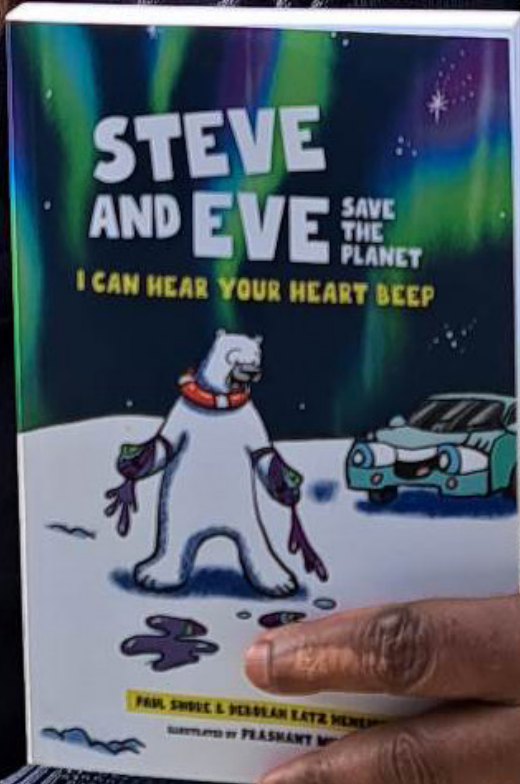


qathet

APRIL 2023

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ON THE COVER:

At Pollen Sweaters in Lund, author Paul Shore and his daughter Jashia, 15, with illustrator Prashant Miranda show off their new graphic novel, *Steve and Eve Save the Planet: I can Hear your Heart Beep*.
Photo by Pieta Woolley



Shades of Green

Kermit the Frog had it right all those years ago. It's not easy being green. Being a good steward of the environment and weighing our actions against the impact they will have on the planet takes time and effort – it's what Earth Month is for (pages 6 to 20).

When I was a child, I was careful not to litter. I rode the bus or my bike when I wanted to go somewhere my own two feet couldn't take me. These days I drive everywhere I need to go – I even put the dogs in the truck and drive to the trail head for our morning walk.

I'm not perfect. I drive more than I should, and sometimes I throw a soft plastic bag in the garbage, though I'm otherwise a pretty darned-good recycler. I wear sweaters all winter and keep the home heat set at 66°F.

Because "being green" is so complex, we are pleased to bring you so many voices from the community on ways we can make a contribution – from listening to birds (Page 10) to reducing your impact by 50% by 2030 (Page 13) and more. Our "I Made the Move"

profile, Jan Slakov, said, "It would be wonderful to get humanity living in ways that respected nature's needs and limits. A great talent to that end would be the ability to use musical instruments to bring people together, to 'surround hate and force it to surrender' like Pete Seeger was able to do." (Page 27).

Coincidentally, April 2023 will surely go down in history as qathet's most vibrant music month ever. Jazz, punk, traditional Tla'amin, medieval madrigals, hip hop and more: if you haven't bought a pile of tickets yet, head to Pages 42 & 43 to see the full range of what's on stage this month.

I think about being a good steward of the environment because I have a good reason to do so. My reason why is the future. My why is so my kids, your kids, our grandkids and great grandkids can enjoy birds, insects, trees, flowers and frogs, they way you and I can.



PUBLISHER'S MESSAGE

ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

|| isabelle@prliving.ca

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Publisher & Managing Editor
Isabelle Southcott
isabelle@prliving.ca



Associate Publisher & Sales Manager
Sean Percy
sean@prliving.ca



Editor & Graphics
Pieta Woolley
pieta@prliving.ca



Sales & Marketing
Suzi Wiebe
suzi@prliving.ca



Office Manager
Lauren Diemer
office@prliving.ca

“

For a few months each year, I really try to get up at first light and catch the morning [bird] chorus. When I do, it never fails to fill me with a happiness that stays with me all day.

- Pierre Geoffray, **Page 10.**

”

9L



ROBERT DICE was born in Powell River and still considers it home. His mother Alice Dice still lives here. Robert lives with his wife, Kathryn, in Campbell River. **See Bob's story, Clocks and Courting, on Page 35.**



PIERRE GEOFFRAY was born in 1960 in France and emigrated to Canada in 1980 where he discovered birding. He moved here in 1999. He works in the trades and is a tile artist. **See Pierre's story, Save this Soundscape, on Page 8.**



ROBERT A. HACKETT is a qathet-based writer, SFU professor emeritus, and a member of qathet Climate Alliance. **See qathet Climate Alliance's story, Feeling the Heat, on Page 13.**



ANN NELSON is, among many things, Powell River's de facto Townsite historian, a proofreader for *qathet Living*, and former owner of the Patricia Theatre. **See Ann's story about Dr Andy Davis and the Triangle Gardens on Page 54.**



CAROLYN SMITH is the Visitor Services Assistant at the qathet Museum and Archives. **See Carolyn's story, Post-War: A New Forestry Era, on Page 12.**

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Prash and Paul make a graphic novel

Hope and fun take the place of fear and despair, in the Lund-produced *Steve and Eve Save the Planet: I Can Hear Your Heart Beep*

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

In 2015, Paul Shore took his eight-year-old daughter to test drive an electric vehicle. It was their first time in one. Instead of the usual grrrrs and coughs of a gasoline-fuelled engine, the car gurgled and hummed—like it was delighted.

Back at the dealership, Jashia stepped out, wrapped her arms around the hood, and hugged the car. She said it had a “heart beep.”

“As adults, we tend to lose sight of the subtle things in life. Things she was noticing,” said Paul. “She loved that this car wasn’t stinky or hot. She felt it was more like a pet.”

The electrical engineer and part-time Lundie had already published two books: the children’s book *Bob-sleigh Jellybeans: Kindness Wins* and the travel memoir *Uncorked: My year in Provence studying Pétanque, discovering Chagall, drinking Pastis, and mangling French*.

“I really had the writing bug and now had a new idea, thanks to Jashia,” Paul said.

Soon after, he and a friend and fellow writer, Deborah Katz Henriquez, started working on a manuscript about a living electric car and a polar bear who team up to change the world by spreading kindness. The format would eventually be a 215-page graphic novel: *Steve and Eve Save The Planet: I Can Hear Your Heart Beep*.

All they needed next was an artist to help bring it to life.

A friend and fellow Lundie, Green-peace project manager Charlie Latimer, introduced them to Lund-based

“There’s so much doom and gloom these young people exist in. So we’re using this platform to cultivate hope.”

– Paul Shore

illustrator Prashant Miranda, and the rest is history, sort of. Really, it’s just blooming this month. The book has been published, and the crew are currently launching it at a series of parties and TV appearances in Vancouver, Powell River (May 6) and in Lund (May 7, see calendar for details, right). It’s on the “local books” shelf at Pollen Sweaters, and available on Amazon. You can read more about it at savetheplanetbook.com.

The team has big goals. Bigger than the book.

“We’re trying to capture kids’ imaginations in a manner that gives them hope in the climate change era,” explained Paul, who is a father of two. “There’s so much doom and gloom that these young people exist in. We’re using this platform to cultivate hope and a sense of opportunity—to uplift and entertain and have some fun. As parents, we wear the pressure to talk



PUBLISHING AT END OF THE ROAD: Author Paul Shore, his daughter and inspiration for the book, Jashia Shore, 15, and illustrator Prashant Miranda at the book shop inside Pollen Sweaters in Lund. *Steve and Eve Save the Planet: I Can Hear Your Heart Beep* is for sale there in the local book section, on Amazon, and will be for sale at the two launch events here May 6 & 7 (see right).

with our kids about this scary stuff and we hope this book gives them a tool to make that task easier.”

Prashant doesn’t have children, though has made children’s media his whole adult life, from curricular work at a Waldorf School in India, to animation studios in Toronto. He illustrated several children’s books, including *If There Was One Place I Could Be* (The World of Anahi and Vir) (2011) and *While I’m Away* (2015) and *Bangalore: A Graphic Novel* (2017). His watercolour and mixed media show, *Pacifiq Madness*, opens at Tidal Art Centre in Lund April 21—the day before Earth Day.

“I just love children’s books,” said Prashant. “They’re something you read growing up and they can just have a huge impact on a person. The combination of image and text is magical. When I was young I read *Asterix*, *Tin-Tin*. They’re so influential. Only years later did I realize the work that goes into a single comic book.”

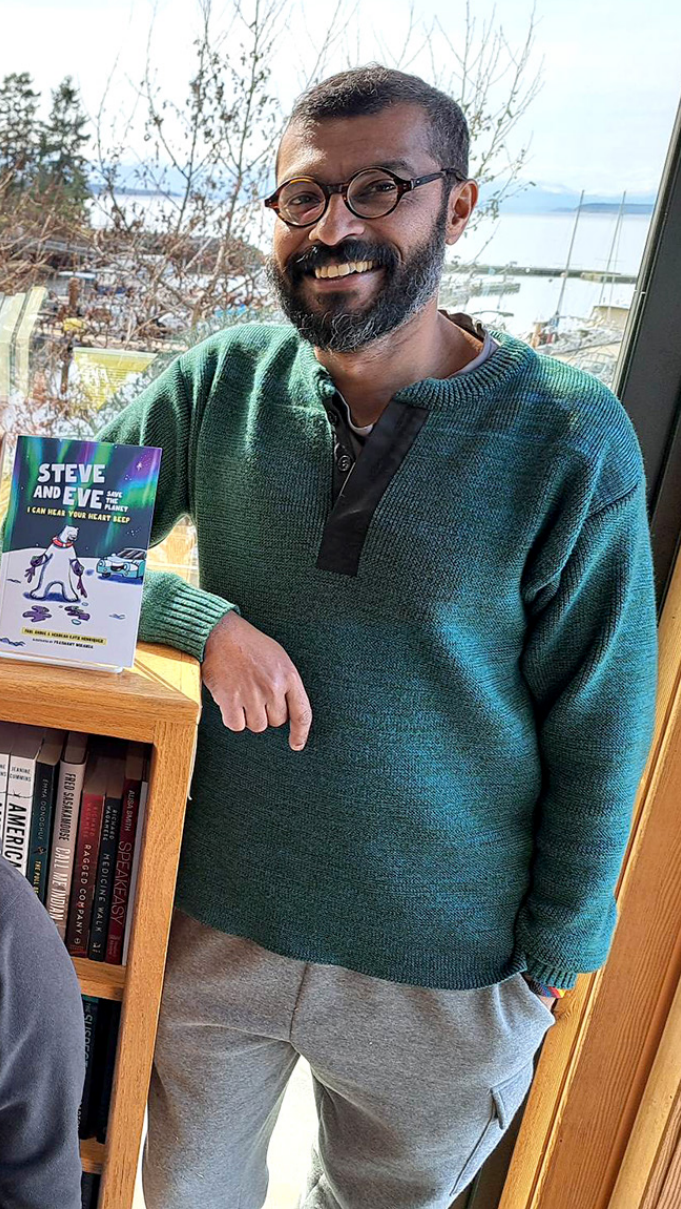
Animation, storyboarding—all lends itself to graphic novels, he explained. For *Steve and Eve*, Prashant took the

time to design all the characters and locations—what each would look like from multiple angles, with mannerisms and expressions. He illustrates each frame on his iPad, using multiple levels for a painterly effect.

The finished novel is a visually-sumptuous story, with very digestible environmental education woven throughout it. The target age is 6 to 12.

Now that a first book has been designed and written, *Steve and Eve* are ready for more adventures. Paul and Deborah plan to foster the characters and story into a series, and Prashant explained that he would most likely direct other illustrators to carry his vision forward in the next books—that’s how the industry works.

“All three of us are dreamers,” said Paul, considering the potential for this project—both to grow as a publishing product, and for its potential inspirational impact on children as they develop into young adults and choose their paths. “Some friends have said, ‘Wow you must be happy the work is over.’ I said, ‘No—it’s just begun!’” **PL**



Can electric cars really save the planet?

qL question: A large contingent of folks think electric cars are an environmental red herring, rather than a solution. As an electrical engineer, an author and an e-car driver, what do you think?

Paul Shore • Electric cars are to gas cars, as light bulbs were to candles – technological advantage eventually wins the day.

We should be moving away from single passenger vehicles for the sake of the climate, though as long as cars, trucks, and buses are still going to be a part of our transportation systems, electrifying them has a large net carbon benefit to the planet over their life cycles.

All forms of human consumption have negative externalities on the planet, though EVs have far less total negative impact than fossil-fuel-burning vehicles. EVs won't save the planet single-handedly, yet they have a critical role to play in global carbon emissions reduction and they are also a very visible example to children of the progress that can be made relatively rapidly to change an entire industry for the better of the planet when we put our minds to it.

Our family has driven electric cars since 2015. We started with a compact car and loved the experience, the impact on the kids, and the cost savings so much that we eventually traded our family station wagon for a pre-owned EV sedan that I have been happily driving for five years.

EARTH MONTH EVENTS

April 11-14

Youth nature art drop-off

Artwork drop off for Art of the True Self Youth Art Show. Call to artists open to 12 – 25 year olds from qathet region. Multidisciplinary original artwork exploring your or our connection to Nature. 2D, 3D, media, literary, performance, etc. More than one piece may be submitted, but not all may be shown. At qathet Art Centre

Friday, April 14

Salmon craft

3:30 to 4:30 pm, Library. Kids 5+ are invited to make an earth-friendly salmon craft in preparation for the salmon fry release at Willingdon Creek for Earth Day!

Saturday, April 15

Little Wonders at the Museum: Cedar

10:30 to 11 am. Cedar: the tree of life. Family Friendly. Ideal for children aged 4 – 8 years old. No registration required: free drop-in program.

Monday, April 17

National Bat Appreciation Day

No events are planned, so you'll have to appreciate your own bats. Need help? See biologist Andrew Bryant's story at right.

Friday, April 21

Salmon Fry Release

3:30 to 5 pm Willingdon Beach. The Powell River Salmon Society invites you to join us in celebrating Earth Day by releasing salmon fry into the waters of Willingdon Creek.

Prashant Miranda's "Pacifiq Madness" show opens

5 to 7 pm, Tidal Art Centre in Lund. Opens on April 21. Show runs until May 7.

Saturday, April 22

Earth Day

earthday.ca

Art of the True Self – Connection to Nature Exhibition

2 pm opening reception at qathet Art Centre. Group show featuring multidisciplinary work by youth artists from the qathet Region. Show is on until June 10. Gallery hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays – noon to 5 pm. Saturdays 12 to 2 pm.

Vox Madrigal – Harmony Vespers

4 pm, Powell River United Church. Vox Madrigal is a five-person group. Members are: Susan Lines, Kristian Hansen, Claudia Westland, David May, Theresa Hargrave. We sing primarily madrigals. Our program for April will be all madrigals (which are secular songs typical of medieval (16/17 century). All the pieces we sing are in five-part harmony (two sopranos, one alto, one tenor and one bass). By donation.

Wednesday, May 3

Cranberry Hall Presents: Luke Wallace

6:30 doors, 7 pm show. Folk musician, environmental and social activist, Luke continues to use his music to amp up and inspire folks fighting for a better world. He is known to folk festivals all over this land and was recently invited to share at the United Nations Water Conference. Tickets \$20 advance (Base Camp and Eventbrite) and \$25 at the door. There will be YOUTH prices for Luke's performance (\$10). Contact us at info@cranhall.org or find us on Facebook at fb.com/cranhall.



APPRECIATE ME: This is a little brown myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*) – one of the more common bats in the qathet region. Others are the Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), the hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*) and the big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*).
Photo by Andrew Bryant

Three things to love about BC bats

On April 17, Canada celebrates National Bat Appreciation Day. What's to celebrate? qathet biologist Andrew Bryant explains:

- We have more bat species than any other Canadian province (15 species breed here – and a couple more "accidental species.")
- Bats are of tremendous ecological importance. They pollinate plants, eat massive numbers of insects (think mosquitoes), and though small, live a very long time (one Little Brown Bat in Ontario was recorded living 28 years).
- When one gets close...they are truly beautiful.

Saturday, May 6

Library: Steve and Eve Save The Planet book celebration

10-12 : PR Public Library, presentation about graphic novel creation process and readings. SaveThePlanetBook.com/news

Sunday, May 7

Lund: Steve and Eve Save The Planet book celebration

5-7 pm : Tidal Arts Centre in Lund, presentation about graphic novel creation process and reception. SaveThePlanetBook.com/news

Saturday, May 13

Trash Bash

9 am to 3 pm Willingdon Beach. See story, Page 18. See ad, Page 2.



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BY PIERRE GEOFFRAY

I sit comfortably in my kitchen watching the snow falling outside the window. Busy groups of hungry finches and juncos come and go incessantly between my neighbour's birches and the feeders in my yard, like sudden arrows of colour streaking the white tapestry. Those birds have been around all winter; they arrived with the first cold, attracted by our mild climate and the endless bounty of seeds I have been putting out to them. Until a few days ago, if they were not eating, they spent most of their time sitting motionless on the trees above the feeders, preserving their energy.

By now, in mid-February their behaviour has started to change. They have begun to fly around lots and there

is excitement in the air, which on a warm sunny morning fills the orchard with a loud chatter of calls and even some of the first songs can be heard: the rich burry warbles of the Purple Finches, the thinner but similar songs of the House Finches with the characteristic ascending "Zree" note, the sharp trills of the Oregon Juncos practising their scales before they move to the mountains or the drier parts of the province to nest. The trigger is the light. As the days get longer, they signal the end of winter and with the coming of the breeding season, birds start to sing.

There is a difference between songs and calls that is not always well understood: calls are the simple vocalizations used in everyday life by birds to com-



Save this Soundscape

This region's 280 bird species sing in the Spring.
They need our protection.

"I'M SO SWEET" TWEET: The Yellow Warbler is a small and dazzling yellow bird with a brilliant song that dominates the chorus in mid-May. Its "Sweet, sweet, sweet I'm so sweet" phrase bursts loudly from every thicket of deciduous forest in and around town.

communicate between each other, like to say "I am here" or "danger." They usually consist of single notes "twit, chip, tsit...." They are heard year-round. Songs are generally a complex assemblage of sounds and are used during the breeding season only, to advertise for mates or to ward off potential competitors on a territory. Songs are species specific and birders use them to locate and identify birds that would otherwise stay hidden. There is a great variety of songs one can hear locally, ranging from the short whistles of the Flycatchers who are born owning a

song that will never vary throughout their life, to the rich and lengthy warbles of the Black-headed Grosbeaks that can last up to a minute at times and who learn their songs from each other, adding more vocabulary to their repertoire as they age.

Spring and summer are busy seasons for birds. The tasks nature has planned for them are huge. In a little more than four months, between May and September, they will have to claim a territory, defend it against all sorts of competition, find a mate, build a nest (or more than one if anything hap-

pen to it), lay eggs, brood, take care and feed the hatchlings, raise them to become independent and fly on their own. Some species repeat the process two or three times in the course of one season. In order to fulfill this agenda every minute of daylight counts.

The spring festival opens up in stages with the resident birds (the species that overwinter here) starting to form pairs and slowly moving into territories. As early as January one could hear a Song Sparrow singing shyly from the top of a bush on a warm sunny day: two or three single notes followed by

a raspy buzz and a trill. The frequency and intensity of the songs will keep growing as the season progresses and the days become longer until they climax towards the end of June.

Around the third week in March, the first migrants (those who left during the fall to spend the winter in warmer climates) start to return. The first trills of a Yellow-rumped Warbler singing among the freshly open buds of a deciduous tree always give me shivers of pure joy: Spring is here! Around the same time, one can be lucky to hear the questioning song of a Cassin's Vir-

Photo by Carol Reid

They know the score

Here are a few common birds you might encounter as you stroll around your neighbourhood or take a walk in the forest this spring.

