

qathet

AUGUST 2025

# SLUICING

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## Run of the mill

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# HELP IS HERE

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Six years ago, our only son, Hayden, died. In the depths of my grief, I discovered the North Vancouver Chapter of The Compassionate Friends. There, I found something I didn't know I needed; understanding, connection, and a safe place to share my sorrow with others who truly understood.

Five years ago, we moved to Powell River. With that move came the desire to re-establish our local chapter, a space where grieving parents in our community could come together, support one another, and begin to heal.

Grief doesn't come with a map, and losing a child leaves a hole in our hearts no one else can see. But in

this group, I've found not only comfort for my own heart, but deep connection with others walking the same path. We cry together. We laugh together. We remember together. Most importantly, we support each other without judgment or expectation.

If you are feeling lost, overwhelmed, or unsure how to navigate your grief, you don't have to do it alone. The Powell River Compassionate Friends Chapter welcomes you with open hearts and understanding.

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— Ariel Turcott

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**For Parents Navigating Loss**

The Compassionate Friends offers support. If you've lost a child - at any age, for any reason - you are not alone.



**The Powell River Compassionate Friends**  
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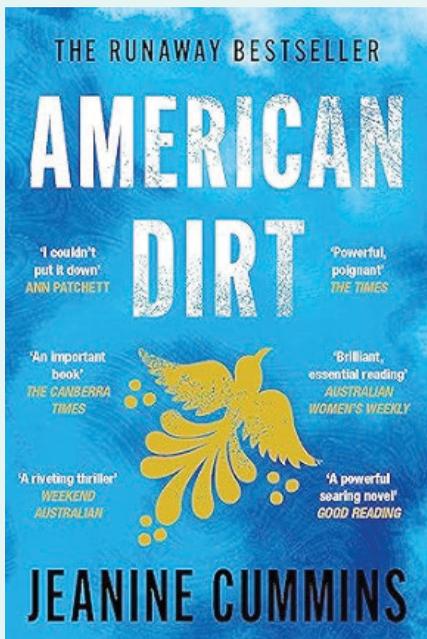
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## Book of the Month:

(Oceanside Entertainment Location)



### American Dirt

by Jeanine Cummins

American Dirt is a gripping and emotional novel that tells the story of a mother and son's journey to cross the US-Mexico border. The book has been selected by Oprah's Book Club and has received critical acclaim for its powerful storytelling and vivid characters. If you're looking for a thought-provoking and engaging read, American Dirt is a must-read book.



## Oceanside Entertainment

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**ON THE COVER:**

qathet Living editor Pieta Woolley shot this photo of the tisk<sup>at</sup> mill from a Harbour Air flight. In this issue, we introduce you to some of the mill site's new owners and their big plans.



# Pulp non-fiction

**H**alf a dozen companies have owned the Powell River paper mill in my memory, but there's something different about this latest change, as editor Pieta Woolley reports in our feature story on the future of the mill property and its new owners.

There's the obvious difference, of course, that the new owners aren't planning to make pulp or paper. In fact, their purchase agreement forbids it. Powell River is officially no longer a paper town.

But the other difference is that the folks behind Cranberry Business Park (see Page 7) aren't planning to cut jobs to streamline production, as pretty much every past purchaser has done. Instead, they're hoping to create new jobs and new industries on the old property.

City residents are concerned, rightly, that the first step involves tearing down buildings, which will no doubt reduce

the taxes that Cranberry Business Park has to pay. But they're also spending millions on clean up, which is good for everyone. That cleanup paves the way for future business opportunities, some of which are already knocking on Cranberry's door, asking for space and power.

Combined with Tla'amin's plans for housing and industry on the part of the old mill properties that they now own, it seems that, for the first time in recent memory, things are looking up at tisk<sup>at</sup>.

Things are also looking up along Marine Avenue. Busy with summer traffic, stores new and old are stepping up to create a new fashion district. Check out their suggestions for qathet fashion starting on Page 30.

With some things to celebrate, check out Page 48 for a festival that fits your style.



## PUBLISHER'S MESSAGE

*Sean Percy*

# qathet LIVING

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# qL

“

You've gotta have balls the size of basketballs to run some of this equipment. It is pretty awesome to be able to do. I mean, to me, demolition is just awesome in itself.”

— Brad Morrison, Page 9.

”

## A FEW OF AUGUST'S CONTRIBUTORS



**ELIZABETH CHALLINOR** has been painting and drawing for close to 50 years and is inspired by the landscape of the west coast of BC. *See Elizabeth's story, Art in the Mall, on Page 15.*



**JESSICA COLASANTO**, Community Resources Manager at Lift, is the qCAT Coordinator, supporting collaborative response to the toxic drug crisis. *See Jessica's story, Honouring Those We've Lost, on Page 45.*



Moving from Vancouver to Texada 19 years ago, **SANDY MCCORMICK**, the island's regional director, felt no need to learn bear-aware strategies until she came face-to-face with a grizzly. *See Sandy's story, Tex, on Page 23.*



Dedicated to the traditional art of photography, **RON SMID** has spent three decades capturing the Canadian landscape on film. See his work at The Stillwater Gallery. *See Ron's story, Cedar Camera Captures a new Vision, on Page 20.*

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# Start of an era

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

On August 5, the biggest demolition company in Western Canada will roar its machines into action, and start crunching through the waterfront buildings that once held the economic heart of this community: the 110-year-old Powell River paper mill.

Clearview Demolition is running a crew of eight out-of-towners, plus local labour and a specialized hazardous materials team. The first phase of the demolition and clean-up of the approximately 200-acre site, costing millions, will last 14 months.

In July, three businessmen, calling themselves Cranberry Business Park, acquired all of the former mill lands from Domtar (the company formerly known as Catalyst Paper Excellence)—except for what Tla’amin Nation has already secured. Tla’amin now owns the land around the mouth of the river and some inside the mill gates. Cranberry owns the rest.

Why “Cranberry”?

“Because Apple and BlackBerry were already taken,” quipped Thomas Ligocki, the founder of the new venture.

Thomas, a well-known Lower Mainland-based tech entrepreneur, is also the founder of Meridian 125 West cannabis facility, which occupies the former mill administration building beside the Rodmay Hotel. His partners in Cranberry are CEO Craig Austin, who co-owns Meridian and, like the others, is a serial entrepreneur; and Sonny Huang, a Lower Mainland-based entrepreneur who owns Mt Boucherie and Rust wineries, plus about 50 other enterprises, including real estate development and produce distribution.

“We’re just nutty entrepreneurs,” said Thomas. But in all seriousness, he explained: “This will be a transformation unlike any other. A showcase for the rest of BC for what is possible on a former mill site. This can be a place where we help build the icebreaker that is going to defend the Arctic, or grow strawberries in a tower that will feed BC. Powell River was one of the biggest mills of its time. Now, Powell River can have the most diversified business park in a town of 25,000 or less.”

You’d have to be “nutty,” or at least acclimatized to risk, to take on what they have. The clean-up alone is overwhelming. Taxation is robust. Other former BC mill sites have an uneven, but mostly dismal, record of recovery. Permitting for new industry is notoriously glacial. But Thomas says the trio has faith — and interest.

So far, Thomas said, companies that have expressed serious interest in in-

**STACKED:** In July, Clearview Demolition’s machines lined up against the backdrop of the remains of the Powell River paper mill, waiting to drive into action. They include Hitachi hydraulic excavators and the Volvo 480 High Reach machine, which reaches 96’ in the air (far left). *Photo courtesy of Cranberry Business Park*



# Are you one of the best?

# Did you get your decal?

If your business or organization was listed in the **Best of qathet** issue (July), you're entitled to a **Best of qathet** decal. Did you get yours?

The *qathet Living* team tried to stay on top of who we handed decals to at the **Best of qathet** celebration at Townsite Brewing on July 3 – but honestly, we were all having such a good time that things got a little fuzzy. Okay, a lot fuzzy. We completely lost track.

So if you're a **Best of qathet** winner and you didn't get your decal at the party, or were unable to get to the party, it's not too late! We still have your decal.

You can:

1. Call us at 604-485-0003 and ask us to deliver it to you.
2. Email [sean@qathetliving.ca](mailto:sean@qathetliving.ca) and give him instructions on how you'd like to get your decal.
3. Stop by our office at 7053-E Glacier Street and pick up your decal.



**VINTAGE LABOUR LOVE:** This 1956 cement frieze, by P. Hopkinson, is attached to one of the former mill buildings acquired by Cranberry Business Park. It's a celebration and memorial for those who work in the resource sector in this region. CEO Craig Austin is hoping to find an appropriate group who would be willing to take on the historic monument. Please reach out to Cranberry Business Park by September 1.

vesting on-site include a Norwegian land-based fish farm, a manufactured home construction facility, a ship-building company, a hyper-efficient vertical strawberry farm (which aims to eliminate the environmentally-damaging strawberry import business in BC), renewable jet fuel for YVR, and a tech business, among others.

In other words, unlike other former BC mills that fester undeveloped for decades, ours may be a functional business park starting as early as this fall. One company, Thomas disclosed, wants to be on-site by October.

With a deep-sea port and a reliable energy source, our former mill site has two key advantages over others, Thomas noted. That gives Cranberry hope that they can provide a future for what was, once, one of the world's largest pulp and paper mills.

But unlike the heavy industrial vision that took Powell River through the 20th century, this new vision is clean, in collaboration with Tla'amin Nation, and sustainable for the next century and beyond.

## The demolition: They're coming in, but not like a wrecking ball

The mill's iconic red and white stack will remain standing in the short term. In the long term plan, Clearview Demolition co-owner Brad Morrison explained, even that will come down.

For the next year and a bit, his crew will selectively take down buildings on the west side of the former mill: the paper machine buildings, power boilers 18 and 19, the conveyors, plus more. About 95% of the concrete, rebar, and other material gets recycled into gravel and other immediately-useful goods, Brad ex-

plained — a practice that Clearview pioneered, and earns many of the company's projects a LEED Gold rating. Some material has already attracted outside interest, including the rail track. It's possibly going to Vancouver Island, Brad noted. Cranberry is working with Langley's Lenmark Industries to sell off the larger assets on site.

PCBs, asbestos, roofing, and insulation can't be recycled, but will be disposed of safely.

Apart from the grand scale and story of this demolition, the company doing it has its own appeal. Over the past few years, Clearview seems to be specializing in BC's sexiest demo projects: "Barge Chilling," the barge that washed up on Vancouver's English Bay in 2021; Playland's Corkscrew roller-coaster; several buildings on the BC Women's and Children's Hospital campus — a project that required quiet and cleanliness; the Port Alice, Skeena, and Elk Falls mills; and many others. The company has an Instagram account and a YouTube channel, if you want to see them in action.

Brad helped build the Chilliwack-based Clearview



**ORANGE CRUSH:** The Hitachi 800/LaBounty "Orange Crush" crushes all, and is the pride of Clearview Demolition's fleet.



**VISION AND EXECUTION:** From left, Cranberry Business Park CEO Craig Austin, his business partner Thomas Ligocki, and office manager Nicole Robertson. Craig and Thomas also own Meridian 125 West cannabis facility – which is in the former mill management building where this photo was taken (you can see the soon-to-be-dismantled conveyors outside the window). Nicole manages the Meridian office, too, and is the HR manager.

from a one-machine wrecking crew in 2006 to Western Canada’s biggest demolition company today. As a heavy-machine operator himself, he has a passion for wrecking. Machines on-site include a Hitachi 800/LaBounty (known fondly as Orange Crush), which, Brad explains, crunches through thick metal like a dino-sized pair of tin snips. It’s a machine

the owners of Clearview once ogled at a demolition convention in Las Vegas. Four years later, they were able to buy it. It’s a pride of their fleet, Brad said.

“Most of our work is going to be done using hydraulic shears, so processing and pulling and tugging and cutting the metals up. It will get a little noisy, but it won’t be any noisier than when the mill was

operating. We do this stuff in downtown Vancouver and have never had a noise violation. You probably won’t notice it, to be honest. When the power boilers come down though, we’ll communicate when that will be and I’m sure everyone in town will want to watch that.”

How does it feel to take down a big building, with a big machine?

“It scares the shit out of you,” Brad said. “You’ve gotta have balls the size of basketballs to run some of this equipment. It is pretty awesome to be able to do. I mean, to me, demolition is just awesome in itself. I got to demolish my old high school.”

But he also knows demolition can be a sensitive subject. Brad recalls riding in a cab in Prince Rupert, in 2015. The driver asked what brought him to town. He said his company had a contract to demolish the Skeena mill. The driver said, “I worked there for 24 years, you know.” The rest of the cab ride was silent.

Brad says he and his crew respect this community’s attachment to the mill. They’re excited to help foster its future.

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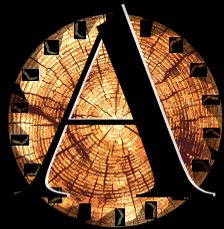
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## The clean-up: Who's paying for it?

The most contaminated part of the site, according to Cranberry Business Park, now belongs to them. Ultimately, Cranberry is responsible for fulfilling Provincial environmental requirements, so industry can safely operate on these lands.

The first stage of clean-up begins this month, with Clearview's demolition removing the low-hanging toxins — PCBs, asbestos — found in the structures on site. Potentially, though, there's much more in the soil, remaining materials, and ground water.

Catalyst Paper commissioned a Preliminary Site Investigation back in 2022, which was updated in 2023. It's a public, 1,200-page document. The consultant, EnviroChem, found 43 areas of potential environmental concern (APECs) on-site, and many more just off-site. The APECs include potential contaminants in soil and groundwater such as cyanide, herbicides, PCBs, asbestos, and much more.

This report is just the first of a multi-phase, provincially-driven, environmental requirement to restore the site, according to Evan Jones, a semi-retired environmental engineer living in Stillwater.

Evan reached out to *qathet Living* after this magazine ran a blurb in the June issue about the Preliminary Site Investigation, offering to help interpret the science.

After graduating from UBC in 1985, Evan moved to Ontario to work on the Pottersburg Creek PCB remediation project as a consultant, designing the clean-up of a vast contaminated landscape near London. He soon moved back to BC, where he worked on multiple mill and mine de-commissionings, coordinated site investigations, and eventually specialized in the management of cyanide used in gold mining.

Evan explained that when a company files a development permit, rezoning approval, or building permit for a new business on the site, that's when things get juicy. On paper, what should happen is, say a strawberry farm wants to open on site. The company would apply for the approvals with the city, and include a Site Disclosure statement. That Statement would then be forwarded by the city to the province, starting an environmental process requiring a multi-stage, likely expensive, assessment and remediation.

"There was an option for municipalities to opt out of the triggers," he said in an interview at River City Coffee, noting that a pro-development City Council could simply allow business



to build and operate without engaging the Provincial requirements. "But that option was removed a few years ago."

Evan notes there's always a dance between on-paper environmental regulations and realistic workability — that's politics.

"There may be some exemptions, and with enough motivation for the economic stimulus that development provides, I'm sure somebody is trying to find them."

Indeed, the Ministry of the Environment clarified the question in an email, noting that as long as the soil isn't disturbed, some permits may be granted without an automatic abatement process:

"A detailed site investigation (DSI) of the former tisk<sup>at</sup> mill site is currently in progress," reads the email. "The requirements for a DSI are prescribed in section 59 of the Contaminated Sites Regulation (CSR). The results of this investigation will help determine next steps in the redevelopment of the site."

"Under the "site identification" process, applications to a municipality or approving authority for certain approvals related to redevelopment of the site (zoning, subdivision, or building/development permits involving soil disturbance) will not be able to be approved until site investigation is complete and/or specific documents are obtained from the ministry," said the Ministry.

Mayor Ron Woznow is familiar with revitalizing contaminated sites in BC. In the early 1990s, he was CEO of the BC Hazardous Waste Management Corporation, a Crown Corporation that



**THE ORIGINAL VISION:** The Powell River paper mill in 1916. In William Blake's 1810 *Jerusalem*, the poet contrasts heaven with the Industrial Revolution's "dark satanic mills." What would he write about the cleaner, greener vision of the 21st century?

*Photo courtesy of the qathet Museum*

## Mill rates: The tax conundrum

The Mill lands have always provided for a large chunk of the City of Powell River's annual budget. In 2024, Domtar paid about \$5.2 million of the City's total \$24.5 million property tax revenue. Since the mill was "indefinitely curtailed" in late 2021, the City has been on edge about mill taxes.

BC Assessment tells municipalities how much each property is worth so cities can tax them appropriately. In addition, each October, BC Assessment determines which of nine classes each property is (residential, business, managed forest land, etc.), which again, determines how much tax they pay. So far, the mill lands have always been classed as "Major Industry," Class 4. Domtar is fighting that assessment right now, hoping for a reduction in taxes.

In April, City Council determined it needs to raise \$26.8 million from property taxes for 2025. How much will Cranberry pay, once the mill infrastructure is dismantled? What BC Assessment class will those lands get assigned this October?

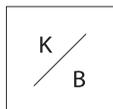
The mayor is worried. It's why, last summer, the City created a "property tax stabilization reserve fund," a wad of available cash to off-set a potential

helped develop and implement new Provincial environmental standards.

The potential remediation work on the former mill site would "scare me off" as an owner, he said. But he believes in Cranberry, because they are "just nuts and bolts business people." He was disappointed that

Domtar wasn't keen on developing new industries on site — including Ron's interest, ship-building. He's thrilled that an entrepreneurial and competent trio have taken on the waterfront.

"I am optimistic that two years from now, we'll have good industry there creating employment."



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catastrophic drop in property tax revenue if BC Assessment reclassifies the mill site to anything other than “heavy industry.”

