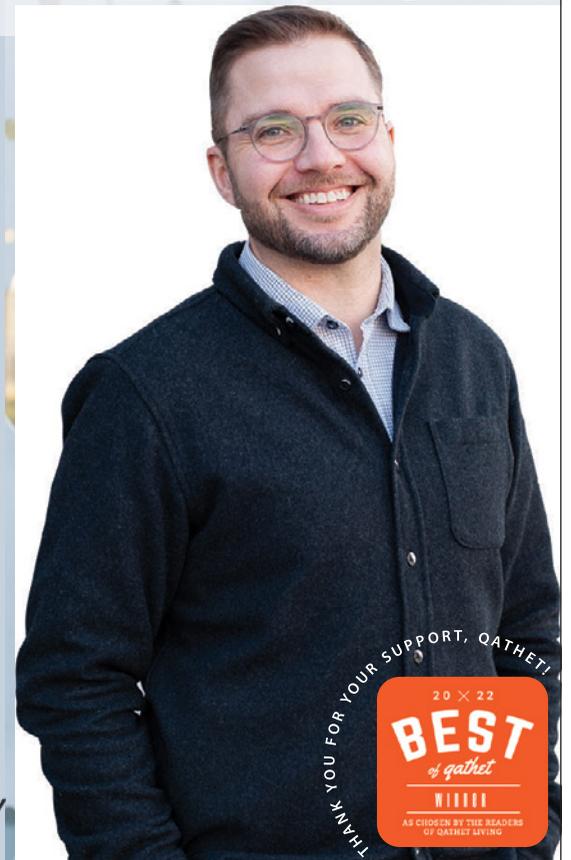


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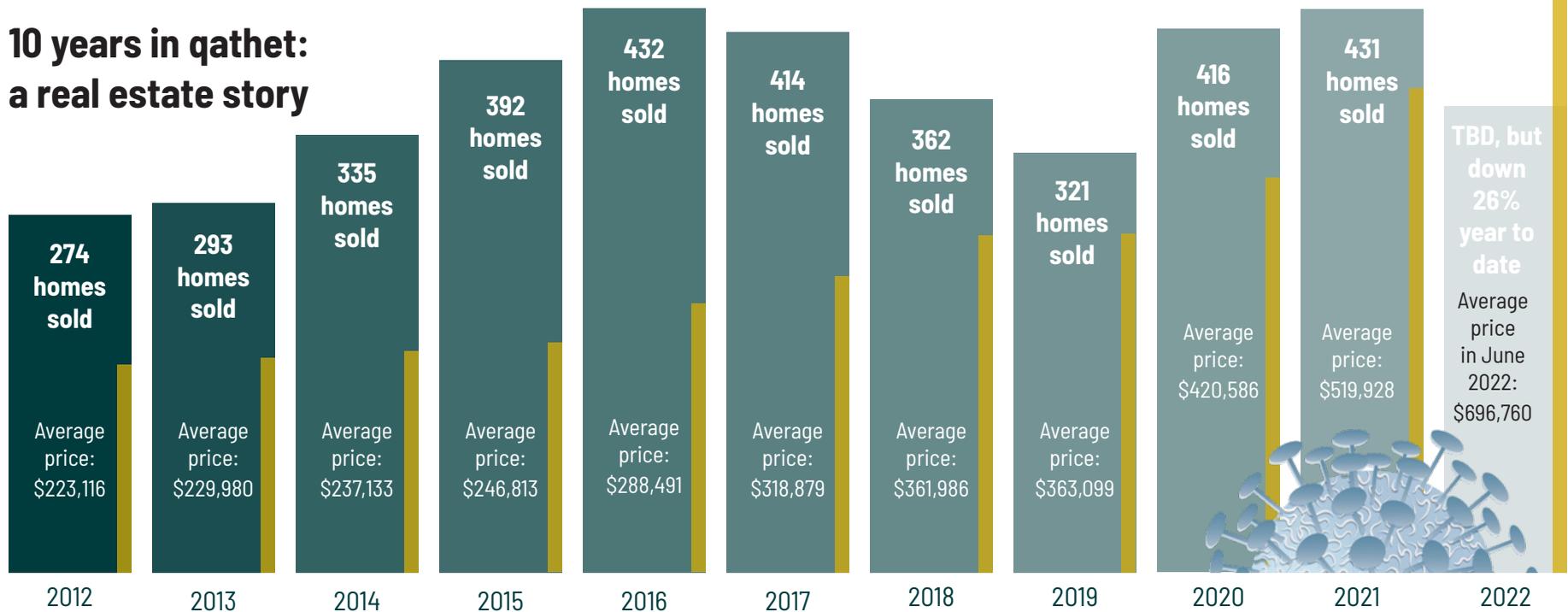
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10 years in qathet: a real estate story



Hospital and can't find a place to live.

In Vancouver, she said, the City's carriage house program was successful in creating oodles of new rentals in single-family neighbourhoods – which generated extra income for property owners who bought into the city's million-dollar market. Here, however, Kathy notes that most people who own homes bought them before they escalated in price, so they don't have the same need for extra income. New buyers are overwhelmingly people who sell their homes elsewhere, and pay cash; they don't have big

mortgages and so don't need to generate extra income through secondary suites or carriage homes.

Kathy had a front-row seat to Vancouver's rental crunch, which started in the 1980s when many apartment buildings converted to strata, or owned condos. Those rentals were never replaced, she said, despite the city's 2004 push on secondary suites, and 2009 laneway (carriage) house by-law, plus the growth of government subsidized affordable housing.

Rental is essential, Kathy said. But little new rental

is being built here, and plenty is being erased.

"What will be the incentive to build more?" she asks.

In this market, there's little incentive, Toban said. That will change soon.

"I think the pain is just beginning," said Toban, noting that in June, Canada lost 43,000 jobs – evidence of a downturn in the economic cycle. "But the real estate market is going to get more buyer-friendly."

For renters – and would-be buyers who are currently renting – that's good news, eventually. **CL**



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#GARAGELIFE: Aaron Demeester lived in a trailer and lived rough before he found home. Photo by Claudia Medina

Tiny home is a sweet solution

Aaron Demeester, 45, rents a converted garage from a senior in Westview. Aaron, who goes by Cosmo, is an artist and musician, works for LIFT as a peer support worker at the Overdose Prevention Site, and he has a disability.

On what it's like to live in a garage • It's a 20-by-20-foot cabin, and it has all the amenities: a toilet, a shower, and it has one long wall as the kitchen area. It's very central. I like it because it's my own and I can escape from the community when I want to be around just myself. That's essential for me, because I'm a pretty private person.

On the benefits of secure housing • I've lived in this place for three years. I spent quite a long time in my early, early life living on the street. I came back to Powell River due to a family emergency with my brother's health. I was living in a

fifth wheel South of Town towards the ferry, and I had to hitchhike in with groceries and my medication. Living in a fifth wheel is not the most enjoyable lifestyle. So living here in Westview allows me to capture a more stable lifestyle for what I'm doing right now. It's very close to work and the people that I interact with each day, and keeps me out of the weather and with access to the world, the web. I'm not worried about getting in and out of town. That's not my whole day. So it's freed up a lot of my time to pursue my art, my music, work, my mind and my social life and just stability, basically.

On how he found this home • I knew the landlord from the Community Resource Centre. I went over to his house and he was just at the point of finishing the garage. And so I asked him what it would take for me to live here? We came upon an agreement on money. He wanted someone who

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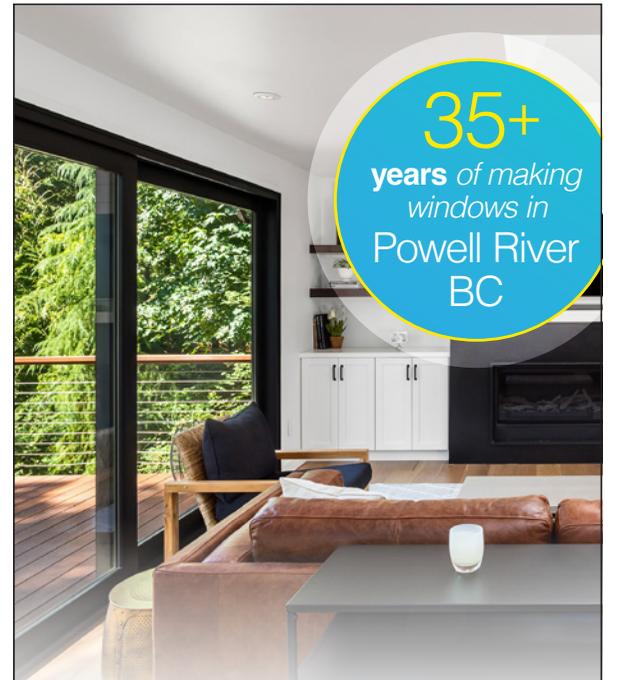
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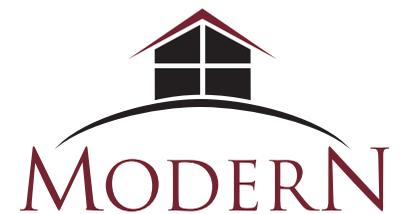
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wasn't a thief and who wasn't going to bring problems to his abode because he lives in the house, of course.

On then versus now • I guess it was by the grace of the gods I found a place. I used to live here 13 years ago, and when I was here before, it was more of a sleepy town. It was relatively easy to find apartments. The price of apartments was reasonable. Now, not only is the price of places outrageous, but when there is a place that comes up for rent, you're looking at a list of at least 50 people or more wanting it.

On the cost of the rental crunch • I know people who have spent time on the street, and some who have left the community just for the sheer fact that they can't find a place.

On aging • I'm finding that stability is a big thing that I cherish. And privacy.

On solving qathet's housing crunch • Instead of just apartment buildings, I envision more land with small, stable living environments on them. A few of them around town. And then on the outskirts of town, you could have smaller pieces of land where you have these communities of small, single home dwellings. With today's technology, I'm sure it could be done at a reasonable cost to the community.

On qathet • I like the weather, definitely. I have

found the community of people that I consider family. I do have blood family here as well. The ocean, nature, the fresh air, it's all inspiring. It's very peaceful, and it's very beautiful.

On housing goals • To have a stable existence. Not to be too worried about whether or not I'm going to have a warm bed to sleep in at night. Food in my stomach and my bills paid and to just to be able to give back to the community through my art, through my work with the OPS and hopefully just stay alive as long as possible.

On surviving on Disability Assistance • It's hard to live on \$1,300 a month. I'm on disability because of an injury to my knee. The cost of my cabin, including hydro and Internet takes up all of my cash so that I have nothing to live on as far as being able to eat and money for my social life. I'm on a program through LIFT Community Services where I get a rent rebate on the first of each month, which gives me back a portion of my cheque that I've spent on the rent and that allows me to be able to eat. I'm very thankful to be on that program and it has definitely helped. It's been said before and I'll say it again: for people that are on disability for whatever reason, the amount of money that's coming in is definitely not enough to live on.

On working at the Overdose Prevention Site • I work there and I oversee people who come in and use narcotics and are on drugs and then save their life if they overdose. I'm also just there to listen

Home at last - the series

This is the fifth in a series of six monthly articles, produced in collaboration with social planner Meriko Kubota (City of Powell River, qathet Regional District and Tla'amin Nation), qathet Living editor Pieta Woolley, filmmaker Claudia Medina, several local nonprofits and, of course, the individuals who graciously agreed to tell their stories.

These are success stories - locals who have found housing solutions in spite of a record tight market and scarcity of affordable public or private housing.

Everyone involved in this project hopes these stories inspire locals to work towards decent, stable housing solutions for all our neighbours.

Tell your housing story at participatepr.ca

to people and to provide whatever care I can give to them, just as a human being.

On why building more affordable housing is crucial • I see a lot of people that have so much potential, living out their days at the homeless shelter or couch surfing. Every day is a struggle. They have to leave the shelter by 8 am, so they wake up and immediately need to figure out where they're going to be. I would like to see everyone's needs met so they can share their full potential with this community. **PL**

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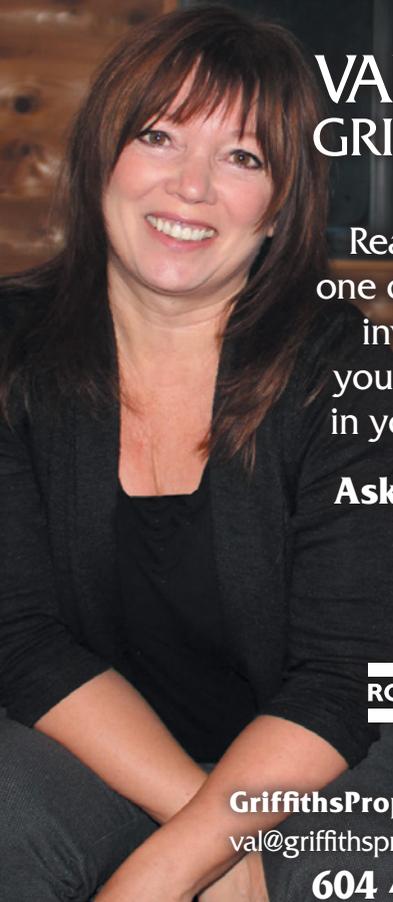
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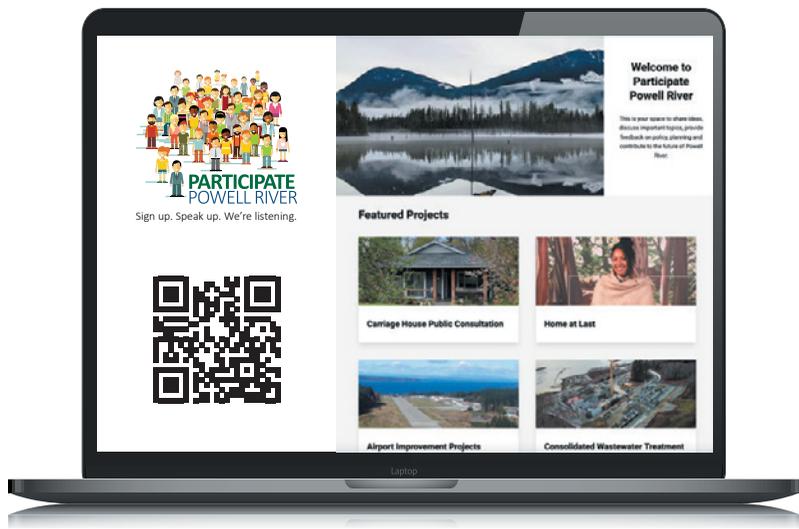


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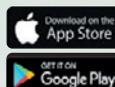
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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The Seven Deadly Situations

or Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunities

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

Since they were elected in 2018, our current representatives have shepherded us through one of the biggest economic and social upheavals in a century.

None of this is their fault.

However, heading into this Fall election, this region is in serious need of the Mary Poppins of elected crews – a group of people who can be all things: peacemakers, financial hard-heads,

innovative thinkers, open-hearted listeners, with a passion for combing the fine print in reports and policies.

On October 27, when we elect a new mayor and council at the City of Powell River, new area directors for qathet Regional District and new trustees for School District 47, they'll inherit these seven impossible challenges... each one a unique opportunity:

Tisk^wat Paper Mill

What happened: In February 2022, Paper Excellence announced an “indefinite curtailment” for the 110-year-old mill, and the property went up for sale. Who will buy it, and what they will do with it, is unknown.

Why it's a big deal to the people of the region: The mill was the re-

gion's biggest private employer since it opened in 1912, to when it shut (including both direct employees and contractors). Those \$75,000/year-on-average stable, unionized jobs were the cornerstone for many families.

Why it's a big deal to the City of Powell River: It's the tax base.

Why this is an opportunity: Without heavy industry in the tax base, this is an opportunity to overhaul the City's spending priorities for our current era.

COVID-19

What happened: It all began in March of 2020, when schools and long-term care facilities shut down, and locals took on a two-week lockdown to end the pandemic. Two years later,

after mask and vaccine mandates, after upended business and learning, a significant international death toll, and much more, the economic and social mayhem lives on.

Why it's a big deal to the people of the region: You can draw a straight line between COVID and the current worker crisis, the housing crisis, and the mental health crisis. Et cetera.

Why it's a big deal to the City and RD: While none of those crises are the direct jurisdiction of local governments, they are all felt here on the ground – and local services from schools to the recreation complex to policing deal with the fall-outs.

Why this is an opportunity: COVID shook us up. Can we build back better? That's the fundamental question of 2022.

Climate Change / Weird Weather

What happened: In 2021, BC experienced some crazy weather, including a heat dome, several atmospheric rivers, a drought, wildfires, a weather bomb (remember when the highway to Lund shut?) and more. This year has been unusually cold and wet.

Why it's a big deal to the people of the region: It's scary, and it's real. The heat dome alone killed several hundred people in BC last year, and people's homes flooded, gardens didn't grow, and much more.

Why it's a big deal to the City and RD: Weird weather costs money, lots of it. The seawall had to be repaired after storm surges ripped it up; Marine Avenue frost heaves had to be fixed and repaved, and much more.

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Why this is an opportunity: After 2021, the reality that the climate is changing and what it will cost us can't be denied. This is the time to make smart decisions to reduce our climate impacts (more transit, anyone?) and adapt to it (food sustainability, for one).

