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AUGUST 2023

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**ON THE COVER:**

Patricia Theatre manager Laura Wilson dressed up as "Weird Barbie". Laura writes about the connection between Barbie, self-expression, costuming and PRIDE on Page 46. qathet Film Society executive director Gary Shilling is "Just Ken."



# Fashion Forward

**G**runge – perhaps the worst teen fashion era on record – was in during my early teens. Ripped Levis, flannel button-up shirts, thoughtless hair and bland make-up. I just loved it, but it did me no favours. I wore it to blend in and to hide, as teens of every generation like to do.

By the time I was 16, I was ready to stand out. I bought a wardrobe of secondhand French opera costumes at a market in Paris, and made fashion my own. I felt like I was really me, parading in my knee-length military jacket and fitted tweed vest – with Converse, of course.

Eventually, I became conscious of how my fashion choices were harming first impressions with professors and potential friends and mates. After working a job at The Gap, I learned the magic of khakis and a tidy white blouse. Like my grunge gear, the Gap look helped me fit in – but this time, with adults. And like my opera costumes, it helped me get attention, but this time, the right kind.

Fashion, I've learned over the decades, is all about costuming. How do you want people to react to you? What do you want to reveal or hide about yourself? Fashion can draw attention or minimize it, show off your authentic self or help you blend in. It's about power, and fun, and protection, and noise.

This month in qathet, dressing up is absolutely a way to connect with others. We're all invited to be living conversation pieces at Pride (Page 46), at Rockin' the Beach (Page 37) at Box Wars (Page 41), at *The Barbie Movie* (Page 45), and more.

qathet's Robert Falls has a made a 26-year hobby of dressing and performing as Elvis (Page 12.)

Patricia Theatre manager Laura Wilson has added costume nights as a regular feature of screenings – adding an extra pop to the experience of going to the movies.

Who says the West Coast doesn't do fashion? This month it's pink, rainbows, band t-shirts and cardboard (Page 35). **PL**



## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

**PIETA WOOLLEY**

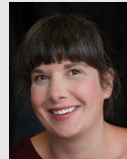
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# qL

“

Blackberries are the quintessential free qathet berry, always providing a sweet treat no matter your financial status.

~ Dana Percy, **Page 38.**

”

## A FEW OF AUGUST'S CONTRIBUTORS



**CLANCY DENNEHY** brings us the stories and pictures of YARD ART - The wonderful creations by local residents that add surprise and personality to our walks and bike rides about town. **See Clancy's column, Yard Art, on Page 21.**



**TRACEY ELLIS** is the Executive Director of Tourism Powell River with an extensive publishing background that includes editor of *BC Outdoors Magazine* and *Dream House Magazine*. **See Tracey's story, Plein Air, on Page 51**



**LIS GENDRON-BOILART** is a local commercial diver who grew up in Lund. She came back in 2018 after traveling for many years, and joined the Sunshine Music Festival board. **See Lis' story, Life-Long Memories, on Page 48.**



**COLIN WHITE** is portfolio manager with Verecan Wealth Management (formerly WLWP) - and a current renter. **See Colin's story, Is Owning Always Better than Renting? on Page 25.**



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BY PIETA WOOLLEY

**A** lightbulb went off for Susan Jersak, when she travelled through Europe with a close friend who used a wheelchair. This was the 1960s. Nothing had a ramp. Washrooms were often impossible. Sidewalks jimmied the wheels, with their uneven surfaces and cobbles. Clearly, the culture and beauty of Europe – where her friends’ ancestors came from – wasn’t welcoming her friend. Wheelchair access was not considered in those days.

Back home, Susan contacted the Powell River Model Community Project for Persons with Disabilities and the (now-late) advocate Geraldine Braak. Together, the two lobbied for an accessible trail at what was then known as Loon Lake, now Inland Lake. They wanted it to be a destination for people with mobility challenges – a way for everyone to experience the culture and beauty of *this* region: the still-wild rainforest, frog-filled sloughs, and clean, coastal air.

The key to an accessible trail is that it’s flat and level, at least 1.5 metres wide, without mud, grass, or rocks. That’s critical for wheelchairs and walkers, but also helps parents pushing strollers, toddlers on balance bikes, those walking with canes, people with vision impairments, and many other potential users.

Susan, formerly a clerk with the CBC in Toronto, had the skills to force the government’s hand: reading policy and writing grant applications.

“We hoped that if we built it, thousands of people with disabilities from Vancouver would come to use it,” Susan, now in her 80s, said from her home in Westview. “But the government didn’t see the benefit to the people. They got stingy. But to us, it was their responsibility to make things accessible for everyone.”

The trail did get built in 1986, by unemployed forest-sector workers on Employment Insurance claims, though it was never quite built to the standards envisioned by Susan and Gerry.

Still, it was 13 kilometres of stunningly-beautiful near-inclusiveness – a jewel representing the best of what British Columbia might become.

**Now, nearly 40 years later**, the trail is “an embarrassment to this community and an eyesore,” according to Tracey Ellis, the Executive Director of Tourism Powell River. She used to send about 80% of travellers who came to the Visitor Information Centre on Joyce Avenue to the trail. Now, she doesn’t.

Instead, she and her board – along with a new generation of community advocates – are locked in a battle with BC Parks over the Province’s failure to maintain Inland Lake Trail. She is confident that, were community groups allowed to work on it, it would be cleaned, repaired, and safe within days. Inland Lake Trail isn’t like other regional parks, she explained; it’s at the heart of this community’s vision for itself.

“We’re fed up. Tourism Powell River’s stance is now, if BC Parks is not willing to invest and look after the park, they need to give it back to the people who can and will look after it.”

Most famously, the first bridge north of the campground has been out for three years. Mid-July, the middle of the structure has collapsed into the swamp below, along with a side-railing. Thin, red plastic “danger” tape was tied to the supports at the ends – but it flapped in the breeze alongside the bridge; the tape had been ripped down. A wooden post lay



“If BC Parks is not willing to invest and look after the park, they need to give it back to the people who can and will look after it.”

*Tracey Ellis, Tourism Powell River*

on top of the collapsed portion, a precarious bridge on top of the bridge, likely placed there by rogue trail users to help walkers and cyclists journey across the broken path.

“People are still crossing it,” said Tracey.

But the bridge is just one mess.

Walk in either direction from the campsite, and you’ll find grass growing over the trail. That’s not a big deal if you’re walking or cycling, but if you’re pushing a wheelchair, stroller, or walker, it certainly can be. So are the collapsing edges in some parts.

Just one of the original six wheelchair-accessible fishing piers remains - the rest removed by BC Parks



**INACCESSIBLE:** Top, the first bridge North of the campground has been out for three years, and BC Parks estimates it will be Fall of 2024 before it’s fixed. Above, small repairs make a big difference to trail users with mobility challenges. Right, this section of trail, and others, are completely impassible by trail users in wheelchairs.

*Photos by Pieta Woolley and Roger Pagani*





# Loon -acy at Inland Lake

The BC Government has a new commitment to accessibility for people with disabilities.

So why is our unique, built-for-wheelchairs Inland Lake Trail – for which the Province is responsible – such a mess?

ostensibly for safety concerns, but never upgraded or rebuilt.

Further around, entire trees lie fallen across the trail. Even more concerning are those that haven't completely fallen, but are suspended by other trees either leaning, or horizontal overhead, suspended by branches.

“They call those ‘widow-makers’ for a reason,” said Tracey. Her greatest fear is that she’ll send a visitor to use the trail, and their RV will roll down a cliff after hitting a pothole or erosion – or a tree will fall on them. It’s not just an eyesore or embarrassment anymore, she said. Parts of the park are genuinely unsafe.

“My boys and I just came back from a 12-day road trip around BC and we visited many BC Parks – all of which were absolutely stunning,” said Tracey. “We’re like the have-nots of BC Parks, when I look at other parks.”

In July, Sunshine Coast Trail founder Eagle Walz, Tourism Powell River president, Jock McLauchlan, and Tracey met with MLA Nicholas Simons. Nicholas then met with BC’s Environment Minister to raise the group’s concerns. Before work is done, the Minister reported, BC Parks requires three studies: environmental, archaeological, and engineering. Funding and a contractor have been secured to fix the bridge by the fall of 2024, Tracey confirmed, but the rest of the trail has no promises.

Tracey has also met with the Tourism critic, Ben Stewart, and he told her that he is taking the matter up with the Tourism Minister and the Environment Minister critic.

“Let’s see if we can get it brought up in the Legislature,” she said, hoping that public embarrassment will provoke BC Parks into action.

**Accessibility for people with disabilities** is a core community value here in qathet – but it’s also

## What does qathet offer people with disabilities?

### Inland Lake Trail was at the top of the list

The trail has been a place of serenity, celebration, relaxation and exercise for many of the individuals served through inclusion Powell River. We have walked, biked, camped and had bonfires, while enjoying the accessible trail.

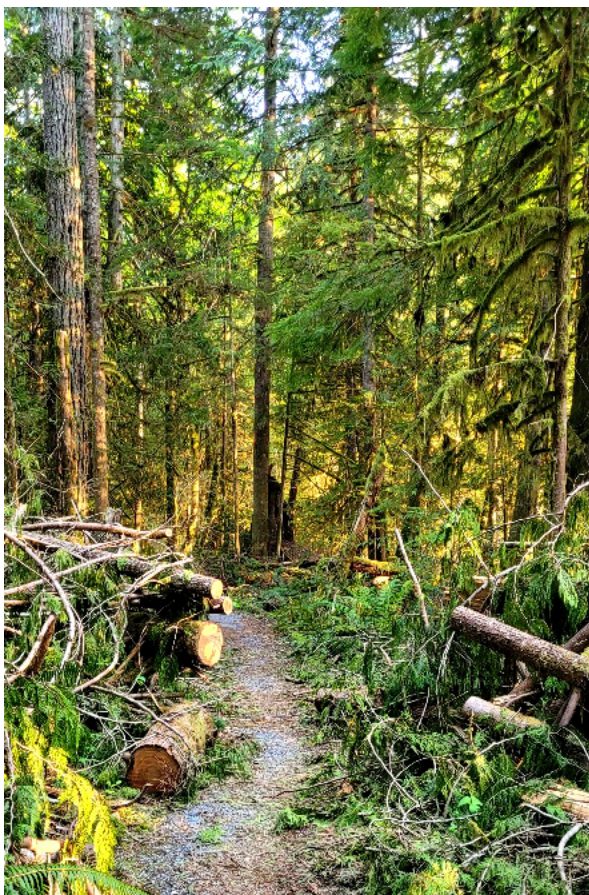
Having a trail that is shaded and accessible makes it a go-to safe place for our staff and individuals to enjoy year round. In the past, it has also been a source of pride for all of us that we have this right at our finger tips and a bragging point when talking about what Powell River has to offer.

I recently biked around the trail with my husband and when we came to the bridge, we were able to get off our bikes and walk them across, lifting them in the areas that have fallen in, being really careful. This is never something I would do if I was supporting an individual on the trail and the other option to get around the trail is an uphill, narrow detour.

With mobility issues, this would not be possible for many of them to maneuver. There have been many times where staff have gone on an outing with a group and gone to the right instead of the left from the parking lot so they could go to Anthony Island and back, making it a shorter hike for them.

Now that is not even possible.

~ Yvonne Russell, Director of Inclusive Community Services, inclusion Powell River





political, with its own Provincial history.

The mid-80s in BC was a remarkable transition time for accessibility and inclusion. Rick Hansen, the paraplegic athlete originally from 100 Mile House, completed his Man in Motion round-the-world tour by wheelchair, arriving back in Vancouver in 1987, having raised unprecedented awareness for removing barriers for people with disabilities. Six years earlier, another British Columbian, amputee Terry Fox, ran to raise money for cancer research.

Both high-profile feats – plus the late cancer amputee and former Powell River resident Steve Fon-

yo, who finished Fox's run in 1985 – contributed to BC's pioneering legislative commitments to building for accessibility. All three, like Gerry Braak, were awarded Order of Canada medals – a significant nod from government that their work was valued and groundbreaking.

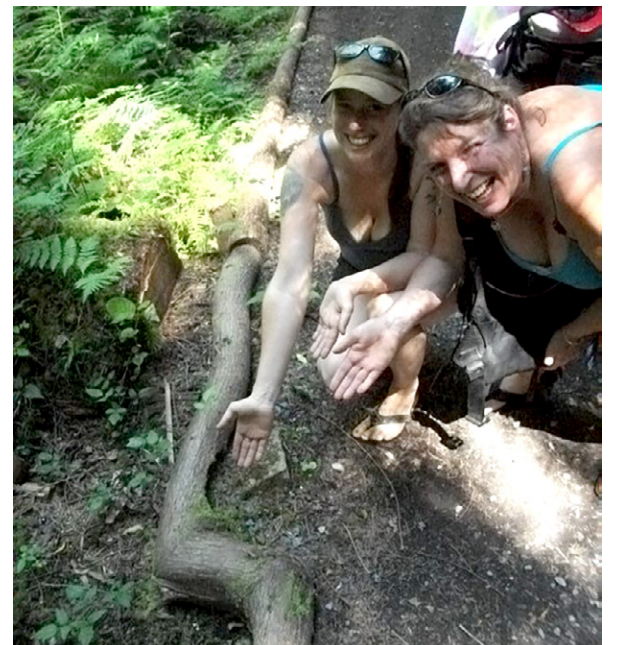
Policy-makers were paying attention in real ways, too, through the 80s. Students with disabilities were integrated into regular classrooms. Institutions housing people with developmental disabilities, including Woodlands School and Riverview Hospital, were largely shuttered and residents integrated into the community. The work of pioneering local agency Powell River Association for Community Living (now Inclusion Powell River and the umbrella organization for the Model Community Project), which advocated for inclusion and accessibility since 1954, was replicated across BC.

Expo '86, the World's Fair held in Vancouver, was planned specifically to accommodate visitors with disabilities. As a result, more than two million people with mobility challenges went to Expo.

It was in this context that the Inland Lake trail was built.

Interestingly, the famously stingy, right-wing Social Credit party was in power in BC during this entire era, from 1975 to 1991, under premiers Bill Bennett, Bill Vander Zalm, and Rita Johnson. The party slashed spending on education and repealed labour laws, while funding showcase Vancouver capital projects including BC Place, the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre, and Skytrain.

It was Social Credit that originally funded the accessible trail at Inland Lake.



## Inland Lake Trail: A timeline

### Before 1987

The campground at Inland Lake (formerly called Loon Lake) is cared for by BC's Forest Service. It's a free, rustic amenity – like the sites at Nanton, Dodd, and Appleton Creek are now.

### 1987

The Powell River Model Communities Project for Persons with Disabilities advocates for, secures funding for, and oversees the **building of the Inland Lake Trail**. The trail is designed by the Forest Service's **Bob Rebantad** and **Glen Allen**, who, for their contributions, won the Premier's Award for Excellence in Design in 1989. It was built over three years by unemployed forest sector workers. It's a 13-kilometre long trail accessible by those with mobility challenges. It loops around the lake, surrounded by forest – a uniquely inclusive wilderness amenity in BC.

The same year, BC's Rick Hansen, who is paraplegic and uses a wheelchair, completes his **Man in Motion** world tour in Vancouver, raising global awareness for accessibility and inclusion.

### 1997

The community hands the trail over to BC Parks, under the Ministry of the Environment. **BC Parks takes responsibility** for the campground, trail, and 34 hectares of previously Ministry of Forestry-administered land.

### 2008

BC Parks pays for **upgrades to the trail** – again, using unemployed workers from the forest sector. The work takes two years, and 10 of the 13 kilometres of trail are made safe and accessible.

### 2009

A cedar **tree falls on the bridge**, likely causing the foundation underneath the bridge to shift in the slough.

### 2020

BC Parks **closes the bridge**, as the centre has collapsed.

### 2023

Due to grass, debris and erosion, Inland Lake trail is largely impassible by those using wheelchairs or other mobility devices. Timber has fallen across the trail in places, and the bridge is still closed. BC Parks promises to repair the bridge by fall of 2024, but some community advocates say it's **time for the Province to give the entire trail back to this community**.







**WHAT THE TRAIL SHOULD LOOK LIKE:** Silviculturist Kat Richards ran the crew repairing Inland Lake Trail 15 years ago. Above, when the trail is maintained, it should be this accessible. Left, removing fallen and danger trees, hauling logs out of the outflow to prevent flooding, greeting users and repairing the trails.

*Photos by Kat Richards, circa 2008/9*

Now, the NDP—a party famous for spending on social programs—is in power provincially, under Premier David Eby.

Recognizing that nearly a million BC adults have a disability, the party passed the *Accessible British Columbia Act* in 2021, with the goal of becoming “the most accessible province in Canada for people with disabilities.”

The Act requires committees, action plans, and reporting-back mechanisms. So far, actions have included spending on accessibility at post-secondary, consulting with the Rick Hansen Foundation for barrier-free government buildings, consulting the public about the *BC Building Code*, and investing “in over 100 new or upgraded accessible tourism facilities since 2020.”

The NDP’s intention is clearly there. So why is Inland Lake Trail—a Social Credit-funded project—still such a mess?

**The failure to regularly maintain** Inland Lake Trail is not new.

Fifteen years ago, the trail had many of the same problems it has now: muddy parts from flooding, danger trees, overgrowth, and more. At the time, Inland Lake had been in the hands of BC Parks for more than a decade, but it was David Morris, the executive director of the Model Community Project, who applied for \$500,000 to - again - hire unemployed forestry workers to clean up the trail, this time through the Job Creation Project Program.

Kat Richards, a silviculturist, became project supervisor, and hired a crew of three. For nearly two years, they inched their way along the trail, “making as many improvements as we could with what we had.” The terms of the grant were that 90% had to be spent on wages, with just 10% going to materials and tools, so many fixes were cosmetic, “we couldn’t get into the guts



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Dennis Bouwman  
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Calico  
Harley Alexander  
Naduh  
Cat Madden  
The Band Destiny  
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or the origins of many of the problems,” she said in a phone interview.

“We were out there five days a week, in rain or shine,” she recalls. “Every trail user was like, ‘Thank you so much, yay, good job!’ We felt like local heroes. It was probably the most fun job I ever had.”

Although the community was overwhelmingly supportive – including big pitch-ins by the BOMB Squad – Kat recalls battling with BC Parks over funding and permissions. At first, bureaucrats didn’t want her crew removing danger trees, except those that threatened spots where trail users stop. Then a large branch fell on Kat’s head, and knocked her out. Danger tree removal became, suddenly, a significant part of their job. They installed drainage, removed debris, raked the trail, installed stringers the whole length of the trail, built wooden retaining walls to halt erosion, and had a well drilled and a pump installed in the campground (before, campers had to bucket water out of the lake.)

During a November storm in 2008, a 30,000-pound tree fell on the bridge.

“We cleaned up the tree and repaired the bridge the best we could. But we couldn’t get funding or permissions to do more, because the slough is a sensitive area.”

Ten kilometres into the 13-kilometre trail, the money ran out. The boardwalk across from the campground still needed reinforcements, said Kat; some rock retaining walls were failing; and some boardwalks needed replacing. The Model Community Project couldn’t find the money to allow them to finish the trail – although BC Parks paid Kat’s crew to clean logs out of the outflow.

“It was two skilled chainsaw workers in hip-high waders and a mini-excavator,” she recalls. “They cleaned out tonnes of wood to get the outflow clear. The trail didn’t flood for years, but it’s all full of crap again, so of course it’s flooding again.”

After managing the campground for BC Parks for a couple of years, Kat’s relationship with the bureaucracy soured, and she lost her contract. Now, she sits on the board of Tourism Powell River, and remains skeptical that the government has the best interests of qathet at heart, in managing the park.

“BC Parks constant mantra was, ‘We don’t have any money,’” Kat said. “Okay. There’s no money. That was my biggest frustration – that they say they didn’t have any money, and then threaten to close the whole thing down if it was unsafe.”

What now? Kat, who knows the site intimately, says the bridge’s archaeological and engineering studies will probably sail through – but she’s worried that the environmental study will be a hiccup. She also notes that any work in the water must be completed in the summertime, to protect the fish-bearing waters.

“When I moved here in 1997, this was considered to be the most accessible city in the entire province,” Kat said. “We were so progressive back then.