All photos by Carol Reid



Willow Flycatcher: When it arrives in the third week of April, it's distinctive sneezing "FITZbee" song is easy to pick out among the chorus. The bird itself will be sitting upright atop a shrub in open areas, specially around marshes. It is another brown bird, but with a squarish head and two white wingbars and it is not very shy.



Yellow-rumped Warbler: An early arrival, this small and brightly coloured warbler favours tall deciduous trees during migration, but nests on the bluffs and drier parts of the coast where Douglas Firs are prominent. It comes in two distinct forms: a yellow-throated one, the 'Audubon' type who is the form that breeds in our area, and a white-throated form, the 'Myrtle' type that only passes through during migration. The flashy yellow patch on its rump gives it its name and it also has a yellow crown.



Warbling Vireo: This drab vocal denizen of mixed forests would be easily overlooked if it was not for its loud songs and calls. From the instant it arrives in April till the middle of summer it can be heard everywhere. It's song is a bubbly jumble of notes not unlike the finches: "Tchee tari chee tiri chee tiri TCHEE" The key to its identification is in the last syllable which is always ascending, like a challenge. It also gives a harsh and angry scolding call, is very curious, and will investigate anything new that happens in its vicinity. The pale white eyebrows are its main distinctive characteristic. It is a bird I love, with a lot of charisma!

A much-improved twitter

To learn to identify several local birds by their songs, go to *qathet Living's* Facebook page. Pierre Geoffroy has collected several recordings.

eo, usually around a bluff or rocky outcrop: "Where are you?...Here I am!" repeated insistently. Or the ascending and falling trill of an Orange-crowned Warbler, its yellowish/green plumage making it difficult to see among the young alders it favours.

By then, the season is on its way and new birds will arrive in quick succession following a precise calendar, each species appearing within a few days of their expected date of arrival. Rufous Hummingbird, Hammond's Flycatcher, McGillivray's Warbler, Violet-green Swallow, Olive-sided Flycatcher... and many more. The last ones to show up will be the Cedar Waxwings with their silky plumage and delicate mask across the eye and the Red-eyed Vireos, a recent addition to our local avifauna that are rapidly becoming widespread in Powell River.

By mid-June, our mornings will be resounding with a great symphony composed by the combined songs of up to 30 species at once. Birders call it the 'morning chorus.'

Out of the 280 species of birds that have so far been recorded in the qathet region, about 130 species are known to nest. They form the backbone

of our local soundscape and their songs are often familiar even to the untrained and unaware ears, being as they are the background noise of our life for part of the year in the area. The sound of the Swainson's Thrush singing, for instance, is forever associated with the West coast of Canada in my memory. I cannot separate it from spring early mornings in Powell River. The sound of it will always bring me back to it a bit like some smells will always remind me of specific moments of my childhood.

I have never been one of those persons who wakes up bright and early every morning. It is not my natural rhythm. I'd rather stay up late at night. But for a few months each year, I really try (with more or less success I admit) to get up at first light and catch the morning chorus. When I do, it never fails to fill me with a happiness that stays with me all day. It anchors me in the present moment and gives me a sense of connection with nature and the wider universe like nothing else.

Bird songs have been shown to have a positive effect on human beings by lessening stress and lightening the moods of the listeners. (The same studies have demonstrated that traffic noises cause depres-

sion and anxiety.) For the well being of the inhabitants, a well managed city should be balancing urban development with pockets of wild spaces where birds can be heard singing and where natural habitat is preserved. And protected.

We have been blessed to live in a city where such spaces were common and were taken for granted. The close proximity with nature has, in fact been one of the major draws for the people wanting to move to Powell River. Without protection however, those same spaces we value – that have given Powell River its unique green reputation – are vanishing at an alarming rate, being prime targets for development within the city. How can we reconcile growth and preserve our quality of life at the same time? It is a conversation that needs to happen between the planners and the population.

It needs to happen soon, before it is too late and the face of our home is forever degraded. The city had the chance to co-own a vast area of unique ecological value known as the Wildwood Bluffs, located on the north of the river and stretching all the way to Gibson's Beach. It would have been the perfect location for a park. Within its boundaries, 177 species



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of birds have been recorded, between 20 and 30 bears used the area during the fall while waiting for the salmon run. Until last year it was the home of the only breeding population of Lazuli Buntings on the coast of Canada, – an incredibly cute and colourful bird – and the only known pair of breeding Grey Catbird had been nesting there for years. It was the main staging area for birds migrating through the area twice a year and a number of species have only ever been found there in all of qathet district. Lots of people used to enjoy walking there. Instead of protecting this invaluable resource, the land was sold cheaply to investors who have since devastated most of it, leveling and draining it without realizing or respecting its potential. A lost opportunity.

We need the natural spaces. They are vital for our survival and that of the future generations who will follow us. What will happen to Brew Bay, the only estuary found on the peninsula? Estuaries have a huge impact on the quality of our environment, being at the confluence between fresh and salt water, they provide high levels of nutrients for the land and the sea. Thousands of species of birds, mammals, fish and other wildlife depend on es-

tuarine habitats as places to live, feed and reproduce. And many marine organisms, including most commercially-important species of fish, depend on estuaries at some point during their development. Powell River only has one.

There are examples of cities that have married their need for growth and the maintenance of a network of green spaces within. I love going to Victoria. It is a city that has grown a lot in the 40 years I have known it, but it is also a place where one can still walk in nature at every corner. The city had the wisdom to plan and set aside and protect large tracts of natural spaces while it could, before development took a hold of everything. It did not happen by chance, it was a choice, the product of a vision. It now gives the city its character and makes it a pleasant place to live, in spite of its size. A place where business thrives and birds can be heard singing in the early morning on spring days.

Will our grandchildren be able to say the same of Powell River, the place we love and have a responsibility to care for? It will be up to us and the decisions we are taking now, to see it happen. 🐿

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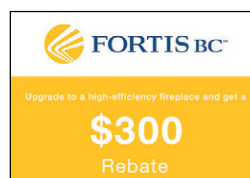
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Post-war: a new forestry era



CONSERVATIONISTS: A group of Junior Forest Wardens stands at a gate to the Experimental Forest Area, 1967. Photo courtesy of the qathet Historical Museum & Archives

As Earth Day approaches in the qathet Region, our community may ponder on how we can protect our local forests, but we are not the first, as the Powell River Company took early actions in forest conservation through Junior Forest Wardens in the 1940s and 1950s.

Following Canadian guidelines, regional branches of the Junior Wardens Association were created allowing youth to work closely with the Powell River Company's Forestry Department on safe forest practices, conservation, and fire protection.

In the late forties, the Forestry Department dedicated 450 acres between Westview, Townsite and Cranberry for an Experimental Forest Area to study forest management and find out the best methods for logging and reforestation (The *Powell River Digester* March-April 1950).

Using the company's Experimental Forest Area,



BLAST FROM THE PAST

CAROLYN SMITH

the Junior Forest Wardens planted 10,000 fir seedlings across from Willingdon Beach (ʔahʔjʉmɪχʷ) in late March of 1951. Approximately 40 of the regions youth participated in this activity and later were guided through lessons on forest protection (The *Powell River Digester* March-April 1951).

1951 marked a change in the local forestry mindset as the Canadian Forestry Association of British Columbia marked May 19 to May 26 to be "Forest Conservation Week." The local Junior Forest War-

dens took action, educating their fellow youth, as well as explaining their environmental work to adults of the region.

Considered a new era for logging, conservation became important to the Powell River Company and its development, with a focus upon public education and engaging the region's youth (The *Powell River Digester* March-April 1951).

While simply visiting or residing within the qathet Region, it is difficult to not reflect upon one of nature's greatest gifts to our community: the surrounding forests. This Earth Day, April 22, reflect upon your conservation goals and come by qathet Museum & Archives to learn more about early forestry within your community. 🌲

Carolyn Smith is the qathet Museum & Archives' Visitor Services Coordinator.

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Who should pay?

Helping Our Community, Holding Polluters Accountable

If you support the idea of local governments suing Big Oil for a fair share of climate costs, please sign the Sue Big Oil Declaration so that your voice can be counted. suebigoil.ca/declaration

* Local governments and taxpayers are on the hook for the skyrocketing costs of climate change – and it’s going to get worse.

* Coal, oil and gas are especially responsible for the climate crisis, producing 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions, according to the UN.

* Fossil fuel industries are enormously profitable, because they don’t pay the true costs of their business.

* During the pandemic and war in Ukraine, fossil fuel companies have made windfall profits, while communities continue to suffer from climate impacts.

* Like Big Tobacco a generation ago, Big Oil has known since at least the 1970s how its business could wreck the climate – but it covered it up and lied to the public. (Read Geoff Dembicki, *The Petroleum Papers*.)

* Legal action against Big Oil is ramping up in 40 US cities and states and around the world.

* Polluter pays: Big Oil should not be allowed to use our atmosphere as a “free toilet bowl.” They should pay their fair share of climate costs.

* Even the threat of lawsuits encourages a faster transition to greener energy, by making fossil fuel investors and insurers think twice.

We’re feeling the heat

qathet Climate Alliance is leading two campaigns to help keep climate change in check, together: 50 by 30, and Sue Big Oil.

BY ROBERT HACKETT |

WITH FILES FROM QATHET CLIMATE ALLIANCE

Remember the heat dome, just two summers ago, killing over 600 British Columbians? Billions of dead marine animals along the Salish Sea shoreline? Atmospheric rivers and local flooding? The storm surge that closed down the Seawalk? Days of wildfire smoke that forced us to stay indoors? Closed trails and ‘Extreme Fire Risk’ signs along the Lower Sunshine Coast? Ocean acidification that will impact some fisheries?

The Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS) has just released a report indicating that climate change threatens Canada’s prosperity and security, and BC is a region of particular concern. CSIS says that rising sea levels could cause “irretrievable loss of infrastructure and even entire communities” with the potential to destroy “significant parts” of coastal BC.

qathet’s own Regional Coastal Flood Adaptation Strategy report warns of worsening flood, storm and

erosion hazards.

Globally, CSIS also anticipates a higher risk of animal-borne diseases, loss of arable land, shrinking freshwater resources, enormous human migration from newly uninhabitable zones, and political unrest that would dwarf COVID-related protests.

We can’t pull up drawbridges and ignore how such global processes affect us. Massive storms in California restrict what you can buy and afford for dinner. Pandemics and wildfire smoke don’t stop at regional borders.

Increasingly, Canadians understand the basic science of global warming, including the link with carbon emissions. Canadian exports of oil and gas are paradoxically helping to undermine our own security and longterm economic wellbeing through contributions to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Canadians seem less sure of what to do about this dilemma, and perhaps, what our own ethical responsibilities are. In qathet, we are not only victims of climate disruption, but unwitting contributors, simply as a byproduct of our daily lives. Of course, we



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Meet qathet Climate Alliance

qL asked each member for an example of changes they've personally made to address the climate emergency, and for their hopes for the planet. Here's what they said:



Bill Lytle McGhee

Action • I have been active for ten years in climate activism. I live a low-carbon lifestyle: electric car and home heating, no flying, minimizing meat consumption and over-packaged groceries.

Hope • I hope for urgent action by the powers that be to help reduce future harm and preserve our descendants' quality of life.



Cynthia Barnes

Action • I am the proud owner of an electric bike & a heat pump.

Hope • We desperately need courageous political leadership, and corporate responsibility to keep oil and gas in the ground. I want my daughter and all children to have a life.



Bob Hackett

Action • Many hours, dollars, and an arrest for peaceful civil disobedience, supporting Indigenous land defenders and other system changes.

Hope • Successful grassroots mobilization for a more democratic and less ecologically destructive economic practices, to avoid civilization collapse.



Angelika Hackett

Action • We purchased e-bikes, a heat pump for our daughter's house, advocated for a right to dry clothes outside in multi-family residences in BC.

Hope • We hope that governments will listen to the science and help citizens make the fundamental changes necessary.

Early Morning Rain

Early Morning Rain: the songs of Gordon Lightfoot is a wander through the wonderfully crafted songs of one of Canada's greatest songwriters, presented by John McLachlan and Marc Atkinson.

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are not equal contributors. Generally, wealthy people and industrial mega-projects such as LNG fracking have outsize carbon footprints.

But arguably, we all share some responsibility. A study commissioned by qCA (formerly Climate Action Powell River) found that if everybody lived like the average qathet resident, humanity would need three and a half planets to sustain our lifestyle.

Climate action, then, includes both fostering local resilience, and reducing our own carbon pollution to help prevent climate disruption from worsening. We should ask not "Is it too late?" but rather, "What needs doing? And, what can I do?"

What you can do

The David Suzuki Foundation offers an excellent "top 10" list of things you can do about climate change. Some of these involve daily life choices, such as diet, travel, banking, consumption choices, personal conversations, and careful home energy use.

Individual action can usefully show what's possible, but it needs to be done en masse to make appreciable GHG reductions. Some options, such as electric cars and heat pumps, are currently too expensive for many.

As David Ravensbergen, Pacific regional organizer for the Council of Canadians, puts it, "As individuals, we face real limits in our ability to transform the energy infrastructure and built environment of the world that we inherited at birth."

Moreover, some people are reluctant to make the effort if it's not fairly distributed. It's the classic "free rider" problem: everybody benefits from a more stable climate, whether they helped achieve it or not.

That's one reason why the instruments of government—subsidies, regulation, taxation, public investment, international agreements—are so important. As Seth Klein makes clear in *A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency* (2020), a climate policy that over-relies on voluntary individual action is not likely to achieve the scale and speed necessary. The same goes for experimental and expensive technologies—for example carbon capture. And far from reinventing themselves, as they once promised, 'big' gas and oil is doubling down on expanding fossil fuel exploration, production and export.

And yet, while as citizens we should continue to vote and to press our elected representatives, senior governments are besieged by industry lobbyists and beholden to the myth that enormous gas and oil exports are essential to prosperity. Former Alberta opposition leader Kevin Taft has documented, in his book *Oil's Deep State: How the petroleum industry undermines democracy and stops action on global warming—in Alberta, and in Ottawa* (2017), how publicly funded institutions and even the provincial government as a whole have been captured by the industry.

So perhaps local governments and communities are the best launching pads for the emission reductions we urgently need. That's why qCA is currently engaging in two campaigns, local in scope, but with



Mike Demuth

Action • I am engaged in improving science, hydro-climatic, ethics and human factors literacy through teaching, scholarship, bravery and by being an ally to Indigenous peoples.

Hope • We sit on our hands while the poorest nations in the world struggle with the most egregious impacts of climate change. This entitled view of the world won't last forever.



Jan Slakov

Action • I'm deeply grateful to those who risk and give to stop the "machine", i.e. people like Jessica Ernst, Freda Huson, Lynne Quarmby, Romilly Cavanaugh, and Four Arrows. I support them as best I can.

Hope • Miracles are possible, but the hope that inspires me is what Vaclav Havel spoke of—not the conviction something will turn out well, but the "certainty that something makes sense regardless of how it turns out."



Jack Anderson

Action • I was President of qCA for eight years and facilitated the publication of the Eco City Footprint. I drive an electric car, installed a heat pump and composting toilet. I have read every major climate report from the IPCC and federal and provincial documents.

Hope • We need world emissions to reduce by 50% by 2030.

the fate of the world as a horizon.

The first campaign addresses the question of who is going to pay for our community's adaptation to the unfolding climate catastrophe. The City is aware of the challenge, and has taken some initial steps. Climate change adaptation and mitigation has been an official City of Powell River strategic priority since 2019. According to Councillor Rob Southcott, the City's own operations (though not the community) have been carbon "net zero" for several years, and there are policies addressing buildings, transportation and waste.

But there's no getting around it: climate change will cost us.

Municipal governments are responsible for about 60% of local infrastructure, which includes not just fixing potholes, but water management, parks, police and fire stations, recreation centres, and other community-building assets. Climate change is driving up the costs of maintaining that infrastructure, and preparing for future impacts—by billions of dollars across Canada, according to the insurance industry. Right now, local taxpayers are on the hook.

Sue Big Oil

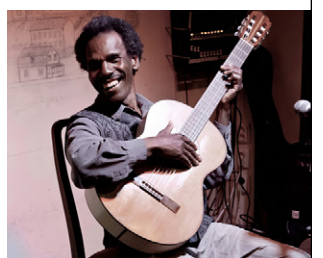
That's why qCA has signed on to the "Sue Big Oil" campaign. Convened by West Coast Environmental Law in 2022, the goal is to encourage a critical mass of municipal governments across BC to join in a class action lawsuit against major oil corporations.

It's inspired by the successful lawsuits against 'Big Tobacco' a generation ago, and is based on a straightforward principle: "polluters must pay" their fair share of the damage their business has caused.

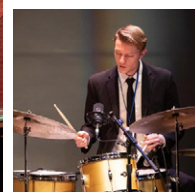
50 by 30

qCA's second campaign is forthcoming. It is a visionary effort to work with all the communities in qathet to reduce our GHG emissions by 50%, by 2030. That's the commitment that Canada made at the Paris accord in 2015 – and if senior governments have fallen flat on the job, then maybe local communities can lead the way.

A pivotal document in this work is the ecoCity Footprint study, available for free on our website at qathetclimatealliance.ca.



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What causes global heating?

Beginning almost 170 years ago, American and European scientists Eunice Foote, John Tyndall, Joseph Fourier, and Savante Arrhenius conducted experiments and made observations on how heat-absorbing greenhouse gases (GHGs), like carbon dioxide (CO2) and methane, affect temperatures on earth.

Now we understand that, without relatively small amounts of CO2 in the atmosphere, most of the earth would be frozen.

On the other hand, too much CO2 hampers heat from escaping back into space, creating an excessive “greenhouse effect”.

Since the industrial revolution, humanity has burned massive and increasing amounts of fossil fuels (coal, gas, oil) upsetting that balance, and destroying forests and wetlands that store carbon. As a result, the atmosphere has much higher concentrations of GHGs, causing major climate destabilization.

Such destabilization is part of what’s causing the “sixth great extinction.” For instance, as CO2 levels rise, the oceans become more acidic, which diminishes marine plankton’s ability to photo-

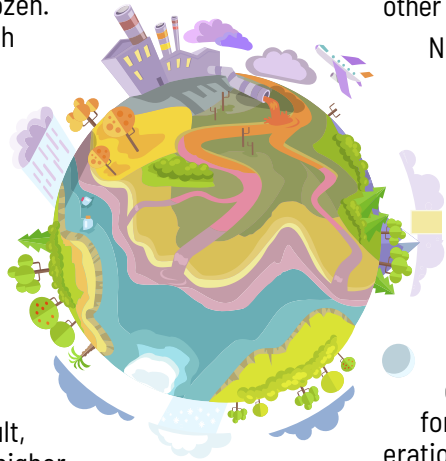
synthesize. That means the oceans are less able to sequester the excessive carbon being emitted into the atmosphere.

There are other “positive” (mutually reinforcing) feedback loops, such as how melting glaciers and other ice result in the absorption of more of the sun’s heat as less is reflected back to space. Increasing climate disruption can prompt humans to create even more GHGs, as we try to deal with heat waves and other extreme weather.

No wonder many of us prefer not to dwell upon the unfolding climate emergency!

But there are feedback loops that could help protect life on earth.

Surely the most important of these is humanity shifting from resignation to “the great unravelling,” and instead embracing the changes required for “the great turning,” or “regeneration.” Individual actions to lower consumption levels matter. But the most effective efforts require working together to protect healthy cultures and ecosystems, to rein in corporate irresponsibility and to create new ways of relating to each other and the rest of creation, ways that foster health and happiness.



Change the system – and the culture

To make the systemic changes required for us to meet our basic needs sustainably, we need to work together. Good climate policies depend on healthy societies, so working to develop co-operation, deep democracy, respect for diversity and overall health is essential.