“If mill taxes were reduced to \$1.7 million, average city taxes would go up about 14%,” said Ron, who noted that we’ll know more about BC Assessment and the potential for tax in about six months.

Cranberry’s Thomas anticipates that, when the Business Park has several functioning businesses operating on it, the lands will eventually generate significant tax revenue for the City.

“We are okay with paying taxes, of course,” he said, noting that property taxes tripled for his cannabis facility, Meridian 125 West, over the past few years. “But this is a start-up. Burdening businesses with excessive taxes from the beginning is a great way of not welcoming opportunities. If through excessive regulation and taxation, governments don’t let this mature, then you can’t reap the harvest.”

Craig noted that, with the buildings down and assets sold off, they anticipate the value of the property will decline significantly by the time BC Assessment re-assesses it this fall. That will mean paying significantly less tax to the City.

But he also noted that senior gov-

ernments offer Brownfields Sector Funding through the Green Municipal Fund, which may help make up for the gap in tax revenues while the former mill site is redeveloped.

The tax worry should be seen as temporary, Craig said. Whatever improvements are made by new businesses there can be taxed by the municipality. Plus, there’s the general economic benefit of employment. “If we have 10 tenants in there with several hundred employees, we all know that the tax base out of that is going to be huge.”

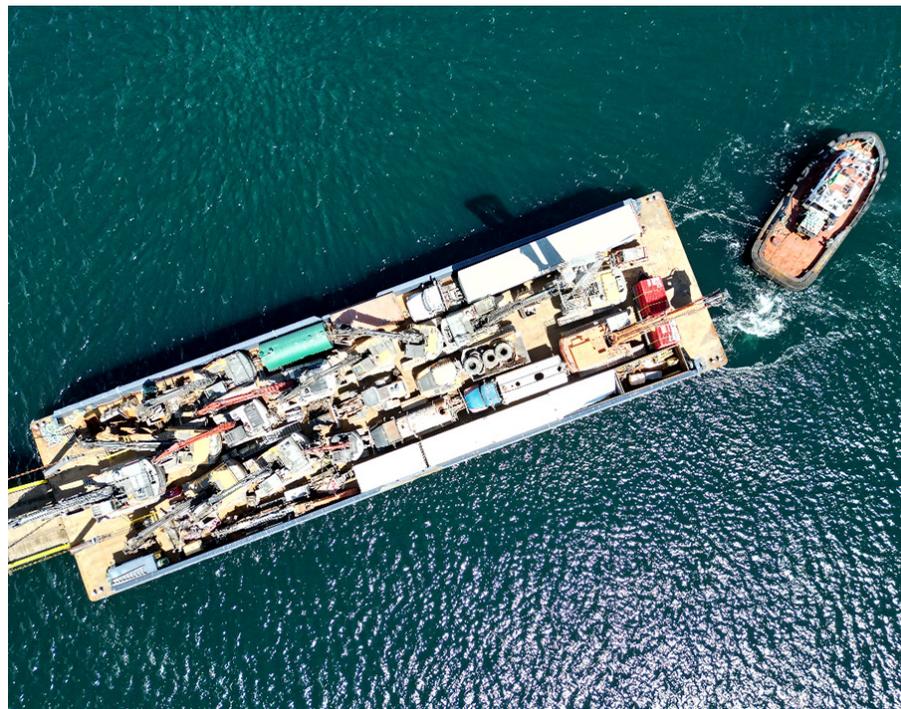
## Manifesting the Future

Taxes, environmental contamination, attracting investment: these do not keep Thomas awake at night. They’re normal challenges. Cranberry, he said, will rise to them.

But he is worried about one aspect of his investment — delays.

Whether it’s permits or other permissions, stalled decisions by government and other partners can kill a redevelopment at the business park, Thomas explained.

As an example, Meridian 125 West, his technology-driven cannabis business in the former mill administration building, was hoping to produce and sell product by 2022. He acquired the



**WRECKING CREW:** A barge and tug deliver Clearview Demolition’s heavy equipment.

*Photo courtesy Clearview Demolition*

building in 2021 from the City, which had leased it to Santé Veritas Therapeutics for the three previous years — a cannabis operation that was unable to get to the point of production.

After multiple Health Canada licensing and other delays, Meridian finally produced sellable cannabis in early 2024 — two full years of taxes and la-

bour costs later than planned.

At the time, 12 locals worked in the facility. Now, 25 do. By the end of 2025, there will be 30 local employees at Meridian — jobs can manifest when decisions are made, said Thomas. Meridian products are sold in every local cannabis shop here, and many more across Canada, and soon in Australia.

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**NO STRANGER TO THE MILL:** Above, Cranberry Business Park CEO Craig Austin—a chronic entrepreneur—once owned a company that sold pipe

“No amount of entrepreneurial spirit can overcome our hurdles, if we don’t have government co-operation.”

Thomas and Craig are not new to investing in this land—or trying to. Several years ago, when the mill was still operating, they offered to buy it. Their vision then was tissue paper. After putting several hundreds of thousands into due diligence, the deal fell apart. Again, Thomas and Craig tried to buy the lands a year ago, but it went off-track at the last minute.

Now they’ve acquired the land, but with the agreement that paper products will not be produced there. Most of the contract is under a non-disclosure agreement.

“We’re paying for power, people, and property

insulation. It brought him to the Powell River paper mill many times over those years. He and his wife plan to move here.

*Photo by Pieta Woolley*

taxes, so we want to get moving,” said Thomas.

“We will work hard and we will spend millions on clean up [at Cranberry Business Park]. However, success in creating a fertile environment for prospective businesses to come here will require the will and support of all the stakeholders: the city, the province, Tla’amin Nation, and the federal government.”

Ultimately, Thomas said, the goal is to create jobs. Hundreds of jobs. Attractive, full-time jobs that will keep young people here, keep generations of families together in qathet.

It will take a few years. It’s a risk. There are a lot of ifs, red tape, and unknowns.

But on August 5, when the machines start up, so, potentially, does this region’s more prosperous future.

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# New Waste Bylaw Aims to Cut Property Taxes, Improve Safety

## Bylaw updates

The qathet Regional District is implementing Bylaw No. 602, 2025 to update its solid waste regulations and tipping fees, replacing the 2018 version. The new bylaw establishes consistent rules across all waste management facilities, enhances safety standards, clarifies definitions, and introduces a broader fee structure to support the long-term sustainability of waste services. Key updates include clearer policies for salvaging, improved child and pet safety protocols, revised access rules, and the removal of restrictions on out-of-region waste. It also outlines updated penalties for violations and contamination to ensure effective enforcement.

## Tipping fees up to reduce taxes

A major change is the two-stage increase to the municipal solid waste (MSW) tipping fee, which will rise to \$350 per tonne on September 1, 2025, and to \$420 per tonne on January 1, 2026. This increase is designed to reduce reliance on taxation by shifting more of the cost of waste disposal to those who produce the most waste. The new fees are expected to generate an additional \$1.5 million annually, with approximately \$860,000 used to offset overhead costs covered by property taxes. As a result, homeowners could see a tax reduction of about \$10 per \$100,000 in assessed property value.

## Meeting rising demand

This phased approach to fee increases allows time for residents and businesses to adjust, while advancing the region's waste diversion goals as outlined in the qRD's 2017–2027 Solid Waste Management Plan. With no active landfill in the region and rising service demands, these updates aim to ensure the continued safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible operation of regional waste facilities. The bylaw will come into effect on September 1, 2025.



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# Art in the mall reaches everyone's eyes, eventually

BY ELIZABETH CHALLINOR

Ten years ago, my husband, Jean Paul Yirka, gave me the gift of a window near Wal-Mart at the Town Centre.

It was a space to show my paintings, rented for a year starting in August 2015. I was horrified. At the time, I “graciously” responded to my husband: “I don’t want to put my paintings in the shopping mall!” (How crude and cheap — how utterly unappealing).

But Jean Paul was patient with me, and then made the transformative statement: “You can do anything you want with it.”

## Definitely not a gallery

This month, the qathet Studio Tour (August 23 & 24) invites locals and visitors to view art in unusual places: in artists’ home studios, collaborative spaces, and more.

qL is highlighting art in three more quirky places: in a mall (this page and Page 17), on the exterior of a church (Page 17), and on the exterior of a childcare centre (Page 18).

Quite apart from an official public art program, this is organic. Artists and their creativity, just shining.

For more about the Studio Tour, see page 20, and the insert in this issue.



**NO EXPLANATIONS, NO PRICES:** Artist Elizabeth Challinor’s work has appeared in this window in the mall for a decade. Above, in August 2015. Left, in 2025. She chooses to show the paintings without any writing or prices, to encourage a spirit of contemplation over that of consumerism.

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One day a young man...  
demanded to know: “Is  
this you?!” “Why do you do  
this?” “Why do you paint  
like this?!”

Suddenly there were possibilities. I wondered, “what if it wasn’t about me, but about putting art in a public space where at some time everyone ends up?”

I remembered a recent trip to Scotland where all the art galleries were free of charge, and filled with a vibrant mixture of people: families with children, the young and elderly, the humble and the elite.

On later visits to the shopping mall—always relieved to find no evidence of eggs or tomatoes thrown at the glass—I observed some interaction with the window. A mother and a child walking towards the post office, and her little son yanks her arm towards the colours and shapes. A young person in a wheelchair is pushed up to the glass by their caregiver, and they stop for a while to look. A couple approaches and the wife tells her husband: “Come, let’s go to the artistic place.”

One day a young man recognized me when I was changing the window. He demanded to know: “Is this you?!” “Why do you do this?” “Why do you paint like this?!” He was obviously disturbed by the whole thing and seemed to be searching for the right word to describe my work. I offered some possibilities to him such as “childlike” or “abstract,” but on his own he found his word: “No, half-assed.” And again he demanded: “Why do you do this?!” I was delighted by the freedom of his critique, and then tried to explain to him the unexplainable, and we had a brief and engaging discussion about why someone might create art. The young man began furiously nodding his head and departed with the encouragement: “Well, good for you! Keep it up!”

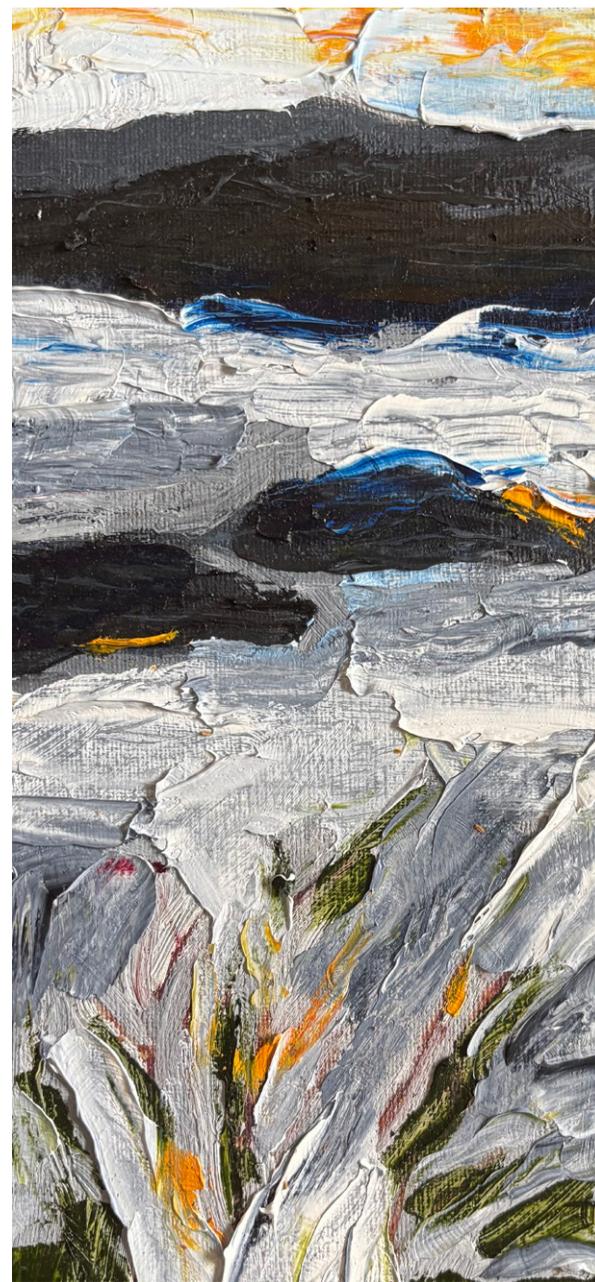
One early morning before going to work, the shops had not yet opened, I was again changing the paintings with Jean Paul. I was tired and questioning why we were continuing to do this. Is it time to stop?

An elderly woman pushing a shopping cart walked by. A very humble-looking woman. She pushed her cart over to the window to watch the changing of the paintings, and her face was a picture of curiosity and delight. A beautiful smile. I looked at her and spoke to her in my mind, “I keep this window for you.”

And suddenly ten years have passed. It has become my more-than-ten-thousand-dollar window in the process. Perhaps it is time for the window to change.

Perhaps ten years is just enough. Let’s think about it for a while. There is always the danger of changing one’s focus from process to product, and so losing the inexplicable joy of creation — one ends up with just another painting. Let’s think about it for a while.

Finally, a word of gratitude to all those who stood in front of the window these past ten years. Whether you were happy with what you saw, or somewhat incredulous at the strange and clumsy images, how lovely it is that you visited and spent a few moments in contemplation. 🐾



**FOR GAZA, THE WEST BANK AND JERUSALEM:** Above, a detail from one of Elizabeth Challinor’s paintings. It is being sold to raise money for Caritas Internationalis’ work. See sidebar below for more.

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**Art Fundraiser for Gaza**

In celebration of our anniversary, I would like to offer an eclectic group of paintings from past window displays for sale, and 100% of the profits will be donated to Caritas Internationalis for their work in Gaza. Find some of these works in my window at the mall, and some of it at elizabethchallinor.com.

Caritas Internationalis is made up of 162 Catholic relief, development, and social service organizations operating in 200 countries and territories throughout the world. Our fundraiser will specifically support Caritas Jerusalem’s commitment to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem.

I had visited the Holy Land in 2019 and was deeply troubled by the impoverished circumstances of the Palestinian people at that time. Recent images of destruction and famine have broken my heart.

~ Elizabeth Challinor



**REST STOP:** At the Powell River Town Centre in July, a new children's soft play area opened—including a mural by Gumboots Studio. Everything in the play area is non-toxic. Find the area by the Save-On-Foods entrance.



**SIGNS OF INCLUSIVITY:** Although Powell River United Church has featured rainbow stairs for years, this summer, muralist Jenn Walton added much more to the colourful entryway. The mural includes sunbeams with warm orange and gold rays symbolizing hope, love, faith, and a new day. Trees with branches coming together symbolize community, love, and family. Tree roots intertwining underground show the deep connections of friendship and helping one another. The rainbow river represents diversity, justice, and acceptance. The bear, orca, and dove show balance and peace. The bear represents how the church offers food.

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# Blackberry Festival

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# Parade of Boats

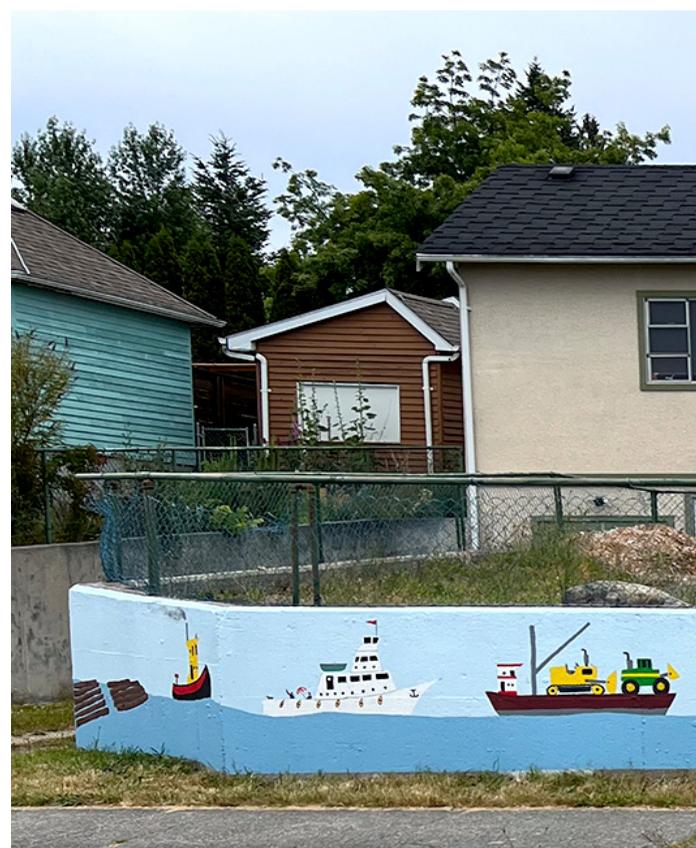
BY CLANCY DENNEHY

*Michigan and Burnaby Street*

From up here on the Westview hill we can see all the boats go by...tugboats, trawlers, cruise ships, ferries, yachts and arks... (I heard there was one piloted by a grizzly) — so I call my scene *Parade of Boats*.

