

qathet

SEPTEMBER 2023

# LIVING

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& counting down

After four terms, MLA Nicholas Simons says he won't run in the October 2024 Provincial election.



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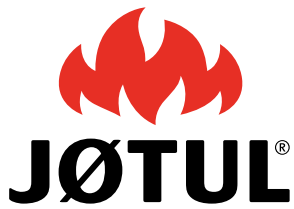
**Thanks to anyone we missed (sorry, we love you!) and to the many volunteers who make the show go!**

Thanks to the generosity of spectators at the show, Powell River Logger Sports was able to donate \$5632.55 in cash and \$2283.00 in food to the **Powell River Action Center Food Bank.**

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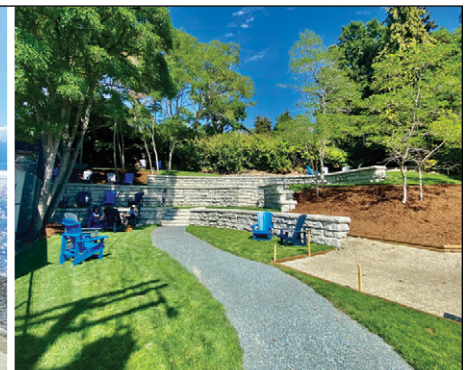
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**ON THE COVER:**

Nicholas Simons will have more time to spent on his Townsite porch after next year. The local MLA has decided to not run in the next provincial election.



# Digging in deep

**M**LA Nicholas Simons remembers sitting at a table in a Thai restaurant in Victoria in 2005, with a bunch of other rookie MLAs, buying then-finance minister Carole Taylor a drink. He was a veteran social worker, but a fresh politician learning how to make friends and influence people. Now, 19 years later, he has a hefty list of hard-won achievements (Page 6), because he learned, over two decades, how to get things done in Victoria.



## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

**PIETA WOOLLEY**

This whole issue is about people who have immersed themselves in things they love over years – and the unique knowledge and perspective that brings them. You can read statistics and reports about climate change, for example, but there's nothing like talking to local farmers and gardeners about how it's impacting their ability to grow things (Page 12).

The Library's second Writer in Residence starts this month (Page 26). Johnny MacRae has performed spoken

word poetry across Canada, in front of all kinds of audiences, and he speaks eloquently about what is magical about poetry out loud – even in screen-centred 2023.

Dave McLennan, Mike Verdeil and Steve Robertson have played and coached soccer here for decades; they understand more than most the impact of the beautiful game here, both on the turf and off (Page 16).

And artist Ron Bignell (Page 58) was retired before he could slow down enough to thoroughly see the forest.

September is also a time to try new things. Some people who have immersed themselves in sports, music and writing hope you'll join them (Page 21). And September's events - especially the Fall Fair - are a chance to dip your toe into other worlds (Page 51). I hope you use this issue of qL to dive deeper into this community, this fall. **qL**

# qathet LIVING

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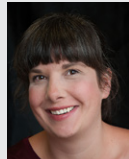
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# qL

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“You spend 10 or 15 years with someone, you get to know their families and kids. Sure, you might drift apart, but when you see them, you’re right back there.”

– Mike Verdeil, past president, Villa Soccer Club, **Page 18.**

”

## SEPTEMBER'S CONTRIBUTORS



**RICK CEPELLA** is a visual artist and arts instructor ([rickcepella.com](http://rickcepella.com)). The late Gordon Smith, long time dean of Canadian painters, said he wished he could paint like Rick. **See Rick's story, Slowing Down for the Forest, on Page 27.**



**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 45.**



**HELEN EVANS** came to Powell River in 1966. She married Chris Evans (Mpaxevanis) in 1967. "I inherited my grandmother's memory and get pleasure writing my memoirs." **See Helen's "Memoir of the Mill, The David Salman, on Page 36.**



Retired nurse **WENDY DEVLIN** lives with her husband Bill and menagerie on a small farm in Wildwood. **See Wendy's story about her grandfather, Mr. Devlin, on Page 27.**



**SUSAN YOUNG** is the president of the qathet Pickleball Association, (qPA) whose mission is to promote community health through pickleball. **See Susan's story, Not Just a Game, on Page 24.**

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# Moving On

MLA Nicholas Simons announces that – after 19 years representing Powell River-Sunshine Coast in the provincial Legislative Assembly – he will not be running again next October.



**NICK IS IN THE HOUSE:** Top, MLA Nicholas Simons speaks in the Legislative Assembly, Victoria. Above, a much younger Nick (with the cello) and his musical siblings at home in Montreal.

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

Nicholas Simons is newly back from a visit to his relatives in Nova Scotia. Sitting on the warm porch of his Townsite home, observing tiny birds visit his sunflower-surrounded yard, it's difficult to imagine that soon, Nick will be back in the bowels of the imposing, 125-year-old, neo-baroque Legislative Assembly Buildings in Victoria – built with granite from Nelson Island – grilling and being grilled.

Before every election, Nick says, you think about whether you're going to run again. He thought about it a bit earlier, this time.

Back in Nova Scotia this summer, on his great-great grandfather's farm where he spent part of his childhood, "it gave me a perspective on things. It reconfirmed that my decision to do something else was a good one."

And so, after 19 years representing the people of the Lower and Upper Sunshine Coast, Nick won't stand for re-election in October of 2024.

It's been one heck of a ride.

"19 years is longer than I thought I'd be doing it," he explained. "It's an honour, but a responsibility. It's rewarding and challenging, of course. It's a job I hope people consider important."

Nick still has a full year to go. That includes assisting people and groups in his large constituency, from Port Mellon to Port Neville, north of Bute Inlet. Plus, when the Legislative Assembly is in session, using his brain and voice to impact policy and represent Powell River-Sunshine Coast, in what is a dawn-to-dark schedule. He would like to secure two more ferries to serve this riding – but he knows that's not likely to happen.

What's next?

"Pickling beans," he half-jokes, although the garden he tends with his partner Slim Milkie is abundant this year.

Perhaps he'll work in child welfare again.

"People don't elect you to do this or that. They elect you to have a voice on the issues. I did that to the best of my ability. I always told the truth. I didn't make promises I couldn't keep."

What did he do, for those 19 years? What does the work of an MLA look like?

**In 2004, Nick ran federally** in what was then the riding of West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast. With the NDP, he trailed in third place behind John Reynolds, the Conservative who won, and Blair Wilson, the Liberal who came in a close second.

During that campaign period, though, Provincial NDP leader Dave

---

"I ran because I thought governments should be representative of different sectors, and include people who understand [the child welfare] system."

---

– MLA Nicholas Simons

Barrett visited the Sunshine Coast. He, like Nick, was a social worker, and had been Premier in the early 1970s.

"He told me I'd be an idiot if I didn't run provincially," Nick said.

That's because social work, Nick explained, is where you see the impact of government policy and public policy: income assistance, housing, health care, education, support for people with disabilities, and child welfare, including the foster care system. As a child welfare worker for both delegated First Nations agencies and the Provincial system, Nick had a front-row seat to seeing what policy was working – and what was failing.

Dave Barrett's stern words were timely. That year, Nick was working on a sensitive review of a death in foster care: the Sherry Charlie report. Sherry was nearly two when she died in her great-uncle's care, September 4, 2002 – 21 years ago this month.

Near Port Alberni, Sherry and her brother were removed from their parents' home after Usma Nuu-Chah-Nulth Community and Human Services received 11 calls concerned about the toddlers' safety. The review found that the agency had skipped critical screening steps when they placed her with her relatives under a "kith and kin" agreement.

"It's less expensive than foster care, the checks and balances are lesser than foster care," said Nick, explaining kith and kin agreements, where a relative cares for children instead of foster parents. That agreement was the first in Provincial history, "and it ended in death."

That was, in part, due to excessive policy change coming from the upper echelons of government, without providing the resources to manage that





**SERIOUS POWER:** In the Assembly, MLA Nicholas Simons tackles some of BC's most complex policy issues, including homeless and addictions. But he (and partner Slim Milkie, above) also know how, when and why to show off his other side... the side where he bicycles a fish. See sidebar, right.

change on the ground. At the time, both Nick and prominent First Nations child welfare advocate Cindy Blackstock were calling out governments for failing to equally fund on-reserve child welfare.

Nick's June 2005 report, which included 12 recommendations, sent shock waves over Provincial politics which lasted months.

"My motivation to run was restoring oversight over the child welfare system," he said. "I ran because I thought governments should be representative of different sectors, and include people who understand that system (which is funded and administered provincially). I'm not an expert, but I do have some understandings."

Under the shadow of the Sherry Charlie report, Nick ran to represent the NDP in the Powell River-Sunshine Coast riding – winning the nomination on the sixth ballot at the Italian Hall in Wildwood. Then, he ran in the fall 2005 provincial election and won decisively over Liberal Maureen Clayton and Green Adriane Carr.

His was the first NDP victory for this riding, which had been created in 1991. Previously, Gordon Wilson held the riding for two terms in the 1990s as a Liberal. Then, Gordon ran with Progressive Democrats and won again. In the next election, 2001, Liberal Harold Long won over Gordon who was then running with the NDP – in 2001.

Indeed, Nick ended his first day in Victoria as MLA doing exactly what he set out to do: represent a range of normal, working British Columbians where powerful decisions are made.

"A bunch of rookie NDP MLAs and I went out for Thai food. And [Liberal finance minister] Carole Taylor was with her husband at another booth.

"Our group all came from different sectors, but



we all needed Carole on our side. There was Scott Fraser, the former Tofino mayor (with a background in tourism and shellfish aquaculture); Robin Austin, who worked in restaurants and catering (and was a long-time foster parent); Doug Routely, a former business owner, school custodian and school trustee; Norm MacDonald, a rural teacher; and Katrine Conroy, an early childhood educator and non-profit administrator.

"We bought Carole a drink and said hello."

At the time, the Liberals had been in power since 2001, and would remain BC's governing party until 2017, when the NDP won. The media makes it seem like the parties are at war, Nick said. But there's so much cooperation and collegiality across party lines.

The aftermath of the Sherry Charlie report became the most-raised issue in the Legislative Assembly during Nick's first term. And he was there to speak to it.

**Nick was re-elected in 2009, 2013, 2017, and 2020.**

From 2004 to 2017 his party was in opposition. He served, over time, as opposition critic for tourism,

## Nick changed child welfare policy for the better... he also rides funny bikes in parades.

When I was first elected I rode in convertibles or cute collector cars – back when we had the Gibsons Sea Cavalcade and Powell River Sea Fair parades, in addition to all the ones we still have.

I decided to ride a bike instead, and went to see Paul Rudolph, who, besides being a brilliant musician, was running Spin Cycles in Gibsons. I asked for a basket for my bike so I could hold whatever I needed to toss out to the spectators along the route.

He said I have the perfect bike for you. I followed him to a small room absolutely full of bicycles, they were hanging from the ceiling, on all the walls, and leaning against each other on the floor.

He pulled three bikes off the back wall revealing a little green bike with a banana seat and chopper handlebars and said, "This is a parade bike." It's a rare 1978 vintage Schwinn "swing-bike" that can be used to perform a few tricks. I rode it once in its original form, then decided that it could be a two-wheel float, so I could be a part of the actual parade.

My first drag bike was a green fish, which I rode for the Texada Sandcastle competition. Nobody recognized me as the MLA, but everyone wanted to talk about my bike.

I got a flat tire one year and had to walk it next to Stewart Alsgard for the entire route – I kept pointing at the Mayor telling people he had punctured my tire.

Then there was the reindeer bike which is only for Powell River's Santa Claus parade, and my duck bike which I rode for Roberts Creek's Higgedy-Piggledy parade.

I think those two are most popular with the little ones – especially when I added yellow dishwashing gloves to my feet to make duck feet.

I love riding in the James Thomson Elementary "May-Day" parade where I just put a bunch of flowers all over it. My orca bike was popular, but would have been more so, had I not injured myself taking a picture of it the day before a rally.

Riding the ferry bike felt like work, and when I went too slowly or pretended to break down, it wasn't even funny to me.

The starfish bike was a beauty, my Canada Day bike was technically challenging, and my Pride bike was spectacular.

In Vancouver it caught the eye of the Federal leader who asked to try it out for a block or two. He ended up riding it the whole route, and my bike made national television.

The reason riding funny bikes is important to me is it's "basically a two-wheeled float, which was more fun to ride than in a convertible or on the back of a truck. The kids loved it, and I always said it would help me get the elementary school vote."



sport and the arts; human rights, immigration and multiculturalism; the Ministry for Children and Family Development; and Community Living B.C. All of these positions drew on his previous life experience: social work, of course; playing cello semi-professionally; working as a researcher for public policy; and more.

The NDP formed government in 2017. He served as vice-chair of the Cabinet Committee on Social Initiatives, as a member of the Cabinet Working Group on Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness (two positions he currently holds) and as the Chair of the Select Standing Committee on Children and Youth.

In 2020, he was appointed BC's Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction by Premier John Horgan. In that role, he was successful in securing the largest single increase in social assistance rates, and expanded his Ministry's outreach positions - the Community Integration Specialists - from 30 to over 150. He also passed the Accessible BC Act which will make the Province more accessible for people living with disabilities.

Two years later, he lost his ministry in a cabinet shuffle under Premier David Eby.

**Nick can take credit for** some big career wins. As MLA, he paved the way for changing the legislation to allow for more small, local abattoirs – a major leap forward for food sustainability and farming, especially here in qathet.

He lobbied to eliminate the Provincial Sales Tax on charity-funded medical equipment. Here, that saved the Powell River Hospital Foundation at least \$200,000 when it bought the CAT (CT) scan for the qathet Regional Hospital in 2010.

He helped get rid of "DriveABLE" tests which unfairly targeted senior drivers based solely on age.

He also pursued answers on why qathet gas prices are so much higher than elsewhere, which resulted in the NDP's *Gas Prices Transparency Act* (the implementation is still in the works).

He ensured that Work BC (employment) centres would get incentives to help people who have barriers to work, to find jobs and training. Before, Work BC centres were penalized by helping complex cli-

## Election Fever is one year away

There are three elections to watch next fall. Realistically, the campaigns (unofficially) start now.

### Next Tla'amin Nation election

September, 2024

This election selects the next Hegus and Legislators.

### Next BC Provincial election

October 19, 2024

The NDP has won the last two elections in 2017 and 2020. Both were won under the leadership of Premier John Horgan. Will Premier David Eby take his party into another majority? Will the NDP hang on to the Powell River-Sunshine Coast seat?

### Next US Presidential election

November 5, 2024

Okay, okay. We don't vote in this election, but we're pressed up against the US like a fishbowl. Will it or won't it be Trump? That seems like the only question.

ents, because it took extra staff time that the centres weren't credited for.

And, of course, he achieved his original objective of restoring oversight of the Ministry of Children and Families. The first Representative for Children and Youth was feisty lawyer and judge Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond, who held the ministry's feet to the fire for years in monthly reports on child deaths and injuries in care, plus scathing reports on individual cases and wider issues, such as suicides in care. (She has recently been embroiled in a controversy about whether her claims of Indigenous ancestry are false). Since 2018, the position has been held by Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth.

Individual big wins miss the point, though, Nick argues. The role of MLA seems like a leadership position from here, but in Victoria, all MLAs are part

of a body of representatives, all working together to manage and change the things they're responsible for. The big ones include health care, education (both K to 12 and post-secondary), resources such as forestry and oil and gas, and social services.

"I'm really happy about how Tla'amin reached treaty during my term, and improved it," said Nick. "And that the Province is supporting First Nations in re-taking control of their own child protection services. I think it reflects well that our government made specific plans towards reconciliation."

Helping him represent Powell River-Sunshine Coast are Constituency Assistants: first Maggie Hathaway and now Rob Hill here in qathet, and Kim Tournat and now Amy Clarke on the Lower Coast.

**There's so much more, of course.** Nick's voice from the front-lines of social work has informed the BC NDP's action on homelessness, which has included more than 2,000 units of supported housing, and much, much more. Plus, increases in income and disability assistance rates, the introduction of rental assistance programs, in monthly cash sent directly to families with children, and more. All of this was during a period that included unprecedented increases in the cost of buying and renting homes, plus COVID (remember Nick's Zoom cello concerts?), conflict over pipelines and LNG, pressure on schools as families have been more stressed from inflation. Et cetera.

The next MLA should know that people on the Sunshine Coast are "interested and active citizens," Nick reports. "It's important that members of the community know their voices are being heard. That they know they won't get everything they want. And that they understand the system."

Now, the Powell River-Sunshine Coast NDP constituency association must find a replacement for Nick, to run next fall. BC United (the party formerly known as the BC Liberals), the Greens, and other parties will also elect and train their hopefuls.

On October 19 of next year, Nick and Slim will likely be watching the oak leaves fall outside their Townsite windows, as they stream the election on their laptop, like a couple of normies. Maybe with some pickled beans on hand. 🍴 || [pieta@prliving.ca](mailto:pieta@prliving.ca)



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WHAT PROGRAMS AND SUPPORTS ARE OFFERED?



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# THE POWER OF INDEPENDENCE

The team behind White LeBlanc Wealth Planners (WLWP) has moved to a new business model that will allow them to prioritize their clients' best interests without any potential conflicts of interest arising from being owned by a bank or insurance company.

"This is an exciting development for our clients," says co-founder Colin White during an interview from his Joyce Avenue office in Powell River.

In 2014, Colin and Dan LeBlanc founded White LeBlanc Wealth Planners with one location in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Now with offices in Truro and Halifax, NS; Nelson and Powell River, BC; and Burlington, Etobicoke and Aurora, Ontario, the business is still founder-led and employee-owned.

Colin and Dan are still the majority owners, however a number of team members have an ownership stake in the company. With many years of experience behind them, Colin notes that some of their team members were giving financial advice before the Internet was popular.

Since its inception, WLWP has always placed its clients' needs first and strived to act independently of any external influences.

By breaking free from the traditional broker-dealer model and corporate pressure, the new firm, **Verecan Capital Management Inc.** (Verecan) can focus entirely on its clients' requirements, free from the demands of a dealer's shareholders.

The move is a natural evolution for WLWP and aligns perfectly with its founding principles. Verecan will remain founder-led and employee-owned.

It is important to note that while embracing independence, Verecan remains committed to upholding standards equal to or greater than those required of them by the securities commissions in each province where the firm is registered, and continues to ensure the highest standards of professionalism and compliance are maintained.

Existing clients can be reassured that they will continue to work with the same dedicated team members they have come to know and trust. In Powell River, Taylor

Lance and Crystal Kok are still hard at work, every day. "And Dan and I and Josh Sheluk (*pictured left to right on the facing page*) will continue to travel in regularly to work out of the local office here," said Colin.

Not only does Dan love spending time at Myrtle Point working on his golf game, he says it's important to be available to meet with clients in person. Although virtual meetings are valuable, when it comes to building relationships, nothing can replace time spent meeting with someone a face-to-face.

Verecan plans to expand its offerings over time providing clients with even more comprehensive and tailored solutions. This commitment to continuous improvement reflects the firm's dedication to delivering exceptional value and meeting clients' evolving needs.

One immediate benefit of this transition is the reduction in the cost of the firm's proprietary investment pools. Verecan Capital Management Inc. expects to identify further cost-saving opportunities with its new structure, enabling the firm to pass on those savings to clients, enhancing their overall returns.

Verecan has chosen Advisor Solutions by Purpose (ASP) a firm with shared values, including a dedication to delivering an exemplary client experience, to provide the cutting-edge technology and operational support needed to allow the team to operate in a truly independent environment.

To ensure safety and security of clients' assets, Fidelity Clearing Canada (FCC) has been selected to be the firm's custodian. FCC, a subsidiary of Fidelity Investments, has over \$69 billion in assets under administration in Canada as of January 2023. Backed by Fidelity Investments' global expertise and strength, not only does FCC have the additional technological capabilities to safeguard clients' assets but its membership in regulatory bodies further underscores its commitment to maintaining the highest industry standards.



**Verecan Capital Management Inc., although a new firm, consists of the team and client base of its predecessor, WLWP, with offices across Canada and nearly \$900 million in assets under management.**



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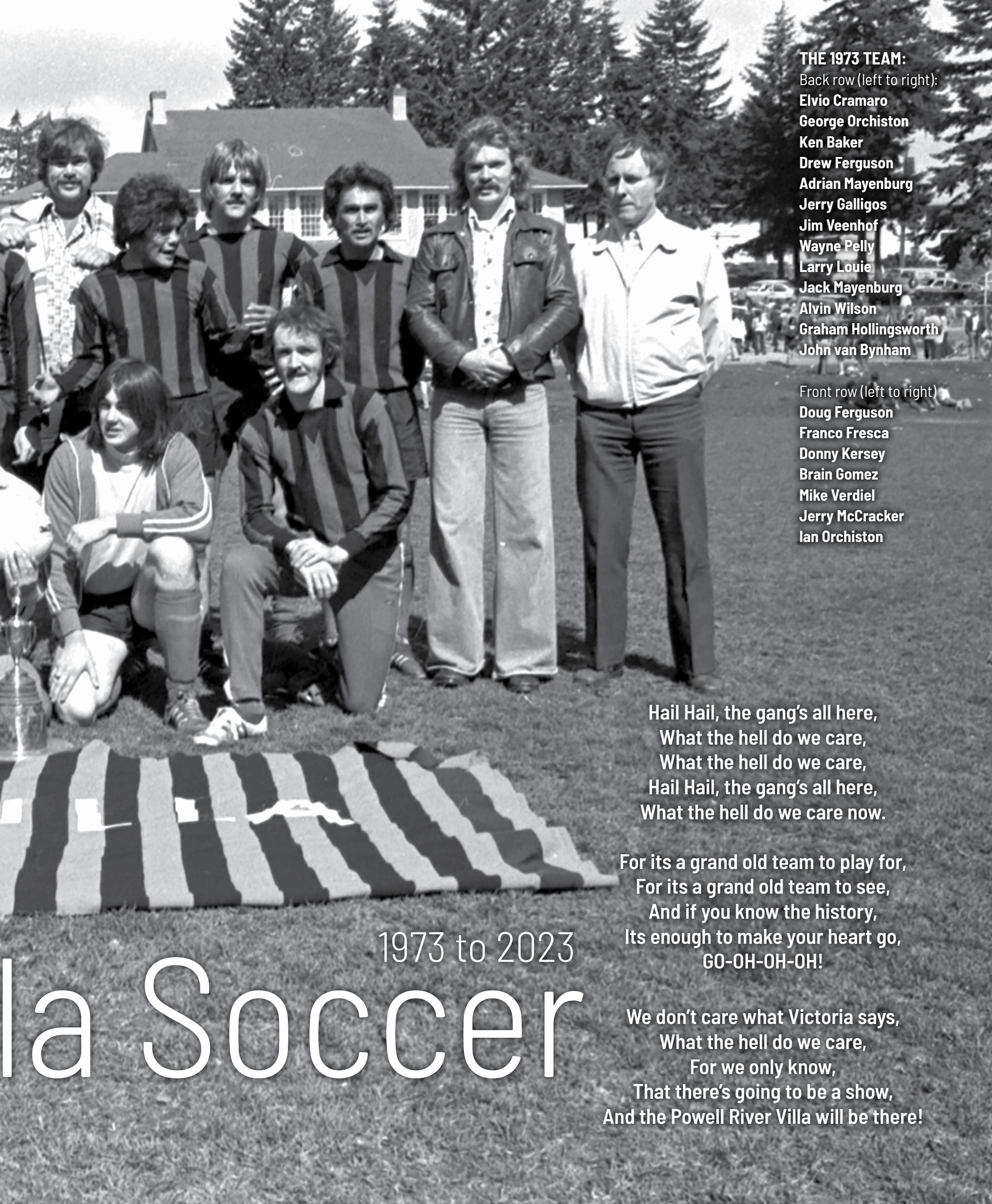




# 50 years of Vil

*Photo courtesy of the qathet Museum and Archives*





**THE 1973 TEAM:**

Back row (left to right):

- Elvio Cramaro**
- George Orchiston**
- Ken Baker**
- Drew Ferguson**
- Adrian Mayenburg**
- Jerry Galligos**
- Jim Veenhof**
- Wayne Pelly**
- Larry Louie**
- Jack Mayenburg**
- Alvin Wilson**
- Graham Hollingsworth**
- John van Bynham**

Front row (left to right)

- Doug Ferguson**
- Franco Fresca**
- Donny Kersey**
- Brain Gomez**
- Mike Verdiel**
- Jerry McCracker**
- Ian Orchiston**

Hail Hail, the gang's all here,  
 What the hell do we care,  
 What the hell do we care,  
 Hail Hail, the gang's all here,  
 What the hell do we care now.