Possible City name change

What happened: In June of 2021, just as news about the unmarked graves at Kamloops Residential School broke, Hegus John Hackett wrote a letter to the City of Powell River asking it to change its name given Dr. Israel Powell's connection to residential schools. In February 2022, the City and Tla'amin Nation formed a Working Group and hired consultants. The process included an online survey, several public engagement sessions, and a report was released mid-July.

Why it's a big deal to the people of the region: It's emotional and symbolic. For some, changing the name represents a rejection of the colonial, residential school-making ideology and the illegal occupation of Tla'amin lands from the late 1800s until the treaty was settled in 2016.

For others, changing the name denigrates the society built by their ancestors, which offered prosperity, safety, opportunity and beauty to generations – many of whom were fleeing wars and poverty elsewhere.

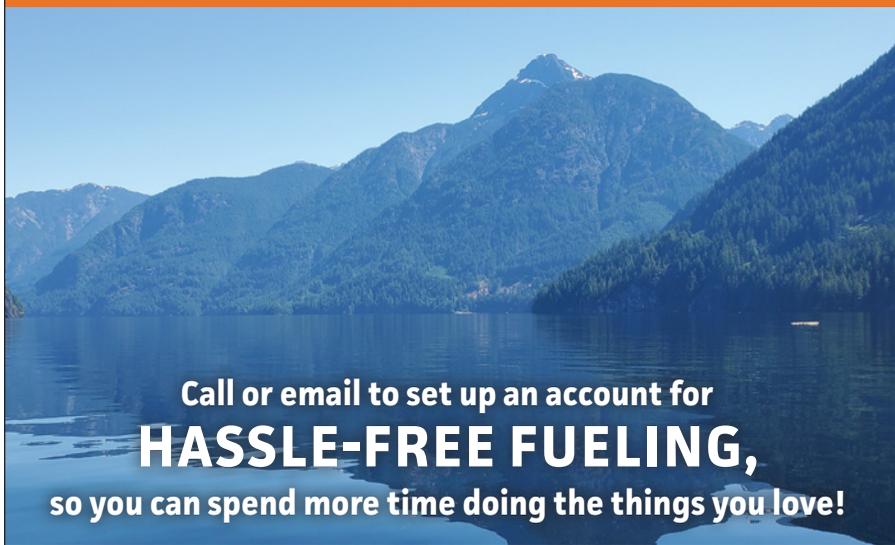
Why it's a big deal to the City and SD47: Changing the name of the City is ultimately the responsibility of the Province, but this City Council took on leading that process, when the Hegus asked. City Council received the report of the Working Group this summer, and likely, the new Council will have to proceed with more work: a further process, a referendum, a rejection, or simply a request to the Province.

School District 47 is administered by the Powell River Board of Education. Administration is currently grappling with a possible name change. The Powell River General Hospital became qathet General Hospital in July.

qathet Regional District changed its name from Powell River Regional District in 2018.

Why this is an opportunity: Whether the City's name changes or not, addressing the Hegus' request will be an exercise in bringing the community back together after two raw, divisive years.

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Drugs & Crime

What happened: qathet is struggling with the same drug and crime issues as elsewhere in BC.

In 2016, BC declared a Provincial State of Emergency over the surging numbers of opioid-related overdoses and deaths. Here in qathet, twice as many people overdosed and died in 2021, as when we elected our local governments. In 2018, 76 locals overdosed (and called the paramedics) and nine died; in 2019, 66 overdosed and five died; in 2020, 106 overdosed and 12 died; in 2021, 134 overdosed and 17 died – more than twice as many as the beginning of the term. In the first four months of 2022, six locals died from “illicit drug toxicity” – we’re on track for the deadliest year yet.

As for crime, in 2019, the office of BC’s Crown Counsel changed how it recommends charges, and made it much more difficult to make an arrest result in serving time behind bars. Couple that with the reluctance to hold criminals in jail during COVID, and many more people who commit crimes have simply been out more, rather than in jail. Thus, more crime (see qL’s crime series coming up this fall).

Why it’s a big deal to the people of the region: People are losing loved ones, and living in fear of losing loved ones to the opioid crisis. Plus, being the victim of crime makes people angry and scared.

Why it’s a big deal to the City, qRD and SD47: Drug use is not a local government issue. Neither, strictly, is crime, though policing is (and we contract ours through the Federal RCMP).

Why this is an opportunity: Clearly, our society is failing to provide health care, mental health care,

support for recovery, and much more to a large number of locals. Hopefully, this crisis will pressure local governments to ask Victoria and Ottawa to evaluate and improve services.

Housing / Real estate

What happened: During the pandemic, an unknown number of people (likely in the thousands) moved to qathet in search of better lifestyles, retirement, larger homes from which to telecommute, and affordable real estate. Since then, the average price of homes here has nearly tripled, and rental is scarce and shockingly expensive.

Why it’s a big deal to the people of the region: Housing has been a challenge here for at least five years. But not like this.

Why it’s a big deal to the City, qRD and SD47: Housing is not the responsibility of local governments; it’s a provincial and federal responsibility. However, in the absence of sufficient intervention by other levels of government, local governments have been thrust into the housing world. The City and RD provide land for nonprofits to build on (new projects by LIFT, Lifecycle Housing and the Texada Island Nonprofit Seniors Housing Society are all built on government-owned land), and report to other levels of government every five years through the Housing Needs Assessment Report. Ultimately, the vast majority of housing is provided in the private market, which local governments control only through zoning and permitting: 77% of locals live in homes they own, and most renters live in private rentals: apartments, homes, basement suites, pad rentals, and more. The dearth of affordable hous-

ing means more families are living closer to the bone, as their former discretionary income is eaten by rent or mortgage payments. That has an impact at school.

Why this is an opportunity: It’s been nearly a decade since housing has been truly affordable for average incomes here – both buying and renting. In the absence of a serious market correction, the pressure is on for governments to really invest in nonprofit housing – perhaps through a Whistler-like Housing Authority.

Booming budgets / taxes

What happened: In 2018, the average house in Powell River spent \$3,653 in property taxes and fees. By 2021, that had increased to \$4,240 - or 16%. Inflation was just 6% over those years. In that time, the tax burden also shifted from major industry (26% in 2018 to 16% in 2021) onto residential (58% to 65%) and business (15% to 16%). Numbers for 2022 were not available at press time.

Why it’s a big deal to the people of the region: Especially because other costs are soaring – fuel, food, housing – higher property taxes cut in to the region’s already depressed incomes.

Why it’s a big deal to the City, qRD and SD47: Costs are up. That’s an inescapable fact. Elected representatives must answer to their voters for spending and tax increases each election.

Why this is an opportunity: Along with the mill shutting down, COVID, reconciliation, drugs and crime, and housing costs, booming budgets are another motivation for “building back better” this City, Regional District and School District, after two wildly unprecedented years. 



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CITY/RD/SD47 ELECTION 2022 • OCTOBER 15

Candidates: meet your top 5 questioners

We've asked a diverse team to help ask questions of the candidates in the September and October issues of the magazine.

Here is a quick introduction to the five groups:

Chamber of Commerce

The Powell River Chamber of Commerce represents the business community for the City of Powell River and the qathet region. Our members include retail, resource-sector, trades, hospitality, and more.

Currently, many members of the Chamber are facing serious challenges in an unpredictable economic climate. They include housing, employee attraction and retention, the escalating cost of materials and property taxes. However, many members are also embracing unique opportunities, such as the growth in population, tourism, home-based and online businesses.

In this election, we hope to hear ideas from candidates for the City, qRD and SD47 that show they understand how essential local business is to this entire region. We look forward to hearing how they will support us in overcoming our challenges, and fostering our opportunities.

Volunteer Powell River / Youth CAT

Volunteer Powell River's Youth Communication Act Team (CAT) is an open group of young people aged 15-29 in the qathet region who seek to make a difference in our community by hosting events and volunteering. This program is part of Canada Service Corps and we are going into our fourth year running.

Issues that we are passionate about and would like to see addressed by our local representatives are: public transportation; local harm reduction strategies; connection with rural and remote parts of our region; diversity in leadership; care for our forests and water systems; waste management and community planning; work on reconciliation.

Council of Canadians

Council of Canadians(CoC) is a national non-partisan citizens' organization working for social, economic, and environmental justice. The Powell River chapter provides and supports sustainability in issues of water, housing, health, fisheries and privatization of public services. CoC is committed to indigenous rights and an inclusive democracy.

It is time to reclaim democracy and insist on a legitimate voice in decision-making. We need collaborative leadership with the skill and disposition to gather our collective talent and build a resilient, and progressive community. A change in governance will positively influence the outcome of all other issues we face.

On October 15

VOTE

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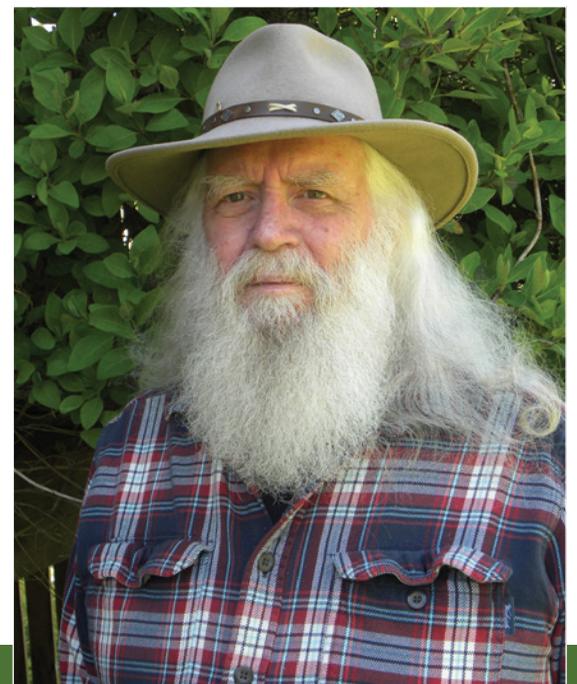
FOR

MAYOR

"I have enjoyed the last term representing the people of Powell River on Council and the qathet Regional District. I have learned a great deal about the City, the people, and the ways we can all work together.

"The next four years will bring many challenges and I believe that I have the clear understanding and experience to lead Council and the City forward as Mayor."

Authorized by George Doubt
george.doubt@icloud.com



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Senior Citizens Association

The Powell River Seniors Citizens Association Branch 49 supports the lives of older people in our community. Through our centre at Manson and Cranberry, volunteers offer free and low-cost programming to seniors including dinners, tai chi, dance, cards and board games, and much more. Our volunteers also offer a frozen meals program.

Trust is a significant issue for seniors; will the new leadership at the City and Regional District have the best interests of citizens in mind?

Because the mill is no longer operating, they're concerned that property taxes will have to be raised significantly. So, seniors are hoping the City and Regional District will prioritize attracting new businesses to the region, which may take up some of the tax burden and provide jobs.

Building permits are currently slow to be issued; that must change to be seen as business-friendly.

And, seniors would like to have a say in whether the City changes its name, and what it changes to.

qathet Climate Alliance

qCA, formerly Climate Action Powell River, strives to keep the community informed on the subject of climate change and to foster action aimed at reducing fossil fuel emissions and the local carbon footprint.

Heading in to this election, qCA hopes the City and Regional District will develop specific plans to reduce greater community and regional emissions; conduct activities to educate the public in sustainability practices; and train and support local staff to deliver programs which foster community sustainability and reduce the overall carbon footprint of the city and region.

Note: it is the opinion of qCA that neither of these levels of government are doing nearly enough to help the public understand the climate risk and make more informed decisions and choices.

At School District 47, qRD hopes a new board will implement a 'Teach the Future' program where climate change is taught in more depth and in more subjects so that our children and youth will be better prepared to function in a warmer world, and immediately begin to transition the school bus fleet to electric. 



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PROUD NEW MOM: *qathet Living* publisher Isabelle Southcott welcomed four grand-puppies in July, the first litter of Scotiapride's Acadian Jig. They are Digby Clams, Lennie Gallant, Evangeline, and Schubendorf.

Eastwest Duck Tollers presents:

The Scotiapride's Acadian Jig and Blue Ridge Mountain Ranger litter

"Missing the Maritimes"

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

Jigs, my Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, gave birth to four beautiful puppies on the evening of July 10. It was a first for both Jigs and me, but all went well thanks to the help of puppy doula Tayler Dixon.

Raising duck tollers has been something I've wanted to do for a long time but like anything in life, you have to plan and prepare. In 2019, I purchased Jigs from Scotiapride Duck Tollers in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

Then Panagiotia Rounis showed Jigs so she could get her Canadian Kennel Club conformation title. I competed with Jigs in dock diving and rally obedience and she has her Dock Diving Senior and Rally Intermediate titles.

Jigs had a series of genetic health tests done to ensure that she was suitable breeding stock. When she was two years old she had her hips and elbows x-rayed and sent to the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals to have them assessed by three separate veterinarians.

Only then was she ready to breed. In May, Jigs and I flew back to Nova Scotia so Jigs could spend time with Ranger. The result of their time together is this beautiful litter of puppies!

In honor of their parents, the puppies were given names to reflect their heritage.

There's the handsome male pup Digby Clams, named after the best deep-fried clams in the universe that come from Digby, Nova Scotia.

There's Lennie Gallant, a charismatic male who was named after Acadian singer-songwriter of the same name who hails from Prince Edward Island who has won numerous music awards and is my favourite musician.

We have the beautiful Evangeline, named after poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's famous poem about a young Acadian woman who was separated from her beloved Gabriel during the expulsion of the Acadians from Nova Scotia.

And last but not least is the feisty Schubendorf "Shubie" named after early Toller breeder Eldon Pace's famous kennel of the same name in Schubencadie, Nova Scotia. This is where my family got our first Toller from back in the sixties.

All the puppies have amazing homes to go to when they are older, but in the meantime, I have the great privilege of watching them grow and develop.

Nurturing these gorgeous creatures, keeping them safe and healthy, and helping them develop into confident canine citizens has been a blessing and a gift for which I am truly grateful.

isabelle@priving.ca

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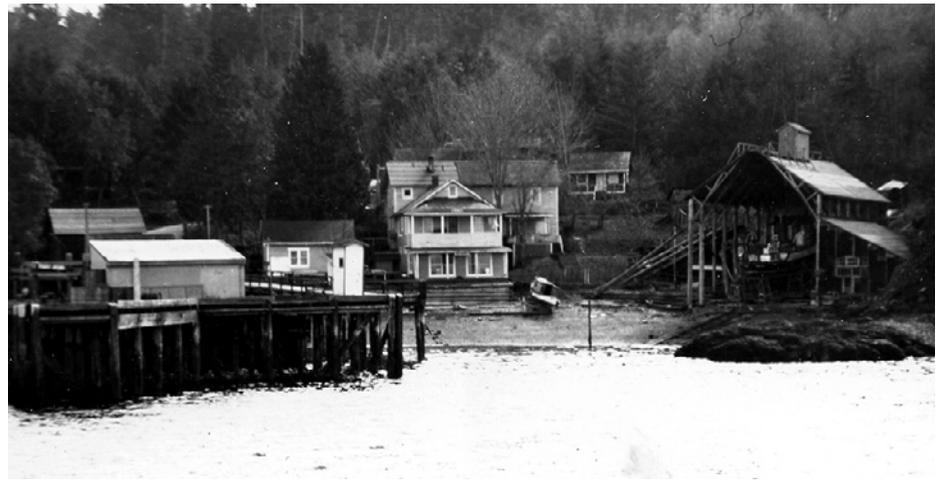
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PART OF QATHET: Left, leaving Lasqueti / xʷεʔεtay, 1949. Right, xʷεʔεtay / Lasqueti's False Bay settlement.

Photo courtesy of the qathet Historical Museum & Archives

Obsidian from Oregon, yew trees and sheep-ranching British officers: xʷεʔεtay

Lasqueti Island was named in modern times after a Spanish naval officer: Juan Maria Lasqueti, in the Spanish explorations of the coast in 1791. However, the island's first inhabitants, named it xʷεʔεtay (Xweh et tay), meaning yew tree.

Indigenous peoples used the island in various ways. It was a natural stopping point on a canoe journey from Vancouver Island to the mainland, and provided abundant food sources including shellfish, fish, deer and berries. There is also evidence of large settlement sites on the island, lookout sites, as well as defensive sites. Obsidian points were also found and traced back to obsidian quarries from Mount Garibaldi in Squamish and from central Oregon, suggesting extensive trade networks.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

JOËLLE SÉVIGNY

European settlement of the island began in the 1870s. Land grants were given to British forces who had been stationed in the San Juan Islands; Captain Pearce, Corporal Prowse and Harry Higgins all chose acreages on Lasqueti. These settlers were mainly interested in sheep ranching. More settlers came to the island in the early 1900s to farm the land, some purchased homesteads, and others pre-empted

crown lands. A salmon cannery started at False Bay in 1916, and resulted in a shift in the population from Tucker Bay to False Bay.

Logging of the island drove much of its development, starting with the Rat Portage Timber Company in 1898. By the end of the 1950s, timber reserves were exhausted and many settlers left. The population increased again in the 1970s, as more people sought simple lifestyles and a return to nature. Today, Lasqueti Island is home to just over 400 people, which includes summer residences. It's part of qathet Regional District.

