

qathet

NOVEMBER 2023

LIVING

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Verecan Capital Management and Underwriters Insurance are happy to host this year's Toy and Food Drive in Powell River!

Join us to make a difference:

December 3rd • 10am - 2pm

PR Recreation Complex – Upper Foyer and Cedar Room

We are offering a full breakfast, a chance to meet Santa, and fun children's craft activities!

Bring along an unwrapped toy, non-perishable food items, or cash to donate. Let's deliver miracles this festive season!

Everyone is welcome; all proceeds benefit the Salvation Army and PR Food Bank.



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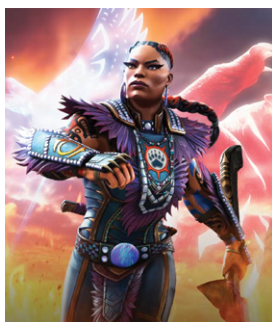


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ON THE COVER:
Chee'ilth, Marvel Contest of Champions' first Salish Super Hero. See story on Page 6.

Super Heroes Everywhere

At the beginning of every month, I head out into the community with a psychic butterfly net, and collect whatever is going on, to fill the pages of *qL*. Some months can feel like I'm waving my net around the Arctic – a notoriously Monarch-free zone. And then, there's this month.

Butterflies everywhere. Each one more glorious than the last.

The magazine opens with two young former locals who are using their digital media skills to showcase this region to the world. On November 30, Justin Ostensen's Chee'ilth character debuts on *Marvel Contest of Champions* (Page 6) – a video game played by 250 million worldwide. And on November 8, *Texada* premieres at the prestigious International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam. Claire Sanford's powerful NFB film (Page 8) pushes the limits of what's possible by using virtual reality to immerse viewers into the geology and human impacts on the island.



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

PIETA WOOLLEY

November is *qL*'s annual Helping Issue, a time when we highlight the remarkable local efforts to raise money and awareness during the holidays (Page 11.) Advocates, Santas, volunteers, medical professionals and more dive in to make qathet a more supported, comfortable community for all – humans, cats, and birds.

Remembrance Day has special meaning this year; Quilts of Valour has honoured two of this region's few remaining WWII veterans (Page 26.) As tensions flare in the Middle East, Central Europe and the South China Sea, "never again" seems even more relevant.

Sheila Peters' excellent story about what locals are doing with their loved ones' remains is a must-read during the Memento Mori festival month (Page 51).

If this issue gets as overwhelming to you as it was to me, flip to Page 50 to drool over this year's artisan and craft fair calendar. December, too, is attracting butterflies already (Page 55).

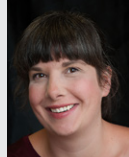
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qL

“

The one violist in my youth orchestra moved away, and I had the longest arms of any of the violinists, so I was peer-pressured into viola.

– John Kastelic, *Page 46.*

”

NOVEMBER'S CONTRIBUTORS



SHANE GREAVES is a local photographer and filmmaker. His passion is sharing his faith and local beauty of the qathet region. Visit his website at coastalcalmmedia.com. *See Shane's image of the Salish Orca on Page 30.*



DELYTH HARPER is a local full-time working mother of four beautiful kids. She enjoys all things outdoors and shares this passion with her children, taking them along on many outdoor adventures. *See Del's story, Scrambling for Care, on Page 62.*



In 1945, **DAVE HARPER** and his family arrived in the Townsite. He completed an electrical apprenticeship in the paper mill, before beginning his lifelong career in Real Estate. *See Dave's story, Employment Opportunities, on Page 35.*



During her 40+ years in Smithers, **SHEILA PETERS** wrote and published in almost every genre. Since returning to qathet, she has been finding her way back into the community through local writing projects. *See Sheila's story, Disposition of the Dead, on Page 51.*



RANDY "HOSS" TIMOTHY SR. has been instrumental in helping to preserve and celebrate ayajuthem for decades. He is also an accomplished carver. *See Hoss' column, You Got This, on Page 36.*

WB

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ROYAL LEPAGE

Powell River

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Two decades ago, Justin Ostensen was just a quiet kid at the back of Gail Blaney’s ayajuthem class at Oceanview Middle School. Even then, he was obsessed with gaming.

BioShock and *Gladius* kept him company through his teenage years. Gail saw his passion, and let him turn in his final project as an ayajuthem language board game, including place names, stories, culture, protocols and history.

It was one of the souvenirs she kept from her teaching days – and Justin is one of her former students who have kept in touch – although she hasn’t been able to talk about it.

For the past two years, Gail has been helping Justin develop a character for *Marvel Contest of Champions*. He is a senior game designer at Vancouver’s Kabam, which makes the game. Gail had to sign a non-disclosure agreement about the character – so until late October, even her close family didn’t know about Chee’ilth.

During the pandemic, Gail said, “Justin found me through Facebook Messenger. He remembered some of the stories I’d told him in class, and he asked me if there were any warrior stories.

“I told him about Chee’ilth, who is my great, great, great, great aunt, who was born around 1880. She was fierce and strong, but not very big. She fought alongside the men when the village was raided by the Haida.



QATHET’S LIVING CHEE’ILTH:

Above, Sosan Blaney’s ancestral name is Chee’ilth. She gave her blessing to the project, and says “having this name out there and shared is a way of showing respect.”

Above right, Justin Ostensen, 33, a member of the Skatin Nation and a Brooks graduate, is a senior game designer at Vancouver’s Kabam. He is responsible for Chee’ilth’s creation and entry into the *Marvel Contest of Champions* world.

Top, Gail Blaney dancing with her granddaughters Sofia and Mekwan. She retired from teaching in 2022, but still works for Tla’amin Nation. (Photo by Rachel Snyder)

Usually the women and children hid when they came. Chee’ilth was a true warrior.

“She fought in many battles, and she must have been quite successful, because she wasn’t killed.”

Justin listened to everything Gail said, went away, and worked on the character. He contacted her to ask about animals, language, and more. Justin, who is a member of Skatin Nation, from near Mount Currie – also worked with culture experts Linda Epp (Sechelt Nation) and Alison Pascal (Lil-

Chee’ilth’s intrigue builds across the continent



To see Justin Ostensen, discussing the development of Chee’ilth.



To play *Marvel Contest of Champions* on your phone.



To see Justin Ostensen at New York Comicon 2023, introducing Chee’ilth (at 13:30).

Two reasons this is a very big deal, indeed

1. Since it launched in 2014, *Marvel Contest of Champions* has been downloaded more than 250 million times – more than six times the population of Canada. Chee’ilth and everything she represents is about to get an unparalleled global audience.

2. Chee’ilth joins dozens of other Indigenous Super Heroes created by major studios, pushing new boundaries of authentic Indigenous representation – by Indigenous creators, for everyone. Existing characters include *Marvel’s* two Canadian characters Moonstalker, an Inuit member of the Young Gods, and Silver Fox, an ally (and former lover) of Wolverine.

wat) to create an authentic First Nations character rooted in this region.

In the middle of October, Justin and his team officially announced Chee’ilth at New York Comic Con.

“It was overwhelming,” said Justin, who normally telecommutes from his home in Creston, BC. “After the pandemic lock-down, to be in that crowd of thousands of people in amazing costumes, with everyone dressed to the nines. We played up Chee’ilth at our booth. It was just a wild, fun experience.”

This is marketing, the final stage in a years-long process of bringing a new character to life. It’s quite different from the secretive, technical, intense

work Justin and his team have pursued until now.

All of it is a long way from his seat at the back of Gail’s class, where he didn’t think “game developer” was a real job he could actually get. He took a chance, though, and in 2015 went to Vancouver Film School. Justin was hired by Kabam two days after graduating, at a VFS “Pitch & Play” event for recruiters. The rest is history.

“Now more than ever, gaming is a real job,” he said, encouraging others to take the leap. “It’s bigger than ever.”

As a senior game designer, Justin was the hub of the development of Chee’ilth. “My job,” he said, “is to make sure the game is fun.”

That sounds simple, but as any gam-

OUR MARVEL-LOUS CHEE'ILTH



AUTHENTIC TATS: Left, Squamish artist Austin Harry created Chee'ilth's tattoos, after Gail Blaney noted the originals were not authentic to this region. Far left, the comic book Chee'ilth will soon be available in limited numbers in print and digital. Tla'amin Nation will be receiving a bundle this month. Above, Chee'ilth with her manifested powers: Brother Bear and Sister Eagle.

Tla'amin-inspired Chee'ilth joins the Marvel Contest of Champions line-up November 30, with the powers to fight (Brother Bear) and to heal (Sister Eagle).

Super Heroes are the ultimate pop-culture helpers, ready to rescue you or the whole universe with their extraordinary – although fictional – abilities.

Chee'ilth exists because of real local superpowers: listening, teaching, remembering, and showing respect. Plus, as **Pieta Woolley** discovered, the tenacity of one video game-obsessed teenager who believed in himself and his dreams.

er knows, a fun game is one that is technically perfect. As well as consulting with Gail and the culture experts, Justin worked with the 3D modelling team; liaised with Marvel (Kabam, which produces the game *Marvel Contest of Champions*, is under license from Marvel); worked with animators and special effects techs to figure out her fighting style and powers; then testing, production, and marketing.

Over the last two years, he has been back and forth on all of these aspects of Chee'ilth.

Although she joins 258 other playable characters in *Marvel Contest of Champions*, for Justin, Chee'ilth fulfills a craving he remembers from his childhood.

"When I was just four or five years old, I remember my mom explaining to me that we are First Nations. I loved the culture, the art, the music, and the dancing. I wanted to find First Nations characters in games. But there were very few. This was the early 1990s. Now, you can pick from different kinds of First Nations characters, specific to regions."

Chee'ilth speaks ayajuthem and Skatin phrases.

Tantoo Cardinal narrates the game's motion comic that details Chee'ilth's storyline, and fans can view this in November on the game's social channels. There are even in-game references to the 1998 film *Smoke Signals*, which Tantoo starred in, alongside Tla'amin's own Dr. Evan Adams. Chee'ilth's tattoos were created by Squamish Nation artist Austin Harry.

"People really underestimate the value of seeing someone like yourself in art. To see that your culture will live on in this touchstone that we all know."

Menat'they Blaney, 12, is already a *Marvel Contest of Champions* player. When his mom, Sosan, told him about Chee'ilth, he didn't think she was serious, at first.

"Then I showed him the YouTube video about it, and he was like, 'That's so cool! I'm totally going to play.'"

Sosan is thrilled, too. Her traditional name is Chee'ilth; it was given to her in a naming ceremony when she was just seven years old. At the time,


she remembers, she danced with Tla'amin's Nunkum Dancers, an initiative to reclaim lost culture. Naming ceremonies had been lost, too. All of the dancers received new names at the ceremony.

"We were told they were sacred and special. My responsibility is to put respect on that name. I still think of that. It has informed who I am and how I conduct myself."

"I'm okay with sharing my name [in *Marvel Contest of Champions*]. I think having this name out there and shared is a way of showing respect and bringing her story to life," said Sosan, who is Tla'amin Nation's Culture and Language Coordinator.

"I don't know what the ripple effects will be. I hope it inspires kids. I hope they can see that Justin lived in this area, studied ayajuthem, and now he's working with Marvel."

"It speaks to the impact my mom has had as a teacher, and the work she put in for so many years. I hope it boosts teachers, that they're having an impact."

 **pieta@prliving.ca**

Winter Market

Springtime Garden Centre
Saturday December 9 +
Sunday December 10
11-3

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| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
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| Hot Food + Treats | Feed the Chickens + Peacocks! |
| Free Children's Creation Station | & more! |

Follow along on social media for upcoming market announcements  




BY PIETA WOOLLEY

November 8 will mark the world premiere of *Texada*, a 17-minute virtual reality documentary, directed by Claire Sanford and Josephine Anderson, at the International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam. The VR experience is produced by the National Film Board of Canada.

Immersed in a 3D experience, film footage and animation take you on a 17-minute journey through geologic time. Lava flows. Rocks form. Mines appear. Limestone moves. Humans jump in the quarry.

“It’s an attempt to show geologic time in a matter of seconds rather than millions of years,” said Josephine, who lives on Bowen Island.

Claire, now 37, moved to Texada with her family when she was eight. Her father, Mike Sanford, became a long-time teacher at the Texada School. They lived in the Gillies Bay cabin her family built, adding to it until it became a home.

“The school had about 150 kids when we moved there,” said Claire, explaining the rise and fall of the limestone quarries. “Then there was fewer than 20 students.”

“The first thing that you see when you take the ferry to Texada is this big open quarry with this mass amount of gray rock,” she said, noting that limestone is in everything from toothpaste to steel.

“Back in the day, you’d see conveyor belts running all the time and barges

in and out. We also saw what happens when these mines shut down.”


Claire remembers the freedom, the wilderness, the dusty limestone breeze, and the sunsets that became ordinary backdrops to the extraordinary landscape. The qualities of the air and the light affected Claire’s moods; ultimately, immersion in *Texada*’s land and story helped guide her to her career: cinematography and documentary filmmaking. So did Brooks’ Media Arts 11, which put a video camera in her hands for the first time.

Claire and Josephine gathered footage and interviews over two trips to the Island, one in 2016, and the other in February of 2022. In the six years between visits, VR technology morphed significantly – and it continues to change.

Neither Claire nor Josephine is a gamer, although both see VR as a remarkable medium for documentary filmmaking – something they are helping to pioneer.

“You’re on an animated landscape that’s morphing beneath your feet with massive rock protrusions shifting almost as if they’re made of a fluid material... it’s a very different type of experience than seeing something on a flat screen out in the distance.”

If you have access to a VR headset, you can eventually experience the island in an entirely new way, for free. You can find a trailer and event updates now at www.nfb.ca/texada.

 pieta@prliving.ca



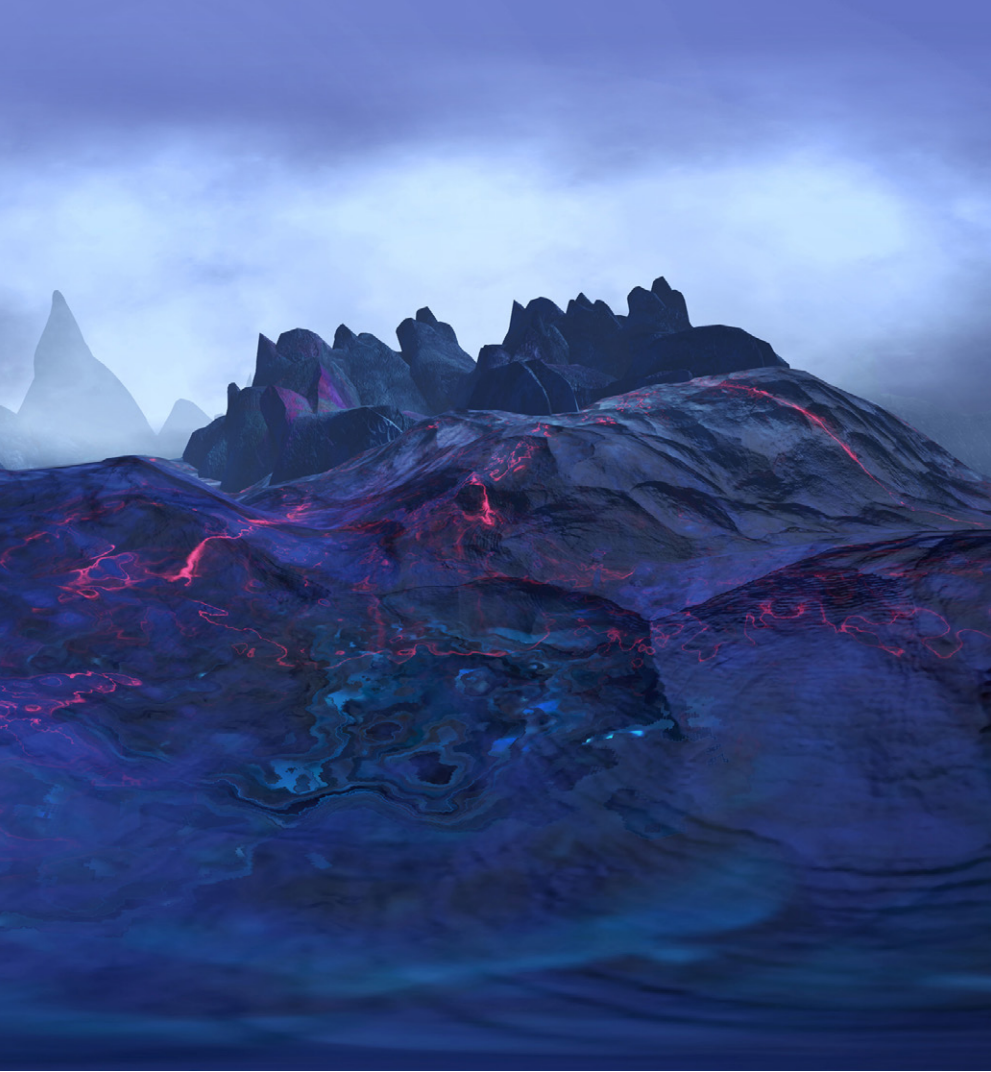
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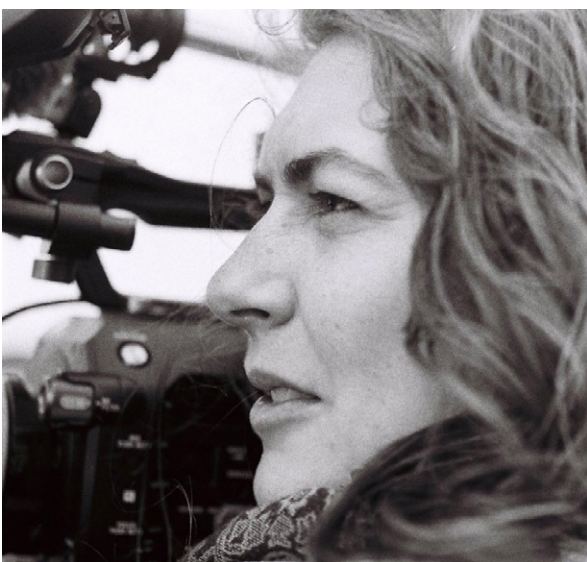




A new Texada time warp

Claire Sanford grew up on Texada. Now, the Montreal-based filmmaker has produced a visually-stunning time journey through 'The Rock's' geology and human impacts, as a Virtual Reality documentary.

THE ROCK: Above and right, stills from the VR documentary *Texada*, a combination of 3D footage and animation. Below, directors Claire Sanford and Josephine Anderson with a 3D camera. Bottom, Claire Sanford grew up on Texada Island.



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How to participate • Powell River businesses: join the Pallet Challenge. Buy 1,000 lb pallets of food for the Food Bank (\$500 each), and receive a donation receipt for tax purposes. No limit to the quantity of purchased pallets per business.

Individuals: Drop off donations at the Food Bank, buy \$10 gift cards at FreshCo, or contact Vicky at 604-485-9166 to have donations picked up. Cheque, cash, or direct deposit donations can be made at the Food Bank.

What it achieved last year • We raised an amazing \$60,000 last year with all of your support.

Contact • mypowellrivernow.com/stuff-the-trailer/ and see ad on Page 13.

PR Orphaned Wildlife Society (PROWLS) Calendar

The beautiful wildlife photos were taken in Powell River by local photographers Ken and Kathie Pritchard (including these eagles, right) and Jodie Turner.

How to participate • Our PROWLS wildlife calendar is now available for purchase at Mother Nature, Paperworks, and Springtime Nursery. The \$25 proceeds for each calendar go directly towards the costs of the animals in our care. All proceeds go to the birds. Get yours soon – the calendar sells out every year.

Contact • (Or to request calendar delivery for two or more copies) 604-483-9787

Each year, *qathet Living* publishes a round-up of ways to help over the holiday season.

These efforts have been organized by people who understand that everyone needs help sometimes. And, everyone can give help sometimes, too.

If this is a year when you can give, please do so generously. There is tremendous need – human and animal – in this community.



Photograph by Ken Pritchard, PROWLS calendar.

Welcome to Powell River

There's No Place Like Home

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.

I've now purchased a beautiful home in Lund and I couldn't be happier. I look forward to working with her again in the future!

Thanks Austyn.

- Mel H



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Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Campaign

Through November 11 at 65 participating businesses in the qathet Region

The proceeds go towards the support of local veterans, cadets, youth sports teams and more.

How to participate • Watch for our Poppy Boxes located at many local businesses. Make a donation to our Poppy Fund in exchange for a poppy to wear in remembrance of those who sacrificed for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Contact • 604-485-4870

Christmas Cheer fundraising event

Toys and gifts for struggling families.

When • Saturday, December 2, 2023 11 am – 3 pm

Where • Powell River Town Centre, Centre Court (by the lotto booth.)

What • There will be a fundraising event on at the mall. Cash donations and unwrapped toys, gratefully accepted.

Sponsor a Family • For folks who would be interested in sponsoring a family or making a donation, please reach out to us at prchristmascheer@gmail.com

Salvation Army Christmas hampers

Our Christmas Hampers are created for local individuals & families in need, made up of donations from our wonderful community.

How to participate • Drop off new toys, food or money at the Salvation Army on Joyce. Please contact us if you need to organize an after-hours drop off, or to inquire about adopting a family. Please apply by November 30 if you would like to be a hamper recipient this year.

Last year we distributed about 195 hampers with your support.

Contact • 604-485-6067 or contact@salvationarmypr.ca



A Farewell to Poppies

For the past 24 years, Karen Crashley has helped organize the Powell River Legion's poppy campaign. This year – her 25th – will be her last.

“My body told me to quit it,” she said.

Karen, 78, is very proud of what poppies have accomplished. Most of the money goes into a local veterans fund, which can help with housing, hearing aids, walkers, and other needs. Poppies bring in about \$20,000 – or \$1 per qathet resident. In 2022, 18,000 poppies were handed out here.

Karen has also led the Legion Ladies Auxiliary locally as well as headed it up provincially as the Ladies Auxiliary Command President.

“The ‘old guys’ were always very interesting, but a lot didn’t want to talk about the wars at all,” she said. “Only on November 11 they’d discuss it. But not much.”

None of Karen’s relatives served directly in wars; most were prairie farmers, needed at home. Her father, who grew up here, was too young to fight in WWI and too old for WWII. She worked at the mill in payroll, HR and on the wharf, among other jobs, and retired in 2001.

The new poppy chair is Chris Carnall, CD, retired from the Canadian Navy.

Verecan & Underwriters toy drive & community breakfast

December 3

Rec Complex Upper Foyer

All donations benefit local families with the help of The Salvation Army & Powell River Food Bank.

How to participate • Come by the complex for a complimentary breakfast Sunday, December 3. Please bring an unwrapped new toy, children’s books, or cash donation.

Contact • See ad on Page 3.

Salvation Army Kettle Campaign

Our yearly Kettle Campaign raises money for our various programs that help local low-income or struggling individuals and families.

