

JANUARY 2026

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ROCK

into
2026

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sing & dance
every way
through the rest
of this winter*



qL's guide to services in the region

HELP IS HERE

Hot food for anyone who's hungry

Powell River United Church's Outreach Engagement team is working hard to assist with community food insecurity.

We currently are providing weekly meals to anyone who would like to join us: a hot pasta meal Mondays 4:30 to 6 pm and senior lunches Thursdays 11:30 to 12:30 pm, followed by a tea and creative activities time called Projects Half Done 1:15-3 pm at the United Church by 7-11.

We continue to support the qathet Coalition to End Homelessness meal train by cooking meals and having a donation box at the office door of the church for those who have the means, but not the time to contribute to feeding those unhoused in the qathet region.

We are accepting non-perishable donations such as rice, pasta, tuna, canned tomatoes, beans, etc.

Cash donations are accepted on the website (powellriverunitedchurch.org) with a notation of where to direct the donation: to the Provision Food program or the qathet Coalition to End Homelessness Meal Train. All donations are used locally to ensure our community has hot meals.

We also provide space for those looking for connections through a meditation gathering on Friday evening at 6:30, and anyone is welcome to explore their spirituality in a Seekers Group Saturday at 10:30 am. Both events are restarting in February.

There are no costs to any of these gatherings.

- Doreen Fraser



604-223-5876
qathetsafe.ca

Men Choose Respect



A 9-week group for men who want to foster respect and safety in their personal relationships.

menchooserespectprogram@gmail.com

FOUNDRY

qathet



Coming soon! An integrated hub of barrier-free health and social services for youth aged 12-24. Co-lead by youth, families & community partners. foundrybc.ca/qathet



Free virtual services: foundrybc.ca/virtual



All families need help sometimes.

We're here for you.

We offer a variety of programs and services for families and young people from birth to 19 years of age.

www.youthandfamily.ca



If you are experiencing:

Violence

We offer:
Grace House and support for any crime including sexual assault and domestic violence

Trauma

We offer:
Outreach services and counselling for children, youth, and self-identified women

Poverty & Injustice

We offer:
Support to people with limited means to legal information and to complete applications

Safety & Advocacy for Everyone



qathetsafe.ca • All Free Services • 604-485-9773 (24/7 helpline)

WILDWOODS

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Chad Yurich, RTC
604.223.3376
chadyurich@gmail.com



In person /virtual appointments available
wildwoodscounselling.ca



LEGAL AID SERVICES

A community partner of Legal Aid BC

Free legal information, help with Legal Aid BC applications, online legal help, and more.

Call us for more information: 604-485-0992

For Parents Navigating Loss

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



The Powell River Compassionate Friends

A support group for bereaved parents meets the 4th Tuesday of each month Refreshments 6:30pm, meeting at 7pm For location and more information, please contact powellrivertcf@gmail.com

This space provided by Powell River Health-Care Auxiliary



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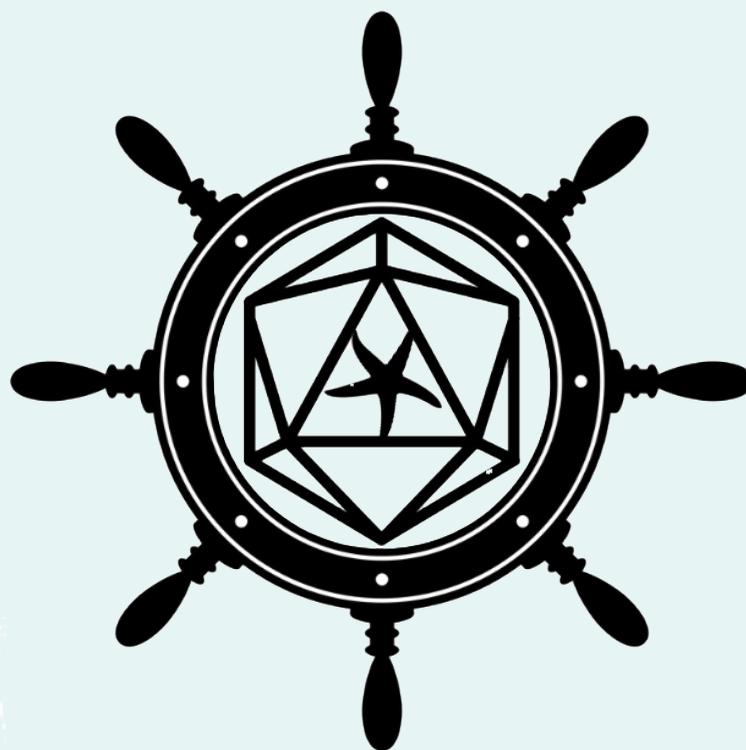
Puzzle of the Month:

(Oceanside Entertainment Location)



Bird with Skates

Cozy up with a puzzle this winter! With over 600 puzzles available in store we are sure to have one to suit your needs. We have Cobble Hill Puzzles of all sizes! 35pc Floor & Tray Puzzles, 275pc Easy Handling, 350pc Family Pieces, 500pc, 1000pc & 2000pc. We also have a small selection of other brands.



Oceanside Entertainment

7 days a week
10am to 5:30pm
4721 Marine
604-489-3028

High Tide Games

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

Board Game of the Month:

(High Tide Games and Oceanside)



Not It!

3+ • 3 to 6 players • 10 minutes

Spot the card that does NOT match! Do It fast... Do NOT be last!

Can you find a card in your hand that does not match any of the attributes revealed on the 3 dice that tumble from the dice tower and onto the table? Find it as quickly as you can and slam it on the table and yell, "NOT IT!"

Lots of fun for your friends and family. Not It! is an entertaining card game that is lots of fun for kids and even older game enthusiasts (adults)

Birthday Parties

at High Tide Games

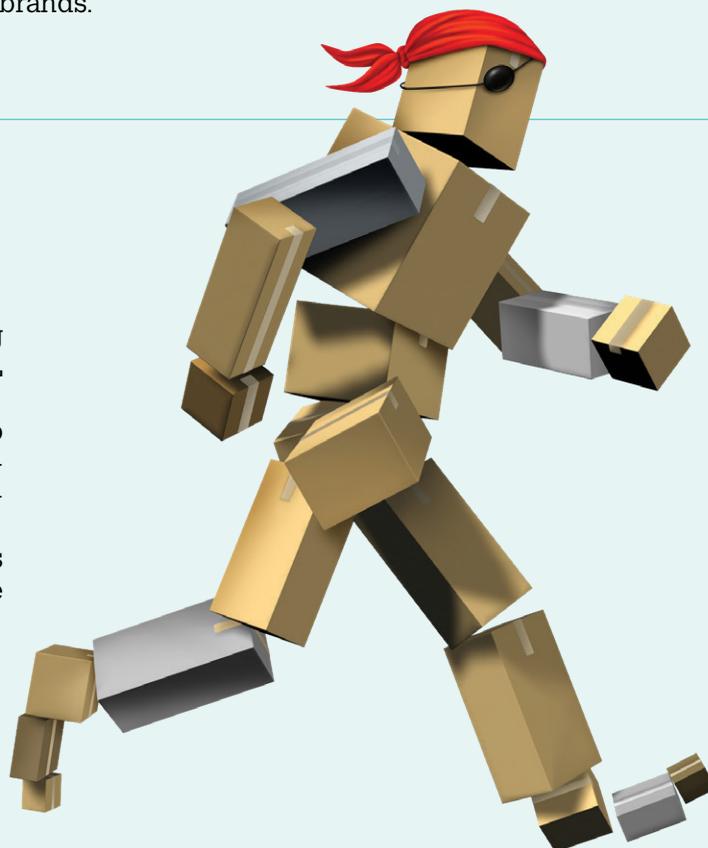
High Tide Games is now hosting birthday parties for kids of ALL ages!!

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.

Kings on thin ice

If it were true that everyone loves an underdog, the Hap Parker Arena would be packed to the rafters for each Kings home game.

In reality, it seems we much prefer a winner. The local junior hockey club is on thin ice (see Page 24). Thanks to some last-minute fundraising and support, the team will live out the season, and there's now a good chance it will live to see next season, too.

The Kings Society laid its cards in front of a Town Hall late last month, and they didn't appear to be holding a strong hand. No saviour has shown up yet, but just prior to publication, the Kings Society told us "several business and hockey people have shown interest in providing financial and operational certainty well into the future."

That meeting, though, had to be sobering for the young men who make up the team's roster. But in an impressive demonstration of "it's not over until it's over," those players, who had won only

three games all season, went out the next night and eked out a come-from-behind win. After being down 3-0 in the second period, they rallied and forced overtime in the last two minutes of the game, before Casey Bridgewater delighted fans with the overtime winner.

That kind of grit and determination in the face of impending doom speaks well of the players. In recent days, fans and businesses have also stepped up. I'd be delighted to write about a turnaround of fortunes for the Kings. So far, there's no fairytale ending. The team travelled to Port Alberni the following night, and fell 7-5. Average attendance at the Hap is below 500 – the lowest in the league. But there is hope.

If the team is to survive, it will need both community support and a Prince Charming. Neither appear imminent.

Still, if there's one thing that sports fans know, it's that you keep playing to the final buzzer.



PUBLISHER'S MESSAGE

Sean Percy

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ON THE COVER:

Eight months pregnant, Swordfern's lead singer Marie Hilton belts it out next to The Alley Powered by Persephone on Marine Avenue. The local metal band is one of several new rock groups that have emerged here in qathet since COVID.

See Page 6 for more.

(Note: it's a girl, and she's due on January 24)



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qL

“

This is not a tale of apocalypse, but of perseverance. Of memory that survives and endures. Of land that remembers how to heal.”

- Cameron sink^w Fraser-Monroe, Page 36.

”

A FEW OF JANUARY'S CONTRIBUTORS



PAUL JENKINSON is a Master Social Worker, a You Are Not Alone, I Will Listen, Cross Canada Journey "Listener", everybody's grandpa who hears you and doesn't judge. *See Paul's story about his Listening Tour on Page 35.*



Long-time hospice volunteer and writer, **SHEILA PETERS** returned to her home town here in qathet in 2019. Find more of her work at sheilapeters.com. *See Sheila's story, The Gift of a Coffin, on Page 10.*



MERRILEE PRIOR is The Bird Lady, founder of PROWLs. Before she retired here in 2005, she'd been a lifeguard, a kayak tour guide, a Spanish and ESL teacher, and much more. *See Merrilee's story, New Year with PROWLs, on Page 19.*



KRYSTAL THOMPSON is an entrepreneur, artist, and dedicated mom. She has researched astrological psychology since childhood, providing insightful monthly forecasts for the community. *See Krystal's new horoscopes column, on Page 44.*



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ROCK

Marie Hilton looks like she was born with a microphone in her hand. The lead singer of the qathet metal band Swordfern oozes confidence and power — even, or maybe especially, at eight months pregnant.

But the stage is new for her. Before moving here, Marie had never been in a band.

“I used to lip sync in front of my mirror when I was a kid,” Marie remembers. “And then I’d sing in my closet, quietly recording things...”

Marie and her husband Ira Peters moved up the coast from the Lower Mainland a five years ago; soon after her parents and two brothers all moved up separately during COVID.

She was working as a chef when local musician Les Schramm recruited both Ira and Marie, when he was putting together Swordfern — a project that required a strong woman’s voice at the helm.

“It was a learning curve,” she recalls. “Metal is cathartic. It’s primal.”

Swordfern debuted at the Loud qathet punk festival at The Alley in August 2025.

Swordfern is one of many new bands that have emerged here since COVID, joining qathet’s already-thriving and talented rock scene. They’re being helped along by new venues, too, including The Alley Powered by Persephone, in the old Westview Lanes; Wildwood Pub (which just got new owners); the Wishing Well at the bottom of the Rodmay Hotel; and the Carlson Loft, upstairs at the Carlson Community Club. Most importantly, they’re being fostered by a crew of locals who deeply understand the power and importance of locally-made music — and performance.

One of those people is Trevor Sytnick. His signature haircut makes him stand out anywhere, including at his day job: teaching the qathet School District’s international program. But his passion, which he brought with him by way of another music town, Flin Flon, Manitoba, is music.

“That was such a special place for music, and there are so many similarities to here.”



METAL MOMMA: Marie Hilton, lead singer of Swordfern.

Although he’s been here in qathet for only a few years, he is already at the centre of the scene, playing with many groups (Current Collective, Alec Ross and the Beer League Band, Chalkboard Thunder - the Brooks’ teachers band - and Whatever 4); plus sitting on the board of Cranberry Hall; organizing the monthly Loaded Mic series (the next one is February 7); running a non-profit recording studio at the Academy of Music; hosting a monthly open mic/coffee house; sound for Kathauxmixw; MC’ing numerous events; running a local production company that works with Dry Grad, Sunshine Music Festival, Texada Blues and Roots; and much more.

Local music, he said, holds the story of a community. It’s how people express themselves to each other and the outside world. It represents.

And, it’s getting attention.

“On the circuit, every venue is getting 60-plus people,” said Trevor. “It doesn’t matter where you go. Depending on the night, there are hundreds of dedicated people seeing music, from the Accordion Festival to punk shows. That’s a solid core of the town.”

(Story continues on Page 14)



SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE CARL-

SON: Singer Gitta May Nielson absolutely rocked the Carlson Community Club the Saturday before Christmas, drawing folks to the dance floor along with musicians Jim Venables, Jeff Mayenburg, Dan Riley, and Bruce Simonar.

Gitta grew up in a musical family near Hinton, Alberta, but has no formal voice training. (She's a natural who won the 2018 People's Choice award on The Shot, a nationally-televised voice competition).

Gitta moved to Powell River at 19, and began waitressing at The Westview Hotel. There, other musicians encouraged the then-shy singer to perform alongside them.

"Every weekend there was live music in the pub," said Gitta, who owns The Raven's Nest Beauty Shed. "It was a really rich music scene even back then. It always has been. I was a waitress for eight years at the Westview. People got together for afternoon jams and meat draws. It was the thing to do. They welcomed me in and I've been stuck like glue ever since."

The new bands add an extra layer



to an already rich and thriving scene, Gitta explained. This has always been an extraordinary place, musically, she said—giving the example of classical and jazz musician Walter Martella also playing in a local Ozzy Osbourne tribute band.

She points out that musicians such as Doug Rugg, Dennis Fox, Dave Spragge, Denis Tanguay, and others are core contributors to the scene.

"For me, there's nothing better than being on stage with those musicians. I feel privileged to be up there with them. We're family. Even with the band drama, we're a family."

If you're not the lead singer of a rock band (yet), here's where to sing and dance through the rest of this winter:

Dance

Carlson Community Club

Saturday Jams, starting at 5 pm, no cover charge.