“I’d love to see this park back in the community’s hands. If it were back with the community, the bridge would have been fixed years ago. Every local engineer, carpenter, and business would pitch in with their huge hearts. I’d bet my last dollar on it. I would love to have the opportunity to manage it again. I have the experience, though not the body anymore,” said Kat, 56.

Tourism Powell River’s board, of course, isn’t alone in their frustration. Letters of support have been flowing in to Tourism and MLA Nicholas Simons’ office.

The veterinarian, Dr. Bryce Fleming, wrote on May 16 that the park is far from BC Parks’ website claims that it is wheelchair accessible. “Who the hell



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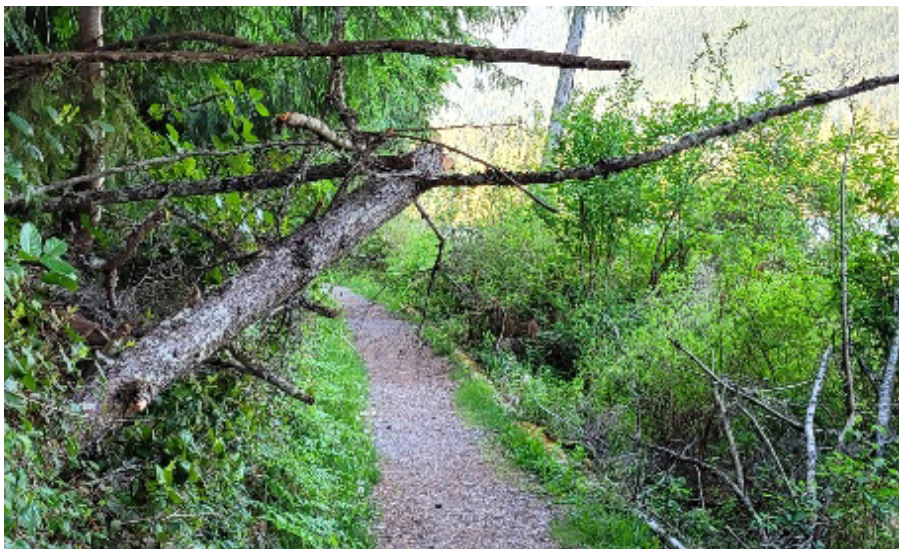
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**THE WORST SHAPE IN 30 YEARS:** Generational trail user Roger Pagani snapped these images to show governments how bad the situation is at Inland Lake Trail. Above, danger trees hang over the trail. Left, the mud, which is sometimes caused by flooding. Below left, erosion at the edge of the road leading in to the Park.

are they kidding? Are we talking about an ATV that doubles as a wheelchair? It seems to me that the trail neglect is clearly discriminatory against people with disabilities. I can see a human rights complaint right there.”

Property manager Roger Pagani noted that he has “camped, hiked and biked Inland Lake Park with my parents, my children and grandchildren for over 30 years and have not seen

the park in such a state as it is in.”

He goes on to say that the park “appears to be forgotten,” and attached a long list, accompanied by photographs, of deficiencies in the road, trail, bridges, and more.

In a May Facebook post, MLA Nicholas responded to some of the concerns he’s heard, noting that BC Parks has found money to replace the bridge, and “our office continues to speak

with BC parks about other aspects of the trail that need addressing.”

In an interview with *qL* in July, Nicholas was confident that BC Parks is “sympathetic and understanding” to local concerns, “but unfortunately this is a process. They can’t override provincial regulations.... Regulations are there to protect us and the environment. They shouldn’t be seen as impediments – even though they seem like it when there’s a delay.”

Nicholas has never heard of a BC Park being handed back over to a community. But he understands the frustration that is raising that as a possibility. No matter who is responsible for the park, the issue of regular maintenance – not just big projects – is the problem that needs fixing, he said.

**To Susan Jersak, the heart of Inland Lake Trail is its deep roots in this community’s values.** At the time it was initiated, local politicians stood behind the accessibility vision, including the now-late Colin Palmer, Stewart Alsgard, now 87, and many more.

Also at the heart of Inland Lake Trail has always been a tension between its supporters and its detractors. You can’t be against accessibility. But you can, evidently, be against consistently coming up with enough money to maintain

“It seems to me that the trail neglect is clearly discriminatory against people with disabilities. I can see a human rights complaint right there.”

~ Dr. Bryce Fleming

the audacious project of a 13-kilometre long accessible trail around a wetland, through environmentally-sensitive sloughs, near active logging.

“When we built this in 1986, the government was interested, but they were never on the bandwagon in the same way locals were,” Susan said.

With BC’s new legislative commitment to accessibility, we’ll see if that has changed. [pieta@prliving.ca](mailto:pieta@prliving.ca)



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# Elvis is Alive

And living south of town

Straight from the finals at the Penticton Elvis Festival in June, Robert Falls – Health Care Hero – brings his swagger to Willingdon Beach August 5.

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

**B**ack in 1997, Robert Falls was working in maintenance at the Powell River General Hospital. Planning a Halloween party, the staff knew he played country and western music, so they asked him to sing for the patients.

“I said sure! But what will I dress as?”

At the time, Elvis Presley had been dead (probably) for 20 years, so Robert chose to go as his ghost. The occupational therapist made his first jumpsuit – a white, fringed two-piece – and he styled his own hair for the occasion.

“I was 44 – older than Elvis was when he died,” Robert recalled. “Someone who was at that performance said, ‘Hey! You’re pretty good at this!’ So I thought why not try it out?”

Since then, Robert has been a fixture at Elvis impersonation festivals around North America, and a finalist a handful of times. In June, he competed at Canada’s largest (for the 16th time): the Penticton Elvis Festival. In the past, he has even donned his hand-made sideburns – made from skin-coloured nylon, a Dollarama Halloween wig, and some double-sided sticky tape – to perform at Images of the King, a week-long festival held annually in Memphis to mark August 16, the day Elvis died in 1977.

Here in town, he’s rarely Elvis in public, preferring to perform for residents of Kiwanis Manor, Willingdon Creek Village, and the hospital’s extended care unit.

In the early morning of August 5, however, Robert, now 70, will stick on those sideburns, zip up his fringed jumpsuit, pull on his boots, and finally, lower the full wig of swoopy black hair onto his own shiny scalp and grab his guitar for his first public performance here in years, a noontime show to raise funds for River Kids (see more on Page 37).

**Robert was born in Ontario in 1953;** he was just three years old when Elvis released his first single, “Heartbreak Hotel.” By the time Robert was in high school, Elvis stopped touring, and his film career slowed down. Then came Elvis’ tough comeback years: his residency in Las Vegas, and his problems with drugs and his controlling manager.





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**CAN'T HELP FALLS-ING IN LOVE:** Left, Robert Falls as Elvis at home on the waterfront. Above, it takes him about 20 minutes to do his Elvis make-up routine, which includes a base, highlighter to make his nose appear longer, rouge and lip liner for extra sneer. Right, Robert's home-made sideburn gets some fresh double-sided sticky tape.

*Photos by Pieta Woolley*



At about the same time as Elvis started struggling, Robert's own father died. The 14-year-old was sent to live in an orphanage in the USA, run by the Royal Order of the Moose, as his father had been a member of that service organization.

There, Robert played trombone, then he picked up piano and guitar, even though he is challenged by a missing pinky. As a young man working for BC Hydro in Prince George, he played guitar and sang with country bands. One of his bandmates in The Canadian Capers played with songwriting legend Gary Fjellgaard – and so he played with him, as well. After

## ELVIS @ ROCKIN' THE BEACH

**When:** Saturday, August 5, noon to 12:30 (the festival runs 10:30 am to 9 pm)

**What:** Robert Falls lends his voice, guitar and moves to this free music festival raising funds for River Kids

**Where:** Willingdon Beach



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he moved to Powell River and started work for the hospital, Robert played guitar and sang at the Legion and Moose Lodges here and around BC (including what's now the Carlson Community Club), while raising children. He also played for the residents on his coffee and lunch breaks.

Younger Robert was never a major Elvis fan – though the star was always in the background of his life. He was impressed with his very long, era-spanning career. But since that Halloween party 26 years ago, Elvis has stuck with him. He reads books about him. He watches documentaries about him. He studies old footage.

**Because his wife is** still not an Elvis fan, “I practice in the basement,” he revealed, noting that he watches Elvis performances on TV, and copies his moves in front of a mirror. “There are three things you’re trying to get right: Elvis’s look, his mannerisms, and his voice. I’ve noticed that if you can do one of those really well, people will like you.”

Robert’s strength is his baritone voice.

“One of the best compliments I get is when people ask if I’m lip synching.”

“If I Could Dream,” from the Elvis Special is one of his favourites to perform. So is “Suspicious Minds.”

“That one takes a lot of movement,” said Robert. “I can’t do that as much anymore. But the jumpsuit helps; it gives the impression that you’re moving much more than you are.”

At Elvis events from Osoyoos to Ontario, he’s met hundreds of Elvis impersonators, plus some of the people who were close to the real Elvis. They include the Jordanares, Elvis’ back-up singers; Elvis’



**A LITTLE LESS CONVERSATION:** Want to see Robert Falls in action? Stop by Willingdon Beach August 5 from noon til 12:30, or scan the QR code below ([youtu.be/oPXeFCRqTww](https://youtu.be/oPXeFCRqTww)) to see a video of him performing his regular set and in the finals at June’s Penticton Elvis Festival.

road manager and friend Joe Esposito; and Elvis’ girlfriend Linda Thompson, who broke up with him months before he died (she went on to marry Bruce Jenner and then David Foster, and at 75 now, Robert says she “still looks great.”)

Vast audiences of all ages come to the 30 Elvis impersonator events sanctioned by Elvis Presley Enterprises, including Penticton’s. There, he had a 14-minute slot to wow the audience and judges – although Robert points out that overly-serious contestants bring their own busloads of “fans” to bolster their applause, which makes it hard for other impersonators to simply enjoy performing.



**Why, nearly 50 years** after his death, is Elvis still such a phenomenon?

First, Robert says, it’s his music. It transcends time.

Second, he said, it’s also the person of Elvis Presley. His life was the ultimate rags to riches story. He was very generous. He was an influential ally during the Civil Rights movement.

And third, Elvis was, and is, a phenomenon. He was the first true rock star.

Robert retired from the hospital in 2020, right at the beginning of COVID. But he continued to play for the residents as restrictions allowed, as Elvis, or Buddy Holly, or Roy Orbison. For his efforts, he was recognized with a provincial Health Care Hero award.

In Robert, Elvis – his spirit of showmanship and generosity – is alive. [pieta@prliving.ca](mailto:pieta@prliving.ca)

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**A TIP FOR YOU, BUT NOT FOR YOU:** If you pay by card at Save-On-Foods, the POS machine doesn't suggest a tip—but at Starbucks it now does: \$1, \$2 or \$5. *Editors note:* I (Pieta Woolley) worked at Starbucks through university, and tips were a significant part of our pay. That was when most cus-

tomers still paid in cash, and chucked their change into the little box by the till, to be divided up among the baristas fortnightly. Since customers stopped carrying cash, tips evaporated, meaning take-home pay was far lower for nearly two decades. Until now. So the format is new, but the tipping really isn't.

## Think your way to better tipping

BY LANA CULLIS

**A**s a young adult, I worked at an exclusive Northern dry fly fishing lodge where substantial tips (often in US dollars) were paid out weekly to river guides and cooks. One year we hosted an atypical client, a wildlife artist and passionate fisherman who had been treated to the trip by a wealthy brother.

The artist gifted each staff member an original print to express gratitude for his memorable week catching and releasing steelhead on the Bulkley River. My print, featuring the salmon life cycle, hangs over my writing desk, a constant reminder of his generous spirit not marred by the scarcity of his financial resources.

Early in July, a newly hired bartender manually disengaged the automated tip function on a handheld debit machine, here in qathet. It was one of the busiest days of the summer season and there were unforeseen staff shortages on shift.

It simply felt wrong to him to offer customers the “suggested” tip amounts, when service was not optimum.

I was impressed with the young man's reasoning and proactive behaviour. Then I began to question why such decent behaviour could be surprising to me as an employment professional and as a consumer.

And, I began to ask myself, what is “decent behaviour” in 2023, when it comes to tipping?

Certainly, I find myself negatively reacting to tipping “prompts” for the first time. What's going on?

**I am aware that I'm** being swayed to tip by technology now, rather than being solely inspired by outstanding service. This happens when I order a

coffee at a counter, and the Interac machine suggests a tip amount. That's new.

Clearly I'm not alone in my tipping ire. Media this year is full of headlines such as “A tip too far? Why tip fatigue may be setting in for North Americans,” and “Why Businesses Can't Stop Asking for Tips.”

However, I wonder if our current angst might better be understood within the context of competing values, namely generosity, fairness, and empowerment.

I submit that to tip or not to tip, is not the only question. Consumers, workers, and employers may all benefit from more reasoned discernment—beyond seeming powerlessness in the face of ever-increasing automation.

Are there labour market options that do not involve turning tipping into another kind of tax?

**BC author Cait Flanders** takes a deep dive into how we earn, spend, and save our money in her books *The Year of Less: How I Stopped Shopping, Gave Away My Belongings, and Discovered Life Is Worth More Than Anything You Can Buy in a Store* (2018) and *Adventures in Opting Out: A Field Guide to Leading an Intentional Life* (2020).

Cait offers counterpoints to our credit-crazy spending culture. Not surprisingly, she endorses spending within one's means and further recommends becoming unapologetic about it.

Concerning tipping, she illuminates a middle ground, where a person might choose to eat out considerably less often, but tip with more enthusiasm when doing so.

I appreciate Cait's reasoning that honours both generosity and fiscal responsibility. Reading her

### Most Canadians loathe tip-flation

That's what pollster Angus Reid found this February, in a special national study on tipping.

- 83 % say “too many places are asking for tips these days.”
- 87% said service has not improved since more places began asking for tips
- 59% say they prefer a “tip included” business model
- BC reported the highest amount of “tip creep” of all provinces
- 86% of those who want to get rid of tipping believe that the current system allows employers to underpay their workers
- 78% say “tipping is no longer about showing appreciation for a job well done
- 76% of Canadians tip their hairdresser / barber; 74% tip their bartender; 71% tip their food delivery driver; 60% tip their taxi or Uber driver; 34% tip their hotel housekeeper; 29% tip at the coffee shop; 17% tip for massage.

books caused me to reflect on how working as a server influenced my attitude towards tipping.

My parents would occasionally drive the 625 miles south to the “big city” to visit me while I was at university. And when they did, they would take their starving student out for a special dinner.

They did not leave what I deemed an adequate tip on the table. I mitigated my embarrassment (dare I say shame) by leaving cash under my plate to compensate for what I judged to be ungenerous behaviour towards service staff with whom I felt solidarity.

But were my parents being ungenerous or were there other factors at play? Reading Cait's books sparked a new appreciation for how my parents managed their money and remained free from the stress of debt.

**Is there an alternative** to the position that tipping is necessary for service sector employees to make ends meet?

Sure. It involves offering decent pay and steady work—and offering proper training in a transferable skill. Here in qathet, one employer is taking it a step further, by paying students a living wage during their training.

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) is currently lur-



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"I wonder if our current angst [about tipping] might better be understood within the context of competing values, namely generosity, fairness, and empowerment."

### Making Work Work

This is Part 3 in Lana Cullis' four-part series on the complexities of the labour market in 2023.

Lana spent her working life as an employment counsellor and workplace consultant in Vancouver. She assisted people switching careers after trauma, illness, or other disruptions; as well as working with companies to help improve their workplace culture, inclusivity, and retention strategies.

She started her career serving residents of the Downtown Eastside and completed her working life as an accreditation surveyor. Lana retired to qathet during the pandemic.

Lana recently offered Writing into the Sacred at the library and is active with diverse writing projects.

ing new workers into what has traditionally been an underpaid sector in healthcare, by partnering with multiple qathet organizations to offer a newly revamped Health Care Assistant program (HCAP) – which pays students \$22 an hour to take the credential.

The two-year, full-time program blends in-class and online courses at Vancouver Island University with hands-on practicums. In exchange for financial support during training and longer-term benefits, VCH expects that the student will stay working for them for a minimum term.

Powell River WorkBC employment counsellors are keen to refer job seekers to the HCAP program. A recent graduate (who pivoted away from the restaurant industry) said, "Now I know what I am supposed to do at work, I feel prepared. My clients like me and I can make rent!"

While VCH is implementing a large-scale shift in how they find Health Care Assistants, such measures may not be possible for small businesses.

But, I've seen similar successes when employers simply take seriously the needs and goals of their service sector employees.

For example, I used to work as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counsellor, helping people transition from their former work lives to new possibilities. On my caseload was a middle-aged immigrant professional hoping to pay for ESL upgrading at college, so he could eventually work in his established field.

He was quickly hired as a dishwasher because he spoke the same language as many of the restaurant staff.

Unfortunately, the restaurant owner didn't make the servers share tips with the kitchen staff. My client stated a simple truth to me "No clean dish, no tip for anyone," meaning that the servers depended on him for their tips, but he wasn't rewarded in the same way for his labour.

He knew the situation was unfair, but he feared losing his job if he let me intervene on his behalf. When I eventually visited the restaurant, his boss confided his frustration to me, with the high turnover amongst dishwashers and other kitchen staff.

He was motivated to find a fix and I was able to share the business case

for implementing a formal tip pool system, meaning everyone shared the tips. He tried it, and it worked.

My client repaid his employer's new commitment to improved work culture by inviting two of his friends to fill long-vacant kitchen prep and dishwashing positions.

Some restaurants such as Folke in Vancouver are taking even bigger steps such as eliminating tipping altogether and including hospitality in the pricing.

Folke pays every employee the same wage regardless of role, scaled to be a meaningful living wage far above the legislated minimum pay in BC.

To tip or not tip is a question that belies the complexity of choices that consumers, employees and businesses face when considering the competing values of generosity, fairness, and empowerment.

I will remain intensely curious about innovative practices that circumvent tipping as an entitlement, disrupt tipping as necessary compensation for low wages, and subvert the proliferation of automated tipping technology.

And, I will endeavour to tip consciously and generously, like the artist fisherman. 🐟

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Warren received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Ottawa, where he graduated *cum laude* with Joint Honours in History and Political Science in 2019. He then completed his Juris Doctorate at the University of New Brunswick in 2023. His goal is to practice general litigation (criminal, family and civil) but is currently honing his skills in all areas of the law.

Warren is excited to begin putting down roots in the Powell River community and is eager to begin volunteering and being involved

with local non-profits. In addition to serving his community through legal work, he is also a member of the Canadian Armed Forces as an Army Reservist.

When not diligently pursuing legal matters he can be found swimming and hiking, and also loves to participate in the arts.

Warren looks forward to taking on new clients and assisting them in all legal matters.



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# The names before the other names

## FROM THE NAME MATTERS

There is a growing interest in learning about and using the place names that existed before their colonial replacements became mainstreamed. Throughout this territory, specific ʔayʔajuθəm (ay-a-joo-thum) place names share vital information about the land, the activities it supports, the natural elements, and more.

Take, for example, θaθχaysəm (thath-xay-sum) which is the name for a place many people know as “Southview.” It means “good gravel beach.” Or ʔahʔjumiχʷ (ah-joo-miexw) which is the name for a place many people know as “Willingdon Beach.” It means “clear ground.” Or sayayɫn (sah-yah-yin), which is the name of the place many of us know as Texada. It means “the end of something.”

We invite you to learn along with us. You can find the complete list and map of local place names through the qathet Museum and Archive’s website ([qathetmuseum.ca/place-names.html](http://qathetmuseum.ca/place-names.html)) here:



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# Vive les chiens

Coastal BC's top junior dog handler – and Grade 11 Brooks student – tracks another win at Nationals in Montreal next month

**P**anagiota Rounis won the 2023 Vancouver and Coastal region (Zone 11) Junior Handler Championship at the Victoria Kennel Club Dog Show in July. Panagiota will now move on to represent British Columbia Southwest at the Canadian Kennel Club's Junior Handling Nationals on September 16 in Montreal.

Sixteen-year-old Panagiota, also known as 'Miss P' around the dog show circuit, enters Grade 11 at Brooks Secondary School in September.