How to participate • To contribute, visit any of the participating locations and donate in any of our kettles, manned by our wonderful volunteers, or for

online donations go to FilltheKettle.com

Contact • 604-485-6067 or contact@salvationarmypr.ca

Gerry Gray Place holiday gift drive

Older adults often feel isolated in our community, especially around the holidays. Please help us make them feel included this season by donating \$10 gift cards for local restaurants and grocery stores.

When • Donations can be dropped off Monday to Friday from 1 pm-3 pm

Where • Gerry Gray Place, 106-7075 Alberni Street.

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Special Olympics Tree Mulch

Date TBA | Mother Nature

How to participate • Bring your Christmas tree for disposal for a suggested minimum \$5 donation. Proceeds go towards Special Olympics PR. For Sunday morning curbside pickup, purchase a pickup tag at 7-Eleven, Top Shelf Feeds or Mother Nature. Chip disposal is courtesy of Augusta Recyclers.

Contact • Jackie at 604-414-8266

Everyone Welcome Winter Wonderland Fill the Hamper Swim & Skate

Free admission with a food donation

When • Friday December 8th from 7 – 9 pm, and Swim from 6:30 – 9 pm.

Where • Rec Complex

Why • Collecting food for the Powell River Action Society Food Bank.

Reflection Room

A space to pause, reflect and share experiences with dying and death. Come into the office to write your own note, or come to read and reflect on what others have written.

When • Starting November 8 from 9 am-2 pm and continuing Tuesday

to Thursday from 9 am-2 pm until November 30.

Where • Four Tides Hospice Society office 4675 Ontario Ave, Unit C.

Learn more • Ciara programs@fourtideshospices.org or 604-208-7221

Celebrate a Life Tree

Come in person to create an ornament in honour of a loved one or create one virtually, which we will print and place on the tree.

When • Month of December

Where • Town Center Mall

What it achieved in 2022 • Provided a space for loved ones to honour and remember those they have lost. Over 300 ornaments created last year.

Learn more • Ciara programs@fourtideshospice.org or 604-208-7221

Hospice Volunteer Visitor training

An eight-week intensive training on how to support palliative clients, their caregivers and those who are grieving. Topics covered include the needs of the dying, medical care, family dynamics, spiritual care, cultural competency, Medical Assistance in

Look for the new qathet Waste Wise app available now

The custom mobile app will notify and deliver service reminders, alerts and all the information you need about solid waste and recycling, making it easier than ever to stay connected and informed.



| NOVEMBER 2023 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |



Homeowners are responsible for keeping carts clean as well as replacing carts that are damaged by wildlife, including bears.

Clean carts regularly. Remove odour by mixing one part vinegar to three parts hot water. Keep carts out of the sun, when possible.

Carts are intended for household waste, not for oversized items, appliances or home construction/renovation materials.

Garbage Day: **A B C D E** Holiday:

Garbage & Recycling Day: **A B C D E** "Round for Recycling"

95.7 Coast FM presents the 2023 Stuff The Trailer

sponsored by Fresh Co and City Transfer in support of Powell River Food Bank Action Society

Nov 27 - Dec 9, 2023

Donate at FreshCO and let's beat last year, when we raised more than \$60,000 for the Food Bank

Pallet Challenge

Inviting businesses, organizations and individuals to help fill the Powell River Food Bank this season.



This year we will again be doing the Corporate Pallet Challenge in order to reach the necessary goals to keep the food bank shelves stocked up throughout the winter and even spring!

The Corporate Pallet Challenge invites Powell River businesses to buy a 1,000 lb pallet of food for the food bank by making a \$500 donation per pallet.

Businesses are welcome to buy as many pallets as they like, and they will receive a receipt for any donations for tax purposes!

Find out how to participate at mypowellrivernow.com/stuff-the-trailer/

Let's fill up the food bank and help those in need this Christmas and beyond!

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garage doors* • patio covers • awnings
Duradek* • railings • and more

*Gutters, Duradek and Garage Doors are not available on the Sunshine Coast.



JUST A FEW ELVES: Last year's Stuff the Trailer Challenge donated 109 corporate pallets, with 1,000 pounds of food each, to the Powell River Action Society Food Bank. Here, representing event sponsor Coast FM is Bobby Fields, with Food Bank workers Donna Rekke and Melissa Tookey. City Transfer and FreshCo are also major sponsors of Stuff the Trailer – one of the region's many holiday fundraisers for the Food Bank.

Inflationary pinch hurts the food bank, too

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

If you've been in a grocery store lately, you probably don't need to read the rest of this story.

Food, as you know, is shockingly expensive right now – especially eggs, fruit, vegetables and meat. The nutritious stuff.

At the Powell River Action Society Food Bank, off Alberni Street, coordinator Savanna Dee says the number of locals needing help is up again this year, of course. So far in 2023, 739 clients used the food bank – many of them multiple times, many of them new users, and 220 of them children ages 6 to 11.

"They can't afford basic groceries," said Savanna. "They come here before they go shopping to get the extras to make meal, to get things they're not buying. They're shopping at Dollarama for canned goods."

"We've been absolutely insanely busy since the price of everything went up. I thought prices went up because of COVID. But whoa. They're even higher now."

Food costs are also hitting the Food Bank. Over last year, Savanna said, costs are up over \$50,000. "We're just hanging on month to month."

Savanna cobbles together her cupboards from

multiple sources, including local farmers, government programs, pet food from the SPCA, organizations that donate specific items such as feminine hygiene products and and more.

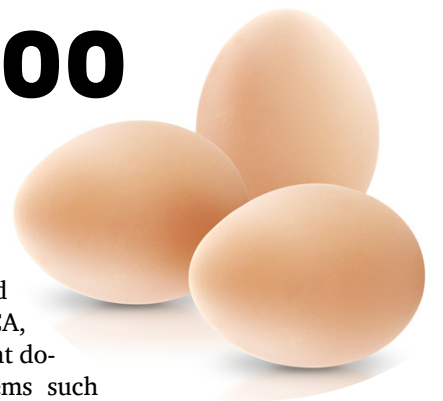
Over the holidays, she depends on the many fundraisers to bring in a bulk of food and cash donations, that she can maximize through bulk buying. Some of those events include Stuff the Trailer, the Brooks Jingle Jog, the Verecan Toy Drive, the Rec Complex skate/swim event, and more.

To make ends meet, she needs an infusion of \$100,000 in the next couple of months.

"It all adds up," Savanna said. "I just shake my head and smile and keep feeding people. It's a dance every day to make sure people get what they need to get through."

If you would like to donate directly to the Food Bank, e-transfer pracfoodbank@gmail.com, use PayPal at powellriverfoodbank.com. You can also send a cheque to 6816B Alberni Street, V8A 2B4, or come by when the doors are open, Tues-Thurs, 10-2.

PIETA WOOLLEY pieta@prliving.ca



Dying (MAID), grief & bereavement, boundaries & confidentiality.

When • Starts Mid-January on Tuesday evening
How to participate • Apply at fourtideshospice.org or contact Sarah Joy at coordinator@fourtideshospice.org or 604-223-7309
What it achieved last year • Successfully trained 15 volunteers to become Volunteer Visitors in the community.

Photos with Santa food drive

Keepsake photos with the big guy. The Town Centre is collecting groceries at the Santa setting for Family Place. Please feel free to bring along a non perishable food item for donation.

When • Santa will be available for pictures as of Dec 2, for 6 days a week until Christmas Eve. Check hours.

Powell River Therapeutic Riding open house & fundraiser

This event is to welcome our community to our facility. Our barn will be open so you can meet the horses. We will have a bake sale, silent auction, draws and, of course, photos with Santa and one of our lovely therapy horses.

When • December 2, 11 am to 3 pm

Where • 4356 Myrtle Avenue

Contact • 604-485-0177

Hay Is For Horses

A unique stocking stuffer idea. Your donation will help us purchase hay or grain for our therapy horses; \$50 for a bale of hay or bag of grain. Funds raised will be used for the care of our herd so we can continue our essential service to our community.

How to purchase • Drop by to donate in the name of someone special. Tax receipts issued for donations \$20 or greater. E-transfers may be made to prtra@shawbiz.ca.

Volunteers needed • Another way to help our program is to volunteer your time supporting our



GIVE AN IOU: Glenn Holstine gives blood in Vancouver in October, at the Oak Street clinic. The retired paramedic gives blood as often as he can—and he would like to see a mobile clinic come to qathet again. Join his efforts at “Take Our Blood Please.” glennholstine@gmail.com

riders. Contact prtravolunteer@gmail.com or phone 604-485-0177.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign to bring awareness and strategies for individuals and organizations to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. It’s coordinated locally by qathet SAFE.

When • November 25, the International Day of the Elimination of Violence Against Women, until December 10, Human Rights Day.

What • Each year during the 16 days of activism, qathet SAFE aims to bring community awareness to gender-based violence and highlight the support services in our community for families who find themselves in crisis.

Learn more • Follow us on Facebook or Instagram

@qathetsafe for other ideas on how you can get involved in the 16 Days of Activism and help prevent gender-based violence.

Donate • If you would like to make a donation that directly helps local families in crisis please go to qathetsafe.ca

Shoe Memorial

On Wednesday, December 6, qathet SAFE’s Shoe Memorial will be on exhibit at the Town Centre Mall to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Dec 6 is the anniversary of the 14 women killed in a gender-based act of violence at the École Polytechnique de Montréal in 1989.

What • At the Shoe Memorial, hundreds of shoes will be displayed and each will include a short biography of a woman or child who died due to violence or is missing under suspicious circumstances.

When • You can visit the Shoe Memorial on December 6 in the Town Center Mall near the Save-On entrance.

Santa Train

Miniature train rides in the dark at the Exhibition Grounds (Farmers Market), with many Christmas lights, a bonfire, and the Kiwanis food concession in the Quonset.

When • Friday & Saturday, Dec 8 & 9, 5 to 7 pm.

Donation • Admission to the rides is by donation (non-perishable food items, unwrapped new toys, or cash) for Salvation Army distribution.

13th annual Brooks Jingle Jog

Brooks will be hosting the annual Jingle Jog. It’s a 2km family walk, or 4km run or 8km run, raising money for the Food Bank. You could win one of many prizes from local organizations

When • Sunday Dec 3. 9:30 am registrations (cash pls) 10 am event start (10 am runner start & 10:01 family walk start)

Where • Brooks Secondary School.

Register early • At Brooks or The Peak. \$10 per

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9 am - 11 pm Fri & Sat



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Sun. Nov. 26th 11am - 3pm
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Entrance off parking lot

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BRIGHT: General surgeon Dr. Pawel Makarewicz and OR nurse Cindy Pankiw with the new lights in May 2023. With a Rapid Infuser and an Arctic Sun Warming-Cooling Unit, the cost for this equipment was \$186,000.

Shining a Light on the Hospital Foundation

BY JAN SANDERSON

Established in 1989, the volunteer Board of the Powell River Hospital Foundation works to advance patient care, and improve the health and well-being of our citizens.

With your help, over \$4.25 million has been raised in the past 34 years to improve health care and, where possible, to reduce the need for qathet residents to incur the additional costs

and inconvenience of having to travel to other centres for diagnosis and treatment.

LOOKING FORWARD:

Much has been accomplished, but much remains to be done. Community donations and bequests ensure the Hospital Foundation can continue its important work. Further information, including how to volunteer, is available at the Foundation website: prhospitalfoundation.com

7 vital Hospital Foundation investments

Some Significant Early Purchases

Helipad Landing Lights

With the installation of lights at the helipad, the hospital gained the capacity for nighttime emergency evacuations.

CT Scanner

By far the largest project the Foundation has spearheaded was the purchase of a CT Scanner at a price tag of \$1.9 million. The three-year campaign to raise funds began in 2006 and involved the whole community: businesses, service clubs and local citizens.

The scanner is an essential diagnostic tool, and patients no longer have to leave the community for this procedure. (Do you remember the giant thermometer at Willingdon Beach that tracked our progress towards the funding goal?)

Some Recent Purchases/Projects

Emergency and Trauma Care Equipment

- A ventilator for the Intensive Care Unit
- A rapid infuser which supplies high speed delivery of warmed blood and fluids to patients
- An Arctic Sun warming/cooling unit which can be used to improve outcomes for heart attack, stroke or brain trauma
- Two portable EKG machines
- Vital signs monitor

Kidney Dialysis Expansion

This project, made possible by a generous donation from a local family, saw the doubling of capacity and refurbishing of the dialysis suite. This means fewer patient trips to Sechelt when demand exceeds capacity.

Cataract Surgery Machine

With a new Centurion Vision System, over 50 people a month can stay in Powell River for this surgery instead of having to travel to Comox.

Maternity Dept, Modernization

In the past four years, multiple pieces of equipment, totalling approximately \$162,000, have been purchased:

- Infant incubator (2)
- Electric Fetal Monitor
- Obstetric Ultrasound Machine
- Intellivue Neonatal Monitor

The latest commitment is for a Fetal Monitor Transducer and module that will be used to transmit a baby's vital signs from a mom in the maternity ward to the nursing station. We're hoping for delivery early in the new year.

In addition, the Foundation provided funding in Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) training, which prepares staff to recognize and intervene in pediatric emergencies

Upgraded OR Lights

This year, new operating lights were installed in both operating rooms, replacing the lights originally installed when the hospital was built.

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person or \$20 family

What it achieved last year • \$2,000

Contact • kim.leach@sd47.bc.ca (Brooks teacher sponsor) Tanya.Larkin@sd47.bc.ca (Brooks Admin Sponsor), keeping in mind this is a student organized and run event.

Little Ray of Hope school sponsorship

Helen Whitaker, a local licensed optician, collects donations for this organization that helps street children in Kenya with education, food and shelter.
Where • Secure Vision Optical, 4699 Marine Avenue. securevisionmobileoptical.com
How it works • Every client that makes a donation to Little Ray of Hope (and shows a receipt) will receive the equivalent cash deduction from the price of their glasses.

For example, Joan makes a donation of \$100. Her brand new progressive glasses cost a total of \$500. Joan only pays \$400 to Secure Vision.

Donations can be made here: innovativecommunities.org/communities/kenya/kawangaware-school-sponsorship

Appointments for glasses can be made here •

go.oncehub.com/1hourprivateconsultationPowellRiver, or by direct phone calls/messages to Helen 250-792-5199

Everybody Deserves a Smile

EDAS is a social project that brings a smiles to the community members who need it. Henderson School spearheads making hand-painted “Kindness

Bags” filled with homemade cards, cookies, and new socks, mittens, hats, scarves, and slippers.

When • November 13 to December 18

How to Participate • Drop off new items at any SD47 elementary school, PR Public Library, or the Knitter’s Nest. Cash donation at EDAS.ca or e-transfer to EDAS.qathet@gmail.com

What EDAS achieved last year • We created and distributed 486 Kindness Bags last year and are excited to begin our fifth campaign year.

Contact us • EDAS.qathet@gmail.com and follow us on FB or Instagram @edaspowerfullove

Kiwanis Club “Adopt a Family” sponsorship

Members have assisted a family through the Christmas Cheer Committee “Adopt a Family” program since 2019.

How to support his effort • Money from our Wishing Well at Quality Foods during October, November and December will go towards the hampers.

Something Special raffle

What • Find tickets to this raffle at the Lang Bay Flea Market Nov 5 at Lang Bay Hall and the Santa Train Dec 8 & 9 with the draw taking place Dec. 11.

What it’s for • Money raised by the raffle will go to the Powell River Forestry Heritage Society. They will put the money towards a garden-scale train, to have it running during the events as people wait in the covered area to board the larger train.

Sunshine Gogos (affordable!) holiday treats sale

The Sunshine Gogos are a Grandmothers to Grandmothers group affiliated with the Stephen Lewis Foundation. We raise money to support African grandmothers who are raising their grandchildren due to the AIDS pandemic. Our donations fund community, educational, and medical initiatives.

When • Saturday, December 16, 10 am to 4 pm

Where • Town Centre Mall

What • Bring your loonies and toonies – this sale is for everyone. Holiday decorated packages – all at \$5 each. These will make lovely hostess gifts, or be perfect for your own family holiday cheer.

What it achieved last year • Our annual bake sale usually nets about \$2,000. Help us to top that figure this holiday!

Contact information • Malerie Meeker – malerie.meeker@gmail.com – 604-483-6413

Lang Bay Community Club’s Christmas hamper program

We hope this program will, in some small way, provide hope and comfort to families in need over the holiday season, a time when the pressure to provide for their family must seem overwhelming.

Drop off location • Lang Bay hall

When • Tues, Dec 5, noon – 1 pm;

Sat, Dec 9, 10 am-noon; Tues, Dec 12, noon-1 pm;

Sat, Dec 16 10 am-noon

What • We accept non-perishables and grocery gift

Top 5 reasons to wear a Pollen Sweater in blustery November

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2. In colours like Bubblegum, Red and Azure, it brightens up your day.
3. Wool is natural and if your sweater ever wears out, it’s compostable, so you’re helping the environment. No plastic microfibres.
4. It can go in the dryer, which is good because the clothesline isn’t really a November option.
5. You don’t care when the landlord refuses to turn up the heat because “it’s only November.”

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cards which go directly to the families.

What you achieved last year • We supported 11 area families.

Contact • Carol 604-487-1259 or Judy 604-487-4499

**Knights of Columbus
charity appeal**

Raffle for a 2023 Rav4 Hybrid, among other prizes.

Where • Ticket booth located across from the Telus office, near WalMart in the mall.

When • Monday to Friday 10 am until 4 pm. Selling until the end of November in the mall, and until December 16 online at kofcbraffle.5050central.com/Home/SelectTickets.

Details • Tickets can be purchased with cash or credit card. Tickets are 1 for \$5 or if you purchase 50 they are only \$1 each!

Contact • Don Bourcier at 604-413-1153 for more info.

What it achieved last year • Legion Wreath (\$50); Christmas Cheer hampers (\$200); Inclusion (\$300); Assumption PTA (\$2,000); Scholarships (\$1,000).

“Take our blood, please”

In October’s ZEST magazine, Glenn Holstine threw out a challenge to Canadian Blood Services: if 3,000 locals say they’ll donate blood at a mobile unit here, will they take our blood?

How to participate • Email Glenn and let him know you’re willing to donate – and how many folks you represent. glennholstine@gmail.com

When • By November 30

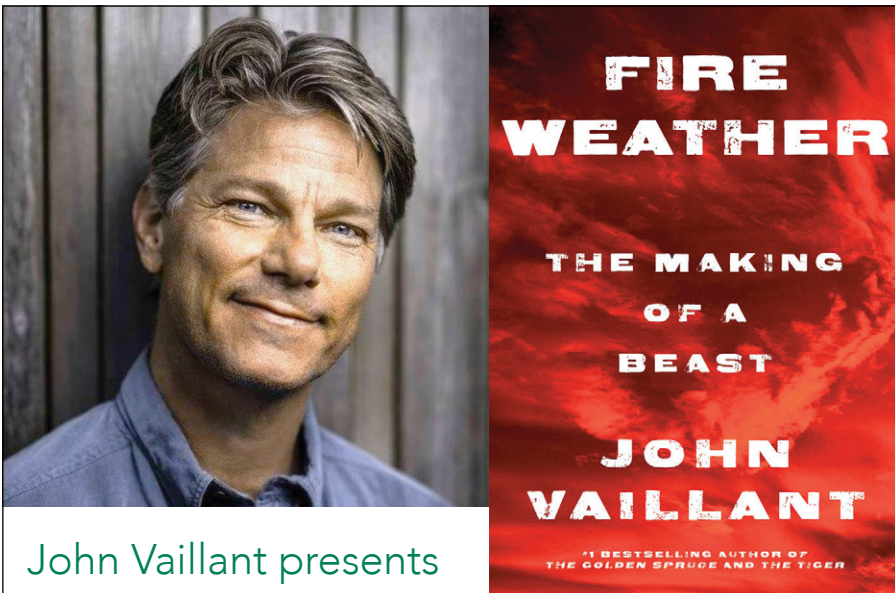
**Graduating class of 2024
Dry Grad fundraisers**

Dry Grad supports a parent-led, no drinking event for this year’s Brooks graduates.

Until November 17, you can buy a **gift card to dine at Coastal Cookery / Costa Del Sol** (Point Group Hospital-ity restaurants), and 10% of the cost will be donated to Dry Grad.

Safe Rides Home is also available for your holiday parties. For \$100, a volunteer will drive your guests home (and collect donations). Contact Laura at periopik@gmail.com to book.

Watch for other Dry Grad fundraisers coming up, including a **comedy show**.



John Vaillant presents

Fire Weather: Making of a Beast

A stunning account of devastating wildfires in our hotter, more flammable world.

**In person:
Tuesday, November 28,
7pm at the Library**

You can also join a virtual event with John Vaillant, Wednesday, November 8

Registration info for online event at prpl.ca/event/bc-libraries-present-john-vaillant/



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



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A whale of a feral cat problem on Texada

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

When most people think of the Wild Ocean Whale Society, they think about sea life, not cats.

But the society's volunteers launched MEOWS last fall, to respond to a feral cat colony on Texada Island. In the past year, MEOWS has grown far beyond that first colony.

Susan MacKay, founder and CEO of both WOWs and MEOWS, says the new initiative was born of a similar need as WOWs.

"We pride ourselves on never turning down any rescue or response, marine or terrestrial," she said.

The Wild Ocean Whale Society's official charity mandate states "saving, supporting, protecting or assisting stressed or endangered forms of life," covering wild or domestic animals.

In September of 2022, WOWs was called in to help with the feral cat population explosion on Texada, which was producing many additional kittens, which, in turn, would produce even more cats. They even heard that some people were threatening to poison the cats, since there seemed to be no hands-on help available.

"So we stepped in to help out," said

"[Brenda Currie] starts her day at 5 am when she takes cats to the vets (the Comox Valley Animal Hospital)... She loads her car with cats, goes to Powell River and then to Comox. It makes for a long day."

- Susan MacKay

Susan, who has rescued cats and dogs as well as marine life over the years. "WOWs is for the preservation of all life. We won't turn down a rescue."

The SPCA was maxed out at the time. WOWs started with the rescue of 12 kittens pulled from the colony. Homes were found for the kittens, and



WEIGHT WATCHERS: A MEOWS volunteer weighs a feral kitten found on Texada Island. The organization finds homes for kittens, and ensures wild adult cats are spayed, neutered, dewormed, and vaccinated.

the new owners became responsible for their own vet bills to spay/neuter when old enough.

As soon as WOWs got involved, the scope of the problem became clear; the volunteers faced it head-on. Dozens

of feral adult cats, frustrated citizens, and more and more kittens found their way to MEOWS. So did stories of what can happen when humane measures aren't available.

While volunteers were trapping the

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MEDICAL TOURISM: Left, two feral cats on their way to get spayed / neutered in Comox, thanks to MEOWS volunteers and the Comox Valley Animal Hospital. Right, the irresistible Tug, a kitten adopted by WOWs founder Susan MacKay.

Will you help feral cats?

Rescuing and caring for Texada's feral cats is expensive, says Susan MacKay, noting that the qathet Regional District has provided \$3,000 in funding and the SPCA has provided \$5,000 plus some food for the cats. Although the money from the SPCA and the qRD was much appreciated, it isn't enough.