Blast from the Past is written monthly by qathet Historical Museum and Archives public engagement coordinator Joëlle Sévigny. | jysevigny@powellrivermuseum.ca



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What are you doing this fall?
**Talent & passion
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Are you looking to take your culinary career to new heights right here in Powell River? The Culinary Arts certificate program at Vancouver Island University (VIU) is the only local program that can take you from the novice level to a fully certified cook in the span of just one year.

This internationally recognized certification is helmed by Chef Avi Sternberg, who spent eight years training in Japanese traditional fine dining – even earning a license to prepare poisonous blowfish – and ran a restaurant in the heart of Saigon, Vietnam, before bringing his expertise here to the Canadian coast to share with students in Powell River.

Local foodies pursuing high-demand careers in Powell River's burgeoning dining scene and beyond enjoy hands-on, real-world experience in state-of-the-art kitchens and labs, and build industry contacts while availing themselves of a broad range of unique opportunities.

Chef Sternberg's students have thrived under his mentorship and through the program's paid co-op, offer sold-out sumptuous and elegantly plated din-



LEARN FROM THE BEST: Sure, Chef Avi Sternberg will teach you culinary skills, but unique to VIU, his own international career inspires his students to think bigger and aspire higher.

ners paired with Townsite beer, 40 Knots wine, and Shelter Point Distillery whiskey.

Students in the past have learned meat cutting and sausage making with Sechelt's Noble Fine Meats, toured Comox Valley Mushrooms, learned about regional food systems with local farms and foragers, and catered the PRISMA banquet for over 200 guests.

PRISMA Festival Director of Marketing and Development, Andy Rice, stated that "the delicious food they created each day, combined with the positive environment they fostered both in and out of the kitchen, was a major highlight of the PRISMA experience for our 75 students, 23 guest artists and dozens of staff, contractors and volunteers – all coming together from over 20 different countries."

The Fairmont Chateau Whistler has also partnered with the VIU Culinary Arts program in the past, and Fairmont staff "have been very impressed with the talent and passion of these students," says the Fairmont's Sabine Bell. "We are in this for the long haul."

VIU has also been "a tremendous asset to us," says Warren Barr, Executive Chef of Tofino's Wickaninnish Inn. "Their students have a strong work ethic and are trained in such a way that they pick up whatever responsibilities are put in front of them quickly."

For more information about the Culinary Arts Certificate at VIU Powell River, check out the website: viu.ca/programs/trades-applied-technology/culinary-arts

For information about registration, call 604-485-2878. *Sponsored content.*



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CELEBRATIONS: Top right, inside the Cousin's House (fieldhouse), soccer players (l-r) Rowan Tom-Leblanc, Madison Wilkes, Lawna Dingwall, Riel Tom-Leblanc, and Seni Luiiafoa, and drummers mark the opening of the new buildings. Top left, Meekwan Blaney and Levi Wikes dance. Middle, the three new homes for low-income Tla'amin families. Above, dignitaries representing Tla'amin, BC and Canada: Gail Blaney, Nicholas Simons, Lynn Galligos, Marc Miller, John Louie, Doreen Point, and John Hackett.

Photos by Abby Francis

Building boom at t̓išosəm

BY **ABBY FRANCIS** | LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In 2020 Tla'amin Nation broke ground by starting the first building projects in over 15 years on Nation land. Five of these projects have just been completed.

On July 12 a grand opening ceremony was held for three new social housing units, which each have four bedrooms and will be rented out to Tla'amin families with low income.

An opening ceremony was also held for the new Child Development and Resource Centre (Children's House), an extension to Tla'amin's current day-care that will provide a larger space for the older children.

The new fieldhouse (Cousin's House) had a ceremony too. Cousin's House has a kitchen, weight room, offices, and will have before and after school care programs for kids and teens.

These projects were celebrated through drumming, singing, dancing, and speeches by public works director Carmen Galligos, hegus John Hackett, executive council member Dillion Johnson, MLA Nicholas Simons, as well as minister of Crown-Indigenous relations Marc Miller.

Although the five buildings are complete, they are set to be used late August and early September.

Elder Les.Pet (Doreen Point) opened each ceremony with a traditional prayer, while elders and youth brushed the insides and outsides of buildings with cedar boughs.

The day started at the social housing and ended at Cousin's House where a bannock taco and salmon lunch was provided by Tla'amin for attendees. After the ceremonies, a mother bear and her cubs played in the field behind Cousin's House, putting the new youth space to use. abby@prliving.ca

Support Programs

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- Monthly Caregiver support group
- Guided grief and bereavement group

Starting Feb. 2023

- Volunteer Training Certificate Program (Complicated Grief Training)

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Five months into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, some locals are still paying close attention: those with family, friends & colleagues there. Here, qL catches up with those who shared their stories in April's issue.

Still united with Ukraine

WITH SUNNY DELI OWNERS
ROSTIK ARTIUSHENKOV & ANNA HONCHAROVA

Since April, what has happened in Ukraine that has impacted your family and friends?

This is a very big question as everyone we know has been impacted.

Eastern Ukraine is under consistent bombing from the Russian side. Many people lost everything including the lives of relatives. The huge impact is on the Ukrainian agriculture sector as it has been difficult for farmers to do anything, great example could be Rostik's uncle who was struggling with farming. Rostik's other uncle is still fighting, and every day his life is in danger.

Have your family and friends left?

Anna's aunt left Kharkiv in the early days of the war since it was under shelling from the beginning of the war. Some of our friends left Ukraine and moved temporarily to Czech Republic, Austria, and Germany. Under the martial law, men aged 18 to 60 can not leave the country, so some of our friends are staying in Ukraine.

How much time do you spend watching the invasion?

We watch the news on a consistent basis as it became part of our life.



What should the world be paying attention to now, and why?

Ukrainians have proven that they can fight "the second-largest military in the world". Ukrainians need more modern military equipment that can fire at a distance and modern air defense systems.

It is the war of artillery. Also, Ukrainians need more money to keep defending their territory from Russian aggression because Ukraine is fighting for the world so every country in the world can have the opportunity to choose its future without even thinking of being terrorized.

How are your fundraising efforts so far?

We first want to say thank you to all people who contribute! without your support, we wouldn't be able to raise as many funds as we did to help Ukraine. We raised about \$5k and we gave the money to friends who buy military equipment for territorial defenders and volunteers who are helping the country. Some donations were donated to the farmers so they could buy fuel, and some donations were contributed to the animal rescue centers. It is ongoing and we keep helping people as long as it is needed. 🐾

BY THE FORMER CONDUCTOR OF THE MOSCOW SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND PRISMA

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
ARTHUR ARNOLD

St. Nectaire, France
– July 22

Tonight I'll conduct a concert for peace in the heart of the Puy de Dôme in France. There is an honest longing for peace within most of us.

Why then this war? Why this interest in more power and more money? In the shade of a majestic French oak tree I have been reading Red Notice and Freezing Order by Bill Browder, who is hunted by the Russian regime for revealing corruption that leads directly to Putin. The books read like thrillers, but are based on truth and facts, and show how money and power steer a few on our planet to incomprehensible decisions.

I talked to Putin once at a Dutch state dinner. During my conversation with him, he was ice-cold and disengaged, leaving me with the impression of someone with a hidden agenda—clearly, his mind was on "bigger things" than arts and music. Gergiev, the Russian conductor who recently lost his job and his management for not condemning the war, was, even then, glued to Putin's side.

I have been "smuggling" hundreds of pictures of manuscripts of never performed symphonies by Alexander Mosolov out of Russia (the librarian willingly looked the other way, knowing this music deserves to sound). In 1937 Mosolov was sentenced to the GULAG by Stalin. Why? He was supposedly an enemy of the state (he was an eccentric man). Not much has changed in Russia, I learn from under the oak tree.

The Mosolov project came to a temporary halt after my resignation from the Moscow Symphony Orchestra. However, project team is planning to continue the series with an orchestra from Ukraine. After all Mosolov was born in Kyiv. We are excited to provide work for Ukraine musicians in the near future.

But first, a concert for peace here in France, tonight. 🐾



Reasons to drop in:

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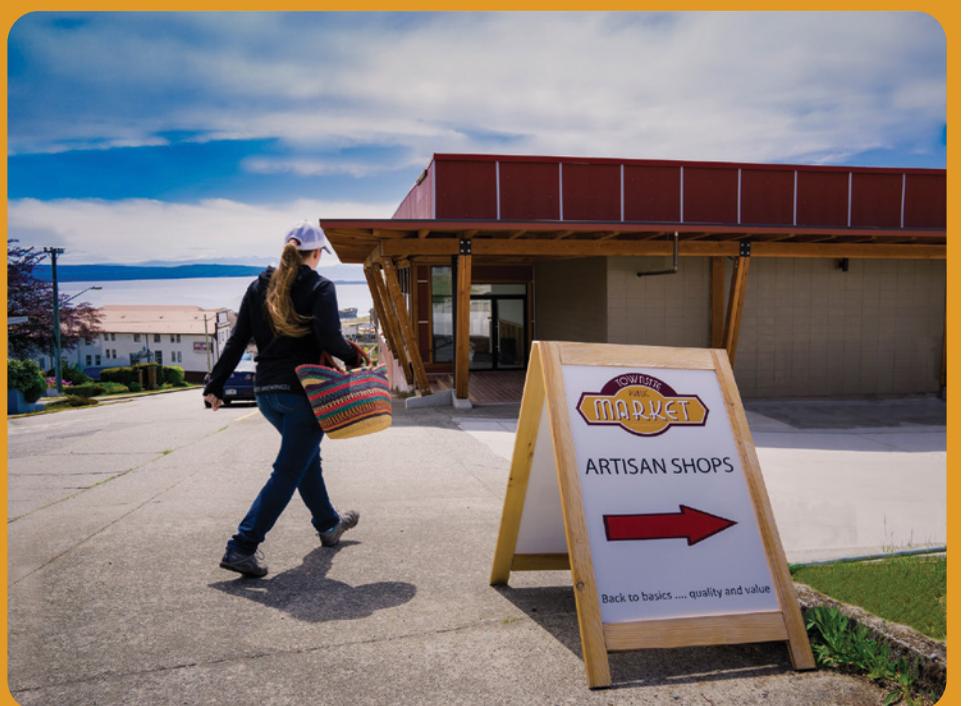
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BY DESIGNER, ARTIST AND MODEL MILLA HOPE

We thought that COVID-19 was the biggest evil in the world until February 24, when Russian troops entered the territory of Ukraine from Russia, Crimea and Belarus.

Kharkiv is my hometown, Hero-city, the city of my dreams now.

My relatives are mostly located in the now occupied territories of Balakliia (Kharkiv region) with cut-off Internet access and no communications with them. The only thing I know is that there is nothing left of the property that my grandfather left me. Nothing survived after the aerial bombing of the village, including an acre of my beautiful sour cherries garden.

My friends had the most difficult decision to make: stay in Kharkiv or evacuate. Three generations of families have been separated, the children with grandchildren left town, my friends stayed in because the older generation refused to leave.

One of the friends left with her daughter who gave birth last month to a beautiful baby boy. Some friends without children came back after two months away from their beloved city.

My son refused even to discuss the possibility of leaving Ukraine. I can not do anything about it, his life is his decision.

Ukrainians are getting stronger in their willingness to protect their territories. They are not asking for charity; they want to exchange grain harvest for weapons and military gear to help them to protect



Leaving bruta & beautiful Kharkiv

ALWAYS AN ARTIST: Left, Milla Hope (right) in Kharkiv in 1978 on the 'Square of Construction'. The Russian patriotic monument celebrated the victory of the 1918 Red Revolution. The monument was demolished in 2014. Top, the gather artist, designer and model wears a vyshyvanka and crafts a traditional seed bead necklace. Top right, Friends for life in the 1970s; both of these friends are still in Kharkiv. Above left, Milla as a student in 1980, the summer she worked constructing buildings in Kharkiv. Many of them were destroyed in March. Above right, Milla photographed in Powell River by Andrew Bradley.



lawful, God-given territory of Ukraine.

My friends are grateful to people around the world for the help they are getting during these tragic times. To my knowledge, they are experiencing a shortage of medications and personal care products.

My reflections are as follows:

Life has been reset, someone left and still does not know that forever!

Someone stayed and is waiting for a miracle, not knowing that everything will not be the way he draws in his pictures.

Someone will come back and start all over again!

The former life is no more, but there is life and everything will be, not so, it means differently, but still, it will be!

And now the most important thing is to be ready to accept the new reality and not resist it. Be flexible and move forward, ahead is the door to the unknown, which everyone needs to open and enter ... on their own.

Scary? Highly! But this is the road to life!

Now only one thing is required of each of us – to go forward and not stop, because stopping is a step into depression and apathy, this is a step towards death ... We pull ourselves by the hair and go to live!

Because there will be life and there will be love. And there will be another peaceful spring.

We know it still will. 🐻

SHATTERED: Milla Hope's friends who remained in Kharkiv took this photo of a bombed apartment complex, and playground.



Meet the Powell River Public Library's first **Writer in Residence**

Gabrielle Prendergast

In 2018, Gabrielle won the BC & Yukon Book Prizes "Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize" for her novel *Zero Repeat Forever*, published by Simon & Schuster, which is now in film production. She has published a wealth of middle-grade and young adult novels, including several Hi-Lo titles and novels in verse, as well as a selection of children's titles.

During her residency, Gabrielle will inspire readers and writers of all ages with one-on-one manuscript consultations, readings of her work, writing workshops, presentations with students and schools, and more!

Full details, including a soon-to-be-announced launch party date, will appear on our website this summer.



PRPL will host Gabrielle from September 6th to November 4th.



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MAX

I MADE THE MOVE

Water draws Whistler snow folk to qathet

Arne Gutman started out as a snowboard instructor for Whistler Blackcomb 26 years ago. There, he became enamoured with BC and mountain life. During that time he met Aki, “my fantastic wife” and they have been together ever since, enjoying the outdoor life and all its wonder.

Why did you choose to move to qathet?

Arne • Over the years I segued to water and paddle boarding, which led me to be closer to the ocean and lakes that didn't freeze for five-plus months a year. Enjoying the Sunshine Coast on many visits and trips had us decide on moving here. It took a few years but here we are and we couldn't be happier.

When? Where from?

Arne • I am from Whistler but originally one of those mid-east transplants that hails from Toronto. One month so far.

What surprised you once you moved here?

Arne • One of the most beautiful things I noticed, beside the fantastic outdoors and scenery, was the welcoming nature of the locales. It made my heart feel a kind of inclusion that I have not felt before and now feel that this is truly my town.

What made you decide to move to qathet?

Arne • In the lead up to our decision it was pretty simple as there was no where else we wanted to go. We did look at other communities on the coast and island, but nothing had the feel of qathet.



NEVER BOARD: Mountain creatures Arne and Aki Gutman are here for the ocean and the arts. Both were instructors in Whistler: Aki taught downhill skiing, and Arne is a certified Ocean Touring SUP instructor and a level 2 snowboard instructor.

Where is your favourite place in qathet?

Arne • OMG. That is the hardest question as there are sooooo many wonderful places here. From all the lakes, beaches, trails and just fantastic scenery that I can not say any one thing. Though, the water was what got me enthralled with qathet and it will keep me here.

How did you first hear about qathet?

Arne • We have been coming to the Coast for years and could not take the pull and allure of qathet anymore and had to do it.

What would make qathet a nicer community?

Arne • There would be nothing I could say as it is such a lovely community already. What I want to do while residing here is to foster as much support for the arts as possible and to interact with as many like minded individuals. Promoting the arts and supporting local initiatives.

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

Arne • Nothing. Because of what has happened to Whistler due to tourism would destroy qathet.

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

Arne • Just figuring out the lie of the land and where to shop and eat. Which are the best beaches and to make sure we booked well enough in advance for the ferry.

If you were mayor what would you do?

Arne • The first thing I would do would be to increase funding for the arts in qathet. It seems that the community is still growing and diverse but does not have adequate funding. I would create a greater dialogue with the community and its citizens in the form of Mayor's meetings. Where I would engage with the community to listen to their concerns. Listening to the constituency would be my prime objective. Hearing what the locals have to say.

What are qathet's best assets?

Arne • First the place, water, mountains and forests. Second, the people.

What is your greatest extravagance?

Arne • The Farmers' Market and The Chopping Block. mmmmm...

Which superpower would you most like to have?

Arne • The ability to heal people and remove their fears. 

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Unlike anywhere else

Townsite Heritage Society celebrates 30 years

In 1992, The Townsite Heritage Society (THS) was started by an enthusiastic group of volunteers. The longest term society members to date are Ann Nelson and Carol Regnier. THS directed a large number of activities to foster pride in the Townsite. Selling blackberry shortcake at the Blackberry Festival is one example that continued right up to the COVID-19 pandemic.

THS spearheaded the process to get National Historic District designation for the Townsite in 1995. The Federal plaque celebrating this is below the Patricia Theatre (see above).

In 2008, THS, under the presidency of Rebecca Vincent, began the process of restoring Dr Henderson's house, the first house in the Townsite, to its 1912 condition (see above). A large group of volunteers contributed hundreds of hours to this process, including Wendy Mobley.

How and when did you start working with THS?

Wendy Mobley • In 2005, I attended a presentation by Ann Nelson on the restoration of Dr Henderson's house as a living museum

What attracted you to this organization?

Wendy Mobley • I was born and lived in the Townsite until I left to get training as a draftsman. My grandfather came here in 1914 and was the foreman of the carpenters crew responsible for building and maintaining the Townsite homes.



