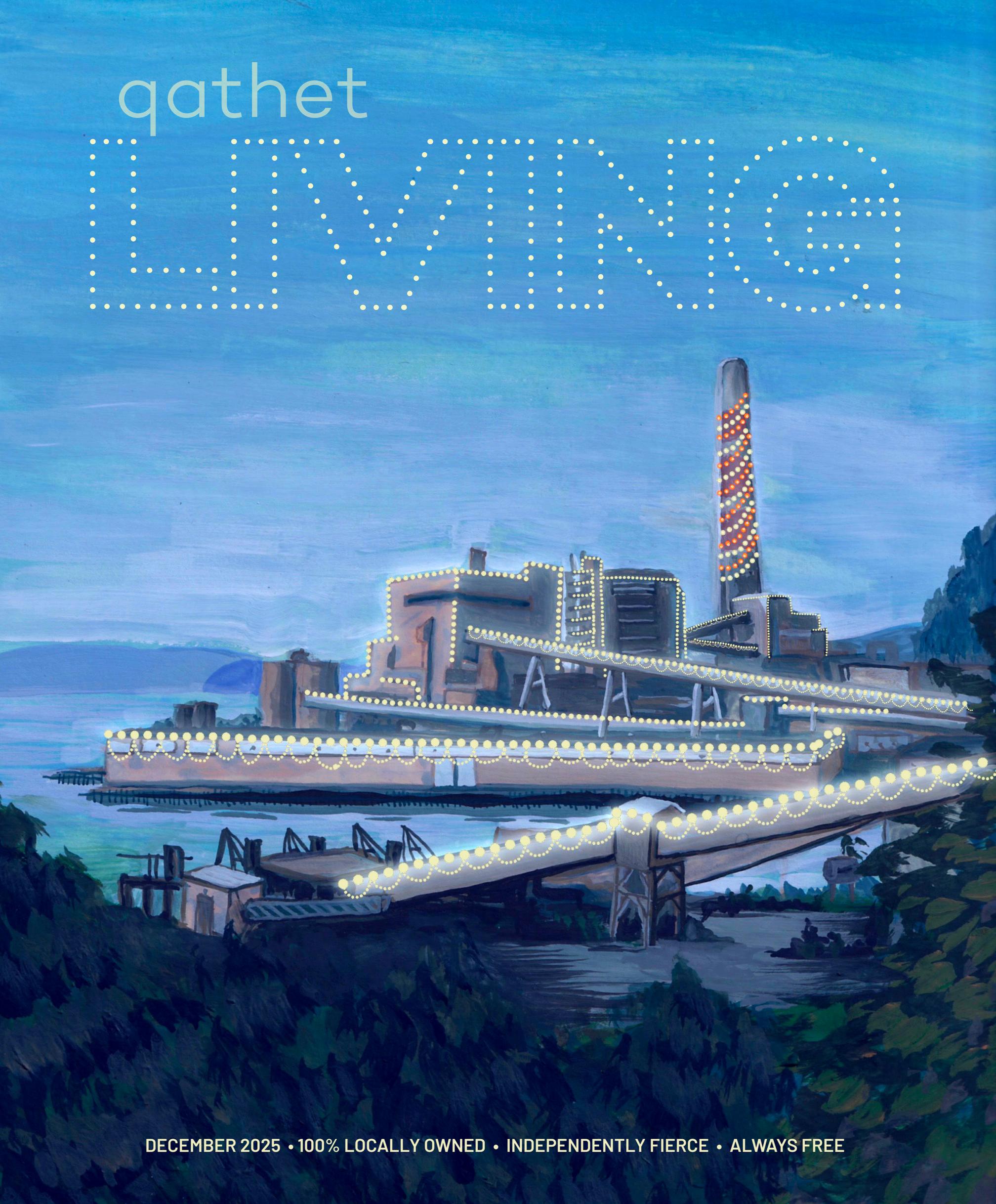


qathet

WINTER



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qL's guide to services in the region

HELP IS HERE

Help those without shelter

Fall weather is here and as temperatures drop, with no overnight shelter in town, dozens of people are sleeping outside in the wet and cold.

While work continues toward the development of a temporary shelter on Barnet Street, Lift Community Services is soliciting donations of warm, weatherproof gear to help keep people safe, dry, and as comfortable as possible as the weather worsens.

The most-needed items right now are durable three-season tents, insulated sleeping bags, tarps, and portable shelter structures. These essentials are distributed via Lift's Homeless Outreach Team, shared with community groups like the Coalition to End Homelessness, and made available as requested

by community members in need.

Warm gear makes a world of difference to people who are living in tents and makeshift shelters for months at a time, and your donations are a meaningful way to offer care, dignity, and practical help to community members navigating the duress of winter homelessness.

Can you help?

If you're able to help, donations can be dropped off at Lift's head office (4448 Marine Avenue), Monday to Friday between 9 am and 3 pm, or contact us for other options: contact@liftcommunityservices.org



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menchooserespectprogram@gmail.com

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qathet



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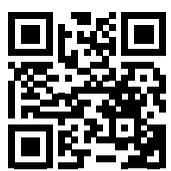
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The Powell River Compassionate Friends
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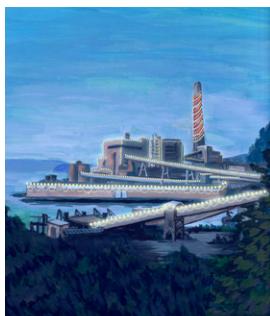
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ON THE COVER:

qL commissioned this fantasy painting of the Powell River paper mill, pre-demolition, decorated for Christmas, from local artist Jenny Allen Taves. Nearly all of this infrastructure is either demolished already, or will be coming down in the next year. See story on Page 12.



Reasons to celebrate

Again this month, I'm typing this message with one hand, as my other is hooked up to an IV dripping cancer-fighting drugs. But I realized after an outpouring of concern following last months' message, that I should have been a little clearer when I wrote "cancer-fighting drugs" last month. Yes, it's technically chemotherapy; no it's not *that* kind of chemotherapy. I had that nasty version a year and a half ago and hope to never have to repeat that. But for this past year, I've been getting bi-weekly infusions of a chemical that trains my body to recognize and attack cancer cells. This was the recommended treatment to follow the surgery I had last year that removed my cancerous bladder. Fortunately, the side effects are few and mild. Even better, it seems to be working. So, as far as we can tell, I don't have cancer anymore. (If only we could find a similar fix for the bad case of procrastination that has me, for the second time in as many months, typing to meet deadline while



PUBLISHER'S MESSAGE

getting treatment.) In a few more weeks, I'll have my last of these treatments, and then I'll just get occasional scans to ensure it's staying that way. In other words, it appears I've got this thing beat, at least for now. Despite what people write in the letters to the editor on Pages 32-33, the medical system has been very good to me.

I'm thankful for the many people who reached out to offer support and well-wishes, and I apologize to those who assumed the worst from my unclear words last month.

While I personally don't celebrate the Christmas holiday, I will definitely be in a celebratory mood when I receive my last treatment later this month, and may very well raise a glass of one of the local cocktails featured on Page 7 of this issue—they're not just for the holiday! I may even treat myself to something from the "A few of our favourite things" gift listings, as seen on Pages 62-65. **PL**

qathet LIVING

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qL

“ The mill’s influence reached far beyond the factory gates. Longtime residents still recall how mill felt—thick material used to carry pulp through the machines—showed up everywhere in town. In backyards, it became a weed barrier, wood-pile covers, even impromptu dance floors. ”

– Janice Rafael, **Page 15.**

A FEW OF DECEMBER’S CONTRIBUTORS



ROBERT COLASANTO is a retired freelance photographer who has been documenting events and nature in qathet since 1999. His ability to freeze motion in limited light is his trademark. **See Robert’s Carols by Candlelight photos, on Page 34.**



JANICE RAFAEL first expressed her voice through poetry in Powell River; now her Vancouver art transforms those rhythms into colour. www.janicerafaelart.square.site. **See Janice’s story, Mill Life, on Page 15.**



JASPREET SOOR is President of Paddling for Life and values dragon boating for its camaraderie, resilience, and connection, supporting the club’s breast cancer survivor mission. **See Jaspreet’s story, Paddling for Life, on Page 45.**



PETER AND MARGARET BEHR were the first Registered Massage Therapists in Powell River and practiced here for over 40 years. They are now happily retired. **See their story, Peace, on Page 28.**



RYK GRIFFIOEN is the designer behind Loftgang Designs and an all-season qathet board sports athlete. **See Ryk’s images on the front of the Sports & Rec section, starting on Page 43.**

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

May the peace and blessings of Christmas fill your heart and home, and may the New Year be filled with family, friends, good times and good health

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Cherry

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

On Christmas mornings, you can find Emily Chaster’s dad frying up a mess of sliced Chopping Block sausages — in Sambuca, the anise-flavoured liquor.

“It caramelizes the sausage,” Emily explained from behind the bar at The Shinglemill. “So it gets a crispy, sugary coat. Then it goes on a board with cheese and pickles, and we just eat it with toothpicks. It’s so good.”

Heavy drinking isn’t Emily’s thing, but the bartender explains that rituals — like her dad’s Sambuca sausages — can be an essential, celebratory part of the holidays for many people. Enjoying alcohol together is often a part of family traditions.

Plus, Emily said, the holidays are an opportunity to turn the presentation of both cocktails and mocktails up a notch, so guests feel cared for and special: the core of hospitality.

“It’s nice to be able to bring someone a great-looking drink, and have them say, ‘Wow!’” Pretty garnishes and rims are easy ways to elevate a drink, with or without alcohol, at home, Emily said. Candy canes, whipped cream, crushed Oreos — the possibilities are endless. With her four young kids, aged 3 to 14, holidays are a creative, bonding time to decorate glasses with

seasonal fruit and sugars.

Since she was 19, Emily has been bartending — first in Port Alberni, and for the past six years, at The Shinglemill, where she’s moving into management. For this story, she re-created five retro, hyper-local drinks from cookbooks housed in the qathet Museum’s archives. Some use local ingredients, such as a prawn or blackberry. Others have familiar names, such as the Bliss Landing. All of them can be made as both cocktails or, with a little creativity, mocktails — the non-alcoholic versions.

Drinking during the holidays can be awesome or awful. On Page 8, you can find Helen Evans’ memoir about her first Christmas alcoholic drink as an exciting initiation into adulthood. And on Page 11, two more stories, these by Emma Bashford and Dawne Briggs, about the tension between drinking as a celebration, and drinking as a problem. Both authors have given up alcohol.

“A lot of people are not drinking alcohol these days, for lots of reasons,” Emily notes; her favourite sober drink is a virgin mojito. “But any drink you serve is an opportunity to be creative.”

Whether alcohol is part of your celebrations or not, the crew at *qL* hopes your holidays are creative, caring, and filled with good cheer.



To the holidays here at home

Retro & hyper-local cocktails of qathet



Bliss Landing

½ oz melon liqueur
½ oz vodka
1 oz lemon juice
3 oz Sprite

Mix together melon liqueur, vodka, and lemon juice on ice to chill; strain into a 5 oz martini glass and top with Sprite. Serve with a slice of watermelon to garnish.

- Lund Then & Now Cookbook, 2014



Orange & Tomato

1 ⅛ cups tomato juice
2 Tbsp orange juice
1 ½ tsp lemon juice
½ tsp sugar
1 tsp finely minced onion
Salt and pepper

Combine ingredients. Season to taste. Thoroughly chill. Strain. Serve at once.

- Powell River Cook Book, proceeds to the Red Cross - 1941



The Tipsy Prawn

1 oz tequila, white rum or vodka
4 oz ruby grapefruit juice
Chilled prawn

Pour tequila, rum, or vodka on ice to chill. Strain and serve with a peeled prawn, for garnish.

- Lund Then & Now Cookbook, 2014



Quebecois Coffee

Prepared, quality coffee
½ ounce brandy
Sugar, to taste
Maple syrup
Whipping cream

Dip the rims of the cups into the brandy and sugar. Flambé, add the coffee, the maple syrup, and the whipping cream.

- Favourite Recipes, Club Bon Accueil, 2019



Rainbow Fizz

24 oz RealLemon concentrate
18 oz concentrated frozen orange juice
12 ½ oz concentrated frozen grapefruit juice
12 oz simple syrup (Simple syrup: 1 cup water to 2 cups granulated sugar)
Vodka or gin

Mix equal parts: ⅓ fruit juice mixture, ⅓ soda water, ⅓ vodka or gin.

- Courtesy of Doreen Berrington, qathet Museum and Rainbow Lodge

* A special thank you to the qathet Museum for making its vast collection of local recipe books available to qathet Living. And to Emily Chaster and The Shinglemill, for recreating these historic, local cocktails.

More retro & holiday classic cocktails from the qathet archives

Memoir: A taste of adulthood

Hogmanay (what we Scots call New Year's Eve) was the most important holiday in Scotland. Houses were cleaned from top to bottom, lots of food prepared, and the once-a-year liquor bought.

The Firstfooter was the most important person. He was the first man to cross your threshold after midnight and had to be dark-haired. This stemmed from the blond-haired Vikings' invasions in days long past. A blond firstfooter indicated a year of bad luck.

Men carried a bottle of their special drink from house to house and gave the host a wee dram. For many friends, our home was the final stop, and we always had a houseful for our Hogmanay party. Lots of food, drinks, and singing.

There was one New Year that was very special for me. I arrived with a group of friends and we were each given a drink. I was always given a glass of Dunbar's lemonade, but not this time. Dad poured me a small glass of cider. This was a sign that I was no longer a child or teenager. I was now an adult. A momentous occasion for me.

– Helen Evans

Highway 101

1 oz blackberry syrup
1 oz tequila
2 drops orange liqueur
1 oz lime juice
5 oz Sprite

Half-fill a 12 oz tulip glass with ice. Stir together the blackberry syrup, tequila, orange liqueur, and lime juice. Top up with Sprite. Garnish and serve.

– Lund Then & Now
Cookbook, 2014

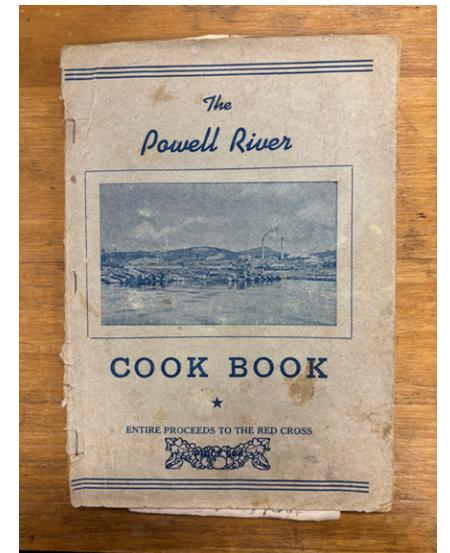
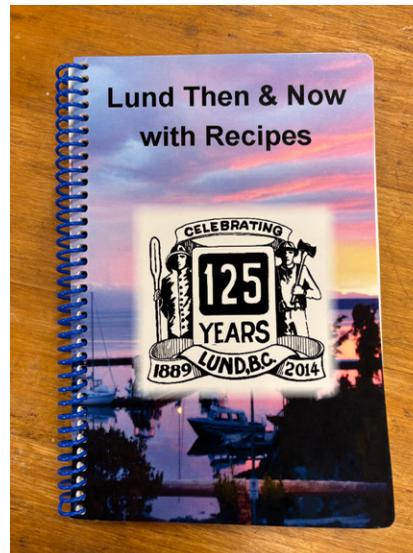
Lund Sunset

1 oz tequila, white rum, or vodka
4 oz ginger ale
4 oz orange and lemon juice mix
Squeeze of blackberry syrup

Half-fill a 12 oz glass with ice. Add tequila, white rum, or vodka, and the fruit juice; mix and stir. Add the ginger ale and finally squeeze in the blackberry syrup so that it sinks to the bottom and spreads out like a sunset.

Garnish with a cherry and/or lemon wheel and serve.

– Lund Then & Now
Cookbook, 2014



PART OF OUR HISTORY: The qathet archives contains a number of local cookbooks, including these classics.

Photos courtesy of the Powell River Historical Museum & Archives

Rhubarb Punch

3 quarts diced rhubarb
4½ cups sugar
3 quarts water
6 oz can frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed

3 Tbsp lemon juice
Lemon lime soda

Bring rhubarb, sugar, and water to

a boil in a heavy saucepan. Boil for 15 minutes; cool and strain. Stir in orange and lemon juices. Refrigerate until well chilled. To serve, combine ½ cup rhubarb syrup and 1 cup soda. Yield: 24 (12 oz) servings.

– By Liza Thomson, in *Our Favourite Recipes Cookbook, PR & Region Transition House Society* – 1996



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Slush

12 oz frozen orange juice
12 oz frozen lemonade
1 cup very strong tea
1 bottle vodka or gin
12 cups boiling water
Mix in ice pail and put in freezer. Use when slushy. Keeps slushy to use one or two glasses at a time when needed.

- By Shirley Lee, in the Brooks Student Exchange Cookbook

Mystery Reef

½ oz blue curaçao
½ oz vodka
1 oz lime juice
3 oz Sprite
Mix together blue curaçao, vodka, and lime juice on ice to chill; strain and pour into a 5 oz martini glass. Top with Sprite and serve with a slice of watermelon. Garnish.

- Lund Then & Now Cookbook, 2014

Winter Toddy

5 cups coffee (made)
3 Tbsp hot chocolate mix
¼ cup rum
¼ cup creme de cacao
2 Tbsp cinnamon
1 Tbsp almond extract
Mix all ingredients; put in a mug. Top with whip cream. Sprinkle with flakes of chocolate. Makes 6 servings.

- By Shirley Lee, in the Brooks Student Exchange Cookbook

Festive Drink

2 quart apple cider
1 orange, sliced
1 lemon, sliced
4 sticks cinnamon
6 whole cloves
¼ tsp nutmeg
¼ tsp powdered ginger
Simmer all ingredients in a saucepan over low heat for 30 to 40 minutes. Serve with cinnamon sticks or a sprinkle of cinnamon and/or nutmeg. This is great after carolling or skating!

- By Sandy Ketler, in Our Favourite Recipes Cookbook, Powell River & Region Transition House Society, 1996

Christmas Punch

12½ oz can frozen lemonade, thawed
6¼ oz can frozen orange juice, thawed
2 cups cranberry cocktail juice
2 (28 oz) bottles ginger ale
Mix first three ingredients together. Chill until ready to use. Add ginger ale.

- By Mary Jane Ammerman, in Our Favourite Recipes Cookbook, Powell River & Region Transition House Society, 1996

Punch (Fran Rodgers)

1 or 2 – 26 oz bottle of vodka (optional)
½ can pineapple juice
2 bottles of ginger ale
2 large cans orange juice
6 lemons squeezed or 12 tsp lemon juice from bottle
½ bottle of 7 Up
Mix all the ingredients together and pour in a punch bowl.

- By Fran Rodgers, in the Extended Care Cook Book



COCKTAIL OR MOCKTAIL? Lots of folks are not drinking these days, for lots of reasons. Adapting when you're entertaining is easy, of course: this Rainbow Fizz set-up lets folks choose to add gin to the soda and citrus mix, or not.



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Drinking at Christmas:

It's popular in pop culture, but not always as glam as it's trumped up to be

RETRO HOLIDAY COCKTAILS ARE THE NEW CHRISTMAS-TREE-IN-A-TRUCK: All of a sudden in 2021, freshly cut trees atop red trucks were ubiquitous on mass produced holiday swag from wrapping paper to ornaments. Now, in 2025, we are experiencing the rise of the retro holiday cocktail print: at Winners in November, it appeared on seasonal jammies, blankets, and even rugs. Internationally, liquor sales are declining. Coincidentally, so are sales of live Christmas trees. Does the rise of these prints mean we're having nostalgia for things we don't even want that much? Or do we just crave the romance of cheap holiday thrills?

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First sober Christmas

As I write these words, I will be 53 days sober. By Christmas it will be 93 days.

With the exception of my pregnancies and breastfeeding days, I have never gone this long without putting alcohol in my body since I was old enough to get away with buying it in the 80s. Up until now, my Christmas traditions involved Grand Marnier on Christmas eve, Bailey's in my coffee Christmas morning, Mimosas at brunch, and always wine with dinner.

Do I feel sad about missing all that this year? Not even a little.

One reason why it took me so long to give up alcohol, even though I could see I was out of control, was that I believed that celebrations and family gatherings would not be as much fun.

Guess what? I was wrong!

Being sober allows me greater energy, no brain fog, and the wondrous gift of presence. Family gatherings are full of just as much laughter and joy — probably more. Through the 12-step journey, I am learning how to let go of negative habits of the mind so I can handle stress better with mindfulness and compassion. That helps a lot.

One could say that this year my Christmas presents will be accompanied by my Christmas presence (sorry, I could not resist the pun).

In all seriousness, as I walk the path of recovery, I am very grateful for a supportive community, friends, and family. Most of all, I am grateful for my sobriety.

— Dawne Briggs

Good intentions versus holiday drinking pressure: a real face-off

This Christmas will be my first alcohol free Christmas in over three decades.

Roll back to early January 2023. My husband and I had spent the holidays with our respective families in Hampshire, England. It was a fun, but busy, holiday with festive drinks-a-flowing and much merriment — being together for the first time in ages early post-lockdowns was really special.

We Eurostarred it to Paris then partied at my brother's house on New Year's Eve till 2 am (I'm usually in bed at 10 pm!). We crammed a LOT into two weeks! Transport was packed. Then the long journey home. On which we both started to feel ill. Very ill.

Our flight from London arrived late at YVR which meant a night in a motel in North Van, both feeling wretched, rundown, and exhausted.

When we finally got home via plane, car, and ferry we both felt ghastly. We'd suspected COVID, and tested ourselves once home—both positive. Sick as a dog, but ecstatic to be home, I drank red wine that evening. Big mistake. I'll always remember the next morning—COVID plus a red wine hangover combined! I knew that was it. The hectic holidays had worn me out! No more booze.

I spent the next nine months alcohol free and felt *amazing*, then another six

months in 2024. But alcohol is such a socially-promoted habit that stopping wasn't straightforward. I read loads of 'Quit Lit', starting with 'Sober Curious' by Ruby Warrington and walked/did coaching calls with She Walks Canada, a community for sober-curious women changing their relationship with alcohol.

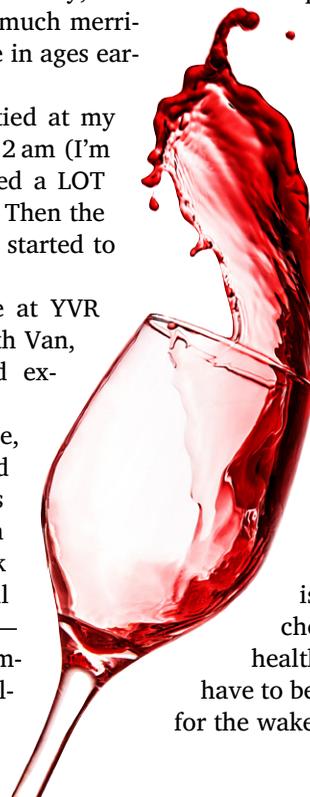
This year I joined the Over the Influence sober community, after feeling incredibly inspired by their podcast. All the societal, life-long conditioning started to fall away — further awakenings in a journey of self-discovery, of growth.

Alcohol has a way of insidiously creeping back in, though! Especially at Christmas.

After drinking on Christmas Day and Boxing Day 2024, enough was enough. I stopped on Dec. 27th, and I know in my heart that this time it's for keeps. We can clink any glass, full of any liquid, and the joy still comes! I am very protective of this well of inner peace I have found.

So cheers to Christmas alcohol-free drink options from Nutcracker Market, sea-plunges, somatic movement, and saunas! The alcohol free movement is growing exponentially with many of us choosing to reduce or eliminate booze for health, wellness or lifestyle reasons. We don't have to be at rock-bottom... but thanks COVID-19 for the wake-up call!