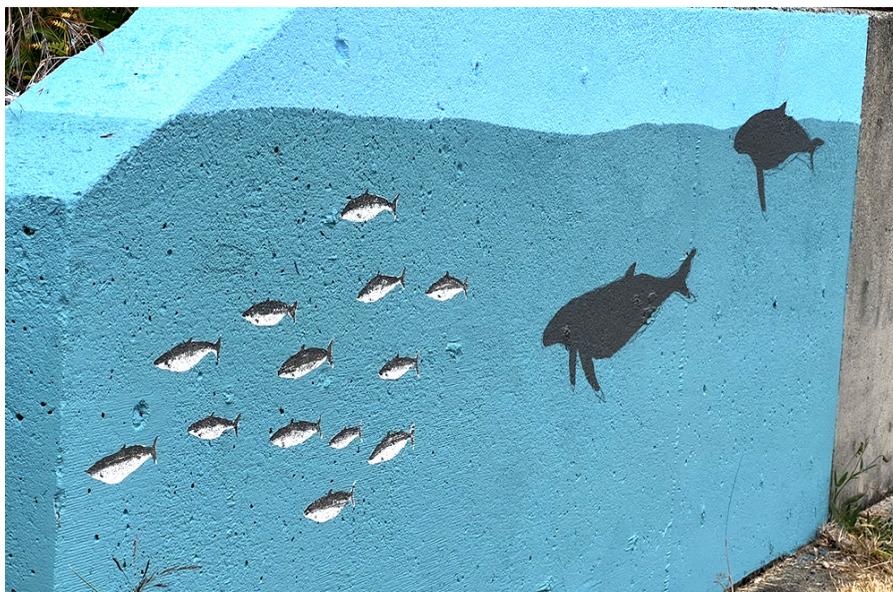
It's done in my amateur folk art style with house paint — and I added salmon being chased by two humpbacks — one spouting sparkles.

The project surely was a fun way to meet the neighbours!...and it got more likes on Facebook than Taylor Smith!



**FRIENDLY SEAS:**

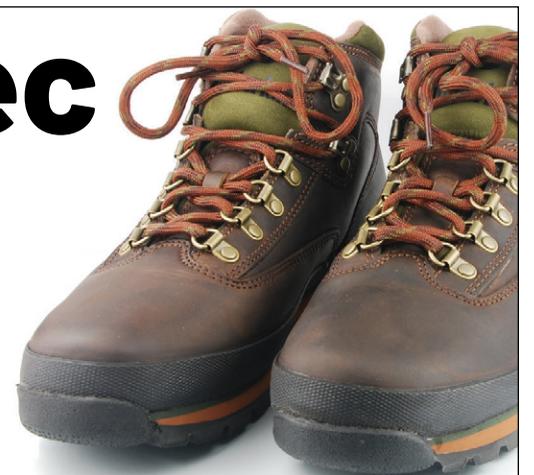
Above, artist Clancy Dennehy pencils in boats for his mural: BC Ferries, yachts, container ships, tugboats and even an ark. Right, a detail of fish and whales. Far right, before and after on the exterior wall at Second Nature Childcare Centre.



## Sports & Rec

*Gets its own section in qL starting in September*

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**BEST of qathet**

# Cedar camera captures a new vision

The *Spirit of Yuquot* is a hand-carved bentwood box pinhole camera and artistic collaboration. It plays with Northwest Coast history, artistic tradition, and curves the straight-line of technological “progress.”

BY RON SMID

In 2017, I started on a new path while on a crossroads.

After successfully running a gallery in Whistler between 2011 to 2016, I had a yearning to begin my next artistic chapter by getting back to the land and returning to British Columbia’s coast.

Having photographed across Canada for the past two decades working exclusively with film, I wanted to take my art to the next level. And for me, that meant stepping further back in time to explore the very roots of the photographic medium itself.

During a trip to Oregon, I captured one of my finest black and white photographs to date titled “Cascadia.” The image was composed behind a waterfall with the sun setting over the Pacific Ocean using a pinhole camera. The soft, ethereal qualities that the pinhole medium is known for captivated me, and inspired a new direction in my work.

I was amazed that such a simple instrument, which contained no lens, viewfinder or internal components, could capture imagery with so much visual emotion.

A pinhole camera is constructed using a tiny hole drilled into the front of

## See the *Spirit of Yuquot* at the qathet Studio Tour

The Yuquot box camera will be on display at The Stillwater Gallery during the month of August and during the qathet studio tour August 23 & 24 where you can learn more about the project.

ronsmid.com  
sanfordwilliams.com  
qathetart.ca

a box where light passes through onto a piece of film to form an image. Without the resolving power of optical glass and combined with a long exposure, the resulting images become surreal.

Having worked with traditional wood cameras for the past 15 years, I thought of the idea of having someone create a custom-made camera, carved by hand, for this next series of work.

While visiting Ucluelet, a friend showed me a *National Post* story about Ray and Terry Williams, the last remaining First Nations elders of the Mowachaht people who live on Nootka Island at their ancestral village site of

**OUT OF THE WOODS:** Stillwater photographer and galleriest Ron Smid with the *Spirit of Yuquot*, a pinhole camera he made in collaboration with Mowachaht carver Sanford Williams.  
*Photo by Mark Goodrich*

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**UNLIKE ALL ELSE:** Above, Mowachaht carver Sanford Williams working on his latest pole, a wolf, for the Baymont Hotel in Gold River. Sanford designed the Vancouver Canucks goalie masks. **Right**, the bottom of the *Spirit of Yuquot* bentwood pinhole camera, with the tripod attachment at centre. Sanford's father is carved holding a wolf rattle. **Inset at right**, gathet artist Ron Smid and Sanford Williams holding the camera in Sanford's Yuquot studio.

Photos by Mark Goodrich and Evan Doan



Yuquot, also known as Friendly Cove. There in the article, I saw their son, master carver Sanford Williams, and immediately knew that I found who I was looking for.

I set out alone to Gold River and boarded the *MV Uchuck III* to visit the Williams family to share this idea of a collaboration—to have a traditional cedar bentwood box created that, through its carvings, would tell the story of the Mowachaht people and, by transforming it into a pinhole camera, would be able to capture the light on their land.

An agreement was made and through my connections with the Pacific Rim Arts Society, a volunteer based, non-profit organization situated in Ucluelet, we were able to secure funding to commission Sanford Williams's creation of the camera.

Sanford's love of carving started at the age of fourteen. After Kakawis Christie Residential School (Meares Island) closed its doors, he didn't return home to Yuquot just yet. Instead, he educated himself at the Gitanmaax School of Northwest Coast Indian Art, learning from three masters.

In 1997, Stanford returned home to Yuquot a successful carver, after representing Canada in Taiwan at the Sanyi International Wood Sculpting Festival.

Now a true master of his craft, he has spent decades donating, displaying, or featuring his art for institutions from the Bill Reid Gallery, The Canadian Coast Guard, and Parks Canada, to goalie masks for the Vancouver Canucks.

A series of unforeseen events delayed the Yuquot Pinhole Bentwood Box Camera project until it was completed in 2024, allowing for Sanford to honour his father Ray's wish to spread the word and history of his people to

the world. The Yuquot camera is designed to shoot ultra-large 16 x 20-inch film that would have the capabilities to create non-digital black and white prints up to 5 x 6 feet, the maximum width size the analog paper comes in.

On the front of the bentwood box are carved faces of the Mowachaht, looking out to sea as Captain Cook approaches shore, being the first Europeans to make contact with the First Nations people in British Columbia in 1778. The boat is also depicted

on both sides of the box to share the historical event.

An image carved on the bottom of the camera pays tribute to his father, Ray, seen holding a wolf rattle. Sanford's face appears in the centre of the work—on the manual wood-carved shutter, covering the pinhole itself.

The recurring theme of the pursed lips on all of Sanford's carvings represent the meaning of Yuquot: "Where the wind blows in all directions."

The collaboration between an Indigenous master carver and non-Indigenous landscape photographer working together in this fashion, to my knowledge, has never been done before. The *Spirit of Yuquot* is the first project of its kind in 200 years of photography.

I am planning to make several trips to the Mowachaht territory to capture a series of photographs for a traveling exhibition, as well as a film documentary with the purpose of sharing the story of Yuquot and the Mowachaht people to the world as Ray Williams intended.

It is a great honour to be part of a project with such importance and meaning and I will do my very best to try and capture the spirit of their land onto film to share with future generations. 🇺🇸



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# Tex

BY SANDY MCCORMICK

It was just a fleeting moment, but it will stay with me forever.

I'd gone to the front yard to weed a neglected part of the garden which needed some long-overdue attention. A few days earlier I'd heard that a grizzly bear had swum over to Texada and though the island is my home I really hadn't given the bear a lot of thought. Texada had pretty much always been a predator-free paradise and though the odd black bear or wolf had swum over in the past, predatory animals were not something I stayed up all night worrying about.

I certainly wasn't thinking about them that sunny afternoon. My pile of weeds grew ever larger and the ornamental grasses planted in an old rowboat embedded in the lawn started looking attractive once again.

Lost in thought as I pulled away I was startled when my husband Lee started yelling at me from the sun deck overlooking our front yard. As I looked up at him and the disturbance he was creating, I saw him madly pointing toward the end of a large row of big rocks which separates our property from the adjoining beach about 30 feet from where I sat.

I immediately saw what Lee was pointing at. Tex, as he was later named, was standing on the beach leaning on the rocks, looking at me. He was al-

most smiling.

What impressed me the most in that instant micro-second was the way his long, copper-coloured fur glistened in the sunlight. It almost sparkled. His reddish-brown coat was thick and healthy looking and his face displayed curiosity, not aggression as he looked over the rocks in my direction.

Not being "bear aware" (why would I be, living on a predator-free island?) I was totally surprised to see him there. I did all the wrong things: jumping up and running as fast as I could for the safety of the house. Tex seemed as startled to see me as I was to see him. He didn't try to chase me or follow in any way and as I ran to the house he scampered back down from the rocks and within seconds he was way down the beach. He surely could move fast. It all happened way too quickly to be afraid and what occurred later gave me far more reason to be concerned than the actual encounter itself.

Safely indoors, Lee and I quickly discussed what to do next. What seemed logical at the time, though I've since regretted it, was to call 9-1-1 and report the sighting. Words that I never thought would come out of my mouth tumbled into the phone: "Hello, 9-1-1, I'm calling from Texada Island to report a grizzly bear in my front yard." Within seconds, I was patched through to Conservation, where officers were already on the island waiting for sightings to be reported.

Why is it that most of the time when you call Conservation it takes days or



even weeks just to get a call back? In this case, within minutes three officers arrived at our Mouat Bay property just south of Shelter Point Park. Two had rifles with high-powered sights drawn and ready to shoot, while the third operated a drone so they could search the surrounding-forest. My once-peaceful yard had been transformed into a scene from a SWAT movie.

Shocked to see the weaponry, I recall asking (dumb question) if they planned to shoot the bear and the answer was "yes," that was their orders to do so. This particular bear, they informed me, was already known to Conservation and was tagged during its second relocation. It was not a candidate for relocation again. The word "conservation" clearly did not apply to this particular grizzly.

Then I was really sorry that I'd called 9-1-1. To me, the bear looked like he was out for a weekend adventure, like a hormonal teenager hoping for some action on a Saturday night. Tex hadn't

scared me, but the Conservation officers sure did. As they patrolled the beach and forest I prayed that I wouldn't hear the sound of a rifle being fired.

I'd reported seeing the bear because I thought it was the right thing to do. I thought "conservation" meant the officers worked to conserve species. With the "shoot-to-kill" order, I realized how wrong I was.

Fortunately, no shots were fired that day. After an hour or so the officers set a bear trap, erected a large sign warning of the bear trap and left.

Fast forward to mid-July when the news broke that Tex had been shot and killed.

My heart aches for this handsome, majestic creature who deserved to live the life he could have had. And I'm grateful to him at the same time for sharing with me that fleeting moment, when he glistened in the sun, that will stay with me forever. 🐻



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# Solidarity, once again

Powell River has three new private-sector unionized workplaces this year: **Lift Community Services** (BCGEU), **Kiwanis Village** (HEU), and **Starbucks** (USW-9000).

That's something to celebrate, especially after decades of union collapse here in town, and across Canada.

For Labour Day, here's more about one newly organized workplace – and another that's both established and elbows up.

## Lift Community Services

with BC Government Employees Union President Paul Finch.

### When did Lift workers organize?

April 1, 2025

### How many workers?

Approximately 101 members

### Which union and local?

BCGEU, Local 802 — Community Health Services (North Island Area).

### What will change about their working conditions?

These new BCGEU members will join thousands of workers in the province covered by the Community Health sectoral agreement. They will soon see wage increases as well as improvements to benefits and other working conditions.



Joining a union also improves job security and allows workers to hold their employer accountable when it comes to health and safety at the workplace.

### What's a lesson you learned about organizing this workplace, that non-unionized workers might learn from?

It takes courage and determination to stand up to an employer and form a union.

The workers at Lift learned that solidarity is the most powerful way to address workplace issues and fight for better pay and working conditions.

A union doesn't just improve the job—it builds a culture where workers have each other's backs and solve problems together.

**Happy  
Labour  
Day**

Striving for fairness  
and safety, together  
with all workers.



From qathet's  
postal workers

Local President  
Noah Bourcier  
cupw808@gmail.com

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



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**RE-JOYCE FOR UNIONS:** On August 1, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers will tally their members' votes on Canada Post's final offer, in the latest round of negotiations. For the past 18 months, the two parties have been in contract dispute, which has resulted in one strike so far, November 15 to December 17, 2024.

## qathet Postal Workers

*With Canadian Union of Postal Workers  
Union local shop steward Bryn Politylo*

### Tell us a bit about yourself?

I began working at the Powell River post office in the summer of 2008. I started out as an on-call casual employee, which later led to my full-time position as a letter carrier.

CUPW provides members with educational opportunities such as courses on understanding our collective agreement, becoming a shop steward, and other topics aimed at enhancing our knowledge and skills related to unionism, health and safety, and more. I attended the Basic Shop Steward course part way into my career and with this training I became a shop steward for my local here in Powell River.

### What does being in the CUPW mean to you?

For me, being a member of CUPW means simply that I am not alone.

I am not alone when work puts my health and safety at risk. I am not alone when the financial realities of today strain the wages that I earn.

I am not alone when life decides to throw a curve ball and makes going to work harder.

It's about being connected to a diversity of people and having compassion and empathy for each other.

### When you were most recently on strike, how did locals respond to the picket line?

### What kind of comments did you get from the public?

Because unions have existed for many years in qathet, and because of the size of our remote communi-

ty, I wasn't surprised to see the amazing support we experienced in November and December.

Most comments we received from the community were about supporting our fight for fair wages, access to benefits, and the right to fair bargaining. The outpouring of donations, such as propane to keep us warm, food items for our comfort and well-being, and other acts of kindness also demonstrated the level of support we experienced during the strike.

This was very heart-warming.

**As you know, this region has a deep history with unions, including in the resource and public sectors. What kind of a future do you see for unions here?**

It is evident that the social fabric here in qathet continues to evolve because of things like the mill closing, COVID and the explosion of house prices, and also how people earn a living (e.g. home-based, remote work).

That being said, from what I have experienced going through three contract negotia-

tions, I feel the legacy of supporting unions in qathet is strong.

We are a remote "small town" and so as long as we continue to stay connected to each other as families, co-workers, neighbours, volunteers, mentors, and so forth, then compassion and empathy towards unions will continue in the region.

### What message do you have for locals, for Labour Day 2025?

My message is Let's Unite! If we unite, then we can fight back and make a difference. Why generate wealth so that it benefits just the 1%? 🇺🇸



## Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 476

**As unionists, mutual respect, cooperation and understanding are our goals.**

You might not always see us, but we're there – making sure every corner of qSD#47 runs smoothly. From the bus stops through school hallways, offices and classrooms. Over in the maintenance yard, IT centre or board office and beyond to programs up the lake, around the province such as Bowen Island and the Comox Valley, CUPE476 members are the backbone of public education.

**Since 1968, we've been growing together.** Today, we're over 240 strong. About 10% of us have been showing up for 25+ years. That's dedication and commitment to the job yes, but equally to the community. And in the past five years alone, nearly 50% growth – bringing big heart, diverse experience & skills and joining in the commitment to our colleagues, our neighbours and our communities.

**We're your neighbours.** The ones who coach, volunteer, and lend a hand. We're key to school communities being healthy, connected and welcoming.

**Every day, we show up for students, families, and staff** – CUPE476, a Unionized workforce full of care, strength, and purpose. And we're proud to stand behind the scenes, making it all happen.



## qathet Academy of Music & Arts

Music • Dance • Theatre • Visual Arts

### Fall Registration begins September 2nd

All the programs you know and love will begin again the week following registration.

The Academy is also excited to expand our arts program. We are working on a range of new and unique classes to offer the public this fall. Stay tuned to our website and social media for updates on upcoming offerings, including:

**Cultivating a Creative Sketchbook Practice: From Watercolour Experiments to Finished Paintings**

with local watercolour & mixed media artist  
**Noelle Blue Moon.**

### With Heartfelt Thanks

*We extend our deepest thanks to everyone who helped make this year's International Choral Qat<sup>o</sup>aymlx<sup>w</sup> such a remarkable success.*

To the **hundreds** of volunteers, generous sponsors, venues, hotels, restaurants, and enthusiastic attendees —thank you. This festival is a true reflection of community spirit, and it simply wouldn't be possible without your support. The Academy is profoundly grateful to be part of such a vibrant, dedicated community.

Riots, strikebreakers, and seine-boat solidarity

# 1938 Blubber Bay Mine strike bonds Chinese and white workers

In 1937, one of the most infamous labour disputes in BC history began when workers at the Blubber Bay limestone mine on Texada Island walked off the job after a wage cut. The workers were demanding an increase from 37.5 cents to 45 cents per hour. Of the 156 men who joined the strike, 75 were Chinese.