Legion

Sunday Jams, 3 to 6 pm, with host band the Boat Rockers

Cran Bar

Open seven nights a week—dancing can break out anytime.

Timberlane Square Dance & Waltz

The Star Dusters offer both square and round dance lessons this spring. Square dance open house is Tuesday, January 13 at 7 pm, then weekly lessons Tuesdays 7-9 pm. Contact Gord gordonrudig@hotmail.com 604- 487-9565

Round dance (waltz) open house is Monday, January 12 at 7 pm, then weekly lessons Mondays 7-9 pm. Contact Stacey 604-223-8485 staruegg@telus.net

Groove qathet

Groove dance is a simple, playful, and therapeutic dance method adapted to all levels of fitness. No choreographies to remember or keeping track of left or right foot. You just allow yourself be gently guided from song to song and getting all the benefits, while fully enjoying yourself.

Drop-in classes, Tuesdays and Fridays at 5:15-6:30 pm, 7053 Glacier Street at the Pilates Studio. Sliding scale from \$15-\$20. To register: email zemynagroove@gmail.com or call 604-223-9783. Find it on FB at "Groove qathet".

Drums Alive

A movement and drumming fitness class with instructor Christine Masters. At the Recreation Complex. Beginners classes starting on January 6, next session January 17. More advanced classes available, too.

Artistic Swimming

Formerly known as synchronized swimming or water ballet, this is a beginner-friendly introduction with instructor Monica Bourque. Classes start January 7 at the Recreation Complex.

Sing

Legion

Karaoke every Friday night 6-9
Open jam session every Sunday 3-6

Cran Bar

Karaoke most Friday & Saturday nights

Song Circles

Cranberry Hall first Sundays of the month, 1 to 3 pm

Lang Bay Hall second Sundays of the month, 1 to 3 pm

Open to everyone. Come sing, play or just join in to enjoy the songs. No need to play an instrument or lead a song. Admission to the hall by donation. Contact Pat Buckna at 604-485-5198.

Chor Musica Men's Choir

7 pm Mondays \$200/year + registration fee. qathet Academy of Music. powellriveracademy.org

Academy Singers (children)

3:30-4:30 pm Mondays \$460/year + registration fee. qathet Academy of Music. powellriveracademy.org

Wellspring Choir

(led by Annabelle Tully-Barr) meets for the winter, eight-week term from January 7, Wednesdays 3:45-5:15 pm at the Kelly Creek Community Church. All singers welcome, fully supported with call and response, no need to read music. bringitsingitatbpr@gmail.com

Wildwood Pub

Is changing hands and will be reopening in mid-January. Stay tuned for karaoke and other events.

Note: what follows on Pages 8 to 13 is a selection of local rock bands, both new and seasoned.

But there are many, many more.

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Current Collective

Who • Davis Steele, Trevor Sytnick (bass and vocals), Bryn Politylo (guitar and vocals), Johnny Gordon (drums), Jonathan Dyck (keys and percussion), Derk Van Hees (trombone), Martijn Poelen (saxophone), Barry McDonald (trumpet).

The sound • West Coast Roots, original
Upcoming gigs • TBA

Profile • Davis Steele, vocalist with Current Collective

Training • I learned to sing by spending many years doing it terribly. Eventually I got better. I picked up some hints here and there from singers in other bands.

Why rock • I find rock is a genre that demands immediacy. It carries its message urgently and powerfully to its audience and for that reason can be used as a tool for social and societal change. I was inspired to play music early on by amazing rock bands like Foo Fighters, Red Hot Chili Peppers, and Audioslave. I would like to similarly inspire kids to take up music and become artists.

Favourite original song • Stuff. You've got stuff and you know it gets everywhere / It's in here and it's in there / You've got stuff and you know it's been building up / Day by day and year by year

Overdrive

Who • Doug Rugg (guitar, keyboards, vocals), Jim Venables (guitar, vocals), Marion Keller (lead vocals), Dan Riley (bass, vocals), Dave McMaster (drums).

The sound • All band members have been playing since we were kids. Music has been and still is a big part of our lives. Rock on! This band started over 10 years ago. Some members have changed, but the band carries on.

Upcoming gigs: We will continue to be a host band at some of The Carlson Club jams in the new year. We are an experienced and versatile cover band that would love to play for your upcoming event.

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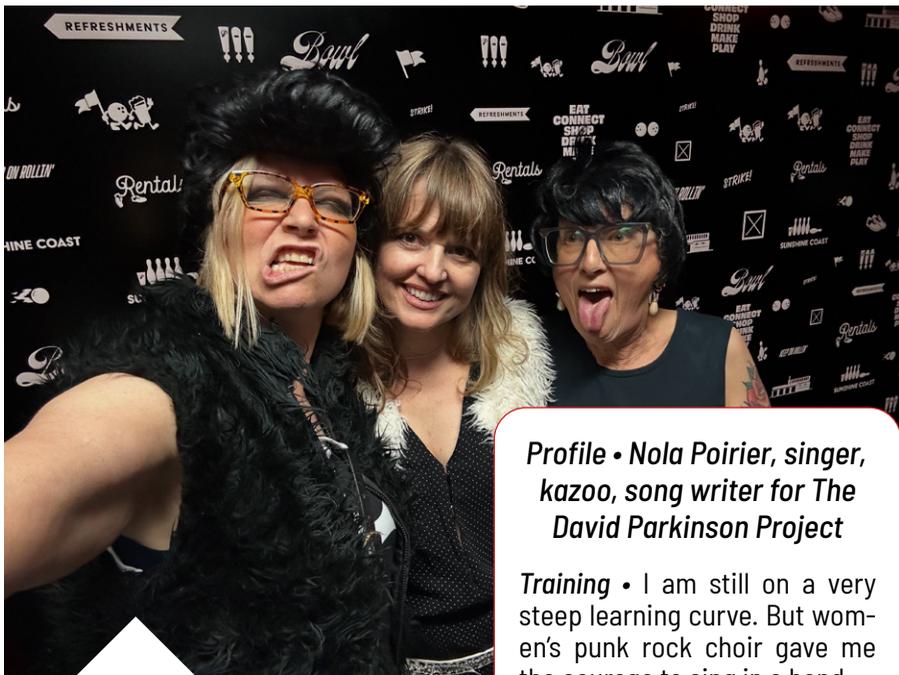
Clancy + Caro Present

Who • Clancy (drums and voice), Caro (bass and voice). We began singing together during the COVID shutdown.

The sound • We want to perform a variety of live music because it brings our villagers to life! We began with a classic rock sing-a-long, then our Neil Young Nite at The Lodge.

Upcoming gigs • Currently developing a lounge act (think Sonny and Cher at the piano) and a Joy Division act (80's gothic/dance) and because there are not enough women in this game, we are searching for a female keyboard/synth player to join the Joy Division thing.





Profile • Nola Poirier, singer, kazoo, song writer for The David Parkinson Project

Training • I am still on a very steep learning curve. But women's punk rock choir gave me the courage to sing in a band.

Why rock • I wouldn't say we are a rock band. I'd say we are maybe an art-punk, riot girls band. Definitely the DIY aspect of punk is a driving force. But originally we were going to have a much more psychedelic sound. Instead are just riding the wave of what came out.

Favourite original song • Lilacs. I want to see lilacs, I want to smell lilacs, I want to hold lilacs. Bring me lilacs right now!

The David Parkinson Project

Who • Nola P (voice); Bad Karen (bass); Suzy Roo Who (bass).

The Sound • An art-punk trio that does the very most with the fewest notes. Our sound is inspired by flowers, candy, hypochondria and outer space. Originals, lyrics by Nola P.

Upcoming gigs • TBA.

k^wak^wem To be alive

In September, Tla'amin youth, in collaboration with qathet-based artists, announced the launch of the Youth Voices Community Mural Project, a multi-part initiative that brings Tla'amin stories, teachings, and voices to life through large-scale public art.

The first mural design, chosen for installation at The Alley on Marine Ave, is k^wak^wem—To Be Alive, created by Tla'amin artist Rhys Galligos with contributions from the project team. It was completed September 12.

"In the spirit of qathet—working together—Tla'amin youth and local artists have joined forces to design and create a mural that shares our ta'ow (teachings) honours our ancestors, and reflects our deep connection to the land," said hegus John Hackett. "The Youth Voices Community Mural Project will be a lasting symbol of Tla'amin pride in our territory."



The Youth Voices Community Mural Project is supported by the BC Arts Council, The Alley, and the Tla'amin Nation. Artists Meghan Hildebrand and Annie Robinson and Elder Sherman Pallen supported Tla'amin youth artists Rhys Galligos, Makela Gallagher, Kobe Galligos, and Dion Marriott throughout the project.

The Alley is a new music venue, and hosts regular all-ages shows.

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The bLUES bUSTERS

Who • Ron Campbell (guitar, voice, songwriter); Dennis Fox (bass, voice, songwriter); Neko (drums, songwriter).

The Sound • Blues, Blues-Rock. About 60% originals (three albums released)

Upcoming gigs • TBA.

Profile • Ron Campbell, Singer/guitarist with The bLUES bUSTERS

Training • Self-taught—learned by watching my friends Ron Irving, Mike Kennedy, and Sam Hurrie.

Why rock • I grew up during the golden age of the Rock Band, from 1964 to 1989. Rock & Roll was the first music I learned to play—I'll always love its freshness, unrestrained energy, and just how good it makes me feel.

Favourite original song by your band • Dream That Old Dream. *The music inside is my joy and my pride / Well, it's what I'm livin' for / On the stage feelin' high, 'cause I know that's when I / Get to dream that old dream once more.*



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A Merry Miklat Christmas Dinner on Nov 29th, raised a total of \$19,636!

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Come hear the electrifying young classical crossover Duo Mycelia at the Max Cameron Theatre.

Duo Mycelia consists of young virtuosi Isabella Perron and Simon Gidora, who will delight in an evening of classical favourites, as well as their original musical.

After an opening performance by the qathet Fiddlers, Duo Mycelia will take you on a mesmerizing journey through the classical duo repertoire, performing music for violin, piano, and voice (with each of them doing all three!)

After intermission, they will perform "A Personal Journey of Being", their 40 minute original composition exploring consciousness, individualism, freedom, and what it means to be alive in the modern world.

Doors open at 6:15, and the performance will start at 7 (with a pre-show performance by the fiddlers in the foyer), and will last about 2 hours including a short intermission. There will be light refreshments at intermission.



Tickets are \$30,
 18 and under free.
 General admission seating.
 Tickets at duomycelia.ca



Dead Bob

Who • John Wright (voice), Colin MacRae (bass), Ford Pier (keys), Kristy Lee Audette (guitar, trumpet, keys), Byron Slack (guitar, percussion).

The sound • Loud, original.

Upcoming gigs • qathet TBA. Completing our new album is the priority. We are going out East in May and have two more trips to Europe in the works but we'll get a show in here at some point.



Alec Ross and The Beer League Band

Who • Alec Ross (vocals and guitar); Trevor Sytnick (lead guitar and backing vocals); Sam Sansalone (drums); Taylor Brown (rhythm guitar and backing vocals); Travis Box (bass).

The sound • Original country rock music
Upcoming Gigs • TBD



The Twisted Toneados

Who • Dennis Fox (guitar and vocals); David Spragge (guitar); Fraser Ross (bass); Neko (drums).

The sound • Classic rock and oldies 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s.

Upcoming gigs • We attend the Carlson Club Saturday jam regularly. 5 pm start.

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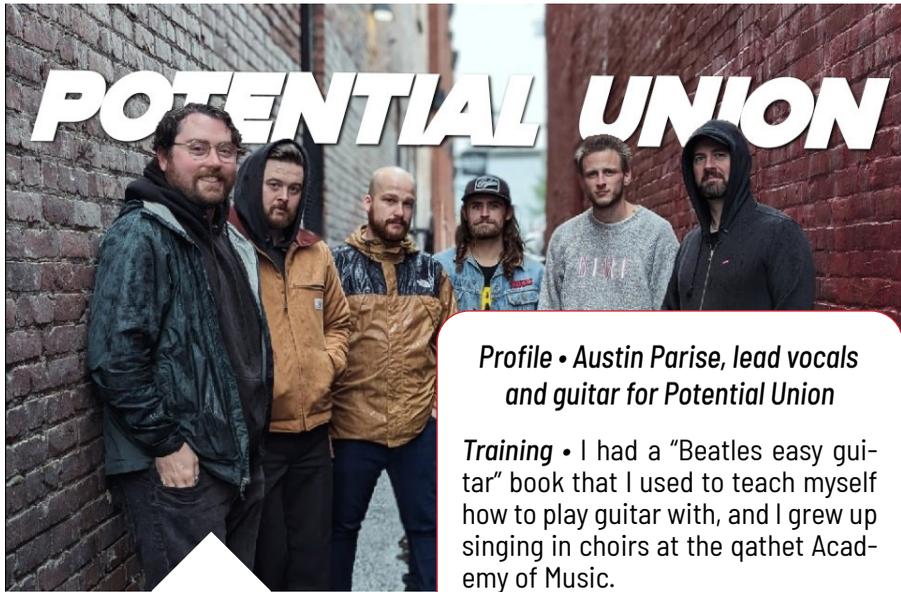
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Profile • Austin Parise, lead vocals and guitar for Potential Union

Training • I had a "Beatles easy guitar" book that I used to teach myself how to play guitar with, and I grew up singing in choirs at the qathet Academy of Music.

Why rock • With punk rock specifically, there is a catharsis in putting everything you are into a performance. The energy and speed, the volume, all of it is like therapy directly to the soul.

Favorite original song • "Sing Em Like We're Sinking." I wrote it with the intention of having a big singalong part and the end, and when we play it, and the crowd is feeling it, and we all sing together, it's real something special "Tell my love that I'm just fine, / I just came out for a good time / but my boats sinking down alright / so let's sing em like we're sinking tonight"

Potential Union

Who • Austin Parise (lead vocal and guitar); Noah Martinig (guitar); Travis Box (guitar); Jadin Burns (bass); Dalton Pagani (keys); Johnathan Gordon (Johnny G)(drums)

The sound • Melodic Punk Rock, originals

Upcoming gigs • Rock & Bowl 15 at the bowling alley with Mean Bikini, Quit it! And Phile; Loaded Mic at the Cranberry Hall, date TBD. EP release show sometime in March, venues and date TBA.



The Equals

Who • Lindsay (vocals/guitars/drums); Jason (vocals/guitars); Kris (guitars/drums); John (vocals/bass)

The sound • Peace-punk siphoned through post-punk and then blended into serrated emo-hardcore. All originals, baby!

Upcoming gigs • To be announced, but we'll definitely play one of this year's Rock & Bowls at The Alley (if we're lucky).

