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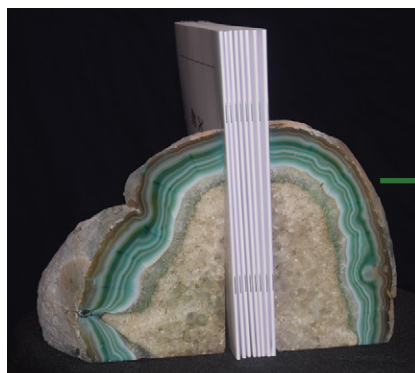


Stocking Stuffer Idea:
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ON THE COVER:

Kevin Côté, Tyler Brady, Brad Collicutt, Noel Dupuis and Julian Welp wrapped in white lights – a gift from the late Ron Diprose. These men will haul the lights and a 15-foot wood star up a 122-foot tree December 9, and the Big Dipper will shine over Westview once more. See story, Page 6.



Casserole Town

Rappie pie is an Acadian winter dish, and part of Rev. Mary White's family holiday traditions (Page 18). It's potatoes, meat, and vegetables baked together – but the "recipe" isn't fussy about exactly what goes in. Whatever you put in it, it comes out delicious.

As you read this December issue of qL, rappie pie is a metaphor that works all the way through the pages. So many ingredients. One delicious community.

In our roundup of local albums that have been produced over the last six months (Page 21), we've got jazz (Janice Gunn and Walter Martella); a contemporary string quartet (John Kastelic); folk (Pat Buckna); and punk (John Wright). The diverse albums sit comfortably on the page together.

Our cover feature is about Christmas lights – hardly hard-hitting journalism. But like everything, there's

more to the displays than first meets the eyes. Many of them are memorials to loved ones; one is an homage to newly-single life; several bring groups of people together for annual meet-ups; and all of them are created with good will, collectively sending beauty and light into the region's darkest month. They're a mix. But together, they're a region-wide, stunning offering to anyone driving or walking in the darkness.

As usual, December's events (Page 45) are a wild mix, including Santa, Elvis, puppets, mushrooms, A Christmas Carol, participatory pageants, Carols by Candlelight, wrestling, craft shows, hockey, local and Hollywood films, charity, and so, so much more.

I hope your holidays this year feature many ingredients, representing the full range of this casserole-like community.



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

PIETA WOOLLEY

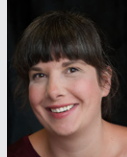
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“

Shortly before I turned 50, one morning my wife asked me to go to the pharmacy to get a pregnancy test.

A what? I asked.

– Kirk Somers, **Page 15.**

”

DECEMBER'S CONTRIBUTORS



GAIL FENNELL is known for past success in badminton, tennis and golf, her store Yarncraft and countless years of teaching, organizing, and playing Duplicate Bridge. **See Gail's story, Mill Town Security, on Page 41.**



Amateur astronomer **ANGELIKA (IKA) HACKETT** has observed five total solar eclipses and numerous partial ones. She also plays recorder and flute in several qathet music groups. **See Angelika's story, Gem-nids, on Page 28.**



KIRK SOMERS is a proud father of two. He works at Alopex Couriers in HR. And yes, he will finish writing that novel very soon. **See Kirk's story, How to Celebrate your 50th, on Page 15.**



STEPHANIE REED is a proud mother of three and enjoys long, spontaneous self-propelled forays into the back country. She loves nature and animals. **See Stephanie's story, Letter from the Slash, on Page 34.**



SHARLENE REID enjoys photography, writing, reading and spending time with "brother" Charlie Puggle. She loves being with others and volunteers at the Salvation Army Thrift Store. **See Sharlene's story, Give when you Can, on Page 20.**

merry
Christmas
And Happy New Year

.....
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The Big Dipper

From December 9
• Alberni near Fernwood

Over the past 12 years, Julian Welp has climbed his neighbours' 122' Douglas fir in some pretty wild weather.

Ninety-km-an-hour winds
Rain blowing sideways.

All to repair and string new lights on what was once Canada's tallest lighted Christmas tree.

He hasn't been up there since before COVID, but on a recent reconnaissance climb, the Logger Sports champion saw just how much damage West Coast weather can do to strings of lights and a giant cedar star.

So, he's put a team together to strip the old weather-beaten lights, install new ones, and pull up the new 15' tall, red and yellow cedar star to shine white lights over Westview.

In early December, Julian (owner of Welper's Tree Service), Noel Dupuis (a neighbour and long-time helper), Kevin Côté (owner of Bottom Up Tree Services and firefighter), Tyler Brady (owner of Twisted Twig Tree Services and firefighter), and Brad Collicutt (PRFD fire captain) will use their old-school skills to make the magic happen in Roger and Andra Gillen's tree.

Look for the lights and new star, starting December 9 – coincidentally, Julian's birthday.

Why does he do it?

"It's for the community," he said. "I love Christmas. The friends and family all come home. Now that I've got kids it's even better. Even if I just get new socks and underwear, I'm happy. I love a fridge full of food. Everyone is a little more caring and understanding this time of year."

The Big Dipper

This year's new star is called The Big Dipper, in honour of Julian's long-time friend Ron "Dipper" Diprose, who died suddenly in 2019.

Julian occasionally worked with Ron and his wife Linda with the Chain Gang and through PRPAWS, building and maintaining trails, and helping to clear land for huts in the backcountry.



JUST WAIT TIL YOU SEE IT: Kevin Côté, Brad Collicutt, Julian Welp, Tyler Brady and Noel Dupuis will move this heavy cedar star up a 122-foot tree early in December – a memorial to the late Ron "Dipper" Diprose.

Ron also worked with Julian at the Ministry of Forests. Ron's own Christmas displays were "legendary." Before he passed away, Ron donated two large spools of white LED lights to Julian's tree project. Those are the lights you'll see on the star this December.

"Sometimes, the three of us would hike together, and they would show me trees they needed help with, and I'd take them down," Julian said. "I was heartbroken when he died."

In addition to the star, the team will install dozens of strings of LED lights. They're all on one extension cord, Julian pointed out, because they're so energy

efficient.

You can see a six-minute video of Julian climbing the tree with the first star, a show of appreciation to Dr. John Hall, on YouTube at WelperTV

When Julian started in 2009, this 122-footer was the tallest lighted Christmas tree in Canada. Since then, Capilano Suspension Bridge's annual Canyon Lights event has surpassed this effort, decorating tree between 150 and 200 feet towering over North Vancouver, with over a million lights.

–Pieta Woolley

Light

in the darkness

In the darkest months, locals use their yards to blast out colourful, warm light, a message of joy for everyone who passes.

Meet a few of your neighbours who are particularly thoughtful about their displays – and extra extravagant.

The Wildwood Star

December 24 • Lois & Sutherland Streets



On Christmas Eve, look way up and you will see the Wildwood star shining brightly in the night.

The Wildwood star is a Christmas tradition that started 37 years ago, by long time Wildwood resident Bob Stutt.

The Birds and the Browns are long-time supporters of the star. Terry Peters says his family joined in when his Grandma, the late Ann McKay, who was housebound, lived on Lois Street and could see the star from her home. “It lit up her day,” Terry recalled.

Annually, the star lights up, for the first time on Christmas Eve and is taken down on New Year’s Day.

To see the star, head over to Lois and Sutherland streets on a clear night and look up before 10 pm.

When everyone gets together to haul the star, gas, generator, lights,

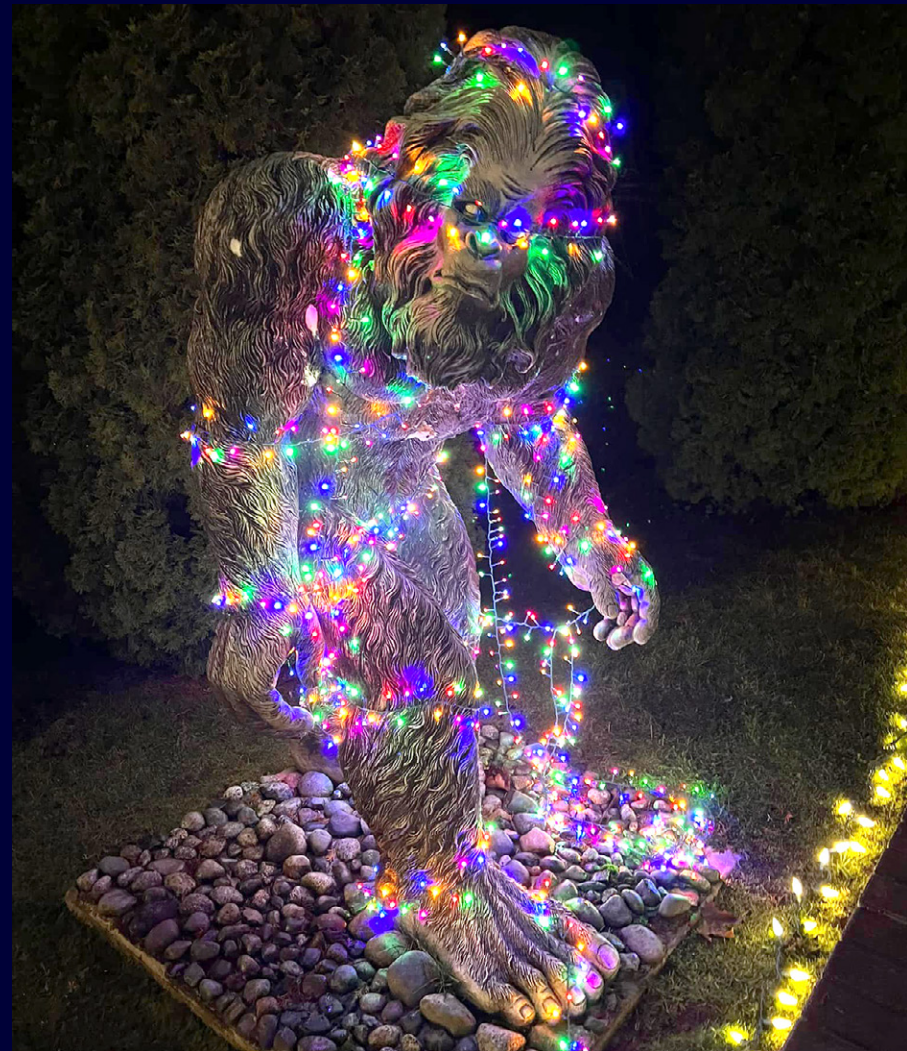
and more, up the mountain, they plan a little get together around the star. There’s a fire and the helpers drink hot chocolate to celebrate the season.

“It’s a collective effort to keep it going, but I’d like to give a big shout out to Scotty Brown, for being so passionate about the star. It’s his generator that keeps it going,” says Terry.

He still thinks the best star story is the one when Bob Stutt’s family hired a helicopter for Bob (who was too frail to walk to the top of the mountain) and had it fly him over to the site.

Dressed as Santa Claus, Pete Bird joined Bob in the helicopter and when they flew over the star everyone who was setting it up looked up to see Santa throwing candy canes down on them!

– Isabelle Southcott



Light-Up Putters

Together with the Powell River Fire Department, Putters puts on a special fundraising seasonal display each year. Grab a cup of hot cocoa or even an ice cream, and wander through the greens with your favourite people.

The event is by donation to the Powell River Professional Firefighters Charitable Society, which funds school food programs across qathet, fire safety education, and many more local needs.

When • 5 to 8:30 pm. December 15 to 17 and December 21 to 23

Where • Putters Mini Golf at Willingdon Beach



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The Enchanted Forest Trail

South of town, Brian McRae and Mitch Kenyon transformed their property for the first time for Christmas 2021, and welcomed locals to a unique outdoor spectacle.

The walk is free (donations to help cover the cost are welcome) and includes lights, video, music, tiny railroads, inflatables, and much more.

When • 5 to 8 pm. December 17, 18, 19, 20, 26, & 27

Where • 1930 Twin Eagles Road



The Santa Train

Join the Powell River Forestry Heritage Society for this can't-miss annual holiday moment. Ride the miniature steam-trains through a multi-coloured sparkling forest, warm up by the bonfire, get treats in the quonset hut (a Kiwanis fundraiser), enjoy live local music.

Riding the train is by donation to the Salvation Army – non-perishable food items or unwrapped new toys, or cash.

When • 5 to 7 pm. December 8 & 9

Where • Paradise Exhibition Park (where the Farmers' Market is)

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Firefighters' tree for 30+ years

Every year since the early 1990s, professional firefighters have volunteered their time to string hundreds of Christmas lights on the big, old fir tree that stands proudly in the parking lot at Westview Veterinary Hospital.

Brad Collicutt, a 17-year-veteran with Powell River Fire Rescue, is one of the firefighters who'll be stringing lights from the ladder truck this year. "Because the tree is centrally located it's easy to see when it's decorated."

Giving back to the community is important to firefighters. "People enjoy seeing the tree all lit up and we like to be able to do something nice for our community during the holiday season."

Brad says it's a way firefighters can thank the community for supporting the Firefighters Charitable Society's benevolent initiatives.

When • Light up on December 3

Where • Across from Shell



Harbour Lights

For just one night, the Powell River Yacht Club hosts one of the most unique, aesthetically wonderful events of the year: Harbour Lights.

Sailboats, fishing boats, and other vessels are decorated with bright bulbs for the event. You can walk among them on the docks, or view them from above near the seawalk or Westview Pier.

When • December 9, 5 to 7 pm

Where • Westview Harbour

Cheer Fest

In a special seasonal kick-off ceremony, the City lights the tree at the Marine & Alberni park as part of Cheer Fest on December 3. Gather for the Santa Parade at 4:30 pm, and stay for an outdoor holiday market, music, tree-lighting, shopping and more.

When • December 3, starting at 4:30 pm. Tree lighting at 7 pm.

Where • Marine & Alberni

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There's something magical about a truck covered in twinkling Christmas lights.

Not only does it brighten up the darkest night, but it also brings people together, says Ryder Spick, the man behind the Christmas truck.

"I've had messages from people who have lost loved ones and been invited to take the truck to visit children in palliative care. I've been invited to schools and events. The Christmas truck hits some sort of switch in people," he says.

Although people of all ages get excited when they see the Christmas truck, Ryder says little kids are the best. "They just love it," he says. "We've been given all kinds of goodies including cookies decorated just like the Christmas truck. The kids at Kelly Creek School made pictures of the truck and hung them on the wall in the gym. All these things make it magical for me."

The Christmas truck is celebrating its ninth year of spreading joy and happiness and begins its tour at the parade in Ladysmith at the end of November before moving on to Campbell River and Victoria and then making its way home to Powell River, where it will turn up at Winter Wonderland and many other unexpected places around the community.

"We go out in the community on our own agenda," says Ryder, who is accompanied by his teenage daughters, Anna and Megan.

The Christmas truck is Ryder's sweet addiction. "I saw the Cumberland Ready Mix Cement truck in a parking lot in Courtenay one year and the rest is history. That is what inspired us to do it."

The Christmas truck is a working truck owned by Spick and Sons. The 1987 Peterbilt 379 semi-truck does double duty during the month of December.

Not only does it delight thousands of people at night with its twinkling lights, but it is a workhorse during the day, hauling material down the road.

This year Ryder and his crew, which includes Spick and Sons employees Justin Milne and Crofton Greenwell, expect to spend about 200 hours decorating the truck. "My grandfather (Warren) used to help before he passed away and my dad John also works on the truck."

About 15,000 lights will be put on the truck this year. For the 10th anniversary next year, Ryder plans to light up the night with more than 60,000 lights!

— Isabelle Southcott

Ryder Spick's Christmas Truck

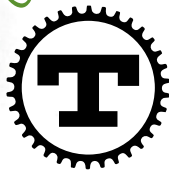
Let there be light – lots of light



Watch for the Spick & Sons 1987 Peterbilt 379 semi, with 15,000 lights, at events around town this holiday season.



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Holiday Lights Map:

If you decorate, here's how to be on it!
If you like lights, here's how to get it!

Powell River Parks, Recreation & Culture coordinates this digital map project each year.

If you want to be on the map, email Shawna at srahier@powellriver.ca by December 15, with your address (anywhere in the region) and a photo of your lights display. You may win a prize!

On December 18, the map will appear on the Powell River Parks & Rec Facebook page.

Voting for your favourite lights continues until December 22.



Rhonda Gendron

King Avenue, Wildwood

Who makes it happen?

The whole household participates in putting this together – it's a family affair!

Why did you choose this design?

We're always acquiring new pieces and more lights, which it makes for a fun few days putting it all together. Every year is a new adventure!

What do you like about it?

We love Christmas, and we enjoy sharing some of that magic with the whole neighbourhood.

Scott and Erin Hodgins

Chilco Avenue, Wildwood

Who makes it happen?

I (Scott) started doing a large display about ten years ago. Every year it grows. I've had help from my youngest son over the past few years, but otherwise I tackle this on my own. I start just after Remembrance Day, and it takes me about two weeks off and on.

Why did you choose this design?

I have a lot of blow-ups and vintage blow molds. I've been building display structures over the past couple years. I've inherited numerous decorations and lights which helps keep the costs down.

What do you like about it?

My favorite pieces are definitely the King Of The Hill and Crown signs which were kindly passed on to me from a loving family last year.



Townsite's Flying Pig



In 2020, newly single, and with nobody to catch me if I fell off a ladder, I decided not to put up any Christmas lights. I was disappointed, but to cheer myself up I kept saying that my Christmas display was going to be classy, understated, and traditional.

And then I went shopping, and there she was.

The only one in the store (my neighbour said "I think there may have been a reason for that") and how could I just leave her? She was perfect!

So I have a classy, understated, traditional, flying Christmas pig. Her name is Pigscilla.

– Kate Dryden

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Washing is easy; just toss it (preferably inside-out) into the washing machine with other soft, non-linty items and run it on cold or medium temperature, short cycle (unless the other items are really dirty), and dry in medium temp dryer. Jeans, tee shirts, shirts and other Pollen sweaters are fine in the same load, but towels and velcro are not.

Thanks for reading this, and a huge thank you to all of our customers for your fabulous support for the past thirty-plus years.

From all of us at Pollen Sweaters, have a warm, safe and cozy winter!



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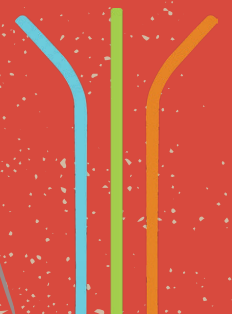
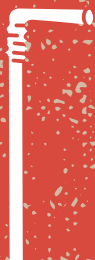


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WHAT IS WASTE?

How to celebrate your 50th

BY KIRK SOMERS

When my 50th birthday started to approach I began to make plans. Maybe a big party. A new car. My friend from high school had gone to Italy for his 50th. I thought that was a great idea. I could take my wife; we could go to Rome and Florence.

Life and the universe, however, had other plans.

Shortly before I turned 50, one morning my wife asked me to go to the pharmacy to get a pregnancy test.