"We do bottle drives to raise money—we have an account at the bottle depot under WOWs / MEOWS."

If you are able to give money, tax receipts are available for amounts over \$20.

Cat food donations are also welcome as well as cash donations.

For more info or to help, email susan@wows.org or visit their website at wildoceanwhale.org.

small clip done on the tip of one ear before they were returned to Texada so people could tell that they had been spayed or neutered, said Susan.

"We wanted to give the cats on Texada the best possible chance at life while reducing the feral cat population in a humane manner," said Susan.

"We have volunteers on Texada who help care for the cats and monitor them," said Susan. One of those volunteers is Brenda Currie, the organization's lead volunteer on Texada.


"She starts her day at 5 am when she takes cats to the vets (the Comox Valley Animal Hospital) on Vancouver Island. She loads her car with cats, goes to Powell River and then to Comox," said Susan. "It makes for a long day."

Brenda, Susan explained, returns on the last ferry from Comox and then the last one to Texada, where she then has to settle the cats who must be held overnight.

"The local vets didn't have the capacity to deal with them," said Susan.

"We do what we can," said Susan. "I know the need is great. We have been called in to help out with yet another colony in the regional district while we continue our work on Texada."

So far, WOWs MEOWS has found homes for 26 kittens – one who ended up staying with Susan as it had been injured and she wanted to keep an eye on it and in the meantime ended up falling in love with it.

"I named him Tug," she said. "He certainly tugged at my heart strings."  isabelle@prliving.ca



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This region is not so accessible, actually

But a new crew of lobbyists and staff are working on it.

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Hodgins family was still smiling from their visit to the Salmon Expo on the afternoon of October 21. It was a great morning out for Mike, Marg and Dave, because the hatchery is one of the only truly accessible amenities in the region. Apart from getting splashed with a fish, and having to wait to use the viewing platform Dave built—as there were so many children on it, which he was thrilled to see, as everyone wins when things are made more accessible—it was an easy outing.

Parents Dave and Marg admit that they had just assumed this was an accessible region. Mike, who has a congenital tumor disease, could walk normally until he had a third stroke five years ago. Previously, he worked at Rocky Mountain Bakery, and then in housing maintenance. Now, he lives at Willingdon Creek, and visits his parents weekly in Westview.

“Last week he told us he didn’t want to go anywhere but the house,” Dave, who is retired from the mill and the vice-chair of the new regional Accessibility Committee, said.

Marg, a retired Registered Nurse, offered to take him to the mall, because he likes Dollarama and Dairy Queen. But even these favourites have become

tough to navigate. The doors at DQ require a complicated dance to enter; Dollarama’s maze-like line-up area prevents him from buying things. The family has also watched other wheelchair users, stroller-users and elders with mobility challenges struggle in the same ways—even in places that are theoretically built for accessibility.

Sometimes, Dave said, their advocacy results in change. For example, most vans capable of carrying a wheelchair load out the back, as the adaptation is far cheaper (still \$10,000.) But the nine wheelchair parking spots on Marine Avenue were designed for side-loaders.

The family lobbied City Council for a change. Then-City CAO Russell Brewer sat down with them to understand, and nine months later, seven of the nine are truly accessible.

Similarly, when the couple complained about accessibility to qathet Regional District, things changed.

“I think they got tired of us calling. So [operations manager] Patrick Deveraux called us back and said, ‘What would make you happy?’ We said, ‘People with disabilities don’t have to be able to go everywhere, just some places.’”

They chose the gazebo at Haywire Bay as a goal, and Patrick met the family there. Patrick tried to push Mike in



RAMPING UP THE ADVOCACY: Mike Hodgins (with dog Molly) has been wheelchair-dependent for five years. His parents, Marg and Dave Hodgins, say they’ve learned so much in that time just by struggling to negotiate parking, aisles, and sidewalks.



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his chair from the parking lot to the gazebo, over gravel, and couldn't do it. So, the qRD added a hard trail from the parking lot, and a lip to the gazebo – then he invited the family out again. It worked.

“Then he called us about Shelter Point and Palm Beach,” said Marg. “Because Patrick took the time to really understand what the problems are, he became much more conscious himself.”

It's those kinds of transformative moments the Hodgins are hoping to instill. Because they've had such a revelation over the past five years, they're hoping to share that widely. Sometimes it's embraced, sometimes it isn't.

For example, just before COVID, the family came to a Committee of the Whole meeting and challenged the councillors to try a day in a wheelchair. None of them took them up on it, they recall.

“Our hope was that if someone would try living their life in a wheelchair for even half an hour, it would open their eyes that even things that are theoretically accessible often really are not.”

Many doors in public spaces have a button to open them automatically, Marg said. But they almost always open towards the person pushing the button. If you're in a wheelchair, she said, you have to be able to push the button, back up quickly (ensuring no one is standing behind you) and then zip through the door.

Most banks are built for accessibility, they explained, but do not have a teller at wheelchair height.

The Zunga bus is supposed to be accessible, but the drivers still aren't trained on how to make that happen in real life, the Hodgins said.

An accessible taxi was donated years ago, but it's

Help make this region more accessible

The Joint Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee assists the City of Powell River, Powell River Public Library, and qathet Regional District to identify, remove, and prevent barriers experienced by persons with disabilities per the legislated requirements for prescribed organizations under the Accessible British Columbia Act and Regulation.

To send feedback, go to qathet.ca/about/accessibility. The committee's next meeting is December 7, 9 am, at the qRD office on Marine.

not on the road, they shared.

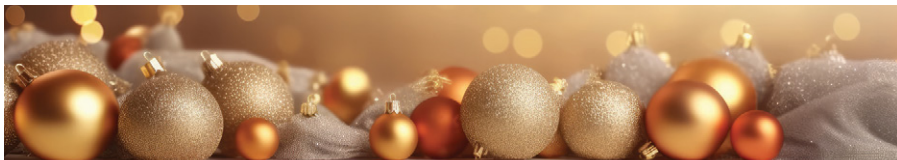
HandiDart, the BC Transit service that specializes in moving people with wheelchairs and other mobility challenges, is great – but so heavily used that customers have to book it at least a week in advance – and it stops running before dinnertime.

Even the region's big free festivals – a symbol for social inclusion – can be a struggle for people in wheelchairs, the Hodgins explained.

“Quite a few people say ‘Why do you bother?’ I tell them, ‘Mike is busy just surviving. We have to speak for him. Also, we're not getting any younger.’”

Marg added, “Hopefully, if we keep working at this, new people will pick up the advocacy. This is an older community and mobility challenges impact lots of people. Hopefully with lobbying, things will change.”

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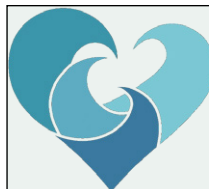
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Tourism Powell River throws down a challenge to BC Parks over the mess at Inland Lake:

Bike the trail with us

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Tourism Powell River is taking the lead in lobbying BC Parks for cleaning up Inland Lake's theoretically-accessible 13-kilometre trail. In dueling letters this fall, BC Parks claimed the trail is largely still wheelchair accessible and is maintained to "functional, safe, clean and inviting standards," whereas Tourism Powell River wrote back that the trail is none of those things.

The trail at Inland Lake was built in the mid-1980s, as a legacy project during an era in BC when disability rights, accessibility, and inclusion were centre-stage. At the time it was built, the amenity included wheelchair-accessible camping huts and fishing piers. Since then, although there has been some maintenance, the trail and infrastructure has deteriorated. The bridge north of the campground has fallen into the slough (see story in August's *qL*)

On September 26, in response to an initial letter from Tourism Powell River complaining about the state of the park, Jim Standen wrote that, "We have made significant improvements very recently." Jim is the assistant deputy minister to the Ministry of the Environment, which is responsible for BC Parks. He noted that most of the trail is still wheelchair accessible.

"BC Parks is actively working on a replacement of the closed pedestrian bridge," he wrote, "we anticipate completing the replacement by the end of 2024."

"...although the trail's current condition is less than ideal, we have made significant improvements



"FUNCTIONAL, SAFE, CLEAN AND INVITING": Tourism Powell River Tracey Ellis snapped this image on a ride around Inland Lake October 1, after BC Parks claimed the trail has recently been significantly improved.



very recently."

"Additionally, BC Parks, in coordination with its Park Operator, conducts annual Wildlife/Danger tree assessments ... if potentially hazardous trees were overlooked during the recent assessment, we are willing to re-assess them when brought to our attention."

On October 1, Tourism Powell River's executive director Tracey Ellis cycled around the trail. She photographed danger trees and large sections of the trail that appear to be re-wilding.

On October 11, Tourism Powell River president Jock McLauchlan wrote back to BC Parks, inviting the deputy minister to e-bike around the park with the staff and board, and see for himself the state of the trail. He attached Tracey's photographs.

"The photos highlight previously-mentioned hazards. However they also bring to light several new hazards that have recently emerged," he wrote.

"There are numerous trees that pose a severe danger as they continue to hang over the trail, and some of them have, indeed, recently fallen onto it."

Later Jock noted that "...regrettably, none of the sections along the trail are currently wheelchair accessible. Additionally, and contrary to the claims made in your letter, the trail has not witnessed any substantial improvements 'very recently.' In fact, the trail has significantly deteriorated over a short period of time."

"Given the apparent misinformation present within BC Parks... we would like to invite you or your representative to see for yourself current conditions on a bike ride around the lake... to witness firsthand the deplorable state of the park, road access and trail. We look forward to hearing from you." **PL**

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National Kindness Day

is observed annually on November 13th, and this year, qathet School District is commemorating it by highlighting the acts of kindness observed in classrooms and on playgrounds of schools within our district.

Kindness can be writing a thoughtful note to someone, bringing someone flowers, paying for someone's coffee, or walking your neighbour's dog. These simple acts of kindness feel good and can have a profound impact on both the giver and receiver. But did you know that kindness can also help transform our schools and world? When we deliberately use empathy, compassion, and kindness in our interactions with others, we make the world around us a more welcoming, respectful, and safe place to be. This has the power to transform lives and the world we live in.



The Grade 7 leadership team at Westview Elementary volunteering their time to serve a hot lunch on October 11, 2023.

Kindness is...

...Understanding How Our Own Biases Affect Others

Reflecting on our thoughts and understanding our own biases helps us become aware of how we treat and interact with others, both consciously and unconsciously. For example, we may have certain stereotypes or beliefs about certain groups of people which impacts the way we think and act. This becomes a barrier to creating environments where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and safe. Kindness is self-reflection and challenging our assumptions to improve our environments and relationships with others..

...Honouring Diversity

True understanding and appreciation of diversity comes when individuals actively seek to understand and connect with those that have different backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences. This requires us to actively learn more about others and build relationships with people beyond our immediate circles. Kindness is fostering connections across diverse groups, which builds a sense of unity and understanding.

...Showing Allyship and Addressing Negative Behaviour

Kindness involves actively standing up against negativity and injustice. This can be reporting incidents to others for assistance, calling out behaviour that will not be tolerated, or engaging in conversations with individuals that bring attention to the negative impact of their words, actions, and behaviours. Kindness is speaking up against discriminatory behaviour to create safer and more inclusive environments. By understanding our own biases, honouring diversity, and addressing negative behaviour, we contribute to an overall positive culture of kindness that values diversity, inclusion, and equity. When we use kindness as a guiding principle, we can transform our schools and world.

"Kindness is woven into every part of the BC curriculum and education system. Whether it's the Core Competencies that help students develop respect and care for others and the environment, or the rich influence of Indigenous ways of knowing guided by the First Peoples Principles of Learning, our curriculum and schools are centered around kindness, empathy, and compassion. These values also show up in qathet School District's and the Ministry of Education and Child Care's strong commitment to Compassionate Systems Leadership. Anchored in relationships and connection, this approach creates a culture where leaders and educators can guide with kindness and compassion. Success for students and our district isn't just about academics; it's also about equipping students with what they need to thrive as individuals, to understand and care about themselves and others, and to achieve their purpose in the world. Kindness is a crucial part of this development."

– Allison Burt, Director of Instruction



How kindness shows up in qathet School District:

Texada Elementary has witnessed many acts of kindness exchanged between students...

"A beautiful act of kindness moment was witnessed between Alaric and Cyann while we did our ADST project last week, when he asked if she needed to borrow some of his paint because he saw that she didn't have enough."

"River is always proactively helping out his classmates and it's truly wonderful to see someone be so observant about others who may need a little help."

"Another heartwarming moment between students was when Freyja kindly offered support to Izabelle and Whitney as new Kindergarten friends."

As well as between students and teachers...

"Boone and Elliot demonstrated a sense of responsibility, teamwork, and consideration by voluntarily sweeping up and recycling drink containers to lend support to our custodian to help keep our room clean."

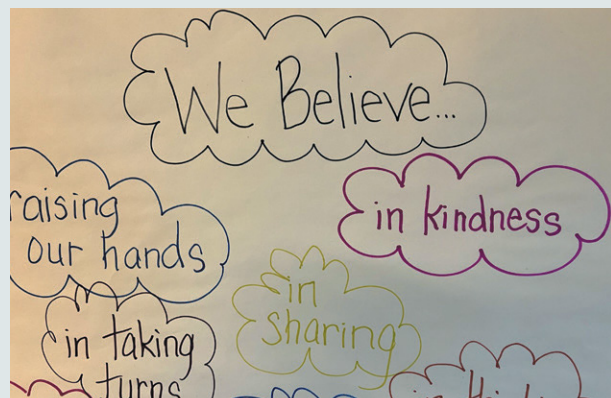
"Ken went out of his way and showed his gratitude by telling Mr. Nordman that the activity involving sanding and painting is his new favourite and he cannot wait to do more projects that include painting. He was so grateful to have had the chance to discover that he loves painting."

"Skye happily helped Rhonda Johnson carry her display out to her car to make it easier for her."

Kindness in the qSD office...

"The finance and payroll team at the district office bring joy to my day. And not because they write my pay cheque....but because they are funny, generous with their snacks, and generally just know how to make people feel welcome. They are appreciated!"

At **Kelly Creek Community School**, we regularly see our students supporting each other in the classroom and outside at recess, whether it's helping a younger student with play equipment, or even escorting a student with a bump to the office for ice or a band aid!



Kindness is a daily topic of conversation in the classrooms of Kelly Creek Community School, to the extent that it has earned a permanent spot on the wall!

"Each month, **James Thomson Elementary School** focuses on a different character value, and our most recent theme was: Kindness. Our primary message to all students and staff is to always seek ways to help others. Kindness is not just a one-day celebration at our school; it's the cornerstone of our school's culture, and it plays a pivotal role in shaping our students' character. We believe that kindness underpins all our interactions, learning, and personal growth."

The staff at Westview Elementary have also shown acts of kindness...

"...A staff member organized a soup lunch day and three staff members spent the evening cooking soup and making fresh bread for our entire staff and on the Wednesday our lovely staff of 30 was treated with a variety of delicious soups and fresh bread on a cold September day. It was exactly what was needed to bring our staff community together and begin our journey together to make this year spectacular for all of our students."

The Grade 7 leadership students and teachers are also getting recognized, "for all the hard work they continuously put in each day to make Westview Elementary full of life, learning, and excitement. They have just begun their roles as leaders this year, but they are off to a fantastic start and never cease to amaze me with all of the volunteer opportunities they are taking part in."

It's not uncommon to witness acts of kindness from the wonderful parents

of our students, who go the extra mile to express their appreciation...

At Edgehill Elementary, one of our teachers had a particularly challenging week, when they received this text from a parent that meant the absolute world to them:

"Hi, sorry to text you on the weekend but I wanted to share a little conversation between my daughter and her friend last night. My daughter said she wished you were her teacher again. Her friend agreed, and said that their new teacher is very nice, but that you are still the best!"

I wanted you to know that you are loved! They feel so seen and cared about by you. Thank you."

At Henderson Elementary, kindness isn't just a concept; it's a way of life.

"We have been running a Caring Kids program for several years. The idea is to engage students in conversations about what caring looks like. Students can receive a ticket for caring for themselves, caring for others, caring for the school, and caring for learning. During the two years I have been here, I have witnessed students responding to those who have been hurt on the playground, taking time out of their own recess to accompany a friend to the office for ice or a check-in after a fall. Watching kids both care for and be cared for has been a remarkable experience. As we continue to discuss caring, we see these acts not only between students but also between students and staff, as well as among colleagues at work."

In addition to the Caring Kids program, Henderson has been sponsoring the Everybody Deserves A Smile (EDAS) program each year. In this program, kids paint paper bags and write cards with kind messages for strangers in the community. These activities are complemented by classroom discussions about caring and compassion for those around us. Last year, along with three other schools, we prepared 480 bags filled with hats, mittens, socks, and toiletries, along with handmade cards from the students. Over the years, we have observed students' awareness of needs growing, not only among the people they know but also in recognizing the needs within their greater community."

The acts of kindness at PIE (Partners In Education) prove that small gestures don't go unnoticed...

"We've seen students do anticipatory gestures such as getting a peer's water bottle for them when sitting down for snack, passing a known favourite book to a peer during "whisper reading" and passing colours to a peer that one knows they like."

... and that celebrating others during significant milestones in their lives is a powerful way to make them feel valued and appreciated...

"Our staff contributed to a gift for one of our colleagues who turned 50 yesterday. It is something we try to do for all staff when they turn 50 (in addition to gifts for new parents, first-time grandparents, and loss of family members)."



Teachers at Edgehill Elementary also go the extra mile whenever they can to ensure every student's happiness...

"One of our primary students showed up to school with a brand-new backpack. It was unique and it was special to them. They had traveled far, taken a ferry, visited some family, and it was a gift from a special adult in their life. We could all tell the student was very proud of it. The next morning, while taking out a lunch bag, the zipper on the backpack got stuck. Many friends and many adults tried to get the zipper unstuck to no avail. Unfortunately, on one of the final attempts, the backpack ripped. The child was absolutely devastated. Two hours later, the child could still not shake the disappointment. They were crushed. At lunch time, the child's teacher drove home and collected supplies. That afternoon, the teacher found the time and sewed the backpack. It looked brand new. The teacher showed the child at the end of the day, and they were elated. That backpack is another reminder for those involved about how going out of our way to help someone out, can make all the difference in the world to someone."



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REMEMBRANCE DAY 2023

Honouring these once-teen soldiers

BY ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT AND PIETA WOOLLEY

Back when they were young teenagers, Wes Fraser and Ted Lloyd spent their summers logging together in Stillwater, as World War II escalated in Europe, Africa and Asia. Their older peers signed up. As soon as they were 18, they each travelled to Vancouver to join the Navy.

Ted served on the *HMCS Uganda*, and Wes aboard the *HMCS Ontario*. By the time they were old enough to join and had gone through training, the war was nearly over. Both served in the Pacific.

Ted, 97, and Wes, 98, are among the very few WWII veterans still living here. Long-time volunteer Colleen Martinig nominated the pair for Quilts of Valour this year.

On October 18, Colleen presented the quilts at a ceremony at Kiwanis Village, where Wes lives. She began volunteering with Quilts of Valour this year and has so far presented six quilts in qathet.

She says each quilt presentation is very special.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #164 Remembrance Day Program at the Cenotaph in Townsite:

9:35 am March of the colours

9:45 am March to Dwight Hall

10 am Service at Dwight hall

10:45 am Parade marches to Cenotaph

10:56 am At the Cenotaph, remembrance, recognition and prayers, march past, salute to veterans

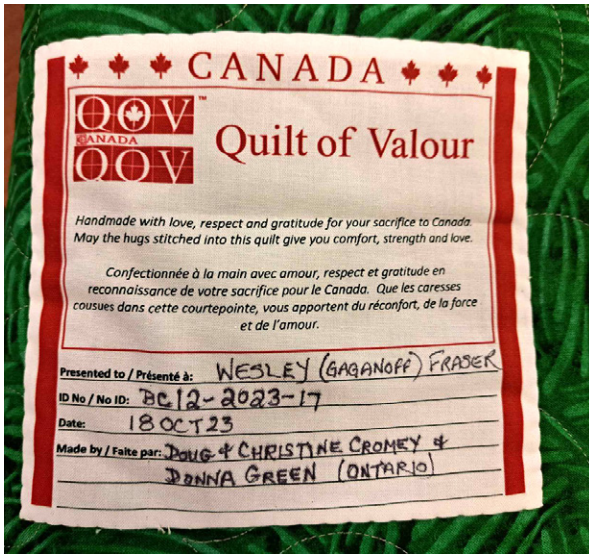
Lunch and entertainment at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #164 to follow. Everyone Welcome.



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A LESS FORMAL CEREMONY: Above, Colleen Martinig (far right) prepares to give Quilts of Valour to Ted Lloyd and Wes Fraser (centre). Left, Wes and Ted, wearing their quilts, and the official patch from Quilts of Valour (quiltsforall.ca). Left, Wes Fraser in Hong Kong. Below, Wes (front row, far left) aboard the recruitment vessel the HMCS Discovery. Bottom left, Ted Lloyd in Chile, and with his Navy pals.



When she presents a quilt, the recipients often say they don't deserve it.

"They are so humble; they just say I signed on to serve my country."

"These quilts are made with love by quilters and donated to Canadian vets," said Colleen.

More than 21,000 quilts have been presented since 2006 to Canadian Armed Forces members.

Most people who make quilts will never know the soldier who will receive their hand-crafted quilt, however they know their quilts will provide comfort to veterans all across the nation, states the quiltsforall.ca website.

Colleen knows more than most the lingering effects war can have on a soldier. She is engaged to former Powell River Legion president Michael Koestlmaier CD Warrant Officer (Ret'd), who completed three tours of Afghanistan, during two of which he was in direct combat. He remained in qathet following a stay at the Sunshine Coast Health Centre (see the November 2022 issue of *qathet Living*.)

Why remember? "Because we don't want another World War," Colleen said after the quilts ceremony at Kiwanis – the day after 500 people were killed when



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COZIER THAN A MEDAL: Colleen Martinig, a volunteer with Quilts of Valour, nominated Ted Lloyd (left) and Wes Fraser (right), two World War II veterans, to receive the hand-made quilts. Both men served in the Canadian Navy during the war. They've remained friends for most of a century.

a bomb fell on a hospital in Gaza, and tensions in the Middle East and globally were at a boiling point.

"These boys just went and signed up for the war without even thinking about it. They did it for us. For our freedom. For our democracy. And they were all so young, too."

The quilts, she said, "are all about a hug and a thank you."

Aboard the HMCS Ontario, 18-year-old Wes accompanied other ships "making sure they didn't get sunk," and spent a few months in Hong Kong, before coming back to Powell River.

Eighteen-year-old Ted was sent to Montreal for radio and signalling training and then Cornwallis, NS, for gunnery training. The *HMCS Uganda* took him from Victoria, then along the coastline of South America, and back to Powell River, by way of Victoria.

After the war, logging was booming. Both men came back to Powell River to continue serving the effort, although in a different way.