THE HOUSE THAT VOLUNTEERS (AND BLACKBERRIES) REBUILT: Wendy and Doug Mobley in front of Henderson House, one restoration project by the Townsite Heritage Society (THS). Watch for the THS booth at Blackberry Festival Street Party on August 19.

Photo by Abby Francis, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

What part of the work is the most satisfying?

Wendy Mobley • I love this "grand old lady" (Henderson House) and always try to keep her looking her best – painting the exterior and keeping the grounds cared for. I read the comments in the Guest book with such pleasure.

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

Wendy Mobley • Sometimes I wish I had more time and energy to do more and that's where my husband Doug steps in with his expertise to help.

What do you wish other people knew about the work THS does?

Wendy Mobley • THS is the unofficial keeper of the history of the Townsite. In this role, they sponsored Karen Southern's four volume set detailing the history of every building in the Townsite and covering the 100 years from 1910 -2010. THS is a resource for the preservation and res-

toration of Townsite houses. In 2017, THS offered a window restoration program. Guided heritage tours of the Townsite and Henderson House are interesting and informative.

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

Wendy Mobley • I had done no charitable work while employed, but retirement gave me the opportunity. My strong family connection to the Townsite was a good fit to the goals of the THS.

Do you bring any unique skills to this organization?

Wendy Mobley • I love to garden, repair things and paint. A 110 year old house never sleeps.

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

Wendy Mobley • You need a reason to get up each morning, to do something worth while – its good for you and good for the town. 🍓

Thank You!

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and #3 for
'Best of qathet' – **Best Customer Service Overall**



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Use the orthography below to write in how to pronounce each letter. Also see Dr. Elsie Paul's more precise descriptions at bit.ly/3cc8iU4.



ʔAYʔAJUΘƏM? YOU GOT THIS

RANDOLPH TIMOTHY JR.

ʔayʔajuθəm The name of this language.

ʔišosəm Village the people live in.

ʔaʔəmən The name of the Nation.

č̣əč̣əhaθəṣ̌t We thank you all.

ʔimot Thank you.

ʔayʔajuθəm orthography

ʔaʔəmən | kómoks | χ^wεmaʔk^wu | & λohos

This orthography is based on the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). This guide offers a simplified version of the sounds; for an authentic accent, listen at firstvoices.com.

Most letters you'll see in ʔayʔajuθəm are familiar. Pronounce them as you normally would, with the exception of the vowels and "y," which are always pronounced:

a	ah
e	ay as in May
i	ee
o	oh
u	oo
y	y as in yell

ε	eh
ɪ	ih
ʊ	oo as in look
ə	uh
č̣	ch
č̣̣̣	popping c
ǰ	dg
ḱ	popping k
k ^w	kw
ḱ ^w	rounded, popping k
ʔ	Breathy L sound
ḑ	popping p
ḑ̣	popping q

q ^w	rounded q
ḑ̣ ^w	rounded, popping q
ṣ̌	sh
ʔ̣	popping t
t ^θ	t-th
ʔ̣ ^θ	Popping t-th
θ	th
x ^w	wh (like in who)
χ	Hhhh
χ ^w	Hhhhwh
χ̣	tl
χ̣̣̣	popping tl
ʔ̣	glottal stop: uh oh

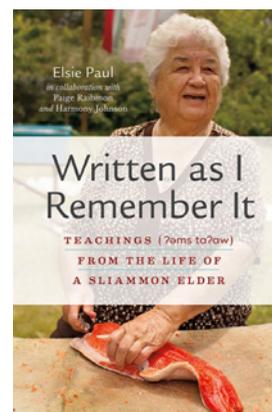
Cozy up to ʔayʔajuθəm: it's here to stay

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

I've been meeting with Randolph Timothy Jr this month outside his parent's place, at Scuttle Bay. The oyster catchers bumble around on the flats, as we hem and haw over a tough question: how to encourage local folks to learn the letters of the ʔayʔajuθəm orthography, or alphabet.

Randolph is Tla'amin Nation's new Language Coordinator. He explained that his team—including members of the Comox, Klahoose and Homalco Nations—have agreed that the language will be revived best by using the correct orthography only. No cheating with phonetics in brackets. The language is the language.

Many of the individual sounds in ʔayʔajuθəm just don't exist in English—thus, the need for other letters. Furthermore, the way the language sounds when it's spoken is different than English; it is really worth checking out firstvoices.ca, to hear these words spoken by elders. And, to read Dr. Elsie Paul's *Written As I Remember It*, for linguist Dr. Honoré Watanabe's fuller description of how to pronounce each



WANT MORE THAN A TASTE?: Dr. Elsie Paul's book, *Written as I Remember It*, offers a more precise pronunciation guide.

As you've likely noticed, written ʔayʔajuθəm is showing up more and more around town: on signage, in the pages of this magazine, and on social media. As someone who does not have

a facility with languages, I'm embarrassed to say that I was skipping over reading anything with the unfamiliar-to-me orthography. I mean, despite years of French immersion, pronouncing the accent circumflex still eludes me. Like many native English speakers where English is our region's *lingua franca*, I have been language lazy.

So Randolph and I came up with what we hope is a solution to helping everyone (including me) lean in to ʔayʔajuθəm a little more: a game. Think of it like a secret code. Each month, we will run the full orthography (see left, below) and five common ʔayʔajuθəm words (see left). Write in how to pronounce the word, using the guide below. And voilà! Language learning happens.

You got this. Even if you just absorb a couple of letters each month, you'll be able to pronounce more and more of the language you see around town.

Randolph, it should be noted, is absolutely lovely. He grew up between ʔišosəm and Surrey, where he went to high school, and has lived and worked all over Western Canada, from Fort MacMurray to Vancouver. He is dedicated to reviving ʔayʔajuθəm as he learns the language himself; watch for his initiatives Word of the Day, and Language on the Land, on Facebook. 🐾

Lund Daze

Saturday, August 6 • noon til late • At the Gazebo
Live Music and Family Fun. Food and craft vendors.
Bring your water and sun hat! Suggested donation \$10 -20 kids free.

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

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sean@prliving.ca
or 604-485-0003

qathet **LIVING**
SHOWCASING THE BEST OF OUR COMMUNITY

Country singer buys sign shop

J&D Signs on Marine Avenue has a new owner. Local electrician, country musician and star of the Hunt Fish Maniac show, **Paul Marier**, doesn't have a background in signs, but the storefront appealed to him, providing an outlet to promote his fishing charters and merchandise to passing tourists. Paul says he sees a lot of business available for signmaking. He partnered with former mill engineer **Joe Berthiaume**, who has been running a CNC and plasma cutter out of his garage, so metal signage and CNC engraving is being added to the services J&D Signs offers. The sign shop, formerly owned by Jennifer Furcal, offers large format printing, banners, and window and vehicle decaling. Numbers for the shop remain the same – you can reach them at 604-578-0510 or signs@jdsignspro.com, on the web at jdsignspro.business.site, or on Facebook @jdsignspr.

Lawyer returns to his old office

The more things change, the more they stay the same. **Martin Ostensen** is back behind his old desk on Marine Avenue, but there's a new name on the office. **The Law Office of Martin Ostensen** has taken the place of David Garling's law office after David retired in June from his 43-year law career. Martin is no stranger to the location, having worked with David as part of Garling-Ostensen from 1991 to 2006. After leaving that office, Martin worked in leadership roles at Alberta Law Line and Legal Aid Alberta, before moving to the U.S. to teach Public Health Law at the University of North Texas.



BUSINESS AFFAIRS

SEAN PERCY

COVID's lockdowns prompted Martin and his wife Moira to return home last year. He worked with Vilani & Co before he decided to take over the practice, and the old office at 4581 Marine, from his former partner. You can reach Martin at 604-485-2818 or go to powellriverlawyers.com.

Pilldolla Creek moves to Duck Lake

Pilldolla Creek Contracting, Tla'amin Lake Contracting and Goat Lake Transport have a new home at 2734 Tanglewood Road, just off Duck Lake Road. **Kevin McKamey**, the owner of Pilldolla and partner in the other businesses, bought the land and built an office and shop for the companies' mechanics, equipment and trucks. The offices had been located at the top of Duncan Street for 25 years and were among the first tenants of the building that houses Coast Fitness. You can reach the new office at the same number: 604-485-2078.

Countertops by Janice

Janice Behan has traded her paintbrush for a torch, and is building resin countertops out of a small shop on Willingdon Avenue beside the Chopping Block. Her son Jordan Mathieu does the woodwork that un-

derpins the artistic countertops. "I started painting in my 20s and learned about faux finishes. When I learned about resin, it made what I did more permanent," said Janice. Resin countertops are about \$60 a square foot installed, about a third of what stone can run, but a little more than Arborite, while offering a sturdier surface than laminate. Janice starts out with a consultation at your location and can custom design colours and shapes for a seamless final product. Contact **Countertops by Janice** at 604-518-0134 or email janicebehan@gmail.com.

Cooler and more comfortable

After working out of their house for almost two years, **Cool Comfort Solutions** has moved into an office and shop at 7468B Duncan Street, the former home of Newport Electric near the airport beside Cadam Construction. The heating and cooling company is run by **Roberto and Leslie Ius** and their three employees. Roberto has a quarter century experience in the HVAC industry but is now running his own business. Reach them at 604-414-8465 or visit coolcomfortsolutions.ca

New port for electricians

Long-time electrician Henry Newport has passed the wire strippers to his son. Raymund Newport is the new manager of the (slightly) renamed Newport Electrical, which this spring moved across the street to a new office and shop at 202-7373 Duncan Street, beside Western Forest Products. Visit newporthelectric.ca or call 604-485-0045. 🇺🇸

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WHEN THE SUPERMOON SUPER HITS YOUR EYE:
Last year's summer supermoon was in July, but this year's is August 12—right at the height of the Perseid Meteor Shower, and bright enough to interrupt viewing. Alas. This is the last supermoon of 2022, however—a worthy sight in itself. In this photo, the 2021 July supermoon is seen over Texada Island.

Photo by Carl Anderson, Sea Forest Photography. seaforestphotography.ca.

August in qathet

FESTIVALS FOR EVERYONE

Saturday, August 6

Lund Daze

Noon- 1am, Lund gazebo. Lund community is putting back together its famous Lund Daze event with tons of fun activities for the whole family. Live music all day, Wild Woods Social Club playing at 7 and DJ Claudia Medina at 11. Food and craft vendors—bring your water and sun hat! Suggested donation \$10-20, kids free.

August 6 & 7

Texada Blues and Roots Festival

texadabluesfestival.com

August 8 to 14

PRIDE: 10th Anniversary qathet Pride celebration

See Page 46 for more, and check out qathetpride.ca. Fest in the Park is August 14.

August 13 & 14

Texada Sandcastle Weekend and Skim Jam

See page 41 for more.

Friday, August 19

Blackberry Festival Street Party & QF Fireworks

Starting at 6 pm, Marine Avenue downtown. See Page 41.

August 26 & 27

Edible Garden Tour

Self-guided tour by Lift's Food Security Program and Skookum Food Provisioners. Marvel in the abundance of our local food producers, and learn more about qathet's food systems on this free two-day, self-guided tour! In-person tour guidebooks will be available at The Nook and more places by August 15. The online tour will be live August 31 at skookumfood.ca/egt/. For details go to facebook.com/qathetediblegardentour/ Want to be part of the tour? Last day to register your farm or garden is August 5.

August 27 & 28

qathet Studio Tour

qathetstudiotour.ca. See Page 49.

Coming up in September:

September 2 to 4

Sunshine Music Festival

sunshinemusicfest.ca. See ad on Page 23.

September 24 & 25

Fall Fair

At Paradise Exhibition Grounds. Look for full details in the September qL.

September 23

PR Kings First Home Game of the Season & Player Meet & Greet

Details TBA



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THANK YOU TO EACH
AND EVERY CUSTOMER WHO
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THE YEARS.

We have had an amazing run and it has been an honour to be a part of this community.



facebook.com/PRSportzone   604.485.2080

LIVE MUSIC & ON STAGE

To August 4

Virtual Rogues

9:30 pm, Texada Island Boatyard.
caravanonstage.org.

Mondays August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

Renelle & Dawson Jaxn in concert

5 to 8 pm, in Lund. Boardwalk Restaurant.
boardwalkrestaurantpowellriverlund.com

Wednesday, August 3

Renelle & Dawson Jaxn in concert

6:30 pm, in the Rotary Garden at the ARC
Community Centre. BYO lawn chair. \$15.
Tickets 604-483-8468.

Fridays August 5, 12, 19 & 26

Pat Buckna in concert

5 to 8 pm, in Lund. Boardwalk Restaurant.
boardwalkrestaurantpowellriverlund.com

Saturdays August 6, 20 & 27

Roger Langmaid in concert

5 to 8 pm, in Lund. Boardwalk Restaurant.
boardwalkrestaurantpowellriverlund.com

Friday, August 5

Short Shorts & Animal Shirts

Pay what you can - all raised funds go to
the Lund Community Society.
9 pm - DJ Weinerslav; 10 pm - DJ E-List;
11 pm - DJ Minerva; 12 pm - DJ Twinkie.

Saturday, August 6

Lund Daze - live music all day

noon- 1am, Lund gazebo. Lund community
is putting back together its famous Lund
Daze event with tons of fun activities for
the whole family. Live music all day, Wild
Woods Social Club playing at 7 and DJ
Claudia Medina at 11. Food and craft
vendors - bring your water and sun hat! Sug-
gested donation \$10-20, kids free.

August 6 & 7

Texada Blues and Roots Festival

The region's top musicians in concert
at the Gillies Bay Ball Park.
texadabluesfestival.com.

August 7

Fiddle workshop with Gordon Stobbe and JJ Guy

12:30 workshop, 2:30 dance. qathet Art
Centre. Hosted by Serena Eades.

Community Dance

2:30 dance. qathet Art Centre. Hosted by
Serena Eades. Fiddles.

Willingdon Wanderers

12:30 at the Open Air Farmers Market

Sundays August 7, 14 & 28

KP Duty in concert

5 to 8 pm, in Lund. Boardwalk Restaurant.
boardwalkrestaurantpowellriverlund.com

Thursday, August 11

PRIDE: Pub Pizza and DJ

4-9 pm, Wildwood Pub. All welcome. Buy
your own food and drinks.

Friday, August 12

PRIDE: Drag and Dinner

5-9 pm, Shinglemill Restaurant. All wel-
come. Buy your own food and drinks.

Friday, August 12

Steven Carson in concert

5 to 8 pm at Lund's Boardwalk Restaurant.
boardwalkrestaurantpowellriverlund.com

Saturday, August 13

Pierre Schryer & Adam Dobres

Cranberry Community Hall.

Classic Country

8 pm, Forest Bistro. Tickets at the Bistro.

Tuesday, August 16

Blackberry Week

Comedy & Music Show

Doors open at 7 pm, Cranberry Hall. Robert
Mah, Kevin Scow and Lucia Riberio. With
musical guest Rachel Michetti hosted by
Steve Bottomley.

Thursday, August 18

qathet Symphony Orchestra registration opens

Orchestra start-up is on September 10.
This is a beginner/intermediate orches-
tra, but music for advanced players can
be provided. Practices are held at the
Star Dusters Square Dancing Hall on
Hawthorn Street opposite the walking
track on Saturdays 10 am - noon. String
instruments, flutes, clarinets, French
horns, oboes all welcome. Contact
qathetsymphonyorchestra@yahoo.com
for more information.

Sunday, August 21

Samantha Smith Sunday Social

7 pm, Wildwood Public House

Willingdon Wanderers

12:30, Open Air Farmers Market

Wednesday, August 24

Austin Paraise in concert

5 to 8 pm, in Lund. Boardwalk Restaurant.
boardwalkrestaurantpowellriverlund.com

Sunday, August 28

Stephen Vogler Sunday Social

7 pm, Wildwood Public House

Wednesday, August 31

Music in the Park

7 pm Rotary stage at Willingdon.

September 2 to 4

Sunshine Music Festival

sunshinemusicfest.ca

Sunday, September 11

James Gordon at Sunday Social

7 pm, Wildwood Public House

September 6 to 9

Registration at Academy of Music

Private lessons, choirs, preschool music,
theatre and dance. Classes begin Septem-
ber 12. 604-485-9633. See ad on Page 53.

September 15 to 17

At Your Service:

Life & Yarns of Robert Service

At The Max. See ad on Page 30.

FILM TIME

To August 4

DC League of Super Pets
7pm nightly, Patricia Theatre

Friday, August 5

Adventures in Film screening
1:30pm - Free, at The Patricia. Two-minute films from local film campers (age 9-14) on the theme of heritage. PRFF Youth Films. Plus, Cross-Canada Winners of the 5-minute Film Contest.

August 5 to 11

Bullet Train
7pm nightly, Patricia Theatre.

August 8 to 14

Water Film Week: Ebb & Flow
All films are 7pm, at Tidal Art Centre in Lund.