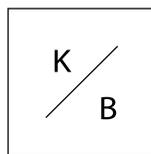


Loose Tights

Who • Bad Karen (voice); The Velvet Hammer (drums); Suzy Roo Who (bass).

The sound • Garage/punk. Covers, but weird and possibly obscure, and you've probably never heard the original. And our version sounds nothing like it anyway.

Upcoming gigs • TBA.



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Swordfern

Who • Marie Hilton (vocals); Ira Peters (drums); Brad Lemna (bass); Greg Armstrong (guitar); Les Schramm (guitar)

The sound • Epic fairy metal. We take aspects of power metal, thrash, NWOBHM, and progressive metal. We do our best to make each song different and distinct from the last to suit the song at hand. We are writing a heroine's tale of a fairy who loses her wings and has to find a new way in her magical world on the brink of war. Our songs tell a relatable fairytale of pain, loss, healing, perseverance, friendship, and resistance. We primarily write original songs but we do have a couple of covers/renditions in mind that we would like to include in our repertoire eventually.

Upcoming gigs • We currently have no gigs planned as Marie and Ira have a baby arriving January! We have every intention of continuing to work on our music and returning to playing live when the fairy dust settles.



Electric Brains

Who • Braden (guitar & vocal); Sean (bass & backing vocals); Brad (drums)

The sound • Power Pop Punk Rock and Roll. All original songs.

Upcoming gigs • Album is up on all streaming platforms and available on cassette at Full Bug and Kool Thing. Next gig is on March 6 at a secret location, TBD, with B.A Johnston from Hamilton Ont and Pooched from Victoria BC. Keep your ears open and your eyes on the telephone poles!



Profile • Al Stepaniuk, lead guitar, vocals and songwriter with El Camino

Training • I have had very little formal musical training and people might say I'm self taught, but that's not really how it works. Like all musicians I have learned things constantly from other musicians, from the music I listen to now and growing up, and more recently from YouTube and other on-line sources.

Why rock • It's what I grew up listening to and it's a ton of fun to play. The great thing about rock is it can be happy, sad, angry, exciting, or mellow. It can be about serious social or political things or it can be just about having fun. It always feels limitless.

Favourite original song • I think lyrically my current favourite that this band is performing in our live set is *Neverland*. *Smoke and mirrors, sleigh of hand, oh what a tangled web you weave, with the truth and the lies and all your alibis, you make it easy to believe. And that line you swore you wouldn't cross, lies far behind us in the sand. All the promises I believed at such a cost, they lie broken in my hand... this ain't no never neverland.*

El Camino

Who • Al Stepaniuk (songwriter, guitar and vocals); Dan Doyle (guitar and keyboards); Joe Gogniat (bass); Dave McMaster (drums).

The sound • We are a relatively new band that mostly plays rock-n-roll music, but do play a few mellow tunes. The band's set list is about 80% original music and 20% cover songs.

Upcoming gigs: The Carlson Loft on January 15. We also look forward to playing future gigs at Lund and other clubs and places around town. You may also catch us playing at local jams.

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LEAD COMMUTER: Spendo lead singer and guitarist and qathet cabinetmaker Spencer Tomlinson (centre) lives in Cranberry, but commutes for rehearsals and gigs with his Vancouver-based band. They're playing The Rickshaw in Vancouver on January 17, and the Carlson Loft on January 30, then the Blue Light Studio in Vancouver January 31. Other members of the band are: Trevor Crane (drums/vocals), Bradley Lambert (guitar, vocals), Erik Reimers (keyboard/vocals), and Kyle Stegen (bass/vocals).

(Continued from Page 6)

qathet is also attracting stars from elsewhere. No Means No legend John Wright lives in Lund, and has drawn several locals into his newest project, Dead Bob. And Spencer Tomlinson of Spendo and formerly of Aviator Shades (which opened for Whitesnake and Judas Priest, among others) has moved to Cranberry.

A cabinetmaker, his day job is with Timco Fine Carpentry (formerly Powell River Woodworks). But he is back and forth to Vancouver and beyond in his custom-outfitted van, which can sleep his entire five-person band. He and his partner bought a fixer-upper in Cranberry during COVID.

"We bought a four-bedroom house on a third of an acre for less than what we would have spent on a bachelor apartment in the city," he said, explaining in part why the music scene in qathet is thriving: musicians can afford to live here.

"I've always felt lucky to have two hobbies as my careers," said Spencer. "I'm protective of both, because wood-working allows me to do so much, such

as the van that facilitates the band, or building drum risers, or signs."

The band, Spencer said, supports itself, but doesn't pay enough for all five guys to make a living off it. One day maybe, but he isn't counting on it. Financially, music has changed so much in the past few years, he explained. CD sales have been replaced by streaming services, which are notoriously paltry in the pay department. Income now comes from ticket sales, which means expensive touring, and merchandise.

For now, he commutes for gigs. When he spoke to *qL*, Spencer had travelled to Vancouver nine times over the past 11 weeks. Geographically, qathet isn't a perfect support for this kind of career, but it works.

On January 30, Spendo opens for Cousin Harley at the Carlson Loft.

Meanwhile, Marie of Swordfern is already dreaming of passing on the passion she's developed on to the next generation – the one she's brewing.

"I'm hoping she's just going to grow up around music and love it as much as we do."

✉ editor@qathetliving.ca

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I MADE THE MOVE

Pop goes the commute

Kate Parnell, her wife Megan Dietrich (who was raised here) and their two young kids Max and Ziggy moved to qathet in March of this year, and the very next day Kate started a new job as an instructor at VIU, leaving a job at SFU behind.

She got curious about the music scene as well, playing viola in the qSO as well as starting the qathet Pop Choir in September.

Megan, an artist and art teacher, is working with the school district, and their kids are settling happily into their life full of beach days and trail walks. From a daily three-hour round-trip commute to a 15 minute one, the transition to small-town life has been a good one.

Why did you choose to move to qathet?

Kate • Nature, affordability, community resources, and the arts scene make it a pretty appealing spot on the West Coast.

When? Where from?

Kate • East Vancouver, this past March, although I am originally from a very small community in the Okanagan.

What surprised you, once you moved here?

Kate • How many community events there are – it's amazing, appreciated, and gratitude goes to the organizers and volunteers who make these events happen!

What made you decide to move here?

Kate • Once the kids were born it made sense to be closer to family, in a more affordable place.

Where is your favourite place in qathet?

Kate • Willingdon Beach. It has so many amazing different features – can't imagine a better park for kids in the summer.



TEACHERS: VIU instructor Kate Parnell (left) started the qathet Pop Choir in September. Her partner Megan Dietrich teaches art with the school district. Their kids are Max and Ziggy.

How did you first hear about qathet?

Kate • Megan grew up here, and although I had never even heard of it before meeting her, I quickly fell in love with the beautiful ocean views, impressive music scene and Nancy's blackberry cinnamon buns.

What would make this a nicer community?

Kate • A car sharing program – like Evo or Modo. There are a lot of families who struggle to keep up with car costs, or only occasionally need a second vehicle, and this really cuts down on the cost and need for more vehicles, as well as making more of qathet more accessible to all.

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

Kate • We would sometimes take the Seabus over to the Shipyards in North Vancouver – an amazing community building and space (outdoor small ice rink, large building for events, space for market booths, small playground, etc).

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

Kate • It's definitely a big adjustment coming from a vibrant queer neighbourhood with many resources and

community activities, although it's encouraging to see the work that qathet Pride Society and Trans qathet are doing.

If you were mayor, what would you do?

Kate • Annual Busking Festival – pretty low planning effort, gives some good exposure to local musicians, and local restaurants and businesses could get a boost by partnering as a 'stage'. No cost to the public unless you're particularly moved by the performance!

What are qathet's best assets?

Kate • Nature and people. I still beam at that ocean view everyday and feel lucky to have the trails a few minutes from home. It has also restored some faith in humanity to get to know such kind people that really look out for each other.

What is your greatest extravagance?

Kate • A kid-free trip to 32 Lakes for a treat!

Which talent or superpower would you most like to have?

Kate • The ability to fly – farewell flight cancellations and ferry delays – I'll make my own way! 🦋

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The Power of Reading Begins Here: qSD's Early Literacy Momentum

In the spring of 2024, The Province announced the rollout of universal, evidence-based literacy screening for all Kindergarten to Grade 3 students, supported by a \$30-million investment over three years. This funding is expanding provincial outreach teams and providing districts with literacy-focused in-service and training for teachers and support staff. **Here in the qathet School District, we are proud to be ahead of the curve. qathet School District adopted and began using the evidence-based screener 5 years ago with our K-7 students, giving our educators a strong foundation to build on.**

Now, as the provincial training and outreach supports continue to grow, our district is expanding its own teacher learning, strengthening intervention practices, and applying these tools across classrooms and schools to support the diverse literacy needs of all students.

What is a literacy screener?

It is a quick, research-based check that helps teachers understand how a child is developing foundational reading skills. It's not a test they study for, just a short assessment that shows how well a child is progressing in things like letter names and sounds, word reading, and comprehension. The results help teachers see who may need extra support early, before small challenges become bigger ones.



“
When we use a quick & reliable screening tool that provides us with an accurate snapshot of a child's “reading health”, we spend less time away from instruction and we can focus on supporting all students to become strong and confident readers.
- Calico Clark, qSD Literacy Coordinator

This work is also supported by the Province's recently released K-4 Foundational Learning Progressions, which outline the key reading, writing, oral language, and math skills students are expected to develop from Kindergarten through Grade 4. These Progressions are not a new program or curriculum; rather, they serve as a clear roadmap for teachers, describing what “proficient” learning typically looks like at the end of each grade level. They help educators better understand where students are in their development, identify strengths, notice emerging needs, and plan instruction that supports all learners.

“
For our district, the progressions align closely with the early screening and intervention work already underway. When combined, these tools give teachers a robust, more accurate picture of each child's learning allowing staff to respond quickly and consistently across classrooms.

- Kristen Brach, Director of Instruction



Sage Kuzminski, Grade 1/2 teacher at James Thomson Elementary with students.

qathet School District is very fortunate to have a wonderful group of designated literacy leads in each school who work closely with teachers to integrate these tools into their day-to-day instruction. Our literacy support leads spend time in classrooms, work with small groups of students during literacy centers, and provide opportunities for students to practice new phonics skills, read aloud to build fluency, or work in quieter spaces when needed.

They help teachers use the data provided by the screener to better understand each student's development of foundational skills and to ensure that the right supports are in place. They also meet with classroom teachers and administrators to look at data together and discuss ways the entire school can strengthen literacy instruction.

Their work is grounded in collaboration and shared commitment, with the goal of helping every learner grow into a confident reader and writer so that they can learn about the world or simply get lost in a great story.



The DIBELS results are a jumping off point for me to have conversations with teachers about next steps for students, ask questions about which teaching strategies are working best for our learners, target small group instruction to fill gaps, and support classroom learning while tracking student progress.

- Julie Venselaar, Literacy Support Teacher at Kelly Creek Community School



As a Literacy Support teacher, I work with classroom teachers, inclusive education teachers, and administrators to review results and share insights. Through this collaborative process, our team can thoughtfully identify students who will benefit from targeted, additional support in reading and writing.

- Wendy Adams, Literacy Support Teacher at Edgehill Elementary



As one of several literacy tools, I appreciate how the DIBELS early literacy screener provides quick and meaningful data that helps us gain a fuller understanding of both the strengths and stretches of each student as a developing reader.

- Denise Little, French and English Literacy Support Teacher at James Thomson Elementary



DIBELS has been a reliable tool for informing student groupings in my multiple grade primary class. The goal is to maximize the amount of time students are deeply engaged and motivated in reading and writing. I use quick checks every five or so weeks to inform and address ongoing needs.

- Carol Wyatt, Teacher at Texada Elementary



How has the data from the DIBELS tool informed your work or supported the work you do with children?



The introduction of the DIBELS data tool has truly transformed how we support literacy at our school. For example, after identifying a group of students who needed support with letter naming fluency, we implemented daily intervention sessions focused on these skills. Within just four weeks, progress monitoring with DIBELS showed significant improvement in this area! These students are now much closer to meeting grade-level expectations, and we couldn't be more proud of their hard work.

- Becki Mikkelsen, Literacy Support Teacher at Westview Elementary



At Westview, our team administers DIBELS assessments efficiently and frequently. This ensures we are monitoring growth and making changes as needed throughout the year. We support students through a variety of approaches, including one-on-one, small-group, and in-class support.

- Brittney Bodie, Literacy Support Teacher at Westview Elementary



Within the library, this information has guided my collection development decisions, as I've noticed an increase in reading abilities at a younger age. This has prompted me to intentionally focus on developing our early chapter book section. I've also used the results to identify the students who would benefit from a challenging new read.

- Jessica Adam, Literacy Support Teacher and Librarian at Westview Elementary



DIBELS allows me to differentiate teaching, monitor progress over time, and adjust interventions. The data also guides curriculum decisions, helping every learner get the support they need to succeed.

- Nicole Stevens, Literacy Support Teacher at Henderson Elementary





RESCUED AND RECOVERED: Bobcat kits, fawn, beaver, Douglas squirrel pups, wood ducklings, "immature bald eagle with old bat" (commentary by Merrilee Prior), flying squirrel pup. Photos courtesy of the Powell River Orphaned Wildlife Society.

New Year, New Mission

Everyone needs a home, including the Powell River Orphaned Wildlife Society. Can you help?

BY MERRILEE PRIOR

At PROWLs, we are welcoming 2026 with fresh enthusiasm for the direction our migration is taking us. It will be a long and arduous trip, but we are ready to take off and look for new habitat to keep us growing and strong.

We have spent the last 10 years (and six years before that as The Bird Lady) in my small Townsite home and we are now spreading our wings to take off.

When I started, I never envisioned the variety of species that people would call with. I expected the odd sparrow here and there, maybe a robin, but the sheer variety of critters now means we are sending more and more of our patients to facilities with adequate space to treat and condition them for release.

Our water birds, from ducks and kingfishers to herons and swans, go to MARS Wildlife Rescue Centre in Courtenay; mammals, from flying squirrels and otters to beavers and fawns, are sent to either MARS or Critter Care Wildlife Society, in Langley; raptors are sent to OWL, in Delta; and bobcats go to Northern Lights Wildlife Shelter in Smithers. We still treat all our songbirds and some of the small mammals (squirrels, hares, deer mice), but other species stay until they are stable enough to put on a plane or a ferry, then sent out.

While this is an adequate solution to the space problem, it is short-term and far from ideal. Some facilities send all the patients back, others send some, and others send none, so the animals are lost to us. It can also be a financial burden on the specialist facility.