The strike lasted six weeks. While the Pacific Lime Company eventually conceded to a modest wage adjustment, it retaliated by firing pro-union employees.

The union representing the workers, the International Woodworkers of America (IWA), turned to arbitration under the newly passed Labour Arbitration Act. They demanded the reinstatement of the dismissed workers and job security for the Chinese workers, amid rumours that the company aimed to establish an all-white workforce.

However, the arbitration board refused to recognize the union's authority.

Tensions escalated. On June 2, 1938, two-thirds of the company's workforce walked out again. The company, which controlled most of the island's infrastructure, responded with force.

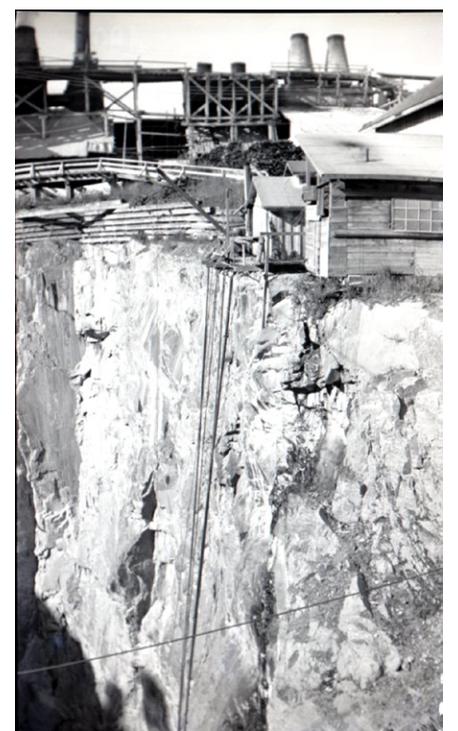
Workers were evicted from company housing, and communications such as telephone, telegraph, and postal services were severed. When 20 Chinese workers were expelled from a bunkhouse to make room for replacements, the union's lawyer was arrested while trying to retrieve their belongings.

Still, Chinese and white workers stood in solidarity on the picket lines.

Violence erupted on September 17th when the SS Chelohsin arrived with

## Want to learn more about Texada's past?

The Texada Island Museum has extended summer hours and is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10 am to 3 pm through August 30.



**TOUGH, DANGEROUS WORK:** Top left and right, Blubber Bay, Lime Rock Pit, 1938. Left, Chinese workers in #1 Quarry (Glory Hole) quarried by hand to a depth of 200 feet. Above, #1 Quarry at Blubber Bay circa 1910.

Photos courtesy of the qathet Historical Museum & Archives and Texada Island Museum

strikebreakers. A riot broke out on the wharf involving around 140 people as police used clubs to drive back the protesters.

Seven company men, four strikers, and one police officer were hospitalized. Police arrested multiple strikers, and a Vancouver constable was also taken into custody for assaulting a picketer.

The clash galvanized support across

the local labour movement. A group of pulp and sulphite workers from Powell River came to Texada, warning police they would return with reinforcements if the crackdown continued.

Not long after, 60 to 80 striking seine fishing boats en route to Vancouver anchored in the bay overnight in solidarity.



## BLAST FROM THE PAST

DEVAN GILLARD

Despite the growing support, the strike came to an end in May of 1939 without a satisfying resolution for the workers. **CL**

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**LABOUR DAYS:** Signs in English and Chinese warning strikebreakers to stay away attest to the solidarity between Chinese and white workers during their determined strike at Blubber Bay on Texada Island in 1938. Photo courtesy of Kaatza Station Museum & Archives, IWA Local 1-80/Wilmer Gold Photo Collection.

## Download the qathet Waste Wise app for service reminders

Find the Waste Wizard and other information on our waste collection services at [powellriver.ca](http://powellriver.ca), or scan here:



## AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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						

Organics and Garbage Day: **A B C D E**  
 Organics and Recycle Day: **A B C D E**



### CURBSIDE QUICK GUIDE: RECYCLING CARDBOARD

**Did You Know?** Curbside recycling is collected by hand - our city staff manually lift it directly into the trucks.

To prevent injuries, please flatten and bundle your cardboard into stacks no larger than:  
 8 inches thick x 30 inches wide x 30 inches tall.

*Your cooperation helps protect our team. Thank you!*

## BLACKBERRY FESTIVAL STREET PARTY

Friday, August 15, 2025  
 Marine Avenue from 6-10 pm



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Enjoy the entertainment and music while you dance in the street, eat great food, and shop the many vendors booths. Then stay for the spectacular fireworks display presented by Quality Foods at Willingdon Beach.

HUGE thanks to the sponsors that help bring the Street Party to life each and every year!



*Don't miss the event of the summer!*

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**FROM PARTY HOUSE TO PRETTY HOUSE:** Clockwise from above: Diana and Bill Rosehill transformed this Scuttle Bay yard from unkempt and littered to a glorious garden. The house. Plants tucked securely into a recycled log. The stairs built from a downed danger tree. A new retaining wall with flowers. A trellis made from a recycled ladder. Garlic (and PFDs). Raspberries. Opposite page from the top: Wire worms and other pests are discouraged by barriers. Diana's extensive compost system. Strawberries grow along the patio rail. Vermiculture – worm bins – helps amend the soil.



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## A GROWING CONCERN

# A dreamy, rocky seaside project

**F**our years ago, Diana and Bill Rosehill retired from Surrey, BC, and bought a former crumbling rental north of Powell River, at Scuttle Bay. Over their decades together, this is the third time they've bought a home with a derelict yard they've transformed. This one had the greatest challenges, and the brightest potential: a seaside cottage and guest suite, with an open ocean view, the water close enough at high tide to launch kayaks.

"There were no gardens, just a sea of cigarette butts and empty beer cans and crushed up cigarette packages and junk piles," recalled Diana, also mentioning the aggressive blackberry brambles, a rotting railway-tie retaining wall, and an 80-foot danger Douglas-fir tree abutting the house. "The property was really unloved."

In 2024, a king tide submerged some of their newly-planted gardens. Driftwood, salt water, rocks, and seaweed battered the new plants and washed away the soil Diana had worked so hard to build up. Despite the chaos and challenges, the couple leaned in with vision and grit, and have created a stunning floral and food garden on the shore of the Salish Sea.

### How did you start gardening?

**Diana** • Both our parents gardened extensively. God, I hated mandatory gardening days—especially when I was a teenager. My dad made us compost—which at the time I thought was gross. But as soon as we bought our first property—I couldn't wait to build compost bins and create the gardens. It was such a joy.

### Tell us about your current garden

**Diana** • Our little property is on a steep slope and is bed-rock in many areas—so raised beds are necessary. Not as pretty as in-ground gardens, but that's okay. Our garden is utilitarian and grown just for our pleasure, certainly I never thought it would be featured in a magazine. I have made the most of areas that have full sun—much of our lot is shaded by evergreens.

### What have been your biggest successes?

**Diana** • I'm beyond happy that we can live a quiet little life together here on our small plot of paradise. It's our dream come true. I consider myself unbelievably lucky that I can spend my days putting in our garden. I've been slowly changing each area into something that will be beautiful. I'm playing the long game—it'll be beautiful in a few years when the shrubs and trees I've planted mature.

## 5 things the Rosehills do in August

1. We have company all the time in the summer, so we really don't have a lot of time to garden in August
2. We water
3. Eat and process the veggies we've grown and pick our flowers
4. Swim, float or kayak out front most days
5. Work on the compost bins

### What are your greatest gardening challenges?

**Diana** • At first it was just bringing this property to the point that we could begin: taking down the Douglas-fir (thanks, Tyler Brady), fixing the septic and the retaining wall, building raised beds, building soil, figuring out how to keep bears out of the compost (the secret is to wipe ammonia on the bins).

Now it's wood bugs, wire worms, and leaf miner.

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

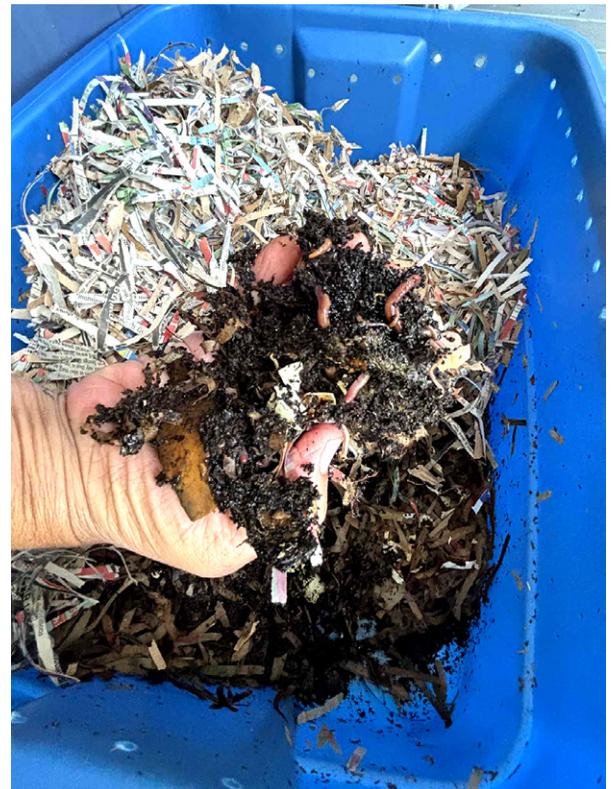
**Diana** • We learned how to do everything low-cost. For compost, I gather seaweed, rake up and shred bags and bags of leaves each fall, collect grass clippings from friends, and trade for manure from local farms. Most of the building materials Bill put into the garden are recycled from things we had on hand. We made the stairs from rings of the Douglas-fir we took down. The bamboo supports are from Swap & Shop, and so on.

### What do you do with the things you grow?

**Diana** • I pickle and can everything that we can't eat fresh. I love having vases of flowers in our house—it's one of my favourite things.

### Advice for new gardeners?

**Diana** • Make compost! If you don't know how—call me, I'm happy to help people get started—either regular composting or worm composting. Good soil grows healthy plants that can better withstand bug and environmental damage. Also—gardening can be done quite inexpensively—don't be scared off by high nursery prices—so much can be done cheaply. 🐛



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# What is style

qL asked around the region's new fashion district.

Yes, that's right. We have a fashion district.

With more than 20 retailers selling clothes and jewelry – many of them **new** over the past year – Marine Avenue is defining qathet's signature style.



"Fashion forward and eclectic – people are not afraid to experiment with colour, bling, and exotic design."

– Guadalupe Dufour, *Perfect Fit for Brides & Grads*

*Perfect Fit for Brides & Grads is opening in early August at 4706C Marine Avenue (the old Kelly's location); it was previously home-based for 12 years.*

formal dress. Look for blacks, deep reds and lots of bling to make your outfit pop, and to stand out in a crowd.

**Style advice** • With Guadalupe's help, brides can create their own look from elegant gown to little white dress, adding a veil or choosing a detachable skirt on a

**What you're looking forward to wearing this fall** • Start early for your wedding dress, and consider a new glam look at a special event.

"Unique, eclectic and diverse self-expression."

– Diana Roxburgh and Shaunalee Yates, *Original Rebels Collective*

*Original Rebels Collective started six and a half years ago at Townsite Market (as Eunoia Studio), and opened June 17th at 102-4690 Marine Ave*

to ask, "Where did you get that?"

**Style advice** • Embrace natural fabrics, express your own individuality ... anything goes here ... when it comes to jewellery, make it amazing and local. Inspire people

**What you're looking forward to wearing this fall** • We're both looking forward to wearing one of our handmade fall coats and our handwoven wool wraps. We love these, they're a staple for the cooler autumn days

# qathet's vibe?



"When it's smoking hot in the summer, it's Mrs Roper meets 'You can't touch this.'"

— Tanya Close, Fits to a T

*Fits to a T has been on Marine Avenue for 22 years, but is newly at 4670A Marine Ave*

**Style advice** • Your best investment is purchasing core pieces. A well-fitting pair of denims and a pair of black pants are staples and a necessity for every gal's wardrobe year round. You can easily switch up your look with a printed blouse or a fresh coloured top. Adding a long necklace will dress up any look, as well as, drawing the eye up and down making you look taller and slimmer.

**What you're looking forward to wearing this fall** • I am looking forward to fall for the chunky cozy sweaters, and fall footwear. Whether it be a shortie boot or a classic loafer, I'll be showing off my favourite colourful pair of Darn Tough Socks. Wide leg and barrel pants are the up and coming design for this season. My preference is the layered look for style and function. I believe fashion should be fun and that it's important to feel comfortable and confident in whatever style you embrace.

"Driftwood boho meets chainsaw chic."

— Anastasiya Dyka, Terraria Studio

*Terraria jewelry has been available on Marine Avenue (Artifact and Paperworks) since 2024.*

**Style advice** • Nature doesn't go out of style. Let your jewelry whisper of this place—wildflowers, joy, and carefree summer days. Wear your love of this land close to your heart, wherever you go.

**What you're looking forward to wearing this fall** • These daisy earrings hold summer's brightness—simple, joyful, and light-filled. I love how they catch the sun and carry a little warmth with me, even on grey days. Earrings with real daisies, in jewelry-grade resin with hypoallergenic stainless steel hooks. Made in qathet. *Photo by Ana Drikis.*



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# What is style

“As Usual the Unusual”

— Steven Brach,  
Paperworks Gift Gallery

*Paperworks Gift Gallery opened by Jean Brach 1983 at the other end of Marine, and relocated in 1985 to its current spot, 202-4741 Marine Ave.*

**Style advice** • When in doubt, put on a pair of loud and funky socks to help brighten your look.

**What you're looking forward to wearing this fall** • Looking forward to wearing our newly arrived “Lets get Kraken” Powell River Hoodies and T-shirts for fall.



“Upcycled, handmade with a vintage style!”

— Jennifer Konopelski,  
The Nutcracker Market

*The Nutcracker Market, since October 2016 at 201 — 4741 Marine Ave.*

**Style advice** • Shop local, to find sustainable homemade or upcycled fashion to suit your unique expression!

**What you're looking forward to wearing this fall** • Happiness is a good corn BBQ, with friends or family or canning after a bountiful fall harvest, so I feel I must dress for the occasion, and honestly, all seasons are apron seasons! (Apron made by Ellie's Creations. Bag made by Troovkram. Bracelet made by Megan Gros Designs.)



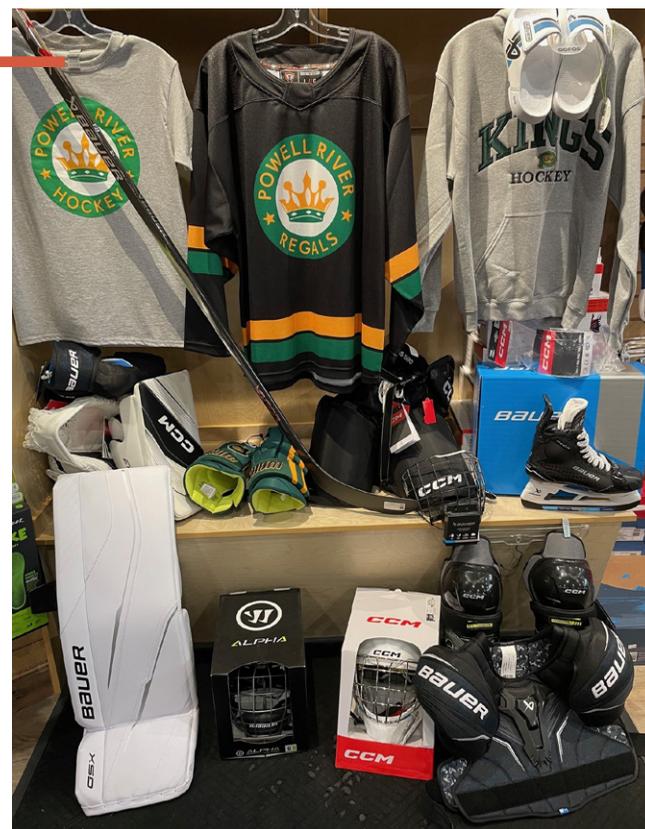
“Fall fashion for the Hap!”

— Dean English, Taws

*Taws established 1971, always at 4597 Marine Ave.*

**Style advice** • Hockey season is rapidly approaching. New gear arriving almost daily. Powell River's only full-service hockey shop with all the gear needed for all players. Apples to apples, we are the same price as online and will match prices if different.

**What you're looking forward to wearing this fall** • Everyone is always looking forward to getting back to the rink after a hot summer and putting their gear on whether it be the new Bauer Flylite skates or trying out their new stick purchase. Stock or custom, Taws is your place to be! Thank you for shopping at home!



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# qathet's vibe?



"Active casual with natural sophistication."

— Lillian Berghauer,  
Anchor Apparel and Lifestyle

**Anchor Apparel and Lifestyle** opened May 2024 at 4493-B Marine. Across from the bowling building.

**Style advice** • Blend comfort and sophistication by using natural fabrics and neutral tones with a tailored fit on top and loose below the waist. Clean accessories will elevate your look.

**What you're looking forward to wearing this fall** • This fall I am looking forward to seeing the merlot colour come out in tops and sweaters paired with a barrel jean.

"Mountainbike Metal meets Lakeside Linen."

— Mysa Kaczkowski & Forrest Silver,  
Kool Thing Vintage

**Opened our first brick & mortar store "Kool Thing Vintage" in Chinatown Vancouver in 2018. Relocated our store to qathet, June 2024, at 4486 Marine Ave.**

**Style advice** • Keep rocking your favourite band tee for fall, but add a pair of well-fitting jeans, Carhartts, or military trousers, topped off with a cool pin, hat, or belt!