Monday August 8 feature *The Red Turtle* with short - *Jellyfish Ballet*

Tuesday August 9 feature - *All is Lost* with short - *The Old Man and the Sea*

Wednesday August 10 feature - *Chinatown* with short - *Voice Above Water*

Thursday August 11 feature *Sonic Sea* - with short - *Local historic Fish Traps*

Friday August 12 feature - *The Shape of Water* with event tuba

Saturday August 13 - *Luna* with short *Clam Basket*

Sunday August 14 feature *The Life Aquatic* with short *Liquid is Light*

Saturday, August 13

Return to Africa

1:30pm - Patricia Theatre. Hosted by the Sunshine Gogos and the Baha'i community. Film and panel discussion. See Page 45 for story.

Wednesday, August 10

PRIDE: Queer Film Showing • Wildhood

3:30pm, Patricia Theatre, All welcome. Free.



BANANARAMA: Patricia Theatre manager Laura Wilson dressed as a Minion for the week of *Minions: The Rise of Gru* in July. Elsewhere, teens dressed in suits (the #gentleminions movement) caused enough damage to theatres and audiences to get banned from the animated film in some cities. Here, many, many teens came to the Pat for *Rise of Gru* dressed in suits, bearing bananas—and were delightfully rowdy but far from rough. One movie-goer described it as “The most fun I’ve had at the movies since Rocky Horror.” Watch for more costume nights at The Pat coming soon.

August 12 to 18

Thor: Love & Thunder

7pm nightly at The Patricia. 1:30pm matinee Sunday August 14.

Sunday, August 14

PRIDE: Short Films • Making it Out Alive

12:30pm, Patricia Theatre. All Welcome 14+, in partnership with the Vancouver Queer Film Fest. Free.



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BOOKS & ART

To August 16

Salish Sea Clean & Glean

This summer qathet ART is partnering up with Let's Talk Trash to divert shoreline plastic from our waste stream. Be part of this Art Challenge that involves repurposing shoreline waste and recyclables from your shoreline cleanup or the Ocean Plastic Depot at Augusta. Please sign up for an orientation to learn best practices of the Ocean Plastic Depot. Send us a photo of your creation! Send before and after photos to qathetart@gmail.com. August shoreline cleanup focuses on Okeover, Texada, and Savary.

To October

Sewsustainability

Yeonmi Kim show at the Powell River Public Library.

August 3 to 31

Beyond ReSawn- DeSigNature

Crucible Gallery, Wednesdays - Saturdays 12-6 pm. Yeonmi Kim and Andy Henderson's show. Also part of the qathet Studio Tour.

Wednesday, August 3

Oyster farmer presentation by Andre Comeau and Christopher Roberts

Tidal Art Centre. see tidalartcentre.com for more.

Friday, August 5

Master Canoe Maker Joe Martin

5pm, Evergreen Theatre. Nuu-chah-nulth canoe artist Joe Martin and museum curator Alan Hoover will present their new book - *Making a Choputs* - On the Teachings and Responsibilities of a Canoe Maker. For info mmerlino@prpl.ca

Saturday, August 6

Plein Air Painting at Gibson's Beach

1 to 2 pm. With qathet Museum and Archive & qathet ART, free.

Emma Morgan Thorpe and friends performance

Tidal Art Centre. see tidalartcentre.com for more.

August 7

'Splash Bash' reception for the Ebb & Flow group show

3pm Possibly including Harp and spoken/sung word performance by Janine McLeod and more

Saturday, August 13

qathet Art & Wares first anniversary party

Prizes, treats and fun at the art store. See ad on Page 40.

August 15 to 31

Solo show: Kat Thompson, The Etymology of Water

Tidal Art Centre. Part of this summer's series of exhibitions and events on the theme of water, called 'Ebb and Flow.'

Thursday, August 18

Underwater photography presentation & workshop

Terry Brown presentation on his underwater photography followed by an in-water workshop for photographers August 20. See tidalartcentre.com.

Saturday, August 20

Local author Terry Faubert: reading

2 pm at the Library. Terry Faubert will be reading from her new illustrated children's books *Saved By Frost* and *A Cat Called Ballet* and illustrator Draigh Creamer will speak about his beautiful artwork. For info mmerlino@prpl.ca

Plein Air Painting at Shinglemill Beach

1 to 2 pm. With qathet Museum and Archive & qathet ART, free.

Saturday, August 27

Kiwanis Giant Closing Out Book Sale

4943 Kiwanis Ave. Doors open at 10 am and close at 1 pm. Fill a Bag for \$5. DVDs are 4 for a \$1. Money raised goes to Cops for Cancer/Camp Good Time.

August 27 & 28

qathet Studio Tour

qathetstudiotour.ca. See Page 49.

Through September

Chris Roberts Show

qathet ART at VIU University

Through September

Transmutation

Crucible Gallery. Opening is September 9. With artists Valerie McRae ("Experimental Imperfections," mixed media and fabric), Richard Armstrong ("Imagining New Worlds," visual art) and Kate Matthews ("My journey from forest serenity to disturbed emotionalism," paint and installation).

September 2 to 10

Celebrate Literacy Week at Town Centre Mall

Storytime, mural, crafts, drumming and more. Including a community art mural. See more on Page 10.

September 15 to October 20

Les Ramsay Exhibition

qathet Art Centre

September 16 to December 14

Cowboy Blaire Hobbes Arts Show

Magpie's Diner.

Saturday, September 17

Kiwanis Giant Closing Out Book Sale

4943 Kiwanis Ave. Doors open at 10 and close at 1 pm. Fill a Bag for \$5. Money raised goes to RCMP officer Philippe Caza's Cops for Cancer ride and Camp Good Time.

LOCALS SUPPORTING
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THE BIG CHEESE:

This summer we're being treated to two supermoons. In July, this image was captured a couple of days before the full moon. On August 12, the supermoon will light up the sky. Photo by Doris Guevara.

NATURE CALLS

August 9 to 11
Super low tides mid-morning

August 12
Full Moon, Supermoon.
The last of three supermoons for 2022. The Moon may look slightly larger and brighter than usual.

August 12, 13
Perseids Meteor Shower peak
Up to 60 meteors per hour.

August 12 to 15
Super high tides in the evening

August 14
Saturn at Opposition
Best viewing all year of Saturn – it will be closest to earth and bright.

Thursday, August 18
Underwater photography presentation & workshop
Terry Brown presentation on his underwater photography followed by an in-water workshop for photographers August 20. See tidalartcentre.com.

August 19 to 21
Herbal Medicine Workshop
Co-taught by Todd Caldecott and Amber Friedman through the Dogwood School of Botanical Medicine, 11am to 5pm each day. dogwoodbotanical.com/workshops or call 778-896-8894. See Page 40&47.

August 27
Very faint New Moon & Mercury at greatest Eastern elongation
The best night to get out your telescope.

DIVE IN TO THIS COMMUNITY

Thursday, August 4
Freezer compost workshop
5pm, Community Resource Centre. learn more at volunteerpowellriver@gmail.com

Saturday, August 6
Brooks Grad Reunion 2010, 2011 and 2012
7pm, Italian Hall

Saturday, August 13
Museum in the Park
11 to noon, Willingdon Beach.

August 13 & 14
Max Cameron Grad Gathering
For more info: maxgrad1969@gmail.com

Thursday, August 18
Kick the clutter, get organized!
10 to noon, with SOS (Solutions Organizing Simple)s Ranka Burzan. Free interactive workshop on Zoom. See ad on Page 23.

Memorial picnic for Family Place volunteer Claudia Winter
3 to 5pm, Rotary Pavilion at Willingdon Beach. Everyone who knew and loved her is welcome. See event listing page 40.

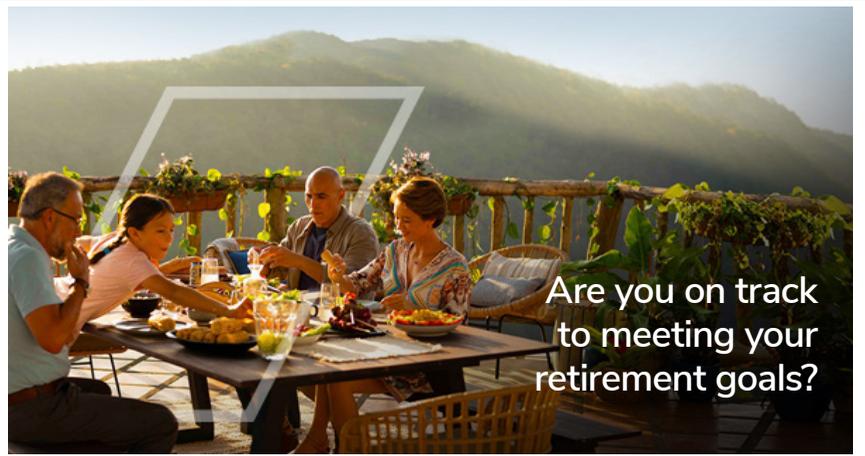
Monday, August 22
Registration opens for Assumption Catholic School
Assumpschool.ca. See Page 53.

Rec Complex
Fall Registration opens
PowellRiverPRC.ca. See Page 24.

Tuesday, August 30
Financial Planning Workshop
2pm at the Library. Financial Advisor Ian Currie will provide an introduction for things to consider for estate planning. For info mmerlino@prpl.ca.

September 3 & 4
Jasper Mohan Dive & Dinner
Fundraiser for Canuck Place Children's Hospice Society. Register at canuckplace.org/jasper-mohan-dive-and-dinner.

September 6 to 9
Registration Week at Academy of Music
Private lessons, choirs, preschool music, theatre and dance. Classes begin September 12. 604-485-9633.



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Sundays

Miniature Train Rides

12:30 to 2:30, Open Air Farmers Market, \$2

Thursday, August 4

Summer Reading Club • In the Dark: Together Apart

10 to 11:30, Library. Ages 5+. Use the power of shadow and light to tell stories of across space and time. Register here: prpl.ca/for-you/kids/programs/summer-reading-club/

Friday, August 5

Summer Reading Club • Construction Zone: Transportation Station

10 to 11:30, Library. Ages 5+. Register here: prpl.ca/for-you/kids/programs/summer-reading-club/

Friday, August 5

Adventures in Film camp screening

More info coming soon. At The Patricia.

August 9 to 12

Hands-On History Summer Day Camp

At the qathet Historical Museum. 9:30 am to 3 pm daily, for 7 to 12 year olds. \$165. jysevigny@powellrivermuseum.ca.

Saturday, August 13

Museum in the Park

11 to noon, Willingdon Beach.

Thursday, August 18

Memorial picnic for Family Place volunteer Claudia Winter

3 to 5 pm, Rotary Pavillion at Willingdon Beach. Celebrate the life and times of the incomparable Claudia Winter. Everyone who knew and loved her is welcome to come together to remember her. Bring your own picnic basket. Family Place will be there with bubbles for the kids. We'll sing and play in remembrance of our dear friend who loved that and the ocean view more than anything!

Monday, August 22

Recreation Complex Fall Registration opens

PowellRiverPRC.ca. See Page 24.

Monday, August 22

Registration opens for Assumption Catholic School

Assumpschool.ca. See Page 53.

September 6 to 9

Registration Week at Academy of Music and Laszlo Tamasik Dance Academy

Private lessons, choirs, preschool music, theatre and dance. Classes begin September 12. 604-485-9633. See last page of the mag and Page 53.

Learn to let nature heal you: workshop



We've all heard about local food security, but what about local medicine security?

A pandemic, global supply chain disruptions, and inflation have only demonstrated that we need to find sustainable and affordable solutions, especially when it comes to health. Here in qathet we are blessed to have an abundance of wild, weedy, and ornamental plants that all have potential as medicine. We are a dedicated group of healers that want to highlight this potential to the people of qathet, and build a community of like-minded folk that want to infuse their lives with the healing power of nature (vis medicatrix naturae).

Coming up in August we're offering a three-day herbal medicine making workshop, showing you how to make a huge assortment of different remedies, as well as how to find, harvest and prepare local and wild plants to be used as medicine. The

program includes a 50-page manual and samples of all the medicine we'll make: infusions, decoctions, powders, pills, tinctures, percolations, confections, syrups, medicated oils, salves, emulsions, herbal wines, oxymels, suppositories, toothpowders, and so much more!

This workshop is co-taught by Todd Caldecott and Amber Friedman through the Dogwood School of Botanical Medicine, and runs August 19-21, from 11 am-5 pm. There will be lots of opportunity for hands-on experience and questions. If you have friends or family from out of town, local camping is available. To learn more and to register please go to dogwoodbotanical.com/workshops or call us 778-896-8894. With your support and interest, we'll be one step closer to creating a community of healthy plant people here in qathet! 🌿

~Todd Caldecott

EVENTS WHAT'S UP

Blackberry Festival returns

After a two-year hiatus, Blackberry Festival (presented by the Marine Area Business Association) returns to Marine Avenue on Friday, August 19 to help us all celebrate our blackberry bounty!

Powell River's downtown will come alive for a street party from 6 pm to 10 pm, culminating once again with the Quality Foods Festival of Lights fireworks and music show at Willingdon Beach starting at 10 pm. It's also a time to connect with friends and neighbours, take part in the entertainment, and enjoy music, great food, art from local artisans, and the opportunity to explore the shopping and services waiting for you on Marine.

"Blackberry Festival is one of the best loved events of this region," said MABA president Ian Fleming. "We are sure that many people will be thrilled to know that they can enjoy the festival again this year."

For more information about Blackberry Festival, follow MABA on Facebook (@marineareabusinesassociation) or email marineareaba@gmail.com.

~ Vanessa Bjerreskov

Sandcastle Weekend

Join Texada Islanders on Saturday, August 13 and Sunday, August 14 for our premier summer community festival — Sandcastle Weekend!

Designed for family fun and entertainment, activities kick-off Saturday at 11 am with a parade on Gillies Bay Road from just south of the village up to the RCMP station. Then there is a show and shine, all kinds of activities for kids at the Kidzone at the Old School in Gillies Bay, plus bed-races involving all ages at the Gillies Bay Ballpark.

Then it's on to Shelter Point Park for an evening of fun, including a LipSync Contest open to all ages — no talent necessary! At dusk, hundreds of Moonbags bearing personal wishes float out on the tide, and the evening wraps up with a dazzling professional laser light show.

Sunday starts with a Pancake Breakfast at the Texada Island Community Hall in Gillies Bay hosted by the Van Anda volunteer fire department, then everyone heads to the beach to build sand sculptures and vie for the top prize in age-based categories. Judging is by People's Choice, so whether you build one or not, get out on the beach and vote for your favourite!

Not building a sand sculpture? Bring your dog down to compete in the dog show. Dress up your pup (and you too!) for the costume category and then show off their talents in the obedience and agility categories. Then down to the beach to vote!

Sunday concludes with awards at the ballpark around 3:30 pm.

Plus there's activity at the ballpark venue all day Saturday and Sunday with a host of craft and arts vendors, DJ Dave playing music and hosting an open mic, food galore and a beer garden. Come on over to Texada and enjoy a fabulous relaxing weekend!

There are small entry fees for the bedraces, lipsync and the sandcastle competition.

It's a weekend of fun on Texada Island, where it's always nice whatever the weather!

~ Elaine Boloten

Skim Jam is back on Texada

We are pleased to announce the return of the Texada Skimboard Jam, presented by Townskate and Big Ups Productions! Don't forget your sunscreen and you can try your fate at Skimboarding on Gillies Bay Beach, Texada Island, this August 13 from 12:30 – 2:30 pm.

A \$10 fee gets you a board rental, a locally made bracelet, skimboard instruction, demonstrations, and opportunities to win prizes from local businesses.

Don't know what skimboarding is? It's basically human-propelled hydroplaning on top of a minuscule amount of water using a board that's a cross between a surf board and a skateboard deck.

The qathet region hosts some of the province's best skimboard beaches with our expansive tidal flats and crowd-less shores.

As this event has taken place for over 10 years check out YouTube and type in "Texada Skimboard Jam" for videos of previous years to get a full understanding of the skim vibe, and for any information on skimboards themselves, check out Townskate at 4482 Marine Ave.

~ Tim Ladner

Sunshine Music Fest

The Sunshine Music Festival is excited to welcome everyone back for Labour Day weekend 2022! September 3rd & 4th we hope you will visit beautiful Palm Beach regional park to dance your heart out under the towering trees framing our beachfront stage.

Indulge in a refreshing swim, fill your belly with delicious food from our many local vendors, and take a wander of our artisan market to find that special treasure.

Our lineup this year features Five Alarm Funk, Alpha Yaya Diallo, Scenic Route to Alaska, Los Duenes, Beach Crashers, Ben Wayne Kyle, Cora Flora, Transcience, Ultra Violet, Rick Scott, Roger Langmaid and more!

Day passes or a full festival pass are available. Special prices for students and seniors, kids under 12 are free. Visit sunshinemusicfest.ca to learn more about the festival, purchase tickets and apply to be a vendor or a volunteer. Our festival is hosted on the traditional territories of the Tla'amin Nation. We are grateful to celebrate together here, and we ask you to join us in our commitment to share this special place respectfully, and keep its wellbeing in mind at all times.

Art to grieve for lost species

qathet ART is excited to collaborate with qathet Old Growth in a series of events for the Memento Mori Festival 2022 around lost and endangered species. Despite having 1,807 species at risk of extinction, we have no rituals for coping with extinction or environmental loss. This is a call to artists to participate in a group exhibition at qathet Art Centre in Nov-Feb 2022/23.

Please submit artwork made from recycled material around lost and endangered species by Sept 30, 2022 by filling out the registration form at qathetart.ca.