— Emma Bashford



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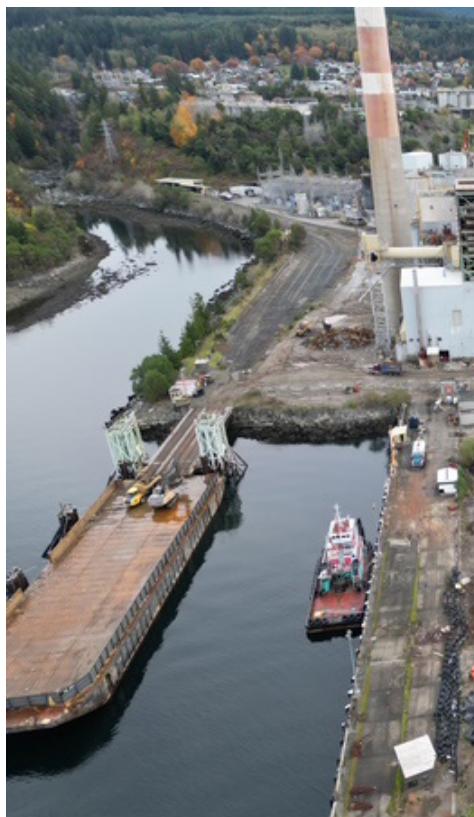
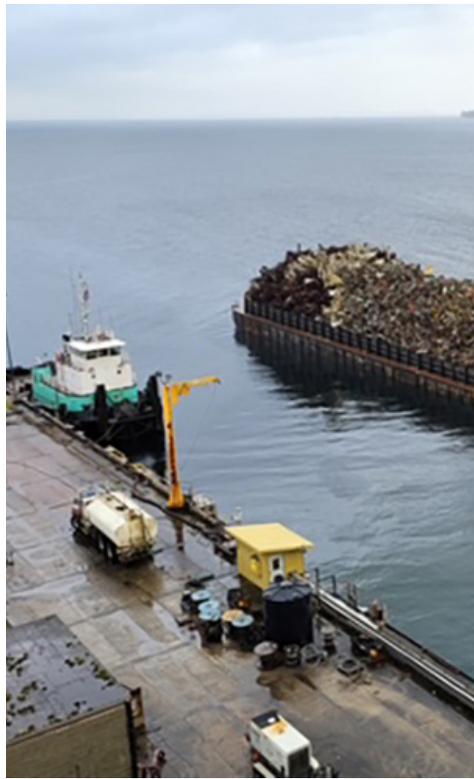
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BY PIETA WOOLLEY

2025 was the last year that the Powell River paper mill stood as this region’s defining landmark. By the end of 2026, most of the buildings will be gone.

That’s why *qL* memorialized the mill — and even romanticized it a bit — on the cover this month.

Goodbye, Paper City.

On August 5, the great jaws of Clearview Demolition’s most monstrous-looking machines started chewing through the 110-year-old Powell River paper mill.

Now, four months in, *qL* toured the site, mid-demolition, checking in with Cranberry Group CEO Craig Austin — the man at the helm of the transformation of Powell River’s historic — and futuristic — waterfront.

“This is the most exciting project I’ve been involved in, that’s for sure,” said the entrepreneur.

Here are eight things to know about the former mill site, as of December 2025:

1. What’s demolished so far

My boots sank into the mud covering much of the tip of the site, which is where buildings are being demolished in Phase 1. It’s a stew of dirt and bits of metal, noisy with machines ripping and cutting, and uniquely beautiful: hulking industrial chaos in shades of grey, blue, red, and brown.

A barge carrying 4,000 tonnes of steel left the site already. Six buildings, some of the conveyor systems, and more are gone, thanks to Clearview Demolition and their crew of about 15 people. This is Phase One of three and it covers the peninsula holding the majority of the former mill’s most recognizable buildings. It will be completed by this summer.

Next on the chopping block: Power Boiler 18.

By the end of 2026, Craig said, the only buildings left standing on the tip of the mill will be those that once housed Paper Machines 9, 10 and 11. The rest will be flattened.

MEGA RECYCLING: Left, Cranberry Group’s CEO Craig Austin, with Clearview Demolition’s site supervisor Cole Baird, stand on rubble near the mouth of the Powell River — the remains of the mill. The power boiler 19’s precipitator above them has been ripped down, leaving insulation hanging. Above, drone photos, courtesy of Cranberry Group. They show which buildings have been demolished so far, in Phase One of the demolition project. A barge carrying 4,000 tonnes of material has already left the site.



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2. Who will press the button to explode Power Boiler 18?

Towards the end of 2026, Clearview will set up to explode Power Boiler 18 and perhaps take down the 400' red and white stack— this region's most recognizable landmark— and the kraft mill. Details TBA.

3. The Hulks

Some of the Hulks may also go. They will belong to Cranberry Group under the deal with Domtar. Potentially, the WWI and WWII ferro-cement ships will become artificial reefs like the first one sunk near Willingdon Beach in 2020.

4. Which new companies plan to take the place of the mill

Craig said this is still unknown, as the site is still in upheaval. Several companies are working their way through letters of intent.

Some companies that have expressed serious interest include those that do vertical farming, data centres, biofuel for airplanes, ship building and more.

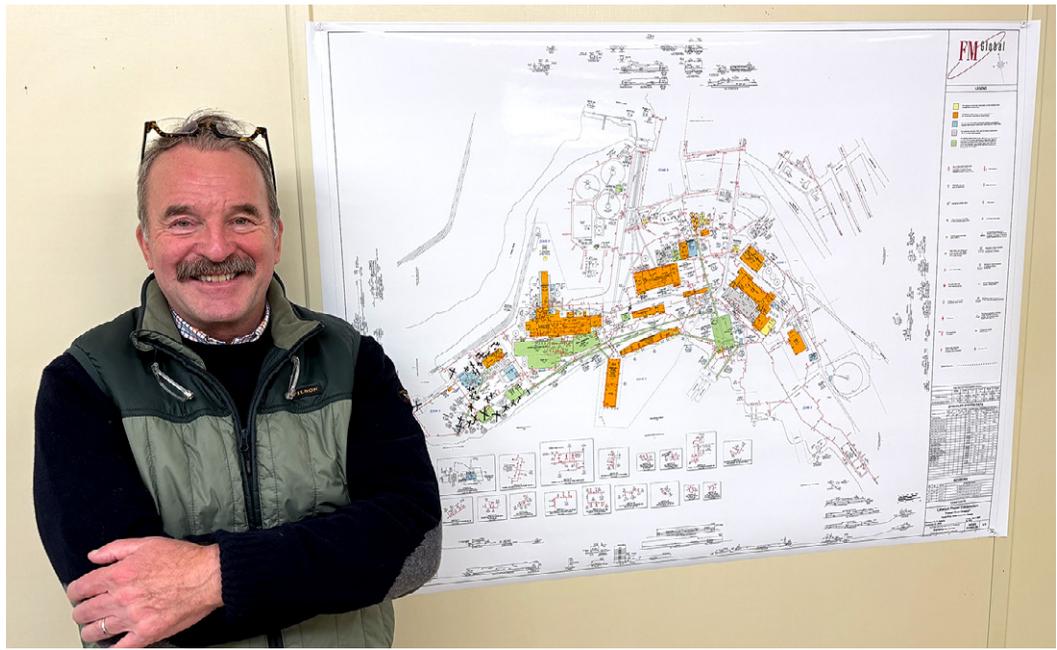
5. The companies and governments on site right now are...

Cranberry Group, headed by Craig. By the end of January at the latest, this group will have bought the 190 acres of former mill lands from Domtar (Paper Excellence). Currently they're operating with a Domtar agreement.

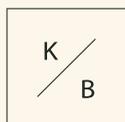
GHD, the global environmental assessment company that is conducting the Detailed Site Inspection on behalf of Paper Excellence and the Province of BC.

Lenmark Industries, an asset management company that is selling off pieces of still-usable equipment.

Clearview Demolition, Western Canada's biggest wrecking crew, with a commitment to recycling



PHASE ONE: Cranberry Ewan Moir, COO, stands with a map showing the three phases of demolition. Phase one includes most buildings on the point at task. Above, the TMP interior. Right, article writer Janice Rafael's father James Morgan (front row, third from left) with his crew in the paper mill, 1950s. And a postcard from James showing the largest mill in the empire, at the time: the Powell River Paper Mill. Historic photos courtesy of Janice Rafael.



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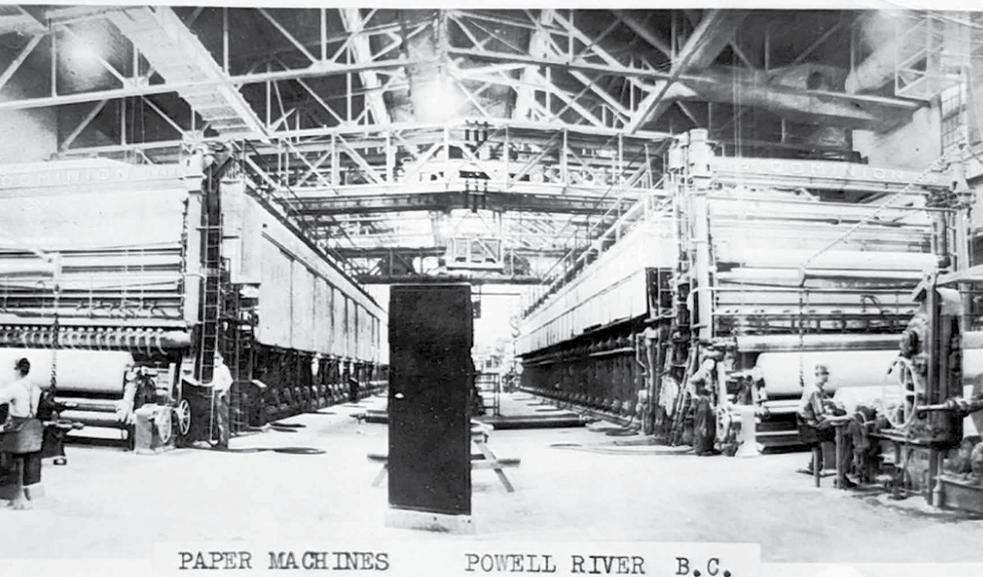
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A Life in the Mill

BY JANICE RAFAEL

When James Morgan, my father, arrived in Powell River in 1951, the Powell River Company was in its prime—then the largest paper mill in the British Empire, as he proudly wrote on a postcard to his sister in Scotland.

For the next 38 years, until his retirement in 1989, the mill was not only his workplace but the foundation of his new life in British Columbia. Over those decades, the company evolved as well, becoming MacMillan, Bloedel and Powell River Limited in 1960, and later MacMillan Bloedel Limited in 1966.

A certified millwright and machinist from the British Institute of Engineering Technology, James brought skills the mill desperately needed. He started in the machine shop before specializing as a roll grinder—precision work that kept the paper machines running smoothly. Paper rolls had to be perfectly cylindrical and properly crowned; even slight distortions meant immediate regrinding.

“Machinists were the jack-of-all-trades in the mill,” he liked to say, describing how they installed, repaired, and maintained the massive equipment that kept production flowing.

The mill’s influence reached far beyond the factory gates. Longtime residents still recall how mill felt—thick material used to carry pulp through the machines—showed up everywhere

in town. In backyards, it became a weed barrier, wood-pile covers, even impromptu dance floors. Behind the scenes, James helped oversee the constant cycle of rotating, repairing, and replacing these rolls and felts in the 5–8 machine room.

Powell River reminded James of his hometown of Dunoon, Scotland, and the mill cemented his sense of belonging. Through MacBlo’s payroll deduction plan, he learned to invest in the stock market. He forged lifelong friendships with Ed Needham, Jack Carruthers, Al Carlson, and Emil Muller, spending countless lunch breaks playing crib. The tight-knit community convinced him he’d made the right choice in coming to B.C., rather than pursuing opportunities in South Africa or at Boeing in Seattle.

Even his entrepreneurial ventures orbited the mill. His Cranberry cement business sold supplies to the operation. He joined a consortium that developed the Gordon Park subdivision with land purchased from MacBlo. Then, in retirement, he ran a rubber stamp and sign business—with the mill as his primary customer.

Today, as Powell River watches the historic mill site being dismantled, James Morgan’s story represents something essential: generations whose lives were inseparable from the machines and rhythms that once powered this town.



Your host (and RVR builder) Brian Stasiewicz

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and finding opportunities for reuse for about 95% of materials.

Domtar (Paper Excellence), the Richmond-based company that has owned the mill since 2018.

Tla'amin First Nation, owns 125 acres of the former mill site through an agreement negotiated with Domtar which concluded last March.

PREI and **Brookfield**, which own the power-generating dam on the Powell River.

6. Site contamination: so far, so good

Craig confirmed that the Detailed Site Inspection hasn't turned up anything unexpected.

"I think what is incredible is that all of the previous owners of the site have done a good job in taking apart whatever was deemed hazardous or environmentally not friendly," said Craig. The tonnes of asbestos are being managed diligently, said Craig, and disposed of in the Wildwood landfill according to Provincial standards.

7. Liquefied Natural Gas

Cranberry Group would welcome LNG to the industrial park on the former mill site, Craig confirmed. It's an idea that has been floated here before, and he said they've "had calls" from industry. Currently, there isn't the infrastructure to support an export operation here; just a small line from Mount Hayes near Ladysmith that goes to Texada and the Cranberry site.

But to export LNG from Powell River would require a much larger pipeline.

"It would take a 36" or 48" line down from Northern BC," Craig said. "Maybe from Williams Lake. There is an easement that comes down through BC and it does come into Powell River. But that would be a huge undertaking. We would welcome that, but it would be a long road."

The day before *qL* spoke with Craig, Prime Minister Mark Carney announced the second "tranche" in his list of "nation-building projects referred to the Major Projects Office." This included the Nisga'a Nation's \$60 billion Ksi Lisims LNG facility. The goal is to "Realize Canada's full potential as an energy superpower."

8. Taxes

BC Assessment representatives came to the former mill site in November. Domtar has previously asked for a re-assessment to lessen its tax burden. And, as a no-longer-functioning paper mill, the site will likely be reassessed this year, as it will likely not be considered "heavy industry" anymore.

That means Cranberry will likely pay far less tax to the City of Powell River than Domtar previously did, starting in 2026.

The City has wisely prepared for that by setting aside a fund to cover the loss in the short term. And Craig is confident that by 2027, when taxable companies are newly operating on-site, significant tax revenue will once again flow from the mill site to City Hall. **PL**



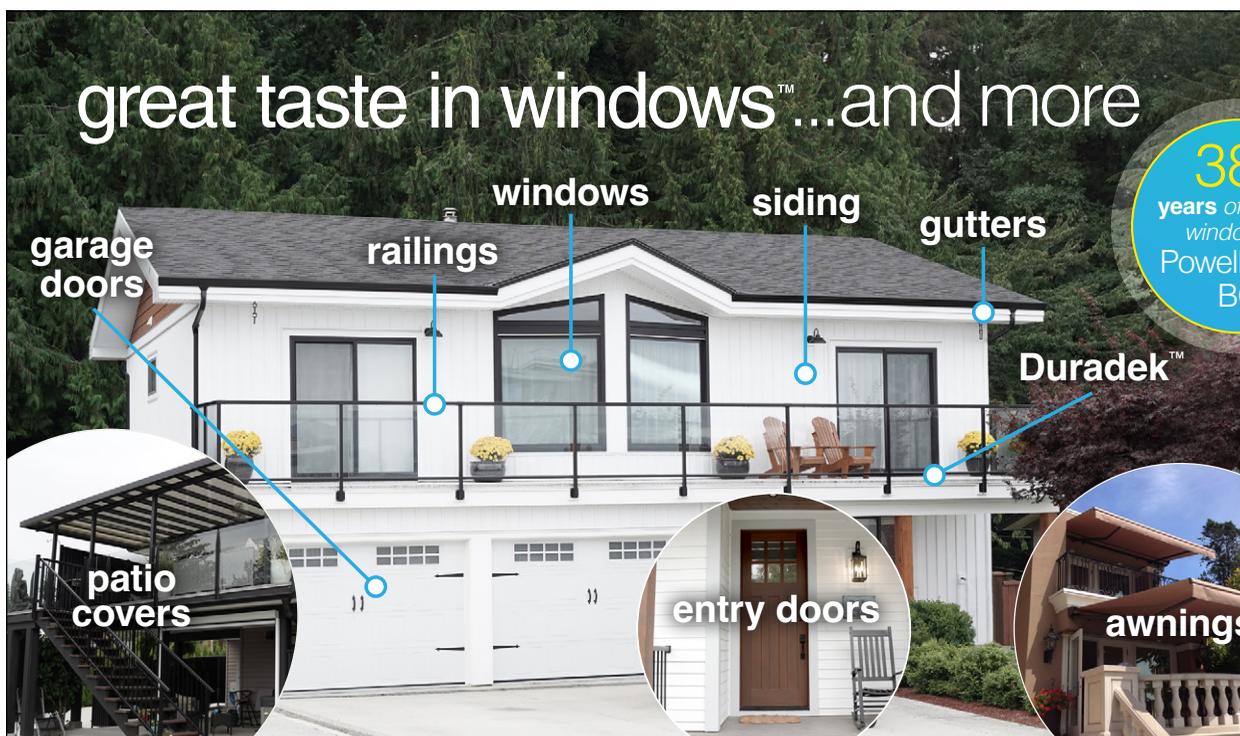
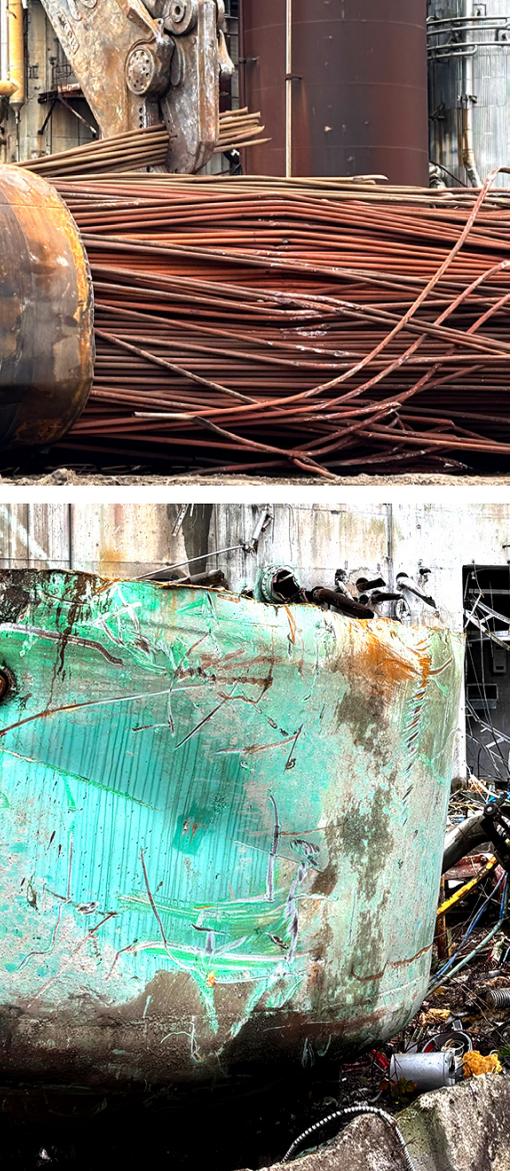
TRUE COLOURS: At first glance, the former mill site looks overwhelmingly brown: the mud and rust dominate. But pops of vibrant hues, revealed as the machines do their work, highlight the site's unique industrial beauty.

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One Happenin' Hub

On November 13, Lift opened Community House just behind Quality Foods at Crossroads Village. It houses Family Place, which was formerly at the Town Centre, and the Community Resource Centre (CRC), which was formerly on Joyce near the Visitor's Centre. The cozy and clean new space is also home to immigrant services, literacy outreach, and peer education and advocacy groups.

Several Powell River City Councillors came to the opening, as well as MLA Randene Neill.

"Our adult and family programs have separate entrances and separate programming spaces," CRC manager Jessica Colasanto explains, "and their co-location makes it easy for young families... to also take advantage of the range of supports offered through the CRC."

All programs are offered free of charge. "Whether someone needs a warm meal, family support, literacy help, or guidance as a newcomer, they can find all of it right here," says Jessica. 📍



A GLIMPSE INSIDE:

Clockwise from top left, long-time volunteer cook Barry Dickie has been in this Crossroads Village kitchen since this summer, when the CRC opened here. CRC manager Jessica Colasanto, above left, with Lift staffers. The new space for Family Place, formerly at the Town Centre. Free clothing to give away to those who need it.

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gathet's long-promised bus shelters and 40-bed shelter are still not built — and here comes winter, again.

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

A misty, grey, steady rain fell on the morning of November 27 — totally normal for the season. At the Town Centre bus loop, passengers gathered under the awning at the mall, the loop itself completely exposed to the wind and water.

December usually brings a total fall of nearly six inches of rain, the wettest, coldest season on the West Coast. For months, governments have promised that both shelters at the bus loop and a shelter for locals without a home would be provided.

Gimme Shelter



THE SCENE ON NOVEMBER 27: Top, the new bus loop's four bays are unprotected from the elements, still. Left, BC Housing says the new 40-bed shelter, adjacent to the RCMP station, will be completed in early 2026.



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“It is mind boggling to me that there are large, appropriately zoned, heated spaces standing empty overnight while dozens of people are sleeping outside in the wet and cold.”

– Kim Markel, Lift executive director, Page 22

In 2023, former Town Centre owner Jack Barr let BC Transit and the City know that the bus loop would be moving to make way for Winners. Negotiations for new bus shelters began at that time, but were moving so slowly that Jack went ahead and built the new bus loop in order to meet his deadlines with Winners and the Liquor Store.

Now, the mall has been sold (see more on Page 46). Frank Picard, vice-president of asset management for Jim Pattison Developments, noted that the group is working with the City on the bus loop.

“We just inherited this on Monday,” he said. “It’s currently in a draft agreement with the previous owner. I’m hoping to finalize the deal with the town shortly. The shelters have been ordered. [I am hoping for a deal soon] so they can be installed.”

On July 30, Christine Boyle, BC’s Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, came to town to announce a new 40-bed temporary shelter at 7104 Barnet Street to replace the 20-bed emergency shelter at 4746 Joyce Avenue that closed in March. The release states: “The shelter will be operated by Lift and will offer 24/7 staffing, meals, laundry, showers and storage, as well as connections to housing and support services. It will also have security measures in place, including fenced grounds, controlled access, security cameras and lighting.” BC Housing is spending \$4.6 million on the construction of this shelter, and \$1.6 million in annual operating funds.

But as the cold weather sets in, neither shelter has appeared. The result: bus riders and folks without homes are out in the elements.

City of Powell River Mayor Ron Woznow said he is “dumbfounded” that Lift and BC Housing haven’t built the 40-bed shelter yet. They have all the approvals they need from the City, Ron said. (See Page 22 where Lift executive director Kim Markel explains what happened. And Page 21 for BC Housing’s response to *qL*’s questions about what happened.)

“It’s now over to BC Housing,” he said. “I assume they have found a contractor. Last time I saw a schedule, I was hoping they’d be open in January or February.”

Ron noted that the bus shelters at the Town Centre are in a vortex of problems. Because the loop is a BC Transit project, but it sits on private land now belonging to the Jim Pattison Group, building shelters requires negotiations between BC Transit, the City of Powell River, the Province (which co-pays for them), and the mall owners.

“What looks like it should have been a simple project — putting up shelters — has had some time delays.”

Ron pointed out that before becoming Mayor, he was active in getting new bus shelters built at Westview Elementary and elsewhere — part of his work with the Westview Ratepayers Society. He pointed out Gino Amato’s shelter at McKenzie and Toba streets, which Gino built nearly 20 years ago as a private citizen (see above) as an example of how



CITIZENS GONE ROGUE: Nearly 20 years ago, Westview resident Gino Amato saw bus riders waiting in the rain outside his house. So he built this shelter for them. No permit. Later, he hoped the City of Powell River would build more shelters at bus stops. “The bureaucracy slowed that right down,” he recalls. “They said they’d need a study.” Gino eventually gave up waiting for the City to build more shelters. He has since moved away — but his bus stop remains at McKenzie and Toba — a testament to the power of a little bit of friendly anarchy.

straight-forward problem solving can be, when bureaucracy gets out of the way.

“For some reason, governments have lost the ability to make decisions in a timely way,” he said. “You’ll hear explanations. The City has been understaffed. The new CAO has done a great job of recruiting, so hopefully things will speed up. I have no idea what the situation is at Lift or BC Housing. From my perspective if I had been asked to build the shelter [as a private citizen], it would have got built.

“In fairness, consultation is important: community engagement. Which takes some time. But we should have been able to get the 40-bed shelter built by the end of September.”

Ron promised, in this interview with *qL*, to “make it a priority to see what can be done to either have the City or private individuals come forward to facilitate shelter at our bus stops.”