We don’t need to live in Victoria or Ottawa to influence society-wide climate action. In the digital age, we can support groups and individuals working to stop what UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres calls the “moral and economic madness” of investing in new fossil fuel projects. Groups are working on divestment from banks that enable such expansion, a “just transition” to a greener energy system that doesn’t leave workers and communities behind, and much else. Check out westcoastclimateaction.ca, a network of 236 member organizations.

Not only must we work to protect what is left of the world’s healthy ecosystems, we need to protect societies that live in ways that respect natural limits, and learn from them.

As the David Suzuki Foundation puts it, “Indigenous Peoples are well-positioned to take leadership on climate because of their ecological knowledge, deep connection to the environment and lived experiences with the impacts of climate change and environmental racism.”

Supporting Indigenous-led climate action is a matter of justice – and perhaps ecological survival. 🌱

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HEART OF QATHET

For our children and grandchildren

A group of like minded people started Powell River Climate Action Society (now **qathet Climate Alliance**) in November of 2015. The first event was a march to draw attention to the Paris Climate Agreement event.

We are committed to educating residents, businesses and local governments about the impact of our lifestyle choices with the hope of reducing our collective climate footprint.

Some accomplishments include a speaker series, the publication of the Powell River Eco City Footprint, Meatless Mondays, a vegan cookbook, and the regular CAPRICORN newsletter, which is available at the library. Members say they are encouraged by the significant number of electric vehicles in Powell River and qathet as well as electric charging stations. Learn more on the Facebook page.

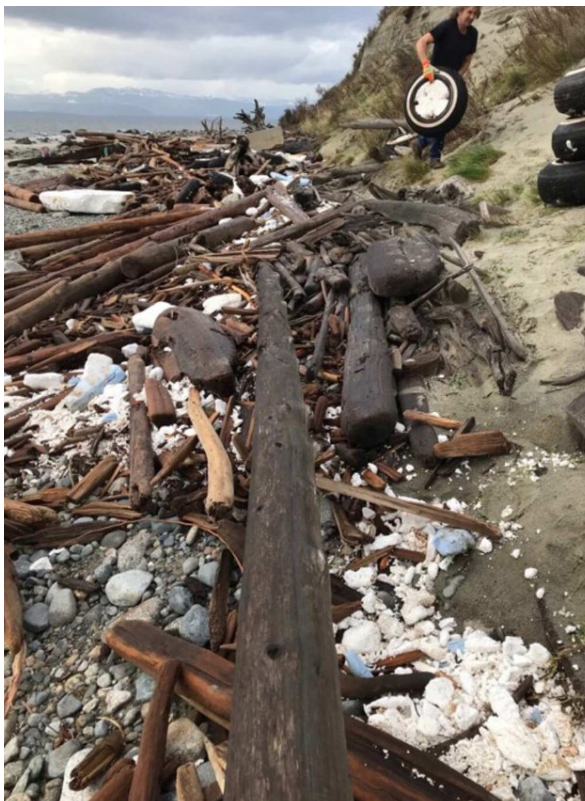
Cynthia Barnes started undertaking Community Economic Development projects in the 90s in Summerside, PEI. One of her favourite projects at that time was the development of a Farmers' Market in co-operation with the Bedque Bay Environmental Management Association.

When she moved to Vancouver, Cynthia started up an international college. This job was followed by work as the education director at West Moberly First Nations.

"I have always been driven to make my world a better place and it is a thrill when my aspirations match up to the needs of my community. My volunteer work with qathet Climate Alliance and with the Green party gives meaning to my life."

How did you start working with qCA qathet Climate Alliance?

Cynthia • I was introduced to the group. This was timely as I had recently retired and was unsure of my new direction. Climate Action was a passionate concern and this



new group provided the direction that I was looking for.

What attracted you to qCA?

Cynthia • The above original meeting led to the formation of Powell River Climate Action Society. Our name was changed several years ago to honour Tla'amin and to indicate our desire to connect with allies in the struggle. I feel an obligation to take care of our planet given the climate emergency/catastrophe.

What part of the work is the most satisfying?

Cynthia • Apart from working with like-minded others; organizing great events, hosting speakers, producing pamphlets, and feeling like I am making a contribution is what interests and inspires me.

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

Cynthia • Lack of funding and attracting young people are a challenge. I also find it puzzling why so many of our



LEARNING AND ACTION: qathet Climate Alliance volunteer Cynthia Barnes (above) hopes to help locals turn their care and concern into meaningful change. Left, on March 27, MP Rachel Blaney introduced a Private Members Bill to ban polystyrene foam in docks and other marine infrastructure. qCA is promoting this ban and other actions, on the group's Facebook page.

leaders seemingly do not care about the future of their children and grandchildren.

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

Cynthia • Many of us in Canada have enormous privilege, but we will likely be among the last to experience the most extreme effects of climate change. The City of Powell River has acknowledged that we have a climate emergency. We welcome partners, who will share our passion and our work. We meet on Sundays at the Recreation Complex, and we can be reached at climateactionpr@gmail.com. We welcome new members and supporters.

How has qCA changed your life?

Cynthia • I have made and met really good and inspiring friends. I have learned a lot and have become more and more aware of our responsibility to our children and to the planet. ♻️

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EARTH BRIEFS

Trash Bash is Back: May 13th

After a three-year pause, Trash Bash is returning. The annual volunteer-powered clean up of illegally dumped trash from our backwoods, alleys and shorelines has been enthusiastically supported by residents and local businesses since its inception in 2008.

Trash Bash is hosted by the qathet Regional District in collaboration with the City of Powell River and collects between six and 17 tonnes of illegally dumped trash annually. The most common items found being tires, scrap metal, appliances, mattresses, foam floats from docks and aquaculture, and yard and garden waste. All of these items have free recycling programs that are available locally which makes their disposal all the more needless.

Residents are invited to clean up the illegal dump site of their choice at anytime and to bring the collected materials to the staging grounds on Saturday, May 13th at the Willingdon Beach gravel field between 9:30 and 3 pm. You can also help the community prepare for this event by downloading the Trash Out app and adding to the illegal dumping map of the area when you're out enjoying our trails and beaches.

Contact info@LetsTalkTrash.ca for more information. No registration is needed to participate.

– Ingalisa Burns

Biochar Potential in qathet

We have some problems (no kidding!); GHG (greenhouse gas) concentrations are rising, there's an overabundance of slash and dead biomass (especially "ladder" fuels), and our summers are getting hotter. The fire danger is acute, and insect infestations, land use such as clearcutting and converting forested areas for other uses, as well as forest fires have become so extensive in recent years that BC's forests, which were once important carbon sinks, now have become net emitters of carbon to the atmosphere.

One option to help address some of these problems is to use pyrolysis (burning in low oxygen, high heat environments) to produce biochar.

Ron Berezan has been producing biochar for use in enriching soil for many years (see Ron's site, thegoodearth.co for lots more info on biochar.)

Another qathet resident who is excited to produce biochar is Laural Gagnon, who emphasizes the potential for biochar to sequester carbon for thousands of years. Together with her husband, she built a basic double retort biochar kiln, in hopes of helping people in their neighbourhood dispose of woody waste in this eco-friendly manner.

There are different ways to produce biochar, ranging from simply burning woody biomass in pits or trenches to municipal generators that produce syn gas and possibly even electricity, as well as biochar.

Members of the qathet Climate Alliance board are convinced that biochar production and use can achieve important benefits such as increasing retention of water and nutrients in the soil, reducing soil acidity; hosting beneficial soil biology; improving the physical structure of soil; uses in soil and water decontamination; contributing to lowering GHG



OCEAN PLASTICS MAKE CRABS CRABBY: Pencil Crab (2022) mural by qathet artist Luke Ramsey. Artist statement: "This kelp/spider crab mural speaks to how there are creatures of the sea that may appear scary, but as we understand their place and importance to the environment, we can appreciate their beauty and significance. To look at what they pick up and give back. The pencil legs represent writing/drawing about the consumer impact on oceans. Sharpening such tools, and using them to create visions for a more ecological relationship with nature and environment. This mural was commissioned by the Let's Talk Trash team. It is located at the qathet Regional District Ocean Plastic Depot, Sunshine Coast, BC. Painted with discarded/left-over paint. Funding made possible through the Ocean Legacy Foundation and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. *Photo courtesy of the Let's Talk Trash Team.*

emissions and preventing the release of toxic pollutants in smoke.

We encourage the forest industry to explore its potential. We hope those responsible for dealing with municipal waste will look into options for converting woody waste to biochar. We encourage local residents to avoid open burning as it often produces toxic smoke, including carcinogenic (cancer-causing) compounds.

There is some good "how to" information on the internet. qCA member Jan Slakov has experience converting woody debris that was a fire hazard into biochar and is happy to share what she knows. You can reach her at janslavkov@proton.me or 604-223-9328.

– Jan Slakov

Resource Recovery Centre: Opening Summer 2024

The Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) has entered its final phase – civil works and construction of the facility. The qathet Regional District's soon to be one-stop-drop recycling depot and transfer station will feature the region's Ocean Plastic Depot, a free store, and an education centre.

This innovative facility is part of the qathet Regional District's 'Working Towards Zero Waste' philosophy which informs its plan for local waste reduction and management, as outlined in the Provincially approved Solid Waste Management Plan.



Located at the newly remediated 'old incinerator' site on Marine Avenue across from the Willingdon Beach campgrounds, the site will also offer public amenities and green space.

The RRC will be the hub for recycling and waste collection in the region and is anticipated to open in the summer of 2024.

Waste diversion for local reuse will be key to the facility's purpose and operations. Waste separation, sorting and diversion create green jobs and grow the local economy by preparing reusable and recyclable materials for reuse and repurposing. The RRC is intended to provide lower cost tipping fees for source separated materials (i.e., clean wood waste) and facilitate access to these valuable resources to support a local circular economy – increasing social, environmental, and economic opportunities.

View the projects' progress through video and aerial photos and learn more about the site's history on the qathet Regional District's website, qathet.ca.

– Tai Uhlmann

From Ocean Plastic into Park Benches

The qathet Regional District opened Canada's first ocean plastic recycling depot in October of 2020. This exciting addition to our shoreline community was made possible through a partnership with the Ocean Legacy Foundation and funding from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Since opening its doors, this depot has diverted over 100,000 kg (100 tonnes) of reusable and recyclable marine debris and used marine gear that would otherwise have gone to a landfill.

Much of the material received at the ocean plastic depot was once used in the aquaculture industry, including styrofoam flotation blocks, tires filled with foam, buoys, hard plastics, rope and netting. All material that is collected at the qathet depot is consolidated and shipped to Ocean Legacy's Plastic Pollution Emergency Response Facility – the first centre of its kind in Canada to be designed specifically for processing and recycling marine debris from shoreline cleanups.

A new chapter in this story is the creation of Legacy Plastic – plastic pellets made from 100% post-consumer recycled plastic recovered during ocean, shoreline, and marine equipment cleanups. When you participate in cleaning up shorelines and use the ocean plastic depot, your collected and divert-

ed materials are being re-manufactured into durable non-structural plastic lumber, benches, fence posts, park benches, patio furniture, kayak rudders, and more.

Transforming what some might consider garbage into a durable product made entirely from recovered marine plastic is an inspiring way to deal with the realities of ocean pollution and participate in the plastic circular economy while educating consumers about the impacts of plastics on our environment.

To become an ocean plastic depot member and receive your orientation, contact Let's Talk Trash by emailing info@LetsTalkTrash.ca or calling 604-485-2260.

– Abby McLennan

Moving the (Salmon) Stakes

Pacific Salmon and their supporters are at another crossroads, and if the push for preservation isn't forward, we are moving backwards. The Powell River Salmon Society has been working tirelessly over the past 40 years to ensure a healthy salmon ecosystem and viable fishing opportunities, frequently against strong headwinds. Some of their hard work and collaborations are now paying off.

The PRSS is excited to share the incoming of their new Education Coordinator. This position has been made possible by Work BC's Job Creation Program. This will help the PRSS put a stronger focus towards Education, a key component in ensuring strong salmon returns and a generation of salmon champions. These education efforts will expand upon SalmonEducation.org as well as other educational events, such as the Salmon Education Expo and incorporating their Willingdon Creek Enhancement efforts into Earth Day through a Fry Day event where the public is invited to release salmon fry back into the wild.

These educational efforts are continued in the local schools where PRSS has again teamed up with several teachers, adding incubation tanks into their classrooms for their students to follow the salmon's life cycle. This development can also be viewed on the salmoneducation.org livestream. The livestream is the only one of its kind where you can see salmon egg and alevin development in real time.

Classes who took part in the life cycle incubation tanks will come together in April to release their tank's salmon fry back into their spawning creeks. This will coincide with Earth Month which houses a number of exciting events for the Salmon Society, such as an event in connection with the Public Library where children are invited to learn about salmon as an important keystone species and create an earth friendly craft while doing so.

This leads into the Salmon Society's big Fry Day Event (Friday, April 21st from 3:30 to 5 pm at Willingdon Beach Park) where the community is invited to join in celebrating Earth Day by releasing salmon fry into Willingdon Creek.

Several other organizations will also be attending and setting up booths in celebration of this important day. There will be activities for children and interesting informative booths for people of all ages to enjoy. Make sure to come on down to Willingdon Beach on Friday, April 21st from 3:30 pm-5 pm to celebrate Earth Day with the Powell River Salmon Society!

– Chantal Dunning

Hot news @ AfterGlow!

1. New Location

On April 4, Holly & the gang open in the same building as Bliss Spa & Suites and Sublime Fashions: 4552 Willingdon.



2. New Products

Nuda Canada's luxe line of self-tanners and skin care products.



3. New Looks for Spring

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Celebrate National Poetry Month
at the library with contests for kids and youth, workshop, and poetry circle!



The League of Canadian Poets have declared the theme to be "Joy / la Joie" – what brings you joy?

Muck Around in Poems workshop for Kids
Monday, April 17th, 3:30–4:30pm.

Kids and Youth Poetry contests
(categories: 6-8, 9-11, 12-18) with prizes!
See website for details.

Poetry Circle with Amira Abouelalla
Thursday, April 13th and April 27th,
4:30–6:00pm

info@prpl.ca
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prpl.ca

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HELP US EXPLORE THE FUTURE OF THE BENCHLANDS

RSVP at www.powellriverbenchlands.com to join us at the event. Visit our website for more engagement opportunities including a webinar and online survey.



Open House - Tuesday, April 25th
Drop-in anytime from 4pm - 8pm
Powell River Recreational Complex,
Cedar Room, 5001 Joyce Ave

Couverdon

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.

-
_____ **sink^{wə}** Big, open ocean
-
_____ **ǰεǰε** Tree, or relative
-
_____ **ʔεʔajεmaθot** To heal yourself or change your life
-
_____ **čεgət** To help
-
_____ **haǰigən** To be worried

ʔayʔajuθəm orthography

ƒəʔamən | kómoks | χ^wεmaƒk^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
č	ch
č̣	popping c
ǰ	dg
ǰ̣	popping k
k ^w	kw
ǰ̣ ^w	rounded, popping k
ɬ	Breathy L sound
ǰ̣	popping p
ǰ̣̣	popping q

q ^w	rounded q
ǰ̣ ^w	rounded, popping q
š	sh
ṭ	popping t
t ^θ	t-th
ṭ ^θ	Popping t-th
θ	th
x ^w	wh (like in who)
χ	Hhhh
χ ^w	Hhhhwh
χ̣	tl
χ̣̣	popping tl
ʔ	glottal stop: uh oh



The price is right. For right now.

1. BC needs way more homes built

In the next three years, BC will welcome about 220,000 new permanent residents and about 60,000 folks moving from other provinces. The BC Real Estate Association is advocating for a building boom to stabilize home prices.

2. House prices are still holding here

This February's single residential home prices fell 3% over last February's, to \$687,686. Homes are sitting on the market much longer, though. Last February, the average was 33 days. This February, they're at 100 days.

3. Get in

The most affordable home in qathet at press time was a two-bedroom trailer in Wildwood listed for \$139,900. The most affordable condo was a two-bedroom at \$269,000 in Cranberry. The most affordable single family home was a three-bedroom on Texada at \$349,000.

- PW



Real Estate in qathet

A tale of two co-buys

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

Do something weird.

That's 460 Realtor Austyn MacKinnon's advice to first-time home buyers who are navigating a crazy market like qathet's. She should know. She and her husband did something weird to get into the market back in 2014: they co-bought an \$800,000 house with acquaintances.

"There are so many obstacles" to getting into the market, said Austyn, pointing out that in the past year, less than 5% of qathet homes have sold to first-timers. "But if you're dedicated to making it work, and you're willing to do things that other people might not consider, you'll probably be able to buy."

Co-buying a house was weird back in 2014 – especially the way Austyn did it (more on that in a few paragraphs). But in the years since then, as real estate has become completely unaffordable in Canada's major cities,

mortgage lenders, real estate agents and nonprofits have stepped up to help people make collective buying easier and less strange. Rooted in million-dollar-shack-Vancouver, for example, Collaborative Home Ownership BC sprung up in 2018. Part co-buying match-making service, part advocacy organization, you'll often hear COHO BC spokespeople on the news extolling the wisdom of collective ownership for both financial and social reasons – all across the province.

Here in qathet, homes became wildly unaffordable for average-earning families within just the last few years (see chart on the next page). There's no escaping the fact that currently, a mortgage on an average home here, for an average-earning family, will absorb 92% of their monthly income (see chart, again). That's without paying for insurance, heat, electricity, or – oh the luxury – food.

Homes are so expensive now – truly, madly, deeply unaffordable – and no

One was strictly business.
The other is an intentional community.
Both versions of shared mortgages
achieved the same goal:
getting people into the housing market
who might otherwise be shut out.



Rob Villani



Stacey Fletcher



Katya Buck

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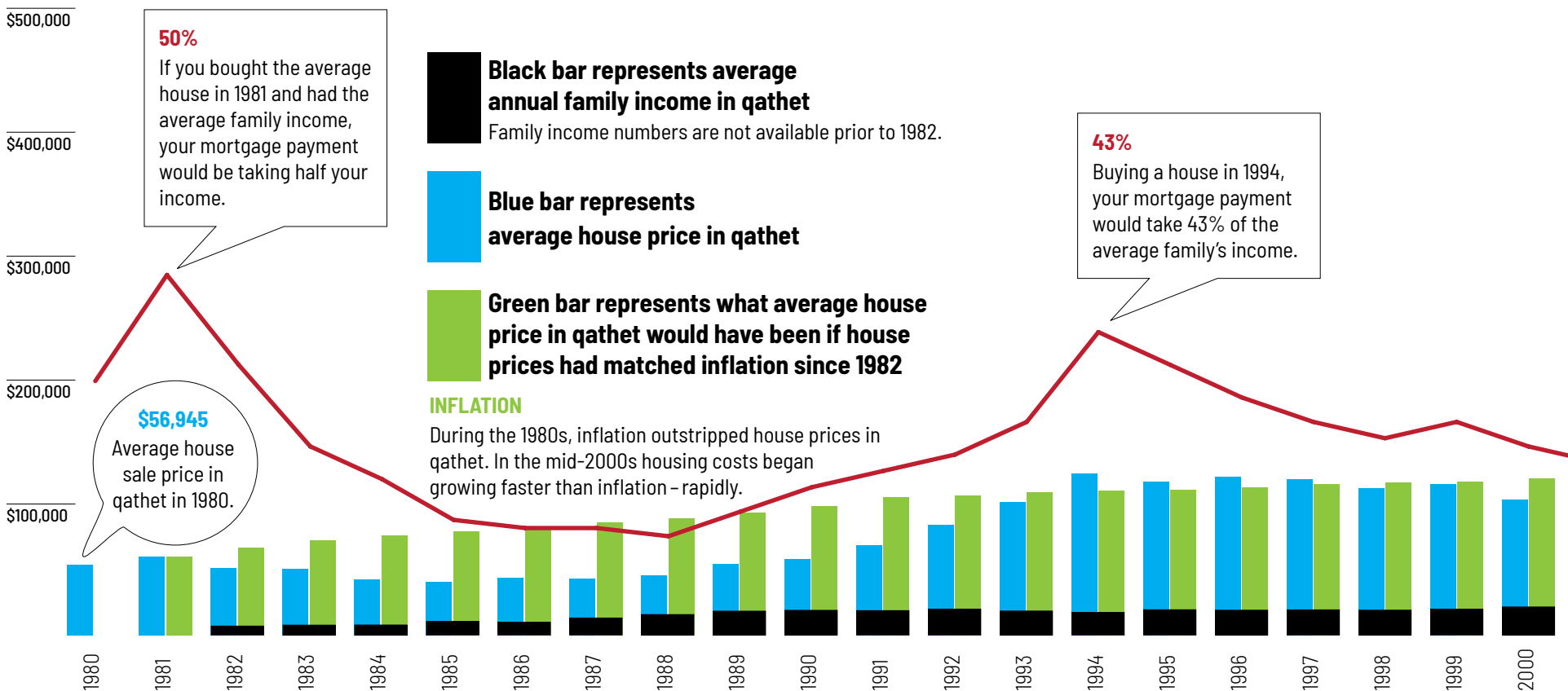
\$300,000

\$200,000

\$100,000

HOUSING PRICES, INFLATION & INCOME

Yes, it really is hard to buy a house now. Even harder than in the early 80s.



one is predicting a return to pre-pandemic prices. What are first-time buyers to do?