~ Karen Kamon



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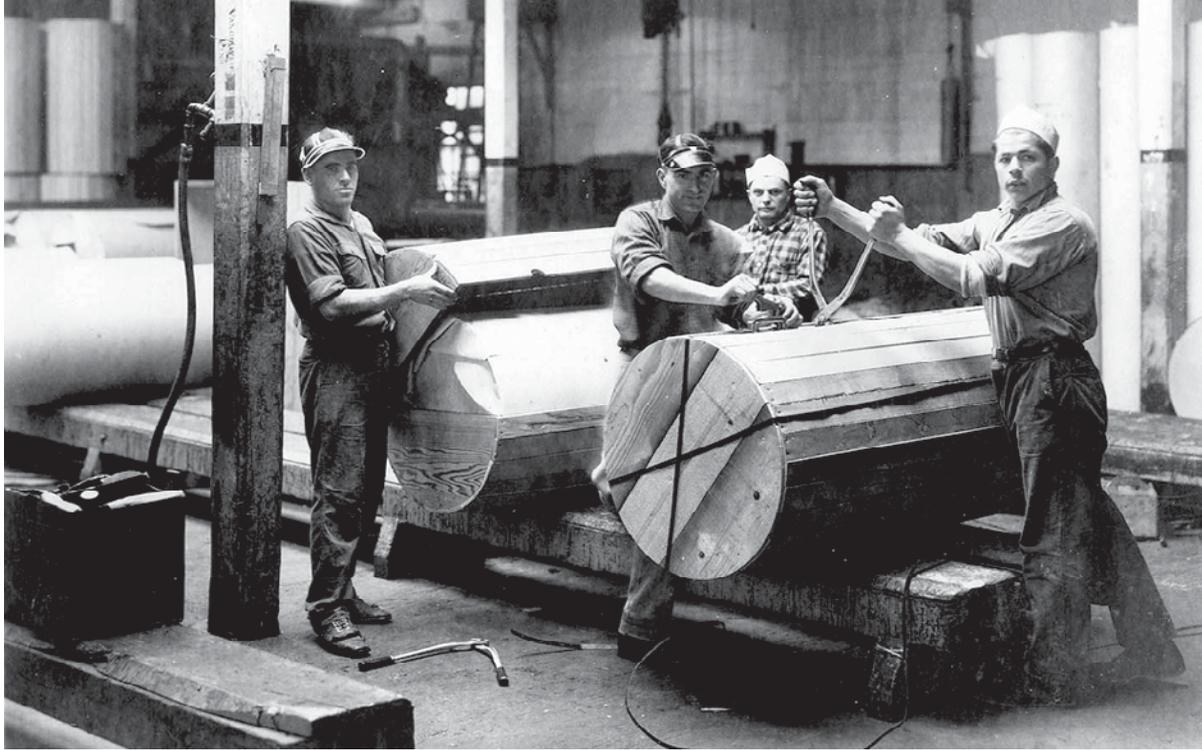


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LAST CHANCE TO SHARE YOUR MEMORIES LIKE THIS: Do you have memories of the mill to share? Submit a written memoir to the Memories of the Mill Memoir Anthology Project by September 1st 2022! For more information and to submit your memoir, email: jysevigny@powellrivermuseum.ca *Photo courtesy of the qathet Historical Museum & Archives.*



The Best of qathet issue!

Wow! Are we not soooo fortunate to live in this beautiful place?! You have shown us how incredible we all can be, and how much we truly enjoy and share, so deepest, deepest gratitude for pinning down all of the moving pieces in your July "Best of" issue. My favourite part?... Meeting and reading nanny Isabel Supina's story, her triumphs and how



MAIL BAG

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

the community at Supportive Housing help to dog sit while she is called to do overnight shifts at her work. Supportive, indeed! Kudos to the kind folks who live, work and play there, it is wonderful to know you in this way. All the best in your individual and collective journeys!

~ Annabelle Tully-Barr, qathet resident

WHAT'S UP

More education and dialogue needed

As the weather heats up this summer, the joint working group looking into a possible name change for the City of Powell River is recommending a cooling down period for reflection.

The joint working group report says there is need for further education and dialogue.

Mayor David Formosa and hegus John Hackett released the report looking at a possible name change last month. The report summarizes a six-month community information process and includes 11 recommendations. The process was a result of Tla'amin Nation's request to remove the name Powell from the City as part of a commitment to reconciliation.

"We understand the importance of meaningful collaboration and community dialogue in this important reconciliation initiative," said Hegus John Hackett. "It is very clear from the community engagement phase that we all have passion for this initiative. The best step forward is to take some time to review the report and reflect on the hard work of the Joint Working Group. During this review period I am hopeful that we can reflect on the love we all have for the beautiful territory we all live in."

The report is available at powellriver.ca/pages/pnc

Mural masterpiece in progress

Powell River mural artist Whitney LaFortune has been working hard on the mural project on the apartment building beside Dairy Queen.

Whitney is leading the Powell River Brain Injury Society in creating a six-panel mural project on the apartment building. The society received a grant from the Disability Alliance of BC to do the project.

The mural begins before 1910 when Powell River was a tent city and moves along to the sixth panel featuring a totem pole with a raven, people in a dug-out canoe and herring roe hanging on cedar boughs. The Brain Injury Society is working with Tla'amin Nation on this project. 🐼

Plant now for fall!

One of the best parts about living in Powell River is enjoying the great outdoors, especially when our mild coastal climate allows for fresh-from-the-garden flavour all year round! To learn more about fall and winter gardening or to stock up on your seeding essentials, visit Mother Nature today.



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Tla'amin invests in survival

New harm reduction efforts aim to help locals stay alive, because "all lives have value"

BY ABBY FRANCIS
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

After a year and a half of working with First Nations across Vancouver Island as harm reduction educator, Courtney Harrop has taken on a new position: Tla'amin Nation's harm reduction coordinator.

"All lives have value," says Courtney. "Harm reduction allows us to reduce harms or potential risks for all kinds of things, not just drugs and alcohol. Harm reduction also helps us to be more cautious and supportive around things like safer sex, blood-borne transmitted diseases and STI's, as well as housing and food insecurity."

Although the coordinator role is recent, harm reduction has been happening in the Nation since 2017.

Introducing harm reduction services was Tla'amin's response to the Province's declaration of a Public Health Emergency of the toxic drug crisis in 2016.

"The late Chegajemiux (Kevin Blaney) was a huge community leader in harm reduction until his passing in October 2021," says Courtney.

"He created the hot lunch food delivery program in 2020 – the height of the pandemic. The program delivers

OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

When: August 31, noon to 2 pm

What: Community Resource Centre, 4752 Joyce Ave

Where: Join the qathet Community Action Team for International Overdose Awareness Day. Remember our lost loved ones, celebrate those still with us today, honour the grief of friends and family, and advocate for all those affected by the toxic drug supply public health emergency. Everyone welcome. There will be naloxone training and a memorial art project.

prepared meals for Nation members that may not have good food security or are not able to drive out into town for groceries."

The hot lunch program currently has 20 participants and the harm reduction team has carried on Chegajemiux's work. Courtney says there is one peer who does the shopping and cooking, and a second peer who delivers the food.

Peers are people with lived or living experience with substance and alcohol use, who work supporting people who



COMMUNITY RESOURCES: Lydia Line from the Tla'amin Nation Fire Department trains community members Davis McKenzie (top right) and Crystal Louie (bottom right) to use naloxone kits.

Photo by Courtney Harrop

use substances, alongside harm reduction programs. Tla'amin's hot lunch program happens twice a month.

During the Nation's COVID lockdown in September 2020, Tla'amin teamed up with the Vancouver Coastal Health harm reduction team and pro-

vided pop-up tents for members to get prescriptions to help with withdrawal symptoms, and a phone line available for anyone seeking support or in need of outreach.

Nation peers also helped with getting groceries delivered, provided ac-

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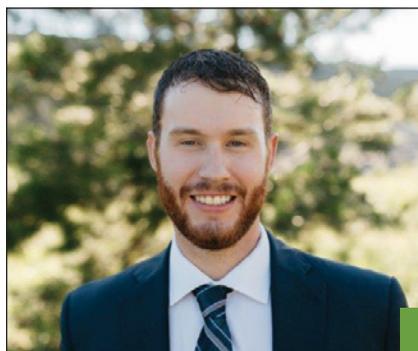


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cess to safe substance use supplies, and naloxone.

“A few months ago we actually started up an opioid agonist therapy (OAT) clinic at Tla’amin Health, where OAT medication is dispensed by nurses on our team,” Courtney says.

“During COVID we had to increase our response for vulnerable people in the community.

“Facing withdrawal symptoms alone creates a whole other situation that can be quite dangerous. We provided these pop-up tents to help balance this out.”

More recently, Courtney and the team have collaborated with qathet’s Youth Community Action Team (YouthCAT) to provide a harm reduction pop-up tent and safe rides for 2022’s wet grad.

There was a small team of youth volunteers that delivered water, juice boxes, snacks to the folks at wet grad. The tent also had naloxone kits, personal care kits, and information on harm reduction.

“It was very successful and we had nothing but positive feedback from parents. We made notes of what to include next year too, things like fairy lights for the bridge are on the list because it was very dark,” Courtney says.

Last October, Tla’amin’s harm reduction team worked with LIFT to create the CARE (Compassion-

Overdose deaths here

Year	Suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths in qathet
2016	7
2017	5
2018	9
2019	5
2020	12
2021	17
2022 (Jan to April)	6 (if this trends all year, 18)

Source: BC Coroner Service media relations

ate Access to Resources for Everyone) cupboard, which was completed in December.

The CARE cupboard is on the river roadside of the Tla’amin Firehall, and has free equipment such as naloxone, fentanyl drug strips, personal care kits, and safe substance use supplies that get refilled each week.

On July 1, the team held a community engagement event at the Nation’s firehall supported by a small grant from the First Nations Health Authority. Naloxone training was provided as well as take-home kits, nasal and injectable kits, information sheets on substance use, and barbecue.

There are many projects in the works for Tla’amin’s harm reduction team too; there are final consultations with Elders and the cultural team for an ayajuthem name for the program.

The team is setting up Tla’amin’s previous fieldhouse to move the harm reduction team and programs into, as well as expanding the OAT clinic, and

developing a Community Managed Alcohol program.

The projects don’t stop there. The harm reduction team is also working on another community engagement event for August 31, International Overdose Awareness Day, with details to be announced. That will be the grand opening of the team’s new location.

“Currently we are working out of Tla’amin Health; it will be great to have our own permanent location

to run our programs out of,” Courtney says. “International Overdose Awareness Day is a day to remember and honour those we have lost to the toxic drug crisis since 2016.”

Tla’amin isn’t the only First Nation in BC that’s tackling harm reduction either.

An Indigenous-led harm reduction team on Vancouver Island called iHRT (Indigenous Harm Reduction Team) uses traditional medicines such as sage and sweetgrass to help with withdrawal. The team also has workshops, art groups, healing circles, and community engagement events centred around Indigenous culture.

In Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside, the Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society hosts weekly meetings and healing circles. For about four months of the year, they travel to a UBC farm on Musqueam territory where members connect with nature, help harvest crops, and work in a kitchen.

“I take a lot of inspiration from iHRT and other Indigenous led groups in places like Downtown Eastside’s WAHRS program. I believe being connected to community and culture is what saves lives,” says Courtney.

“There’s lots of stigma around substance use, harm reduction, and the toxic drug crisis, and it’s hard. But we have to work through this, it takes a community and wrap-around approaches. I think it’s so valuable to have Indigenous and peer led groups doing this in the community.

“Harm reduction allows us to meet where people are at in a non-judgmental way, and because of that it helps us reach everyone we need to. Harm reduction is just love.”



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Mokuh is coming home

Fifteen years ago, local folks gave their support to establish a school and help with economic development in rural Chad.

Gerri Graber inspired many to give—the Rotary, various schools, children doing bake sales, seniors collecting and sorting clothing and many others pitched in to help.

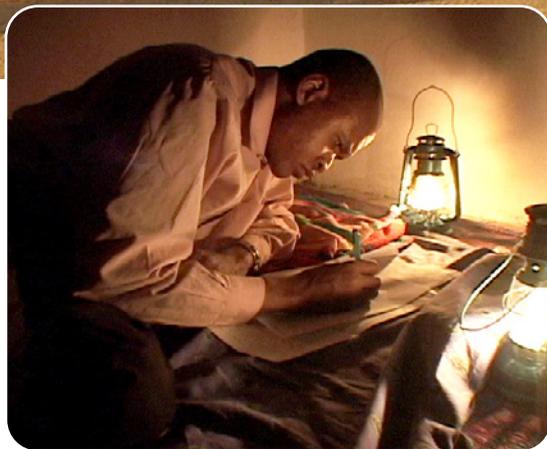
Jan Padgett and Moira Simpson travelled with Gerri to Chad to film the process of delivering aid. All did not go as planned, but a story grew, and became the film *From Under the Bushy Trees*, which premiered at the Powell River Film Festival and was shown again in 2011 as the fundraiser ‘Into Africa’ for the Sunshine GOGOs, who are affiliated with the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

When in Chad, young Bartholomew Mokuh Njizokokeh (Mokuh) became our trusted guide, translator and invaluable source of proper protocol, said Jan. Adopted as Gerri’s heart son, he completed university as a teacher. He is also featured in the film.

In the 15 years that have passed, much has happened in the village of Manda, and much has changed in Mokuh’s life and circumstances. He now lives and works in the US, is married and has three children.

This summer, Mokuh and his family are all coming ‘home’ to Powell River, to visit with Auntie Gina Devlin, (Gerri’s sister), and to meet the community that has meant so much to them.

And so, while here, they will join us at a special event ‘Return to Africa.’ This event is being organized by the Baha’i Community and the Sunshine



‘AID’ GETS PERSONAL: The now-late Gerri Graber and her adopted son Njizokokeh Bartholomew Mokuh walk through his hometown of Manda, Chad. Above, Mokuh, now a teacher, studies by lantern light. Meet him and his family August 13 at The Pat.

RETURN TO AFRICA

When: 1:30 pm, August 13, Patricia Theatre

What: The film *From Under the Bushy Trees* will be shown, Mokuh and his family, the filmmakers Jan Padgett and Moira Simpson, as well as Gina Devlin will be in attendance. A discussion with Mokuh will follow the screening, and he will update us on the developments both in his own life as well as the village of Manda, Chad.

GOGOs. It will be by donation, and the proceeds collected by the GOGOS will be sent to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. To date, the GOGOs have forwarded \$108,000 to this worthy organization, which has done so much to help the grandmothers and orphans of Africa. 🐾



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RETURN TO AFRICA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2022 – 1:30 PM – PATRICIA THEATRE

Join us as we RETURN TO AFRICA - to revisit the Willing Heart's project featured in the film 'From Under the Bushy Trees'.

In 2007 our community gave generous support to the village of Manda in Chad to establish a school and help with economic development. Gerri Graber inspired many to give in all the ways our community is known for! The project was captured on film by Moira Simpson and Jan Padgett.

Fifteen years later, the trusted guide and translator in the film, Moku, is coming with his family to visit in PR – to honour the passing of Gerri and to visit with 'Aunt Gina' (Devlin), Gerri's sister.

'Under the Bushy Trees' will be screened; Moku will give an update on the project, the community, the adopted children, and his own life. An audience generated discussion and Q&A follow the film.

We hope you will join us!



FROM UNDER THE BUSHY TREES

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BY JORDANA PANGBURN | CO-CHAIR OF THE QATHET PRIDE WEEK COMMITTEE

By the simplest definition, 'Pride' is a time that the LGBTQIA2S+ community uses to display the pride we hold for ourselves and our community.

The origin of Pride, however, was very different from the joyful and glitzy celebration we know it as today. Pride officially honors the Stonewall Riots that began in New York City, on June 28, 1969. Stonewall catapulted North America into the gay liberation movement after the queer community rebelled against the homophobic police brutality directed at the Stonewall Inn and all gay bars in general.

In rural communities like the qathet region, this history is rarely brought to the political forefront. Furthermore, in-your-face Pride celebrations, like city Pride parades, which are highly visible to everyone, not just intentional visitors, are still very infrequent in small towns, even today.

The qathet Pride Society recognizes this summer as our tenth anniversary of organized Pride in the region, and so we want to celebrate the hard work of the queer community, as well as recognize the progress that still needs to be made.

We have turned to a few local queer residents to elaborate on the significance of Pride, as well as the issues that exist with the modern, commercial presentation of Pride.

Alfred Bolster, 72, sees Pride as two things- "it is a time of visibility, so that people outside of the [queer] community can see we're just people," and that it's also a "celebration of how far we have come, and an honoring of those who fought." He acknowledged that "in other parts of the world, people cannot speak out, so it's important that we do."

As someone who attended a small, BC high school in the '60s, Alfie recalls "glimmers" of his queerness in high school and that he knew his identity, but was "still completely closeted." He experienced lots of bullying, so he was "very cautious about staying safe...It was too scary." That homophobia was



inescapable.

Alfie also often thinks about the AIDS epidemic and all of "the stigma and the anger" that ensued. Fortunately, it is Pride events that facilitate the "building of community for those times when we are in a war (like AIDS)," so that there is support to "fall back on when there is homophobia."