A what? I asked. I mean, I had heard her, but wanted to make sure I had heard correctly.

A pregnancy test, she affirmed.

I was a little surprised to say the least, but off I went. I remember the clerk at the Shoppers asking me how my day was going. I didn't know how to answer. I said I would get back to her.

The first test came back positive.

Let's try this again, we said.

Back to the drug store. Bit more nervous this time.

Sure enough both pregnancy tests were positive.

I realized that my life was seriously about to change.

Our son was now 17. Of course we'd always wanted a second child. But it just never happened. At this stage in the game we didn't think it was going to. Our son was in high school at this point. Diapers and midnight feedings were way behind us. Or so we thought.

I began to panic. I tried to accept the inevitable. We were going to have a baby. But I worried: Would she be healthy? Would I be a good father at this stage in the game? Do they have to call it a geriatric pregnancy? We



BETTER THAN A ROMAN HOLIDAY:

Above, Kirk Somers and Avalon, at one week old. Right, Katia Villeneuve, Kirk, Tristan and Ava.

worried and we fretted for most of 2022.

In October last year she was born. A beautiful little girl with big blue eyes. 10 fingers and 10 toes. My wife was over the moon. I was relieved. We were the proud parents of two kids.

"One in diapers and one in high school" was my new motto going forward.

It's been an adjustment to say the least. For those who have forgotten what it's like to have a baby, it's a lot of lifting and bending. And something else – oh yes, no sleep. At my age, this starts to get tricky.

Of course some things are better now. My wife and I have better jobs and a bigger house, not our tiny little



one-bedroom apartment in Vancouver that we had when our son was born. We have better support here in Powell River than in Vancouver as here we have family. The built-in but somewhat reluctant babysitter. But big brother is getting better. And my wife

For those who have forgotten what it's like to have a baby, it's a lot of lifting and bending. And something else – oh yes, no sleep. At my age, this starts to get tricky.

is an excellent mother.

So it's once more into the breach: sleepless nights, toys all over the living room floor, worrying about if she's getting enough to eat, and endless diapers.

But for every soiled diaper there's now a little girl that claps her hands when she wakes up from her nap. For every sleepless night there's someone who waves at me with tiny little hands when I come home from work. For every toy I step on, there's a little person who falls asleep on me and trusts me absolutely.

And of course with the second time around, there is always the chance to do some things better:

- Start saving for college earlier
- Do one of those "a picture a day for five years" YouTube videos to pay for the above
- Less TV (we'll see)
- Fewer plastic toys (well, too late for that one.)

So things are going well, all things considered. In fact, just the other day I told my wife that, going forward, I think we should have a child every 16 years.

Granted, it is true that people have said that I look like the grandfather and my son the father. I am working on that one. 🐶

Happy Holidays
from the crew at

Tin Hat
Services



EQUIPMENT REPAIRS & FLEET MAINTENANCE
Alignments • Brakes • Inspections • Automotive
Light & Heavy Trucks • Air Conditioning • Welding & Fabrication
Diagnostic Recalibrations on HD • Forced Regens

604.485.4000

7327 Duncan Street
(Located at Aero Services Kal-Tire)

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!



MYPOWELLRIVERNOW.COM

GROWING TOGETHER: The crew of 2022 (right) front row Darlene Hammer, Dru Boyd, Brady McCracken, Heather Ciarniello. Back row Guy Knapp, Ty Hatch, Ken Boyd, Tye Ciarniello. Third row left to right Calder Boyd, Max Hammer, Peyton Hammer, Mickey McCracken, Cheryl Bruckshaw, Justin Bruckshaw, Russell Bruckshaw. Top of trailer Brian Bomprezzi. *Bottom images:* Mosaic Forest Management donated 1,000 Douglas-fir and white pine saplings for planting by the JFW this summer during the group's annual survival camp. *Far right,* a stand of trees the JFW thinned in partnership with WFP in 2022, near Duck Lake.

Photos courtesy of Brian Bomprezzi



NU TREND DESIGN

David Tauber
 604 344 0009



3D Design allows our clients to see what their project will look like



Happy holidays from Nu Trend!

CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR:

- New Homes
- Additions
- Carriage Homes
- Detached Garages
- Decks

Let us help you with permit applications!



Junior Forest Wardens

Healthier forests tomorrow, because of your Christmas tree

Head to the McDonald's parking lot 9 am to 5 pm on December 9, 10, 16 and 17, and you'll find the Junior Forest Wardens offering freshly-harvested trees by donation.


The local fundraiser has been going for over 30 years, a key support for BC's last JFW group. The organization has taught hands-on forest stewardship and wilderness survival skills to successive generations for a century.

Brian Bompreszi, a paramedic and dad who has been involved in JFW for a decade, explained that the trees are donated through a partnership with

Western Forest Products. The group collects trees out of areas that have been re-planted, and where the trees are growing too densely together.

"When we go out to cut, we walk the area and talk to the wardens about which species of tree to cut and how far apart the trees need to be before cutting another one down," Brian explained.

"By thinning the cut blocks, it creates less competition and allows more sunlight and nutrients for the trees left behind to grow."

For Brian's full interview, see the [qathet Living](#) website. 



Local faith leaders: What is one special thing that you do, to mark this time of year?

1. Purple for the King of Kings

For liturgically minded Christians, a special part of the Advent season is the celebrant's wearing of purple.

The dark purple or violet, is intended as a penitential colour: meaning we're not quite there at Christmas, but we're on the way. So this gives us hope.

I find the dark, rich colour a soothing thing. In ancient times, purple dyed cloth was worn by royalty.

Aren't we getting ready for the King of Kings?

– Father Patrick Teeporten,
Assumption Catholic Parish

2. Solstice Songs

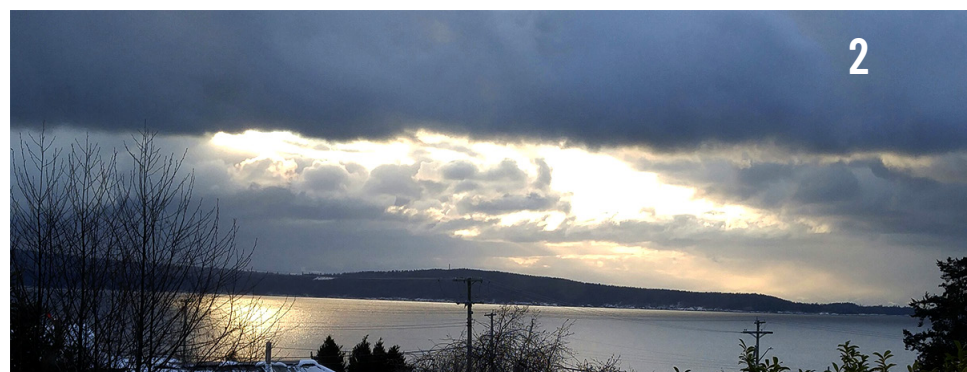
Observing the Winter Solstice is a personal tradition that connects Christmas to God's creation in a visible way. The energy of the Sun made possible the arrival of humans into cosmic history. The love of God made possible the arrival of God's Son into human history. Cosmology and theology can be thought of as two pages in the same book.

Some years I celebrate the solstice with friends in prayer and song. Some years I just look out the window at the solstice sunset over Texada, assured that even more light will be present a few days later to brighten our Christmas.

– Rev. Dr. Paula Sampson,
Faith Lutheran Church



1



2

Welcome home for Christmas

Sacred Heart, Tla'amin
Church of the Assumption

<p>Christmas Eve Mass during the night Assumption Westview 7:00 pm Sacred Heart, Tla'Amin 10:00 pm</p> <p>Christmas Mass during the day Assumption Westview 10:00 am</p>	<p>Confessions Assumption Westview Thursday Dec 21 7 to 8 pm Friday Dec 22 11 am to 12 noon Saturday Dec 23 11 to 12 noon</p> <p>Father Patrick 604-485-5300 </p>
--	---

**New to town? New to church?
We look forward to meeting you**

CELEBRATE

WITH POWELL RIVER UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, December 3 • To mark the start of Advent the church will be hosting a **Decorations-Making and Tree-Trimming** service at 11am. Coffee to follow the service.

Sunday, Dec 17 • The church will be holding a **Participatory Christmas Pageant** at the 11am service. Bring your children or release your inner child to help celebrate the Christmas Season.

Sunday, Dec 24 • The church's **Christmas Eve Service** will be held at 3pm. Everyone welcome to join the congregation and celebrate the spirit of Christmas.

Sunday Worship Services 11am Community Pasta Dinners

powellriverunitedchurch.org

St. David & St. Paul Anglican Church

6310 Sycamore Street † 604 483-4230 † anglican1@telus.net
www.stdavidandstpaul.com

Sunday, December 3 • 4pm
Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 24 • 4pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist with Interactive Christmas Story

Monday, December 25 • 10am
Service of Morning Prayer

Everyone welcome!



3



6



4



5

3. Candle in the Labyrinth

On Winter Solstice, a tradition for me is to walk a labyrinth in meditation then light a candle in the center as a reflection of going into, and coming out of, these darkest nights of the year. I let the candle burn down and divine messages from the remaining wax the next morning.

– Juliette Jarvis, Sacred Living Mentor

4. Rappie Pie

The special thing that we do during the Christmas season is spending time with extended family. Albeit, these past six years have been via online visits.

From the beginning of my memory, my family attended early Christmas Mass followed by eating brunch, unwrapping gifts, and then visits with aunts, uncles and cousins.

We all joined in the long preparation of creating Rappie Pie, a traditional Acadian dish concocted only at Christmas.

Our cousin John now hosts an extended family open house which maintains the love and connections that began so many decades ago.

– The Rev. Mary J White, Powell River United Church

5. Pageants & Hope

At Christmas we reenact and remember the story of Jesus' birth. No matter who you are, you are invited to be part of that story.

Christmas reminds us that God loves us enough to come to us in person, and journey with us through all life's ups and downs.

Christmas teaches us that even in the darkest of times, the light and goodness of God's love for us can never be snuffed out. Come and see.

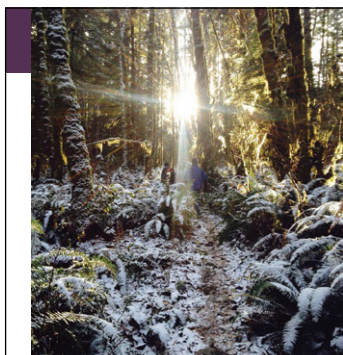
– Rev. Lucy Price, St. David and St. Paul Anglican Church

6. Meaningful Ornaments

One thing we do to mark this time of year is consider this past year and make or buy an ornament for the tree to signify how far we've come (how far God has brought us!) or something significant that has happened.

This holds meaning for us because remembering what we've come through gives us courage to trust God that we will continue to do so in the year to come!

– Sam & Katie Alescio, Living Water Foursquare Church



Join Us This Christmas

Westview Baptist Church

Christmas Eve services: 4 pm & 6 pm
Join us this Christmas in-person or online at www.wbchurch.ca.

Worship services every Sunday at 10am, in-person or online.

3676 Joyce Ave • 604 485-5040 • wbchurch.ca



Merry Christmas

Join us as we seek God together. Just come as you are. Everyone Welcome.

**December 24 Morning Service 9am,
Christmas Eve Service 4:30 pm**

KELLY CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH
2380 Zilinsky Road • 604-414-4827

Salvation Army Church & Community Services
Serving with our hearts to God and our hands to the people of Powell River

PLEASE JOIN US

Giving Hope Today **Christmas Eve Service**
Dec 24 • 6:00 pm, in-person, 4500 Joyce Ave

Ongoing until Dec 24, Christmas Kettle shifts available at five locations throughout town.
Volunteers are still needed. For info call 604-485-6067.

4500 Joyce Ave • 604 485-6067 • salvationarmypr.ca

POWELL RIVER ACADEMY OF MUSIC

Concerts

TICKETS Academy Box Office
7280 Kemano St
604 485-9633
Mon – Thur
9:30 am – 4:30 pm
Buy online at powellriveracademy.org

CAROLS BY CANDELIGHT
December 8 & 9 | Dwight Hall | \$30
(advance sales only through the box office)

CHOR MUSICA CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Thursday, December 14 | 7:30 pm | James Hall | \$25
(through Academy box office or cash at the door)

Come see and experience
THE ELVIS CHRISTMAS CONCERT
(The show he never gave) featuring Robert T Falls
Tuesday, December 19 | 1 pm | James Hall
Donations in support of the Academy of Music

Belong. Believe. Become.

4640 Manson

Christmas Eve Services
We would love to have you join us as we celebrate our Saviour!
December 24 at 9 am & 11 am

New Year's Eve Worship Night
Ring in the New Year with us with worship and prayer! 8 pm to midnight

Living Water Foursquare Church • livingwaterpr.com

Traditional
'walk-ins
only'
barber
experience



Find us in Historic Townsite!



Barbers Julian Camire and Joel
11am to 6pm Monday to Friday
Saturdays by chance

5861 Ash St, across from The Patricia



When you know what it's like to not have enough, giving when you can feels especially good

BY SHARLENE REID

The other day I was at my local bank. I knew my most recent pay cheque had been deposited – and I was heartbroken. In less than a month, I would have to come up with money for the bills that would soon be arriving.

I also hoped there'd be a chance that I could do a bigger grocery shop, but it didn't look too positive. I knew that sadly, once again, I'd be out of money before the next pay cheque would arrive.

I am fortunate. I have learned to skimp, save, and put money aside into a "rainy-day fund" that has helped me through some of my lean times. The home I live in may be paid for, but it doesn't pay the bills.

There are other expenses that I see that make me often wonder if it's perhaps the time to look at selling the place and downsizing. If I did that however, I'd be starting from scratch and the prices are way out of my budget.

Sadly, I know that I am not alone.

There are so many of us that shop in our stores or walk our streets that are living below the poverty line. With the high cost of rent – if you are able to find something – it is heartbreaking.

The adage of "the rich get richer and the poor get poorer" isn't fair. The poverty within our community is becoming more and more evident, instead of getting better. Rent is unattainable for many. You can't

afford it – as your paycheque only goes so far.

Your bank account struggles as the money goes to buy groceries, pay the bills – and barely basically survive. "Living from paycheque to paycheque" isn't just a cliché, it's a reality.


We are lucky. There are community dinners that help out with some meals. But families are suffering. It is heartbreaking... what can we do about it?

There is support available through the local food bank and Salvation Army. Churches often provide a community meal.

We often do outreach only for Christmas and the holiday season, but even as individuals, we can help out when next grocery shopping by including a few extra items to share with others.

I have found that it makes me feel good when I can help out someone else. I will put an extra few items in my shopping cart. After all, if I can enjoy them, why can't someone else?

There are also the provided bins at the stores where you can drop off your donations without even leaving the store.

It's very common to think about the needs of others as the holiday season is upon us. Sadly hunger doesn't take a step back. Help is needed not only now, but throughout the year. Perhaps opening your heart and thinking about and acting on this will be the best gift that you can give to someone else. 

Happy Holidays

Thank you to the clients, family, friends, and colleagues who have supported me this year!

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!



604-223-7628 | lisa@lisagunn.ca



Cottage Creek Bake Shop

Count on us for your Christmas baking!

Rich Dark Rum Fruitcakes
Hot Cocoa Exploding Bombs
Stollen · Sourdoughs
Holiday Baking Boxes



Find us at the **Farmer's Market** every Sunday 12:30 - 2:30 and at the **Soapy Dragon Holiday Boutique** in the mall

604-414-0616 • cottagcreek@telus.net
Contact us for the full menu

POWELL RIVER FARMERS' MARKET

Open year round!

SUNDAYS 12:30 - 2:30

Closed on snow days

Open Dec 24 • Closed Dec 31 & Jan 7

604.414.3327 | 4365 McLeod Rd.

PRODUCE

EGGS

MEAT

BREAD & PIE

ARTISANS

NEW LOCAL ALBUMS

Janice Gunn & Walter Martella • Reflections with Jazz

About the Album •

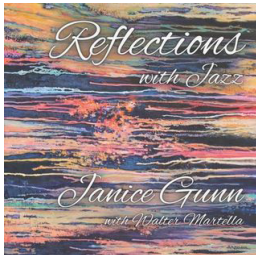
This is my first album. Walter has done many solo albums

and collaborations, ours is his most current recording project.

The album collection is a range of jazz standards such as Moonglow, improvisations on popular music such as I Can See Clearly Now and Both Sides Now, and contemporary jazz such as Kenny Wheeler's Winter Sweet. The cover artwork is "Playful Reflections" by local artist Arnold Nouwens.

Where to buy • Reflections with Jazz is distributed through CDBaby to Amazon, iTunes, Spotify and YouTube. Prices vary according to the download provider. Only digital versions are available at this time.

In Concert December 23 • Walter Martella and Friends Jazzy Christmas on December 23rd at the United Church, a community charity event.



John Kastelic • A Thousand Times Brighter

About the Album •

Folk music meets classical art song, with some flourishes of pop and jazz. The album contains nine lush, original songs for Black Dog String Quartet by Powell River's own John Kastelic, with fabulous guest vocalists and instrumentalists.

About Black Dog String Quartet • Consistently delivering performances with "conviction and imaginative sensitivity" (Vancouver Classical Music),



Lean in to Local for the Holidays

If you like to spend your holidays reading, listening to music, or giving gifts, check out what these qathet creators have launched this year.

Black Dog String Quartet brings a fresh perspective on what it means to be a string quartet in the 21st century.

Where to buy • Vinyl LPs are available by contacting BlackDogStringQuartet@gmail.com (\$30). Digital copies can be purchased at blackdogstringquartet.bandcamp.com (\$7). Available on streaming services.

Live Concert • December 1 at the Max Cameron Theatre.

John Wright • "Life Like" by Dead Bob

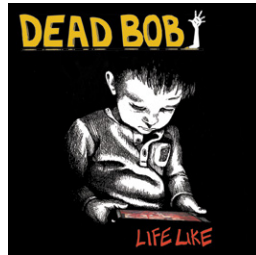
About the album • *Life Like* is the self-released, mostly solo project of John Wright, drummer of now retired NoMeansNo. Revisiting and then finishing songs and ideas, new and old, from many years of writing, John

has created a new project, Dead Bob, and with the help of friends is embarking on a live version as well.

About John • Now residing in Lund, John began writing and recording music in the mid 70s in Victoria and, along with his brother Rob, created NoMeansNo in 1980, the start of "35 years of umpteen releases and touring the world."

Where to buy • The album is currently streaming and available for digital download on Band Camp. Vinyl has been pressed and will be available at the upcoming show at the Carlson Loft.

Live Concert • December 3 at the Carlson Loft.



Pat Buckna • Singing My Songs For You

About the Album • Original songs written, performed, and recorded at High Road Recording on Texada Island.

About the Musician • Pat Buckna is a writer, composer, engineer and songwriter who published a family memoir, *Only Children*, in 2019 and runs High Road Recording Studio on Texada Island.