In the meantime, that rain continues to fall — on the bus loop, and in the forests near town where Lift has counted that about 26 people are living this season. The agency is collecting tents and sleeping bags for them (see Page 2 for more).

A response from BC Housing: What's the plan?

We know there is an urgent need for shelter spaces in Powell River. While we always strive to move our projects ahead as efficiently as possible, projects can be impacted by any number of unanticipated factors including municipal approvals, site conditions, and increased development costs. In this case, the project has experienced minor delays because of changes to the anticipated design and complexities in the building permit submission process.

Temporary modular construction is underway and we expect the shelter to open early in the new year.

We know people experiencing homelessness need support, whether they're in a shelter or sheltering outdoors. That's why we're providing outreach funding to Lift Community Services Society to provide outreach services and supports for food security, hygiene products and other necessities that are provided in a shelter environment.

In addition, we continue to work with the City of Powell River on the development at 5000 Joyce Avenue to provide long term supportive homes and permanent shelter spaces for people experiencing homelessness in Powell River. The project is currently working through the municipal approvals process, and we anticipate construction starting in 2026.

When extreme cold is forecasted, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) works proactively with communities by providing guidance and reimbursing eligible expenses to open and run emergency warming centres, ensuring people have a safe space to stay warm.

We know more needs to be done, which is why we will continue to work to bring people indoors so they can be safe and have access to the supports they need to stabilize their lives.

- email to qL from BC Housing

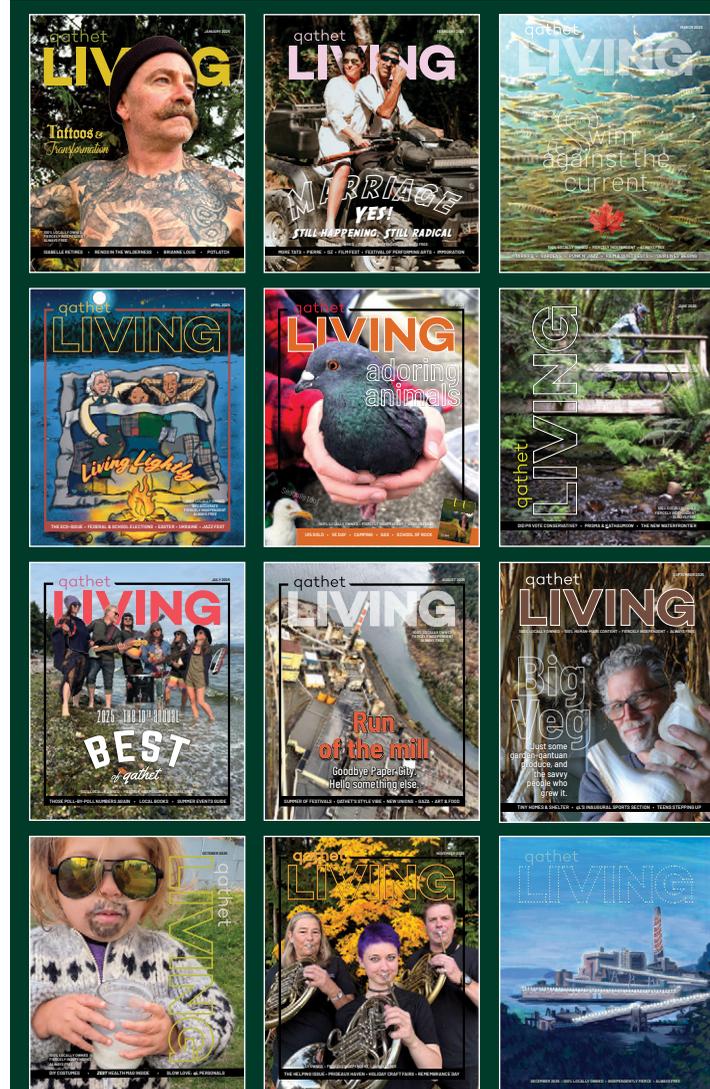
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Still out in the cold: why?

Lift operates the Supported Housing building on Joyce Avenue, and will be operating the new temporary shelter adjacent to the RCMP station. The local agency had shouldered much of the front-line responsibility for addressing the needs of the region's complex vulnerable populations.

Executive Director Kim Markel explains how this shelter-less situation came about — and why everyone is frustrated.

How is it we have no shelter yet?

What happened after the shelter closed in March?

Kim • Our long-time lease at 4572 and 4546 Joyce Avenue came to an end in March 2025, after the building was sold and the new owners chose not to renew the lease.

We were alerted of this fact in July 2024, and spent nine months working with a commercial realtor to find a new space to lease — we submitted multiple rental applications and were unsuccessful in all of them.

We had support from BC Housing's realty team, to no avail. Formal request for lease extension denied. Personal outreach to faith groups with no outcome.

Since May, we have been doing what we can, in our position as a service provider, to advocate with municipal and provincial partners for resources to support shelter services.

BC Housing and the City came to the arrangement for Barnet Street. BC Housing is overseeing the development.

We stood up an outreach team to connect with individuals who are sleeping rough. Some people have formed encampments; others are out there solo. We have been trying to keep people connected with supports and have been successful in helping a few individuals secure market housing.

We are hearing from individuals and families almost weekly, asking about what other resources or supports are available to them, and there is nothing. It is heartbreaking for our whole team to have to turn people away — we are literally handing them tents and wishing them good luck.

Lift would like to apply for an Extreme Weather Response program, which would let us stand up temporary, overnight shelter supports during instances of extreme weather (precipitation, wind, cold), but we do not have a space to do so. We have once again reached out to the City and faith groups asking about use of appropriate space and so far, have been unsuccessful.

It is mind boggling to me that there are large, appropriately-zoned, heated spaces standing empty overnight while dozens of people are sleeping outside in the wet and cold.

What have been the hurdles?

Kim • Limited space availability in the community, for lease or purchase, that would be appropriate for a minimum 20-bed shelter.

Also, property owner hesitation to house services for folks who are homeless and may have co-occurring issues, such as substance use, mental health issues, and chronic health challenges.

How are the region's unhoused folks being supported until then?

Kim • When the shelter closed, we obtained funding for an outreach team and have had a three-person outreach team in place since May. They are connecting with folks

who are sleeping rough and supporting with food, camping gear, garbage removal, etc.

Community groups like the United Church have expanded their community offerings, such as increasing the frequency of their community dinners.

The Coalition to End Homelessness provides dinner every night.

And the Health Authority has outreach teams.

If locals want to help, what can they do?

Kim • Donate tarps, sleeping bags, tents, and portable structures that we can distribute to folks who are housed outdoors.

Support the community groups, like the United Church and the qathet Coalition to End Homelessness in their initiatives.

Engage in acts of kindness — simple things like saying hello when passing a stranger can really help a person feel connected.

It seems there is an extraordinary amount of money and human resources going into supporting a relatively small population of people struggling with housing. Is there anything to be learned from this continuing episode, that might make things more efficient in the future?

Kim • I take issue with the resources being allocated to supporting people experiencing homelessness being labeled as extraordinary; housing is a well-established social determinant of health and the resources being allocated are keeping people alive and prevent the escalation of health and safety concerns that would be costlier to our public health system, for example.

Homelessness is a vicious cycle that is extremely hard to escape, no matter the cause. The housing market in this community is dire, and the money we are putting into supporting people who have literally nowhere to live is the cost of the commodification of housing, rather than treating it like the human right it is.

There was an in-depth report into Homelessness in qathet in 2011. This was a City-led initiative, and resulted in a number of recommendations, including:

- Making homelessness prevention a strategic goal for the City.
- Identifying and creating a solution for emergency housing in Powell River.
- Communicating to and educating the general public on the issue of homelessness.
- Dedicated staff hours to coordinate homelessness work in the city.

In the 14 years since this report, in the absence of coordinated, collaborative leadership and work done to address as complex an issue as this, homelessness and its impacts are more visible and more broadly felt in the community. Service providers are stepping in with piecemeal, stop-gap measures that provide basic supports, but cannot address the systemic complexities of homelessness.

What would make things more efficient in the future is if there were more people and organizations doing the work in a collaborative way: we need, as a community, to be addressing the whole housing spectrum. We need to have multiple pathways into housing, and different types of housing resources to meet the wide range of needs in this community. **CL**

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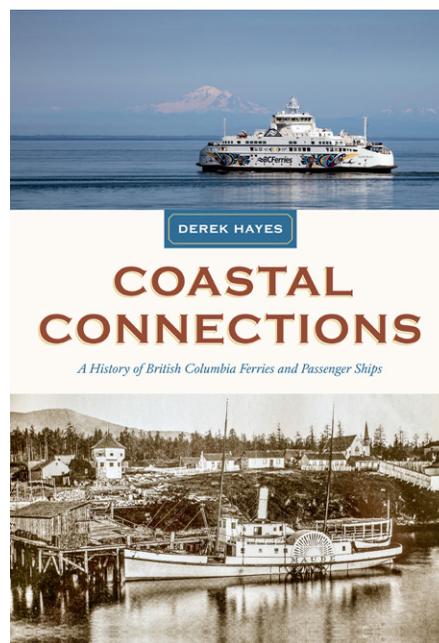
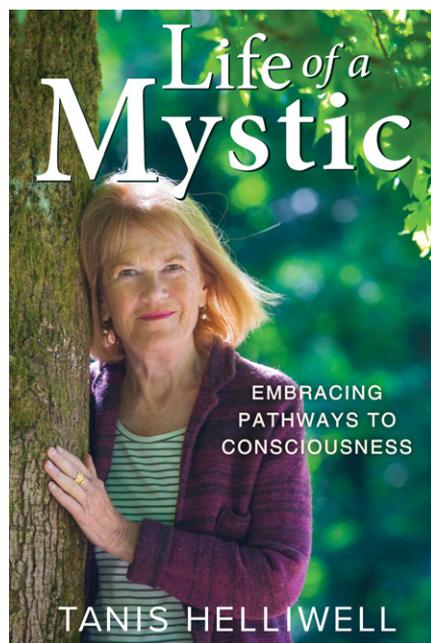
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Derek Hayes • *Coastal Connections: A History of British Columbia Ferries and Passenger Ships*

About the book • Ferries and passenger vessels have always been central to the lives and livelihoods of British Columbians, connecting Vancouver Island, the rugged mainland coastline — including, of course, Powell River — and smaller islands to the rest of the province. This is a superbly illustrated history of BC Ferries — whose vessels today serve every part of coastal BC — and all its predecessors serving the BC coast.

About Derek • Derek Hayes is a well-known historian and the author of multiple books, most recently, *Incredible Crossings: The History and Art of the Bridges, Tunnels and Inland Ferries That Connect British Columbia* and *Quest for Speed*, a history of high-speed trains. He lives in White Rock, BC. All his books can be viewed on his website, DerekHayes.ca

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Meet a little bear who jumps into outer space, an owl who gets followed home by the moon, and find out why the wolf howls! Join a chorus of *Rainbow Connection* and *Swingin on a Star*. It's the seasonal event that will put some sparkle in your dark-le!

Midwinter Matinee: *The Velvet Queen*



Tuesday, Dec 30, 1-3 pm

In the Tibetan highlands, award-winning nature photographer Vincent Munier guides writer Sylvain Tesson on a quest to document the elusive snow leopard. They ponder humankind's place amongst these magnificent creatures and glorious landscapes.

Find a Holiday Read:



A Powell River Public Library calendar makes a great gift!



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



NEW LOCAL CALENDARS



Jesse Masci

• Landscapes of qathet

About the calendar • Jesse's calendar shows 14 of his favourite photos he has captured of qathet since moving here. He can also make prints of each photo.

About Jesse • Jesse has been inspired by the beauty of qathet since moving here four years ago with his partner. "Photography gives me a reason to get outside and be in nature, and chasing the morning light has become a passion of mine." jessemasci@gmail.com or @jessiah.photography on Instagram.

Where to buy • Pocket Books and Ecosentials, \$39.95

Carl Anderson • 2026 Sea Forest Photography Calendar

About the calendar • Twelve months of photography from the qathet region. Each month features one of Carl's favourite images from the past year and an associated bonus image. Printed on high-quality photo stock. Makes a great gift for locals, ex-pats, or visitors.

About Carl • Carl is an enthusiastic landscape photographer. Born and raised in qathet, he enjoys capturing images of our amazing surroundings. Carl strives to present interesting and beautiful pictures without going beyond the plausible.

Where to buy • Order by email for local pick-up/delivery: seaforestphotography@gmail.com, seaforestphotography.ca or come see him at the Magic of Christmas on December 13th at the Complex, \$30.



Steller Events

What's making waves this weekend?



qathet Living's **Steller Events** brings the best of the weekend straight to your inbox every Thursday.

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Festivals • Sports • Art • Film & Much More!

Sign up today

at qathetliving.ca, or visit our booth at the Community Connections Expo.



Anna May Bennett

• Paintings from the West Coast

About the calendar • The calendar is a collection of 12 images of Anna's original oil paintings.

About Anna • Anna's paintings are inspired by the West Coast, with focus on her home in the qathet region on the Sunshine Coast. Her large scale landscapes can be found in private, public, and commercial collections worldwide. Facebook and Instagram @annamaybennettartist, @turadhfineart

Where to buy • Purchase locally from Turadh Fine Art in the Townsite Public Market, and at Artique artists collective on Alberni Street, \$40.





Library Contest
• 2026 The Skies Calendar

About the calendar • Featuring the finalists from the photo competition. They are on sale for \$20 each at the Library and proceeds go to the Friends of the Library.

Photos by Chris Redman; Erica Cawley; Niels Voss; Doris Guevara; Mandy Brown; Carl Anderson; Linda Stephens; Severin Samulski; Janelle Davidson; Darlene Williams; Rick McGrath; Grant DePape.

Where to buy • Front desk of the library, \$20.

and printed by Robert Dufour, Works Printing & Design.

Where to buy • Price \$20, available from Saint Amore at 4722 Marine Avenue, Powell River. Call 778.791.4189 to order food, or a calendar for pickup.

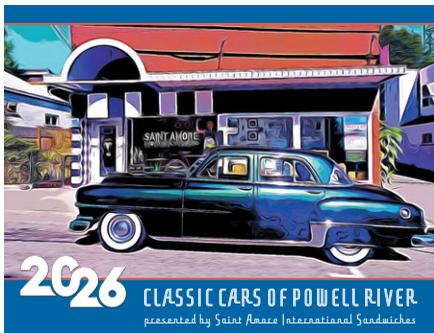


PROWLS • Powell River Orphaned Wildlife Society 2026

About the calendar • Twelve months of images by a talented qathet husband and wife birdwatching duo, Ken and Kathie Pritchard, aka The K Team. All species featured in the calendar have passed through the PROWLS doors at one time or another.

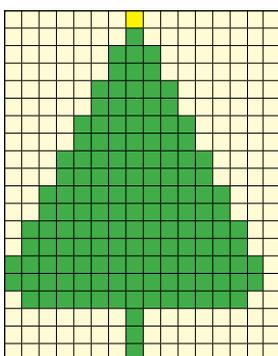
About PROWLS • They are the first call when someone finds a wild animal in distress. They take calls 24/7 and come straight out to the rescue! They are proud to serve our community while saving wildlife. prowls.org

Where to buy • Mother Nature, Paperworks Gallery, PetValu, and Soapy Dragon (at the mall). \$25.



Saint Amore International Sandwiches • Classic Cars Of Powell River

About the calendar • Owners Robin and Sorrel from Saint Amore International Sandwiches are great fans of classic cars, so here's their 2026 calendar showing off some amazing examples found about town. Created



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NEW LOCAL FICTION

Gwen Enquist • In The Dark of November: A Charlotte Ridge Mystery

About the book • This novel is #6 in the Charlotte Ridge series featuring RCMP Constable Jess Morell. The little town of Cranbrook in the BC interior is staggered by two murders, one a young pregnant goth woman and another a young tech nerd. As Jess and her team struggle to find the connection between the two, Jess's husband, Adam, a physician, is shocked and disturbed to learn that prescriptions for an opioid bearing his name as prescriber are circulating in the community and he knows he didn't write them.

About Gwen • She discovered a love of writing in retirement after a 35-year nursing career. Gwen has



published 13 novels. **Where to buy** • *In The Dark of November* will be available soon through enquistgwen@gmail.com

DECEMBER

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

Organics and Garbage Day: A B C D E
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She Runs with Wolves

Margaret Brittain

Margaret Brittain • She Runs with Wolves

About the book • Mandy doesn't fit in at home or school. She learns to live and love as she is accepted by a wolf pack and awesome neighbours.

About Margaret • She moved to Powell River from the Okanagan in the spring of 2007. Margaret enjoys writing, walking, and enjoying nature and the surrounding area.

Where to buy • The book can be purchased by sending an email to: margaretbrittain7@gmail.com (She will follow up, deliver in town, and make arrangements as needed.) \$20. 📖

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What activists can learn from the 60s

BY JOLINE MARTIN

Those of us coming of age during the 1960s and 70s hold vivid memories of the turmoil during the Vietnam War era. Canadian media reported the daily mortality rates and broadcast scenes of battle-weary soldiers.

We witnessed the same, and even more, in the US. Americans watched as their brothers and boyfriends went off to a war no one understood and few wanted.

I was a college student in the spring of 1970, when the shooting at Kent State shocked me off my complacent perch. The National Guard, a body of part-time citizen soldiers, fired 67 live rounds in 13 seconds, killing four and wounding nine students attending a peaceful protest on an Ohio college campus.

WAR RESISTERS READING

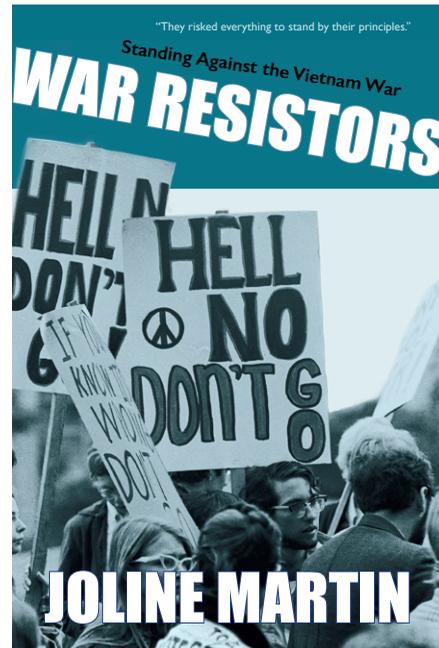
When: Sunday December 7, 2 pm at the Library

What: Author Joline Martin will read from her book.

The US assured us free speech is your right, which you believe, until you don't. I hovered in disbelief until I left the US as soon as I graduated from college, a decision I have never regretted.

My involvement in BC's best-selling *Gumboots* series showed me the value of preserving social history. In my life on Haida Gwaii, I knew many war resisters and the contributions they made to their communities and to Canada.

The upcoming 50th anniversary of



they could ever return. Even more interesting was the compassion war resisters experienced on both sides of the border. Once settled in Canada, war resisters quietly integrated, returning the compassion they received through volunteering. Their story is a study of compassion received and returned.

The lessons from the Vietnam War are especially important in today's political climate. Without free speech, we have no voice; without citizen voices, democracies fail.

By observing injustice instead of intervening, we perpetuate the cycle. Division, discrimination and hatred's poisons only feed the downward cycle of humanity. We need immigrants and citizens to assume active roles in Canada as ambassadors for decency, peace, and dare I say it, love.

the Vietnam War (November 1, 1955 to April 30, 1975) prompted my decision to record Vietnam War Resisters' stories.

I began locating one war resister, who identified another, and so on until I found and interviewed 12 fascinating people. I then researched and wrote 12 chapters, giving snapshots of the issues driving war resisters' decisions.

Through this process, I came to appreciate the courage war resisters had to leave their homes, not knowing if



qathet Academy of Music & Arts

DEC 12 - 7:30PM
DEC 13 - 1:30PM & 7:30PM

Carols by Candlelight

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DEC 15 - 7:00PM

Chor Musica Christmas Concert

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DEC 16 - 7:00PM

The Elvis Christmas Concert

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DEC 18 - 6:00PM

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Peace

How Peter Behr became a war resister

BY PETER & MARGARET BEHR

I was arrested and jailed five times for peaceful protests while at Columbia University in New York in the 1960s.

Protesting the Vietnam War was an education in itself. I gave my youthful heart and soul to organizing, promoting, and attending many anti-Vietnam War demonstrations. My university studies were second place, as I threw myself into writing leaflets, attending meetings, and contacting fellow students. It was consuming.

The “Red Squad” (a right wing section of the NY Police Department) targeted me, since in their view all criticism of the US was by Communists. So I was jailed in the Manhattan House of Detention or “The Tombs,” New York’s prison infamous for its poor conditions and overcrowding.

I spent my time there trying to catch up on my neglected university homework. There were many Black prisoners who respected my stance in opposing the War and wondered why I was reading sociology (my major) books rather than Che and Mao.

The back story to my passionate involvement in anti-War resistance came partly from my family’s history of flight from the persecution in war-torn Europe in the 1940s. Then as a teenager, I became very interested in current events. I read my father’s newspapers, some of which were from Europe, which gave a very different perspective to US news.

At 17, in 1965, I also travelled to Europe. It was an eye opener. The rude and arrogant behaviour of some US tourists, and the surprisingly critical European news coverage of the Vietnam War, did not provide a flattering picture of the self-proclaimed “greatest country in the world.”

I started reading books and articles about the Vietnam War, a war which I came to see as totally unjustified, the slaughter of its civilians appalling. USA claims of “freedom from Communism” seemed wildly exaggerated as an excuse to carpet bomb peasants farming rice. The US dropped more bombs on that small country than all the bombs dropped by both sides in World War 2. There were millions of Vietnamese casualties.

So my opposition to the war led to participating in, and helping organize, peaceful protests when I got to university. I was one of the first university students across the US to send my draft card back. I finally ended up with a medical deferment so was not drafted.

While protesting, I saw other non-violent protesters jailed, some gassed with tear and CS gas, and some beaten by police. My friend Miguel got kidney damage from the CS gas. Ironically this disability got him out of the army. My protesting is memorialized in a 55-page FBI file.

Remember in English class being asked for the theme of a book you had to read? I think the theme of the USA is that “violence causes justice.” Just listen to the US national anthem about “bombs bursting in air.” In contrast Canadians are “standing on guard for thee.”

Then there is the history of the US: wars in Vietnam killing 2 to 3 million people, Afghanistan 400,000 dead, Iraq nearly 1 million. And a dozen more wars in the last 50 years. From Hollywood movies to school shootings: the USA is addicted to violence.

My experience of Canada was a peaceful eye-opener. I hitchhiked across the USA one summer and across Canada the following year. My experiences provided a clear contrast as to the profound differences in outlook between the two countries.

In the USA every day, angry big-bellied state troopers would threateningly interrogate me. Not so in Canada.

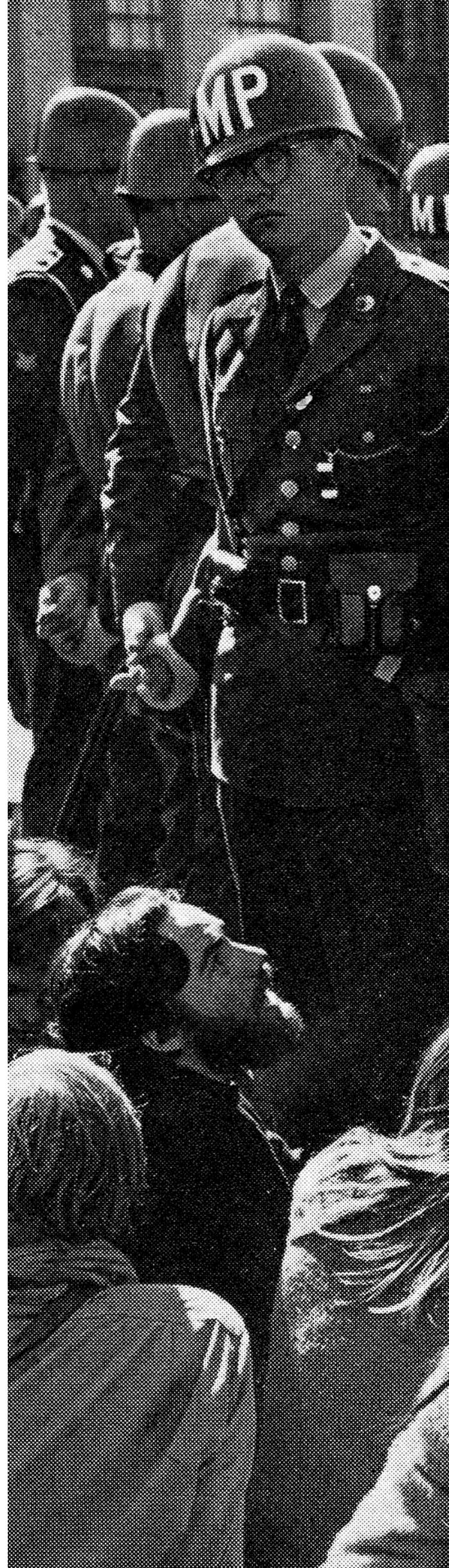
Once after a couple of weeks hitching across Canada, an RCMP officer apologetically (in perfect Canadian character) asked me to show him my ID as there was an escaped prisoner loose. Then he offered to buy me a cup of coffee “as it was cold out.”

