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AUGUST 2024

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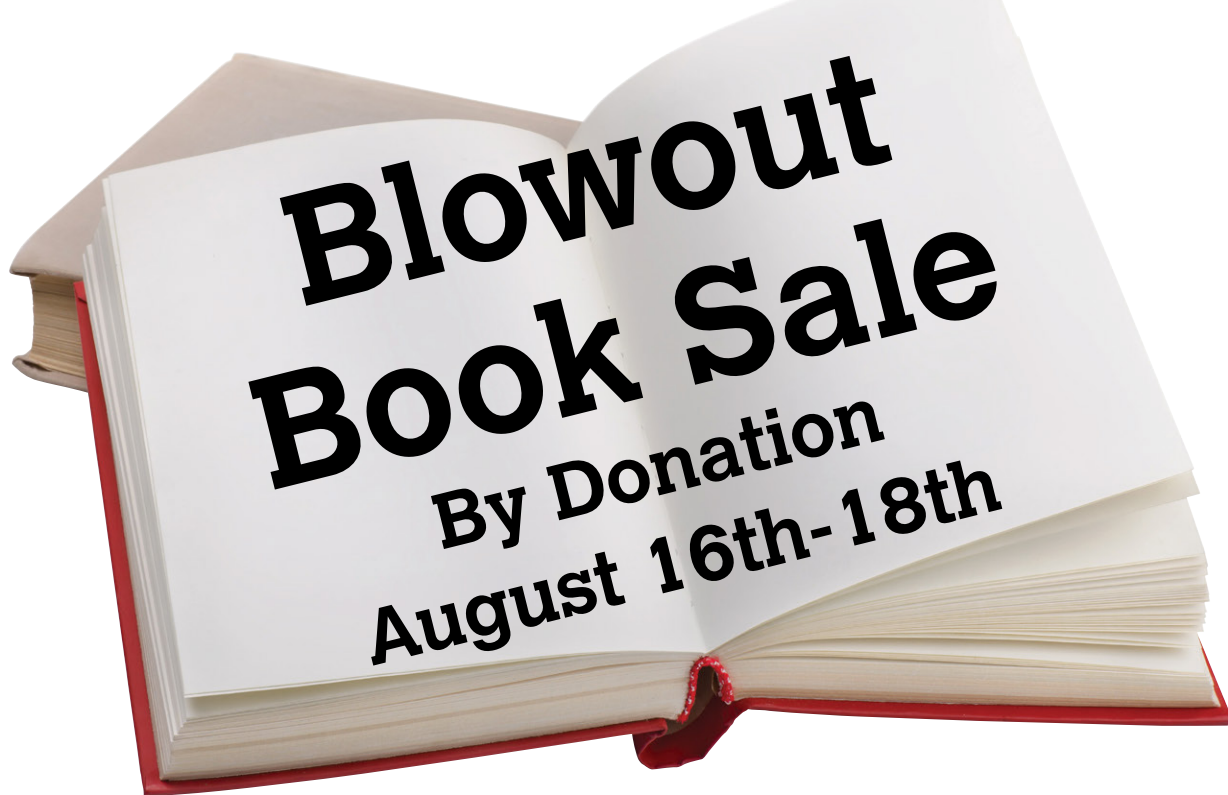
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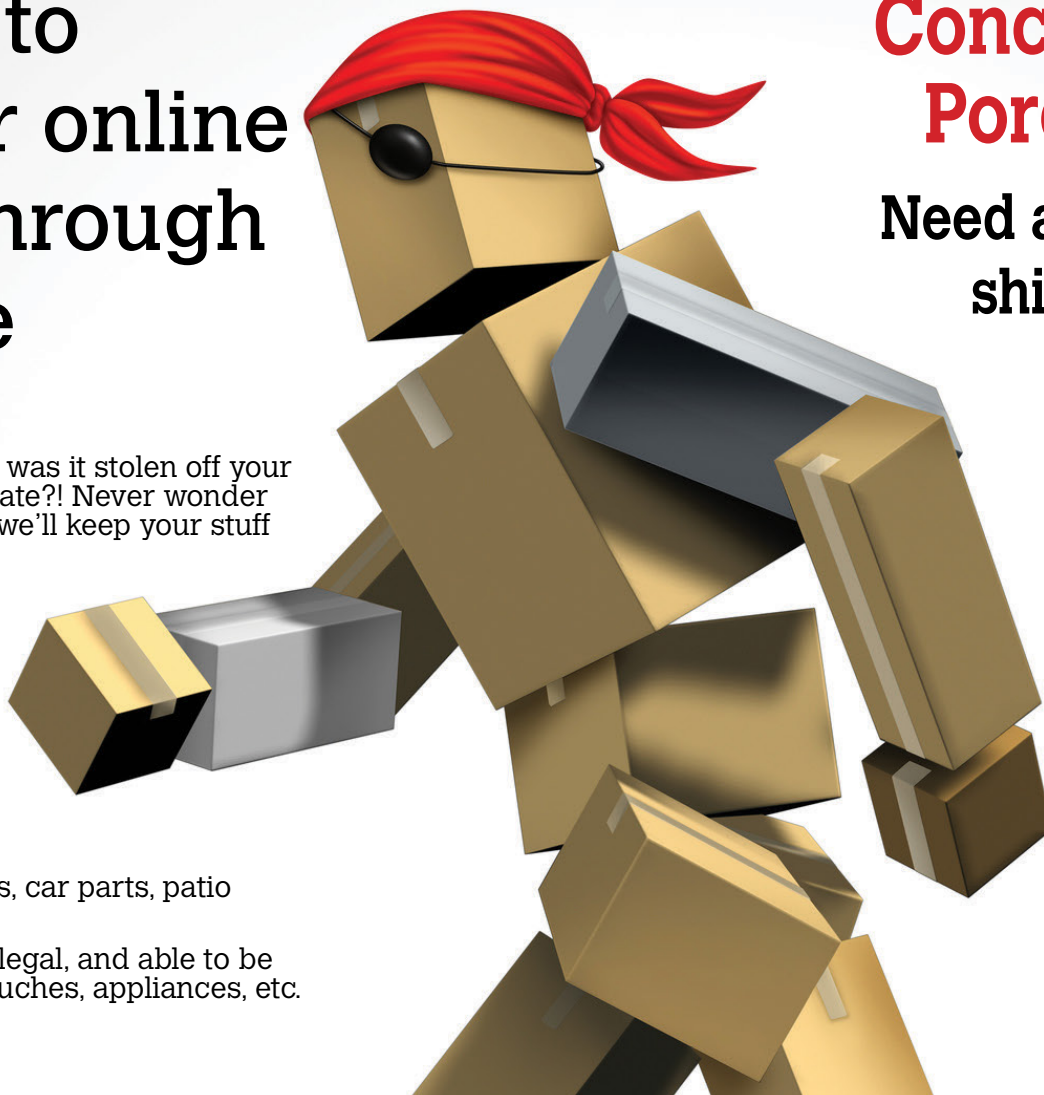
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**ON THE COVER:**