OWL had one of our eagles for nine months before sending him back for release, at a cost of about \$1,000 a month. We would likely still send some away, simply because they would get better care with the specialists, such as otters to Critter Care and bats to MARS. For many of the others, how-

ever, if we had the space, we could do a full, professional job, from intake to release, here in their home territory.

Over the years, I have made several attempts to find us a home, approaching anyone I thought might have land for us, from private individuals and businesses to our municipal government. The responses have varied, but in the end, the efforts went nowhere. The most encouraging response was from Mosaic Forest Management, who said they loved what we are doing, but they never sell, lease or donate land, so they sent us a donation of \$1,000. After a lot of consultation and research, our board has decided that enough is enough, and we need to get serious about doing this ourselves.

We talked with people from all the other facilities we have worked with, and all told us the same thing: that, if we are going to rehabilitate all the animals that pass through our doors, we will need at least ten acres, but more is better.

It was the senior rehabilitator from OWL who made clear the size we would need: each eagle cage is the size of a football field, and when I was talking with him, there were five of our eagles at OWL. That's a lot of football fields!

This means we will be looking for a fair-sized acreage in the regional district. We are open to developed and undeveloped properties. We have professionals who are keen to advise and help us and believe, as we do, not only that this is worth doing, but that we can also make this happen. We are starting our fundraising campaign now, and we know that this will take a lot of money and effort.

So, we are asking our supporters to help us in any way they can. Small donations from many people add up, and every bit is appreciated. All the information is posted on our website (prowls.org), and we hope you are able to join us on this journey! 🐾

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Sweeping Toward a Dream: Curling in Powell River

Throughout the 1930s and '40s, the lack of a rink for hockey and curling was a regular conversation in town, often reflected in the pages of the *Powell River News*. That all changed in 1955 with the opening of the Willingdon Arena. Powell River was no longer an ice-less community, and hockey teams and curling clubs quickly began to take shape.

With curling came the town's first bonspiels, the traditional name for curling tournaments, as well as the formation of the Powell River Ladies' Curling Club and the Powell River Men's Curling Club.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

DEVAN GILLARD

Challenges remained, however, as the community only had a single sheet of ice, and the push for a dedicated curling facility continued. Over the next two decades, a number of proposals were put forward. In 1957, the Centennial Committee rejected a plan for a combined pool and curling rink.

In 1959, members of the Moose Lodge even began clearing the land behind Willingdon Arena in hopes of building a future curling rink—one that ultimately never materialized.

It wasn't until the summer of 1967 that Powell River's long-awaited curling rink finally opened its doors at Beach Gardens. Tragically, just seven months later, a fire destroyed the new facility and all the bonspiel trophies. Six more years would pass before another dedicated curling rink was built.

In 1974, a new rink opened in Cranberry, taking over the former Odd Fellows Hall, which had originally served as a roller rink.

With its opening, Powell River's long-held dream of a dedicated curling rink was finally realized. **PL**



FIRE & ICE: Top, curling an eight-ender game with the Powell River Ladies Curling Club. Middle, a January 1968 photo from the *Powell River News*: "Rink Razed: Loss could be as high as \$350,000 in yesterday's early morning fire that destroyed the swank seven-month-old Beach Gardens' curling rink south of town." Above, the Beach Garden structure before the fire in 1967. Fashion on the rink. *Photos courtesy qathet Museum.*



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What do you do with a coffin you won, while you're still living?

BY SHEILA PETERS | COMMUNITY SUPPORTED DYING QATHET

When she put her name into the raffle, Erika Espinosa thought the prize was a felted urn made by Vanessa Sparrow.

The urn was part of a Memento Mori display at the library created by Community Supported Dying qathet, a local group that offers educational workshops and events on end-of-life topics.

The centre of the display was a coffin the group built as part of last year's Memento Mori with the help of community members. This year, the group decided to raffle it off.

Erika was surprised to get the phone call saying she'd won because, she said, she never wins anything. When she found out a coffin was the prize, not the urn, she laughed. "It's in my basement in a really nice spot. I don't have any plans right now. I'm still digesting what it means."

Some acquaintances were distressed, she said, because they think it will attract death. But her Mexican culture makes her comfortable around the idea. "We dance and cry with a dead person there, like the Irish, at their wakes."

She participates in the Day of the Dead events qathet's community of Mexicans organize, and creates her own altar for her loved ones every November. "I do an altar in my home because that's how I grieve—43 years living out I cannot go home to a cemetery—that's a way I connect with my culture."

The coffin with the beautiful sunflower painted on the lid, and words of strength and support wood-burned on its sides, was made for the community, she says. "I'm lucky. I feel whatever is sending me a message fits because right now I'm in the process of figuring out what's next in my career."

Erika has been a Four Tides Hospice volunteer for two years now and supports clients as a grief facilitator. The coffin is, she thinks, signalling a way for her to give back to a community that has given her



THE PRIZE COFFIN: Erika Espinosa with the hand-painted coffin she won in a raffle.

a lot since she and her partner moved here three years ago. "I can maybe offer it to the funeral home if someone can't afford the coffin."

Erika came to Canada in 1986. "Death brought me to Canada. My mom died when I was 14 and my father died when I was 18. I come from a small town very similar to Powell River. I decided to leave because I was the only female after seven boys and they all wanted to tell me what to do."

Seeking to escape the deep patriarchal traditions, she looked for direction. "I was privileged in that time because my parents had left me some money."

"At a party my friends asked me where I was going to go and I said I don't know. A few drinks later I said bring a map and where the dart goes I go. The dart hit Vancouver and I didn't know where the hell is Vancouver except Canada. And I freaked out because I thought it would be snow, but my brother who knew San Francisco said no, it would be the coast. 'And you'll be having a great time because Expo is coming and it's a beautiful city.' And that's how I arrived. I was 21 years old."

Six years ago, Erika met someone who had a nephew in Powell River. "He has two beautiful girls and I fell in love with the family and a few months later we moved here. It was really hard at first, but now after three years the community has been wonderful and I just needed to adapt myself to the new me."

You may have met Erika already—her coffee truck, The Bean Buggy, is on site at many festivals and farmers' markets and has connected her to many in the community. Through her hospice work, she is trying to help people feel more comfortable talking about death, a goal which matches really well with those of Community Supported Dying qathet. And winning a coffin is a great conversation starter.

Community Supported Dying qathet is Jules Adam, Anna Byrne, Laurie Norman, and Sheila Peters. They can be contacted at csdqathet@gmail.com. 

Tough times for the Kings

At a December 18 Town Hall at the Evergreen Theatre, the future of the Powell River Kings was unsure. Would these players, right, go home for Christmas and return to finish the season? Or was this it for the Kings?

About 150 fans and most of the Kings players and staff gathered as the Kings society explained the crisis, and gathered ideas. See more on the next pages.

Five days later, Kings president Shaun Garvey noted that the society "received confirmation that our players intend to return after Christmas to complete the season.

"We (the Society) have assured them that we now have clear indication that the remainder of this season is not in jeopardy.

"Since the Town Hall, numerous parties have stepped up, some not located in Powell River, to offer financial assistance and other support. Their contributions. In conjunction with planned fundraising efforts and a plea to our fans to consistently "pack the Hap", has given us confidence that we can get through this. We are encouraged by the grassroots show of support we have received, but the battle is far from over!



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Kings Crisis

in 25 facts



BY PIETA WOOLLEY

1. On December 9, the Powell River Kings Hockey Club Society got a call from the Birch Group, saying that no more funds will be forthcoming from the group, to support the Kings team.
2. The US-based Birch Group has managed the Kings' hockey and business operations since December 2023.
3. If the group hadn't stepped in, it's likely the Kings would have folded two years ago.
4. In order to satisfy the BCHL that the Kings can complete the current season and not negatively impact league operations, the Kings Society is required to provide a comprehensive and detailed plan of how they intend to generate enough funds to cover the projected fiscal shortfall - the plan must be submitted by January 1.
5. \$200,000 is the projected shortfall for the remainder of the 2025-2026 season, ending in March 2026.
6. On December 18, the Kings Society hosted a Town Hall at the Evergreen Theatre to explain the situation to fans, and ask for strategies to raise \$200,000
7. At that meeting, about 150 fans came out, plus most of the 24 Kings players.
8. The audience suggested a dinner auction, a GoFundMe page, and simply asking locals for \$5,000 donations. By Boxing Day, \$9,294, or about 5%, had been raised on GoFundMe.
9. The Town Hall audience raised questions about ticket prices, community relations, the quality of coaching, and the behaviour of children at the games.
10. By mid-January, the BCHL also requires that the Kings demonstrate the team will be financially viable — to the tune of about \$1.5 million — for the Kings to be included in the 2026-2027 season.
11. The Birch Group has spent about \$1.5 million on the Kings.
12. The Kings Society, which owns the Kings, is a non-profit, but not a charity — so it cannot issue tax receipts.
13. The Powell River Paper Kings team was established in 1988.

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AT THE HELM: On December 18, the Kings Society board faced fans with some challenging news. Dan Devita (far left) ran the Town Hall. The board, from left, president Shaun Garvey, secretary Aaron Reid, treasurer Joe Mastrodonato, John Vanderkemp, Willie Roberts, Scott Mastrodonato, and Chris Reimer. Do you have an idea or want to contribute? Reach out at dop@powellriverkings.com.

14. At press time, the Kings were in last place in the division and league, with four wins and 22 losses (in first place, division rivals Cowichan Valley Capitals). The night after this meeting, the Kings made a come-from-behind overtime win at home.
15. Among the Birch Group's more public decisions: NHLers Cliff Ronning and Glenn Anderson were brought in to coach and manage the team. Neither of them remain with the Kings.
16. Instead, the son of an owner of the Birch Group, Stephan Seeger Jr., is the team's head coach and general manager.
17. Birch is willing to fund two of the coaches' salaries until the end of their contract with the Kings in September of 2026.
18. The Kings Society is hopeful this crisis can be overcome. "We just need to make it through the season," president Shaun Garvey explained to the crowd at the Evergreen, noting that if the team ceases mid-season, that's the end for the Kings. "There will be a light at the end of the tunnel if we get through it."
19. Kings' revenue mostly comes from ticket sales, merchandise, alcohol sales, and fundraising.
20. There are no Powell River-raised players on the Kings' current roster. Local Kyle Mayenburg is a reserve player and has laced up for eight games.
21. A fundraising email has been circulating with the Kings' president's name on it—but it is fraud. He didn't send it.
22. The Kings Society is hoping to avoid an interruption to the season.
23. As of December 18, the Kings Society is looking for an investor or a buyer, donations, volunteers, and spectators.
24. This has been the best season yet for corporate sponsorship.
25. The Kings Society has a tentative meeting scheduled with Cranberry Group (which is transforming the mill site) on January 5. The Society is hoping for an investment. 📧

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Inspirational Resistance

Dear Pieta;

Having just finished reading “Peace How Peter Behr became a war resister” in the November issue, I was so taken with his willingness to put himself in the line of fire, to stand up for his beliefs regarding an unjust war in Vietnam. Without people like him, standing for justice, things could have been far different.

Thank you, Peter, for all you did!

~ Dorell Meikle

Are these donations getting to the right people?

To the editor,

I recently travelled by BC Ferries to Powell River to visit friends on the Sunshine Coast. I had the opportunity to browse through your publication. I enjoyed reading some really great and uplifting community news. I commend your service to the community.

I did note that you publish and promote a Palestine narrative. I have a request about your promotion of “My Name is Rachel Corrie.” Mitzi indicated that funds will be sent to one of four ethical Gaza-based organizations.

It is a challenge to ensure donations reach Gazans who are truly in need and to also ensure funds sup-

port organizations who are working toward a bright future, public safety, and lasting peace in the region. My request — please advise and report on the names of the ethical organizations to which donations will be or have been sent.

~ Ryan Foster

Response from Mitzi Jones: Thank you for your message and inquiry. After much research, the four organizations that seemed the most reputable were the following:

1. MECA, Middle East Children’s Alliance.
meccaforpeace.org/
 2. Gaza Soup Kitchen
gazasoupkitchen.org/
 3. Action for Humanity
actionforhumanity.ca/en/about-us/our-story/
 4. Global Sumud Flotilla
globalsumudflotilla.org
- In the end we decided on Gaza Soup Kitchen.
- All the best.

~ Mitzi Jones

LNG tankers not welcome here

To the editor,

Thanks to *qL* for overviewing the potential future of the former mill site. Powell River certainly needs a renewed tax base, and hopefully the developers will be as careful in selecting new businesses as they claim to be in asbestos disposal and site demolition. Unfortunately, though, Cranberry Group CEO Craig



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.**

Austin said he would “welcome” LNG to the industrial park, and he’s already “had calls” from industry.

If you care about the quality of life in our beautiful region, that’s no cause to celebrate.

Watershed Sentinel editor, Zoe Blunt, describes LNG export facilities as “like living next door to an industrial-sized meth lab. ‘Emissions’ is a polite term for the filthy petroleum fumes, constant deafening noise, and 100-meter tall flares that can last for days. Toxic smoke chokes residents and covers farms, waterways, birds, and wildlife.”

She rightly adds that “the long-term effects will be even more devastating to the planet.” At every stage of its lifecycle — extraction, processing, transportation, end-use — LNG generates methane pollution. Methane is a greenhouse gas 28 to 80 times more potent than CO2 in the short term.

As early as 2009, Dogwood BC identified key problems with LNG projects along our coast. These

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Please call her at 604-578-1168, email her at rachelmckamey@royalpage.ca, or visit her at Royal Lepage Powell River.

It’s been an honour to work with such wonderful clients and colleagues, and I’m thankful for the relationships and friendships built along the way.

Love,
Valerie



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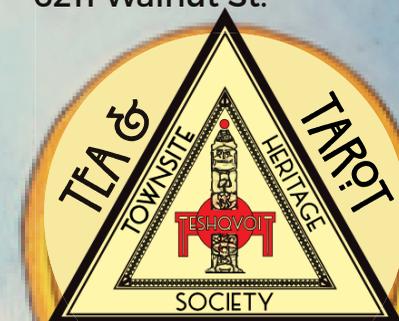
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include the disruption to local shipping (including ferries) by massive tankers the size of three football fields in crowded waterways like the Salish Sea, potentially compounded by security measures to protect LNG carriers from terrorist attacks.

LNG tanker spills and fires, and on-shore fires and explosions, though rare, are devastating when they occur.

Jobs? Renewables create far more jobs per dollar invested than fossil fuels. Housing is a better way to create construction jobs. An LNG plant is hardly a boon for local fisheries or tourism.

Independent studies suggest that the economic prospects of LNG exports are dubious. LNG is part of the fossil fuel industry's desperate rush to extract every last drop before it's overtaken by renewables. Mega-projects are kept alive less by global market demand than by the outsized political influence of fossil capital vis-a-vis compliant politicians and governments. (Albertan author Kevin Taft's Oil's Deep State is an eye-opener.)