Where to Buy • starbuckna.bandcamp.com or as a download card directly from Pat Buckna. \$13.



First Nations created jewellery/carvings gift gallery • fresh sandwiches, wraps & deli to go

Your one-stop gift shop

Now carrying a selection of Pendelton premium towels & wool blankets! These, and the carved silver bracelets at left, are just a few of the gifts in stock.



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Thaidal Zone RESTAURANT



Thank you for voting for us, qathet!

See our menu at thaidalzone.ca

604-485-5171

Mon-Sat 11:30-8:30 • Sunday 3:30-8:30

IMAGE 1

Salon & Spa

Kick off to Christmas Sale

25% OFF

Store Wide

Buy a \$100 Gift Card + get an extra \$20 on us!

- Hair Products & Accessories
- Styling Tools & Brushes
- Hempz Lotion & Body Care
- Candles, Jewelry & Blankets
- Stocking Stuffers & More!

December 7, 2023
9:00AM - 8:00PM

NEW LOCAL FICTION & POETRY

Justin Ostensen & Gail Blaney • Chee'Ilth Marvel Contest of Champions Comic Book download

About the Book • Chee'Ilth is the first Coast Salish Super Hero. She was created by qathet's own Justin Ostensen, a Senior Game Designer at Kabam, in collaboration with Tla'amin Nation's Gail Blaney. See the November issue of *qathet Living* for more.

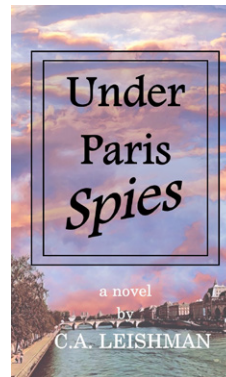
Where to Download • marvel.com/comics/issue/115934/cheeilth_2023_1



Carole Ann Leishman • Under Paris Spies

About the Book • When Anya Stewart decides amidst her mid-life crisis to travel to Paris for a much needed vacation and to find herself, she has no idea what kind of danger and excitement awaits her. If you enjoy thrilling twists, sexy romance, espionage, and high speed car chases through Paris, and the French Riviera, you will love Anya and the unexpected encounters of her Paris vacation.

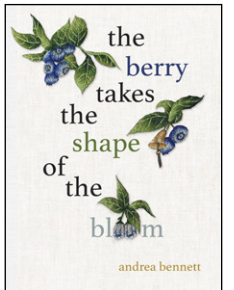
About the Author • After a stint as a two-term City Councillor and having worked in construction for more than two decades, Carole Ann is finally getting back to her roots in writing, story-telling and the arts, while navigating a new career helping BC-based local government elected officials tackle climate action and decarbonization in their communities.



Where to buy • Signed copies of *Under Paris Spies* are available locally at Pocket Books for \$25.98. The novel is also available to order through most major bookstores and online retailers.

andrea bennett • the berry takes the shape of the bloom

About the Book • Prose poetry exploring themes of gender, family, trans pregnancy, abuse, fear, and becoming, via rich imagery centering in the earth and the ocean.



Some poems bear witness; others hold grudges or shake free of them.

About the Author • andrea bennett is a National Magazine Award-winning writer and a senior editor at *The Tye*.

Where to Buy • talonbooks.com. \$18.95

The credit for the author photo is Erin Flegg photography.

Juliette Jarvis • Of Mud, Blood, String and Bone

About the Book-by-Installation • Join used bookseller, Miss Ellis, as she reads the incredible journal entries of a witch's life, found in a box of donated books, and bear witness to the mysterious happenings that unfold as she learns the craft while trying to find the accidental grimoire's author.

About the Author • Juliette Jarvis is a best selling author, devotional artist, and sacred living mentor.

Find the Book at • juliettejarvis.com. \$5 per month



Home-based business & Craft Fair

Magic of Christmas

Saturday December 9
10 am to 4 pm
Rec Complex Upper Foyer

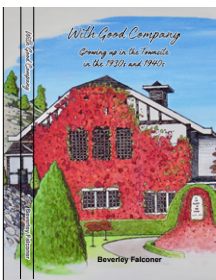
NEW LOCAL NON-FICTION

Bev Falconer • With Good Company

About the book • This is a collection of memoirs about growing up in the Townsite in the 1930s and 1940s—adventures in back lanes and misadventures in Home Ec classes, steamships, Kookanee salmon, and notorious twins!

About Bev • When we moved to the Townsite in 1937, I was seven years old, the Townsite was a mere 27 years old and I grew up with Dwight Hall which was completed just three years before I was born.

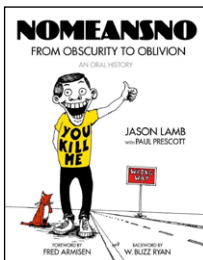
Where to buy • Contact the Library: mmerlino@prpl.ca. \$20



Jason Lamb • From Obscurity to Oblivion

About the book • “From Obscurity to Oblivion,” a quote from No-MeansNo’s 2006 release *All Roads Lead to Ausfahrt*, entitles the official Biography of the band’s career. Told mostly from the fans’ perspective and including tons of photos, it is the labour of love of long time fan and advocate Jason Lamb, Victoria radio host and stand-up comic.

About John • Now residing in Lund, John Wright began writing and recording music in the mid 70’s in Victoria BC and along with his Brother Rob created NoMeansNo in 1980, the start of 35 years of umpteen releases and touring the world. John drew the cover.



Megan Dulcie Dill, Sosan Blaney, Claudia Medina • Welcome To Here

About the Book

• Welcome to Here – Salish Sea is a first words video and boardbook in ṽayṽajuthəm and English

with 10 plants and animals relating to local coastal areas. This is the second in the series, with all new words, this time inspired by local ocean life.

Where to Buy • Tla’amin Convenience, Ecosentials and Pocket Books \$15



David Baker & Patrick Lo • The Marketing of Academic, National and Public Libraries Worldwide (with the PR Library’s Sonia Zagwyn)

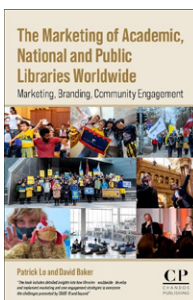
About the book

• Interviews and case studies with seasoned marketing and community engagement librarians from around the world. It includes qathet’s own Sonia Zagwyn who talks about the beauty and power of community engagement via live puppet shows.

About the Subject • Sonia Zagwyn is the Children’s Services Coordinator at PRPL and the recipient of the 2022 Young Adult and Children’s Services Award from the British Columbia Library Association.

Where to Buy • The book is available on Chapters/Indigo, Amazon, and the publisher Elsevier.

See Sonia in action • “Seasonal Puppet Show 2023: Can We Be Friends?” Will happen on Saturday, December 23 from 10:30-11:30 am.



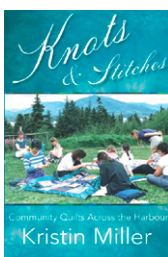
Kirsten Miller • Knots & Stitches: Community Quilts Across the Harbour

About the Book • Amidst the turmoil of loss and the harsh West Coast terrain, friendship and community flourish in this life-celebrating memoir.

About the Author • Kristin Miller is also the author of *The Careless Quilter: Decide-as-You-Sew*,

Design-as-You-Go Quilting, among many more. She lives in Powell River, and enjoys reading, gardening, boating, dogs and red wine.

Where to Buy • Order from all Canadian bookstores and online from caitlinpress.com. \$26.



Villani and Company is pleased to announce that **Brandon Henderson** has joined the firm.



Brandon was born and raised in Powell River, where he gained a close connection to the sporting community, playing local minor hockey and then for the Powell River Regals.

Brandon attended VIU (with a Criminology major) and then completed his Law Degree at Thompson Rivers University in 2018.

During law school Brandon focused his attention on access to justice and volunteered at a local transition house, discussing the realities of domestic violence with high school students. His other area of interest was artificial intel-

ligence and telecommunications.

During his six years of practicing law, Brandon has gained a wealth of litigation experience, representing clients at both the Provincial and Supreme Courts, as well as the various British Columbia Tribunals.

While Brandon’s primary practice areas will be in Civil Litigation and Family Law, he looks forward to assisting clients in all areas of law in an efficient and effective manner.



VILLANI & COMPANY

Phoenix Plaza • 604 485-6188 • villaniandco.com

Bloom Therapy’s Holiday gift shop is open!

Beautiful Gifts

Flower & Bouquet of the Month Subscriptions
Christmas Flower Deliveries until Dec. 24th Noon

bloom-therapy.ca



Voted #1 Florist!

BLOOM Therapy



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5300 Yukon Avenue
at Springtime Garden Centre
Wednesdays to Sundays 10 am – 4 pm
Fridays til 7 pm
December 24 10 am to 2 pm
Online Store is open 24/7
Offering pick up + delivery on all orders.

LOCAL NON-FICTION CONT.

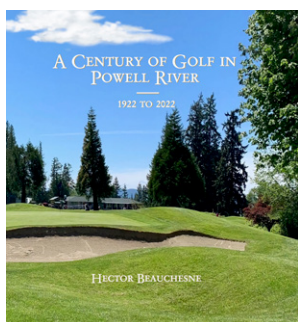
Here, golf is much more than a game.

Hector Beauchesne has been a member of the Powell River Golf Club since he moved here in 1982. This year, the retired chartered accountant wrote *A Century of Golf in Powell River*, a beautifully-executed compilation of historic photographs, stories and research.

The book is available for \$42 (pre-paid) at Myrtle Point Pro Shop.

Why did you decide to write a book about the history of golf in Powell River?

Hector • Bill and Nan Cornwall, long-time members of the Golf Club, were catalysts in my decision to write about the history of golf in Powell River. In a chance encounter in 2020, Nan Cornwall voiced her concern that the history of our Golf Club would be lost if someone didn't write it down.



What surprised you the most when doing your research?

Hector • I was surprised the earlier history was more complete, more detailed and more readily available than recent history. The Powell River Company had an editor and nineteen reporters producing the monthly *Digester*, which was published from 1922 to 1965, (with a five-year hiatus during the Depression). Thankfully, the *Digester* was digitized by the Museum, and made available online.

What do you hope people learn/understand about the history of golf in Powell River?

Hector • I hope, from the narrative and photographs in the book, people will learn/understand about:

The generous contributions of the Powell River Company and MacMillan Blodel towards the recreational life of the community, especially golf.

That golf has been and continues to be a sport for all ages, both young and old, a sport that people can begin after retirement, and a sport for people from all walks of life.

The surprising number of Powell River juniors who pursued careers in the golf industry, and their amazing accomplishments.

The debt of gratitude we owe to volunteers in Powell



HECTOR'S FAVOURITE LOCAL GOLF IMAGE: "This photo, in *A Century of Golf in Powell River*, showing a lone golfer, putting in the late evening on the ninth green at the old Townsite course," said Hector Beauchesne. "The photo captures so much. It shows the proximity of the course to the mill log pond and hulks. It shows the manicured slope of the course descending to the well-bunkered first green below. It captures the long shadows, the peaceful beauty of the scenery and of the grounds, which were transformed decades earlier from the contrasting logging slash.

River, who have helped to provide and maintain our golf course.

The main reason we undertook to build an eighteen-hole golf course at Myrtle Point, rather than a more affordable nine-hole course, was to further the tourism and retirement industry in the community.

The support golf has received from government, the business community, and qathet School District.

How Powell River has benefitted from having a golf facility.

The contributions golf has made to charitable causes, such as the Bruce Denniston Bone Marrow Society and the David Court Memorial Fund.

The active presence of Myrtle Point Golf Club on the Provincial and National golf scene.

The wildlife habitat Myrtle Point golf course provides.

The natural beauty inherent in a golf facility.

And, possibly, why so many people have been attracted to the sport.

Why is golf important to you?

Hector • Golf has meant many things to me at various stages in my life.

I was introduced to golf at age fourteen, when vacationing in Saskatchewan. An uncle invited my brother and me to accompany him as he golfed the Kenossee Lake course. We collected a gallon of lost balls as we wandered along. Inspired by the fact Uncle had fabricated his own golf clubs in his forge on the farm, we went back to grandfather's home and made two crude clubs from materials in Peper's workshop. With these we batted golf balls around

prairie pastures during the rest of our visit. This simple introduction to the game of golf resulted in a lifelong pursuit of the sport, and a special bond with my uncle that endured over the rest of his 100 years.

In my youth, golf was a wholesome and inexpensive sport I could enjoy with high school friends. I have actively maintained some of these lifelong friendships through annual golf visits.

In my working years, golf was a great way to socialize with workmates outside the work environment. Company golf tournaments and inter-regional golf competitions fostered camaraderie and were a good morale booster. Parish golf tournaments also brought parishioners together socially, and helped getting to know them better.

As a father, golf is something I have enjoyed doing with my three sons.

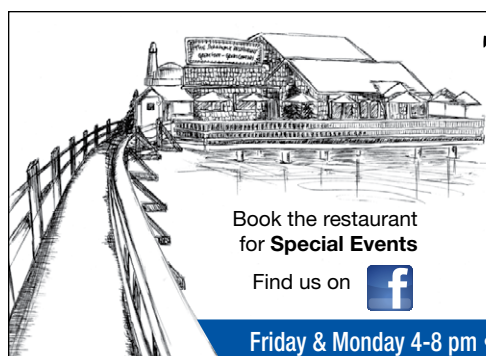
Throughout life, golf has helped me meet people and form new friendships.

Golf has given me some enjoyable travel experiences and taken me to destinations in Canada, the USA and Mexico I would not otherwise have seen.


Golf has enabled me to give back to my community in a worthwhile and lasting way.

In my senior years the game of golf has been an important form of exercise and recreation. Walking five hundred kilometers during the golfing season, while enjoying some fifty rounds of golf in natural and peaceful surroundings has undoubtedly contributed to both my mental and physical wellbeing.

Lastly, were it not for golf, I wouldn't have written this book.



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About Jenny • An artist and illustrator in qathet.

Where to buy • Sticker boxes and more are available at the Soapy Dragon boutique, Ecosentials local market, and at JennyAllenTaves.com. Boxes retail for \$39



Local Photographers • Powell River Orphaned Wildlife Society (PROWLS) Fundraising Calendar

About the Calendar

• Stunning photos of local wildlife, by local photographers in support of our wildlife rehabilitation work.

Where to Buy • Calendars will be on sale at Springtime Garden Centre, Mother Nature and Paperworks. If you are ordering two or more, contact PROWLS and we will deliver. \$25



Anna May Bennett • 'Paintings from the West Coast' Calendar 2024

Where to Buy • Available at Turadh Fine Art in the Townsite Public Market. turadhfineart@gmail.com. Or call/text Anna at 604-223-4178.

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Doug Unger • Powell River, Naturally 2024

About the Calendar

Featuring a gallery of photos by Powell River photographer Douglas Unger.

Where to buy • Available at douglasungerphotography.com or phone 604-223-2346. \$25.



Carl Anderson • Sea Forest Photography 2024

About the Calendar

Each month features a photograph captured within the qathet region and bonus images printed on glossy photo-quality paper.

About Carl • A local photographer, born and raised here, who focuses on capturing the area's natural beauty in an accurate and interesting way.

Where to buy • Calendars are available now, for local pickup or delivery. Contact Carl through facebook.com/seaforestphotography or by email at seaforestphotography@gmail.com. \$35 each, or 3 for \$100

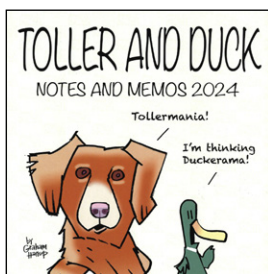


Graham Harrop • Toller And Duck, Notes & Memos 2024

About the Calendar

Colourful cartoons plus an easygoing agenda for the new year. Part proceeds from each book sold will be donated to Toller Rescue.

Where to Buy • From the qathet Living office, or at amazon.ca. \$13.95 or \$15 on Amazon.



2024... did you know: It will be the Year of the Dragon • Eight of the 10 most populous countries on earth are holding federal elections, including China and Russia • BC will also hold a

provincial election this year • So will Tla'amin Nation • A total solar eclipse can be seen from North America on April 8 • Summer will bring the Olympics, in Paris • It's a leap year.

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EARLIER LOCAL 2023 WORKS

OTHER NEW & LOCAL

Autumn Skye • 11 new Inspiration Cards

About the Deck • Card deck featuring full images of artwork on one side and aligning messages on the back. They are intended to inspire and empower the user through reflective imagery and sweet and simple messages and insights, allowing personal intuition and meditation.



Add these 11 new cards to your existing oracle deck of 55 Inspiration Cards by Autumn Skye. Or available as a complete set of 66 Cards (including the new 2023 edition)

About the Author • Autumn Skye exhibits and teaches worldwide, and otherwise thrives and paints in the beautiful temperate-rainforest of qathet.

Where to Buy • The inspiration cards are available at Artifact Gallery 4690 Marine Ave, or online etsy.com/ca/shop/AutumnSkyeART

As featured in the July issue of qathet Living:

Admit One

• By Little Pharmer

Find the album at Rocket Music and littlepharmer.ca.

Steve and Eve Save the Planet - I Can Hear your Heart Beep

• By Prashant Miranda, Paul Shore and Deborah Katz Henriquez
Find the graphic novel at Pollen Sweaters and on amazon.ca

Dear Fin

• By Andrea Layne Black

Find it as an ebook at Chapters Indigo or at amazon.ca

Mystic of the Womb: A Journal for Cultivating Wombfulness through Pelvic Bowl Steaming

• By Lana Joy Parra

Find the books at Pocket Books and on Amazon.ca

Sheltering in the Backrush

• By Jeanette Taylor

Find this book at Chapters Indigo and amazon.ca



Scream Therapy: A Punk Journey through Mental Health

• By Jason Schreuers
Find the book at screamtherapyhq.com and at The Patricia Theatre box office.

Building Tomorrow: Averting Environmental Crisis With a New Economic System

• By Paddy Le Flufy

Find this book on amazon.ca

Almost Brown: A Mixed Race Family Memoir

• By Charlotte Gill

Find this book online.

The Last Wildlife Control Officer in British Columbia: Thirty Years of Dealing with Problem Predators

• By Dennis Pemble

Find it at FriesenPress, Indigo and amazon.ca

Soul Food in Starving Times

• By Juliette Jarvis

Find it on amazon.ca



Daughters and Grandson



Grandkids

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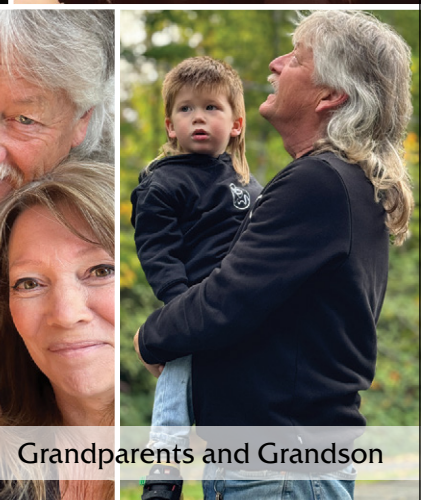
A big thank you to my family, friends, clients and colleagues for their support year after year.