"They blasted the hell out of Europe," said Ted. "They were desperate for our logs and lumber."

Now, 78 years after World War II,

Peacekeepers Honoured

For Veterans Week 2023, Veterans Affairs Canada is marking the 75th anniversary of Canada's involvement with peacekeeping.

"Canada has a long history of helping defend and maintain peace around the world," reads the official poster. "More than 125,000 Canadian Armed Forces members have served in international peacekeeping efforts in dozens of countries. We recognize and remember their courage, service and sacrifice."

Canada's peacekeeping commitments have sent troops to five continents. Missions have included service in El Salvador, Haiti, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Egypt, Syria, Vietnam and, of course, Afghanistan, among many other countries.

Ted and Wes are still friends. Neither of them chose to stay in the service after the war, but both are proud that they joined.

Ted is also proud that his grandson, also named Ted, is a paratrooper in the Canadian Army. He did two tours in Afghanistan, and is back home in Edmonton.

"I love that he chose it," said Ted.

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Welcome Aboard

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In the early 1990s, when Dhaval Shah was still a teenager, he started out at sea as a deck officer cadet. In India, he explained, becoming a Master Mariner was an academic program – a Masters Degree. Parents were thrilled when their children – almost exclusively boys – chose to pursue this career. Not only is it lucrative, he said, there, it’s prestigious.

“Everyone has their own reasons why they sail,” he said in a Zoom interview with *qathet Living*. “The money is quite sufficient, especially if you’re working at sea half the year. You have zero commute. On the ship, meals and sleeping are prescribed – essentially a balanced lifestyle our health gurus are promoting.

“There’s no stress related to commute – and no pollution. You breathe the cleanest air. There are practical parts too – if you have a family, you can spend a lot of time with them when you’re home – there’s no going to work.”

After two decades as Captain on some of the world’s largest tankers and cargo ships, he’s grappling with a

problem far different than facing down storms or unruly crews. How to entice and train enough young Canadians to fill the estimated 20,000 job openings in this country’s vast marine industry, in the next eight years?

In his new position as associate dean of marine programs at BCIT, the future of Canada’s cargo shipping and passenger ferry networks rests in large part on his shoulders. Dhaval explained that societies and economies absolutely depend on reliable passenger and cargo ships – and tankers (which is not news to ferry-dependent communities such as this one). And, ships rely on their crew more than other industries.

A server doesn’t show up for a shift at a restaurant? Lunch is still served. The First Engineer doesn’t show up for his shift on a tanker? The vessel doesn’t sail – because Transport Canada regulates crewing.

BCIT is one of Canada’s very few Transport Canada-certified marine training centres. Dhaval’s programs are fairly full, but it’s not like there are hundreds of people on the waiting list.

BC Ferries famously has a crewing shortage, which is wreaking havoc



O CAPTAIN, MY CAPTAIN: Dhaval Shah, associate dean, BCIT Marine (and Master Mariner), thinks the route out of the crewing crisis across Canada is, in part, through training more women.

on predictable sailings (see Page 31). Some of that shortage is among deck hands, which BCIT’s three-month Bridgework program prepares workers for (it’s currently free for women and Indigenous people).

A casual Saltery Bay deckhand earns \$29 an hour to start – or about \$60,000 a year, if they can get full time hours. That’s about the average salary for qathet folks working full-time, year round, according to Statistics Canada.

Some of the shortage is among more educated marine professionals. BC Ferries currently has openings for nine engineers, for example. First engineers are paid just over \$50 an hour – or \$104,000 a year. That’s a fairly rare salary here. Just 1,100 locals earn over \$100,000 a year, Stats Canada reports.

BC Ferries isn’t your only option, of course. Many deck positions start at \$70,000 or \$80,000 elsewhere. Others – engineers and officers – can earn

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THIS COULD BE YOUR OFFICE: The Salish Orca emerges from the mist on October 7.

Photo by Shane Greaves, Coastal Calm Media, coastalcalmmmedia.com

\$200,000 and beyond.

In fact, under Dhaval’s leadership, BCIT added a course in “financial acumen,” because young graduates were earning so much money so fast, they were making life mistakes.

If these jobs are so fantastic, why doesn’t everyone go into the field – and solve the crewing shortage while they’re at it?

Dhaval, who is part of the industry’s Western Marine Crew Recruitment and Retention Committee, has some theories about that.

First, he said, unlike in India, the Master Mariner program in Canada isn’t well-known. That’s in spite of a coastline busy with cargo ships heading to and from Vancouver and Prince Rupert; tankers heading to Vancouver and soon, Kitimat; tugboats, fishing boats, Seaspan barges, a thriving aquaculture industry, BC Ferries, of course, and much, much more.

“When students and parents think of marine industries, they think of The Titanic. That’s where their knowledge comes from,” he said.

Second, he said, Canada is one of the few countries where marine training is a trade – which is still considered less-prestigious than an academic education by some families.

“We are considering options of evolving it into a graduate program,” said Dhaval, mentioning that training has advanced in new ways at BCIT, due to changes in the global industry that include using cleaner fuels and clean technology on board, plus the use of Artificial Intelligence. “But [degrees] come with disadvantages, too.”

And third, he said, in Canada, marine engineers and officers are still overwhelmingly men – although BCIT and the entire industry is working hard to change that through targeted recruiting and training for women, Indigenous people and gender-diverse people. Europe, he said, produces far more women mariners than Canada does.

“It’s not just about attracting people,” said Dhaval. “The biggest challenge is how to retain people working at sea. It takes incredible courage for any minority to work in an environment where they’re the only one.

“But I have worked with many women mariners, and they are the best. They’re very meticulous, they’re very hard workers, and the crews love them.”

Dhaval has only been in his position at BCIT since April of this year. He loves his work, and he is clearly on a mission to share the lifechanging magic of a career on board BC’s vessels. Hopefully, his enthusiasm will mean more locals choose to work aboard – and today’s crewing problems fade into the mist.



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Grrrr. They're getting better.

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If being crabby about BC Ferries' bungling incompetence is what floats your boat, you'll be disappointed with the newest set of sailing cancellation statistics.

BC Ferries reports on cancellations quarterly. Mid-October, the corporation released the numbers for July through September. That was a period with unprecedented media focus on crewing shortages and other factors causing chaos during tourism season.

Warning: these numbers will not rile you up. In fact, it looks like efforts to solve the problems are... mostly solving the problems.

On the routes from Powell River to Comox and Texada, this spring saw 18 cancellations on both routes due to crewing problems. This summer, each had just four cancellations.

The Langdale route was steady at just a handful of cancellations. Saltery Bay is the only local route with an increase in cancellations – and those still represented under 1% of sailings.

"This seems very weird to me," said Kim Barton-Bridges, the chair and long-time member of the Northern Sunshine Coast Ferries Advisory Committee. She expected higher numbers this summer, rather than lower. After taking a look through her email, where she receives cancellation notices, she thinks she figured out why her perception and the reality are so far apart.

"In one month alone, I received 25 service notices just for the Comox ferry," said Kim. "Every time a sailing is at risk of being cancelled due to a crew shortage, or if it's running significantly late, BC Ferries sends a notice."

The effect of all these notices is that BC Ferries seems to be in constant chaos – when in fact, nearly all sailings are true to the schedule.

On the one hand, offering so much communication about what might happen (cancellations, lateness) is bad for BC Ferries' brand, and can have the "cry wolf" effect of travellers not believing the warnings.

On the other hand, communicating this much allows travellers to plan their

How often are BC Ferries cancelled?

Little River (Comox) – PR ↓

April to June: 18 cancellations, all crewing shortages

July to September: 4 cancellations, all crewing shortages.

2023 cancellation stat: 1.8%

Blubber Bay (Texada) – PR ↓

April to June: 18 cancellations, crewing shortages. Four cancellations, weather.

July to September: 4 cancellations, all crewing shortages.

2023 cancellation stat: 1.8%

Earls Cove – Saltery Bay ↑

April to June: 6 cancellations, all crewing shortages

July to September: 12 cancellations, all crewing shortages.

2023 cancellation stat: 0.8%

Horseshoe Bay – Langdale →

April to June: four weather cancellations, one "other."

July to September: Two cancellations, crewing shortages. Three cancellations, mechanical. One "other."

2023 cancellation stat: 0.3%

day; if a sailing may be cancelled, they can choose whether to risk it or not.

Kim also pointed out that BC Ferries struggled with much more than cancelled sailings over the summer.

Too many travellers and too few sailings, with the spectacle of families packed into hot parking lots for hours waiting for a spot on deck, attracted significant media attention. The reservation system, too, created chaos for part of the summer, rather than solving it. Plus, Langdale lost 32 "supplemental" sailings in September and October, as the Queen of Alberni was needed elsewhere.

This dynamic is not captured in the new statistics, Kim said.

In the Westview Harbour, this summer saw frequent waits as full ferries didn't have enough time to unload, load and leave before the other ferry was scheduled to dock, creating a back-up – and chronically late ferries.

Cancellations may become more frequent again, Kim pointed out.

"We're already seeing notices again. BC Ferries hired a lot of crew in anticipation of peak season, but in the fall, workers may look for something with more consistent hours." **PL**

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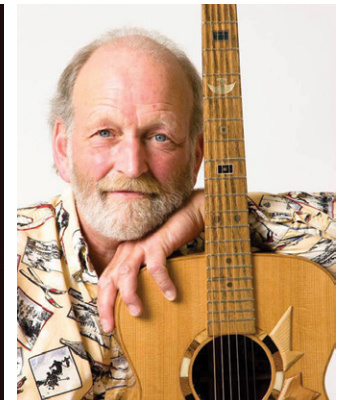
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No public bus to Van, still

BY PIETA WOOLLEY
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

If you see a 72-year-old woman on the side of Highway 101 with her thumb out, it might be Heather Jeal, trying to get a lift to Vancouver.

“I’m a Baby Boomer, I hitchhiked around Europe solo. Mind you I was a lot younger then. That was 50 years ago. Also, when my idiot husband thought we should live in Squamish for a year, I hitchhiked to downtown Vancouver to work as an executive assistant every day – and I was expecting my daughter at the time.”

Heather, clearly a toughie, might really hitchhike to Vancouver – but she is being a little tongue in cheek in this interview. She told *qathet Living* that she was “shocked” when she went online in October to book a seat on the Sunshine Coast Connector, and found that the only bus service to the City wouldn’t be running again until December 22, for the Christmas holiday.

Heather has spent more than 30 years living in various communities around the Sunshine Coast. There has always been a bus to Vancouver. When she moved to Powell River in 2021, she assumed there would be a bus. Although she drives, she would rather not do so in the city for safety (and peace of mind) reasons.

“My experience with the Connector is it’s a great option,” she said. “But we’ve become so reliant on our cars, and I am no exception. But this is a unique time, with gas prices as high as they are and my 2004 Honda is having issues with its starter. I promised myself that I’m going to try to walk more and take the bus to reduce impact on the environment.”

In fact, the Sunshine Coast Connector has been following the same annual schedule for the past three years, according to the operations manager, Dmitry Tyunin. It leaves a gap in the fall when there are fewer customers, and offers regular service during the summer and over holidays.

“As per our licensing requirements, this is the minimum service we are obligated to provide,” he explained, noting that running the service year-round would mean losing money – and going out of business. Subsidies have been spotty.

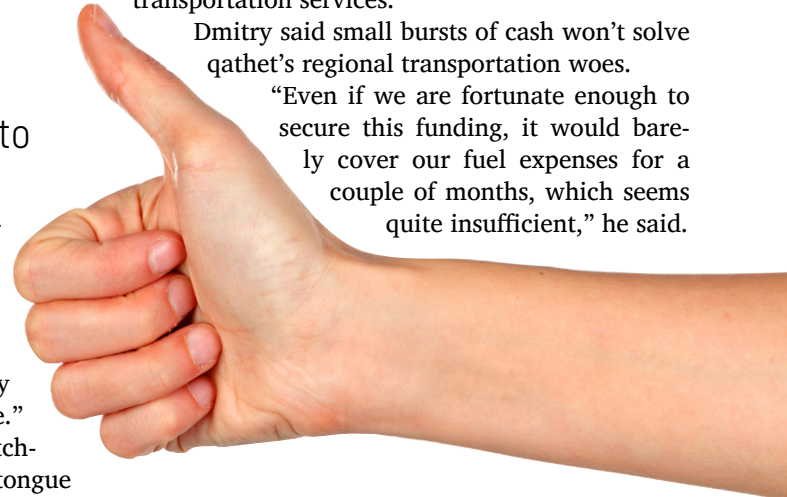
“During the COVID-19 pandemic, we received a small fund that barely covered our fuel expenses, enabling us to run during the winter and spring in addition to the summer,” explained Dmitry. “However, due to the combination of low ridership and high operating costs, we can only afford to provide transportation services during the specified dates.”

All municipalities and both regional districts on the Sunshine Coast are aware of the gap in social infrastructure, he said, but so far, no long-term solution has been forthcoming. On October 17, the Island Coastal Economic Trust unveiled a “new fund

to enhance regional passenger transportation.” It’s \$230,000 from BC’s Ministry of Transportation; businesses such as Dmitry’s can apply for \$5,000 to \$20,000 to “enhance inter-community passenger transportation services.”

Dmitry said small bursts of cash won’t solve qathet’s regional transportation woes.

“Even if we are fortunate enough to secure this funding, it would barely cover our fuel expenses for a couple of months, which seems quite insufficient,” he said.



“It is disheartening to see the lack of consideration given to transportation on the Sunshine Coast, as it is an essential aspect of the residents’ lives.”

Back in 2021, Rae Fitzgerald and Diane Wolyniec campaigned for a public bus – run by BC Transit – from Powell River to Vancouver. With the help of several other elderly women, they collected 5,000 signatures and many, many stories outlining the human cost of not having a bus: missed medical appointments; not seeing grandchildren; and more.

Rae and Diane took the petition to both Powell River City Council and the qathet Regional District board – where it seems to have died, according to Rae. Two years later, there is no public bus, or plan for a public bus, or staff follow up on whether there might be a way to get a public bus.

“I have never been so disillusioned in my life,” said Rae. “When I think of all the old ladies standing out in the cold in February collecting those 5,000 signatures. That was the end of my political involvement.”

“Now on Facebook I see all these comments wondering why we don’t have a bus to Vancouver. I used to reply to them [and ask them to lobby for a bus]. Now I say \$#@! it. I’m done.”


Meanwhile, some folks are hitchhiking.

Heather took her frustration to Facebook, and eventually secured a ride.

But of course, she didn’t find answers about why qathet doesn’t have a reliable bus service to Vancouver – as other communities have managed to string together.

“My daughter’s documentary was premiering in Victoria in July,” Heather said. “I took the ferry over, and I was able to connect BC Transit buses all the way down the island. It took a while, but it was only about \$30. Cheaper than flying, and cheaper than the private buses.”

Heather has taken the bus her entire life. She calls qathet’s transit system “quirky.”

 pieta@prliving.ca



YARD ART

Donkey Team

Butedale Street

BY CLANCY DENNEHY

This wagon and donkey team was made about 20 years ago by Don Carto for resident Clifford Gerhart who is survived by his wife Lena. Don Carto's Wildwood business was making cement

forms for public benches, wishing wells, birdbaths and various yard sculptures up until 2014.

Lena says "Clifford was so short he called himself 'short ass' and I think that's why he loved his little donkey team."

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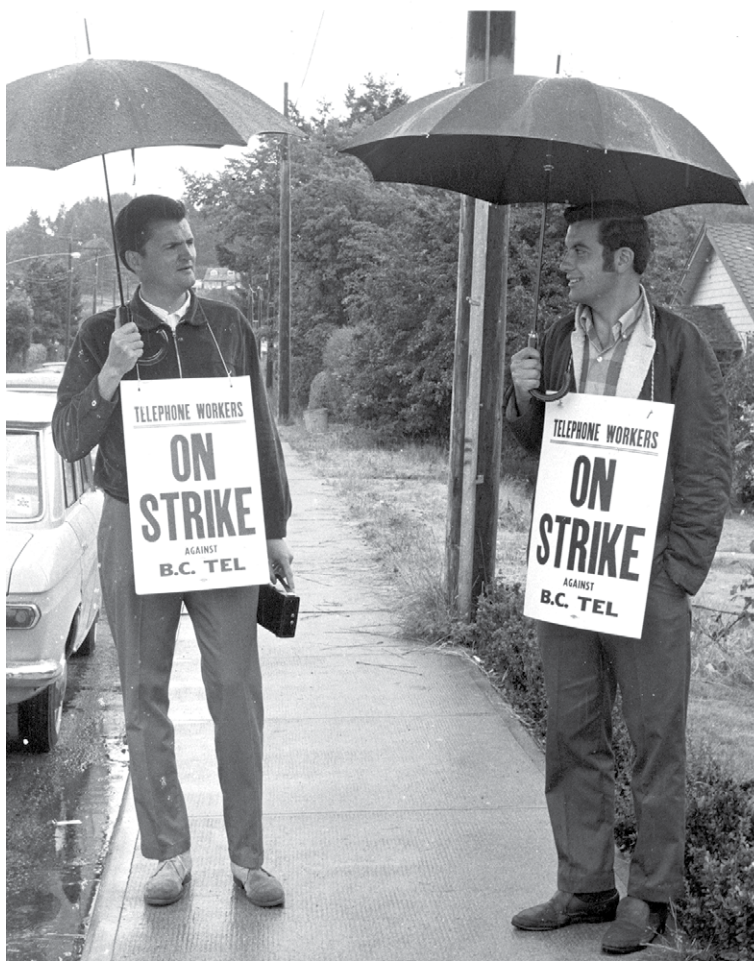


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IS THIS WORK WORTH A THIRD MORE?: Left, Powell River BC Tel workers strike for a wage increase of 32.1%. Right, back at work. *Photo courtesy of the qathet Historical Museum & Archives*

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BLAST FROM THE PAST

Hello? Operator? The Telephone Workers Strike of 1969

BY MARY WILLIAMS

QATHET MUSEUM & ARCHIVES ASSISTENT CURATOR

The summer of 2023 was dubbed “Solidarity Summer” by some, as an unprecedented number of unions went on strike. In British Columbia we saw the BC Port Workers, Fraser Valley transit, the Public Service Alliance of Canada and other strikes – as well as the Writers Guild of America that impacted BC’s film & TV industry. Some say we’re in the crudely-named season of “F-You, Pay Me” fall.

This year, however, is hardly the first time there have been massive labour strikes.

Most notable is the summer of 1969. Beginning in June of that year, newspapers began reporting on the meat cutters strike, the oil workers strike, the BC teachers strike, and the BC telephone strike. All of these had their inconveniences (and indeed, many an editorial was written to complain about strikes), but the most widely reported – at least locally – was the BC telephone strike.

The strike action was called for by the Federation of Telephone Workers of BC, and began on June 23,

1969. There were two key points the Federation asked for: wage increases, and reduced hours.

The Federation wanted a wage increase of 32.1%, and BC Telephone had countered with an offer of 17% (*Powell River News*, July 1969).

While the strike was ongoing, the newspaper was rife with advertisements from both parties. BC Telephone claimed the workers were unreasonable and disruptive. The Federation of Telephone Workers provided advice to the public about how to prepare for the strike and how to best use telephone services while it was ongoing.

Local workers held a picket line outside the B.C. Telephone offices at 6930 Duncan on July 2nd, 1969.

The local papers never did report on the final outcome of the strike, but an agreement was reached and the strike officially ended on August 5, 1969. By August 7, crews were back at work (*Powell River News*, Aug 7, 1969).

Tensions were still high about the strike, even after it was over, but the town otherwise got back to business as usual.

At least until the next strike in the ‘70s. **PL**

MEMORIES OF THE MILL

Employment Opportunities!

BY DAVE HARPER

The Powell River Company was very beneficial to graduates attending university, and senior high school students who had reached the age of 17.

They were able to work at the local pulp, paper and sawmill complex on a part time basis. The students could work weekends and holidays, filling in for full-time employees who were taking time off for various reasons.

I recall receiving \$19.30 a shift in 1959 (\$197.36 in 2023 dollars). We loved the extra differential paid on "4 to 12" and graveyard shifts.

After school on Fridays, many students would rush home to see if there was a phone message. We all looked forward to receiving a call from Chuck Wilcox telling us we had a shift or two. Sometimes, the personnel folks did not know until the last minute that a worker was not going to show up. Frantically, they had to make calls to find a replacement.

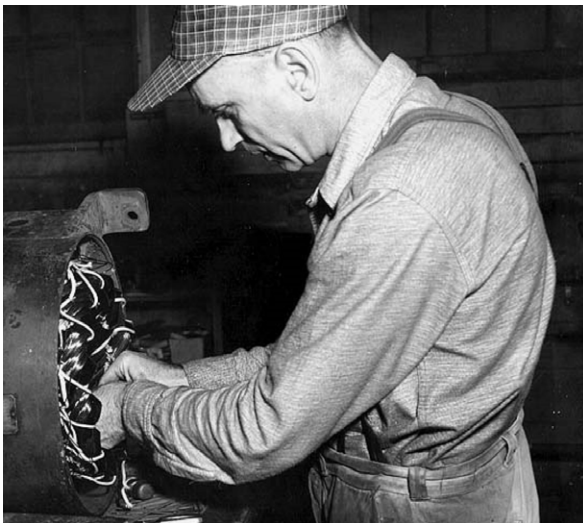
Often, when I got home, my mom would tell me to call Mr. Wilcox, or hand me my lunch bucket and tell me to go to work. Waiting for a call was somewhat agonizing. I decided to be proactive and call the Wilcox home, leaving a message that I was available if needed. This worked well. I got to know Mrs. Wilcox on a first name basis, and believe Sis was responsible for me getting many shifts.

Students worked in different areas of the mill, including paper machines, stock preparation, steam plant, sawmill, and Kelly Spruce lumber. We also worked with the yard crew, shipping, lumber barge loading, the clay shed, or as helpers with various tradesmen.

University students would come home to work during summer vacation. They were given preferential treatment as this helped pay for their education. Many kids who worked at the mill were able to finance some form of transportation. Often, vehicles were pretty meager, but transportation independence at age seventeen was super special.

Several of my friends found permanent work at the mill after they finished high school. Personnel staff had knowledge of many as casual workers, and knew their work ethic and reliability.

In my graduating year, I was wondering what my life held for me. What job would be satisfying? When do I make my choice? My father had been a journey-



\$19.30 A SHIFT: Dave Harper at work at the Mill.

man welder, and said, "If you get a trade you won't go wrong."

I was quite mechanical, and liked a challenge. My friend Ian Black had been awarded an electrical apprenticeship at the mill a year earlier, and his choice tweaked my interest.

The mill sent a representative from their personnel department to Max Cameron High School to tell potential graduating students they were hiring, and that some apprenticeships were available. They provided a list of them and other available jobs. If students were interested, they could take an application form and apply.

The representative said if taking an apprenticeship was appealing, you could make up to three choices of different trades. After considerable thought, I decided to apply for only the electrical trade. I stated that if I could not get that choice I would look elsewhere. I felt you would not show dedication to one trade if you were open to several.

