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Saving Salmon & Shaping Minds

Working With The Salmon Society, First Credit Union is Investing in Environmental Education

Toward the end of October every year a special event takes place that celebrates one of the most significant natural migrations in the qathet region.

As they do each fall, salmon are now making their way back up streams and rivers in a mysterious end-of-life journey back to their birthplace to spawn. The upcoming annual Salmon Education Expo, hosted by the Powell River Salmon Society (PRSS), is one of the best ways for people to learn about the fish and their fascinating life cycle and migration.

The expo is one of the most important public events of the year in terms of education and garnering support for PRSS and their work, says Manager Shane Dobler.

Public education, with a focus on children, is one of the pillars of the work PRSS does year-round.

"Our education program is an investment in the future," Shane says.
"The end goal is to make sure that there are fish here for the long term."

Students get immersed in the environment through the organization's camps and annual fall expo, Assistant Manager Phil Nakatsu adds. "And it changes the way they see the creek. The creek's no longer just somewhere they can splash and play—there's a whole ecosystem that they come to understand."

Salmon are considered a keystone species because they support many other fish, plants, birds, and animals, including humans, with their nutrients. But the future of salmon is threatened, which is why the other pillars of PRSS are salmon enhancement and watershed monitoring. Since 1982 PRSS has been working toward the goal of sustainable salmon stocks in the area.

"Though we don't control what happens in the ocean, our consistent enhancement efforts have shown to closely correlate with improved returns on average over the decades," says Phil. "A large part of our success is using the data we collect to measure our own methods, to see what works and what doesn't. After 40 years we have a very efficient and effective enhancement program."

This year the Salmon Education Expo will be held on October 21 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Alex Dobler Salmon Centre at Lang Creek. Activities will include site tours, egg take demonstrations, salmon identification, ecosystem education, dissection, wildlife education and more.

Learn more at salmonpreservation.org

Working with First Credit Union

For a number of years FCU has helped support PRSS's community engagement and education activities, and in 2023 they provided a \$2500 donation and sponsored a \$1500 tent that can be used at community events.

"The work that PRSS is doing to preserve and educate the community about pacific salmon is an inspiring example of community leadership, dedication, and sustainable, strategic thinking," says Impact Manager Caitlin Bryant. "We are grateful to be able to support their mission."

Learn more about FCU's impact at **firstcu.ca/blog**





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Don't look up, October 14.

Gently Rocking the Boats

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ON THE COVER:

Local residents are seething over BC Ferries recent failures. Are we at a boiling point? Photo by Pieta Woolley



What's worth fighting for

EDITOR'S

MESSAGE

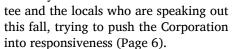
PIETA WOOLLEY

o one wants to snuggle up by a fall fire, and plan the revolution over smokies and pumpkin spice. This season is for tucking in, not rampaging.

But here we are. Finally, we're not fighting each other (as much, maybe) as we have been for the past three years, but we're a facing issues we can agree to fight for – together.

BC Ferries is having trouble delivering an acceptable level of service, at a price

locals can afford. It's a problem (see Last Word, Page 38). There may be solutions. Kudos to the local Ferry Advisory Commit-



This month, salmon are swimming up local rivers and creeks to spawn. Many runs of wild salmon are failing in BC; here, hosts of volunteers and staff run hatcheries at Tishosum River (Tla'amin Nation) and Lang Creek (Powell River Salmon Society).

Beyond hatcheries, locals are also

starting to fight for the restoration of the Theodosia River, which is crucial for the future of salmon in this region, and on other fronts, too (Page 15).

Tla'amin Nation - after a more-thana-century fight-finally has ownership over a small part of its traditional territory once again, under the treaty. This month, the Nation's new communications director Davis Mackenzie walks locals through how to be respectful

> as a hunter, angler or gatherer, on Tla'amin land (Page

> This has been a rough year for some local businesses. In

October, we celebrate Small Business Week (October 15 to 21, see Page 25), a timely reminder that the biggest shopping season of the year is fast approaching. A vibrant, local economy is certainly worth fighting for - and is a most pleasant way to do battle: shop.

Whether you're best holding a placard, writing a letter or buying a local latte, I hope your fight is a fruitful one. ¶

-qathet ______ LIVING



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I wish I had the superpower to miraculously abolish all ferry waits and cancellations. - Lani Sanders, Page 27.

OCTOBER'S CONTRIBUTORS



SAVERIO COLASANTO was the summer Programs Assistant at the qathet Museum and Archives. See Saverio's story, Community Masquerade, on Page 26.



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 23.



Amateur astronomer ANGE-LIKA (IKA) HACKETT has observed five total solar eclipses and numerous partial ones. She also plays recorder and flute in several qathet music groups. See Angelika's story, Turn Around, on Page 35.



LEE MACKENZIE is an author and artist living and working in the Powell River Historic Townsite.. See Lee's story, Where the Ghosts Play a Part, on Page 13.



Powell River

INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Gently rocking the boats

At the Northern Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory Committee, citizens politely vent their rage at BC Ferries.

To the chair, ire feels fruitless. What will it take to make change to the coast's quasi-public marine highway system?

BY PIETA WOOLLEY | LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE

or two and a half hours on the afternoon of September 21, Kim Barton-Bridges was in an impossible position. At the Town Centre Hotel banquet room, she was chairing the Northern Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory Committee meeting, a twice-a-year event that, until recently, attract few folks.

But after a summer of cancelled sailings due to staffing problems, overloads resulting in hours-long waits in hot parking lots, and more, over 40 people came out to this event. Seven had signed up to speak. That *never* happens.

"The CEO of BC Ferries was going to be here. This is very disappointing. But I'm sure he has a good reason," Kim told the room.

She knew she was handling a volatile group, so she began the meeting by reminding the crowd to be respectful.

The problem was, inside Kim's own mind, her belief in the Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) process was falling apart.

Just a couple of hours before, Nicolas Jimenez, the CEO, had sent his regrets. She was agog. This meeting happens infrequently; the whole point of the FAC structure is to engage with the ferry-using public. This was BC Ferries' chance to hear from real people who rely on ferries for medical appointments, business, team travel and other commitments. And it has been a disaster.

Just three weeks before, two cancelled sailings from Earl's Cove on Labour Day weekend left 100 people stranded overnight in the isolated parking lot - including families with young children, and people with disabilities. BC Ferries made no provisions for the people stuck there - other than the washrooms

Five issues the local **Ferry Advisory Committee** has been working on:

1. Making it Right

When the last ferry of the night is canceled, offering reimbursement for a hotel to everyone traveling - not just those with reservations. Communicating the reimbursement policy. Figuring out how to make it right at the Earls Cove terminal, which isn't staffed.

2. Berth congestion at Westview

Currently, daily, the Texada ferry has to wait for the Comox ferry to unload before it can dock, due to too-close scheduling. Sometimes, it has to wait a long time.

3.Connectivity

Create achievable schedules to allow seamless connections to/from Greater Vancouver, Comox, Texada (perhaps including Salish Orca stopping on Texada once or twice a week.)

4. Medical Assured Loading

If you're traveling with a TAP form, you can get a free reservation. But often, reservations are not available. How will BC Ferries handle this?

5. Afternoon sailing between Texada and Powell River year-round

This sailing currently happens only during peak season. The formal request was made through the Significant Service Request process (BC Ferries initiative), which promises a response within 90 days. As request was made May 17, we are well beyond 90 day period, and now the goalposts have been moved as BC Ferries says they are changing the process to deal with community requests for more service.

6. Safety at terminals

Road access has to be improved at Blubber Bay, Westview and Saltery. When lineups occur, the situation is unsafe.



were kept open. No food. No help finding accommodations. No communication. And the CEO didn't show up to this meeting?

Locals lobbed complaints at the committee, a mix of local BC Ferries staffers and community members, with some, including VP Brian Anderson, appearing via Zoom.

In a presentation to the FAC, Cameron Bailey said the same problems have been hobbling ferry service for too long: not enough staff or vessels. A cancelled sailing, he said, is "not an inconvenience, it is a hardship!"

Lee Mackenzie told the committee that "we get what we tolerate."

Erin Innes, who was trapped at Earl's Cove on Labour Day weekend, railed at the executive, and told them that, due to her disability, she was incapacitated for two weeks after traveling.

During the agenda item about staffing BC Ferries, the executive team member who had been sent in the CEO's place, Brian Anderson, VP of strategy and community engagement, commented that the biggest hindrance to finding staff is adequate housing.

Kim interjected.

"So what is BC Ferries doing? A lot of other organizations are figuring it out by providing housing. What is BC Ferries doing about salaries? You are the ones who have to supply service. And I'm not confident that things are happening."

Brian said they're working on it, and that "we'll see the situation has improved this year, and we hope it will be better next year."

After more discussion, Kim interjected again:

"There is no data being collected and we've been asking for this for years. The lack of data is what stalls decision making. Should we be standing at the



NOT DOING THIS AGAIN: Northern Sunshine Coast Ferry Advisory Committee chair Kim Barton-Bridges, at the public drop-in session after the meeting on September 21. BC Ferries has since moved all its upcoming FACs online due to threats of violence.

terminal asking people where they're going and why - as volunteers? We don't seem to be getting any traction. When do you decide we need more service?"

A few minutes later, Kim reflected again on the CEOs failure to show up. "I just feel like we're being blown off. There's just a lot of talk. We're asked to jump through hoops, so we're just jumping through. I'm really getting tired of it. I feel like screaming out the window, 'We've had enough!""

Kim isn't easily rattled. She has been a member of the FAC since 2014, and chaired it since 2015. Her style isn't revolutionary. It's participatory, as is suited to this job, which is supposed to be an efficient and effective tool of communications between BC Ferries and the people of qathet.

For those two and a half hours, even as Kim processed her own rage and disappointment with the CEO's no-show, she controlled what could have been a stormy meeting. Two people yelled during their speeches; she respectfully asked for different behaviour and kept them contributing to the meeting.

"I'm very proud of our community," said Kim, in an interview days after the meeting. "The presentations were great, the questions were great. Full marks to them. And, they were pretty well behaved, considering. I think the BC Ferries people who were in the room [terminal staff, captains] understand [the problems] and want to see things change, but they're not the ones making the decisions."

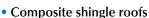
Kim, like many locals, is grappling with what feels

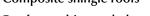


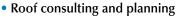




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How did we get from the old Black Ball Line to the BC Ferries Corporation / Authority?

1954 - Ferries arrive

The private ferry line, Black Ball, starts a new route at Earl's Cove-Saltery Bay.

1958 - Government takes on the Ferries

Both ferry companies serving the large routes on the BC Coast, CP Steamships and the Black Ball Line, are stalled due to a strike. WAC Bennett's Social Credit party takes the opportunity to make ferries a public amenity (he also created BC Hydro and BC Rail, and greatly expanded the highways system over his six terms in office).

1960 - Ferries are Highways

The Province of BC sets up BC Ferries as a division of the BC Toll Highways and Bridges Authority, a Crown corporation. It starts serving the Tsawwassen-Schwartz Bay route-but rapidly expands. The next year, BC Ferries acquires all the Black Ball ferries, including Powell River's. As a Crown Corporation, BC Ferries runs as a company, but is responsible to the province.

1980s - More ferries

BC takes over the saltwater branch of the BC Ministry of Transportation and Highways, which operated all small routes on the coast.

1999 - Fast Ferries debacle

BC built three fast ferries to better connect Vancouver, Victoria and Nanaimo. Afterwards, BC's Auditor General blamed NDP Premier Glen Clarke for rushing them into production without enough analysis. The ferries, which cost \$486 million, ran for less than a year due to technical problems. Clarke was swiftly replaced as Premier by Dan Miller and then Ujjal Dosanjh.

2001 - Regime change

BC Ferries put the fast ferries up for auction in March of 2001, and, wearing the debacle, the NDP lost the election - after 10 years in power - to Gordon Campbell's Liberals. The fast ferries were sold off in 2003 for \$13 million. (The three fast ferries were last seen in 2022, in Egypt.)

2003 - Structure morphs again

BC Ferries becomes a private corporation under the BC Liberal Party (now BC United), through the Coastal Ferry Act. The BC Ferries Corporation has a single voting share: the BC Ferry Authority, which is the Provincial Government.

That makes BC Ferries an independently-managed, publicly-owned company.

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like powerlessness in the face of an agency that has tremendous power over our personal lives, and our coastal economy. She works on a visioning exercise only to have a similar visioning exercise be repeated a few years later. The same subjects are discussed at the FAC meetings year after year. Progress seems glacial, or non-existent.

Texada is desperate for more ferry service, she said; the lone doctor retired, so now all doctor visits require a ferry trip—and many specialists require a trip to Comox, which means two ferries. School enrollment there is up 43% this year.

"Texada residents are telling us they're having offpeak overloads now. So what's BC Ferries' rationale for not agreeing to more sailings?"

And, things continue to go wrong. The third weekend in September saw a crewing shortage that axed the last ferry from Comox on Sunday night. A malfunctioning payment system interrupted travel for an unknown number of travellers on Saturday morning (see Last Word, on Page 38). Much of this community's fury is about these kinds of incidents; not that they happen at all, but that when they do, there seems to be no "Plan B." BC Ferries, they expressed at the September 21 meeting, simply doesn't take responsibility for the fallout when things go wrong.

Is rage helpful to swaying BC Ferries? Or is rage like your hair when you're on a ferry deck: it feels good when it blows around, but then it just leaves you in knots?

If you look at footage of most in-person protests against BC Ferries over the last 25 years, you'll see Jim Abram. The Quadra Island now-retired Regional



THE 2014 RALLY: Pushing backs against Liberal government service cuts and fare increases, several opposition MLAs posed for this photo, including Nicholas Simons (third from left). Photo courtesy of Nicholas Simons

District Director and Chair has been fighting BC Ferries since it was still part of BC's highways system.

"Of the whole province, the Sunshine Coast has suffered the most," he said in a September 10 phone interview, during which his wife had been waiting hours for Quadra's ferry (with a TAP form), due to a problem with its watertight doors.