At Crucible Gallery, assemblage artist Rick Giesing is one of the 34 stops on the qathet Studio Tour August 24 & 25. His show, Out of the Woods Again, is on from August 1 to 31. See more about Rick and the Studio Tour on Page 47.



# Strategic bonding

Every Tuesday night this past winter, I'd head to the Rancho Hall for an evening of foot-stomping and twirling with the Star Dusters Square and Round Dance Club (Page 16). Guaranteed each time: it was going to be sweaty and challenging, and I'd spend a lot of my night laughing with a wildly diverse group of souls. The crew celebrates 60 years this year—one of a trio of stories in this issue celebrating anniversaries.



## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

PIETA WOOLLEY

What do the Star Dusters, A&W (Page 15) and the Rock Island Players (Page 19) all have in common, apart from their longevity? None of them depend on people agreeing with each other, to bond with each other. Food, dance and theatre: they're simple ways to be together as humans sharing a community.

As we cozy up to election season – Tla'amin heads to the polls on September 14, and BC's election is coming up

October 19 – it's likely that discussing serious issues (such as gas prices and transportation, Page 6) will put some pressure on our relationships with each other. It's no secret they've been strained lately.

But throughout this issue, you'll see the magical mycellium of this region that bonds us together in spite of ourselves: musical collaboration (Page 24); new trails that required serious teamwork (Page 32); hiking (Page 21); and festival season (Page 43). Most dazzlingly, that spirit of bonding and vision is exemplified at Our House, currently under construction at Tishosum (Page 12).