Fossil fuel corporations are profitable because they don't pay their real costs of doing business. Put differently, they are enormously subsidized. One example: by bailing out and building the Trans-Mountain bitumen pipeline,

formerly owned by U.S.-based Kinder Morgan, the Trudeau government dunned Canadian taxpayers \$34 billion, much of which will never be recovered.

Beyond such direct subsidies, consider the taxpayer-borne costs of unremediated abandoned wells, public health impacts, climate change disasters, and other collateral damage from fossil fuel production, transport, and use. Including such indirect subsidies, IMF studies have estimated that Canada spends up to \$50 billion per year propping up fossil fuels.

Mr. Austin concedes that LNG export is an unlikely prospect for our region, given the huge size and costs of expanding the existing easement from northern BC.

But don't get complacent. Mark Carney, the ex-banker, seems to define nation-building in terms of doubling down on extractivist mega-projects.

Encouragingly, a 2008 proposal to develop a massive LNG import facility on Texada Island was abandoned, partly due to local residents' staunch opposition. If necessary, we can do it again. But the best way to stop a disastrous boondoggle is to nip it in the bud before it arrives.

~Robert Hackett
qathet Climate Alliance

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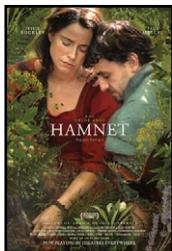
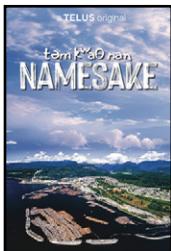
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Baker retires

After 34 years of serving up bread, pizza and coffee, **Mark Dowling** is hanging up his apron. The owner of **Rocky Mountain Pizza and Bakery** has sold the Marine Avenue operation to **Sean O'Malley**, who has been working at Rocky Mountain for the past three years. Rocky Mountain started in January of 1992, bringing the first espresso machine to Powell River. It was launched by Mark, Steve Gould, and Deborah Jenkins. Steve left in 1996, and Deborah in 2000, but Mark has been the sole owner for the past quarter century. Mark, who just turned 65, credits its longevity and success with the location near the ferry, a long run of friendly staff, and quality products.

Sean says he feels honoured to carry on the business. Born and raised here, he was a baker at Safeway for 15 years and also worked at Haylston Pizza Bakery and Quality Foods. "I have always wanted to own/operate my own business and when Mark made the offer to me to come on board three years ago as his baker and work towards taking over ownership, it seemed like a perfect fit for me," said Sean. "Business will remain as usual for the time being but I hope to add some of my own touches when the time is right."

Timco moving on up

Timco Fine Carpentry has more than doubled its space by moving operations to 4495 Manson Avenue. The facility, across from Two-Wheel Tech, used to be the welding training facility for VIU. Timco, run by the father-son team of **Tim and Vince Bacon**, purchased Woodworks in April of 2021 and was crammed into two buildings on Marine Avenue.

"We were busting at the seams," said Vince, who began working with his father at age 13 and now runs the shop in qathet while Tim still lives in the Lower Mainland. They do work across the Lower Mainland, the lower Sunshine Coast, Squamish, and Whistler, all served from the shop here.

"We're super happy to have more space," said Vince. The 10,000 square foot shop will allow him to take on



BUSINESS AFFAIRS

SEAN PERCY

more volume — and he's hoping much of that work will be local. He has hired a salesperson to try to drum up more local work.

"Capacity was the main thing. We've had a hard time serving local customers, because we do a lot of custom home work and one of those homes could take up the (former) shop for a couple months. We want to focus on the Powell River market and this space allows us to do that," said Vince. It also gave them room to install a spray booth to do top coats and painting. The move was a large undertaking, with flatbed trucks moving half a dozen large machines, plus dust collectors, compressors, smaller machines, and tools.

The Timco shop manufactures woodwork for custom homes and commercial clients, including cabinetry, wall panelling, custom door panels, interior woodwork, handrails, stair treads, crown molding, and more. In total the company has 18 employees, 10 of which are based here in qathet.

To contact Timco, email vince@timcofinecarpentry.com or call 778-237-9107.

Car seat care

Busy moms have a new ally in keeping their vehicles clean. **Alex Khalemskyi** has launched **Cocoon Child Car Seat Cleaning Service**. Alex will come and pick up your dirty car seat, disassemble it, wash it, reassemble it, and deliver it back to you. He has no special machines for this new project, just lots of elbow grease and the experience of having two children of his own.

"It's very convenient for busy moms who don't have time to clean the car seats. Most mothers don't have time," said Alex.

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Start 2026 with strings

Local musicians Simon Gidora (right) and Isabella Perron (left) of Duo Mycelia kick off this strangely-strings-rich month on January 10. There's plenty of other music, too, from rock to Robbie Burns bagpipes. See the calendar for more.

January 10

Duo Mycelia in concert

6:30, Max Cameron. Academy of Music violin and voice teacher Simon Gidora and Isabella Perron are Duo Mycelia (duomycelia.ca). The qathet Fiddlers are opening. Tickets are \$30, but free for anyone 18 and under. Tickets are available on eventbrite, or cash at the door.

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. Tickets on ShowPass or at the door.

January 23

Townsite Jazz Fest Preview Party: The Kelby MacNayr Ensemble

7pm, Max Cameron Theatre. \$30 adults / \$15 students. Tickets at the door and townsit-jazz.com. Brooks Jazz Choir opening.

January 29

The Wardens

7pm Max Cameron. 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 mountain culture concert experience. \$35. Tickets on ShowPass or at the door.



January events

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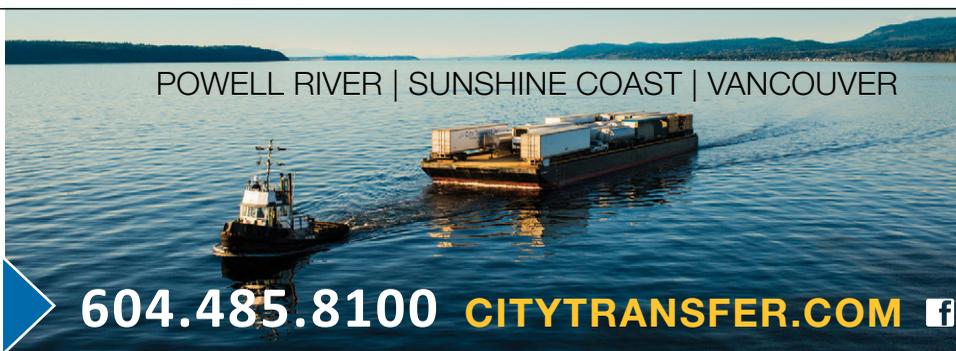
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JANUARY EVENTS

2

Friday

Film • The Sponge Bob Movie: Search for Squarepants
1:30 and 7 pm, The Patricia

3

Saturday

Film • The Sponge Bob Movie: Search for Squarepants
1:30 and 7 pm, The Patricia

4

Sunday

Christmas Tree Mulch Fundraiser for Special Olympics
10 am to 1 pm, Mother Nature. \$5 donation.

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 • The Sponge Bob Movie: Search for Squarepants
1:30 and 7 pm, The Patricia

5

Monday

Back to School
Welcome back!

Community Pasta Dinner
4:30 to 6 pm, Trinity Hall (at the United Church by 7-11). Everyone welcome.

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

Film • The Sponge Bob Movie: Search for Squarepants
7 pm, The Patricia

6

Tuesday

qathet Honey Bee Club
7-8:30 pm at the Cranberry Community Hall

Film • The Sponge Bob Movie: Search for Squarepants
7 pm, The Patricia

7

Wednesday

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

Film • The Sponge Bob Movie: Search for Squarepants
3:30 pm, The Patricia

8

Thursday

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

Film • The Sponge Bob Movie: Search for Squarepants
7 pm, The Patricia

9

Friday

Aging and Longevity, with Todd Caldecott
7 pm, Library. Author Todd Caldecott discusses the biological drivers of aging, classical rejuvenative traditions, and practical advice on maintaining vitality and resilience in later life.

Film • Marty Supreme
1:30 pm and 7 pm, The Patricia. Timothee Chalamet

ping pongs to greatness in Josh Safdie's whooshing wonder of a film about winning at all costs.

10

Saturday

Duo Mycelia in concert
6:30, Max Cameron. Academy of Music violin and voice teacher Simon Gidora and Isabella Perron are Duo Mycelia (duomycelia.ca). The qathet Fiddlers are opening. Tickets are \$30, but free for anyone 18 and under. Tickets are available on eventbrite, or cash at the door.

Regals vs. 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.

Film • Marty Supreme
7 pm, The Patricia

11

Sunday

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

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 • Marty Supreme
1:30 pm and 7 pm, The Patricia

12

Monday

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

Community Pasta Dinner
4:30 to 6 pm, Trinity Hall (at the United Church by 7-11). Everyone welcome.

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

Film • Marty Supreme
7 pm, The Patricia

13

Tuesday

Understanding Hormonal Health workshop
6 to 7:30 pm, Kelly's Health Shop. Register for free in-store at Kelly's.

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

Challenge and Change
"Towards Health Equity in Our Community, Through a Palliative Care Lens."
1 to 3 pm, Evergreen Theatre. Free talk with Naheed Dosani, a palliative care physician and health equity advocate based in Toronto. Details and tickets at bit.ly/healthequityqathet

Film • Marty Supreme
7 pm, The Patricia

14

Wednesday

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

Whole 30 Coaching Program begins
6:30 to 8 pm, Wednesdays at Kelly's Health Shop. See ad next page.



Homelessness, End-Of-Life, & beyond

On Tuesday, January 13, Join Dr. Naheed Dosani for Challenge and Change “Towards Health Equity in Our Community, Through a Palliative Care Lens.” The free talk takes place from 1 to 3 pm at the Evergreen Theatre.

Naheed is a palliative care physician and health equity advocate based in Toronto. He'll be speaking to his experience as the founder and leader of Palliative Education and Care for the Homeless (PEACH) and discussing how structural vulnerabilities such as homelessness and poverty cause barriers to health care (especially end-of-life care), and how communities can work together to increase accessibility of essential social and health services.

Details and tickets at bit.ly/healthequityqathet

Film • Marty Supreme

3:30 pm, The Patricia

15

Thursday

Hospice Volunteer Info Session

6:30 to 8:30 pm. Are you compassionate, nonjudgmental and a good listener? Four Tides Hospice is offering a 28-hour training to become a Volunteer Visitor to support patients and families in their homes, long-term care settings, and in hospital. To register or for more information: anna.byrne@fourtideshospice.org or 604 223 7309.

Senior Luncheon

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

Malaspina Naturalists Speaker Night – The Pantanal, South America with Tammy Siddall

7 pm, Trinity Hall, United Church, on Duncan Street, Tammy recently visited the Pantanal. Located mainly in Brazil, this is the

world's largest tropical wetland and floodplain. This dynamic ecosystem with a rich biodiversity experiences a yearly cycle of flooding and drying. The Pantanal is known for its abundant wildlife, including jaguars, capybara, and various bird species. It is also home to the largest concentration of crocodiles in the world. Everyone welcome – \$5 drop-in fee for non-members.

Turn the 7 and El Camino

Carlson Loft 7 pm, entrance by donation.

Film • Marty Supreme

7 pm, The Patricia

16

Friday

Banff Mountain Film Festival begins

See ad on Page 35.

Banff Mountain Film Festival

See ad on Page 35.

17

Saturday

Tea & Tarot - A Fundraiser for the Townsite Heritage Society

Noon til 4 pm, Henderson House. Pre-book your reading: thetownsite@shaw.ca. See ad on Page 26.

Uptown Market

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

Poker for Pickleball Tournament

1 pm to 6 pm, Texas Hold 'em at the Loft at the Carlson Community Club. Doors open at 12:30 pm. Entry fee \$100/player. Maximum 100 players, so register early. First place: \$1,000; second \$500; third \$200; awards for “best hand”, plus a 50-50 draw. Light snacks and non-alcoholic drinks provided. All proceeds to the qathet Pickleball Association's Facility Development Fund.

Elderdog and Senior Dog Wellness

2 pm, Library. Canine bodyworker and fitness professional Rachel Koopman-Gough will present practical tips for helping your dog stay fit and happy into their golden years.

Nameless King – Tour Of The Sunless Realms

7 pm, The Alley. With Vampires & Leeches, Ominisia, and ENDR. \$15 presale – \$20 day of the show. All ages.

Shuffling up some Gentle Hills

9 am, Willingdon Beach concession. Continuing with the introduction to the trails. This week introducing some gentle hills but keeping the distance to about 5km. With qathet Trail Running.

JANUARY SALE UP TO 70% OFF

Fits to a

T



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WINTER SEMINARS

4717 MARINE AVENUE
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Understanding Hormonal Health

Certified Nutritionist, Simone Clifton

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026 FROM 6-7:30PM
REGISTER FOR FREE IN-STORE @ KELLY'S



Embracing an Holistic Approach to Diabetes & Metabolic Health

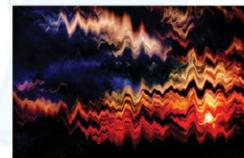
Dr. Shawn Peters, Licensed Naturopathic Doctor

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026 FROM 6-7:30PM
REGISTER FOR FREE IN-STORE @ KELLY'S

Discover Vibrational Healing

Sarah Conley, Certified Biofield Tuning Practitioner

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2026 FROM 6-7:30PM
REGISTER FOR FREE IN-STORE @ KELLY'S



Join our next NOURISH Health Coaching Program



WHOLE 30 COACHING PROGRAM WITH TERRI CRAMB

ONE 90MINUTE IN-PERSON CLASS PER WEEK PLUS IN-STORE SAVINGS & HEAPS OF SUPPORT!

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 14 - MARCH 4, 2026
6:30-8PM

\$199 - REGISTER IN STORE @ KELLY'S



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

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

18

Sunday

Alcohol Inks workshop with Patricia Sparks

1pm, qathet Art+Wares. \$100. Three hour workshops. Learn how to work with this fluid, unpredictable medium as you experiment with colour blending, movement, and layering. qa-w.ca

Powell River Farmers' Market

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

Tea & Tarot - A Fundraiser for the Townsite Heritage Society

Noon til 4 pm, Henderson House. Pre-book your reading: thetownsite@shaw.ca. See ad on Page 26.

Magic the Gathering Commander night

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

Texada Winter Market

Noon til 3pm, Texada Community Hall.

19

Monday

Community Pasta Dinner

4:30 to 6 pm, Trinity Hall (at the United Church by 7-11). Everyone welcome.