June 1961, my attendance was requested by the mill's personnel office. The manager, Mr. Stuart Slade, informed me that the apprenticeship committee had selected me to join the electrical department.

I started my three-month probation trial July 19. Part of my apprenticeship agreement was that I was obligated to take an International Correspondence School course specific to electricity. The company would provide four paid hours every Monday morning for study time.

Apprentices would meet at the mill main office to learn about their chosen trade. Each trade had its own appropriate ICS lessons, and an exam would be given at the end of each. Wages were increased after passing each test. In my case, this occurred throughout my five years. My starting wage was \$1.67 per hour (\$17.07 in 2023 dollars).

The electrical department's responsibility was to maintain and repair the electrical equipment,

Our town was very fortunate and benefitted greatly by having a caring and community-minded main employer

and install any new electrical construction in all areas of the mill.

A new apprenticeship program was established in 1965. The company and union agreed that all non-journeymen working in trades were considered apprentices. The various apprenticeships included prescribed training at Burnaby Vocational School, along with the mill experience in the trades. Upon completion and passing the final exam, one would qualify for journeyman certification.


The first Electrical group to go to school was comprised of Danny McMaster, Wendall Stewart, Ken Flemming and me. My three partners were all long term electrical workers who had received their experience working with journeymen, and carrying out electrical maintenance. They were given credit for their many years of work, but were required to pass a final exam.

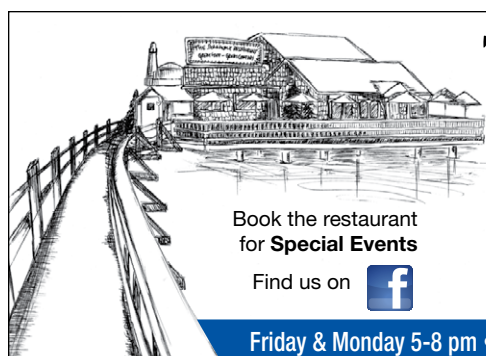
This was their first venture into formal training. It was years since they had been to school. Stress was at an extreme level! I was the last electrical apprentice to be on the old program, and was required to write the final exam of the new one. Our final fifth year's eight weeks schooling included a review of the first four years of the curriculum plus the final exam.

After passing the exam, all four of us received our Electrical Journeyman Interprovincial Certification at a formal presentation held at the Powell River Golf Club. This is equivalent to today's Red Seal qualification which allows one to work anywhere in North America.

The company was also very generous in sponsorships of local organizations and sports teams. They went out of their way to hire sportsmen who could enhance the strength of local teams representing Powell River.

They also funded and hired individuals who played in the local Pipe Band. This Band travelled around the world, competing and making us proud.

Our town was very fortunate and benefitted greatly by having a caring and community-minded main employer, The Powell River Company, known later as MacMillan Bloedel, Powell River Division. 



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



**ʔAYʔAJUΘƏM?
YOU GOT THIS**

RANDOLPH TIMOTHY SR.

.....

ʔiʔik^wəm Sewing

.....

ʔəʔənt Weaving back and forth

.....

ʔεχə Carving

.....

čičχatəs Cooking

.....

hiyəmt^θə I am going to make something

ʔayʔajuθəm orthography

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

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

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

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

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| ε | eh |
| ɪ | ih |
| ʊ | oo as in look |
| ə | uh |
| č | ch |
| č̣ | popping c |
| ǰ | dg |
| ᵏ | popping k |
| k ^w | kw |
| ᵏ ^w | rounded, popping k |
| ɬ | Breathy L sound |
| ᵑ | popping p |
| ᵑ̣ | popping q |

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

| MADE THE MOVE

Medicine, Music, Firefighting, Logging and Mountain Biking: qathet wins

Meg Pratt-Johnson and Ben Woroniuk moved to qathet in the spring of 2023. They both grew up in BC – Meg in Salmon Arm and Ben in Smithers. They met in Valemount and then became nomadic last year, window-shopping the province to find a place to call home.

Meg works remotely as a medical office assistant (MOA) for a doctor in Revelstoke and Ben works as a heli-logger in remote locations along the coast.

Meg joined the qathet Symphony Orchestra two weeks before the spring concert and somehow learned all the music and performed with them – a very welcoming group of musicians. She is looking forward to the next performance on November 19, where she plays first violin. She also joined the Powell River Fire Department as an auxiliary – service she also undertook in Valemount.

Likes: Dogs, bikes, CrossFit, photography, travelling, smoked meat, classical music, friends with boats and mowing the lawn.

Dislikes: Snakes, community Facebook groups, potholes and cancelled ferries.

Why did you choose to move to qathet?

Meg • You can ride bikes all year here, we were able to buy a great property, there is an amazing butcher shop (Chopping Block) and the stunning sunsets. Along with all

those great things my partners' work is located out of qathet and along the coast so it's a great central location for us.

Where from?

Meg • We were renting in Cumberland over the winter and looking at housing options on the Island, but the Sunshine Coast stole our hearts. Before moving to the coast, Valemount and Smithers were home.

What surprised you once you moved here?

Meg • How relaxed the pace of life is around here. The Island was way more chaotic and busy compared to the Sunshine Coast – qathet has more of an 'island time' vibe than the Island ever had in my experience. And I was also surprised that the community orchestra is only a few years old! I thought that it would have been long-established with how much musical talent is here.

What made you decide to move here?

Meg • Andrew Roddan (460 Realty) found us the perfect property and then sold us on the lifestyle by taking us out on the mountain bike trails.

Where is your favourite place in qathet?

Meg • Mount Mahoney – it is a gorgeous mountain with a challenging trail network where we've made so many great memories over the past few months up there. We made so many friends since day one just from getting a membership with the QRCA and going on the Thursday night rides.



How did you first hear about qathet?

Meg • My family told me about qathet – my late grandfather Mark Slater grew up here and when he was in university he came back to work at the Mill in the 50's. He spoke highly of the town and community and how it was the best place to grow up.

What would make qathet a nicer community?

Meg • More young couples and families.

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

Meg • I grew up in the interior and there were always Coffee House's in all the small towns, it's an evening of live local talent every few weeks. I think this would be a great addition to this musical city.

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

Meg • Just getting used to the ferry system and getting friends to visit due to having to get on two ferries' to qathet from the Mainland, it seems to be just a little bit out of



TWO KINDS OF REMOTE WORKERS:

Meg Pratt-Johnson telecommutes to Revelstoke, and Ben Woroniuk is a coastal heli-logger. When they're not working, you can find them at Mount Mahoney... and everywhere else.

the way to make it an easy trip compared to the Island.

If you were mayor, what would you do?

Meg • I would put in a new Fire Hall.

What are qathet's best assets?

Meg • Sunsets, mountain bike community, Julie's Airport Cafe and the expansive access to outdoor adventures.

What is your greatest extravagance?

Meg • The maple bacon croissants at 32 Lakes.

Which talent or superpower would you most like to have?

Meg • Having a green thumb, I always struggle to keep plants and gardens alive. 🌱

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King of the Kings crowned

The Powell River Kings kicked off a new season with changes in its management structure. Joe Mastrodonato, interim Kings Team President, said the team will work with the Birch Group in a management partnership.

The Birch Group's Stephan Seeger has been named as the team's new president and he will oversee both hockey and business operations for the Kings.

A combination of experienced/existing Kings staffers, augmented by new hires and the Birch Group management team will be employed, he added.

"We believe this affords our team the continued stability necessary to ensure a bright and healthy future for our boys at the Hap, at home and right here in Powell River," said Joe.

The Kings and the Birch Group began exploring a potential ownership and operational restructuring relationship at the end of last season.

The change to the Kings hockey club was made "against the backdrop of recent changes in the structure of the BCHL and the heightened financial and professional expectations that accompany them," said Joe.

The Kings' new president, Stephan, is an American criminal attorney in Stamford, Connecticut.



She handled that Vizsla like a pro

Junior Handling is a sport in which kids from ages 4-17 learn to show and handle many different breeds of dogs. Much like high school sports, Juniors also has a regionals and nationals.

This past summer I won zone 11 (southwest BC's) regionals and went to Montreal in mid-September for Nationals. While at Nationals we were both tested on our ability to perform certain patterns with the dog as well as our knowledge on both the rules,

point systems of handling, and general dog anatomy.

Once the competition was over and they announced my number as third place I didn't register that they had called me. I remember just waiting for the girl to step up not realizing I was said girl.

Since winning I have felt incredibly grateful to all my mentors who've helped me on the way and feel incredibly indebted to my parents for consistently supporting my love of dogs and handling.

Having now both been to Westminster and Nationals, I think my next goal for my handling career is to place first at Nationals and head off to Birmingham England for worlds.

—by Panagiota Rounis

Finally Ottawa did something we can all applaud: recognizing Cynthia Parise

Assumption Catholic School's own Cynthia Parise has won a 2023 Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Early Childhood Education: Certificate of Achievement. Cynthia coordinates the preschool at the school. She recently spearheaded building a natural playground for young children to explore – gated for safety – that is open to the community whenever school isn't in session.

As an example of how Cynthia practices her philosophy of care, which is rooted in social and emotional development, "once a week the four-year-old children participate in "centre time". The children are paired and take turns rotating through five activities," reads her award description.

"The purpose of this time is to help them transition to structured activities and work with others in a cooperative and turn-taking manner. Cynthia will often pair a child who is strong in numeracy with a child who is weaker, or put two strong personalities together so they navigate working together cooperatively."

Cranberry Place

Twenty-four families have new affordable rental homes with the opening of Life Cycle Housing Society's Cranberry Place housing development.

Located on the site that previously housed eight cottages operated by the Moose Village at 6647 Cranberry Street, the new housing development, came to fruition under the leadership of Frances Ladret, former president of Life Cycle Housing Society and current treasurer.

"From vision to reality, it was a long journey but the tenants' excitement about their brand-new

homes has made it all worthwhile," said Frances.

"Without Frances' determination, patience and diligence, I don't know if this would have been possible," said Vicky Sanzalone, Life Cycle's acting vice-president. The units are described as affordable to rent and economical to operate with new heat pumps. "The residents say they are very happy here," she added.

At the official opening ceremony on September 26, Powell River Sunshine Coast MLA Nicholas Simons said that organizations like Life Cycle Housing are key to providing much needed new housing.

The housing development's community room is available for residents to get together for a coffee. They can also book it for birthday parties and other events.

With one-, two – and three-bedroom units as well as two fully accessible units, the development includes on site laundry facilities, an outdoor play space, and a community space with a kitchenette and washroom facilities. The five people who previously lived in the cottages on the property have moved to the new building.

The province invested approximately \$2.5 million through the Building BC: Community Housing Fund toward Cranberry Place and is providing annual operating funding of approximately \$151,000. These homes are part of a \$19 billion housing investment by the BC government.

Moving forward on the mill & Tiskwat

After more than 20 years of work, Tla'amin has secured a specific claim on its former village site, Tiskwat, at the mouth of the Powell River, as well as parts of the former Lot 450.

This year marks 50 years of the specific claims process in Canada. These are claims that Indigenous Nations can make against the Crown, when land was taken away illegally. So far, more than 1,800 claims have been filed, and about half have been settled. Usually, the claims result in a cash pay-out.

Tla'amin's claim against the Crown now enters a period of negotiation, which will take several years.

On Friday, October 27, Premier David Eby was in town for a special ceremony at Tiskwat.

On behalf of the Province, the Premier signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Tla'amin, recognizing that the Nation has a specific claim on the site, and putting some guidelines on its use.

MLA Nicholas Simons said, "The mill site has not been sold, but the involvement of all levels of government will make a transaction more likely and more imminent. [The ceremony] celebrates a positive step toward economic and social reconciliation."



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MAIL BAG

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

qL forever

Dear Isabelle,

As I read today on my CBC News feed about the imminent closing down of Glacier Media's *Kamloops This Week*, the *Alaska Hwy News* and the *Dawson Creek Mirror*, I realize how fortunate we are to have a source of printed local news that is free to all.

qathet living has been willing to investigate and report on complex issues that affect our citizens such as the excellent series on our high gas prices (Pieta Woolley), crime and affordable housing.

In a small town tough issues can become divisive. *qathet Living* has handled these with respect and diplomacy. Thank you for creating a magazine that has become an important source of local information about what is going on in our community and how we are meeting challenges driven by external pressures.

qathet Living continually supports our town's innovators – businesses, farmers, artists, volunteers, individuals and community organizations – by acknowledging the many ways they contribute to our community.

You have established a professional and dedicated team and made your magazine one we can all be proud of. I hope that the towns losing their papers will look to *qathet Living* as an example of how to continue bringing news into people's lives.

A small, local print media organization connects a community in a way words on a screen coming from faraway simply cannot.

– Devon Hanley

No more gentle rocking. We need folks to "get angry and show up."

qathet Living Magazine is a gift to this community. In my experience getting the first ORCA Bus on the road, through my work with PRISMA and the local Hospice Society, I've seen firsthand how your magazine delves into local issues, and I'm truly grateful, both as an involved member of these amazing organizations and as a community member.

This month's article [Gently Rocking the Boats, October 2023] was just what we needed. Folks need to know we are advocating for them, but we need them to get angry and show up. I think this will help, or maybe I'm the eternal optimist.

It was a pleasure working with Pieta, a consummate professional, and I hope to work with her in the future to get the message out and let BC Ferries know that enough is enough.

Thanks for the magazine, and for the opportunity. You've got a good thing going on. Kudos to you all.

– Kim Barton Bridges

Texada ferries need a sensible schedule and some predictability

I read your article this month re problems with ferries [Gently Rocking the Boats, October 2023] and understand that it's the first of a series about transportation. Great topic! Not sure if you'll be writing again about ferry issues, but there's an issue which is driving Texada residents crazy which wasn't mentioned in your article.

The problem is somewhat unique because Westview Terminal has two routes using one dock. Ferry schedules are based on average vehicle loads, but when the Comox ferry is fully loaded as is often the case during summer months, the crew cannot unload and reload during the time allotted in the schedule. That makes the departures of the Orca from Westview leaving anywhere from 15 to 45 minutes behind schedule.

This results in the Texada ferry sitting out there on the water because it can't come in until the Comox ferry leaves. I missed out on a long-awaited medical appointment this summer, not because I missed the ferry and not because the Texada ferry was late. I missed the appt because the Orca was 45 minutes late leaving, so the Discovery couldn't dock until my appt was nearly over.

I'm far from the only one who has been inconvenienced in this way. Dentist appts, massage appts, even job interview appts could not be kept because of the inability of the Texada ferry to dock in a timely manner.

The problem is exacerbated by never knowing if the ferries will run on time. One day they do, the next day they don't, so we never know which sailing to take to get to PR at a specified time. This compromises the ability of Texada residents to be on time for work, school or any appts, which compromises our quality of life, health, etc.

The FAC is well aware of the problem and we are all very frustrated with BCF reluctance to change to a schedule which allows full loads of vehicles to load and unload within the scheduled time.

– Sandy McCormick

Bloody good job, folks

Hi Pieta,

Thank you so very much for your team helping coordinate this most important initiative of Mobile Blood Donor Clinics for our City and Regional District [Take Our Blood, Please! Zest, October 2023].

I am already receiving emails and started the list.

Don't forget to offer yours as well as informing everyone and anyone you know to email me.

– Glenn Holstine

(To join the list of potential blood donors, email Glenn here: glennholstine@gmail.com)

If you play it, they will come

Hi Pieta,

I just wanted to thank you again for such a great idea about how to cover the topic of pickleball in *qathet Living* [September 2023]. I had a number of people come up to me and say that they were inspired to attend and play – due explicitly to reading about pickleball in the *qathet Living*.

– Susan Young

Corrections & Additions

She's not like Zendaya or Topol

To the editor,

We are pleased to see the article about Monique, Lydia and Tidal Arts in the latest issue of *qathet Living* [August 2023]. Thank you very much.

Lydia's last name is Bryan. That's a detail we missed by not captioning the photo.

It sure is a full issue... lots of great articles. You and your team do such a great job!!

– Mike and Margie Demuth

Getting ahead of ourselves

In the August issue of *qL*, we ran a misleading headline on I Made the Move. Warren Peters moved here as an articling student, to work with Villani & Co. He is not already a lawyer as the headline suggests. We apologize for the error.

Still at the Pat, with the ghosts

Kathy Piechotta still works at the Patricia Theatre and is not a "former" employee, as the article in the October issue indicated [Where Ghosts Play a Part]. We apologize for the error. 🙏


Dwight Hall Raincoast Craft Fair


Sat. Nov. 18th 10am - 4pm

Sun. Nov. 19th 11am - 3pm

Dwight Hall


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BUSINESS AFFAIRS

SEAN PERCY

Granada ownership stays in Townsite

An era has come to an end in the Townsite with the sale of the **Granada Restaurant**. But for diners, little will change, say the new owners. A generation of Powell Riverites know the venerable Greek restaurant as the work of Gus and Joyce Lenis and son Orion, who have owned it for 38 years. At 50 years, it is the community's longest continuously operating restaurant. While the Lenis family has now sold, the new owners are familiar to the Townsite—as they already own the nearby Royal Zayka restaurant. **Jaspal Rana** and **Meenakshi Rawat** say they plan to keep everything the same at the Granada. Indeed, the Granada's recipes and a training period were part of the deal, and the existing staff stayed on, too, helping ensure a seamless transition for both the new owners and the Granada's longtime customers. "It's a good challenge for us," said Jaspal. "We want to do hard work." Running both operations will offer some synergies for the restaurateurs. For example, they expect to be able to share a delivery driver and server—a critical piece for both the Granada's famous pizza business, and Royal Zayka's Indian food.

Diverting dump runs

Shea Sketchley's job at Kindred Rebuild prompted him to create a side gig that helps pay for his Ford F-150. **Sketchley Logistics** provides dump runs, local deliveries and general labour services, but specializes in making the most out of what people need to get rid of. He will sell what can be sold, donate what can be re-used, and dispose of the rest. "I like the idea of helping so that things get donated when they can be, and doing it cheaply," said Shea. Contact him at 604-578-8507.

Rentals for campers, or visitors

Have you ever been itching to go camping, but don't want to sleep on the ground, or make the investment in an RV? **Ray and Lena McDonough** have the solution for you with their business, **LR Camper Rental**. They'll deliver and set up an RV for you anywhere from Lund to Saltery Bay, and meet you to explain the workings of the camper unit. The couple moved to qathet just before COVID, and had been dabbling in renting out their RV when they lived on Vancouver Island. They bought another to live in while they built their small home here, so

Powell River Chorus
Christmas Concert

SATURDAY DECEMBER 2ND
EVERGREEN THEATRE
7:30PM (DOORS OPEN AT 7)

Tickets \$15 in advance \$20 at the door
Available from Chorus members and
The Nutcracker Market on Marine

when that project was completed, they had more inventory to rent, so they launched the company. Ray says an increasing amount of their business now comes from residents who need room for visitors, so RVs get delivered and set up on their properties. Call 250-730-1156 or visit lrcamperrental.com.

Scoop to soup

Wild Scoop Ice Cream has morphed to be open all year, by becoming **Wild Soup** in the winter. Owners **Melissa Call** and **Linda Shaben** will have soup and bread to go, eat in or take out from the little shop under Ecosentials at the corner of Alberni and Marine. Bring to-go mugs for soup in a cup or grab a bag of frozen soup for those nights you don't want to cook. Three types of soup will be offered, along with some bread, buns, or other treats. There are some places to sit inside, but the space is tiny, so it's first-come, first-served for seating. Of course, some ice cream will still be available. Wild Soup will be open only weekdays to start.

Help for homeschoolers

An initiative for homeschoolers in qathet, the **Threshold Learning Centre HUB** offers an alternative education option. **Suzanne Glick** has 25 years of experience in education, having worked in schools using Waldorf, Montessori and Forest school pedagogy. Established at the Secret Garden Studio (4598 Marine Avenue), this micro-program accommodates up to eight day-class students, emphasizing parental involvement to integrate class content into home-based education. The Centre provides tutoring in core subjects, hands-on learning, and project-based opportunities, complemented by outdoor adventures and Willingdon Park visits. The teaching team, consisting of two to four educators, focuses on mindfulness, circle council meetings, self and group governance, and the development of social intelligence.

Broadband goes the last mile

More than 140 households in **Lund** and **skelhp** (Saltery Bay) will benefit from a nearly million-dollar project to install broadband internet. The project, being built and to be operated by service provider **CityWest**, will begin construction in 2024 and will provide speeds of more than 50 megabits per second (Mbps) for downloads, and 10 Mbps for uploads. The provincial government will invest up to \$202,300 through the Connecting British Columbia program. The federal government is putting up \$404,700 through the Universal Broadband Fund. CityWest will contribute approximately \$254,000 and the qathet Regional District will contribute approximately \$94,500.

|| sean@prliving.ca

Westview
Ratepayers Society

2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday, December 4 • 7-9 pm
Recreation Complex
Cedar Room



**Fulfill your fall feels
at the new archery range**

Allan Lalonde and Randy Mitchell take aim at the new archery range at the Rod & Gun Club just south of town. See more on Page 48.

November in qathet



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NOVEMBER EVENTS

1

Wednesday

SD47 Parent-Teacher Conferences / Some schools not in session or part-day

Elementary schools not in session; high school early dismissal.

Film Matinee • Charlotte's Web

1:30 pm at The Patricia. \$5 admission, \$5 popcorn and drink combos.

All Saints Day



2

Thursday

Post-Halloween Pumpkin Drop-Off

9 am to 5 pm, Town Centre Recycling Depot (by Salvation Army thrift store). For farm animal feed and compost. No painted pumpkins, wax, sticks or candles. Hosted by the qathet Regional District and Let's Talk Trash.

Film • Stop Making Sense & Burning Down the House Party

6 pm doors, 7:30 film, Patricia Theatre. Stop Making Sense is arguably the greatest concert film ever made—a Jonathan Demme masterpiece capturing The Talking Heads at the peak of their powers in 1984. DJ's Tony P and Kamandi - specialty food and drinks - cash bar - film rated G - running time 1hr. 28min \$20 general admission

NOVEMBER IS INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY MONTH; WE'RE CELEBRATING WITH MEN AND THEIR GUITARS: Above, the Colin James Trio plays the Evergreen on November 4. Valdy and John Gogo take the Max Cameron November 18.

Dio de los Muertos

5 pm onwards, Iguanas. With the "espectacular" voice of Laura Rivera. Reservations recommended.

Kings versus Trail

7 pm Hap Parker.

Jupiter at Opposition

Best viewing all year. Visible all night.

Film • Killers of the Flower Moon

6 pm, Patricia Theatre. Scorsese-directed crime/drama. Lily Gladstone, Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro. Note special start time, as runtime is 3 hours and 26 minutes.

Ofrenda Memorial Día de Muertos Altar

3 to 7 pm, Rotary Pavilion at ʔahʔjumlɣʷ - ah joo miexw - Willingdon Beach. See Page 54.

Day of the Dead (Día de Muertos)

Blue Agave Restaurant. See Page 54.