"If I lived [in Powell River], I'd be sitting on someone's desk in Victoria. I have never dealt with such a dysfunctional organization in my life."

Quadra Island, which is near Campbell River, is served by two ferries. The island struggles with many of the same issues qathet does. Over the years, Jim has gathered names on petitions, organized local protests, written for the local newspaper, collaborated on large protests in Victoria, and appeared on TV, on radio and in newspapers across Canada. He is

as close to an "expert" on getting the attention of BC Ferries as there is.

However, he said, most action isn't as fruitful as it could be. Because the BC Liberals took BC Ferries away from direct government control in 2003, the corporation isn't afraid of democratic control. Vote a party out, or vote a party in – neither has an impact on BC Ferries. Neither politicians nor the executive of the agency itself care much about citizen complaints, he said.

In the past, Jim said two things have worked at getting BC Ferries attention.

First, picking a really specific issue and focusing on it. In 2014, for example, he loaded six buses of protesters from Quadra Island and brought them to Victoria for a "Defend Our Marine Highways" demonstration against service cuts and fares dou-



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bling. It wasn't just Quadra represented there, but 2,000 people from many other ferry-dependent communities lobbying for affordability. It worked-atleast partially. The lesson here is, choose something possible, and go for it, he said.

Second, he said, use media.

"It's the only thing that allows us to win," said Jim. "Not until the media lambastes these guys, like a dog with a bone, that the agency starts to respond. They hate being killed by the media."

Still, Jim warned that the issues BC Ferries is grappling with now are not as easily challenged as a fare increase.

Understaffing is a problem, he said, but it really needed to be addressed 10 years ago, to give people time to train. Not having enough ships, too, takes time to fix. BC Ferries has ordered 11 new ships to be built over the next 12 years. None of them will be

"On either of those, the outcome of your rage is going to be, 'We don't have enough crew and we can't get them. And we don't have enough ships and we

can't build them fast enough.' I'd say, have we gone to the military? Can we second some staff? Lease a ship? And fix the problem. Those are possibilities."

MLA Nicholas Simons disagrees with Jim's assessment that governments don't care, and don't listen. For example, he said, after the NDP took power in 2017, the government immediately reduced fares by 15%, restored sailings that had been cut, and brought back the seniors' discount. His government has introduced assured loading for people travelling with TAP (medical) forms (some bugs to be worked out). And, new boats are being commissioned and staff hired and trained - although the results are not

"Yes people are frustrated by ferries, and those frustrations are real, even if the causes of those frustrations aren't the same ones from years ago," Nick said. "People might want to remember that it was because of the outcry – because people came to meetings and spoke eloquently and wrote letters, that's why we cut fares and restored service levels right

away. And if our government hadn't just provided \$500 million dollars to prevent fares from going up 10% this year, we would be filling town halls and Jim would be back on a bus to Victoria again - but we don't have to. It's hard to protest against a staffing shortage – that's one of the reasons I'm meeting with the CEO next week, to raise issues about things they can change."

Nick also notes that organizing protests against BC Ferries has always been complicated. Ferry users are spread out geographically, so it's difficult to come together for a big, impactful protest event, he said. "But I'd say our government listened, and recognizes the ongoing challenges.

After eight years, Kim may quit as chair of the FAC. She would love to quit.

"I told my husband I'm getting a sore head from hitting it against the wall."

But she won't. Instead, she is staying on as FAC chair so she can be an even-stronger advocate for better service – from the inside. **L** || pieta@prliving.ca











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Fall is better with turkeys - especially this one.

ara is a wild turkey who is rumoured to have been born and raised on Atrevida Road, and eventually made her way to Lund. She is a celebrity. Currently, she is blessing the Rehfeldt household with an extended visit, roosting on the mirror of Susanne and Herb's truck or on the railing of their deck, so she can catch her own reflection in

the windows. She is a pretty bird. She

On the Lund Facebook page, locals post Tara sightings.

Lund resident Charlie Latimer was so taken with her, he made a decal for the Lund Sticker Show at Tidal Art Centre this summer featuring Tara, The Mayor of Lund (right).

"I think it's probably the only thing Lundies can agree on... So without any opposition, she was acclaimed," he said. As mayor, Charlie added, "I think she skips most regional district meetings, but she does do a lot of surveying of the community."

Before the Rehfeldts, she moved in with the Lund Postmaster's chickens. Tara enjoyed herd time with the other poultry, but also lingered solo on Kassi-

PUMPKIN PATCHES

What: Another October tradition. Pick a pumpkin and spend time with your family and friends mucking around on a good-fall-vibes farm.

Blueberry Commons Annual Pumpkin Patch & Squash Festival: Friday, October 14, 3 til 6 pm, and Saturday October 15, 10 am to 5 pm.

Family Farm B&B Pumpkin Patch & Fall Farm **Tours:** Weekend October 7 & 8. Buy tickets ahead of time at familyfarmbnb.com

> dy Sharanowski and Colin Mallery's front porch, decorating the cedar and Douglas-fir backdrop.

> > "I saw her last week roaming the top of our road," said Kassidy. "She's moulting and only has one tail feather!"

Even in her sad state, Susanne accepts Tara's presence as a gift. "She started flying over our fence, and I started to feed her oats. Now, we feed her meal worms. Tara is still a wild bird. We leave her alone and she can roam wherever she pleases."

In spite of the droppings, and eating the Rehfeldt's kohlrabi and corn, and her messy moult, Susanne adores Tara - as does Lund.

"We feel honoured that she is always here," said Susanne. "We keep her safe on our property. ¶



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Where **Ghosts Play a Part**

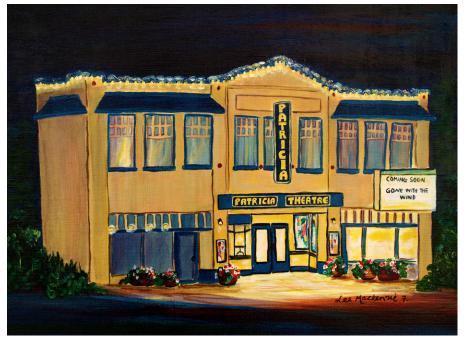
BY LEE MACKENZIE

In the very earliest days of the Townsite, just after 1910, homes and businesses were being created, however rudimentary. Among them was a tent that housed a makeshift theatre. There were rough benches, and a hand-cranked projector.

By September of 1913 a narrow, two-story building went up to replace the tent which had blown down in a storm. It housed the cinema where the Cenotaph now stands. In a community naming contest "Patricia" was chosen in tribute to Princess Patricia, the popular daughter of the Governor General of the day, the Duke of Connaught. Seating was created from kitchen chairs hinged onto a plank, to allow for cleanup, or to be scooted out of the way for a boxing ring or stage. Movies, news reels, fashion shows, pie-eating contests, and sporting events all made the little theatre a beloved beehive of entertainment and escape.

In 1928, the "Patricia" we now know opened its doors a short distance up the street and was a luxury palace compared to its small but steadfast ancestor, whose name travelled up the hill to adorn its successor.

Built in Spanish Colonial Revival style the new Patricia offered more modern seating, plush draperies, and a huge gold fibre screen. There was a



HAUNTED THEATRE: Lee Mackenzie created this painting of the Patricia Theatre, one of the community's favourite haunts. Courtesy of Lee Mackenzie

top-quality organ for incidental music and accompaniment to silent movies. Elaborate murals transported the guests to the exotic outdoors.

But when the old theatre closed and the new, posh one opened did more than the name "Patricia" relocate? If any energies or entities also travelled up the hill it wouldn't be any surprise to a ghost investigator who knows the Townsite well.

Mike Merle, **Paranormal Roadtrippers**

Mike Merle is one of the founders of the Paranormal Roadtrippers. He has international experience in meshing curiosity with science, ghost stories with history, and inviting others to perhaps have experiences of the same.

Mike says places like the Patricia are especially interesting. "Theatres hold a lot of emotions," he explains. "Fear, sadness, happiness, excitement. It's because of the movies that are shown, the plays. And when people go to performances it can spark trauma, joy, memories. All of that energy can all be embedded throughout the theatre. That would certainly be true for the Patricia as well."

Mike is very familiar with Powell River and says there is plenty of fascinating paranormal activity in the Historic Townsite. But he hasn't yet been into the Patricia.

"It is one of the many places I would very much like to investigate," he said. "I would love to try to connect the dots between history and the unknown, the

HAUNTED WALKING TOURS OF TOWNSITE

When: Twice daily October 23 to 28, at 4:30 and 7 pm.

What: A 45-minute stroll through some of Townsite's most storied (and potentially haunted) locales. \$10 per person. Please register ahead through the gathet Museum: gathetmuseum.ca. Be advised: it might be a bit frightening for some people and children.

Where: Meet at Henderson House in Townsite. Dress appropriately for the weather.

other side."

Ann Nelson, former proprietor, The Patricia

When Ann Nelson first walked into the Patricia she was transported to her childhood in California.

When Ann grew up in the Los Angeles area, it was the right place and time to experience the glamorous days of movie theatres. The furnishings and decorating were luxurious and lavish. Theatres hummed with charm and magic.

At one point, Ann's mother was working as an usherette and brought her little daughter along.

"She had this swanky, hold satin uniform. And when she wasn't seating people, she would go up and down the aisle selling candy and cigarettes.

"I remember being parked upstairs with this sweet old gentleman with a lovely suit, starched collar and



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

She was always available on short notice to work with my challenging schedule, and very patient with me despite me not knowing what I wanted to purchase.

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Thanks Austyn.

- Mel H

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starched cuffs," she recalls. "He was the owner and also the projectionist."

Little Ann soaked it all in. And many years later when she saw the Patricia, it was a small but charming trip to the past.

"Oh of course nothing can compare with the famous theatres in California or New York. Those were swank. But here it was in Powell River, this beautiful little bijoux with all the elements of those theatres, just in miniature."

It was 2002 when Ann came to live in and operate the theatre, which she did until recently.

She not only heard about ghosts attached to the Patricia - she had experiences of her own.

"One of the stories is about a man named Dan. The theatre was closed and Dan was in there doing some work. There is a swinging door with a deadbolt between the auditorium and the fire exit.

"When movies or newsreels were playing in the early days, they used to just repeat and repeat. Customers came in at random times. When they reached the part in the repeat where they had come in originally, they would just get up and leave," Ann explained. "That's where the saying comes from 'This is where I came in.' To leave, you just went down the aisle and then through one of the swinging doors to a landing, and then through another door. There are also doors for a stairwell and backstage area. But people leaving would just go straight through to the outside."

On the day of Dan's terrifying encounter, Ann says, all the doors were unlocked. Definitely. Dan went through from the auditorium into the landing space.

"He had gone in there and was doing something. The doors were all unlocked when he went in because he'd gone through the swinging door. All doorknobs were unlocked. Suddenly the work light overhead in the landing went out and he thought somebody turned it out on him. So he tried to leave to resolve the situation, but he couldn't get out. He could not, could not, get out."

Ann says Dan was a big, burly man. He was pounding on all the doors, kicking them, trying to attract attention, but knew the theatre was built to be secure and quiet, and was closed anyway. No one would hear him.

"And finally he was just kicking on the swinging door, feeling panic, when suddenly it gave way and swung open from the auditorium. Dan stepped back and the door swung again."

"And coming through the door was a man putting on his hat and holding a little girl by her hand. From the description of the clothing he was dressed as if he was from the 1930s or 1940's. They were coming through the area just as patrons had done for decades, leaving the theatre and heading outside. In fact, they walked right past Dan and out the door with the crash bar. Then the light came back on."

Dan tried all the doorknobs again. All of them had been locked tight when the light went out and he was trapped in the dark. And now every single one opened easily. "He was quite shaken," said Ann. "Understandably."

There has been a wide range of businesses in other parts of the building over the years: a candy store, beauty salons, a financier, a chiropractor, and den-

One of those, Dr. Marlatt, had his dental practice there. He gained the reputation of being gruff, cranky, and lacking in gentleness or compassion when treating his patients.

Ann believes, from her own experiences, that the cantankerous old man is still hanging around.

"I was very aware of Dr. Marlatt. Out of the corner of my eye I would see a bit of his lab coat disappearing around a corner" she says. But in time he became

"I would see this wiry little guy with wire-rimmed glasses and a dentist's sort of tunic, upstairs in the living space. He was just flitting around with a sourpuss look on his face. He never talked to me, he was just there. It was like he was asserting his seniority in the space upstairs." Ann has been told that others have been aware of Dr. Marlatt roaming the second floor. "People tell me he intimidated everyone who came to work or visit. And it is clear he's up there

Dr. Marlatt never succeeded in frightening or bullying Ann. "I have a very laid-back response to the experiences that I had at the theatre," she explains. "If he wanted to wander in the upstairs space, it was his right to do it, because he had been a primary tenant."

Kathy Piechotta, former Patricia Theatre employee

Kathy Piechotta began working at the Patricia 13 years ago, when Ann Nelson was still living there. Kathy was working in the auditorium when she heard a woman call her name. "She said 'Kathv!' loud and clear." About three minutes later Kathy heard her name again, and then again. "I thought it must be Ann calling me from the balcony so I went upstairs. Ann was sitting in her living room at the far side of the building, as far from where I was working as she could be. I asked her if she was calling me, but she said no."

For some people this might have been an unsettling experience, but not for Kathy.

"I thought it was cool," she said. "In fact, I gave her a name. I decided to call her 'Elizabeth.' I don't know if that was ever her real name, but it seems to fit the time that I imagine she is from."

Kathy says she often gets what she describes as

"that feeling" when she is in the Patricia. Sometimes it comes when she is alone, but it also happens when others are there. She describes one evening when she and two more workers were in the lobby.

"We all felt this sort of movement. It was like we felt air go by," she said. "We didn't see anything. But it was pretty clear. And I said 'Did someone just go upstairs?' One person went up to the next floor to check. Nothing."