As square dance caller Gordon Ruedig says (next page), "You just can't dwell on the negative things" when you're focused on allemanding your corner. Or walking Marine at Blackberry Fest. Or planning out your wonderful August (Page 37). 🐾

# qathet LIVING

Volume 19, Number 8  
ISSN 2817-1667 (Print)  
ISSN 2817-1675 (Online)

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Tel 604-485-0003

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Complete issues and back issues are available online for free at: [qathetliving.ca](http://qathetliving.ca)

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is 100% locally owned and operated by  
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We acknowledge  
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Government of Canada



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- The Magazine Association of BC
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- Tourism Powell River
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# qL

# “

The social aspect that binds square dancers in seemingly reckless abandon is a cure for just about everything. You just can't dwell on the negative things that are happening in your life amid the exuberance, laughter, and camaraderie.

- Gordon Ruedig, **Page 16.**

# ”

## A FEW OF AUGUST'S CONTRIBUTORS



**DELYTH HARPER** has lived in the qathet region since 2018. She's a single mother to four beautiful kids. When she's not working, you'll find her outside adventuring with them. *See Delyth's story, Embrace the Meltdowns, on Page 21.*



**JULIETTE JARVIS** is a devotional artist living in qathet, writing spiritually supportive works, offering sacred living mentorship, and hand weaving ritual wear. *See Juliette's blackberry illustrations throughout the August magazine.*



**DOUG LOVE** was born and raised in Powell River. Now retired, he owned multiple businesses (and was a postie.) "No matter what, this is still a great place to live." *See Doug's story, Don't blame the front lines, on Page 7.*



**PETER LOCK** has spent his Texada teaching and retirement years on stage (in his mind!) His life is a musical. *See Peter's story, 60 Years of Rock Island Players, on Page 19.*



**KEVIN WILSON** started violin at seven, and has played in many amateur groups. In 2021 he helped found the qSO and began conducting. He plans to continue helping the qSO to develop into the future.. *See Kevin's story, Classical, on Page 24.*

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# Gas prices:

Answers are coming, Victoria promises qathet, just in time for election season

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

**B**ack in 2019, an arm of the Provincial government – the BC Utilities Commission – tried to find out why gas and diesel prices in BC were so much higher than in the rest of Canada, and Washington State. The Commission gathered facts and testimony, and at the end, couldn’t figure out why both refining and retail margins were significantly higher here.

So began a years-long Provincial inquiry into gas pricing in BC, which included passing the *Fuel Prices Transparency Act*. That legislation forces private companies to open their books to government, to prevent collusion and monopolies. Or, in the words of the BCUC, “to promote competitiveness and public confidence in... BC’s fuel market.”

The whole exercise may be coming to a head here in qathet this month.

On June 24, the BCUC sent letters to local fuel retailers, asking for details about how their pricing works. You may have noticed – as the BCUC did – that the ask at the pump has been significantly less in Comox and Sechelt this year – up to about 30 cents less – than here. Plus, when the price elsewhere came down, it didn’t here.

In a statement to qL, BCUC communications manager Krissy Van Loon said, “Once the BCUC has received responses [from qathet fuel stations,] it will review the information provided, and as appropriate provide a public update on what we heard from the retail dealers.”

In other words, the BCUC is planning to tell us something real, “as appropriate,” about gas pricing in qathet.

**Will this work? Is this our moment** to crack the reasoning behind why, at press time for qL’s August issue, stations in Comox were charging \$1.73.9 a litre for regular unleaded, stations in Sechelt were charging \$1.77.9, and stations in qathet were charging between \$1.93.9 to \$2.07 for the same product? Same taxes. Same sources.

It matters.