Día de los Muertos

Starting at 4 pm, Iguanas Restaurant. See Page 54.

Taurids Meteor Shower Peak begins

Minor shower.

Film • Killers of the Flower Moon

Noon matinee and 6 pm, Patricia Theatre.

4

Saturday

Colin James Blues Trio

Doors at 7, show at 7:30 pm, Evergreen. \$50. 604-485-2891. Tickets available at the rec complex.

Harmony Vespers with Vox Madrigal

4 pm, United Church. Admission by donation.

Women in Business Artisan & Entrepreneur Show

10 am to 4 pm, Legion. 1:30 pm Timberlane

5

Sunday

Day Light Savings time ends

Turn clocks back at 2 am.

Flea Market

10 am to 1 pm, Lang Bay Hall.

Film • Killers of the Flower Moon

Noon matinee and 6 pm, Patricia Theatre.



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**NOVEMBER
25 & 26
2023**



COZY CREATIONS CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR!

Town Centre Hotel Banquet Room

We are back for another year, but bigger and better than ever before! This year we are in a new to us venue, and have grown from 23 vendors to 40! Be sure to come do some holiday shopping, as there will be something to choose from for everyone on your list, or treat yourself! You won't be disappointed!

Saturday, November 25th • 10-4

Sunday, November 26th • 10-3

Find the event on Facebook for a list of all the vendors. See you there!

Accomplished author-athletes to share ideas with each other, qathet

Last spring the local chapter of the Council of Canadians hosted author Leanne Prain, who inspired participants to explore ways to use art and creativity in their efforts to make this world a better place.

Now the group is hosting two authors, Natalie Porter and Laura Robinson on November 9, 7 pm, at the Rec Complex.

Residents may know Natalie from her years as a librarian at the Powell River Public Library or maybe from seeing her out skateboarding.

She's currently sharing her research through the womxnskatehistory.ca site and is author of a skateboarding memoir, *Girl gangs, zines, and powerslides: a history of badass women in skateboarding* to be published in 2025.

Laura Robinson is also an athlete (championship cycling and nordic skiing) and an award-winning journalist and author. She has a special interest in equity issues and has volunteer coached cycling and skiing at several First Nations.

Serendipitously, Natalie and Laura met up decades ago, and Laura's book, *Black Tights: Women, Sport and Sexuality* influenced Natalie's thesis, "Female Skateboarders and their Negotiation of Space and Identity."

There will be another opportunity to meet Laura, as the following evening, on November 10, she will be presenting a film she wrote, *Niigaanibatowaad/Frontrunners*, which is centered on the 1967 PanAm Games torch relay and the residential school students who were chosen to run the 800 km over an ancient message route. (7 pm, PR Public Library)

— Jan Slakov



BOOKS & WHEELS:

Above, former PRPL deputy chief librarian Natalie Porter skateboards and writes about women in the sport. Left and right, journalist and filmmaker Laura Robinson is also a champion nordic skier and cyclist.

Film • Killers of the Flower Moon

6 pm, Patricia Theatre.

Advanced Care Planning Workshop

10:30-12, qathet Art Centre. See Page 54,

Elder Abuse and Neglect info Workshop

10:30 am til noon, Lang Bay Hall. Lang Bay Community Club & BC's Community Response Networks Invite everyone to a free informative presentation. Recognize the many types and warning signs of abuse and neglect and what support is available in our community. For more info contact 604-487-1259

Grief Walking Group

10 am Seawalk. See ad on Page 22.

8

Wednesday

National Indigenous Veterans Day

Honour the important contributions made by First Nations, Inuit and Métis Veterans in service to Canada.

Hospice Society's Reflection Room Opens

A place to reflect and share experiences with grief and death. See Page 13.

6

Monday

Memento Mori Book Club begins

6:30 to 8 pm, This three-session book circle (Nov. 13 & 20, too) will draw on a personal memoir as a template for exploring the universal themes of illness, aging, dying, grief, gratitude, and community. See Page 54.

Film • Killers of the Flower Moon

6 pm, Patricia Theatre.

7

Tuesday

Mindful of Murder: reading by author Susan Juby

7 pm, Library. Bestselling mystery author Susan Juby will read from her new quirky and comedic mystery novel that is set in British Columbia's Gulf Islands.

9

Thursday

Author-Athletes Natalie Porter and Laura Robinson

7 pm Rec Complex. Hosted by the Council of Canadians. See above.

Townsite Streetscape Project Open House

3 to 6 pm, Townsite Market. Learn about better streets, sidewalks and public spaces. Hosted by the City.

10

Friday

Powell River's Own Craft Fair begins

5 pm to 9 pm, Upper Complex. See ad on Page 61.

Film • She Came to Me

7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

Cran Hall Presents: Scout Mountain

7 pm, 6828 Cranberry Street. The bluegrass blissful blend of qathet's own Scout Mountain. Tickets at the Nutcracker Market on Marine, or Eventbrite (linked on scoutmountainbluegrass-band.ca and FB Cranberry Community Hall). \$20 advance, \$25 at the door. cranhall.org.

Film & talk • Niigaanibatowaad: Frontrunners

7 pm at the Library. Author Laura Robinson (see left) will present a film about injustice and healing for 10 Indigenous youth who ran the 1967 PanAm Games torch from Minneapolis to Winnipeg. For info mmerlino@prpl.ca.

Townsite Streetscape Project Open House

3 to 6 pm, Townsite Market. Learn about better streets, sidewalks and public spaces. Hosted by the City.

Kings versus Surrey

7 pm Hap Parker.



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NOVEMBER EVENTS (CONT)

11

Saturday

Remembrance Day

10 am service at Dwight Hall. See Page 26 for more details.

Powell River's Own Craft Fair

11 am to 4 pm, Upper Complex. See ad on Page 61.

Kings versus Surrey

7 pm Hap Parker.

Film • She Came to Me

7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

13

Monday

New Moon

National Kindness Day

Observed by the qathet School District. See Page 24 for more.

Everybody Deserves a Smile begins

See Page 17 for more.

Film • She Came to Me

7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

A Century of Golf in Powell River

2 pm, Library. Hector Beauchesne will present his new book that tells the story of the community's Golf Club from its origins in Townsite in 1922 to the current Myrtle Point Golf Club. For info mmerlino@prpl.ca

Film • She Came to Me

7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

15

Wednesday

Disposition of the Dead Workshop

6-8 pm at qathet Art Centre. Host Sheila Peters gathers people to tell stories about the creative ways they disposed of their dead and how that works to keep a feeling of connection, often for years afterwards. Bring your stories to share.



AT THE HAP: The Powell River Kings celebrate during the October 14 game versus the Nanaimo Clippers. The team is well into its season now, and November promises five home games: versus Trail, Surrey and Chilliwack.

Photo by Alecia Baas Photography

12

Sunday

Diwali

Festival of lights.

Film • She Came to Me

1:30 matinee and 7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

14

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.

16

Thursday

Film •

Dicks: The Musical!

7 pm, Patricia Theatre. Megan Mullally, Nathan Lane, Megan Thee Stallion. 18A.

Film •

Dicks: The Musical!

7 pm, Patricia Theatre. Megan Mullally, Nathan Lane, Megan Thee Stallion. 18A

17

Friday

Gergana Velinova, Vocalist and Walter Martella, Piano

7:30 pm, James Hall. \$25. See ad on Page 46.

Leonids Meteor Shower Peak begins

Minor shower.

Pics for charity

Two days!

Santa is back in town and will be at Mother Nature for pet photos on

Saturday, Nov 25, 10am-4 pm

& Sunday, Nov 26, 10am-3 pm

This year will be our ninth annual Pet Photo's with Santa! Last year, we were able to donate just over \$3,000 to our charities.

Pets, kids, families can all sit with Santa this year!

Cost is a minimum donation of \$15 per sitting, with proceeds going to:

- Therapeutic Riding
- PROWLs
- Westcoast ACCESS

Your picture will be posted on Facebook to share with all your family and friends!

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LETTERPRESS, BUT LARGE: This month, the Patricia Letterpress hosts its first artist in residence: Sylvan Hamburger. He will be working on a series of relief jigsaw prints at the Patricia Letterpress during November. He will use the studio's Vandercook letterpress to print and piece together large, colourful imagery. Drop into the print shop at The Patricia any Tuesday or Thursday from 1-5 pm between November 5 and 25 to watch his process. The finished work will be exhibited at Crucible Gallery from December 7 to 16. There will be an opening reception on Friday, December 8.

NOVEMBER ART TO SEE & DIY

November 5 to 25

Drop-in hours for Sylvan Hamburger at Patricia Letterpress
See above. 1 to 5 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

November 14 to December 21

Group exhibition "Present"
qathet Art Centre, Tues, Thurs 12-5 with any extended hours posted on website. Nov 17 Opening Reception 6-8. Present is an invitation for recent art by residents of the qathet region. Present in all its many meanings; to be in attendance, to give or bestow, to offer or view, to exist or occur now. This show is a rare opportunity for all members of the qathet Art community to share their recent work, in time for the holidays and to have their work for sale.

November 16-30

Naguala – Claudia Medina
2-6 pm Wednesdays to Saturdays, Crucible Gallery in Townsite Market. "Naguala" is a mesmerizing video art installation that delves deep into the rich Mexican traditions of nagualismo, offering a captivating and immersive experience. This three-channel video and two-channel sound project explores the mystical realm of the naguala, where the boundaries between, animals, plants, earth, cosmos, reality and the supernatural, become blurred. The Naguala guide invites you to consider yourself beyond the human, forever transforming, continually being woven into the fabric of life and death

Through November

Catnip show at Maggie's Diner
Regular hours.
Post POP: Robbie Matheson painting exhibit
At the Library. qathet Art.

November 13

Nuno Felting
5 to 8 pm, Eunoia Fibre Studio & Gallery, Townsite Market. Materials included. \$75. Pre-registration required. eunoiastudio3@gmail.com. 604-578-8183

November 23

Artique Gallery Festive Winter Salon
7 to 9 pm, 6820 Alberni Street. Art, music and refreshments. All patrons, friends and neighbours welcome!

Wednesdays

Altered Couture
6 to 8 pm, Eunoia Fibre Studio & Gallery, Townsite

Market. Materials included. \$30.

Thursdays

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

Thursdays November 9, 16 and 30

Mend and Darn it
1 to 4 pm, Secret Garden Working Studio & Gallery. Come fix your stuff! By donation

December 1

Artifact Gallery Open House & Group Show
7 pm, 4690 Marine. New artworks, mulled cider & refreshments, and music!



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NOVEMBER EVENTS (CONT)

Present: Opening Reception

6 to 8 pm, qathet Art Centre. See previous page for more.

Film • Priscilla

7 pm, Patricia Theatre. Sofia Coppola directed Drama/Biography

18

Saturday

Valdy & John Gogo

7 pm Max Cameron. \$30. Tickets available at the Peak, Academy of Music, at the door or online. powellriveracademy.org. See ad on Page 31.

Workshops with vocalist Gergana Velinova

See the full calendar and register at powellriveracademy.org.

Little Wonders at the Museum: Fairy Tales

10:30 to 11 am, qathet Museum. Learn and play:

children 4 to 8 are invited for a themed adventure.

Film • Tender

2 to 4 pm, Patricia Theatre, plus discussion. Hosted by Jules Adam, Anna Byrne and Laurie Norman.

Assumption Bazaar

10 am to 2 pm, Sales and tea room. Assumption Westview gym.

Villa Versus Bays United FC

1:30 pm Timberlane

United Church Flea and Bake Sale

9 am to 12:30 pm, United Church on Duncan Street. Tables available: Marilynn Davis at mhddavis1986@gmail.com

Seniors Centre Craft Sale

10 til 4 pm, Manson and Cranberry.

Raincoast Christmas Craft Fair

10 am til 4 pm, Dwight Hall.

Lund Christmas Craft Fair

10 am to 4 pm, Italian Cultural Centre, 5866

Lund Highway (Wildwood). Lunch and bake sale with proceeds to the Lund Community Society & Puddle Jumpers Preschool.

Film • Priscilla

7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

19

Sunday

An Afternoon at the Symphony, with the qSO

2 pm at James Hall - Academy of Music. Enjoy music by Mozart, Handel, Mussorgsky/Ravel, Holst, Haydn, Bach and Humperdinck. Featuring vocal soloists Susan Lines and Theresa Hargrave. By donation.

Raincoast Christmas Craft Fair

Dwight Hall
11 am til 3 pm Saturday,
11 am til 3 pm Sunday.

Film • Priscilla

7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

20

Monday

Community Spaghetti Dinner

4:30 to 6 pm, United Church (6932 Crofton and Duncan Street, near 7-11). By donation. Everyone welcome.

Voting on the qathet Museum's new logo begins

See ad on Page 60 to participate. First round of voting ends Nov. 24. Second and final round is Nov. 27 to Dec. 1.

Film • Priscilla

7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

21

Tuesday

Film • Priscilla

7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

Lund Water Taxi



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GERGANA VELINOVA,
vocalist,
& **WALTER MARTELLA,** piano

Friday, November 17 at 7:30 pm
James Hall • \$25

Gergana will also offer vocal workshops
—visit powellriveracademy.org for info.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
December 8 & 9

New record, new hometown: Townsite's John Kastelic innovates wherever he goes

On December 1, Black Dog String Quartet plays the Max Cameron Theatre.

Townsite's John Kastelic is a recent addition to this region; he has played viola with Black Dog since 2007. This is the first time his band-mates have joined him for a performance in his new, music-rich hometown.

Tell me a bit about your life in qathet

John • I live in Townsite with my partner Marina Lagacé and our two young kids, Wren and Ellis. Marina and I are both registered massage therapists at Suncoast Integrated Health. Massage is my main work in qathet, though I try to make music every day. We like spending as much time outdoors as we can, especially hiking, biking, and at the beach.

Tell me a bit about your life before you came here.

John • We moved here from Vancouver two years ago this Halloween.

What a time to move to Maple Ave! I grew up in a small town, and it's nice to be back in a smaller centre after many years in the city. The thing I miss most about Vancouver is my life as a full-time musician, and all the friends and colleagues that were a part of that. It's so terrific to be here though, and I wouldn't trade it. This is the place I want to put down roots and watch my kids grow.

Who is in Black Dog? How did you meet? What's your collective goal?

John • Black Dog is Elyse Jacobson and Molly MacKinnon on violin, myself on viola, and Doug Gorkoff on cello. They're some of my best and oldest friends. I met them all while I was studying music at UBC. The quartet began in 2007. Yes, we're named after the Led Zeppelin song! We always try to perform like a band and not your typical string quartet. We've played all kinds of music, from classical, to folk, to metal. I love playing brand new music for string quartet. I've composed



quite a bit of music for the quartet myself, including an album of art-folk songs for Black Dog + guests. We released *A Thousand Times Brighter* in April of this year. We'd love for you to stream it on your music player, and we'll bring some records to the show for those who like old-school media.

22

Wednesday

Test of the Community Notification System

2 pm. Are you ready for the test? Register and learn more on Page 63.

Film • Priscilla

7 pm, Patricia Theatre.

23

Thursday

Brooks Theatre Company presents 'Clue'

Doors 6:30 pm, show at 7 pm, Max Cameron. Tickets \$15. See ad on Page 33.

Artique Gallery Festive Winter Salon

7 to 9 pm, 6820 Alberni Street. Art, music and refreshments. All patrons,

friends and neighbours welcome!

Film • Taylor Swift / The Eras Tour

7 pm, The Patricia. Special Ticket pricing: Adult/Teen tix \$19.89, Senior/Youth \$13.13

24

Friday

Timberlane Fine Arts Annual Holiday Sale Begins

12-8 pm, 5395 Timberlane Avenue. Locally made pottery, ceramics, weaving, spinning, quilting, crochet, knitting, and more! See ad on Page 19.

Kings versus Chilliwack

7 pm Hap Parker.

Black Friday Sale at Town Centre Mall

See pack page for more.

Brooks Theatre Company presents 'Clue'

Doors 6:30 pm, show at 7 pm, Max Cameron. Tickets \$15. See ad on Page 33.

Film • Taylor Swift / The Eras Tour

7 pm, The Patricia. Special Ticket pricing: Adult/Teen tix \$19.89, Senior/Youth \$13.13

25

Saturday

Cranberry Crafts Begins

10 am til 4 pm. At the Cranberry Seniors Centre.

Timberlane Fine Arts Holiday Sale

10 am to 4 pm, 5395 Timberlane Avenue.

Pet Photos with Santa at Mother Nature

10 am to 4 pm. Minimum donation \$15. Proceeds to PROWLs. Therapeutic

Riding and Westcoast ACCESS. See ad on Page 44.

Cozy Creations Craft and Vendor Fair

10 am to 4 pm, Town Centre Hotel. See ad on Page 42.

Townsite Holiday Crawl

Everything open until 7 pm. Shopping, food, beer & more.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence begins

See Page 15 for more. Co-ordinated by qathet SAFE.

Kings versus Chilliwack

7 pm Hap Parker.

Brooks Theatre Company presents 'Clue'

Doors 6:30 pm, show at 7 pm, Max Cameron. Tickets \$15. See ad on Page 33.

Film • Taylor Swift / The Eras Tour

7 pm, The Patricia. Special Ticket pricing: Adult/Teen tix \$19.89, Senior/Youth \$13.13

26

Sunday

Metta Grove cinematic art concert

The Arc. Simon Haiduk simonhaiduk.com. Tickets on eventbrite.

Cranberry Crafts

11 am til 3 pm. At the Cranberry Seniors Centre.

Timberlane Fine Arts Holiday Sale

Noon to 4 pm, 5395 Timberlane Avenue.

Pet Photos with Santa at Mother Nature

10 am to 3 pm. Minimum donation \$15. Proceeds to PROWLs, Therapeutic Riding and Westcoast ACCESS. See ad on Page 44.

Film • Taylor Swift / The Eras Tour

1:30pm Matinee and 7pm, The Patricia. Special Ticket pricing: Adult/Teen tix \$19.89, Senior/Youth \$13.13

27

Monday

Full Moon

Look up.

Stuff the Trailer fundraiser begins at FreshCo

See more on Page 13.

28

Tuesday

Fire Weather: The Making of a Beast – a reading with John Vaillant

7 pm, Library. Award winning author John Vaillant will present his new book *Fire Weather: The Making of a Beast*, a stunning account of devastating wildfires in our hotter more flammable world.



NOT HIGH STRUNG AT ALL: the Vancouver-qathet Black Dog String Quartet: Doug Gorkoff on cello, Elyse Jacobson and Molly MacKinnon on violin, and John Kastelic in viola.

Your favourite number from the show, and why.

John • My favourite piece on the program is Two Pop Songs on Antique Poems by Canadian composer Dinuk Wijeratne. He won the 2016 Juno for classical composition of the year with this piece. It's a fabulous mix of pop, classical, and world rhythms – exactly the sort of piece we love to play. There is no singing, so no lyrics strictly speaking. But the melody is based on poems – kind of a song without words. It's very lyrical, creative, and energized music.

Why the viola?

John • I started playing violin when I was seven years old, and I started playing a bit of viola as a teenager. The one violist in my youth orchestra moved away, and I had the longest arms of any of the violinists, so I was peer-pressured into viola. It turned out that I loved the sound and the physicality of the instrument, and it wasn't long before the viola was my main instrument. 🎻

What can your December 1 audience expect?

John • Unfortunately we aren't able to bring along our guest musicians from the album, so we won't perform my songs on this show. Next time! Instead, we'll play some of our favourite string quartet music. There will be some classical and some contemporary music, with some familiar pop + rock tunes too.

Films Nightly 7 PM

New Films Weekly

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

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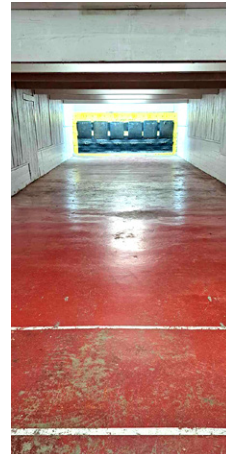
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ARTISANS



Archery's new home for its range

Allan Lalonde grew up in rural Quebec. Local farmers paid kids to come with their bows and arrows to shoot rodents: pennies a woodchuck. He was nine, he recalls, when five cents would buy a kid two cigarettes. So Allan was highly motivated, and got pretty good at archery.

The whole scenario is enough to make a modern parent faint.

Of course, this was another era. But as Allan and his buddy Randy Mitchell pointed out on a tour of the new archery range at the Powell River Rod & Gun Club, no generation is immune to a less-than-pastoral childhood. They've witnessed Gen Z and Gen Alpha stuck to Fortnite and their phones. It's not what they want for their descendants.

So, over the past two years, Allan, Randy and other Powell River Rod and Gun Club volunteers have spent hundreds of hours clearing blackberry bushes for a new archery range.

Allan's background as a freshly-retired equipment operator came in handy, as did Randy's as the founder of Mitchell's Canoe, Kayak & Snowshoes.

For young kids, a miniature sling-shot area offers its own target. For bigger folks, the range offers four targets at varied distances, a picnic table, and on-site parking. Many local businesses and individuals donated time, money and machines to make this range happen.

Learn how to become a member at powellriverrodandgunclub.com.

- Pieta Woolley

A RANGE OF ONE'S OWN: The new archery range at the Powell River Rod and Gun Club (top left). Randy Mitchell and Allan Lalonde at the gun range. Middle, the indoor gun and archery range. A goat, from Goat Island, in the range's mini-museum. The warming hut. Randy and Allan, taking aim.

NOVEMBER EVENTS (CONT)

28

Tuesday (cont)

Grief Walking Group

10 am Seawalk.
See ad on Page 22.

Powell River Garden Club Meeting

6:45 pm, Cranberry Seniors Centre (Manson and Cranberry).

Compassionate Friends Candlelighting Ceremony

7pm Hospice Office. For parents who have lost a child of any age, for any

reason. Bring a photo of your child if you wish. You will have the chance to speak about them, and light candles in their memory.

29

Wednesday

Fiddle Jam

6:15 to 7 pm, qathet Art Centre. With Serena Eades. \$10 drop in. All instruments welcome.

30

Thursday

Expressions of Interest in managing daycares due

School District call. See ad on Page 52.

Chee'ilth released on Marvel Contest of Champions

See Page 6 for more.

Chee'ilth event at The Patricia Theatre

Details TBA

Landscaping Services & Property Maintenance residential & commercial

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The Teens.
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**A Clue
whodunnit**

November 23, 24 and 25
7 pm nightly Tickets \$15

Brooks Theatre Company is pleased to present “Clue,” a fantastic fast paced ‘whodunnit’ murder mystery with the beloved characters from the Parker Brothers game. Things — specifically a candlestick, a wrench, a lead pipe, a revolver, a rope and a dagger — go bump in the night. Mr. Boddy winds up dead in his own manor, with the dwindling survivors scrambling to make sense of it all.

Join the cast for a sparkling rendition of the campy 1985 film, adapted for the stage by Sandy Rustin.