I couldn’t have been more surprised (and confused!) Canadians were kinder and never threatened me.

I am very happy to live in a more peaceful and free country which has given me many opportunities to contribute and be myself. I am far from the “rocket red glare” here in peaceful quiet qathet. **PL**

CLOSE CALL: Peter Behr, seated (left) with his face tilted up to the soldiers. “I was one of the peace advocates who sat-in in front of the Pentagon in Washington, DC in 1967. My girlfriend is sitting next to me. The National Guard beat and arrested the many rows of people in front of us. Then miraculously they stopped so we were let go.”

Photo courtesy of Peter and Margaret Behr





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Sunday, December 14 • 10 am
Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols

Wednesday, December 24 • 4 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist

Thursday, December 25 • 10 am
Christmas Morning Prayer

Everyone welcome!

**Welcome home
for Christmas**

Sacred Heart, Tla'amin
Church of the Assumption



**Christmas Eve Mass
during the night**

Assumption Westview
7:00 pm

Sacred Heart, Tla'Amin
7:00 pm

**Christmas Mass
during the day**

Assumption Westview
10:00 am

Confessions

Assumption Westview

Saturday Dec 20
11am to 1 pm

**Fr. Camillus Temba
ALCP/OSS**

**Fr. Meletius Mlingi
ALCP/OSS**

604-485-5300



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

Welcome

Friends, Family, Neighbours, Strangers

Lead Pastor Oskar Arajs

Westview Baptist Church

Many of the traditions we share at Christmas are a retelling of Jesus' arrival in the world. We give gifts, not just because the wise men brought theirs, but because Jesus himself is the greatest gift. Welcoming and making room in our lives for others is what God has done for us. When we meet and feast with loved ones, friends, and even strangers during the Christmas season, we are celebrating the love God has provided for us in Jesus Christ. I love how Hamilton Wright Mabie put it, "Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love."

Favourite Christmas dish or drink to share • I have many amazing memories with extended family and friends enjoying a delicious turkey dinner.

Pastor Katie Aleccio

Living Water Church

Practicing hospitality is a core Christmas tradition because this season more than any other inspires the gift of time, energy, and resources. It's about making room in our hearts and homes for others. This season can feel cold and dark, leaving us feeling a bit alone, whether it be just because it's winter or because emotionally we just have been through a difficult time. When we invite others into a cozy, generous, caring space, it's like those burdensome loads get shared and we no longer feel alone.

Favourite Christmas dish or drink to share • A favourite Christmas dish is pumpkin pie. Could we make it at any time of year? Yes! But do we? No!

qL asked local faith leaders:

Why is practicing hospitality a core Christmas tradition? What's important about sharing food, drinks, and shelter?

What is your favourite Christmas dish or drink to share?



Rev. David Wulkan

Powell River Reformed Church

At the centre of our faith is a table, set with bread and wine. Through belief in Jesus Christ, we are welcome to God's Table, to be in His presence both now and forever. God is our gracious host who blesses us with the gifts of forgiveness, renewal, joy, and love. Because we are welcome to His table, we welcome others to our tables. We share the gifts we have been given. We host with the love of God, given at the cross and celebrated at the Table. Come and share in the goodness of God!

Favourite Christmas dish or drink to share • My favourite Christmas treats to share, which my grandmother used to make when I was a kid, are confetti squares. They are made with butterscotch, peanut butter and marshmallows. Nostalgia and sugar! Yum!

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Fr. Camillus

Assumption & Sacred Heart Catholic

Practicing hospitality at Christmas reflects God's generous love made visible in the birth of Jesus. Welcoming others with food, drink, and shelter mirrors the Holy Family's need for a place to stay and reminds us that kindness opens hearts. Sharing a meal creates belonging and joy, especially for the lonely.

Favourite Christmas dish or drink to share • My favourite dishes are roasted meats, rice, or fish paired with warm drinks such as spiced tea, wine and juice, and we share these as simple signs of love offered generously.

Rev. Laurel Dahill

St. David and St. Paul Anglican Church

Christian hospitality is about demonstrating that people belong. We're all guests in the earthly home that the Creator built. It's not for us to claim who can or cannot enter. Our role is to share what we've been freely given. Jesus describes himself in terms of food and drink that are meant to be shared. He describes heaven as a shelter with many rooms, and in Jesus the kingdom of heaven is near to us. When we welcome others and make them feel at home, and share a meal together, we build the kingdom of heaven on earth.

Favourite Christmas dish or drink to share • I really like mulled cider. It's warm and cozy on a cold night. It reminds me of happy gatherings with friends and family. The best part is that it's made in a big batch that we can all share. Everyone has a variation on the recipe. Some are spicier. Some include special garnishes. Talking about their take on the recipe while we're enjoying it together is a great way to get to know a person. So tell me, how do you like to make your mulled cider?

Rev. Mary White

Powell River United Church

The practice of hospitality at Christmas reaches back more than two thousand years. It is a Christian tradition that Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus. But even before the birth, festivals which included feasting on food occurred in communities throughout the world.

Inspired by the Christmas story of Mary and Joseph who relied on the hospitality of strangers, many today open their homes, churches and community centers to welcome guests for the sharing of food, strengthening community, and establishing memories.

Favourite Christmas dish or drink to share • One of my favourite Christmas dishes is lobster. A favoured dish because it is a comfort food that brings back childhood memories of extended family and neighbours gathering at my great grandmother's home for a delicious feast. Lobster was considered a poor people's dish and local fishermen would drop off boxes of them filled to the brim, at no cost.

Co-Lead Pastor Lucas Mitchell

Evangel Church

So often we think of hospitality as inviting others into our homes, yet the Christmas story shows a different kind of welcome: Jesus leaving His home and coming to us. It's a beautiful reminder that hospitality begins with seeing, knowing, and loving the person in front of us. Sharing food and drink matters because it meets basic needs and creates space for connection. Offering shelter reflects God's heart to provide safety and belonging. Christmas is about opening our lives to others so they too can experience the love, presence, and a sense of home Christ has offered us.

Favourite Christmas dish or drink to share • Egnog Lattés. 🍷



Please join us as we celebrate Advent and Christmas together.

Sunday, December 14 at 10:30am
Children's Christmas Pageant
All welcome to attend

Monday, December 15 at 6:30pm
Winter Wonderland Family Skate
Recreation Complex, open to everyone with no charge., sponsored by Powell River United Church

Sunday, December 21 at 6:30pm
Longest Night Service
For those who may find the season of celebration difficult.

Wednesday, December 24 at 6:30pm
Christmas Eve Service

Please join us for free Monday pasta dinners (4:30 to 6pm), free Thursday seniors lunches (11:30am) followed by the Projects Half Done group (1:15pm).

Powell River United Church welcomes all



powellriverunitedchurch.org

May the peace of Christ be with you!

Christmas Eve 7 pm

Everyone welcome!

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Belong. Believe. Become.

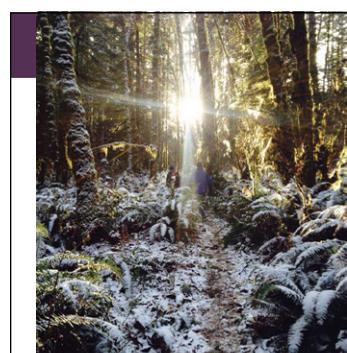
Christmas Eve Service

We would love to have you join us as we celebrate our Saviour!

December 24 at 4 pm

Dwight Hall

Living Water Foursquare Church • livingwaterpr.com



Join Us This Christmas

Westview Baptist Church

Christmas Eve services: 4 pm & 6 pm

Join us this Christmas in-person or online at www.wbchurch.ca.

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

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



OUR COVER MODEL: Manu Liefsoens, of qathet Symphony Orchestra French horn fame, was so pleased to be on the cover of the November issue of qL, he had a t-shirt made. And then posed for this!



MAIL BAG

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

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



The long-term care situation is, indeed, toxic chaos

Hello Pieta,

Thank you for your comprehensive section on Long term care as reported in the November edition of qathet Living.

My mom landed in a similar situation as those described in your article. I thought mom was only one of a few. We had waited for her placement in Kiwanis Manor for just over a year. In the meantime she had had home care come in to help me with her care.

I will say here that all the care aides were lovely and my Mom came to like them and rely upon them greatly. Mom moved into Kiwanis Manor on August 9, 2024 and unfortunately fell and broke her hip on September 16, 2024. I will note here that she had been showing increasing signs of dementia and the Kiwanis staff were becoming worried about her ability to stay there.

Mom was flown to Vancouver for surgery and flown back to qathet hospital late September.

It became clear to family and staff that she would not be able to go back to Kiwanis because of increased dementia. So she was in hospital here hoping for placement in Evergreen or Willingdon. She waited in the hospital for three and a half months and for most of that waiting her bed was in the hallway.

She started out in a room for two weeks and then

moved to three different places in the hallway with the occasional few nights in a room when they had space.

She was very confused and her health understandably worsened as she waited there on her bed in the hallway on the 4th floor for months. The situation was intolerable... totally unacceptable... but there she was. She was moved to Evergreen on January 15, 2025.

I have to say here that the staff did all they could and more. But working conditions for the staff are horrendous, far too much is asked of them to look after dementia long term care patients when their primary duties are to care for and support acute care patients.

We need another building, or Public Health needs to be moved to another location off site as it was in the past and that third floor space used to support more acute care beds or long term care beds.

Thank you for this opportunity, and thank you greatly for reporting on this issue.

– Sincerely Karen Whyard

To the editor,

My Mother, Margaret Baker is a 90 year old senior living at Coastal Breeze Independent Living.

I thought I should reach out to you as to the level of seniors care in Powell River. As you know we have two fully assisted facilities for seniors in need

now. We need so much more than just those two. I will explain my concerns in some detail.

Five years ago, we moved my (at the time) 85-year-old mother from the family home in Victoria to the newly opened Coastal Breeze Independent Living suites. It was a wonderful move for Mom: a very active and social senior.

In the past year Mom started developing dementia and it has increased rapidly to the point now where she needs seven days a week, three times a day private care.

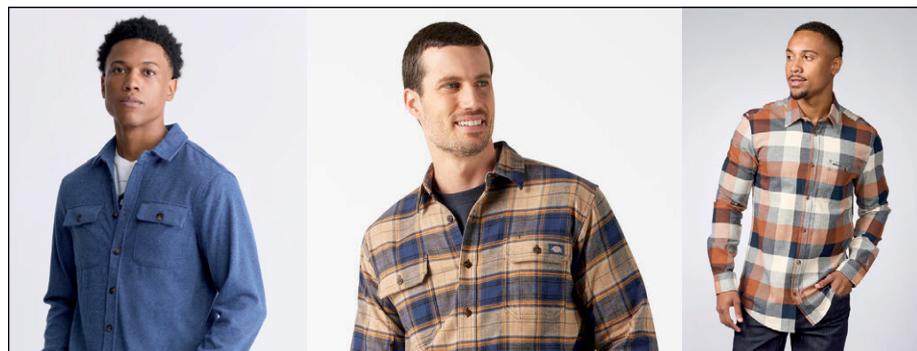
Mom is not alone here.

Because of the lack of facilities for fully assisted living, many of Mom's friends who lived at Coastal Breeze as their dementia and physical issues increased, they had to be moved from the independent living facility.

However there is no room for them in the two facilities. They end up on the fourth floor of the Hospital — some waiting up to a full year before they can get into one of the two fully assisted facilities.

Coastal Breeze Independent Living has now become a stop gap that it was never designed for. I would say at least half of the residents are not Independent whatsoever. There is a constant parade of private and Community Health caregivers coming through the doors.

I am so very thankful that my Mother can afford the private care she receives and also to the Staff and



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Management of Coastal Breeze that allow my Mom and others to continue to live there even though the facility was never designed for that.

My mother was assessed by Community Health this past week and has been assured a space in one of the fully assisted homes, however with a full one-year wait time. My mother is not going to live long enough to see that day and I pray she gets her wish to pass in her apartment.

I rue the day that she may get shoved onto the fourth floor of the hospital until her last days.

The Government is finding funds for Seniors Beds in other communities, but not the Sunshine Coast. Our poor Seniors, who have been dutiful tax paying citizens their entire lives, many of them veterans of our military, are shoved onto the fourth floor of the hospital, taking away the bed spaces and needing the tireless care provided by overworked doctors and nurses.

Bottom line we need more fully assisted facilities for our Powell River elderly, period.

Thank you for your time.

– Paul Baker

Hi Pieta,

Everywhere I go, I'm approached by people who compliment me on the article ("Who cares?" November 2025).

I always tell them right away that I didn't write it, and the credit all goes to you.

You did an excellent job, and it's nice to hear the public reactions.

It's surprising to know how many people think they can just move their loved ones into a facility when the time comes. They just didn't know about wait times.

It's nice that you do work like that to help people.

Thanks very much.

– Glenn Fidler

Working together: a solution for Gaza and Israel

Dear editor,

Thank you for having the courage to cover the Saturday Palestine solidarity gatherings.

My family was deeply impacted by the Oct. 7 attack, as my sister-in-law's father was killed, friends taken hostage, Israeli home destroyed. I attend the gatherings knowing that escalating violence makes Jews and Israelis and all of us less safe. The violence includes the lies and weapons sales that allow fear and hatred to fester.

While I value the work of fact checkers, I don't spend a lot of time trying to figure out who did what horrors. There are horrors aplenty, on "both" or multiple sides.

Check out filmmaker Julia Bacha's TED talk: "Pay Attention to Nonviolence." She made a film showing Israelis and Palestinians, including members of Fatah and Hamas, working together to protect the Palestinian village of Budrus.

Some people argue that after the latest genocidal attacks, such cooperation is passé. But if you look up websites of groups like Combatants for Peace you discover that those waging nonviolence are not giving up.

I suspect Martin Hill is correct in saying the two-state solution won't work.

A magazine named after the area code Israelis and Palestinians share, +972, recently published a review of the book, *From Apartheid to Democracy: A Blueprint for Peace in Israel-Palestine*. Creating one democratic state for Israelis and Palestinians is an enormous challenge. But this vision for building understanding, bridges and more peace is much needed.

We all need to share more about this kind of work. As Julia Bacha points out, we support what we pay attention to. Just as it makes sense to wait until a child who is whining calms down, before helping them get what they want or need, it makes sense for us all to pay attention to the amazing, inspiring peace-building work that is happening, that needs to be nurtured.

We can contribute here. Please contact me at janslavkov@proton.me if you would like to participate in some form of listening-healing circle process for people with divergent views on this issue.

– Sincere best wishes, Jan Slakov



I WILL REMEMBER YOU: G.E. (Ted) Lloyd with his great grandson Daniel Zroback, Master Warrant Officer RC Air Cadets, this Remembrance Day. Ted is Powell River's only surviving WW 2 veteran.

Photo courtesy of the Lloyd family

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47th annual Carols by Candlelight

qathet's most revered holiday spectacular

BY ASHLENE NAIRN

"Whether my kids are singing in it or not, I will always attend Carols by Candlelight. I always will."

Kim Hopper tells me this earnestly over the phone. "My kids met so many people through Carols by Candlelight, and through their entire association with the Academy of Music and qat'ay-mixw" (Kathaumixw)... It's shaped our family for sure and forever made me

appreciate music."

Carols by Candlelight is an annual holiday choir event presented by the qathet Academy of Music & Arts at Dwight Hall each December. The event began in 1978 under the leadership of Don James, founder of the Academy. The 2025 edition happens on December 12 & 13 (see sidebar).

The Academy began with a boys' choir. "The boys' choir was quite famous back in the early years. They won all sorts, like the CBC Choral Awards... and they went and represented Canada in Poland," Terry James tells me as



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Two mothers told me that after their children grew up and moved away, they kept attending because the event had left such a deep imprint on their hearts.

Gail's son Dane and daughter Ashley both sang in Carols by Candlelight, starting in 1981 when Dane was 8.

"It's a very precious experience. It became a real highlight of our family celebrations. There's no way I wanted to lose that once the kids had moved away, so I kept going." She continued attending with a group of retired teachers, former colleagues from her years at Henderson Elementary.

When Kim's kids graduated and moved away, she missed the music in her home so much that she auditioned for the Chamber Choir — having never sung in a choir before. She sang with the Academy group for three years.

"It was a dream come true for me to be up there singing those Christmas carols at Carols by Candlelight."

One particularly magical memory for Kim was when Jeremy, then away at UBC, flew home between exams so he could sing in Carols by Candlelight again.

"It was so cool to be in the choir with my son who was now in his 20's. To be in the choir and be able to hear his voice while I was singing a couple of steps down from him was pretty awesome."

Carols by Candlelight is woven deeply into the stories of families across qathet.

Gail said, "What's really exciting now, is we see our former students at the elementary school singing in the Chamber Choir as adults, and we see their own children in the Apprentice Choir. It's that continuation through the generations that's really exciting."

Carols is also rooted in strong connections made to the community. Kim explains that music has been a gift to her family, exposing her children to people and opportunities that would not have been there had they not been a part of the choir. She also emphasized that choir involvement, whether Carols by Candlelight or other performances, builds not only community, but also courage and confidence in children.

Izzy Leger, 11, expressed this to me firsthand

when we met to speak before choir practice. She has been in Academy choirs since she was three. She told me one of her favourite things is the chance to meet new people, from guest choirs to other students from different schools. Her school choir, she says, is always the same group, but the Academy opens her to a wider world.

She vividly remembers singing 'Country Roads' by John Denver and hearing the entire audience join in. She was struck by the power of that many voices singing together, she described it as feeling "like an earthquake".

None of this would exist without the vision, leadership, and dedication of founder Don James, and the incredible team that rallied behind. Gail says Don had an ability to draw people in, that he made choir "cool."

"It was his gift," she says. "And in return, he gives it to the community."

Walter carries that legacy forward. Kim describes Walter as "an ambassador of music and arts culture," and Gail says that because he grew up in the choir, he "understands at a heart level why it's so important to continue this".

Izzy especially loves the moment when Walter finishes his speech and "there's always some random person in the crowd saying 'Let's give a round of applause for Walter!'" She likes that moment because she feels that Walter truly deserves the praise.

Gail appreciates the balance Walter strikes: "He keeps the traditions going, but he adds his own artistic specialties and talents to the mix. "We know what to expect — there's comfort in that... we live in an uncertain world so those traditions, they anchor us." But the new surprises, from unexpected instruments such as the trumpet, organ, and accordion, to international folk carols, keep the program fresh.

Izzy appreciates the variety in the program as well. She expressed that there is no one way to celebrate Christmas, and she hopes the audience feels the joy of the holiday season through all the different types of music.

Another beloved tradition is 'Santa Lucia.' Walter



GENERATIONS IN THE ROBES: Traditions include the candlelight entrance, Santa Lucia, the Apprentice Choir's set, the Academy Singers, the Youth Choir, and the Boys' and Girls' choirs.

Photos courtesy of Robert Colasanto and the gathet Academy of Music.



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“In the olden days we used real candles... which is terrifying to say the least.”

– Terry James

explains that Santa Lucia is the Saint of Light, Italian lore adopted in Scandinavia to celebrate the Winter Solstice and the return of light. Don wove this Swedish custom into Carols by Candlelight, complete with the iconic crown of lights worn by a child.

“In the olden days we used real candles... which is terrifying to say the least,” Terry says with a laugh. “The fire department finally convinced us that we shouldn’t be doing that.” Kids even tried sneaking candles up their sleeves to light sparks outside.

I was told the kids get into all sorts of mischief. Gail remembers them running around, pelting each other with pinecones. Kim laughs: “What you don’t know is that the kids are downstairs beating each other up, and somebody has to sort them so they don’t look like they’ve been rolling in the grass when they come upstairs to sing.”

Izzy reports that not much has changed. They’re still rambunctious and goof around, and invent their own “unique” lyrics for the carols.

Some lyrics puzzle the kids, too. Walter tells me, laughing, that some of the words to the old carols are archaic. One child said to him, “I thought a virgin can’t have a baby.” Walter laughs and jokes: “Okay, we’re not singing anything like that. Let’s sing Frosty the Snowman. I’m not paid to explain that.”

In 2004, Powell River was designated a Cultural Capital of Canada, and it’s no wonder. Kim jokes that there must be something in the water here, with so many unique and long-standing music and arts traditions.

“Our biggest dream is that the Academy continues, that qat’aymix” continues. I mean, it’s not ours. We did it for the community. We just want it to continue. All of it,” Terry says as we wrap up.

At the close of Carols by Candlelight, all the choirs across all the generations join together as one mass choir. It is Gail’s favourite moment. “We’re all just one big voice,” Izzy expresses.

In a region of roughly 20,000 people, the metaphor is beautiful, as Gail says, “We are a community that pulls together.”

IN GOOD HANDS: Carols by Candlelight conductor Walter Martella sang in the Boys’ Choir at the first Carols by Candlelight (above) and took over from Don James in 2019 (right). Below, qathet-born composer Tobin Stokes, with Walter Martella and Don James.

Photos courtesy of Walter Martella and Robert Colasanto.



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Skilled Americans choose BC's lush forests – and relative calm

Jesse, Krista, and Josephine Langlois-Mogler moved to qathet in August 2025 from Durango, Colorado, USA.

Jesse is an emergency room nurse; Krista is an environmental journalist and editor; and Josephine is a seven-year-old in French immersion at James Thompson. They love to explore new places, swim outside, paddle, bike, read, and camp, usually with Daisy, an 11-year-old Wheaten terrier mix.

Although they moved here from the arid Colorado Plateau, Jesse and Krista previously lived in Southeast Alaska and New Zealand and are thrilled to be back in a place with green, lush forests, and craggy coasts.

Why did you choose to move here?

Krista & Jesse • We'd been talking for years about moving to coastal BC, but we weren't sure exactly where. We wanted a medium-sized town with good access to the outdoors; someplace that was large enough to have some creative and cultural activities, but small enough that we could depend mostly on bikes instead of cars to get around.

We had never been to qathet, but had heard good things about it, and when we looked it up online, it seemed to meet all our criteria. Jesse applied for a job in the emergency department at qathet General Hospital, and he accepted the position

without ever having set foot here, so we moved sight unseen!

What surprised you, once you moved here?

Krista & Jesse • The expansive ocean views, everywhere.

What made you decide to move here?

Krista & Jesse • The warm ocean water; all the wild swimming; the year-round biking; the trails and forests; the tri-lingual public school system; the vibrant community and local businesses and organizations; the Farmers' Market and all the local produce and seafood. The current political climate in the US also provided a nudge.

Where is your favourite place in qathet?

Krista • The Willingdon Beach trail

Jesse • Divers' Rock

Josephine • Wild Scoop, Willingdon, and Blueberry Commons!

How did you first hear about qathet?

Krista & Jesse • We were on a remote island in Belize and befriended a couple who live outside Vancouver, but have an off-grid camper parked south of Powell River. We were starting to talk about moving to BC then, and they told us about qathet and Desolation Sound. We've kept in touch with that couple, and we met up with them again at Wild Scoop when we got here!



OUTDOORSY CREW: Jesse, Krista, and Josephine Langlois-Mogler appreciate all of qathet's best assets, including local food.

What would make this a nicer community?

Krista & Jesse • More dedicated bike lanes and less expensive ferries.

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

Krista & Jesse • The community we moved from provided free, healthy school lunches for all students, which was really great. It also had super active youth bike program that went from preschool to high school, so you would see packs of kids on bikes everywhere, and lots more kids biked to school.

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

Krista & Jesse • Moving to Canada from the States is no easy task—it took us a solid two years and endless bureaucracy to get our visas, professional licenses, and other paperwork all sorted. It was also hard to leave our community behind and to start over in a place where we knew no one.

If you were mayor, what would you do?