Co-buying is, of course, not a new concept here. Land-shares in Lund and on Texada Island date back more than 50 years (in fact, there's a new association for established and emerging communities: the qathet Community Alliance Association, with four members and growing).

At least 200 local families are living multi-generationally – that is, with three or more generations in the same house – an arrangement the Federal government recently announced an encouraging tax credit to support.

And, Austyn – who moved up from North Vancouver during the pandemic – is offering locals her expertise for buyers to replicate what she did back in 2014.

Here's what she did: as a renter, just after she and her husband got married, the bank wouldn't lend them enough money to buy a place with a yard. The couple wanted a yard. So, they organized a sushi

dinner with a couple in their friend group who were also trying to buy into North Van's super hot market. Importantly, Austyn notes, they were not looking to build community or share a kitchen or livingroom. Instead, this was a business deal. Both couples had a financial and real estate goal, the key to achieving it was to share a mortgage – at least for a while.

At the time, Austyn was working in sales for a high-end car dealership and didn't have much time to look at houses. The other couple found one and the group had to act fast - Austyn trusted her husband's assessment that everything wrong with it could be fixed. Horrified, she first saw it in person on move-in day, with its low ceilings, diagonal door frames, and generally crumbly appearance. Remember: this was an \$800,000 home. Mortgage payments alone would be more than \$4,100 a month, over 25 years.

Austyn and her husband took the basement, sealed it off from upstairs, and put their energy into renovating it. The other couple lived upstairs. For six years, they shared a yard and some utility bills, and built their equity, credit and families in sync.

If qathet's economy kept pace with the early 1980s: families should earn \$73,563; houses should cost \$151,640

If only! What the research for the above chart taught us is that collectively, we're under-earning by quite a bit. Average family income here was \$57,420 at last count, in 2020. According to the Bank of Canada's inflation calculator, if wages had kept pace with inflation since 1982, the average family should be earning \$73,563 this year.

To rub salt in this wound, families are earning significantly less today even with more two-earners (plus side-hustles) than they were 40 years ago with more single incomes.

Average houses, if they'd kept pace with inflation, should cost well under \$200,000. Instead, they're three or four times that: \$659,436.

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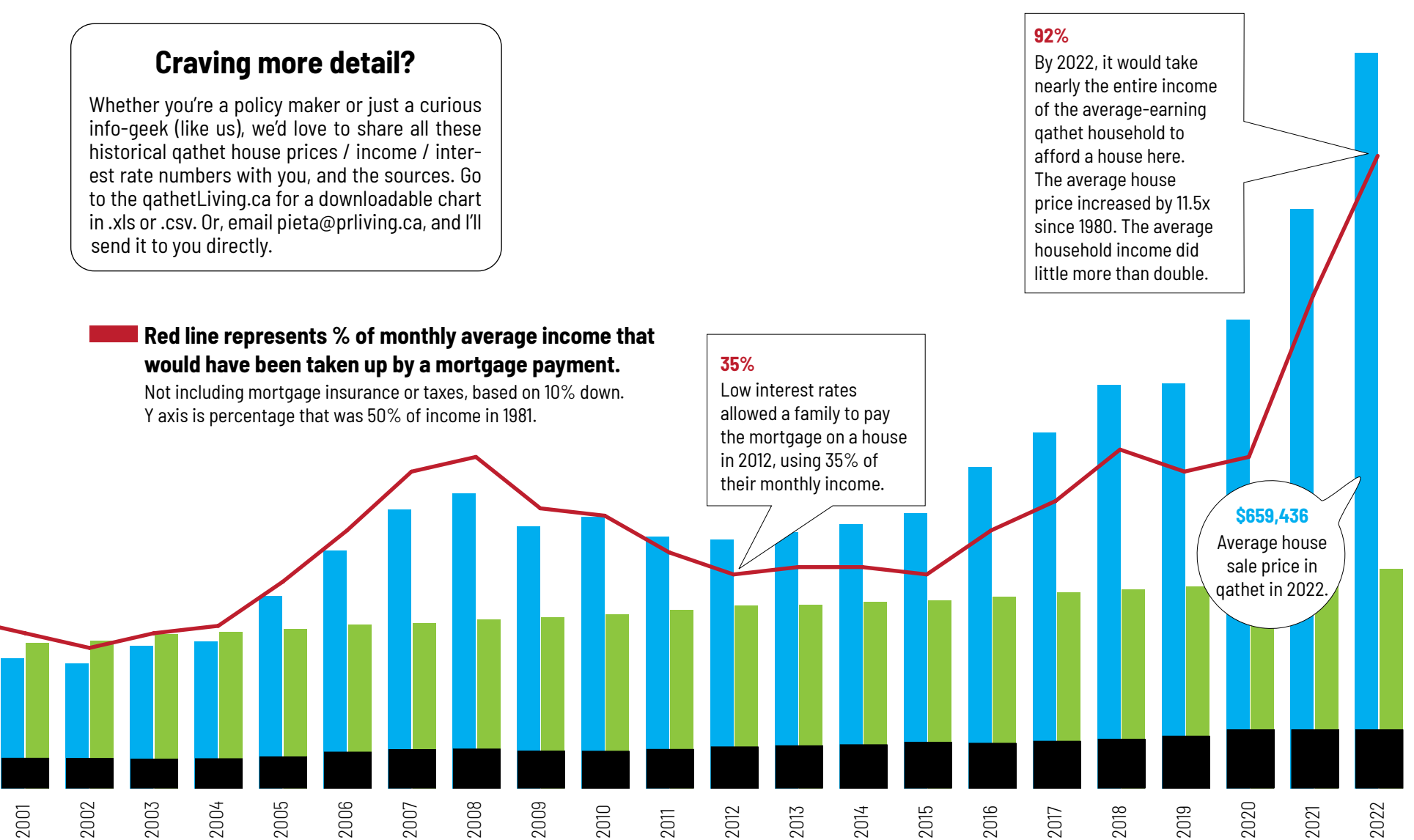
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Craving more detail?

Whether you're a policy maker or just a curious info-geek (like us), we'd love to share all these historical qathet house prices / income / interest rate numbers with you, and the sources. Go to the qathetLiving.ca for a downloadable chart in .xls or .csv. Or, email pieta@prliving.ca, and I'll send it to you directly.

Red line represents % of monthly average income that would have been taken up by a mortgage payment.

Not including mortgage insurance or taxes, based on 10% down. Y axis is percentage that was 50% of income in 1981.



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- Kelly Humphrey



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Then COVID came. Both couples – now with children - wanted to move; Austyn and her husband had decided to relocate to Powell River where they have family, and their co-owners wanted to move to a swish townhouse in North Van.

“COVID really worked in our favour,” said Austyn. “We got to buy twice the house in Powell River for a quarter of the price of the North Van house.” In other words, her real estate co-buy worked exactly as she had planned.

Austyn’s advice is simple: if you think this is an arrangement you could live with, “pick someone, pick a place, and do it. Even a year or two later, even if it didn’t work out, you can take your equity. You don’t have to stay committed forever – it’s just a way of furthering your life.”

Shop around for a mortgage, she advises, as some traditional lenders balk at mortgages with more than one family unit on the paperwork. That’s left room for other kinds of lenders to make all kinds of co-buying work for people – make sure it works for you, she said.

Austyn also suggested that for her, a thick wall and a bit of social distance made for a good co-buy situation. Had they shared space, or been good friends or close family, it could have turned ugly.

STARTING OUT SMALL: With acquaintances, Austyn MacKinnon and Jimmy O’Neill co-bought this aging North Vancouver house in 2014 for \$800,000 (this photo is from Halloween 2017). The compromise allowed both couples to gain enough equity to, six years later, buy separate homes more suited to their families’ goals.



“It’s not all roses and rainbows, although there are plenty of those moments too. Amazing things happen in community that would never happen living alone.”

- Jacqueline Huddleston

That’s not true for everyone looking to co-buy real estate, of course. At the other extreme from Austyn’s story is Hearthstone Village Cooperative, one of the region’s newest co-buy scenarios.

It is an intentional community, explained one of the cooperative’s founders, Jacqueline Huddleston. There’s shared land, shared decision-making (through sociocracy), shared finances, and the members share their lives.

“A lot of people idealize living in an intentional community but don’t have any actual experience,” Jacqueline said. “This is why we ask people to live on-site for four to six months before they become

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members. It's the only way to see if we're a good fit with each other."

As an example of the closeness of this community, Jacquie explained that her husband Mark Huddlestone died at the beginning of COVID – in a MAID ceremony at the beach, with the members of the village around him, including children and elders. Jacqueline recalls that just 10 days later, the community welcomed its first baby, with most of the members

in the room where Sebastian was born.

"Between Mark dying and COVID, if I hadn't been living in this community, I would have been a hermit," Jacqueline said. "But as treasurer and membership coordinator I was forced to interact, and it was a good thing. It helped me through the worst of my grieving."

The original group that started Hearthstone began meeting twice a month in 2015. By 2018, they had

AMAZING THINGS CAN HAPPEN IN COMMUNITY:

Above, Hearthstone Village Cooperative's common house, site of meetings, potlucks, celebrations and more for the (currently) six member households. Right, Hearthstone founder - the original visionary - Mark Huddlestone with member Lana Joy Parra and child Sebastian, at opposite ends of life (2020).

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“Sometimes in life, you’ve got to do the crazy things.”

- Austyn MacKinnon

split into what became Hearthstone Village Cooperative and Blueberry Commons Farm Cooperative, who bought land in Wildwood, more suited to their vision of food production.

Hearthstone was able to buy land with a mortgage from Vancity Credit Union – the founding members provided a large deposit, and remain the guarantors. Each new family buys in with a ‘foundation share,’ and then builds their own house.

To leave the community, they must request to exit and the Cooperative has up to three years to pay them back their foundation share. Members can expedite this process by helping to find a new member to join.

Six households currently are a part of Hearthstone Village; there’s approval for eight homes on site, and the membership has begun the process of applying to the Regional District for up to 16 homes. Bordering Eagle River south of town, the village is 42 acres of forest, ponds and clearings.

“It’s a lot of work,” said Jacqueline. “We take our responsibilities very seriously. Whenever you have more than one household making decisions about anything, it becomes complicated. You have to show up at meetings, compromise, listen to others, and be open to the idea that you might not know best. You

have to be interested in others. It’s a learning process. “It’s not all roses and rainbows, although there are plenty of those moments too. Amazing things happen in community that would never happen living alone.”

Because living in community takes so much skill and patience, Jacqueline argues, it is not for those who are seeking to heal themselves, or fill a void. You have to arrive with a healthy sense of self. People with emotional maturity and self-esteem. The other skills can be developed if you’re willing to roll up your sleeves.”

Between the two extremes – Austyn’s strict co-buy deal and Jacqueline’s generational intentional community – there are plenty of homebuyers across qathet and BC trying out new models of sharing costs.

Is it ideal? It’s not as easy as just buying a home with your average income, as most people did in the 1980s. But we’re not returning to the economy of the 1980s anytime soon, and co-buying is a way for first-time buyers to get into the market and move forward with their lives and their finances.

“Sometimes in life, you’ve got to do the crazy things,” said Austyn.

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| MADE THE MOVE

Resistance is fertile

When not in her garden or engaged in activism, Jan Slakov is often on one of her bikes. She's grateful to have the opportunity to work as a teacher on call, since moving here last May.

Over time, she realized she's a conscientious objector to military taxation, as now it's our resources, more than our bodies that are conscripted. And she finds inspiration and hope in what some call "the Indigenous worldview" or "the kinship worldview."

Why did you choose to move to qathet?

Jan • Two things: When my mother died, we sold the family property, so I needed to find a new home. And my daughter had moved here and loves it, and I sensed I would too. So I made the move!

When? Where from?

Jan • I moved up last May, from Salt Spring Island.

What surprised you about qathet once you moved here?

Jan • It's not just me who is blown away by all the trails volunteers have built and maintained. I'm also struck by all the parking lot space.

What made you decide to move to qathet?

Jan • On one of my visits, I picked up an issue of *qathet Living* magazine and it

confirmed my sense that this community would be a good one for me. It's also a real plus that the Tla'amin Nation is such a presence and there are others here who care deeply about respecting the original people of this land and their teachings and ways of living.

Where is your favourite place in qathet?

Jan • So many... but I suppose a key place is my garden. It's symbolic of the wonderful welcome I've had here, that it's currently being hosted by five or six generous people/families, since I needed to move it before the closing date of the home I'm buying in Van Anda.

How did you first hear about qathet?

Jan • Way back, through friends, but more recently, through my daughter.

What would make qathet a nicer community?

Jan • In general, the more parks and the more people using active transportation, the healthier communities are. Not only that, when communities become safer for pedestrians, cyclists, etc, this helps reduce crime levels.

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

Jan • Salt Spring has this online "exchange" where people can sell or trade things, find work and workers, etc. Here, people seem



CYCLING, TEACHING & GARDENING AROUND QATHET: Jan Slakov.

to rely on Facebook for that service.

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

Jan • Finding a place with garden space that I could afford was challenging. Enticing my daughter to eat the (admittedly "different") food I make is another challenge.

If you were mayor, what would you do?

Jan • Of course I'd try to use community resources wisely. I think I'd work with others in qathet Community Justice and the Tla'amin First Nation to engage people in the kinds of circle processes that can help people work together for the common good.

What are qathet's best assets?

Jan • The sense of community, the forests, clean water and so much more—may we never take such things for granted!

What is your greatest extravagance?

Jan • What comes to mind is a 2017 plane trip to Nova Scotia, where I used to live.

Which talent or superpower would you most like to have?

Jan • It would be wonderful to get humanity living in ways that respected nature's needs and limits. A great talent to that end would be the ability to use musical instruments to bring people together, to "surround hate and force it to surrender" like Pete Seeger was able to do. **PL**

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Civic Pride

Advice for Visitors

Groceries & Home Products

Best neighbourhood in the City of Powell River

Best neighbourhood in qathet (but outside the City)

Best non-elected community leader

Best politician

Best disruptor

Best attempt at reconciliation

Best place to work

Best place to learn

Best place to blow off steam

Best kept secret

Best dressed person

Best dressed yard - garden or art

Best dressed storefront

Best dressed pet

Best reason your family & friends come to visit you here

Best must-see attraction

Best festival or event

Best hotel or B&B

Best campground - for relaxation

Best campground - for a good time

Best local product to take camping

Best way to get around town

Best beach

Best hike (under an hour)

Best trail to cycle for beginners

Best trail for the fearless rider

Best thing to do with kids

Best souvenir - paid

Best souvenir - free

Best realtor

Best reason to move here

Best reason to stay away

Best grocery store for atmosphere

Best general price on groceries

Best grocery flyer / in-store sales

Best line-up experience

Best produce

Best butcher

Best bread (store and item)

Best dessert (store and item)

Best grocery store hot food to go

Best small grocery / specialty food store

Best convenience store

Best liquor store

Best farm gate

Best booth at the Farmers' Markets for produce

Best local seafood seller

Best pet food source

Best locally-made soaps or body care products

Food & Restaurants

Best take-out / delivery

Best coffee / espresso bar

Best coffee scene

Best meal for under \$10

Best pizza

Best fish & chips

Best salad

Best burger

Best steak

Best appetizer

Best cocktail

Best dessert

Best vegetarian or vegan

Best restaurant for a splurge

Best kid-friendly restaurant

Best restaurant for atmosphere

Best booth at the Farmers' Markets for prepared food

Best patio

Best place to drink

Best place to recover from a hangover

Retail & Service

Best gas station

Best gardening store

Best clothing

Best thrift store

Best salon

Best financial institution

Best insurance

Best mechanic

Best sports and / or outdoors store

Best non-profit

Arts

Best new-ish book by a local author

Best visual artist

Best local band / musician

Best crafter or artisan

Best craft event

Best piece of public art

Best art gallery

Best live theatre from the 2022-2023 season

Best place to watch live music

Health & Wellness

Best mental health solution

Best health or wellness practitioner

Best massage clinic

Best pharmacy

Best medical marijuana

Best work-out

Best yoga

Who are you?

Name

Email

Phone number

Virtual Life

Best local Facebook page for a discussion

Best local Facebook page for outrageous debate

Best Facebooker - for entertainment

Best Facebooker - for politics

Best local Instagram account

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Holy Days

About one third of qathet residents are practicing Christians, according to the latest Census. Holy Week and Easter are their most important religious holidays.

“What will people find at church this Easter that they will not find anywhere else?”

Father Patrick Teeporten

Assumption Catholic Church Westview & Sacred Heart Tla'amin

I immediately thought of Easter eggs. I'm not sure if my brothers and sisters, other Christian ministers of our coastal paradise, are also organizing egg hunts, but I'll claim what we Roman Catholics call “culpable ignorance” on that note.

Easter eggs: the symbol of new life and hope which the Resurrection is all about. Having just been in Vegreville, Alberta last December I got to see the giant Easter egg, the Vegreville Pysanka. Even Elizabeth II, Princes Edward and Andrew saw it in 1978. Yes, we are having a large Easter egg hunt after our Easter Mass at 10 am; and we will be praying for Ukraine at that Mass – home of this beautiful tradition of the decorated egg, the Pysanka. God bless all those of Ukrainian descent on our coast, especially those recently arrived in qathet.

Rev. Paula Sampson

Faith Lutheran Church

That all depends on what people are seeking.

If people seek hope in spite of despair, love in spite of hate, life in spite of death, then a church's Easter celebrations will provide those Christ-centred challenging assurances. However, a mindful Christianity should respect, as it has not always, the other religious and spiritual traditions which also offer hope, love and life in ways that are important to the cultures which formed them.

If people seek a way to serve others, Easter-inspired outreach will offer opportunities based on the distinctive ministry of Jesus and often in partnership with other groups who share a justice imperative

If people seek a place to thank God for the gifts and wonders of creation in springtime, Faith Lutheran will be happy to welcome them.



Come home for Holy Week

Sacred Heart • Assumption

Holy Week at Assumption Westview:

Holy Thursday, April 6
7 pm • Mass of the Lord's Supper
Confessions following mass
Adoration at altar of repose until 10pm

Good Friday, April 7
9am to 10am • Confessions
3pm • Solemn Liturgy of the Passion. Confessions following the Passion.