Val & Kelly



Our Daughters



Grandparents and Grandson

Wishing you the best for the New Year 2024!

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Sad, thin eagle is strong again

BY MERRILEE PRIOR

It was early evening in mid-July when the call came to PROWLs about an eagle on the Mermaid Trail at Saltery Bay Provincial Park.

The park operator was staying with the eagle to make sure people gave it plenty of space. We collected the kennel and blankets and headed out.

The park operator, Caitliin Stewart, met us at the trail head at Mermaid Cove and took us a short distance up the trail, to where a very young, sad eagle was standing.

He seemed almost relieved when we picked him up. It was immediately clear that he was very thin. Clearly, his parents had not been feeding him for a while before he came out of the nest. As painful as the fall must have been, it saved his life!

We contacted OWL, the raptor specialists in Delta, right away and arranged to send him out first thing the next morning on Pacific Coastal

Airlines. When they examined him, they warned me that he was so emaciated that it was unlikely he would survive, but they would use all the tricks they knew to try to bring him back from the brink.

But bring him back they did! He slowly got stronger and gained weight. His feather development had been seriously impacted by the nutritional deficiencies, and they had to wait for him to moult both his body and his flight feathers.

He joined other eagles of the same age and learned to forage and fly. Five months later, in mid-November, he made the return trip.

We took him back to Mermaid Cove on a beautiful sunny day. When the cage door opened, he wasted no time in coming out. He looked around quickly, then lifted off and flew along the shore, just as an eagle should.

We wish him sunny days, good fishing, and long life! 🦅



ALL TOGETHER NOW: Top, Merrilee Prior releases this eagle back at Mermaid Cove. Right, the raptor was cared for by OWL. Far right, park operator Caitliin Stewart, with Merrilee and the eagle. *Photos by Michelle Pennell and Herb Daum*

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“Basically a dirty snowball” The glorious Geminids meteor shower lights up local skies December 13 & 14

BY ANGELIKA HACKETT

One of the best night sky spectacles of the year returns in December! It's the annual meteor shower known as the Geminids. If you've ever wondered what they are and why they are called that, read on.

As the earth travels around the sun, it regularly passes through clouds of debris, made up of tiny dust particles. This dust is shed and left behind by a comet during its passage around the sun.

When earth meets up with such a dust cloud, these particles (called meteoroids) enter the atmosphere, flashing up as meteors.

Some are bright enough to leave a fiery trail. Larger pieces reaching the ground—a rare event—are called meteorites.

When you drive through a snowstorm, the snow appears to be coming at you from a point. Likewise, as the night-time side of earth is racing through a dust cloud, the meteors appear to come at us from a point—the radiant.

The background constellation of stars behind the radiant gives the shower its name.

In August, the Perseids' radiant is in the constellation Perseus. The Perseids are caused by debris from Comet 109P/Swift-Tuttle which orbits the sun every 133 years. The December Geminids appear to originate from the constellation Gemini (Latin for “twins”), but can flare up anywhere in the sky.

The twins are the mythological half-brothers Castor and Pollux, one of them the offspring of a philandering Zeus! They are the two bright stars at the eastern end of the constellation Gemini. It's located just east of Orion, in the south-eastern sky in the evening, moving westward throughout the night.

This shower is unusual—it is not

How to watch the Geminids in qathet

This year's Geminids' peak on December 14 at 11am, when the earth passes through the thickest part of the dust cloud. That's unfortunately in the daytime, but both nights of December 13 and 14 should be good for observing, especially since the waxing crescent moon will set early. We are lucky in qathet for having several nearby areas with no interfering lights. Now hope for clear skies!

The best places in qathet would be any dark area away from lights. People in the countryside or on Texada have an advantage! Mowat Bay is good—we went there for the Perseids in August. The Willingdon pier would be good, too, with a wide open sky, although there are some lights still visible. But you could simply sit in your back yard if it has a view of much of the sky and is dark (ask your neighbours to turn off any bright security lights!) It would be an advantage to have a clear view to the south-east toward Gemini, but the meteors can appear anywhere in the sky.

caused by dust from a comet, but rather from an asteroid, 3200 Phaethon. A comet is basically a dirty snowball in a very large orbit around the sun; an asteroid is a solid body, also revolving around the sun.

Phaethon approaches the sun closer than any other named asteroid, shedding dust and particles due to its relatively high temperatures. Orbiting the sun every 534 days, it is named after the mythological sun-god Helios's son. ☼

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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.


.....
_____ ʔax^w Snow

.....
_____ ʔa giyt Frozen


.....
_____ sisłč Frost

.....
_____ tu? Ice

.....
_____ čłm čłm Cold



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ʔayʔajuθəm orthography

Ɔəʔamən | kómoks | χ^wεmaƆk^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
ķ	popping k
k ^w	kw
ķ ^w	rounded, popping k
ł	Breathy L sound
ᵑ	popping p
ᵑ̣	popping q

q ^w	rounded q
ᵑ̣ ^w	rounded, popping q
š	sh
ɰ	popping t
t ^θ	t-th
Ɔ	tl
θ	th
x ^w	wh (like in who)
χ	Hhhh
χ ^w	Hhhh ^w
λ	kl
λ̣	popping kl
ʔ	glottal stop: uh oh

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					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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WHAT'S UP

Kings score Hockey Hall of Famer Glenn Anderson

The Powell River Kings scored by bringing six-time Stanley Cup Champion Glenn Anderson on board as the team's new General Manager (GM).

Glenn visited Powell River as a special guest for the Kings home opening weekend in September and team president Stephan Seeger who has known Glenn for over 20 years, said that is when the conversations about his involvement began.

"He signed autographs the first night and I saw that he was interested in what was going on in junior hockey," said Stephan.

Glenn started his Hall of Fame career in the BCHL with the Bellingham Blazers in 1977. He went on to win five Stanley Cups with the Oilers and one with the Rangers.

Former GM Chad van Diemen will remain with the team and has been named the team's vice-president. "He has deep hockey experience, he knows the Powell River community, and he's demonstrated his commitment and love for the team over and over again," said Stephan.

"He is always thinking about the team and what he can do to make the league better, and to overlook a guy like Chad would be foolish from a management perspective. I couldn't be more pleased to have a right-hand man like Chad; he is an indispensable part of the Powell River Kings."

Glenn will work alongside Stephan Seeger Junior who was named as the team's assistant GM. "One of the conditions that Glenn had when he came in was that he'd have an assistant general manager that he can work with," said Stephan Senior.

"He has known my son for a very long time, and they share the same goals in a lot of ways." Stephan Seeger Junior is a former BCHLer and a member of the Birch Group and has been serving in a management role since the start of the season. He also played junior hockey in the OHL and QMJHL, then went on the play pro hockey in Germany.

"You are going to see him and Glenn work in a symbiotic relationship to produce players, recruits and work on commitments with the help of Chad and the coaching staff," said Stephan Senior.

Former Kings president, Aaron Reid has been named director of business operations.

Doby does it!

Texada Island's biggest aviation aficionado, Doby Dobrostanski, was recognized with the Robert S. Day Award for his work as founder of the Texada AeroSpace Camp (TASC) recently.

This trophy is awarded annually in recognition of outstanding excellence, contribution, and leadership of an individual or organization for the promotion and development of aviation in British Columbia, in keeping with the objectives of the BC Aviation Council. The first Award was presented in 1948.

At the awards ceremony, a video was shown about the Texada AeroSpace Camp and in that video, Doby thanked all those who helped along the way, as it for sure takes a village to accomplish what he and his team have accomplished.

Jaclyn Miller acclaimed qSD chair

qathet School District (qSD) chairperson, Dale Lawson, announced at a board meeting on October 25 that she is stepping down from her position as the board's chairperson, but will remain on as a trustee.

Elections are held annually for the position of chairperson and Dale decided not to put her name forward again. Dale nominated the board's vice-chairperson, Jaclyn Miller, for the position of chairperson and Jaclyn was acclaimed as the new chairperson at the November 15 meeting. Kirsten Van't Schip was acclaimed as vice chair.

Museum closes for shelving project

In 2021, the qathet Museum began to turn down donations due to our current storage facility reaching capacity and the artifacts being stored in non-ideal conditions. Thus began the qathet Museum's quest for a solution to fit its 55-year-old home. The qathet

Museum eventually learned of mobile shelving storage systems and began the process to acquire one. Mobile shelving will significantly improve storage standards and accessibility of collections.

In order to install a mobile shelving storage system, the qathet Museum's collection room must first be emptied out. The collection is being stored in an off-site storage facility while other steps, such as asbestos remediation and shelving installation, occur.

As we currently hold over 10,000 artifacts, the time and effort needed to pack and move everything is enormous. By closing our doors to the public and cancelling other activities, staff will be able to focus all their time on this monumental task. Starting January 1st, 2024, we will be closed to the public until further notice.

It will be a long road to get the mobile shelving installed and the entire collection rehoused, but having well cared for, easily accessible artifacts is our top priority. Once this project is over the qathet Museum also looks forward to being able to accept donations from the public once again!

— Mary Williams

Powell River's living wage among highest in BC

As the cost of essentials continues to rise, particularly for housing and food, Powell River's living wage has climbed to \$25.06 per hour for 2023, marking an increase of 7.4% – or \$1.73 – from last year, the 2023 Living Wage Update report shows. Powell River's Living Wage is among the highest in BC.

The living wage, calculated by Lift Community Services, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, BC Office, and Living Wage for Families BC, is the hourly rate that each of two parents working full-time must earn to support a family of four based on the actual costs of living in a particular community.

Other BC communities across the province with sky-high Living Wages include Clayoquot Sound (\$26.51/hr), Golden (\$25.78), Metro Vancouver (\$25.68), Sunshine Coast (\$25.61), and Greater Victoria (\$25.40).

*Wishing warmth, kindness and joy to you and yours
this holiday season*



Rachel Blaney

Member of Parliament for North Island-Powell River

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Irradayampattu clinic up and running

What a rewarding day I had on October 17 when I visited the India Health Clinic, finished and functioning.

A local Powell River committee started planning for this clinic in 2017 – I was privileged to be the chair of that committee. For years we chose sites, raised funds, made plans, contacted groups, and generally worked toward our goal.

We purchased an ambulance for the village of Irradayampattu and then paired with an order of amazing Nuns the “Heralds of Good News”. They are called to help the most needy and most marginalized; they work to meet their educational, health, and social needs. I started a four-year correspondence with their Mother Superior, Mother Theo – an amazing, loving Sister.

The Sisters donated land for the clinic and worked with local builders on a wonderful building a few steps from their local convent. This close placement allows the Sisters to attend to patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

They ensure staffing with trained nurses, pharmacists, and physicians. The week before we were there they saved a woman’s life who had a potentially lethal scorpion bite in the early hours of the morning.

Betty Rae, my trip companion, and I were treated to a parade of well-wishers and welcomed royally. In the morning, we toured the clinic and then we talked to many of the patients as they

left, usually with medicine in hand.

We witnessed 76 patients arrive and be treated.

As we sat under a tree, near the clinic, many of the patients stopped to talk to us. Father Dass was happy to tell us their stories. By the end of the day my heart was bursting with joy; what an accomplishment, what a result.

– Lu Wuthrich

Hospice seeks volunteer visitors

Every year The Four Tides Hospice Society delivers a training workshop series for new volunteer visitors.

Volunteer visitors offer support to clients nearing end of life, their caregivers, and those who are grieving a loss. They offer compassionate listening, companionship and sharing of tools and resources. Some volunteer visitors provide vigils during the last 72 hours of life.

Guided by principles established by the BC Hospice Palliative Care Association and encompassing experiential learning elements, the training covers the needs of the dying, medical care, family dynamics, spiritual care, cultural competency, Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID), grief and bereavement, boundaries, and confidentiality.

The next training series begins in January and registration is now open. There is no cost for the training.

If you are interested in volunteering and are patient, compassionate and non-judgmental, please contact Sarah Joy at coordinator@fourtideshospice.org or 604-223-7309. 📞

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40 Years of Milestones: Y

From Our Family to Yours,

1983



Felix Massullo has seen a lot of changes during his 40 years of running the local GM dealership. When he opened up shop in 1983, with interest rates at 14%, he could never have predicted that his business would go through a time when interest rates were near zero –or that it would have to survive a global pandemic and the resulting shortage of vehicles and parts.

One thing that hasn't changed is the family feel at the dealership. When Felix took over the dealership, he brought with him three mechanics from his Villa Esso. All three worked at Massullo Motors until retirement. Even today, most of the staff have been there for over a decade, and some for several decades.

Family has always been part of the business. His wife Annette Massullo has been his biggest supporter (and host of numerous staff parties) since day one. Son Duane joined, helping in a variety of areas, and is now the service and support specialist. After running Villa Esso for years for her dad, Corinne officially joined the team five years ago and is general manager. Her husband, Scott Franklin, whom she met when they were both going to school at the Canadian Automotive Institute, has been selling cars for Massullo Motors since 1994.

“The staff has been an extension of our family,” said Felix. And he shows that whether it’s by investing in technical training and classes for his employees (so they can, for instance, service electric vehicles) or by literally inviting them to the house for Christmas parties, barbecues and birthdays hosted by Felix and Annette.

Purchases such as the alignment machine, scanners, electric vehicle tools, computers and more, showed staff that they were valued, while ensuring the company was able to give customers quality service.

These days, Felix is spending more time on the golf course and out fishing, but he’s still a regular sight on the sales floor or garage. Generations of qathet residents are used to seeing him there, and Massullo Motors has generations of customers buying and servicing their vehicles there.


“I used to know 90% of the customers by name,” said Felix. “Now it’s more like 10%.”

Those changes in the community are writ in Massullo Motors’ operations. The reduced influence of the mill on the community is particularly notable there. Twenty years ago, when the mill was on strike, there was not enough work for the technicians and they’d rotate extended days off to keep everyone employed. Now, even with the mill closed, they’re booking work two or

three weeks out. (They do their best to accommodate breakdowns and urgent car care.) They also notice the changes in the number of out-of-province inspections they’re asked to do, reflecting that influx of people moving to town.

Other changes include a new software program being rolled out throughout the dealership, enabling increased efficiency, and giving customers the opportunity to get appointment and service reminders via text and email.

Other things never change – Massullo Motors has supported many different charities and sports teams and looks forward to carrying that on. And they can still put you behind the wheel of just the right vehicle!

COVID brought many challenges to the dealership and though they managed to keep cars rolling during that time, the sales lot had never been emptier, as supply chain issues meant a shortage of vehicles to sell. The lot is starting to fill up now, though not yet back to pre-pandemic levels. Still, Massullo Motors can get you the car you want. Through their connection with ADESA Auctions and dealer trading opportunities across BC and Alberta, the team at Massullo Motors can find you pretty much any vehicle, as they do what they’ve been doing for four decades – keeping the community rolling. 

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“The Massullo/Franklin Family want to extend their deep appreciation to all of their customers and their dedicated staff and look forward to serving you in the future.”

The crew at Massullo Motors (and when they started):

Felix Massullo (1983) – Dealer Operator
Rob Mayenburg (1986) – Technician
Maryl Foster (1987) – Controller
Bruno Rubboli (1987) – Technician (Retiring this year)
Scott Franklin (1994) – Sales Manager
Chris Cecconi (2003) – Parts Manager
Travis Lingard (2004) – Service Manager
Troy Lawson (2007) – Technician
Duane Massullo (2007) – Service & Support Specialist
Corinne Franklin (2018) – General Manager
John Harris (2018) – Sales Consultant
Chelsey Harris (2018) – Marketing
Brendan Wruth (2018) – Parts Consultant/Tire Specialist
Russell Pielle (2020) – 4th Year Apprentice Technician
Danny Carto (2021) – Technician
Dakota Budgell (2022) – Service Writer
Matt Wilson (2022) – Auto Porter
Drayden Harris (2023) – Detailer
Marick Harris (2023) – Detailer
Chance Rivest (2023) – 3rd Year Apprentice Technician
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A LETTER FROM THE slash





From her running shoes and gravel bike, **Stephanie Reed** has observed forestry in this region's backcountry for more than 40 years. She can no longer ignore the devastation she sees.

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BY STEPHANIE REED

It's early October and I'm in a cut block. I've made my way across the broken ground to sit beneath one of the few trees left standing, a Douglas fir.

Surrounded by sharp blast rock and bleached fragments of discarded tree limbs, the low bush blackberries have hit their stride in these open conditions and can be seen scrambling in all directions. Ravens broadcast overhead, in their exclusive language. They're keeping an eye on me.

My chosen tree, the lonely fir, bears the scars of the carnage that has taken place here recently. As its companions fell all around, its limbs were torn off and flung, smaller trees perhaps collapsing into the big fir as they succumbed to the bite of the blade. Chunks of dessicated moss are strewn about its base like old sun-bleached rags. I look high up and see a few dry grey tendrils waving weakly from a branch.

A short time ago, when the trees were still here, this was a forest, its floor overlaid with luminous mosses, the tiny nonvascular plants sustained by the moisture in the community of trees. The mosses themselves—a miniature ecosystem, holding water like a sponge and providing sustenance for other plants. Invertebrates, amphibians, and tiny mammals would have relied on their presence.

That the minuscule plants filter out heavy metals and pollutants, and are able to prevent flooding, endlessly fascinates me. I would brush my fingers over them, feeling their moisture, watching the delicate seta pop back up. In this environment they are remarkably resilient.

I've come here to pay tribute to the trees, to the few that have been left standing. But, also to the ones that have been spirited away. I did not intimately know this particular forest. Which is precisely the reason that I have chosen this spot. It will be easier for me to compose this article in a clearcut with which I am not as emotionally attached. Too

many of my special places are gone now, and others are being borne out on logging trucks as I sit here.

The rumbling, the screeching, downshifting—these are all sounds that deeply disturb me. But these are the sounds I cannot escape. As long as there are trees with timber value standing, the trucks will bear them away.

These forests have been my playground since the farthest reaches of my memory. My parents emigrated here from Holland in the 1960's, utterly captivated by the 'endless' wilderness, the mountains, rivers, ocean. I was born and raised here, walking in these woods with my parents and siblings.

As a teenager competing in track and field, I ran joyfully and endlessly in the trails.

For the past 30 years, I've run or mountain biked in the forest nearly every day, far into the back country up trails and logging roads.

As a young mom, I visited the forest many times with a baby or two in belly or in tow. I showed my children the trees, the plants, the mushrooms. We would often explore the forest just behind our house.

We would sift through decomposing logs in search of salamanders. We would hide and seek, watch tiny woodland birds flit amongst the salal, we'd marvel at the shafts of sunlight filtering through the trees and illuminating the understory before coming to rest gently on the ribboned bark of *Thuja plicata*, the iconic Western red cedar. My littlest ones fell asleep cocooned in their wrappings, pressed into my warmth, breathing the oxygen rich forest air.