**What you're looking forward to wearing this fall** • We can't wait for the fall weather so we can wear one of our vintage Champion plaid mac jackets... a classic cool Canadian fashion staple if there ever was one!



"qathet's style vibe... anything goes."

— Nicole Fraser, Westerley Studio

**Westerly Studio, almost seven years in business, just moved to 4670 Marine Ave from out south this past April and we carry women's intimates and sleepwear! (bras, underwear, and pyjamas)**

**Style advice** • A well-fitting bra and undergarments can take any outfit to the next level. Did you know, an outfit you might only wear once, but a bra you will wear over 300 times? Also, you spend half your life in pyjamas, you might as well have nice ones.

**What you're looking forward to wearing this fall** • I am looking forward to feeling more joy from women when they feel lifted, supported, and comfortable. It truly makes my day. 🍷



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## I MADE THE MOVE

# Daryl, his dog, and guitar find qathet a sweet retirement spot

**D**aryl Hala moved to Powell River in May of 2024 from Qualicum Bay on Vancouver Island. He is originally from Saskatchewan.

Daryl worked for Lafarge North America until 2021 when, as a passenger, he was involved in a serious car accident that broke his back. He was forced into early retirement.

After healing for sometime, Daryl started to look for an affordable place for him, his dog Buddy, and his guitar to make a permanent home.

On his first visit to Powell River since the age of 23, he knew right away that he was ready to put down roots here and feels very blessed to call qathet home.

**Why did you choose to move to qathet?**

**Daryl** • The change of pace and affordability.

**When? Where from?**

**Daryl** • May 2024 from Qualicum Bay on Vancouver Island.

**What surprised you, once you moved here?**

**Daryl** • For the most part how friendly and welcoming everyone has been.

**What made you decide to move here?**

**Daryl** • I found property for sale that I loved and couldn't say no to.

**Where is your favourite place in qathet?**

**Daryl** • Julie's Airport Café, The Carlson Club, and all the outdoor playgrounds.

**How did you first hear about qathet?**

**Daryl** • I first heard about qathet in the late 70s on a visit while traveling through.

**What would make this a nicer community?**

**Daryl** • Can't really comment, I just love it how it is now.

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

**Daryl** • qathet has so much to offer people of any age. I think the area is already leading the way to better lives for its residents.

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

**Daryl** • Not a one! The community is so welcoming and helpful. It has been wonderful!

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

**Daryl** • I stepped aside from politics a few years ago so I will abstain.

**What are qathet's best assets?**

**Daryl** • Its beauty and its diversity in the people who call it home.

**What is your greatest extravagance?**

**Daryl** • New and used guitars, great food, and anything outdoors.

**Which talent or superpower would you most like to have?**

**Daryl** • To stay healthy and enjoy the people and beauty of qathet for many, many more years to come! 🐾

**FIND HIM AT OPEN MICS AND JAMS AT HOME:** With the abundance of skilled musicians here in qathet, Daryl Hala says he is a little shy to perform in public.

**MOVIE UNDER THE STARS**

Friday, August, 22<sup>nd</sup> Larry Gouthro Park  
no charge - weather permitting

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**SATURDAYS ARE FOR THE CEASEFIRE:** Every Saturday at Alberni and Marine, this group gathers to raise awareness for the need for a ceasefire in Gaza.

# Why they've been there every Saturday, for nearly two years

**K**yle Corrigan, Trish Cocksedge, Ayla Scholz, Don Fodor, and Ken Palfrey are part of an intergenerational group from diverse backgrounds who show up to support each other in their “outrage and to increase awareness of the atrocities in occupied Gaza and the West Bank.”

They say they are parents, grandparents, small-business owners, firefighters, tradespeople, labour activists, stay-at-home moms, artists, and more. Some members also volunteer with organizations such as Council of Canadians, qathet Climate Alliance, and Labour for Palestine.

## Why is the war in Gaza an important issue to you?

We find it unbearable to witness the indiscriminate slaughter of approximately one classroom full of children **every single day** for nearly two years and not be moved to act.

Even calling it a “war” can be misleading. The overwhelming majority of people have been killed (by air strike, starvation, etc.) outside the context of any kind of violent confrontation.

We have different opinions on many things, but we all agree; collective punishment and mass killing of a besieged population is unjustifiable.

Well-documented Israeli war crimes include using starvation as a weapon, intentionally attacking civilians and hospitals, and targeting of journalists and medical workers.

## How did you start protesting? When are the actions?

Ken, Trish, and Don started demonstrating in November 2023, recognizing what could be considered a “rational” response to the Hamas-led attack on Israel was escalating into something far more dangerous for the region and for humanity. The first to join were locals from Palestine and Syria. The group grew organically as more people found us and joined the call for a ceasefire. We gather every Saturday at noon at Clocktower Square (Alberni and Marine), and Don holds a smaller weekly vigil there each Wednesday at 11:30.

## What kind of responses do you get from people in cars and people walking by?

Many people simply ignore us, but we receive lots of positive support and appreciation. Some people stop for discussions. A few responses have been rude/hostile, but they're rare.

## How can locals get involved in Gaza and this action?

Come out to the demonstrations and connect. They're Saturdays at 1:30pm, at the corner of Marine and Alberni.

Contact: Trish (pcocksedge@telus.net) or Kyle (earthbound363@gmail.com)

Join the Facebook page: “qathet Peace for Palestine”.

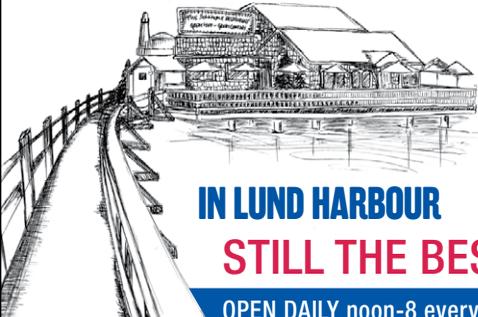
Union member? Visit Labour 4 Palestine.

Tune in to Democracy Now! (community radio 90.1FM, weekdays at 9am), or follow Francesca Albanese, Ilan Pappé, Norman Finkelstein, Yves Engler.

Follow Independent Jewish Voices Canada, CJPME, bdscoalition.ca/, or watch films such as Israelism or The Encampments.

Take effective economic action through BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions), modeled after the successful anti-apartheid movement in South Africa. Even simple choices like where you buy gas or groceries can make a difference when coordinated.

Visit armsembargonow.ca. Write to federal politicians, including the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Anita Anand.



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“Many of the most powerful voices ... against Zionism are Jewish—like Gabor Maté and Naomi Klein here in BC. They remind us: ‘never again’ means never again for anyone.”

**qathet is far away from centres of international political power. Why is this kind of action, in this kind of place, important?**

No matter our geographic location, we live in a country complicit in—and profiting from—Israel’s actions. Canadian companies, including some operating in qathet, have financial ties to the violent occupation of Palestine.

Protests are happening across the world. The movement against war and injustice starts at the community level. The military-industrial complex affects us here, too. It diverts public funds from health care, education, and housing, toward endless war.

We do what we can, where we can, to help build the kind of world we want our children to live in. The same economic system fueling war abroad drives inequality and ecological collapse at home.

**When will you stop demonstrating?**

We are steadfast and committed. We will continue until the apartheid ends and equal rights are established for all people in Israel and Palestine — principles rooted in international law and shared by the global BDS movement.



**GAZA IS TINY:** It’s 41 kilometres long and 7.5 kilometres wide, at most, but is home to 2.2 million people. In comparison, this region has just 21,000 residents.

*Image courtesy of Kyle Corrigan*

**Why is Gaza a key issue for our time?**

Palestine is a defining issue of our time. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has acknowledged an ongoing plausible genocide, and international arrest warrants have been issued for Israeli leaders—yet the attacks continue, not only in Gaza, but across the region. That a few Western countries including Canada, can ignore international law with impunity undermines global justice and the very democratic values they claim to uphold.

We are witnessing a live-streamed genocide: innocent civilians killed by snipers, drones, starvation, and the bombing of hospitals and refugee camps. Over half the victims are wom-

en and children.

The stated intent of Israeli leaders is to force all Palestinians off their land, to take it for their own. These are war crimes, yet they are barely considered news anymore. We can’t allow this to be normalized. Over 50 countries have enacted arms embargoes thanks to grassroots pressure by everyday people.

Meanwhile Canada continues trading arms with Israel both directly and via the U.S.

This moment goes beyond Gaza. It’s about the kind of future we’re willing to build—one rooted in militarism and impunity, or one founded on solidarity, justice, and care.

**What would you say to locals who are also concerned about rising anti-semitism?**

Is condemning the deliberate starvation of children and other war crimes anti-semitic? Is it not our moral and legal responsibility to hold governments accountable who commit human rights violations?

Equating political criticism of Israel with anti-semitism makes everyone less safe, including Jewish people.

They deserve safety and dignity, just like Palestinians do. Real anti-semitism must be challenged, like all forms of racism, including Islamophobia. The Israeli state doesn’t speak for all Jews.

Many of the most powerful voices in the movement against Zionism are Jewish—like Gabor Maté and Naomi Klein here in BC. They remind us: “never again” means never again for anyone.

**What didn’t I ask about that you’d like to tell readers?**

The world feels overwhelming right now. But gathering in solidarity helps transform grief and anxiety into connection and community. Many Canadians don’t realize the scale of atrocities due to biased coverage in our establishment media, as documented in the recent book *When Genocide Wasn’t News*.

The deliberate starvation of a civilian population is unconscionable. But it continues because it benefits war-profiteering corporations and the billionaire class. Canada has a legal obligation to uphold human rights. Instead, our “leaders” remain complicit, despite this country’s own history of colonial violence and racism. We must learn from those mistakes, not repeat them.

Francesca Albanese’s new report, *From Economy of Occupation to Economy of Genocide*, maps the corporations most directly profiting from the occupation of Palestine. It’s time we start naming names—and demanding accountability. 🗨️

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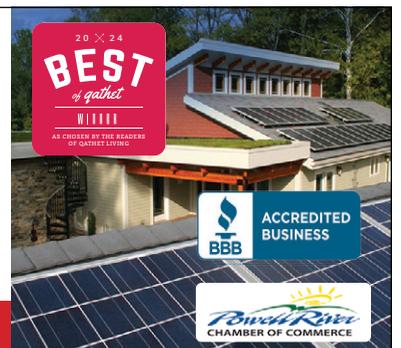


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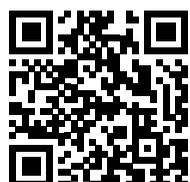
# 25 words for 2025

Learn these words and more to help celebrate 10 years of the Treaty between Tla'amin Nation, the Province of BC, and the Government of Canada in 2026.

## How many of these common ayajuthem words do you already know?

- Tla'amin Language • ʔayaʔjuθəm • aya-ju-them
- Thank you • ʔimot • e-mot
- Welcome • čεčɛhaθɛč • che-che-hath-ech
- My name is... • ... kʷətʰ nan • ... kwuth nun
- People • qayumɪxʷ • ka-yo-mew
- Tree / Relative • ʔɛʔɛ • jeh-jeh
- Elders • ʔaxay • klux-eye
- Young • čuy • chewy
- Us • nəmoʔ • neh-moth
- Spring or Chinook Salmon • θatʰəm • thut-thumb
- Bear • meɣaʔ • meh-hath
- Orca • nəŋqəm • nun-kum
- Rain • čɪʔ • chith
- Sun • ʔəgəm • tug-ghum
- Ocean • sinkʷə • sink-wah
- Canoe • nuxʷɛʔ • nook-weth
- Gathering Together • qatʰaymixʷ • kot-thigh-mews
- To Bring Together • qatʰət • kawt-thet
- School • tɪwšəməwɪxʷ • ti-sha-maut
- Powell River • tiskʷət • tees-kwat
- Milky Waters from Herring Spawn • ʔišosəm • tee-show-sum
- Willingdon Beach • ʔahʔjumɪxʷ • ah-joo-mew
- Savary Island • ʔayhos • eye-hos
- Lund • kla-ah-men • kla-ah-men
- Saltery Bay • Skelhp • skelp

With Alisha Point, Tla'amin Nation Language Teacher.



Want to learn more words or work on your pronunciation? Check out First Voices to hear Tla'amin elders speak these words and thousands more. [firstvoices.com/tlaamin](http://firstvoices.com/tlaamin)



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ETO Tattoo

**Aug 15** Friday, 6-10  
Blackberry Fest  
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**Aug 23** Saturday, 10-1  
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[qathet.ca/services/waste-management/community-wood-smoke-exchange-program/](http://qathet.ca/services/waste-management/community-wood-smoke-exchange-program/)



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## Copyrighted image wronged

To the editor,

I'm writing today not out of outrage, but out of a deep disappointment — and with hope that this moment becomes an opportunity for education, growth, and integrity.

In the most recent issue of *qathet Living*, a paid advertisement featured unauthorized use of Charles Schulz's Peanuts characters, repurposed to promote a local real estate agent. This is not only a clear case of copyright infringement, but a profound ethical misstep that undermines the values this publication claims to support.

As *qathet Living* proudly promotes community, culture, and creativity, I ask you to consider your own stated purpose — to uplift the vibrant voices and talents of our region. And yet, in this case, rather than commissioning a living artist (of which this region has many), the ad exploits the legacy of a deceased creator, whose work remains under copyright protection. To do so for commercial gain — in this case, real estate sales — is not only legally questionable, it is ethically indefensible.

The Charles Schulz estate has fiercely protected the integrity of his creations for decades, and for good reason: art matters. And more than that, artists matter. Their rights, their labours, and their livelihoods deserve protection and respect — especially from those who also profit from creativity, like advertisers and media platforms.

There is a larger issue at stake here. We live in a time when artists are constantly asked to give their work away “for exposure” or see it replicated, reprinted, and reused without permission. This practice devalues creative labour and sets a dangerous precedent, especially in a community that prides itself on its artistic ecosystem.

Let me be clear: mistakes happen. This may have been a rushed decision or an oversight. But how you respond now is what matters. You have an opportunity — and I would argue a responsibility — to publicly address this error, to apologize, and to outline how this will not happen again.

Better still, let this be a moment of redemption. Why not commit to highlighting and hiring local artists in future editions? Why not create a feature that explores the value of original art, the rights of creators, and the importance of ethical media? Why not make a meaningful donation to a local arts organization as a gesture of goodwill and accountability?

Because if we don't stand up for artists — especially in small towns like ours — who will?

*With respect and creative solidarity,*

*Nick Sherris*

*Artist, Advocate, and Community Member  
qathet Region*

**Publisher's note:** On the back page of July's issue of *qathet Living*, we ran an ad that probably crossed the line beyond fair use of artwork that we didn't have permission to use. We apologize to the Schulz estate for the use of images that look like the venerable Snoopy and Woodstock of Peanuts fame. We have plenty of excuses — we didn't create the art, the ad came in late, and so on, but the truth is that with decades of experience in publishing, we should have caught it. I should have turned it down.

We work hard to support artists, as can be seen throughout our magazine every month. We never in-



## MAIL BAG

We welcome feedback from our readers. Letters may be edited for length.

Email your comments to [editor@qathetliving.ca](mailto:editor@qathetliving.ca), or mail an old-school letter in the post to **qathet Living, 7053E Glacier St, Powell River, BC V8A 5J7.**

tend to steal from them.

The irony is that our advertiser in this case commissioned an artist to produce the ad — an artist who is skilled at riffing on historical art, and has produced some memorable ads in our magazine for this advertiser, including record album lookalikes, choose-your-own-adventure, and a Twitter badge. But none of those infringed on the rights of other artists. This one went too far.

We regularly prevent advertisers from inadvertently using copyrighted or trademarked symbols — we consider that part of our job and expertise. In this case, we failed both our advertiser and the arts. We will keep trying to be better.

## This Liberal voter has progressive values

Dear Ms. Woolley,

I always vote Liberal federally and NDP provincially. These two parties represent my progressive values. Struggling mightily this past federal election, because I know that voting Liberal would likely mean a Conservative victory, I nonetheless voted Liberal.

Dismayed, I read your June article “Rise of qathet's Conservatives” and noted that you did not include the Liberal vote in your analysis, which would, of course, have voided your entire argument.

To address your confusion about what progressive means, just add Liberal and NDP vote share totalling 58.8% plus 1.9% Green is 60.7% as opposed to Conservative 38.7%.

Meaning that 60% of qathet identifies with the progressive values of these parties: equality, climate change, respect for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis, to name a few. Therefore, I rather doubt your personal bet that every Liberal voter would vote 50/50 for NDP or Conservative. If only we had ranked ballots to prove my theory.

I am a senior and my opinion of Conservative Leader, Pierre Poilievre is that he is a mean-spirited, obnoxious little boy bully who couldn't possibly stand up to US President Trump. Anyone following Mr Poilievre, such as our new MP Aaron Gunn, despite what they profess, obviously identifies with him and his Conservative party. As do you.

*Regards,  
Louise Brandolini*

## Tex Mythology

The bear's murky legend begins.

Hopefully I can relate some facts. His beginnings were on the mainland, and, true to bear characteris-

tics, his range was of usual proportion (900 square miles). It included the Powell River area and outskirts. He had been privy to those lands through his birthright. He foraged there and hunted there quite capably despite several obstacles over his young life.

He was caught by humans on their stolen property on the mainland two times, and deported to areas where he was probably seen as an intruder by resident bears and chased off. He still came back to claim his place but probably sensed he had to add some other resource areas to his repertoire. Besides, other urges could have been at play in his maturing loins.

An area new to him was across a fairly easy swim... to Texada. (That he came here twice is not surely known.)