For its a grand old team to play for,  
 For its a grand old team to see,  
 And if you know the history,  
 Its enough to make your heart go,  
 GO-OH-OH-OH!

We don't care what Victoria says,  
 What the hell do we care,  
 For we only know,  
 That there's going to be a show,  
 And the Powell River Villa will be there!

1973 to 2023

# la Soccer



# For we only know, that there's going to be a show, and the Powell River Villa will be there

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

On September 9 at Timberlane, Powell River Villa will take on Comox Valley United at 1:30 pm – marking exactly 50 years of the Powell River Villa Soccer Club.

The players get the recognition, but three of the Club's top men say it's those in the stands that have made Villa such a symbol for this community – both here at home, and across BC.

Powell River is relatively small, hard to get to, and the Club's fortunes rise and fall with the job market here. More jobs, more potential players. Fewer jobs, tougher times. Often the club has played Division 1 with the Vancouver Island Soccer League. Sometimes, Division 2 or 3, depending on the year. Sometimes, the unlikely champions rise and win a tournament or a cup. Often, the team doesn't.

No matter what is happening on the field, though, here or away, Villa could always count on rowdy cheering from the stands. Or it could, until – like everything else – COVID and the economic downturn hushed entire years. But that enthusiasm – that shared understanding that this is this region's sport and team – that's what Villa president Dave McLennan, former president Mike Verdiel and vice-president Steve Robertson are hoping to revive – starting the weekend of September 9.

"The atmosphere is totally family-oriented," explained Steve, noting there's an alumni game at 11:30 am on September 9, followed by the 50th season kick-off at 1:30 pm – which will

feature bagpipers piping in the players. "We don't win every game, but we entertain. It's high quality, Division 1 soccer."

Steve started playing soccer as a child here during the biggest era of the sport: the 1970s. At that time, each minor division had six teams, with 15 players per team. Scores of youth were being developed as potential Villa players, at any given time. Steve remembers the epic May Tournament, which saw hundreds of young players from around the province and Washington State billeted around town, playing against each other.

"I tried out for Villa on my skinny little legs," Steve recalls. "I took a trip to Penticton with Villa... man did I feel world class! There were so many good players. I spent a couple of years sitting on the bench, then I was finally subbed in, and became a starting player."

All together, Steve played with Villa for 12 years, and then coached the team. From 1980 to 1995, the core of the team remained the same, thanks to consistent good jobs at the mill, which kept players around. The team didn't need him to micromanage them as coach, he said. They were fantastic players. He took a long break after his dad became ill (that's when Tony Leach took on coaching), then came back three years ago to serve on the club's executive.

Mike Verdiel is a Villa legend – one of the youngest players from the first 1973 season, longtime team manager, and a life-long soccer coach. He started playing through his elementary school, Henderson, and played on fields in Cranberry and at Timberlane. When the first Villa team was being put together, coach Iain Livingstone asked him to play.

When Mike looks at the 1973 Villa team photo, he notes that many of the



**COACHES CORNER:** Villa president Dave McLennan, 1973 team player Mike Verdiel, and vice-president Steve Robertson are at the helm of the 50th anniversary celebrations for the Powell River Villa Soccer Club September 8 to 10.

players have passed away. Some went on to semi-professional soccer careers, including BC Soccer Hall of Famer Larry Louie, who is also a Tla'amin Nation Legislator. Soccer players have a way of becoming community leaders, including goalie Mike, who spent 25 years as president of CEP Local 76, representing millworkers. He also coached youth soccer for 45 years, including coaching both of his daughters.

"What I think of most are the friendships. You spend 10 or 15 years with someone, you get to know their families and kids. Sure, you might drift apart, but when you see them, you're right back there. I know there are people coming to the 50th from out of town. It's a catch-up. A time to celebrate our successes. Relive our glory days."

What are those successes?

President Dave McLennan said success is, partly, simply making it to 50 years of consistent play – in spite of economic downturns, a changing town, and isolation. Few other local organizations can claim that. Villa helped set a goal for younger soccer players, adding inspiration to the community's long-standing youth soccer program. And, it created networks

## VILLA CELEBRATES 50

**When:** Public celebrations are a Friday meet and greet at 6pm at the soccer centre across from Timberlane field; Saturday, September 9 at 11am (alumni game); and 1:30 pm (Villa vs. Comox season opener, with bagpipes and halftime juggling contest).

**What:** Expect a reunion of players and supporters, with top-notch soccer on the field and plenty of entertainment for the crowd. Hot dog / snacks stand.

**Where:** Timberlane.

**Admission:** \$5 for the 1:30 pm game, or \$40 for the season.

upon networks of friends, setting them up to become leaders in business, government, and, of course, sport.

"I'm so proud to be part of this organization," said Dave, who started playing soccer as a child at JP Dallos, and coached for decades. "I have a good team of board members to work with, and the 2023-4 team shows a lot of dedication. I'm proud to be leading this team into its 50th season. None of this organization happened with just one person. It's truly a club."



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**CABINET OF CURIOSITIES:** Above, in celebration of Villa's 50th, the qathet Museum and Archives has put together a display of uniforms, trophies and more, recognizing the team's storied history. You can view the full display during the Museum's regular hours. Right, this souvenir program, available on September 9, includes a detailed history of Villa's triumphs and players, and much more.

## Villa: the first season

**S**eptember 9th, 1973. The cheers of 350 people at Timberlane Park could be heard throughout the villages of Cranberry and Townsite. Its cause was the Powell River Villa Soccer Club playing their inaugural game for the Vancouver Island Soccer League.



### BLAST FROM THE PAST

CAROLYN SMITH

Showing off their skills and competitive nature, Villa put on quite a show, beating the Victoria Kickers 8-1 and declaring their first victory. Unaware of their future success, that game was the spark that ignited the community's support for a club that would exist for the next 50 years.

Celebrating their 50th anniversary this fall, players, coaches, sponsors, and fans may reflect back on that victorious first season, when the team representing Powell River was declared the Vancouver Island Soccer League Champions for the 1973 season. However, their story does not begin there, but rather in 1972 when the club struggled to gain acceptance into the leagues available on the west coast.

That year, the Vice President of the Powell River Soccer Association looked to expand the presence of soccer within the community and submitted an application to the Lower Mainland League. They were denied entry. The club applied to join the North

Island League. Once again they were rejected. With such negative responses from West Coast Leagues, the decision to disband the team was reached during a club meeting on August 16th, 1973. Little did they know that the Vancouver Island Soccer League had already heard of the Powell River team, and would be extending an offer for Villa's team to play in the newly appointed Division Three League.

Accepting the invitation required a strong commitment to the sport, as players and coaches were expected to attend each away game. With travel now necessary, community support was essential to their success and the team never turned down a game. They only missed matches due to severe weather.

The qathet Museum and Archive's current exhibit honouring the Villa team's history displays four jerseys from the club's earliest years, including the first jersey from 1973. Infamous for its red and black stripes, the colours represented the Powell River Soccer Association. The Villa team only saw three losses during their first season, and were immediately moved from Division Three to the Premiere League for the 1974-1975 season.

A picture on display identifies the 1973 team, whose members set the foundation on which the Powell River Villa Soccer Club founded its success for the next 50 years. **PL**



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**WITNESSES TO THE WEATHER:** Terra Nostra Farm's manager Graeme Macdonald (left) and farm hands Jonathan Boyce (centre) and Robyn Andexser (right) finish up another successful Sunday Farmers' Market.

# Hotter & drier

How much hotter and drier is it?

qI editor Pieta Woolley looked at Environment Canada weather data to find out.

In short, these past five years in qathet have been a little bit hotter than in the recent past, but a whole lot drier.

Pieta also asked a bunch of local farmers and gardeners how they're noticing the changing weather is impacting what they grow.

## The adaptations are adding up at Terra Nostra Farm

**T**o Terra Nostra farm manager Graeme Macdonald, there's no question weather is changing rapidly. Summers are indeed hotter and drier. The farm is adapting to that in several ways, including choosing what not to grow: this weather isn't friendly to spinach, Asian greens, arugulas or brassicas, so the farm just doesn't grow these vegetables in the summer anymore (they grow in the spring and fall). However, they can newly grow chili peppers, celery, and eggplant outdoors.

"They like this Mediterranean-style heat," said Graeme.

But some changes aren't so easy.

The farm's Paradise Valley wells have less water

in the summers now. The ponds fill slower, because there's less rain. The farmers use cover crops and mulches to retain more moisture in the ground.

"The jet streams seem to slow down, so weather systems stay in place for longer," said Graeme. "That leads to more extreme conditions. When it rains solidly, we could potentially lose a lot of topsoil. So we've switched from ditches to shallower swales to deal with water run-off. It keeps more topsoil on the farm.

Graeme noted that because of where we live, some climate change works in our favour. "In Spain and France, it's now too hot to grow grapes. BC is becoming the perfect climate for vineyards."



KAMLOOPS RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL (1890-1978)



SECHULT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL (1912-1975)



ST. MARY'S RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL (MISSION, 1861-1984)

## Where Tla'amin children were sent

These three schools were funded by Ottawa and operated by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. BC was home to 23 residential schools, run by the Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian and United churches. These photos, which are in the public domain, are courtesy of the Deschatelets-NDC Archives.

Learn more: [www.nctr.ca](http://www.nctr.ca)



September 30

**National Day for Truth and Reconciliation  
Orange Shirt Day**



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	30-year mean	Last 5 years	30 vs 5 mean
<b>June - Aug rainfall (in mm)</b>	103.9	223	62.1	133.8	64	150.5	130.7	-19.8 mm
<b>Total summer precipitation over the last five years (minus August 2023's incomplete data at deadline) is down 13% over the 30 years from 1981 to 2010.</b>								



**DESERT BLOOMS:** Julia Hayes' bouquets are grown in much drier conditions than when she started growing flowers here 32 years ago.

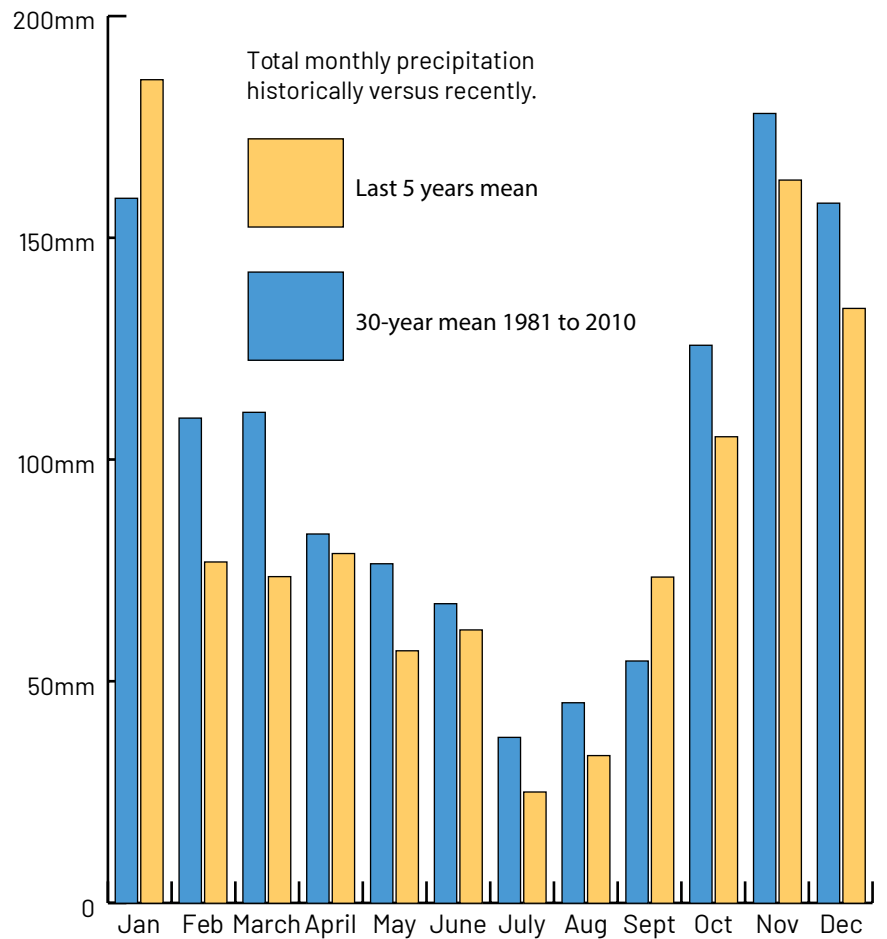
### Salal and flowers respond to the hot dry summers

**F**or the past 32 years, Julia Hayes has grown flowers in her garden in Westview, and picked salal in the bush, to sell at the farmers' markets.

"Everything is not the same," she said. "The flowers are not opening up well – everything is so dry. And the sa-

l usually grows in a big shoot. Now it just bends over. If you're a salal picker, you know."

Because this was such an early summer, Julia doesn't think she'll have flowers to sell at the Fall Fair September 23 & 24.



### We're missing an entire October of rain

**T**he comparison above shows monthly precipitation averages (mostly rain) from 1981 to 2010, versus the last five years.

In short, qathet is much drier now than it was. In the summertime, we're 13% drier. But that doesn't tell the whole story.

In January and September, precipitation is up slightly. But every other month, it has fallen. In February and March, precipitation is down by 70 mm total – that's one third in the

early Spring. 70 mm represents about 14 solid hours of moderate rain.

Overall, we're down 137.2 mm of rain in a year. That's more than an entire October, which used to get 125.8 mm of rain, and more recently, gets 105.2 mm.

But as the farmers and gardeners on these pages explain, it's not just the lack of water that is impacting crops. It's the dry, combined with the heat. Read more about that on the next page.

Source data: Environment Canada

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# BACK TO HOCKEY.



# Meet the farmers!



On September 23 & 24, head to the Paradise Exhibition Grounds for the Powell River Farmers Agricultural Institute's annual Fall Fair.

For the first time, it is free to enter. Meet farmers and food producers and processors, shop for artisan goods, and enjoy freshly made food on-site.

You can participate by entering a

zucchini in the zucchini races. Or, if you plan ahead, by entering art, crafts, baking, canning, woodwork, and freshly-grown fruit and vegetables in the fair.

For more, see the guide inserted in this issue of *qathet Living*, or head to [prfarmers.ca](http://prfarmers.ca).



## We're getting two kinds of hotter here

When you're assessing temperature change over time, there are at least two basic measures.

The first, below, is mean maximum temperature. That is, what is the average maximum of all days in the month. In this chart, you can see a slight rise over time—but also, plenty of variation month to month and year to year. How will it be next July based on trends in this chart? Only a fool would try to predict that. Generally, the mean

maximum temperature in qathet at the height of the summer is about 1.5 degrees hotter over the last five years, than it was in the 30 years from 1981 to 2010.

The second measure is maximum temperature—how hot was the hottest day? As you can see in the chart, right, the hottest July days have always been hot, but the really hot ones are becoming more common, based on this Environment Canada data.

	Average maximum temperature in °C					30-year mean 1981 to 2010	Last 5 years mean	30 year versus 5 year
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023			
April	12.8	13.6	14.2	10.5	11.3	12.8	12.5	-0.3
May	19.5	17.7	16.8	14	21	16.5	17.8	+1.3
June	20.9	18.5	23.1	19.4	21.7	19.4	20.7	+1.3
July	22.1	22.2	25.3	23.9	25	22.1	23.7	+1.6
Aug	22.9	21.7	23.8	25.4	*	22.3	23.8	+1.5
Sept	17.9	20.3	18.2	21.8	*	18.7	19.6	+0.9

## Top temps are exhausting farmers

BY ROS SHERRARD | HAMMILL HILL FARM IN PARADISE VALLEY

We have been farming here since 2009.

We grow the following: hay, and sell it off the fields. We also sell eggs and plant starts (in the spring). I grow a variety of vegetables and fruits which are sold at our gate stand. This year we have garlic, tomatoes, summer squash—zucchini, early spaghetti squash and butternut. Tomatillos, figs, berries, (raspberries, loganberries, boysenberries, blueberries), peas, broccoli, cabbage, too. I also grow flowers for bouquets that I sell at the gate.

This summer, the extreme temperatures are affecting my ability to keep up with the weeding, it is just too hot to work outside between 10 am and

4 pm, so I do early starts in the morning and work later in the day in the gardens.

Watering is a daily requirement, something somewhere needs water, so I use drip hoses, and water in the morning and mulch, mulch, mulch, grass clippings, straw, anything that will hold water in the soil.

I have noticed that everything is ripening earlier this year by about three weeks compared to 2022.

Summers are longer and hotter now. I am looking at growing crops outside (not under cover), that I would never have considered in the past, for example, melons.

One upside to the heat/dry weather is that we will get a third hay cut this year, never happened before. With irrigation it is possible this year.



## More water need; less water in the well

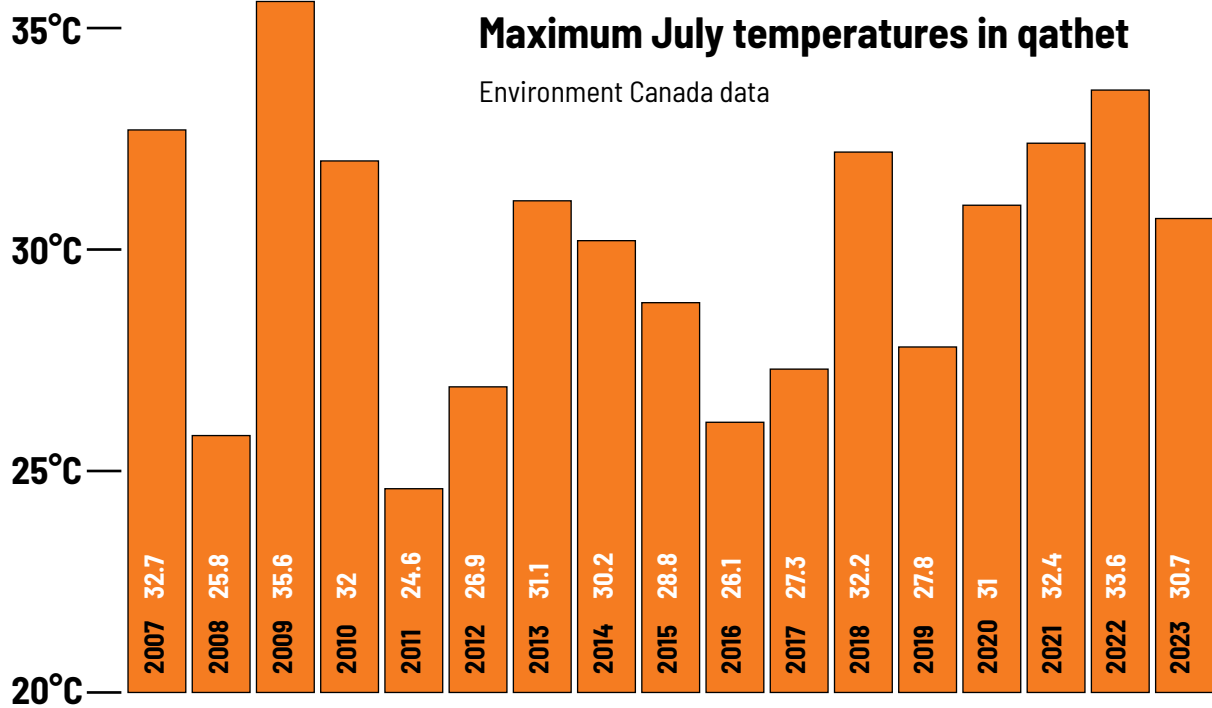
South of town near Nassichuk Road, Jeff De la Cruz grew several first-place winning vegetables at last year's Fall Fair on his farm, DC Harvest. They included peppers, kohlrabi, eggplant and squash. He also keeps chickens and sells eggs at the Farmers' Market.

The hot, dry weather means he has to water more. The problem: as of mid-August, his well is dry. So is his 1,000-gallon rain water container.

"The weather has changed a lot," he said. "My plants are so much drier these days."

Jeff will be at the Fall Fair this year.





## Weather and inflation putting pressure on big producers, too

**C**oast Berry is qathet’s largest commercial farm. Normally growing 30,000 strawberry plants and 35,000 blueberry plants over 45 acres, the Duyvesteyns sell berries locally at the Farmers’ Market and from their own truck, but also on a larger scale to retailers such as Save-On-Foods.

“I’m mortified to be charging \$8 a pint this year,” Debbie said, showing the box of blueberries pictured, left. “But I have no choice. I have to recover our costs.”

Coast has been hammered by weather this year. Last spring, the farm lost its entire first crop of strawberries to a cold snap. This year, blueberry production was down.

“Plus, we had that hot spring, so the flowers came too early, which is hard on the bees.

“The climate has lost its mind. You never know what you’re going to get. The whole world is on fire, and California is flooding.”

Water, too, has become a problem. When the Duyvesteyns bought the farm, they dug a 40-foot deep pond to collect rain water.

Along with precipitation and heat problems, Debbie said inflation is bearing down on the farm, too. They only planted half the normal number of strawberries, because topsoil jumped in price. The plants themselves tripled in price in a year. So did fertilizer.

Together, weather and inflation are putting pressure on one of this region’s great agricultural success stories.

“Climate change is totally affecting us.” 



**BERRY SCARY TIMES:** Coast Berry Farm’s Audrey and Debbie Duyvesteyn at the Powell River Farmers’ Market mid-August.



# Natural Selection

Produced by Greg Reid

Featuring Aya VeLenz

September 2023

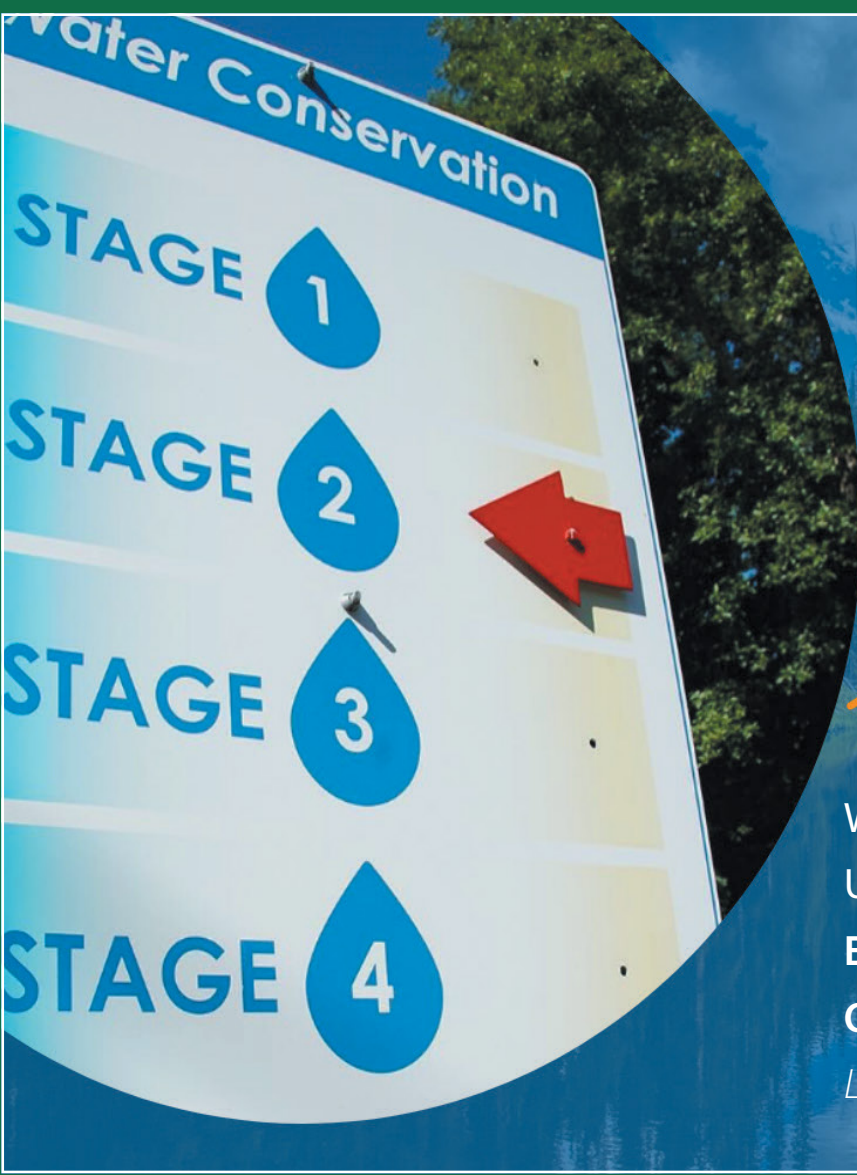
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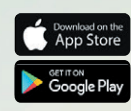
Even-numbered addresses water on even-numbered days

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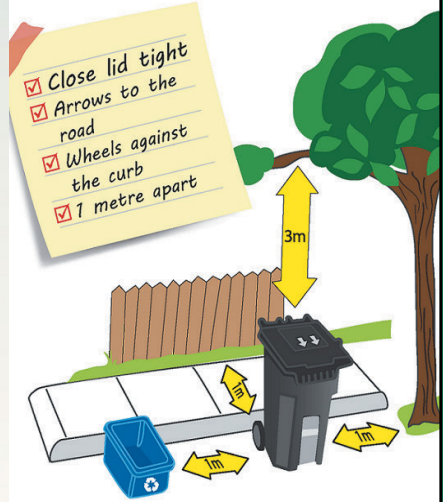
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### SEPTEMBER 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



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Bin placement is important, please refer to the diagram above as a reminder.