As I was fully immersed in the early years of raising children, my beloved forests were rapidly disappearing. It had been happening for more than a century, but the rate of deforestation with the turn of government and the advent of industrial logging, seemed to be accelerating. The days of a tree being individually appraised, evaluated according to its unique characteristics, and felled painstakingly over the span of an entire day were gone. Now entire tracts of forest could fall in the space of a few days, with every last tree lying prostrate, limbs hacked off, awaiting the arrival of the logging trucks.

Where short decades ago BC stood richly garbed



SMOKY STACKS: Mountain biker Stephanie Reed stands in a recently-harvested cut block with her dog Freyja (previous page, and above), as plumes of smoke from the burnt piles blow across the landscape. *Photos by Duane Ranta*

I've come here to pay tribute to the trees, to the few that have been left standing. But, also to the ones that have been spirited away.

– Stephanie Reed

in a millennial mantle of intact forest, encompassing all that is delicately unique to that system, she is now pocked with the disfiguring scars of a short feeding frenzy of clearcutting.

Forests that encompassed lifefoms and ecological processes we were only beginning to understand and could not have dreamed up, were our reality. A barely tapped trove of medicinal wonders. The mightiest form of carbon sequestration on earth, these massive conifers were seedlings rooted in the Middle Ages.

I have come to rely on its sanctuary increasingly as the years have passed. I consider myself a forest dweller. It is where I feel most untroubled. At rest. I feel secure in the forest. I always have. I feel a deep kinship with the trees and all of the life supported therein.

A Google search of “Coastal second-growth forests” will take you to a Government of Canada site followed by a BC Government site – both quick to assure the reader of the stewardship and sustainability of our forestry practices.

But this is far from what I observe in our local forests, where whole stands are trucked out in a steady procession.

This, in the new environment of heat wave, drought, forest fires and flooding. Historically these were all cyclical natural occurrences that were moderated by the productive old growth forests. The same forests that regulate climate at local, regional and continental scales, by producing atmospheric moisture and controlling temperature.

In just the past two decades, BC has lost 86,000 square kilometres of forest, due to logging (two thirds) and wildfires (one third), according to Global Forest Watch. That’s an area 2.5 times the size of Vancouver Island.

Worldwide, 12% of forests have been lost to logging and wildfires since 2000, according to Global Forest Watch.

Meanwhile, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is imploring countries to “Conserve ecosystems. Protect and restore forests.”

I sit and watch logging truck after logging truck barreling through the dwindling tracts of forest to deposit our forest into the ocean. Our maturing second growth forests, our next best bet for climate mitigation.

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Merry Christmas
to you and yours.

– From the de Rooy family



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climate change is to allow trees that have already been planted to mature. We simply leave them alone.

As trees get older, they are able to absorb more carbon. Significantly more carbon. But in this town we are still cutting down our remaining century old trees.

Western red cedar, a cornerstone species is now showing signs of decline from our hotter, drier summers. Yesterday, I walked a cutblock close to town which was logged this past March. Many of the Western red cedar seedlings had already become brown crisps.

The past year I have walked the local trails weeping. I have sat amongst staggering piles of cutblock waste in heaps, like grave markers in an empty wasteland.

I have haunted the scalded and stripped slopes behind my house, after it, too, was logged this past year, begging the forgiveness of the disappeared trees on behalf of my species. Beseeking the pardon of the trees I had known and loved. The ones I had foraged mushrooms under. Had sat amongst. The trees I rode past as an ambassador for the Powell River leg of the BC Bike Race in 2019. The trees I was unable to save. The trees I possessed no rights to save.

But now I have come finally to a place where my desperation has trumped my reclusive nature, and duty has beckoned me out. I no longer enjoy this place of my childhood. All that is essential to me (save family and friends) is either gone or rapidly disappearing.

The ravens continue to call and fly overhead, their charcoal wings making a distinctive “whoop whoop” sound as they slice through the air. They must wonder what tricks I am up to, what I have come to meddle with in this place, as I sit here hunkered up against this lone tree. A short time ago this patch of brown was a vibrant community of trees, enjoying a symbiotic relationship with these and countless other species of birds, large and small mammals, amphibians and insects. All part of the circle of life. It is very difficult for me to conjure up an image of what had been here. Even though it was such a short time ago. Everything has been taken or destroyed, save a few ragged conifers dotting the moonscape.

The weather is shifting between cloud and sun and the October air has a decidedly cool tang to it. But the sun, when it does peek through, pulses hot on the bare earth and on my skin. This heat I have felt increasingly on my

“The cry for climate change action is being broadcast all over the world. And yet I step outside my door [and trucks are] bearing the forest away.”

– Stephanie Reed

long forays into the backcountry as a gravel cyclist.

Over the past five years or so and now into my fifth decade, I’ve made the switch from running to cycling due to a lifetime’s worth of sports injuries and aging. Fortunately, cycling has successfully replaced that innate need for me to access both the wilderness and enjoy physical exertion.

But these days I have largely ceased my backcountry forays. As the number of fresh clearcuts increases, so does my anxiety upon each new discovery. As I pedal through the deforested areas in the summer, the effects of the clearcuts are immediate. Easily perceived by the layman. By me. Scorching heat. The absence of moisture.

Even a small patch of forest spared the saw will give instant relief from the ravages of the sun. Then when the seasonal rains hammer down, the forest takes up its task of flood mitigation by absorbing through its many filters and layers.

I can bear witness to fresh deforestation on nearly every backcountry outing I have made over the past five years. The cry for climate change action is being broadcast all over the world.

And yet I step outside my door in one of the planet’s most biologically diverse regions to the sight and sound of logging truck after logging truck after logging truck, bearing the forest away. Exchanging the incommutable for a dollar amount. I grapple for understanding that at such a time as this that industrial-scale logging would continue.

I simply cannot reconcile my feelings with what I am seeing and what I know to be true. My misery became complete this past March when, as usual, I was actively avoiding fresh

clearcuts on one of my rides, I happened upon yet another one.

An area encompassing an entire recreation trail and running alongside well established hiking and biking trails had been decimated.

I stopped and stood astride my bike, knowing somehow that this was it for me. A feeling of utter powerlessness overcame me. I couldn't do this anymore. My riding days were essentially over.

I stood silently, bereft, strangely unable to connect to my emotions. Eventually, I took myself home.

Finally I was able to put pen to paper in the form of a poem, desperate to express how I felt. As I wrote, the emotions rose and finally spilled over. I wept desperately and uncontrollably; my body wracked with accumulated agony over my repeated exposure to the deforestation in the place of my childhood.

Dr. Suess understood. He wrote a great children's book about it in 1971. It's called *The Lorax*.

But neither poetry, nor activism, nor sustainability commitments on the part of governments have stopped the voracious appetite for razing local forests.

Back on my bike in November, I saw fresh pink 'falling boundary' ribbon festooning the moss draped fir and cedar in the trails I ride on.

If you want to experience some fairytale-like mature second growth area with trails that draw an international audience of hikers and mountain bikers alike, please go today. It is my experience that once the ribbons are up, the forest falls soon.

Our benevolent allies, these champions of climate control – our friends the trees, will be exchanged for human currency. And the planet will warm just a bit more. 🌱

Victoria decides how much Northern Sunshine Coast timber is harvested – with public input (including an event Dec. 5)

Western Forest Products; Island Timberlands; Powell River Community Forest; Thichum Forest Products; Tla'amin Nation; BC Timber Sales: these are the biggest forestry outfits in this region. But many of these businesses and agencies do not decide how much wood can be harvested.

That's the job of the provincial government's Chief Forester. Shane Berg (pictured, right), who also regulates how logging and tree-planting are done, among much more.

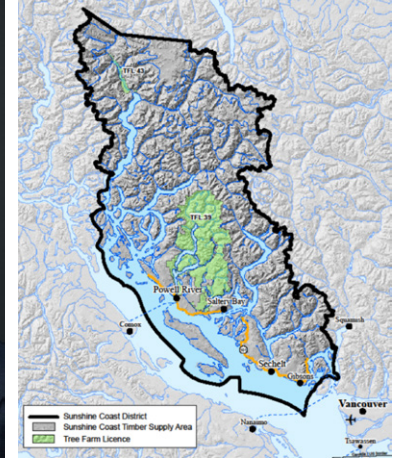
The Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) for the entire Northern Sunshine Coast Timber Supply Area (pictured, right) doesn't change often, or very much. Here is a summary of major changes since the region was established in 1986:

1986: 1.4 million cubic metres AAC

1993: 1.1 million cubic metres AAC

2007: 1.2 million cubic metres AAC

Currently, the BC Ministry of Forests is running a pilot project to replace Forest Stewardship Plans (under which the AAC is decided) with a more



collaborative, Indigenous and public-facing process called Forest Landscape Plans (FLPs). The Sunshine Coast is one of four areas in BC where this is being tried.

On December 5, the Ministry is hosting a public event at the ARC Community Event Centre, 5:30 to 8:30 pm, introducing the pilot FLP project to interested citizens.

Scan this QR code to learn more about FLPs, or visit tinyurl.com/forestplans:



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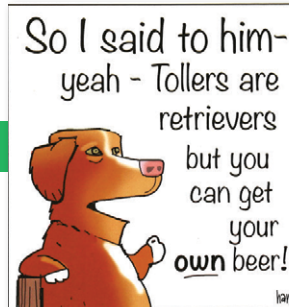
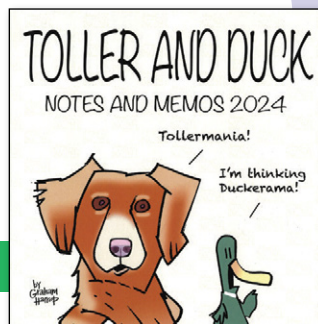
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Toller Tales JIGS AND ZUNGA Take a trip

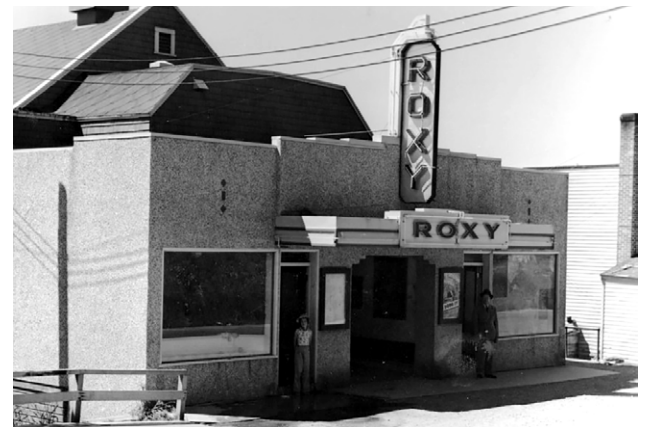


Story by Isabelle Southcott Art by Graham Harrop

Author **Isabelle Southcott** fell in love with Tollers at the age of six when her father brought home a little red ball of fluff called Alexander Rufus of Schubendorf. Today, she is proudly owned by three Tollers, Jigs, Zunga and Decoy.

Artist **Graham Harrop's** cartoons appear in the *Vancouver Sun*, and for more than two decades his cartoons appeared daily in the *Globe and Mail*. His very first cartoons appeared in the *Powell River News*.

This delightful children's book follows the adventure of Jigs and Zunga, two Nova Scotia Duck Tolling retrievers, who live in Powell River as they visit Yarmouth County, NS to meet their relatives and learn more about their heritage.



THE NAME ON EVERYBODY'S LIPS: The Roxy Theatre, in Westview. Photos courtesy of the qathet Museum & Archives

The reel times of the Roxy Theatre, before Snickers

It started in March of 1935: the whispers that Westview, as it was called then, would soon be getting its very own theatre. The Patricia Theatre had already been in place for seven years, and its owner McLeod-Scanlon Amusements were looking to expand.

Under the direction of Myron McLeod-Scanlon had previously sold his shares to McLeod in 1931 – a lot in Westview on Marine Ave was acquired. In October of that year, the Westview Sash & Door Co. had been hired to head the construction, and by December 5, the new theatre was opening its doors to the public.

The Roxy Theatre was a great success in the early



BLAST FROM THE PAST

MARY WILLIAMS

days. The quick construction of this 244 seat venue showed just how eager the community of Westview was to get its own movie theatre. The Roxy Theatre was so quick to open that they weren't even able to paint the front of it for several weeks. They had to wait for the stucco to finish curing first. The first three staff members were Kathleen Brend, Clair Howard, and Mr. Buck.

As both the Patricia and the Roxy Theatre were owned and operated by McLeod, they very often showed the same films but on different days of the week, and both rented out storefronts to local businesses. The Roxy Theatre and its sister operation were going strong for 20 years, before things began to take a turn. Admission prices were increased in 1960, in an effort to cover costs, but in July of 1961, both theatres closed their doors.

Though the Patricia Theatre would reopen and become the beloved theatre we go to today, that was the end of the Roxy Theatre. Now Snickers restaurant welcomes diners where the Roxy Theatre once stood. 🍿



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MEMORIES OF THE MILL

Mill town security and lifestyle, remembered

BY GAIL FENNELL

My family moved from Quesnel to Powell River in January of 1968. In the Cariboo winter, temperatures sometimes fell as low as 40 degrees below zero. You had to plug in your vehicle's block heater overnight in order for it to start in the morning.

We arrived in Powell River the same time the curling rink at the Beach Gardens was destroyed by fire. It was almost 40 degrees above zero. I felt as if spring had arrived! I remember the billboard at the Sallery Bay ferry terminal displaying that the mill employed between 2,200 and 2,300 people.

On our first drive to what would become the historic Townsite, my four-year-old daughter sniffed the air. "It smells like somebody is cooking broccoli," she observed. That odour was known as "the smell of money." I learned that you didn't even have to be a high school graduate to work in the mill earning wages significant enough to own a house, have one or more cars in the driveway, as well as a sizable boat. The mill had a reputation for providing substantial union wages. Production was at an all time high in the 1960's.

Although there were few restaurants and limited shopping facilities, this mill town impressed me. I was captivated by nicely maintained, huge houses with fresh paint jobs, surrounded by manicured gardens. Some had porches on the east to catch the morning sun, and on the west for evening shade and endless, glorious sunsets.

In the places I lived in the interior of BC, we thought



NEAR THE HEIGHT OF THIS REGION'S PROSPERITY: Gail Fennell in her Yarncraft booth at the Powell River Exhibition in 1980.

Photo from Gail Fennell's personal collection.

only the well-off people lived in town. As you ventured farther away from the city center, there was a gradual lessening of the size and maintenance of the homes and properties. The houses became more ramshackle and the yards contained abandoned vehicles or pieces of rusting farm equipment.

Is there a relationship between money and pride of ownership? Does money create motivation to take good care of acquisitions?

Powell River seemed to have it all, even in the outlying areas. I couldn't wait to get my own house and garden.

In earlier days, before environmental consciousness, I heard stories of women hanging their laundry on the clothesline in the Townsite only to have the mill unexpectedly exhaust the smokestack distributing clouds of soot and fly ash on their clean clothes. We would find the tennis courts covered in

it when we went out for a game in the 1970s. This problem ended soon after the Kraft mill opened.

That distinctive "smell of money" hovered in odorous clouds over the Townsite, and regularly drifted up to Cranberry and Wildwood. Only when the wind changed direction did it gently waft its way to Westview. I decided to live and work in Westview.

Not long after I opened my store, Yarncraft, in 1972, I learned the effects on small business when millworkers went on strike. Disposable income dried up. Many employees lived from paycheck to paycheck. They stopped spending until the strike ended.

Local businesses struggled to survive through more than one strike, along with several cutbacks in the number of employees. Families left town to find work. At one time, we couldn't have imagined the town surviving with fewer and fewer mill employees – eventually less than 250 – closing down completely

115

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QATHET

We wish everyone who lives or visits here a
very Merry Christmas, and a Happy 2024



in 2021. Yet it survived and thrived.

Every home seemed to have a small roll of paper about three feet wide. At the mill, imperfect rolls were stripped down near to the cores and returned to the Repulper. Workers were permitted to get a pass-out slip and bring home those cores with usable paper still attached.

Many pieces of equipment could also be taken home. If something broke down, most often it would be completely replaced with new. This was more financially viable than risking expensive down time for future repairs of worn equipment. The replaced parts usually had lots of life in them, and could be patched up suitable for home use. Some parts did go to a mill recovery area for refurbishment.

The mill was proud of its safety programs. Both at Saltery Bay, and again at the mill gate, it posted how many accident-free days since the last mishap.

Overall, they had an excellent safety record. Yet severe tragedies did take place. One or more men died in the smoke stack, another was killed in the yard, and others inside the building. Serious incidents causing severe injuries did happen, sometimes because a workman failed to follow required safety procedures.

A stilted hush fell over the area when bad news permeated the district. Some of the stories were extremely gruesome.

The temperate, nearly Mediterranean climate of this mill town on the west coast of British Columbia provides a highly desirable place to live. Take a drive, especially in the spring, and get bombarded with a multitude of colours in this gardener's paradise, knowing friends and relatives in the north and east have yet to uncover

Not long after I opened my store, Yarncraft, in 1972, I learned the effects on small business when millworkers went on strike. Disposable income dried up. ... They stopped spending until the strike ended.

- Gail Fennell

from their snowy winter blanket.

The city has a club, sport, music, or cultural group to match everyone's needs, desires, and talents. Many athletes were recognized when competing at the national level and beyond. We have salt water and fresh water for boating, fishing, and water sports, as well as trails in the wilderness for hiking, biking and ATVing.

I often comment that people go on holidays to find what we live every day.

All of this cherished lifestyle can be credited to the pulp and paper mill. 🌲

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| MADE THE MOVE

Lighting up their new ho-ho-home

Brian McRae and Mitch Kenyon moved from Vancouver to Powell River, not to “retire,” but to focus on their passions, which are arts and entertainment. Brian loves painting and now has an art studio south of town. Mitch loves entertaining and with Brian’s help, they put on the annual Enchanted Christmas Forest Walk at Twin Eagles Road (see Page 9 for more) and recently the Halloween Maze at the Racquet Centre. Mitch plans to build a garden railway that replicates the old logging railways in the area.

In the past, Mitch has had films in the Hump Film Festival, produced a Fringe Festival play, and put on many fabulous party weekends. Brian grew up on a cattle ranch in the Rockies and finds Powell River represents a return to his rural roots.

Why did you choose to move here?

Mitch • Ever since our best friends bought a house in qathet over ten years ago, they have been touting the virtues of life on the upper Sunshine Coast. Since they grew up in Powell River and Texada Island, we thought maybe they were biased.

Then we started to visit them and saw for ourselves the special beauty of the area.

One day we attended a Philosophers Café and almost everyone there introduced themselves as having recently moved to Powell River and loving it. That weekend we learned about an acreage for sale, the stars aligned and we started the long process of moving our lives up the coast.