## What did you have to do to compete?

**Panagiota** • In order to qualify for zones, I had to compete in four junior handling competitions. Once you do that the qualifying kids who scored the most points (first is 100, second is 75, third is 50 and fourth is 25) are invited to compete in zones.

## Tell us about what you won in Victoria last month.

**Panagiota** • At this year's zone finals I showed a smooth coated Vizsla named Pivot. I had originally planned to show my own Havanese, Effie, but she came into season that day and you can't show a dog in season in juniors.

There were nine of us competing in zones. In a regular junior competition, there is one judge, however in zones there are three judges and one master of ceremonies. The master of ceremonies is in place of where a regular judge would be and is the one giving you directions.

The three judges sit in the ring, watch your performance, and take note of all the things you do. Each judge is kind of giving you a score out of 100 (I think).

Once you do some patterns and answer whatever the master of ceremonies asks you to do, you go see each of the judges individually and they ask a mixture of questions about anatomy, the breed of dog you have, and questions on handling etiquette.

## What part of BC makes up Zone 11?

**Panagiota** • Zone 11 encompasses all of Metro Vancouver to Chilliwack, Vancouver Island, the Sunshine Coast.

## What dog will you compete with at Nationals?

**Panagiota** • I will take either Pivot (the Vizsla) or my own dog Effie, but I think it will be Pivot. Her owners have agreed to let her fly with us to Montreal.

## What's next for whoever wins the Canadian Kennel Club's Nationals Junior Handling Competition?

**Panagiota** • If you win at Nationals, you will be invited to attend the annual International Junior Handling Compe-



**SMOOTH LIKE A VIZSLA:** Panagiota Rounis, 16, will take Pivot (both above) to the Junior Handler Championships in Montreal September 16. "Miss P" won Zone 11 – South-Coastal BC – in Victoria in July.

tion in March as Canada's representative at Crufts Dog Show in Birmingham, England. (Crufts is the largest and most prestigious show of its kind in the world).

## How long have you been showing dogs?

**Panagiota** • For around a decade now. I first got into handling when my grandma got her Old English Sheepdog, Ruby. I was six at the time.

When my mom was a kid, she also showed dogs, so when my grandma got Ruby, Mom started showing for my grandma again. I wanted to be like my mom, so I began trying to show, but the sheepdog was too big for me.

That's when my parents agreed to foster a Havanese named "Dally" from Hawaii so I could learn to show and Dally could get her Canadian championship. Once Dally went home, my parents got me my own Havanese, Effie, and that's when my love for handling really started.

## Who is your biggest influence when it comes to handling dogs?

**Panagiota** • I don't think I have just one biggest influence when it comes to handling because so many people have contributed to my love for it. I think one of the most special things about the dog show community is that they've become like a family for me. But some key names that come to mind are Emily Dorma, Terry Bernier, Lisa Wright, Fano (Guillermo Fano), Vienna Yeadon and Debbie Cornell. 🐾



# August 1963 to 2023: 60 years since the first Sea Fair

As the summer season is in full swing, some residents of Powell River may reminisce on the days of a midway, of a carnival, community parade and family activities spread across Willingdon Beach. The days of Sea Fair may be gone, but they are not forgotten. However, looking back at its origin the festival looked much different than the festival's final years.

Dating back 60 years, the first annual Powell River Sea Fair was sponsored by the Westview Rotary Club and took place for one day on August 10th, 1963 in the parking lot of Westview Boat Harbour. Initially, the Rotary Club looked for an event that would bring the community together, and used the idea of celebrating the sea to do so.

To increase tourism for the upcoming event, invitations were sent out to the Navy, Air Force, and various coastal yacht clubs to come enjoy the festivities. In response, the U.S. Navy First Fleet Commander ordered the USS Weiss to partake in the day, allowing



## BLAST FROM THE PAST

CAROLYN SMITH

Powell River citizens to tour the vessel. Individual sailboats and yachts even travelled up and down the coast to reach the Westview Boat Harbour and view the festivities from the sea.

The celebration began on Friday the 9th with the arrival of the USS Weiss and a Navy dance held at the Willingdon Arena. On the 10th, the official day of the Sea Fair, the celebrations included a parade featuring the Powell River Pipe Band and Miss Powell River, carnival activities, a RCAF Air Show, Scottish dancers, sky diving, and a traditional Indigenous salmon barbecue.

The star at that first Sea Fair was the RCAF air show. Low, high speed fly-overs took place right above the harbour, much to the delight and startlement of attendees. The show even included an appearance of a Neptune aircraft, a popular maritime patrol craft of the time. With the first year a success, Sea Fair went on to be a beloved annual event for the community of Powell River.



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**CELEBRATING THE SEA:** Top, The first Seafair, August 10, 1963, was held at Willingdon Beach. Above, a .50 cent Rotary Club raffle ticket advertised Sea Fair as "A Day for All!" with entertainment, dancing, seafood and hot dogs. Left, Tla'amin women demonstrated their knife skills, and traditional salmon BBQ technique.

Photos courtesy of the qathet Historical Museum & Archives

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# Joy!

These are the Contest Winners from the Powell River Public Library's teen poetry contest.

The theme of the contest was Joy / La Joie – and it was organized by teen librarian Mel Edgar.

In the June issue of *qL*, you can read the children's category winning poems (as organized by Sonia Zagwyn.) Swimming, playing, nature, food these were common themes for the under 12 set.

For the 12- to 18-year-olds, joy becomes a little more complicated – more mixed and nuanced.

Excellent programming is coming up this fall, for both children and teens (and adults). See prpl.ca for events and programs.

## Ages 12-15

### First Prize

## What is joy?

**BY MOLLY HILLIER, AGE 12, GRADE 6**

Joy is a feeling you get deep inside  
It makes you as free as a butterfly  
Your heart does a flip and you smile a lot  
You may have joy when your friend does not  
Don't keep your joy a secret  
Wrap it around the world like a blanket  
Joy for me is snuggling up in a nook  
And losing myself in a favorite book

### Second Prize

## Joy

**BY DANIELLE GAGNÉ, AGE 13, GRADE 7**

For me:  
Joy is nature  
Joy is volleyball  
Joy is hanging out with friends  
Joy is rock climbing  
Joy is my dog  
Joy is my bird  
Joy is art  
Joy is turtles  
Joy is making things from clay  
This is joy for me it's true  
But tell me what is joy for you?

## Age 16-18

### First Prize

## 1 year, 9 months, 25 days

**BY PARKER HOLT, AGE 18 (AT TIME OF CONTEST ENTRY), GRADE 12**

A sky full of stars, and **he** was still staring at **him**.  
A field full of flowers but none compared to the ones in **his** hair.

**His** red jacket smelled like sweet summer rain and jasmine.

**He** saw himself more of a bird than a person but **he** loved **him** regardless.

**His** voice was a symphonic arrangement of calming passion and loving optimism.

Every moment together they were growing as people.  
The **man of words** wrote **him** love letters and drew **him** portraits.

The **man of actions** took **him** to feed the crows and to watch the sunset.

**He** was **his** reminder to breathe.

**He** felt like home and **they** both knew the day **he'd** leave would be the hardest day of **his** life.

To **my Prince, my friend, mon bien amour,**  
Thank **you** for every aspiration you encouraged, every laugh, every “good night” and “I love **you**” text, every time **I'd** cry so hard in **your** arms, **my** body shook and **you** made it better, every little moment **you** took to make **my** life better.

From **our** first kiss reunited to **our** last kiss goodbye,  
**thank you for the joy,**  
**thank you for saving me,**  
**thank you for making me a better human,**  
**thank you for making the stars come out,**  
I hope **you** never forget what **you** mean to **me** or else **I'll** spend the rest of **my** days reminding **you**.  
**You're going to crush it in university.**

### Second Prize

## Joy Within the Despair

**BY ADRIA MITCHELL, AGED 18, GRADE 12**

The old pictures  
The ones that capture a moment  
A single moment  
A memory in a picture  
Looking back  
Seeing the smiling faces of the past  
Oh,  
what I'd give to go back  
Why do I look at these  
When it gives me such despair  
Maybe, just maybe  
Because despair lives within joy  
It's not the joy of a summer day  
Or of Christmas morning  
It's the joy  
The joy that's hidden beneath everything  
The small little grin that turns into a full-blown smile  
Remembering the events that lead to the picture  
Because though it hurts  
The joy I feel is worth the despair **qL**



# YARD ART



## DRIFTWOOD HORSE

Manitoba Avenue

### BY CLANCY DENNEHY

Art collectors Mike and Elizabeth Graham purchased this galloping beast years ago directly from a Vancouver artist whose name they cannot recall – but they remember that he had ADHD and collected driftwood daily on the shores of Jericho beach.

The six-foot-tall horse is framed by a panoramic view of the sea and is enjoyed by many passersby and occasionally ridden by neighborhood children. 🐾



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# GET INVOLVED: 2024 Budget and 2024-2028 Five-Year Financial Plan

Every year, the qRD creates a Five-Year Financial Plan to ensure the provision of services and programs now and in the future. The Strategic Plan, Electoral Area Official Community Plans, work plans, input from advisory committees, Directors and Staff, feedback from community groups and the public all contribute toward development of the Financial Plan. In line with our organization's fiscal responsibility and financial stability goals, our financial planning techniques are designed to reduce the risk of significant fluctuations in taxation levels from year to year.

The public is encouraged to attend any of the upcoming budget meetings from October 2023 to February 2024 to ask questions about the 2024 Budget and Five-Year Financial Plan. A detailed timeline of upcoming budget meetings is available at [qathet.ca/2024-budget](http://qathet.ca/2024-budget).

The current 2023-2027 Five-Year Financial Plan and Information about the proposed 2024-2028 Financial Plan as it develops are available at [qathet.ca/2024-budget](http://qathet.ca/2024-budget).

Should you have any questions about the current or proposed financial plan please submit them to [finance@qathet.ca](mailto:finance@qathet.ca), or call Linda Greenan, Manager of Financial Services at 604-485-2260.

The qRD is seeking community feedback on its 2024-2028 financial planning process to better understand how communication might be improved.

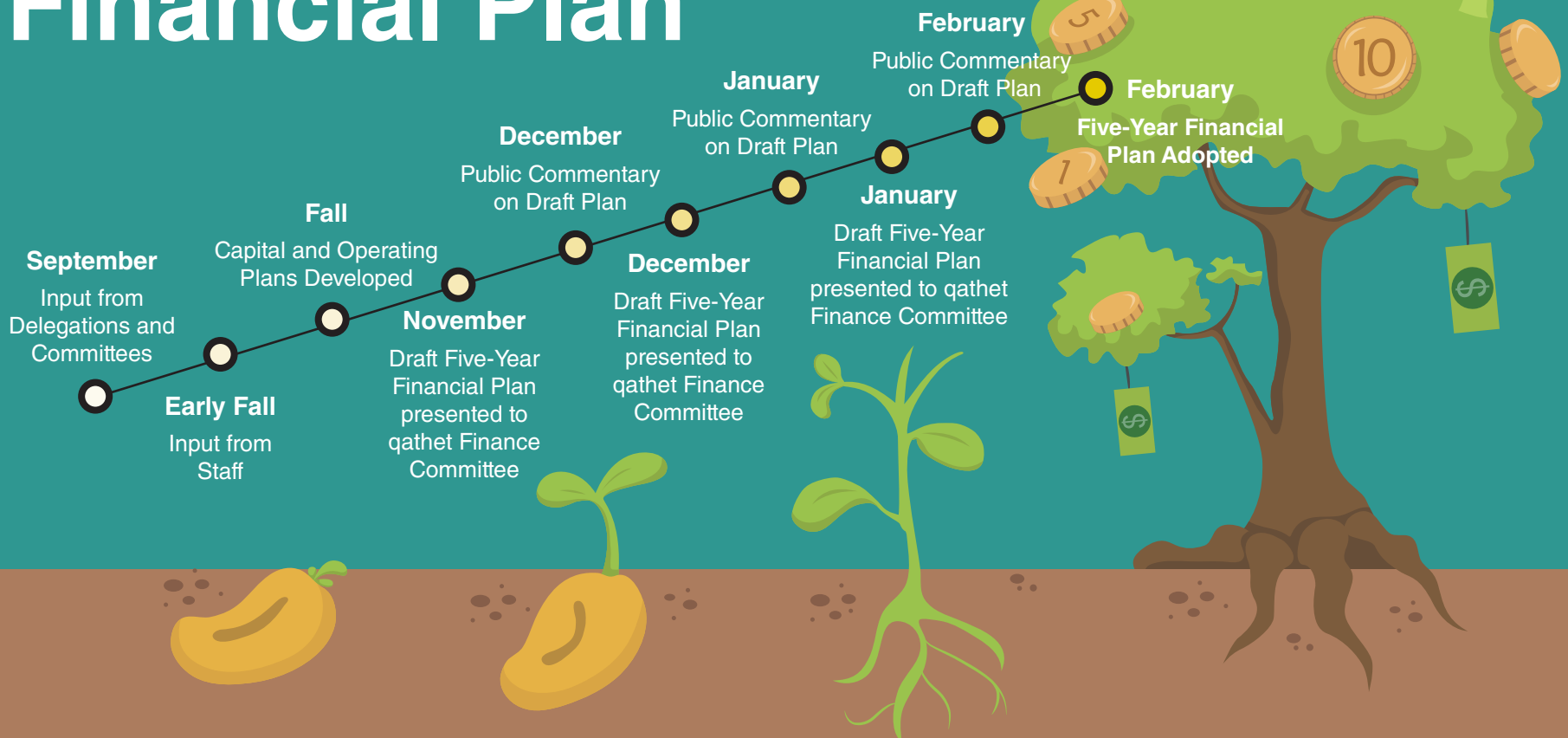
The public is invited to share their comments by responding to a short survey **before September 30**.

Paper copies are available at the qRD main office located at #202-4675 Marine Avenue upon request.

To access the survey online, please visit [qathet.ca/2024-budget](http://qathet.ca/2024-budget) or scan this QR Code.



## Making a Five-Year Financial Plan



qathet  
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[administration@qathet.ca](mailto:administration@qathet.ca) | 604-485-2260

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# Everything is on fire

## 1. Forest fires are a thing now, in real estate

Due to forest fires and other climate changes, The BC Financial Services Association is asking for feedback on plans to advocate for more regulation in how agents warn folks about fire risk, and other actions. bcfsa.ca.

## 2. Interest rates bump even higher

On July 26, the Bank of Canada set interest rates at 5%, up .25 of a point. That's the highest they've been since 2001. The Bank meets again in September, and economists are predicting an even higher interest rate.

## 3. Those interest rates don't seem to be doing what they're supposed to do, here in qathet

In June, average house prices were \$634,206, just 9% down from the top of the market last year. And sales were even up slightly: 31 in June, over 30 a year ago. —PW



# Real Estate in qathet

## 50 ways to leave your rental

The crunch is real, with sky-high rents and few vacancies. But if you're not already in the market, the alternative – buying – can seem impossible.

Here, locals break the situation down: what it takes to break into 2023's wild real estate market, and whether that's always the right decision.

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

Cait Holmes loves helping people buy a home – especially those who are struggling. As a mortgage broker, she likes being of service to others. Learning about their lives. Helping them find hope and stability when they're going through a separation or another big life change.

But her advice for those trying to get out of renting and into the market for the first time is absolutely brutal.

“Check your ego,” she said. “Forget about instant gratification. You can't have everything right away: a nice car, a nice house.

“Don't buy a new car before you buy a home. New cars are the number-one killer of getting a mortgage. Get off of social media. It's not real.

“People all have the same issues but they don't post them online. Instead, set your own goals and work to accomplish them.”

She recommends buying a cheap house, and then buying a car.

Cait is brutal, because the housing market is brutal. Just five first-time homebuyers purchased a house here since January – while 111 homes sold.

That's no surprise, given that median household incomes for those aged 25 to 34 is just \$53,520 here, and the median home price is \$599,777.

With a minimum downpayment, you'd have a mortgage payment of about \$3,514 a month. That's 84% of that monthly, pre-tax income.

So about a quarter of locals rent. And, the cost of renting is through the roof. Between 2021 and 2022 in qathet, two-bedroom rents escalated by 24% in just 12 months, according to the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

In 2021, the median rent was \$791. In 2022, it was \$962.

CMHC's official 2023 numbers aren't out yet, but search a local rental site or Facebook or Kijiji for a home, and rents are much higher. At the end of July, one local two-bedroom basement suite was posted for \$1,600 a month in rent – which seemed quite average. That's double what the median two-bedroom was here in 2021.

A room in a shared house was posted for \$900. A small one-bedroom house was \$1,900. A three-bedroom upper suite in a home was \$2,400. A three bedroom townhouse was \$2,200.

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Plus, Facebook's local rental sites are littered with individuals and families advertising themselves as renters, looking for a home.

That price jump isn't just here.

The CMHC's latest Rental Market Report reveals that in Vancouver, renters who didn't move saw a 3.9% increase from 2021 to 2022 – but renters who moved to a new place could expect to pay 23.9% more. Victoria's rent growth was even more pronounced; non-movers saw their rents increase by 7.7%, and movers had to come up with an extraordinary 33% more.

The same CMHC report explained three reasons for those higher 2022 rents: 1. Higher migration – both immigration and inter-provincial migration; 2. Stable employment for those aged 15 to 24, who are choosing to move out of their parents' homes; and 3. Former homeowners who are getting out of the market due to interest rate hikes making their mortgages no longer affordable, and fewer renters transitioning to home ownership for the same reason. All of these factors put pressure on the rental market, driving down vacancy rates and driving up rents.

How could a family making \$4,460 a month before taxes and paying \$2,000 a month in rent come up with a \$20,000 down-payment for a bottom-of-the-market house?

Cait says it is possible – though it will require some sacrifices. Through her work with Designer Mortgages, she has several strategies to help people find the money for a down-payment.

Most importantly, buying a home, Cait believes, is really, really important for a family's financial well-being. A \$500,000 home, with \$25,000



**DRAFTY, BUT CHEAP:** Before 1955, homes in what is now Townsite belonged to the mill, and were rented to workers. For how much? Local historian and author Barbara Lambert called around, and here's what she learned.

In 1950, one person paid \$12 a month to rent a house on Riverside Drive, as pictured above. "The uninsulated houses in Riverside were very cold with winds from the dam," Barbara recounted. "During

down, and an average appreciation of 6% will bring \$240,000 in equity over five years, she calculated. Almost no other investment will bring a family that kind of wealth, she said.

Plus, renters can expect even fewer vacancies and

the winter months bedrooms were closed off and everyone lived in the main room huddled around the wood stove. Icicles hung from the roof."

You could rent a home in Westview for \$18.

\$12 in 1950 is \$156 today, according to the Bank of Canada Interest Rate Calculator.

\$18 is \$234 today – one-tenth of the cost of renting a home in Westview in 2023, in today's dollars.

*Photo courtesy of the qathet Museum & Archives*

higher rents coming due to the mounting pressures CMHC described.

**In a more ideal world,** renting or owning a home would be a choice. Certainly there can be advantages to both.

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Thanks Austyn.

- Mel H



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**TOUGH BUSINESS:** Left, Cait Holmes, a mortgage broker with Designer Mortgages, says it's worth sacrificing to get out of a rental and into the market. Right, Anna May Bennett is an artist and owner of Turadh Fine Art gallery in Townsite Market – and a renter. Once you're out of the market, she has found, it can be nearly impossible to get back in.

Renting has historically been significantly cheaper than owning a home.

Owning has historically resulted in building up personal equity and contributing to financial stability.

However, renting is no longer a cheap alternative.

And with the price of homes coming down from the COVID-era spike, plus the Bank of Canada hiking interest rates, buying a home right now isn't the clear route it might have been in another era. Plus, life happens. Nothing, really, is guaranteed.

**Artist and Turadh Fine Art** gallery owner Anna May Bennett has both owned and rented. She lost her home and equity when she separated from her husband.

For the past six years, she and her two boys have lived in the same

cramped rental suite in a house. She started looking for a new rental in 2021. This Spring, her landlords put the house up for sale, meaning it was just a matter of time, probably, before she and her boys were evicted.

In mid-July, Anna was frazzled by the constant tours of potential buyers through her suite – including filming when her boys were home. Fortunately, another rental materialized for her family that same week - although it will mean paying nearly double the rent she currently spends.