Have your cart at the curb by 7:30 am on the day of your collection. Not the night before!

[powellriver.ca](http://powellriver.ca)





# Back to it

Whether you're talented or hopeless, you can probably find a group that will bring you joy through qathet's rainy season.

On Pages 21 to 26, meet a few local folks who hope you'll try something new.



**FALL FOR CURLING:** These three generations of women play on the same rink Friday nights. Barb Hundley, Nia Wegner and Lucy Wegner pose in front of Luke Ramsey's new mural on the side of the Curling Club, with Club President Shaun Garvey.

Think the outside of the Curling Club is looking fresh? You should see the inside.

## BY SHAUN GARVEY

If you've travelled through the Cranberry neighbourhood recently, you may have noticed that the Powell River Curling Club building has undergone a major exterior facelift in the past year, including new siding, fencing, solar panels, and a newly commissioned art mural.

But it's what's happening inside, culturally speaking, that is also fresh and exciting.

Curling is uniquely positioned as one of the few pastimes, due to the social nature of the sport, that is good for one's physical, mental, and emotional health. It is a multi-generational pursuit: grandparents, parents, and children can play together.

Our mandate is to make curling inclusive and accessible to everyone. We are actively promoting our leagues and facility as a place to gather, feel welcome, enjoy a beverage, and have

### Anyone can throw a rock on Friday nights

Head down to the Curling Club starting October 7, for drop-in curling. It's six-end games starting at 7 pm, no experience necessary. You can also visit the friendly Last Rock Lounge.

Call ahead to check on openings: Roger Pagani, 604-414-5786

fun, whether you curl or not. We're seeking ways to keep the facility open year-round. We're bringing curling to an Elementary school near you and launching a revitalized Junior program.

Whether it's to watch a game on the tube in our Lounge or to simply come out and try curling, take some lessons, hold a company event, or come back to the sport after an absence, a friendly, fun environment awaits you.

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Registration Week is Tuesday, September 5 to Friday, September 8 9:30-4:30 Tuesday-Friday

Ongoing registration during open hours or any time online at: [powellriveracademy.org](http://powellriveracademy.org)

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Starting mid-September:

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Thursdays: YRC Club - ages 8-10

Details: [www.youthandfamily.ca](http://www.youthandfamily.ca)  
YRC Facebook or Instagram

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Thursday September 28th

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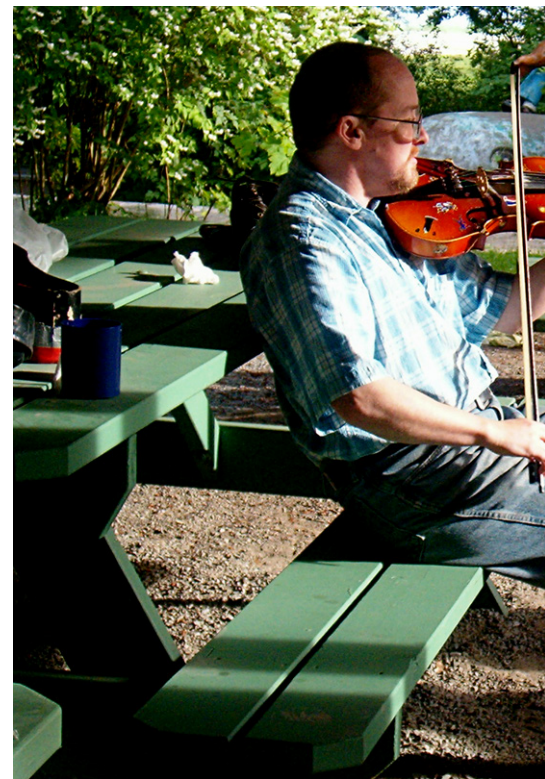


Click here for more details and to RSVP:  
<https://go.liftcommunityservices.org/agm23>

[www.liftcommunityservices.org](http://www.liftcommunityservices.org)



# "So blown away that I forget to play!"



BY KEVIN WILSON

When I came across the *qL* article by Marlene Chamberlain in summer 2021, about a possible community orchestra for Powell River, I was so excited!

I started learning the violin at seven, joined my first "baby" orchestra at eight years old, and played in amateur orchestras in the UK and Canada for many years. While I kept playing my violin after moving to qathet in 2003, and led an early music group here from 2004 to 2010, I missed playing classical music in an orchestra. Every June, at PRISMA, I got all fired up about playing, but then life overtook me and the idea went underground again.

The qathet Symphony Orchestra had its first "Play Day" in September 2021, and I was even more excited. Seventeen people got together and played "Ode to Joy," the Largo from the New World symphony, and other simple pieces – and it worked. Never mind that COVID meant we had to sit six feet apart and wear masks unless we were actually blowing through an

**TURNING TWO:** Top, the qathet Symphony Orchestra plays the Evergreen Theatre. Above, conductor Kevin Wilson. The Orchestra held its first "play day" in 2021, and started with Ode to Joy. Kevin finds that it is certainly a joy to play music together.

instrument, that there were five first violins and only one second, that we were all over the place with our timing and intonation. Just the fact of playing together made me tear up.

We were very nearly the shortest-lived orchestra in the history of the world, though, because our conductor realized that he had way over-committed his time, and simply could not do it. To keep the momentum going, I said I'd conduct for a few weeks, until we found a "real" conductor. Two years later, I'm still conducting, and still learning how!

Some folks might be wondering what value there is in a community orchestra, when we have instant access to expert-level performances of almost any piece of music, video as well as

# Thank you, Powell River!

Anne Roberts and Shannon Stevens would like to extend their greatest gratitude to all of their clients for their support and friendship over the years. We appreciate you! To our staff – we couldn't have done it without you. We love you!

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## Could you be part of the qathet Symphony Orchestra?

If you've played an orchestral instrument for 2+ years, and you can read music, the answer is probably yes. Even if you're a little rusty! We especially need bassoons, oboes, French horns and cellos, but others are very welcome too. Email [musicdirector@qsorchestra.ca](mailto:musicdirector@qsorchestra.ca) if you're interested!

Rehearsals resume Saturday, September 9 at the Star Dusters Hall off Timberlane, 10 am to noon.

Hear our steadily-improving qathet Symphony Orchestra at these concerts:

- Nov 19, 2023: "An Afternoon at the Symphony" at the Academy of Music
- Feb 11, 2024: "An Afternoon in Love" at the Max Cameron Theatre
- May 12, 2024: Evergreen Theatre

audio. Does it have any real impact on people's lives? You could ask the same thing about other forms of music: why do people bother to learn the guitar, sing in a choir, or play in a band? Some points spring to mind:

- In a virtual world, doing a thing rather than watching others do it becomes more and more valuable.
- Creating something as a group is a way of connecting with others, is extremely satisfying – and becoming rarer. When did you last attend a barn-raising?
- Being inside a large-scale piece of music is stunning (sometimes literally: I can be so blown away that I forget to play!)
- Music takes you out of yourself. When bad things are happening in your world, group rehearsal allows you to set it all aside and focus only on the music. The Orchestra has already helped me and multiple musicians through bad patches.
- Hearing and seeing a piece of orchestral music "live" is completely different from a recording. The qSO makes that possible for us out-

side the two wonderful weeks of PRISMA.

- Opportunities abound for all kinds of people to make music together. The music doesn't care about your age, gender, looks, or anything else except – can you play? We have musicians from 18 to 80+, beginners to half a century of experience. When we started the qSO, I didn't think about what spinoff effects it might have. I just wanted to play! But two years in, we're definitely seeing some: we are part of a musical ecosystem with players who play in multiple groups, and we're seeing collaborations between those groups. Small chamber groups have formed as musicians made connections with each other – a clarinet quartet, a French horn + strings group, a brass quartet. Local soloists perform with us. More is coming! 🎵

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**THU**

**DRAWN TOGETHER 3:45-4:30 pm**  
Kids 8+ meet up at the library to draw together.

**FRI**

**YOUNG WRITERS' GROUP 4:00-5:00 pm**  
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# Not just a game

Pickleball heals bodies and communities

BY SUSAN YOUNG

Since first trending a decade ago, Pickleball has insiders and outsiders. Insiders are totally dedicated to the game. Outsiders—who may be a bit cynical—are just future insiders who haven't tried it yet.

There's never been a better time to

make the jump here. With two indoor facilities, three outdoor facilities, and a dedicated crew of 130 regular players, the new qathet Pickleball Association is mobilizing to make the most of this group's enthusiasm for the sport, and for life.

Want to learn more? See the event box, right.

## Pickleball restored her mobility

LINA VALLÉE

After years of little to no mobility caused by MS and other medical issues, I was introduced to pickleball by a friend. At that time, I was using two crutch canes to walk. My first time on court, I was using one crutch cane with a paddle in the other hand, and you can imagine how that must have looked. Initially, my friend was hitting the ball directly to me just trying to strengthen my leg muscles. Eventually, as my legs got stronger, I was able to play without any crutch canes. That was three years ago.

I am now hooked and playing, on average, three times a week.

Pickleball has helped tremendously with my mobility and social skills. I have met many great people and look forward to meeting many more on the courts.

## Pickleball: resistance is futile

JO THOMAS

"You should try pickleball," commented a friend at a social gathering five years ago. "Nope, I gave up tennis because of overhead serves which severely irritated my neck and low back." "But you serve underhand in pickleball," replied my colleague.

Thus began a new love affair with a new sport. Well, maybe some addiction tendencies, too, as I've always chased those feelings of exhilaration, and the pure joy of physical movement—which now translates into chasing down every ball be it a lob, or a drop shot in the kitchen.

I often miss more shots than I make these days, but those few fleeting moments of hitting a good return, or a dink, sends the endorphins flying.

On the flip side it is also a sport requiring dexterity and quickness, and



**THEY'RE KIND OF A BIG DILL:** Pickleball enthusiasts Marilee Jones, President of the Powell River Sport and Fitness Society (prracquets.org), and Susan Young, qathet Pickleball Association president and this article's author.

with age comes a slowing down of those reflexes and timing. As well, I need to pay more attention to the "niggles," and allow extra days for rest and recovery.

Just as important are the weekly social get togethers exchanging news and views, laughter and smiles. In the grip of COVID it was playing singles

pickleball (and my cat, Smoki) that pulled me through my intense feelings of isolation and loneliness.

It is my sincere hope that I will see and use a dedicated, standalone pickleball centre in our beautiful community before I'm on the other side of the grass!

### Le Conseil d'Administration du Club Bon Accueil à besoin de vous!

Nous cherchons à nommer des nouveaux membres au conseil pour assurer la survie de l'organisation. Les rôles sont des postes bénévoles. Les membres du conseil d'administration doivent



assister à 6 réunions par an, participer à la vie et au développement de l'organisation, et conseiller l'équipe du personnel. Le prochain AGA sera durant l'automne 2023 : si vous êtes intéressée, contactez-nous au **604-483-3966** ou **admin@clubbonaccueil.com**

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**WE HEART PICKLEBALL:** Above, on August 19, the Gherkins hosted the first Gherkin Family Pickleball Reunion at Oceanview. Left, Fraser Blacklaws, 9, likes to compete in pickleball with adults – he loves sport of all kinds.



## Training for the nine-year-old world championships

**BY FRASER BLACKLAWS**

I'm a nine-year-old student at Westview and I love to compete in any sport.

I love pickleball because I can play with my dad a lot. I get good competition and it's not too easy to win.

When I'm out there it's fun, exciting, and quick, but sometimes my dad shoots the balls to the corners and gets me running everywhere. We call that 'taking the dog for a walk' and by 'dog' we mean *me*. Woof, woof.

The best moment I've had playing pickleball was

when I got to play with our friend Nathan Ashmead. Nathan was a *pro* and he gave me his best racquet as a gift. My first game with the new racquet I was hitting the ball as hard as I could and Nathan was using his phone as a racquet and beat me until he cracked the phone case! This was the toughest pickleball game of my life.

My goal in pickleball is to play a competition and go to the nine-year-old world championships. I don't care if I get last in the world championships, at least I will have made it there.

Being a kid and playing with mostly adults is cool. I love playing with them and they get surprised when I return their hardest shot. I also like when the adults shoot the ball at me instead of the other adult.

One thing I love about pickleball is when our family and neighbours come over and we all get to play

together. Pickleball is the only sport we all play together, and even my three-year-old brother gets out there and smacks the balls around.

## Staying positive through COVID

**IRENE KOROSSEC**

My introduction to Pickleball began in April of 2020 when I was invited by fellow Ping Pong players to try it out at the Townsite Courts. I was really getting the hang of it when I attempted to return a high ball while running backwards and down I went, straining my wrist in the process. After a few sessions of laser therapy, I was back playing in a month's time. Nothing could keep me down for long – I was addicted!!

Our motley group of individuals enjoy playing outdoors in all types of weather throughout the seasons. In winter, we bundle up in warm toques, vests and gloves trying to look somewhat stylish, but ultimately, the goal was more about staying active and keeping healthy while having fun at the same time.

During the last 3.5 years, I have had the pleasure of playing with so many unique individuals from all skill levels ranging in age from 20 to early 80s. Pickleball has not only provided me with a reason to keep healthy with other like-minded people, but also spending time socializing with my Pickleball Buds!

## Tennis vs Pickleball: how they BOTH saved my life ...

**PETER LEE**

Tennis or Pickleball ... which is better? I used to say pickleball was like a scooter ... so much fun until your friends saw you on one.

I've been playing tennis for over 50 years and thought it would be my sport through retirement. But seven months after retiring I was diagnosed with stomach cancer, and seven months later I had 80% of my stomach removed.

My family and my fitness (from years of tennis) helped me survive chemo and surgery. However, I ended up with peripheral neuropathy in my fingers and toes. Tennis was a struggle when you have "pins and needles" sensation in your feet and hands.

This is where pickleball played a big role in my recovery. I needed to build myself up and pickleball was it! Easily learned, but difficult to master, and enough movement to get my footwork and hand-eye coordination back.

So, when people ask, I always say, "Tennis got me through cancer, but pickleball helped me survive." 🐾

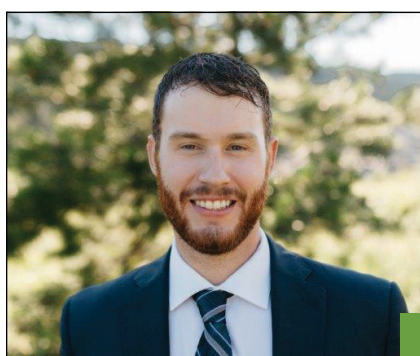
### PICKLEBALL OPEN HOUSE

**When:** Saturday, September 16, 1 to 3 pm

**What:** An afternoon for newbies to the sport or to town to learn more about Pickleball here. Hosted by PR Racquet Centre and the qathet Pickleball Association.

**Where:** PR Racquet Centre, 4320 Joyce Ave

**Learn more at:** [qathetpickleballassociation.ca](http://qathetpickleballassociation.ca)



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# Who's Johnny?

Johnny MacRae is the Library's second Writer in Residence – a spoken word poet and fantasy fan from “the unceded ancestral territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), səlilwətaʔt (Tsleil-waututh), and skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) nations.”

This interview has been edited for length. For the full transcript, visit the [qL Facebook page](#).

**On October 3, you're running a workshop called "Talking Tolkien." How did Tolkien shape your life?**

**Johnny** • My cousin introduced me to the Ralph Bakshi animated Lord of the Rings when I was seven or eight, and I became instantly obsessed. I made my first attempt at reading the book when I was in Grade 3 (an attempt that was partially successful, although it took me until midway through Grade 4 to finish it). His work has been so formative for me it's hard to even begin identifying parts of my personality that would've been different if I hadn't encountered it.

One thing I might offer is the way in which his writing style influenced me. It might sound strange to say, but I think Tolkien is an underappreciated writer, as it relates to style. I don't think it's an accident that I've been drawn to the use of plain speech and tavern poetry, like an out-sized hobbit.

Plus he's so clearly intoxicated by his love of language and etymology – I mean, he wrote a world-changing, genre-defin-



**"BEARDED WEIRDO" IN RESIDENCE:** Award-winning spoken word poet Johnny MacRae will be the Powell River Public Library's Writer in Residence for 2023. He's offering several workshops for children and adults, including manuscript consultations, throughout September and October. See more in the events section starting on Page 51.

*Mary Matheson Photography*

ing work of fantasy as a by-product of his effort to provide a history for his invented languages – so that's probably a background influence as to why I'm a huge etymology nerd.

**Why do you think slam / spoken word is having such a moment right now?**

**Johnny** • Spoken word – especially in the format of poetry slam – is fun! It's entertaining! I can't tell you how many times I've heard from people that they went to a poetry slam having never written a poem in their life, and then went home that night and wrote their first poem ever.

This really speaks to an ancient need that has been largely driven to the margins of mainstream Western societies. Poetry and speech are deeply and universally human: sitting around a speaker, and feeling warmed and entertained by lively speech might just be our species' oldest arts practice.

I look at our society at large, and think a lot of people grow up missing that in their lives, and when they encounter poetry slam and spoken word, they feel a big missing piece of their humanity click into place.

**How did you become a... whatever you are??**

**Johnny** • A bearded weirdo?

Well, I'd say that's one part ADHD and intense social anxiety, one part growing up without television, and one part the 2010

bike accident that took a chunk of flesh off my upper lip and made shaving impossible for about a month.

**What do you hope to bring to this community?**

**Johnny** • One thing I'm hoping I can do is engage with folks who are interested in building community through poetry slam, support their efforts and help connect them to the broader slam/spoken word community across the province and the country.

**What do you hope to learn here??**

**Johnny** • I'm always keen to learn about what draws people to live in communities like this one. And related to that, I'd love to know more about the history of the area.

One thing I've learned from years of touring around the province is that BC has many fascinating and overlapping histories – often sad or difficult, it's true, but nonetheless fascinating. And given that there's not a huge market for histories of BC, I find the best way to learn is usually from the people living there.

**You identify as "of Gaelic ancestry." How do your roots impact what you write?**

**Johnny** • I only really started directly addressing my roots through poetry – at least, poems I would share aloud – in recent years. It's been a long process of research-

ing histories and re-evaluating everything I thought I knew as “Scottish Highlander” culture and identity in Canada.

A number of years ago I was challenged to answer why I'm here, in these lands. I realized I'd never really asked myself why my ancestors came here, other than some vague something to do with the English, rah! I'm Scottish and wear a kilt!

So I started researching. And in researching, a lot of what I thought I'd known about my identity was exploded. For one thing, I realized that I don't really have a culture: I don't speak my language, and most of the Scottish “culture” I thought I knew is a sort of caricature distorted through the lens of Anglo-Saxon colonial society.

Since then I've been more invested in reclaiming a more fulsome identity: I've begun learning Gaelic and delving much more deeply into the multi-layered history of Gaelic migration to better understand how we went from being marginalized people in Britain to leading figures in settler colonialism in Canada.

What I started to see is that Scottish Gaelic people have suffered from similar systems of control as those imposed here – which in no way takes away from our having been some of the biggest leaders and beneficiaries of colonization in Canada.

A lot of my focus now is on writing poems that explore the tensions between those twin histories and articulate buried truths. That's something I'd like to be working on during my residency. Specifically, I'm developing a project built around the historic and mythic salmon narratives as related to Gaelic culture and migration.

**Something you're proud to tell people:**

**Johnny** • One time I fluently rattled off almost the entire history of Middle-earth from memory, after a friend of mine (who'd never read the books) asked why the Fellowship couldn't simply travel through the Gap of Rohan, instead of going through Moria. Initially I tried to spare him that fate by simply responding, “Because Saruman's there.” But he didn't understand what made Saruman so powerful.

So, as you can imagine, I thought for a second about where to start, realized there was really only one place I could, sighed, and then began, “So, in the void there was Eru, whom the Elves named Iluvatar, and this guy was, like, really into singing...”

I might have peaked then and there. **qL**



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## BACK TO SCHOOL

# Mr. Devlin: principal, amputee, athlete, & Robbie Burns fan

BY WENDY DEVLIN

The imposing school principal with the amputated left hand stood on home plate facing his students. A baseball bat nestled under his left elbow against his side.

Mr. Devlin tossed the soft-ball with his right hand high into the air.

Swiftly he grabbed the bat and struck the ball high.

Students ran to catch the pop fly. Then threw the ball home to the catcher. Catching practice would carry on until the recess or lunch bell rang.

Many school students in town called their elementary school principal 'Mr. Devlin'. As his granddaughter, I called him 'Dana.' Probably because I made it up to rhyme with Nana, my made-up name for our grandmother Ellen.

From the time I was a child, our paternal grandparents lived on their seven-acre homestead at the end of MacGregor Avenue, beside Cranberry Lake. They lived with our Dad (Dave), our mom (Billie), Dad's sister (Loa), grandfather's father, single men working at the mill, one dairy cow, two pigs, chickens plus a dog and cat with kittens. Since moving back here with my family 32 years ago, some of Dana's students have shared the previous memory of 'Mr. Devlin' at the bat.

Grandfather James Devlin's story starts in 1907 in Girvan, County Ayr, Scotland. Grandfather was born into a dairying family near the birthplace of the poet Robert Burns. Grandfather was proud of his Scottish roots even though he immigrated with his family at age four to Canada. He would fondly recite Burns' poems.

In history class, he encouraged students to paint their faces blue, like Celtic warriors who adorned their faces blue with dye from woad. He got a carpenter to cut out small plywood shields for every student in the school on which they would imagine, draw and paint their personal family crest. When finished, the quirky shields were hung along the school hallway. Later, students proudly took their shields home. Unclaimed shields would be discovered years later in his basement.



My children played and decorated their fort with them. Some shields I put out at a garage sale, witnessing delight as several seniors recognized their shield to take home.

As a lover of games and sports, Grandfather also paid a carpenter to build Crokinole boards so students could play the game on rainy days in the lunch-room. He pioneered in-school and intra-school soccer matches and was instrumental in encouraging girls to play the sport. Later he paid for a girl's league championship cup.

For many years, he organized a soccer team of



**STORIES FROM BEGINNING TO END:** Top, work-horse handler and coal miner James Devlin with the toddler "Dana" Devlin. Left, Principal Devlin, mid-career. Above, Mr. Devlin's granddaughter Wendy Devlin (right) when she and her family were caring for her grandfather (centre).

under-13 boys to travel to Vancouver for the *Sun* (newspaper's) Tournament of Champions. Powell River won the cup several times! Not bad for a little town up the coast.

These efforts and others earned him the Good Citizen of the Year in 1968.

**So how did he lose his hand?** Grandfather's family found its way, by ship and train to Nanaimo B.C. in 1911. His father found work as a trained work-horse handler for a coal-mining company

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**GROOVY TIMES:** Principal Devlin (moustache, front row) leads the team at Westview Elementary, 1970s.

farm. Great-grandfather's sister had also immigrated to Nanaimo and married a local farmer.

James' mother however, took ill and tragically died when Dana was fourteen.

James went to work in a butcher shop after-school to help his family. A few days later, he lost his hand in a meat-cutting machine. This incident dealt a blow to Grandfather's dream to become a mining engineer. As an amputee, he would not be allowed to work underground. Instead, after high-school, the recently formed B.C. Workers' Compensation Board paid for young James to attend teachers' training.

James' first job was as a teacher at Harwood Elementary in Nanaimo, followed by several years in the northern Kispiox Valley in a one room school-house. Our grandmother Ellen, daughter of a pioneering Icelandic family, was a student in the school.

They married and in the lean times of the 1930's augmented the low teaching wages with stints hitch-hiking and picking fruit in the Okanagan.