Krista & Jesse • Permanently protect green space so that it's preserved from development as the town grows.

What are qathet's best assets?

Krista & Jesse • The kindness of the people who live here; its relative isolation; the abundance of water; the proximity to both ocean and mountains; and its great community radio station!

What is your greatest extravagance?

Krista & Jesse • Probably splurging on international travel instead of putting the money toward retirement like responsible adults!

Which talent or superpower would you most like to have?

Krista • Teleporting

Jesse • Breathing underwater

Josephine • The talent to speak five languages. 🐱

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THE REAL SANTA & MRS. CLAUS:

Above, Jacob Stroomer poses beside a few of the many bikes he has repaired and made presentable for giving to the children of needy families at Christmas time. Both he and Mrs. Stroomer spend all their spare time during the year fixing repairable toys donated as admission to an annual free show sponsored jointly by the Moose Lodge and the Patricia Theatre, 1968. Right, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Stroomer, the people behind the Moose, sponsored Operation Santa Claus, 1970.

Photos courtesy of the qathet Museum



FIREFIGHTERS : Above, Westview firefighters, painting and repairing toys in 1961. Below, two boys

Santa's Rep

The name Operation Santa Claus has been used for many different holiday charity initiatives over the years. It's the title of the United States Postal Service (USPS) program that lets people "adopt" a letter to Santa and send gifts to children in need, and it is also used by a program that delivers care packages to deployed members of the Canadian Armed Forces. But did you know that Powell River once had its very own Operation Santa Claus?



BLAST FROM THE PAST

DEVAN GILLARD

In Powell River, Operation Santa Claus began in the 1960s as a community toy drive organized by the Loyal Order of the Moose. Residents were asked to donate new or repairable toys at designated drop-off locations throughout the community. These toys were then repaired, if needed, and distributed to families in need at Christmas.

The drive also included a special screening of a movie at the Patricia Theatre—admission was a toy donation. Toys were collected each December and stored so they could be repaired over the following year, ready to brighten another Christmas season. Broken but fixable toys were also brought to the Westview Fire Hall in November, where local fire-



inspect a wagon at a firefighters repair event in 1964, for the Moose Lodge's Operation Santa Claus drive. *Photos courtesy of the qathet Museum.*

Repair Shop

fighters volunteered their time to repair them.

Among the most dedicated volunteers were Jacob and Helena Stroomer. Mr. Stroomer was known for his skill in fixing bicycles, while Mrs. Stroomer lovingly repaired dolls and stuffed animals. The couple even stored all the collected and repaired toys in their basement for many years. Their tireless efforts earned them the affectionate nickname "Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus."

The last mention of Powell River's Operation Santa Claus appeared in the *Powell River News* in 1973; other toy drives would take its place. **PL**

Where to donate toys this December

December 4
Stuff the Orca Bus

December 5 & 6
Santa Train

December 6
Last day to donate for
Christmas Cheer Hampers

December 12
Kings Teddy Bear &
Warm Clothing Toss

Or bring new unwrapped toys directly to The Powell River Action Society Food Bank, behind 32 Lakes and Ecosentials off Alberni.

See more on the Events pages, starting on Page 51.



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Whether you are spending the holidays in our amazing community, away, alone or with family and friends, I wish you all a safe and joyous season full of love and laughter.

Happy Holidays



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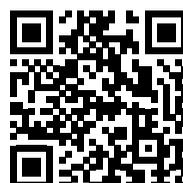
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- Thank you • ʔimot • e-mot
- Welcome • ččəhaθəč • che-che-hath-ech
- My name is... • ... kʷətʰ nan • ... kwuth nun
- People • qayumɪxʷ • ka-yo-mew
- Tree / Relative • ʔəjə • jeh-jeh
- Elders • ʔaxay • klux-eye
- Young • čuy • chewy
- Us • nəmoʔ • neh-moth
- Spring or Chinook Salmon • θatʰəm • thut-thumb
- Bear • məxat • meh-hath
- Orca • nənqəm • nun-kum
- Rain • čɪʔ • chith
- Sun • təgəm • tug-ghum
- Ocean • sinkʷə • sink-wah
- Canoe • nuxʷɛʔ • nook-weth
- Gathering Together • qatʰaymixʷ • kot-thigh-mews
- To Bring Together • qatʰət • kawt-thet
- School • tɪwšəməwtɪxʷ • ti-sha-maut
- Powell River • tiskʷət • tees-kwat
- Milky Waters from Herring Spawn • tʰišosəm • 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

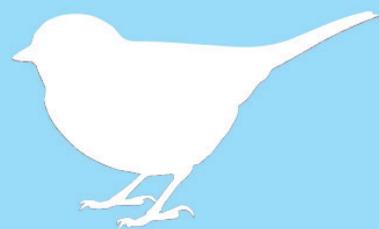
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Photo by Ryk Tataryn

SPORTS & REC IN DECEMBER

Friday, December 5

Winter Wonderland Opening Night

6:30 to 9 pm, Recreation Complex.

Films • Rad Reels

7 pm, Max Cameron. Local outdoor adventure films, and fundraiser for the Brooks Berm Busters Mountain Bike Club.

Royal LePage Powell River Parallel Bonspiel begins

At the Curling Club, through the 7th.

Saturday, December 6

Therapeutic Riding Open House and pictures with the horses

11 am to 3 pm, Paradise Valley Exhibition Park. Raising money for the local Therapeutic Riding program.

Villa vs Westcastle International Academy

1:30 pm at Timberlane

Regals vs.

The Nanaimo Steelmen

7 pm Hap Parker

Monday, December 8

Registration opens for swim lessons

At the Recreation Complex. See the Active Living Guide at powellriverprc.ca for more.

Free swim, skate or work out & Memory Wall

All day, Recreation Complex. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the complex. Bring a memory for the Memory Wall.

Tuesday, December 9

Santa at the Complex

5 to 7 pm, Recreation Complex. For children 0 to 12 years. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the complex. Crafts, face painting, and Santa.

Wednesday, December 10

Retro Fitness Day

Recreation Complex. All fitness classes are free all day. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the complex. Come dressed in 70s attire.

Thursday, December 11

Free everyone skate: ugly Christmas sweaters

5 to 7 pm, Recreation Complex. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the complex. Come dressed in your ugliest Christmas sweater.

Friday, December 12

Fill the Hamper Skate & Swim

Skate from 7 to 9 pm, and swim from 6:30 – 9 pm. Entrance by donation of non-perishable food or a gift to the Food Bank.

Kings vs. Cowichan Valley & The Kings annual Teddy Bear and Warm Clothing Toss

7 pm Hap Parker

Saturday, December 13

Film • Jaws, in the pool

8:15 pm, Recreation Complex. Celebrate 50 years of Jaws. Bring a floaty. For ages 13+. \$5 per person. Please pre-register at 604-485-2891.

Kings vs. Cowichan Valley

7 pm Hap Parker

Monday, December 15

Free Winter Wonderland

6:30, Rec Complex. Sponsored by the Powell River United Church. No charge and all are welcome.

Friday, December 19

Kings vs. Victoria

7 pm Hap Parker

Saturday, December 20

Putters 5th Annual Light Up the Park: Glow in the Dark Mini Golf Night

5 to 8 pm, Putters. Entry to the park for the walk through is by donation; mini golf, ice cream/coffee/hot chocolate, etc will be regular pricing.

January 4

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COLD AND SODDEN? NO PROBLEM: qathet photographer, designer, and board sports enthusiast Ryk Griffioen skimboarding on the switchback trail in Wildwood and snowboarding in the knuckleheads. "I really appreciate living in a place being able to snowboard in the winter, surf in the stormy season, and skate / skimboard in summer. It's taken me a while to realize it's all right here just waiting for someone to go get it. Don't let this town fool you. It's gnarly if you make it so."

SPORTS BRIEFS

World champs, youth highlight bonspiel

The Parallel Ladies and Men's Bonspiel runs December 5 to 7.

Start time is 4 pm on Friday and finals on Sunday at 1 pm. The defending two-time Men's champion Team Dan Brennan is back to defend this year.

The B event was won by former World Senior Champion and former Powell River High School champion Lyle Sieg. Team Sieg is also back to vie for the A event.

The C event winner was Team Barry Meyer from Gibsons. The Powell River mens teams are looking to claim one of the top prizes this year as they were runner-ups for the events last year.

On the Ladies' side local teams were in the winners circle, Team Cindy Elliott won the A event and Team Carol Wynne claimed the B event.

This year former world champion Deb Morrissey (Massullo) is back to claim one of the top spots along with the local entries.

This year we have two junior teams, one ladies and one mens, tuning up for the upcoming BC Championships taking place at the end of December, they will provide great competition in the bonspiel.

Hockey is for Everyone

This Tournament Has Everything (TTHE) hockey tournament is an annual adult women's/trans/two-spirit/non-binary inclusive draft style hockey tournament on the Sunshine Coast. Created in 2023 and completely run by our passionate volunteers, TTHE has hosted over 400 players from all over North America and continues to focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion in the sport. We have been able to donate over \$5,000 to the Sunshine Coast Youth Outreach Program and we host other weekend fundraisers to help local youth hockey teams.

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For more information check out @tthehockeytournament



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25 Years on the Water: Paddling for Life Celebrates a Legacy of Strength and Sisterhood

BY JASPREET SOOR

On a February evening in 1999, five women gathered in a Powell River basement with a simple but powerful idea: to stay healthy, stay connected, and keep living fully after breast cancer.

Each of them, Mary Lynne, Lorraine Matheson, June B., Mary McMillan, and Lyn Nixon, had faced surgery and treatment. Each had been told not to use her arms strenuously after lymph node removal. But none of them were ready to give up.

“We were told we couldn’t, and so we did,” one of the founding members recalls with a smile. Out of their determination grew a dragon boat team, and by that fall they had chosen a name that captured their spirit: Paddling for Life.

What began as modest exercise sessions and evening walks quickly grew into something larger than anyone expected. The women reached out to paddlers in Comox and Richmond, inspired by new research from Dr. Don McKenzie showing that dragon boating could actually help survivors regain strength.

The community rallied behind them. To raise funds for the new club, members held fashion shows, sold items, hosted lively beer-and-burger nights, and knocked on doors across town. With the help of a generous loan from Harold Long, they finally brought their first dragon boat home from Victoria in 2003. It was hauled back on a yellow City Transfer truck stacked high on top of fishing nets. “It was a sight Powell River will never forget,” laughed one paddler.

The next summer, Paddling for Life lined up in Victoria’s Inner Harbour for their very first regatta. Against the odds, the newcomers powered their way

to a third-place finish in their division. For women who had once been told they shouldn’t exercise at all, the result was validating. “It proved we were strong. We could heal. And joy was still ours to claim,” remembered one longtime member.

In the years that followed, the team built traditions that blended competition with community. They filled regatta nights with laughter, songs, and spirited skits, even creating famous chants about “sore bums and underwear.” They teased their steerperson and celebrated every paddle stroke, win or lose.

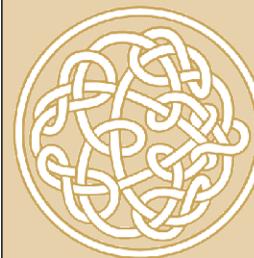
But Paddling for Life also became a place to grieve. When beloved teammates passed, the women gathered on the water, lighting candles and scattering ashes into the current. “We paddled for those still with us, and we paddled for those we lost,” one member said reflecting. Those moments deepened their bond and affirmed their identity as a circle of “warrior women” who lift each other up.

Now, 25 years on, the team is thriving. New members have joined their ranks, and in the past season alone they competed in three regattas, bringing home a triumphant first-place finish in their division at Sproat Lake. The victory was sweet, but for many, the real prize is the strength, support, and joy they find in one another.

From five women in a basement to a team celebrated on the water, Paddling for Life has become a symbol of what’s possible after cancer. Their story is woven into the fabric of Powell River itself, inspiring not only survivors but their families, friends, and the wider community. Every stroke carries a reminder that even in the face of loss, life can be lived with courage and joy.

As the team celebrates its silver anniversary, their focus is firmly on the future. The boat is full, the laughter is loud, and the spirit is stronger than ever.

Their mantra says it all: Love. Laughter. Active Life. Paddles up! 🚣



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What's on your holiday list?

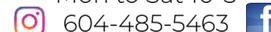


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Jim Pattison now owns the Town Centre mall

BY SEAN PERCY

One of BC's wealthiest people now owns a chunk of Powell River.

Pattison Development Corporation, owned by billionaire Jim Pattison, has purchased the Town Centre mall from Jack Barr's Western Mortgage Company.

The deal includes the mall, the apartment buildings above the mall on Ontario Street, and the Starbucks property.

It does not include the property and buildings where the Royal Bank and Panago are, the hotel, Canadian Tire and Staples, or other properties owned by Jack, such as the No Frills property or the Beach Gardens developments.

Work being done on the 45-year-old mall that had been started under the previous owner will continue, but no major changes are planned in the immediate future, said Frank Picard, vice-president of asset management for Jim Pattison Developments. Existing mall staff stayed on when the transition happened November 17.

"When you're making a deal like this, you don't just look at the real estate part of it, you look at the team that is behind it—the people that would be part of it. One of the really positive things is that we have a good team in place there," Frank told *qathet Living*.

Frank said the deal made sense for his BC-based company.

"We're always looking at opportunities to invest in BC communities. That market is near and dear to us. We like shopping centres where they are the central part of the town," he said, noting that JPD has made similar purchases in Nelson and Kamloops recently. They own some 50 shopping centres across North America, though most are "power centres" instead of enclosed malls. With separate entrances for the biggest tenants, this mall is a bit of a hybrid.

The fact that the Pattison Group, (which also owns Save-On-Foods) will now be effectively paying rent to itself, did play a role in the decision, said Frank. "It was a positive factor to acquire the property, but not determinative. We looked at the entire roster of tenants. We thought it was a very, very strong nucleus there."

The Pattison Group also owns Quality Foods, but rents the building for that grocery store, and until last month,

didn't own any property in qathet.

Conversations with the Pattison Development Corporation started when Jack put the mall on the market earlier this year, and talks continued through the summer.

Despite it being a complicated deal, in part because it included multiple parcels, but not all the retail properties in the area, "overall, it was a fairly smooth process," said Frank.

Jack is happy not just with the sale, but with the confidence Pattison has in Powell River.

"I'm very pleased it was Jim Pattison," Jack told *qathet Living* in a phone call from Hawaii.

"For them to be bullish enough on this community that they want to invest here, bodes well for Powell River," said Jack. "It might open people's eyes and might make the other properties more attractive to other people."

While none of his other properties are currently listed, he says if the right offer came along, he'd consider selling.

The mall is a complicated business to run, he says, and his family has owned it since 1983, before the north end was completed. At 61, he feels it was time to simplify, though he has no plans to retire anytime soon. In fact, not having the mall allows Jack to give more attention to other projects.

Having "a good chunk of debt extinguished," frees up Jack to "dust off the rezoning plan" for a \$200 million residential development he wants to build near the Beach Gardens, and plans for expansion and upgrades to the resort there, he said.

"And we have other pieces of land where we, or someone, could build multi-family housing. We're building a duplex with my son-in-law on Lesley Crescent right now," said Jack.

The new owners of the mall say the few empty spaces in the mall will soon be filled, thanks in part to work Jack had already done in wooing tenants. Although leasing mall space is a challenging business continent-wide, they have a plan for each of the units. "I think it's realistic to see it fully leased," said Frank.

One change that shoppers may notice is stepped-up security.

"We will have more visible deterrents on site. We want to make sure customers and employees at the mall feel safe," said Frank.

✉ | sean@qathetliving.ca

Resource Recovery Centre Holiday Hours

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DEC 21 Closed	DEC 22 Open 8am - 5pm	DEC 23 Open 8am - 5pm	DEC 24 Closing Early 8am - 2pm	DEC 25 Closed	DEC 26 Closed	DEC 27 Open 8am - 5pm
DEC 28 Closed	DEC 29 Open 8am - 5pm	DEC 30 Open 8am - 5pm	DEC 31 Closing Early 8am - 2pm	JAN 01 Closed	JAN 02 Closed	JAN 03 Open 8am - 5pm

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To learn more about the project please visit:
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If you need assistance completing the survey, please contact the Administration Department at administration@qathet.ca or call (604) 485-2260.



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High School Counsellors POV: What Student Well-Being and Resilience Really Looks Like

Dark days and cold weather aren't exactly serotonin boosters, which is why it's more important than ever to check in on yourself and those you care about during this season.



Students today, especially those in high school, have a lot to deal with, whether it's the stress of a difficult class, friendship challenges, first relationships (and break-ups), navigating the online world and social media, or things happening at home. Often, it's teachers and counsellors who notice first. They're the ones who see when a student's smile fades, or when attendance patterns shift, or when something just seems off. With their expertise and deep compassion, counsellors are able to reach out with care and help students navigate whatever they're going through.

Read up on what **Andrea Massullo** (*right*) and **Elaine Maxwell** (*left*), two high school counsellors at Brooks Secondary, have to say about resiliency, mental health, how families and schools can work together to create a stronger sense of belonging, and more!

What does resiliency mean for students today?

"Resiliency is really how students bounce back when life throws them challenges... **In students today, resiliency looks like being able to pause, take a breath, and try again instead of giving up.** It is showing up even when they do not feel like it. It is learning to say, 'Okay, that didn't go the way I wanted, but what can I do differently next time?' rather than 'I'm just bad at this.' Resilience can be seen in someone who asks for help when things get tough, or in a student who keeps trying to improve bit by bit instead of expecting perfection. This is often referred to as having a growth mindset versus a fixed mindset."

How do counsellors help students build resilience?

"School counsellors play an important role in helping students build resiliency skills by teaching useful tools and providing a safe space to talk things out. **We help students identify strengths, manage stress, and find ways to problem-solve rather than shut down. Sometimes that means helping a student set goals, teaching coping strategies, or simply listening.** We also remind students that mistakes and setbacks are not failures, they are part of learning who they are and how they handle the world."



Can resilience be learned?

"Resiliency can absolutely be learned, but it often grows through experience. People do not wake up one day suddenly resilient, as it is something that builds over time and often through experiences that present as difficult. Every time a student faces something hard and gets through it, even if it is messy, they become a little stronger and more confident in themselves. Counsellors, teachers, parents, and friends can help students notice those moments and learn from them, so that next time life feels overwhelming, they will have a few more tools and an increased belief in themselves to keep going."

How do counsellors approach attendance concerns with care?

"When attendance becomes a concern, we, along with teachers, know that it is a sensitive topic, and we approach those conversations with care and respect. The goal is not to shame or blame, but to listen first and figure out what is really going on. We might start by checking in privately with the student to hear their side and see what kind of support might help. When talking with families, we keep the focus on working together as a team and avoiding blame. **The goal is to find a solution that makes the school experience feel more manageable.** Sometimes that means adjusting schedules, offering mental health support, or connecting students and families with extra resources to make daily routines easier."

Why do some students struggle with regular attendance?

"There are many different reasons why students might struggle with regular attendance, and it is not always as simple as not wanting to come to school. Sometimes it is things like anxiety, depression, or feeling overwhelmed by the social or academic pressures that come with being at school all day. For some students, mornings can feel like the hardest part of the day. Getting out of bed, getting ready, and facing a big crowd of people can be exhausting. Other times, it might be things happening at home, such as family stress, unreliable transportation, or feeling unsafe or uncomfortable in certain school environments. **Every situation is unique, and that is why we try to really understand what is underneath the struggle instead of just focusing on the absences themselves.**"



Is there a connection between attendance and mental health?

“Definitely! When students are struggling with their mental health, school can feel overwhelming, which can make attendance harder. At the same time, being connected to school, whether it be through friends, teachers, or supportive adults, can help improve mental health. **It is a bit of a cycle: feeling better helps students attend more, and attending more can help them feel more connected and supported.** As counsellors, we work to break that cycle in a positive way by helping students find balance, build coping strategies, and make school a place where they feel safe, accepted, and ready to take on the day one step at a time.”

“A sense of belonging at school is created by making sure every student has touch points, meaning trusted people in the school they can go to if they need help or just a friendly face to depend on. Counsellors are there for so much more than course changes. Whether it is talking through personal struggles, exploring future goals, or connecting students with community resources, the goal is to make sure all students feel supported. At Brooks, there is a strong effort to keep the environment safe and welcoming, with clear expectations and respect for everyone, so all students can feel they belong and have the freedom to thrive.”



How has technology changed students' mental health needs?

“Over the past few years, there has been a big shift in students' mental health needs, and a lot of it connects to the rise of technology and social media. **On one hand, being online helps students stay connected and find communities that understand them. But on the other hand, it has created more pressure, with constant comparisons, worrying about what people post, and never really getting a break from it all.** Many students are also feeling more anxious or burnt out due to the fast pace of daily lives. We have had to adapt our strategies to meet these new realities. This means having more open conversations about screen time, social media boundaries, internet safety, and self-care, and helping students find balance between the online world and real-life connections. There is now a stronger focus on teaching coping skills, setting healthy routines, and helping students find confidence in who they are, not just how they appear online.”

“In our experience, even with the challenges that exist, there are also hopeful trends in student well-being. More students are talking openly about mental health and reaching out for support instead of hiding how they feel. We see kindness and understanding among peers as well as students supporting each other and standing up for what is right. This gives us and educators a lot of hope because it shows that resilience and empathy are growing stronger in this generation, one conversation, one connection, and one small act of care at a time.”

How can families and schools work together to support resilience?

“Families and schools can create an even stronger sense of belonging when they work together. It starts with communication, including sharing concerns, celebrating progress, and showing that everyone is on the same team. When families encourage their teens to reach out, get involved, and talk about what is going on, it helps build trust. When schools create spaces where every student feels seen and valued, it reinforces that sense of connection from both sides.”



Need support? Check out these counsellor recommended resources:

www.anxietycanada.com or download the **free Mindshift CBT app** - available on Google Play & the App Store →



Fixes for your big toys

Getting your RV repaired just got a little easier in qathet. **Casey Bullock** has launched **Casey's Mobile RV Solutions**, offering fixes for common recreation vehicle problems from tires to plumbing to appliances. He also does repairs on small engines such as ATVs, mowers, and chainsaws. "I've been doing this on the side for a while, but decided to give it a shot full time to keep me closer to home," said Casey. He had been doing long-haul trucking and maintenance, but now hopes to work more from his shop on his acreage at Lang Bay. He will also visit your location to fix your RV anywhere in qathet. Contact caseysrvsolutions@gmail.com or call 604-578-0246.

KAOS reigns

The Knuckleheads Winter Recreation Association (KWRA) is changing its name to better reflect the year-round activities that happen in the mountain range northeast of Powell River. The new name, still to be filed under the BC Societies Act, was approved at the November 24 annual meeting. The association will now be known as the **Knuckleheads Alpine Outdoor Society (KAOS)**. The organization maintains backcountry trails and cabins at Emma Lake and the Knuckleheads.

First merges

First Credit Union members have voted to approve a merger with **Vancity**. Of the 2,088 votes, 76% were in favour. In September, BC Financial



BUSINESS AFFAIRS

SEAN PERCY

Services Authority gave regulatory approval for the merger, and the vote by FCU members was the final step. By combining forces, the unified entity will have 585,000 members, more than 2,400 employees, 60 branches, and over \$38.2 billion in total assets under administration.

FCU will continue to operate under its own brand identity, and no branch closures or major changes are expected for employees or clients as they integrate operations with Vancity. FCU had eight branches (Union Bay, Hornby Island, Bowser, Cumberland, Courtenay, Texada Island, Bowen Island, and Powell River), and now clients have access to more than 50 Vancity branches throughout the Greater Vancouver and lower mainland area, Victoria, and Cormorant Island.

"Vancity shares our values, vision for the future of community banking, and commitment to making a difference," said **Linda Bowyer**, president and CEO of FCU. "By uniting our strengths, we will ensure long-term support for our members and communities, both today and in the future."

At 86 years old, First Credit Union is the oldest credit union in BC. The organizations say the merger will increase their capacity to invest in local communities, and offer a broader range of products, services, and digital solutions. "We believe this partnership is

in the best long-term interest of our members and the cooperative banking system as a whole," said Linda. She said the merger helps meet the need for sustained investment in technology, the ability to meet increased compliance requirements, and rising costs.

New old spa in Townsite

Frankie's Place Day Spa is re-opening at The Old Courthouse Inn. The spa had been closed for almost two years. **Frankie Lutz** offers spa services including manicures, pedicures, gel nails, massage, reflexology, facials, waxing, etc. "I'm so glad to be back," said Frankie. Spa days and hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 2:30 to 7 pm and Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am to 7 pm. Text Frankie at 604-223-7133.