He allegedly followed someone who was walking a horse, and he was spotted in various areas here and there. In my experience, the speed at which he travelled indicated he was searching and not finding...a mate.

The rest, at this time, becomes muddled. Some apparently prefer to obfuscate truth for legal reasons or to protect the individual(s) who pulled assorted triggers in the prolonged but deadly act against the celebrated bear.

Others bluster on the various communication lines with admonishments and condemnation. Some get their licks in by professing their grief over the creature's martyrdom. Still others wail their discontent of "government's" forms of inaction, tardiness, or any other painfully unacceptable behavior. Still others who called for deadly force and swift justice for the bear's trespass nod to a collective sense of critical wisdom ... "we told ya so!"

A drama indeed. Watch. Some enterprising writer will strive to profit. Maybe a tearjerker movie on Netflix is already in the toaster oven, ready to be served to a waiting public

*Best regards,  
O.C. Dobrostanski*



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**WE ARE BUT BEASTS:** "Any customer caught spitting cherry pits in the store..." Did this need to be written out? Did this consequence need to be outlayed? Clearly. At the forefront of enforcing basic manners among adults this month is FreshCo, the multi-Best of qathet award winner in the grocery category. This has been a record-setting year for both abundance and quality of BC cherries, due to weather. Perhaps the pit spitting is celebratory?

**We've got  
it to go.**



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## New space a Perfect Fit

Seamstress **Guadalupe Dufour** has moved her **Perfect Fit for Brides and Grads** out of her basement and into a shop on Marine Avenue.

Guadalupe has been sewing and creating her own dresses and garments since her teen years and opened Perfect Fit about 12 years ago, running out of her home studio and workshop. The business evolved away from alterations towards wedding and graduation dresses, meeting a distinct need in the community, which has now prompted a move to a retail space with more room to feature dresses more effectively.

The space at 4706C Marine Avenue, next door to Golden Gate and near Bloom Wildly, was formerly occupied by Kelly's Health Shop. It now includes a "salon" for guests of the client bride or grad. Small groups are welcome, especially with pre-arranged appointment. Clients can still expect the top quality service and professional fitting that Guadalupe has become known for.

Perfect Fit is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am-5 pm; appointments can be made by calling or texting 604-483-1800.

## Thrift store closes

The **Salvation Army** is closing the Thrift Store located at #1-7030 Alberni Street, citing financial instability and rising costs.

On August 9, the store shut for the final time, with various closing-out sales until then.

The store opened in 2017.

"The decision to close the store did not come easily, and we are deeply saddened," said Major **Rosanne Fraser**, Powell River Salvation Army Church and Community Services.

The organization will focus its efforts on operating its social service programs, which will continue to serve the community at The Salvation Army Church and Community Services on Joyce Avenue. There the Salvation Army will continue to offer emergency food hampers, grab-n-go food supports, used clothing, and other services.



## BUSINESS AFFAIRS

SEAN PERCY

## New mechanic shop

**Brad Townley** and longtime friend **Dustin Pitre** have opened an automotive repair shop on Brad's property at 2229 Zilinsky Road. **Southside Auto** is a partnership between Red Seal mechanic, Dustin, and service writer, Brad.

They decided to go into business together knowing the demand for such a service is high with local shops often booking months away. They also had a desire to be the owners themselves and set the tone for affordable service people can depend on.

You can call or text Southside Auto at 604-223-7778.

## New CAO at City

The City of Powell River has hired **Sundance Topham** as its new Chief Administrative Officer. Sundance has extensive experience in municipal administration, having previously served as CAO for the Village of Cumberland, the District of Wells, and most recently, as interim CAO for Lantzville.

He holds a diploma in local government management from the University of Victoria's School of Public Administration and a diploma in communications from Camosun College.

"My wife and I are looking forward to settling in Powell River," said Sundance. "I am eager to begin working with City staff, Council, and community members to support the City's ongoing priorities."

"Council is looking forward to working with Sundance," said Mayor Ron Woznow. "He has a strong track record of helping organizations, elected officials, and communities achieve their goals. We are fortunate to have someone of Sundance's caliber leading our administration."



## Tourism gets a local touch

**qathet Tourism Society** has hired a new Visitor Centre manager. **Jenny Allen Taves** is best known locally for her freelance artwork, but also has a business side, most recently doing remote administration for a financial services firm in Terrace.

Jenny says she likes being involved in community activities and enjoys outdoor activities with her family. Working in tourism "seemed like a really neat way to be engaged with the things I already love about the area."

She says she hopes to bring creative new ways for locals and visitors to explore qathet. As a former buyer at Ecosentials, she hopes to put her connections with local artisans to work and expand the local offerings at the Visitor Centre's retail gift shop.

## Mall gets new GM

**Powell River Town Centre's** new general manager has decades of experience helping malls.

After graduating college with a marketing degree, **Shannon Taylor** started working for shopping centres and fell in love with the combination of shopping and community.

After working at Richmond Centre, she earned a degree in retail and property management, and started with Tsawwassen Town Centre Mall in 2003 as promotions manager, then site manager. She picked up a degree in desktop publishing and another in digital marketing, along with a business management degree. COVID ended her time there.

"After nearly 20 years with Tsawwassen Town Centre Mall, I was no longer 'Shannon from the Mall,'" she recalls.

Shannon started freelancing, helping businesses through COVID, and doing branding updates, window displays, and employee training for a variety of businesses. In February of 2024, she took a position as the marketing specialist for an Asian investment company in Richmond, helping them to break into English markets.

"It was a great job that I enjoyed and where I learned a lot about the finance

sector and multicultural marketing. It was challenging and rewarding; I was quite content until a friend sent me a



job posting for the position of GM for Powell River Town Centre," said Shannon. "It was a chance to get back doing what I love, in one of the most beautiful places in Canada.

This was a dream opportunity."

Shannon says she is excited about all of the upgrades, new shops, fresh paint, and the newly opened toddler play area at the Town Centre.

## Dance teachers step up

**Laszlo Tamasik Dance Academy** has changed hands. Instructor and dance mom **Kindree Melrose** is no stranger to the academy. She has taught there for five years and her daughters have danced with Laszlo for the last nine seasons.

"Owning a dance academy has always been a dream of mine and something I hoped I would eventually get the chance to do," said Kindree.

"My goal is to bring fresh ideas and a new perspective to things while building on the legacy that (former owner) **Paige Anderson** has created over the last decade," she said.

Meanwhile, Paige and her daughter **Dylan** have opened a pre-professional company called **Coastal Fusion**. This is for the most serious dancers wanting to take their training to the next level. The dancers must be part of LTDA and audition to be part of this new venture.

## Reside rebuilds

**Aaron Cassan** has restructured his **Reside Custom Structures**, a construction company that focuses on panel-built pre-fabricated custom structures. Aaron's career in carpentry spans over two decades, primarily in the Whistler, Pemberton, and Squamish area, providing a foundation for his current venture. You can contact Aaron at [rcstructures2020@gmail.com](mailto:rcstructures2020@gmail.com) and 694-578-1283.

✉ [sean@qathetliving.ca](mailto:sean@qathetliving.ca)



Did you know that Marine Avenue boasts well over 50 small businesses? Take a stroll along Powell River's spectacular waterfront and shopping area.

Coffee • Food • Art • Books • Gifts • Soap • Tea • Candy • Games • Gourmet Treats  
Art Supplies • Mini Golf • Clothing • Ice Cream • Scuba • Cafes & Much Much More!

Please Support Local Businesses! Follow Powell River Marine Stroll on Facebook



# Juicy Times Outside

This month, locals are hosting three unique outdoor events, to make the most of the warmest days.

They are:

## Wednesday, August 13

### Row-in Film • Hold Fast

9:30pm, Finn Bay Government Dock, on the water. Cinema Política presents this film. Free / by donation.

## Friday, August 22

### Movie Under the Stars:

#### Lilo & Stitch

Snacks at 7, movie at dusk. Larry Gouthro Park. Sponsored by First Credit Union. Free.

## Saturday, August 23

### Powell Lake Barge Fest

5pm to sunset, between Haywire and Mowat Bay. Go by boat. With Paul Maurier, Renelle Wikene and Dawson Jaxn, and Denis & The Menaces. Suggested donation \$20 via GoFundMe.

So much more is happening outdoors this month, including concerts and festivals, farmers' markets, and both wild and domesticated ripening fruit.

*These peaches were grown by Linda Wright in her Wildwood garden.*

# August events



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# AUGUST EVENTS

# 1

Friday

## Film • F1 The Movie

3:30 & 7 pm, The Patricia. Fueled by Brad Pitt's effortless charisma, F1 The Movie, is a velocrisily loud and exceedingly exciting motion picture that deserves to be experienced on the big screen!

## Teen Writing Contest

Last day to submit to the library contest. prpl.ca

# 2

Saturday

## Texada Blues & Roots Fest begins

11 am — 8 pm, Gillies Bay Ballpark. With the Blues Busters, CJ Beauchamp, Wen & the Texada Boyz, Elastic Band, Pat Buckna and more. Food and craft vendors, a kids' zone, Farmers' Market on Sunday, and a place to quench the adults' thirst. texadabluesfestival.org

## Free Tour of the Patricia Theatre

11 am, at The Pat.

## Powell River Farmers' Market

10:30 to 12:30, Paradise Exhibition Grounds. Produce, meat, baking, prepared food, artisan vendors, live music, more.

## Central Farmers' Market

10 am to 1 pm, Willingdon Beach. Local and organic produce, meat, flowers, ice cream, and more.

## Lang Bay Market

Noon til 2 pm, Lang Bay Hall. Collectibles, crafts, canning, food, and much more.

## Film • F1 The Movie

7 pm, The Patricia.

# 3

Sunday

## Texada Blues & Roots Fest

11 am — 8 pm, Gillies Bay Ballpark. With the Blues Busters, CJ Beauchamp, Wen & the Texada Boyz, Elastic Band, Pat Buckna and more. Food and craft vendors, a kids' zone for the young ones to play, the Farmers' Market on Sunday, and a place to quench the adults' thirst. texadabluesfestival.org

## Lang Bay Community Appreciation Potluck Picnic

1 pm, Lang Bay Hall. BBQ hot dogs with all the trimmings. Please bring a side dish to share of your choice. Bring your own chair, blanket, and beverage. This is a family event for everyone! No pets, please.

## Powell River Farmers' Market

12:30 to 2:30 pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds. Produce and meat, baking, prepared food, artisan vendors, live music, and more. Plus Miniature Railway rides.

## Magic the Gathering Commander night

6 pm, High Tide Games. Bring your best Commander deck and be prepared to defend your creatures.

## Texada Island Farmers' Market

Noon to 1:30 pm, ball field in Gillies Bay. Sweet and savoury prepared food, produce, meat, jewelry, artisans, live music, and more.

## Film • F1 The Movie

1:30 & 7 pm, The Patricia.

# 4

Monday

BC Day Stat

## Board Game Night

6 pm, High Tide Games. Use one of High Tide's or bring your own and play the night away.

## Film • F1 The Movie

7 pm, The Patricia.

# 5

Tuesday

## Savary Island Farmers' Market

11 am to 1:30 pm, Hacienda (2778 Brian's Way). Fruit, vegetables, art, hot food, ice cream, and more.

## Film • F1 The Movie

7 pm, The Patricia.

# 6

Wednesday

## Dungeons & Dragons night

Doors at 5:30, games at 6 pm. High Tide Games. Come to watch or start a character and jump right in on the adventure.

## Tour of the Pat

11 am. Free tour of the theatre.

## Film • F1 The Movie

3:30, The Patricia.

# 7

Thursday

## Papermaking at the Museum

9:30 to noon, qathet Museum. \$10 per person. All ages. Drop-in.

# 8

Friday

## Moonlight Market

6 pm til late, ETO Tattoos (7030 Glacier St.). Astrology-themed flash tattoos, permanent jewelry aligned with the stars, flowers, a guest piercer, tarot readings, and more.

## Rolling Stones Experience — Shattered Tour

7:30 pm, Evergreen. \$45 at 604-485-2891 (Rec Complex).

## Youth Film Camp Film Screenings

3 pm, by donation. See films created by this year's crew of Patricia Theatre / qathet Film Society youth filmmakers.

## Film • Smurfs

7 pm, The Patricia. Starring Rhianna, James Corden, and John Goodman.

# 9

Saturday

Full Moon

## Happy Birthday qathet Art & Wares!

In-store celebration. You are invited. Make your own buttons for free. See ad on Page 55.

## Texada Sandcastle Weekend Begins

See Page 48 for more. texada.org/sandcastle-weekend

## Free Tour of the Patricia Theatre

11 am, at The Pat.

## Powell River Farmers' Market

10:30 to 12:30, Paradise Exhibition Grounds.

Produce and meat, baking, prepared food, artisan vendors, live music, and more.

## Central Farmers' Market

10 am to 1 pm, Willingdon Beach. Local and organic produce, meat, flowers, ice cream, and more.

## Film • Smurfs

7 pm, The Patricia.

# 10

Sunday

## Texada Sandcastle Weekend

See Page 48 for more. texada.org/sandcastle-weekend

## Powell River Farmers' Market

12:30 to 2:30 pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds. Produce and meat, baking, prepared food, artisan vendors, live music, and more. Plus Miniature Railway rides.

## Magic the Gathering

6 pm, High Tide Games. Bring your best Commander deck and be prepared to defend your creatures.

## Texada Island Farmers' Market

Noon to 1:30 pm, ball field in Gillies Bay. Sweet and savoury prepared food, produce, meat, jewelry, artisans, live music, and more.

## Film • Smurfs

1:30 pm & 7 pm, The Patricia.

# 11

Monday

## Board Game Night

6 pm, High Tide Games. Use one of High Tide's or bring your own and play the night away.

# 12

Tuesday

## Perseids Meteor Shower

The Perseids is one of the best meteor showers to observe, producing up to 60 meteors per hour at its peak. The waning gibbous moon will block out all but the brightest meteors this year. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight.

## Savary Island Farmers' Market

11 am to 1:30 pm, Hacienda (2778 Brian's Way). Fruit, vegetables, art, hot food, ice cream, and more.

## Film • 28 Years Later

7 pm, The Patricia. Horror/Mystery/Thriller.

# 13

Wednesday

## Music in the Park: Malaspina Ensemble

7 pm, Rotary Pavilion at Willingdon Beach.

## Dungeons & Dragons night

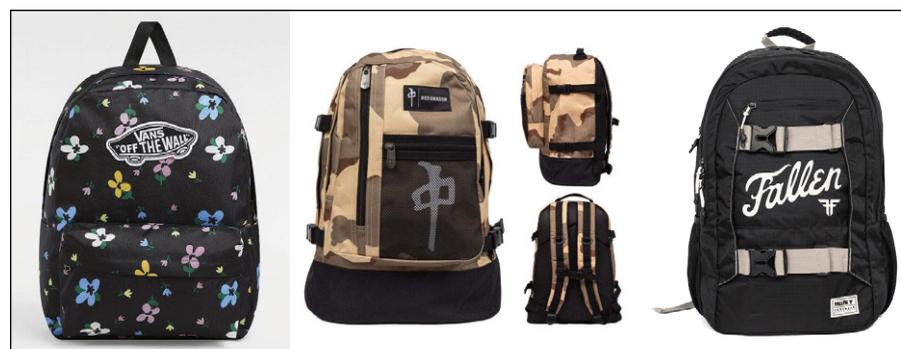
Doors at 5:30, games at 6 pm. High Tide Games. Come to watch or start a character and jump right in on the adventure.

## Free Tour of the Patricia Theatre

11 am, at The Pat.

## Film • 28 Years Later

3:30 & 7 pm, The Patricia.



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## This punk fest is sold out

The first annual loud qathet festival already sold out in late June, nearly two months before its August 22-23 weekend at The Alley.

The two-day event is chock full of punk and metal bands from all over BC, including eight local bands (nine, if you count headliners Dead Bob, led by local punk legend John Wright).

Out of town bands include Bison, Trenchraid, Mean Bikini, Caveman & the Banshee, and Tremblers of Sevens, while local bands include Sharome (pictured above, with Jervis Tebbut

(guitar/vocals), Flint Keays (bass), Dexter Harbern (guitar), Olo Friedman (drums), Little Pharmer and the Ditch Prescription, Electric Brains, Potential Union, and Loose Tights. Run by a team of volunteers, loud qathet proves that the local punk rock and heavy metal community is alive and kicking in qathet. Watch out for future loud qathet events and don't miss out on getting passes for next year's festival. Horns up! For more info, go to [loud-qathet.com](http://loud-qathet.com)

— Jason Schreuers

### On-the-Water Film • Hold Fast

9:30 pm, Finn Bay Government Dock. Cinema Politica presents this sailing documentary. Free / by donation.

# 14

Thursday

### Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts

In Sechelt. See Page 48 for more. [writersfestival.ca](http://writersfestival.ca)

**Film • 28 Years Later**  
7 pm, The Patricia.

# 15

Friday

### Blackberry Festival Street Party

6 pm, Marine Avenue. Fireworks at about 10 pm.

### Outdoor Square Dance

7:30 to 10 pm, Rotary Pavilion, Willingdon Beach. Demo. Spectators welcome. Stick around for a free lesson at 9 pm!

### Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts

In Sechelt. See Page 48 for more. [writersfestival.ca](http://writersfestival.ca)

# 16

Saturday

### "Friends Reading Friends" : Lana Cullis and Isabella Mori

2 pm Library. With Isabella Mori and Lana Cullis.

### Wade's Cause Memorial Slo-Pitch Tournament

8 am — 6 pm Cranberry Field and Sunset Park.