Board Game Night

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

20

Tuesday

Embracing an Holistic Approach to Diabetes and Metabolic Health

6 to 7:30 pm, Kelly's Health Shop. Register for free in-store at Kelly's.

The Fretless in concert

Juno Award winners transform string music



SPRING WILL COME AGAIN: The Rose Bed, by artist Janet Southcott. At the Present Group Exhibition at the qathet Art Centre this month.

into intricate, high-energy

JANUARY ART SHOWS

Jan 12 to June

qathet ART at PR Library presents Janet Southcott: "Let the Light In" Exhibition

See prpl.ca for library hours

To February 26, 2026

Present Group Exhibition

at qathet Art Centre featuring 60+ local artists.

Viewing hours: Tues & Thurs, 12-5 pm
qathetART.ca

22

Thursday

Senior Luncheon

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

23

Friday

Townsite Jazz Fest Preview Party: The Kelby MacNayr Ensemble

7 pm, Max Cameron Theatre. \$30 adults / \$15 students. Tickets at the door and townsitezazz.com. Brooks Jazz Choir opening.

21

Wednesday

Dungeons & Dragons night

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

24

Saturday

Mixed Media Mmmagic with Lisa Hau

1 pm, qathet Art+Wares. Designed for all levels, this workshop encourages curiosity, looseness, and joy in the process of creation itself! \$125. qa-w.ca

Uptown Market

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

Robbie Burns Dinner at the Legion

Put on by the Clansman Pipe Band. Full roast beef dinner with haggis and Scottish entertainment. Tickets \$35.

A Little Bit Much comedy show

7:30 pm, Evergreen. Chela Davidson. A One-Woman Show About Becoming and Being Unbecoming. It's about coming of age in the 90's and coming of middle age right now.

It's about the stories we internalize about who we are, self-perception, patriarchal deception and the identities we fiercely try to shed, waking up, growing up and throwing up the domestication we've been force-fed. \$35. chela-davison.thrivecart.com

er deck and be prepared to defend your creatures.

25

Sunday

Powell River Farmers' Market

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

Polymer Clay 3D workshop with Patricia Sparks

1 pm, qathet Art+Wares. \$100. Immerse yourself in the art of sculptural design as you create a serene coral reef scene in dimensional form. qa-w.ca.

Magic the Gathering Commander night

6 pm, High Tide Games. Bring your best Command-

26

Monday

Community Pasta Dinner

4:30 to 6 pm, Trinity Hall (at the United Church by 7-11). Everyone welcome.

Board Game Night

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

27

Tuesday

Compassionate Friends meeting

6:30 pm. For anyone who lost a child at any age, for any reason. For location and more, email powellrivercf@gmail.com. See ad on Page 2.

28

Wednesday

Dungeons & Dragons night

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

Literacy Week • Print a Baby

10:30 am, Library. See more on ad, Page 34.

Discover Vibrational Healing

6 to 7:30 pm, Kelly's Health Shop. Register for free in store.

Royal Winnipeg Ballet: T'el: The Wild Man of the Woods

Evergreen. rwb.org. See story on Page 36.

29

Thursday

The Wardens

7 pm at The Max. Songs and stories from the land they've protected as National Park Wardens. Haunting harmonies and chilling tales reflect Canada's wilderness in a quint-essential mountain culture concert experience. \$35.

Senior Luncheon

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

30

Friday

Cousin Harley with SPENDO

8 pm, Carlson Loft

31

Saturday

Literacy Week: Retro Family Jam

10 am to noon, Library. See more in the ad, Page 34.

Negotiating Buck Naked: Doukhobors, Public Policy, and Conflict Resolution

2 pm, Library. Greg Cran presents his book on the turbulent history of Russian Doukhobor immigrants in Canada and his own personal journey responding to this conflict.

Uptown Market

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



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Steller Events



What's making waves this weekend?

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SHOWCASING THE BEST OF OUR COMMUNITY



Free public talk
with Dr. Naheed Dosani



Challenge & Change

Health equity in our community, through a palliative care lens.

Join palliative care physician and health equity advocate Dr. Naheed Dosani for this free, public talk exploring socio-economic barriers to health care and how we can work together to meet community needs.

*This event is eligible for Canadian College of Family Physicians continuing education credits.

www.liftcommunityservices.org



Tuesday, January 13th
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm



Evergreen Theatre
5001 Joyce Ave.



Free tickets available at
bit.ly/healthequityqathet



ASK BRIAN:

Why detail the outside of your vehicle in winter when it's just going to get dirty again?

RODENT TROUBLE?

Brian is qathet's resident expert on cleaning up the mess rodents leave behind, and helping fix the damage they do. Ask about rodent deterrent service.



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NewImageAutoDetail.ca 6984 Alberni Street • 604-485-0092

COMING UP THIS WINTER / SPRING

February 12, 13 & 14

The Little Mermaid

7pm, Evergreen Theatre. \$25. Advance tickets available for purchase at 32 Lakes and Anchor Apparel. Join Beanstalk Theatre Company under the sea for an immersive experience as we bring the magic of The Little Mermaid to the stage.

February 20 & 21

A New Light - dance performance

Laszlo Tamasik Company dancers will perform a number of genres in this fundraising showcase. All proceeds go towards competitive fees for our teams.

February 25 to March 7

qathet Festival of the Performing Arts

Come share your talents in voice, band/instrumental, choir, piano, strings, speech arts and dance disciplines. Register at: musicfestivalreg.com/qathet

February 14

Dry Grad Much Music Dance Party

8 pm Dwight Hall. See ad on Page 19.

February 27

Big West Wrestling Caged Match

6:30 pm, Brooks

February 28

PR Chamber of Commerce Business Awards

Dwight Hall. See ad on Page 36. Nominations at powellriverchamber.com.

March 6 to 14

qathet International Film Festival

qathetfilm.ca. 16 feature films from BC, Canada, and around the world.

March 6 to 15

Sunshine Coast Flavour Festival

Dining festival from Gibsons to Lund. See ad on Page 9 and more at flavourfestival.ca.

March 14 to 19

BC Hockey U13 Provincial Championships

Hap Parker. Will bring teams, families, coaches, and officials from across the province.

April 5

10 Years since the Tla'amin Nation Final Agreement

Celebrations TBA

April 9 to 11

Townsite Jazz Festival

townsitejazz.com

May 8 & 9

Beanstalk Theatre Company Showcase

7pm, Evergreen Theatre. \$25. Advance tickets available beginning in April at 32 Lakes and Anchor Apparel. Don't miss out on Beanstalk Theatre Company's 2026 Showcase featuring a dazzling array of performances that are sure to entertain all ages!

Mother's Day Weekend

Historic local fashion show, featuring Ivan Sayers

To raise awareness about community history and the importance of collecting and preserving local stories. Funds raised will support dementia care services here in Powell River. Details TBA.

May 23

The Road to Oz - Ballet

A ballet production of The Wizard of Oz created by our teacher Sandi Wadden. All of our ballet students from tiny to graduating will be showcased in this performance.

May 28, 29 & 30

Macbeth, Hadestown-style

Brooks Theatre Company students collaborate with qathet community band underscoring this tale with a twist. Something wicked this way comes. Enter the gritty underworld of prohibition New Orleans in this Hadestown-inspired interpretation of Shakespeare's classic tragedy.

May 29 & 30

Laszlo Tamasik Year end Showcase

Two nights of amazing dance performances celebrating all the work students have put in this year and the end of the dance season. All students in jazz, hip-hop, lyrical, contemporary, tap, and musical theatre will perform.

Literacy Week (Jan25-Feb1) AT THE LIBRARY

Know a reader aged 9 or up? Launch their reading to new heights during Family Literacy Week by completing PRPL's **Next Reads Rocket** questionnaire. Fill out one online form for each young reader in your family and receive five personalized book suggestions via email within a week!



Tuesday, Jan 27, 10:30- 11:30 am

Using non-toxic inks on quality papers, replicate small hands and feet for your wee one's scrapbook. Take home some early literacy resources, too. We'll be joined by speech and language therapist Nicole Wagner from VCH who will be there to answer any questions you might have about your child's speech and language development.



Tuesday, Jan 31, 10 am- 12 pm

Celebrate Family Literacy Week by joining qathet Museum and Archives at the Powell River Public Library to get hands on with some retro technology, all while enjoying a morning of Super Mario inspired nostalgia AND boosting those language, reading, and numeracy skills. Drop-in.

FREE BOOKS: For families to spark and support conversation on various topics including consent, truth and reconciliation, diversity, information literacy, and homelessness. One book per family, while supplies last. These books were purchased with the LawMatters grant generously provided by Courthouse Libraries BC.



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

SCREENING TRUTH TO POWER

CINEMA POLITICA
qathet

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

Scan the code to join our newsletter or follow our socials.



WHAT HE HEARD: Retired social worker Paul Jenkinson started listening at little tables like this one in Nova Scotia in May 2025. *Photo courtesy of Paul Jenkinson*

What will Paul hear here?

BY PAUL JENKINSON

The first time I came to Powell River, I was there as a tourist. Now I'm returning with another goal in mind.

Starting in Nova Scotia on May 1, 2025, I travelled through nine provinces, drove 23,000 kilometers, visited over 50 communities, and offered listening opportunities to over 800 people, in public places, with no cost involved. It's through my project, the You Are Not Alone, I Will Listen, Cross Canada Journey.

As a social worker with two degrees and 40 years of experience, and now at age 71, I have had the privilege of listening to the joys and sorrows of Canadians young and old, nationwide.

The idea of someone available to listen, in public settings, has caught the media's attention with coverage in *The Washington Post* and on the CBC, CTV, and Global National News broadcasts.

The You Are Not Alone, I Will Listen, Cross Canada Journey makes a simple offer. I put out two chairs, a table with business cards, Jolly Rancher candy for the children and the child at heart, and dog treats. I fold my hands, relax, and prepare to live out the commitments that are stated on my sign. I make the intentional promise to listen to whomever stands beside or sits down at my little site. I listen to them first and I listen longer, with no judgement, no shaming and positive regard for each person.

I WILL LISTEN TOUR

When: Presentation at the Library is on January 20 at 4 pm. Paul Jenkinson will be listening throughout town for several days around this date.

What: This is part of the You Are Not Alone, I Will Listen, Cross Canada Journey

More Info: pejenkinson@gmail.com

In a time where many people feel socially isolated, where the world of cell phones, tablets, and ear buds make contact between strangers difficult and a world where political polarization contributes to frayed or broken relationships, I promise to listen, listen longer, listen with respect and compassion, with the goal to be positively with you at the beginning and the end of our listening opportunity.

I will be listening at the Powell River Public Library several days as well as presenting about my Cross Canada Journey.

I will be at the Townsite Market Saturday as well as, listening at other locations, in private sessions with those identified as master listeners in the Powell River area and in other private listening opportunities.

I can be reached at the email pejenkinson@gmail.com should you want to offer your business or public space for listening opportunities.

Different films each night. **5:30 pm** Doors open. **6:30 pm** Film screening in the Max.

Join us for a CASH bar, light snack, and a chance to explore the booths representing local organizations that support outdoor adventure.

Knucklehead Winter Recreation Association enhances access and provides infrastructure to promote safe alpine recreation throughout the Powell River backcountry. For more information or membership please visit: powellriverbackcountry.com/about-us/

Presented by:



Download the gathet Waste Wise app for service reminders

Find the Waste Wizard and other information on our waste collection services at powellriver.ca, or scan here:



JANUARY

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
 Organics and Recycle Day: A B C D E



NEW YEAR NEW HABITS!

1. Flatten and bundle cardboard, rinse cans, plastic containers and bottles for recycling.
2. Layer food scraps and yard waste in your green bin to compost.
3. If it can't be recycled or composted, toss it in the grey garbage bin.
4. Carts at the curb between 5:30 to 7:30 am. Not the night before!



Wild man of the Ballet

Tla'amin Nation's Cameron *sink*^{wə} Fraser-Monroe brings his (and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's) *T'əl: The Wild Man of the Woods*, to the Evergreen, January 27.

When Cameron *sink*^{wə} Fraser-Monroe wants to blow off steam from the intensity of choreography, he goes for a cold plunge. Because he's often working in Manitoba right now — about to launch the West Coast tour of *T'əl: The Wild Man of the Woods*, the show he choreographed for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB) — which will be at the Evergreen Theatre on January 27 — those cold plunges are really, really cold.



"It's something I like to do no matter where I am," *sink*^{wə} said in a phone interview with *qL*. "I find hot springs and saunas and places to cold plunge. It's something we practice in ceremony where you'd have your morning ice bath down at the river [tisk-wat], even if it was the middle of winter."

"There's a thermal pool in Winnipeg which is one of my favourites, because it's outdoors and you can freeze your hair into a Mohawk."

It's hard to imagine when he has time to be frivolous. In September of 2024, *sink*^{wə} premiered his own work — the first Coast Salish ballets ever — at the Max Cameron Theatre. *Taqəs* and *The Cowboy Act Suite* were danced by Ballet Kelowna. The 400-seat theatre was completely sold out.

For *T'əl: The Wild Man of the Woods*, there were fewer than a dozen seats left unsold at press time,

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

Award nominations are open til Jan 15 at PowellRiverChamber.com



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SCARY AND SUMPTUOUS: *T'əl: The Wild Man of the Woods* is based on a children's story about a kidnapper who snatches and eats children. Photo courtesy of the RWB

more than a month before the performance, in the 700-seat theatre.

"T'əl is a story that's known by both kids and adults, and my parents told me this story when I was a child," said sink'ə, noting that the work uses all 26 RWB dancers.

"Not only is it a great story, it's a tool that was used to keep kids close to home and make sure they didn't wander off after dark. He is someone that will kidnap little kids, glue them down with pitch, and then roast them over the fire to eat. It's quite a scary story.

"On Vancouver Island, T'əl is a woman, which I think is quite interesting. No matter where you go in the world, there's stories about someone in the

woods."

T'əl, together with the other RWB work on tour, *Carmina Burana*, is 52 minutes long. It features an original score by Cree cellist Cris Dirkson.

In between *taqəs* and T'əl, sink'ə has been in-demand. In mid-2024, he was getting ready to premiere a new work for the RWB in New York City. He was working on pieces commissioned by the National Ballet of Canada, and many more.

The pace doesn't lighten after T'əl. On May 1, he will premier his first full-length ballet: *Cikilax'm: Controlled Burn*.

"Set in a dystopian future where wildfire season has no end, a young Indigenous firefighter's beliefs

are challenged when he meets Mothk', a fierce protector of ancestral knowledge who carries out cultural burns," reads the description.

He hopes this production will also come to qathet. The work was inspired in part by Algonquin author Yvette Nolan's book *The Unplugging*, alongside Tla'amin elders Betty Wilson and Elsie Paul.