Holy Saturday, April 8
11am to 12pm • Confessions
8:30pm • Easter Vigil

All are welcome

Father Patrick Teeporten • 604-485-5300 



Celebrate Easter with Faith Lutheran Church



Easter Sunday
Holy Communion
9:30am, April 9
6932 Crofton Street
All are welcome



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604-487-0889 • 604-218-6245 

This space provided by Powell River Health-Care Auxiliary



Holy Week and Easter Services

St. David & St. Paul Anglican Church

April 2 **Palm/Passion Sunday**
10 am • Eucharist

April 6 **Maundy Thursday**
7 pm • Foot Washing Eucharist

April 7 **Good Friday**
Noon • Eucharist

April 8 **Easter Vigil**
8:30pm • Eucharist

April 9 **Easter Sunday**
10 am • Eucharist

Everyone Welcome

604-483-4230
www.stdavidandstpaul.com
Sycamore Commons, Townsite
6310 Sycamore Street 

Pastors Katie and Sam Alescio

Living Water Foursquare Church

I would say HOPE, but even walking outside in our beautiful community and noticing a small plant poking up through concrete or snow stirs hope.

I would say PEACE, but sitting at the beach and watching the waves roll in brings with it a feeling of peace.

I would say LOVE, but a special moment with a friend or loved one can make one feel so valued and loved. I will say that Living Water Foursquare Church is a vibrant, authentic, faith-filled community of people who are all on a journey together.

We stand together, celebrating our risen and victorious Saviour, Jesus Christ, and everything He is doing in our lives. If you were to walk through the doors of Living Water Foursquare Church I'm sure you would say, as many others have, "This is not what I thought church would be like!"

So join us, come find what you can't find anywhere else!

The Rev Lucy Price

St. David & St. Paul Anglican Church

Jesus and his followers are ready to welcome you! The Easter Vigil Service on Saturday night at 8:30 pm, when


we light the first fire of Easter. All are welcome and included at our church. Come and see.

Communications Ministry

Powell River United Church

This Easter, people visiting the Powell River United Church will find a unique and welcoming spiritual community. The Powell River United Church prides itself on being an inclusive and diverse congregation that values everyone, regardless of their background, beliefs, or lifestyle.

At the Powell River United Church, visitors will find a warm and friendly atmosphere where they can feel comfortable and accepted. The church offers a range of programs and services throughout the year, including Kids United, Meditation Classes, and outreach programs and events that help support the local community.

This Easter, the Powell River United Church will be hosting a range of traditional yet modern services, including Easter Sunday worship, which will include music, prayer, and a message of hope and renewal. Visitors can expect to find a sense of community, belonging, and spiritual fulfillment at the Powell River United Church. All are welcome with love. 

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

April 4

Memorial of Jesus' Death

7:30 pm & 9 pm Lord's Evening Meal at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses.

April 6

First Day of Passover

Maunder Thursday

7 pm Assumption, Mass of the Lord's Supper, confessions following Mass, adoration at Alter of Repose until 10 pm

7 pm St. David & St Paul Anglican. Foot Washing.

April 7

Good Friday

9 am to 10 am, Assumption. Confessions.

3 pm Assumption, Solemn Liturgy of the Passion. Confessions following the Passion.

11 am Powell River United Church.

Noon St. David & St Paul Anglican. Eucharist.

Schools are closed. Stat holiday.

April 8

Holy Saturday

11 am to noon, Assumption. Confessions.

8:30 pm, Assumption. Easter Vigil.

8:30 pm St. David & St Paul Anglican. Easter Vigil.

April 9

Easter

10 am Assumption. Mass

Noon Sacred Heart. Mass

9 am Living Water. Easter Service.

11 am Living Water. Easter Service.

9:30 am Faith Lutheran. Holy Communion.

11 am Powell River United Church.

10 am St. David & St Paul Anglican. Eucharist.

April 10

Easter Monday

Schools are closed.

April 13

Last Day of Passover

April 14

Orthodox Good Friday

April 16

Orthodox Easter



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EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

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6932 Crofton St.
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April 2 Palm Sunday 11am Communion

April 7 Good Friday 11am In-person only

April 9 Easter Sunday 11am

All Are Welcome

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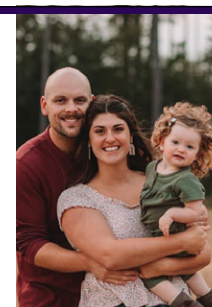
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Celebrate Easter with us

Easter Sunday Services at 9am & 11am

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← Pastors Sam and Katie
Associate Pastors Cody & Sydnee →



Living Water Foursquare Church • www.livingwaterpr.com



A GROWING CONCERN

Out-of-the-box at Boxwood Cottage Gardens

Diana Wood has lived in qathet for about 50 years. For the first 15 years, she lived at Hummingbird Cove and had a half acre vegetable garden. When she moved to Westview, she started her second garden, but this time included ornamental plants.

Ten years later she moved again to Boxwood Cottage Gardens on Westview Avenue. After clearing the blackberry and alder on the almost two acres of property, Diana started landscaping and planting her third garden, “and this will be my last garden.”

The two existing houses on these properties have become now known as Boxwood Cottage and Boxwood Suite – a unique property in the heart of Powell River. For years it offered short-term rentals, and now offers only long-term rentals.

How did you start gardening?

Diana • When I was about nine years old, I watched farmers plant rice and vegetables and watched the plants grow and be harvested. The whole process was like magic. One day I asked my mother for seeds while she was in the kitchen. She handed me what was on the cutting board, Cayenne and Luffa seeds. I planted them both. They grew fast and lush in the sub-tropical weather of Taipei.

Tell us about your current garden.

Diana • My current garden is on two acres, a double lot located on the lower part of Westview Avenue. The first thing I planted after the land was cleared of blackberry vines and alders were fruit trees and vegetables, followed by ornamental gardens. A greenhouse and several cold frames were built soon after.

I grew apple, apple pear, cherry and peach trees. Grapes, kiwi, fig, blueberry, raspberry, boysenberry, and strawberry were soon planted afterwards. The existing pear, walnut and hazelnut trees were planted by the previous owner.

In my vegetable gardens, I grow artichokes, rhubarb, shallots, garlic, and all the vegetables I enjoy eating, and all the herbs I like to use in my cooking. The greenhouse is for growing tomato plants and for propagating ornamental and vegetable seedlings.

What have been your biggest gardening successes?

Diana • I guess my biggest successes are turning a blackberry infested land into a beautiful, functional garden and starting the Powell River Spring Garden Tours.

A Community Garden that I started needed a fence and a watering system. A friend suggested raising money by opening gardens for tours-following the method used by Des Kennedy on Denman Island.

In 1997 we started the “Powell River Spring Garden Tour.” I called my friends who were passionate gardeners to enter their gardens. The proceeds from the tickets we sold went towards “Beautifying and greening Powell River,” and for providing Scholarships for students entering university.

The Garden Tour has continued since, except for the last three years during COVID. This year the Garden Tour will be on June 11th.

What am I proud of? My friends, who have the same vision and passion that have allowed us to work together year after year to promote gardening and to create beauty in Powell River.

Diana Woods’ advice for new gardeners is:

- Locate the sunniest spot away from trees for the vegetable garden.
- Practice organic methods to enrich the soil in order to feed the plants.
- Mulch after transplanting.
- Weed before the seeds are formed on the plants. Mulch thickly to kill the weeds.
- Build raised beds for easier planting and harvesting.
- Store seeds in the fridge to keep them viable for a long time.
- Garden with love and patience.

What are your greatest gardening challenges?

Diana • My greatest challenge is maintaining the thousands of plants that I have planted during the past 28 years.

What kinds of gardening stuff do you invest in?

Diana • I believe “in order to do a good job, one must have good tools”, So I have invested a lot of money in tools. Though I make compost for my gardens, it is not enough for a large garden, and so I buy organic fertilizers for supplementation. I save seeds and propagate my own plants, but still buy others.

What do you do with the things you grow?

Diana • My landscaped garden is for my own enjoyment and also provides pleasure and tranquility for my guests who stay at Boxwood Cottage and Boxwood Suite. Plus, it provides a place for non-profit organizations fund raising. I eat what I grow and share my produce with volunteers who help me in the garden. I preserve any excess to enjoy in the winter season. 🍷

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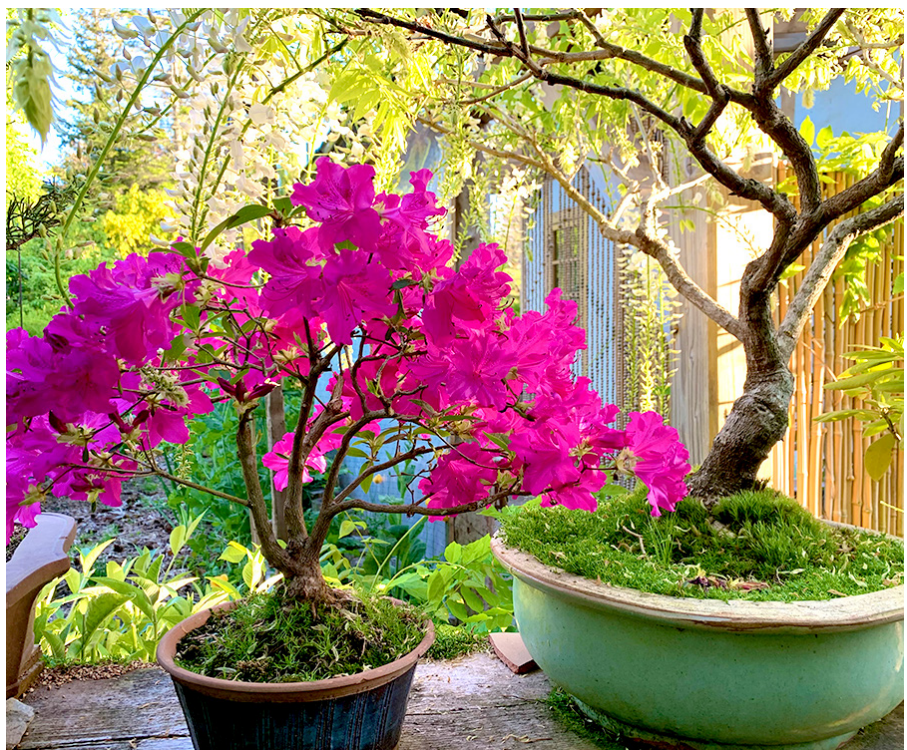
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FROM GRUNGY TO GLORIOUS: Top left, a bee visits the heather. Middle two, before and after at Boxwood. When Diana Wood bought this acreage off Westview Avenue, it was overgrown with blackberries and more. Since then, she has groomed and gardened and built a retreat in the centre of town, with rentable suites. Above, an azalea and a Japanese maple in containers. Diana says the most challenging part of gardening is “maintaining the thousands of plants” she has accumulated over the last 28 years. Right, Diana grows vegetables and fruit, and flowers.



New monthly gardening column

We’ve been missing *qL’s* gardening column! For nearly a decade, it was written by local gardening whiz Jonathan Van Wiltenberg. He has retired from writing the column.

Every month this summer, we’ll feature an established local gardener—learning their story and glean-ing some wisdom we can all apply in our own gardens.

Now’s the time to plant *SPRING BULBS!*

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BUSINESS AFFAIRS

SEAN PERCY

Big plans for Laughing Oyster

Scott Wilshaw and Shannagh Avery are the new owners of **The Laughing Oyster** restaurant at Okeover, and big things are in the works. Chef, founder and former owner **Dave Bowes** is retiring, but will stay on through this season, likely until the end of September, to ensure a seamless transition. The sale included the home next to the restaurant; that's where Scott and Shannagh will live for the next year or two. Scott says they want to keep the restaurant's family feel and so the team will stay on to "carry on the good work that Dave and Patty have done." Their three-year plan includes expanding the restaurant with another deck out front that is glassed in and heated so it can be used in winter months. A lounge area will also be added. Scott has more than 30 years' experience running resorts, and he bought the Laughing Oyster with the idea of making it a tourism destination. He's putting in 12-15 pre-built tiny homes, starting this fall, to create a **glamping village**. A gift store and **art gallery** will open soon. Outdoor catering and a food-to-go section are also in the works. In the off season, Scott and Shannagh want to manufacture and package herbs, spices, vinegars, and oils under the Laughing Oyster branding, to keep people employed year-round. "It will be a bigger business than just the marvellous Laughing Oyster restaurant. This takes it to the next level, which is what Dave and Patty wanted." The priority, though, is to continue the Laughing Oyster as is. A seafood buffet is scheduled for Easter Sunday, then the regular seafood buffets resume on Wednesdays. For reservations or bookings, call 604-483-9775.

Spruce up your yard

Kaitlyn Myers has launched her own company, **Blue Spruce Landscaping**. "I have a passion for gardening, nutrition and the outdoors in general and I wanted to brand my skills under one name. I really enjoy leading a project and it just made sense to walk away from being an employee and taking on the role of being a business owner," she said. Kaitlyn was landscaping for a local company the last two summers, though most locals probably know her as a former co-owner and bartender at McKinney's Pub. She offers residential and commercial maintenance; light duty landscaping such as weeding, edging, pruning, trimming, raking, fertilizing, mulching and mowing; tree planting; small scale irrigation and ponds; hard-

scaping and more. She hopes to develop more edible landscapes in local yards, and do community garden and eco-friendly landscaping projects. Reach Kaitlyn at 604-208-9259 or email bluesprucebc@gmail.com.

Pilates for one to three

Linda Winterton told *qathet Living* that she "can never not have a Pilates studio in my life." She has been teaching Pilates for 26 years, and has owned a Pilates business for 24 years. When she bought a home here last summer, she found one that had a space she could turn into a small studio, so when she closed her studio in North Vancouver, she could keep teaching small groups. Through the new **Ocean Pearl Pilates**, Linda teaches equipment-based Pilates, using the "reformer" apparatus made famous by Joseph Pilates. She offers private and small group sessions up to three people. Contact Linda at 604-831-5969 or email lindawinterton@gmail.com

Float plane to Comox

Harbour Air will offer flights between **Comox Marina** and **Powell Lake** starting May 1. The airline is also resuming flights from Comox to downtown Vancouver. Flights run from Comox at 9 am and 5 pm and from the Shinglemill at 9:20 am and 5:20 pm. In March of 2022, Harbour Air started flying between Powell Lake and Vancouver.

Iguanas doubles space

Iguanas Mexican Grill has moved a stone's throw away to the space formerly occupied by Papparazzi Pizza. The move doubled the capacity of the restaurant, says owner **Diana Rodriguez**. With 60 seats inside, plus a patio area, Diana hopes she won't have to turn so many people away. "It was heartbreaking to see people leaving and not getting the food they love," she said about her former location next to the dentist on Glacier Street. "We just grew out of that little space. It has been 10 years!" Diana is hiring more staff and dishwashers, and expanding the menu a bit, too. The Mariachi band, Los Dorados, will play at Iguanas on April 22 from 5-7 pm, and tickets are on sale now.

Mexican and Chinese share space

A new restaurant is sharing space within the Dragon House restaurant in the Crossroads Village. **Blue Agave Tequila Grill** features traditional dishes from Mexico's state of Jalisco with a contemporary twist. Chef **Victor Jasso**, worked at Dragon House, and runs **Mi Tierra Tradicional**, the popular tortilla maker at the Farmers Market. Blue Agave Tequila Grill's opening party is scheduled for April 22, and

will feature a performance by the Mariachi band, Los Dorados, after their show at Iguanas. Tickets to the opening show are \$55 each and include the band cover and food. Call 604-485-4612.

New gas at Top of the Hill

Top of the Hill Solutions has installed new fuel tanks in Wildwood, replacing underground tanks with new above-ground tanks. They're also flying new colours. Ownership and management remain the same under **Dave Formosa's** Davic Enterprises, but they have added a business relationship with **Canco**, an independent chain of gas stations launched in 2016 that now has more than 90 locations across the country. The change provides more wholesale competition in qathet, and gives customers access to Canco Cash, a loyalty program that offers a 2¢ per litre reward, and 2% cash-back on store purchases. The new pay-at-the-pump service is open now. Hours remain 7 am - 9 pm Monday through Friday, and 8 am - 9 pm Saturday and Sunday.

Sommelier service uncorked

Jeremy East, the owner of Westview U-Vin U-Brew has branched out to offer wine consulting services. **Appellation Consulting** will promote community involvement and growth in wine culture. His first formal outing was the wine and cheese night for the Academy of Music on March 30, where he selected, purchased, and served the wine and recommended good cheese pairings. He hopes to also serve private parties, offer employee training in wines, and provide expertise in fruit harvesting, home wine production and vineyard setups. Jeremy is a certified intermediate Sommelier through both WSET (Wine and Spirit Educational Trust) and through the International Sommeliers Guild. Contact Jeremy at 778-823-6033 or appellationconsulting@gmail.com.

Tla'amin doc in a another top job

Another Tla'amin Nation doctor has been appointed to a top job with the **First Nation Health Authority's** Chief Medical Officer's physician team. **Dr. Kelsey Louie** has been named acting deputy chief medical officer. Since 2017, Kelsey has served as Medical Officer and Senior Medical Officer before agreeing to take on this new role of Acting Deputy Chief Medical Officer. A graduate of UBC's Indigenous Family Practice residency program, Dr. Louie also works as a primary care provider in Victoria, providing both hospital-based care and virtual health services with the First Nations Virtual Doctor of the Day program. Tla'amin's **Dr. Evan Adams** is part-time deputy chief medical officer of public health for FNHA. 📧



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MEMORIES OF THE MILL

Time Clocks and a Courtship

BY ROBERT DICE

On January 28, 1941, Jack Dice, at 17 years of age, entered a five-year Electrical Contract of Apprenticeship at 16 cents an hour (\$3.01 in 2023 dollars). During the war, the contract could be interrupted by military conscription on Jack's 20th birthday.

However, Jack's leg was amputated below the knee in a Powell Lake boating accident only months before his birthday. After recovering, Jack went to work on crutches, not letting his disability slow him. The Mill owner, Mr. Foley, noticed and said to Jack, "We've been watching you, and we're proud to have you." Later, the men in the mill took up a collection and bought Jack a prosthetic leg.

Jack rose through the ranks to become an electrical superintendent, but to get there, he had to first master all assigned tasks. Early in his career, one of these tasks included the maintenance of the company time clocks, which were kept near the payroll office, where uncharacteristically, Jack occasionally lingered.



OFFICE ROMANCE: Top left, Peter DeGroot (left) and Jack Dice (right) making repairs on electrical equipment, 1947. Above, Alice Johnson in the Payroll Office, 1943 to 1945. Opposite page, Alice and Jack. Photos courtesy of the Powell River Historical Museum & Archives and the family's personal collection.

The huge company payroll was based on the time clocks. At the mill entrance, at the beginning and end of every shift change, hundreds of men filed through an entrance foyer to 'punch' their time cards at a bank of clocks. Jack's maintenance notebook shows five clocks, three for 'incoming' workers and two for 'outgoing.'

The time clocks were made of ornate wooden cabinetry with a transparent glass face. A 12-hour analog clock could be seen through the window, and the clock's punch card levers and mechanisms were situated below the glass. The levers, made of polished brass, now displayed a darker patina from the daily touch of hundreds of hands.

The clocks were beautiful, something to be admired. Still, besides Jack and the payroll clerks, most other workers were concerned only with getting past the clocks as quickly as possible.