WHO IS GUILTY, AND WHO IS INNOCENT?: Starting from back left, Mallory Brooks as Yvette, Rodrick Logan as Mr Green, Sean Lacey as Professor Plum, Theresa McNaughton as Colonel Mustard, and Raymond Domalain as Wadsworth the butler. Seated in front are Lydia Taves as Ms White and Journey DeWolf as Miss Scarlett.

Photo by Jennifer Diccott

– Jennifer Diccott

Don't be dragon out your to-do list.

Book your holiday greetings
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Contact Suzi Wiebe before
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Design is free.
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Local Holiday Markets:

Clip & stick to your fridge for great gift-giving

Saturday, November 4

Women in Business Artisan & Entrepreneur Show

10 am to 4 pm, Legion.

Uptown Winter Market

10 am to noon, 4752 Joyce.

Sunday, November 5

Powell River Farmer's Market

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

Friday, November 10

Powell River's Own Craft Fair

5 pm to 9 pm, Upper Complex. See ad on Page 61.

Saturday, November 11

Powell River's Own Craft Fair

11 am to 4 pm, Upper Complex. See ad on Page 61.

Uptown Winter Market

10 am to noon, 4752 Joyce.

Sunday, November 12

Powell River Farmer's Market

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

Saturday, November 18

Assumption Parish Bazaar

10 am to 2 pm, Sales and tea room. Assumption Westview gym.

United Church Flea & Bake Sale

9 am to 12:30 pm, United Church on Duncan Street. Tables available: Marilyn Davis at mhdavis1986@gmail.com

Seniors Centre Craft Sale

10 til 4 pm, Manson and Cranberry.

Raincoast Christmas Craft Fair

10 am til 4 pm Saturday.

Uptown Winter Market

10 am to noon, 4752 Joyce.



FRESH PALETTES: Just one of the many reasons to rest on this region's extraordinary makers for at least some of your holiday shopping. Here, Mel Muddell weaves for the Timberlane Fine Arts Association Holiday Sale Nov. 24 to 26. She learned how during the pandemic, mentored by Doreen Berrington.

Lund Christmas Craft Fair

10 am to 4 pm, Italian Cultural Centre, 5866 Lund Highway (Wildwood). Lunch and bake sale with proceeds to support the Lund Community Society & Puddle Jumpers Preschool.

Sunday, November 19

Raincoast Christmas Craft Fair

11 am til 3 pm Sunday. Dwight Hall.

Powell River Farmer's Market

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

Thursday, November 23

Artique Festive Winter Salon

7 to 9 pm, 6820 Alberni Street. Art, music and refreshments. All patrons, friends and neighbours welcome!

Friday, November 24

Timberlane Fine Arts Association Annual Holiday Sale

12-8 pm, 5395 Timberlane Avenue
Locally made pottery, ceramics, weaving, spinning, quilting, crochet, knitting, and more! (formerly Powell River Fine Arts Association). See ad on Page 19.

Saturday, November 25

Timberlane Fine Arts Association Holiday Sale

10 am to 4 pm, 5395 Timberlane Avenue.

Cozy Creations Craft and Vendor Fair

10 am to 4 pm, Town Centre Hotel

Townsite Holiday Crawl

Everything open until 7 pm. Shopping, food, beer & more.

Uptown Winter Market

10 am to noon, 4752 Joyce.

Sunday, November 26

Cranberry Crafts

11 am til 3 pm, Cranberry Seniors Centre.

Powell River Farmer's Market

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

Timberlane Fine Arts

Association Holiday Sale

Noon to 4 pm, 5395 Timberlane Avenue.

Friday, December 1

Artifact Gallery Open

House & Group Show

7 pm, 4690 Marine. new artworks, mulled cider & refreshments, and music!

Sunday, December 3

Powell River Farmer's Market

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

Cheerfest

4:30 pm, Marine Ave. Santa Claus Parade, then vendors Market near Alberni & Block Party. 7 pm tree light up.

Saturday, December 9

Tla'amin Christmas Craft Sale

10 am to 3 pm at the Salish Centre.

Springtime Winter Market

11:30 am to 2:30 pm See ad on Page 8.

Uptown Winter Market

10 am to noon, 4752 Joyce.

Secret Garden Winter Market & Craft Making

11 am to 6 pm, Secret Garden Working Studio, 4598 Marine. Candle dipping, felting kits, indigo vat and more.

Sunday, December 10

Springtime Winter Market

11:30 am to 2:30 pm See ad on Page 8.

Secret Garden Winter Market & Craft Making

11 am to 6 pm, Secret Garden Working Studio, 4598 Marine. Candle dipping, felting kits, indigo vat and more.

Powell River Farmer's Market

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

** Note: Both the Uptown Winter Market (Saturdays) and the Powell River Farmers Market (Sundays) continue through the winter.*



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Disposition of the dead

RELEASED INTO THE WAKE: Wayne Rourke's and Murray McNeil's children – James, Grady, Grant and Stephanie (with the phone) – release their fathers' ashes to the deep.

Photo by Bob Dice

Reverence, humour, creativity, and love guide what the still-living do with cremated remains here in qathet.

From traditional burials to “an astonishingly diverse set of possibilities,” author **Sheila Peters** asked locals what they did with their loved ones' ashes.

In August we were privileged to share the Rourke family's journey to honour Wayne's wishes to have his ashes spread from his beloved sailboat, Baja Sonata, between Grief Point and Texada with the sails up and his two boys on board. It was a gorgeous day, just enough wind, and blue skies.

The ceremony was enriched by including the ashes of his childhood friend, Murray McNeil, who died a few months after Wayne in 2021. Kathryn Dice drummed and sang while the two men's children tipped the ashes into the wake.

“I feel at peace that we were able to do what he wished for,” said Wayne's wife, Zöe.

Cremation was always his choice, and that of his and Zöe's parents. The family accompanied his body to the crematorium, spoke some words of farewell and waited outside until the smoke rose from the chimney to see his spirit carried aloft.

About 90% of British Columbians choose cremation. It's the least expensive option and allows an astonishingly diverse set of possibilities for honouring or celebration afterward. Spreading ashes, dividing them up, keeping them close, planting a tree, creating pottery glazes are just a few.

Phillip Tidd, who recently moved to Texada, has been thinking of burial, but wants part of him to go to England, his birth country. Can't do that with an entire body.

Ann Mantoani divided up the ashes of her mother, Dorothy Gaspard who died in 2015, and gave small vials and an echinacea root to family and friends – echinacea, she said, because it's a healing plant. When she told a friend that her mom always wanted to ride on a Harley, he tucked a vial of ashes into his handlebar bag and drove them to Saltery Bay and back.

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Expressions of interest for qSD daycare

The qathet School District will have **two new daycare facilities ready for management** and possession in spring of 2024.

Interested agencies are invited to send an expression of interest to:

Raun Rainbow at raun.rainbow@sd47.bc.ca by **November 30th, 2023**.

The volume of interest will help guide the application process that will take place in December/January. Details of the application process will be sent directly to those who have expressed interest as well as posted on our website.

Expressions of interest do not guarantee a spot nor is it required as part of the application process, but rather helps initiate relationships with potential tenants.

Please visit www.sd47.bc.ca for more information.



4351 Ontario Ave
604 485-6271
www.sd47.bc.ca
@qathetschooldistrict

Zöe had Wayne dressed in his favourite shirt and chinos and a Pollen sweater, a feature he insisted upon. “He had five of them. I gave him the one with holes and I was talking to him, saying I hope you don’t mind.”

The pleasure in Ann’s voice as she tells this story echoes that of so many others who find the right way to dispose of their loved ones’ ashes. While humour can often be part of these rituals, or the stories told about them, reverence is also there. Sending ashes into a river with prayers and blessings, spreading them in sacred water, or keeping them in a beautiful urn surrounded by mementos or religious artifacts honours their memories.

When my stepfather died, his children gave us some of his ashes to spread in the fields above our house in Smithers. It was, to us, a sacred spot. We hung prayer flags in the wind blowing through from one mountain range to another, and we’d rest there at the top of a steep climb to give thanks for the light and peace we were afforded. Later, another dear friend joined our stepfather, one with a bottle of vodka, the other scotch.

Spreading ashes in a private place rather than burying them in a graveyard can make that place a spot for pilgrimage, as it did for us. But we don’t live there anymore. Because of its location, it’s unlikely the ground will be disturbed, but Elizabeth Hazlette of Texada spoke of her grandmother’s ashes being spread under beautiful rosebushes she’d planted and tended for many years. All of it now is under a new house built by strangers.

For Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and others who believe in reincarnation, cremation is a means of releasing the soul from the empty shell of the body, releasing it to follow the path to its next life. Usually at least three days are spent praying and otherwise attending to the body to give the soul time to make its departure before accompanying it to the cremation site and in many instances, igniting the fire. Afterwards the ashes are released into sacred waterways.

In *The Elements: A Widowhood*, Kat Lister questions her decision to scatter her husband’s ashes “along the banks of the Thames ... marvelling at the patterns he made, watching him spiral and swirl.” Four years later she wonders at the lack of a tangible place. “The pilgrimage to a rooted headstone can give a sense of direction and sanctuary to many people in their grief.”

Caroline Visser, cemetery services clerk for qathet Regional District, can attest to that. “One woman has come every day since her son died in 1997. Others come once a week to change flowers or tidy the grave. The mausoleum has a small nave where peo-



SHE SOON JOINED HER SISTER AND MOTHER HERE: Sheila took her 99-year-old mother, Elizabeth (Betty) Berger, to visit her sister’s and mother’s graves in the Cranberry cemetery at the end of August – that’s Betty in pink. Less than a month later, she died, and Sheila’s investigations became guidelines. Luckily, Betty had given her children clear instructions and, as directed, she will soon join her mother and sister in Cranberry.

ple can pray.”

The formality of a burial can be reassuring, as is the care taken with registering who is buried where. Caroline says they are always getting calls about grave locations, and many online sites have detailed records of the headstones in cemeteries.

Karen Diemert spoke of visiting her extended family’s graves in Slovakia from where both her parents emigrated as children and never returned to visit. “This trip filled a huge void in my life – 60 years of not really knowing where our family originated from. That blank has been filled. The day before we left, my cousin gave us a painting, just freshly painted by another member of the family, of the house my dad and his cousin were born in. It hangs in our family room.”

Some choose burial because they want to rest in one place, believing that at the end of times, their bodies will be reunited with their souls. Jewish traditions call for immediate burial in the ground so the body can be returned to the earth; cremation was traditionally forbidden, as it was for Catholics too until 1963. However, ashes in each of those traditions are meant to be treated with the same rites as bodies: buried, encrypted, or placed in a columbarium.

Burial may be chosen because of a fear of fire – the finality of the coffin moving through the door into the crematorium and the roar of the ignition is unnerving in its finality. Others shudder at the thought of being buried, slowly decomposing. Victorians rigged special alarms and breathing tubes in coffins



A SWIMMER'S MEMORIAL: Sheila spreading some of the ashes of a Smithers friend, George Loset. "Though he loved the mountains and the creek we both lived beside for many years, he always loved the sea." Now when she swims, she thinks of him.

in case someone regained consciousness after burial.

But a decomposing body creates nutrients. In graveyards where commemorative trees or shrubs can be planted, many are comforted by a sense that the spirit animates the growing plants. Green burials, where the body is placed in a coffin or shroud of biodegradable materials, respond to this wish to become one with the earth. And the fossil fuels used in the crematorium are not consumed.

The choices we make are really just ways of communicating with the dead. People speak of seeing signs in nature, eagles flying overhead, the sun coming out from behind a cloud, the rush of wind through a cemetery. Two humpback whales surfaced as the Rourkes and McNeils were spreading Wayne and Murray's ashes; now whenever she sees one, Zöe has a brief conversation with Wayne.

Sarah Bacon tells a beautiful story of finding a way to spread her mother's ashes that gave her comfort. Like so many people here, her mother moved to qathet to be in community with her children, but didn't really know anyone. "She spent most of her early life in England. So I was going to England and decided to take her ashes with me. I rented a car and drove to Whitby in Yorkshire which we'd visited together. Whitby itself was like a circus, but I kept looking around and found a place behind the abbey. I noticed things she'd like: a garden gnome with a beautiful smile, flowering thistle, and some small birds flying. It seemed like the right place." Afterwards she gathered heather from the Yorkshire moors to bring to her siblings in remembrance.

Zöe had Wayne dressed in his favourite shirt and chinos and a Pollen sweater, a feature he insisted upon. "He had five of them. I gave him the one with holes and I was talking to him, saying I hope you don't mind."

This mixture of humour and reverence are not uncommon. But for many people, awkwardness and discomfort are prevalent. Talking about these wishes before death can comfort the dying person knowing their wishes will be followed, and can also relieve the burden of grief for those left behind.

"Many kids come in and say Mom or Dad never told us what they wanted. The question is what will the living need?" explains Pat Gisle of Stubberfields. Some people shrug and say they don't care – perhaps because they're not comfortable discussing it or perhaps because they really don't. Pat's job includes working with them to make some kind of decision. Or gently spreading the ashes they leave behind.

My husband and I, having lived in Smithers for over forty years, assumed we'd be cremated and have our ashes spread in the Babine Mountains, a place we loved to hike with friends and family. Moving back to qathet, knowing my grandmother and soon my mother are both in the cemetery in Cranberry, has made us reconsider. The beautiful cotton-lined willow caskets used for many green burials look very comfortable.

A good warm fire is a wonderful thing, but there's not much I love better than pausing to rest during a long hike, feeling the ground underneath, the texture of the lichens and moss, the smell of good clean dirt, or maybe the dust stirred up by a mountain goat. Lying back and closing my eyes. Hmmm... ☪

The disposition of the dead

At this time in BC, cremation or burial are the only legal means of disposing of a body. We are well served in qathet with a full range of choices: a funeral home, crematorium and four cemeteries. Disposal costs can range from several hundred dollars to many thousands.

The prices listed below are approximate and don't include costs for coffins, memorial markers, services, obituaries, etc. When comparing full burial and ashes, remember cemetery prices don't include cremation costs. If the funeral home picks up the body, does the cremation in a cardboard coffin, and provides the death certificate, it will cost about \$2800.

Stubberfield Funeral Home provides full services including transportation and preparation for burial, entombment in the mausoleum, or cremation. They have caskets and urns. They provide chapel and reception services, memorial markers and help with documents, obituaries, and shipping of remains. It is the contract funeral home for the Memorial Society of BC; membership reduces fees.

The Texada and Cranberry graveyards are administered by the qathet Regional District (qRD) and provide a welcoming diversity of memorials and options – green (Cranberry) and standard burial, burial of ashes, disposition of ashes in a columbarium or a mausoleum (Cranberry) where coffins are entombed above ground.

The Holy Cross Cemetery on Nassichuk Road

Ashes plot: \$400
(plus a \$150 membership in the society)

Texada's Woodland Cemetery

Grave plot and burial: \$1750

Ashes plot and burial: \$715

Niche and inurnment: \$730

Cranberry Cemetery

Grave plot and burial
(including grave liner): \$3,000

Green plot and burial: \$2,200

Ashes plot and burial: \$765

Niche and inurnment: \$730

Crypt and entombment: \$9200

Columbarium and internment: \$1038

Tla'amin Cemetery

Tla'amin is developing a new community cemetery across the highway from the Salish Center for Tla'amin Nation members.



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Remembering Your Children

November 28 at 7 pm at Hospice Office – Candelighting Ceremony

Compassionate Friends event for parents who have lost a child of any age, for any reason. Bring a photo of your child if you wish. You will have the chance to speak about them, and light candles in their memory.

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



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Memento Mori festival

Friday, November 3

Dio de los Muertos

5pm onwards, Iguanas. With the spectacular voice of Laura Rivera. Reservations recommended.

Saturday, November 4

Day of the Dead (Día de Muertos)

Blue Agave Restaurant. Day of the Dead is a celebratory holiday to remember the dead. Explore the vibrant traditions, tasty dishes, and everything that brings this day to life, come and enjoy a cultural evening walk through our traditional altar live music by Chela Tumbao and special Ceremonial Dance by Nahuali Folklore info 236-328-0046. \$65.

Día de los Muertos

Starting at 4 pm, Iguanas Restaurant. Outdoor ofrenda (altar). Bring a candle or a picture of your loved ones that had gone before us so once again they can join us for dinner. Face painting sugar skulls by the Art of Joy. Photo Booth by Happy Barn Photography

Ofrenda Memorial Día de Muertos Altar

3 to 7 pm, Rotary Pavilion at 7ah7jumlxw - ah joo

miexw - Willingdon Beach. You are invited to bring a memento for the altar: a photograph, special object, flowers, etc. We will have hot xocolatl, tamales and pan de muerto (dead bread) to share and enjoy. Opening ceremonies and live music and dance performances start at 3:30. See notes about this event in the sidebar.

Mondays, Nov. 6, 13, 20 Memento Mori Book Circle

6:30-8. This three-session book circle will draw on a personal memoir as a template for exploring the universal themes of illness, aging, dying, grief, gratitude, and community.

At the age of 32, Anna Byrne was diagnosed with a rare cancer and spent seven years in the medical system. She became a hospice volunteer and began writing about her experiences. These sessions will include discussion, personal reflection, and facilitated inquiry about end-of-life topics in order to foster deeper engagement with life. Infused with beauty, poetry, and ritual, these gatherings will provoke questions and

provide nourishment for the spirit.

A copy of Anna's memoir, Seven Year Summer (Finalist, Whistler Independent Book Awards), included with registration. annambyrne.com

November 7

Advanced Care Planning at qathet Art Centre 10:30-12, qathet Art Centre. An AC Planner states who should speak for you if you're not able and sets out their instructions. Join this workshop to get started on your plan.

November 15 Disposition of the Dead Workshop

Host Sheila Peters gathers people to tell stories about the creative ways they disposed of their dead and how that works to keep a feeling of connection, often for years afterwards. Bring your stories to share.

November 16-30 Naguala - Claudia Medina

2-6 pm Wednesdays to Saturdays, Crucible Gallery in Townsite Market. "Naguala" is a mesmerizing video art installation that delves deep into the rich Mexican traditions

of nagualismo, offering a captivating and immersive experience. This three-channel video and two-channel sound project explores the mystical realm of the naguala, where the boundaries between, animals, plants, earth, cosmos, reality and the supernatural, become blurred. The Naguala guide invites you to consider yourself beyond the human, forever transforming, continually being woven into the fabric of life and death

November 18 Film screening & Community-Supported Dying Discussion: Tender

2 to 4 pm, Patricia Theatre. Death care has historically found its place in the hands of knowledgeable community members, equipped to directly support the dying and bereaved. This film and facilitated discussion aims to rebuild and inspire some of these ancient and fundamental community practices. Hosted by: Community-Supported Dying qathet (Jules Adam, Laurie Norman, Anna Byrne), in partnership with qathet Art Centre and The Patricia Theatre. By donation.

November 4 Ofrenda at Willingdon Beach

This community ofrenda is influenced by the Days of the Dead/Xantolo tradition of Mexico. There, households commonly set up an altar space to welcome their loved ones returning from "el otro lado/Mictlan", the other side/realm of the dead. During these days our dearly departed are met with their favourite foods, drinks, and special objects so that they can feel connected to the land of the living.

Traditionally, the altar has flowers, especially marigolds, or cempoalxochitl, with a potent scent that attracts the spirits. We place a cup of water to quench the thirst of the spirits who have travelled so far, and candles to light their way. Incense, especially copal, is burned to cleanse the air of negative energy and make the spirits feel at home. Papel picado, the decorative coloured paper represents the element of air, which the spirits use to travel into the land of the living. Food, especially fruits and chocolate represent earth, the place where we grow our sustenance. In this way, the ofrenda holds the elements fire, air, water and earth, the fundamentals to life (and death) on this planet. Photos of our loved ones are placed on the altar, so that we can remember and honour their lives. These are days of joy, sadness, love and honouring, reminding us that we are all a part of the cycle of death and birth that makes each moment so precious.

The ofrendas are personal expressions of love created in a home, as well as a collective honouring of family and ancestors when they are created in public spaces. Our grief is personal, and yet our experience of grief and our own mortality is universal. We come together to share our personal grief and love for our loved ones who have left this world, knowing that we are connected through these cycles of life and death.

Tlazohcamati - Thank you.

- Claudia Medina



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carved silver bracelets at left, are
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A LOOK AHEAD TO DECEMBER EVENTS

Friday, December 1

Black Dog String Quartet

7pm Max Cameron. \$30. Featuring qathet's own John Kastelic. See ad on Page 31.

Kings versus Cranbrook

7pm Hap Parker

First Bonspiel Begins

At the Cranberry Curling Club. Mens and Ladies. To December 3.

Saturday, December 2

Therapeutic Riding Open House & Photos with Horses

11am to 3pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds.

Santa arrives at the Town Centre Mall

11am to noon, show. Entertainment, dancing with the Elves, and story time with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Photos with Santa continue through December.

Christmas Cheer Fundraising Event

11am to 3pm, Town Centre Mall.

Kings versus Cowichan Valley

7pm Hap Parker

PR Chorus Christmas Concert

7:30pm, Evergreen Theatre. \$15 advance, \$20 door (doors open at 7pm) Tix at The Nutcracker. See ad on Page 40.

Playback head & Gyres

7pm, Cranberry Hall. An atmospheric night of music and sound.

December 2 & 3

Swedish Yule Feast at the Boardwalk

See ad on Page 35.

Sunday, December 3

Verecan Breakfast with Santa

10am til 2pm. See ad on Page 3.

Brooks Jingle Jog & Walk

9:30am check in, 10am start. Brooks Secondary. \$10 per person, \$20 per family. Fundraising for the food bank.

MLA Nicholas Simons and MP Rachel Blaney Community Holiday Open House

1 to 3pm, First Cfredit Union

First Sunday of Advent

Dead Bob

Door 7pm, Carlson Loft. \$30 advance, \$35 at the door. 19+. Tickets at Townskate and the Carlson Club.

Cheerfest

4:30pm, Marine Ave. Parade, then Market & Block Party. 7pm tree light up at Alberni Park.

Monday, December 4

Westview Ratepayers Association AGM

7 to 9pm, Rec Complex. See ad on Page 40.

Wednesday, December 6

Shoe Memorial Begins

Town Centre near Save-On. See Page 15.

Thursday, December 7

Allegories: New Work by Autumn Skye

6pm Artefact Gallery

Friday, December 8

Fill the Hamper Skate & Swim

7 to 9 skate, 6:30 to 9 swim. Rec Complex. Free admission with a food donation

Sylvan Hamburger Opening @ Patricia Letterpress

Show is on from December 7 to 16.

First day of Hanukkah

December 8 & 9

Carols by Candlelight at Dwight Hall

7pm both nights; 1:30pm as well on the 9th. PR Academy of Music.

Santa Train

5 to 7pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds

Saturday, December 9

Tla'amin Christmas Craft Sale

10am to 3pm at the Salish Centre (the gym at Tishosum).

December 9 & 10

Santa at 3 Chicken Farm

11:30am to 2:30pm

Springtime Winter Market

See ad on Page 8.

Thursday, December 14

Chor Musica Christmas

7:30pm, James Hall.