"This is not a tale of apocalypse, but of perseverance," said sink'ə. "Of memory that survives and endures. Of land that remembers how to heal."

sink'ə is thrilled to bring T'əl to qathet. "It's really meaningful to bring this story to where it was passed down and especially exciting that narrator Elsie can attend." 🗣️

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 Step 2 shop **new beach wear**
 Step 3 **Go!** Vacation or staycation we are here for you.
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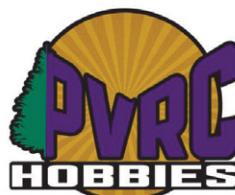
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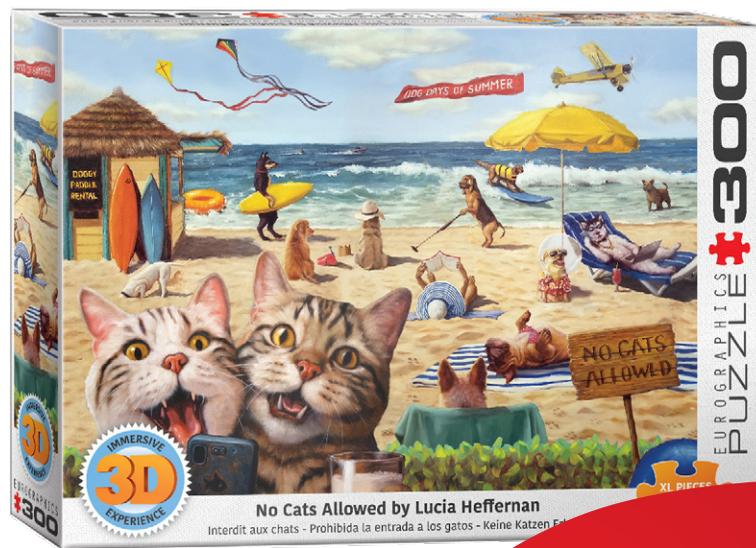
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PEACE OF THE PUZZLE
Long winter evenings are for relaxing with puzzles, and **Mother Nature** has a huge selection, including Eurographics puzzles, which offers children's puzzles, sports scenes, classic scenery, and even 3D puzzles like this one of two cats trying to sneak onto a dogs-only beach.

CHESS, BUT MAKE IT ART

Treat yourself (or your favourite opponent) to a specialty chess set from **Oceanside Entertainment**. Choose from a variety of sets, ranging from beautiful glass to licensed sets based on the Legend of Zelda, Lord of the Rings, Minecraft, and more. Or go for something more historical, like this Romans vs Egyptians glass chess set for \$144.95.

A few of our favo

GOOD VIBRATIONS

After the rush of the holidays, you really deserve to treat yourself to a Cocoon Wellness Pod experience at **Simply Bronze Tanning & Swimwear**. It promises rejuvenation, better sleep, and pain reduction with the use of infrared heat, vibrations, red chromolight, radiant heat, and adjustable cool facial air. Our editor, who recently gave the pod a test, can't say enough about the cocoon wellness pod's ability to produce full relaxation and reduced anxiety.



A SOBER SIPPER

If you're going dry in January, it doesn't mean you can't enjoy a good bottle of wine. This light rosé wine from JP Chenet is alcohol-free. Indulge your senses with a delightful bouquet of red fruit aromas, including juicy strawberries, luscious cherries, and vibrant raspberries. **Capone's Cellar** has many alcohol-free options.

GET ORGANIZED

Start the year with a plan — and make it a beautiful plan with a stop at **Bloom Therapy** to find BC-made stationary, planners, notebooks, sketch pads, mini jotters, and more. It is also the Sunshine Coast's exclusive carrier of Rifle Paper Co. products.

NEW YEAR, NEW SKETCHBOOK

With cover designs inspired by art, literature, and cultural treasures from around the world, Paper-Blanks journals turn everyday note-taking into an elevated experience. Whether you're sketching, planning, or journaling your way into the new year, these beautifully crafted books make every page feel special. They're also part of January's feature sale at **qathet Art + Wares**.





YES, YOU OTTER

Tug Guhm Gallery's owner and sculptor extraordinaire, Debra Bevaart, is at it again, this time with an adorable sea otter head sticking up in the water. Hand carved in Brazilian soapstone, this iconic west coast piece is available for \$785.

curate things

FIRE IT UP

If you haven't upgraded the wood heat in your house yet, there's never been a better time. **Cadam Fireplace & Stove Centre** can help you install a new wood stove to create the coziest supplement to your existing heat, or to replace an inefficient old unit. The True North TN10, for example, is a cost-effective solution, but cranks out 30,000 BTUs with a 73% efficiency rating and a reliable catalytic-free tube combustion system which creates an air wash that cleans the glass so the fire always looks inviting.



Feeling Cozy

SUBLIME SLEEP

Effortlessly chic and cozy, the Sensis Zayla Pajama Set from **Sublime Fashions** is made for relaxed evenings and slow mornings. This two-piece lounge set features a soft long-sleeve top with a relaxed cowl neckline and coordinating wide-leg pants. Crafted from a lightweight, brushed cotton-blend knit, it drapes beautifully while keeping you warm and comfortable. Perfect for lounging, sleeping, or weekend wear, this neutral taupe-heather shade adds an elevated touch of calm luxury to your at-home wardrobe.



COZY TOES

If you didn't get a pair of Glerup slippers this past holiday, well, first you need better friends. Second, get yourself down to **Fits to a T** and treat yourself to the most comfy footwear you'll ever own.

BLUE SKY FROM NOW ON

For the first time ever, you didn't get socks in your stocking, but your feet are cold! **Armitage Men's Wear** to the rescue, with cozy, itch-free Blue Sky merino wool socks for both men and women. The Canadian-made socks naturally wick moisture, prevent odours, and keep feet warm in cold or damp weather. Check out all the colours in store.





JUST LIKE THE REAL THING

If the RC toy you wanted didn't show up under the tree, don't despair – that just gives you permission to go buy what you really wanted. And that's probably the first-ever RC dirt bike that truly replicates the look and performance of a real motorcycle. The Losi Pro-moto-MX's innovative technologies make this the first RC dirt bike that really works. It isn't the first 1/4 scale RC motorcycle to ever hit the market, but it's the first ever to accurately recreate the full experience—pure fun—of driving a real motorcycle. Get yours at **Paradise Valley RC Hobbies**.



CONNECT WITH NATURE

After the commercialism of Christmas season, step back from the mounts of mass-produced merchandise and visit **Kelly's Health Shop** to find a hand-made sculpture from Elysian Workshop's collection. Made from copper wire, Ohko stone, and preserved moss, it is designed to inspire and reconnect nature into your home.

A few of our favo



MAKE IT PERSONAL

Treat yourself to custom jewelry that tells a story, recalls a memory, or shows off your personality and style. Individual appointments or group parties are available with **Found Stone Permanent Jewelry-Art-Decor**.



CLEAN WITHOUT COMPROMISE

Clean up after the holidays, with Bare Home's essential starter kit from the kitchen store at **Elemental Millwork Inc.** It includes all-purpose cleaner, dish soap, and hand soap. More than just another bottle of trendy soap – these are glass containers and made-in-Canada products designed to be refilled to keep waste out of the landfills. Plus they're plant-based, biodegradable, pet friendly, and ocean friendly without harsh chemicals.

BUTTONED UP

Button selection is the cherry on top of your project. Whatever you're knitting, sewing, or crafting, you'll find just the right buttons at **Great Balls of Wool**.



MAKE EVERY DAY CASUAL FRIDAY

With holiday events over, you can casual up your wardrobe some more, and treat yourself to a new pair of **Anchor Apparel and Lifestyle's** favourite jeans. DU/ER is a Canadian brand with the ideal fit for any shape, and built-in comfort with versatile stretch denim fabric.



write things

WATER WORLD

If you're like us, you're resolved to do a better job of staying hydrated. Do that in style with these stainless water bottles from qathet Tourism's **Visitor Centre**. They're 25% off this month.



Feeling Adventurous

KEEP YOUR PANTS ON

If you spotted the big guy on Christmas Eve, you may have seen that he uses Bulldog suspenders, made in Canada by Lynn Valley Manufacturing. They're also a popular choice among local loggers, who find these heavy duty suspenders at **Thunder Bay Saw Shop**. They're available with both leather button tabs, or metal snaps, in red, green, black, or high-viz. The shop also carries snap-on buttons that can be easily installed on any pants to make them more suspender-friendly.



SUIT YOURSELF

Merino wool makes this jumpsuit comfortable yet formal, suitable for a wedding ceremony or elegant daily wear. The contemporary style is sleeveless with a zipper-back closure and features a halter neckline. It's an especially good choice as a wardrobe investment piece. From the Italian-designed collection by Monica Loretta, you can find it at **Perfect Fit for Brides & Grads**.





Shirley Koleszar

passed away on
December 9th, 2025
at the age of 96.

She was a remarkable,
much-loved person.
A celebration of life with be
held on January 24th from 1-3
at the Academy of Music.

Our Lives



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

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

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

Bigger sizes and other announcements:

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

Send your info to
ourlives@qathetliving.ca,
call 604-485-0003, or drop in to
7053E Glacier Street.

BLITZ EN

**Thank you to everyone who donated to
this corporate challenge for the
Powell River Action Society Food Bank!
Together we raised over \$7,000**

Sponsored by FreshCo, Designer Signs & qL mag



Slow Love



Seekers:

1. Seeking any gender

This recently turned senior is a kinda private female who mostly solos out and about. She is okay with that while sharing is fun, too.

Walk, hike, row boats, cycle around town and Inland Lake. Stops to explore, food forage, swim, observe, have lunch, and just be. While it's winter and before busy spring gardening arrives, how about cribbage or a game you like to teach?

2. Man Seeking Woman

Curious soul who believes love grows best when it's unhurried. I enjoy long walks, meaningful conversations, shared meals, and quiet laughter. I value kindness, consistency, and emotional honesty. Looking to meet someone who enjoys presence over pressure and depth over drama. Open to friendship becoming something more, at its own pace. Let's see where sincere connection and patience might lead.

3. Me: demi/pan, INFJ, lefty

Open to honest, respectful, tender relations. My dear friend/partner shuffled off their mortal coil during COVID. Open to ENM, if it is transparent. I am smart, neuro-picante, creative, agnostic, frank, goofy/playful, strong emotional/metaphoric capacities, curious, and appreciate these qualities in others. If you are willing to pluck my chin hairs, bonus points!

Conservatives, climate change deniers, conspiracy crooners: exit stage right.

4. Woman seeking Woman

Late 40's gen-x queer woman seeking sapphic, sensually romantic relationship. I'd love to trade hoodies with you. Let's meet for coffee and see if we vibe.

5. Looking for a hiking partner

Young man looking for someone to share hikes with and enjoy the scenery. Can be platonic or romantic. My favourite place to go is the Stillwater Bluffs. I have two medium sized dogs and they would love some hiking friends, too, dog or other!

6. Knitting buddy?

Hello there! I'm an older lady looking for someone to knit with! My daughter suggested I try here.

I've been knitting for 25 years and would be glad to help someone new, if they are interested! I like to go to different cafes and have some tea and do some knitting to start my day! Thank you for reading and considering me!

7. Couple seeking options

We're a married couple in our mid/late 40s who genuinely enjoy life, laughter, and good conversation. Both of us are heteroflexible and we both value openness, honesty, and respect in all connections.

By day, we're grounded professionals; by night and weekends, we love trying new restaurants, traveling when we can, catching live music, and hosting friends for game nights or backyard hangs. We're confident, easygoing, and don't take ourselves too seriously.

If you're curious, authentic, and enjoy connecting with people who know who they are and what they want, we'd love to say hello.

I Saw You / Missed Connections

8. Lime Green at River City

You were subtle, but I saw you checking me out at River City Coffee on Dec 4.

I was in a lime green sweater, with messy bun, and ate their buddha bowl.

You had a brown t-shirt, sported a rockin' 5-o'clock shadow, and had a hot drink with a friend.

Either I had food on my face or you liked what you saw! I liked what I saw though!

9. Reel me in?

Last month you confessed that you found me 20 years ago. You are indeed the one I'm looking for.

My life was a dream then. I have a new dream now. I would like to share it with you.

I will be in PR on January 12. I will be having coffee at River City at 10 am.

Join me. It's time to reel my line in and head to shore.

10. Nice ride

Saw you walking on Marine and gave you a ride to Wildwood. If you want to get another ride, watch for my truck again. I'll be watching for you. I'd give you a ride anytime. 🐌

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 February issue is February 20. Send your ad to slowlove@qathetliving.ca.

How to respond to an ad:

Write an email to slowlove@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 *Dirona albolineata* above) is colourful, vibrant and unique, perfectly themselves — just like *qathet's* singles.

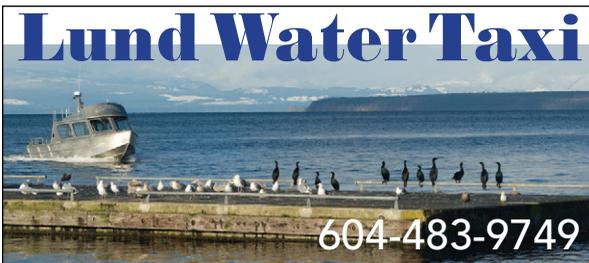
The similarities are actually uncanny, we hope. These little sea slugs grow out of their shells by the time they're adults. That's the vulnerable spirit we hope you take into dating.

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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Carlson Community Club
Upstairs @ The Loft
Doors open at 12:30pm

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2nd Place: \$500
3rd Place: \$200
+ Best Hand: \$100
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Entry fee: \$100/player

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TAKE A BREAK

January's horoscopes

AIR
GEMINI
(May 21 to June 21)



SMALL TOWN ORACLE
KRYSTAL THOMPSON

WATER
PISCES
(Feb 19 to March 20)

Soft steps into the new year. Thoughtful planning when speaking or spending this month. Mars influencing impulsive patterns may lead to conflict that open, tender communication could prevent.

You're starting to enjoy a new current. Work goals and social interests start to harmonize. Set strong boundaries with soft words at home. Revisit budgets.

AQUARIUS
(Jan 20 to Feb 18)

Mars entering your sign wants you to make yourself known. Venus and the Sun bring new energy and confidence inspiring new ideas. Near the end of the month you'll feel a strong wind pushing you forward.

SCORPIO
(Oct 24 to Nov 21)

Seeing yourself as a more spiritual being. New outlooks when it comes to exploring emotion. Buckle down when it comes to practicality. Basic steps are needed to set some short term goals. The full moon's energy will help clear out expired intentions or feelings.