"I've often heard footsteps," Kathy says. "I've heard all kinds of sounds and had eerie feelings." One time there were loud footsteps coming through the ceiling as though someone was walking overhead.

Kathy's husband was there and heard them, too. He went upstairs to check. No one there. No explanation for the sounds of someone or some thing with a heavy step.

She also has a story about walking her two dogs past the Patricia and seeing a man in a hat and a long overcoat just steps ahead of her. She encouraged her dogs to stay calm and keep walking with her. The man turned into a parking area. She was there sec-

"But he had vanished," she says. "And there is no way he could have been out of sight by the time I got there - there just wasn't time!"

Settling in with spectres

The idea of ghosts or spirits wandering places in the Townsite may be a bit unsettling to some, but to ghost hunters like Mike Merle they are fascinating links to history. Having already hosted paranormal investigation events at the Old Courthouse Inn, Mike sees how easily it could include the Patricia Theatre.

"I would love to give people the opportunity to celebrate the Patricia's colourful and memorable history," he says.

"Maybe some ghosts or presences just need to be heard and understood. Let's go see and listen and take some science along with us."

To Ann Nelson, whatever or whoever is there are companions, in a way, in life's journey. "I am willing to accept that we're immersed in remnants of spirits of living things. And so if I have experience of any of this remnant, it's not a big 'Stop the presses!' event. My reaction is just 'Oh, okay. Why don't you come and visit? Don't want to tell me? That's cool. See you next time."

For Kathy Piechotta, the presences are company. Ever since "Elizabeth" called her name, Kathy has decided they are friends.

"I've always believed in that stuff," she explains. "When I am tidying up after a movie and I'm all alone in the auditorium I talk to Elizabeth. I ask her how she liked the movie. And when I lock up at the end I always wish her goodnight." 9L



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After another dry summer, the rain is finally falling and salmon are surging up local rivers and streams. Here, a handful of gathet's expert salmon-watchers assess the state of our salmon, and what the future may hold.

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

1. October is salmon month!

The region's two hatcheries will host more than a thousand local students at education events, during the peak of the dramatic coho and chinook runs up the rivers.

Tla'amin's hatchery, at Tishosum River, opens for school groups during the first week of the month, with river viewing directly and through the underwater aquarium, demonstrations in the smokehouse, and cultural salmon-centred activities in the Salish Cen-

The Powell River Salmon Society opens for school groups during the week of October 16 to 19. On Saturday the 21st, everyone is invited to come to Lang Creek for the Salmon Expo (10:30 am to 1:30 pm).

2. Pink salmon are mysteriously prolific

In mid-September, Tla'amin hatchery manager Lee George and his crew were waiting for the rains, so the pinks could come up the Tishosum River at the Tla'amin village. Normally, there are about 500 pinks in the river by then.

"The bears are having a smorgasbord," said Lee. "Hopefully the water comes up before the sea lions and whales eat them all."

FISH STICK: Tla'amin's hatchery manager, Lee George, explains how to smoke a salmon: by flattening it between sticks and hanging it over a smouldering fire. During the first weeks of October, this community smokehouse gets booked by Tla'amin families who want to process their fish traditionally.

Little cabins like this dotted the shore at Tishosum, Lee, who is now 60, remembers. When he was a child, each family had a fish trap and a smokehouse, and the kids would chase herring at the beach.

Declining salmon returns over the past few years mean there's fewer food fish available for the community. In fact, he said, this year he went out fishing, because he wasn't sure how many fish they'd be able to take this

After decades of habitat disruption (see #7) it's his mission to bring salmon back to Tla'amin Nation as a central part of the diet and culture - a dependable, sustainable food source for future generations.







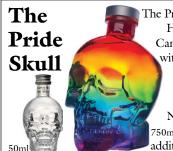
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The sheer number of pinks is also a mystery to trout and salmon fishing guide Patches Demeester.

"We're seeing an odd return," he reflected. "Two years ago we didn't have the kind of returns that would allow for these numbers. If every fish survived, there wouldn't be enough to see this many. I think they must have strayed in the Pacific pasture."

3. Fishing was healthy this summer. What will that mean for fall?

Lee spent the summer on the water teaching his seven-year-old grandson to fish. At Harwood and Texada, he said, the coho and chinook are plentiful. Still, he wasn't sure how significant the returns would be this year – maybe not enough to take food fish for the Nation. So he stocked his freezer with salmon he caught on the ocean, instead.

In 45 years at the hatchery the biggest return Lee has seen was 65,000 fish, a far cry from today.

Patches notes that ocean survival rates for pink, coho and chinook are up.

4. "The fight every year is the climate."

That's what Tla'amin hatchery tech Simon George said, reflecting on this year's drought-like summer conditions. Unlike Lang Creek, which has lots of water from Haslam Lake, the Tishosum River depends on the Theodosia River for flow – and it was diverted for industry 65 years ago (see #7). So Tla'amin's hatchery project – which feeds the community – is especially vulnerable to changes in weather patterns.

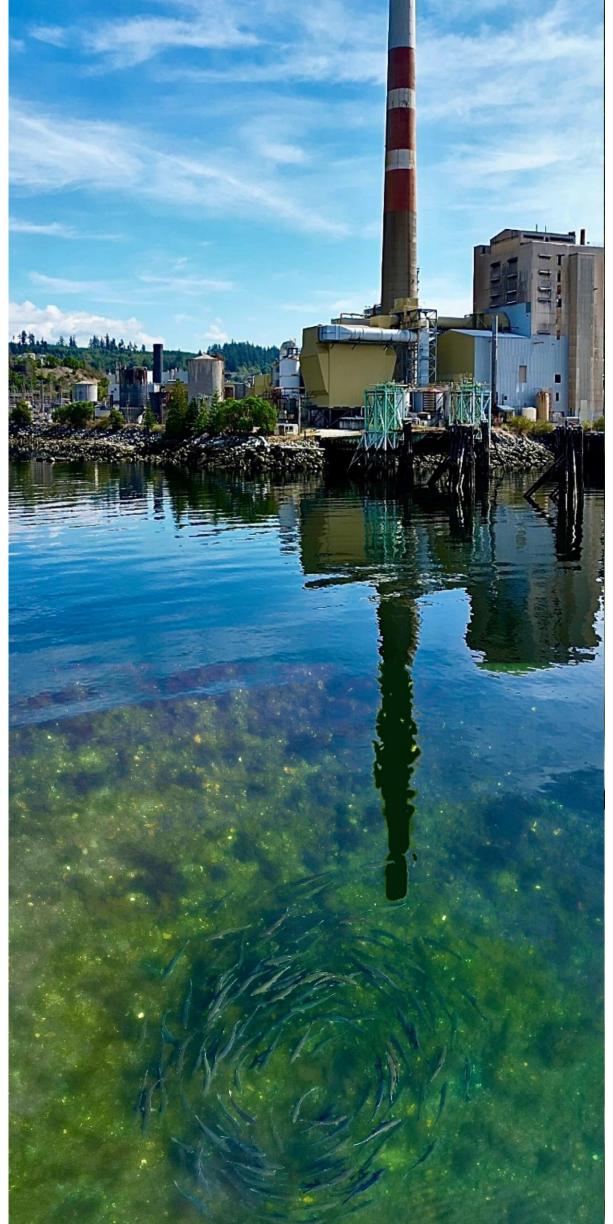
"We had low numbers last year, but we still pulled all the eggs we needed."

Lee said the temperature in the river reached 27°C this summer – among the highest he's seen. It's impacting the coho most, and if these temperatures remain, Lee believes there will be no more coho in two years.

"We can't cool it down," said Lee. "They have to stop logging in our watersheds. There's no canopy cover, the estuary is [too warm and] growing. There's so little snow, we're not getting the melt most years. So there's no water unless we get rain." On the other hand, there was so much rain in 2014, the hatchery flooded and Tla'amin lost its eggs.

PRETTY IN PINK: Local photographer and videographer Ryk Tataryn used his phone to capture this image of the mill stack, and his drone to capture these fish from overhead in the exact same spot. Then, he blended the images using photoshop. Find more of Ryk's photos on Facebook (Loft Zilla or Loft Gang), or email him at tatarynryk@gmail.com.





Bad Ass Golden Girls (BAGGs) unite for salmon



ate in 2020, three retired women formed the cycling group Golden Girls'. This group expanded to ten during the first year, and became known as BAGGs (Bad Ass Golden Girls).

There was a desire to exercise and socialize with like-minded women during the long, anxious days of the pandemic, and during these rides, stamina, determination, and a strong camaraderie have developed.

Now, at sixteen members, they spend one day a week riding locally in all weather conditions and have taken away-rides of over 1,000 km on coastal islands. The BAGGs also enjoy volunteering for several local charities.

On September 1, BAGGs cycled

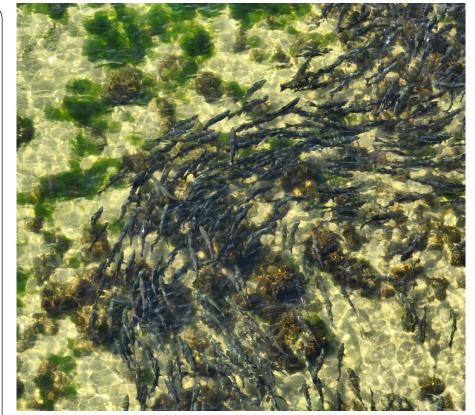
to Lang Creek to show support for salmon enhancement.

At the Alex Dobler Centre they were welcomed by Salmon Society volunteer Peter Giroday and hatchery managers demonstrated how fish are sorted, counted, and released to go upstream. They explained how broodstock is selected for the hatchery.

A BAGGs' brick is now part of the Salmon Preservation Pathway (as pictured above). The women are very pleased their donation will help fund the Salmon Preservation Foundation to ensure the future well-being of local salmon and student education programs.

To join the BAGGs, email Andymaryp@yahoo.ca.

- by Gail Scholefield & Jacque Scholtz



BEAUTIFUL SALMON: Pinks swim in a shallow stream.

Photo by Ryk Tataryn.

5. The fight is also sea lions. And, other things.

When salmon are stuck at sea, they're easy prey for sea lions and orca.

Tla'amin's Lee noted that changing ocean conditions have attracted new, non-migratory sea lions.

"In 2022 we saw zero chinook," Lee ons because there just wasn't enough water in the rivers [for them to get away from the pinnipeds]. The mill is covered in sea lions now-it's salmon smorgasbord."

said. "They were all eaten by sea li-

6. Tla'amin would like to expand its hatchery work

Tla'amin's hatchery is planning to expand with new rearing space and greater water storage capacity. It also plans to reintroduce a small storage dam to augment water flows for over-wintering coho and returning salmon spawners when needed.

Ideally, Lee said, they'd love to put small satellite hatcheries in Okeover and Theodosia.

"All the fish we're introducing-it doesn't mean they're coming back. The commercial and recreational fisheries are benefiting from them. Canada

needs to start paying for this. We have the same funding as we did in 1977."

7. Theodosia River will be the newsmaker of 2024

Back in 1958, engineers diverted the Theodosia River into Powell Lake to power the dam and fuel the mill. No consultation with First Nations took place at the time, of course. Though changing the way the water flows through the backcountry has a tremendous impact on Tla'amin Nation's salmon, explained Lee. One of the reasons the village site is at Tishosum is because of the once-plentiful salmon

Before 1958, about 58,000 salmon would return up the Theodosia; now, about 3,000 do.

"It's not just the diversion; it's also the clearcutting, and the sediments filling pools in the river, making the estuary a mud flat, and a breeding ground for sea leeches."

The estuary, Lee explained, is now nearly half a kilometre wide, and warm. When the fish swim in, the size of the shallows gives the sea leeches enough time to attach to the fish and kill them. They get parasites that kill their eggs, too.

The good news is, there's hope. Tla'amin Nation has signed an MOU with Evolugen Power, which owns the dam, to consider options for the watershed-almost all of which is in Tla'amin's treaty lands.

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How I've supported my own healing

BY LESLEY PIHL

he first time I wrote an article on breast health for *qathet Living* was in 2006 when I was sitting in a very humid internet café in Lindos, Greece. I'd had breast cancer surgery a few months before and was sharing that I had jumped on the wheat grass bandwagon and was working with a naturopath for healing.

There have been many advancements in medicine since 2006 but unfortunately people are still getting breast cancer as I experienced again in 2022 after a severe motor vehicle accident that resulted in inflammation, chest soft tissue injury and stress.

I had more surgery for breast cancer and also a holistic approach of naturopathy, homeopathy, vitamin C delivered intravenously, oxygen chamber, acupuncture, reiki, kinesiology, herbal tinctures and wheat grass.

Cancer diagnosis and treatment is a very personal journey, one that needs careful consideration and support. I will share practices that I have learned that focus on risk reduction and general healing before, during or after a health crisis. I am not a practitioner but a life experienced human who is trying her best to be here for many years to enjoy my life, husband, children, grandbabies and friends.

One of the most important pieces of information I learned was that cancer does not live in an alkaline and oxygenated environment. In 2006 I researched about wheat grass how it alkalizes, oxygenates and detoxifies. Alkalinity is tested with ph strips aiming for the 7.2-7.4 range of alkalinity balance. I began growing it and also sold my specialty "grasshopper" which was wheat grass, mint and pineapple at the Farmers Market on Sundays.

It was quite amazing how I got 16 trays of wheat grass in my little Pontiac Sunfire! There are many books on alkaline diets that usually include lemons, greens, seeds, fruit and legumes, green tea. Sugar, alcohol, red meat, processed food and coffee are acidic and so it's important to balance with alkaline food. A 70% alkaline diet helps keep that ratio.

Exercise may sound like a simple idea but I have researched that exercising for at least one hour four times a week can reduce cancer risk by 40 to 50%. This is especially critical as our lymph does not move unless we do.

Exercise is how the valves open to clear the debris out of our lymphatic system and eliminate waste in the body. Breasts store toxins in tissue so movement like jumping on a rebounder, kayaking, running, swimming, tennis, yoga, biking, walking all move the body, which moves the lymph. All you need is one minute jumping on a rebounder in the morning to open the valves to get lymph flowing.