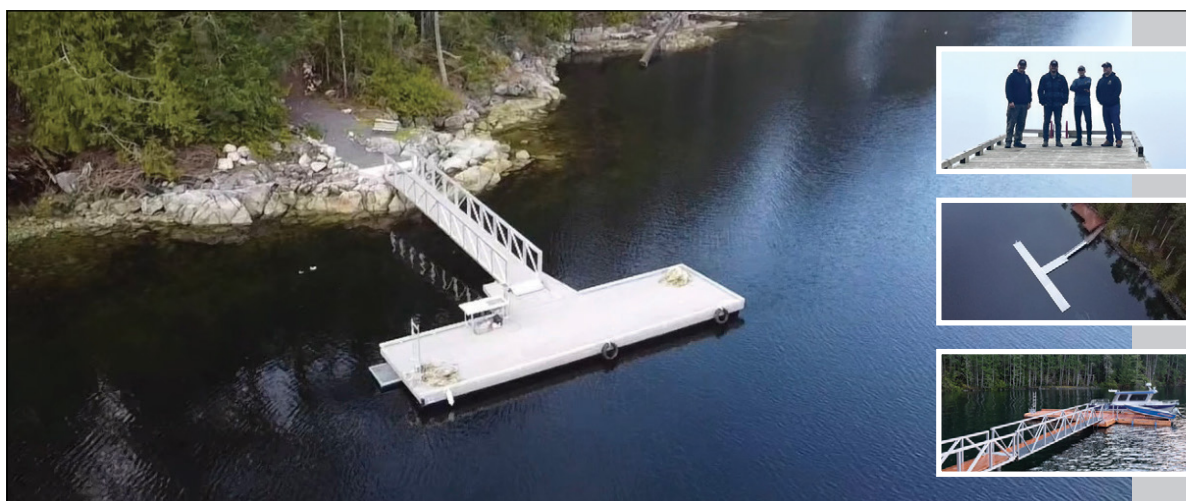
If you’re a family filling up two vehicles weekly with 60-litre tanks, a 20-cent difference will cost your family an additional \$96 a month. That represents either an annoyance or a crisis, depending on your financial situation.

If you’re trying to run a business, it can be catastrophic. Dmitry Tyunin is the operations manager for the bus to Vancouver, the Sunshine Coast Connector. “We are uncertain about our ability to sustain bus operations next year,” he said, noting that in addition to higher fuel prices, the company is also suffering from higher maintenance and mechanics costs – the cost of living crisis may cost us our bus.

Local governments, too, use gas. The City of Powell River’s fuel budget is nearly \$700,000 in 2024 – a cost that is paid for largely through property taxes and utilities..

**It’s apt that** the BCUC is trying out the powers of the *FPTA* here. Locals have howled about the price of

**WHY SO HIGH:** The BC Utilities Commission has asked qathet fuel retailers directly why pricing here behaves differently than elsewhere.



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fuel in qathet for at least six years. In fact, it was locals writing to the BCUC that triggered this latest action.

Inspired by outrage on social media (including the Powell River Fuel Price Protest Facebook page), this magazine began a series of articles on gas prices in 2019. At the time, gas had reached the “outrageous” price of \$1.59 a litre – at that time, 37 cents a litre higher than the Canadian average.

Together with MLA Nicholas Simons and MP Rachel Blaney, along with other representatives, *qL* hosted a town hall meeting at the Evergreen Theatre. TV and radio media came from Vancouver to cover it.

The community sent a petition with Rachel to the House of Commons, asking for the federal Competition Bureau to look into fuel pricing here (ultimately, the Bureau declined to investigate).

The community sent a petition with Nicholas to the Legislative Assembly, too, asking for action. Soon after, the NDP introduced the *Fuel Prices Transparency Act* – the tool that the BCUC is now attempting to use to explain qathet’s as-yet unexplainable fuel pricing.

Is it the shipping?

Is it the storage?

Is it higher margins charged by fuel stations due to lower thru-puts (amount sold) because our population is small and we don’t drive much?

Incidentally, the Canadian average pump price at press time was \$1.69.3 – some 24 cents a litre cheaper than in qathet. BCUC, we’d love to know why. Stay tuned.

✉ [pieta@prliving.ca](mailto:pieta@prliving.ca)

## Don’t blame the front-lines staff. They don’t set the prices.

BY DOUG LOVE

**W**hen *qL* editor Pieta Woolley asked me if I would like to throw out any thoughts regarding the fuel prices in Powell River, I wasn’t sure what I could add to what everyone else already knows, so at first I declined. But as the month went on, I thought more about it and have come up with this. However, I should point out that everything you read here is based on my thoughts, observations, and opinions only.

I have very little doubt that the entire fuel consumption of Powell River customers for a year at all the stations we have, would equal the volume of sales of just one station on a busy street in the Vancouver area over the course of that year.