**After years of teaching** a wide range of ages, Grandfather was offered a job as principal of James Thomson Elementary. When Grandfather became principal at Cranberry Elementary, the young family purchased a seven-acre homestead on the edge of Cranberry Lake. As the population of the town developed more to the Westview area, School Board President J.P. Dallos opened a larger new elementary school bearing his name. Grandfather proudly accepted principalship of the new school until his retirement in 1972.

**Grandfather didn't want to retire** at the mandatory age of 65, as he loved the teaching life. He could often be spotted walking the road from Cranberry to downtown or riding the bus. Grandfather says he rarely had to wait long for the hourly bus to come. He also made sure he had a bank account in every bank and contributed to many charity organizations.

By age 84, after living alone for many years, Grandfather was not looking after himself well. This resulted in us receiving a phone call saying he was in the hospital, having been found by the ambulance crew unconscious, malnourished, dehydrated, and hypothermic.

My husband Bill and I, and our three children, immediately cut short our spring break plans and hustled to Powell River.

During the following three weeks, while 'Dana'

was hospitalized, we stayed in the Cranberry Inn and worked everyday, cleaning his home of debris and broken appliances. Although he was still paying the oil bill, floor-to-ceiling newspapers and books covered every furnace vent.

The house being in such a sorry condition coupled with Grandfather's weakness and inability to care for himself made us decide to take him to our home in the West Kootenays for recovery and rehabilitation. However upon recovering three months later, Dana wanted desperately to return to his own house. We made the decision to give up our jobs, and the beautiful home and farm we had built over the previous nine years, and return to Powell River to care for him.

Once back in town, we gutted and renovated his old house to accommodate Dana and our family. A few months later, Grandfather wanted to live alone so we moved out and ultimately built another house and farm in Wildwood. I set up Home Support, Meals on Wheels and visited near daily to check on his well-being. Plus I took care of his utility bills and medical appointments. Dana still loved soccer so we made sure to pick him up to attend Villa Games!

Five years later, Grandfather's dementia and physical frailty had increased after a minor stroke, so we brought him to Wildwood for 24/7 family care. By then he no longer knew whether he was in the hospital or his home but he loved being around children again. He would always ask them about their favorite subject or sport.

We got to know bits of hitherto unknown family history as Dana would sometimes talk about former teachers, students or loved ones. However after he broke his hip, Dana went by ambulance to Nanaimo for emergency surgery. When he returned, he was admitted to Evergreen Extended Care for more specialized nursing care. He enjoyed the care and attention even if most of the day, he slept. Several bouts of acute pneumonia occurred over the next few months until one claimed his life.

I held his hand as he took his near-to-last breath.

I hope this story fills in bits about the life of Mr. Devlin AKA 'Dana.' He truly loved teaching and life in our town. Although Dana spoke about visiting his Scottish birthplace someday, he barely ever left town during his last 30 years. He could, however, still recite poems by Robert Burns and liked to invite a visitor to share a wee dram of apricot brandy. With a twinkle in his eye, he would claim we'd better drink a toast before the bottle went rancid – to the memory of the famous bard. 🍷

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School District 47 is delighted to welcome our students, teachers, and parents back to school! This year, we are continuing our commitment to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment that supports the academic and personal growth of all our students. Our educators and staff have been working hard to prepare for the new school year, and we can't wait to see our students thrive and achieve their goals. Whether you are a returning student or new to our school community, we are excited to have you join us and look forward to a successful and fulfilling year together.



Students are back in schools this month, and they will also be travelling on local roadways. Please watch for children, be extra cautious around schools and buses, obey school and playground speed zones, and stop when you see lights flashing on a school bus.

## Early Learning and Childcare with SD47

### Kindergarten Gradual Entry

**Starts Wednesday, September 6th**

Gradual entry is designed to support the best possible transition for children from their home, daycare, or preschool into their Kindergarten classroom.

A gradual entry provides students with focused time to connect with their teacher and adjust to the new social and emotional reality of the elementary school context. Teachers will be introducing children to classroom routines and easing their transition in a more individualized way as well as working with smaller groups in the first two weeks.

Families may choose to have their child stay for an optional "Time for Play" part of the day during the second week of Gradual Entry. This "Time for Play" provides free care in the school setting, so that children can be present for the full school day. Families wanting to use the "Time for Play" are asked to register with the school before Tuesday, September 5th.

Gradual entry schedules have been sent out to all registered Kindergarten families. Please contact your school if you have not received your schedule. If you have not yet registered your child in Kindergarten go to [www.sd47.bc.ca](http://www.sd47.bc.ca) and fill out the registration form.

The first week is a valuable week for attendance. If the schedule provided by the school is an issue for your family, please reach out to the school to discuss.

### StrongStart

**Starts Wednesday, September 14th**

StrongStart is a free drop-in program offered to families with children ages zero to five years old, where qualified early childhood educators lead learning activities in a safe, friendly, child-centered environment. This is an engaging time for children and their family members and/or caregivers to connect with others and grow together.

StrongStart centres at Edgehill, Westview, Henderson, and Kelly Creek will be open September 14th. Please visit our website ([www.sd47.bc.ca](http://www.sd47.bc.ca)) to learn more about this program.

### StrongStart GO

**Starts Wednesday, September 14th**

Our outdoor StrongStart program brings friendly, engaging, and fun learning activities to children in their own community and parks. Our mobile StrongStart GO van visits locations in Lund, Texada, and all over the qathet Region. Please visit our website for dates and times.

### JustB4 Preschool

**Starts Wednesday, September 14th @ 12:45**

JustB4 preschool is a registered, paid program for children entering Kindergarten in 2024. This fun and active learning environment provides children with an opportunity to engage in a school setting under the guidance and expertise of Early Childhood Educators. This program runs at both Henderson and Westview elementary schools. Registration is limited. Interested families are asked to email [raun.rainbow@sd47.bc.ca](mailto:raun.rainbow@sd47.bc.ca)

### Before and Afterschool Care

**Starts Monday, September 12th**

We are pleased to announce that this year we will have a Before and Afterschool program on Texada, which means that all elementary schools in SD47 now have this service. This fun, registered, recreation-based program runs one hour before school starts and ends by 5:00 pm all school days.

Registration is limited at each site. If families are interested in registering they are asked to contact [child.care@sd47.bc.ca](mailto:child.care@sd47.bc.ca)



# 3 ways

to help  
support  
your student's  
**success**  
this school year

## 1. Create a Healthy Lifestyle Schedule

Creating a balanced schedule for children is an important aspect of their overall well-being and development, as it helps them learn time management skills and establish healthy routines. Children need a routine that includes a balance of physical activity, educational activities, social interaction, sleep, healthy meals, and downtime for relaxation and play. When creating a schedule for children, it is important to consider their age, interests, and individual needs.

Parents should also be mindful of not overscheduling their children, as too many structured activities can lead to burnout and stress. Ultimately, a well-planned schedule can help children feel more secure and confident in their daily lives. Children are also more likely to follow a schedule if they are involved in creating it. For example, ask them “what does your ideal afternoon look like?” or “how could we make our mornings, before we leave for school, happier?”.

## 2. Set Goals Together

Setting goals is an important life skill that can help your child achieve success in all areas of their life. Whether it be academic, social, or personal, goal-setting can provide direction, motivation, and a sense of accomplishment. At the beginning of the school year, sit down with your child and help them set three short-term achievable goals. Bonus points if you set goals for yourself as well! These goals should be created based on your child's interests and what they want to learn this year. Keep the conversation positive and without pressure. Help them to focus on tasks and improvement rather than specific outcomes and letter grades. Goal setting and achievement is a process. Keep your child motivated throughout the year with positive encouragement and support.



## 3. Join a Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

There is strong evidence that increased parent involvement within schools results in greater student achievement, accomplishment and satisfaction towards learning, all of which result in increased participation and attendance. Parents/guardians' voices are a tremendous value within schools and offer a wealth of ideas and support in the challenges that face all public schools.

Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) are non-profit independent groups of parents/guardians who are advocating for the success of all students, while supporting and advancing school efforts in School District 47 schools. PACs are recognized forums to discuss matters affecting schools and the education of their children. Each school has their own PAC and all registered student's parents/guardians are encouraged to participate in activities when available. Please visit your child's school website or ask the principal for more information on individual school PACs.

### Important Dates

Tue <b>Sept 5</b>	School Year Commences – early dismissal (classes in session for 1 hour only)
Fri <b>Sept 22</b>	Professional Development Day (no school)
Mon <b>Oct 2</b>	National Truth and Reconciliation Day (school closed for stat holiday)
Mon <b>Oct 9</b>	Thanksgiving Day (school closed for stat holiday)
Fri <b>Oct 20</b>	Provincial Professional Development Day – School Not in Session
Wed <b>Nov 1</b>	Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences – School Not in Session
Mon <b>Nov 13</b>	Remembrance Day (school closed for stat holiday)
Fri <b>Dec 22</b>	Last day of School before Winter Vacation
Mon <b>Jan 8</b>	School re-opens after Winter Vacation

## SD47 Strategic Plan – coming soon

Our 2023 -2027 strategic plan was developed in partnership with a wide variety of rights-holders, in partnership with Tla'amin Nation. These groups include: parents, staff and teachers, community members and students.

In May 2023, the Board launched a public survey which received over 500 responses, indicating priorities, visions and ambitions for the future. Focus groups and meetings were held with PRTDA, CUPE and other key partners, at schools and local meeting places.

As a priority, our plan centres students' needs – their learning, well-being and voices – in programming and supports at schools, operations, and management by staff as well as decisions by the Board.

Go to [sd47.bc.ca](http://sd47.bc.ca) to see more about our plan later this month.



# Learn these sayings

Throughout SD47, we continue to celebrate and learn from the rich cultures and contributions of Indigenous peoples. We honour the role the Tla'amin Nation has played locally, and Indigenous peoples globally, to protect the land and water, and the reciprocal relationship we have with all things.

We encourage you to learn and practice these Ayajuthem sayings.

(Scan the QR code with your mobile device to hear them pronounced.)



ʔajεčxʷ ʔot?  
How are you?



ʔičen ʔot. čimgə nigi?  
I'm fine. How about you?



ʔoqowi  
Summer



ʔisčen tiwšem.  
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- Important reminders and upcoming events
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- Interesting stories and exciting activities taking place in our school communities



# Volunteerism, soccer and outstanding grades net Brooks grad some serious postsecondary support

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

When Saliya Mgeni enters UBC this month and begins working on a psychology degree, she'll be able to focus on her studies instead of worrying about how to pay for her schooling.

The eighteen-year-old Powell River student was recently awarded an \$80,000 scholarship by the UBC Beyond Tomorrow Scholars Program. The program assists Black Canadian students who are transitioning to UBC from secondary school.

"The day I got the phone call was one of the happiest days of my life," said Saliya. "I took a screen shot of the phone call because it was a life-changing moment and I always want to remember this day."

In 2018, Saliya, who was 13 at the time, left Africa for Powell River, BC. She and her family were greeted by members of the Hands Across the Water Refugee Sponsorship group. "I was really scared about what the future held," she said explaining how she felt about leaving her community and friends behind and moving to a new country.

They arrived in Powell River just in time for Saliya to attend elementary school for two months before school broke for the summer.

With little time to adjust to her new school life before summer vacation and having just turned 13, Saliya was at a transitional time in her young life.

"I was born in DRC Congo, where I spent my younger years, and later moved to Namibia. Namibia was my community," she explained.

"I think one of the biggest things in most parts of the black community is that we struggle to talk about the emotional part of being human. This is what inspired me to study psychology. This will deepen my understanding of the mental process and help me understand myself and others better," she said.

"When I arrived here, I discovered that it was a really big part of how people are here and that they are more open about it."

Although Saliya could speak English well enough to communicate when she first arrived in Canada,

"[Brooks media arts teacher Darren Bennett is] a really great teacher; very inspiring. I like that he takes a lot of time to connect with students on an emotional level."

– Saliya Mgeni

she struggled with understanding it.

"It took me a while to settle in."

She attended school at Brooks and got involved in community work by volunteering at the Seniors Centre in Cranberry, for the MCC Shop in Westview, PRISMA and for LIFT.

"I really like volunteer work. Getting involved in the community made me feel more connected to my new community," she said.

She met people at school and made friends with people who had similar experiences

"I built great connections with my teachers and found it easy to ask for help." She joined clubs at school, played both community and school soccer, tried tennis, and basketball.

Brooks Secondary School teacher Darren Bennett made an impression of Saliya. Darren teaches media arts, photography and psychology and Saliya has taken courses from him since Grade 9. "He is a great teacher; very inspiring. I like that he takes a lot of time to connect with students on an emotional level," she said.

When Saliya graduated from Brooks in June, she received five local scholarships. She was the recipient



**FUTURE PSYCHOLOGIST:** Saliya Mgeni is both an academic and a soccer superstar—like her brother Useni who graduated two years ago (below, in the June 2021 issue of *qathet Living*). Both Mgenis received significant scholarships to support their post-secondary studies.

of scholarships from Powell River Minor Soccer, the Rotary Club of Powell River, School District 47, CUPE and Work BC. The purpose of the \$80,000 scholarship that she was awarded by UBC, is to financially support academically qualified students who show an interest in joining and contributing to the UBC community at both the Vancouver and Okanagan campuses, but who would not be able to attend without significant financial assistance. Through the program, new students can access renewable awards of up to \$80,000.

Saliya knows how much of a difference scholarships can make in a student's life. Her older brother Useni, who is now 20, received a \$40,000 Beedie Luminaries Scholarship in 2021. Useni now attends Camosun College in Victoria where he is studying architectural engineering. 📌



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qathet Living is pleased to announce that NewsMedia Canada is funding a series on transportation in the qathet region, through the Local Journalism Initiative. We will produce stories in the magazine and online on BC Ferries, BC Transit, the Zunga Bus, cycling and active transportation, air travel, and more. The goal of the series is to raise awareness about how transportation is and is not working for this region, the social and climate impacts of our current system, and possible solutions.

If you have a story about transportation that should be told, please contact editor Pieta Woolley, at pieta.woolley@gmail.com, or 604-485-0003.



**NOT AS PICTURED IN THE TOURIST GUIDES:** The wait at Earl's Cove can stretch far up the highway. Ferry trouble is impacting tourism.

# Ferries frustrate tourists – but they're still lining up

BY PIETA WOOLLEY | LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

So far this summer, 18 guests have cancelled their accommodations at the Old Courthouse Inn, due to problems with BC Ferries.

“It would have been many more, but I talked a lot of them down,” explained Kelly Belanger, who has owned the Inn for 11 years, and says he has never seen a summer like this before – featuring unpredictable ferry overloads and cancellations.

“Most guests just look at the chaos as it’s being reported on the news, and believe they won’t be able to get here, so they call to cancel. I tell them, ‘No, actually, ferries are usually reliable. Get there two



**A CALMING VOICE:** Kelly Belanger, owner of the Old Courthouse Inn, says guests call him panicking about BC Ferries.

hours before your sailing and you’ll probably get on.’  
“That said, some guests arrive and tell me it took them 12 hours to get up here [from Vancouver]. They come in tired and frustrated. Some say, ‘I don’t know how you can live up here.’”

This year’s tourism season is busy enough that Kelly’s rooms are easily filled by other travellers. But Kelly is concerned that the qathet region is developing a bad rap as a tourism destination, due to ferry frustration. And, that many of the travellers he sees are not tourists at all; they’re professionals who stay with him while they decide whether they want to move here.

He also noted that he often travels to Vancouver Island for business. Over the past few months, he said, he’s been stuck in Comox when both the 3:30 pm and 7:30 pm sailings are cancelled. When



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**AS PICTURED:** Travellers enjoy the extraordinary view on the Earl Cove-Saltery Bay ferry, a sailing of 50 minutes which was cancelled six times in April to June – and an unknown number of times this summer.



**Rachel Blaney, MP**

4683 Marine Ave  
604 489 2286  
[Rachel.Blaney@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Rachel.Blaney@parl.gc.ca)

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**Nicholas Simons, MLA**

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604 485 1249  
[Nicholas.Simons.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:Nicholas.Simons.MLA@leg.bc.ca)



that happens, he has to call in staff to run the Inn in his absence.

Kelly says the good news is, once travellers get here, they usually have such a wonderful time, they'll forgive the ferries.

"By the second day, they're usually so happy and filled with love and have experienced so much friendliness from the community. We keep our tourists because the people here are super."

We must be really friendly, because the ferry frustration is real (see sidebar, right).

And, we better keep our happy faces on, because tourism has become a core part of the post-mill economy here. The industry includes accommodation such as the Old Courthouse Inn, restaurants and pubs, retail, adventures such as scuba diving, kayaking, golf, fishing, and more.

**It's hard to tell exactly** how much impact BC Ferries is having on tourism, according to Annie Wise, the executive Director of Sunshine Coast Tourism. In part, that's because so many more people are travelling here for the first time-

"We count 2019 as our baseline year, and it was the best year ever for hotel room revenues," she said. "That year, Sunshine Coast accommodations took in about \$27 million in revenue. In 2020 that declined, of course, due to COVID. But 2021 saw revenues 44% over 2019's, and 2022 was up 78%, to \$48 million.

"So far, 2023 looks to be down about 3% from last year. But those have been huge, huge increases which can't go on forever. This is just a little softening."

Around the world, she said, urban centres have

lost tourists since COVID, whereas more rural recreation, mountain, and beach destinations are doing really well.

"I just want to be clear in acknowledging that transportation is a major experience of being a tourist on the coast," said Annie. "There have been significant challenges: overloads, delays, the reservations system, cancellations. This all happened in years past, and it's ongoing, if not worse. While the challenges are significant, the extensive media coverage on ferries is just as damaging. It seems like every couple of days there's a new story about challenges with the ferry. I wonder about the impact this kind of media coverage has on people's decisions on where to travel."

Sunshine Coast Tourism has written letters to the BC Ferries Commissioner, of course, and maintains a conversation with BC Ferries about the impact on tourism. The agency also released a blog May 29: "How to Make the Most of Ferry Wait," advising visitors to use that extra time to "Reconnect with your travel partners," "Go for a walk," or, to the point, "Simply relax."

"I know the expectation is that our organization should be asking BC Ferries for better service rather than telling visitors to manage their expectations. It's gotta be both. We do advocate to BC Ferries—we're on the ferry advisory committees for both ends of the Coast. But we can also help the visitors who are on vacation mode, who have extra time in their day, be prepared. It's a careful balance."

The test will be, will tourists return in these numbers next year, too? This is an "incredibly competitive time in destination marketing," Annie explained.







# Locals hosted and were hosted by the crew of the paper ship the *David Salman*

BY HELEN EVANS

The SS *David Salman* was within radio contact with Northland Navigation in Vancouver awaiting instructions as to its destination – Powell River or Port Alberni? The answer would determine its course.

My husband Chris Evans (formerly Mpaxevanis) worked on the *David Salman* for eight years, rising to the rank of second officer. It was his responsibility to supervise the loading of the huge newsprint rolls from the wharf into the bowels of the ship, heading for California, or occasionally to Japan or Hawaii.

The *David Salman* was under contract for this essential task, and without the numerous companies that provided this service over the years, the mill would not have functioned.

The crew consisted of Captain Petrie, whose family lived in Lund, and many other Swedes, a Danish Chief Steward, a German first officer, and my Greek husband.

Two Canadians had worked there also, Harry Olaussen, who ultimately worked in the Mill Steam plant and was our NDP MP in Ottawa for a while, and Pete Long, whose father Jack Long, was Fire Chief and chief Security Officer in the Mill. Jack Long and his wife Muriel welcomed their son's shipmate Chris into their family in Cranberry.

Another family, the MacIntoshes, Jim and Patsy, on Maple Avenue opened their home to the crew who were far from home. "Drop in anytime for a cup of tea and some homemade bread," was the standing invitation from Patsy, who introduced me to Chris, my husband.

The *David Salman* hosted many wonderful parties



attended by locals. I remember one particular party in December 1967; when Captain Petrie allowed the officers to host a party in his private dining room with its beautiful China and Swedish glassware. The Danish Chief Steward provided a sumptuous ban-

**CALIFORNIA, JAPAN, HAWAII:** An international crew sailed Powell River-made paper around the world – including Chris Evans, left (the author's husband). From Helen Evans' Personal Collection. Above, The *David Salman* docked at the wharf in Powell River, 1962.

Photo courtesy of the qathet Historical Museum & Archives

quet of many courses.

In true Swedish custom, each course was preceded by the toast *Skoal*, drunk with Aquavit. My husband and I didn't drink much, so the one glass lasted us throughout the meal. But it wasn't so with the other guests, whose glasses were topped up before each toast.

As the meal's six or seven courses were served, fewer and fewer people rose for the toasts, until just before the last one, my husband and I were the only ones standing. But revelry never resulted in dereliction of duty, and next morning everyone proceeded with the loading, after which the ship sailed off bound for San Diego.

In 1968 after the birth of our son, Andrew, my husband left the *David Salman* and went to the Navigation School in North Vancouver to get his Mate's ticket, after which he joined B.C Ferries and we moved to Nanaimo, severing our ties with the *David Salman*, but retaining so many memories of its connections with Powell River Mill. 🇺🇸

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# Prediction: Unpredictable.

## 1. Nice n' steady

July's sales volume stayed stable through July this year – a month when it normally dips. 33 homes sold here, compared to 20 in 2022, 51 in 2021 and 57 in 2020. Perhaps we can look forward to more smooth sailing ahead.

## 2. What in the heck?

Prices on single family residential homes were 16% higher in July 2023 in qathet, than in July 2022. The average sales price was \$796,336. That is happening in spite of ever-higher interest rates, that are supposed to be cooling the market.

## 3. Meanwhile, elsewhere...

The average price Canada-wide is forecast to be \$702,409 for 2023, nearly \$100,000 lower than here. The Canadian Real Estate Association thinks both sales and prices will increase in BC in 2024.

– PW



# Real Estate in qathet

# My life as a landlord

Based in qathet and Hawaii, landlord and developer Jennifer Salisbury is sharing her wisdom through a new podcast.

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

Jennifer Salisbury has heard it all during the 15 years she's been a landlord and now she wants to help new landlords and landlords who are in a pickle with what she's learned.

Earlier this year Jennifer launched a podcast called *My Life as a Landlord*. Beginning with "The Rules of a Landlord, Part I," the podcasts cover everything from screening potential tenants to collecting money to eviction notices to awkward conversations.

"Each episode addresses a problem," says Jennifer during an interview from her home in Powell River. She has recorded 33 episodes, with each episode drawing from one of five content buckets.

The podcasts look at issues from the perspective of a landlord, a tenant, a real estate developer, and a real estate investor. There are also podcasts featuring other Salisbury adventures.

The podcasts can be a game changer for new landlords as they can learn from her mistakes and avoid making the same ones.

"*My Life as a Landlord* is totally Powell River-centred; everyone who

is helping me is in Powell River even though it is global."

Jennifer's stepdaughter, "Little Jen (Salisbury)," did the photography and convinced her to do podcasts instead of a YouTube channel. Sydney Young, podcast coach, graphic and website designer, oversees the backend. "(Little) Jen has a real eye," says Jennifer, "and Sydney is incredibly experienced. She and her team have no problem working remotely."

Jennifer wanted to help people navigate the world of rentals and share some of what she has learned. "I knew I could help. We've had terrible experiences and we've had amazing experiences."

Through her podcasts, Jennifer hopes to empower others, so they don't find themselves in a pickle or, if they are, help them get out of it.

"There's a game to everything and you must know the rental game especially when dealing with money. When I started, I did not know the game and I stumbled through it like everyone else and it was terrible."

She says she has two listener sets, newbie landlords and pickle landlords.

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**MAKING IT HAPPEN:** In June, Jennifer and Michael Salisbury wrapped up construction on their 32-unit condo in South Maui. The couple also has a development permit for two 17-unit buildings here in qathet, on Fernwood Avenue. But they're waiting to break ground due to high interest rates.



"These are not age dependent," she said noting that pickle landlords are those who have gotten into a pickle and have no idea how to get out of it.

Jennifer says BC landlords need to read the BC Residential Tenancy Act. "It's like trying to play soccer and not knowing the rules of the game."

A rental coach, Jennifer also has a Doctorate in Education. She spends her time between the US and Powell River with her builder husband/creative financier Michael.

The couple have rental properties in Canada and the United States and Michael has built houses in Powell River, where he's lived for many years, and in

the US. Together they developed and built Paradise Ridge, a 32-unit multi-family condo in South Maui, Hawaii. They have a development permit for two-17-unit buildings for their property on Fernwood Avenue, but are waiting on that because of high interest rates.