### Bathtub Races

Gibson's Beach. Watch for more info on Facebook.

### Free tour of the Patricia Theatre

11 am, at The Pat.

### Powell River Farmers' Market

10:30 to 12:30, Paradise Exhibition Grounds. Produce, meat, baking, prepared food, artisan vendors, live music, and more.

### Central Farmers' Market

10 am to 1 pm, Willingdon Beach. Local and organic produce, meat, flowers, ice cream, and more.

### Fire Wise Day

10-1 at the Central Farmer's Market. Learn about wood stove installs, rebates, Fire Smart. Win prizes.

### Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts

In Sechelt. See Page 48 for more. [writersfestival.ca](http://writersfestival.ca)

# 17

Sunday

### Wade's Cause Memorial Slo-Pitch Tournament

8 am — 5 pm, Cranberry Field and Sunset Park

### Powell River Farmers' Market

12:30 to 2:30 pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds. Produce, meat, baking, prepared food, artisan vendors, live music, plus Miniature Railway rides, and more.

### Texada Island Farmers' Market

Noon to 1:30 pm, ball field in Gillies Bay. Sweet and

savoury prepared food, produce, meat, jewelry, artisans, live music, and more.

### Miklat Open House

1-3 at 5298 McGuffie. Open house, facility tours, meet the team, BBQ lunch, kid-friendly activities, updates on Arbutus project.

### Magic the Gathering Commander night

6 pm, High Tide Games. Bring your best Commander deck and be prepared to defend your creatures.

### Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts

In Sechelt. See Page 48 for more. [writersfestival.ca](http://writersfestival.ca)

# 18

Monday

### Fall registration opens at the Recreation Complex

See more on Page 47.

### Community Summer BBQ at United Church

4:30 to 6 pm, Powell River United Church (near 7-11). A relaxed summer gathering with hamburgers, fresh salads, and cool drinks — all by donation. Everyone welcome.

### Board Game Night

6 pm, High Tide Games. Use one of High Tide's or bring your own and play the night away.

# 19

Tuesday

### Savary Island Farmers' Market

11 am to 1:30 pm, Hacienda (2778 Brian's Way). Fruit, vegetables, art, hot food, ice cream, and more.



SCREENING TRUTH TO POWER  
**CINEMA POLITICA**  
qathet



Monthly documentary screenings that bring people together, connect to local issues, and expand our understanding of human rights, environmental justice, and liberation.

SPECIAL "ROW-IN MOVIE"

Wednesday August 13th: "HOLD FAST" - 9:30pm in Finn Bay, Lund

FILMS  
NIGHTLY  
7 PM

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# AUGUST EVENTS

## 20

Wednesday

### Dungeons & Dragons night

Doors at 5:30, games at 6 pm. High Tide Games. Come to watch or start a character and jump right in on the adventure.

### Free Tour of the Patricia Theatre

11 am, at The Pat.

## 22

Friday

### Orca Law – Grand Opening lunch

Noon til 2 pm, at the new Orca Law office on Marine. Enjoy a free lunch, bring a non-perishable food item for the Food Bank to enter the raffle to win prizes. Orca Law will match all food donations.

### Songwriter's Showcase

6:30 pm, tickets \$25 at the door at Cranberry Hall. Originally known as the lead singer and songwriter of "Animal Logic" Deborah Holland (deboraholland.com) has gone on to have a prolific career. Matt Kennedy (mattkennedymusic.com) is the singer, songwriter and guitarist in "Headlong Hearts" and also plays mandolin in the "Five on a String" bluegrass band. Deborah and Matt will each perform a solo set and accompany each other on guitar, mandolin, accordion, and harmonies. Show info gelgaard@gmail.com.

### Alex Mackenzie Never Been Better Comedy Tour

7:30 pm Evergreen. \$41.95 on Eventbrite.

### Movie Under the Stars: Lilo & Stitch

Snacks at 7, movie at dusk. Larry Gouthro Park. Sponsored by First Credit Union. Free. .

### Loud qathet Punk & Metal Fest

The Alley. Sold out.

## 23

Saturday

### qathet Studio Tour

See insert, and more on Page 49. qathetart.ca

### Barge Fest

5 pm to sunset, between Haywire and Mowat Bay. Go by boat. With Paul Maurier, Renelle and Dawson Jaxn, and Denis & The Menaces. Suggested donation \$20 via GoFundMe.

### Texada PaintOut

10 am to 1 pm, Shelter Point. Free to visit the painters and participate. Paintings will be exhibited at the Texada Island Inn on Sunday, August 24. Join by emailing paintouttexada@gmail.com

### Midlife Transitions

2 pm, Library. Professional Counsellor Rob Wynen discusses navigating mid-life transitions (careers, relationships) and will offer practical tools, and fresh perspective. For information contact Mark at mmerlino@prpl.ca

### Free Tour of the Patricia Theatre

11 am, at The Pat.

### Powell River Farmers' Market

10:30 to 12:30, Paradise Exhibition Grounds. Produce, meat, baking, prepared food, artisan vendors, live music, and more.

### Central Farmers' Market

10 am to 1 pm, Willingdon Beach. Local and organic

produce, meat, flowers, ice cream, and more.

### Loud qathet Punk & Metal Fest

The Alley. Sold out.

## 24

Sunday

### qathet Studio Tour

See insert, and more on Page 49. qathetart.ca

### Texada PaintOut Exhibition

Texada Island Inn. Learn more by emailing paintout-texada@gmail.com

### Powell River Farmers' Market

12:30 to 2:30 pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds. Produce, meat, baking, prepared food, artisan vendors, live music, plus miniature railway rides.

### Magic the Gathering Commander night

6 pm, High Tide Games. Bring your best Commander deck and be prepared to defend your creatures.

### Texada Island Farmers' Market

Noon to 1:30 pm, ball field in Gillies Bay. Sweet and savoury prepared food, produce, meat, jewelry, artisans, live music, and more.

## 25

Monday

### Board Game Night

6 pm, High Tide Games. Use one of High Tide's or bring your own and play the night away.

## Wade's Cause Memorial Slo-Pitch Tourney

Wade Larson was a beloved son, brother, and friend who left this world far too soon at the age of 40. He faced mental health challenges with courage and compassion, always striving to bring light to others even in his darkest moments. Wade's heart was full—he loved his family deeply, cherished time with friends, and never hesitated to lend a hand. His passion for baseball reflected his spirit: team-oriented, full of joy, and fiercely dedicated.

Wade dreamed of a better world, one grounded in love, kindness, and connection. To honour his memory and carry on his mission, we are hosting the Wade's Cause Memorial Slo-Pitch Tourney on August 16-17. Proceeds will support Foundry qathet, Powell River Minor Baseball, and food banks in Powell River and Texada—causes close to Wade's heart.

Through community, sport, and giving back, we remember Wade, not just for how he left us, but for how he lived: with purpose, generosity, and love. Let's come together to celebrate his legacy and help others in his name.

— Brandt Larson

## 28

Thursday

### Artist Trading Card Night

5:30 pm, The Alley (bowling lanes). Free event. Supplies to make and trade cards included. All ages. Sponsored by qathet Art + Wares.

## 29

Friday

### Sunshine Music Festival Pre-Concert

7 pm, Cranberry Hall. With Christy Vanden and Burnstick. Entry by donation.

### Overdose Awareness Day

10 am, City Hall Flag raising. See more on Page 45.

## 30

Saturday

### Sunshine Music Festival

Palm Beach. See more on Page 9 and at sunshinemusicfest.ca

### Free Tour of the Patricia Theatre

11 am, at The Pat.

### Kings Fundraiser Golf Tournament

3 pm, shotgun start, Myrtle Point. Register teams at powellriverkings.com.

### Powell River Farmers' Market

10:30 to 12:30, Paradise Exhibition Grounds. Produce, meat, baking, prepared food, artisan vendors, live music, and more.

## 26

Tuesday

### The Teachings of Mutton – A Coast Salish Woolly Dog

3 pm, Library. Liz Hammond-Kaarremaa will share the new book – the story of the discovery of a 150-year-old Coast Salish Woolly Dog and its cultural significance. For information contact Mark at mmerlino@prpl.ca

### Savary Island Farmers' Market

11 am to 1:30 pm, Hacienda (2778 Brian's Way). Fruit, vegetables, art, hot food, ice cream, and more.

## 27

Wednesday

### Papermaking at the Museum

12:30 to 3 pm, qathet Museum. \$10 per person. All ages. Drop-in.

### Music in the Park: Walter Martella & Friends

7 pm, Rotary Pavilion at Willingdon Beach.

### Dungeons & Dragons night

Doors at 5:30, games at 6 pm. High Tide Games. Come to watch or start a character and jump right in on the adventure.

### Free Tour of the Patricia Theatre

11 am, at The Pat.



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### Central Farmers' Market

10am to 1pm, Willingdon Beach. Local and organic produce, meat, flowers, ice cream, and more.

# 31

Sunday

Overdose Awareness Day

### Powell River Farmers' Market

12:30 to 2:30 pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds. Produce and meat, baking, prepared food, artisan vendors, live music, and more. Plus Miniature Railway rides.

### Magic the Gathering Commander night

6pm, High Tide Games. Bring your best Commander deck and be prepared to defend your creatures.

### Texada Island Farmers' Market

Noon to 1:30 pm, ball field in Gillies Bay. Sweet and savoury prepared food, produce, meat, jewelry, artisans, live music, and more.

### Sunshine Music Festival

Palm Beach. See more on Page 9 and at [sunshinemusicfest.ca](http://sunshinemusicfest.ca)



**CARING CREW:** The youth Community Action Team participating in a harm reduction and naloxone training session earlier this year.

## How to honour those we have lost: International Overdose Awareness Day

BY JESSICA COLASANTO | ON BEHALF OF THE QATHET COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

**A**ugust 31 marks International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD), a global event intended to draw attention to the ongoing toxic drug crisis and inspire action.

This year's theme is "One big family, driven by hope," a reminder that toxic drug deaths don't just happen to individuals or families, but to communities. We can certainly see that here in qathet, where the effects of the toxic drug crisis have become increasingly visible and are far felt — not just by people who use substances, but their families and loved ones, care teams and service providers, first responders, neighbourhoods and businesses, local governments and decision-makers.

We're now nine-plus years into the public health emergency the BC government declared in response to rising overdose rates back in 2016, and there is no end in sight.

In 2025, we are still seeing upwards of five deaths per day throughout the province. With a toxic, unregulated drug supply everyone is at risk, whether they are experimenting with substances for the first time, partying with friends on the week-

### FLAG RAISING FOR OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

**When & Where:** 10am, Friday, August 29, City Hall

**What:** Join the qathet Community Action Team to honour the ongoing impacts of this crisis in our community, the lives lost, and our collective power to keep working to keep people alive. Wear purple to show your solidarity for those impacted by this crisis.

end, living with substance use disorder, or self-managing physical pain or emotional trauma.

And there are still people dying here in qathet. Some of the most at risk are those who exit a successful recovery program and relapse (a common part of the recovery journey), where the toxicity of the current supply plays a deadly role.

Casual partiers can also be unaware of the fact that their drug of choice may have deadly contaminants. One of the highest risk factors in toxic drug poisonings is using alone and we can mitigate this risk by accepting people where they are at and

withholding judgment and stigma.

How do we address this crisis in a fulsome way?

Just addressing urgent needs like keeping people alive on a day-to-day basis isn't enough.

We need to discuss and dismantle the systemic contributors as well: stigmatization, colonialism, the local and national housing crisis, a need for more and more accessible mental health supports.

No one person or group can adequately respond to this crisis; it takes a big family, driven by hope.

We know there is hope here in qathet. Our community has approached this crisis with collaboration and compassion. But there's so much more to be done. As we endure the ninth year of the ongoing, unrelenting public health emergency, take this International Overdose Awareness Day to reflect on your own willingness to engage in this uncomfortable reality.

Wear purple to show solidarity for those impacted by this crisis. Sign up for community harm reduction and naloxone training. And come to our flag-raising ceremony to honour those we have lost and those who are indelibly touched by the loss. 🇵🇷



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## Do you provide health services in qathet?

Contact Sean Percy before September 5 to get your free listing in ZEST magazine/directory.

[sean@prliving.ca](mailto:sean@prliving.ca)  
or 604-485-0003





## A LOOK AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER

**Monday, September 1**  
**Labour Day**

**Tuesday, September 2**  
**Back to School**

**September 3 to 8**  
**SCT Stage Race**  
5 days of running along the 165 km Sunshine Coast Trail in support of old-growth preservation and sustainable land stewardship.  
qathetoldgrowth.ca

**Thursdays, September 4 & 11**  
**qathet Concert Band open rehearsals**  
7:30 pm, Brooks School band room. If you play an instrument (woodwind, brass, percussion) and are interested in joining qCB, please plan to attend to find out if qathet Concert Band is a good fit for you. For more information please email qathetconcertband@gmail.com

**Weekend, September 6 & 7**  
**Fall Fair**  
See Fall Fair Guide insert in this issue, and more on Page 49.

**Sunday, September 7**  
**Song Circle**  
1 to 3pm, Lang Bay Hall.

**Sunday, September 14**  
**Terry Fox Run**  
Registration at 8:30am, run / walk starts at 10am, Recreation Complex.  
**Song Circles**  
1 to 3pm, Cranberry Hall.

**Monday, September 15**  
**Cops for Cancer spaghetti dinner**  
Town Centre Hotel. That's the day the ride will be in town so all the riders and support staff will be there. There'll be a silent auction, head shave event, 50/50, some live auctioning, and more. Details and tickets TBA.

**Tuesdays, September 16 & 23**  
**Square Dancing Open House – Try it for free!**  
7 to 9pm, Star Dusters Hall, Timberlane (across from Track). Age 12 and up welcome. 604-487-9565 or 604-223-8485.

**September, 19 & 20**  
**Kings vs. Langley Rivermen**  
7pm, Hap Parker.

**September 20**  
**Toy Run**  
Powell River Motorcycle Riders ride for Powell River Food Bank. Lordco parking lot. Contact Bob at 604-223-7488. powellrivermotorcycleriders.ca

**Mondays, September 22 & 29**  
**Choreographed Dance Lessons (Waltz and Two Step)**  
7 to 9pm, StarDusters Hall, Timberlane (across from Track). 604-487-9565 or 604-223-8485.

**September 26 & 27**  
**Kings vs. Victoria Grizzlies**  
7pm, Hap Parker.

**Tuesday, September 30**  
**National Truth and Reconciliation Day / Orange Shirt Day**  
Details TBA. Watch for the Three Ears Indigenous Film Festival at the Patricia (by donation).

**STILL RUNNING WITH TERRY:** 45 years ago, Terry Fox began his Marathon of Hope. This year's run, raising money for cancer research, takes place September 14.

*Public domain photo by Jeremy Gilbert*



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# Thaidal Zone RESTAURANT



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Scan the QR code  
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Active Living Guide



# The Big Ones

The last half of summer is always a calendar-filler, with festival after festival bringing together friendly folks, food and the best of this region's unique creative soul.



## Texada Blues & Roots Festival August 2 and 3, Gillies Bay

Now in its ninth year, the Texada Blues & Roots Festival is becoming more popular every year.

Participants from far and wide circle their calendars every year so they don't miss this great music event.

The musicians are all local, in that they come from within 100 kilometres of Gillies Bay.

This year we are featuring Ron Campbell and the BLUES BUSTERS along with The James Vickers band with Sara Varro. Also playing are some local favourites: Cheff Amore, CJ Beauchamp, Sherrie Adshead Smith, Pat Buckna and, of course, we will have the Texada Boyz. A special feature is our Gospel Hour and we are excited to have the Elastic Band, a jazz band from Brooks Secondary.

With food, beverages, kids zone, vendors and great music this is a must-see event. Visit our website or Facebook for updates. It is going to be great family event.



## Texada Sandcastle Weekend August 9 & 10, Gillies Bay

Texada Island Sandcastle Weekend kicks off on Saturday, with its annual parade in Gillies Bay at 11 am. This year's Grand Marshal, Stan Smith, will lead the parade, along with the RCMP, our own piper Mike Irving, children on their decorated bikes, a number of very creative floats, and our local first responders and volunteer firefighters with their equipment.

After the parade, the Family Zone, with a wet/dry bouncy castle, face painting and other kid activities, will host the fun at the Old School, just before the Gillies Bay Ballpark. Do not forget your towels — or the parent who is required to stay with their child.

Or, head to the ballpark to enter or watch the Bed Races, and saunter slowly by the well-loved Car Show and Shine. There's time to also head to the water at Gillies Bay Beach to compete and/or watch the Skim Jam Boarding Competition.

And, what's an outdoor party without local food, artisan vendors, and the Legion Beer Garden? They'll all be there waiting for you at the ballpark on both days.

Then, as the sun sets on the first day of Sandcastle weekend, people head down to Shelter Point Park for the Lip-Sync Contest, open to all ages — no talent required! The evening wraps up with a dazzling professional Laser Light Show, where you can dance the night away!

A Sunday Sunrise Service at beautiful Shelter Point Park, will begin the day at 8 am. Then it's on to the Pancake Breakfast, between 8:30 and 11 am, at the Texada Community Hall in Gillies Bay.

The Sand Sculpture Competition starts at 10 am. Judging sand sculpture is done by People's Choice — that's you, the viewing public. Voting and sand sculpture building finishes at 2:30 pm.

Surround yourself with cuteness at the Gillies Bay Ballpark for the Sandcastle Dog Show.



## Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts August 14 to 17, Sechelt

Head down to the Lower Sunshine Coast to take in the 43rd edition of the Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts running August 14-17.