We are a captive market, we can’t just drive down the road to a competitor and catch a gasoline price war in action to our benefit. Some days I think we are lucky they don’t jack it up another 50 cents a litre, because what are we going to do if they do? Walk? They know we won’t.

Sometimes I think about the prices in town here of fuel and am discouraged that no one with pull is trying to take it to task as to why they are so high. Someone whose voice and questions would actually be listened to.

Like the ‘reservation system’ with the ferries, the divide between the rich and the poor gets wider. If you can afford to travel, then it appears that BC



**BACK IN THE DAY:** Doug Love once owned and operated the Chevron station on Alberni. In 1986, he received national awards for outstanding service. Regular unleaded was 49.2 cents a litre - \$1.21 today, with inflation.

Ferries tends to think that you can afford the extra money to reserve a spot. “First come, first served” is out the door; money talks, not effort or responsibility. High fuel, high ferries... come on elected officials, can’t you do something? Or try to?

If you have, and I missed it, please let me know because I didn’t see any impressive changes in either the fuel industry or ferry industry lately. And please note, these words aren’t to complain about the front line employees, they don’t set the prices and sadly we all know that they consistently take verbal and mental abuse from irate customers.

As for the additional financial impact that the high fuel prices are making, consumer products have to be more expensive to compensate for those extra ferry costs, fuel costs and that gets passed on to the consumer via various

means.

Some of the places you shop, you can see ‘fuel surcharge’ added to your bill for your purchase. Some of that seems a little off balance when you multiply how many of those items were sold versus what the surcharge amount was.

Using the opportunity to make a little more profit by hiding it underneath a different named umbrella that no one really catches or questions (as it becomes the norm) is a little unfair.

To close, I guess the future will tell where it all goes and if anyone does step up and call them out.

But in the meantime, be nice to the clerks, the service workers and anyone else that has to take the ‘hits’ day after day for companies that are more concerned with their profits than they are with their customer relations, because really, as mentioned earlier, you know it’s not their fault. ✉



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# Gas up: it's election season



Meet both candidates at  
Blackberry Fest August 16

**A**t press time for *qL*'s August issue, only two parties had confirmed their candidates for this riding. Neither the Green Party nor BC United had selected a nominee.

*qL* asked both candidates the same questions about local fuel pricing.

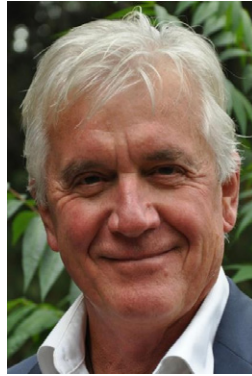
Transportation has been a key issue here in *qathet* over the past term: can the government restore faith that fuel is being priced fairly here? And, is the provincial government capable of delivering a frequent, affordable public bus service within the region, and to Vancouver?

## Introducing Chris Moore, your BC Conservative candidate for the riding of Powell River-Sunshine Coast

### Candidate bio:

With over 30 years of experience in property development and marketing, Chris understands the complexities and challenges of balancing the need for development whilst fostering and maintaining a strong sense of community.

His commitment to his community is demonstrated by his service and dedication to the issues that are affecting his riding.



### What do you think is important about this BCUC action?

**Chris Moore** • British Columbians are being taxed into poverty. With one of the highest gas prices in Canada, BC Conservatives will start by axing the Carbon Tax (17.6 cents per litre on gas and 21.3 cents on diesel).

### If this BCUC action also fails to bring local fuel prices relatively in line with similar markets, consistently, what are you prepared to do as MLA to restore public faith in gas pricing here?

**Chris Moore** • Specific to Powell River, I will work tirelessly to cut through the red tape as, clearly, not enough has

been done to alleviate these higher fuel prices. The report from the BCUC Inquiry dates back to 2019 where the gas price inequity persists to this day. Their recent letter dated June 24th, 2024 is a softball - it must come with an expectation of some explanations from the fuel stations. What does the Competition Bureau have to say about this and of what value is the *Fuel Price Transparency Act* if there is no transparency? I will be relentless in seeking answers and work very hard to find resolutions.

### In a related story, *qathet* has a critical shortage of public transportation (which means we really depend on private vehicles). How will you, as MLA, enhance *qathet*'s public transportation?