Jennifer says it is more important now than ever that landlords – many are the mom-and-pop kind of landlords who might have one rental – educate themselves because of the changing landscape.

## Northern Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting & Community Drop-in



Delivering the best service to coastal communities, means knowing what is important to those who live, work and play in them each day. Drop by our open house to chat with our team about the topics most important to you.

**Date:** Thursday, September 21, 2023  
**Time:** 3:00 pm - 5:30 pm (FAC Meeting)  
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm (Community Drop-in)  
**Location:** Powell River Town Centre, 4660 Joyce Avenue

A Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting will be held prior to the community drop-in. Members of the public are welcome to attend and observe the meeting. For more information on the agenda or speaking opportunities, or to receive the link to attend the FAC meeting virtually, please contact your FAC Chair: [k.bartonbridges@gmail.com](mailto:k.bartonbridges@gmail.com)

Visit your online community page to provide us with questions, comments and ideas at: [bcferriesprojects.ca/powell-river](http://bcferriesprojects.ca/powell-river) or [bcferriesprojects.ca/texada-island](http://bcferriesprojects.ca/texada-island)

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## Italian Day

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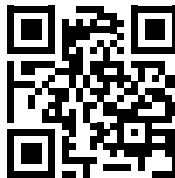
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## Jennifer's Life as a Landlord

The podcast *My Life as a Landlord* is available for free on both Apple and Android, (at 20 minutes it's the perfect length to listen to in the ferry lineup). Jennifer Salisbury has also made the tenancy application she uses for their company Westcoast Endeavors, available for free on her website, [mylifeasalandlord.com](http://mylifeasalandlord.com).



Although *My Life as a Landlord* podcasts are free, listeners will soon be able to take a deep dive into tricky issues by becoming monthly or annual subscribers.

"We're working on a paid area for enriched content," said Jennifer. This section contains one-hour podcasts that visit topics in depth. Customizable PDFs for different agreements will be available, as will forum discussions with coaching options.

"My podcast is unique because it's not based in just one location - it's the US and Canada in general," says Jennifer.

**LEARNING LANDLORDING:** Jennifer Salisbury records an episode of *My Life as a Landlord*, about her experiences renting to tenants and maintaining properties. The photo was taken at 32 Lakes Cafe and Bakery, by Jennifer Dean Photography.

"We are about to have the greatest transfer of wealth the world has ever known," she says, noting that baby boomers are set to pass to their children more than \$68 trillion in personal wealth. Some people are inheriting real estate or rentals and those rentals may be in another province. They have little or no business experience, no background in being a landlord or in the housing market in general. So, they stumble through it and hope for the best.

"Then they do it all wrong and the house gets trashed or burned to the ground or even worse, the tenants do not pay rent and they can't get them out. That is happening right here in Powell River; I know of two nightmare scenarios happening here right now," she says.

On the flip side, Jennifer says, imagine how a tenant feels when their landlord dies. "They wonder what

will happen to where they live. Will they be evicted because it's sold? Will there be a rent increase?"

In BC, the annual rent increase allowed is currently 2% per year, but in some provinces or states, rent can be raised to market value.

For landlords, it starts with screening.

"There are two times a landlord gets nervous; trying to get the right tenants in and trying to get the wrong tenants out. If you screen your tenants properly, you will avoid renting to nightmare tenants. I've seen fake pay stubs, fake IDs and more. People will lie, you must check their references."

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Austyn is an incredible realtor. My husband and I were blown away by her professionalism and authenticity.

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Thanks Austyn.

- Mel H



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BY PIETA WOOLLEY  
A lightbulb went off for Susan Jurek, when she travelled through Kamloops with a close friend who used a wheelchair. This was the 1980s, and she had a simple wish: to see the Inland Lake. Jurek and her friend, who was a wheelchair user, were told that the trail was not accessible. Jurek was determined to see the trail, and she and her friend went on a journey to make it happen. Jurek and her friend went on a journey to make it happen. Jurek and her friend went on a journey to make it happen.

# 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?

Accessibility for people with disabilities is a core government value. In 2019, the BC Government announced a new commitment to accessibility for people with disabilities. This commitment includes a goal to make the Inland Lake Trail accessible by 2024.

What does qathet offer people with disabilities?  
Inland Lake Trail was at the top of the list.

The trail has been a place of sensory celebration, socialization and exercise for many of the community's most vulnerable members. We have washed, biked, camped and had BBQs. We have enjoyed the view of the mountains and the sound of the water. We have enjoyed the trail.

Having a trail that is shaded and accessible makes it a great place for a walk and to relax. It is a place to enjoy the outdoors. It is a place to enjoy the outdoors. It is a place to enjoy the outdoors.

Accessibility for people with disabilities is a core government value. In 2019, the BC Government announced a new commitment to accessibility for people with disabilities. This commitment includes a goal to make the Inland Lake Trail accessible by 2024.

# Inland Lake Trail: BC Parks responds

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

In the August 2023 issue of *qL*, we ran a story about the poor state of the 13-kilometre-long trail around Inland Lake, which was once a destination for people with disabilities and others, and an amenity this region was proud of. BC Parks did not respond to our questions in time for the August issue. However, here are their responses in full:

I'm hoping to understand who is currently maintaining the 13-kilometre trail: the boardwalks, outflow, bridges, danger and fallen trees, and the trail itself. What are the terms of that contract?

**BC Parks** • The 13 kilometre trail is maintained by a contracted park operator. This contract has been put to bid every three to five years. A new company was successful in being awarded the contract and began operations at Inland Lake in spring 2023.

The park operator is responsible for general maintenance to the trail surface and drainage culverts, conducting repairs, and clearing debris. BC Parks, not the park operator, is responsible for the replacement of capital assets and infrastructure, such as the current project to replace the failed bridge at Inland Lake.

**Is BC Parks solely responsible for the trail? Is it a partnership?**

**BC Parks** • No partnership agreement exists for the Inland Lake trail. BC Parks would consider partnership opportunities to support trail maintenance.

**How much money has BC Parks spent on Inland Lake – the campground, the trail, and other, over the last 10 years? What were the biggest projects?**

**BC Parks** • The park operator contract includes both Salt-ery Bay and Inland Lake. The cost of that contract is split between those two parks. The park operator contract value is currently approx. \$100,000. This has increased significantly since 2017, when the value was approx. \$50,000. In 2017 the campground was reconstructed, some additional campsites were added, along with pit toilets, and

Since our story ran in the August issue, local action has already been taken to potentially claw back Inland Lake from BC Parks. qathet Regional District may ask to take control of Inland Lake – or a part of it. On August 23, qathet Regional District Area B Director Mark Gisborne told the Board he'll be

pitching this motion at September 6th's Committee of the Whole meeting: "THAT the Committee recommends the Board direct staff to provide a report on the procedure and feasibility of acquiring the Inland-Loon Lake Provincial Park to the Regional Parks Service."

some improvements to the road. The total spent in 16/17 and 17/18 was \$324,000.

**Most of the trail is currently inaccessible by wheelchair (it was originally built for accessibility). What were the terms about maintaining it to that standard, when BC Parks took on the area from Forestry?**

**BC Parks** • No formal agreement at the time of the transfer stipulated maintaining the trail to an accessible standard. BC Parks Purpose Statement for Inland Lake identifies the value of the accessible, barrier free trail. BC Parks Commitment to Inclusion reinforces our general commitment to increasing accessibility of our facilities wherever possible and BC Parks received a budget uplift of \$1.5m targeted at accelerating accessibility investments.

**Is there a plan, currently, to make the 13 kilometres accessible again? What is that plan?**

**BC Parks** • BC Parks has prioritized and is working diligently on the replacement of the bridge. Working through the necessary approval processes and consultations prior to construction will mean that the bridge will likely not be completed until late 2024. BC Parks recognizes the value of the accessible trail to the community and will be evaluating opportunities for future investments including the extent of accessible use. In order to ensure public safety BCP and the Park Operator will be:

- Removing the decking on either end of the bridge to prevent people being able to walk out onto it.
- Installing a semi-permanent barrier barring access to the bridge and directing folks to the trails re-route.
- Updating signage placed on new barrier with replacement timeline and brief description of project steps being taken.

Watch for more in the October *qL*!



# McGuffies contributed much more than monikers “Edgehill” and “McGuffie Creek”

BY LYNN SHERVILL

There isn't an official record, but a Powell River family which has a creek, a bridge, a hiking trail and a street named after it may also be responsible for naming (and populating) a whole area of the city known as Edgehill.

And it all began with ‘Grampa’ Robert McGuffie.

He was born in the Edgehill district of Liverpool, England in 1884, was married twice, and cared for 10 children.

There doesn't seem to be a record of when he immigrated to BC; he was here in 1907 when he married his first wife, Annie Furness (1878-1910) of Wellington, BC (near Nanaimo). She and Robert had two children before she died – just three years after they married.

Robert's second wife was Margaret (Nellie) Agnes Wallace (1881-1954) who was born in Kilmarnock, Scotland. Again, the record is not clear but suggests the remaining eight children joined those from Robert's first marriage to form a blended family of four boys and six girls, many of whom lived in the Edgehill district of Powell River for varying lengths of time.

There is also a strong connection between the family and Refuge Cove on West Redonda Island where Robert worked as a logger and fisherman before moving to Powell River. His sister, Mary McGuffie Bishop (1887-1953) also lived in the West Redonda Island community. Genealogical records suggest that at least five of the children were born there and the remains of two of them are buried there.

But the whole area off Manson Avenue between



**MCGUFFIES EVERYWHERE:** Patriarch Robert's eldest son Geoffrey Furness McGuffie worked at the Mill; middle child Jim Pringle McGuffie also served with the Canadian Navy in WWII. Top: many McGuffies are buried in the Cranberry cemetery. McGuffie Creek is named after the family. Left, Grampa Robert McGuffie's house.

Photos courtesy of the qathet

Historical Museum & Archives and Lynn Shervill

McGuffie Avenue and Armstrong Court, through which McGuffie Creek runs, became the family centre. In fact, Grampa Robert built houses there for several of the McGuffie children (it's also where he raised goats). Grampa Robert worked as a carpenter until his retirement from the Powell River Company mill).

The first house he built, the one he lived in until his passing in 1962, is now the home of one of his grandsons, Vern Thomas.

So, who were the McGuffie children and how did they fit into (or not) the fabric of Powell River?

The oldest was Geoffrey Furness McGuffie (1908-1982) who shared his middle name with a street in the community of Cranberry Lake and spent his working life at the mill. He was married twice, first to Norah Patricia Morgan (1907-1983) of Liverpool, England and then to her friend Faith Rowe (1916-2006) who owned Rowe's Jr. Style (clothing) Shop near the intersection of Marine Avenue and Alberni. The remains of Geoffrey, Norah and Patricia are buried in the Powell River Cemetery.

Betsy Elva Wallace McGuffie (1909-1993) married Les Jamieson in 1931. She worked as a hotel housekeeper and he as a butcher at Powell Stores (now Townsite Market). They lived in Cranberry and had two children, Lorraine and Allen. Lorraine operated Jay's Place Café on Marine Avenue.

Next comes George Robert McGuffie (1910-1990) who worked at the mill at one time and also owned a machine shop, Harbour Marine, near the ferry terminal. He moved to Australia and, according to a family friend, never came back.

Florence Mary McGuffie (1912-2001) was born in Victoria and worked at the old Powell River Hospital in the housekeeping department. Vern Thomas is her son.

Jack Wallace McGuffie (1913-1924), also known as John, was born in Victoria and died 11 years later at Refuge Cove. “He just got sicker and sicker,” according to one family member.

Ada Agnes Wallace McGuffie (1916-1995) married Hayden Swanson in Nanaimo and lived most of her life there.

James (Jim) Pringle McGuffie (1921-1996) was born in Refuge Cove and worked as a millwright for the Powell River Company. He served with the Royal Canadian Navy during WW2, earning the following commendation from one of his superiors:

*“Lads like Jimmie McGuffie ... kept Powell River colours at the masthead as convoy after convoy battled its way to the sorely pressed shores of the UK.”*

While in Halifax he met Eunice Yvonne (Bonnie) Maclean, known to family and friends as Auntie Bon. Her niece, Joan Robitaille, who lives in a house on Manson between McGuffie Avenue and Armstrong

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Court built by Grampa Robert, said Bonnie and James married and had three sons – Don, Ken and Jack.

Joan also said that James and Bonnie were responsible for bringing many members of the local Maclean family, such as herself and Bert and Marg Maclean of City Motors, to Powell River from Nova Scotia.

According to Joan, once James retired he and Bonnie looked after logging camps along the coast during seasonal shutdowns. James also built boats, among them *Nova Girl*, *Offspray* and *Get Away*.

Jennifer Elizabeth McGuffie (1919-2001) married Allan Ellerby, a belt maker at the mill. They had six children, one of whom was John Charles Ellerby (1951-2019) who worked as a paper maker at the mill for 48 years. His older brother, Robert William Ellerby, worked at the mill for 38 years and volunteered with the Powell River Fire Department for 10 years. He died in 2016.

According to genealogical records Margaret Helen (Peggy) McGuffie, the second youngest of the siblings, was born in Kamloops in 1918. One McGuffie family member said she spent most of her life somewhere in BC's interior. Kamloops seems likely as she was born there and because Annie Furness' sister, Katherine, from Saltspring Island, married, taught school and raised four boys there starting in 1901.

The youngest of the McGuffie children was Julia (1922-1993) who married Gordon Dykes (1915-2006) and had two daughters, Sandra and Judith. Julia played with Powell River's Rhythmettes baseball team in 1940 before joining the RCAF and being posted to an air base near Ottawa. She was discharged in 1945.

In a letter home she wrote: "Well here I am in the Air Force at Rockcliffe. When we arrived here the four of us from Powell River, Bette Parkin, Francis Haigh, Edith Taylor and myself all had our own ideas of sleeping in beds by each other. They changed all that. They sent us to bed in alphabetical order and I found a girl from the east beside me. Guess it will work out all right though. In the drill hall here, there is basketball, badminton, handball, indoor soft ball and every gym convenience. On Saturday night dances are held in the drill hall. There are 140 girls in our squadron, 19 from BC and four from Powell River."



**THE YOUNGEST OF THE 10 MCGUFFIE KIDS:** Julie McGuffie (front row, centre) played with the Powell River Rythmettes, before joining the RCAF. *Photo courtesy of the qathet Historical Museum & Archives*

Julia's daughter, Sandra Doreen Green, worked as a housekeeper at the Powell River Regional Hospital for 15 years.

All 10 of Grampa Robert's children are now dead, their remains in cemeteries from Refuge Cove on

West Redonda to Ross Bay in Victoria. Grampa Robert and his wife Margaret are buried in Powell River's Cranberry Cemetery, just a few blocks from McGuffie and Furness avenues and the area known as Edgehill. 🐾

# ZEST

Health Fitness Wellness

qathet Living's annual health and wellness magazine/directory, *ZEST*, will be published October 3. If you provide health or wellness services in Powell River or the surrounding area, you can get a free listing in this magazine. You can also purchase premium listings and advertisements starting at \$50. Contact Sean Percy (sean@prliving.ca) or Suzi Wiebe (suzi@prliving.ca) or call 604-485-0003 before **September 8**.

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# How to entice workers to your jobs

BY LANA CULLIS

The BC unemployment rate is the lowest it has ever been. However, many job seekers think there's a shortage of job opportunities:

The paradox may arise from disparities between job *satisfaction* and the *perception* of desirable jobs available in the labour market.

A key employment factor determining job satisfaction is whether or not a worker is getting the number of hours expected at their job, be it part-time or full-time. One's point of view (as an employee or employer) is key.

Some business owners create two part-time positions rather than one full-time position because they do not see how diverse tasks could be managed by one full-time employee. For example, one local retailer contracts out social media and website updates. Often considerable financial resources are allocated to developing a website,

## Making Work Work

This is the last installment 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.

## What jobs are offered on the Work BC Community Jobs Board for the qathet region?

As of August 24, there were:

- 83 jobs listed
  - 24 of them were part time
  - 29 of them were full time
  - 20 of them were listed as either part or full time
  - 8 were casual
  - 45 of them had wages or salaries listed
  - 38 jobs had no wages or salaries listed
  - 14 jobs offered both full-time hours and a clear wage (many of them required degrees)
- 14 of the 83 jobs offered wages \$25 or over
  - Most jobs with wages offered were close to minimum wage (\$16.75 per hour) or in the \$20 to \$24 range -PW



but then the site languishes and fails to attract new customers or clients.

Meanwhile, their tech-adept retail staff are under-utilized during slow periods during the business day and resent feeling pressured to "look busy" despite not having enough work to do.

Assigning social media updates during slow periods to in-house staff has the potential to ensure updates happen swiftly, content is highly relevant, and posts reflect real-time business activities. Photos with customers, or photos of new products can easily be captured and posted.

**Bait and switch**—many employees cite being interviewed for a full-time position, only to discover that once hired, there are limited hours and shifts available. Such behaviour causes employees to distrust management and often leads to the employee quitting when they otherwise would have stayed with a company.

With the cost of housing being highly disproportionate to earned income, the majority of employees simply cannot survive on part-time hours.

**Returning seasonal workers** who displace hours assigned to permanent employees: for example, university students returning for the summer to previous work sites, only to leave again in the fall. Employees who stick it out in the "off-season" are loathe to have their hours cut by former employees swooping in to scoop limited available hours. Employers misjudge the consequences of such practices and ought to utilize former staff only if doing so does not compromise permanent staff.

**Quiet firing** is an unfortunate trend that occurs when employers fail to address work performance issues directly and slowly remove shifts from an employee without explanation. Often the

The majority of employees simply cannot survive on part-time hours.

first sign is being reduced from full-time to part-time hours.

Quiet firing happens more often in businesses that do not have written job descriptions, policies or employee handbooks. Employees who fail to intuit the scope of their job may be viewed poorly (even lazy) and may be denied the opportunity to improve.

Quiet firing is easily observable by remaining staff, which negatively impacts work culture, employee loyalty, and ultimately retention.

According to a recent Canadian Survey, the top five reasons people quit their jobs are 1) Insufficient pay or unfair pay practices 2) Lack of honesty/integrity/ethics 3) Lack of trust in senior leaders 4) Lack of work-life balance 5) Unhealthy/Undesirable culture.

Job seekers may fear expressing their needs upfront (like for full-time hours, or for a set schedule) because they worry it will deter employers from making an offer of employment. The employer, not aware of the *unvoiced needs*, may inadvertently create working conditions that are not sustainable for the new employee. Sharing why something is non-negotiable is important, for example, part-time hours that support college attendance, or part-time hours to accommodate a health condition. And it is true, sharing needs upfront may result in not being hired—but then the job seeker is free to pursue employment settings that are a better long-term fit.

**Utilizing set schedules** is sometimes dismissed by employers because they

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### Most people who work, work full time.

Nationally, in 2022, 81.8% of those employed were in full time positions. (Census Canada)

Provincially, in 2022 79.2% of those employed were in full time positions. (Census Canada)

186 full-time job openings listed on Indeed for Powell River (August 20, 2023)

87 part-time job openings listed on Indeed for Powell River (August 20, 2023)

Employment is at a record high in BC and the unemployment rate is near a historical low (Work BC)

do not want to appear unreasonable to their employees. However, set schedules offer stability, predictability, and aid with planning staff time off requests.

Having a set schedule allows part-time employees with more than one job to meet the needs of both employers without conflict, and without feeling like they are juggling their jobs. Set schedules may minimize requests for switching shifts amongst staff. Employers may in fact overestimate the value employees place on flexibility.

Employees are stressed when worrying about disappointing one, or both employers, due to being unable to accept shifts without conflict.

One local coffee shop manager adjusted a regular day shift to start one hour earlier so that the employee could be off shift by 4:30 pm to start their other part-time job at a neighbouring restaurant by 5 pm. Reducing employee anxiety often has the side benefit of increasing productivity.

Sometimes employers restrict hours because they overestimate money saved on paying for statutory holiday pay. Stat holiday pay is paid only if a worker has been in their position for at least 30 days, and has earned wages, paid vacation days or other statutory holiday pay, a minimum of 15 out of the 30 days before a stat holiday.

However, employers consistently underestimate the cost of staff turnover due to staff being under-employed and/or feeling undervalued.

In smaller communities like Powell River, employers may also underestimate the leverage word-of-mouth holds to either positively or negatively influence consumer decision making,

In smaller communities like Powell River, employers may also underestimate the leverage word-of-mouth holds to either positively or negatively influence consumer decision making as in "I won't shop there, they treat their employees poorly".

as in "I won't shop there, they treat their employees poorly."

Employers may not have a clear system for time off requests from part-time and full-time employees. And the employer may inadvertently favour certain employees causing resentment among others. Sometimes the assumption is made that part-time employees "don't need the break."

There are clear provincial guidelines, for accruing and paying holiday time, that can be shared with staff to make decision-making less personal and more predictable.

Automatized software exists (like Payworks) for employee scheduling, time off requests, and sick days. Some apps have the capacity to do automatized phone alerts for shift start times and serve to decrease tardiness and no-shows for shifts.

The apps can notify the whole staff when shifts become available due to sick time or holidays; allowing part-timers to pick up shifts, and full-time employees to trust their coworkers are given the option to cover shifts in a fair and consistent manner.

The good news is, there are many ways to settle conflicts and identify strengths regarding part-time and full-time roles at your work site. Employees and employers can become informed and contribute to job retention, vibrant workplace culture and fair practices. 🐾



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# The Pacer and The Logging Arch

BY CLANCY DENNEHY

*Lund Street* • Driving the switchbacks leading up into Wildwood, you will see a 1970s AMC Pacer and a 1940s

era Logging Arch—at rest in the field. This odd couple were both superstars back in the day when logs were large and cars were orange.

Edna and Don Carto are the collectors and caretakers—the jellybean like Pacer was a ‘gift’... “Don’s a retired logger and he likes

old cars,” says Edna. “We had four donkeys that roamed that hillside for years, but now its Don’s junk... watch out for the bear!” 🐻

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## MAIL BAG

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

## Inland Lake Trail still a hot mess

Dear Editor,

I really hate to beat a dead horse here, but BC Parks appears to be intentionally letting the Inland Lake Park fall into ruin [August 2023, Page 6].

One would suspect that there is an ulterior motive here: perhaps let the park become so dilapidated that the government can decommission the park and allow the loggers to get in there and properly rape the almost mature forest standing around the lake.

Right now that Inland Lake Trail is really only appropriate for the healthy young fit people who are challenging the Sunshine Coast Trail: that “detour” BC Parks has mapped out to bypass the bridge is really quite rugged and completely inappropriate for a trail that is meant to be all-inclusive.

– Dr. Bryce Fleming

## Clogs are still a mystery

Dear Editor,

First of all, the clogs/shoes which were the subject of the little story in the August issue of *qathet Living* [Page 32] are now in the Bata Shoe Museum. They refer to them as clogs, not shoes because of the wooden sole, which makes sense.

I have asked them to let me know any more information they can provide.

I was contacted by the lady who donated the Clogs to the Economy Shop and she told me they had been in her Mother’s china cabinet for years and she didn’t know where they came from. She wasn’t sure if it was her Mom or Dad who had acquired them. So the little write-up achieved what I hoped it would, but we are no closer to finding their origin. She was happy to hear they are in the Museum. She wasn’t sure what to do with them.

If I hear any more information, I will let you know.

Thanks for your help in getting that story out to your readers.

Sue McCallum



**SEE WHO WAS AT SEA FAIR:** Rose Mitchell, Jeannie Dominick and Wayne Pielie at the first Sea Fair in 1963. Photo courtesy of the qathet Museum & Archives

## Who’s in the kitchen at Sea Fair?

Editor’s Note:

In the August 2023 issue of *qL*, we ran a story from the qathet Museum & Archives’ Carolyn Smith about the 60th anniversary of the first Sea Fair festival. Sadly, the names of the people featured in the images were missing.

Betty Wilson reached out to us with this note:

“The little boy next to Rose Mitchell is her grandson Wayne Pielie, who has since passed. Wayne’s wife agrees that is him. Wayne was a language teacher at Brooks. Rose Mitchell and Jeannie Dominick are cutting fish.”

This issue contains the last Blast from the Past to be written by Carolyn, who has been writing it for the past several months. She has now left for Halifax, where she will be taking a Masters degree. 📖

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# WHAT'S UP

## Bear scares

There's been an uptick in human and bear interactions with more aggressive bear reports being called into the Powell RCMP than in past years.

On August 22, a bear ambled onto a field at Haywire Bay. Children who were part of a day camp and were playing on that field ran away, but a five-year-old child tripped and fell. The bear went on top of the child, but was quickly scared away by camp counsellors, according to a press release issued by Conservation Officers. The child did not require medical attention.