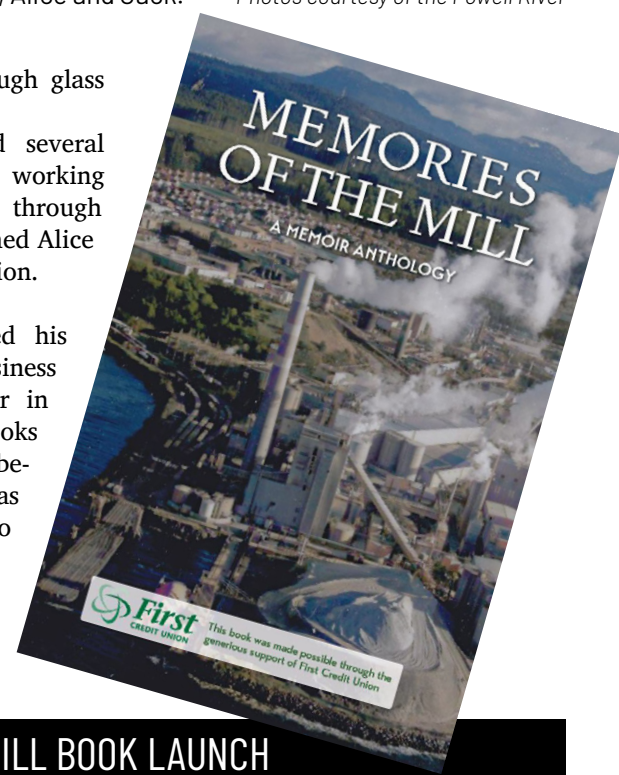
The punch cards were collected and brought to the payroll office, a day-shift-only operation. In the 1940s, the payroll office was directly adjacent to and opposite the time clocks, separat-

ed only by a large see-through glass partition.

The office staff included several young single women. While working on the time clocks, visible through the glass, a payroll clerk named Alice Johnson caught Jack's attention.

Alice's father had moved his Burnaby construction business and family to Powell River in 1939, and Alice went to Brooks High School. After the war began, students' graduation was assured, but Alice wanted to 'officially' graduate.

"So, I was all by myself, and half of the classes were study periods. I was still taking English and trying



MEMORIES OF THE MILL BOOK LAUNCH

When & Where: 4 pm, Tuesday, April 4, at the Library

What: This memoir anthology brings together 22 unique memoirs by local writers that share memories of the impact that the paper mill had on their lives.

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Early in his career, one of these tasks included the maintenance of the company time clocks, which were kept near the payroll office, where uncharacteristically, Jack occasionally lingered.



BEFORE THERE WAS TIKTOK: Jack Dice and Alice Johnson met near the time clocks at the Powell River Mill during WWII. He later became electrical superintendent, and she became a “flawless” bookkeeper. *Photo courtesy of the family*

to fill in some commercial courses. In April, they came and said they wanted someone in the (Mill) Company office, so I went down and got a job (1943) in the time office, where I worked for six years. I worked on different payroll machines.

“There was IBM, and then there was National, and then Burroughs or visa-versa. The best one was IBM, but they didn’t have anyone in Powell River to fix it. If something went wrong, you could only get here by boat, so then we’d have to type the cheques.”

Alice was thorough and flawless in her bookkeeping. Her memory to this day (at 96 years) is astonishing. As a mentalist entertainment trick, we still ask her our dad’s and other family and friends’ payroll numbers, and she still remembers them. Each payroll number began with a department number prefix,

such as “12” for electrical or “15” for millwrights, followed by personal numbers.

In 2016 Alice was asked what it was about bookkeeping that came so quickly for her.

“I don’t know; I just knew it had to come out right. It’s wrong if it doesn’t come out balanced. You just have to be really careful. For the time cards, we had to add them up. Well, this guy was correcting my work, and I could tell because he had erased it, and there were some big numbers on there...but I did it again, and I was right, and he was wrong (laughter), but he was hopeless anyway.”

The guy wasn’t her boss, but Alice said, “I think he always thought he was going to be, but they always got somebody else.”

Alice was promoted and became the sole payroll machine operator, but further opportunities were limited because the bosses were all men. To make gender matters even more inequitable, if a female got married, her employment was terminated.

The mill policy was to find jobs for the men returning to the workforce after the war, and when she and Jack wed, Alice accepted that. **PL**

Logger Sports is back!

After a three-year COVID break, Logger Sports will return to the Loggers Memorial Bowl at Willingdon Beach

July 14-16, 2023

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PET PHOTO CONTEST



GET OUTDOORS WITH YOUR PET!

Enter our Pet Photo Contest and you could win fantastic prizes from Mother Nature! Submit a photo of your pet – dog, cat, gerbil, horse, pet chicken or whatever – in the great outdoors. Send the image, along with a brief description, to contest@prliving.ca. Deadline is April 11.

Winners will be published in the May “Pet Issue” edition of *qathet Living* magazine.



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GIVING BACK: On April 30, Marathon Shufflers will encounter this crew of 460 Realty volunteers (from left to right): Dustin Villeneuve, Austyn MacKinnon, Katie Indrebo, Rebecca Johnson, Nancy Hamilton, Rachelle Gura, Lisa Bartello, and Jasmine Brown. *Photo courtesy of 460 Realtor Justin Sparks Photography, who will also be taking photos at the finish line.*

Volunteers make our community better

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

April 16 to 22 is National Volunteer week in Canada and it's a good time to celebrate the valuable contributions made by qathet's many volunteers.

Volunteers are the heart of our community. Without them, many sports teams, activities, and non-profits would cease to exist. Volunteering brings people together, it can lead to new friendships, and help you develop new skills. When you volunteer for an organization, you are part of something bigger than yourself as everyone works towards a common goal.

For many years, **First Credit Union** has set aside a

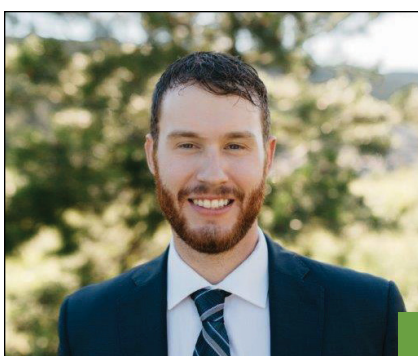
special day so their employees can take a deep dive into volunteering in the community. Their annual **Community Impact Day** was paused during the COVID-19 pandemic, but they will be back at it on June 15 this year.

qathet's newest real estate firm, **460 Realty Powell River**, is excited to give back to the community. The 460 crew are sponsoring the finish line at the **Marathon Shuffle** on Sunday, April 30 this year.

The team will be cheering on all the participants, recording times, and providing refreshments as the 'Shufflers' cross the finish line after completing the 29 kilometre feat," says 460 realtor Dustin Villeneuve who is spearheading the volunteer effort.

"The volunteers at 460 Realty are excited to be a part of this annual tradition that celebrates this natural local treasure (the Sunshine Coast Trail) that draws people from both near and far. We'll also be cheering on our colleague, Nancy Hamilton, as she participates in the event for her first time. We are honoured to be a part of this collaborative effort between qathet Parks and Wilderness Society (qPAWS), the Tla'amin Nation and the BOMB Squad (Bloody Old Men's Brigade) to promote the world class Sunshine Coast Trail."

One of qathet's many volunteer organizations that help make this community a better place is **Powell River Special Olympics** through its sports programs.



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Margaret Peters is a spokesperson for **Powell River Special Olympics**. "Last fall we were able to offer bowling, curling, swimming and to re-introduce Club Fit. Our hockey program, combined with the Courtenay team called the Vipers and they competed in the winter games for Special Olympics BC in Kamloops in February and won gold."

Powell River players Tanya Norman and Andrew Swindlehurst are part of that winning team.

The Vipers faced some tough competition in A division play. "The A division is the top division to be in," explained Tanya. "Our first game was against an Abbotsford/Surrey team which was our biggest and toughest competition, and we ended up beating them 6-0." The Vipers beat Victoria 8-0 to advance to the gold medal game against Abbotsford/Surrey which they won 4-0," she said.

"Our goalie Jason Mills from Nanaimo was outstanding with three shut-outs and a big win on his birthday. Andrew ended up getting a couple goals and I got one goal as well," said Tanya.

"Andrew and I played exceptionally well. Andrew plays more of the forward position, and I am the only girl on the team, and I play defence," said Tanya.

The Vipers hope to go to Calgary for the National Winter Games and represent BC for the fourth time.

Special Olympic swimming athletes participated in a fun meet in Courtenay this year where they competed with other athletes.

Special Olympics hopes to restart the softball program this spring. The group also plans to continue with golf and bocce but all these programs require volunteers to help run them.

"We continue to have problems with a lack of volunteers. Many of our dedicated coaches and volunteers have taken on more roles, in order to keep our programs going," said Margaret.

We are in need of coaches for our fall programs for Club Fit and bowling and our spring programs for bocce, and softball." Volunteers are also needed to help fill some of Special O's administration roles.

"Volunteering for Special Olympics enriches the lives of both athletes and the volunteers," said Margaret.

If you are interested in joining the volunteer team or want more information, please email Margaret Peters at margpeters@telus.net

Another important community group that is volunteer run is the **Community First Aid Team**.

Several years ago, St. John Ambulance left Powell River and when it



VOLUNTEER FOR THE VIPERS: Andrew Swindlehurst and Tanya Norman play floor hockey with the Courtenay Vipers. The local organization hopes to reopen Special Olympics softball this spring, -but they need more volunteers. Can you help?

did, it left a gap in the fabric of this community.

Some of the St. John members felt that a first aid group presence at public events was still needed and so they formed a non-profit organization to fill that space. You may have seen the Community First Aid Team at events such as the Blackberry Festival, Canada Day celebrations or Texada Sand Castle festivities. "As well as helping the public, we have fun at our events," said Ann Snow, a member of the Community First Aid Team.

The group is also involved with Emergency Preparedness Planning in qathet.

Larry Gemmill, a founding member is former President, and currently the team's Vice President. He manages the mobile first aid post and bookings. Karyn O'Keefe, current President, oversees the team's administration. Other members include Ann Snow as Treasurer, Anne Harrison as Secretary, and several members. "We would love to add your name to the list. All members have various levels of first aid training, and a level one ticket is part of the package. We care about the welfare and safety of people attending public events," said Ann.

The Community First Aid Team is building its membership and welcomes anyone who is interested in attending public events and providing basic first aid as needed. Training and uniforms are provided.

For information about booking the first aid team for an event, joining the team, or making a donation,



SPECIAL GUESTS AT ALL THE BIG EVENTS: Whether it's Blackberry Fest or Canada Day, the volunteers with the Community First Aid Team are a popular (and necessary) part of this region's summer social fabric. Can you help?

check out their Facebook page at Community First Aid Team - Powell River, their website Community-FirstAidTeam.org or email them at admin@CommunityFirstAidTeam.org

It's never too early to reorganize and with several long time members moving on, **The Powell River and District Christmas Cheer** is looking for new volunteers so it can continue to help those less fortunate during the holidays.

Christmas Cheer spokesperson Lorelei Guthrie says active members are needed to help this important organization.

Christmas Cheer is in need of a President; Treasurer; Social Media Coordinator, Toy Coordinator and Fundraising Coordinator.

"Join this small but committed group of individuals for a soul-worthy cause, helping families at Christmas," said Lorelei.

If you can help please contact prchristmascheer@gmail.com

relei Guthrie says active members are needed to help this important organization.



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VOLUNTEER WEEK: KATHAUMIXW

Help host the region's biggest event

BY JOYCE CARLSON

Time flies when the world and your community is impacted by the effects of a global pandemic. Three years ago, COVID 19 resulted in a shut-down that caused the postponement of International Choral Kathaumix 2020.

"We didn't realize then that it would be three years before we would again be able to host this important cultural event that first took place in 1984," says festival administrator Carrie Lanigan.

Kathaumixw is a project of Powell River Academy of Music and the five-year gap since the last one in 2018 has been challenging to navigate. This year's festival takes place July 4-8 and ticket sales begin April 4.

"Finally, we are ready to welcome choirs of the world once again to entertain our community along with local choirs," adds hospitality coordinator Val Thompson.

She is responsible for arranging housing for North American and international choirs which have committed to attend.

"Hotels and other facilities have been booked and we have sent out requests to previous billet families and they are already responding that they want to host again," adds Val.

Carrie explains that in the five years since the last Kathaumixw, there have been a lot of people who have moved to qathet region and who have not experienced the festival.

"We are looking forward to sharing the joy of choral music and invite them to welcome adult choir members into their homes as well as to attend various concerts in the five-day program."

Both Carrie and Val have wonderful memories of billets they have hosted over the years as do many other billet families. They have formed strong bonds, visiting countries around the world, attending weddings and celebrations like the birth of a child or anniversaries.

"There's something very special for billet families in helping choir members experience our community, connect with different people and being exposed to different cultures," explains Val.

Billet families provide breakfast, a bagged lunch and dinner along with some transportation, says Carrie. They often coordinate with other billeting fami-



READY TO ROLL: International Choral Kathaumixw administrator Carrie Lanigan, left, and hospitality coordinator Val Thompson are in the midst of preparations for the 2023 event that is finally taking place after a five-year hiatus due to COVID-19.

Can you volunteer for Kathaumixw?

An online volunteer form is accessible at kathaumixw.org. Carrie and Val (above) are happy to answer questions if people want to call the academy at 604-485-9633 or drop in to 7280 Kemano.

lies from the same choir.

"I have found billet families very willing to help each other," says Val.

In addition to the chance to billet choirs, there are numerous opportunities to volunteer with the festival itself.

After five years, Carrie is busy updating volunteer lists and seeking people to replace those who are not able to participate as they have in the past. "It's a great opportunity for newcomers to our area to become involved with Kathaumixw which typically has had up to 500 volunteers helping out."

The list of volunteers includes the academy board of directors, Kathaumixw organizing committee and venue managers for the Hap Parker Arena that is turned into the Great Hall, Evergreen Theatre, James Hall and Max Cameron Theatre. Also needed are ticket sellers and takers at the door, ushers, venue set-up, drivers for conductors and jury members, merchandize and program sales.

"We can't put on Kathaumixw without our volunteers," says Carrie, "as it takes a large effort to produce a festival of this magnitude."

The festival office has sent out letters to all service groups and churches which often take on volunteer activities as a group or as individuals. **PL**



Egg Goals

In March, Ria Curtis taught two Pysanky workshops at Tidal Art Centre in Lund, sharing with locals the joys and challenges of making Ukrainian Easter Eggs. It's a traditional resist-dyeing method using beeswax in a kistka (see left), melted over a candle.

Egg below by Rowwie McKown.

HOLIDAYS, NATURE & OTHER BIG STUFF

Wednesday, April 5

Treaty Day

A day marking the final implementation of the treaty between Tla'amin Nation, the Province of BC, and Canada. The treaty was signed on April 5, 2016, after more than 20 years of negotiation through the BC Treaty Commission.

Thursday, April 6

First Day of Passover

Maunder Thursday

7 pm Assumption, Mass of the Lord's Supper, confessions following Mass, adoration at Alter of Repose until 10 pm

7 pm St. David & St Paul Anglican. Foot Washing.

Friday, April 7

Good Friday

9 am to 10 am, Assumption. Confessions.

3 pm Assumption, Solemn Liturgy of the Passion. Confessions following.

11 am Powell River United Church.

Noon St. David & St Paul Anglican.

Schools are closed. Stat holiday.

Saturday, April 8

Holy Saturday

11 am to noon, Assumption. Confessions.

8:30 pm, Assumption. Easter Vigil.

8:30 pm St. David & St Paul Anglican. Easter Vigil.

Sunday, April 9

Easter Celebrations & Services

10 am Assumption. Mass

Noon Sacred Heart. Mass

9 am Living Water. Easter Service.

11 am Living Water. Easter Service.

9:30 am Faith Lutheran. Holy Communion.

11 am Powell River United Church.

10 am St. David & St Paul Anglican. Eucharist.

Public Egg Hunts

10 am Myrtle Creek Golf Club

11:30 to 1:30 Putters Mini Golf

Noon, Northside FD, Craig Park

Monday, April 10

Easter Monday

Schools are closed.

Thursday, April 13

Last Day of Passover

Friday, April 14

Orthodox Good Friday

Sunday, April 16

Orthodox Easter

Full Moon

Monday, April 17

Laylatul Qadr

(Night of Power)

National Bat

Appreciation Day

Tuesday, April 18

Yom HaShoah

Wednesday, April 19

National Canadian Film Day

1:30 and 7 pm screenings at The Patricia. Films TBD. See Page 47.

Saturday, April 22

Eid ul Fitr

Earth Day

See Earth Day events on Page 7.

April 22 & 23

Lyrid Meteor Shower peak

Best seen after midnight. About 20 per hour, from the constellation Lyra.

Wednesday, April 26

Yom HaAtzmaut

Tuesday, April 25

Powell River Benchlands

Open House

4 to 8 pm, Rec Complex. Lend your ideas to the future of this piece of the City. See ad on Page 20.

Sunday, April 30

Full Moon and Partial

Solar Eclipse

CRA tax deadline for individuals



April in qathet



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LIVE MUSIC

Thursday, April 6

The Duane Watson Band
7pm, Forest Bistro. From Vancouver.

April 8, 15, 22

Renelle in Concert
5:30 to 8 pm, The Shinglemill

Saturday, April 8

Wu Woom Festival
6 to 9 pm, Tla'amin Salish Centre. Doors at 5:45. \$15. Culture, dance and songs. Bring an apple from your culture. Indian tacos for sale. Fundraiser for the Sun Run 2023. Arts & crafts for sale. Everyone welcome.

April 11

Tickets go on sale for Kathaumixw
Kathaumixw is happening July 4 to 8. See ad on Page 39, story on Page 40.

Pink Mountaintops in concert, local opening bank: Kicks
7pm, Carlson Club upstairs. Tickets available at Base Camp on Marine, and the Carlson Club, downstairs. See story on Page 45.

April 13-15

Townsite Jazz Festival
See ad on Page 15, story on facing page.

April 14

Hotel California: The original Eagles tribute.
Doors 7pm. Evergreen Theatre.

Saturday, April 15

The Gravel-Aires
7pm, Forest Bistro. From Vancouver.

Friday, April 21

Spring Cabaret
7:30 pm, James Hall. \$30. See ad on Page 52.

Saturday, April 22

Vox Madrigal – Harmony Vespers
4 pm, PR United Church. By donation.

WIL

7pm Forest Bistro. From Vancouver Island

Completely Creedence

8 pm, Carlson Community Club. Coastculture.com

Bass Temple

7:30 pm, The ARC. Posponed from Feb 25th. A night of soul-nourishing dance floor bliss with this DJ event here to deliver soulful, bass-loving, hip-hopping, house-vibing tunes. DJ Rowan; Neonskye,



TUNE IN, TURN ON: Holy smokes, April is jam-packed with live music! The biggest event is the Townsite Jazz Festival (Page 43) featuring a dozen concerts – both locals and out-of-town performers – mid-month. Wrapped around it is much more. Clockwise from top left, there's Rocky Mountain High: The Songs of John Denver (May 2); Early Morning Rain: the Songs of Gordon Lightfoot (April 25); Hotel California: The Original Eagles Tribute (April 14); meghan & amy (April 24); plus The Kicks opening for Pink Mountaintops (April 11, see Page 45) and the Accordion Fest is on May 5 & 6 (See Page 44), with the region's biggest music festivals on the near horizon: PRISMA and Kathaumixw.

Medicine Fox, Chuckleberry Jam. Art Pop-Ups, snacks & drinks. \$15 in advance \$20 at the door. Tickets: e-transfer to info@heartwoodevents.ca Kids under 12 are free (Please note some of the music may not be suitable for younger audiences!)