When? Where from

Mitch • We are still moving from Vancouver, one pickup truckload at a time.

What surprised you once you moved?

Mitch • How friendly the people are, even when I suck at darts (we recently joined a darts league).

Brian • How big and varied the arts and music scene is up here. This doesn’t feel like a sleepy town at all!

What made you decide to move here?

Mitch • We were moving into a phase of our lives where work was not our principal focus. We were looking for a place that would offer us opportunities to explore interests and hobbies and still have a strong sense of community. We’ve found this here. Because qathet is two ferries away from the Lower Mainland, this is neither a bedroom community nor a truck stop along the way to somewhere else. It is a tourist destination, where the locals are tourists all year long.

Where is your favourite place here?

Brian • For me it will always be along the shores of the Salish Sea.

Mitch • While we have gone many times to Eagle River, Inland Lake, and Lund, I spend the most time on the pickleball courts at the Racquet Centre.

How did you first hear about qathet?

Mitch • I provided liability insurance to qathet and the City of Powell River when they joined the Municipal Insurance Association back in 1988.

Brian • I first came up here in the late 80’s



ENCHANTED: Mitch Kenyon and Brian McRae on their Enchanted Forest Walk of 2022. This year’s event starts Dec. 17. See Page 9 for more.

to visit a friend who grew up in Tla’amin. The raw beauty of the coast struck me then, but I didn’t think at the time I would end up living here.

What would make this a nicer community?

Mitch • A walking/cycling path along highway 101 between Lang Bay Store and Black Point Store that would eventually connect to Powell River.

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

Brian • Restaurants that stayed open later.

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

Mitch • Getting friends to come visit us. Then getting friends to leave once they ex-

perienced this place!

If you were mayor, what would you do?

Mitch • Build a backup route to Highway 101. Improve safety at the Joyce and Highway 101 intersection.

What are qathet’s best assets?

Mitch • Natural beauty, climate, blackberries, self-reliance, and the people.

What is your greatest extravagance?

Mitch • Putting disco lights around our house.

Brian • A day of uninterrupted painting in my studio.

Which talent would you most like to have?

Mitch • Learning to chill and qathet is the perfect place to practice.

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BUSINESS AFFAIRS

SEAN PERCY

Appliance repair tech in demand

A new appliance repair business is qathet's authorized warranty service provider for Whirlpool's many brands (including KitchenAid, Maytag, Jennair, and many more.) Ken Palfrey, after shifting careers from carpentry, has completed the Red Seal certificate course at Kwantlen Polytechnic University to become an appliance service technician, and worked in the industry in Vancouver for his on-the-job training before returning home to the Townsite. "There's lots of demand," said Ken. "I've just handed out a few cards and have had lots of calls already." You can reach **Maple Avenue Appliance Service** at 604-414-8955 or mapleaveappliance@gmail.com, or visit mapleaveappliance.com.

New office added up

Heather Bookkeeping has expanded, opening a new office and adding staff to bring her team to seven. "As my business grew, I wanted to offer a more professional environment for my clients and staff. I have also hired a new admin team member who can help with all sorts of client tasks too, and she helps to keep all of us organized. The goal is to provide better client services," said owner **Amy Heather**. The office is at Unit 5 - 4726 Marine Avenue, in the back of the 2% Realty Building on Marine, beside the clock tower. If you enter through the parking lot in the back, just look for the green door. You can also reach Heather Bookkeeping at 236-328-0328, visit heatherbooks.ca, or email info@heatherbooks.ca.

Catch a flight

Twenty-two years ago, **Lydie Jessome** studied to become a travel agent. With the 9/11 attacks decimating the travel industry, she was forced to change

careers. She later moved to Powell River and has been working since 2003 at École Côte-du-Soleil, as a specialized education assistant. But she also wanted to do more travelling and help others travel, too. So this fall, she started a side business as a travel consultant with **Travel Only**, a family business out of Ontario that has nearly 800 home-based advisors like Lydie specializing in air, cruise, and all-inclusive vacations. So whether it's a straight-forward getaway to Mexico, a lengthy cruise, or a multi-stop tour of Europe, Lydie can take care of the details and offer detailed recommendations, so you can focus on enjoying your vacation. Visit her website at l Jessome.travelonly.com or Facebook page at [@lydie.at.travelonly](https://www.facebook.com/lydie.at.travelonly), or call 604-223-1937.

Get caught shopping local

The City of Powell River, in cooperation with local sponsors, has organized a shop local promotion called, "I got caught shopping local!" Wear a button and get a prize. See details on Page 2.




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A Thought For The Day

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~ Bahá'í holy writings

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Star Power

Glenn Anderson is the new General Manager of the Powell River Kings Junior A Hockey Club. The six-time Stanley Cup champion grew up in Vancouver, started playing hockey later than many other competitive kids, and went on to a career with the Oilers, among other teams.

Catch the Kings on their home ice this month December 1, 2, 29 and 30.

See more on Page 30, and on the Kings' website at powellriverkings.com.

December in qathet

Happy Holidays from all of us at City Transfer



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Dec 8 & 9 • 5 to 7 pm

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DECEMBER EVENTS

1

Friday

Family Movie Night & Cookie Decorating at Youth & Family

Cookie Decorating (5-5:45 pm), *The Grinch (2018)* 6-7:30 pm - Youth & Family (Oceanview Commons) 7105 Nootka St. info: dharper@youthandfamily.ca

Black Dog String Quartet

7 pm Max Cameron. \$30. Featuring qathet's own John Kastelic.

Shop Hop late-night shopping event

Many local stores open until 7 pm. See Facebook for more.

Kings versus Cranbrook

7 pm Hap Parker

First Bonspiel Begins

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

How Bazaar Vintage & Pre-Loved Clothing Sale

3 to 9 pm, Cranberry Hall. Food, drinks, vendors & more.

Big West Wrestling: Tussle on Texada

6:30 pm. See Facebook for more.

Winter Wonderland skating experience opening night

6:30 to 9 pm, Rec Complex. Available through January 7. See ad on Page 63.

Artifact Gallery Open House & Group Show

7 to 10 pm, 4690 Marine. Festive evening of new artworks, meet & greet with the artists, mulled cider & refreshments, and music!

Film • Hunger Games: Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes

7 pm Patricia Theatre.

2

Saturday

Therapeutic Riding Open House & Photos with Horses

11 am to 3 pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds.

Grapevine Wreath Workshop

6 to 8:30 pm. Bloom Therapy. Tickets at bloom-therapy.ca

Mushrooms of British Columbia presentation

2 pm, Library. Forest ecologist Andy MacKinnon will present his landmark handbook that describes over 350 of the most common fungi species of BC. For information contact Mark at mmerlino@prpl.ca

Santa arrives at the Town Centre Mall

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

Buy Local, Support Local Vendor Showcase

10 am to 3 pm, The Arc

Big West Wrestling: Shark Infested Wrestling

6:30 pm, The Arc. Tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Tickets At Blue Agave, Top Of The Hill Solutions and online

Christmas Cheer Fundraising Event

11 am to 3 pm, Town Centre Mall.

Free Winter Wonderland Skate

10 am to noon. Sponsored by Royal LePage.

Kings versus Cowichan Valley

7 pm Hap Parker

PR Chorus Christmas Concert

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

Playback Head & Gyres

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

Swedish Yule Feast at the Boardwalk

See ad on Page 24.

Film • Hunger Games: Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes

7 pm Patricia Theatre.

3

Sunday

Breakfast with Santa event with Verecan Capital Management and Underwriters Insurance.

10 am til 2 pm, Upper Foyer, Recreation Complex. Full breakfast, Santa, children's craft activities. All by a donation of an unwrapped new toy, non-perishable food items or cash. Everyone is welcome. All proceeds benefit the Salvation Army and PR Food Bank.

Swedish Yule Feast at the Boardwalk

See ad on Page 24.

Brooks Jingle Jog & Walk

9:30 am check in, 10 am 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 3 pm, Library. First Credit Union Community Room. Meet your representatives and mingle with your community.

qathet Concert Band: Travels Through Europe

2 pm, Max Cameron Theatre, By donation. Directed by Steven Cramaro.

Festival of Advent Lessons & Carols

4 pm, St. David & St. Paul Anglican Church, Townsite. Everyone Welcome.

Decoration-Making & Tree-trimming Service

11 am, Powell River United Church. Coffee following. Everyone Welcome.

Dead Bob

Door 7 pm, Carlson Loft. \$30 advance, \$35 at the door. 19+. Tickets at Townskate and the Carlson Club. See story on Page 23.

Cheerfest

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

Film • Hunger Games: Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes

1:30 & 7 pm Patricia Theatre.

4

Monday

Westview Ratepayers Association AGM

7 to 9 pm, Rec Complex.

Free Community Winter Wonderland Skate

6:30 to 7:30 pm, Rec Complex. Everyone Welcome. Sponsored by Powell River United Church.

Film • Hunger Games: Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes

7 pm Patricia Theatre.

5

Tuesday

Stuff the Bus Toy Drive

1:45 - 3:45 pm, on the ORCA Bus at PR Town Centre. info: admin@youthandfamily.ca

Film • Hunger Games: Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes

7 pm Patricia Theatre.

Sunshine Coast Forest Landscape Plan Public Consultation

5:30 to 8:30 pm, ARC Community Event Centre. Hosted by the BC Ministry of Forests.

6

Wednesday

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Gender-Based Violence Shoe Memorial Begins

Town Centre near Save-On. Organized by qathet Safe.

Stuff the Bus Toy Drive

1:45 - 3:45 pm, on the ORCA Bus at PR Town Centre. For more info: admin@youthandfamily.ca

7

Thursday

First night of Hanukkah

Light the first candle.

Allegories: New Work by Autumn Skye

6 to 9 pm Artifact Gallery - Allegories: New Work by Autumn Skye

8

Friday

Gingerbread Hunt at the Museum begins

Drop by during regular hours to participate!

Image 1 Kick Off holiday event

9 am to 8 pm. See ad on Page 22.

Fill the Hamper Skate & Swim

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

All-Ages Indoor Paint Drop In

10 to 12 pm at qathet Art Centre. \$10.

Painter Robbie Matheson presentation

4 pm, Library. Local post-pop painter Robbie Matheson will discuss the inspiration and meaning of his paintings that are currently on display at the Library.

Sylvan Hamburger Opening @ Patricia Letterpress

Show is on from December 7 to 16.

Carols by Candlelight at Dwight Hall

7:30 pm. Tickets at PR Academy of Music.

Santa Train

5 to 7 pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds. See more on Page 9.

Film • Trolls Band Together

7 pm Patricia Theatre.



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9

Saturday

Magic of Christmas Home-Based Business & Craft Fair
10 am to 4 pm, Recreation Complex upper foyer. See ad on Page 63.

Carols by Candlelight at Dwight Hall
1:30 & 7:30 pm. Tickets at PR Academy of Music.

Swedish Yuletide Feast
5 & 7 pm, The Boardwalk See Page 24 for more.

Springtime Winter Market
11 am to 3 pm each day at Springtime Garden Centre.

Jr. Forest Wardens Christmas Tree Sale
9 to 5 pm, near MacDon-ald's. See Page 17 for more.

Harbour Lights
5 to 7 pm, North Harbour in Westview (by the Seawalk).

Santa Train
5 to 7 pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds. See more on Page 9.

qathet Museum speaker series
TBA

Santa at 3 Chicken Farm
11:30 am to 2:30 pm

Tla'amin Christmas Craft Sale
10 am to 3 pm at the Salish Centre (the gym at Tisho-sum).

Buy Local Support Local Vendor Showcase
10 am to 3 pm, The Arc

Film • Trolls Band Together
7 pm Patricia Theatre.

10

Sunday

Springtime Winter Market
11 am to 3 pm each day at Springtime Garden Centre.

Santa at 3 Chicken Farm
11:30 am to 2:30 pm

A Christmas Carol: Live Reading
5 pm, The Forest Bistro!. With the Townsite Actors Guild. Tickets available at Rocky Mountain Pizza & Bakery and the Forest Bistro. Also on Dec. 17. See story on Page 53.

Jr. Forest Wardens Christmas Tree Sale
9 to 5 pm, near MacDon-ald's. See Page 17 for more.

Film • Trolls Band Together
1:30 & 7 pm Patricia Theatre.

Swedish Yuletide Feast
5 & 7 pm, The Boardwalk See Page 24 for more.

15

Friday

Deadline to submit a photo of your home Christmas lights to Light Up qathet
To be included on this year's map for the self-guided tour of lights, email your lights photo and address to srahier@powellriver.ca. See Page 12

All-Ages Indoor Paint Drop In
10 to 12 pm at qathet Art Centre. \$10.

Book Binding Workshop Begins
Join expert bookbinder Stuart Isto and learn how to make your own bound book from scratch. To register, email Mark at mmerlino@prpl.ca

Third annual Light Up Putters event
5 pm to 8:30 pm nightly at Putters Mini Golf. Entry by donation to the Powell River Firefighters Foundation, which supports school food programs. Enjoy lights on the golf course and refreshments, plus a visit from the Clauses. Also runs December 21 to 23.

Opening: qathet Film Collective
6 to 8 pm, The Art Centre. Films by Indigenous filmmaking students will be screened. All welcome. See more on Page 55.

Film • The Holdovers
7 pm Patricia Theatre.

11-13

Film • Trolls Band Together
7 pm Patricia Theatre.

14

Thursday

Chor Musica Christmas
7:30 pm, James Hall.

Film • Trolls Band Together
7 pm Patricia Theatre.

16

Saturday

Sunshine Gogos Bake Sale
10 am to 4 pm, Town Centre Mall.



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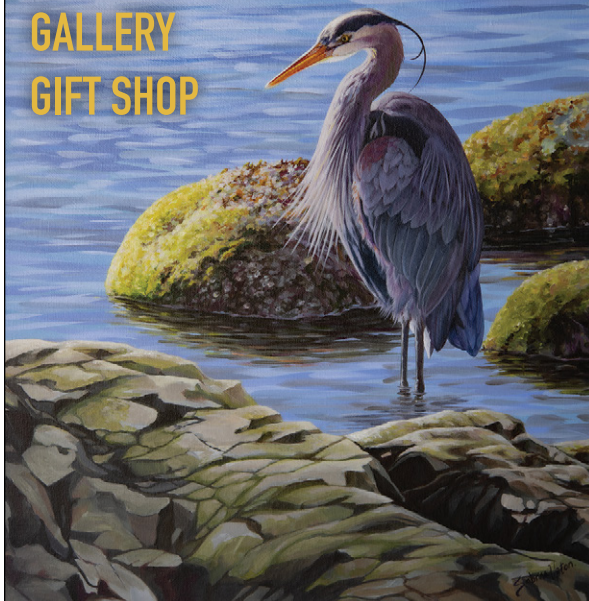
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DECEMBER EVENTS

Christmas Bird Count

In case of terrible weather, it will be moved to the 17th.

Jr. Forest Wardens Christmas Tree Sale

9 to 5 pm, near MacDonald's. See Page 17 for more.

Growing Up in the Townsite in the 1930s and 1940s

2 pm, Library. Beverley Falconer presents her new memoir With Good Company, filled with stories of adventures in back lanes, misadventures in Home Ec classes, steamships, amazing Kokanee salmon, and notorious twins. For information contact Mark at mmerlino@prpl.ca

Free Holiday Movie: The Grinch

1 pm, The Patricia. Sponsored by Royal LePage.

Third annual Light Up Putters event

5 pm to 8:30 pm nightly at Putters Mini Golf

Film • The Holdovers

7 pm Patricia Theatre.

A Christmas Carol: Live Reading

5 pm, The Forest Bistro. With the Townsite Actors Guild. Tickets available at Rocky Mountain Pizza & Bakery and the Forest Bistro. See story on Page 53.

Film • The Holdovers

1:30 & 7 pm Patricia Theatre.

18

Monday

Light Up qathet Christmas lights map released

See the Powell River Rec Complex' Facebook page to get the map.

Enchanted Christmas Forest

5 to 8 pm, Black Point. 1930 Twin Eagles Road. Check for weather closures: twineaglesbluff.com. See Page 9 & 43.

Film • The Holdovers

7 pm Patricia Theatre.



HAVE A BLUE CHRISTMAS: Elvis impersonator extraordinaire Robert Falls brings his sideburns to James Hall December 19 for the Christmas Special the original Elvis wishes he could. The show begins at 1 pm, by donation to the Academy of Music.

17

Sunday

Candles, Centrepieces and Craft Drinks, oh my!

5 to 8 pm. Bloom Therapy. Tickets at bloom-therapy.ca

Participatory Christmas Pageant

11 am, Powell River United Church. Bring your children or release your inner child to help celebrate the Christmas Season.

Jr. Forest Wardens Christmas Tree Sale

9 to 5 pm, near MacDonald's. See Page 17 for more.

qathet Climate Alliance AGM

1:15 pm, Library. Everyone welcome. Presentations on passive housing, heat pumps, forestry and more.

Enchanted Christmas Forest

5 to 8 pm, Black Point. 1930 Twin Eagles Road. Check website for weather closures: twineaglesbluff.com. See Page 9 & 43.

Third annual Light Up Putters event

5 pm to 8:30 pm nightly at Putters Mini Golf.

19

Tuesday

Live Elvis Christmas Special with local award-winning Elvis impersonator Robert Falls

1 pm James Hall. Powell River Academy of Music, 7280 Kemano Street. Donations in support of the Academy of Music gratefully accepted

Enchanted Christmas Forest

5 to 8 pm, Black Point. 1930 Twin Eagles Road. Check for weather closures: twineaglesbluff.com. See Page 9 & 43.

Film • The Holdovers

7 pm Patricia Theatre.

20

Wednesday

Enchanted Christmas Forest

5 to 8 pm, Black Point. 1930 Twin Eagles Road. Check for weather closures:

twineaglesbluff.com. See Page 9 & 43.

Film • The Holdovers

7 pm Patricia Theatre.

21

Thursday

Winter Solstice

Darkest day of the year. Sun comes up at 8:13 am, and goes back down at 4:19 pm.

Third annual Light Up Putters event

5 pm to 8:30 pm nightly at Putters Mini Golf.

Confession at Assumption Westview

7 to 8 pm. Everyone welcome.

Film • The Holdovers

7 pm Patricia Theatre.

22

Friday

Last day of school before Winter Break

Schools re-open January 8

All-Ages Indoor Paint Drop In

10 to 12 pm at qathet Art Centre. \$10.

Confession at Assumption Westview

11 am to noon. Everyone welcome.

Voting for Light Up qathet concludes

At noon. See Page 12 for more.

Third annual Light Up Putters event

5 pm to 8:30 pm nightly at Putters Mini Golf.

Film • Aquaman & The Lost Kingdom

7 pm Patricia Theatre.

23

Saturday

Seasonal Puppet Show: Can We Be Friends?