“Renting makes you vulnerable,” she said. “This system excludes the vulnerable, marginalized and low income earners from ownership. Until the majority of people believe safe housing is a necessity and human right, we will be losing many opportunities for a truly healthy and diverse community.”

## Is owning always better than renting?

Verecan Capital Management's Portfolio Manager Colin White weighs in.

I have owned two homes in my life, first a starter home and the next was the home I raised my family in for 17 years.

We sold the family home because we did not need that much room after the kids left. Now we rent because we're not sure what we want next.

I have based all decisions on renting versus buying on lifestyle rather than treating it as an investment.

It may be working out for me; I seem to have sold at a good time and may decide to buy again after prices have dropped, but that good fortune would be sheer luck.

There are many good news stories about how much money you can make owning a home. It is part of the human condition that we share our good news stories and we are bad at math.

In a time when interest rates go to almost zero, assets like homes have a huge tail wind on their valuations. Home prices have soared with this interest rate trend over the years.

That does not make every home ownership story a slam dunk from a financial perspective. I held my house for 17 years and my rate of return was less than the Canadian bond index for the same time period.

To compare the monthly cost of home ownership to renting is not really accurate. From a cash flow perspective when you add up a few hundred dollars a month in prop-



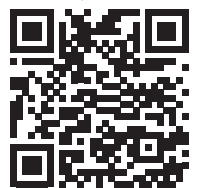
Verecan Capital Management Inc. is registered as a Portfolio Manager in all provinces in Canada apart from Manitoba.

erty tax, house insurance, maintenance and utilities you get to a healthy rent payment in a hurry. If those expenses are more than rent you could financially be better renting. Buying and selling houses costs thousands of dollars and the mortgage interest is an expense as well.

The other issue is that when home ownership goes wrong it is a big deal. For those who bought in the last five years who have mortgages renewing where the current value of the house does not support what is owed, they have a real problem. Huge repair bills happen, the local market shifts and you cannot sell at all.

The advice to readers is to be patient, do not overextend yourself to buy a house, that is really risky.

For more, see this podcast:



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**ARE YOU AN UPTOWN GIRL?:** After a year-long delay, Veyron Properties has broken ground on Uptown, the 141-unit rental apartment complex near the Recreation Complex. The “luxury rental community” will open in the fall of 2024. How much will rent cost? “We are not far enough into our project to determine rental costs yet,” said Sydney Crawford, Veyron’s community manager. There will be 10 micro suites in the building, available through the City of Powell River’s affordable housing initiative.

**Renting in qathet** can be tough. It wasn’t always like this—especially here. In fact, the first 40 years the mill was in operation, all homes supplied in the Garden City were rentals. They were reasonably-priced, built for both families and singles, and stable.

Although qathet had a serious rental shortage over the past five years, the situation is on the verge of relaxing.

There are about 660 rental apartments in qathet, according to CMHC. That number includes the new inclusion housing on Ontario (42 units opened in 2021), Coastal Breeze Village on Joyce (76 units opened in 2020) and Sunset Homes (34 units opened in 2022) on Joyce. All three helped ease the tight rental market here, at least temporarily. Together, the three projects added 152 new rental units. That’s a 60% increase in the number of new, purpose-built rentals in qathet in just two years.

When Veyron Properties opens Uptown in the Fall of 2024, that will bring another 141 units onto the market, for a total of nearly 800 units.

That will loosen things up significantly, according to Royal LePage property manager Roger Pagani.

“There are a lot more suites available right now than there have been in the past,” said Roger, who has been helping connect landlords and renters here for 15 years. In addition to the new purpose-built rentals, many more

local homeowners are building suites as mortgage helpers, and putting multiple suites in their rental properties.

There are also a lot more renters here, generally, Roger said, especially in the over-40 demographic. With the collapse of the resource sector here, he said, wages just haven’t kept up with the cost of real estate, so more people are trapped in rental.

However, he said, many people transition several times over their lives between owning and renting. That too, he said, is a new normal.

He lost a business and his home in Prince Rupert, and rented when he moved back to Powell River 20 years ago.

“Some of my clients sold their homes at the height of the market and are renting now, banking on the market coming back down so they can keep their equity and get back in,” Roger said. “Some are renting while their homes are built or renovated.”

But for those who are chronic renters who want to get into the market, Roger notes that saving \$20,000 – a 5% downpayment on a \$400,000 starter home – “isn’t insurmountable.”

“It’s tough, it’s discipline,” he said, echoing Cait’s tough-love message. “You’ve got to make those little everyday choices. Don’t have that \$6 beer. Put that cash in your savings jar instead. That’s hard to do, because life is short.”

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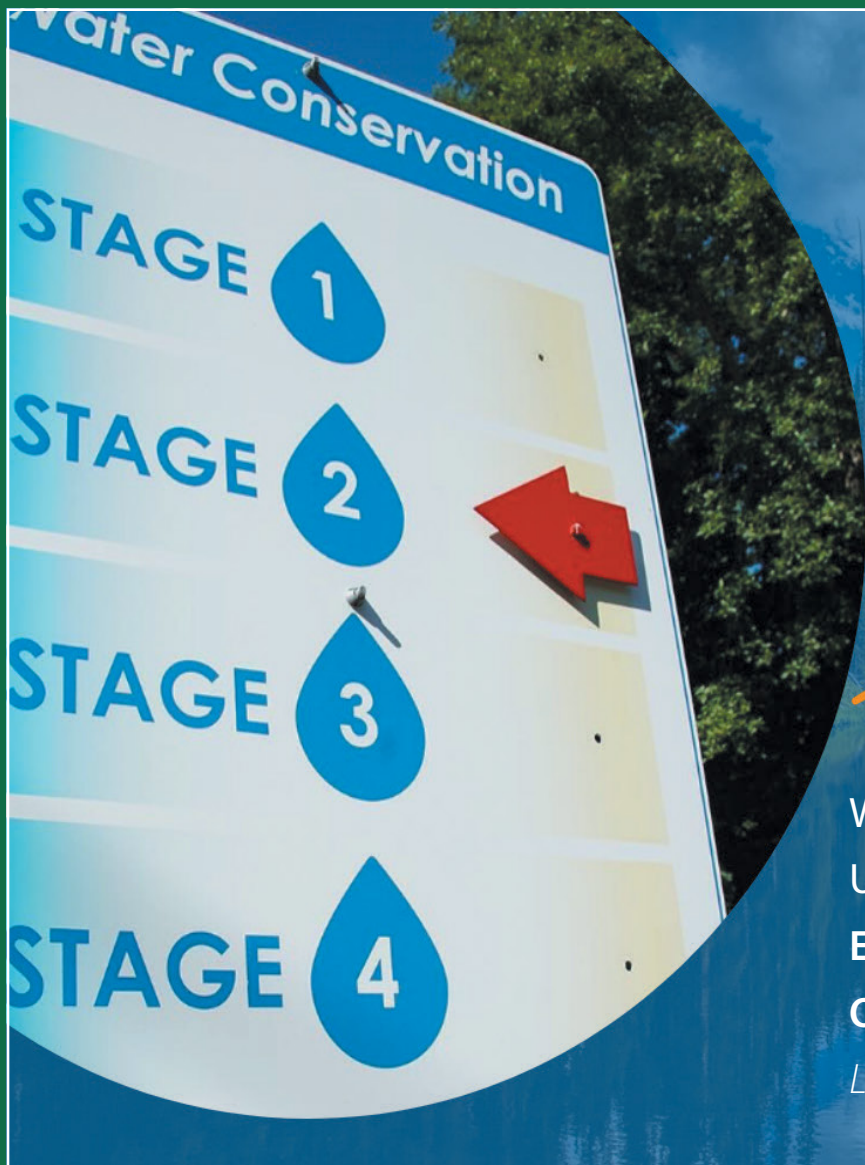
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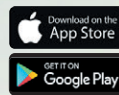
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## A GROWING CONCERN

# Aussie's half century of Canadian trial & error

**R**etired teacher Margaret Cooper has lived in the same Westview home for 51 years. In that time, she has built a vast, tidy flower and food garden surrounding her house.

Each plant has a story. Some come from her childhood home, Australia, others were gifts. Some are tended by her sister who lives with her.

Margaret is the former President of the Powell River Garden Club.

### How did you start gardening?

**Margaret** • I grew up on a dairy farm Australia. My parents were big gardeners, my Dad was an experienced orchardist. They grew flowers, vegetables and fruit trees. Everything flourished – especially the vegetables – thanks to the trailer loads of cow manure that went into the garden every year! We canned, froze and gave our produce away to friends.

I planted things whenever I moved, but I didn't really know what I was doing. I had watched Mum and Dad, but had not participated in learning what, where and when to plant. So I had all sorts of things in unsuitable places.

The three things that changed that are:

I retired from teaching and finally had time to make progress beyond getting on top of all the weeds that had taken over by the time school was out.

An unsolicited copy of a garden catalog came to my mailbox. It was organized around how to design perennial gardens – sun, shade, colour combinations, etc. and I got it. I began to understand how to design a garden.

I joined the Powell River Garden Club and continually learned more and more about plants and what they need and how to care for them.

### Tell us about your garden?

**Margaret** • My garden is on a largish lot for in town. It's an odd pie-shaped lot at the top of a cul-de-sac and seems



big now that I'm older. It's located on a hillside and has an amazing view out over the Strait. There are many levels and because of this, I get a good workout gardening. We don't have an irrigation system – my sister and I are the irrigation system and we go up and down a lot of steps to water the garden.

When my late husband and I moved in 51 years ago, there were no gardens and paths. Blackberries and alders were growing up to the back door and the cul-de-sac was a dirt circle. We gradually carved out the terraced garden we have now. I am the Queen of Allen Blocks.

In the front, we have shrubs and perennials, annuals and a few pots. There's colour and foliage texture all year long.

On the north side, there's a jumble of hostas, ferns, bleeding hearts, heuchera, astilbes, and fuchsia. It's very restful and beautiful.

### Five things Margaret Cooper will be doing in August:

I will be weeding, watering, harvesting, freezing, canning and baking. I'll also be picking figs and fighting off the birds (starlings love figs). The figs don't ripen all at once so I watch them and actually tie little muslin bags over the next ones coming along. I'll also be getting a few winter vegetables started, probably just Romaine lettuce and Swiss Chard.

Behind the house there's a small flat lawn and beds that contain all kinds of extra perennials.

Go up past the greenhouse where we have eight varieties of tomatoes flourishing in big pots. I have to grow in pots in the greenhouse because a nearby cedar gradually found the good soil there and now its roots have totally matted the in-ground beds.

Back garden, go under the honeysuckle arbour and there is the vegetable garden. All kinds of vegetables are mixed together and going up fences and trellises. Lettuce and asparagus are finished. Garlic is harvested. Now harvesting cabbage, cucumbers, tomatoes, raspberries and our one tamed blackberry that is espaliered to the fence. Beans soon. And in August there will be figs; the Italian honey fig is just loaded.

## Plant now for fall!

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



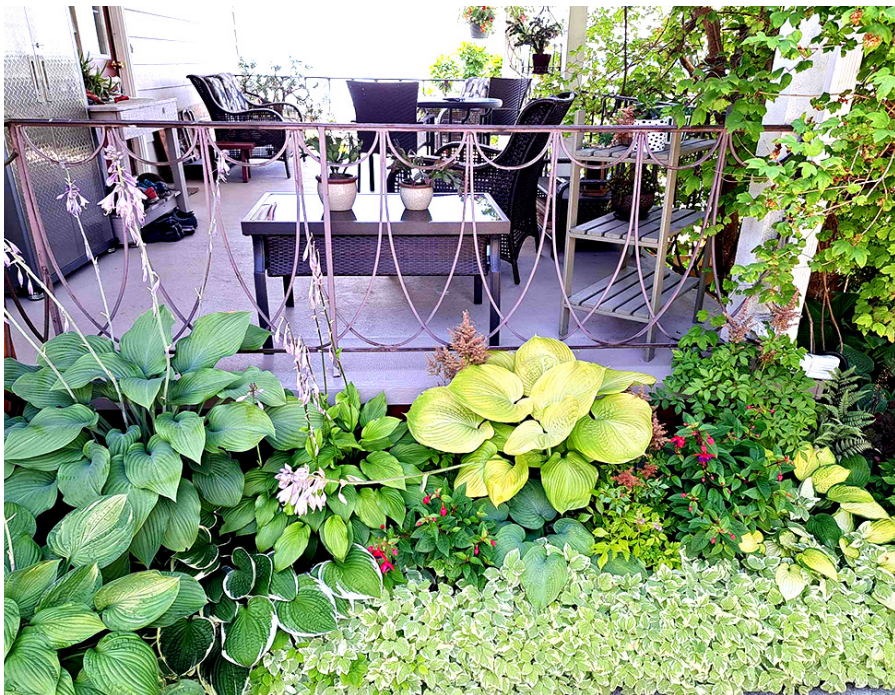
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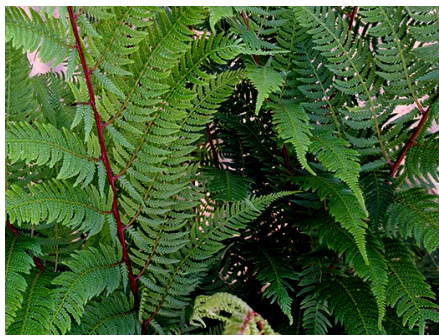
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**POTTERING AROUND:** Left, Margaret Cooper in her potting shed, where she shares her seedlings with the Garden Club. Biodiversity, from all over the world, can be found in her Westview garden, including native and exotic ferns, figs, Italian tromonici (far left), an Australian gum tree, and much more.



**What are your biggest successes?**

**Margaret** • I'd have to say the shade garden up the North side is my biggest success. It's so serene and really, it's just perfect. There are hostas, ferns, astilbe, and an asparagus bed. It was planted on September 11, 2001, and now, 20-plus years later, it is deeply established and abundant.

The fig tree, especially now that we have learned how to prune it to maximize the first crop, is another success.

The front garden is filled with colour, texture and shape all year. The day lilies are amazing right now.

Composting is so important. I move bins all around the vegetable garden to wherever the soil needs building up. We are growing amazing zucchini and tromonici and cherry tomatoes right in the compost bins this year.

**What are your greatest gardening challenges?**

**Margaret** • Watering, weeding, keeping the kiwi vine pruned and under control, deer in the garden (the back garden is fenced but the front is not) and getting sufficient crop rotation because my veggie garden is not all that big.

**What kinds of gardening stuff do you invest in?**

**Margaret** • I invest in soil because I am always potting something up. I also invest in manure and fertilizers, generally the Welcome Harvest brand. Otherwise, after 51 years here, I have a lot of stuff!

**Advice for new gardeners**

**Margaret** • Don't try to do it all at once. Start by mastering one or two beds.

Remember the cardinal rule: You can't grow anything better than the soil you plant in. You feed the soil, not the plants. Be aware of what are the sunny and shade areas on the property and plant accordingly.

Don't be afraid of failure. If something doesn't do well, you learn not to do that again; next time move it or try to plant something different. Shrubs and perennials can be moved. And if something dies, it's not the end of the world.

You get your garden knowledge bit by bit over the years and eventually you know a lot. Don't be intimidated by people who seem to know so much. They have just been at it longer.

Handy tools I recommend are Garden Bandit for weeding and a Pruning Stick for high pruning. 🐾



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



## ʔAYʔAJUΘƏM? YOU GOT THIS

RANDOLPH TIMOTHY JR.

\_\_\_\_\_ at<sup>θ</sup> nən My name is...

\_\_\_\_\_ Tawač k<sup>w</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ I'm from...

\_\_\_\_\_ ʔajɛčx<sup>w</sup> ʔot How are you?

\_\_\_\_\_ ʔajɛčx<sup>w</sup> ʔot I'm fine

\_\_\_\_\_ čɛčɛhaθɛč Thank you

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## ʔayʔajuθəm orthography

ʔəʔamən | kómoks | χ<sup>w</sup>εmaɸk<sup>w</sup>u | & 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](http://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

ɛ	eh
ɪ	ih
ʊ	oo as in look
ə	uh
č	ch
č̣	popping c
ǰ	dg
ḱ	popping k
k <sup>w</sup>	kw
ḱ <sup>w</sup>	rounded, popping k
ɬ	Breathly L sound
ḑ	popping p
ḑ̣	popping q

q <sup>w</sup>	rounded q
ḑ̣ <sup>w</sup>	rounded, popping q
š	sh
ɸ	popping t
t <sup>θ</sup>	t-th
ɸ̣ <sup>θ</sup>	Popping t-th
θ	th
x <sup>w</sup>	wh (like in who)
χ	Hhhh
χ <sup>w</sup>	Hhhhwh
χ̣	tl
χ̣̣	popping tl
ʔ	glottal stop: uh oh



## | MADE THE MOVE

# He'll put you to sleep

**R**ene, Erik, Oliver, 13, and Izzy, 11, Coatta “made the move” from Fort St. John in August 2022. The family loves the outdoors, boating, hiking, swimming and fishing.

Erik is an anesthesiologist at the hospital who loves to run. You can catch him on one of the many trails around the region. Izzy is a competitive gymnast who spends most of her time after school training at the Gymnastics club. Rene and Oliver have a passion for fishing, when they are not fishing out in front of their ocean front property you can catch them at a local lake.

### Why did you choose to move here?

**Rene** • Living in Northern BC the winters are very long and cold and sort of take a toll on you after a while. We had been looking for places down south closer to family for a few years, but nothing seemed just right or checked off all the boxes. We came down in February of 2022 so Erik could do a locum for one of the other local doctors and instantly fell in love with the place. When the job opportunity came up we said yes, it was way too good of an opportunity to pass up!

### What surprised you once you moved here?

**Rene** • How laid back and relaxed it is here. Everyone is so helpful and kind, it is such a wonderful place to live.

### What made you decide to move here?

**Rene** • When the job opportunity came up we could not say no. How can you beat the

outdoor living here and fishing year round, it truly is paradise and you don't have the -40°C winters!

### Where is your favourite place here?

**Rene** • Ooh that is a tough one, I don't think I could pick just one! Our home, we are incredibly fortunate to live right on the ocean. Powell Lake and Lois Lake are also a family favourite.

### How did you first hear about qathet?

**Rene** • A colleague of Erik's mentioned it to him.

### What would make qathet a nicer community?

**Rene** • Re-purposing of the mill to provide greater local employment opportunities.

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

**Rene** • An increase in dental services. The Peace region had an abundance of general dental services locally as well as specialty dental services available on a regular basis.

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

**Rene** • Finding a house was definitely a challenge. We found out in July that Erik got the job and we moved down at the end of August so the kids could be enrolled for the first day of classes, which didn't leave much time to find a place. I am incredibly grateful for Austyn Mackinnon for



**ALREADY SWIMMING IN IT:** The Coatta Family (Erik, Oliver, Izzy and Rene) are enjoying the weather and the water, among many other qathet assets.

helping us out and scouting out houses as well as being my “eyes” for me. Without her, things would not have gone as smoothly as they did!