The following day Conservation Officers destroyed a black bear that matched the description of the bear from the day before after it began approaching the officers.

Haywire Bay Campground and part of the Sunshine Coast Trail were closed while conservation officers dealt with the situation.

This was the second bear destroyed by the Conservation Service last month. On August 16, the trail network from Wildwood Bridge (Switchback) to Gibsons Beach was closed due to aggressive bear concerns.

RCMP Staff Sgt Rob Wiebe says it's a bizarre year for bear behaviour. "Usually, they're gone by the time we get there, but this year they have been aggressive."

RCMP dealt with an aggressive bear in the Sunshine Coast trail north of town and had to escort a woman off the trail. That bear was not harmed.

The qathet Regional District (qRD) is home to an abundance of wildlife, said Clay Brander, qRD Regional Board Chair. Bears are attracted by human food, fruit trees and garbage and often wander onto property near homes in the district and City.

You can help keep bears away from your home by removing any bear-attracting food sources. Do not leave pet food outside, store garbage in a secure enclosure such as a shed or garage until pick up day, put trash out on the morning that it will be collected, and freeze pungent waste until pick up day.

## Outrigger Paddlers win at Worlds

Congratulations are in order for several local outrigger canoe athletes following their impressive wins at the world championships last month.

The Suncoast Paddlers crew, which includes qathet residents Sue Hanson, Sue Milligan, Helen Robinson, Lynnette Mangan, as well as Ruth Matson of Nanaimo and Sue Humphries of Ontario, won Gold in the Women's 75 plus race at the 2023 International Va'a Federation World Distance Championships which was held between August 10 and 19 in Samoa.

The race required the team to paddle over 16 kilometres of open ocean with strong swells yet the Canadian team led from the start of the race until the finish.

The six women from qathet finished with a time of one hour and fifty minutes which was 20 minutes ahead of the second place Hawaii team.

Meanwhile, qathet resident Jim Underwood was a member of a composite Canadian crew that won a Bronze medal in the men's 60 plus race, held over



24 kms of open ocean. Canada finished with a time of two hours, five minutes just one minute behind Hawaii, the silver medal winner and four minutes behind Australia, the gold medal winner.

The gold medal win isn't the first for many of the women on this team. In 2018, the crew won the gold in the Masters 70 plus division and silver in another race when the World Outrigger Sprint Championships were held in Tahiti. They also won gold in 2022 when the worlds were held in London.



## Lifejackets on Texada

Thanks to the Kids Don't Float program lifejackets are available for children to borrow on Texada Island. With stations at Shelter Point Park and the Texada Boat Club in Van Anda, loaner lifejackets are available at stations near the water.

This program of the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSAR) was launched in an effort to reduce the fatality rate and increase public awareness of child drowning issues.

RCMP Constable Micha Yakonowsky noted that in addition to the RCMSAR 59 Deep Bay, Texada RCMP, qathet Regional District, the Texada Boat Club were involved in this project. The Western Group Insurance Company covered the installation material costs for both sites.



**SUMMER SCHOOL:** Artist Monique Labusch with student Lydia Demuth.

## Mentorship at Tidal Art Centre

This past spring we had the pleasure of attending Prashant Miranda's gallery opening at Lund's Tidal Art Centre. Besides being mesmerized and enchanted by Prashant's Pacificque installation, we learned of the Centre's artist's mentorship program.

Anticipating our granddaughters' summer visit, we made an inquiry with Tidal Art about the possibility of having our eldest granddaughter, Lydia, participate. We contacted Tidal Art's Stefanie Dueck through their website, and it was not long after Lydia filled in an application and therein expressing her interests in art, that the ball started rolling.

Low and behold Lydia, whose interests lay in landscape ("not realism, grandpa!"), was matched up with Lund's venerable landscape painter Monique Labusch. The mentorship program accommodates activities at the Tidal Art Centre, the mentor's studio or in the protegee's space, and is supported through generous donations to Tidal Arts by appreciative people close and far.

Since Lydia was staying aboard Nana's and "Lito's" motor vessel "Seadrus" moored to the Finn Bay float, it was an easy row over to Tidal Art Centre's foreshore – and from there the magic began.

Monique's warm personality, sense of colour, experimentation and fun, soon brought out the same manner and confidence in Lydia's approach to landscape. Lydia is now back in Ontario with her parents, and we have a whole lot of art work to take to the Post Office to ship east as Lydia prepares her application and portfolio for an Arts oriented High School program.

We are most grateful to Tidal Arts Centre for the opportunity extended to Lydia, to Monique for her generous contribution of time and spirit, and to Lydia for exerting herself in a way that makes us and her little sister Annabelle proud.

Margaret and Mike Demuth



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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.**

ʔimot t<sup>θ</sup> kʷʊnanapɛ I'm happy to see you all

hɛkʷčɛ θ tawa Where are you from?

čɛčɛhatanapɛč I welcome you all

tʰisɔsəm The name of the current village site

ʔɛmaxʷi gə Goodbye

**ʔayʔajuθəm orthography**

ʔəʔamɛn | kómoks | χʷɛmaʔkʷu | & 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](https://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
čʰ	popping c
ʝ	dg
k̠	popping k
kʷ	kw
k̠ʷ	rounded, popping k
ɬ	Breathy L sound
p̠	popping p
q̠	popping q

qʷ	rounded q
q̠ʷ	rounded, popping q
š	sh
t̠	popping t
t <sup>θ</sup>	t-th
t̠ <sup>θ</sup>	Popping t-th
θ	th
xʷ	wh (like in who)
χ	Hhhh
χʷ	Hhhhwh
χ̠	tl
χ̠ʷ	popping tl
ʔ	glottal stop: uh oh



**Investing in the community**

Grants from the Community Forest Reserve Fund



Deadline to submit new applications (or updates to existing applications) for Fall 2023 grants extended to **September 11, 2023**

More info on the process to apply and our evaluation criteria:

[www.prcommunityforest.ca](https://www.prcommunityforest.ca)



## | MADE THE MOVE

# New lawyer puts down roots

**W**arren Peters is a recent law school graduate who moved here at the beginning of July to start work with Villani & Co. He's an enthusiast of music, especially classical music, and he plays the piano and the cello. He also has a hobby interest in architecture, and he likely would have become an architect "if I had any ability at visual art and spatial awareness." Warren's undergrad degree is in history and politics, which are two other subjects you will often find him reading up on.

### Why did you choose to move here?

**Warren** • I moved to qathet to start work as an articling student. My father's hometown is Gibsons, and he recently returned there after retiring. My grandparents live there as well. I was looking to settle down somewhere close to family, and so I looked into options around the Sunshine Coast.

### Where are you from?

**Warren** • Prior to moving here I was in Fredericton, New Brunswick where I completed my law degree at the University of New Brunswick. Previous to that I had lived in Ottawa, but lived for most of my childhood in Nova Scotia. I also spent a lot of time in British Columbia growing up, and it's always had a certain calling to me.

### What surprised you once you moved here?

**Warren** • I was surprised by how easy it is to settle into a more isolated living situa-

tion. People around here tend to stay put, and I can understand the sentiment. The occasional day/weekend trip to the city is an adventure, and the upside of the isolation is a tightknit community that has all the amenities you need.

### Where is your favourite place here?

**Warren** • My favourite place in qathet hands down is the top of Valentine Mountain. It's a short (though does get my breathing up close to the top) hike that rewards you with an incredible view of the Townsite, Powell Lake, and the Strait of Georgia.

### How did you first hear about qathet?

**Warren** • I spent many summers visiting the Lower Sunshine Coast, but in those days I never ventured up the road further than Egmont. It was only when I was researching law firms that I really started to learn about Powell River and qathet.

### What would make qathet a nicer community?

**Warren** • For its size and location I think you have everything you could possibly need. My only nitpick is that Westview might be improved with a better sense of cohesive architecture and landscaping, like what makes Townsite so nice.

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

**Warren** • Fredericton, being a larger city with multiple post-secondary institutions,



**TUNED IN:** Warren Peters already has his finger on the pulse of two local truths: Valentine Mountain is spectacular, and the future of the mill site is critical.

has a significant young adult population. While Powell River is limited by its size and location, having more younger people around might make for a more vibrant social scene.

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

**Warren** • Like anywhere right now, housing is a big struggle. I was very fortunate to find a good apartment.

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

**Warren** • I know plans are in the works already, but repurposing the former mill into a new economic driver for the community, ideally in collaboration with the Tla'amin Nation, would be a major priority.

Affordable housing, which again I know is certainly on the radar of current leadership, would be another big area to work towards improving.

### What are qathet's best assets?

**Warren** • The abundance of beautiful wilderness is something we should be thankful for and for which we should be good stewards.

### What is your greatest extravagance?

**Warren** • I don't tend to spend frivolously on much. One thing I probably do spend more on than I should is fast food / junk food. I didn't used to care much about food in general, but I recently had jaw surgery and went through several weeks of eating everything out of a blender, and ever since then, biting into a burger or slice of pizza has been a luxury I no longer take for granted.

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

**Warren** • The ability to fly – it would be incredibly fun and useful. 🦸

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## New counsellor

**qathet Counselling** is a new service from **Davis Briscoe**, who has been working at Sunshine Coast Health Centre since 2007, but started private practice a year ago. Now he has moved into a space on Marine Avenue across from Costa Del Sol, sharing space with the barber and acupuncturist at 4585 Marine Avenue. Davis specializes in somatic psychotherapy, grief and trauma support. Somatic Therapy is different than traditional talk therapy – this approach acknowledges that the body holds both trauma and healing wisdom, which can be accessed through this form of counselling. He also is trained in psychedelic integration and support. Davis is still contracting one day a week at the health centre. He has worked six years as a counsellor and was a sober recovery coach prior to that, so has been supporting clients through grief, trauma and personal growth for over 15 years. You can reach Davis via email at [davisbriscoe@gmail.com](mailto:davisbriscoe@gmail.com) or text 604-223-4039. You can also find him on his [psychologytoday.com](https://psychologytoday.com) profile.

## City has new CAO

The **City of Powell River** has a new top bureaucrat. **Lisa Bhopalsingh** was appointed the new chief administrative officer last month. Originally from Trinidad, Lisa obtained her undergraduate and master's degrees from Oxford University and went on to complete a Master's of Community and Regional Planning from the University of British Columbia. Most recently, she was at the City of Nanaimo as director of community development, where she led that city's long-range planning, and worked on reconciliation, sustainability, affordable housing, and neighbourhood and heritage planning. She has also worked for the provincial government, several First Nations on Vancouver Island, and the District of Lillooet.

"We look forward to her leading our staff and helping capture opportunities to increase housing and attract proven industry to the mill site. Her expertise in planning is a great asset to help make this happen," said Mayor **Ron Woznow**.

## Image 1 changes heads

The sister team of **Carly Tait** and **Victoria Fougere** are the new owners of **Image 1 Salon and Spa**. **Anne Roberts** and **Shannon Stevens** have owned and operated the salon for a couple of decades. The salon has been in Crossroads Village since 2004, when Shannon joined, and was in the mall before that. Anne has been an owner since the early 90s.

Carly has been a stylist with Image 1 since 2017. Victoria is a certified esthetician and spa therapist with her own business, Victoria Rose Esthetics, but is switching to work out of Image 1. The two say taking over the salon was in large part due to the encouragement from Anne and Shannon. "They suggested we would be a good team to run it," said Carly. "And when we sat down and looked at it, we agreed." Image 1 has been a prominent and long-standing business, said Carly, and she and Victoria want to maintain that and bring the level of customer service back to pre-COVID levels. "We just want to continue to serve the community the same way Anne and Shannon have been doing for the past 30 years, with a little update."



## BUSINESS AFFAIRS

SEAN PERCY

While Shannon is now retired, Anne is staying on to work and mentor the new owners until next spring, when she will celebrate her 40th year at Image 1. You can reach Image 1 at 604-485-9410.

## Youth & Family promotes from within

**Collette Sinkewicz** is stepping into the role of executive director at **Youth & Family Powell River** this month as Heather Gordon moves on to a new chapter, having moved to Gibsons. Collette brings many years of experience, a passion for serving the community's children, youth and families, and an already deep love for the Youth & Family team, having served there for 11 years.

## Mall to expand

The Town Centre is planning a 5,000 square foot expansion to accommodate a new major client. Plans have been presented to City Council to push out the east wall of the mall behind Warehouse One and the now closed Moose 'n' Eddie's, as well as narrow down the walkway in the centre of the mall. Drawings also call for a major refresh of the north entrance at the bus stop, and changes to east and west entrances. The drawings also propose new flooring, lighting and other cosmetic changes to the public mall areas.

## New fire chief

Powell River Fire Rescue has a new chief in **Martin Drakeley** from North Cowichan.

"Chief Drakeley has a lifelong commitment to protecting the communities he serves and having a positive impact," said Mayor Ron Woznow. "Council is excited about the insights, guidance and leadership that he will undoubtedly bring to Powell River Fire Rescue."

During his tenure as fire chief for the municipality of North Cowichan, Martin undertook the challenge of unifying four distinct fire departments into one.

Born in England and raised in Lantzville, BC, his fire service began in 1983 as a volunteer with the Lantzville Fire Department and then started his career service with the Nanaimo Fire Rescue Department as a firefighter dispatcher. He progressively rose through the ranks to Assistant Chief. Martin was appointed as Fire Chief Senior Manager of Bylaws for North Cowichan in 2019 until present.

"We extend our warmest welcome to his family: his wife Sandra, daughter Cassidy, and son Hunter; and we look forward to building meaningful connections with them as well," said the mayor.

## Latin grocer opens

Now that Iguana's Mexican Restaurant has settled into the former home of Paparazzi Pizza on Franklin Street where it moved this spring, the old Iguana's location is becoming Iguana's – again. The establishment of **Iguana's Latin Market** in the old restaurant

is part of Iguana's owner **Diana Rodriguez** dream, in partnership with **Blanca Treavor**, to offer authentic Mexican ingredients for you to use in cooking your own dishes. The market, at 7053 Glacier Street, offers fresh tortillas, to go items, and a variety of Latin grocery items. The commissary kitchen there is also for rent, and the owners are welcoming local cooks to display and sell their products.

## Tla'amin, qRD put strings on mill sale

**Tla'amin Nation** and **qathet Regional District** leaders say they're on the same page regarding what happens next for the mill site. On August 16, **Paper Excellence** announced it was permanently curtailing the Catalyst Paper tisk<sup>at</sup> mill. That announcement was no surprise, as it had been curtailed indefinitely in December 2021. The company's chief operating officer (and former mill manager) **Stew Gibson** said they were in conversations with potential buyers.

In a joint statement issued August 18, Tla'amin and the qRD said they oppose any sale that doesn't have the support of both governments. Tla'amin people were forcibly removed from tisk<sup>at</sup> in the late 1800s.

"Any future owner must fully understand and accept responsibility for ongoing environmental liabilities associated with the site, along with costly remediation and monitoring obligations. This is crucial to prevent a future bankruptcy or strategic abandonment of the property, as has happened recently with other former mills in British Columbia, requiring massive public spending to safely decommission and restore the site," the statement reads.

The mill has been "de-risked in terms of removing all major chemicals, fibre and fuels," said **Graham Kissack**, Paper Excellence's vice president of environment and corporate communications. Longer term environmental assessments are underway, he said.

Tla'amin Nation has made a specific claim to the tisk<sup>at</sup> site, a process that is underway with the federal government.

"We are planning for a dynamic set of economic activities at tisk<sup>at</sup>, including low carbon fuel production, value-added forest products, and land-based aquaculture – sustainable businesses that can benefit from the site's unique attributes, such as existing infrastructure, availability of local hydro power, open water access, and proximity to population centres," said Hegus **John Hackett** of the Tla'amin Nation.

"By requiring future site operators to prove they have the resources to maintain operations sustainably, our governments aim to prevent the mill site from becoming a financial and environmental liability for our community," said qRD board chair **Clay Brander**.

## Tiler makes pieces fit for qathet

Another of the Squamish escapees has brought an in-demand trade to qathet. **Gabriel Ritsema** moved to Lund this summer and brings with him his business, **RitsCraft**, offering tile installation and general interior renovations. Gabriel has been installing tile for eight years, and says he is "often niched into tile because I'm good at it and a lot of people are looking for a tiler and they're hard to come by. But I enjoy carpentry and other renovation work, too," he told *qL*. You can see examples of his work and learn more at [ritscraft.com](https://ritscraft.com). Email [gaberitsema@gmail.com](mailto:gaberitsema@gmail.com) or call or text 604-849-1242. **PL**





# 5 big September things

## Back to school

The region's 2,900 school-aged kids and teens head back to class this month – as do post-secondary students of all ages.

## Back to activities

Choir, hockey, square dancing, curling and knitting groups start up again in September – among much more. If you're still feeling anti-social due to the lingering effects of the Pandemic, the cure is probably joining something. See pages 21 to 26.

## Villa 50th celebration

qathet's Division 1 Soccer Club celebrates a half century with festivities and games September 8 to 10 at Timberlane. See Page 16 for more.

## Fall Fair

Who grew the best garlic in 2023? Whose chickens are the nicest? Find out at the annual Powell River Farmers Agricultural Institute Fall Fair. See the booklet inserted inside this month's qL.

## National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

This day remembering Canada's role in residential schools (and more) is September 30. That's a Saturday this year, so institutions that observe the day as a holiday, including schools, recognize it on Monday, October 2.

Colin Hagon and Pam Huber comprise Up The Creek. The duo plays occasionally at the Farmers' Market.

# September in qathet



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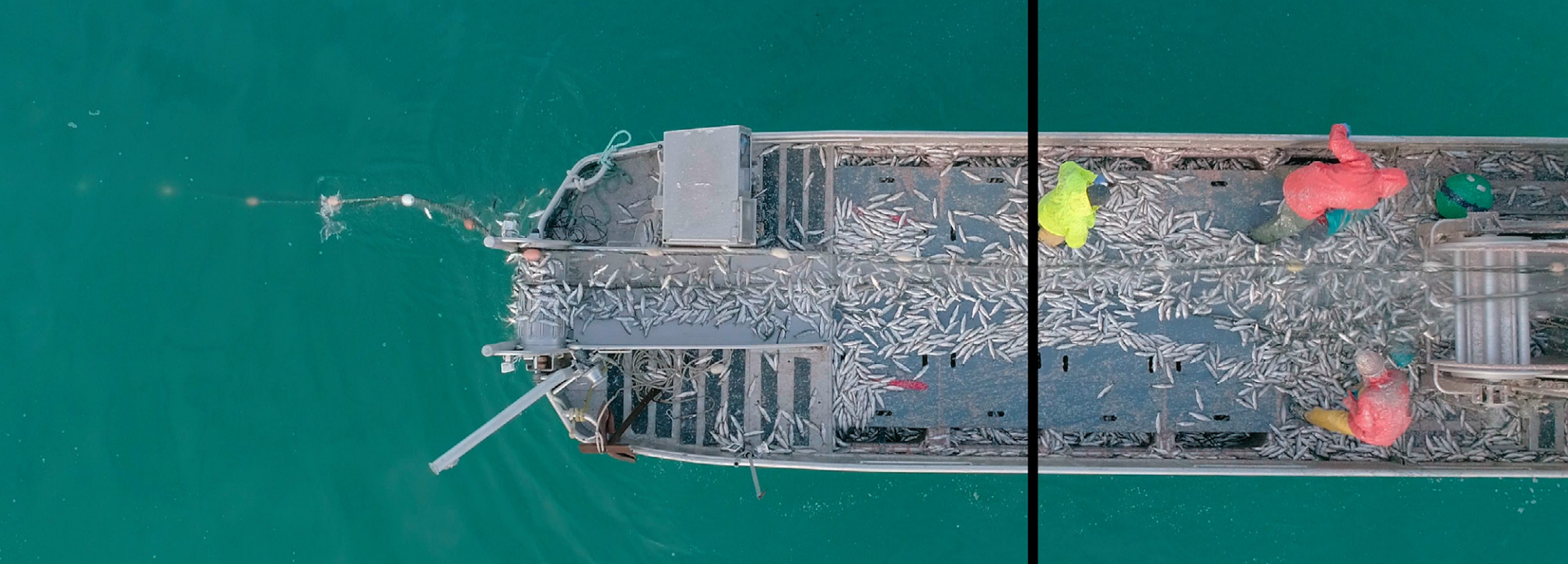
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## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

# 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

powellriversoccer.ca

### Film: Barbie

7 pm, The Patricia Theatre. A clever, poignant, phenomenally funny and thoroughly entertaining movie, *Barbie* has plenty to chew on in a candy-coloured confection!

### Guided Walk: qathet Museum

10:30 am. Enjoy good company, fun facts, and fresh air. Participation is free, but donations are encouraged. Meet at the Forestry Museum at Willingdon Beach.

### Powell River Farmers' Market

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

### Film: Barbie

7 pm, The Patricia Theatre.

# 3

Sunday

### Sunshine Music Festival

Palm Beach. [sunshinemusicfest.ca](http://sunshinemusicfest.ca)

### 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.

### Pig roast and fiesta in support of the Texada Firefighters

2 to 8 pm, Shelter Point Park. Mariachi Tobasco, Chella, Paula Zerpa. Whole roast pig, quesadillas, tacos, burgers and more.

### Film: Barbie

1:30 pm and 7 pm, The Patricia Theatre.

# 4

Monday

### Labour Day

Stat holiday.

### Film: Barbie

7 pm, The Patricia Theatre.

# 5

Tuesday

### Back to School

### Academy of Music Registration Week

9:30 to 4:30 pm daily through Friday. Private music lessons, choir for

all ages, preschool music and Dance. [Powellriveracademy.org](http://Powellriveracademy.org), or see ad on Page 21.

### Grief Walking Group

10 am at the Seawalk.

### Film: Barbie

7 pm, The Patricia Theatre.

# 6

Wednesday

### 7th annual Super Dave Rod Run / Toy Run

Meet at Aero Services parking lot at 6 pm. Fund-raiser for toys for children at Christmas. In memory of Dave "Super Dave" Pearson.

### Uptown Market

4 to 6 pm, CRC Parking Lot on Joyce.

### Film: Barbie

7 pm, The Patricia Theatre.

## Is Powell River friendly?

The answer depends on who you ask and what their experience has been. In our time, friendliness and even civility can't be taken for granted.

People can, so easily, get hot and bothered over any number of issues. Lately examples include vaccine mandates, the request for Powell River to get a new name and climate change. It's so easy to become convinced that we're right and people with differing views are wrong, as our social media feeds are designed to confirm our beliefs and trigger our emotions.

Some groups, like the Rotary Club for example, with its "Four Way Test" or the qathet Community Justice group, work to build positive relationships among people of differing cultures and views. Jan Slakov and Graham Welp-Ellis thought it would be good to organize something that would be accessible to just about everyone – a community picnic!

Simply by showing up, participants will show they want to be on good terms with others, even with those whose views may be quite different from theirs. The picnic is for anyone who loves our community and wants it to be welcoming, inclusive and healthy. **So set aside time on Saturday, September 9th, starting at 3:30 pm at Willingdon Park.** Bring your own picnic and maybe something to share. Mainly, bring your interest in meeting new people and exploring new perspectives.