FIELDS OF WHEAT GRASS: Two-time breast cancer survivor researched how an alkaline diet can help create an unwelcome environment for cancer cells. So she consumes plenty of wheat grass, lemons, mint and pineapple..

Infrared sauna, Epsom salt baths, and dry brushing are all excellent ways to clear toxins out of the body. Dry brushing is usually done before you go into a shower. Use a brush specific for "dry brushing" that lightly touches your body starting at the head and stroking towards the heart to stimulate the lymph glands.

Also when you have a shower if you alternate from hot to cold several times, for 30 seconds each, ending with cold, this will force the lymph's to contract and relax; thereby assisting the flow of the body's lymphatic drainage system

Dealing with emotions is a huge issue for breast cancer patients that we don't talk about much. Anger, resentment, depression, grief these are all emotions that are asking to be addressed to reduce impact. Hypnotherapists are wonderful as they speak to the subconscious to get to the root cause of stress. It is a silent killer that also acidifies the body and imbalances the immune system.

Gratitude, gratitude, gratitude. The quickest way to move into a balanced state is to have gratitude for what you *do* have in your life. Whether it is family, a job, a loving partner, close friends, sunshine through the front window, whatever you can turn into a positive on a daily basis will start to create a beautiful balance.

Daily affirmations of "I am healed, I am love, I create wellness in my life" are powerful.

Lastly, be in nature as often as possible to breathe in fresh air and oxygenate your cells. The more you can walk barefoot, dance on the grass, deeply breathe, sit by a tree or a stream, meditate and be in the moment, the happier and healthier your cells will be on this courageous journey called life. ¶



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The Shelter Point Concession Stand is subsidized through taxation. The qRD is legislatively unable to provide a grant, benefit, advantage or other form of assistance to an industrial, commercial or business undertaking.

The qRD is seeking feedback from residents and property owners concerning the future of the Shelter Point Park Concession Stand. The survey will run from October 2 to October 20, 2023.



This survey is non-binding, and will be one of the tools used by the qRD to make a decision regarding this service. For more information on this project, please visit: qathet.ca/shelterpoint-park-concession-stand. You can also access the survey by scanning the QR Code. Paper copies are available by request.

For more information, please contact Patrick Devereaux, Manager of Operational Services, at operations@qathet.ca or by calling 604-485-2260.



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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.



?AY?AjUOOM? YOU GOT THIS

RANDOLPH TIMOTHY JR.

χεyťθεqw Salmon

θəqay

Sockeye Salmon

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?ay?ajuθəm orthography

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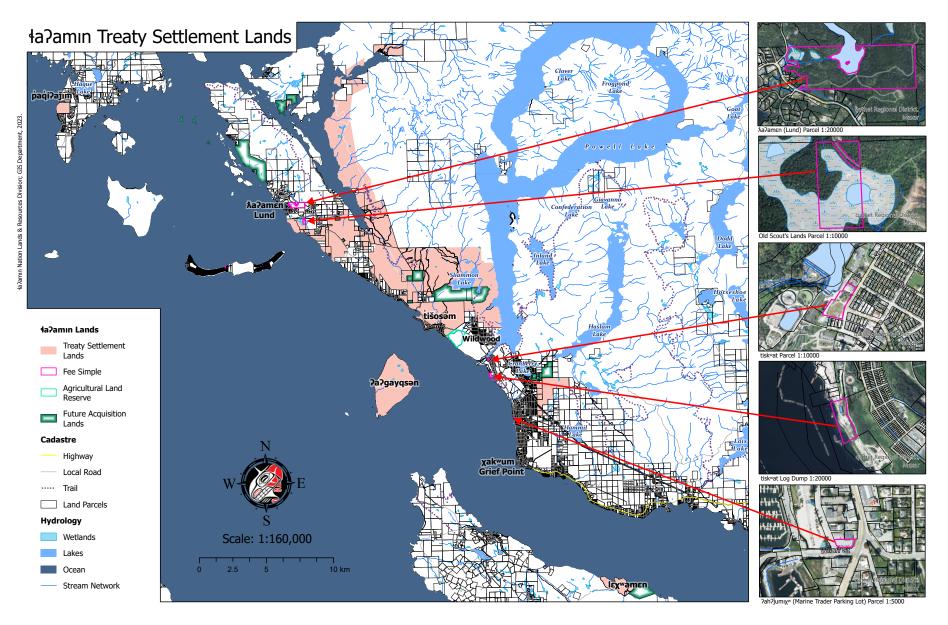
This orthography is based on the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). This guide offers a simplified version of the sounds; for an authentic accent. listen at firstvoices.com.

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

	pronounced.
a	ah
e	ay as in May
i	ee
O	oh
u	00
У	y as in yell

3	eh
ι	ih
U	oo as in look
Э	uh
č	ch
č	popping c
j	dg
k	popping k
k ^w	kw
к ^w	rounded, popping k
1	Breathy L sound
ģ	popping p
ģ	popping q

q ^w	rounaea q
qw	rounded, popping q
š	sh
š ť	popping t
t^{Θ}	t-th
ť [⊕]	Popping t-th
θ	th
$\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{w}}$	wh (like in who)
χ	Hhhh
$\chi^{\rm w}$	Hhhhw
χ	tl
χ	popping tl
?	glottal stop: uh oh



GOOD NEIGHBOURS: A map clarifies which land belongs to Tla'amin Nation, through the 2016 Treaty Settlement Final Agreement with the Province of BC and the Federal Government. The map also shows land parcels that are potential future acquisitions by Tla'amin Nation.

Treaty Settlement Lands are our grandkids inheritance Please treat them with respect

BY DAVIS MCKENZIE

ntering the Moon of the Frost, families in the qathet region are busy planning fall and winter recreation activities. With this change in season, Tla'amin government has been taking an increasing number of calls from members of the public seeking guidance about what they can and can't do on Treaty Settlement Land (TSL). We sat down with Lands and Resources Director Denise Smith to answer some of the most common questions.

What is Treaty Settlement Land?

Davis • Tla'amin TSL includes over 8,000 hectares of land privately owned by Tla'amin Nation. Collectively TSL represents just under 0.06% of Tla'amin traditional territory.

Lands and Resources Director Denise Smith says "Because Tla'amin's modern treaty took so long to resolve, industry and private citizens had purchased or leased much of the available, desirable land in our territory."

Smith says that TSL are meant to sustain Tla'amin growth and prosperity for future generations of Tla'amin

people. "These lands are all we've got left, they are our grandkids inheritance, so it's important that we protect them."

What do I need to know about visiting Treaty Settlement Lands?

Davis • Smith says that there are five things that the public should know about visiting Tla'amin TSL

· Stick to sanctioned trails. The Sunshine Coast Trail



system is recognized in the Tla'amin treaty and can be quietly enjoyed by members of the public. Unsanctioned trails are not permitted and should be reported.

- · Respect the permitting system, gathet region residents can visit the Tla'amin governance house to apply for a permit to harvest mushrooms, berries, salal, medicinal plants, cedar boughs, etc. Please bring ID that includes your current home address.
- · No hunting on Treaty Settlement Lands. Members of the public may not hunt on Tla'amin TSL.
- Firewood gathering is limited to TSL residents. Firewood permits are available for Tla'amin citizens and leaseholders and can be accessed at the governance
- · Ahgykson (Harwood Island) is foreshore access only. The Tla'amin treaty sets out special status for Ahgykson (Harwood Island). Members of the public require express permission of Tla'amin Nation government (rather than individual members) to access Ahgykson above the high tide line.
- To report a violation of any of the above, please contact Tla'amin Enforcement at 604-413-7102
- To request permission to visit Ahgykson, please contact Lands and Resources at 604-483-9646 ext. 154





DISRESPECT: Treaty Settlement Lands are less than one per cent of Tla'amin Traditional Territory, but still, some people won't recognize the Nation's sovereignty on even this small parcel. Without the Nation's permission, a makeshift paintball course (left) was installed in the forest. Right, on Texada, an information sign is vandalized. Photos courtesy of Tla'amin Nation

I've heard that some people aren't respecting Tla'amin Treaty Settlement Lands, how big a problem is this?

Davis • According to Lands Director Denise Smith, an increase in vandalism, illegal occupancy, dumping, and squatting on TSL are concerning for Tla'amin Nation.

A Tla'amin Nation sign on Treaty Settlement Lands is broken and vandalized.

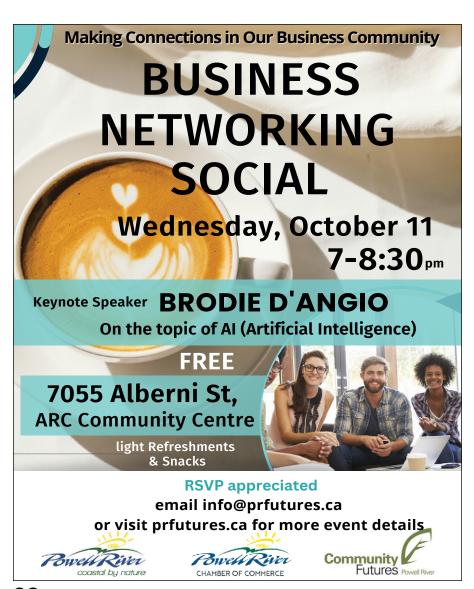
Tla'amin Treaty Settlement Lands were being used as a makeshift paintball course without the Nation's permis-

The Nation has installed a network of cameras and is considering installing gates to limit public access to key parts of the territory.

Smith says that Tla'amin is assembling an enforcement team to be the Nation's eyes and ears on the ground, but the territory is vast and it's hard to be everywhere at once.

"That's where the public comes in," says Smith. "We'd like to continue to offer conditional access to TSL, but we need the help of the community."

Smith is asking members of the public to please report vandalism, illegal harvesting, dumping, and squatting to the Nation's enforcement team at 604-413-7102. 9L







YARD **ART**

GNOME HOME, Yukon Avenue

BY CLANCY DENNEHY

This two story stump with central heating is a hillbilly hangout for these two resident gnomes Coen and Findley.

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ARTISANS

Pumpkin Patch at Blueberry Commons

Fri, Oct 20, noon - 5 • Sat, Oct 21, 10 - 5 • 6619 King Ave

Large and small pumpkins by donation. Pumpkin treats (pie, ice cream, hot drinks, empanadas and curried squash, squash doggie biscuits.) Face painting, music, photo ops, and more. Partial proceed to James Thompson School PAC.



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

Where service and safety move volumes. Next day, damage-free delivery.

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Top 5 reasons Pollen Sweaters make terrible Halloween costumes

- 1. Pollen Sweaters are available in 25 colours, but glow-in-the dark is not one.
- 2. They look hot, not scary. Especially in/at midnight. (See centre below.)
- 3. Pollen Sweaters are comfortable, the opposite of every other costume you've ever worn, especially that cat suit in 2004.
- 4. The wool sticks in vampire teeth. Especially on the cowl neck sweaters. Good for you, but bad for vampires, and it's their night.
- 5. Less candy, because no one feels sorry for a Pollen sweater wearer. They're jealous.

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gathet film society presents

3 ears indigenous film festival 2023

September 29 – October 3, 2023

Free Admission

The Nature of Healing Friday September 29 — 7 pm Preceded by *Holy Angels* short Tla'amin Spirit Singers welcome

Smoke Signals Saturday September 30 — 7 pm

My Name is Wolastoq Sunday October 1 — 1:30 pm Panel discussion following movie

Q&A with Evan Adams via zoom

War Pony Sunday October 1 — 7 pm

Birth of a Family Monday October 2 — 7 pm Preceded by Honour to Senator Murray

The Road Forward Tuesday October 3 — 7 pm



WHAT'S **UP**



FOR ALL WEE ONES: This new playground at Assumption School (Glacier St.) is open to the public weekdays after 3 pm and weekends; it is qathet's only natural playground created especially for early learners.

Preschool playground opens

The air was filled with the smell of barbecue and the sound of excited children as the crowd made their way up the hill behind Assumption School on September 7. After more than two years of planning, consultation, and hard work, the Assumption School proudly opened The Assumption Preschool Community Playground.

Father Patrick Tepoorten, Pastor, led the dedication prayer with Assumption families, students, staff, and parishioners present for the grand opening. Also in attendance was Bill Bird of the Powell River Community Forest Board and Clarke Fuller and Sherri Payne of A Better Bobcat Service Ltd.

This playground is unique to the qathet region, as it is specifically designed with early learners in mind. The intention was to create a natural playground, with open-ended play opportunities. It features a climbing wall made from recycled logging truck tires, a paved road for tricycles and riding toys, an outdoor kitchen, picnic tables, balancing timbers, and a slide. With more natural play elements still to be added, the playground is a wonderful new resource for preschoolers, their teachers and parents. Cynthia Parise, Assumption Preschool Manager, wanted to create a safe outdoor space for not only the Assumption School preschoolers, but all preschool aged children of the gathet region.

With a generous grant from The Powell River Community Forest Board of \$100,000 and an additional \$25,000 paid for by Assumption Church attendees, this dream was made a reality.

Assumptions' preschool and kindergarten students will now be fortunate enough to utilize this space during regular school hours. All members of the qathet region are welcome to enjoy this space with their children five years of age and younger on weekends or weekdays after 3 pm.

- Cynthia Parise



Kennedy sister wins CMA award

gathet's Julie Kennedy won the Canadian Country Music Association's Fiddle Player of the Year last month.

"Playing the fiddle on stage with my bestie and twin sis Carli is my happy place," said Julie in a social media post. "As many of you know, this last year had thrown me some curve balls, and I am in the middle of my breast cancer treatment right now. It was such a gift to be able to travel to the awards with my hubby and with my mom and dad! Celebrating this win together is something I will never forget," she said.

Julie and her twin sister Carli were born and raised in gathet. They grew up perfecting their sibling harmonies and dynamic live performances while making their name known throughout their small community as a family band.