10:30 am, Library. Drop in, everyone welcome. Join Sonia, Deb, Mel and Merilee for our annual holiday extravaganza! Featuring puppet plays, stories and songs that celebrate friendship in all its forms: from a wild sled ride, to a new best friend talent contest, to a lonely turtle who surprises himself by dreaming a whole community into existence on his back.

Confession at Assumption Westview

11 am to noon. Everyone welcome.

Walter Martella & Friends Jazzy Christmas

7:30 pm, Powell River United Church. Walter Martella on the keys and the vocal stylings of Lee Coulter, Colleen Currie, Vernon Currie, Janice Gunn, Heather Maximea, Courtenay Pollock, Carol Stokes and Pam Wadden. By donation. Proceeds to River Kids.

Third annual Light Up Putters event:

Last day

5 pm to 8:30 pm nightly at Putters Mini Golf.

Film • Aquaman & The Lost Kingdom

1:30 & 7 pm at the Patricia Theatre.

24

Sunday

Christmas Eve Church Services

See more on Pages 18-19

Living Water Foursquare Church 9 am & 11 am

Kelly Creek Community Church 9 am and 4:30 pm

Powell River United Church, 3 pm.

St. David & St. Paul Anglican 4 pm - Candlelight eucharist with interactive Christmas Story

Salvation Army 6 pm

Assumption Catholic Church Westview 7 pm

Sacred Heart Catholic, Tla'amin 10 pm

Boardwalk Christmas Dinner

Call ahead for seatings December 24, 25 & 26. See ad on Page 24.

25

Monday

Christmas Day

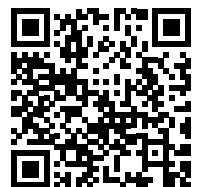
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Service of Morning Prayer

10 am, St. David and St. Paul Anglican Church, Townsite.

Christmas Day Dinner

Appies at 5 pm, Dinner at 5:30 pm At Westview Baptist Church, 3676 Joyce Avenue. To register: Call or text 604-223-0811 or email wbailey52@gmail.com. Please register by Wednesday, Dec 20. If wanting to assist, call 604-485-2143 or email margcooper430@gmail.com



Scan for Yard Art Film

I want to thank the people of Powell River who create, collect, and caretake the public art works featured in my photo series, Yard Art.

For a deeper appreciation of these works, that you can enjoy right now on your phone or computer, I made a short film that shows all the art works in glorious cinematic 3D with sound FX. Please enjoy and share - we may be the Yard Art capital of North America! - Clancy Dennehy

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&
HAPPY NEW YEAR
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MUSHROOM MOZZARELLA

The Mushroom Mozzarella has made a comeback for a limited time only. Packed with mozzarella, crimini mushrooms, grilled onions and grainy Dijon aioli, this burger comes in three different sizes: the Mama®, Uncle® and Buddy Burger®.

Get your taste at your nearest A&W Restaurant.



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Mushroom Mozzarella
Mama Burger
\$50 Cals

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Thichum Forestry is now doing commercial **firewood** deliveries

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

Thichum is also selling loads of firewood to qathet residents.

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



26

Tuesday

Enchanted Christmas Forest

5 to 8 pm, Black Point. 1930 Twin Eagles Road. Check for weather closures: twineaglesbluff.com. See Page 9 & 43.

Film • Aquaman & The Lost Kingdom

1:30 & 7 pm at the Patricia.

27

Wednesday

The Hunger Games free screening

1 pm, Library. Movie-loving youth, adults, and families are invited for a free mid-week matinee at PRPL. Popcorn provided!

Enchanted Christmas Forest

5 to 8 pm, Black Point. 1930 Twin Eagles Road. Check for weather closures at twineaglesbluff.com. See Page 9 & 43.

Film • Aquaman

7 pm Patricia Theatre.

28

Thursday

Poetry Circle

4:30 pm to 6 pm, Library. A shared creative space for poetry with Amira

Abouelalla. A place for listening, connecting, and being inspired. Drop-in.

Film • Aquaman & The Lost Kingdom

7 pm Patricia Theatre.

29

Friday

Babette's Feast free screening

1 pm, Library. Movie-loving folks are invited for a free mid-week matinee full of cozy seasonal cheer at PRPL. Popcorn provided!

Rad Reels film night with Off the Beaten Path

7 pm, Carlson Community Club Loft (upstairs). Tickets \$10 on eventbrite. Featuring local people doing cool things in our community and backcountry. Anyone can submit their short. All proceeds to the Food Bank.

Kings versus Coquitlam

7 pm Hap Parker

Film • Wonka

7 pm Patricia Theatre.

30

Saturday

Kings vs Coquitlam

7 pm at Hap Parker arena.

Film • Wonka

1:30 & 7 pm at the Patricia.

31

Sunday

New Year's Eve

Living Water Foursquare Church 8 pm to Midnight worship & prayer

Film • Wonka

7 pm Patricia Theatre.

1

January

Museum closes for a while

Staff are installing new storage for the collections.

Film • Wonka

7 pm Patricia Theatre. Through January 4. Matinee Tuesday, January 2.

Coming Up:

January 7 • Special Olympics **Tree Mulch**.

February 9 & 10 • **Banff Mountain Film Festival**. See ad on Page 37.

March 2 • **Comedy Night** in support of Brooks 2024 Dry Grad Dwight Hall. With stand-ups Ryan Williams, Milton Ng, Hector Rivas, and others. Tickets available now at Massullo Motors, Pacific Cannabis and *qathet Living*. \$60 each, tables of 8, \$420. Food, prizes, cash bar.

2024

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From the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and staff

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From Our Family To Yours

Merry Christmas & all the best in the New Year

Back to music, I guess

John Wright and Colin Macrae transform themselves yet again – at an international audience’s urging

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

During the COVID-y winter of 2021-2022, John Wright was holed up alone in his self-built home in outer Lund. Through social media, he watched agog as the pubs he’d spent 40 years playing, as drummer for NoMeansNo and other bands, went under.

COVID itself was tough on gathering places; the war in Ukraine put pressure on prices; the employee crisis: they all added up to eroding the foundation of the venues John loved. It was a bleak time.

“The idea of being in a band again and going out and doing all this again wasn’t on my radar,” said John, 61, in an interview at the shuttered Base Camp in Townsite, just before he set out on this first tour in nine years.

“During COVID, I got back to working on all sorts of unfinished songs from NoMeansNo, Compressorhead, and new ideas. The pandemic gave me the time to start finishing this stuff. I was able to set up my drums out where I live, and I was liking what I was hearing. I thought, ‘Oh, I’ll just do an album and release it on my own.’”

In April, John completed and released the album, *Life Like* (see Page 21). He is the subject of a new book, *NoMeansNo: From Obscurity to Oblivion* (Page 23).

DEAD BOB IN CONCERT

When: December 3, doors at 7 pm.

What: The infamous NoMeansNo founder and drummer hits the stage with his new bandmates as Dead Bob, at the tail end of their first tour.

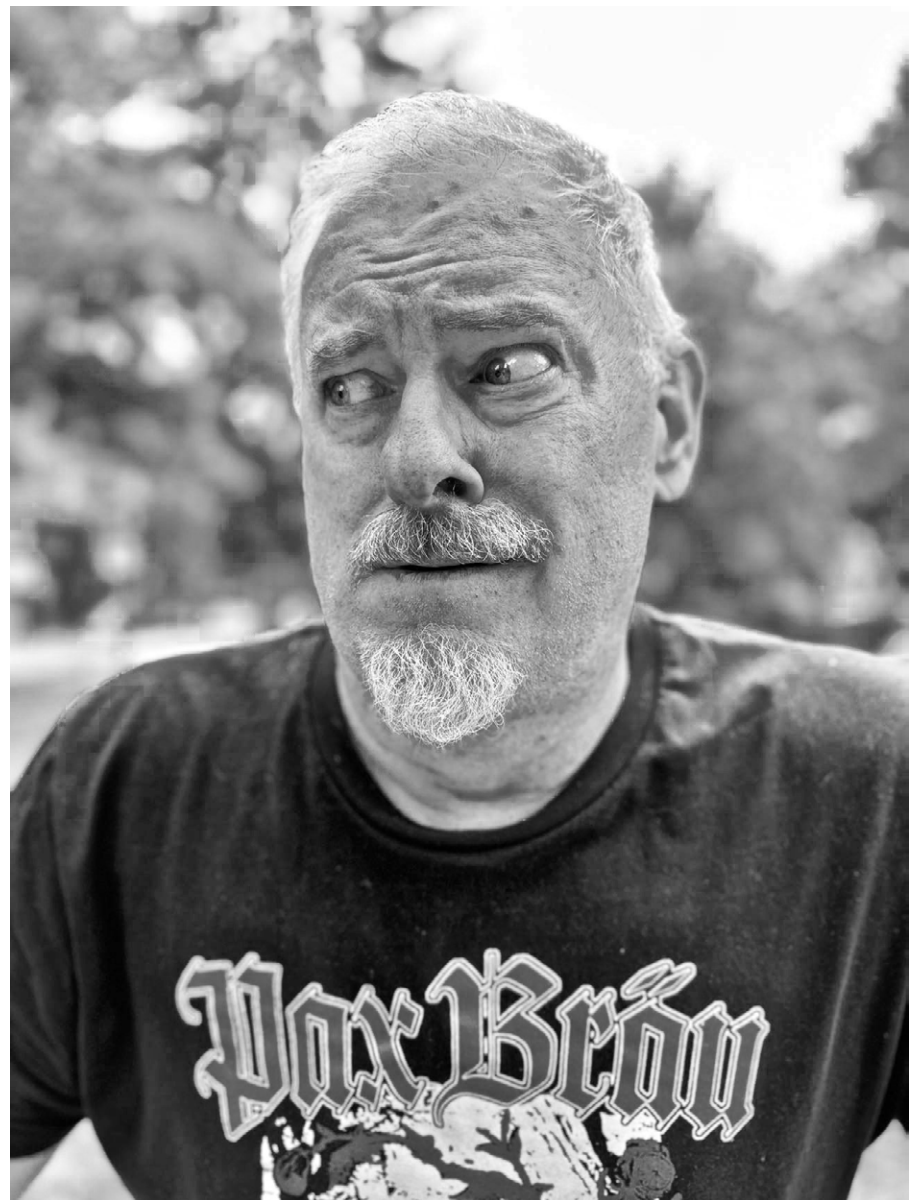
Where: Carlson Loft.

Tickets: Advance tickets at Armitage, Townskate and Carlson Club, \$30. Door, \$35.

On December 3, barely two years since the depths of the bleakness, you’ll find John on drums at the Carlson Loft with Dead Bob, his new band – the phoenix that emerged since that time. Members are Vancouver’s Ford Pier, Kristy Lee Audette and Byron Slack, plus qathet’s Colin McRae, a long-time Victoria artist and musician (and Base Camp owner) with whom John owns the Wildwood Pub.

The band has been on a six-stop tour in BC since mid-November; the December 3 home-town concert is the final stop. Plans are already in the works for 2024 tours to Europe and the Southern US.

John and Colin are gingerly picking up their star status again after their



AN UNEXPECTED BENEFIT OF THE COVID ERA: Retired punk drummer and Lundie John Wright, 61, is touring once again. John bought himself some property in outer Lund back in the 1990s when it was relatively cheap. He vacationed there with his kids for 20 years, before moving up here quietly in 2013.

decidedly-less-glam food business projects withered because of the pandemic and its inflationary aftermath. Colin’s three-location Base Camp Coffee/Food/Art cafes closed temporarily at the end of September (John helped

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out with it just after he moved here in 2013), and the Wildwood Pub, which they own together, is closed and for sale. The two met as musicians in the 1990s in Victoria, where John's NoMeansNo, The Hanson Brothers, and DOA would often play the same venues as Pigment Vehicle – Colin's band from high school.

"I'd never do this if I were starting out new, but I have a built-in audience from the last 30 years," said John. "Turning on the old engines to play more is no mean feat. We're both transitioning back to this very physical work, which is different when you're older and you're on stage for a 90-minute show. I play the drums aggressively. It's a work-out."

Punk music, John said, remains relevant 50 years after its origins in the 1970s – still a reaction to the "bloated and irrelevant" fare offered up by the mainstream music industry.

From "Just Breathe," on *Life Like*: "Just people, busy people always wrong, always right. Hear the laughter, hear the crying, always fighting the fight. Just whisper in my ear. Just pull me aside. Cuz I'm sinking, yeah I'm sinking in the sand every night."

For holiday tunes, Colin recommends "It's Christmastime," by Rong – Dead Bob bandmate Kristy Lee Audette's other project (sample lyrics: "Let's fill the world with trash / Turn on some lights and burn some gas / Kill a tree and throw some food away / For this special holiday.")

Meanwhile, John recommends The Angry Snowmans, who played the Wildwood Pub last year. Song titles include "I Hate Reindeer," and "Steal it from the Whos."

✉ lpieta@prliving.ca



THEY'RE LIFE LIKE: Dead Bob is (from left) locals Colin Macrae and John Wright, plus Vancouver's Ford Pier, Kristy Lee Audette and Byron Slack – all veterans of BC's long-time punk scene.



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GHOSTS OF CHRISTMAS: Left to right: Glen Roscovich, Graham Winter, Christine Cook, Michelle Morris, Rob Baird, and Wes Brown star in the Townsite Actors Guild's staged reading of *A Christmas Carol*, alongside Stephanie Zaleski, Doug Sutherland, Carol Sutherland, Jeremy Buhay, Nicole Narbonne, Angie Davey, Esteban Lapointe, and Kaela George. Below, TAG producers and directors Stephanie and Stephen Miller.

Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* has never been more relevant than in 2023

A classic? Sure. But the Townsite Actors Guild thoughtfully choose to produce a staged reading of *A Christmas Carol*, because 2023 is looking frighteningly like Charles Dickens' dystopian England.

"It was written during the hungry 40s (1840s) in London," said Stephanie Miller, who has directed TAG performances with her producer husband Stephen Miller for the past seven years.

"People were moving off the farms and into the cities for the Industrial Revolution. So you have that

overcrowdedness, a big discrepancy in social class, homelessness, unemployment. A lot of the same issues people are dealing with today, here.

"The story is, Scrooge sees himself apart from the poor, whom he thought should be put in the workhouses or in prison. He is transformed through the visits of three ghosts. It's about how to be a community that cares for everyone."

Expect to be transported back in time and deep into your own soul, by this remarkable cast and crew. 🎬

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

When: Sundays, December 10 & 17, from 5 to 8 pm

What: A staged reading of the Dickens classic.

Where: Forest Bistro. Dinner & cocktail menu available.

Tickets: At Rocky Mountain Pizza & Bakery and the Forest Bistro. \$20 each



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Fergie honoured at BC's Hall of Fame

Drew Ferguson, Powell River's most celebrated soccer player, was recently inducted into the BC Soccer Hall of Fame. When *qathet Living* caught up with Drew, who is the head coach/manager for the Canadian Paralympic Soccer Team, he was in Chile with his team as they were competing in the Parapan American Games.

What does it mean to you to be inducted into the BC Soccer Sports Hall of Fame?

Drew • It is always nice for being recognized for your achievements in your choice of work, no matter what you are doing. Soccer has been my life since I was six, seven, eight, years old so to be recognized by the soccer community of BC was a great honour. I was very excited to attend the evening of events, to see players and coaches from years past, and to join this great group of players, coaches, builders, and referees as an inductee. When I looked at the list of other inductees over the years it was amazing how many BC players I know who have represented their country and/or made great achievements over their soccer years.

What advice do you have for young soccer players?

Drew • Well, this is simple, start at a young age, respect your coaches and listen to them carefully. Enjoy whatever sport you are playing, and commitment and hard work will give you a better chance to help you achieve your goals in sport and in life in general.



COACHING CANADA, PLAYING FOR CANADA: Villa's Drew Ferguson has come a long way.

Can you share with us a favourite memory of playing soccer in Powell River as a youth?

Drew • I think the enjoyment of playing a game with teammates, going on ferries to play out of town games. Team sports can teach you a lot from your early days. I was fortunate to win some individual honours as a young player, but to this day a team trophy is always a better accomplishment in the big picture.

Who had the most influence on your soccer career?

Drew • Parents, family, and every coach I have ever had from a small kid to the professional game. Some of my favorite stories to this day are talking about all the coaches in Powell River that spent hours and hours coaching all sports because of their love for the game.

Tell us a bit about what you are doing now.

Drew • I am now the head coach / manager for the Canadian Paralympic Soccer Team, as a full-time staff coach



for the Canadian Soccer Association. I started this role in 2005. We are currently in Santiago, Chile competing in the Parapan American games.

Tell us whatever you wish we had asked but didn't.

Drew • It is funny, that one of my best achievements in soccer was as an amateur (well sort of). When playing for Powell River Villa as a young kid, I won the MVP (Most Valuable Player award) for the Vancouver Island League, then in the middle of my professional career I had a seven month break between going from outdoor soccer to indoor soccer in the USA, so I played again for Powell River Villa, and won the MVP award again. Then I retired from professional soccer and moved back to Powell River and played for Powell River Villa again and won this award yet again! At the BC Hall of Fame induction ceremony, it was brought up that I am the only soccer player in Canada to win the MVP player of the year in three different decades, in the 1970s, 1980s and in the 1990s. 🇨🇦

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Q Why would I subscribe when I can get *qathet Living* free all over town, or online at qathetliving.ca?

A For folks who prefer to read a paper edition and are not in the *qathet* area, or are not able to get out, getting it in the mail is a practical solution to satisfy their craving for *qathet* stories. The magazine is still free, we just have to charge for postage.

Seven Indigenous film students to screen their first works December 15

For the past 18 years, Tony Papa has run the Powell River Digital Film School through qathet School District. This fall, alongside Christian Piers Betley, Emma Morgan-Thorp, Sophie Call and Tarra Tipton, he led the

region's first Tla'amin Nation Motion Picture Mentorship.

Meet the qathet Film Collective students below, and see their films debut at qathet Art Centre December 15, starting at 6 pm.

Shaylene Gale • Tla'amin Nation

"I entered the program to learn about video editing. So far, I've got that we are all artists, I'm not 100% sure where I am headed. Let you know when I get there."

Kobe Galligos, 19 • Indigenous artist

"My art is inspired by my ancestry and can be classified as West Coast / Nuu-Chah-Nulth form line art. I'm in this for a new outlet with which to share my artwork, and I think film is a fun/interesting way to do that. This past week of class has been a very informative intro to video and audio recording and editing and I look forward to the coming weeks.

"I intend to use this class to add to my art portfolio, and build up a community in order to share my art with people better."

Brianne Louie, 28 • Tla'amin Nation

"I have a three-year-old named Shane Louie. My parents are Dora Louie and Shawn Galligos. My grandparents are John and Mary Louie and Randolph Sr. Timothy and Margaret Timothy.

"I originally entered the class for my new job as culture and language coordinator. Since entering, I feel that

I have already learned a lot and found something I really enjoy. I love learning about the camera so far and also learning about myself.