### If you were mayor, what would you do?

**Rene** • I am glad that I am not, that is definitely a job that I would not be able to do!

### What are qathet's best assets?

**Rene** • I think the best asset is the people in the community. We were welcomed with

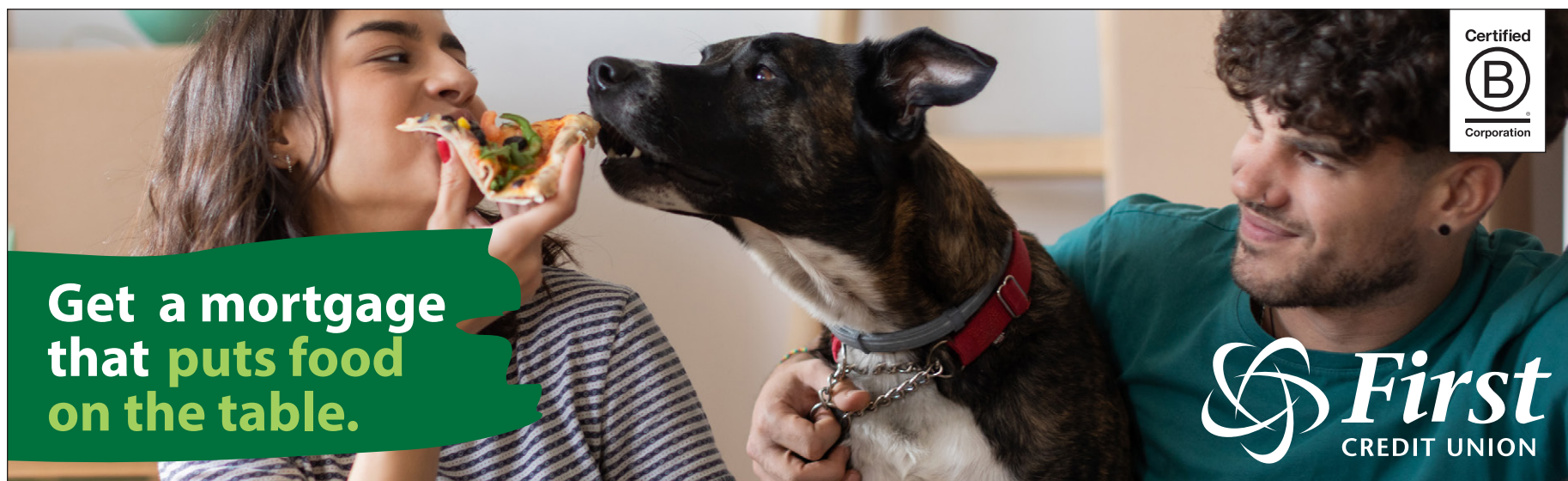
open arms and felt instantly like we were home. I would also say from the ocean to the mountain tops and everything in between, this is an outdoor enthusiasts paradise.

### What is your greatest extravagance?

**Rene** • Our ocean front property.

### Which superpower would you most like to have?

**Rene** • Izzy would love to be able to talk to animals! 🐾



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## WHAT'S UP

### Unidentified qathet shoes find a new home at Toronto's Bata Museum

As a volunteer with the Powell River Health Care Auxiliary, one of my duties is to post items on the Powell River Auctions page on Facebook.

Last year, a pair of very old, small shoes were donated to the Economy Shop. A volunteer passed them over to me and I posted them on Facebook a couple of weeks later, but there were no bids or interest in them.

The shoes remained in the auction cupboard until a few weeks ago when I took the shoes to the qathet Historical Museum and Archives. The curators could not accept them as I couldn't give them any information about their history or provenance. They suggested I approach the Bata Shoe Museum in Toronto. I sent an email and pictures and received a reply within a short time from a curator at the museum who said they would be happy to have them. I will receive a donation form to fill out when they arrive at the museum.

The Powell River Health Care Auxiliary was formed in 1945. Funds raised by the volunteers go to various health care related purposes in Powell River. Donations are gratefully received from members of the public at the Economy Shop on Alberni Street. The Auxiliary urgently needs volunteers to work in the Economy Shop, the Gift Shop at the hospital, the Red Cross Loans cupboard and more. Applications can be picked up at the Gift Shop and the Economy Shop.

~ Susan McCallum

### Be careful who you hate. It might be someone you love.

I was five years old when I had my first conscious memory of interacting with someone who was gay. His name was Nelson and when he picked me up to plunk me down on the wooden board to cut my hair I felt like a princess.

He was handsome, kind, funny and he always made me feel special, safe and content in his company. This is because children by nature are not hateful. They are taught by those around them hate and prejudice.

Over my life I've been lucky to have called many people in the queer community my friends and I'm proud to stand beside them. Fifty-five years after meeting Nelson, I still don't understand the hate and fear that the queer community has thrown at them.

I don't believe hate has ever had a positive effect



on anything.

So I write this article as a white, middle aged, heterosexual ally. I'm lucky, I know I don't have to worry about being targeted for my colour or my sexuality.

I can't imagine how terrifying that would be feeling under constant threat and having to be careful of other people. I've never had to worry about hiding my heterosexuality. I've never had to be fearful of being rejected by my family because I was a heterosexual.

I've never had to 'come out of the closet'.

I don't have to worry that if I travel to Uganda, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Afganistan or 60 other countries, that I'll be beaten, jailed or possibly executed for being a heterosexual.

A question I would like to first pose to you is, 'When did you decide to become a heterosexual?' This question was asked of me when I signed up to be an AIDS Calgary volunteer in 1988.

I thought it was a brilliant question, because sexuality is something that we don't get to choose. Why would someone 'choose' a 'lifestyle' that could get them either killed or tortured?

If you consider yourself 'straight' what would it take for you to become bisexual or homosexual?

Your answer is probably nothing... which is correct. You are born who you are. Science and research also shows this.

~ Sara Mitchell-Banks, qathet Pride



### Stamps bring letters and love at the Oncology Department

I met many of my life-long friends in Grade 7, Miss Redgraves' class at Brooks. I remember how we sat in alphabetical order in our own homeroom. There were Anne Stapleton, Dorell Stromberg, me (Diane Tweedle), and Dennis Wilson. Anne and I studied Art with Mrs. Cis Larson, all four years we attended Brooks. The last year we were in the Commercial program learning bookkeeping, typing, shorthand and regular classes of English, Science and Social Studies. The Industrial Arts for boys training was at the same time for the latter three classes – 28 boys and two girls, what a hoot that was!

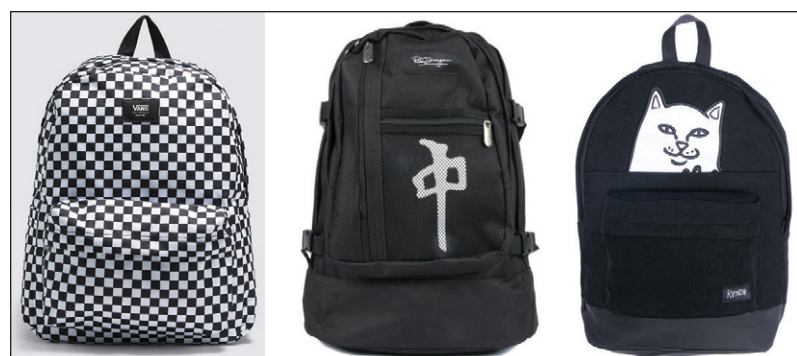
My friend Anne was one of nine siblings. She became Miss Powell River at the age of 18. She was such a beautiful person, kind, sometimes shy, but she excelled in artistic talent.

She met the love of her life, Graham Caines, and since he worked all over BC, he wrote to her continuously during 1966 when stamps were only five cents each. They married, had a daughter Tonya, travelled all over the world and boated up and down the coast in their sailboat Silhouette. We often visited over the years and Graham's sense of humour and great jokes kept us laughing especially when I matched each joke with one of my own.

Fast forward to 2022, when I was diagnosed with cancer. I learned that Oncology here collects used stamps to help pay for extra items that are not supplied. My dear friends sent me dozens of cancelled stamps, but on June 28 a special parcel arrived for me. I wondered what it could be. It was hundreds and hundreds of cancelled stamps for Oncology from my dear friend Anne! I thought these might be rare – I was so excited to give them to Becky who works in Oncology.

I wanted to share this lovely story to bring awareness to our Oncology Department and all the good work that they do.

~ Diane Tweedle Lackey



### Back to Cool Backpacks!

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## Texada Artist Studio Tour Sept 9 & 10

The Texada Island artist community is ready to welcome everyone to come explore their studios and visit the exhibition.

Art enthusiasts will be delighted to know that this beloved event that was on hiatus since 2018 will be happening this year on September 9 and 10. Circle your calendars and come immerse yourself in our vibrant artist community.

Witness the creative process, talk to the artists, and be amazed at the variety of art that abounds on this beautiful island.

If you have any spare time left, enjoy a trail, explore a beach or simply sit and stand in awe of the natural beauty that surrounds you.

And should those hunger pangs get too loud to ignore, sit down at one of our delightful restaurants, Mary Mary's Café, The Texada Inn or The Flower and the Bee for a snack, a meal or a sweet treat.

Follow this event on Facebook and Instagram.

## Seeking kindred souls to do good in the community

Kindred ReBuild is a social enterprise that accepts and sells affordable, high-quality used furniture, appliances, renovation supplies, and building materials. All profits stay in the community and support initiatives that provide valuable work experience, such as OneLight Fire Starter. Kindred ReBuild also supports the circular economy by making sure as many materials as possible are reused and repurposed. If you love finding great deals, shopping for unique items, starting new DIY projects, and sup-

porting a sustainable community, Kindred ReBuild is your ideal destination.

On August 14th, from 5-7 pm, Kindred hosts a special event to discuss community needs and how they can further support them. Share your ideas and contribute to their goal of making a lasting impact in our community. Enjoy some food and refreshments, plus evening shopping for event attendees after 7 pm!

## Justice on Wednesdays


qathet Community Justice now has regularly scheduled office hours once a week.

They are open every Wednesday from 3 to 5:30 pm as of June. This will make it easier for anyone who has questions about Restorative Justice to learn more. Of course you can also schedule an appointment by giving them a call at 604-414-4203 or emailing [qCJ@qathetCJ.org](mailto:qCJ@qathetCJ.org). For more information, please visit their website at [qCJ@qathetCJ.org](http://qCJ@qathetCJ.org).

## Correction

In the July *qL*, we ran a round-up of creative projects locals had released over the past six months: books, music and film. We over-zealously edited an excerpt from Andrea Layne Black's new novella, *Dear FIN*.

We changed "adoptive moms, best friend, and therapist" to "adoptive mom's best friend and therapist," accidentally changing four characters into one.

To read about all four characters, as well as protagonist Jack Wilson, you can find *Dear FIN* at the Powell River Public Library (in Edition #3 of *Novella Express* published by Leamington Books), and as an ebook at Indigo and amazon.ca. 

## Powell River Logger Sports results

### Novice

- Canadian Championship Tree Climb - Cash McQuaid
- Canadian Championship Underhand Chop - Connor Robertson
- Canadian Championship Axe Throw - Sean Yokoyama

### Intermediate

- Canadian Championship Obstacle Pole - Brad Laviolette
- Canadian Championship Stock Saw Husky Challenge - Brett Marquis
- Underhand chop - Tyler Brady
- Canadian Championship Double Buck - Verjall Ham and Keenan Young
- North American Championship 100CC - Brett Marquis
- 2-Board Springboard - Tyler Brady

### Master's Underhand Chop

#### Ladies

- Canadian Championship Single Buck - Allison Briscoe
- Canadian Championship Jill and Jill Double Buck - Allison Briscoe and Dawn Briscoe
- Axe Throw - Andrea Hand

#### Open

- Axe Throw - Mitch Hewitt
- Canadian Championship Tree Climb - Sean Yokoyama
- Canadian Championship Underhand - Nate Hodges
- Single Buck - Stirling Hart
- Canadian Championship 4 Board Springboard - Mitch Hewitt
- Canadian Championship 140CC Springboard - Mitch Hewitt
- Obstacle Pole - Stirling Hart
- Canadian Championship Double Buck - Nick Russell and Nick Hall

### North American Championship Unlimited Hotsaw - Nate Hodges

- Jack and Jill Double Bucking - Allison Briscoe and Stirling Hart


### CAN/AM Relay - Canada

- Novice Logger of the Day - Connor Robertson
- Intermediate Logger of the Day - Tyler Brady
- Sportsman of the Day - Morgan Bischoff
- Open Logger of the Day - Stirling Hart
- Lady Logger of the Day - Andrea Hand
- Sportsman of the Day - Walt Page

### Chainsaw Carving Competition

- First - Kamron Garbe
- Second - Shea Larking
- Third - Marina Cole

During the event on July 15 and 16, Powell River Logger Sports collected \$7,200 in cash and food for the Powell River Action Society Food Bank.



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## BUSINESS AFFAIRS

SEAN PERCY

### Carpenter refines new business

Last month, passersby will have noticed a new sign appear on the window of what used to be the showroom of Fix It Home Outlet (“Fix It”) or, as long-time residents still call it, “the old police station.” **Mikey Schmidt**, a finishing carpenter and cabinet maker of 30 years, has established a new company, **Refined Home Solutions**, at #102-4690 Marine Avenue. Mikey and his wife Andi relocated here from East Vancouver in December 2021. Having grown up in Bella Coola, Mikey was happy to get out of the city. By March 2022, Mikey worked at RONA’s contractor desk and was doing non-competitive installs as he got to know more locals. When Fix It left the Marine Avenue showroom earlier this year, Mikey took the opportunity to start his own business. Design consultant **Sara Boulton** joined the RHS team and the company now offers a full scope of custom design, supply and installation services for kitchens, bathrooms, pantries, closets, countertops, including flooring and tiling. They also provide re-facing services – putting new doors and hardware on existing cabinetry – which saves the client time and money while still giving things a fresh, new look. See some of RHS’ featured projects and learn more by visiting [www.refinedhome.store](http://www.refinedhome.store) or calling 236-328-0242.

### Province sets Foundry for youth

Young people in qathet have a new one-stop shop for integrated health and wellness services, including mental-health and addiction supports, at a new **Foundry** centre. **Powell River Youth and Family (PRCYFSS)** got the contract to run the new service. The provincial government provides annual funding for operations and services, as well as one-time funding of \$1.5 million to establish the centre. Foundry Powell River will offer young people 12-24 (and

their families) safe, welcoming, and youth-designed health and wellness services, including mental-health and addiction support, drop-in counselling, physical and sexual health care, youth and family peer support and social services. The local centre and one in Vernon are two of 12 new Foundry centres promised in the 2023 provincial budget, for a total of 35 across the province.

“PRCYFSS is thrilled our community has been selected as a new Foundry location. We are grateful to our community partners for being with us on this journey and we’re excited to get the work underway,” said Collette Sinkewicz, youth programs supervisor for PRCYFSS.

“I look forward to celebrating the opening of Foundry Powell River, where more young people will have access to the mental health and addiction supports they need,” said MLA Nicholas Simons.

### WIB awards

After having to cancel their in-person awards ceremony, Powell River Women in Business last month announced their **2023 Influential Women of the Year**. **Paige Anderson** (right) of Laszlo Tamasik Dance Academy was named Business Woman of the Year – Brick and Mortar. In addition to owning and operating the dance studio, Paige is a real estate agent with Royal LePage. **Tiffany Adam** of Cadam Fireplace and Stove Centre was the runner-up in that category. Home-based Business Woman of the Year was **Maree Lennox** of Maree Alexandra Stu-



dio, who creates clothes tailored for curvy women. **Kaylin Foisy** of The Knotty Pretzel Baked Delights and **Kaylin Foisy Personal Training** was runner-up. **Sarah Joy Herzog** of the newly renamed Four Tides Hospice Society was chosen Employee of the Year. The runner-up was **Mariah Fedosov**, an agent with 460 Realty who also teaches swimming lessons and works at the wharf for the City of Powell River.

### Tea time

What used to be **Velma’s Candy, Tea and Gifts** is under new ownership. Born-and-raised Powell Riverite **Dave Bourassa** has renamed the Marine Avenue shop to **Loose Leaf Tea & Sweets**. The shop has over 100 types of loose leaf tea (soon to expand to 150), along with a large selection of brewing and steeping equipment. There’s also a large cold infused iced tea section. You can try testers, or get a full cup to enjoy on your stroll along Marine or to the beach. The candies are naturally sweetened and include local products such as **Pirate Pop Popsicles**. At one time, Dave ran a commercial property maintenance business (which he for a time operated while living full-time in Beijing) and employed 23. “Now I have one employee in the loose leaf tea industry and I’m loving it,” said Dave.

### qRD hiring waste head

The **qathet Regional District** is hiring for a new position to oversee the soon-to-be-opened Resource Recovery Centre. The position covers a wide range of duties related to solid waste management, greenhouse gas reduction strategies, overseeing RRC operations, maintenance and budgeting, development of financial strategies and grant applications, liaising with government peers and overseeing public education. The **manager of environmental services** will also be a part of the team that works towards the long-term goal of having Zero Waste for export. Civil and prep work at the RRC is to be completed this year. The construction of the reuse and recycling building, scale house, education centre, site office and enclosed transfer station is scheduled for completion in 2024.

|| sean@prliving.ca



- 8-week Grief Support Group Mondays 10-11:30 beginning September 11
- Grief Walking Group at the Seawalk 10:00 first & last Tuesday of the month
- Caregiver Support Group twice monthly on Mondays at 10:00
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For more information or to register contact [programs@fourtideshospice.org](mailto:programs@fourtideshospice.org) or 604 208 7221

Four Tides Hospice Society [www.fourtideshospice.org](http://www.fourtideshospice.org) 604-223-7309 4675 Ontario Ave, Powell River



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# August is tickle trunk time



Dig out your duds, fashionistas. Because *The Barbie Movie* (far left); *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (left); *Rockin' the Beach* (above); *Box Wars* (below centre); and some Pride events (below) are all opportunities to dress up.



# August in qathet

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## AUGUST EVENTS

# 1

Tuesday

### Ancestry – Cave Painting

10-11:30 am, Library. First Credit Union Community Room. Take a virtual tour of the Lascaux caves then make your own prehistoric painting. 5+.

### Grief Walking Group

10 am at the Seawalk. See ad on Page 34.

### Métis Fiddle & Dance performance and Community Dance

1:30-3 pm, Cranberry Hall. Join Métis fiddler Kathleen Nisbet and dancer Eloi Homier (both of Vancouver's Vni Dansi) for an afternoon performance followed by a community dance. No experience necessary. All ages welcome. \$10 adults, \$5 children under 12. Tickets at the door. More info: info@serenaeades.com

### Film: Barbie

7 pm at The Patricia

### Full Moon, Supermoon

May look slightly larger and brighter than usual.

# 2

Wednesday

### Community Old-Time Square Dance

1:30-3 pm, Cranberry Hall. Come dance away the afternoon with a live fiddle band and dance caller Emily Dubois. No experience necessary. Bring the whole family! \$5 at the door. More info: info@serenaeades.com

### Summertime Ukulele Song Circle

3:30, Library, All ages, drop-in, free.

### Uptown Market

4 to 6 pm, CRC Parking Lot on Joyce.

### Film: Barbie

7 pm at The Patricia

# 3

Thursday

### Thursday Night Markets

6 to 9 pm, Willingdon Beach gravel parking lot.

### Live Music at the Boardwalk

5 to 8 pm, Random Performers.

### Tyler Bartfai at the Laughing Oyster

5 pm. Local singer-songwriter.

### Film: Barbie

1:30 pm and 7 pm at The Patricia

# 4

Friday

### Portals show

Tidal Art Centre. Through August 24.

### Saltery Bay Artists Market

9 to 5 pm, just before the BC Ferries Saltery Bay terminal.

### Live Music: Old Enough to Know Better

5 to 8 pm, The Boardwalk Restaurant.

### Film: Joy Ride

7 pm at The Patricia

# 5

Saturday

### Texada Island Blues & Roots Fest

Texada.org

### Rockin' the Beach

10:30 am to 9 pm. A day-long free music festival to raise money for River Kids.

### Guided Summer Walks

10:30 am, meet at the Museum. 30 to 45 minutes.

### Wildwood Community Garage Sale

9 am til noon. Look for the signs around the 'hood.

### Powell River Farmers' Market

4365 McLeod Road (Paradise Exhibition Park) outside. 10:30 to 12:30



## Texada Blues & Roots Festival

August 5 & 6

Started in 2015 to replace Jazz on the Rocks, the Texada Blues and Roots Festival's policy has been to take performers from within 100 kilometres of Gillies Bay, and it has turned out to be a wise decision.

This year's festival offers a variety of genres including Jeff Plankenhorn (above) playing the Blues.

Walter Martella and Karina Inkster will be playing their accordions. Devon Hanley and friends will entertain the crowd with their folk. Jim Foster is a must see act along with Gord Carter and Pat Burk. A new resident of Texada, Jayleen Stonehouse (who has been called the female James Brown) is here.

Some festival favourites are coming back: Spud and Turnip, Wen Warn and the island boyz and opening this year is Sherri Smith.

New this year is West Coast Jazz band. A favourite treat is the Gospel Hour and Savannah Jones Martin.

Expect food, beverages, a kids zone, vendors and great music. [texadabluesfestival.com](http://texadabluesfestival.com).

### 32 Lakes Market

9 am to 3 pm, beside 32 Lakes on Marine Ave.

### Live Music:

#### Pat Buckna

5 to 8 pm, The Boardwalk Restaurant.