Sauna coming to Willingdon

A community-powered sauna club is coming soon to qathet, after the City green-lit a pitch by **Orca Saunas** to have a portable sauna stationed at Willingdon Beach. Handcrafted from local cedar, the sauna will have a panoramic window to take in the view. There's also a cold plunge — or you can take a few steps into the ocean. Owner **Ryan Barfoot** says there are many options, from private bookings to group sessions, community drop-ins, and guided programs. The sauna should be in place by Dec 6. Their long-term vision, supported by a Sunshine Coast Tourism \$3,000 Spark Innovation Grant, is to have a floating sauna at Mowat Bay. For more information, go to orcasaunas.com.  sean@qathetliving.ca




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December is for Art, Artisans and the divine

The calendar this month is filled with opportunities for viewing art (see Page 59, especially), artisan craft shows (see Page 48 in the November issue for a clip-out list) and invitations to connect with Advent, Christmas and other streams of peace, love, hope, and joy (see Pages 30 & 31, and the rest of this magazine).

"The Communion of Saint Francis"

23.5"x31.5" acrylic on canvas, 2025

*For purchase information please visit AutumnSkyeArt.Com

This painting is part of the Present exhibition at qathet Art Centre . See Page 59)



December events

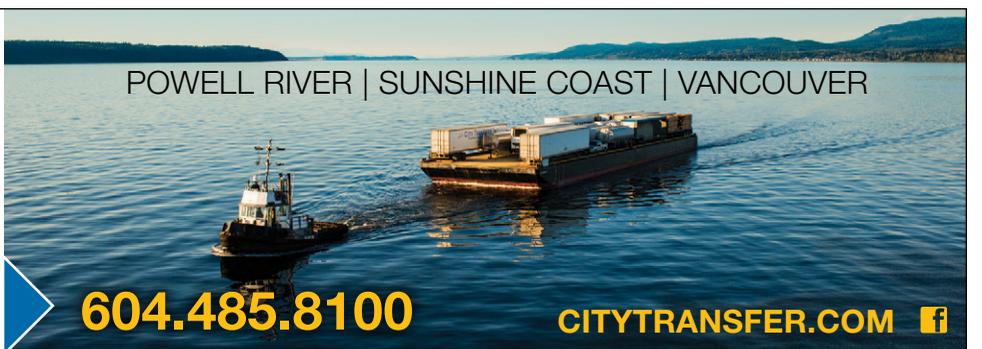
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DECEMBER EVENTS

4

Thursday

Stuff the Orca Bus

10 to 11:30 am, Save-On-Foods. Toys and cash.

Senior Luncheon

11:30 am to 12:30 pm followed by Projects Half Done finishing at 3 pm.

Celebrate A Life Memory Tree: Four Tides Hospice

Through December 30, Town Centre Mall and online. The Celebrate a Life Memory Tree takes place during the month of December and supports community members to honour loved ones who have died. Participants can submit names for the creation of an ornament virtually or can attend in-person to create a memorial ornament to place on the tree. Email coordinator@fourtideshospice.org for more information or to submit a name.

Night at the Museum

qathet Museum open until 8:30 pm. Admission by donation.

Film • Zootopia 2

7 pm, The Patricia

5

Friday

Texada Spirit Breakfast

7 to 11 am, Mary Mary Cafe. All proceeds to the Texada Food Bank, entry by donation of nonperishable foodstuffs or cash.

Winter Wonderland Opening Night

6:30 to 9 pm, Recreation Complex.

Films • Rad Reels

7 pm, Max Cameron. Local outdoor adventure films, and fundraiser for the Brooks Berm Busters Mountain Bike Club.

Rock & Bowl 14

7 pm, The Alley Powered by Persephone. December's instalment of Rock & Bowl features Vancouver garage-punks Night Court, Vancouver psych/noise-punks Gadfly and local bands Hystera (alt-rock) and Equals (peace-punk). All-ages show. \$20 adults

/ \$15 teens / \$5 kids. Includes free bowling! Curated by loud qathet.

Santa Train

6 to 8 pm each night, Paradise Exhibition Park. Miniature train rides in the dark, but with many Christmas lights, a bonfire, and snacks in the quonset hut. Fundraiser by the Powell River Forestry Heritage Society. Admission to the rides is by donation for Salvation Army distribution (non-perishable food items or unwrapped new toys or cash).

Miracle on 34th Street: a live staged reading

7 pm Dec 6 & 7, Magpie's diner. A Townsite Actors Guild production. Tickets \$25 at Magpie's.

Present Exhibition and Fundraiser Opening Reception

5 to 7 pm, qathet Art Centre. Group exhibition featuring 60+ local qathet region artists' recent work for sale. All proceeds go towards local artists and qathet ART youth programs. December Viewing hours: Dec 1-22, Mon - Thurs 12-5 pm; Dec 30, 12-5 pm.

Identity Frauds and Scams – Ways to Protect Yourself

3 pm, Library. Join Cst. Paula Perry for a discussion about the most current scams and frauds occurring in the area and nationally.

Royal LePage Powell River Parallel Bonspiel begins

At the Curling Club, through Sunday the 7th.

An Evening for Gaza

6:30 to 9 pm, Cranberry Hall. A night in support of the Palestinian people in Gaza and to praise life through food, poetry, music, and visual arts. Reception-style buffet by Linda Shaben. Poetry, Music and Art Auction. Tickets: \$50 Contact/e-transfer qathet-forhumanity@gmail.com. Each ticket includes 3 door-prize entries. Kids under 12 enter free. 100% proceeds donated to Gaza Soup Kitchen.

Christmas Cheer Hampers: Last Day to Donate

pr-christmas-cheer.com, or etransfer prchristmascheer@gmail.com.

Film • Zootopia 2

3:30 pm and 7 pm, The Patricia

6

Saturday

Santa arrives at Town Centre Mall

Noon until 5 pm. Free to take your own photos. Santa will be at the mall December 13 to 23, 12 to 4 pm daily. The Town Centre will be open Sundays December 14 & 21.

Junior Forest Wardens Christmas Tree fundraiser begins

9 am to 4:30 pm, in the grass lot between McDonald's and Quality Foods. Trees by donation to the Jr. Forest Wardens. Wooden Christmas ornaments for sale by donation at the Westview Barber Shop.

Therapeutic Riding Open House and pictures with the horses

11 am to 3 pm, Paradise Valley Exhibition Park. Raising money for the local Therapeutic Riding program.

qathet SAFE's Shoe Memorial

At the Public Library foyer to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

Villa vs Westcastle International Academy

1:30 pm at Timberlane

Regals vs. The Nanaimo Steelmen

7 pm Hap Parker

Uptown Market

10 am to noon, outside Dr. Varma's office on Joyce. Bread, pies, cookies, gluten-free baking, eggs, plants, local Artisan gifts.

Townsite Public Market Anniversary Celebration and Craft Fair

10 am to 4 pm, Townsite Market. Gifts, cake, Santa, novelties, sale items.

Create your cozy with a woodstove



Wood heat has no equal. The warm crackle of a fire and heat that gets right to your bones is ideal for damp west coast winters. But is your old fireplace or stove smoky, inefficient, and going through too many cords of wood? Treat yourself this holiday and talk to the pros at the **Cadam Fireplace & Stove Centre** about a new, efficient wood appliance.

Find your new heat source at **Cadam Construction** and trust their professionals for the install.

The team at Cadam wishes you a Happy Holiday and all the best in 2026!

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FOR THE FOOD BANK: Artist Donna Huber donated this print, "Grace," for the silent auction on the December 12 Scout Mountain fundraising concert at Cranberry Hall. The event is one of many this month raising funds for the Powell River Action Society Food Bank, which is feeding record numbers of locals. "Grace" is a hand-pulled limited edition print framed in black wood, 17.5 x 17.5 inches.

The 70th Annual Powell River Chorus presents: Holiday Harmony concert

2 pm (doors at 1:30 pm). Evergreen Theatre. \$20 tickets (under 12 free) available from members, The Nutcracker or at the door.

Winter Market at Springtime Garden Centre

11 am to 3 pm, 5300 Yukon Ave. 35+ local makers under cover in two greenhouses and in the parking lot. Beer garden and cocktail lounge, hot food & treats, coffee truck, community fundraiser, live music, door prizes.

Memoir Masala with Twelve Local Memoir Writers

2 pm, Library. Twelve different local memoir writers will each read a Memoir piece at this community event.

Klah ah men Winterlude

Artists, studios, shops, and restaurants celebrate. See Facebook for more.

Santa Train

6 to 8 pm each night, Paradise Exhibition Park. Miniature train rides in the dark, but with many Christmas lights, a bonfire, and snacks in the quonset hut. Fundraiser by the Powell River Forestry Heritage Society. Admission to the rides is by donation for Salvation Army distribution (non-perishable food items or unwrapped new toys or cash).

Miracle on 34th Street

A live staged reading 7 pm Dec 6 & 7, Magpie's diner. A Townsite Actors Guild production. Tickets \$25 at Magpie's.

Film • Zootopia 2

7 pm, The Patricia

7

Sunday

Verecan / Underwriters Breakfast with Santa
9 am to 1 pm, Carlson Community Club loft. A benefit

for the Salvation Army and the PR and District Christmas Cheer Committee. Breakfast and photos with Santa by donation. No RSVP – just drop in!

Junior Forest Wardens Christmas Tree Fundraiser

9 am to 4:30 pm, in the grass lot between McDonald's and Quality Foods. Trees by donation to the Jr. Forest Wardens. Wooden Christmas ornaments by donation at Westview Barber Shop.

Winter Market at Springtime Garden Centre

11 am to 3 pm, 5300 Yukon Ave. 35+ local makers under cover in two greenhouses and in the parking lot. Beer garden and cocktail lounge, hot food & treats, coffee truck, community fundraiser, live music, door prizes.

Powell River Farmers' Market

12:30 to 2:30 pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds (4365 McLeod Road). Produce, meat, baking, prepared food, artisan vendors.

Magic the Gathering Commander night

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

Texada Breakfast with Santa

10 am, Texada Legion.

Texada Island Winter Market

11 am – 4 pm, Texada Community Hall. Last chance Christmas market with vendors, kids activities, Santa at 1 pm.

Texada Library Christmas Party

2-4 pm Seniors Centre Room in Gillies Bay. Share stories, songs, memoirs, poems and cheer.

gathet Concert Band presents: The Great Canadian Soundscape

2 pm. Max Cameron Theatre. Admission by donation at door. Directed by Steven Cramaro.

32 Lakes Sunday Market

10 to 2 indoors. Gathered Farm, vintage clothing, ceramics, and more.



Powell River's own blackberry wine.

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All online orders of 2 or more bottles include free delivery, Lund to Saltery Bay.

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Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays –

from the legal team at Fleming Law



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DECEMBER EVENTS



THE BROOKS BERM BUSTERS & RAD REELS: As if you needed another reason to go to the Rad Reels film night at the Max Cameron December 5... last year's event raised close to \$3,500 for the high school's Mountain Bike Team. This region hosted the BC School Sports Provincial Mountain Bike Championships in the spring of 2025, and several local students won medals. Rad Reels is a fundraiser to support students travelling to Quesnel this year for this year's event. Get tickets at qrdradreeels.com.

Klah ah men Winterlude
Artists, studios, shops, and restaurants celebrate. See Facebook for more.

Film • Zootopia 2
1:30 pm and 7 pm,
The Patricia

hear from each other and come to know each other's humanity. Many people have come back many times, for "Livingroom Conversations" that go into more contentious topics. To RSVP or for more info, email kate@emergecollab.com.

Film • Zootopia 2
7 pm, The Patricia

Santa at the Complex
5 to 7 pm, Recreation Complex. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the complex. Make a holiday craft, get your face painted, or maybe meet Santa? For ages 0-12, in the Lower Foyer.

Film • Zootopia 2
7 pm, The Patricia

Film • Zootopia 2
3:30 pm, The Patricia

11

Thursday

Senior Luncheon
11:30 am to 12:30 pm
United Church, followed by
Projects Half Done.

Everybody Deserves a Smile cookie-making event
6:30 pm, Powell River
United Church. Everyone is welcome.

Free everyone skate: ugly Christmas sweaters
5 to 7 pm, Rec Complex.
In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the complex. Come dressed in your ugliest Christmas sweater.

Film • Zootopia 2
7 pm, The Patricia

12

Friday

Uptown Open House
3:30-5:30 pm. Check out qathet's newest apartment building. 5130 Joyce Avenue and 7110 Edgehill Crescent. See Page 3.

A Good Time to Give, with Scout Mountain
7 pm, Cranberry Hall. A party with a purpose. \$25

8

Monday

Registration opens for swim lessons

At the Rec Complex, or download the *Active Living Guide* from powellriverprc.ca.

Free swim, skate or work out & Memory Wall

All day, Rec Complex. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the complex. Bring a memory for the Memory Wall.

Board Game Night
5 pm, High Tide Games.

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

Bridging Community Differences

6:30-8:30 pm, Cranberry Seniors Centre
Really listening to each other brings healing and change. If this is your first time, we'll explore the topics like Respect or Belonging using the LivingroomConversations.org process — small groups (of 3-5) that give us an opportunity to really

9

Tuesday

Lang Bay Community Club Christmas Hamper program drop-off begins

Non-perishables and grocery gift cards are gratefully accepted at Lang Bay Hall. Drop off times are: Tuesdays Dec. 9 & 16 1-2 pm, and Dec. 13 10 am-noon and 3-4 pm. Contact Carol at 604-487-1259 for details.

The Other Side of the Flag

4 pm, Library. Former Royal Hong Kong Police officer Lance Brown shares his memoir on being a Special Branch bodyguard, an SAS counter terrorist unit, and Hong Kong's handover.

Lang Bay Hampers

Drop off non-perishables and gift cards to Lang Bay Hall Tuesdays December 9 and 16 (1 to 2 pm), and Saturday December 13 (10 to noon and 3 to 4 pm).

10

Wednesday

Blitzen! A Food Bank Fundraiser for business folks willing to donate at least \$100

4 to 8 pm, 7053E Glacier (*qathet Living* and Designer Signs). Enjoy holiday hoopla with FreshCo's Steve Wadsworth, the Food Bank's Savanna Dee, Designer Signs' Craig McCahon, and *qathet Living's* Pieta Woolley. Receipts issued on site. Enter to win a fishing trip. See Page 61.

Retro Fitness Day

Recreation Complex. All fitness classes are free all day. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Complex. Come dressed in 70s attire.

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.

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WALKING IN THIS WINTER WONDERLAND: Mitch Kenyon and Brian McRae are hosting the fifth Enchanted Christmas Forest this year, December 18, 19, 20, 26 and 27. Last year the south-of-town event attracted 1,600 visitors for the lights, music, hot cocoa, and excellent hosts.

advance tickets (at The Nutcracker Market) and \$30 at the door. Silent auction for a framed Donna Huber print. All proceeds (concert sales, concession sales, silent auction) to our local Food Bank. Advance tickets strongly recommended.

Festival of Lights 2025

5 to 8 pm, Association francophone de qathet! (5110 Manson Ave, Community Hall & Forest). Free admission, everyone welcome! An illuminated forest walk behind our centre; journey through three themed worlds – Candy Cane Lane, Grinch's House, and Winter Wonderland. Plus winter crafts, hot chocolate, beverages & treats, and the cheerful festive beats of local DJ Blaise + Santa's visit and gift-giving to every child on Friday at 6:30 pm. afqa.ca/en/festival-of-lights-2025

Fill the Hamper Skate & Swim

Skate from 7 to 9 pm, and Swim from 6:30 – 9 pm. Entrance by donation of non-perishable food or a gift to the Food Bank.

Archaeology of the Island in the Middle of Everywhere

7 pm, Library. Archaeologist Dana Lepofsky from SFU will discuss the x̱w̱ε̱ṯay/Lasqueti Archaeology Project (XLAP): Honouring and Protecting Indigenous Heritage in the Salish Sea.

Kings vs. Cowichan Valley

7 pm, Hap Parker

The Kings annual Teddy Bear and Warm Clothing Toss

7 pm Hap Parker. Bring a stuffed animal or warm clothing items (gloves, scarves, toques, jackets) to throw onto the ice when the Kings score their first goal. All proceeds will go to the Powell River & District Christmas Cheer Committee. Free admission for kids 12 and under thanks to Sunshine Coast Health Centre.

Carols by Candlelight

7:30 pm, Dwight Hall. An essential mix of holiday music to fill you with comfort and joy. A magical highlight of the holiday season! \$30

Film • Classic Holiday Film TBD

3:30 pm & 7 pm, The Patricia.

13

Saturday

Uptown Market

10 am to noon, outside Dr. Varma's office on Joyce. Bread, pies, cookies, gluten-free baking, eggs, plants, local Artisan gifts.

Uptown Open House

10 am–2 pm. Check out qathet's newest apartment building. 5130 Joyce Avenue and 7110 Edgehill Crescent. See Page 3.

Carols by Candlelight

1:30 pm & 7:30 pm, Dwight Hall. An essential mix of holiday music to fill you with comfort and joy. A magical highlight of the holiday season! \$30

Film • Jaws, in the pool

8:15 pm, Recreation Complex. Celebrate 50 years of Jaws. Bring a floaty. For ages 13+. \$5 per person. Please pre-register at 604-485-2891.

Magic of Christmas Craft fair

10 am to 4 pm, Rec Complex – upper foyer. Text 604-414-0701. One of the last fairs of the season.

Tla'amin craft fair

10 am to 2 pm, Salish Centre.

Junior Forest Wardens Christmas Tree Fundraiser

9 am to 4:30 pm, in the grass lot between McDonald's and Quality Foods. Trees by donation to the Jr. Forest Wardens. Wooden Christmas ornaments by donation at Westview Barber Shop

Santa at the mall

12–4 pm daily. Free to take your own photos. Santa will be at the mall Dec 13–23.

Festival of Lights 2025

5 to 8 pm, Association francophone de qathet! (5110 Manson Ave, Community Hall & Forest). Free admission, everyone welcome! An illuminated forest walk behind our centre; journey through three themed worlds – Candy Cane Lane, Grinch's House, and Winter Wonderland. afqa.ca/en/festival-of-lights-2025

Texada United Church Women's Christmas Bake Sale

Noon to 2 pm, Texada United Church

Lang Bay Hampers

Drop off non-perishables and gift cards to Lang Bay Hall, Tuesdays, December 9 and 16 (1 to 2 pm), and Saturday, December 13 (10 to noon and 3 to 4 pm).

Kings vs. Cowichan Valley

7 pm Hap Parker

Film • Classic Holiday Film TBD

1:30 pm & 7 pm, The Patricia.

14

Sunday

32 Lakes Sunday Market

10 to 2 indoors. Gathered Farm, vintage clothing, ceramics, and more.

Children's Christmas Pageant

10:30 am, all welcome. Powell River United Church.

Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols

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

Harbour Lights Festival

South Harbour at Coast Guard Station. Powell River Yacht Club. Everyone welcome. 5–6:30 pm.

Powell River Farmers' Market

12:30 to 2:30 pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds (4365 McLeod Road). Produce, meat, baking, prepared food, artisan vendors.

Magic the Gathering Commander night

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

Junior Forest Wardens Christmas Tree Fundraiser

9 am to 4:30 pm, in the grass lot between McDonald's and Quality Foods. Trees by donation to the Jr. Forest Wardens. Wooden Christmas ornaments by donation at Westview Barber Shop

Film • Classic Holiday Film TBD

1:30 pm & 7 pm, The Patricia.

15

Monday

Piano Heist: A Very Merry Heistmas

7 pm, Max Cameron. A festive romp through Christmas classics along with comic shenanigans. Be prepared to sing along, festive attire encouraged. \$35, 12 & under \$10. See ad on Page 13.



Powell River Therapeutic Riding Association

invites you to attend our annual

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, December 6th

11:00-3:00 pm at our

barn on Myrtle Avenue

Pics with Santa & Horses

Silent auction • Draws

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

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Our sincere appreciation is extended to Scotiabank for their continued support and matching funds up to \$3,000 raised on this day. We also thank A&W for providing the space for this advertisement.

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

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DECEMBER EVENTS



THE ELVES BEHIND THE SCENES: At every fundraising event this season, there are elves. These ones ran the kitchen at the 2014 Underwriters Insurance / Verecan Breakfast with Santa event at the Carlson Loft. This year's event, which raises money for Christmas Cheer and the Salvation Army, is December 7.

Chor Musica Christmas Concert

James Hall, \$25. See ad on Page 27. Chor Musica is a male voice choir comprised of 40 singers. Formed in 1998, the choir provides an opportunity for men to explore and perform a variety of music written for the male choir.

Board Game Night

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

Lift Community Services Warm Gear Drive – Last Day to Donate

Drop off tents, sleeping bags, tarps, and portable shelter structures to Lift's head office, weekdays 9 am to 3 pm: 4448 Marine Avenue.

Free Winter Wonderland

6:30, Rec Complex. Sponsored by the Powell River United Church. No charge and all are welcome.

Film • Classic Holiday Film TBD

7 pm, The Patricia.

16

Tuesday

The Elvis Christmas Concert featuring Robert Falls

7 pm, James Hall. Featuring renowned local Elvis

impersonator, Robert T. Falls, performing a variety of Christmas classics. By donation. See ad on Page 27.

Lang Bay Hampers

Drop off non-perishables and gift cards to Lang Bay Hall, Tuesdays, December 9 and 16 (1 to 2 pm), and Saturday, December 13 (10 to noon and 3 to 4 pm).

Film • Classic Holiday Film TBD

7 pm, The Patricia.

17

Wednesday

Light Up qathet! Last day to submit your Christmas lights display

Each year, Powell River Park & Rec collects photos and addresses of the region's best holiday lights displays, makes them into a map, and then holds a contest where viewers can vote for the best display. The map is released on the 18th on Facebook, and the contest closes December 22. Participants could win a three-month pass to the Complex.

Floral Centrepiece Workshop

6 pm Townsite Brewing. Hosted by Bloom Therapy. Tickets: bloom-therapy.ca

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.

Enchanted Christmas Forest walk

5 to 8 pm, Twin Eagles Road (ocean side of the highway). Also on Dec 18, 19, 20, 26 & 27. Enjoy a walk in the woods with Christmas decorations, lights, and music. Kids will be entertained by the Christmas elf village, the Grinch movie, and a Christmas train. New this year is a permanent shelter where you can stay dry, mingle with neighbours, and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate. We've also added a giant Christmas Word search game, with words hidden throughout the Forest. Free.

Philosophers Café featuring guest Bob Hackett

2 to 4 pm, United Church (Crofton Street). What does it mean to think of society as a structure, one that in some ways shapes and transcends the intentions of individual actors? Using the example of the ecological crisis as structurally generated, we can discuss questions such as these: how can one live ethically in an unjust system? How does one understand the causality of social change and of power? Where is

there scope for agency? About the monthly Philosopher's Café: Everyone is welcome, no matter your background or level of philosophical experience. The goal isn't to "win" arguments or show off what you know, but to think together in a spirit of curiosity. We try to follow something like a Socratic approach: asking questions, listening closely, challenging ideas (including our own), and seeing where the conversation leads.

Film • Classic Holiday Film TBD

3:30 pm, The Patricia.

18

Thursday

Senior Luncheon

11:30 am to 12:30 pm Powell River United Church, followed by Projects Half Done finishing at 3 pm. Gift Bag assembly at 1:15 pm.

Peanuts Christmas

6 pm, James Hall. Enjoy music from the Charlie Brown Christmas, performed by a jazz quartet accompanied by Academy Choirs. By donation. See ad on Page 27.

Light Up qathet! Holiday lights map comes out

See the Powell River Parks and Rec Facebook page for the map of all participating



ARE YOU A LOCAL BUSINESS? USE THIS LOGO!

To help promote locally-owned businesses, *qathet Living* commissioned a series of logos from local artist Jenny Allen Taves. The logos all include the Canadian Maple Leaf, and two uniquely-local symbols: a harbour seal and the sunset over the Salish Sea.

We welcome anyone to use these logos to promote your own local cred. Put them on your ads. Run them on your social media. Use them on your packaging or your products. You are local - show it!

If you'd like these logos emailed to you, for free, contact sean@qathetliving.ca, or call us at 604-485-0003.