**Chris Moore** • When elected I will make a priority, the need for significant upgrades to our transportation network. This would involve advocating for a more frequent ferry service, public transit connecting the upper and lower coast to the Lower Mainland and a realignment of Highway 101 to better service all communities.

The ferry systems servicing our coasts are an extension of our highways and public transportation is an integral part of that.

Being connected as a community should be a right, not a privilege. Taking public transportation into Vancouver for a much needed medical appointment is a necessity, not a luxury. The government say they are trying to keep us out of our vehicles and then sit back and rake in a carbon tax. Public transportation will reduce the number of vehicles on the road - again, it's time to cut through the red tape.

I will work very hard to get the three regions working together. If subsidies are required, and they likely are, we will look for areas of wasteful spending in things that don't require it that can be put towards things that do.



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[sunshinecoastcanada.com/sustainability](https://sunshinecoastcanada.com/sustainability)

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## Introducing Randene Neill, your NDP candidate for the riding of Powell River-Sunshine Coast

### Candidate bio:

Randene Neill is an award-winning journalist who worked for Global BC for almost two decades.

Since then, she has worked as a communications specialist in the real estate sector – both for-profit and non-profit, as well as healthcare for the new St. Paul's Hospital. Currently she works for the BC Parks Foundation.



### What do you think is important about this BCUC action?

**Randene Neill** • Residents in qathet and the lower Coast have been frustrated by high gas prices for a long time. It's good the BCUC is asking for more information from all the retail stations – which they can now do because the NDP passed the *Fuel Price Transparency Act* largely because of advocacy from the Coast.

This should provide clarity about why prices are disproportionately higher than other places and ultimately lead to change.

If this BCUC action also fails to bring local fuel prices relatively in line with similar markets, consistently, what are you prepared to do as MLA to restore public faith in gas pricing here?

**Randene Neill** • It's important to see what the findings are, and if they affect gas prices. The bottom line is drivers on the Sunshine Coast, and to a greater extent qathet, are paying more than similar markets, and that needs to be rectified.

Ultimately government doesn't set gas prices, so my job as MLA will be find other solutions. qL wrote a great article in 2019 with suggestions like organizing meetings with the community, filing a complaint with the competition bureau, and keeping the heat on this issue until we know the truth.

**In a related story, qathet has a critical shortage of public transportation (which means we really depend on private vehicles). How will you, as MLA, enhance qathet's public transportation?**

**Randene Neill** • This is a rural BC Transit issue that affects the entire Sunshine Coast. Connecting the Coast, from Lund to Langdale, with dependable, affordable service to get people to medical appointments, to work, the grocery store or to visit family, is a huge priority.

Efforts have been made in the past, but nothing has met the need so far.

I will work on including community groups, municipalities, regional districts, BC Ferries, the province, even the federal government to work together to find solutions, like subsidies or funding possibilities. Working on building safer active transportation routes, and reducing our reliance on single occupancy vehicles, are also important goals. qL

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# THERE ARE AT LEAST 126 PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN THE QATHET REGION.\*

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42% of qathet Region renters are spending more than 30% of their income on housing (BC's threshold for affordability).\*\*

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\*As per the 2023 Point in Time Homeless Count

\*\*As per the 2021 qathet Regional Housing Needs Report

A wish for the new MLA:

# May you govern in less interesting times

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

As I was contemplating how to kick off coverage of the provincial election season, I made myself a list of everything that had happened in BC since 2017. That's when the NDP took power after 16 years of provincial Liberal governments led by premiers Gordon Campbell and Christy Clark.

What struck me was, this has been one heck of a seven years. Victoria has been reacting to crisis after crisis.

At the time that then-premier John Horgan took office, BC was in a full-fledged housing crisis. Home prices—both real estate and rental—boomed beyond incomes first in the cities, and then, in rural areas too.

Fentanyl use became widespread by about 2016, a crisis that put pressure on the province's social and health services. A perfect storm of factors mostly beyond Victoria's control meant that crime, including violent crime, proliferated.

In 2019, the Wet'suwet'an hereditary chiefs and supporters took direct action against the Coastal GasLink pipeline, which was to be built through their territory.

That conflict simmered on as March of 2020 saw the COVID-19 pandemic shut down schools and kicked off a controversial (to say the least) public health vaccination, mask, and isolation campaign.