"After the program I will be helping shoot a few films for the community I also hope that I will be able to continue to do camera work in the future."

Dave Moon, 47 • We Wai Kai Nation

I was born in Victoria and raised on Vancouver island. I have lived in qathet for 20+ years.

I started live streaming on Facebook in 2018, at davemoontv. I started the film course to enrich my technical skills. I'm very excited to brand my version of Indigenous live streaming on various platforms.

"I believe that land recognition is very important. Indigenous issues are underrepresented and identity is very sacred. Mental health and inhumane treatment worldwide is not addressed enough on media."

Rhys Poole • Tla'amin Nation

"I have entered this program as a refresher for my future projects and job position I recently acquired with the Nation.

"I plan to continue on this path under language and culture to learn and spread knowledge of our culture to



THE COLLECTIVE: Christian Betley - Mentor; Tony Papa - Mentor; Baby Harry - Artist; Brianne Louie - Artist; Rhys Poole - Artist; David Moon - Artist. Missing from photo are: Allison Conibear, Kobe Gallegos, and Shaylene Gale.

future generations through a new way.

"I hope to one day be able to mentor others by using my life experiences and knowledge I have learned and pass it on to others."

Allison Conibear

• Klahoose and Le'eyqsun Nations

"Allison Conibear ʔətʰ nən. Həl toq tuwa łoq hega Le'eyqsun. I am a writer and graphic designer, currently in an artistic coordinator role with jehjeh Media.

"I am here to grow my video editing skills to create and share ʔayʔa-juθəm content for jehjeh Media, but personally, I'd like to use this knowledge as an avenue to share and express my poetry."

Baby Harry, 26

• Tla'amin First Nation

"I am a mother to three beautiful Tla'amin and Hesquiaht children. I am a self-taught photographer/digital artist. I'm self-taught and still learning traditional beading and jewellery making, and I own my own clothing company.

"I am currently trying to learn and revitalize my Indigenous language and culture. My goal is to share what I learn through my art. Being able to make reels, short videos, documentaries, and films will help me share what I learn with others in a more fun and captivating way that captures people's attention. The possibilities are endless and that excites me." 🐱

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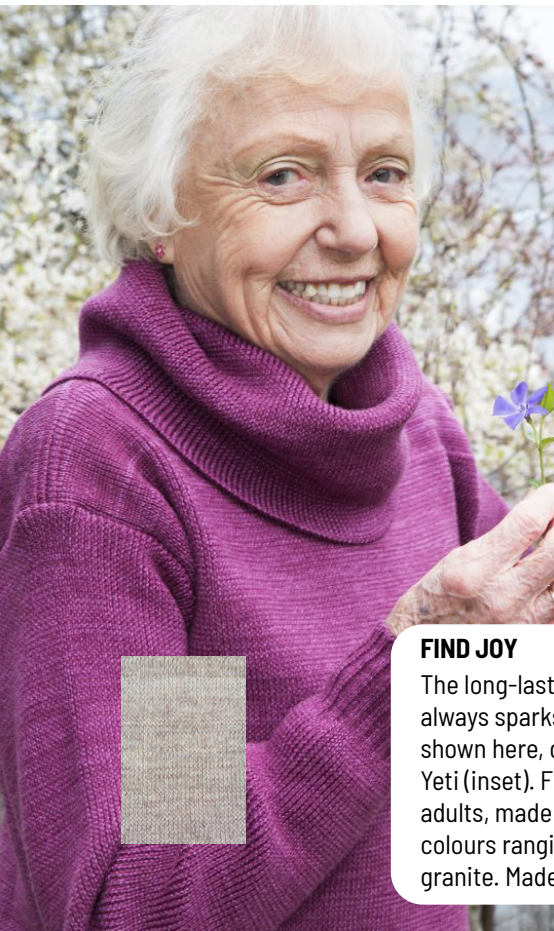
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qL's all-local, all fabulous gift guide for holiday 2023



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Heads will turn as you make your entrance in this elegant soft satin fitted gown from **Perfect Fit for Brides & Grads**. The bodice is built with beautiful corsetry that hugs you. The high cut leg detail adds flash to an already gorgeous LaDivine Gown.



FIND JOY

The long-lasting comfort of a **Pollen Sweater** always sparks joy, whether in classic Heather, as shown here, or their newest colour, the neutral Yeti (inset). Find toques and sweaters for kids and adults, made from high quality, washable wool, in colours ranging from porpoise to blackberry to granite. Made here in qathet, by locals.

Things to wear:



GRINCH SOCKS

Cuddly as a cactus and as charming as an eel, **Armitage Mens Wear** brings Mr. Grinch back for another holiday season of thieving, scheming and non-believing with these socks from Stance. Crafted with a combed cotton blend, these medium cushion crews will grow your heart three sizes, each day.



TOTE-ALLY FUN

This fun canvas tote has a leather strap and comes in five cheeky styles. Find them at Fits to a T for \$42.50.

IN THE BAG

Elizabeth Scarlett cosmetics bags are the perfect size to store your makeup, skincare, and other lotions and potions. Find yours at **Westerly Studio** to add a little luxury and colour to your day. They're 100% washable, so no need to worry about messy mishaps.



SIGNATURE BAG

This red Buffalo leather purse has an adjustable shoulder strap with many inside compartments and an outside zipper pocket. You will get many compliments giving, or wearing, this made-in-Canada product. More styles are available at **Paperworks Gift Gallery**.



THE LUST LIST

For your body

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 colodas.



AS SMOOTH AS

Treat the whiskey-lover on your list to something really smooth from **Capone's Cellar** with this Tennessee Whiskey, mashed, fermented, distilled, aged and bottled by Leiper's Fork Distillery. It's 5-year-old, 100-proof, and "Bottled In Bond" – according to strict American whiskey regulations. They may notice flavours of milk chocolate, roasted coffee, ripe plum, dark cherry and honey on the nose, then a complex palate of caramel, red berries and baking spices. A great sipping whiskey, its complexity increases as it rests in the glass.



EXTRA-SOFT, OVER-SIZED

Brunette the Label sweaters arrived at **Simply Bronze** just in time for Christmas. Thick and gorgeous, these are the perfect oversized go-to sweater and they come in three colours.

Things to taste:

SMOKIN' DEAL

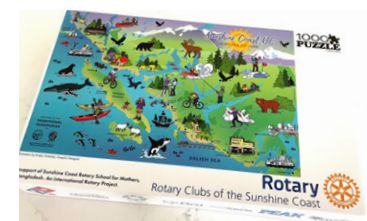
Discover Ocean delights at the **Powell River Visitor Centre**, featuring seasonal favourites, like smoked salmon and tuna pate, smoked coho salmon, antipasto and more. Starting from \$4.99.



For Charity:

ROTARY GREAT GROCERY RAFFLE

Stocking stuffers or just for fun, tickets are available from Rotary members, at The Peak office, at a table in Town Centre Mall, and at rafflebox.ca/raffle/rotary-powellriver. All funds raised spent locally. Tickets are \$10 grand prizes – \$2,000 in gift cards – plus the 50/50 drawn January 9. \$10, 3 for \$25, 10 for \$75.



ROTARY PUZZLE

Perfect for those puzzlers on your Christmas list. A 1,000-piece puzzle for \$35 designed by qathet artist Evelyn Kirkaldy. Proceeds support Sunshine Coast Rotary Mothers School in the slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Find it at rotary-club-of-powell-river.square.site.

YOU OTTER LOOK

Debra Bevaart's keen eye allows her to recreate not only the form and look of wildlife in their natural habitat, but she goes a step further to capture the spirit of her subjects, such as the curiosity in this pair of otters. Find them and more of Debra's work, as well as a well-curated selection from dozens of other artists, at her gallery, **Tug Guhm**, in Lund.



THE LUST LI

For your home:



MAKE A POINT

You didn't have a pencil sharpener like this in school! The Blackwing One-Step Long Point Sharpener creates a long, curved point that resists breakage. It's made of durable machined aluminum and features a German steel blade. Get one for the artist on your list at **qathet Art + Wares**.

ON THE BALL

The Kitras Calico Ball is the original friendship ornament. Just like friends, no two are alike! Find yours at **Mother Nature**. This handblown glass orb offers a beautiful mosaic of colour so that no matter which way you turn it, this ball is sure to dazzle.



NAP TIME

Working with hand tools, Debra Bevaart carves most of her sculptures, including this resting seal, from a single block of stone. This is a difficult and time-consuming procedure, but one which she has perfected. See her work at **Tug Guhm Gallery** in Lund.



DRAGON'S DEN

The gorgeous fairy sculpture, complete with protective dragon, will make an eye-catching addition for your display shelves, desktops, or office decor. At 21 inches, it's just the right size - not too big, but easily noticeable. Find this quality polyresin item at **Oceanview Entertainment on Marine**.

FLOWER POWER

Give the gift of flowers, again and again, with a monthly flower bouquet subscription from **Bloom Therapy**. Or treat yourself to a give that keeps giving!



GLASS ACT

Local artist Suzi Wiebe of **Found Stone Jewellery** creates these Christmas tree ornaments from glass fragments collected from qathet-area beaches.



ALL OF YOUR BEESWAX

Cozy up this season by burning pure beeswax candles, made by hand in BC, and available at **Tla'amin Convenience**. As well as filling your home with the delicious scent of honey, burning beeswax candles produces negative ions. These are thought to neutralize airborne pollutants, helping to remove the negative effects of breathing in dust, odours, and mold.

IST

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The experts at **Thunder Bay Saw Shop** say that the right axe makes all the difference in getting the job done – from beautiful Husqvarna limbing axes to the ultimate splitting axe from Hults Bruk.



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The rider on your list will appreciate that the Thor Sector/Fader helmet is designed for comfort and performance, with an adjustable visor and integrated ventilation. You'll appreciate that it has a dual density liner and shell designed to keep them safe, all without draining your wallet. Find this model at **Big O/Coast Auto** for \$199.95.



For your adventure:



POWER PLAY

A sneaky ebike that's lightweight, powerful and has surprising range. This bike from **TAWs** has all the on-trail traits of a Santa Cruz combined with the FAZUA RIDE 60 drive unit. 150mm of legendary VPP™ suspension, mixed wheels, and progressive geometry makes the Heckler SL a natural handling trail bike. Just with the added power of a 430 Wh ebike.

or your soul:

TAROT TIME

Give the gift of insight this holiday season! Downloadable PDF gift cards from **Selkie Sanctuary** make for easy gifts to send family, friends, or co-workers. Print them out to stuff stockings or send digitally through email/messenger for an easy last-minute gift! Readings can be held online or in-person within the qathet region. Cards expire February 29, 2024. etsy.com/shop/selkiesanctuary



POWER UP

Re-power your boat with a Suzuki 140 from **Two-Wheel Tech**. This engine is literally built differently. The design positions the crankshaft in front of the drive shaft, moving the outboard's center of gravity forward. This makes it compact, and moves the engine's axis of inertia over the upper engine mount, greatly reducing vibration. It delivers powerful torque for quick acceleration and great top-end speed.



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TAKE A BREAK

Holiday Shadow Work – Values not Judgment

Over the winter holidays, many of us will gather with friends and family to celebrate. For some of us, there may be a few strained relationships, toxic dynamics, or challenging personalities giving rise to judgments, tempers, and discontent. I'd like to offer a small, but perhaps mighty, reframe to a popular thought on accountability.

There is a saying, "When you point the finger of blame, remember three fingers are pointing back at you." It's meant to encourage us in moments of judging another, to look at our own role in contributing to the problem, or where we may be harbouring a similar undesirable trait. The idea being, if we're bothered by lack of respect, perhaps we have not set boundaries to be treated respectfully or are reacting to personal shame from when we ourselves have been disrespectful. A "look in the mirror" self-reflection on how we might do better.

There are times where this is true, absolutely, yet also times when this way of thinking has an air of victim blaming to it. Someone is doing something you don't like, therefore the problem lies with you to fix.

What if we could re-frame things a bit and look not for where accountability lies or there's a problem to fix, but rather identify and honour a Value we hold dear?

Years ago I mused out loud to a friend how deeply disturbing I found the dishonesty and injustice caused by a family member, one whose contact I could not avoid. I was looking for personal changes I could make if my judgments meant that I must also be unjust or dishonest.

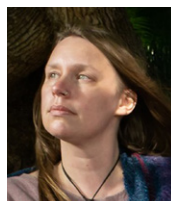
Efforts to remove myself from the drama and conduct myself differently were failing and I was beating myself up, trying to make sense of how I must still be allowing or contributing to the situation. What she said to me has stuck with me ever since, "You highly value integrity and honesty. That's all."

In that moment, I no longer had a problem to fix or a judgment to manage. Where once there was self blame, I could hold up a personal value. That family member clearly had different values than I. Somehow, that seemed a little easier.

Perhaps, if tensions run high during your family time or the irritations and frustrations begin to fly, a little ease might come

from shifting this sort of shadow work away from managing judgment to giving a nod to personal values instead.

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



RETURN TO REVERENCE

JULIETTE JARVIS





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Decorative flourish

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TAKE A BREAK

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 I Q R L W M S W O R T H O G R A P H Y I F I U R E
 P N E R Z L Y X A J Y J A C O G H H V X B U Q K A
 W U D L A Y Q R S W Y V W S O C A S S E R O L E S
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CAN YOU FIND THESE WORDS FROM THIS ISSUE?

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| ANDERSON | FLP | MYRTLE |
| BEAUCHESNE | FORTY | ORNAMENTS |
| BOB | GEMINIDS | ORTHOGRAPHY |
| CANDLELIGHT | GOLF | PUTTERS |
| CAROLS | GRINCH | ROXY |
| CASSEROLE | HANUKKAH | SEASON |
| CHRISTMAS | HEATHER | SLASH |
| DENNEHY | HOLIDAY | SOLSTICE |
| DICKENS | INDIGENOUS | STAR |
| EAGLE | IRRADAYAMPATTU | THICHUM |
| ELVIS | LABYRINTH | WARDENS |
| ENCHANTED | LIGHTS | YULETIDE |
| FALLS | MASSULLO | |
| FERGUSON | MILESTONE | |

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Believe it or not, some people dread Christmas.

And as the days march on towards the 25th, those who aren't feeling the holiday spirit may find themselves sinking deeper and deeper into that dark and lonely place. They can't relate to merry and bright, in fact sad and dark seem like a more fitting description of how they feel.

For them, the light has been extinguished. Hope has faded.

Maybe someone near and dear has died. They may be going through divorce, or separation; perhaps they lost their job or there's something else going on. Whatever the reason, they feel sad and lonely.

No one chooses to be down, and it can be especially difficult and isolating to feel this way around Christmas.

My inner light isn't burning as brightly as it once did because I recently lost someone near and dear to

May your days be merry & bright



**LAST
WORD**

ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

me. My father (pictured above about 20 years ago, with his wife and my sons) died in September and for the first time in my life, I'm not trying to decide what book to buy him.

I'm not going to make a batch of my famous Belle's blackened spice for him. And come the 25th, I won't be able to wish him a Merry Christmas.

Instead, I will think of him as my oldest son carves the turkey and I sprinkle nutmeg on my eggnog. I will remember him as we pull our brightly-coloured, silly, tissue hats out of our Christmas crackers and put them on our heads. And I'll be grateful for all the Christmases we had together.

When I hear his favourite Christmas carol "I Saw Three Ships," I'll think of him singing off key at the top of his lungs. And I'll remember how my brother, sister and I would rush to the far corners of the church to find seats

as far away from him as possible so we didn't have to listen to him massacre his favourite carols.

Oh, what I'd give to have my father sing off key to me now.

But as much as I'll always cherish the memories I have of my father, I'm not going to feel sad when I think of him. He had a good, long life and it was his time to say adieu.

For everything there is a season. A time to be born, a time to die. There's a time for light and a time for darkness. So, although December is the darkest month of the year outside, we can light up our insides before we begin moving toward the light after winter solstice on the 21st. As the days begin to grow longer, remember the promise of what comes next and have faith. Whether you celebrate Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ or not, let there be light and let there be hope.

Merry Christmas to all.

✉ isabelle@prliving.ca

Wishing Powell River
hope, peace
love & joy.



Joe
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Joe Huetzelmann & Company thanks all our customers for another wonderful year. We look forward to many more.

WINTER

active living guide

REGISTRATION
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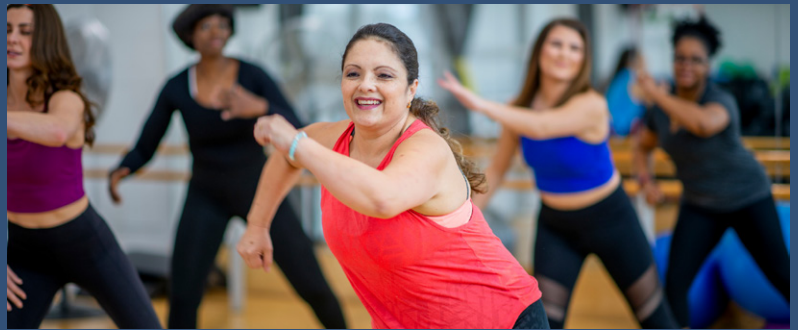


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VISIT SANTA
 from 12-5pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
Book your Visit with Santa Just scan this QR code or visit prtowncentre.com					1	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Please bring non-perishable food or baby food items when you visit Santa for Lift Family Place Food Pantry to help our local young families in need.				
SANTA is here Monday to Saturday from 12pm to 5pm						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			Please bring non-perishable food or baby food items when you visit Santa for Lift Family Place Food Pantry to help our local young families in need.			VISIT SANTA 10am-5pm
SANTA is here Monday to Friday from 12pm to 5pm						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
TEDDY BEAR Storytime 3-4pm Santa 11am-3pm MALL OPEN 11 TO 4		Please bring non-perishable food or baby food items when you visit Santa for Lift Family Place Food Pantry to help our local young families in need.				
SANTA is here Monday to Saturday from 11am to 6:30pm						
Late night shopping hours all this week! We're open from 9:30am to 7pm						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Storytime 3-4pm LAST DAY TO VISIT SANTA 11am-3pm MALL OPEN 11 TO 4	MERRY CHRISTMAS	BOXING DAY SALE Starts at 11am				

Holiday Hours

DECEMBER 1 TO 3

Monday to Saturday 9:30 to 5:30
 Sunday Closed

DECEMBER 11 TO 17

Monday to Saturday 9:30 to 5:30
 Sunday 11:00 to 4:00

DECEMBER 25 & 26

Christmas Day Closed
 Boxing Day 11:00 to 4:00

DECEMBER 4 TO 10

Monday to Saturday 9:30 to 5:30
 Sunday Closed

DECEMBER 18 TO 24

Monday to Saturday 9:30 to 7:00
 Christmas Eve 11:00 to 4:00

DECEMBER 27 TO 31

Tuesday to Friday 9:30 to 5:30
 New Years Eve Closed

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FROM ALL OF US AT PRTC WE WISH YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

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