RARE HARLEY FOR THE FOOD BANK: The Powell River Motorcycle Riders have organized an auction of this 2017 Harley Davidson XG750 street rod, which is taking place at Two Wheel Tech. The package comes with a three-day training package valued at \$900. More info? Call Bob Stewart at 604-223-7488.

houses, and how to vote for your favourite.

Film • Classic Holiday Film TBD
7 pm, The Patricia.

19

Friday

Last day to complete the qRD Public Notice Preferences Survey
See ad on Page 47.

Putters 5th Annual Light Up the Park with the Powell River Fire Department begins
5 to 8 pm, Putters. Entry to the park for the walk through is by donation; ice cream/coffee/hot chocolate, etc will be regular pricing.

Enchanted Christmas Forest walk
5 to 8 pm, Twin Eagles Road Enjoy a walk in the woods with Christmas decorations, lights, and music. Free.

Film • Wicked: For Good
1:30 pm and 7 pm, The Patricia. Elphaba (Cynthia Erivo), now demonized as The Wicked Witch of the West, lives in exile, while continuing her fight for the freedom of Oz's silenced

Animals and desperately trying to expose the truth she knows about The Wizard (Jeff Goldblum). Glinda, meanwhile, has become the glamorous symbol of Goodness for all of Oz, living at the palace in Emerald City and reveling in her popularity. A girl from Kansas comes crashing into their lives and Glinda and Elphaba will need to come together one final time to change themselves, and all of Oz, for good.

Kings vs. Victoria
7 pm, Hap Parker

20

Saturday

Uptown Market
10 am to noon, outside Dr. Varma's office on Joyce. Bread, pies, cookies, gluten-free baking, eggs, plants, local Artisan gifts.

Confessions
11 am to 1 pm, Assumption Westview

Enchanted Christmas Forest walk
5 to 8 pm, Twin Eagles Road Enjoy a walk in the woods with Christmas decorations, lights and music. Free.

Putters 5th Annual Light Up the Park: Glow in the Dark Mini Golf Night
5 to 8 pm, Putters. Entry to the park for the walk through is by donation; mini golf, ice cream/coffee/hot chocolate, etc will be regular pricing.

Film • Wicked: For Good
7 pm, The Patricia

21

Sunday

Longest Night service
6:30 pm, Powell River United Church. For those who may find the season of celebration difficult.

32 Lakes Sunday Market
10 to 2 indoors. Gathered Farm, vintage clothing, ceramics, and more.

Putters 5th Annual Light Up the Park with the Powell River Fire Department
5 to 8 pm, Putters. Entry to the park for the walk through is by donation; ice cream/coffee/hot chocolate, etc will be regular pricing.

Powell River Farmers' Market
12:30 to 2:30 pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds (4365 McLeod Road). Produce, meat, baking, prepared food, artisan vendors.

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

Film • Wicked: For Good
1:30 pm and 7 pm, The Patricia

22

Monday

Putters 5th Annual Light Up the Park with the Powell River Fire Department
5 to 8 pm, Putters. Entry to the park for the walk through is by donation; ice cream/coffee/hot chocolate, etc will be regular pricing.

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

Light Up gathet! Voting closes
Noon. To vote for your favourite, go to the Powell

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DECEMBER EVENTS

River Parks and Rec Facebook page for the full map and voting instructions.

Film • Wicked: For Good

7pm, The Patricia

23

Tuesday

Putters 5th Annual Light Up the Park with the Powell River Fire Department

5 to 8 pm, Putters. Entry to the park for the walk through is by donation; ice cream/coffee/hot chocolate, etc will be regular pricing.

Film • Wicked: For Good

7pm, The Patricia

24

Wednesday

Christmas Eve Services

4 pm, St. David and St. Paul Anglican Church
4 pm, Living Water at Dwight Hall
4 pm, Westview Baptist
6 pm, Westview Baptist
6:30 pm, Powell River United Church
7 pm, Powell River Reformed Church
7 pm, Assumption Westview
7 pm, Sacred Heart, Tla'amin

25

Thursday

Christmas Day Worship

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

26

Friday

Enchanted Christmas Forest walk

5 to 8 pm, Twin Eagles Road Enjoy a walk in the woods with Christmas decorations, lights, and music. Free.

Film • Wicked: For Good

1:30 pm and 7 pm, The Patricia

27

Saturday

Enchanted Christmas Forest walk

5 to 8 pm, Twin Eagles Road Enjoy a walk in the woods with Christmas decorations, lights, and music. Free.

Film • Wicked: For Good

7pm, The Patricia

28

Sunday

Powell River Farmers' Market

12:30 to 2:30 pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds (4365 McLeod Road). Produce, meat, baking, prepared food, artisan vendors.

Magic the Gathering Commander night

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

Film • Wicked: For Good

1:30 pm and 7 pm, The Patricia

29

Monday

Board Game Night

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

Film • Wicked: For Good

7pm, The Patricia

30

Tuesday

Present Exhibition and Fundraiser: Last Day

Noon until 5 pm, qathet Art Centre. Group exhibition featuring 60+ local qathet region artists' recent work for sale. All proceeds go towards local artists and qathet ART youth programs.

Film • Midwinter Matinee: The Velvet Queen

1 pm, Library. Movie-loving folks are invited for a free midwinter matinee at

PRPL. Hot chocolate and popcorn provided! Drop-in. About the Film: The Velvet Queen (2022, 92 minutes, Rated G)

Film • Wicked: For Good

7pm, The Patricia

31

Wednesday

Shinglemill New Year's Eve Dinner Buffet

Reservations recommended. The Shinglemill is also hosting a New Year's Day brunch.

Powell River Italian Community Club 2025 New Year's Eve Dance

8 pm, 5866 Lund Street. Live music by "Overdrive." Champagne, party favours, midnight snacks. For table reservations call Rino 604-414-5100 or Barb 604-413-3171. \$50 per person 16 and older. Tickets available at Underwriters Insurance or Massullo Motors. See ad on Page 52.

Legion New Year's Eve Dance with the Brice Tabish Band

8:30 pm to 12:30 am, Legion. Evening snacks provided. Members \$35, non-members \$40. Tickets now available at the Legion Bar.



AT OUR HOLLY-JOLLY HOSPITAL: For at least 20 years, the departments at qathet General compete with each other to decorate their doors. The prize: a bell they can display year-round. Last year, the second-place winner was the "Merry Medicine Shoppe", a gingerbread-house design featuring pills (check out the Viagra on the alcove) made by the pharmacy department. The top spot went to Stores, with Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer. This year, staff are at it again, boosting their own morale and the mood of patients who are spending the holidays looking after their health.

Photo courtesy of Jeremy Brockington

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ART & MUSEUM SHOWS THIS WINTER



IN TISKWAT: Above, Loot Lake. Mixed media on canvas, 34.5" x 49" at 32 Lakes through December and January. Right, the artist Miel Creasey. From the artist's statement: "Loot Lake is a special swimming hole on the banks of the tiskw'at River that our family often visits. When we first began swimming there many years ago, our youngest would dive beneath the surface with his goggles and return with all sorts of treasures—rusted metal remnants, fishing lures, silver

cutlery, antique glass bottles, lengths of chain, and even a tiny antique screw-back cameo earring carved from shell. While conducting fish surveys for the Tla'amin Nation below the dam, my husband once discovered a small bronze Art Deco-era statue of a woman. It was after these discoveries that our son began calling this stretch of the tiskw'at River 'Loot Lake.'"

Somewhere Between Here and There

Miel Creasey is a visual artist from the qathet region. Her practice explores how stories, memories, and the natural world are interwoven.

Blending painting and photography, she captures the feelings of place, time, and our shared connections with the landscape. Currently she is showcasing a series of new mixed media paintings at 32 Lakes Cafe.

The show titled 'Somewhere Between Here and There' explores various places around the qathet region, with a focus on the area of tiskw'at. Her paintings are layered compositions built from images of places, plants, and objects that have been photographed or sourced from her experiences, often abstracted. Through photography, she

captures moments in time, preserving objects and their memories.

By manipulating images, repetition, transparency, surface sheen, colour, scale, and placement, she blurs the boundary between imagination and reality. The works reflect the ever-changing landscape and the people who intertwine with it.

This collection at 32 Lakes Cafe reflects her ongoing exploration of resilience, renewal, and the stirring beauty found between moments in time.

Creasey's work can be viewed in person at the cafe until the end of January 2026 or on her website www.mielcreasey.com. The exhibition will have a rotation of new works added in throughout its duration. 📍

Through December

Rhys Galligos at qathet Art & Wares

Known online as @flesheatingsalmon, Rhys was born in 2001 in ɬaʔamen territory, where her ancestors have resided since time immemorial.

She is a versatile artist and illustrator who mainly utilizes acrylics, natural fibers, and digital work as her mediums. Rhys currently works for a grassroots organization, Jehjeh Media, curating visuals for educational posters, such as medicinal native plants, mollusks, ducks, and more within her community.

As a passion project, she is currently working on designing a knit sweater as an ode to the Salish Woolly Dog, and has two paintings in the works that touch on the theme of the Spirit of Life and Death.

Through January

Somewhere Between Here and There: Miel Creasey at 32 Lakes

See left.

To January 4

The Island in the Middle of Everywhere

qathet Museum. Food gathering and cultivation practices of Northern Coast Salish peoples.

To February 26

Present Exhibition and Fundraiser Opening Reception

5 to 7pm, qathet Art Centre. Group exhibition featuring 60+ local qathet region artists' recent work for sale. All proceeds go towards local artists and qathet ART youth programs. December Viewing hours: Dec 1-22, Mon – Thurs 12-5 pm; Dec 30, 12-5 pm.

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A PEEK AHEAD TO JANUARY

January 1

**Shinglemill
Brunch Buffet**
Reservations recommended

January 4

**Christmas Tree
Mulch Fundraiser for
Special Olympics**
See story, right.

January 5

Back to School

January 10

Regals vs. Steelmen

January 11

Rock & Bowl 15
7 pm, The Alley Powered by Persephone. Quit It! (Calgary socio-political punk), Potential Union (gathet melodic punk), Phlie (gathet prog-punk), and a super special mystery guest! All-ages show. \$20 adults / \$15 teens / \$5 kids. Includes free bowling! Curated by loud gathet.

January 12

**Open House –
Introduction to Waltz**
7 to 9 pm, Stardusters Hall, 5399 Timberlane Ave.

January 13

**Open House – Intro
to Square Dancing**
7 to 9 pm, Stardusters Hall, 5399 Timberlane Ave

January 16 & 17

**Banff Mountain
Film Festival**
See ad on Page 26.

January 20

**The Fretless
in concert**
Juno Award winners transform string music into intricate, high-energy arrangements, pushing traditional music to a new place. \$35. See ad on Page 13.

January 24

**Robbie Burns Dinner
at the Legion**
Put on by the Clansman Pipe Band. Full roast beef dinner with haggis and Scottish entertainment.

Tickets \$35, will be available after Christmas.

January 27

**Royal Winnipeg
Ballet: T'el: The Wild
Man of the Woods**
Max Cameron. rwb.org.

January 30

The Wardens
Songs and stories from the land they've protected as National Park Wardens. Haunting harmonies and chilling tales reflect Canada's wilderness in a quintessential mountaineering concert experience. \$35.

**Cousin
Harley with
SPENDO**
8 pm, Carlson Loft.



Mulch your tree for charity

Special Olympics BC—Powell River is again holding its annual Christmas tree mulch fundraiser.

This is one of the major fundraisers of the year and has been an annual event for almost 20 years. Special Olympics BC—Powell River has been offering sport programs for 34 years and today provides programs to approximately 50 athletes ranging in age from ten to 80 years old.

The funds raised are mainly used to purchase equipment for programs, facility rentals, and travel. Our goal is to limit the cost to the athletes. Our programs run year round and consist of aquatics, bowling, bocce, curling, and golf and we have athletes playing with a composite floor hockey team on Vancouver Island. We are also offering softball next year.

Athletes compete in sport events, both fun and competitive. Each year

we have athletes competing at qualifying competitions and this year we had two aquatics athletes qualify to compete at the National Games in Medicine Hat in 2026.

Special Olympics programs offer many benefits to athletes—improved physical ability and fitness level, increased social opportunities and self-confidence and promotes belonging, connectedness, and inclusivity. Our goal is to continue to provide these life enriching programs for our athletes.

This year's Christmas Tree Mulch will be held on January 4 in the parking lot below Mother Nature. For a suggested minimum donation of \$5, trees can be dropped off between 10 am and 1 pm, or for those who prefer to have their trees picked up, tree tags can be purchased at Mother Nature and placed curbside by 8 am when CUPE 798 members volunteer their time for pickups.

We are always grateful for the support that we receive from the community and look forward to another successful fundraiser!

— Jackie Milsom

A new chapter in local Legal Excellence

Please join us
in congratulating
Hillary Fleming
on being called to the Bar.

Hillary is now practicing law with Fleming Law, continuing a tradition of trusted service in our community.



Our Lives



**Robert William
"Bill" Norris**

November 17, 1945 -
November 3, 2025

Our beloved father left this world peacefully with our loving mother by his side.

IN LOVING MEMORY



GREG LARKIN

AUGUST 21 1957 – DECEMBER 22 2002

*IN THE HEARTS THAT LOVED HIM
HIS MEMORY LINGERS ALWAYS*

THOMAS LARKIN

JULY 17 1929 – DECEMBER 23, 2021

VIVIAN LARKIN

OCTOBER 17 1930 – APRIL 19 2025

FOREVER MISSING YOU

LOVE WENDY, MELISSA, STEPHANIE



You're invited to **Blitzen**

Wednesday, December 10
4 to 8pm

**A party for corporate folks
in support of the PR Food Bank**

BLITZEN

- Bring \$100+ donation
- 7053 Glacier - at Designer Signs & qL Magazine
- Receipts issued on-site
- Chili & Toppings Bar
- Townsite beer & Rocky Creek wine
- Enter to win a 4-hour fishing trip with Jimmy Jack Charters
- Bloom Therapy Insta-Spot for feel-good photos with Food Bank manager Savanna Dee

Sponsored by FreshCo, Designer Signs & qL mag



HOUSE WARMING

Light-up houses from Christmas Forever are beautiful winter decorations all day, but especially shine at night when you turn on the LEDs. Find a variety of sizes and designs at **Mother Nature**, ranging from \$18.99 to \$84.99.



FUSED FROSTY

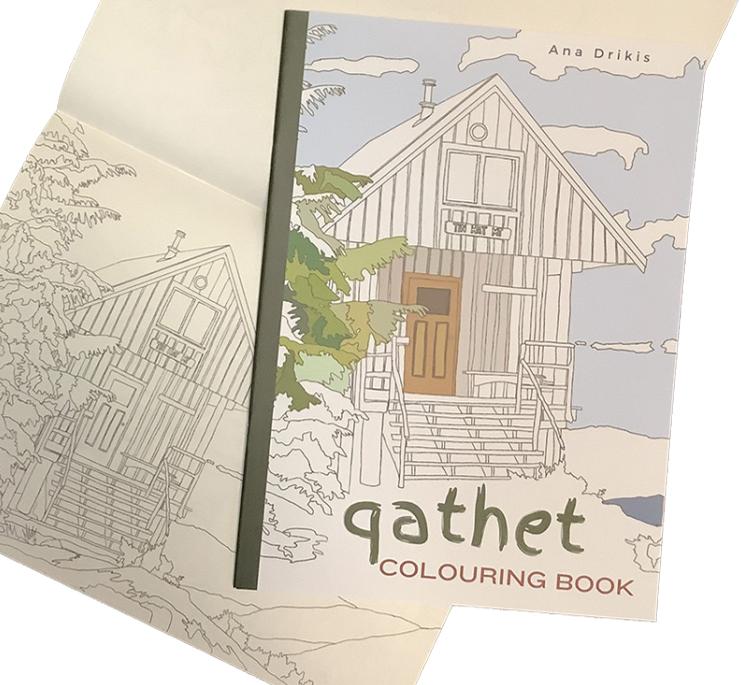
Tug Guhm Gallery has a wide selection of Christmas ornaments, such as this hand-made fused glass snowman by Bruce Thurston of Texada island. They are \$20 each.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT STUFFY

You'll want to just keep hugging this Warm Buddy Woolly Sheep from **Oceanside Entertainment**. It measures 18" tall and comes with a removable inner heat pad that can be warmed or cooled. It's an ideal solution for any issues with chronic pain or trouble sleeping. Soothing warmth will provide comfort and stress relief. Other styles (animals) are also available.

COLOUR THE COAST

The unique qathet colouring book by Ana Drikis, is available at **qathet Visitor Centre**. It showcases local landscapes, harbours, landmarks like the Patricia Theatre, and Sunshine Coast Trail huts. The book retails for \$14.99.



GET TO THE POINT

For the knitter on your list, reach out to **Great Balls of Wool** for ideas, like this deluxe kit of Karbonz Knitters Pride carbon needles (3mm-6mm), a must-have for all knitting enthusiasts looking for stylish and high-performance tools. This set of interchangeable needles has high-quality metal construction, ensuring both durability and lightness. Karbonz needles are renowned for their innovation and performance, making this set an ideal choice for discerning knitters.



SLIP INTO SOMETHING COMFORTABLE

Glerups Slippers, for both men and women, are comfortable, felted wool from Denmark, with a soft leather or durable rubber bottom. **Fits to a T** has many styles and colours to chose from.

A few of our

POLLEN POCKETS

The only thing better than a Pollen Sweater under the tree is a **Pollen Sweater** with pockets. Pockets on the zipped cardigan (seen here in the Calypso colour) are available in side or top-entry for both men and women for an extra \$30.



POWER OF FLOWERS

Kelly's Health Shop offers this morning elixir or late afternoon skin snack. Botanicals of myrrh, frankincense, and raspberry seed to lift, tone, and defend. It also includes Vitamin C derived from Sea Buckthorn to protect and rosehip for the glow and antioxidants.





STYLE STAPLE

A super soft premium cashmere blend sweater by Selected Homme is a washable, life-long style staple that your loved one will be sure to appreciate. Find your fit at **Anchor Apparel** on Marine Avenue.



our favourite things

Feeling Cozy

BLACKBERRY WINE

Wine from qathet's first commercial winery is now available. **Rocky Creek Winery's** blackberry dessert wine is ready for order on their website store at rockycreekwinery.ca. It's sweet and easy drinking, whether you're looking for a rich sipper or dessert in a glass.

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE THERE'S FLAVOUR

Sammy Hagar and Guy Fieri co-own Santo Tequila and their mezquila (part blue agave tequila and part Espadin agave mezcal) is a delicious find at **Capone's Cellar**. It has aromas and flavours of lime, mesquite, and grilled pork belly, with a round, crisp medium body and a warming, medium-length finish imparting notes of grilled sweet peppers, lime, and smoky pork shoulder.



COMFY COZY ENERGY

This fleece crew from Z Supply brings all the cozy energy in an oversized fit that feels relaxed and roomy. With a bold twill applique front and a soft wash, it's the one you'll reach for whether you're lounging inside or styling it up. Find it at **Simply Bronze**.



PATRICIA THEATRE

GIFT CARD

MOVIE MAGIC

Looking for a convenient one-size-fits-all gift? The **Patricia Theatre** now has e-gift cards that can be purchased online. You can email or text a gift card to someone that can be used for the movie or concession. You can also gift Film Festival passes. Scroll to the bottom of qathetfilm.ca for links. You can also get physical gift cards at the theatre.

CRAFTING, THE EASY WAY

Discover the joy of crafting without the stress of gathering supplies. Our Little Makery, a Canadian, women-owned company produces 3D Paint-by-Number Kits, making creativity effortless. Perfect for busy schedules, each kit transforms relaxation time into beautiful, dimensional art you'll be proud to display. Find them at **qathet Art + Wares**, on sale along with other stress-free creative outlets, such as Colouring Books & Paint-By-Numbers.



BUNDLE OF BLOOMS

With a bouquet of the month subscription from **Bloom Therapy**, your home will be filled with a designer's choice bouquet ready to be placed into her favourite vase, no fuss required. This is a great subscription for the person who loves alllllll the flowers, or the person who wants to enjoy flowers that require no styling upon arrival. A three-month plan is \$250.



JEWELRY MEANT TO LAST

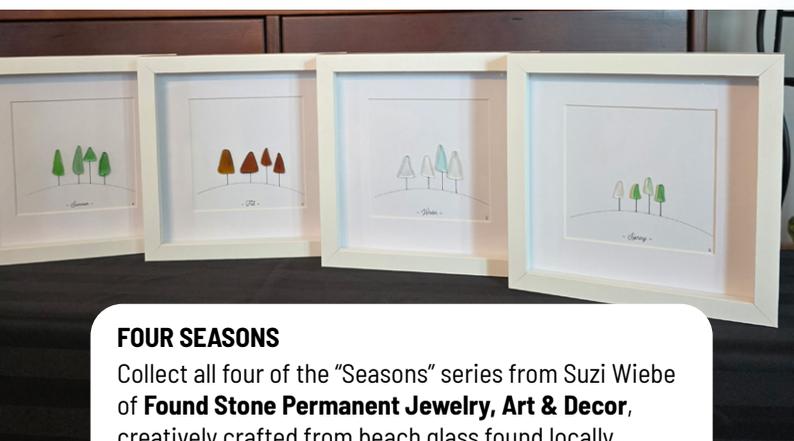
Looking for a gift to last a lifetime? **Westerly** carries Pyrrha Jewellery, one of the world's most sustainable jewelry brands. Made in Vancouver, the talisman design has meaning behind each piece, making it a beloved gift. Westerly has gifts and stocking stuffers for all.

A few of our favourite



SPORTY SUPPORT

The 2UNDR Swing Shift men's boxer is designed to provide optimal support and superior comfort throughout the day. Made from soft, breathable, and stretchy fabric, it perfectly contours the silhouette while allowing maximum freedom of movement. Its exclusive Joey Pouch technology ensures targeted support, reducing irritation and chafing. Find them in sporty patterns at **Armitage Men's Wear**.



FOUR SEASONS

Collect all four of the "Seasons" series from Suzi Wiebe of **Found Stone Permanent Jewelry, Art & Decor**, creatively crafted from beach glass found locally.

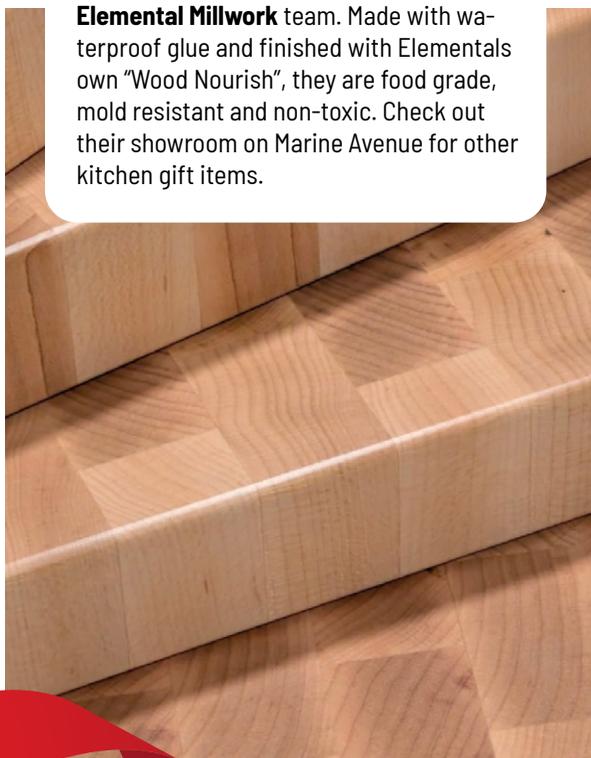


IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

The Mini-Gizmo FPV is a powerful micro-sized RC car that puts immersive driving right in the palm of your hand. With a removable HD camera, real-time first-person-view video streaming, and app-based controls, this 1:64 scale crawler delivers high-tech thrills in a tiny package. Find it for \$69.99 from **Paradise Valley RC Hobbies**. It also comes as a 2021 Bronco!

A CUT ABOVE

These cutting boards are crafted with a variety of food grade woods by your local **Elemental Millwork** team. Made with waterproof glue and finished with Elementals own "Wood Nourish", they are food grade, mold resistant and non-toxic. Check out their showroom on Marine Avenue for other kitchen gift items.



AX AWAY

A woodsman can never have too many axes. Just ask the guys at **Thunder Bay Saw Shop**, who can help you pick out the right one for the woodcutter on your list.

things



LADY IN RED

Make an entrance with this Scarlet Ball Gown by Colette, and get it perfectly fit for you by Guadalupe Dufour at **Perfect Fit for Brides and Grads**. Satin with sequins, this ball gown features a curved neckline, beading, lace applique and comes with detachable shoulder lace straps and lace-up back. Visit their showroom on Marine Avenue.