### Film: Joy Ride

7 pm at The Patricia

### Miniature Train Rides

12:30 to 2:30 pm, Farmers' Market.

### Texada Island Farmers' Market

Noon to 1:30 pm, Gillies Bay Ball Field

### Live Music: KP Duty

5 to 8 pm, The Boardwalk Restaurant.

### Film: Joy Ride

7 pm at The Patricia

# 6

Sunday

### Texada Island Blues & Roots Fest

Texada.org

### Powell River Farmers' Market

4365 McLeod Road (Paradise Exhibition Park) outside. 12:30 to 2:30 pm

# 7

Monday

### BC Day Stat

### Live Music: Dawson & Renelle

5:30 to 8 pm, The Boardwalk Restaurant.

### Film: Joy Ride

7 pm at The Patricia

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## “Rockin’ the Beach”

August 5

This is a Willingdon Woodstock with all day music and a calm and loving atmosphere. It is also a fundraiser for The River Kids Society. We will be collecting cash and cheque donations throughout the day to support this wonderful society that provides financial support to local families that have sick children. If you can make a donation, you will be given a ticket or tickets giving you an opportunity to win a small prize. Wear your favourite band t-shirt if you like!

Rockin’ the Beach will feature local bands, duets, and solo performers of all ages. We are excited about the show that will feature one of the kings of rock-n-roll “Elvis!” Fortunately for us, Robert Falls, an Elvis impersonator, will grace the stage for all to enjoy. There will also be skilled student performers, a fun dance competition, a kids song circle with Stephanie Davidson, some corny dad jokes, and of course canned and live rock music! The event is also known as “A Day of Love” with a focus on peace and community spirit.

Local legend Courtney Pollock (pictured above) will help decorate the stage with one of his world-famous tie-die designs to add to the rock music scene. Come on and feel the noise!

This is a free family friendly event. It is an opportunity for all ages to enjoy awesome local music.

~ Dave McMaster

# 8

Tuesday

### Seniors Together at the Rec Complex

11:30 am to 1 pm, pre-register for this free event. Powellriverprc.ca, or call 604-485-2891

Film: **Joy Ride**

7 pm at The Patricia

# 9

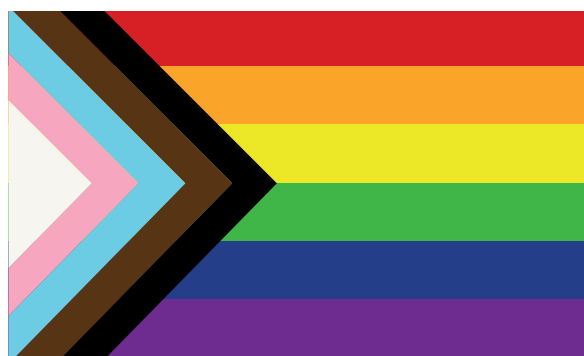
Wednesday

### Uptown Market

4 to 6 pm, CRC Parking Lot on Joyce.

Film: **Past Lives**

7 pm at The Patricia



**QATHET PRIDE:** Pride events begin with the flag raising at Powell River City Hall on August 11, and run every day through August 17. They’re in the calendar. For more on Pride, see Page 47.

# 10

Thursday

### Archaeology Day

12:30 to 3 pm at the Museum. Unearth artifacts from a simulated archaeological excavation! Learn about archaeology and material culture with a hands-on experience at the museum.

### Music in the Park

7 pm, Willingdon Beach. Free.

### Tyler Bartfai at the Laughing Oyster

5 pm. Local singer-songwriter.

### Thursday Night Markets

6 to 9 pm, Willingdon Beach gravel parking lot.

### Live Music at the Boardwalk

5 to 8 pm, Random Performers.

### Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation.

Look for the planet low in the western sky just after sunset.

### Film: **Past Lives**

1:30 and 7 pm at The Patricia

# 11

Friday

### Youth Film Camp Screening

3 pm, the Patricia. Films by 25 kids ages 11 – 14. Free admission. Donations accepted.

### Saltery Bay Artists Market

9 to 5 pm, just before the BC Ferries Saltery Bay terminal.

### Pride Flag Raising at City Hall

Time TBA

### Live Music: **Old Enough to Know Better**

5 to 8 pm, The Boardwalk Restaurant.

### Film: **Asteroid City**

7 pm at The Patricia

# 12

Saturday

### qathet art + wares **Second Anniversary Party**

See ad on Page 44.

### Pride in the Park

noon til 4 pm, Larry Gouthro Park. Everyone welcome. All ages. Drag queen Conni Smudge will be present. Vendors and live musicians.

### Pride • Drag Show

7 to 10 pm, Townsite Brewing patio. Everyone welcome, all ages. Admission by donation.

### Fins & Skins Fishing Derby & Golf

You could win a 3 night, 2 day stay including meals and guided sturgeon fishing at Fraser River Lodge among other great prizes. Net proceeds support the Powell River Salmon Society. Team of 4 – \$1000. Starts at first light. For more information or to register call Josh Satham at 604-223-5674



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# AUGUST EVENTS

## Blackberry Festival Street Party

August 18

In October, 2021, Dana Percy commissioned artist Alex Prachthausser of ETO Tattoo Powell River to ink blackberries and blackberry flowers on her shoulder.

“Blackberries are the quintessential free qathet berry,” said Dana, “always providing a sweet treat no matter your financial status. They remind me of my childhood growing up in Lund and many great memories picking with my younger siblings.”

Dana, the Human Resources Supervisor at Sunshine Coast Health Centre, will be at Blackberry Fest this year, “eating ALL the blackberries and celebrating my daughter’s fifteenth birthday – which happens to be the same day. We like to call it her ‘community birthday street party.’”

### Christian Borrego, West Coast Bound, Opening Reception

5 pm, Crucible Gallery at Townsite Market. Paintings, illuminated sculptures, prints. Music, refreshments, all ages.

### Perseids Meteor Shower peak

View from a dark place after midnight. Meteors radiate from Perseus, but may be anywhere.

### Guided Summer Walks

10:30 am, meet at the Museum. 30 to 45 minutes.

### Powell River Farmers’ Market

4365 McLeod Road (Paradise Exhibition Park) outside. 10:30 to 12:30

### 32 Lakes Market

9 am to 3 pm, beside 32 Lakes on Marine Ave.

### Live Music: Pat Buckna

5 to 8 pm, The Boardwalk Restaurant.

### Church Under Fire Screening & Hold the Line reading

5 pm, Evergreen Theatre. \$25 general admission.

5 pm doors open and meet the author for Hold the Line; 7 pm Screening of Church Under Fire: Canada’s War on Christian-

ity, and 8:30 pm, Q&A with Rebel News personalities.

### Film: Asteroid City

7 pm at The Patricia

# 13

Sunday

### “Southies” Family Gathering

Community BBQ for South-of-Towners 2:30 welcome and games, 4:30 BBQ and bring a dessert. Palm Beach. For people who live south of town. For more info, text 604-483-4283.

### Perseids Meteor Shower peak

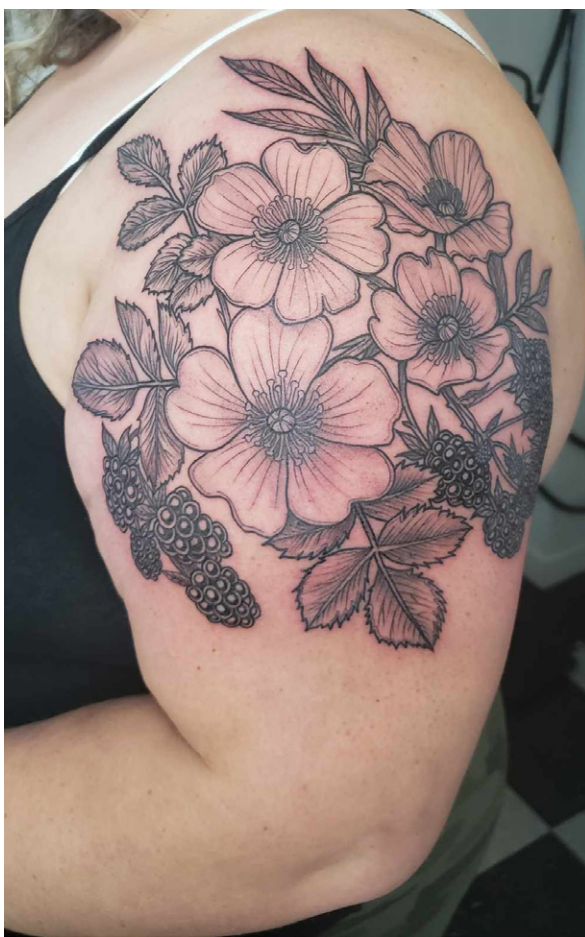
View from a dark place after midnight. Meteors radiate from Perseus, but may be anywhere.

### Pride • Free pancake breakfast

11 am to 1 pm, Old Courthouse Inn. Closed event for the queer community. Donations will be gratefully accepted for Pride.

### Pride • Drag Bingo

3:30 to 5 pm, Magpie’s Restaurant. Everyone welcome. Admission by donation.



**Powell River Farmers’ Market**  
4365 McLeod Road (Paradise Exhibition Park) outside. 12:30 to 2:30 pm

### Miniature Train Rides

12:30 to 2:30 pm, Farmers’ Market.

### Texada Island Farmers’ Market

Noon to 1:30 pm, Gillies Bay Ball Field

### Live Music: KP Duty

5 to 8 pm, The Boardwalk Restaurant.

### Film: Asteroid City

1:30 and 7 pm at The Patricia

# 14

Monday

### Community Conversation at Kindred ReBuild

5 to 7 pm at Kindred ReBuild. Do you love a good deal? Are you searching for your next project? Do



you want to support the Powell River community? If you answered yes to any of these questions, do we have an event for you! Please register in-store.

### Pride • Library Drag Story Time with Conni Smudge

Noon til 3 pm, Library. Everyone welcome. Followed by an open microphone.

### Pride • Drag Show

5 to 8 pm, Shinglemill Bistro. Everyone welcome. Customers pay for dinner and drinks. Admission by donation.

### Live Music: Dawson & Renelle

5:30 to 8 pm, The Boardwalk Restaurant.

### Film: Asteroid City

7 pm at The Patricia

# 15

Tuesday

### Powell River Skating Club online registration begins.

See ad on Page 16.

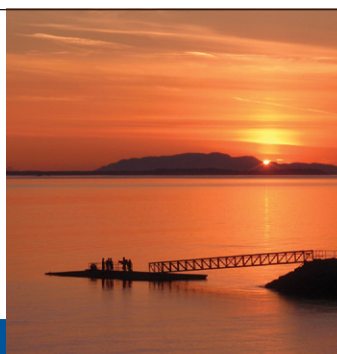
### Pride • D&D One Shot

6 to 9 pm, High Tide Games. Everyone wel-

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**BACK TO 2022:** This Tesla model X was on display at last year's Blackberry Fest. It is owned by Leslie and John Henderson. John is the current Mayor of Sechelt.

## Blackberry Fest's Electric Avenue

August 20

The Sunshine Coast Electric Vehicle Association will be back at the Blackberry Festival Street Party this year with an assortment of members' vehicles on display. This is a great chance for people talk to EV owners and have a look at EVs up close. We will have one of the newest EV models to arrive in Canada this July as well as a well loved EV over 10 years old. Our member hosts are EV enthusiasts and are a wealth of information on making the transition to electric transportation.

~ Mieke Bray



**ARTISTS ARE MENTORS:** With the support of the Tidal Art Centre Mentorship Program with youth, Faelyn Robb painted her first mural (above) with mentor and local artist Luke Ramsey.

They drew together at a local coffee shop to plan the concept. Then they showed up to the Willingdon beach free wall. A friendly worker from Logger

Sports mentioned an upcoming car show, so Faelyn and Luke switched gears from their initial concept. They decided to paint a freestyle car theme mural instead. Faelyn painted a car of misfits with Luke's abstract cars in a traffic jam.

Luke will have art on view at Townskate, 4482 Marine Ave, for qathet Studio Tour on August 26 and 27.

come, but especially youth. Admission by donation.

**Film: Asteroid City**  
7 pm at The Patricia

**Uptown Market**  
4 to 6 pm, CRC Parking Lot on Joyce.

**New Moon**  
Good sky viewing.

**Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts in Sechelt begins**  
writersfestival.ca  
See more on Page 41.  
Through August 20.

**Pride • Hedwig and the Angry Inch Screening**  
7 pm doors, film at 8 pm, The Patricia Theatre. \$20 event includes admission, one specialty beverage and artisan cupcake. Tickets at Eventbrite or the Pat. \$10 general admission for the film only. Prizes for best wigs and costumes, other goodies and prizes. 14A.

**Tyler Bartfai at the Laughing Oyster**  
5 pm. Local singer-songwriter.

**Thursday Night Markets**  
6 to 9 pm, Willingdon Beach gravel parking lot.

**Live Music at the Boardwalk**  
5 to 8 pm, random performers.

# 16

Wednesday

**Pride • Cranberry Picnic**

5:30 to 8 pm. Closed event for the queer community and allies. Everyone must pre-register at qathetpride.ca.

**Summertime Ukulele Song Circle**

3:30, Library, All ages, drop-in, free.

# 17

Thursday

**Box wars**

It's a kid-oriented all-ages frenzy of creativity and conflict. This free event is in memory of Jasper Mohan. For details, contact Bill 604-223-2225 or bcbilly@shaw.ca.



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# AUGUST EVENTS



## 18

Friday

### August 18 Blackberry Festival Street Party

Car-free on Marine Ave Starts at 6 pm, Fireworks at 10 pm. See more on Page 38.

### Saltery Bay Artists Market

9 to 5 pm, just before the BC Ferries Saltery Bay terminal.

**Live Music:**  
**Old Enough to Know Better**  
5 to 8 pm, The Boardwalk Restaurant.

**Film: *Elemental***  
7 pm at The Patricia

## 19

Saturday

### Activist Peggy Frank on living with HIV in Rwanda

2 pm at the Library. Peggy Frank presents her new book *There are Things that Cannot be Changed* about the story of her decades long effort supporting HIV positive women in Rwanda. For info mmerlino@prpl.ca

### Urban Sketchers Meet-Up

2 pm, Townsite Public Market. Hosted by qathet Art & Wares.

### Coastal Comedy Tour

7:30 pm, Evergreen Theatre. Comedians Alex Mackenzie, Chris Griffin and Sophia Johnson are coming down the coast to make waves of laughter! \$30 at eclproductions.com.

### Guided Walks

10:30 am, meet at the Museum. 30 to 45 minutes.

### Powell Lake Concert

5 to 8 pm, just before Elvis Point. With qathet's Paul Marier and Van-

## 10th annual Run the Rock

August 20

We're excited to host dozens of runners for the 10th edition of Run the Rock on Texada Island on Sunday, August 20th. The marathon starts at 7 a.m., followed by the half marathon at 8:30 and the 8K at 10:30. All the races finish at Shelter Point Regional Park where an award ceremony and prize draw will be held around 1:30 p.m. to tie up the event. If you aren't running, come cheer on the runners or be ready to congratulate them at the finish line. Shelter Point will be buzzing with excitement as the runners come in, and the more people the merrier. Runners can register for the marathon and half-marathon until August 16th at midnight, and for the 8K race until 10 a.m. on the day of the event. Visit [www.runtexada.ca](http://www.runtexada.ca) for more information.

~ Lucia Capretti

couver's Chris Andres playing from a barge. Boat access only. Donations accepted at [gofundme.com/f/powell-lake-concert-august-19th-2023](https://www.gofundme.com/f/powell-lake-concert-august-19th-2023).

### Powell River Farmers' Market

4365 McLeod Road (Paradise Exhibition Park) outside. 10:30 to 12:30

### 32 Lakes Market

9 am to 3 pm, beside 32 Lakes on Marine Ave.

### Live Music: Pat Buckna

5 to 8 pm, The Boardwalk Restaurant.

### Film: *Elemental*

7 pm at The Patricia

## 20

Sunday

### Run the Rock

Texada marathon / half marathon / 8K. [runtexada.ca](http://runtexada.ca). See more at left.

### Pool, Hot Tub & Sauna closed for annual maintenance

Rec Complex. To September 10.

### Powell River Farmers' Market

4365 McLeod Road (Paradise Exhibition Park) outside. 12:30 to 2:30 pm

### Miniature Train Rides

12:30 to 2:30 pm, Farmers' Market.

### Texada Island Farmers' Market

Noon to 1:30 pm, Gillies Bay Ball Field

### Live Music: KP Duty

5 to 8 pm, The Boardwalk Restaurant.

### Film: *Elemental*

1:30 pm and 7 pm at The Patricia

## 21

Monday

### Fall Active Living Registration Begins

See Recreation Complex programs at [powellriverprc.ca](http://powellriverprc.ca), and the ad on the inside back cover.

### Summer Ecology Camp begins

For ages 6 to 10. Through the 25th. Powell River Salmon Society. See more at [salmonpreservation.org/camps](http://salmonpreservation.org/camps)

### Live Music: Dawson & Renelle

5:30 to 8 pm, The Boardwalk Restaurant.

### Film: *Elemental*

7 pm at The Patricia

## 22

Tuesday

### Paper-making

10 am to 3 pm, Museum. Keep the spirit of the paper mill alive! Participants will be able to

**AUGUST 26 & 27**  
10am to 4pm  
[qathetART.ca](http://qathetART.ca)





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## Box wars

August 17

Through my work as an education assistant with School District 47, I met Jasper Mo-han when he was doing Destination Imagination, a worldwide event for students to show creative thinking skills. He was a natural.

His mother Barb had a favour to ask. Jasper's cancer was getting worse, and he had a bucket list. Jasper wanted to be part of a BoxWars battle. Could I help?

'Yes' was the only answer. I would have done anything for this brave young man that was losing a battle with cancer. I had beat cancer; survivor guilt is real.

I immediately Googled BoxWars and found out it had a huge following down in Australia. To get in the BoxWars frame of mind you have to have a very vivid imagination, lots of duct tape, cardboard and a box cutter or two. If you are young, ask an adult for help cutting.

We organized a battle at Henderson school one year with the help of Mr. Gordon and his Grade 7 class. They had a riot.

But the best ever BoxWars was Jasper's PRIAX battle. Hundreds of people showed up in battle gear, all in support of Jasper. Some even went to Magpie's Diner in full gear for breakfast.

At the end of it all there was the odd dent or scratch, even the odd paper cut; and the battlefield was littered with torn remnants of a fun battle well fought. What I remember most was the smile on Jasper's face as he pushed his walker with one hand and took on all who dared to face him in the field of honour.

Honour: that's why we were all there that day – to honour Jasper's wish.

I am dedicating our upcoming battle at Henderson Park on Thursday, August 17, to Jasper (JJ Solo).

Official armour and weapons building will start at 4 pm, but I will be there at 3 pm for any early birds. Parade and battle to follow at 5 pm.

We will have minimal cardboard for building so we encourage you to build at home and dress at the park. Also a family crest is a great idea.

No head shots. If someone yells "Yield" or "Stop," stop the battle right away. Have fun!

For more info, contact [bcbilly@shaw.ca](mailto:bcbilly@shaw.ca) or text 604-223-2225.

~ Bill Hopkins

make their own paper out of recycled materials.

### Compassionate Friends Meeting

7 pm, Hospice Society Office at 4675 Ontario (behind Save-On.) Grief support after the death of a child no matter the age or cause. See ad on Page 53 for more.

### Film: *Elemental*

1:30 pm and 7 pm at The Patricia

## 23

Wednesday

### Tech Savvy Ancestry

4 pm at the Library. Learn about the genealogical resources, including DNA testing and how you can have free access to the Ancestry.ca through the Library. To register [mmerlino@prpl.ca](mailto:mmerlino@prpl.ca)

### Uptown Market

4 to 6 pm, CRC Parking Lot on Joyce.

## 24

Thursday

### Tyler Bartfai at the Laughing Oyster

5 pm. Local singer-songwriter.

### Thursday Night Markets

6 to 9 pm, Willingdon Beach gravel parking lot.

### Live Music at the Boardwalk

5 to 8 pm, Random Performers.

## 25

Friday

### Saltery Bay Artists Market

9 to 5 pm, just before the BC Ferries Saltery Bay terminal.