Furthermore, he includes that it is "so important we bring [allies] in and value them, as they hold the power." However, he felt that some recent efforts could be characterized as "rainbow washing." Parades were "taken over by commercial floats with go-go boy dancers, not leaving room for the whole queer community."

Historically marginalized and oppressed demographics like lesbians, have often been pushed to the outskirts of Pride, by non-queer people. For example, the 'Dykes on Bikes,' organization in Toronto were ousted by the shirts-on rule that the corporations brought to Pride.

As for authentic Pride—"it's not corporate, it's the community. It's important that we welcome [allies] but we still own it." Community Pride that centers on LGBTQIA2S+ folks tells individuals that they are welcome, important, and not alone. Alfie describes how it is "empowering and amazing to walk into a safe space, even if only for a few hours."

Regarding the feeling of entering a queer-only space, he says: "I remember thinking wow, it's okay here, I'm

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Pride 2022

How far we've come
here in qathet

How far we have yet to go

not going to be hit or shoved into a locker. You can feel the weight fall from your shoulders.”

Rin Innes, 41, bluntly remembers that there was “nothing; no queer people, and that the environment was openly hostile” in their youth. The violence against queers, or suspected queers, was the “expected punishment.” And, while that “open hostility was on the decline, in recent years it has felt acceptable to again be violent towards queer people.”

As an adult, Rin feels they are afforded privileges in avoiding some violence, but that privileges are not always extended to young people who may be “trapped in institutions like schools, churches, and families.” In addition to recognizing the age inequities within the queer community, she also advocates for the need to “maintain the radical orientation that Pride began with.”

Abolishing the hierarchies of “class and racialization” within the LGBTQIA2S+ community is essential to the genuine fulfillment of Pride. Furthermore, the queer community is “complicit in [the continued subordination of] other marginalized queer communities.”

For example, Rin describes that “within the queer community, non-binary people have been, and remain, invisible while fighting for space for our identities.”

“It’s a lot easier for people to imagine new categories rather than people without those categories.”

That binary dynamic was witnessed by Rin as a youth. Rin recalls the first time she had ever heard of the label bisexual, it was “like that moment in the movie “The Wizard of Oz,” when it switches to color; when I heard [the definition] bisexual it changed my sense of where I belong in the world.” Rin does think that we are “gaining ground slowly” in the realm of violent homophobia, there is still much that Pride can do to reconcile the intersectional issues within the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

Pride “is to teach the young queers to let go of that internalized hatred. Pride is love, for others, for one’s community, and for oneself.”

- Jesse*

Jesse*, 18, says that Pride for him, “is about addressing the homophobia within [ourselves, more than] the external homophobia.”

While physical violence and outright verbal homophobia are not as extreme as they were in decades past, he still recalls having slurs yelled out on the sidewalk at him and a friend as a seventh grader. “Pride is a reminder that there is a lot of weird hatred in this world, but you shouldn’t feel any hatred for your gender identity or attraction/love for people when it’s not hurting anyone.”

Whether it is clothing or personality, “you’re always grouped into a category, [with] labels and boxes [that] are confusing and limiting to the human experience,” and Jesse wants to reject that norm by saying that “instead of creating more labels, [he wants] to expand the meaning behind being queer, man and woman and non-binary.”

He says that at some point he “stopped labeling himself to others because [he] kept being compared [as if] we were all the same person, and was treated as delicate and fragile.” He felt like he was “seen as just a transition, not a person,” someone to offend, but not human.

Despite these nuanced and complex conversations, Jesse feels like the Pride of his generation is “targeted towards [non-queer] people, which is funny, because it feels like we’re trying to appeal to them, rather our own community.” He says we need Pride to “normalize different bodies and experiences and preferences,” rather than continuing a performative version of Pride.

He also describes how the COVID-19 pandemic made Pride “bigger and more talked about” than ever. When the “pandemic hit, a lot of people around me at school came out, and the GSA’s expanded;” people had been able to acknowledge their true identities while separated from the typical expectations of society. Similar to sentiments felt by the youth that came out during the pandemic, Jesse recalls wondering “Why do others get to be out and loud, but I can’t do it? Whose disapproval am I really scared of?”

For him, the significance of Pride “is to teach the young queers to let go of that internalized hatred. Pride is love, for others, for one’s community, and for oneself.”

*Jesse is an alias used to respect the privacy of this anonymous individual

QATHET PRIDE WEEK

Monday, August 8

Flag Raising

10 am, City Hall, All Welcome

Tuesday, August 9

Trans Qathet Community Workshop

Noon til 2 pm, Carlson Community Club. All welcome. transqathet.ca to register.

Tuesday, August 9

Cranberry Picnic (bring your own food)

5:30 pm, All welcome, registration required. qathetPride.ca.

Wednesday, August 10

Queer Film Showing: ‘Wildhood’

3:30 pm, Patricia Theatre. All welcome.

Thursday, August 11

Pub Pizza and DJ

4-9 pm, Wildwood Pub. All welcome. Buy your own food and drink.

Friday August 12

Drag Performance and Dinner

5-9 pm, Shinglemill Restaurant. All welcome. Buy your own food and drink.

Saturday, August 13

Pride Festival in the Park

Noon-4 pm, Larry Guthro Park. All welcome.

Sunday, August 14

Free Pancake Breakfast

9 am-Noon, Edie Rae’s Cafe, LGBTQ2S+ only.

Sunday, August 14

Short Films Showing: ‘Making it Out Alive,’

12:30 pm, Patricia Theatre. All welcome 14+. In partnership with the Vancouver Queer Film Festival.

Sunday, August 14

Gender Bender Fashion Show

3 pm, Art Centre, LGBTQ2s+ only. Registration required. qathetPride.ca.

Friday, August 19

Table at Blackberry Fest

7 to 10 pm, Marine Ave.

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Neither a woman nor a man, just 'other'

BY KATJE VAN LOON

"The unexamined life is not worth living."

When I was young, Socrates' words were an oft-repeated mantra from my mother. She encouraged me to "know thyself." To be "true" to myself.

Philosophy dots most of our conversations at home. Late-night philosophy benders are common. We stagger into bed at 3 am, heads swimming with ideas.

My background means I ask questions — of the world around me, but also of myself. I learned to examine my life and my being. I learned to ask myself what I wanted. I learned to listen to the little voice inside, the one we so often ignore and push away.

Early on, that little voice was insistent: something was different.

Each time life reminded me of my girlhood, the little voice would pipe up. Something didn't fit.

For years I thought I was 'bad' at being a girl. I had nothing to do with stereotypes about femininity. I'm more a girly-girl than people expect.

It was a pervading sense that something was not



INTERNATIONAL HERO(INE): Left, Katje van Loon with her mother Eva van Loon. Katje is the inspiration behind International Non-Binary Day, celebrated July 14. Eva owns Wolfy's Book Den in Cranberry, and Katje will soon be opening a store nearby.

quite right. That I was not quite right.

I wasn't a boy, either. When I tried that thought on, the little voice was even more vehement.

In my 20s, I came across the definition of non-binary gender.

"Yes! This is it!" the little voice shouted.

Oh, I realized. This is what you were trying to tell me. But you didn't have the words.

Not a girl, not a boy. I am the checkbox labeled

"other."

That was 11 years ago. I'm still "other".

I make it a habit to check in with myself. I ask myself the hard questions: did I want to be "other" because being female can suck? Is this me running from womanhood?

Again, and again, the answer is no. I'm other. My sex may be female, but I am not a woman. I'm not a man either.

In July, the BBC interviewed me about International Non-Binary People's Day. They wanted to know more about why I created it.

One of the questions that came up was, "Why is this important?"

At first it was hard to answer. I don't care if people use female pronouns for me. I'm not concerned with a third sex or gender option on government ID. Activism doesn't interest me.

Why is it important that I'm non-binary? Why does that label matter?

I keep coming back to Socrates. "The unexamined life is not worth living."

Since my BBC article came out, I've gotten emails from complete strangers saying "thank you." My article was a catalyst for them learning something about themselves. It was a catalyst for self-examination.

When I examine myself, I get closer to a sense of peace. Knowing who you are is a powerful magic. Having the words to describe it, even more so.

No matter what others may say of me, I know who I am. If they don't understand what I say, it's okay. I do understand.

And that makes life worth living. 



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Patricia Letterpress Group • Townsite

The Patricia Letterpress Group facilitates access to an artisan printshop using a variety of relief printing techniques. The goal of the group is to provide a working space for artists and interested parties to creatively explore printing techniques and assist the process through presentations, workshops, and open studio time.

A collaborative project with the Townsite Heritage Society, the Group operates as a collective. Founding members are: Stuart Isto, Roy Schneider, Grégoire Dupond, and Gary Shilling.

Roy Schneider brings his sensibility as a print maker, and his intimate

knowledge of the landscape to creating painting with a strong graphic quality. Stuart Isto has a lifelong interest in books and book arts and is an honorary lifetime member of the Alcuin Society. Grégoire Dupond explores digital technologies, and how meaning, aesthetics and discourses are informed by cutting edge processing, visualization and fabrication processes. Gary Shilling has been an Art Director, Graphic Designer, Writer, Marketing & Communications Manager, Teacher, and Entrepreneur over the course of a 45-year career.

During the Studio Tour, there will be printing demonstrations, and paper ephemera distributed.

qathet Studio Tour Peek in on your most creative neighbours

Hop in a car with your besties the last weekend in August for both the qathet Studio Tour (Saturday and Sunday) and the Edible Garden Tour (Friday and Saturday). Both are self-guided tours with maps available online. See qathetstudiotour.ca and facebook.com/qathetediblegardentour/ for full details.

This year's qathet Studio Tour artists are:

Lund & area

1. Tidal Art Centre: featuring. Shivaun Gingras, Kat Thompson & Prashant Miranda
2. Jan Lovewell & Ron Robb • Rare Earth Pottery
3. Wendy Drummond • Three Stone Soup
4. Kerensa Haynes
5. Haley Hunt-Bronswin & Lauren Everall

Wildwood

6. Rochelle Nehring
7. Roy Schneider
8. Evelyn Kirkaldy

Townsite & Cranberry

9. Patricia Letterpress Group
10. Lee Mackenzie
11. Susan Canning
12. Anna May Bennett • Turadh Fine Art
13. Designature Crucible Gallery • Andy Henderson & Yeonmi Kim

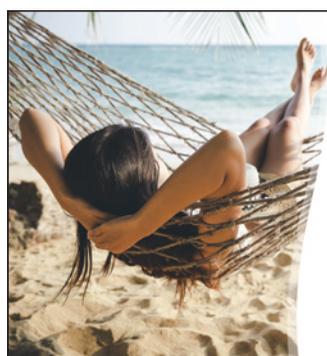
14. Amplitude Arts • featuring Jason Hygaard, Kerri Almquist, Catnip, Pierre Gaultier, Maria Farmere
15. Joyce Furness, Janet Southcott, Helena Pedersen & Katie McLean
16. Shelly Ireland
17. Annie Robinson & Joshua deGroot
18. Powell River Fine Arts Association (various artists)

Westview:

19. Meghan Hildebrand
20. Harwood-Lynn Family Collective
21. Carmen Gehring
22. Salish Sea Art Collective • featuring. Sosan Blaney, Megan Dulcie Dill and Claudia Medina

South of town:

23. Sonja Kobrehel
24. Bente Hansen
25. Gina Page
26. Norah LeClare
27. Tim Poole & Maggie Poole
28. Ursula Medley



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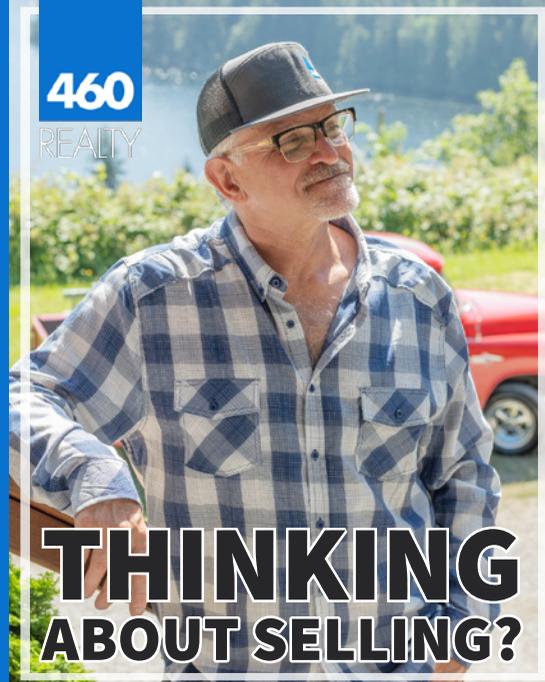
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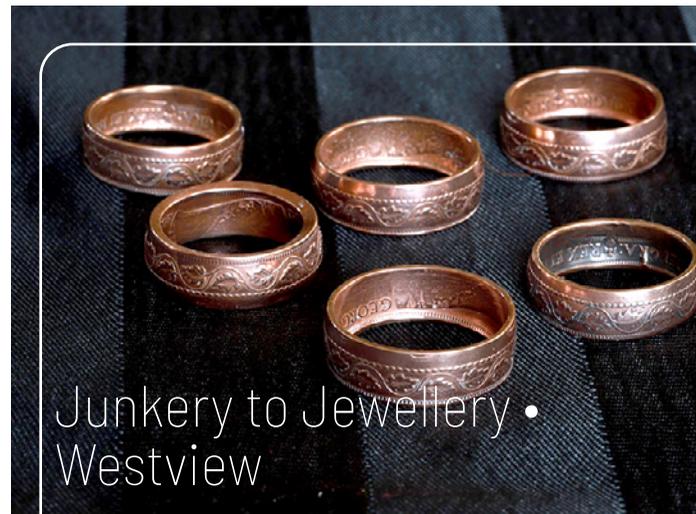
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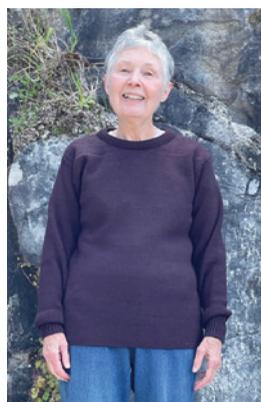
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Pam Kenny

Pam chose a crew
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Congratulations to Pam, thank-you to
the team at Pollen Sweaters,
and thanks to all who took the
time to vote and tell us your favourite
things about the qathet region.

 **qathet
LIVING**

This studio tour, Teresa Harwood-Lynn will be opening her Junkery to Jewellery studio to the public for the first time. It is here that she transforms scrap metal into beautiful pieces of wearable art.

Joining her will be three other artistic members of her family.

Louise (mom) has been painting for over 30 years and will have on display and for purchase a collection of her work including pieces done in acrylic, watercolor and collage.

Bill (dad) does not consider himself an artist. Come down and see his coin jewellery and decide for yourself. He also works in collaboration with Teresa to transform dirty old copper pipe into jewellery.

Ben (husband) finds his creative outlet from behind the camera lens and his inspiration from the beauty of nature. His art cards and framed photos will be available.

Annie & Joshua are painters whose work expresses landscape. Their studio in tiskwat showcases various processes of making their own art materials: foraged pigment paintmaking, natural dyeing, and using color from their garden. Their home studio is kid friendly and will have activities available for the little ones.

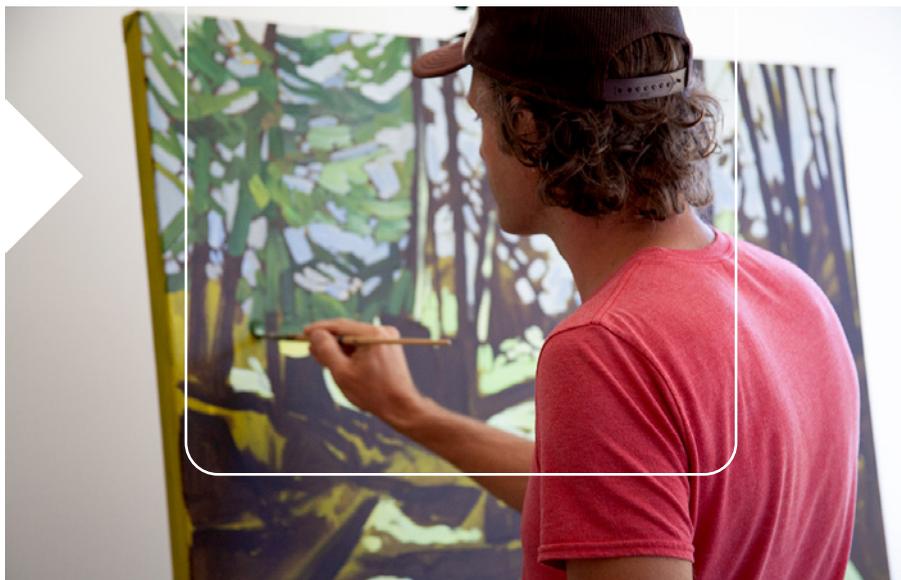
Both painters will have new work on display. Joshua will be sharing a series of local forest interiors. Annie will share ink paintings influenced by her current studies in art therapy and embodiment in relation to the land.



Yeonmi Kim & Andy Henderson •
Lund / Westview



Annie Robinson & Joshua deGroot •
Townsite



Yeonmi Kim and I are excited to share our sustainably produced art works with the qathet community this August.

Yeonmi is showing *Sewstainability* at the library, a terrific opportunity and public space, gratefully coordinated by qathet Art Centre and Powell River Public Library.