LIBRA
(Sept 23 to Oct 23)

You might be hitting refresh, Libra. Feeling bored or unbalanced. Good news is, with careful focus encouraged by the full moon in Cancer, emotions will suggest its time for gentle new beginnings. Self control determines poise.

CANCER
(June 22 to July 22)

A full moon in your sign has the potential to make a mess. Steer away from conflict. A new moon, mid month, may have you wanting to erase and replace. You need long lasting change but your public image could use some self care.

FIRE
LEO
(July 23 to Aug 22)

Have patience when it comes to areas affecting finances. Focus on what you can do to make your career or education a more fulfilling experience. Feeling burnt out in relationships? Mars arrives with passion, but you might just want to cuddle.

EARTH
TAURUS
(April 20 to May 20)

Your ruling planet, Venus, may have you feeling cozy emotionally. A stable offer may come in fast. Having your head in the clouds is fun, but grounding could avoid any need for redirection. Patience, with a loving eye on the long term.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov 22 to Dec 21)

If you do not focus on your own well-being, others may tire of doing it for you. This is a great month to set some new intentions towards self-love. Hydrate. Move. Meditate...add bubble bath to your grocery list.

CAPRICORN
(Dec 22 to Jan 19)

A bit of buffering early in the month. Clarify what kind of progress you'd like to make. As the Sun approaches your sign mid month, Mars, Venus, and Mercury also pull up inspiring secure G.O.A.T energy. Be mindful before negotiating when it comes to your long term visions.

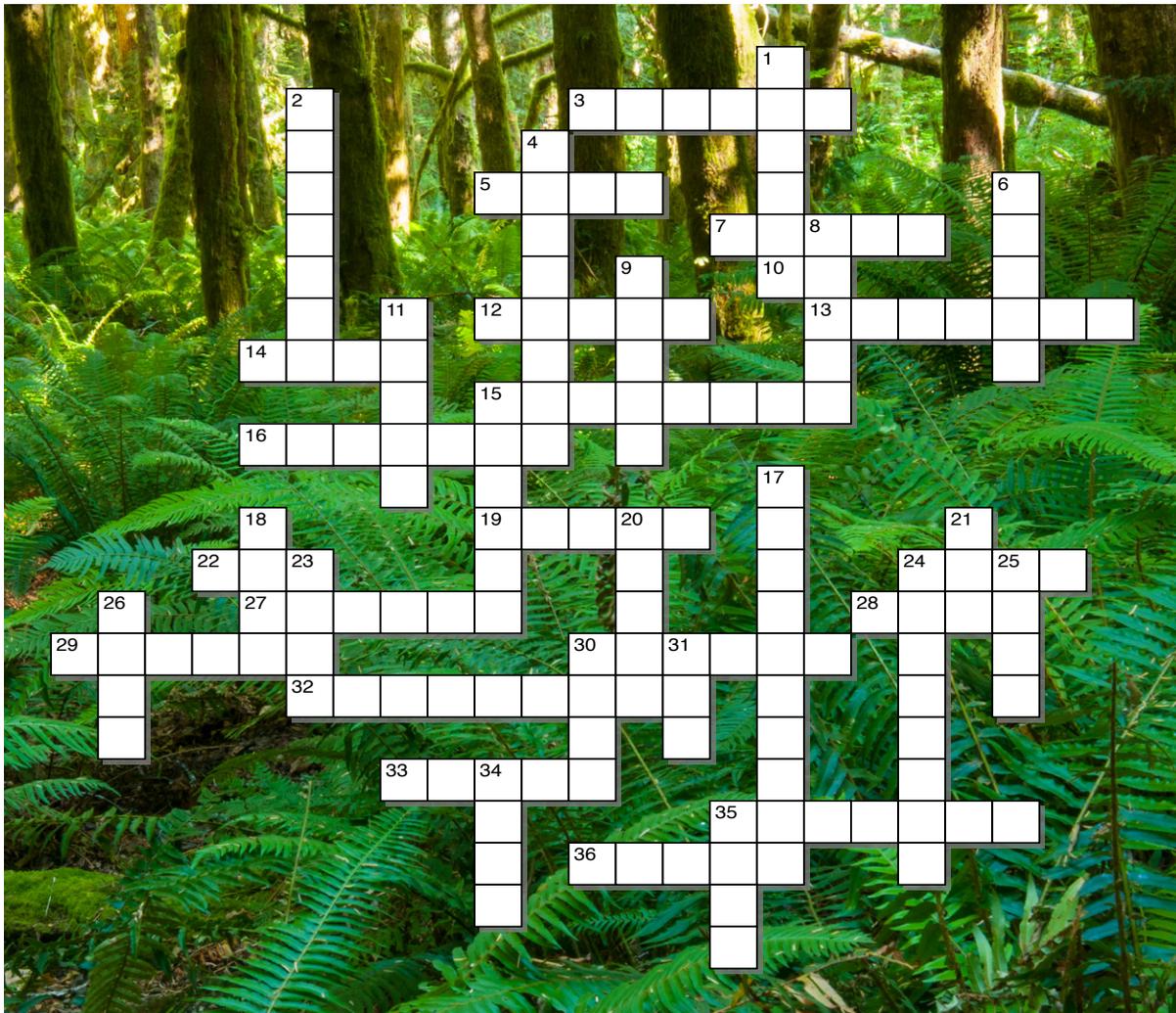
ARIES
(March 21 to April 19)

Big offers may be clearing a new path. While your ruling planet, Mars, evokes passion and productive inspiration. Careful focus is needed to balance work and play in order to grow.

VIRGO
(August 23 to Sept 22)

From now until March you may be balancing a new momentum. Be cautious of expanding with the wrong partners. Awards season looks good for you. Going forward, ethical boundaries could need review to stay on top. 

TAKE A BREAK



Across

- 3) Disk fastener
- 5) Improv music or make exciting
- 7) King's money tree for 2 years
- 10) What no means
- 12) Larger fiddle
- 13) Music club, former mayor
- 14) Killer porpoise
- 15) Reading & writing ability
- 16) More fungus
- 19) Woodworker co
- 22) He's dead
- 24) Play for donations
- 27) Park, or prison, official
- 28) Swimming spot
- 29) Wildlife rescue group
- 30) sink*æ's art form
- 32) Metal band, polystichum
- 33) Mark & Sean's profession
- 35) Gift, or art exhibit
- 36) Women's Mars

Down

- 1) Dead wood box
- 2) Events or sea lions, not stars
- 4) Movie theatre
- 6) Checkers for smarties
- 8) Stony
- 9) Ron, Dennis & Neko bust these
- 11) King's, and City's, old moniker
- 15) ___ up, ___ here, you never ___
- 17) Bracing supports
- 18) Alley's rock & ___
- 20) Transparent craft
- 21) Pair
- 23) Low pitch, or fish
- 24) Curling contest
- 25) Gastropod
- 26) Worry, or guitar piece
- 30) Unserious hockey league
- 31) Cold compressed methane
- 34) T'æl's meals
- 35) Loud, fast rock

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Happy 2026
 from all of us at the Chopping Block

SOLUTION TO DECEMBER PUZZLE

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

The citizen anarchy of 2025



LAST
WORD

PIETA WOOLLEY

We're doing what governments are no longer doing but we're being taxed as though they're still doing it.

Let's hope no one gets tired.

This fall, a local dropped by the *qL* office to vent, as folks sometimes do. He had land and money, and wanted to build affordable housing here. But at every turn, he felt blocked. Mostly, he described red tape. “The government won’t help, and the government won’t get out of the way,” he told me, frustrated.

“The only solution is citizen anarchy.”

In Toronto last winter, for example, builder Ryan Donais manufactured micro-homes for the city’s homeless population, and placed them on public land without permits. That forced the City of Toronto to push back — but also to find apartments for the people living in the micro-homes. The back and forth made national news, of course, largely because a citizen embarrassed governments into action.

Citizen anarchy. That phrase has echoed around in my head ever since I was visited by that local builder.

It might be the greatest single description of what 2025 represented.

When Lundies gathered to create long term care solutions because what is provided by government is woefully inadequate, that’s citizen anarchy. *qL* ran a story on that in the November issue.

When Texadans waited two months for the government’s conservation systems to remove a grizzly bear from the usually predator-free island, and a resident finally shot the bear, that’s citizen anarchy. *qL* ran stories on Tex in the summer.

When the province utterly fails to provide shelter and housing here for dozens of homeless people before winter sets in — although the Minister of Housing came through here for a media conference and photo op in July — and instead Lift runs a drive for tents and sleeping bags in the fall, that’s citizen anarchy.

Citizen anarchy sounds great. A call to arms for goodness, by locals for locals. But it isn’t great. We pay achingly high income taxes, sales taxes, property taxes, capital gains taxes, and more, as part of a social contract that outlines collective care. Long term care: provided. Wildlife: protected. Vulnerable people: cared for.

Instead, we continue to pay the taxes, but increasingly, citizen anarchy is filling the gap between government promise and government failure.

Plus, some in-the-citizens-hands solutions

— such as shooting Tex — are not great at all. That could have been avoided, had government done the job it is funded to do.

There are a million ways people are providing care in the absence of promised-but-absent government care. In November and December, there were dozens of local events raising money for the Powell River Action Society Food Bank and other local charities.

Why? Because our government’s income assistance programs and standards for wages don’t approach the financial reality of living indoors, paying bills, and eating. Citizen anarchy: we rush in when governments walk out.

Sometimes, we’re halted from providing care, even when locals have the means and the drive to fix things government are slow to fix. A great example of this is the story of the Inland Lake Trail and the bridge to Anthony Island. Those amenities were first dreamed and built by locals: an inclusive camping, fishing, and trails destination accessible by wheelchair, scooter, stroller, and more, under the BC Forest Service Recreation Sites system. Soon, BC Parks took on the management and upkeep of the area.

By 2023, much of the 13-kilometre trail was waterlogged and sinking, danger trees loomed overhead, and the bridge to Anthony Island was blocked off because it had collapsed into the slough. Local expert trail builders — the best citizen anarchists — weren’t able step in because the government refused their help. Local advocacy finally spurred BC Parks into action, and by 2025 the bridge has been fixed and the trail is moderately improved, though a shadow of its former accessible glory. The original accessible fishing docks and camping huts have disappeared.

So far, citizen anarchy is pretty mild. Simply caring for aging Lundies in their homes is not going to bring down a government. Neither will donating to the food bank. But at some point, care will turn to anger. I’ve witnessed that among the many locals who sent letters to *qL* after the long-term care story ran in November. It’s cruel to warehouse elders in hospital hallways. We should be furious.

At some point, there will be a reckoning. Will that come in 2026?

Let’s hope it’s gentle. **qL**

2026 qathet Regional District Meeting Schedule



qathet Regional District holds regularly scheduled Board and Standing Committee meetings at #201 – 4675 Marine Ave, Powell River. Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings, virtually or in person. Closed meetings are conducted by resolution in accordance with the *Community Charter*.

Finance Committee 1:00 pm

January 13, 2026
February 10, 2026
March 18, 2026
April 7, 2026
May 12, 2026
June 9, 2026
July 7, 2026
August, 2026 - No Meeting
September 8, 2026
October, 2026 - No Meeting
November, 2026 - No Meeting
December 8, 2026

Planning Committee 4:00 pm

January 27, 2026
February 24, 2026
March 24, 2026
April 28, 2026
May 26, 2026
June 23, 2026
July, 2026 - No Meeting
August 25, 2026
September 22, 2026
October, 2026 - No Meeting
November 24, 2026
December 9, 2026

Committee of the Whole 1:00 pm

January 28, 2026
February 25, 2026
March 25, 2026
April 29, 2026
May 27, 2026
June 24, 2026
July 8, 2026
August 26, 2026
September 23, 2026
October, 2026 - No Meeting
November 25, 2026
December 10, 2026

Regional Board 4:00 pm

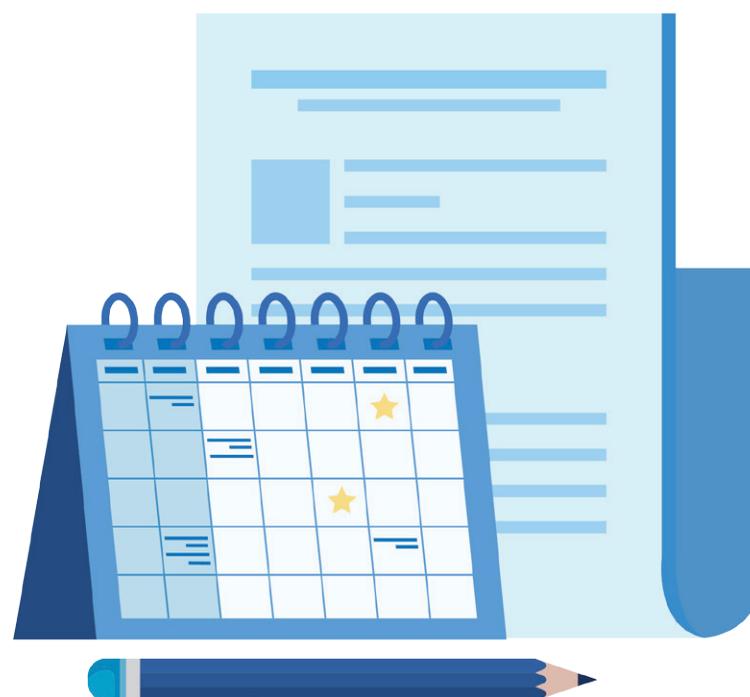
January 13 & 28, 2026
February 10 & 25, 2026
March 18 & 25, 2026
April 7 & 29, 2026
May 12 & 27, 2026
June 9 & 24, 2026
July 8, 2026
August 26, 2026
September 8 & 23, 2026
October 2026 - No Meetings
November 5, 2026
Inaugural
November 25, 2026
December 10, 2026



The qathet Regional Hospital District holds regularly scheduled Board and Committee meetings, in person and virtually, at #201 – 4675 Marine Avenue, Powell River, BC, in January, March, April, June, August, October, and December only as follows:

Regional Hospital District Board 3:00 pm

January 27, 2026 Inaugural
March 24, 2026
April 28, 2026
June 23, 2026
August 25, 2026
October, 2026 - No Meeting
December 8, 2026



The public may attend meetings in person, or electronically via Zoom. For more information on how to participate, please visit qathet.ca/meetings, or contact Michelle Jones, Corporate Officer at administration@qathet.ca or call 604-485-2260.

Additional meetings may be scheduled. Notices of any schedule changes will be made available as soon as possible and updated in the qathet.ca events calendar. Notices of Special Meetings are issued separately from the regular meeting schedule. Please check our website and the Public Notice Board located at 202-4675 Marine Avenue, Powell River, BC for any scheduling updates.

Expect

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from your financial advisor.



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GROUP OF COMPANIES