A SUBLIME LOOK

Whether you're heading to a festive gathering or a holiday dinner, this look from **Sublime Fashions** brings warmth, glamour and style in one effortless ensemble.



GLITTER IS GOLD

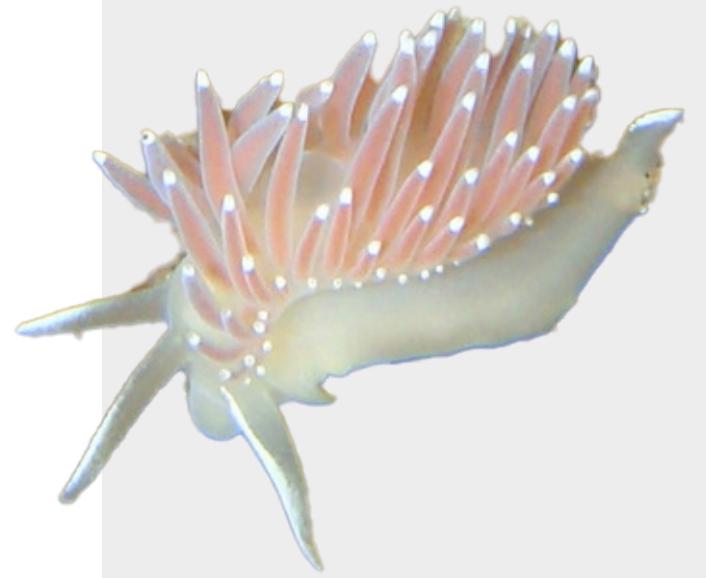
You can never go wrong with jewelry, and this Jillian Leigh, 14-carat gold fill necklace, from a Canadian designer featured at Paris Fashion Week, is sure to be a hit. It is safe for even the most sensitive skin. Find it at **The Knack**.



HOT STUFF

This sleek, elegant, modern design fireplace tool sets will warm up your hearth and home. Made in BC by Carbon Fired Technologies, they are available at **Cadam Fireplace & Stove Centre** near the airport.

Slow Love



Seekers:

1. **Independent late-60s retired woman** seeks love, romance, companionship, gardening buddy, kayaking partner, boardgame enthusiast, photography aficionado, movie goer, music lover, nature explorer, WFPB lifestyle. Also seeking honesty, kindness, humour, empathy and, above all, integrity. Do any of these describe you?

2. **I'm writing on behalf of a wonderful friend** of mine who deserves nothing less than a man of substance, heart, and reliability. She's 62 years young, deeply rooted in the qathet community, and genuinely one of the kindest, most grounded humans you'll ever meet.

She volunteers. She cooks like someone who pours love into every meal. She owns her home, tends a beautiful garden, and has strong, healthy family ties. She loves walking the Seawall, going to movies, checking out local events, dancing to good music, and enjoying dinners out with close friends. She's a social drinker, a non-smoker, and a loyal cat-mom — so cat allergies may be your downfall.

And yes, she loves fishing. Truly loves it. If you have a boat and enjoy being out on the water, bonus points for you.

She's outgoing in spirit but not a social butterfly — she appreciates good company, not constant crowds.

Now, here's the twist: before you meet her, you'll meet me.

Think of it as a friendly filter, a little quality-control, the sort of thing friends used to do when they set people up through their networks. I'm just making sure she gets the kind of match she deserves — someone emotionally available, financially stable, and genuinely interested in connection, not games.

If that sounds like you — respectful, kind, up for laughter, walks, dancing, movies, and maybe reeling in a salmon or two — then I'd be happy to meet you first and see if you're a fit.

Reach out, and let's bring a little old-fashioned matchmaking back to life.

3. **Man seeks woman of any age**—I am more interested in the person than the age. If you like to play cards, walk, go fishing, or simply enjoy cooking healthy food, I could be your man.

I miss the feeling of being in a loving relationship. I like a smile across the table. I like hugs before bed. Do you like these things too? We could be fun together. Let's start with a tea.

4. **Gatekeeper seeks Keymaster.** If you're a Gen Xer, who can "Stay Puft" and handle my Zuul — read on! To be clear, I'm not looking to cohabitate... ever. I will not marry you but am 100% down to be romanced. Will supply beachside fires, random thrift store scavenger hunts, and the best venison stew of your life (must provide the deer, however.)

I might look a bit trad wife on the outside, but I'm actually a bog witch in disguise. MAGA hats and pew warmers need not apply, but I hope you find love too.

Must not be a sore loser. Board games are for fun, and yes, I'll beat you.

My holiday Slow Love wish is to wake exhausted with coffee waiting in the pot and sand where your shoes were.

Must have recent clear STD panel.

I Saw You / Missed Connections

5. Am I your fish?

Last month, you cast a line on this "I Saw You" page to find a girl from 1994.

I hope you're the person I think you are. If so, we said goodbye one memorable day, I blinked and 30 years went by.

A confession: 20 years ago, I found you online.

Your life seemed a dream, so I left you alone.

My life changed through the years, so did my last name.

But now, I'm ready to fish again. 🐟

Tired of Tinder?

Try giving *qathet Living's* print-based personals column a chance. It's a place where real humans can meet, off the online fray.

Everyone is welcome to submit an ad of up to 75 words, looking for any kind of love. Or, if you spotted someone attractive locally and didn't have the courage to say hello, drop them a note here.

Please keep it all relatively family-friendly!

The deadline for the December issue is November 20. Send your ad to editor@qathetliving.ca.

How to respond to an ad:

Write an email to editor@qathetliving.ca noting which # you're responding to, and we will forward your note to the right person. You can take it from there. Alternately, to lean in to the "slow love" theme, mail or drop off a physical letter to the *qL* office.

Please note: *qL* does not screen the people behind the personals ads, nor the respondents. You are all responsible for your own comfort and safety. Please take precautions such as meeting in public places, drinking responsibly, telling a friend where you are, and most importantly, choosing to not harm other people, physically or emotionally.

Slow Love's official mascot: The Nudibranch.

Each nudibranch (noo-di-brank, see image, of *flabellina trophina* above) is colourful, vibrant and unique, perfectly themselves — just like *qathet's* singles.

The similarities are actually uncanny, we hope. These little sea slugs grow out of their shells by the time they're adults. That's the vulnerable spirit we hope you take into dating.

In addition, finding another nudibranch to mate with can take time, so they are both male and female — any nudibranch can mate with any nudibranch. It's very West Coast. Nudibranchs live in nearly every ocean, including the waters surrounding this region.

qL's love of nudibranchs is so great it's in the name. The magazine is owned by Gastropod Media, a company with Pieta Woolley (a fan of slugs, a gastropod) and Sean Percy (a fan of nudibranchs, also a gastropod) at the helm.

The nudibranch: an ancient symbol for modern, slow love.

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Stuck together

Ghislain (Chip) & Susan Paquette met in Powell River in April 1975 through a family friend, and got married just five months later: on September 19. They had two children within three years of their marriage.

Ghislain was working for Behan Cedar Products, money was tight, so he took on other jobs to make ends meet. In 1985, Ghislain joined the RCMP to provide a better life for his family.

The family moved to Ottawa in 1985; Airdrie, Alberta in 1988; to Edson, Alberta in 1995; then back to where it all started in Powell River in 2000. That's where Ghislain finished his career in 2010.

During this time Susan worked as a Home Care Provider, a Canada Post Contractor, then as a nurses aid in a hospital. Once back in Powell River, Susan worked for Cherry Doors as a caregiver in a group home until 2016.

Now retired, the couple spends their time traveling and volunteering in the community, as well as doing crafts together.

They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this fall.

How did you get to know each other?

Susan & Ghislain • Our first date was about two weeks after we met. We went to the movies. He brought four of his brothers and sisters with him, as it was impossible to leave the house without them. Susan

thought that it was so cute.

What was the moment you knew this person was special to you?

Susan • I asked Ghislain to be my escort to my graduation, he showed up with a dozen red roses.

What challenges did you go through in making a life together

Susan & Ghislain • We were young and inexperienced, with marriage and children, lots of financial challenges, balancing a career and family was a challenge. But we stuck together and made it work.

Top three things you enjoy about the other person:

Ghislain • Her wit, her sense of humour, and her kind heart.

Susan • His never-ending dedication, his love for family, and his unselfish nature.

How this relationship has changed you

Susan & Ghislain • This relationship has made us realize how grateful and thankful we are. Our hearts are full and we are complete. We both feel that there is nothing we can't resolve or overcome.

What's different about this relationship, from what you've experienced in the past?

Susan & Ghislain • A good relationship is like riding a seesaw, always a careful balance no one can get off, and no one ever did.



FAST TIMES IN POWELL RIVER: Susan and Ghislain Paquette got married after just five months of dating – and have stayed married for 50 years.

Your best advice for those who are seeking a romantic relationship:

Susan & Ghislain • Our best advice to anyone is to treat each other with the utmost respect, to always work together to solve problems, and most important is to keep the lines of communication open. Last but not least, have fun. 🍷

Would you like to be featured in I Made the Match? All kinds of relationships & sexualities are welcomed here: marriages, common-law, casual, friendships, and more. Email editor@qathetliving.ca by December 15.



Happy Holidays
from all of us at Hanson Land & Sea!



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TAKE A BREAK

The Wisdom of Not Knowing

As we move into the darkest time of the year, it seems fitting to offer a little support for when we can't see what's ahead or where to go.

There's a lot of pressure to 'have a plan' or foresee potential pitfalls. From childhood we are asked what profession we want, and before graduating we're supposed to know how exactly to get there. Holiday gatherings can be peppered with personal questions like, "When will you settle down?" or "How will you spend your time after retirement?"

Each New Year's Day we're prompted to speak our resolutions and life goals, with various groups willing to hold us accountable. Every birthday, every fallen eyelash, even every full Moon, opportunities to wish for what we hope to come.

But what if we don't know? What if life sidelines our careful plans and we can't even begin to think of 'what's next'?

In a society that demands instant answers, an examination of every mystery, and a constant pace of perceived growth, there isn't much space for quiet unknowing. Thankfully, the natural world shows us very clearly that indeed, fallow times, dark times, times of rest, and even outward seeming stagnation, all hold a vital place in healthy rhythmic cycles.

The trick is giving ourselves space and grace to



not know yet. To not rush to solutions. Not puzzling or consulting or divining for answers. Not leaping to the next shiny choice.

Some of the best advice for creative blocks is to take time away to do something unrelated. Burnout or illness recovery usually involves a period of deep rest. Stepping away from a problem allows space for new revelations to organically arise without trying to force an answer.

For myself, I'm also writing from a place of not yet knowing. I've been offered new roles within *qathet Living* magazine, and I hear that an amazing Astrologer will be gracing this space instead of my usual column.



RETURN TO REVERENCE

JULIETTE JARVIS

It's a change I hadn't expected and it comes with a time of unknowing. However! With every Solstice and Equinox, I've been invited to pop back in to gently encourage us to 'Return to Reverence.'

It's been an absolute gift to have written for you all these past seven years, and I'll truly miss offering a regular touch-in. But who knows? Maybe quarterly becomes a more potent read, or R2R will be picked up for syndication, or maybe I'll just rest a bit.

If you'd like to read more; archives, books, & guides can be found at juliettejarvis.com or subscribe to juliettejarvis.substack.com

The annual Powell River Chamber of Commerce
Business Awards gala and dinner
is set for **February 28, 2026** at Dwight Hall

Reserve your tickets now: 604-485-4051

Business Award nominations are open at PowellRiverChamber.com



Nominate
your favourite
businesses!

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TAKE A BREAK

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

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| ASBESTOS | FERRIES | NUDIBRANCH |
| ASSESSMENT | FOREST | RAIN |
| ATTENDANCE | GAS | RESILIENCE |
| BLITZEN | GIFT | RESISTER |
| BUS | HARLEY | REVERENCE |
| CHITH | HITCHIKE | SHELTER |
| CLEARVIEW | INDUSTRY | SOLSTICE |
| COCKTAIL | JOB | TAX |
| CRANBERRY | KIWANIS | TOLLER |
| DEMENTIA | LIFT | TREE |
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December 19-23, from 5-8 pm

Walk through a lighted golf course with hot cocoa or ice cream.
 Entry by donation to the Powell River Professional Firefighters Charitable Society, raising funds for local school food programs and more.

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

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

WWW.CITYTRANSFER.COM POWELL RIVER | SUNSHINE COAST | VANCOUVER **310-CITY (2489)**

SOLUTION TO
NOVEMBER
PUZZLE

I've missed you Powell River —but you've changed.



LAST
WORD

ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT

My heart quickened as the ferry neared Powell River and I could make out that familiar shoreline in the fading afternoon light. A year has passed since I've been back, a year since I've set foot in the community that was my home for more than 30 years.

I was excited to see my children and friends; to see what's changed and what's stayed the same.

I moved to Nova Scotia at the end of last year with my three Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers after selling *qathet Living* magazine, the business I'd created and loved for 19 years, to Pieta Woolley. I was looking forward to catching up with my work family in a few days, but in the meantime, I was going to enjoy every second I could with my boys.

"Welcome home Mom," said my youngest son Alex embracing me in a big bear hug.

We chatted excitedly on the way home with me sneaking sideways glances at my son and his girlfriend. He'd changed in the last year. Maybe not in ways that everyone would notice, but I'm his mother and I noticed. He looked happy and healthy, and now that I'd laid eyes on him, I could relax.

It was after 5 pm and even though dusk had settled, I noticed a fence around the post office as we drove by. "What's that?" I asked, thinking it might be to keep deer out. "They kept getting broken into and their vans were targeted so they had to put up a fence to protect their property," said my son.

I'm taken aback. When I moved to Powell River in the early nineties to work for *The Powell River News* there were no fences around businesses. We didn't lock our cars or our doors. How sad that this beautiful community had changed so much that a high chain link fence had to be put around the post office.

I set these thoughts aside, as we're home. I receive a big hug from my oldest son Matthew. He looks good despite his health struggles.

We're having an early Christmas together while I'm here and we spent the last week of November baking, wrapping gifts, and decorating the house. I love how the red, yellow, blue, and green Christmas lights shine in the dark. They never fail to make me smile.

I've been asked why I left. If I had to tell you in three words I'd say, Because of A Dog. Sometimes you have to leave something behind to make room for something else. I knew that when I retired I wanted to have an adventure with my Tollers, and I wanted to do so while I was still young enough and healthy enough to enjoy it.

My young Toller Decoy is an exceptional dog and I wanted to give him the opportunity to go as far as he could, but to do so, I needed to move to Nova Scotia where the Duck Tolling Retriever breed originated. I've spent the last year campaigning Decoy, traveling to shows in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. This fall, he went to Ontario where he won against the top Duck Tollers in Canada.

Of course there are other reasons I moved to Nova Scotia. I wanted to give my boys the space they needed and I wanted to give Pieta and Sean the space they needed to do what they wanted with *qathet Living*. Some people stay long past their best before date, and when they do, it blocks progress and change. I didn't want to be that person.

Usually, I like change. I'm told that more than a dozen new businesses opened up on Marine Avenue

alone this past year. Winners finally opened. Jimmy Pattison bought the mall. We drove past a new building in Cranberry called Creekside Developments across from the old Edgehill (Thick) store that hadn't been there when I left. There's also a new apartment building going up by Iguana's Restaurant.

Some changes are good, some not so good. I see the drama continues with city council. The homeless issue has worsened — they have no shelter and it's winter; toxic drugs and crime are still issues.

I'm at a party thrown by qL owner Pieta Woolley and I'm shown a press release about a man stealing women's underwear from the family change room at the Recreation Complex. What? Really?

Friends warned me about the "Bermuda Triangle," by the post office. "People who live in the neighborhood are scared to go out at night," I'm told.

A few years ago, I dropped by Scotiabank to deposit cheques. It was after 6 pm and dark outside. Two men were curled up near the ATMs with their belongings. They stared at me and made no attempt to move so I did what most older women on their own would do in such a situation: I left. I called the following day and the manager told me this was common.

On November 24, I went to Scotiabank to do some banking and noticed a large No Loitering sign out front. That's new since I left. I wondered if it had to do with people camping out. Then I went inside and saw a security guard. Apparently there have been some incidents, so management is doing what it needs to do to protect its staff, I'm told.

On the flip side, School District 47 has a new superintendent and he seems fabulous from what I read about him in *qathet Living*.

I'm sad to hear that Rick Cepella has died. I knew Rick, not only from interviews, but he spent hours fishing on the shores of the family property on Cranberry Lake. I knew he had contracted Lyme Disease many years ago and his health was compromised. Despite this, Rick still managed to create the most beautiful landscape art. And John Wick, another Cranberryite, also died.

I miss the fabulous medical care I received in Powell River. I had the very best family doctors and when I needed more, it happened quickly, for me and my children. Now I'm just a number in the 9,000 people waiting to find a family doctor in Nova Scotia.

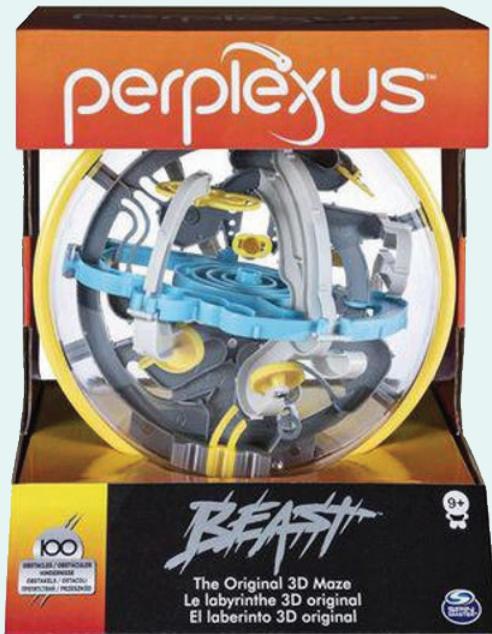
I especially miss taking my Tollers for off-leash walks in the woods without wondering how many ticks they'll come back with and if I'll wake up at 3 am to find a tick crawling on me (in case you're wondering, yes I have). I have counted close to 40 ticks on my dogs after a woods walk in Nova Scotia so needless to say, no more walks in the woods out there.

There are so many things I miss about Powell River, but if you want to know what I miss the most, it's the people. Oh yes, I miss my family, but I really miss the community of people I spent 32 years with — more than the glorious mountains, trails, trees, and ocean. I knew I would, but what I didn't know was just *how much* I would.

Long term plans see me moving back to Powell River in a few years. The kids have already pointed out where the carriage house for mom can go, but that won't be for a few years. There are still dog shows to attend and adventures to be had! **qL**

Toy of the Month:

(Oceanside Entertainment Location)



Perplexus Beast

100 CHALLENGING OBSTACLES: Can you make it through Perplexus Beast's obstacles? Move the ball along the track through tricky hurdles like the tight rope and super spiral without falling off the track

EASY TO PLAY, HARD TO MASTER: Flip, twist, & spin your way 360 degrees to the finish line. Perfect for sensory toys for autistic children and anyone who likes a challenge

FIDGET CUBE: Relieve stress with fidgets like fidget toys for kids 8-12 & fidget toys adults can enjoy. Explore fidget toys including fidget cubes & advanced fidgets for kids who seek a challenge



Oceanside Entertainment

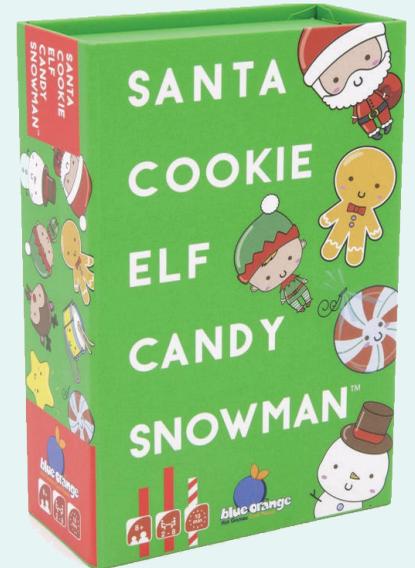
Tuesday to Sunday
10 am to 5:30 pm
4721 Marine
604-489-3028

High Tide Games

7 days a week
12 pm to 6 pm
7030 Glacier
new phone number
604-208-6169

Board Game of the Month:

(High Tide Games Location)



*Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza:
Holiday Edition*

Santa Cookie Elf Candy Snowman

Bring some festive chaos to your family game night with Santa Cookie Elf Candy Snowman! This is the Christmas themed edition of the wildly popular hand-slapping party game, Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza!

Say the next word in the pattern and flip a card - if it matches, everyone slaps the pile! Special cards add extra fun. This festive game includes new cards and special actions to add to your game night merriment.

Birthday Parties

at High Tide Games

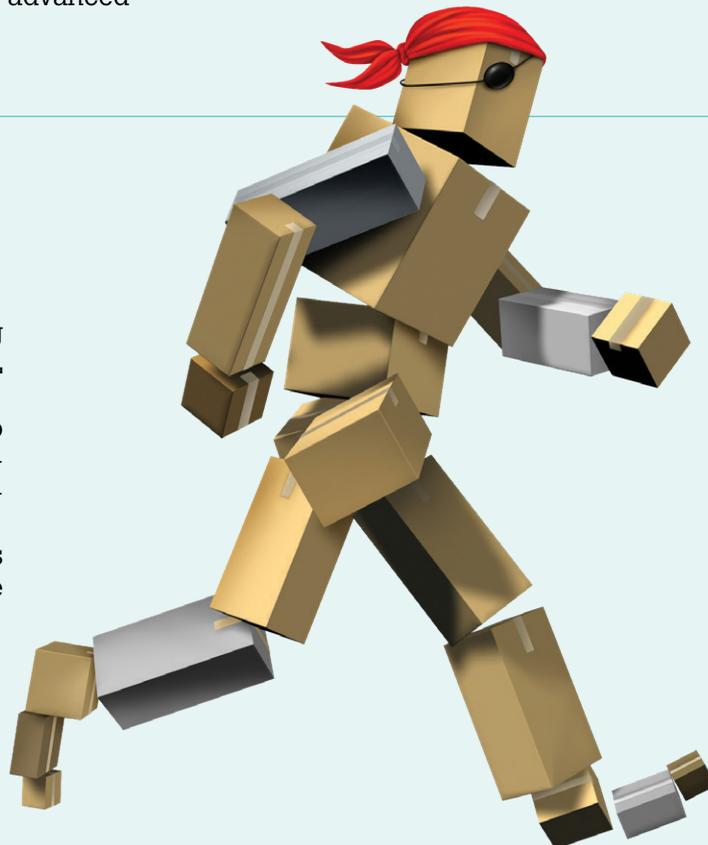
High Tide Games is now hosting birthday parties for kids of ALL ages!!

Whether you want to play video games or board games, we have everything you need to have a seriously great gaming time.

Saturday & Sunday morning parties are a private event with the space fully reserved for your party.

Evening parties may be available.

Call to inquire: 604-208-6169.



Concerned about Porch Pirates?

Need a safe address to ship your things to?

We will order almost anything for folks. We have ordered clothes, wallets, car parts, patio umbrellas, etc.

Our only rule is it must be able to be carried in the door – so no couches, appliances, etc.

Special order charge is \$5.00.

Discover Christmas

Photos With Santa

- FREE Take Your Own Photos
- No Reservations
- Sorry, prints will not be available for purchase
- *Shoppers, Staples & Walmart print photos*
- Sorry NO pet photos



Santa Hours

Saturday, December 6th

12 - 5pm

Saturday, December 13th

through Tuesday, December 23rd

12 - 4 pm **DAILY**

**Sundays, December 14th and 21st, will be 'quieter', December 23rd will be the busiest*

Holiday Shopping Hours

Limited Hours

Wednesday, December 24th - 9:30am - 4 pm

Thursday, December 25th - (Christmas Day) **Closed**

Friday, December 26th - (Boxing Day) 9:30 am - 4 pm

December 27th to December 30th - Regular Mall Hours

Wednesday, December 31st - 9:30 am - 4 pm

Thursday, January 1st (New Years Day) **Closed**

Friday, January 2nd - Return to Regular Mall Hours

Regular Mall Hours

Monday to Saturday 9:30 am - 5:30 pm

Extra Mall Hours

Sundays December 14th & 21st - 12noon - 5pm

Exterior Store Hours May Vary

POWELL RIVER

TOWN CENTRE