Known as Twin Kennedy, Julie performs on vocals and fiddle while Carli does vocals and plays guitar.

School District changes name

The qathet School District is latest public institution to drop Powell River from its name.

On September 25, The Powell River Board of Education adopted gathet - a gifted avajuthem word which signifies "working together" – for the school district.

Removing the name Powell from the District's name is significant; Israel Powell was the first superintendent of Indian Affairs in British Columbia who reigned for 17 years and represents a colonial structure that oppressed and harmed First Nations people in countless ways, said the school district in a press release.

"As a school district we have a responsibility to create the conditions that will provide the best quality of education for every student to succeed in school and life. A new name signals that we value all students and are committed to building strong relationships moving forward," said Dale Lawson, Board Chair, gathet School District.

A name ceremony will be planned at a later date in partnership with Tla'amin to officially celebrate the school district's new name.

In 2018, the Powell River Regional District changed its name to the qathet Regional District. Since then, many other organizations and institutions that serve the entire region have followed suit. Last year Vancouver Island's Powell River campus changed its name to tiwšemawtxw which means House of Learning.

Others, such as Powell River Women in Business chose to go a different route and became Coastal Women in Business.

Other mostly-public institutions that have changed names to ayajuthem words include; gathet General Hospital, Paper Excellence Tiskwat; qathet Museum & Archives; gathet Safe, gathet Division of Family Practice: gathet Art Centre; gathet Pride Society; Trans qathet; qathet Old Growth; qathet Regional Cycling Association; qathet Climate Alliance; the urban Homesteading School of gathet; The Lund Resort at Klah Ah men; Klah Ah Men Lund Gazebo Park; Skelp; The Peak: Voice of gathet Region; and, of course, gathet Living magazine.

Toastmasters Returns

Powell River and qathet residents interested in public speaking and leadership skills are invited to join City of the Arts Toastmasters at their hybrid weekly Toastmaster meetings in the comfort of their own home via Zoom -or above the Powell River Public Library (in Room 201-6975 Alberni Street) - on alternate Thursdays.

Toastmasters is an international non-profit organization that builds confidence and teaches public speaking and leadership skills in 148 coun-

With more than 270,000 members, this supportive community teaches members to prepare and deliver speeches, respond to impromptu questions and give and receive constructive

Club president Dan Dyble says: "the biggest thing that Toastmasters gave me is an understanding of how to design a talk for different purposes-if you want to inform someone, it is different than wanting to persuade them of something. The training on how to run a club, area or district can be applied to any organization. The skills are transferable and scalable."

For more information, contact Dan Dyble at membershipcota@gmail.com or call 604-483-5652.



HOME BREW: Sara Parslev is thrilled to be back in town in her professional capacity. She grew up in Stillwater, and is a graduate of Max Cameron.

You, too, can own a piece of a pub

ast month, Gibsons' Persephone Brewing and the local builders Hanson Land & Sea bought the enormous building at 4478 Marine. Both businesses own the real estate together, which includes leased storefronts and offices; just Persephone owns and will run the pub and bowl-

Persephone's chief operating officer, Sara Parsley (above), said most things at the pub and lanes will stay the same in the near future.

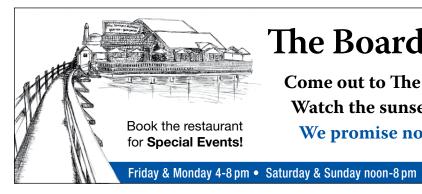
"It's still that third space," she said. "We want a comfortable, inclusive place to meet people, have conversations and a great burger and beer."

What isn't the same is the business model. Persephone is looking for investors here in town, and is holding several events this month with that aim. You can buy in for as little as \$100 and own part of the business which comes with lifetime perks.

"Our shareholders are our biggest ambassadors," said Sara, explaining that the 10-year-old Persephone has always been shareholder-owned (although not publicly-traded).

The model encourages local involvement in the business-and local buy-in to its success.

At Persephone's 11-acre site near the Langdale Ferry, that sense of community is plain. The business, which brews beer and cider and makes seltzer, is also host to a farmers' market. and puts on music and community events. How will Persephone's vision manifest on Marine? Soon we'll see. 4



The Boardwalk Restaurant in Lund

Come out to The Boardwalk and enjoy beautiful October. Watch the sunset over dinner - without the crowds.

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Reservations required for Oct. 9 Thanksgiving dinner special

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Community Masquerade

ith October comes fall leaves, cold days, and the spookiest night of the year: Halloween. Kids dress up to trick-or-treat, and ghouls are out and about, waiting to cause a fright. Since the early days of Powell River, the holiday has been a big occasion. The Eastern Star hosted its first Halloween Masquerade Dance in 1922, which went on to become the town's biggest masquerade each year.

The dance was held in the Central Building, where now stands the old Bank of Montreal. Doors opened at 9 pm, and festivities persisted late into the night. People wore elaborate masked costumes and competed for prizes. A Grand March showed off the costumes, and the contest's winners were announced at 11 pm. A stage was decorated with witches,



BLAST FROM THE PAST

SAVERIO COLASANTO

cauldrons, and fire and the Powell River Orchestra provided music (The Powell River News, November 1928). In later years, this honour went to the Patricia Orchestra, the Metropolitan Orchestra, and Bennie's 6-Piece Orchestras, respectively.

Costume categories included "Most Original Home-Made Costume" and "Comic Costume," and the entries did not disappoint. Announced in the



VINTAGE COSTUME:

Far left, a Rod LeMay photo of a masquerade held at Central Hall in 1916. Left, an original ad for the event which ran in the Powell River Digester, Vol. 2 No. 10.

Powell River Digester, Mrs. Russell won the 1923 comic prize for her jack-in-the-box costume. Ruth Ketchum's butterfly costume was the best homemade costume in 1924, for which she got an antique silver table lamp. Mr. H. Davis dressed as Felix the Cat in 1928, winning him the comic prize. Some years also featured a prize for "Best Impersonation." Mrs. G. Russell won this category in 1929 with her impression of a Shift-Worker's Nightmare.

From 1928 onwards, the masquerade was held in the brand new Dwight Hall. The event lost money in 1932, and was last held in the mid-1930s. Despite this. Halloween remains widely celebrated in the gathet region, with Halloween dances held in the Dwight Hall as recently as the past decade. ¶



Thichum Forestry is now doing commercial firewood deliveries

In addition to providing firewood to Tla'amin elders and unique assistance needs at the Nation, Thichum Forestry also donates loads to youth involved sports, arts and education programs.

Thichum is also selling loads of firewood to gathet residents.

Contact firewood@tmslp.ca or call 236-327-8036 for information or to arrange a delivery.





The City of Powell River is having an

open house about manufactured homes including modular and mobile homes

There have been a lot of questions about the future of manufactured homes in Powell River, and staff have been working hard to answer them. Amendments to the City's Sustainable Official Community Plan, Zoning, & Building bylaws are being considered in response to growing interest in manufactured housing and to improve housing choice.

Let City Council know what you think

You're invited to an Open House in Council Chambers on October 18th from 4 to 6 pm.

We hope you'll join us!



| MADE THE MOVE

Film dropout revives old radio love

ani Sanders is thrilled to finally call qathet home. After working gruelling hours in the hustle and bustle of the Vancouver entertainment/film industry for several years (both as an entertainment photographer and a props buyer), qathet is a big breath of clean, beautiful air. Her wonder dog, Cheddar loves it just as much.

Why did you move to qathet?

Lani • My amazing partner, Janet Forsyth (retired business owner, avid gardener, qathet Pride Society board member and community volunteer) built a house here a few years ago, so I've had a few ferry trips over (I was living in North Vancouver). Being in the film industry, I was elated to learn a feature was being filmed here: Can I Get a Witness with Sandra Oh. I jumped at the opportunity. Once the feature was wrapped up in late July, I realized I didn't need to go home, because I was already there/here. I packed up my digs in North Vancouver and never went back.

What surprised you about qathet?

Lani • The community spirit, people are so kind and genuine and fun. There's so much support here. The food is also yummy, Indian, Mexican, brew pubs, pizza and those Grandma Rose pies, I'm slowly eating my way through town.

What made you decide to move to gathet?

Lani • It was time for life to slow down, one more traffic jam and I was going to go bonkers. It feels like home here, it's quiet, the air is so fresh, there's so much to do here and





GOODBYE, TRAFFIC JAMS: Lani Sanders (left) came here to work on *Can I Get A Witness*, and just never left. It was time to focus on life's important things, like Cheddar (right).

I finally have the time to do some fishing and jump in the kayak.

Where is your favourite place in gathet?

Lani • Sheesh, that's about as tough as choosing my favourite song. I am quite blown away by The Patricia Theatre. The history behind it, the feeling you get when you walk through the door with the aroma of freshly popped popcorn. The murals/art work inside the theatre are gorgeous, everyone is so welcoming. Laura, the manager, is such a wonderful human. It's a small town piece of gold.

What would make qathet a nicer community?

Lani • Right now, I am just so happy to be here, I wouldn't change a thing.

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

Lani • Coming from North Vancouver, there were a lot of 'pop up' fruit and veggie stands in my area. The market here is fabulous for fruit and veg on the weekends, but a couple of 'pop up' stands during the week for some extras would be fun, too.

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

Lani • The biggest challenge was giving up my career in the film industry. It was a giant leap of faith, It was the best thing I ever did. I actually had a career in radio before film, so keep your dial set to 95.7 Coast FM, where my next adventure awaits.

If you were the mayor what would you do?

Lani • Keep qathet, qathet. This place has a charm that would be ruined by huge box stores, massive condos or any type of development madness. Generally speaking, everything this town needs is already here.

What is your greatest extravagance?

Lani • My dog, Cheddar. She gets anything she wants... anything.

What talent or superpower would you most like to have?

Lani • I wish I had the superpower to miraculously abolish all ferry waits and cancellations. **¶**







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10% Of profits reinvested into our communities annually

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Certified B Corporations are leaders in the global movement for an inclusive, equitable & regenerative economy

Tla'amin Nation hires new COO

Former City top official Russell Brewer will become Tla'amin Government's senior manager as their chief operating officer effective October 16. Russell is a former school trustee, municipal director, two-term city councillor and CAO for the City of Powell River. Most recently, he served as the chief public affairs officer at Métis Nation BC.

Tla'amin forestry donates (and sells) firewood

Thichum Forest Products, a Tla'amin Nation subsidiary, donated 100 seasoned cords of firewood to Tla'amin Nation valued at \$30,000. This allows Tla'amin to provide free firewood to elders and those with unique needs. Deliveries for eligible citizens of one free cord began last month. The yard work team is also available to re-split and stack wood for those who need extra help. For more information contact Pam Wilson at pam.wilson@tn-bc.ca or call 604-413-6869.

Thichum is also now selling loads of firewood to gathet residents. To buy a cord or two, contact firewood@tmslp.ca or call 236-327-8036.

Coastal WIB carries on

Before the AGM, Jennifer Konopelski, now past president of Coastal Women in Business, announced that the organization might fold if a new board did not step forward. At the 11th hour, a new



BUSINESS AFFAIRS

SEAN PERCY

group did and the organization has been saved. The new board consists of: Cheri Lynn Wilson, president: Hala Romana, vice-resident; Alice Ward Cameron, secretary; Cynthia Owen, treasurer; Nicole Quigley, social media director; Becky Steiger, membership director; Karina Inkster, events director; and directors at large Milla Starchick and Kaylin Foisy.

New gallery open

Well-known local artist Autumn Skye Morrison has opened a new art gallery at 4690 Marine Avenue. Artifact Gallery held a soft opening in August in the space that most recently housed Studio Curious. Featuring art by local artists including Meghan Hildebrand, Lisa Hau, and Prashant Miranda, the gallery also dedicates a back room to the works of Autumn Skye. Jewellery by Stoned, pottery by Earth Inspiration Pottery, and crystals and apothecary by Amber Friedman of Wildspirit Apothecary are among those that will also be displayed. Artifact Gallery is open Wednesday-Saturday 11 am to 5 pm.

Businesses on the move

Two local businesses that share office space have moved. Post & Purlin Forest Products and Hanson Land & Sea moved to a new location on Marine Avenue in July. They are now located at 4484 Marine Avenue near the bowling alley. Their phone number remains the same at 604 413 7170.

Cariboo builder moves here

Muth Construction is a small construction business recently relocated here when the Muth family moved to gathet. "We take on a wide variety of primarily residential projects from small interior renovations to full exterior upgrades," said owner Nate Muth. He has been in business since 2015 and worked in the Cariboo and Chilcotin region based out of 150 Mile House for the last several years. Nate and wife Priscilla moved here along with their three children "because we believe this community will be a great place to raise our children." Find Muth Construction on Facebook or reach Nate at 778-230-

New company hits roof and gutters

Michael Hill and Amelia Cantryn have launched Powell River Property Services, specializing in roof, gutter, and window cleaning. With its extremely powerful vacuum capacity, their gutter cleaning system will lift and remove the heaviest of debris from gutters up to 60 feet from the ground. They also have a water-fed window cleaning system. Other services include: roof repair, house and driveway washes, yard maintenance, interior housekeeping. and Christmas lights. Call or text 604-578-1406 for your free at home estimate. ¶



info@liftcommunityservices.org





ART IN OCTOBER

to October 7

GO FISH

qathet Art Centre. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Saturdays – 10 am to 2 pm. A cinematic spectacle on three screens, directed and produced by Scott Smith and Nettie Wild. GO FISH asks the question, if the herring set the table, who comes for dinner? qathetART.ca/qo-fish

October 5

"People" group exhibit opening

7pm, Rodmay Heritage Hotel

October 7 to 31

The Wild, Profound and Humourous Wood Sculptures of Byron Fader

Crucible Gallery. Wednesday to Friday 2-6 pm.
Saturday and Sunday
12-6 pm. Opening party
Saturday October 14.
cruciblegallery.com.

Through October

Catnip show at Magpie's Diner Regular hours.

Through October

Post POP: Robbie Matheson painting exhibit

At the Library. qathet Art.