Sunday, April 23

Mariachi Los Dorados: A Celebration of Mexican Culture
1:30 to 3:30 pm, Evergreen Theatre. \$25. Info at 604-485-4612

Monday, April 24

meagan & amy
Pianist Meagan Milatz and violinist Amy Hills. This recital explores connections between several Canadian compositions and works from the traditional canon of classical repertoire. Their program pairs Canadian composers including a recently

commissioned piece by B.C.'s-own, Jocelyn Morlock with well-known icons such as Mozart that influenced these contemporary composers. This is an opportunity to discover a shared musical heritage that, while inspired by composers of centuries past, continues to develop its own Canadian character.

Tuesday, April 25

Early Morning Rain: The Songs of Gordon Lightfoot with John McLachlan and Marc Atkinson
7:30 pm, Max Cameron. \$25, tickets at The Peak, Academy of Music and 60 minutes prior to the door.

Tuesday, May 2

Rocky Mountain High – songs of John Denver – in concert
7:30 pm, Evergreen Theatre

Tuesday, May 2

Brunch & Classical

10 to 11:30 am, Cranberry Hall. Partnering with the VIU/SD 47 Professional Cook students under the direction of chef Avi Sternberg. Tuesday Brunch 10-11:30 am. Set up will be cafe style, tables of four encouraged. Tickets \$16.80 taxes included (\$10 children under 10), available (only until April 28) at Birch Tree Cafe and Bistro, (6812 Alberni, in Ecosentials) Tues-Fri 11-2:30 and or inquire about reservations via e-mail to Kristine.Morrow@viu.ca It's possible that a magic mix of musicians (still coalescing) will join in, very special indeed! 6828 Cranberry Street. Find us on Facebook at fb.com/cranhall

Wednesday, May 3

Cranberry Hall Presents: Luke Wallace

6:30 doors, 7 pm show. Folk musician, environmental and social activist, Luke continues to use his music to amp up and inspire folks fighting for a better world. He is known to folk festivals all over this land and was recently invited to share at the United Nations Water Conference. Tickets \$20 advance (Basecamp and Eventbrite) and \$25 at the door. There will be YOUTH prices for Luke's performance (\$10). Contact us at info@cranhall.org or find us on Facebook.

May 5 & 6

Powell River Accordion Fest

7pm James Hall. \$25. See story on Page 44 and visit praccordionfest.com.

Saturday, May 6

Grant Lawrence & Friends: Stories and Songs tour

6 to 8 pm, Gilles Bay Hall, Texada Island. Get ready for an evening filled with true stories about outlandish coastal characters from past and present. The award-winning author and broadcaster will read from his new #1 bestselling book "Return to Solitude", his top-rated podcasts, ("Hermit of Desolation Sound", "Cougar Lady Chronicles") and his first bestseller, "Adventures in Solitude." The stories will be complemented by songs performed by Juno Award-winning artists and feature performers Jay Malinowski (Bedouin Soundclash), Suzie Ungerleider (formally Oh Susanna!), and Texada Island's own Evan Symons. Tickets at Eventbrite.

June 12 to 24

PRISMA
See ad on Page 26.

July 4 to 8

Kathaumixw
See ad on Page 39, and story on Page 40.

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Brunch and Classical Music

Tuesday, May 2 at the Cranberry Community Hall

Cran Hall partners with the VIU/SD 47 Professional Cook Students under the direction of chef Avi Sternberg. Café style, tables of four encouraged. Tickets \$16.80 (\$10 children under 10). Tickets at Birch Tree Café or e-mail Kristine.Morrow@viu.ca.

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DUST OFF YOUR WINGTIPS: The Big Band Gala Dance returns April 15 – featuring the Bruce James Orchestra and the SD47 Alumni Jazz Choir.

SD47 Alumni Jazz Choir readies for debut

BY ANDY RICE

Every second Saturday since the beginning of February, the Brooks Secondary School choir room has been filled with the sounds of rediscovery. Eighteen School District 47 alumni are dusting off their microphones for a throwback to their high school vocal jazz days. The culmination of their efforts will be a performance at the Townsite Jazz Festival on April 15, opening for the Bruce James Orchestra from Vancouver.

For some, those microphones have collected a little more dust than others.

“Without giving any spoilers, we’ve got a great mix of current residents, Powell River expats and celebrity guests,” said Paul Cummings. Former members of Soundtrax, The Mix, and alumni of the Brooks Secondary and Max Cameron Secondary choral programs from as far back as the 70s and as recently as 2021.”

According to Cummings, the idea for this project had been brewing for quite a while – and even before the inaugural Townsite Jazz Festival in 2018. That year, an alumni jazz band took the stage at Dwight Hall, much to the delight of audiences, cementing the success of the overall concept. Immediately, vocal jazz aficionados were coming out of the woodwork to ask about the prospect of a choral equivalent, and have been steady ever since.

“We probably would have done this sooner if not for the pandemic,” said Cummings. “But our fifth festival is a great time to throw it back to some of the things we did back in 2018 at our first.”

After reaching out to retired educators Peter Taylor, Nancy Hollmann and Don James for personnel

TOWNSITE JAZZ FESTIVAL

When: April 13 to 15

New this year: Noon Hour Concerts

Info: townsitejazz.com

Tickets: \$25 per concert (unless otherwise noted) and available via Eventbrite: townsitejazz.eventbrite.com.

What’s it all about: Everyone’s favourite big band, the Bruce James Orchestra, will be returning for two concerts including our Gala Dance on April 15. We’re thrilled to be featuring several more past performers, including B3 organist Dr. Tony Genge, bassist Jodi Proznick, multi-instrumentalist John Lee and hometown hero Walter Martella, in all-new configurations. Acclaimed Toronto vocalist Heather Bambrick will perform in the qathet region for the very first time, and Brazilian guitarist, percussionist and vocalist Celso Machado will make his TJJF debut.

This year’s student ensembles are coming to us from Brooks Secondary (Powell River), Reynolds Secondary (Victoria) and Gleneagle Secondary (Coquitlam.) They will open most concerts.

suggestions, it was time to choose the repertoire.

“Again, no spoilers, but we’ve got swing, Gospel and Latin on the docket,” said Cummings. “Four songs – short and sweet – and I couldn’t twist anyone’s arm for a reunion tour, but that’s no reason not to hold out hope for seeing more of these alumni ensembles at the Townsite Jazz Festival in the future. It’s way too much fun not to do this every few years!” 🎷

ALL THAT JAZZ

Thursday, April 13

Walter Martella trio

Noon – Shinglemill Pub & Bistro, \$25.

Organ trio in Bluesville featuring Dr. Tony Genge

5 pm, Shinglemill Pub & Bistro, \$25

The Tiny Rhythm Kings featuring Kelby MacNayr

7:30 pm, Shinglemill Pub & Bistro, \$25.

Friday, April 14

Jodi Proznick Trio featuring Heather Bambrick

Noon, Shinglemill Pub & Bistro, \$25

[*Sold Out*] Jazz & Charcuterie featuring the John Lee Trio

5 pm, Brooks Hall, \$40

Heather Bambrick with the Jodi Proznick Trio

7:30 pm, Max Cameron Theatre, \$25

Bruce James Orchestra

9:30 pm, Carlson Community Club, \$25

Saturday, April 15

John Lee Trio

Noon, Coastal Cookery, \$25

Celso Machado featuring Walter Martella

3 pm, Patricia Theatre, \$25

Free Show: Paul Carriere & Jane Fearing

5 pm, Royal Zayka, reservations required

Free show – tba

6 pm Townsite Brewing, limited space available

Big Band Gala Dance featuring the Bruce James Orchestra and the SD47 Alumni Jazz Choir

7:30 pm, Dwight Hall, \$25



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CRUSHING IT: Karina Inkster and Walter Martella bring style and substance to their music.

Is this your new main squeeze?

BY KARINA INKSTER

Since 2018, we (Walter Martella and Karina Inkster) have worked together to expand the stereotype of accordion music, including performing tango, jazz, and classical pieces, teaming up with diverse instrumentalists, and coaxing local closet accordionists out of the woodwork. An Accordion Fest seemed like the next logical step to combine these endeavours into one weekend of serious squeezebox shenanigans, celebrating one of the world's most

versatile instruments.

Our first Fest in 2022 was a huge success, and we're gearing up for our second, on May 5 and 6, 2023! Join us for our main concert, workshops for beginners and advanced players alike, Squeezebox Night at the Forest Bistro & Lounge, and much more.

See a full schedule of events at www.praccordionfest.com. Tickets are available at the website for our main concert on May 5 and Squeezebox Night on May 6. All other events are by donation. 🎷

SECOND ANNUAL ACCORDION FEST

Friday, May 5

Main Concert

7 pm Academy of Music. Featuring classical, klezmer, jazz, tango, and many more musical genres. Performers include Fest co-directors Walter and Karina, and six special guests: bassist Boyd Norman and guitarist Budge Schachte from Roberts Creek, accordionist Ronen Segall from the Cowichan Valley, and local musicians Dr. Moira Hopfe-Ostensen, Terry Martyniuk, and Jessica Colasanto.

Saturday, May 6

Accordion Masterclass

10:30-11:45 am, Academy of Music. Internationally renowned accordionist Jelena Milojević provides critiques, insights, and suggestions to performers at all levels. A learning opportunity for both performers and observers.

Courtyard Performances

12:15-1:45 pm, Academy of Music. Local and visiting performers share music in a casual environment. Sign up to play, and/or come and enjoy what's on offer.

Accordion 101

2 to 3 pm, Academy of Music. This workshop introduces accordion-curious folks of any (or no) musical background to the instrument. Bring your own accordion, or borrow one of ours for the session.

Introduction to Klezmer Music

3:15-4 pm, Academy of Music. Led by visiting accordion teacher Ronen Segall, intermediate players will learn the klezmer scale, and some improvisation basics.

Squeezebox Night at the Forest Bistro and Lounge

7 pm. Featuring Ron Campbell's band, Scout Mountain Bluegrass Band, and Ronen Segall and Walter Martella on accordions, enjoy an evening of lively popular music during dinner + drinks.

All day May 5 and 6

Pop-up Accordion Shop

Tempo Trend, a Victoria-based speciality accordion store that's been in business for over 60 years, will be on site for all your accordion needs, including tune-ups, repairs, and sales. Bring the old squeezebox languishing in your closet, or purchase your first (or seventh) accordion.



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Two years of local punk song-writing premiers at Carlson Loft

Head to the new Carlson Loft (see sidebar, right) on April 11, and you might recognize the locals in the opening band, The Kicks. They are Braden DeCorby (guitar, lead vocals), Sean Hawryluk (bass, back up vocals) and Graeme Macdonald (drums).

Has qathet seen The Kicks before?

Sean • This is our first gig. April 11 will be a great first show for us. We're happy to be playing with Pink Mountaintops, as Steve McBean and I have shared the stage many times, many years ago when my old band Ladyhawk opened for his band Black Mountain and my hardcore punk band Baptists opened for his band Obliterations. Lots of history.

How did you start playing together?

Sean • Braden has been furiously writing these songs since before he moved up here about two years ago. Braden and I have known each other for 15 years, our bands having played together many times over the years when we both lived and played music in Vancouver. Braden was introduced to Graeme by a mutual friend, the chemistry was good, and bingo, rock n roll history was made.

Why 'The Kicks'?

Sean • The songs have an upbeat sound and they make you want to move. Isn't everyone playing music just for the kicks?

How would you describe your sound?

Who will be drawn to your music?

Sean • Teenage Kicks played by some middle aged rockers. Vintage punk music for those who love The Ramones and all the down stroke warriors that have followed in their footsteps.



GET YOUR KICKS: Catch qathet's own Braden DeCorby, Sean Hawryluk and Graeme Macdonald on stage April 11, with LA's Pink Mountaintops.

A bit about each member of the band

Braden – played in Vancouver based doom band Haggatha and boogie rockin Rock Band Called Time. Mechanical insulator by trade, gravel cycling enthusiast, was attracted to qathet just over two years ago by the natural beauty and affordable housing.

Sean – played in Vancouver based grunge/punk band Slow Learners and classic rock n rollers Ladyhawk as well as currently playing in hardcore punk band Baptists. Mental Health and Addiction Worker by trade, originally attracted to qathet eight years ago as a natural and affordable place to buy property and raise a kiddo.

Graeme – played in Vancouver based indie rock band Red City Breakout. Organic vegetable and animal farmer by trade, outdoor enthusiast and kayak camper, drawn to this region five years ago by the opportunity to produce beautiful, sustainable and local food for the good people of qathet region at Terra Nostra Farm.

PINK MOUNTAINTOPS IN CONCERT, WITH SPECIAL GUESTS, THE KICKS

When: April 11. Doors 7 pm, show at 8 pm

What: L.A.-based band Pink Mountaintops' lead singer Steve McBean was called "One of the last remaining rock n' roll" mystics" by Exclaim! mag. The music will appeal to "hippies, neo-hippies, skateboarders, old punk rockers, and hipsters." pinkmountaintops.com. Local band The Kicks takes the stage for the first time, opening for Pink Mountaintops.

Where: The newly-restored Carlson Loft – the top floor of the Carlson Community Club. The space features an all-new sound-system and more, installed by qathet's EVL (East Van Live), a recently-arrived music management trio from Vancouver / Winnipeg. Donna Mabbett, Cecil English and Trevor Gordon brought us D.O.A. in January, and plan to bring many more well-known rock bands to town this year.

Tickets: \$30 advance (Base Camp Marine and the Carlson Club downstairs), \$35 at the door. No minors, 19+.

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MARKETS & SALES

Sundays

Farmers Market

12:30 to 2:30 pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds inside the quonset hut. (It goes outside at the beginning of May.)

Saturdays

Uptown Market

10 am to noon, CRC on Joyce (This market moves to Wednesday afternoons on May 10).

Tuesday, April 4

AfterGlow opens in its new space

See ad on Page 19.

Saturday, April 8

Springtime Spring Market

11 am to 3 pm, Springtime Garden Centre.

Saturday, April 15

Super Spring Fun Festival

10 til 3 pm, The ARC. Vendors, food, kids zone, etc.

Saturday, April 15

Pollen Sweaters Franken Sale

10 am to 4 pm, Lund. See ad on Page 40.

Saturday, April 22

Lund Flea Market

Junk, handmade goods, plants starts, and more. All proceeds to Lund Puddle Jumpers Preschool

Saturday, April 29

Assumption Rummage Sale

10 to noon, at the Assumption School Gym. Drop off rummage Friday, April 28, 5 pm to 8 pm. No shoes. Everything must be in good shape.

Ascension Psychic & Wellness Fair

10 to 3:30 pm, Brooks Hall.

Sunday, May 7

Garden Club Plant Sale

Noon til 3 pm. Five locations: Cranberry Seniors Centre, 3784 Gordon Ave, 6413 Sutherland Ave, 6896 Klahanie Road, 4310 Westview Ave. See story on Page 49.

LEAN IN TO YOUR COMMUNITY

April 11 & 12

Public Engagement: Maple and Sycamore Safer Streets

The City wants to hear from you. See details about these meetings on Page 55.

Saturday April 15

Paddling For Life Beer & Burger Fundraiser

5:30 pm Royal Canadian Legion. \$20 per ticket. Under 19s are welcome, too, as we have food and lots of it with our now famous salads, baked beans and dessert offerings again! Vegetarian burgers, cooked on a separate grill will be available as well. Highlight of the evening will be the silent auction. Tickets from members, or at the Legion, or by calling 604-414-5274. We will even deliver your tickets! Money raised goes to cover insurance, maintenance of boat, trailer, paddles, new life jackets and ferry costs so we can get to those regattas where breast cancer awareness is our focus.

Tech Savvy – Strava App

2 pm at the Library. Learn about this free mobile app that allows you to track your outdoor activities, such

as walking, hiking, running and cycling. To register mmerlino@prpl.ca

Tuesday, April 25

Compassionate Friends Meeting

7 pm, 4675-C Ontario Ave (behind Save-On.) Support following the death of a child. See ad on Page 30.

Thursday, May 4

Spring Job Fair

1 to 3 pm, Arc Community Event Centre. See ad on Page 26. Employers can reserve a table, job-seekers – see what opportunities there are.

Saturday, May 13

Great Gatsby Fundraising Gala

Dwight Hall. Tickets are \$125 available at the Peak office on Marine, the party is May 13th doors open at 5:30 pm til late. Dinner by PGH Events. Costumes encouraged! See ad on Page 38.

Wednesday, May 31

Community Forest Scholarship Deadline

See more on Page 49.

BOOKS & BRAINS

Tuesday, April 4

Memories of the Mill A Memoir Anthology – Book Launch Event

4 pm, Library. This memoir anthology brings together 22 unique memoirs by local writers that share memories of the impact that the paper mill had on their lives. For info mmerlino@prpl.ca

Thursdays, April 13 & 27

Poetry Circle: National Poetry Month

4:30 to 6 pm, Library. Workshop with Amira Abouelalla. See ad on Page 20 or prpl.ca.

Monday, April 17

Muck Around in Poems: National Poetry Month

3:30 to 4:30 pm, Library. Workshop for kids. See ad on Page 20 or prpl.ca.

Friday April 21

The Eyes of the Leopard

7 pm at the Library. Archaeologist Brian Hayden will read from his new novel The Eyes of the Leopard set in pre-historic France and will discuss the courses that inspired this story. For info mmerlino@prpl.ca

Tuesday, May 9

Codes from the Old World: National Tour with Dr. Martin Shaw

7 pm, United Church. Co-hosted by Lund's Trevor Mervyn, Sacred Gestures. Dr. Martin Shaw is a celebrated international storyteller and award-winning writer (*School of Mythopoetics*). Hidden in ancient stories are all kinds of secrets about how to thrive in a time of unraveling. How do we work with such codes? How do we court them? In a time of strip-lit, rational thinking how could we, as modern people, cultivate an etiquette of the uncanny? From his years living in a tent through to his life now, mythologist Dr. Shaw will weave personal experiences up through any number of stories from the very edge of the fire. Early bird \$20, regular \$25. schoolofmythopoetics.com.

National Film Day(s)

double double down on diversity

The Patricia Theatre and qathet film society are celebrating Canadian films, participating for the second year in National Canadian Film Day.

On Wednesday April 19, 1:30 pm, we will screen *Riceboy Sleeps*, a new release that has been getting a lot of attention. Vancouver Director Anthony Shim's film follows a Korean single mother who moves to Canada with her young son in the early 1990s, "As she struggles to make ends meet and provide the best life possible for her son, she has to contend with his changing attitudes towards her, and towards their Korean culture.

A profoundly affecting drama about the immigrant experience, *Riceboy Sleeps* premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival where it won the Platform Prize and was named to their 2022 Canada's Top Ten list."

At 7 pm on the 19th, we will show the documentary *Buffy Sainte-Marie: Carry It On*, directed by Ojibwe/Saulteaux filmmaker Madison Thomas. The Tla'amin Spirit Singers and Elder Do-reen Point will open the event.

"The story of musical icon Buffy Sainte Marie is told through interviews with her peers, those she inspired and, of course, Buffy herself. This musical journey looks over her career, celebrating the brilliance of her composition, writing and fearless activism."

In the evening of April 20, we will screen *Rosie*, as it was our festival favourite, and people have been clamouring to see it.

"Frédérique, a struggling artist living in 1980s Montreal, is shocked when she's put in charge of Rosie, the young daughter of her foster sister who recently passed away. With an impending eviction from her apartment, and no desire to be a mother, she must rely on her chosen family—two aspiring



STARWALKER: Finally, a documentary about the incomparable Buffy Sainte-Marie, screening at The Pat for National Film Day April 19.

drag stars Flo and Mo—to take care of the spirited youngster and keep Rosie out of the foster care system that Frédérique herself hated.

The first feature from Cree/Métis Director Gail Maurice, *Rosie* is a touching and warm comedy that is sure to charm audiences the world over."