Also, we are sharing our furniture and home decor creations as both an exhibition and pop-up shop under our studio name *Designature Art & Home* during August at *Crucible Gallery* in Townsite mall.

Yeonmi's recent works and our furniture often use recycled materials. Yeonmi's show, *Sewstainability* at the library includes 2D pieces sewn with discarded plastic packages. Many are maps, inspired by sustainable living to think about climate change, plastic pollution and our wasteful living habits. Residents of qathet will be delighted to see maps of our beloved and beautiful region we call home.

You can read more about her work by visiting the library, qathetart.ca, or her website, kimyeonmi.com.

Both of us studied fine art. We operated a custom made wood furniture shop in Korea for a number of years, and relocated to the Coast in 2013. We came to qathet four years ago and are now settled in Lund. The community

is blessed with so much creative talent which we're proud to be a part of.

In our work, including furniture, decoration and interior design, we mostly use reclaimed or recycled wood in which we reveal its natural resilience and beauty. Demolition, the dump, yard or second hand sales, and driftwood are some of the sources of the material.

DesignNature is a catch all for our numerous skills, but our love of nature guides our lives and design senses. The materials we collect both inspire the creative process, and sometimes limit the scope or size of a piece. We love the process of finding hidden design from the acquired materials rather than seeking materials based on a design. It's always fascinating, and creatively engaging and fulfilling.

We strive to maintain high standards of craftsmanship while protecting the environment with eco-friendly products. In the show you will find unique and functional furniture, home decor, lighting and art.

Sewstainability is at PRPL now until October.

Beyond *ReSawn-DeSigNature* is at *Crucible* Wednesdays to Saturdays 12-6 pm throughout August and is part of qathet studio tour. Find more at designature.me and kimyeonmi.com

- *Andy Henderson*



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A Thought For The Day

“Be thou ever hopeful, for the bounties of God never cease to flow upon humanity.”



~ Bahá'í Teachings

TAKE A BREAK

Deepening through devotion

To me, devotion has three aspects. Firstly, it refers to acts in honour of, service to, or an expression of any personally meaningful medicinal or spiritual essence. A daily stretching or energy movement practice, regular time for prayer, traditional foods made for culturally specific holy days, sacred art, even ensuring we have time to breathe properly or quiet connect time with our beloveds.

Secondly, it requires our dedicated time. It is slow living. It's an avenue to pour our attention and careful cultivation into. It is less about “getting it done” or the final piece, and more of our experience sitting in the process.

It is showing up, again and again. It is choosing to stay a little longer and lean in a little more.

Finally, and somewhat critically, it draws from the wellspring of our heart. We may be conditioned to assume devotion means head strong commitment, and while interrelated, they are not interchangeable. If commitment is a decision made with our mind, devotion is an affinity expressed from our soul.

In a time when so many of us feel disconnected from meaningful living, are plagued by the question of “finding one's purpose,” have found themselves in survival mode, or are suffering the loss of tradition, culture, or a lived sense of home, setting an inquiry into who, when, and where our devotion is



RETURN TO REVERENCE

JULIETTE JARVIS



expressed, or could be, may bring remedy to such deep aches.

A good beginning might be to feel into what or who is worthy of our devotion? Our own tender Self? The aliveness found in the sea and trees? A god or deity of our faith? Beauty? Love? Tradition? A creative muse? Place?

A clue may be found by following threads of our heart's attention on what we find nourishing and inspiring, and it is okay if it takes a good long look to find.

In fact, it would be quite appropriate.

The next piece could be exploring how our devotion might be expressed in a way that

our dedication doesn't feel like another task on our To Do list. We might spend time honouring the Sun rising with a traditional song, knit prayer shawls, actually follow the pace that our body is asking for, collect litter on daily walks, paint the Divine as we see it, write love letters to friends and family speaking to the goodness we see in them, or honestly thank our own self each night for making it through another day.

When we find it, it may feel a little like it chose Us too.

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



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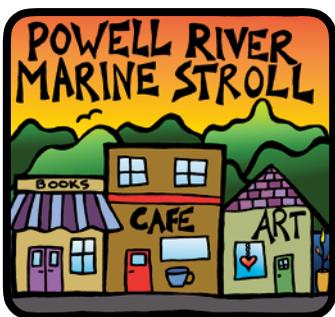
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TAKE A BREAK

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 C E U O R K B U Z J E R N H K Y X A H S A U U U I
 F V C J U B B N E C Z C I V A Y B S O O L M C S F

Can you find the following words from this issue in the puzzle above?

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|----------------|
| ANXIETY | HENDERSON | PRIDE |
| BEAN | HOUSING | QATHET |
| BLACKBERRY | INTEREST | RECONCILIATION |
| BUGGY | LANDLORD | RENTAL |
| CAMPING | LASQUETI | SALMON |
| CIVIC | MAYOR | SANDCASTLE |
| CLIMATE | NAME | SKIM |
| COPELAND | OPIOID | SUNSHINE |
| CULINARY | ORTHOGRAPHY | TISKWAT |
| DONKERSLEY | OSTENSEN | UKRAINE |
| ELEPHANT | OYSTER | VEYRON |
| FESTIVALS | PADDLE | YEW |
| FIELDHOUSE | POWTOWN | |



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REGISTRATION WEEK

Tuesday, September 6 to Friday, September 9
9:30 - 4:30

Classes begin September 12

Register online: powellriveracademy.org

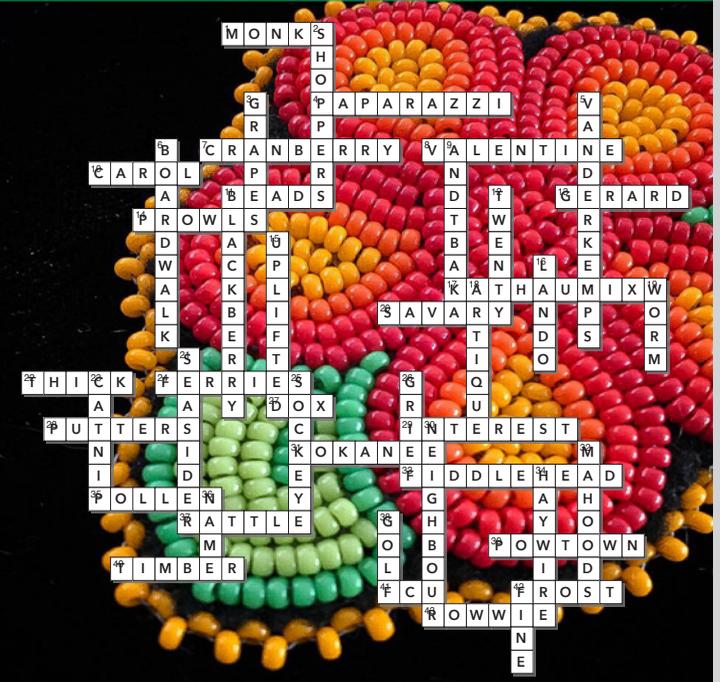
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Gerri and Mokuh opened our hearts

15 years ago, qathet connected deeply to seven orphans and one young man in the land-locked country Chad, in north-central Africa. The spark for the connection, Gerri Graber, has passed away, but then man we know as 'Mokuh' is coming back August 13. See Pages 45-46 for the event details.

In 2003 Gerri Graber retired and moved to Powell River to be with her sister Gina Devlin.

Her life up until then had been varied and interesting – she joined a convent at the age of 16 to become a nun and taught school in Ontario, Alberta and BC. After leaving the convent, she obtained an undergraduate degree at UBC and a doctorate at Oregon State University where she later taught. Gerri was driven to do more.

It was here that I met this wonderful woman I affectionately called “Hurricane Gerri.” She was unlike anyone I’d ever met before. With a heart as big as all outdoors combined with an unquenchable need to help others, she was driven by a force so powerful that those she met were swept up in its wake.

I was a reporter with the *The Powell River Peak* newspaper when I first met Gerri in 2003. When I heard about the Children of the Street in Chad – “Les Enfants de la Rue,” and how Gerri wanted to help them, I too became swept up in her mission, as many others did too.

In 2001, she unexpectedly crossed paths with Lynn Whitehouse, then the Canadian Consul in Chad; Lynn was desperately asking for help to train English teachers. Gerri moved to Chad to volunteer.

There, Gerri fell in love with the children who were so eager to learn and grateful for their opportunities. She spent half her time in Africa teaching the children and the rest of the time in qathet. In 2003, she created Willing Hearts, an international organization dedicated to advancing education and supporting community development in Africa.

In the fall of that same year, Gerri returned to Chad and with the help of a very special young man by the name of Njizokokeh Bartholomew Mokuh, they adopted seven orphans.

“I first met Ma Gerri in February 2003 in Sarh, Chad,” said Mokuh. “This encounter turned out to be the most significant one of my life.”

(The two became great friends and Mokuh became Gerri’s “son of her heart”).

“After our initial introduction, I offered her a carrot and a mango for dinner – the only things I could afford at the time,” said Mokuh. “Our discussion shifted to the suffering of humanity, the millions of refugees, street orphans, and the empowerment of women. Gerri became more interested in my activities which consisted primarily on education in the rural villages and taking care of some orphans. She wanted to help immediately.”

Gerri returned to Canada in September. She and



LAST WORD

ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

Mokuh adopted all seven orphans he had been helping with his limited resources.

They also started assisting ten community schools in the area through teacher training and curriculum development. Ecole Nouveau Jardin De Manda was the pilot project center where teachers and parents from all neighboring schools met regularly.

“There were no classrooms, no tables, and no benches to sit on. The only didactic or pedagogic material available was a plywood chalk board, a notebook and a pen. Instructions were organized under trees or any other shade available.”

Gerri offered to build two classrooms and promised to do more when she returned to Canada and could raise more money. This started Willing Hearts International Canada.

And that was when I met Gerri. I interviewed her and wrote a story called “A Future for the Children of Chad,” which was published in *The (then) Powell River Peak*. That story shared Gerri’s dream of how Willing Hearts could help these AIDS orphans.

When Gerri learned that Mokuh wasn’t a trained teacher and that his only source of inspiration was the Baha’i Faith and love for humanity, she offered to sponsor him in university to pursue a degree in Education. Mokuh shared Gerri’s love of learning and teaching and attended university in Cameroon.

Every holiday he returned to Chad to work with the schools and look after the orphans.

Upon graduation, he returned to Manda School to serve as school principal and coached 50 local teachers from seven Manda village schools in teaching methods and taught French literacy classes for more than 130 adults.

My two boys, Matthew and Alexander, were five and seven years old at the time, and when they heard about the orphans of Chad, they decided that they wanted to help. They sold flowers, lemonade, vegetables from the garden and Texada flower rocks to raise money. I remember Alexander carefully putting his collection of flower rocks in his little red wagon and walking up the road to sell them. They raised over \$700 one summer and when they presented Gerri with this princely sum, there were tears of gratitude in her eyes, so overcome was she by

Where are they today?

The seven AIDS orphans Willing Hearts International sponsored back in 2003 are grown up now. Here’s what they are doing.

Elysee Togue went to a trade school sponsored by Willing Hearts. He graduated as a tailor and Willing Hearts helped him purchase a sewing machine and start a sewing business. He made enough money to sponsor himself into evening school. He got his high school certificate and proceeded to nursing school. He is currently working as nurse in a public hospital. He is married and a father of three.

David was sponsored by Willing Hearts in a motor mechanic school. He graduated and was assisted to start his motor repair shop. He is doing well as a motor mechanic, married and is a father of three.

Grace abandoned school in 2006 when she became pregnant as teenager. She later got married to the baby’s father and then moved to the village. She currently has four children.

Ndjimtabye dropped out of high school and is currently engaged in agriculture and a small retail business in the town of Sarh.

Solomon moved to the village and we do not have adequate information about him.

Haoua dropped out of school in 2009, but, assisted by Willing Hearts, she started a sewing business. She was married and got divorced last year. She moved back to Sarh to continue her sewing business.

Eleazard obtained a bachelor degree in English language from the University of Doba, Chad. He returned to Manda where he serves as English language teacher at the Ecole Nouveau Jardin de Manda and part time at an Islamic school. He is also pursuing a Master’s degree in English Language. He is a father of one.

their need to help.

Africa changed Gerri. She told me she felt like she’d been given a second chance and was finally able to do the kind of work she’d always wanted to do.

Before she died in 2011 she told her sister: “It seems to me to be unthinkable that we can remain deaf to the midnight sighing of the poor when it is within our means to do something to alleviate that suffering. Research is now proving that the joy of giving outweighs the joy of having and I, personally, can attest to that fact. I am far happier now in my little apartment, and without a car, knowing that a village in Chad has a comfortable school for its children, that the women are able to support their families, and that an orphan family is cared for.”

Gerri passed away in March of 2011 at the age of 73 but the legacy of her work remains alive and well.

Mokuh and his family will be in Powell River this month to visit their “Auntie Gina Devlin,” (Gerri’s sister) and to meet the community that has meant so much to them. He will also update the community on the changes that have taken place in Chad and his own life in the past 15 years (see story on Page 45.)

He now lives and works in the US, is married and has three children. 🐾



NOTICE OF NOMINATION PERIOD

Public Notice is hereby given of the nomination period starting 9:00 am, Tuesday, August 30, 2022 and ending 4:00 pm, Friday, September 9, 2022, for the following offices for the qathet Regional District:

One (1) Director for Electoral Area A:

North from city boundary to Toba Inlet, including Savary Island and Hernando Island

One (1) Director for Electoral Area B:

South from city boundary to west side of Whalen Road including Nootka Street and area

One (1) Director for Electoral Area C:

East side of Whalen Road to Jervis Inlet

One (1) Director for Electoral Area D:

Texada Island

One (1) Director for Electoral Area E:

Lasqueti Island

The deadline for withdrawal of candidates is 4:00 pm, Friday, September 16, 2022

NOMINATION DOCUMENTS SHALL BE DELIVERED AS FOLLOWS:

In person or via mail to qRD Office

c/o Michelle Jones, Chief Election Officer
qathet Regional District
#202-4675 Marine Avenue, Powell River, BC
V8A 2L2

Office hours: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm (closed weekends and holidays)

In person on Lasqueti Island

Appointments may be scheduled for in-person delivery of completed documents on Lasqueti Island from Tuesday, September 5, 2022 to Friday, September 9, 2022 only.

To schedule please call the qathet Regional District Office: 604-485-2260

By fax or email, with originals to follow via mail

Email: vote@qathet.ca
Fax: 604.485.2216

(if faxing, please call: 604-485-2260 or email to confirm delivery)

Originals of faxed or emailed nomination documents must be received by 4 pm on Friday, September 9, 2022, or the nomination is deemed to be withdrawn.

NOMINATION DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

At the following website address

qathet.ca/election-2022

The Regional District does not charge a nomination deposit fee.

In person on Lasqueti Island

Appointments may be scheduled for in-person pick-up of documents on Lasqueti Island before September 9, 2022 only.

At the Regional District Administration office

qathet Regional District

#202-4675 Marine Avenue, Powell River, BC V8A 2L2

Office hours: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm (closed weekends and holidays)

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE:

A person is qualified to be nominated, elected, and to hold office as a member of local government if they meet the following criteria:

- Canadian citizen, 18 years of age or older on October 15, 2022.
- Resident of British Columbia for at least 6 months immediately before the day nomination papers are filed.
- Not disqualified by the Local Government Act or any other enactment from voting in an election in British Columbia or from being nominated for, being elected to, or holding office or be otherwise disqualified by law.

Nominees are not required to be a resident or property owner in the jurisdiction for which they will seek election, but must be nominated in writing by two duly qualified electors of the jurisdiction. Nominators must be eligible to vote in the jurisdiction.

CANDIDATE EXPENSE LIMITS:

All candidates in the 2022 General Local Elections have expense limits that apply during the campaign period, September 17, 2022 to October 15, 2022. These limits apply to the 2022 General Local Elections and all subsequent by-elections.

Electoral Area A: \$5,398.92 Electoral Area B: \$5,398.92 Electoral Area C: \$5,398.92 Electoral Area D: \$5,398.92 Electoral Area E: \$5,398.92

THIRD PARTY EXPENSE LIMITS:

There are two types of expense limits for third party sponsors in the 2022 General Local Elections. Directed advertising expense limits are specific to an election area and apply to advertising about a candidate or elector organization. The cumulative advertising expense limit is \$161,967.47 and applies to directed and issue advertising in all election areas. The total value of advertising sponsored cannot exceed this limit. Both limits apply during the campaign period for the 2022 General Local Elections, September 17, 2022 to October 15, 2022. They also apply to all subsequent by-elections.

Directed advertising expense limits:

Electoral Area A: \$809.84 Electoral Area B: \$809.84 Electoral Area C: \$809.84 Electoral Area D: \$809.84 Electoral Area E: \$809.84

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Candidates will be declared 4:00 pm, Friday, September 9, 2022. In the event that there are fewer candidates declared than there are to be elected for any office, the nomination period for any such office(s) will be extended to 4:00 pm, Tuesday, September 12, 2022. In the event of an election by voting being necessary, general voting day will be Saturday, October 15, 2022, with advance voting on Wednesday, October 5, 2022.

Registration of all electors will take place at the time of voting.

Michelle Jones, Chief Election Officer

Email: vote@qathet.ca

Phone: 604-485-2260

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