### Live Music: Old Enough to Know Better

5 to 8 pm, The Boardwalk Restaurant.

### Film: *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*

7 pm at The Patricia

## 26

Saturday

### qathet Studio Tour

A free self-guided event featuring artists from Lang Bay to Lund. Tour artist's homes and studios to see where the creative magic happens. [qathetstudiotour.ca](http://qathetstudiotour.ca). See more on Page 42.

### Flea Market

10 am to 1 pm, Land Bay Hall.

### Guided Summer Walks

10:30 am, meet at the Museum. 30 to 45 minutes.

### Powell River

### Farmers' Market

4365 McLeod Road (Paradise Exhibition Park) outside. 10:30 to 12:30

### 32 Lakes Market

9 am to 3 pm, beside 32 Lakes on Marine Ave.

### Live Music:

### Pat Buckna

5 to 8 pm, The Boardwalk Restaurant.

### Film: *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*

7 pm at The Patricia



**READERS' RETREAT:** Left, bestselling author John Vaillant (*The Golden Spruce*; *Fire Weather*) and right, The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould (*Indian in the Cabinet*; *True Reconciliation*) are both featured writers at the Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts.

## 41st Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts

August 17-20, Sechelt

Variety seems to be the theme of this year's festival. "I wanted to program a festival that would offer a lot of choice around the types of events and authors who are presenting," explains Artistic and Executive Director Marisa Alps. "My hope is that most folks will find at least one event they want to attend."

While one of the headliners—the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould, who is delivering this year's Rockwood Lecture on Saturday, August 19—is sold out, you can still get admission by purchasing a Festival Pass, which grants you entry to all 21 events.

Other featured authors include bestselling author John Vaillant, who is speaking about his new book *Fire Weather*; Bob McDonald, longtime host of CBC Radio's *Quirks and Quarks*; Ian and Will Ferguson, both winners of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour; award-winning Gitksan writer, journalist and artist Angela Sterritt; and ocean journalist and author Laura Trethewey. The Festival closes on August 20 with a musical event featuring Tom and Kalissa Landa, who are best known for their work with the Vancouver band The Paperboys.

Tickets for the Festival of the Written Arts are on sale now. Visit [writersfestival.ca](http://writersfestival.ca) for more information and for a complete list of authors.



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604 413-0637 [debraveartcreations.com](http://debraveartcreations.com)





# AUGUST EVENTS

## 27

Sunday

### qathet Studio Tour

A free self-guided event featuring artists from Lang Bay to Lund. Tour artist's homes and studios to see where the creative magic happens. [qathetstudiotour.ca](http://qathetstudiotour.ca).

### Saturn at Opposition

Visible all night, and brighter than at any other time of the year. Rings and moons will be visible with a medium telescope.

### Powell River

#### Farmers' Market

4365 McLeod Road (Paradise Exhibition Park) outside. 12:30 am to 2:30 pm.

#### Miniature Train Rides

12:30 to 2:30 pm, Farmers' Market.

### Texada Island

#### Farmers' Market

Noon to 1:30 pm, Gillies Bay Ball Field

### Live Music: KP Duty

5 to 8 pm, The Boardwalk Restaurant.

### Film: *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*

1:30 pm and 7 pm at The Patricia

## 28

Monday

### Live Music: Dawson & Renelle

5:30 to 8 pm, The Boardwalk Restaurant.

### Film: *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*

7 pm at The Patricia

## 29

Tuesday

### Risks from Wildfires in the qathet Region and Evacuation Planning

4 pm at the Library. qathet Regional District FireSmart Coordinator Marc Albert and Evacuation Planning Assistant Jessie MacDonald will discuss the risks and local Emergency Program Plan. For info [mmerlino@prpl.ca](mailto:mmerlino@prpl.ca)

### Grief Walking Group

10 am at the Seawalk. See ad on Page 34.

### Film: *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*

1:30 pm and 7 pm at The Patricia

## 30

Wednesday

### Summertime Ukulele Song Circle

3:30, Library, All ages, drop-in, free.

### Uptown Market

4 to 6 pm, CRC Parking Lot on Joyce.

## 31

Thursday

### International Overdose Awareness Day – Wear Purple

See ad on Page 2.

### Music in the Park

7 pm, Willingdon Beach. Free.

### Full Moon, Supermoon, Blue Moon

The moon will appear larger and brighter than usual.



**THE SOUTHERNMOST STUDIO ON THE TOUR:** Peter Gyndt's "In Perfect Bodies In Perfect Times." Oil on Canvas, 2023. Pick up a copy of the qathet Studio Tour Guide to self-tour 34 local artists from Lang Creek to Lund, 10 til 4 pm each day.

The guides can be found at qathet Art Centre, Artique and Tidal Art Centre.



## qathet Studio Tour August 26 & 27

The annual qathet Studio Tour is back again this summer. All studio locations will be open to the public from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday August 26 and Sunday August 27. This year the tour is proud to present 34 studio locations from Lang Bay to Lund, with over 50 artists showcasing their work and passion.

Since 2004, the qathet Studio Tour has been a popular summer event,

welcoming hundreds of visitors into artist's homes and studios to see where the creative magic happens. It is a free self-guided event, with many studios, galleries and businesses open year round.

This region is alive with creativity and inspiration. Whether you are a visitor or a local resident, we thank you for exploring and supporting the arts and culture of qathet.

For more information on all the participating studios visit [qathetart.ca](http://qathetart.ca) and follow us on Facebook and Instagram @qathetstudiotour.



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## International Overdose Awareness Day August 31

International Overdose Awareness Day takes place on August 31st. This annual awareness day is an occasion to remember without stigma those who have died from overdose, acknowledge the grief of the family and friends left behind, and stimulate discussion on overdose prevention and drug policy.

This year's theme is "Recognizing those people who go unseen," which is about acknowledging the people in our communities—grieving families and friends, first-responders, and community support workers—that are affected by overdose but are not often thought about in the context of the overdose crisis.

It has been over seven years since the Province of British Columbia announced a public health emergency in response to high overdose-related deaths in the province. While additional funding has been provided for harm reduction resources and substance use treatment options, death rates attributed to overdose remain high; an estimated 2,300 people died in BC in 2022 alone.

Locally, the qathet Community Action Team, a coalition of eighty-plus community organizations and partners, coordinates services and supports to address the overdose crisis. Learn more about the qCAT's work at [prcat.ca](http://prcat.ca).

~ Alexandra Bissley

## August's Art Shows

### Ongoing

**Arne Gutman solo show**  
Maggi's Diner

### Ongoing

**Kerensa Haynes: Beyond Touch & Feel Is What you See**  
At the Library.

### August 4 to 24

**Portals show**  
Tidal Art Centre. Through August 24.



### August 1 to 31

**Christian Borrego, West Coast Bound**  
5 pm, Crucible Gallery at Townsite Market. Paintings, illuminated sculptures, prints. Music, refreshments, all ages.

### September 1 to 22

**Ron Bignell, Amongst the Trees**  
Tidal Art Centre, Lund.



## Sunshine Music Festival

September 2&3

The Sunshine Music Festival has taken place at Palm Beach Regional Park for the past four decades.

We are back again for 2023 with an exciting line-up focused on local and emerging artists, curated by our new Artistic Director Sophia Sanford.

Come out to see Raincity, a Vancouver-based Glam-Rock band fronted by women on saxophone and vocals. Get moving on the dance floor with Bad Buddy and their psychedelic surf, punk, pop sounds. Local favourite Dennis Bouwman is back with us this year too. Naduh is bringing us some RnB Hip Hop with an astrological twist.

Sunday night ends with a party on stage with The Band Destiny and their Caribbean, soca, and reggae vibes.

Running a zero waste event is a big focus for 2023 and we are asking everyone to bring your own cups and limit garbage as much as you can. Don't forget to bring your beach gear for a few dips in the ocean and please leave pets at home. Our festival is planned and produced by a passionate team of amazing volunteers each year. Vendor and volunteer applications can be filled out at [sunshinemusicfest.ca](http://sunshinemusicfest.ca) if you would like to be a part of the festival.

~ Nicole Farley



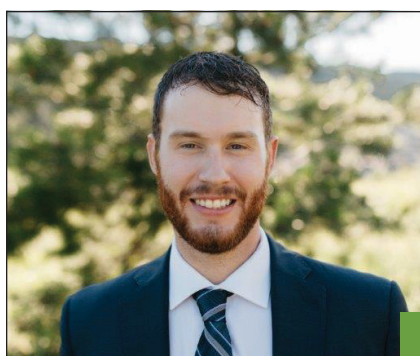
## Salmon Society Daycamp • August 21 to 25

The Powell River Salmon Society has introduced the new nature-focused Coastal Ecology Summer Camp!

During this week-long day camp, children ages 6-10 will get to know and appreciate the local forest, creeks, and ocean ecosystems through exciting games, bushcraft skill building, bug investigation, nature-exploration, crafts, and challenges.

Coastal Ecology Camp encourages kids to engage with their senses, learn through curiosity, and grow their independence while meeting new friends and being immersed in their environment!

There are a few spots still available for the August 21-to-25 week of Summer Camp at the Lang Creek Hatchery, register at [salmonpreservation.org/camps](http://salmonpreservation.org/camps).



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UPCOMING IN SEPTEMBER



**ALL'S FAIR AT THE FALL FAIR:** On September 24 & 25, head up to the Paradise Exhibition Grounds for the Powell River Farmers Agricultural Institute's annual Fall Fair. The booklet, outlining contest categories, will be distributed inside *qL*'s September edition. But start planning now! The fair wants your best crafts, baking, art, produce, canning, Lego, live poultry, and much more.

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1

Friday

**Ron Bignell, Amongst the Trees, Opening Reception**  
5 to 7 pm, Tidal Art Centre

**Villa All Ages Soccer Registration cut-off to save \$30**  
See ad on Page 15.

2

Saturday

**Sunshine Music Fest**  
Weekend-long music fest at Lang Bay, plus vendors, food, kids area and more. [sunshinemusicfest.ca](http://sunshinemusicfest.ca). See Page 48 for full story,

3

Sunday

**Sunshine Music Fest**  
Weekend-long music fest at Lang Bay, plus vendors, food, kids area and more. [sunshinemusicfest.ca](http://sunshinemusicfest.ca). See Page 48 for full story,

4

Monday

Labour Day

5

Tuesday

**Back to School**  
For the 2023/24 year.  
**Registration Week at the Academy of Music begins**  
See ad on Page 53. Through September 8.

9

Saturday

**Townsite Heritage Society's Plein Air event**  
Watch artists at work, purchase their artwork, and participate in other activities such as tours and workshops. See story on Page 51.  
**Texada Artist Studio Tour**  
See more in the September issue of *qL*.

10

Saturday

Texada Artist Studio Tour

**Pierre Schryer, Adam Dobres with Danielle Enblom in concert**  
7 pm, Cranberry Community Hall. Tickets \$25 advance (Marine Basecamp/Eventbrite); \$30 at door. This exceptional Canadian fiddle/guitar duo ([SchryerDobres.com](http://SchryerDobres.com)) are joined by step dancer Danielle performing Irish, Métis and Québécois traditionals. Do not wait to get your tickets, this will be a sold out performance! [cranhall.org](http://cranhall.org)

24

Saturday

Powell River Fall Fair

25

Sunday

Powell River Fall Fair



## FILMS AT THE PAT

### To August 3

#### Barbie

7pm nightly, plus 1:30pm August 3. *Barbie* is an endearing, visually dazzling, thought-provoking comedy with good messaging around feminism, identity, toxic masculinity, self confidence, and loving yourself. Moms and daughters will find things to bond over as it juggles nostalgia and contemporary issues—dads and sons can reflect on if they're being a total Ken or not. A clever, poignant, phenomenally funny and thoroughly entertaining movie, *Barbie* has plenty to chew on in a candy-coloured confection!



### August 4 to 8

#### Joy Ride

7pm nightly. In her directorial debut, Adele Lim (writer: *Crazy Rich Asians*) delivers an unhinged, comedic examination of family, identity, and self-acceptance. The film centers on four unlikely friends who embark on a once-in-a-lifetime international adventure. The unrestrained characters and crazy situations may try to shock you, but the real surprise is how successfully it blends its raunchy humor with real heart. *Joy Ride* is an hilarious and unapologetically explicit story of self-discovery that is easy to have fun with. Filthy, silly fun!

### August 9 & 10

#### Past Lives

7pm nightly, plus 1:30pm Thursday matinee. Two deeply connected childhood friends are wrest apart after one family emigrates from South Korea to Canada. Two decades later, they are reunited in New York for one fateful week as they confront notions of destiny, love, and the choices that make a life. *Past Lives* is an aching, deeply romantic, stunning debut feature for writer-director Celine Song...a pitch-perfect love story that feels powerfully real.

### August 11 to 15

#### Asteroid City

7pm nightly, 1:30pm Sunday matinee August 13. The itinerary of a 1950s Junior

Stargazer/Space Cadet Convention is spectacularly disrupted by world-changing events in this terrifically entertaining and lightly sophisticated new comedy from Wes Anderson. With Anderson's signature stylings and an all-star ensemble cast, *Asteroid City* delivers an eccentricity and elegance where every delicious microscopic detail is a delight!

### August 18 to 22

#### Elemental

7pm nightly, 1:30pm matinees Sun/Tues Aug. 20 and 22 (closed Wed/Thurs). Disney and Pixar's *Elemental* is set in Element City, where fire-water-land-and-air residents live together. The story introduces Ember, a quick-witted and fiery young woman whose friendship with a fun, sappy, go-with-the-flow guy named Wade challenges her beliefs about the world they live in. With a heartwarming message and stunning animation, *Elemental* proves Pixar hasn't lost its touch.

### August 17

#### PRIDE Film Night at The Patricia Featuring the cult classic musical Hedwig and the Angry Inch

Doors 7pm, film 8:30. Hilarious and heartbreaking, *Hedwig & The Angry Inch* is a beautifully original story that sees its central character—a gender non-conforming/punk rock drag performing/stardom seeking/"internationally ignored" songstress Hedwig—as a fully realized human deserving of the love they seek. *Hedwig* was a reinvention of the rock musical with a timelessly cool soundtrack and the revolutionary power of an unlikely love story. \$20 event ticket available in advance from Eventbrite or Patricia Box office, or at the door on the night of the show. Ticket includes admission to film, one complimentary specialty beverage and an artisan cupcake. (\$10 general admission ticket to film only is also available). Prizes for best wigs and costumes. Other goodies and surprises await. Film is rated 14A.

### August 25 to 29

#### Indiana Jones: Dial of Destiny

7pm nightly, 1:30pm matinees Sun/Tues Aug. 27 and 29th (closed Wed/Thurs). Daredevil archaeologist Indiana Jones races against time to retrieve a legendary dial that can change the course of history. *Dial of Destiny* has all of the things you want from a great Indiana Jones film: plenty of entertaining action, some surprising twists, and a few bits of cinematic treasure to end the series on a high note. (Not to mention the nostalgic rush of seeing Harrison Ford back in action!)

# Powell River Public Library

## CHILDREN'S & YOUTH

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# Johnny MacRae

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## Blackberry Festival

August 18

**Street Party** starts at 6pm, closing off Marine Avenue between Duncan and Alberni Streets, allowing pedestrians to enjoy visiting, shopping, sampling food from many vendors, enjoying musical entertainment, and much more. **Fireworks** at 10pm.

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



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# Weird Barbie, Rainbows, Dress-Up, Pride & Film

It all comes together this month

**L**aura Wilson manages the Patricia Theatre. In August, she's hosting *The Barbie Movie* (through August 3 and likely returning in early September) and, as a Pride event, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (August 17) - both grand opportunities to wear a costume in public.

Laura and qathet Film Society executive director Gary Shilling dressed up as Barbie and Ken for a *qL* photo shoot at the theatre. It was the first time in decades Laura wore a dress, an experience she describes as "like drag."

Here, she makes the case for self-expression at every age.

## Did you play with Barbie?

**Laura** • Only as a young adult with nieces and nephews and then, eventually, my own kids.

My sister-in-law has this huge basket of Barbies (and Kens), clothes and accessories. She's had it in her family for generations and it's available for any kids who may be around at any given time. It's so interesting seeing all of these different dolls and outfits spanning the decades and what they may have represented and reflected and then seeing so many different kids playing with them and in their own and different ways. When there is a huge pile of Barbie and Ken dolls and a bunch of clothes it's just fun. No limits or gender restraints. A different experience every time. I can't think of many other toys that are like that. The Barbie experience runs deep.

## Did you let your kids play with Barbies?

**Laura** • We held out for a little while. I remember "phoning a friend" when my daughter asked me to buy her one. Was I going to ruin her forever introducing this plastic icon of a woman with completely unrealistic proportions? The advice was "let her play with them at someone else's house."

I finally relented though and don't regret it at all. We'd pick them up at thrift stores too-well loved. Like *Weird Barbie!* My son would play, too. It was always so fascinating. The truth is, Barbies are engaging fun, but also this opportunity for observation and conversation on the part

"PRIDE is about promoting self worth for people who are part of the queer spectrum, which is beautiful and vast. Creating a safe and positive space for all of us to let our freak flags fly! Dressing up is part of it and really an easy way for everyone to get involved."

- Laura Wilson

of parents (as we eavesdrop or join in on Barbie play!)

We still have a small suitcase of Barbie stuff and it's still a go-to every now and then, especially when younger kids come over. And with the movie coming out, it has brought up even more discussion and excitement.

## How did it feel dressing up as Weird Barbie - in pink? What did it bring up for you?

**Laura** • It reminded me I don't own many dresses! I was never very comfortable with the attention dresses brought. I'd have to pair them with a sturdy combat boot to balance things out.

It feels like drag when I put on a dress, which is so fun. I'm generally game for a costume or themed dress up,





**WEIRD BARBIE REMOVES HER WIG:** Patricia Theatre Manager Laura Wilson with one of her kids' Barbies. She is hosting both *The Barbie Movie* and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* this month.

*Photo by Pieta Woolley*

much to my kids' embarrassment.

Weird Barbie is the best. The most universal Barbie! Everyone has one. Customized with scissors, markers, mismatched accessories. The perfect vehicle for self expression. Another reason to love Barbie.

**What do you make of the Barbie Movie / Barbenheimer phenomenon? What do you think it means?**

**Laura** • It means people are still interested in movies- or they will get interested again in movies, because of the social media fervor or the opportunity to make an event out of all of it. I do wish that more people considered going out to the movies as part of their regular weekly experience. There is never a shortage of great movies to go see on the big screen, whether there is some hype attached or not. I want more people coming out for smaller films. We are really lucky to have so many entertaining movies this summer-not just Barbenheimer.

**This is Pride month, of course. We have Conni Smudge in town - and we're being invited to dress up for Hedwig. Plus queer folk and allies are wearing rainbows and other defining fashion. What's**

**interesting about dressing up?**

**Laura** • First off - Thank the universe for drag queens! They have always been for me a symbol of joy and entertainment, a source of creative inspiration, and an example of strength and independence in the queer community and beyond.

PRIDE at its core is about fighting for equality. It was born out of activism against the discrimination and mistreatment of LGBTQ people. The fight is still very real.

Wearing rainbow fashion can be a form of representation of, or support for queer people and visibility, but also a great way for kids to enter into the world of freedom of self expression, in a very sweet, innocent, and colorful way.


PRIDE is about promoting self worth for people who are part of the queer spectrum which is beautiful and vast. Creating a safe and positive space for all of us to let our freak flags fly! Dressing up is part of it and really an easy way for everyone to get involved.

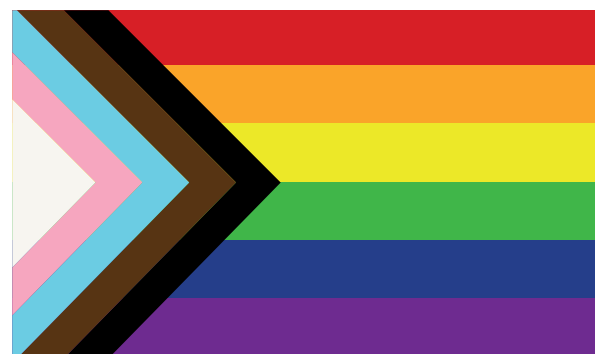
Funny how we can bring it back to Barbie. Playing dress up. Playing with gender norms. Creating a safe space to express ourselves. To try on different roles. This is why this movie is going to be so fun and important also. Its reminding us to be kids again. To be free. To be anything we want...our version of Weird Barbie!