Thursdays

Fibrespace

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

Thursdays October 5, 12, & 19

Mend and Darn it

11–1pm, Secret Garden Working Studio & Gallery. 4598 Marine. Come fix your stuff! By donation

Fridays

Shut Up and Write!

4 pm to 8 pm, Secret Garden Working Studio & Gallery. A space for Writers to work without interruption. Entry by donation (\$15 suggested)



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Hospice Society

- Individual supports for palliative clients, caregivers & those who are grieving
- Grief Walking Group at the Seawalk 10:00am first & last Tuesday of the month
 - Caregiver Support Group twice monthly on Mondays at 10:00am
 - Advance Care Planning Workshop November 7th, 10:30 at the gathet Art Centre

For more information or to register contact programs@fourtideshospice.org or 604 208 7221

www.fourtideshospice.org 604-223-7309 4675 Ontario Ave, Powell River



OCTOBER 2023

Sunday

Inktober Begins

Throughout October. Visit inktober.com, and see ad on Page 33.

3 Ears Indigenous Film Festival 2023: My Name is Wolastog

1:30 pm, The Patricia. Panel conversation following movie.

3 Ears Indigenous Film Festival 2023: War Pony 7 pm, The Patricia.

Powell River Farmers Market

12:30 to 2:30 pm, inside the quonset hut at Paradise Exhibition Grounds. St. Francis Day Pet Blessings

4 pm, Assumption Westview. With Fr. Patrick Tencorten.

Monday

National Truth and Reconciliation Day Observed stat holiday.

3 Ears Indigenous Film Festival 2023: Birth of a Family

7 pm, The Patricia. Preceded by Honour to Senator Murray Sinclair

Tuesday

Talkin' Tolkien

7 pm Library. Dive into the depths of J.R.R. Tolkien's worlds with certified Tolkien nerd Johnny MacRae, who will explore how Tolkien drew upon his own experience to create a fantastic world with moral complexity, sympathetic villains, and flawed heroes. Drop-in.

3 Ears Indigenous Film Festival 2023: The Road Forward

7 pm, The Patricia.

Writer in Residence: Writing Support and

Library. Book a free oneon-one consultation with Johnny MacRae. Through

Fibrespace drop-in

Centre every Thursday.

Screening of the documentary, The **Engine Inside:** free by donation

photo, above.

Films

Weekly

Thursday

Manuscript Review

1 to 3 pm, Thursdays at the October 26.

10 am to 2 pm at gathet Art

Film: Special

7 pm, The Patricia. See

Slam Lab

4 to 5 pm, Library. Join Writer in Residence Johnny MacRae to learn different ways to create and perform spoken word. Johnny creates a safe space for creative experimentation. Drop in.

Friday

Shut Up and Write

4 til 8 pm, The Secret Garden (4598 Marine). Fridays through October. A space for Writers to work without interruption. Entry by donation (\$15 suggested) Free meditation inviting the Muse included via OR code (bring headphones)

Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah

Jewish High Holidays through October 8

U15A Kings Cup

Hap Parker Arena. Through Sunday, October 9

Film • Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie

7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

Saturday

Mat-weaving workshop: ocean clean-up recovered rope

11 am to 1 pm, gathet Art Centre. Led by Catherine Ostler of Fishing for Plastic. Also a chance to see the herring doc Go Fish. Register at info@letstalktrash.ca.

Cranberry **Community Hall** Assoc. AGM

1pm. Brief, and we will have sushi! Come join in the fun and the music. Say hello to the new board of directors. Are YOU ONE?

info@cranhall.org to reach out!

Villa vs. Cowichan Access

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

Springtime 'Fall into Autumn' Market and Oktoberfest

11 am to 3 pm, Springtime Garden Centre. Photos on site, kids zone, prizes, hot food, Townsite Brewing, and much more.

Flea Market

10 am to 1 pm, Lang Bay

Pumpkin Patch & Farm Tours at Family Farm B&B

9 to 5 pm. 2590 Oxford Rd. Child 12 and under: \$4, 13+: \$8, Family of 2 adults 2 kids: \$20. Meet farm animals, apple cider press demo (both fresh and hot apple cider will be served), pumpkin picking, and access to the playground. Tickets at familyfarmbnb.com

Villa vs. Gorge FC 1:30 pm, Timberlane Park.

Division 1 soccer. \$5. **Uptown Market** 10 am to noon, 4752 Joyce

(in front of the CRC). Little Wonders at the

Museum: Fall Colours 10:30 to 11 am, gathet Museum, Learn and play: children 4 to 8 are invited for a themed adventure. Drop in.

Writer in Residence: Writing Support and Manuscript Review

11 am to 1 pm, Saturdays at the Library. Book a free one-on-one consultation with Johnny MacRae. Through October 26.

Film • Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie

1:30 pm and 7 pm, Patricia Theatre.



Sunday

Thanksgiving Sunday Live. Laugh. Love.

National Fire Prevention Week begins

Through October 14. nfpa.org.

Draconids Meteor Shower peak

Minor shower producing about 10 meteors per hour. Best viewing in the early evening.

Powell River Farmers Market

12:30 to 2:30 pm, inside the quonset hut at Paradise Exhibition Grounds.

Pumpkin Patch & Farm Tours at Family Farm B&B

9 to 5 pm. (See listing on the 7th for more details.) Tickets at familyfarmbnb.com

Film • Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie

1:30 pm and 7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

PATRICIATHEATRE.COM • 604-483-9345 Fire Prevention Week

WHO IS THAT YOUNGSTER?: Back before he was

the famous doctor Evan Adams, he played Thom-

as Builds-the-Fire in 1998's Smoke Signals (above),

which screened at The Pat as part of the First An-

nual Indigenous Film Fest. The Tla'amin member has

a guest role this year on Reservation Dogs. He has

also been appointed acting associate dean of Indig-

enous Health at SFU's new medical school

Films

Niahtly

15% OFF

October 8 – 14

All New Fire Extinguishers

DURING FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Check your...

Boat • Vehicle • Cabin • RV Home • Office • Industrial

Ask John about FIRST AID KITS including WCB kits

7241 Warner Street • HOURS 6 am – 6 pm

JOHN WICK • 604 485-5494 - wicksfiresafety@telus.net

For movie schedules, visit our website or see the events section in this issue



200 YEARS OF PEDAL POWER: Presented by Gibsons-based mountain biking enthusiasts Sarah Tesla and Connor Wear, The Engine Inside screens at the Patricia October 5, by donation. The Squamish-made feature film tells the stories of six everyday people from all over the globe who reveal the unique power of the bicycle to change lives and build a better world. Through their stories, we uncover the overlooked potential of this 200-yearold machine, learning that in the face of our seemingly insurmountable global challenges, hope lies in the simple act of riding our bikes.

Monday

Thanksgiving Day Stat

Schools & most businesses closed.

Dinner special at Boardwalk

Reservations required.

Film • Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie

7pm, Patricia Theatre.

Tuesday

Seniors Together

11:30 am, Cranberry Seniors Centre, in partnership with the Recreation Complex. You must register for this free event. 604-485-2891.

Wildfire Risks at Home

4 pm, Library. gathet regional FireSmart coordinator Marc Albert will teach strategies for how to improve your home and property's resilience to wildfire. For info mmerlino@prpl.ca

Film • Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie 7pm, Patricia Theatre.

Wednesday

Business Networking Social with Keynote Speaker Brodie D'Angio on Al

7 to 8:30 pm, The ARC. RSVP to info@prfutures.ca. See more info at prfutures.ca. Hosted by Community Futures, Chamber of Commerce and the City. See ad on Page 22.

Film • Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie

7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

Thursday

Film • Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie

7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

Friday

Grease (the movie) sing-along with Molly's Comedy Cabaret

7 pm, Max Cameron Theatre. Fundraiser for Brooks Drama. See Page 2.

Slam Lab

4 to 5m, Library. Join Writer in Residence Johnny MacRae to learn different ways to create and perform spoken word. Johnny creates a safe space for creative experimentation as he encourages participants to explore everything from solo composition to collaborative "group pieces," with the option of developing a spoken word piece specifically for the SLAM FINALE. Drop in.

United Church Fall Auction

6 to 8:30 pm, United Church on Crofton (near 7-11). An evening of fun with community, Garden produce, fall preserves, and baking are auctioned off as a fundraiser for the

Totally Twain

Carlson Loft. Shania Twain tribute featuring Vancouver vocalist Michelle Reid, backed up with an all-star live band. \$30 advance, \$35 door. Advance tickets at Base Camp Marine. Townskate, and Carlson

Wildlife & Nature Trivia Night at the Museum

7 to 8:30 pm, Museum. \$15 per person. Space limited.

Anela Kahiamoe, Ukulele

7:30 pm, James Hall. \$25.

Kings versus Nanaimo

7pm, Hap Parker

Film • Dumb Money

7pm, Patricia Theatre.

Saturday

New moon

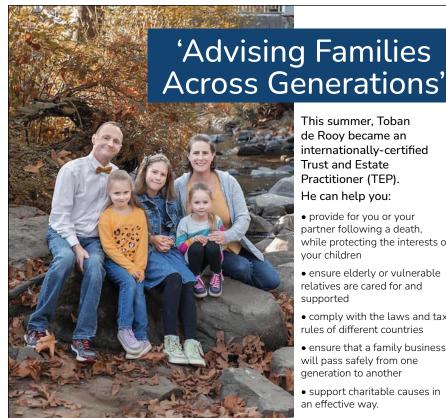
Moon won't be visible in the night sky; the best time of month for viewing galaxies and star clusters.

Annual solar eclipse

In gathet, it's visible starting at 8:09 am and reaches mid-eclipse by 9:20 am. This is a partial eclipse. See story on Page 35.

Create Your Own Adventure - The Musical

2 pm, Max Cameron Theatre. With Molly's Comedy Cabaret. See Page 2.



This summer, Toban de Rooy became an internationally-certified Trust and Estate Practitioner (TEP). He can help you:

- provide for you or your partner following a death, while protecting the interests of
- ensure elderly or vulnerable relatives are cared for and supported
- comply with the laws and tax rules of different countries
- ensure that a family business will pass safely from one generation to another
- support charitable causes in an effective way.



TOBAN DE ROOY CFP® CLU® TEP® RRC Senior Financial Consultant IG Wealth Management

Tel: (604) 414-8280 Toban.DeRooy@ig.ca

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Ukulele Workshops with Anela Kahiamoe

Noon to 1:15 pm, Ukulele 101. 1:30 to 3 pm, Open Stage with Anela. 3 to 4 pm, advanced playing techniques. Academy of Music. By Donation.

Uptown Market

10 am to noon, 4752 Joyce (in front of the CRC).

The Wild, Profound and Humourous **Wood Sculptures** of Byron Fader -Opening Party

4 pm, Crucible Gallery.

Crib Tournament

Doors at 9:30 am, play starts at 10 am. Lang Bay Hall. Lunch served. \$25. Registration deadline October 7. Capped at 32. Call Kathy Maitland: 604-483-1440.

Poems and Memoirs - Texada

1:30 pm, Texada Library. Spoken word artist Johnny MacRae will give a performance of a selection of his poems and will discuss how to find prompts from objects in your daily life that become vehicles for personal stories. Drop-in.

Oktoberfest

6 pm doors open. Legion. Music by Dennis Fox and the Toneadoes. \$20 members, \$25 public. Includes dinner. Tickets available at the Legion bar.

Kings versus Nanaimo

7pm, Hap Parker

Film • Dumb Money 7pm, Patricia Theatre.

Sunday

Small Business Week begins

See story on Page 25. Through October 21. bdc.ca.

Powell River Farmers Market

12:30 to 2:30 pm, inside the quonset hut at Paradise Exhibition Grounds.

Strawberry Blondes & The Corps

Carlson Loft. From the UK, \$30 advance, \$35 door. Advance tickets at Base Camp Marine, Townskate, and Carlson Club.

Film • Dumb Money 7pm, Patricia Theatre.

Monday

Community Spaghetti Dinner

4:30 to 6 pm, United Church (6932 Crofton, corner of Michigan and Duncan). By donation. Everyone welcome.

Rural On-Demand Transit Open House

5 to 7 pm, Northside Community Centre, 9656 Larson Rd. (See ad on Page 39)

Film • Dumb Money 7pm, Patricia Theatre.

Tuesday

Ghost Hunt at the Museum begins

Regular museum hours. Become an expert ghost hunter by finding all the ghosts hiding in the exhibits. Family friendly. Free with admission. Through October 31.

Rural On-Demand **Transit Open House**

5 to 7 pm, Tla'amin Nation Administration Building, 4779 Klahanie. See ad on Page 39.

Film • Dumb Money 7 pm, Patricia Theatre.



HIGH TEA AND WRESTLING, TOGETHER AT LAST: Grrrr! Who knew that Thea White, best known for putting on a splendid tea party, had such a convincing wrestler face? At The Arc on October 22, you can enjoy delicacies with Thea at noon, and then take in a Big West Wrestling show at 5 pm with Haviko (left) and Eddie Osborne (right) among others. Eddie owns the Pro Wrestling Academy in Campbell River. He describes it as "physical theatre: sport and entertainment."

Wednesday

Kings versus Salmon Arm

7pm, Hap Parker

Rural On-Demand **Transit Open House**

5 to 7 pm, Lang Bay Community Hall, 11090 Highway 101. See ad on Page 39.

Modular (Tiny) **Homes Open House**

4 to 6 pm, Powell River City Council chambers. See ad on Page 26.

Seminar: Micronutrients for **Hormone Support**

6:30 pm to 8 pm, Kelly's Health Shop. With Breanne Percy INHC, FDN-P. RSVP - Seats are limited. 604-485-5550 or kellystore@telus.net. 4706 C Marine Ave.

Film • Bottoms 7pm, Patricia Theatre.

Thursday

The Great British Columbia Shake Out

10:19 am, for earthquake awareness. shakeoutbc.ca.