Saturday, December 16

Sunshine Gogos Bake Sale

10am to 4pm, Town Centre Mall. See Page 17.

Sundays, December 10 and 17

A Christmas Carol

At the Forest Bistro. written by Charles Dickens & Michael Shamata. The play will be a live stage reading by 16 local actors.

Friday, December 22

Last day of school before Winter Break

Schools re-open January 8

Winter Solstice

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

Stat

Tuesday, December 22

Boxing Day

Stat

Friday, December 29

Kings versus Coquitlam

7pm Hap Parker

Saturday, December 30

Kings versus Coquitlam

7pm Hap Parker

Sunday, December 31

New Year's Eve

Monday, January 1

New Year's Day



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Gifts for going out

FAIRYTALES COME TRUE

This strapless organza ball gown from Andrea and Leo Couture is a breathtaking and romantic choice for any fairytale garden.

With a strapless bodice and a full, floor-length skirt of organza fabric, it features a sheer, boned bodice adorned with matching stones for added glitz. Detachable puff sleeves offer an option to change up the look. Get this dress fit for you from **Perfect Fit for Brides & Grads.**



SWEATER WEATHER

Every year we've curated this list, a **Pollen Sweater** has made the cut. To do otherwise would be like ignoring the chocolate and roses option at Valentine's Day. These sweaters are so iconic, not to mention so durable and warm and cozy, that it's impossible to go wrong choosing something from Pollen for your loved one.



FOUR WHEELS AT TWO

If someone on your gift list is lucky enough to have you shopping for an ATV, you can do no better than visiting **Two-Wheel Tech** and checking out their King Quads. Suzuki, the inventor of the 4-wheel ATV, still produces what is widely considered the world's best sport-utility quad, and the company is currently offering some of the best promotions seen in recent history, with free Warn winches and up to \$1,000 retail incentives.



HATS OFF (AND ON)

This water resistant fedora from Canadian Hat, and modelled by store manager Karla Raschella, is among the many hats being featured at **Mother Nature** this season.

THE LUST LIST

SHOW THEM YOU LOVE THEM

Experiences are often the best-remembered gifts, and performances at the **Max Cameron Theatre** are unforgettable. Give tickets to one of the upcoming shows, such as Valdy & John Gogo on November 18, Black Dog String Quartet on December 1, or Piano Heist on February 2 and 3.



qL's all-local, all fabulous gift guide for holiday 2023



WHAT'S YOUR WALLET?

Wallets have long been a classic gift, but the Dutch wallet maker Secrid takes it up a notch with creative and unique designs that are durable and practical. **Armitage Mens Wear** carries all the styles, including Card Protector, Mini Wallet, Slim Wallet, Twin Wallet and Cardslide.

GIVE THEM BUTTERFLIES

These Silver Butterfly Stackers are from Morgan Ayosuf. Morgan is an experienced Northwest Coast traditional carver, painter, and jewelry maker of the Ts'msyen Eagle Clan from the Ksyeeen River. Her lineage is Lax Giik, XGiik, Gitando & Githo'on. The **Tla'amin Store** is proud to carry her unique and high-quality silver jewelry.



DON'T PANIC

This tie-dye Luna towel from **Simply Bronze** will be the grooviest towel at any beach, festival, or park. This towel is the definition of "Peace, Love, and Good Vibes." With its radical patterns you are totally ready to kick back and have a great time!



GET A GRIP ON STYLE

These fashion gloves fit like, well, a glove. And you'll find them (where else?) at **Fits to a T** for just \$18. Assorted colours and styles are available.



CUTTING EDGE

If someone on your list loves the trails, a Silky Saw from **Thunder Bay Saw Shop** may be just the ticket. You can choose from foldable and fixed in a variety of sizes. So whether they're trimming in the garden, or hacking through a blowdown, they'll love that you've given them the edge.

THE LUST LIST



IS IT HOT IN HERE?

Nothing warms you like wood heat. But nothing dries out your home like it either. Maybe you've put a pan of water on the stove to alleviate that, but it's ugly and evaporates too quickly. Instead, head to **Cadam Fireplace & Stove Centre**, to get a Cast Iron Fireplace Kettle Humidifier – a functional and attractive addition to your space.

qL's all-local, all fabulous gift guide for holiday 2023



FANTASY FIGURINE

This Purple Fairy Princess statue from Medieval Collectibles infuses a little bit of fairy fantasy into your life. She seems to step delicately across her base, as though avoiding the green leaves and purple flowers that bloom at her feet. Impressive in its detailing, this 29-inch fairy figurine is made entirely from cold cast resin that has been hand painted. Find it, and much more from this collection, at **Oceanside Entertainment**.

BIG PHONE IN A SMALL PACKAGE

You don't have to have the latest phone to have a great phone. At **PR Macs**, you can pick up one of Apple's best recent builds in the iPhone 12 mini – built for those who want a small phone but don't want to compromise on quality. The camera is versatile, the screen is fantastic, it comes with reams of power and the added benefits of 5G and MagSafe mean this is a phone that will last you for years to come.



MAGICAL GLOW

These Hot Air Balloon Solar LED Lanterns hang from a metal chain and the included hook. The glass is beautifully handpainted. Flickering LED solar lights mimic real flame and bring the design to life. Automatically illuminating at night, the lantern uses the 2V 100mAh solar panel and requires one AA battery, included. A variety of colours and sizes can be seen at **Paperworks Gift Gallery**.



SIMPLE SCREENPRINTING

A Speedball Advanced All-in-One Screenprinting kit is designed for those ready to take on the photo emulsion method of screen printing, and has everything you need including all of the tools and inks, as well as the light source needed to make exposing a screen a breeze! Get your kit at **qathet art+wares**.



SOAP LOCALLY

Indulge in captivating regional soap, infused with fragrances that transport you to otherworldly realms while lavishing your skin with the unique calming spirit of the local geography. Only available at the **Powell River Visitor Centre** at 4760 Joyce Avenue.



Gifts for staying in

DECAL MAGNOLIAS

Wall decals aren't just for kids' rooms. Urban Walls creates a huge selection of classy decals, like this magnolia image, that can make a feature wall really pop. Visit **Bloom Therapy** at Springtime Garden Centre or at bloom-therapy.ca for more decal ideas.



GIFT OF FLAVOUR

Pasion Secreta's Blanca is a premium tequila with the silky intensity of a true agave-forward finish. Enjoy thick herbal and floral tones of rosemary, thyme and black pepper with subtle hints of grapefruit and anise. The beautiful bottle makes it ideal for giving (or keeping.) Find it at **Capone's Cellar**.



HOLIDAY CHEERS IN A JAR

Cocktails and the holiday season go hand-in-hand and Vesper cocktail mixes, available from **Westerly Studio**, make it easy to create delicious drinks. They come with all the ingredients in a jar, and you just add the spirits or soda/juice or wine, depending on your choice of drink. You can usually get 16 servings out of an infused jar. Options range from mulled wine to piña coladas.

A PIECE OF THE OCEAN

Made from beach glass found on the shores of the Salish Sea, this Aqua beach glass necklace captures everything we love about the ocean. Created in qathet by Suzi Wiebe of **Found Stone Jewelry**.

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TAKE A BREAK

What it Means to "Turn Inward" this Season

If we consider the natural world around us as a map for how to live well, autumn invites us to turn our attentions inward to heart and home, accept what has come to completion in our lives, and ready for what storms we may face in the coming months.

They come with calls to rest more, slow our busy lives, and cultivate medicines that nourish our deep selves; stories spoken by the fire, long simmered soups, hand worked craft, ceremony and ritual.

It all sounds very romantic, maybe even mystical in this fast paced lifestyle of the west. So how do we answer this call and align ourselves to the late Autumnal season when our workdays, family commitments, and general overwhelm keeps its same demanding pace?

How, in practical terms, does one follow those memes telling us to let things die as beautifully as falling leaves, or find nourishment by "turning inward"? Why is it even important?

Whether it's a project, life phase, creative work, relationship, our breath, or for maintaining our overall well-being, cycle teachings help show us where we are and the available supports found there, as well as what phase we just came from, and importantly, what awaits us next.

They act as a way to make sense of the seemingly chaotic, provide answers to certain questions in



RETURN TO REVERENCE

JULIETTE JARVIS

our lives, and keep us from over extending ourselves for too long or becoming stuck and stagnant.

Seamlessly incorporating this shift from active summer doing into slow-sap winter stillness is key to ensuring our personal tending doesn't become another item on the to-do list.

It might look like passing on a social engagement to snuggle in with a good book, or sitting in the car for some deep breaths after grocery shopping. Turning down artificial lighting, listening to soft live music, or sitting with our thoughts and getting to know how we truly feel about something instead of scrolling social media. Engaging our senses during a morning cuppa, or relishing the morning air

when stepping outside.

A dear friend of mine has begun hosting monthly candle lit suppers where conversation flows easily. One might take things deeper and hold a fire ceremony to purge grief and send prayers to Creator, or embark on a spirit journey to find insights.

Winter is still to come, and so fortifying ourselves physically, emotionally, and spiritually will help us quietly thrive in those long dark nights.

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

LOGO CONTEST VOTING

qathet Museum and Archives is getting a new logo!

The entries are in, the top four are chosen, and it's time to vote!
The winner of the contest and the Museum's new logo is all up to you.

Make sure to cast your vote now!

PUBLIC VOTING ROUND 1:
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PUBLIC VOTING FINALS:
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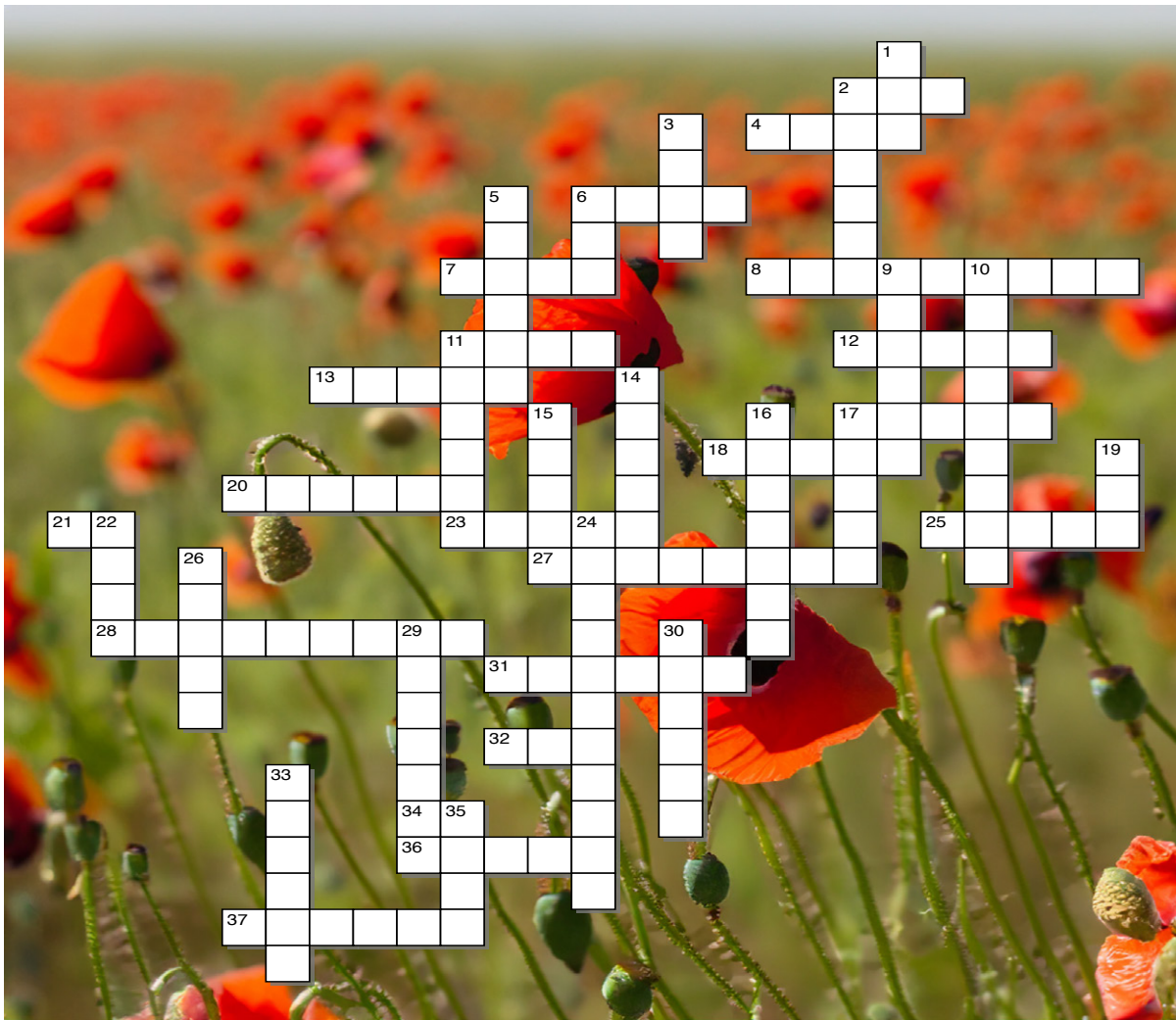
Visit www.qathetmuseum.ca/logo-contest.html for more information!

qathet Museum and Archives



Scan the QR code to vote!

TAKE A BREAK



Across

- 2) Verecan's drive
- 4) Ship workers
- 6) Place to store money, or get food
- 7) King's Canuck ship
- 8) Contest of _
- 11) Eagle's power
- 12) Make, or boat
- 13) Shout encouragement
- 17) Wild
- 18) Rustic road
- 20) Sally Ann's pot
- 21) 360 film tech
- 23) Everbody deserves one
- 25) Nov 11 flower
- 27) Waterfall, eye trouble
- 28) Photo team K&K _
- 31) Bird rescuer, creeps
- 32) Pull
- 34) Scanner
- 36) Locomotive
- 37) Bells or jog

Down


- 1) Surprise whale watchers
- 2) The Rock
- 3) Type, considerate
- 5) Laundry, or food, bin
- 6) People transporter
- 9) Not DC
- 10) Upward price pressure
- 11) Supers
- 14) Goods platform
- 15) Comedian or cartoon
- 16) 50-year townsite eatery
- 17) Bear's power
- 19) For horses
- 22) Slope instead of stairs
- 24) Lux sports car
- 26) Padded blanket
- 29) Consider, or bounce light
- 30) Sosan and Gail
- 33) Game designer Ostensen
- 35) Mulch for Special O



"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."

-Albert Camus

Townsite Public Market, Lower Floor • 11 to 5 Tue to Sat
 owlandbearpr@gmail.com • 604-413-4064



Powell River's Own CRAFT FAIR

Friday, Nov 10, 5 pm-9 pm
 Saturday, Nov 11, 11 am-4 pm
 Upper Complex

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A Thought For The Day

"O people of the world, you are all the fruit of one tree and the leaves of one branch."

~ Bahá'í Teachings



Fibre Studio & Gallery

eunoia

Townsite Market.
11 to 4 Tues to Sat.
eunoiastudio3.com

Custom Sewing
Classes - Beginning
Where You Are!
\$45/2 hours. Call for appt.





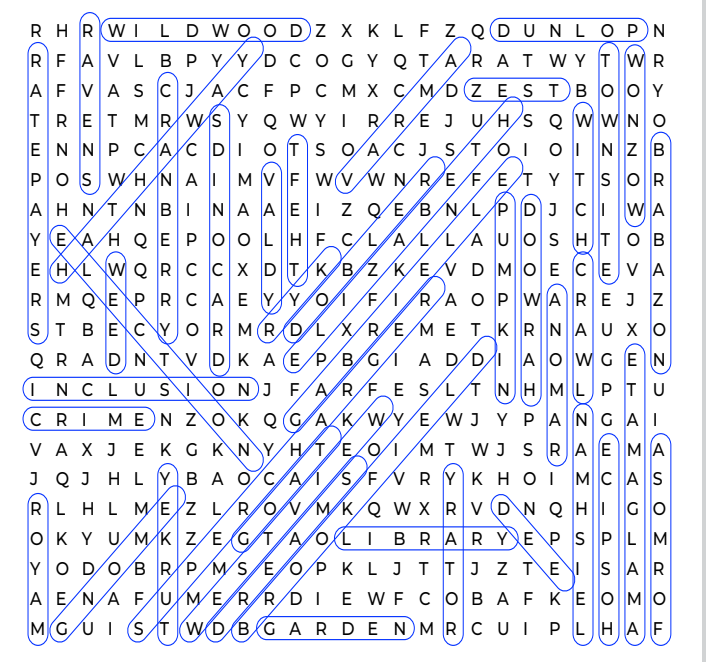
Nuno felting

Monday Nov 13, 5-8pm.
Create a neck cozy!
Materials included. \$75.
Pre-registration required.

Altered couture

Wednesdays Through Nov, 6 - 8pm
Bring in a couple of old garments or fabric, and give them a new look.
\$30/session.

SOLUTION TO OCTOBER PUZZLE



Working parents are still scrambling for care



LAST WORD

DELYTH HARPER

For the first time since becoming a mother I finally had affordable stable childcare for all four of my children starting in the fall.

I've been a mother for nine years now, and for nine years I've been scrambling to piece together childcare, often paying exorbitant prices that almost make working seem pointless. I scrambled to find childcare while I finished university and had to put my schooling on hold due to a lack of childcare. I continued to scramble after I finished university and started my career.

You get the idea. It's been a lot of scrambling, and honestly I'm surprised we've managed to piece things together up to this point. In this economy, especially for my generation, you need two incomes to survive. Rent is through the roof, if you own a home costs and rates keep rising, gas just keeps going up, groceries seem to cost money even if you so much as look at them, it's almost impossible to function on a single income.

Our economy is set up to require both parents to work. Our society on the other hand has a whole lot of catching up to do to support that.

So how do two working parents manage to work with no access to affordable or stable childcare? With a huge amount of stress and many sleepless nights.

We've been really scrambling this past year between family, friends, and

some paid unlicensed care. We are constantly on the lookout for a spot at a licensed center. Many of the places we called told us to not even bother going on their waitlist because it was too long. It actually felt like a win when we managed to get on a waitlist!

We got very creative this past year and I'm proud of us for making it happen, but winging it each week definitely takes its toll and adds a layer of stress and complexity we could do without.

So, you can imagine my joy when realizing that this fall, three of my four kids would be in school and in an amazing before and after school



BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF CARE: Delyth Harper and Rob Hill with their four children Bode (on Del's lap), Nia, Rob, Holden, and Theo.

program (thank you SD47!) and our youngest secured a spot at a licensed daycare nearby back in May. With subsidy it would have come to around \$300 a month for full time care which was amazing considering we pay unlicensed care providers anywhere from upwards of \$65 a day to watch him.

Our son is a little younger than the age the daycare is licensed for, but we knew there were age exemptions you could apply for and the daycare manager let us know it should be no issue as they've never been denied before. However, two weeks before he was due to start, we got news a licensing officer denied the age exemption the daycare had applied for and now we're back at square one.

Often these childcare troubles don't magically end when your kids enter school either. We are very lucky in this district to have affordable and accessible before and after school care, but there's monthly Pro-D days and many holidays to contend with and a complete lack of affordable care options for school age children outside of school hours.

It's only November and I'm already worrying about the summer situation.

Our childcare struggles and the fact we're now without care for our youngest yet again got me thinking, how many people in this town are in the same boat?

How many families need two incomes to survive and instead one parent (often the mother) is pushed out of the workforce because there's no childcare? How do single parents manage to do it?

How do those without friends and family willing to help make it work?

I know families having to use up all their vacation days and then move on to unpaid leave when childcare falls through. I know of parents having to

ing to find spaces for kids below three years of age here in qathet. You may as well put yourself on a waitlist years before you even plan to get pregnant.

What this means for Powell River is a lot of people must rely on unlicensed care options. There's absolutely nothing wrong with these options. However, you do not get the same amount of subsidy and the cost of care ends up being astronomical, and even then, unlicensed care options can be hard to come by!

There's a lot of reasons we have such a crisis on our hands, but some of the main contributing factors are the low wages and lack of benefits for those working as Early Childhood Educators. Their level of pay does not cover the work they do. It's not a job you can do halfway; you have to give it your all everyday and it is extremely demanding work for very little financial reward.

As a result, we have a lack of ECEs and an overall lack of licensed spaces because it's also extremely difficult to become a licensed centre. I agree that licensing should be strict, but I also think that the government needs to help contribute to some of the financial costs of meeting licensing requirements in order to create more licensed centres throughout BC.

After reading all this, you may be wondering, "Why should I even bother working?"

I'm not going to lie, I sometimes have those same thoughts.

The childcare issues are so frustrating and defeating at times. However, on the other side of things, I love my job, I love what I do and how it positively impacts the community, and I love the people I work with. I enjoy having a career and an income, I enjoy getting to be both a mother and an employee elsewhere and having that balance in my life. I think if people want to work, they deserve the opportunity to do so.

It's why I'm so disheartened by the lack of affordable and accessible childcare in this town. I'm not sure what the fix is, but I know it won't be a quick one.

If you're a working parent like me, struggling with childcare, solidarity to you. Childcare is by far the most stressful part of my job and I hope for all working parents in the future, better options are made widely available for them and some of this systemic childcare crisis is seriously looked at and given the priority they need.

Note • After I submitted this article, following a year of searching, we finally did secure childcare for our youngest! 🙌

qathet Regional
Emergency
Preparedness

**GET READY
STAY READY**

Are you ready for **THE TEST?**

*A public test of the Community Notification System
will be conducted on*

November 22, 2023, at 2 pm

If you haven't registered yet, now's the time!

**BE IN THE KNOW! Help protect yourself and your community
by signing up to the **Community Notification System**
to receive important emergency notifications and alerts.**

The Community Notification System is used by emergency services
to share important public safety messages by phone, email or text message.



REGISTER TODAY in 3 easy steps:

1. Go to qathet.ca/emergency-preparedness or scan the code at left.
2. Click on 'Enroll in the Community Notification System Here'
3. Complete the registration form, providing your contact information and preferences

Do this now!

For questions or registration assistance please email emergency@qathet.ca, call (604) 485-2260,
or call the Tla'amin Nation Emergency Management Program at (604) 483-9646

Working Together



qathet
REGIONAL DISTRICT



LEST WE FORGET

REMEMBRANCE DAY • November 11

The Powell River Town Centre will be closed on Saturday, November 11th in honour of Remembrance Day. Some retailers may remain open, please be sure to call them directly to confirm their hours.

**POWELL RIVER
TOWN CENTRE**

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch, be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Remembrance Day is a day for us to
remember those who gave their lives
fighting, so that we can live ours so
Freely today.

We remember, so we don't forget.
Lest we forget.

Our Annual Remembrance Day Window
Display is setup next to the lotto centre
for anyone who would like to come see it
and pay their respects.



DON'T MISS OUT ON HUGE SAVINGS!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24th

Shop at the Powell River Town Centre Black Friday and enjoy a variety of EXCLUSIVE sales and promotions offered at participating merchants.

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