**Is pink powerful?**

**Laura** • Yes, but I'm not sure why. I think its a love-hate, just like Barbie!

If you love Pink, this life is for you.

If you hate Pink, this life is for you. 



## Pride Events

**August 11**

**Flag raising at City Hall**

Time TBA

**August 12**

**Pride in the Park**

12 to 4 pm, Larry Gouthro. Everyone welcome, all ages. Drag Queen Conni Smudge will be present. Vendors and live musicians.

**Drag show at Townsite Brewing**

7 to 10 pm. Everyone welcome, all ages. Admission by donation.

**August 13**

**Free Pancake breakfast at The Old Courthouse Inn**

11 to 1 pm. Closed event for the queer community. Donations will be gratefully accepted for PRIDE.

**Drag Bingo**

3.30 pm to 5 pm, Maggie's. Everyone welcome. Admission by donation.

**August 14**

**Drag Story Time with Conni Smudge (Drag Queen)**

12 to 3 pm, Library. Everyone welcome. Followed by an open microphone.

**Shinglemill dinner and Drag Show**

5 pm to 8 pm. Everyone welcome. Customers pay for dinner and drinks. Admission by donation.

**August 15**

**D&D One-shot**

6 to 9 pm at High Tide Games. Everyone welcome, but especially youth. Admission is free.

**August 16**

**Cranberry Picnic**

5:30 to 8 pm. Closed event for the queer community and allies. Everyone must pre-register at qathetPRIDE.ca. People are intended to bring their own picnic food and eat on the grass or outdoor tables, it's not a potluck.

**August 17**

**Pride Night at The Patricia: Hedwig and the Angry Inch**

Doors at 7, film at 8:30 pm. \$20 event ticket includes admission, one specialty beverage (Townsite Brewing, wine, kombucha) and artisan cupcake. Tickets available in advance on Eventbrite or Patricia Theatre box office or at the door. \$10 general admission for film only. Prizes for best wigs and costumes. Film rated 14A. The film's thought-provoking exploration of gender and sexuality ultimately demonstrates the necessity for compassion, courage, empathy, and perseverance. See more on Page 45.





# Life-long memories & good vibes:

## The Sunshine Music Fest lives on

BY LIS GENDRON-BOILART

Walking down the gravel path, enticed by smiling faces, the sweet aromas of the delicious food, and the soft hum of the afternoon's musicians has always been one of my favourite moments of the Sunshine Music Festival.

The anticipation as it all comes into focus is simply thrilling – memories of years past, and new ones to be made in the days ahead. Although an overall unique experience for each individual, this is a moment that is shared by many.

Growing up, the Festival – known back then as the Folk Fest – was my family and friends' end-of-summer tradition; it was the last weekend of the holidays before going back to school.

I attended as an infant, toddler, child, tween, teenager, and university student. After that, I spent many years abroad, but the fond memories would carry me until I returned to Canada and was able to resume



**MUSIC AND MAYHEM:** Above, the famous corn on the cob is just one of the many delicious foods you'll find at the weekend-long festival. Check out the vendors market, take a swim in the ocean, chill out in your blanket nest and dance to tunes under the big tent.

### A FEW GOOD BANDS:

Dennis Bouwman (local)

Be it with or without his band, Bouwman's combination of heart-wrenching lyrics, warm melodies, and a voice like the bottom 10 pipes on a church organ is sure to captivate you and make you feel. [dennisbouwman.com](http://dennisbouwman.com)

Ashley Ghostkeeper

A Metis-Cree Country Artist born in High Level AB, raised in Red Deer, AB. Nominated for an Official Country Music Alberta Award in 2023 for "Fan's Choice." She was born into a family of singers and songwriters. Ashley's music connects with her listeners at a deeper level of meaning. [ashleyghostkeepermusic.com](http://ashleyghostkeepermusic.com)

The Band Destiny

TBD is a Toronto-based West Indian crossover band that was formed in 2007. They are the three time winners of the CMEA award for Top Soca Band in Canada. Find TBD on Facebook.

For the full line-up, see [sunshinemusicfest.ca](http://sunshinemusicfest.ca)



## Meet musician and new SMF Artistic Director Sophia Sanford

This year the Sunshine Music Festival has a new Artistic Director, Sophia Sanford.

She is a singer, song-writer, producer and performer based here in Powell River. With her own art, Sophia uses music to tell stories of her experiences in this life; usually the toughest ones.

Singing, songwriting, and producing are a catharsis and a joy for Sophia. Through heartfelt performances and evocative music videos, Sanford aims to share what she has seen with the world.

Her work creating the 2023 festival lineup is an opportunity for her to bring Canadian Artists as well as local Powell River talent to the Sunshine Music Festival stage. Her 2023 festival artist lineup will celebrate a beautifully diverse variety of musicians, many that have been rec-



ognized for their work in the music world taking home nominations and awards such as Official Country Music Alberta Award, Victor-Osten Performing Arts Award (2022), the winner of the 2021 Bent River Records Songwriting Competition, Songwriter of the Year at the 2022 Mississauga Music Awards, Solo Vocalist of the Year at the 2023 MARTYs.

## SUNSHINE MUSIC FEST

**When:** September 2 & 3

**What:** Annual outdoor music festival with food, vendors, a kids area and much more.

**Where:** Palm Beach.

**Tickets & info:** [sunshinemusicfest.ca](http://sunshinemusicfest.ca)

the annual tradition.

Spending those last summer days with friends, gorging ourselves on amazing food, admiring the beautiful work of local artisans, and embarking on a musical journey with the bands, is something I look forward to every year.

The year I joined the festival board was the year COVID-19 put the world on hold. An entirely brand new board, we had no choice but to cancel the festival. Having run annually for nearly 40 years without fail, it was quite an unnerving turn of events. Was this the abrupt and untimely end of something so special?

After a two-year hiatus, there were a lot of unknowns. Luckily, this event has a huge group of devoted volunteers that work behind the scenes to make this event a success year after year. An intricate machine of a thousand pieces, it slowly wakes from its slumber and ramps up until it's all hands on deck for the festival weekend. We had no idea what to expect, and it turned out

to be one of our most successful events yet. Smiles, laughter, and good vibes filled the park once again. My heart was full.

After a successful first day – seemingly to test everyone's resolve – Mother Nature threw gale force winds and rain at us on Sunday morning, nearly forcing us to cut our weekend short. The iconic tent had to come down before it sailed away, posts and all. The sound techs were ready to pack it in, expensive equipment on the line. But as we've seen many times before, a little inclement weather won't stop us. Die-hard attendees donned their well-worn, trusty rain gear, and vendors hunkered down with extra anchors.

One of our long term and loved regulars who has worn many hats through the years – attendee, musician, volunteer – took it upon himself to squash the last hesitations. He climbed on stage with his guitar, braving the wind and rain, soothing the skies and our hearts.

As his warm voice carried across the park, I looked out and saw a Gore-Tex clad crowd forming where the tent once stood, huddled together, cradling warm drinks, swaying to and fro to the rhythm of his guitar. This is the epitome of the festival to me: true 'wet-coast' devotion to good music, good food, and good company.

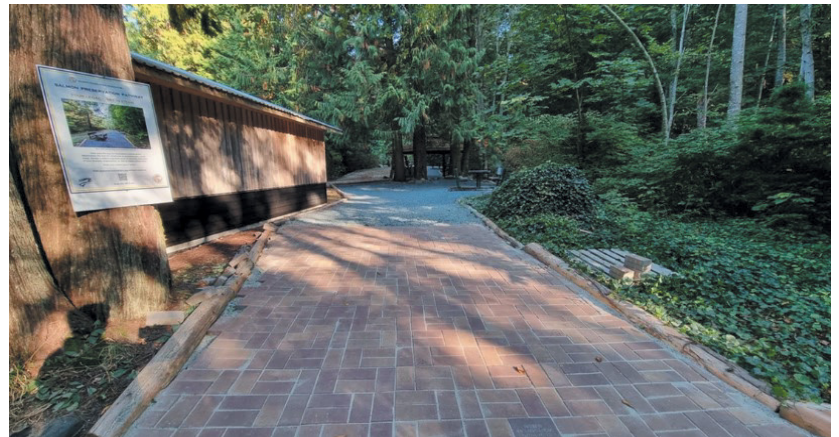
And with such a strong return, I have no doubts that this beloved local tradition will continue for many years to come. 🎸



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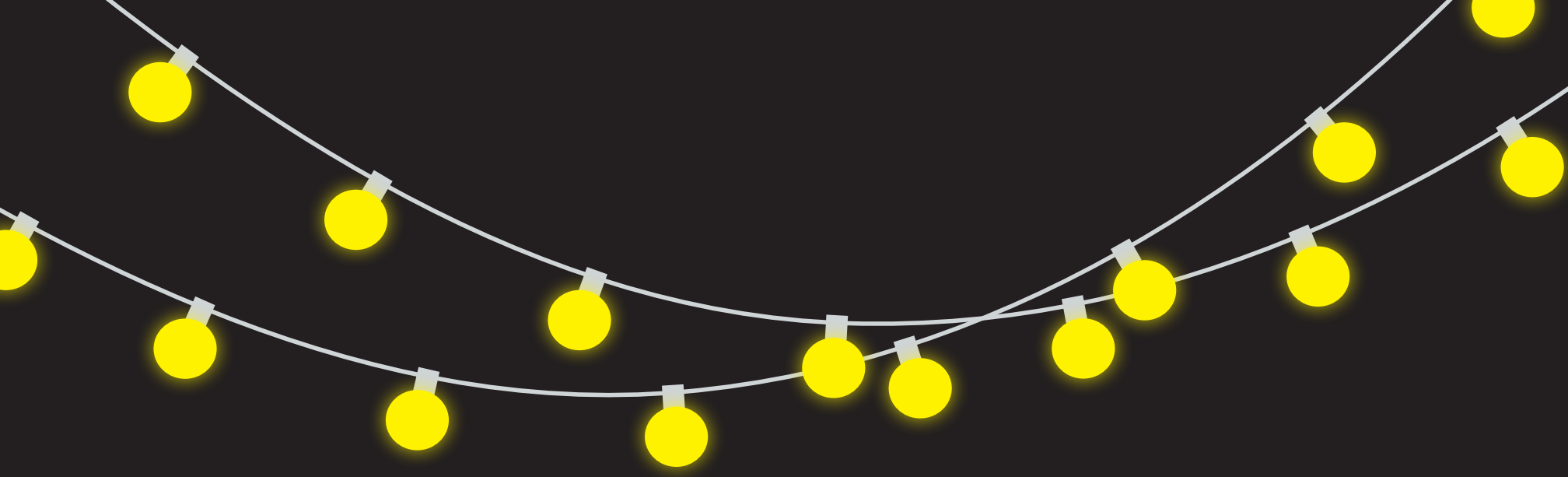
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FEATURING MUSIC IN THE PARK

AUGUST 31





Calling All  
Amateur Artists:

# Discover Plein Air in Our Historic Townsite

BY TRACEY ELLIS

In the heart of our beloved Historic Townsite, where streets intertwine with charming old buildings, picturesque landscapes await your artistic touch. Townsite Heritage Society is thrilled to announce the inaugural Plein Air event, inviting amateur artists like you to experience the thrill of capturing the essence of our enchanting town through the magical practice of painting en plein air.

What exactly is Plein Air, you might ask? Originating from the French term meaning “in the open air,” Plein Air is an artistic style that involves creating artwork outdoors, directly from observation, capturing the beauty of natural light and colours in real-time. And where better to indulge in this artistic venture than in our very own Historic Townsite, well-known for its architectural gems and captivating natural landscapes?

Hosted by Townsite Heritage Society with help from Tourism Powell River and funded in part by qathet Art, the Plein Air event aims to foster a sense of community amongst aspiring artists, offering them the opportunity to interact, learn, and engage with fellow creatives in the picturesque surroundings



of our beloved town. Whether you're an experienced painter or sketch artist, or just starting out on your artistic journey, this event is the perfect chance to unleash your creativity and be part of a vibrant artistic community.

Taking place on Saturday, September 9, the Historic Townsite en Plein Air event promises to be an unforgettable experience that will leave you inspired and awestruck. The day is designed to cater to artists of all levels, with a wine and paint night, demonstrations, and a guided historic tour. Discover valuable insights into different painting techniques; how artists capture the play of light and shadow, and how professional artists master the art of plein air.

We invite you to explore the Historic Townsite, wander down its charming streets, and discover hidden corners that beg to be immortalized on canvas or in your sketchbook. You will have the opportunity to choose your favourite spot, set up your easel, and let your artistic vision unfold. Whether it be Wildwood bridge, a historic building, a vibrant garden, or a captivating street scene, each corner of the Historic Townsite is a masterpiece waiting to be captured.

The Plein Air event will culminate in a beer and banter social gathering. This will be a chance for you to

## PLEIN AIR PAINTING EVENT

**When:** Saturday, September 9, 10 am to 3:30 pm

**What:** Explore and paint Townsite - with a wine and paint night, demonstrations, and a guided historic tour.

**Hosted by:** Townsite Heritage Society

share your experience of the day with fellow artists, art enthusiasts, and the wider community. It's a celebration of creativity, inspiration, and the unique charm of our Historic Townsite.

So, dust off your paintbrushes, gather your sketchbook and pencils and bring your artistic spirit and join us for a weekend of plein air painting in the Historic Townsite. Whether you're a painter, sketch artist, or simply have a curiosity for art, this is an event that promises to ignite your passion and immerse you in the creative process.

Don't miss out on this exclusive opportunity to connect with fellow artists, indulge in your love for painting, and immerse yourself in the beauty of our historic town. Pack your easel, grab some brushes, and come be part of the magic of our very first Plein Air event. Register by sending a note to [townsitepleinair@gmail.com](mailto:townsitepleinair@gmail.com)

Get ready to witness the power of art, the allure of nature, and the enchantment of our historic Townsite - all converging to create a masterpiece that you can proudly call your own. Join us for a fun-filled Saturday of creativity, inspiration, and the joy of plein air. See you there! 🎨



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TAKE A BREAK

## In the name of comfort

I used to pride myself on being comfortable with discomfort. I had been through enough hardships in life that I no longer feared tense conversations, I stepped boldly into stressful negotiations, I didn't mind being put in the hot seat, I regularly made hard choices, and I would push myself through physical pain, exhaustion, and emotional overwhelm to "get the job done."

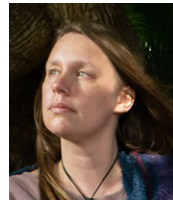
It wasn't a natural way of being for me, but a necessity. I had to find, meet, reconcile with, then embody the part of myself that could stand strong in the warrior archetype. Eventually I became comfortable moving through uncomfortable things as a survival tactic.

There came a time however, during a spirit journey while I was ill, when a benevolent essence appeared in my awareness. I had been reeling from dizziness and nausea, with a body that felt like it weighed a million pounds. I heard the other realm guardian speak the words, "Make the effort to be comfortable."

It took all of my might to shift my head the minuscule amount that it took to bring me instant relief from head spins. The message has stuck with me for many years. It showed me that I had lived so long toughening up, that I had forgotten to dedicate with equal vigour to creating comfort for myself.

Ironic, since being able to truly rest and nourish oneself increases the very resiliency needed to make it through hard times.

While integrating this wisdom, I found myself often saying, "When the going gets tough, the tough get... more gentle."



## RETURN TO REVERENCE

**JULIETTE JARVIS**



And it is this which I would like to offer you this month dear reader. It ties in, too, with the recent trend of noticing "glimmers" in life. Those moments that give you a good feeling, no matter how fleeting. The way your morning tea tastes when it's made just right. The sight of a beloved's smile. The surprise when you find forgotten money in a winter coat pocket.

Making the effort to gift yourself even small amounts of true comfort is to nourish yourself deeply, while actively reveling in personal "glimmers" trains our eye to find ever more of them. Together, these ways of being restore our nervous system, fosters resiliency, and invites an

integrated sense of well-being to lean into when discomfort is with us.

*Juliette Jarvis is a best selling author offering sacred living programs online, devotional arts, and divination sessions. Find her at SelkieSanctuary.com*

A Thought For The Day

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



~ Bahá'í Teachings

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# TAKE A BREAK

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 C I S P I P O E T R Y H R R M U R M F X F O I O V  
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This space provided by Powell River Health-Care Auxiliary

**CAN YOU FIND THESE WORDS FROM THIS ISSUE IN THE PUZZLE ABOVE?**


- |            |          |            |
|------------|----------|------------|
| ANDERSON   | KEN      | REFINED    |
| BARBIE     | LOON     | SALMON     |
| BLACKBERRY | MARATHON | SEAFAIR    |
| BLUES      | MODEL    | SHOES      |
| BRIDGE     | MOVIE    | STAMPS     |
| COMEDY     | ONCOLOGY | STUDIO     |
| COMFORT    | OVERDOSE | SUNSHINE   |
| COOPER     | PARK     | TEA        |
| ELVIS      | PATRICIA | TIMOTHY    |
| FESTIVAL   | PLEIN    | TIP        |
| FIN        | POETRY   | TOWNSITE   |
| FOUNDRY    | PRIDE    | TRAIL      |
| FROG       | QATHET   | VIBES      |
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Plus!  
Future issues feature health and more news

**LIVING**  
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# The more things change



On August 18, we'll have the opportunity to reconnect during the Blackberry Festival Street Party on Marine Avenue followed by the fireworks and I hope you'll be there.

The Blackberry Street Party feels like old home week with people of all ages meandering up and down Marine Avenue chatting to people they haven't seen in years. It's a good way to visit with old friends, neighbours, and acquaintances. People who've moved away often make a special point of "coming home" at this time so they can see all their old friends in one place.

This community is famous for its fabulous festivals and events – July saw so many, including Logger Sports, Townsite Day, Tribal Journey, Texada Sandcastle Contest, the Fly-In, Savary Triathlon, and so much more.

COVID shut a lot of things down, including festivals and volunteer opportunities. Although many have come back in one way or another, some did not. People got out of the habit of going to events, some were nervous, or they found other ways to fill their time. Many pre-COVID events continue to run, but with fewer volunteers which means they can't do as much as they once did.

Some call it the COVID hangover. We disconnected during COVID and many of us have struggled to reconnect. We forgot how to be part of a community, we forgot how to socialize and when we tried to do so, it felt awkward, so we pulled back.

It's not easy to rejoin the community and ditch the hangover. When we were forced to change we did; now that we have a choice in the matter, will we change again?

Maybe. Change is hard, especially when you have no say in the matter.

I look at my garden this year and all I can think about is how much it has changed. On July 17, I harvested my first zucchini. The next morning, I walked the trails through Townsite and snacked on a handful of ripe blackberries.

The bushes were heavy with bundles of unripe, green berries that morning. In the sun, some of the berries had already turned a deep black and were ready to eat.

Later that day, while sitting at my computer at work, I read a story about ocean temperatures averaging five degrees warmer than normal at the beginning of July in South Florida. Scientists say the warming, ignited by an El Nino weather pattern that's collided with human-caused climate change and rising temperatures on land and at sea, are to blame.

I've lived in Powell River for more than 30 years and I've never harvested zucchini in July before. Zucchini were always an August harvest, something I picked towards the latter half of the month. As for blackberries, I picked them in August, not July.

Change is everywhere.

It's in the harvest, ocean temperatures, weather and yes, even the way we come together as a community.

One of the reasons this community is such a beautiful place to live, is because of our volunteers. Although their names may change over the years the love these people have for their community does not. The opportunities they create for all of us and the work that they do is selfless.

And most often, they do it with financial support of generous sponsors who own businesses in this community.

The next time you're sitting on the fence and wondering whether getting up

off the couch to go to an event, concert or festival is worth the effort, think of all the work volunteers did to put it on for you. Events, festivals, concerts, and live performances need audiences to survive and if we don't support them, there will be a change and we might not like it.

If you're asked to help out with a school bake sale, Parent Advisory Committee, sports or community group, change your focus. Ask yourself how you can help your community and get up and go.

📧 [isabelle@prliving.ca](mailto:isabelle@prliving.ca)



LAST  
WORD

ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

The more I appreciate volunteers

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