Rural On-Demand Transit Open House

5 to 7 pm, Texada Island Community Hall, 4913 Gillies Bay Rd. See ad on Page 39.

Film • Bottoms

7pm, Patricia Theatre.

Friday

Orionoids Meteor Shower peak

Average shower, with about 20 meteors per hour. Best viewing after midnight. Meteors radiate from Orion.

Sami Potatoes: Living with Reindeer and Perestroika

7pm, Library. Mike Robinson presents his book

on the story of sharing the Canadian concept of Indigenous co-management with the Russian Sami reindeer herders of the Murmansk Oblast. For information contact Mark at mmerlino@prpl.ca

Slam Lab

4 to 5m, Library. Join Writer in Residence Johnny MacRae to learn different ways to create and perform spoken word. Johnny creates a safe space for creative experimentation as he encourages participants to explore everything from solo composition to collaborative "group pieces," with the option of developing a spoken word piece specifically for the SLAM FINALE. Drop in.

Ed Hill Stay Fresh Comedy Tour

8 pm, Townsite Brewing

SD47 Pro-D Day

No school. Daycamp at the Recreation Complex \$45, 9 to 3 pm. Ages 6 to 12.

Film • Haunting in Venice

7pm, Patricia Theatre.

Saturday

Community Salmon Education Expo

10:30 am to 1:30 pm, Lang Creek Hatchery.

Uptown Market

10 am to noon, 4752 Joyce (in front of the CRC).

Lang Bay Crafts and Collectibles sale

10 am to 2 pm. Lang Bay Hall.

Harmony Vespers 4 pm, United Church.

Villa vs. Cowichan Access

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

Yuk Yuk Stand Up **Comedy Night**

6:30 gates, 8 pm show, Three Chicken Farm. threechickenfarm.net.

Octoberfest Vendorfest

10 am to 3 pm, The Arc

Blueberry **Commons Annual** Pumpkin Patch & Squash Festival

3 to 5 pm, 6619 King Ave. Entry and pumpkins are by donation. Locally grown pumpkins for Halloween in our pumpkin patch. Pumpkin chai lattes, pumpkin ice cream and squash delicacies. Squash doggie treats! Learn all you need to know about growing beautiful and diverse squash and pumpkins in our climate. Family friendly. Partial proceeds to support the James Thompson School PAC. Find the FB event for full details.

The Nature of Writing

3 pm, Library. How do humans "write" stories into the observed world? Is writing marking down words with script or are there other forms of writing? Join spoken word artist Johnny MacRae for a community discussion about literacy,



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storytelling and the written word. Drop-in.

Spotlight on Community Series: Pat Buckna and Friends

7pm, Cranberry Hall. With Walter Martella and Shaun Coburn, A special evening of stories and songs over the 50 year arc of Pat's life as a musician and writer! Tickets \$15 in advance in Eventbrite and Cran Hall board members. \$20 at the door.

A History of Golf with **Hector Beauchesne**

7 to 8:30, gathet Museum. Part of the speaker series. \$5, or \$15 for the season.

Film • Haunting in Venice

7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

Sunday

High Tea

Noon til 2 pm, ARC Community Event Centre. \$25. highteabythea@gmail.com for reservations.

Powell River Farmers Market

12:30 to 2:30 pm, inside the quonset hut at Paradise Exhibition Grounds.

Blueberry Commons Annual Pumpkin Patch & Squash Festival

10 am to 5 pm, 6619 King Ave. See details on the

Live Pro Wrestling

Doors 5 pm. The Arc. \$20 at the door, \$15 advance at bigwestwrestling.com.

Lang Bay Crafts and Collectibles sale

10 am to 1 pm, Lang Bay Hall.

Film • Haunting in Venice

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

Monday

Venus at Greatest **Western Elongation**

Best viewing of the planet Venus-just before sunrise in the eastern sky.

Haunted Walking Tours

4:30 pm and 7:30 pm daily. Meet at Henderson House in Townsite. Visit some of the ghostly residents of Townsite. \$10 per person. 45 minutes, outside. Dress appropriately. Twice daily through October 28.

Community Fentanyl Forum

6 to 8 pm, Evergreen Theatre. Presented by qathet's Community Action Team. Five years since the region's first Fentanyl Forum. Sign up at eventbrite or mail chimp.

Film • Haunting in Venice

7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

Tuesday

Local Fungi

4 pm, Library. Food forager expert Alexander McNaughton discusses fungal fruiting forays in uncertain times, including drought and deforestation. For more info, contact Mark Merlino: mmerlino@prpl.ca.

Compassionate Friends Meeting

7 pm, 4675 Ontario. Grief and trauma support following the death of a child. See ad on Page 37.

Psychological Safety in the Workplace

6:30 to 8:30 pm. Workshop cost: \$100 (VK Wellness clients \$75) Facilitator: Kara Fogwell, RCC, RSW, Psychological Health and Safety CMHA Trained Professional. To register, visit vkwellness.ca/ workshops-events/ or contact 604-413-7095 or info@vkwellness.ca

Film • Haunting in Venice

7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

Wednesday

Chest Fever

Carlson Loft. Official reenactment of The Band. \$40 advance, \$45 door. Advance tix at Townskate and Carlson Club.

Film • Haunting in Venice

7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

Wednesday

Film • Haunting in Venice

7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

Friday

SLAM Finale

6:30 pm, Library. Johnny MacRae's residency at PRPL culminates in a final slam. Come out to listen and/or share at this friendly all-ages spoken word event. Do it for enjoyment, snaps of mutual appreciation, and (of course) the chance to parade with PRPL's SLAM Medallion, and prizes. Drop-in to take in the action. Registration is required to compete!

Creative and interactive Halloween-themed dance session (for adults)

Doors at 6:30 pm, starts at 7 pm. Cranberry Hall. \$20. For details and to sign up: contact France at zemynagroove@gmail.com. The facilitator will guide you through the dance with a "Halloween Night Ghoulish story" with a list of great music genres to create the mood. Come dressed up for the theme, lightly costumed to allow ease of movement.

GETHER AT LAST AT LANG BAY: On October 14, Lang Bay Hall hosts a crib tournament. And on October 21, you're invited to a Salmon Expo -iust down the road at Lang Creek. Here, the two come together in

art, with this crib board

by local artist Andrew

Riddle.

CRIB & SALMON, TO-

James Thomson School Haunted Forest & Carnival Details TBA

Henderson **Haunted House**

7 pm til late. \$10 per family. Concession and silent auction. All monies raised stay with Henderson PAC to assist with student needs and activities. Volunteers always welcome. Contact Darren at 604 414 4440.

Halloween Costume Walk at the Museum

4:30 to 7:30 pm, gathet Museum. Wear your costume at the museum and take photos (no flash) at some of the spookier exhibits. By donation.

Monster Mash Skate

7 to 9 pm, Rec Complex. Come dressed in your best Halloween attire for this Spooktacular skate! We'll turn out the lights, and turn up the laser lights for a howl-o-weening good time. Regular admission rates apply.

Saturday

Family Pumpkin Carving

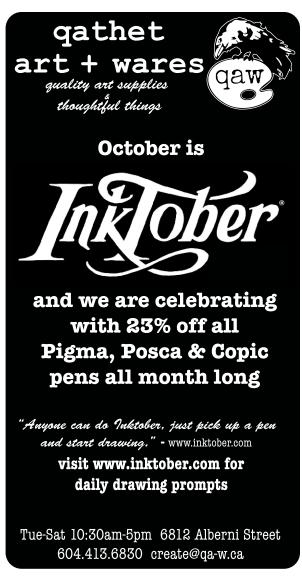
10:30 am to 1:30 pm, at Town Centre Mall (inside) near the Save-On entrance. Free. All welcome.

Ghost Train

6 to 8 pm, Paradise Exhibition Park. Train rides by donation for railroad equipment maintenance and upgrades, a bonfire, and food service by Kiwanis.

The Harm Reduction **Program**

11 am to noon, Lang Bay Hall. South-of-towners are





invited to this information session with Vancouver Coastal Health reps teaching how to stop an overdose, and introducing the on-site harm reduction care box.

Henderson **Haunted House**

7 pm til late. \$10 per family. Concession and silent auction. All monies raised stay with Henderson PAC to assist with student needs and activities. Volunteers always welcome. Contact Darren at 604 414 4440.

Goosebumps: Halloween Special screening

1pm, Library. This Halloween, movie-loving youth, adults, and families are invited to enjoy a free film screening at PRPL. Popcorn provided! Movie-goers aged 7 or under must be accompanied by a parent. For more information contact Teen Services Coordinator Mel Edgar at edgar@prpl.ca.

Food as medicine: the theory and practice of food (Texada)

1:30 pm, Texada Library. Local author and medicinal herbalist Todd Caldecott will discuss his book that examines practical questions about what is food and how food impacts your health. For more information contact Mark mmerlino@prpl.ca

Halloween Costume Walk at the Museum

11 am to 3 pm, qathet Museum. Wear your costume at the museum and take photos (no flash) at some

of the spookier exhibits. By donation.

Uptown Market

10 am to noon, 4752 Joyce (in front of the CRC).

Full Moon & partial lunar eclipse

(Lunar eclipse not visible from here, unfortunately)

Alison Nystrom, soprano, Calvin Dyck, violin, Moira Hopfe-Ostensen, piano 2 pm, James Hall.

Ghost Train

6 to 8 pm, Paradise Exhibition Park. Train rides by donation for railroad equipment maintenance and upgrades, a bonfire, and food service by Kiwanis.

Halloween Party @ Forest Bistro

With DJ Riki Rocket. \$10. Doors open at 9 pm.

Villa vs. Lakehill FC 1:30 pm, Timberlane Park. Division 1 soccer. \$5.

Powell River Farmers Market

12:30 to 2:30 pm, inside the quonset hut at Paradise Exhibition Grounds.

Tuesday

Spooky Storytime 10 am, Oceanview at 7105 Nootka St. Wear a cos-

tume if you like! youthandfamily.ca

Halloween trickor-treating at **Town Centre Mall**

3 to 5 pm, youngsters invited for indoors trick or treating. See Page 39.

Light the Night: A Family-Friendly Halloween

6 to 8 pm, Living Water Church. 4640 Manson. Free, all welcome.

Paper Bag Monster Mash-Up

3:30 to 4:30 pm, Library. Be thee monster, maiden, or minion?! Dive into the library's terrifyingly inspiring treasure trove of recyclables and turn a paper bag into a wacky mask in this (perfect for Halloween) event!

Halloween Night Skate

4 to 5:15 pm, Rec Complex. Come dressed in your best Halloween costume and trick-or-treat! Free admission to those in costume!

Youth Resource Club Halloween

For ages 11-13 from 3:30-5 pm. Drop in program. Register with us the first time you visit. 7105 Nootka St. youthandfamily.ca



Susan Juby Presents

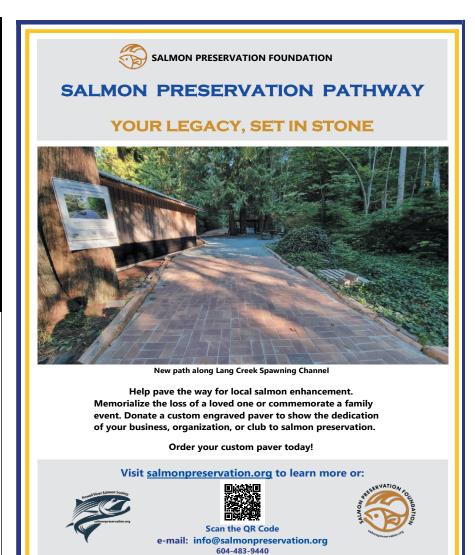
Mindful of Murder

Bestselling mystery author Susan Juby will read from her new quirky and comedic mystery novel set in British Columbia's Gulf Islands.

Tuesday, November 7, 7 pm at the Library



info@prpl.ca 604-485-4796 prpl.ca





Fire Prevention Week is

October 8 to 14



Powell Rive Fire Rescue

Turn Around

BY ANGELIKA HACKETT

or the first time in over six years, qathet residents might have a chance to observe a partial solar eclipse, if the sky is clear!

On Saturday, October 14, the moon will cover 82% of the sun's diameter as seen from here, leaving a thin crescent of sunlight visible. In a narrow band across the south-western US, it will be an annular eclipse (from Latin "annulus" = "ring").

PARTIAL ECLIPSE

When: 8:08 am to 10:37 am, Saturday October 14.

What: Moon passes in front of the sun, partially blocking

Where: Best seen from earth.

How does this happen?

On its monthly path around earth from west to east, the moon is sometimes opposite the sun as seen from earth (Full), and two weeks later it's somewhere between us and the sun (above or below it) so we can't see it due to the sun's glare (New). But occasionally the new moon passes right in front of the sun, blocking it out either partially or totally, and casting its shadow onto the earth, tracing a certain path as it moves eastward. If you're in that path you are inside the moon's shadow and can see the dark side of the moon in front of the sun (not to be confused with the far side of the moon, which we never see because the moon doesn't rotate on its axis and always has the same side facing earth).

Did you know that by incredible coincidence, the sun is about 400 times larger than the moon, but also 400 times farther away from us? Therefore both objects appear roughly the same size as seen from earth, and the moon can be a perfect "fit" to cover the sun.

But the moon's orbit around our planet isn't circular. Sometimes the moon is closer to us and therefore a bit bigger (if that happens to coincide with a full moon, you have a "Supermoon", although despite the media hype the naked eye doesn't really notice a difference in size). Sometimes the moon is farther away, thus smaller. During this October's eclipse the moon is near its farthest point from earth, too small to cover the entire sun, leaving a ring of sunlight all around the moon, visible in the "path of annularity" across the south-western US. Most other regions in North America will see a partial eclipse.

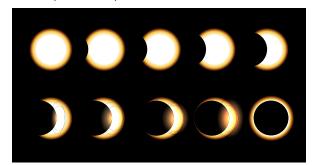
In qathet, the eclipse begins at 8:08 am local time, 30 minutes after sunrise. Maximum eclipse is at 09:19, and it ends at 10:37.