By summer of 2021, BC was hit with a heat dome that helped raze the entire village of Lytton, and killed more than 600 people in just a handful of days. That fall, an atmospheric river killed five people, took out parts of the Coquihalla Highway, and killed millions of farm animals in the Fraser Valley and beyond.

Through this, the cost of housing, fuel, groceries, vehicles, lumber, and more soared. Food bank use reached new records.

In November 2022, Premier David Eby took the reins, after John Horgan stepped down due to cancer.

Wildfires unlike anything modern BC has ever seen swept through the province in the summer of 2023. Nearly three million hectares burned—twice the previous record (2018), homes and other structures burned, and thousands of people were evacuated.

## What are Victoria's responsibilities?

- Education
- Health Care
- BC Ferries
- BC Transit
- Income Assistance
- Disability Assistance
- Mental Health and Addictions
- Tourism
- Arts
- Forestry
- BC Housing
- Environment
- Childcare
- Energy
- ICBC
- BC Assessment
- WorkSafe BC
- And much more,


This list of events so far doesn't even mention Fairy Creek and forest policy; SOGI in schools; twinning the Trans Mountain Pipeline; the 2021 discoveries at the former Kamloops Residential School; the pine beetle; the BC Treaty Commission; mill curtailments and closures; casino money laundering; BCUC and the *Fuel Price Transparency Act*; ICBC; UNDRIP and the *Land Act*; MSP; income assistance; coal and LNG exports; minimum wage; the nursing crisis; illicit drug policy and so, so much more that NDP governments have grappled with over the past seven years.

Although 2024 has been relatively quiet, in comparison to most years since 2017, only a fool would wipe their brow and suggest that the action is over.

We go to the polls this fall, with voting day on October 19. What will the next mandate bring—apart from the continuing recovery from all of the above? Who will we trust to deliver the basics—education, health care, income assistance, and more?

Who will we trust to protect us against new unknowns?

And, most critically, who in their right mind would even want that job?

 Peta Woolley [pieta@priving.ca](mailto:pieta@priving.ca)





# Back to School

## September 3rd!

Key reminders for parents as the new school year approaches...

### Early Childhood, Preschool & Child Care

#### StrongStart

Starting **September 16th**, StrongStart programs will be open five days a week at Westview, Henderson, and Kelly Creek. Edgehill will be temporarily closed while the school is under construction.

StrongStart is an initiative that supports smooth and successful transitions for children and families into Kindergarten, supports families as the primary educators of their children, and makes school facilities and resources available to the preschool population.

For monthly calendars and updates, please visit [sd47.bc.ca](http://sd47.bc.ca) -> Programs & Services -> Early Learning -> StrongStart.

#### StrongStart GO

Starting in **October**, StrongStart GO will be running five days a week. Alternating between different neighbourhood communities and parks, this outdoor play-based early learning program is a free drop-in program offered to families with children up to five years old. Our qualified early childhood educators are excited for another great year of leading learning activities and sharing valuable information with families!

For monthly calendars and updates, please visit [sd47.bc.ca](http://sd47.bc.ca) -> Programs & Services -> Early Learning -> StrongStart GO.

#### JustB4 Preschool

The first day of our Henderson and Westview JustB4 preschool will be **Wednesday, September 11th**. JustB4 is for children 4 years old who are entering into Kindergarten the following September.

This active and engaging afternoon program includes stories, games, hands-on learning, and arts and crafts. Please visit [sd47.bc.ca](http://sd47.bc.ca) -> Programs & Services -> Early Learning -> Just B4 Preschool for more information.

#### Before and After School Care

Registration for our before and after school program is open year-round. This program provides care for students in Grades K-5 before and after school hours in the same familiar school setting.

Families will be placed on a waitlist and contacted when a space becomes available.

Please visit [sd47.bc.ca](http://sd47.bc.ca) -> Programs & Services -> Child Care for more information.



### Bus Pass Pick-Up

**Bus passes** will be available for pickup at the **Bus Garage Front Entrance** (6580 Cranberry St.) from August 26-30th. The deadline for eligible bus applications has passed, but courtesy requests are still being accepted and will be assigned if any seats are available on the assigned route.

### Bus Messenger App Update

A new parent rider app will be available next year to give parents updates on bus location and provide communications directly to parents regarding bus route delays, cancellations, modification, or other announcements. Please stay tuned and visit [sd47.bc.ca](http://sd47.bc.ca) for updates closer to the start of school.