— Peg Campbell

FILM AT THE PAT

April 5 and 6

The Quiet Girl

7pm nightly, 1:30 Thursday matinee. Oscar-nominated for Best International Film. *The Quiet Girl* is a tightly constructed coming of age film set in rural Ireland in 1981. A simple reminder the smallest stories can leave a large emotional impact. *The Quiet Girl* is being hailed as a cinematic gem and an instant classic.

must-see for anyone who loves a good adventure movie!

April 14-18

John Wick: Chapter 4

7pm Nightly, Friday-Tuesday, 1:30 Matinee Sunday April 16. Rated 14A. The Ultra-stylized "John Wick: Chapter 4" pushes to the outermost limits, delivering some of the best action in American cinema history. Critics are calling the film "a masterpiece of action filmmaking." A feather in the series' cap, bringing the franchise to an epic conclusion! Don't miss John Wick 4!!!

April 19 & 20

National Canadian Film Days: Free Films

Wed: 1:30 *Riceboy Sleeps*.

7pm *Buffy Sainte-Marie: Carry It On*

Thurs: 7pm *Rosie*

For full descriptions, see story, left.

April 21-27

Super Mario Bros. Movie

7pm Nightly, 1:30 Sunday Matinee, April 23. PG. From Illumination and Nintendo comes a new animated film based on the popular video games and their vast worlds in *Super Mario Bros*. This movie promises to be highly entertaining with a colorful cast of characters, , voiced by A-listers Jack Black, Seth Rogan, Anna Taylor-Joy, Chris Pratt, Keegan Michael Key and Fred Armisan!

Coming Soon

Cocaine Bear

Jesus Revolution

Air

Are you there God? It's Me, Margaret.

April 7-13

Dungeons And Dragons: Honor Among Thieves

7pm Nightly, 1:30 Sunday Matinee, April 9. PG. An infectious good-spirited comedy with a solid emotional core, *Dungeons and Dragons* offers a fun, fantasy adventure for non-fans right from the jump, while also satisfying hardcore devotees of the game. A



ART OF THE TRUE SELF – Calling Youth Artists
Artwork drop off: April 11 - 14 | Exhibition: April 22 - June 10

Cedar Hat Weaving Workshop – April 15 & 16

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Films Nightly 7 PM



New Films Weekly

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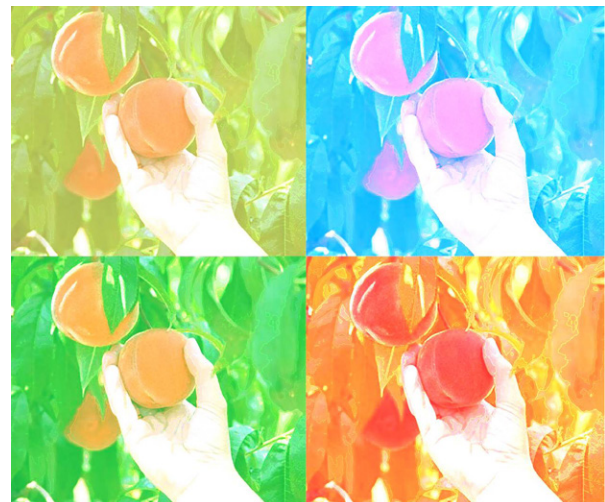


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 create@qa-w.ca 604.413.6830
 extra parking & entrance at the back

ART TO SEE & DIY



HUMANS IN NATURE: Three art shows open Earth Day weekend. At the qathet Art Centre (2 pm, April 22), see the youth show "Art of the True Self: Connection to Nature" (above, True Self, an oil painting by Naomi Harrison.) At Tidal Art Centre, Prashant Miranda's show "Pacific Madness" opens (5 to 7 pm, April 21). See image, top right). And at The Wishing Well Gallery, "Nectar," a group show on spring and sensuality, opens (7 pm, April 21).



Through April

Beyond Touch & Feel Is What you See – Kerensa Haynes Exhibition

PR Public Library. Kerensa Haynes oil paintings describe not the actual world but rather animated, dynamic & ambiguous interior realms. They are the product of her imagination and an intuitive merging of numerous sources, including fleeting feelings, moods, memories, photographs, and moments from her life. Her landscapes, usually vacant of people, are abundant, psychological terrains.

Tuesday, April 11
qL Pet Issue Photo Contest Deadline
 See ad on Page 36.

April 11-14
Artwork drop off for Art of the True Self Youth Art Show
 Call to Artists open 12-25 year olds from qathet Region. Multidisciplinary original artwork exploring your or our connection to Nature. 2D, 3D, media, literary, performance, etc. More than one piece may be submitted, but not all may be shown. At qathet Art Centre.

Friday, April 14
Salmon craft
 3:30 to 4:30 pm, Library. Kids 5+ are invited to join us in making an earth-friendly salmon craft in preparation for the salmon fry release at Willingdon Creek for Earth Day!

April 15 & 16
Cedar Hat Weaving Workshop with Ivan Rosypsky
 At qathet Art Centre. Pre-register at qathetart.ca

Friday, April 21
Prashant Miranda's Pacific Madness show
 5 to 7 pm, Tidal Art Centre in Lund. Opens on April 21. Show runs until May 7.

Nectar: Group Show opens
 The Wishing Well Gallery, 6251 Yew. "A spring themed sensual show, so it's an 18+ art show that embraces inclusive sexuality and spring's blossoming!"

April 22 – June 10
Art of the True Self – Connection to Nature Exhibition
 Opening reception April 22 at 2 pm, qathet Art Centre. Group show featuring multidisciplinary work by youth artists from the qathet Region. Gallery hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays noon-5 pm. Saturdays 12-2 pm

Monday, May 15
Lund Sticker Show: Submission Deadline
 From June 23 to the 25, the Tidal Art Centre presents the Lund Sticker Show. The community comes together to present their own version of "Lund"... In sticker form. Think a place/idea/fake business/bad joke needs a sticker? This is your chance to make it happen. Any design "Lund themed" will do. For more info, or to submit your design, contact charlie@dotank.org



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Plant sale

The annual Garden Club Plant Sale will take place on Sunday, May 7 from 12 noon to 3 pm at the Cranberry Seniors Centre and four satellite locations: 3784 Gordon Avenue, 6413 Sutherland Avenue, 6896 Klahanie Road and 4310 Westview Avenue.

The volunteer-run sale is the club's main fundraiser for the year. "Our aim is to make people delighted to be there," says Lin Morrison, Plant Sale organizer.

Club members provide plants for club to sell. In addition, club members can also have a table at the event to

sell more plants to the public.

There is always a wide variety of flowers, herbs, perennials and vegetables and some lucky attendee will win the door prize!

The Plant Sale enables the Garden Club to host informative speakers at its meetings, support student education and promote community gardening practices. Members enjoy 10% discounts on plants at Springtime Garden Centre, Mother Nature and Eternal Seed Garden Centre. Members also enjoy access to in-club master gardeners; arranged garden visits; and participation in an annual bulk fertilizer purchase from Welcome Harvest Farm.

OUTDOORS & SPORTS

Tuesday, April 4

PR Kings Playoffs Home Game
7 pm Hap Parker.

April 7&8

Barnyard Day

1:30 to 3:30 April 7; 11 am to 1 pm April 8, at Three Chicken Farm (behind Old Man Pho). Petting zoo, bouncy castle, barrel train and more. \$10 admission. See ad on Page 53.

Saturday, April 8

PR Kings Playoffs Home Game
7 pm Hap Parker - if necessary.

Saturday, April 15

QRCA x Coast Mountain Academy Poker Ride

1-5 pm. Meet at the top of Penticton St. at the Penticton Maze for a fun 'poker ride' organized by the Coast Mountain Acade-

my students. End the ride with a BBQ, by donation. Follow qathet Regional Cycling Association on Facebook and Instagram for details.

Sunday, April 16

Matinee of Mayhem wrestling

12:30 to 3 pm, The Arc. Big West returns for a kid-friendly pro wrestling matinee. \$15 Advance, \$20 at the door.

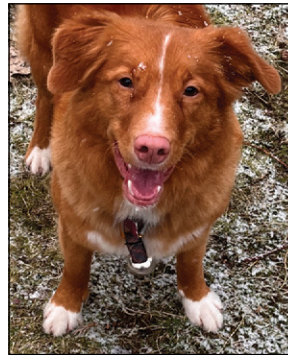
Sunday, April 30

Marathon Shuffle

sunshinecoast-trail.com

Island Cup Series XC Race

The Island Cup Race Series is back for 2023 and the cross country race is returning to Duck Lake for a fun day of racing and riding. This is a fun event hosted by TAWS Bike Garage, with support from qathet Regional Cycling Association. More info can be found at IslandCupSeries.com.



TOLLERMANIA POWELL RIVER

April 29 • 1 to 3 pm
backside of Cranberry Lake

For Powell River/qathet Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers and their humans. Talk Toller, meet other Toller lovers and watch demos at the home of Jigs and Zunga. **For more info**, email isabelle@prliving.ca, call 604-483-1786 or join Tollers of Powell River Facebook page.

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Scholarships



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

May 31, 2023 deadline for 2023 scholarship applications.

Visit our website for more information.



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More information on how to apply can be found on our website.

prcommunityforest.ca

WHAT'S UP

Treaty Day in qathet

Treaty Day, April 5, is a day to recognize the effective date of the Tla'amin treaty.

In a 2022 media release, Hegus John Hackett stated it is a day to reflect on the Nation's reconciliation journey with City of Powell River, qathet Regional District, the province, the federal government, and with all the people who live in Tla'amin traditional territory.

Coincidentally, language coordinator Randolph Timothy Jr. has produced several new videos available on YouTube, on how to pronounce common

ayajuthem words, including 'qathet.'

To perfect your pronunciation of 'qathet' – perhaps in honour of Treaty Day – head to *Ayajuthem Language* on YouTube, and subscribe.

Signs of spring?

Robins, crocuses and daffodils are often associated with spring. With the days getting longer and warmer, people all around qathet will soon be spending more time outdoors with some in their gardens, others on the trails and still others on the golf course. *Photo by Caroline Jobe.*



Assumption students help

Brendan Maguire's Grade 5/6 class at Assumption School recently learned about the earthquake that devastated people living in Syria and Türkiye. They learned that thousands of people lost their lives and how thousands of people still need help from the global community – people in this region urgently need food, water, shelter and medical attention.

The students held a bake sale to raise money to help support those impacted by the earthquake. The generous school community donated \$730 to their cause and the Grade 5/6 class

donated all proceeds to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (foodgrainsbank.ca). This Canadian humanitarian organization makes sure that food is provided to people who need it most.

When asked about their experiences, here is what two Grade 5/6 students had to say.

"Through this experience I learned that I feel horrible for the victims and I am happy that we can help in a small way. If everyone helps a little, we can accomplish a lot." - Mattea Gatt

"I learned how lucky we are to live in such a safe country and I was happy to help raise money to try and help out as much as I could." - Julian Valing

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New painted ceiling tiles at Henderson School

Grades six and seven Henderson Elementary students in Mr. Stephen Ball's class added a little cheer to the halls of their school with handpainted ceiling tiles that reflect First Nations designs.

Sierra Keller and Scarlett Walls painted the brightly coloured thunderbird that can be found in front of the main office. Madeline Larscheid and Téa Nordman painted an Orca swimming beneath the sun while Rylee Sheldon and Maya Burnett painted the sun and a mythical creature.

Mikayla Andres, Mia Welp and International student Yumeko Hiramatsu painted a hummingbird and two baby hummingbirds.

"We did a social studies unit on the Haida First Nations," said Rylee. "We learned about culture and artwork and this was a good extension.

Says Mikayla, "This is really unique and we thought it would be fun to look at when we come back to visit. We can say, 'Hey we did that!'"



community magazine, *qathet Living*, is back with our annual pet photo contest.

All you have to do to enter is take a photo of your pet outdoors (standing, sitting, sleeping, running or whatever, it doesn't matter as long as they are outdoors) and email it to contest@prliving.ca before April 11. This contest is sponsored by our friends at Mother Nature Garden, Home and Pet and *qathet Living* magazine. Winners will receive some great swag compliments of Mother Nature.

So far we have lots of dog pictures and as much as we love dogs we know there are people out there with pet chickens, rabbits, cats, horses and more! Show us what you've got.

Questions? Call 604-485-0003 or email isabelle@prliving.ca.

Pet photo contest alert

Here in *qathet*, we love our pets. So much in fact that your favourite com-



In May, *qathet Living* will publish the 13th annual edition of

Home Grown

qathet's ONLY magazine dedicated to agriculture and local food

More than a grower's or diner's guide, *Home Grown* also takes you behind the scenes to see who is creating food, where and why. We'll look at how you can grow your own, and share maps and instructions to help you find where to get locally-produced food.

- Want to get on *qathet's* food map?
- Want to get the word out about your farm, products or services?

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or Suzi at
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TAKE A BREAK

What's in a name?

Years ago I read some wisdom on personal names with correlations to self confidence, perception, and consciously addressing ourselves. It began with observing the tone, volume, and manner with which we speak our name and noticing how we felt writing our signature.

Some of us have names we feel connected to, perhaps imbued with meaning, family history, or that fit our personality. Some however, find our names ill fitting, unwillingly augmented, even used against us.

The invitation was to adjust our name experience to facilitate a truer sense of who we are, increase confidence, be taken more seriously or gently, and reclaim aspects that may have been injured or removed like cultural identity, familial lineage, or feelings of worth and respect.

A lot can shift by how we speak and write our given, and chosen, names. A potter I admire encourages artists to "sign it like you're famous" to impart a sense of established success.

We may have traditional, ceremonial, or secret names too. Either bestowed according to culture and custom or discovered through faith traditions. They hold a particular essence, power, and soul-level meaning that may influence our life choices, remind us of who we are, ensure our safety, help us embody a remedy, or let us be known deeply by others who speak in these sacred ways.

Acting as touchstones of guidance and communi-

cating rich information, in some beliefs they gain power when shared, in others, they diminish vital life force, or give control to those who learn them.

I, like many others, use an intentionally scribed symbol, a sigil, representing a medicinal quality or spirit name, or simply a suitable icon to be known by on creative endeavours or specific written works. They may act as a seal, to impart a deeper message, as invocation, or indication of heritage, intimacy, or other signal. They may even be used as a logo or common signature to reinforce its essence with every use.

Significant experiences are often recognized by name changing and/or adding prefixes and suffixes. Rites of passage and shifts of familial or community roles such as getting married, becoming a grandparent, gaining a doctorate, and formally stepping into wisdom or faith keeping are commonly visible, but less so are clearing unhealthy connotations, finding true expression, deep healing, and energetic wellbeing.

Honouring our names, ensuring nicknames are embraced rather than tolerated, and mindfully recognizing each other is a simple, powerful, even life-saving act.

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



RETURN TO REVERENCE

JULIETTE JARVIS



JULIETTE'S SIGIL: This icon represents the author's spirit name, and appears on her creative work.

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 T Q O T N X E Z K D L X E Z R T B T V D A U I C Y
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 F W I T O M S E R U W U E B C N O B W R G U Y A X
 I Y T L T D E A L Z N T I K I U U F S A Y Q O M K
 P E L S N R D Q F E O H J K V D G O X T L E J W C
 L I E I T F M I V N T Q F X Z A G P X N J H M M A
 L W W S P T D A O I D S A Y W A R D Q O P C O J P

This month's puzzle comes courtesy retired postee **Doug Love**, who, on the two-year anniversary of his retirement, took a look back at his old mail route and words he would have found in his mailbag. Can you find these words in the puzzle above?



- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-------------|
| AVENUE | MACKENZIE | THUNDERBAY |
| BILLS | MAIL | THURLOW |
| CARD | MARINE | TOBA |
| CARIBOO | NOTES | TOFINO |
| CHEQUE | ONTARIO | VANANDA |
| DOUG | PACK | VICTORIA |
| EBAY | PLACE | WALK |
| FLYER | SAYWARD | WESTMINSTER |
| JOYCE | STAMPS | WHITBY |
| KOOTENAY | STREET | WINDSOR |
| LETTER | TAHSIS | YEWKWUM |
| LILLOOET | TERRACE | |
| LOVE | THEODOSIA | |



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A Thought For The Day

“You must become distinguished for loving humanity, for unity and accord, for love and justice.”

~ Bahá'í Teachings



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Admission \$10 (babies not walking are free) • Barrel train tickets are \$5
 Mustard Wagon will be open with hot dogs and soft ice cream!

SOLUTION TO MARCH PUZZLE



Rolling out Townsite's 'welcome mat'

Triangle Gardens
and Dr. Andy Davis
to be celebrated
April 30.



A TRAIL RUNS THROUGH IT: Members of qPAWS (formerly the Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society) help out on construction of the trail through the Triangle Gardens.

As we've been working towards a fitting way to memorialize our beloved Dr. Dirt (Dr. Andy Davis) and his nearly 30 years of dedication and commitment to helping Townsite Heritage reclaim and maintain the Triangle Gardens, there have been some interesting conversations crop up about the history of the Gardens and Andy and the neighbourhood.

It seems time to provide some background here for everyone: In the 1980s, the City reluctantly took on the Triangle Gardens when MacMillan-Bloedel was disposing of the last of their property outside the mill fence. The City recognized at the time that they didn't have the resources to create or maintain



LAST WORD

ANN NELSON

a park there. By the early 90s, it had become overgrown with blackberries and broom and harboured a sort of homeless encampment amongst the bushes, and was fast becoming an embarrassment to the Townsite and to the efforts of the keeners in the Heritage Society who were promoting restoration as well as designation as a National Historic District.

When the Society approached the City about a partnership to provide restoration and maintenance for the gardens, a mutually beneficial relationship between the City, CUPE and the Society, on behalf of the neighbourhood, was entered into and we were off and running, with work parties to hack back blackberries and broom and gather up the debris and needles.

The Society had set itself to annual fundraising and volunteer rallying and gotten it looking fairly respectable, when our Andy and his wife Susan bought their home on Maple Avenue, and Andy proposed ideas and leadership for the development of the gardens into more of a 'people' friendly precinct,

with more paths, bridges, benches, etc. We were all ecstatic! Andy brought his energy and jungle-taming skills to a public project that benefitted everyone in Powell River, because the garden created an appealing 'welcome mat' to the National Historic District.

Andy and Susan also dove in and raised the funds themselves for an in-ground sprinkler system; voila, no more dragging hoses around all summer and skulking around in Managers' Row yards 'stealing' water hookups from their hose bibs. The partnership that developed between the Society and Dr. Dirt and the City's Parks and Rec crew allowed us to be able to count on the City to deal with danger trees and windfall debris, even though they were still not in a position to create or maintain an additional 'park'; the Society could be assured that the work being done to change the generally negative attitude about the Townsite was going to be supported and celebrated; and the City got some eager volunteers.

As Andy's health started to deteriorate and the Society was finding it more and more difficult to recruit contract minions to carry out the heavy lifting for him, he called upon his pals in the B.O.M.B. squad to blitz the mowing from time to time, but we were still working on a succession plan when he passed this past April.

Andy is an irreplaceable part of what our National Historic District continues to grow into, and deserving of a memorial that will remind us every day of his passion and commitment to his community. Working with Will van Delft of the Townsite Rate-payers Association, the City, qPAWS, numerous volunteers, and the incredibly generous donations from community members, we're ready to share our tribute to an awesome man.

We hope you'll join us at the gardens at **1 pm on Sunday, April 30th**, the anniversary of Andy's passing, as the memorial bench, walking path, monument and specimen tree are unveiled and we celebrate 30 years of volunteer investment in preservation and beautification of the Triangle Gardens, the Townsite's welcome mat. **CL**

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- Committed to zero waste & zero emissions
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PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT - DWIGHT HALL

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

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Maple Avenue: Aspen to Elm segment • 6:30 to 8:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

Maple Avenue: Elm to Hemlock segment • 6:30 to 8:30 pm

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APRIL 2023						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



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