If you have questions or suggestions, reach out to Graham Welp-Ellis 604-414-8048 or [janslakov@proton.me](mailto:janslakov@proton.me)

### A Thought For The Day

**"So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth."**



~ Bahá'í Teachings

## Lund Water Taxi



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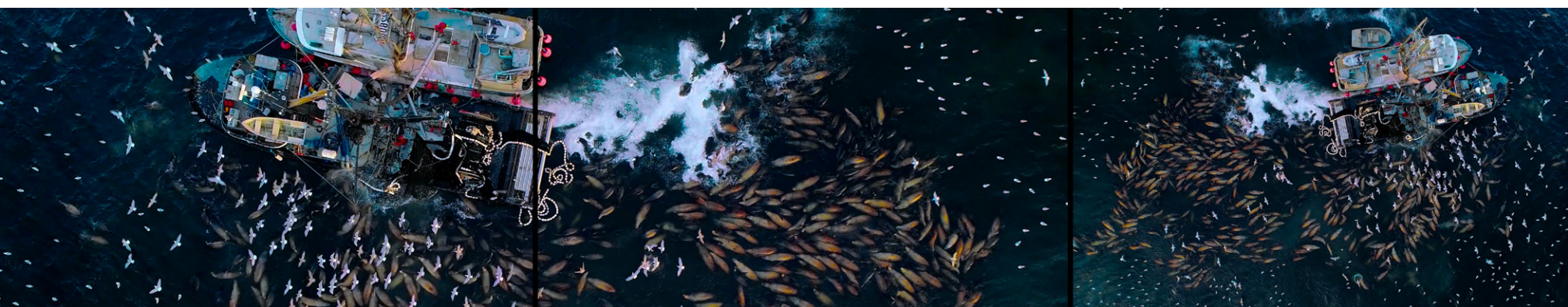
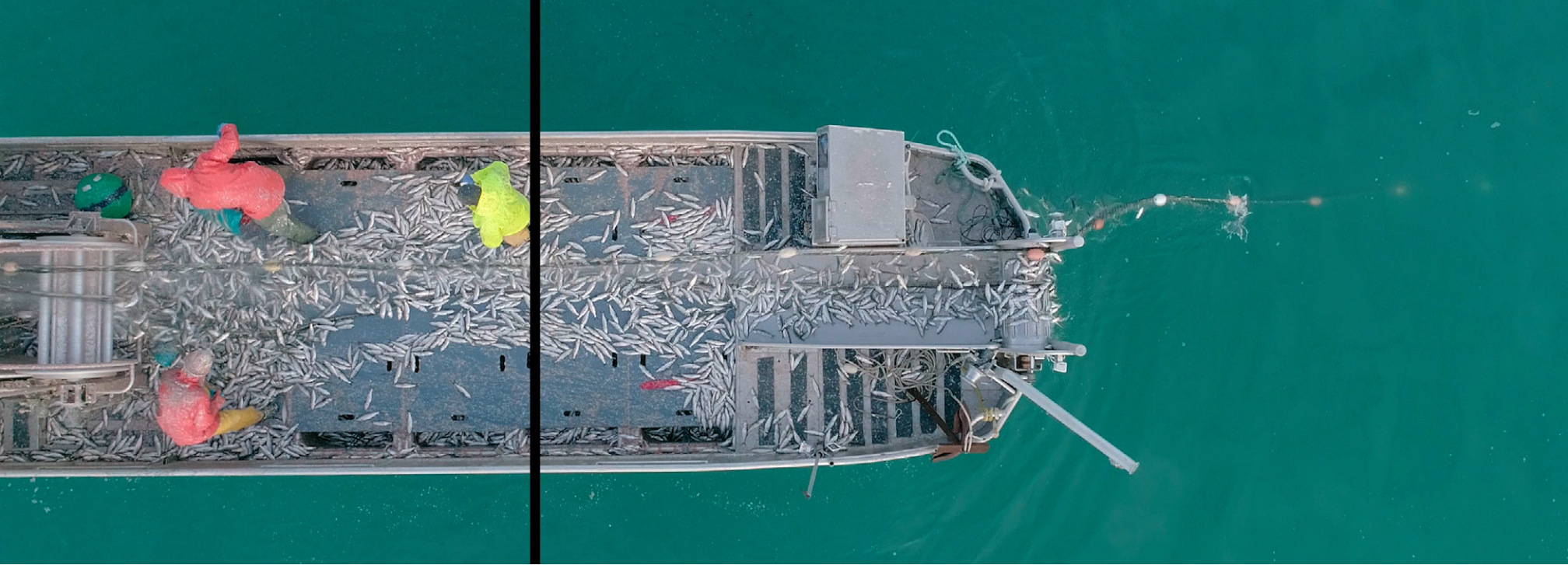
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**A COFFEE-BREAK LONG FILM, DOWNTOWN, WITH HERRING:** The top two images are stills from GO FISH, a 14-minute video triptych that takes viewers inside the annual herring migration – when hundreds of millions of herring return to the Salish Sea. It’s on at the qathet Art Centre (above the Library) September 9 to October 7. Right, director and producer Nettie Wild (Scott Smith is her co-creator).



604-414-8048 or janslakov@proton.me. See more on facing page.

**qathet Symphony Orchestra rehearsals resume**

10 – noon at Star Dusters Hall off Timberlane Ave. New musicians welcome on most orchestral instruments, especially cello, bassoon, oboe, French

horn. Ages 12 – adult, must have played for 2+ years and be able to read sheet music. Contact Kevin Wilson, musicdirector@qsorchestra.ca for more info. And see more on Page 22.

**Ladies Malaspina Golf Tournament**

Myrtle Point Golf Club

**7**

**Thursday**

**Fiberspace**

Returning after summer break. Thursdays weekly. 10 am – 2 pm – drop in. Everyone Welcome. at qathet Art Centre

**Film: Barbie**

7pm, The Patricia Theatre.

**8**

**Friday**

**Villa 50th Weekend Celebration begins**

See Page 16 for more.

**Film: Oppenheimer**

7pm, The Patricia Theatre.

**9**

**Saturday**

**Villa 50th Weekend Celebration**

11:30 am, Timberlane . Alumni game  
1pm, Timberlane. Villa vs Comox: Kick-off to the 50th season. \$5. Featuring bagpipes, hot dog stand, and much more.

**Powell River Farmers’ Market**

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

**Townsite Heritage Society’s Plein Air event**

Watch artists at work, purchase their artwork, and participate in other activities such as tours and workshops. Register townsitpleinair@gmail.com.

**Guided Walk: qathet Museum**

10:30 am. Enjoy good company, fun facts, and fresh air. Participation is free, but donations are encouraged. Meet at the Forestry Museum at Willingdon Beach.

**Picnic! Building Bridges Across What Can Divide Us**

3:30 pm Willingdon Park. Info: Graham:



Rob Villani



Stacey Fletcher



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**THE RAINFOREST LIKE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN (OR HEARD) IT:** All month at Crucible Gallery, experience contemporary music and modern art video of images gathered from the Sunshine Coast wilderness. See below.

**Art shows & DIY**

**September 1 to 30**

**Aya Velenz, 2033 Welcome to Future**  
Crucible Gallery, Townsite Market. Wednesday to Saturday 2-6. A multimedia exhibit of abstract expressions by ALtER Industries and McReid Music. Featuring contemporary music accompaniment by Jason Dionne, Darren Schoepp, Craig Townsend and Greg Reid. Resident Artist: Aya Velenz.

**September 9 – October 7**  
**GO FISH, Directed and Produced by Scott Smith and Nettie Wild.**

qathet Art Centre. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Saturdays - 10 am to 2 pm. A cinematic spectacle on three screens. GO FISH asks the question, if the herring set the table, who comes for dinner? See Page 40.  
qathetART.ca/go-fish

**September 1 to 22**

**Ron Bignell show: "Amongst the Trees"**  
Tidal Art Centre, Lund. Reception 5 to 7 pm, September 1. See Page 58.

**Sept 21 – Nov 23**

**Afterschool Art Program**  
Thursdays 3:30-5 pm. 10 sessions. Register at qathetART.ca

**Thursdays starting September 7**

**Fibrespace**  
Returning after summer break. Thursdays weekly. 10 am – 2 pm – drop in. Everyone Welcome. At qathet Art Centre

**September 6**

**Logo Design Contest opens**  
qathet Museum & Archives. See more in the ad below.

**Film: Oppenheimer**  
7 pm, The Patricia Theatre. Oppenheimer and a team of scientists spend years developing and designing the atomic bomb. Their work comes to fruition on July 16, 1945, as they witness the world's first nuclear explosion, forever changing the course of history.

flavoured double bill. Advance tickets available at Basecamp, TownSkate and at The Carlson Club downstairs at the back door. \$30 advance \$35 at the door. Age 19+ only - no minors.

**Ladies Malaspina Golf Tournament**  
Myrtle Point Golf Club

**Film: Oppenheimer**  
1:30 pm and 7 pm, The Patricia Theatre.

**10**

**Sunday**

**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) 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

**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.

**Graham Brown Band/Chris Andres Band.**  
7 pm, Carlson Community Club. Roots, Rock, Americana, Canadian, Country

**11**

**Monday**

**Community Forest Grant Application Deadline**  
See ad on Page 48.

**Pool, Hot Tub & Sauna reopen**  
Rec Complex facilities reopen from annual maintenance.

**Film: Oppenheimer**  
7 pm, The Patricia Theatre.

**12**

**Tuesday**

**Seniors Together**  
11:30 am to 1 pm, Cranberry Seniors Centre. Register through the Recreation Complex.

**Film: Oppenheimer**  
7 pm, The Patricia Theatre.

**13**

**Wednesday**

**Powell River Chorus Season Starting Rehearsal**

7:30 pm. Sing with the choir: no age limit, no auditions. Conductor Walter Martella. See ad on Page 21.

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

**Film: Oppenheimer**  
7 pm, The Patricia Theatre.

**14**

**Thursday**

**Fibrespace**  
Returning after summer break. Thursdays weekly. 10 am – 2 pm – drop in. Everyone Welcome. At qathet Art Centre

**Film: Oppenheimer**  
7 pm, The Patricia Theatre.

**15**

**Friday**

**PR 76th AA Rally**  
Alano Club. See more at bcyukonaa.org. Through Sunday the 17th

**LOGO DESIGN CONTEST**

**qathet Museum and Archives**  
is looking for a new logo!

It's time for a new logo designed and chosen by members of the community. Entry is free and open to artists of all ages and skill levels.

**SUBMISSIONS OPEN: SEPT 6**  
**SUBMISSIONS CLOSE: NOV 8**



Scan the QR code for our submission guidelines.



Visit [www.qathetmuseum.ca/logo-contest.html](http://www.qathetmuseum.ca/logo-contest.html) for more information!

qathet  
**Museum**  
— and Archives —





## White Poppies for Peace

All are welcome to join a gathering to commemorate the **International Day of Peace on Thursday, Sept. 21 at 4:30 pm, in front of the Library.**

Peace and sustainability can seem like lofty, unattainable goals. But for most of human history, humans lived in ways that respected the earth's limits and cycles, without the organized violence of colonialism, war and militarism. It's time to question militarism and the destruction and injustice it enables.

In 1933 the Women's Cooperative Guild in England adopted the white poppy as a symbol of their commitment to work for peace. Now, as we see how ecological destruction, exploitation, injustice and the war system are intertwined, the symbol is evolving.

The Canada-wide peace group Conscience Canada is launching a white poppy campaign from September 21, the International Day of Peace, to December 10, International Human Rights Day, in order to help people understand how violence and unsustainability are connected, and to see that another, healthier, world is possible!

Local artist Lyla Smith has donated a white poppy painting (above) that Conscience Canada will auction off to support the campaign. She feels that "Humanity needs to evolve toward finding pathways to Peace. As a pacifist for more than half a century – every year I witness leaders and followers prove the futility of wars, again and again. It's time for us all to fight for Peace, together."

For more information, please contact [janslakov@proton.me](mailto:janslakov@proton.me).

–Jan Slakov

### Local writer and punk rocker Jason Schreurs

7pm, Library. Jason Schreurs reads from his memoir-plus, *Scream Therapy: A Punk Journey through Mental Health*, the transformational story of his life with bipolar and the other punks he learns from, revealing the healing

power of a misunderstood and underestimated music community.

### Film: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem

7pm, The Patricia Theatre.

# 16

Saturday

### Rosh Hashana

Jewish high holidays begin (at Sunset the day before)

### Is Pickleball for You? Open House

1 to 3pm, 4320 Joyce Ave, in the Powell River Racquet Centre. [info.prsfs@gmail.com](mailto:info.prsfs@gmail.com). [qathetpickleballassociation.ca](http://qathetpickleballassociation.ca). See more on Page 24.

### Powell River Farmers' Market

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

### Beer Fest

3pm to 10pm, Three Chicken Farm. The Tumbling Dice. \$75. [threechickenfarm.net](http://threechickenfarm.net).

### Guided Walk:

**qathet Museum**  
10:30 am. Last walk of the season. Enjoy good company, fun facts, and fresh air. Participation is free, but donations are encouraged. Meet at the Forestry Museum at Willingdon Beach.

### MCP Talent Presents Brian Patafies Funny As Puck Tour

8pm, Townsite Brewing

### Stick 'em with the Pointy End

2pm, FCU Community Room, Library. Adults & Teens. What happens when you can write using only one- or two-syllable words? Drawing on both Johnny MacRae's lifelong obsession with Tolkien's writing and George Orwell's essay "Politics and the English Language," this workshop pushes you to throw off the belief that using longer words makes you sound smarter, or makes your writing stronger.

### Heartfire – A Weekend Ritual on Anger + Sorrow Held By An Old Story

Lund. A weekend Grief Ritual around the time of the Fall Equinox. Hosted by Trevor Mervyn, Amber Friedman and others. See more at [sacredgestures.com](http://sacredgestures.com).

### Film: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem

7pm, The Patricia Theatre.

# 17

Sunday

### Boys and their Toys exhibition

1 to 3pm, Lang Bay Hall.

### Heartfire – A Weekend Ritual on Anger + Sorrow Held By An Old Story

Lund. A weekend Grief Ritual around the time of the Fall Equinox. Hosted by Trevor Mervyn, Amber Friedman and others. See more at [sacredgestures.com](http://sacredgestures.com).

### 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.

### Terry Fox Run

Recreation Complex trails. In-person registration starts at 8:30 in the lower Complex with the Run starting at 10 am. As usual, a pancake breakfast provided by SaveOn Foods and Serious Coffee will follow the Run. Participants (individual or team) are encouraged to register and collect pledges online at [terryfox.org](http://terryfox.org).

### Mixed Fall Scramble: Golf

Myrtle Point Golf Club

### Film: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem

1:30 pm & 7 pm, The Patricia Theatre.

# 18

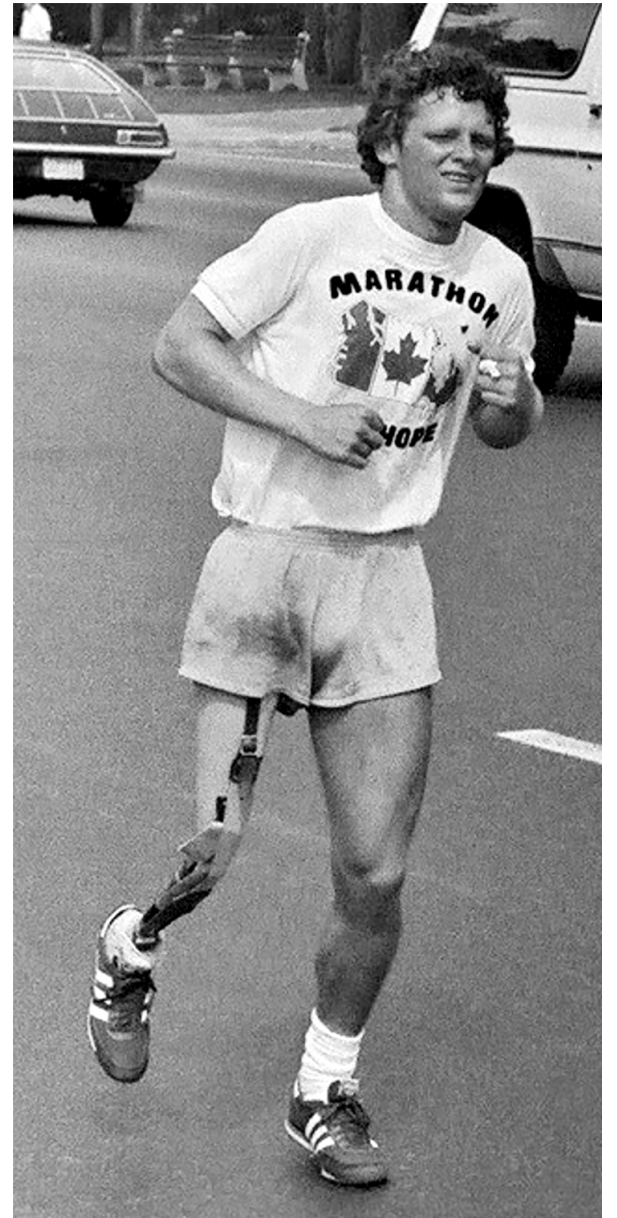
Monday

### Theatre Now! AGM

7pm, 3412 Cariboo. [theatrenowpowellriver@gmail.com](mailto:theatrenowpowellriver@gmail.com), [theatrenow-powellriver.ca](http://theatrenow-powellriver.ca)

### Film: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem

7pm, The Patricia Theatre.



## Terry Fox Run

Members of Powell River's Terry Fox Run Organizing Committee are busy getting ready for the 43rd annual Terry Fox Run which will be held on **Sunday, September 17.**

Our Run last year was the first in-person event after two years of virtual runs due to COVID. In 2022, the people of qathet still managed to raise over \$15,000, which goes directly to fund cancer research in Canada.

Organizers are hopeful that even more participants will feel comfortable taking part this year. To date, Terry Fox runs in Canada and many other countries have raised over \$800 million!

In-person registration starts at 8:30 am in the lower Complex with the run starting at 10. As usual, a pancake breakfast provided by SaveOn Foods and Serious Coffee will follow the run.

Participants are encouraged to register and collect pledges online at [terryfox.org](http://terryfox.org).

Participants can also put a team together and challenge other teams to beat their pledges. Let's help keep Terry's dream alive!

–Leslie Paul



# SEPTEMBER EVENTS CONT.

## 19

Tuesday

**Film: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem**

7 pm, The Patricia Theatre.

## 20

Wednesday

**Powell River Chorus rehearsal**

7:30 pm. Sing with the choir: no age limit, no auditions. Conductor Walter Martella. See ad on Page 21.

**Writer-in-Residence Visits Preschool Story Time**

10:30 am, Library. Join Sonia and special guest Johnny MacRae for a poetry and spoken word-themed storytime brimming with wondrous wordplay and overflowing with a love of language.

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

**Film: The Miracle Club**  
7 pm, The Patricia Theatre.

## 21

Thursday

**International Day of Peace Gathering**

4:30 pm in front of the Library. See the white poppies story on the previous page.

**Fiberspace**  
Returning after summer break. Thursdays weekly. 10 am - 2 pm - drop in. Everyone Welcome. at qathet Art Centre



**JAZZING UP TOWNSITE EVEN MORE:** On September 30 at 7 pm, head over to Crucible Galley for an intimate concert featuring the cool sounds of Ultraviolet contemporary jazz trio: Brittany Christina on bass, Oscar Robles on touch guitar and Beau Stoker drums. \$20.

**Writer-in-Residence Writing Support and Manuscript Review**

1 pm to 3 pm, Library. Meet one-on-one with award-winning spoken word artist Johnny MacRae. Make an appointment or drop-in and visit Johnny in the Rotary Makerspace during his regular office hours: Thursdays 1-3 pm

**Writer in Residence Poetry Circle**  
4:30 pm, Library. talk about poetry performance and spoken word. Drop-in.

**Film: The Miracle Club**  
1:30 pm and 7 pm, The Patricia Theatre

**BC Ferries meetings**  
3 pm - 5:30 pm (Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting) followed by Community Drop-In 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm at Town Centre. Public is invited to observe FAC meeting. Visit the online community page to provide us with questions, comments and ideas at: [bcferriesprojects.ca/powell-river](http://bcferriesprojects.ca/powell-river) or [bcferriesprojects.ca/texada-island](http://bcferriesprojects.ca/texada-island). See Page 38.

## 22

Friday

**SD47 Professional Development Day**

No school! 9 am to 3 pm Pro D Camp at the Rec Complex, \$45. [powellriverprc.ca](http://powellriverprc.ca)

**Writer in Residence visits the Young Writers Group**

4 pm, Library. Youth 10+ are invited to a special session of Young Writers Group with PRPL's Writer in Residence Johnny MacRae. Interact, create and engage in this fun and informal writing group!

## 23

Saturday

**First Day of Fall**  
Fall equinox

**Fall Fair**  
Paradise Exhibition Grounds. Harvest festival

with a judged competition in growing, baking, crafting and much more. Vendors, music, food, meet the animals, and celebrate Fall.

**Italian Day**

11:30 am to 2:30 pm at The Italian Club, 5866 Lund Street. Food, baked goods, wine tasting, and much more.

**Completely Creedence**

7:30 pm, Evergreen Theatre. A tribute to Creedence Clearwater Revival. See Page 45 for more.

**Villa vs. Victoria West**  
1:30 pm, Timberlane Park. Division 1 soccer. \$5.

**Movie Under the Stars: Shrek**  
Gates 5:30 pm, Movie 7 pm. Three Chicken Farm. \$12. [threechickenfarm.net](http://threechickenfarm.net).

**Writer-in-Residence Writing Support and Manuscript Review**

11 am to 1 pm, Library. Meet one-on-one with award-winning spoken word artist Johnny MacRae. Make an appointment or drop-in and visit Johnny in the Rotary Makerspace

during his regular office hours.

**Writer-in-Residence: Sorry for the Inconvenient**

2 pm to 3:30 pm, Library. Join PRPL's Writer in Residence, Johnny MacRae for a workshop jam-packed with prompts steering folks towards the alternate (and funny!) realities suggested by typos in public signage. Drop-in.

## 24

Sunday

**Fall Fair**

Paradise Exhibition Grounds. Harvest festival with a judged competition in growing, baking, crafting and much more. Vendors, music, food, meet the animals, and celebrate Fall.

**Powell River Curling Club Charity Tournament**

Myrtle Point Golf Club

## 25

Monday

**Yom Kippur**  
Jewish high holidays continue

## 26

Tuesday

**qathet Regional District Myrtle Pond Inclusion Cost Bylaw drop-in event**

1 to 3 pm, and 5 to 7 pm, Myrtle Point Golf Club. See Page 63 for more, and visit [qathet.ca/myrtle-pond-water-sys](http://qathet.ca/myrtle-pond-water-sys)

tem-capital-inclusion-charge-by-law

**Powell River Garden Club Meeting**

Doors 6:45 pm. Cranberry Seniors Centre. All welcome.

**Finding Memoirs in Objects**

2 pm, Library. Johnny MacRae will discuss how personal objects from our lives can become vehicles for our personal stories. He will also examine the impact our understanding of our own memoirs when we look at the story from a lens outside of ourselves.

**Compassionate Friends meeting**

7 pm, 4675 Ontario (behind Save-On). The Compassionate Friends offers support in the grief and trauma which follows the death of a child; no matter the age or cause. See more on Page 61.

**Grief Walking Group**  
10 am at the Seawalk.

## 27

Wednesday

**Powell River Chorus rehearsal**

7:30 pm. Sing with the choir: no age limit, no auditions. Conductor Walter Martella. See ad on Page 21.

**Uptown Market**

4 to 6 pm, CRC Parking Lot on Joyce.

## 28

Thursday

**LIFT AGM**

Doors 6 pm, event 6:30 pm, Tla'amin Salish Centre. With guest speaker Zahra Esmail, CEO of The Van-

Films Nightly 7 PM

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-Jim Rohn

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tage Point, presenting on the State of BC's Non-Profit Sector Report. See ad on Page 22 for more.

### Fibrespace

Returning after summer break. Thursdays weekly. 10 am to 2 pm - drop in. Everyone welcome. At qathet Art Centre

### Writer-in-Residence Writing Support and Manuscript Review

1 pm to 3 pm, Library. Meet one-on-one with award-winning spoken word artist Johnny MacRae. Make an appointment or drop-in and visit Johnny in the Rotary Makerspace during his regular office hours.

### Writer-in-Residence Visits Preschool Story Time

10:30 am, Library. Join Sonia and special guest Johnny MacRae for a poetry and spoken word-themed storytime brimming with wondrous wordplay and overflowing with a love of language.

# 29

Friday

### Sarah Jane Scouten live at Cran Hall

7 pm, Cranberry Hall. BC-born folk and Americana songwriter. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. sarahjanescouten.com

### PR Kings versus Victoria: First home game of the season

7 pm, Hap Parker

# 30

Saturday

### National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Orange shirt day.

### First day of Sukkot

Jewish high holidays continue

### PR Kings versus Penticton

7 pm, Hap Parker

### Writer-in-Residence Writing Support and Manuscript Review

11 am to 1 pm, Library. Meet one-on-one with award-winning spoken word artist Johnny MacRae. Make an appointment or drop-in and visit Johnny in the Rotary Makerspace during his regular office hours.

### Powell River Farmers' Market

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

### Live Music at Crucible Gallery

7-10 pm. An intimate concert featuring the cool sounds of ULTRAVIOLET contemporary jazz trio: Brittany Christina on bass, Oscar Robles on touch guitar and Beau Stocker drums. \$20.

### Hobby Hackers Wind Up

Myrtle Point Golf Club

# 31

Sunday

### 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.



## Look ahead to October

October 1

### David Court Memorial Golf

Myrtle Point Golf Club

October 2

### National Truth and Reconciliation Day

As observed by SD47 and others.