Seabird and wildlife biologist Holly Hogan, who writes from the eastern rocky shores of Newfoundland, will be speaking about her award-winning book *Message in a Bottle*.

Much closer to home, representing the West Coast, are qathet authors Charlotte Gill (*Almost Brown*) and andrea bennett (*Hearty*), who will be in conversation with Megan Cole, interim executive director of BC Book Prizes.

Writers from parts in-between include Nita Prose, the #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Maid*; David A. Robertson, a two-time winner of the Governor General's Literary Award and author of *All the Little Monsters* and *52 Ways to Reconcile*; and Vancouver's Eddy Boudel Tan, who set his riveting third novel, *The Tiger and the Cosmonaut*, in a small fictional town in the qathet region.

Vancouver Island singer-songwriter Ryan McMahon will close the festival with his fine blend of folk and rock. Tickets and more information at [writersfestival.ca](http://writersfestival.ca).



## Blackberry Festival Street Party

August 15, Marine Avenue

Get ready for qathet's biggest bash of the summer! The Blackberry Festival Street Party takes over downtown Powell River on Friday, August 15, from 6–10 pm.

Hosted by the Powell River Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club of Powell River, this beloved tradition brings together locals and visitors for a lively night of music, artisan eats, refreshing drinks, and sweet summer vibes.

The party doesn't stop there; follow the crowd to Willingdon Beach for the dazzling Festival of Lights fireworks, presented by Quality Foods. It's a night of community, connection, and the unmistakable taste of blackberry season.



## qathet Studio Tour

August 23 & 24, Lang Bay to Lund

The qathet Studio Tour is a rare opportunity to be welcomed into the intimate working spaces of artists of the qathet region. On August 23 & 24 from 10am to 4pm artists open their doors to the public.

This year there are 36 studio locations on the tour and over 60 artists participating. Woodworkers, photographers, painters, weavers, fibre artists, sculptors, and more. The event is free and self-guided. You can visit one studio or all over the course of the weekend.

A detailed printed guide is included in this issue of *qathet Living*. An interactive map, as well as more information and images for each participating studio, can be found on [qathetART.ca](http://qathetART.ca).

Whether you are visiting or a local resident, we thank you for supporting the arts and culture of this talented region by hopping on the Studio Tour and seeing where the creative magic happens.



## Sunshine Music Fest

August 30 & 31, Lang Bay

On Labour Day weekend 2025, we invite you to dance your heart out under the towering trees framing our beachfront stage. Indulge in a refreshing swim, fill your belly with delicious food from our many local vendors, and take a wander of our artisan market to find that special treasure.

Saturday's line-up is Turn The 7; Madame B Pirate Party; Christy Vanden; Burnstick; Kitty & The Rooster; Club Voltaire; Red Haven; and Jack Garton.

Sunday's line-up is Alec Ross & The Beer League Band; Clanna Morna; Élise LeBlanc (feat. Quin Etheridge-Pedden); Leah Barley; Current Collective; Unfaithful Servants; SkaBoom!; and Coco Jafro closes the weekend.

Friday night gets things going with a pre-concert at Cran Hall with Christy Vanden and Burnstick.



## Powell River Fall Fair

September 6 & 7, Paradise Exhibition Park

Fall Fair has been an exciting part of our community for over 90 years, and 2025 will be another great year!

Agricultural production and food security is vital to a healthy and growing community. Come to the Fall Fair and see what's new in local agriculture and what our vibrant community has to offer. The Fair creates an interactive agricultural experience with animals, games, fresh produce, zucchini races, and a kids zone designed to spark imaginations.

Start planning now to win "best in show" at the Fall Fair Exhibition!

Do you make, bake, grow, or create something?

Enter your produce, art, crafts, baking, canning, and more! (There are classes for adults and juniors.) Find categories, rules and regulations, and entry forms in the *Fall Fair 2025 Guide* inside this issue of *qathet Living* or at [prefarmers.ca](http://prefarmers.ca). If you've ever thought of entering something, make it this year. The community loves to see what has been grown or made here; passion, talent and dedication are on display with ribbons and even trophies to win.

Come for the fun, buy a raffle ticket, stay for the live local music, tasty food, treats, and train rides for all ages! Admission is \$5 for adults; kids 12 and under enter for free. 🍂



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Linda Goldine Wegner**  
1943-2025

**L**inda Goldine Wegner, formerly of Powell River, BC, passed away in Maidstone, SK. on June 5, 2025 at the age of 82. She leaves behind her husband, Edmund, of 56 years, and their two boys, Leonard and John, as well as three grandchildren, Elizabeth, Sarah and Lucy, and one great-grandchild, Zoey.

Linda was born to Dorothy and Stan McIntosh in New Westminster, B.C. on February 27, 1943. She is survived by her four siblings: Wayne, Doug, Len, and Valerie.

Overcoming great hardships in her life, Linda was a very talented woman. She loved people and constantly strove to use her talents to provide a source of encouragement to those she came in contact with.

For nearly 30 years she served in a supporting role as the wife of a pastor and then went on to become an ordained minister herself.

Later in life, she ran a successful business, Words of Worth, incorporating her talents as an inspirational speaker and writer using her own life and battle with cancer as a source of her material. She also used her business talents as a writer and small business owner to do contract research and technical writing.

Linda was an avid writer. She wrote countless articles for magazines and papers, and has had two books published. She also wrote a local history book about First Credit Union and its history here in this community.

Linda was also a proficient pianist. Having begun formal training in her 30's, she completed Grade 9 with Royal Conservatory of Music with a major in Music Composition and went on to teach many piano lessons while living in the town of Sointula. Linda loved to play piano and sing in church. It was one of the great joys of her life.

Linda loved human connection and being a part of her neighbourhood. She gave many loaves of fresh bread and baking to neighbours, welcoming newcomers and old neighbours, always ready with a cup of tea and some fresh baking. She was generous with her hospitality.

Another of Linda's loves was riding the local city bus. She did so just so she could have the opportunity to make new acquaintances or see old friends or just to tell the bus drivers how much she appreciated them. She always came home with a story and a new acquaintance.

Linda also found it important to give back to the larger community, she volunteered with the Powell River Community First Aid Team, was involved with Powell River Chamber of Commerce and was active for many years with the local Toastmasters Club.

Linda will be missed. The impact of her life is far reaching. She saw what she did as small and insignificant, but she never stopped giving of herself.

The sum of her life is great.



*Please join family  
and friends for the  
celebration of  
Linda Wegner's life:*  
**10am, August 30  
at Powell River  
Reformed Church**



~ Welcome ~  
**Harrison Seib**  
 Born June 23  
 9 lbs 3 oz  
 To proud parents  
 Nyah & Levi Seib



**Married**  
 June 21, 2025  
 Rÿk Tataryn &  
 Victoria Ketchum

Rÿk and Victoria had an intimate ceremony and a beautiful, fun celebration of their marriage at Palm Beach with all their closest loved ones.



**JUST MARRIED!**  
 Holly May Hagen & Brock Gerrard Pagani  
 July 19, 2025  
 Wildwood

Welcome  
**Gracie Bee Galligos**  
 also named məmyęgi (bumble bee)  
 by her ččmęq<sup>w</sup>tan (great grandparents)



**բըբանə (born)** • Gracie was born June 7, 2025 at sunrise in čux<sup>w</sup>oթen (Klahanie).  
**man (father)** • Callum Bradley Galligos  
**tan (mother)** • Drew Elise Galligos  
**nan (name)** • Gracie Bee / məmyęgi  
**nuł (big brother)** • Tao Jerry Galligos  
**չաբ (traditional baby basket)** • Woven close to 100 years ago, this չաբ has held many babies over the years.

# ❁ Our Lives ❁

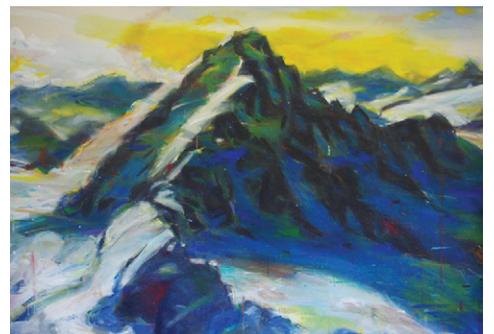
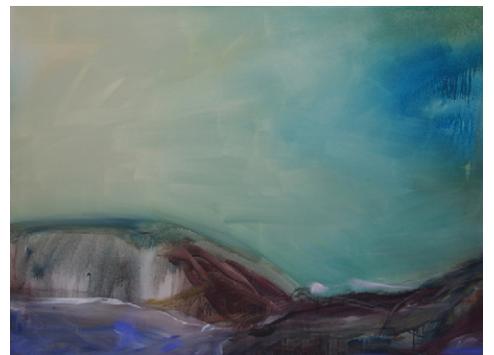


## Rick Cepella

June 13, 1955 - June 13, 2025

Celebration of Rick's Work  
 September 16 - October 23  
 qathet Art Centre

Opening reception:  
 Saturday September 20, 5-7 pm



# Our Lives



In qL's Our Lives section, anyone can share important news from their loved ones' lives:

- Births
- Graduations
- Weddings
- Job Changes
- Anniversaries
- Retirements
- Obituaries
- 'In Memoriam' Notices
- & More

Because sharing this kind of news is so important in a community, qL offers **free small notices for births, weddings, and obituaries:** a 1/18th size, for locals, when the event happened in the three months previous to publication.

**Bigger sizes and other announcements:**

- 150 words & photo: **\$150**
- 300 words & photo: **\$300**
- 600 words & photo: **\$500**
- 750 words & photos: **\$750**

Send your info to [ourlives@qathetliving.ca](mailto:ourlives@qathetliving.ca), call 604-485-0003, or drop in to 7053E Glacier Street.

## TAKE A BREAK

# Conflict Resolution Done Right

Moving through conflict can be messy, especially with loved ones.

Even if we've found resolution, a lingering unease or resentment can remain. Often it falls to the individuals to remedy (or not) within themselves. When attempting to preserve friendships, partnerships, or even business relationships and community to community relations, those lingering bits can quietly build under the surface and affect how we show up in our interactions.

For the record, I'm not a firm believer in always finding a silver lining, that awful experiences are always opportunity for growth, bad things only happen for a reason or that we must forgive to find peace. It's great when we can of course, but sometimes crud is just that — crud. Not everything can be mended and what doesn't kill us, may leave us anything but stronger for it.

But! as restorative justice advocates and many cultures based on circle governance have known for ages, when the conditions are right, conflict resolution can be more than simply solving a problem or righting a wrong, it can draw us closer to each other and foster deeper trust. Naturally, lingering unease is then replaced with nourishment.

I was recently gifted the experience of tending to discomfort between myself and a dear friend. I



## RETURN TO REVERENCE

JULIETTE JARVIS

say "gifted" because it requires a willingness and ability on both parties that can't be forced, no matter how much we wish for it.

On the surface, we had nothing left to solve. The active component had been settled.

Individually, we each had come to a certain acceptance and peace around it too. Yet, a subtle rift between us created a sense of distance. It likely would have remained had they not invited me

into a safe space for sharing

how we each experienced the situation.

We began with affirming our friendship, framing our hoped-for outcomes, set parameters for how we'd like to proceed and how what we'd share wasn't done with aim to blame, but rather to compassionately put ourselves into each other's shoes.

Leading each other through our inner perceptions and what drew us to various conclusions was incredibly revealing and liberating to speak of without interruption or fear of repercussion. Our words were mindfully shared, but deeply honest.

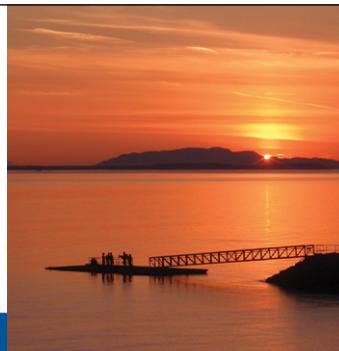
The medicinal affect of being witnessed with care was further reaching than only our friendship too, it gave me true peace and tools in-hand for when future resolution opportunities present themselves.

\*\*\*

*If you'd like to read more; archives, books, & guides can be found at [juliettejarvis.com](http://juliettejarvis.com) or subscribe to [juliettejarvis.substack.com](http://juliettejarvis.substack.com)*

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## Planning your holiday marketing?



We're on the same timeline. Reach out today!

# TAKE A BREAK

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 S K E G T A W Z E E T U L U A S O K  
 T M R S F N I W L X R N U T E E P H  
 U T R H A Y N B P T E S B T K K V T  
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 I M O R L O O A A O T I E N A R R A  
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 A A S C I S A I Q R L M E T C U O A  
 W S A R R K R V T G R T W N A O N L  
 X G F O P H T A Y Y R S E E Y L E B

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

- |              |          |          |
|--------------|----------|----------|
| APPLE        | FASHION  | SALISH   |
| ART          | FERRY    | SHAROME  |
| AVIATION     | GAZA     | STREET   |
| BLACKBERRY   | GRIZZLY  | STRIKE   |
| BLUBBER      | HUMPBACK | STUDIO   |
| BLUES        | LIME     | SUNSHINE |
| BOATS        | LOUD     | TEXADA   |
| CAMERA       | MARINE   | TOUR     |
| CONFLICT     | MINE     | TRAWLER  |
| DEMOLITION   | MUTTON   | TUGBOAT  |
| ENTREPRENEUR | NALOXONE | WADE     |
| FAIR         | ORCA     | WINDOW   |
| FALL         | ROOTS    | YACHT    |

## Wade's Cause Slo-Pitch Tournament

August 16-17, Sat 8-6 and Sun 8-5  
 at Cranberry Field & Sunset Park

Proceeds from this Memorial Tournament will support Foundry gathet, Powell River Minor Baseball, and food banks in Powell River and Texada.

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



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SOLUTION TO JULY PUZZLE

# It isn't summer 2025 'til you...

## A check-list for locals



**LAST  
WORD**

**PIETA WOOLLEY**

- Bliss out watching a sunset
- Eat on a local patio during the day
- Drink on a local patio at sunset
- See a puff of whale mist from shore
- Post pix of your homemade dinner on Insta
- Bliss out at the Texada Blues & Roots Fest, Texada Sandcastle Weekend, Blackberry Fest, the qathet Studio Tour, the Sunshine Music Festival, and the Fall Fair
- Get irate about Tex
- Get irate about name change
- Get irate about drug policy
- Visit a local liquor store
- Get spazzy about property taxes
- Get spazzy about BC Ferries
- Get spazzy about road construction
- Get spazzy about gas prices
- Visit a local cannabis shop
- Post a Facebook photo of a fish you caught
- Pick and eat 1,000 blackberries
- Pick more blackberries
- Make jam
- Compare your garlic patch with a neighbour's
- Comment on the hotter / drier / cooler / wetter weather
- Wonder if it's climate change
- Go to work
- Post and immediately delete a comment on Powell River Message Board
- Wander Marine Avenue and marvel at all the new stores
- Wonder why you don't go to Marine more often
- Get dental work done
- Enter something you're proud of in the Fall Fair
- Feel guilt for not blissing out over more sunsets
- Feel guilt for not SUPing more
- Feel guilt for not simply reveling in the best human existence any generation has ever experienced, over all time and geography
- Doom scroll
- Remember that all your problems are first world problems
- Perseverate over those first world problems
- Guilt-ridden Shein / Amazon haul
- Have a fight with, and resolve that fight with, your spouse
- Wonder where all your money went
- Look at yourself in the mirror wearing your swim suit
- Commit to keto / P90X / the gym, again
- Let it go, again
- Grieve your '80s heroes: Ozzy Osborne, Hulk Hogan, Malcolm-Jamal Warner
- See a blockbuster at The Patricia. Marvel at the new seats and air conditioning
- Hum Miley Cyrus' "I came in like a wrecking ball" to yourself every time you drive by the former mill
- Train for September's Terry Fox Run / Sunshine Coast Trail Staged Race / Concert Band / Song Circle / Square Dancing
- The Dishes. The Laundry.
- Hum Joni Mitchell's "Big Yellow Taxi" every time you park
- So. Many. Hot. Dogs.
- Gift some home-grown peaches to a friend
- Gift a home-grown zucchini to an enemy
- Forget to apply sunscreen
- Make a list of renovation projects for next summer
- Crave sweater and PSL season
- Plan Christmas
- Savary Island, if you're lucky
- Up the Lake, if you were born lucky
- Camp at a public campground
- Camp in a secret backwoods spot
- Lose a shoe, if you're still wild
- Walk face-first into a spider web
- Host out-of-town guests
- Enjoy having your home to yourself again
- Swim in a lake
- Leech
- Swim in the ocean
- Sand in shoes
- Sleep sweat
- Leave town for a vacation
- Wonder why you left town 🐬

### Summer check-list for visitors

- Bliss out watching a sunset
- Get out on the water, see a whale
- Buy some local art, clothing or jewelry
- Fantasy-browse real estate listings here
- Enjoy Haslam Lake or well water
- Park for free, almost everywhere
- Visit all five regular farmers markets, marvel at the produce, vibe, and artisan goods
- Seek to understand the issues behind Tex, name change, and drug policy
- Bliss out on a ferry
- Comment on how friendly everyone here is

August 31<sup>st</sup> is



International Overdose Awareness Day

The overdose crisis doesn't just shatter families, it fractures our communities.

But, like we share in the pain of loss, we also share in the power to change what comes next.

Join us on **Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am** for a flag raising event at City Hall where we will honour the ongoing impacts of the toxic drug crisis in our community, the lives lost, and our collective power to keep working to keep people alive.



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9  
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