NEVER look at the sun without eye protection! All phases of this eclipse are dangerous to view without proper filters. (By contrast, during a total eclipse, when the entire sun is blocked out by the moon, the spectacular sun's corona is safe to observe with the naked eye.) Normally we don't look at the



DON'T LOOK AT IT WITH YOUR NAKED EYES:

Above, author Angelika Hackett observes the sky through a piece of welders glass, shade 14. Below, what a partial eclipse looks like.



sun because it's just too bright. But when only a thin crescent of sunlight remains behind the moon, it can become misleadingly comfortable to look at – doing so will cause permanent eye damage. Make sure that children don't look at the sun during that time.

But here's the good news-there are safe ways to observe a solar eclipse, either directly with proper eye protection, or indirectly:

Use a piece of welder's glass, shade 14. Do not use any lower shade number.

Order eclipse glasses online, making sure they are ISO certified for solar viewing.

With your back to the sun, shine sunlight through a pair of binoculars onto a piece of paper and watch the eclipse indirectly.

Check out the interesting shadow patterns on the ground under trees; the leaves act like a pinhole camera, projecting hundreds of little crescents onto the ground. A colander or straw hat with holes also works, or simply cross your fingers of one hand over the other, creating holes through which to project the sunlight onto a surface.

During an eclipse the moon's motion around the earth becomes observable, taking about 21/2 hours to cross the face of the sun.

Now, hope for a clear sky!

POWELL RIVER **ACADEMY** of Music

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ANELA KAHIAMOE

UKULELE

Friday, October 13, 2023 | \$25 | 7:30 pm

ALISON NYSTROM DR. DYCK | DR. MOIRA HOPFE-OSTENSEN

SOPRANO | VIOLIN | PIANO

Sunday, October 29, 2023 | \$25 | 2 pm

GERGANA VELINOVA

VOCALIST

Friday, November 17, 2023 | \$25 | 7:30 pm

EDWARD NORMAN

ORGAN ACCOMPANIMENT TO A SILENT FILM

Sunday, January 21, 2024 | \$25 | 2 pm

MILES BLACK | DON STEWART | WALTER MARTELLA

PIANO | VOCALS | TRUMPET/PIANO

Sunday, February 11, 2024 | \$25 | 2 pm

CHORAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Monday, June 10, 2024 | \$20 | 7 pm

All events at James Hall, at the Powell River Academy of Music SAVE with the six-Concert Package \$120 or purchase individual concert tickets at the Academy Box Office. online (scan the OR code), or at the door.



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Carols by Candlelight (Dec 8 & 9) tickets on sale now - \$30 in advance only.

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Academy of Music Box Office





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A Thought For The Day

"God has created the world as one - the boundaries are marked out by man."



~ Bahá'í Teachings

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TAKE **a break**

Ancestral Honouring

■his Autumnal time, fittingly, is a time where many faiths and traditions connect more deeply with their Ancestors and beloved deceased. Ceremonies and rituals abound to honour, worship, and open dialogue with those who have transitioned from this physical life to one that is intangible. There are many of us. too, who also feel this call but are without an established structure or guidance to inform us; to that end, I'd like to share a few thoughts that might feel useful.

Beginning an Ancestral honouring practice can be as simple as placing a photo, memento, or represen-

tative item in a designated space where it can be readily seen or visited. From there, we get to craft our practice into meaningful ways of interaction that also suit our lifestyle and personal needs – such as a candle lit while feeling loving thoughts toward them, full re-tellings of our day, placing treats or offerings like their favourite drink or flower, inviting them into a meditation, writing notes of gratitude for the talents and gifts that have travelled down the line to us, or simply sitting quietly with any complicated dynamics and strained feelings, spending as long as needed or keeping it brief. We don't even need to know who exactly is in our lineage, intending rather than specific people that only friendly, well and healthful, helping ancestors come into active relationship. What I like to recommend, particularly when working with either a large lineage collective





RETURN TO REVERENCE

JULIETTE JARVIS

close the door, much like seeing a houseguest out. I've been speaking of working with ancestralised familial spirits, those who have fully crossed over and have moved through the various stages a soul goes through according to one's beliefs, not souls who have died but stayed earthbound. The two might feel similar, but

are quite not. Earthbound

or particularly strong per-

sonality types, is to create

our ancestral shrine inside

a closable space, like a cupboard, box, or med-

icine bundle. This way,

should we begin to feel

their presence become

intrusive, we can simply

spirits tend to have died very suddenly, unexpectedly, or have a strong connection for staying close; perhaps unfinished business, living loved ones unready to emotionally release them, worry for those still here, or an intense love for a favourite place – these conditions don't mean a beloved cannot, or has not, properly transitioned, but is a common symptom of the spirits we sometimes call ghosts. Living with earthbound spirits, no matter their friendliness and familiarity, can be unrecommended for the living, and so keeping clear boundaries around who you engage with in your ancestral tending practice is a best practice.

Juliette Jarvis is a best selling author offering sacred living programs online, devotional arts, and divination sessions. Find her at SelkieSanctuary.com **1**

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

100 gran

www.qathetmuseum.ca/logo-contest.html for more information!





Scan the QR code for our submission guidelines.

TAKE A BREAK

R P ΑТ RΙ CI Ρ ΜР U Α Н Т MRGQGΖ Ζ Т D R 0 S Ε G U С N D C E E Ε G Τ E E 0 Ε С S Ν W Т Ε G Ε G Ε МО Κ R Τ G Q Ε Ν Τ 0 G Ε S D Ε D S S Ε R М Κ 0 М Т S G D Т Η Z N Α ZX Ν C Ε R Ε D В Q Ε C F В 0 S 0 W S K Ε Ε Υ G 0 0 L Η 0 В Ζ Υ Ε Ε Ρ 0 K Ζ D 0 Ν D S Τ R S Ε D J J Т C Ε Т Ν S В Ε Z Y Ζ Q Ρ 0 Ρ Н Ε D S G D Q Α UTHEMCUS Ζ Ε Α Υ J S

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

Hospice Society Office, 4675 Ontario Ave, U (behind Save-On-Foods)
Contact us at powellrivertcf@gmail.com
604-487-0889 • 604-218-6245

This space provided by Powell River Health-Care Auxiliary

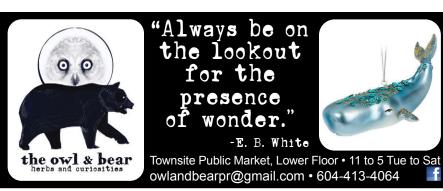


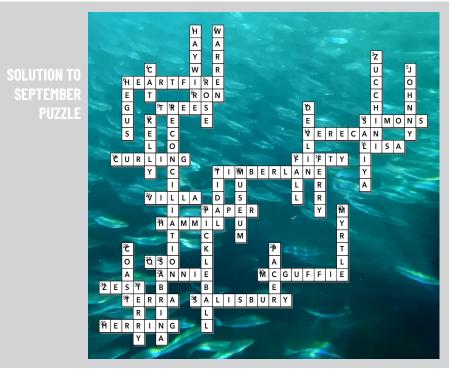


CAN YOU FIND THESE WORDS FROM THIS ISSUE IN THE PUZZLE ABOVE?

ANCESTRAL FERRY PINK **ASSUMPTION FIDDLE PURLIN AUTUMN FIREWOOD OATHET AYAJUTHEM GHOST** SALMON **BAGGS GREASE SHELTER** SKYE **BREWER** HALLOWEEN **HATCHERY SMOKE CANCELLATION** CASH **HAUNTED SPECTRE CATNIP** KENNEDY **THEODOSIA CHINOOK KINGS TOASTMASTERS** COHO **METEOR TRANSIT** CONCESSION MUTH **TREATY TURKEY CRUCIBLE** ORCA **WIB ECLIPSE PATRICIA**







Plan B

When it comes to our marine highways, it's up to you to pack your car with water and food in case there's an overload, a tent and sleeping bag in case the last ferry is cancelled, and now, with cash, in case the machines don't work.

> BC Ferries' message is, don't depend on us for anything.

learned a valuable lesson on a wet Saturday morning in September. It was just after 9 am. My brother

dropped me off at the Little River ferry terminal. As we arrived, I felt my stomach drop, as a long line of cars backed up well past the parking lot came into view.

"Let me out here," I said, grabbing my suitcase and saying goodbye. It had been an emotional 24 hours-my sister, brother and I had gathered together to go over photos and memories of our dad who died on September 6, at 94 years of age, and I was feeling quite fragile.

As I made my way to the ticket booth, I wondered why traffic wasn't moving. When you live in this region you depend on BC Ferries, but the corporation seems to cancel sailings regularly now for lack of crew and a profusion of other reasons, so you can never be sure they will sail on a given day at a given time.

"What's going on?" I asked the person in front of me at the ticket booth.

"Their debit and credit card machines aren't working," she said. "They're only accepting cash, or if you have enough loaded on your BC Ferries Experience card you can get on."

A dozen or more souls with glum faces stood to the side of the line with empty Experience cards and wallets devoid of cash. We watched as vehicles with drivers unable to use their credit or debit cards were waved back out so the next in line could try their luck.

As I later learned, the credit and debit processing firm Moneris experienced a network outage for an hour and a half on September 23 causing a myriad of problems with customer payment

Of course, those of us waiting in line didn't know that at the time. All we knew is what we were told: cash or BC Experience card only.

Everyone was stressed when they heard this. We had visions of not being able to board the ferry. There was a hockey team up from Victo-

ria, a person attending a funeral, people needing to get somewhere at a certain time.

One woman, whose car was in the parking lot,



LAST

ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

ran to her car and drove to the nearest ATM to get cash. Those of us without that ability were envious; as it turned out we shouldn't have been as not only was the ATM down at the BC Ferries terminal in Comox, but it was also out at the nearby service station too.

Eventually, an old-style credit card machine was produced, and credit cards were run manually.

Officially, no one was left behind. But from my front-lines seat at the booth, I know that's not true. In the minutes between the problem and the (sort-of) solution, several foot passengers and vehicles gave up and left.

The ferry sailed, and although they were unable to include the BC Ferries Experience Card discount due to system glitches, we breathed a sigh of relief at having made the ferry and not being held hostage.

BC Ferries is our road. It connects



OUR MACHINE IS DOWN. I GUESS YOU CAN'T BOARD: qL publisher Isabelle Southcott witnessed dysfunction at this ticket booth in September. It was not the fault of the cashiers, of course. It was the lack of a "Plan B" from the top.

our province and the fact that we must pay out of pocket to ride it when the interior ferries are free to riders, only adds insult to injury.

In February, the provincial govern-

ment gave BC **Ferries** a \$500 million cash injection to keep fares below the rate of inflation and

help electrify the fleet. This was in addition to the corporation's annual operating subsidy (ferry transportation fee) of ap-

proximately \$200 million a year. So, dear taxpayer, we are funding BC Ferries in more ways than one. BC Ferries operates as a private company with the single voting share of BC Ferries Corporation held by the provincial government's BC Ferry Authority.

Although the government has distanced themselves from the ferry corporation, it is still their baby, and they still support it.

If there is a lesson to be learned from the Moneris network outage, it is this: carry cash. Always. Do not depend solely on technology because technology can fail.

And you need to have a back up plan. Always. If Plan A fails, you need a Plan B. This was a good lesson for me-and I suspect a few others who were on the same boat that day. It's a good idea to carry cash, and make cash vour Plan B.

I wonder what BC Ferries Plan B is? BC Ferries is an essential service. But when their staff doesn't show up for work, they cancel a sailing - something that is happening only too frequently.

BC Ferries cancelled the evening sailing from Comox to Powell River on Sunday September 24 "Due to being unsuccessful in securing the required number of crew to sail."

We know BC Ferries is understaffed, but there are reasons why ferries are understaffed.

It is the job of the executive to solve that problem. After all, the BC Ferry Authority executive is paid like they know what they're doing: the CEO's median base salary is a whopping \$372,320, not including other perks. The vice presidents' salaries are not far behind-and there are seven of them. These are positions they have no trouble filling.

The Plan B for the credit card outage should have been to tell everyone not to worry, they'd all get on regardless of whether they had cash or stored credit on their Experience Card. But they didn't; instead, they let people wonder, wait, worry - and leave.

Shame on you BC Ferries. Shame on me and everyone else who puts up with this sub-par essential service.

If we really want BC Ferries to listen, if we really want something to change, we must stop whining and do something.

It's time we stood up to BC Ferries. Otherwise they'll continue to erode this service even further and before you know it, they'll be selling us spaces on rowboats to cross the Salish Sea. ¶





Magda Deininger

REAL ESTATE REDEFINED







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Rural On-Demand Transit Feasibility Study

The qathet Regional District and Tla'amin Nation are exploring the feasibility of a rural on-demand transit solution for Electoral Areas A, B, C, D and Tla'amin Nation. This study will analyze the existing rural paratransit service and explore if on-demand transit is a good fit for our region.

We want to hear from you!

We want to learn more about your travel needs, if and how you use the existing rural bus routes, understand the transportation challenges in the region, and share some possible solutions. Here's how you can get involved:

Complete an Online Survey

Complete the online survey between October 2-20. Please contact us if you require a paper copy.

Attend an Open House

Attend any of the drop-in open houses between October 16-19, 2023. See below for more details.

NORTH OF TOWN

Monday Oct. 16 5-7 pm

Northside Community Centre 9656 Larson Rd

TLA'AMIN NATION

Tuesday Oct. 17 5-7 pm

Administration Building 4779 Klahanie Rd

SOUTH OF TOWN

Wed. Oct. 18 5-7 pm

Lang Bay Community Hall 11090 Hwy 101

TEXADA ISLAND

Thursday Oct. 19 5-7 pm

Texada Island Community Hall 4913 Gillies Bay Rd

To learn more about the project and to access the survey, please visit: qathet.ca/transit-feasibility-study/



Contact:

Cherise Roberts, Special Projects Coordinator P: 604-485-2260 E: croberts@qathet.ca



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