October 3

### Talkin' Tolkien

7 pm Library.

October 6 to 9

### U15A Kings Cup

Hap Parker Arena

October 7

### Cranberry Community Hall Assoc. AGM

1 pm. info@cranhall.org

### Villa vs. Gorge FC

1:30 pm, Timberlane Park. Division 1 soccer. \$5.

October 9

### Thanksgiving Day

October 13

### Grease (the movie) sing-a-long with Molly's Comedy Cabaret

7 pm, Max Cameron Theatre. Fundraiser for the Brooks Drama / program.

### Anela Kohiamo concert

7:30 pm, James Hall

### Shania Totally Twain

7 pm, Carlson Loft.

### Kings versus Nanaimo

7 pm Hap Parker

October 14

### Create Your Own Adventure - The Musical

2 pm, Max Cameron Theatre. With Molly's Comedy Cabaret. Family show.

### Kings versus Nanaimo

7 pm Hap Parker

October 15

### A punk rock night with The Corps and Strawberry Blondes

7 pm, Carlson Loft

October 18

### Kings versus Salmon Arm

7 pm Hap Parker

October 20

### SD47 Professional Development Day

No school

### Ed Hill Stay Fresh Comedy Tour

8 pm, Townsite Brewing

October 21

### Villa vs. Cowichan Access

1:30 pm, Timberlane Park. Division 1 soccer. \$5.

### Octoberfest Vendorfest

10 am to 3 pm, The Arc

October 22

### High Tea

Noon til 2 pm, ARC Community Event Centre. \$25. highteabythea@gmail.com for reservations.

### Live Pro Wrestling

Doors 5 pm. The Arc. \$20 at the door, \$15 advance at bigwest-wrestling.com.

October 25

### Chest Fever

From San Diego, a re-enactment of The Band. Carlson Loft.

October 29

### Alison Nystrom, soprano, Calvin Dyck, violin, Moira Hopfe-Ostensen, piano

2 pm, James Hall.

### Villa vs. Lakehill FC

1:30 pm, Timberlane Park. Division 1 soccer. \$5.

October 31

### Halloween

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# Slowing down enough to truly see the forest

Painting teacher and artist Rick Cepella interviews Lund artist (and his long-time student) Ron Bignell, whose extraordinary in-situ forest work is exhibited at Tidal Art Centre this month.

## BY RICK CEPELLA

“It’s beautiful where we live,” they say. The ‘it’ being our natural surroundings. And so out come the devices – cameras and smart phones and another image is quickly clicked into existence and soon forgotten.

The odd individual, though, will feel compelled to pay justice to a scene in a more personal form with the time honored tools of drawing or painting. Good enough. There’s some sustained looking going on and with it a healthful slowing down, however short-lived.

Then there’s the rarer soul who demands a greater intimacy with their environment and will venture deep into, say, the forest (it could just as well be the mountains or in view of the ever changing ocean) and do this on a regular basis, building a more solid connection with each successive visit. This person deepens their familiarity with a subject at different times of the day or seasons of the year. One study is followed by another.

In time, it’s just possible, a distinct and welcome new artistic voice emerges.

This describes the noteworthy visual arts practice of Lund’s Ron Bignell whose first-person, in situ association with local subject matter is coupled with a serious work ethic (read love) and admirable skill set.

Ron and his two English Labrador retrievers are practiced forest bathers with the ability to root out visually arresting locales which Ron then captures and translates and will be sharing with us. What follows are parts of Ron’s backstory, the foundation of his current practice.

## Describe yourself as an artist. What keeps you interested in art and what keeps you producing?

**Ron** • I’ve always been a drawer and that’s what opened the doors for me. Originally I wanted to be a comic book artist then a painter. Later when I finally entered art school after six years of unappealing labour jobs I chose commercial art over fine art in hopes of earning a living.

Illustration and graphic design led to a career as an art director in advertising and video games. For many years I kept working at my fine art, but stepped away from it during my later career.

Most artists start out drawing, but I had a hard time becoming a painter. I never kept at it enough to progress. Commercial art school gave me a solid foundation and there I got hooked on watercolor. Line and wash became my thing and sketchy-watercolors were as far as I evolved for some years.

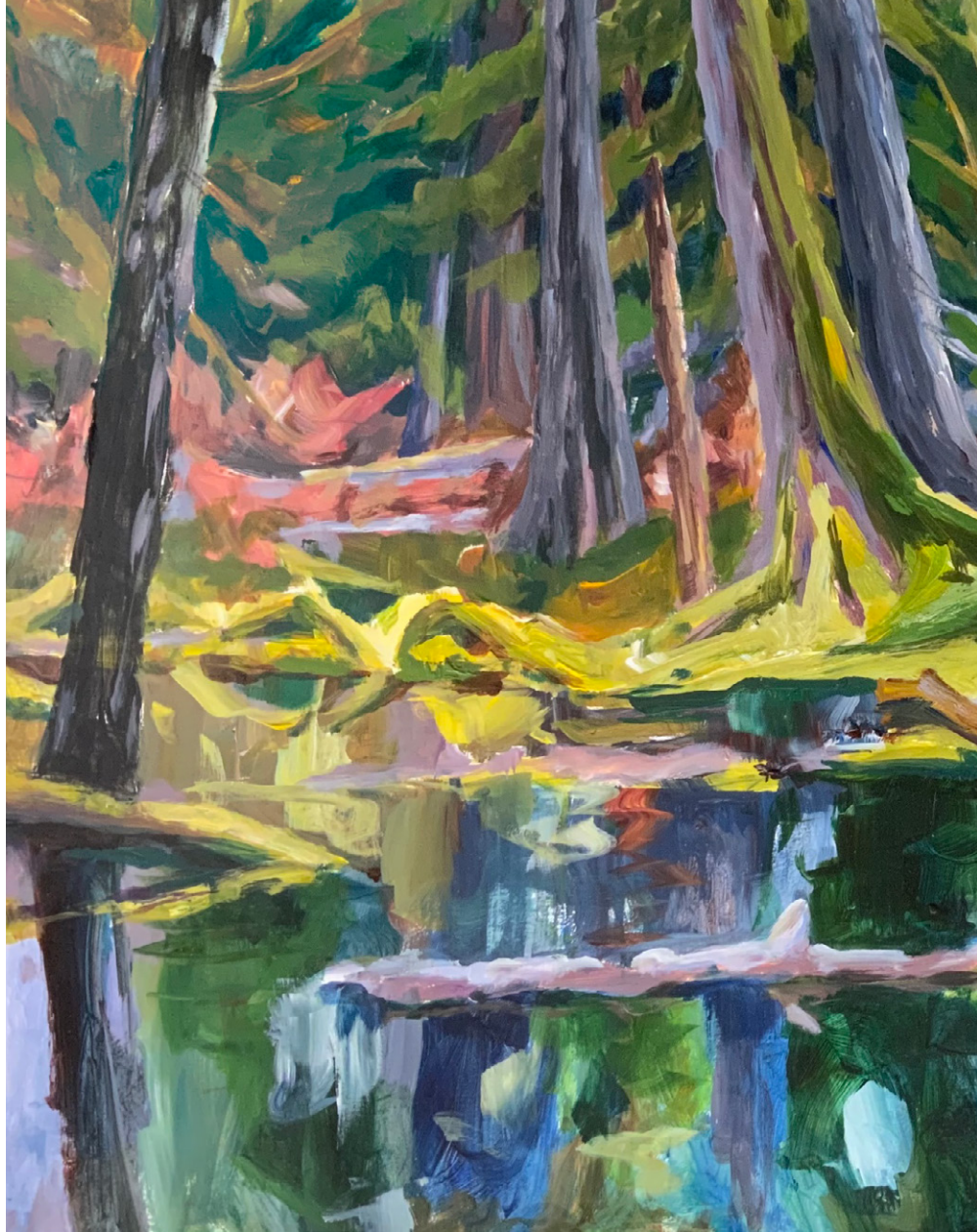
Many part time art classes at Emily Carr [Institute of Art & Design] introduced me to acrylic painting and mixed media. For subject matter, I’ve always been drawn to the human form and the landscape.

I’ve moved away from painting traditional landscape scenes (foreground, horizon, sky) and have become a bit obsessed with painting the forest.

## What is the relationship between your former work and current practice?

**Ron** • From sketching to painting, that basically defines my transition. I did some larger oil and acrylic paintings 20 to 35 years ago, but most of my artwork coming out of art school in the mid 80s was sketch-booking and watercolors. Mostly plein air.

**THE PROCESS:** Top, the studio painting, based on a plein air sketch, Marsh Colours, Toquenatch Creek. Right, the artist, Ron Bignell, sketching on Toquenatch Creek with one of his “constant companions.” Far right, an example of a plein air sketch.







## AMONGST THE TREES

**When& Where:** September 1 to 22, Tidal Art Centre, Lund.

**What:** Ron Bignell's landscape show. "I'm not an 'established gallery artist' so this show will be more of a 'how I got here' exhibition."

**Reception:** September 1, 5 to 7 pm

For many years I didn't have a studio, not that I had a dedicated studio practice that needed one!

Frankly it took retirement to make the transition to painter, and I'm just a beginner in that arena. Retirement and a bit of dedicated hard work has paid off in recent years. Taking your class [at VIU] eight times was key because I kept working on fundamentals, produced a lot of work, and got exposed to many new artists.

Eventually acrylic paint became my medium not line and watercolor. Though I still fill plenty of sketch books.

### Why is the forest important to you?

**Ron** • I am drawn to the forest. Guess I always have been.

Where I grew up 'the bush' was our playground. Then as a camping family I discovered parks and trails. I've been hiking as long as I can remember.

But when I finally embraced art school I did not look at the forest as subject matter. I think I knew too little and the forest was too complex. I did a lot of photography back then so to me the camera was how to capture such subject matter. Only when moving up the northern Sunshine Coast and embracing retirement did I start to really look at the forest and its forms.

Slowing down my life was required to make this transition. Finding a composition within a complex forest scene became a thing I did on hikes.

I'd take tons of photos on a walk. Then I started to just sit and look, often sketching in some uncomfortable, but very peaceful places. I love the strong forms in the forest, the structure. Like a tree, an upturned root system or a stump. A composition of boulders or a tiny pond overgrown by nature. The old growth stumps at lake level on Powell are other remarkable forms.

### How do your field work practice and studio practice inform each other?

**Ron** • In the past year or so I made an important transition; I moved away from painting directly from photographs to working from sketches made in the field using photo reference as 'back up.'

Sometimes I will draw from a photo first as a step towards beginning a painting. I'm a fast, loose drawer so my sketches aren't tight. They do a good job of simplifying complex subject matter. Line and tone are critical so I choose charcoal, conte' or thick dark pencils. Using brush and ink wash works super well, but travels badly!

One of the best reasons to work in the field is that the human eye is far better at seeing than a phone's digital camera. Most of my camera snaps are poorly exposed and so optically distorted that when I review them later I wonder why I took the shot.

Despite these negatives, photographs are very important and vital to my art

practice. They capture detail, color, composition, texture, light etc and even basic digital tools post-pic allow you to manipulate the image to try out effects or explore different color palettes. But ultimately the phone is a tool for painters, and I do not want to paint photographs.

### What from outside your art practice has shaped you most?

**Ron** • That's a tough one to answer, I'd say select people and the ability to see have shaped me as an artist.

Select people have provided inspiration and the shared knowledge gained from those key creatives you meet along your journey shape your path more than you realize at the moment.

As for seeing, I mean to really study something, to notice something that you walked by for five years. Going for a walk-about and just looking is a new idea in my life. I get pretty nerdy wandering off into the forest looking for these scenes or forms.

Many of these images don't, or won't, make it as a painting or even a drawing, but from the volume come some keepers. Seeing also means the ability to understand what is working in a painting and what is not. Giving my work a visual evaluation or a self critique has been extremely helpful in improving as an artist.

### Will you share ideas for those interested in art or who wish to visit it anew or revisit it?

**Ron** • Don't hold back, go for it. Take chances, experiment. Never worry about being embarrassed by what you create. You learn more from mistakes than you do from repeated successes.

Don't get comfortable with your work or you may stop growing. Draw a lot don't just paint. If your painting isn't successful, paint it again.

Keep looking at new work online or ideally in the galleries. Look forward as much as you look back; the masters got us here but the emerging contemporaries are taking us somewhere new.

### Who are your influences?

**Ron** • Key influences for me are greatly other artists, local ones that I go to class with or whose work I see in a gallery or show.

Seeing how another artist solves a problem, how they apply paint, use color or create texture helps me see and learn.

As for notable painters that I consider influential and highly inspiring I'd call out Tom Thompson, David Milne, Emily Carr, Gordon Smith, David Alexander, Rick Cella and Cori Creed - all landscape artists. And two more artists are Charles Reid (watercolorist) and Jill Carver; they have both produced a wealth of instructional material as well as a vast amount of work. 🐿



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## TAKE A BREAK

# Five ways to help a hurting heart

September invites us to welcome the Autumnal Equinox. A time where the night begins to outlast the day, final harvests are brought in, and much like the natural world around us, we begin to pull our energy inward and start preparations for winter.

Pumpkin spice, cozy sweaters, and cool crisp mornings make autumn a favourite season, yet this inward turn may also prove to be a challenging time. Conversation of late has touched on ways we might process and move through discomfort, deep grief, worry, anxiety, feelings of disconnection from community or from what, and who, we love.

I am not an advocate of bypassing the raw hard stuff of life, sometimes we need to really be in our experience before we can make our way out of it, but we mustn't accidentally become our pain, cling to it, deny it, nor bury it within ourselves, but rather let it ebb and flow until it moves away from us.

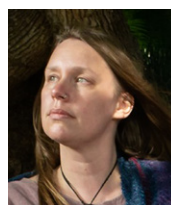
Practices we might employ on a small scale, daily level can truly support our well-being when times become hard on our heart.

Tried and true go-to's that I myself rely on:

- **Cleansing with water.** Whether in the shower, ritual bath, a dip in the sea, or even drinking a glassful, visualizing an emotional and energetic cleanse is a powerful practice rooted in human history, as well as supported by modern science.
- **Comfort.** Clothing we feel good in, watching favourite movies, drinking warm teas,

time spent with people who feel good to be around, all creates a nest to rest ourselves in while informing our nervous system of safety.

- **Creative expression.** Journal writing, doodling, singing, spoken word, all help us spend time processing what lies deep within us and give it a place to live outside of ourselves. I tend to paint when feeling big internal shifts, write poetry when sitting with despair, and spin wool when cultivating calm.



## RETURN TO REVERENCE

JULIETTE JARVIS



- **Movement.** Dance, chopping wood, walks in nature, or other physical movement allows our bodies to

expel energy, especially when it feels dense or stuck.


- **Mindful language.** Speaking of our emotional states as a visitor rather than identifying with, or becoming them, with "I am" statements. "Sadness is with me" "I'm sitting with anxiety today" "Joy is carrying me." This comes naturally in various other languages, but in English can be done with practice and recognizes that "this too shall pass."

Should you feel the need, these practices seamlessly integrate into any pace of day.

*Juliette Jarvis is a best selling author offering sacred living programs online, devotional arts, and divination sessions. Find her at [SelkieSanctuary.com](http://SelkieSanctuary.com)*

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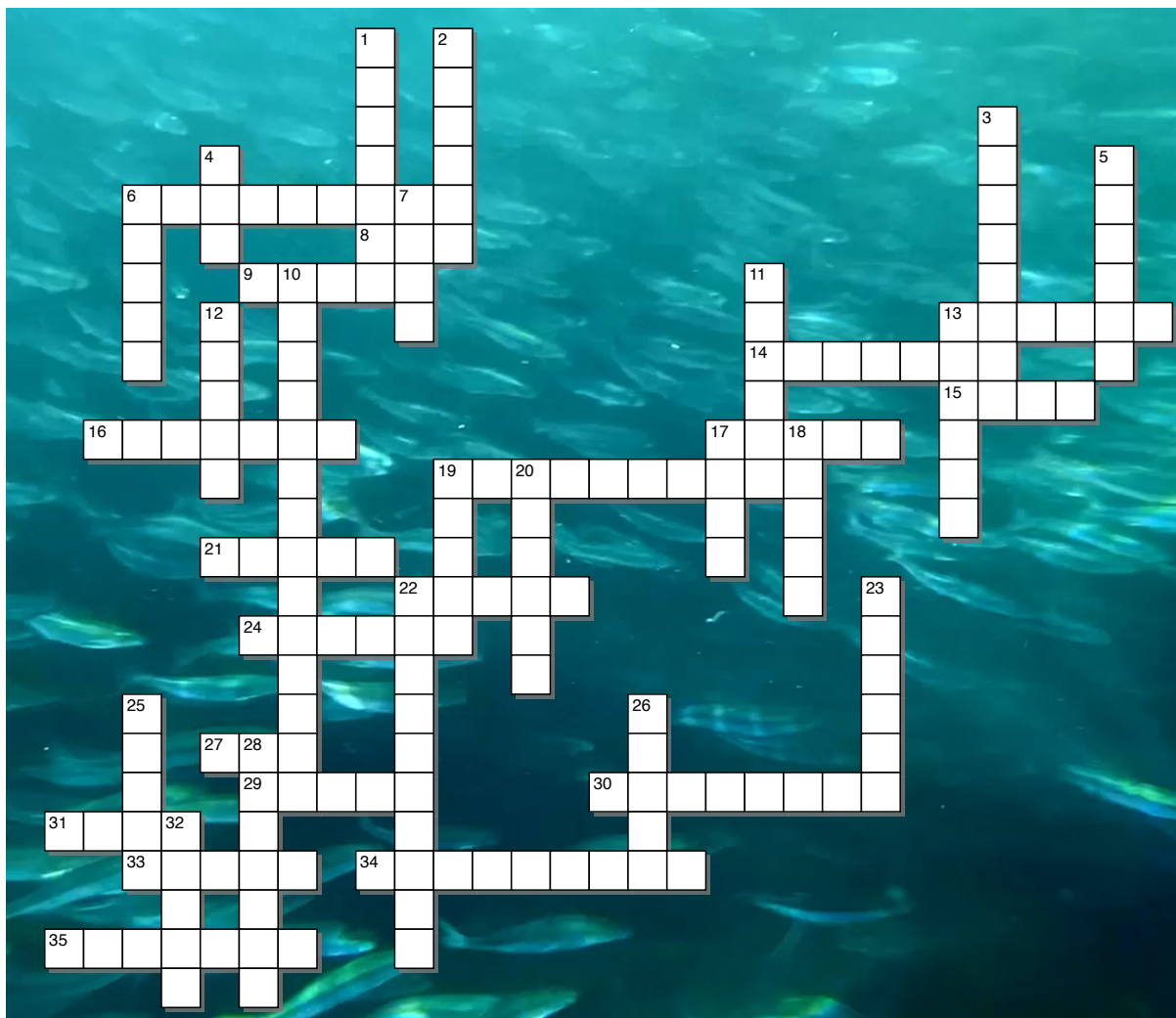
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# TAKE A BREAK



## ACROSS

- 6) Grief ritual Sept 16
- 8) Artist Bignell
- 9) Artist Bignell's subjects
- 13) MLA Nicholas
- 14) WLWP's new name
- 15) City CAO
- 16) Rocks on ice
- 17) Years of soccer club
- 19) Soccer club's home turf
- 21) Local soccer club
- 22) David Salman's cargo
- 24) Ros' farm, West Lake
- 27) local orchestra acronym
- 29) Tourism's Wise words
- 30) Edgehill founder/creek
- 31) Health and wellness mag
- 33) earthy Nostra farm
- 34) Landlord lady Jen
- 35) Go Fish's fish

## DOWN

- 1) Where bear went
- 2) New lawyer Peters
- 3) ubiquitous squash
- 4) Scan or cougar
- 5) Writer in residence on the spot
- 6) Tla'amin's top position
- 7) Sea Fair fileter by any other name
- 10) Sept 30 holiday's point
- 11) JP Dallos' first principal
- 12) Courthouse owner
- 13) Brookgs grad to UBC
- 17) Fair's time
- 18) Boat likely to be cancelled
- 19) Ocean flow, Lund Art centre
- 20) \_\_\_ and Archives seeks logo
- 22) Paddle sport
- 23) Point, Golf, Pond
- 25) Berry Co, downhill ride
- 26) Wildwood Hill car
- 28) Literacy Wall artist
- 32) Hero Fox

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## You need not walk alone

The Compassionate Friends offers support in the grief and trauma which follows the death of a child; no matter the age or cause.



**The Compassionate Friends of Powell River** meets at 7pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Hospice Society Office, 4675 Ontario Ave, Unit C (behind Save-On-Foods)  
Contact us at powellrivertcf@gmail.com  
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# 50 Ways To Leave Your Zucchini



LAST  
WORD

ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

**S**o, I was listening to an old Paul Simons classic the other day. You might know it if you listen to music of the seventies or are of a certain age.

*Fifty Ways to Leave Your Lover*, was a massive hit in its day and when I heard it play recently all I could think about was *50 ways to leave your zucchini*.

I know I'm not the only one obsessing about zucchini these days and trying to figure out what to do with them, especially the one that got away.

If you're like me and have an overabundance of zucchini, sit back and sing along. It just might inspire you or at least give you a giggle.

And if you're still wondering what to do with your zucchini after all this, contact Bill Hopkins and ask him about the zucchini races at the Fall Fair (bcbilly@shaw.ca or text 604-223-2225.).

You can also learn more about them in the *Fall Fair Guide*, inserted in this issue of *qL*.

The problem's all inside your gourd, she said to me  
The answer is quite simple if you take it logically  
I'd like to help you in your struggle to be free  
There must be fifty ways  
To leave your zucchini.  
Fifty ways to leave your zucchini.

She said, it's really not my habit to intrude.  
We all know how big zucchinis can give you lots of food  
But I'll repeat myself, at the risk of being sued,  
There must be fifty ways to leave your zucchini  
Fifty ways to leave your zucchini.

Bake a big cake, Jake  
How 'bout a fry, Sly?  
A fresh loaf of bread, Fred?  
Just cook up those gourds

Give it to Bill, Will  
Why all the fuss, Gus?  
Leave 'em in cars, Lars  
Smash with your guitar

Just drop off the squash, Josh  
You don't need to discuss much  
Don't give them to me, Lee  
Just get yourself free.

She said, "It grieves me so to see you in distress  
I wish there was something I could do to help you with all of this excess  
I said, "I appreciate that and would you please explain  
About the fifty ways?"

She said, "Why don't we both just think on it tonight  
And I believe in the morning you'll see that I was right  
She handed me me a recipe, and I realized she probably was right  
There must be fifty ways to leave your zucchini  
Fifty ways to leave your zucchini





**Learn  
more about...**

# the proposed Myrtle Pond Capital Inclusion Charge Bylaw

**T**he Myrtle Pond Water System, located within in Electoral Area B, consists of 82 developed lots and two undeveloped lots. The water system has been attracting interest from owners of adjacent properties outside the service area boundary. A capacity study conducted in 2021 found that 81 residential lots could be added to the system, with water main extensions on Centennial Drive east and Pebble Beach and Traffé Roads south. This would add an estimated 92 single-family residential equivalent dwelling units at full build-out.

To support the build-out, the water treatment system and water distribution system would need to be upgraded. The qathet Regional District has reviewed options for recovering costs associated with expansion of the Myrtle Pond Water System, including a review of infrastructure information, alternatives for financing upgrades, and a recommended development financing program.

A capital inclusion charge, enacted by bylaw, would provide a mechanism for new users to contribute towards the cost of these upgrades and extensions.

The qathet Regional District is providing information to property owners about the proposed bylaw at a drop-in event at Myrtle Point Golf Club on September 26.

To learn more about this project, please visit [qathet.ca/myrtle-pond-water-system-capital-inclusion-charge-bylaw](https://qathet.ca/myrtle-pond-water-system-capital-inclusion-charge-bylaw)

To get involved, attend a drop-in event:  
**Myrtle Point Golf Club**  
**September 26, 2023**  
**1-3 pm and/or 5-7 pm**







# is for Literacy

**PLEASE JOIN US Thursday, September 21 @ 11am**

For a special unveiling of the incredible artwork our wonderful community came out to support at last year's Literacy Event. On Thursday, September 21st we will celebrate the 'Legacy Wall' from the community with talented artist Sabrina Upton, who created the outline of the majestic, 20-foot mural that was painted by our community.

Our friends from the Powell River Public Library will be joining us to commemorate this momentous occasion. Everyone is invited, so please share! We will meet at the 'Legacy Wall' which is across from Walmart's exterior access. We look forward to seeing you!



*Together we discover!*

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