### 4 Ways to Survive Your First Day Back

#### 1. Pick out your outfits ahead of time.

It will help save you time in the morning and leave you with one less thing to worry about!

#### 2. Purchase the supplies that you'll need for the school year.

Visit [sd47.bc.ca](http://sd47.bc.ca) for the School Supply Lists of required supplies for your child's back-to-school experience. We encourage students to bring these supplies on the second day of school. *For families needing support, the district will provide the necessary supplies on a communal basis for students who require them.*

#### 3. Do a practice run a week or so before the first day.

Pick a day and pretend like it's your first day. Go to bed early the night before, wake up on time, and do your morning routine.

#### 4. Adjust your sleep schedule.

Try to go to bed at your normal "school year" bedtime every night starting about 2 weeks before classes begin. If you're having trouble getting to bed at night, try waking up earlier so that you're tired earlier in the day.

### September Dates to Remember

Tuesday, September 3

**Schools open for one hour**

Wednesday, September 4

**Regular school schedule**

Friday, September 20

**Professional Development Day: schools closed**

Monday, September 30

**Truth and Reconciliation Day: schools closed**



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# Ancestors and mentors push this retired logger to create for his community

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

Seven days a week, you can find Sherman Pallen in his Klahanie Drive garage carving. He's working on two projects.

First, a commission for four house posts, representing the four sister nations, which will be installed in ʔəms ʔayɛ / Our House in time for the July 2025 opening at Tishosum. His team includes Gordon Dick, Kobe Galligos, Hoss Timothy, Drew Blaney, Rhys Poole, and ʔəms ʔayɛ project manager Brendan Bresden.

Second, a series of masks and a bear-shaped bowl: replicas of carvings made by his great-grandfather Frank George, which now reside at the Royal BC Museum and the Museum of Anthropology, at UBC.

Like many local retirees, Sherman has never been as busy as he is now. After 46 years working as a logger for Olympic and Tla'amin Lake Contracting, he left in 2023. Soon, though, carving took over his life. He's driven. There's been a gap. He's filling it.

**Growing up on Maurelle Island**, the teenage Sherman fell ill one day. His dad, Fred Pallen, a commercial fisherman and logger, happened to be home too, and told him about his grandfather Johnson Wilson, and great-grandfather, who had both been carvers. It was the first time the young Homalco Nation member heard about that part of his heritage.

"If my dad hadn't told me about them then, I don't think I ever would have known," he said.

Although he didn't do anything with the knowledge immediately, it stuck with him.

Sherman moved to Comox, and then to Powell River in 1976, where he met and married a Tla'amin woman, Cyndi Pallen. He began work as a logger.

In 1985, Sherman and two friends went to see his ancestors' carvings in Victoria.

"They allowed us to look, but not touch," he recalled. "We just got to look at the masks on a shelf. Later, they sent us one photo of each."

Nearly two decades later, as Sherman was preparing for a 2007 Tribal Journeys canoe trip, he decided to try his hand at carving.

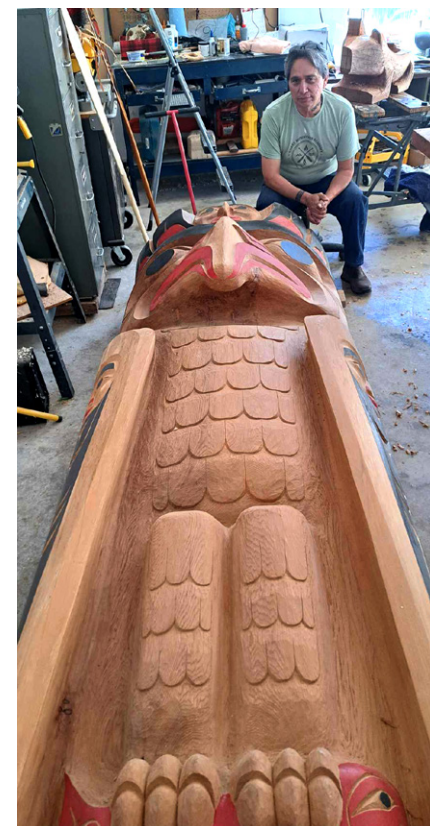
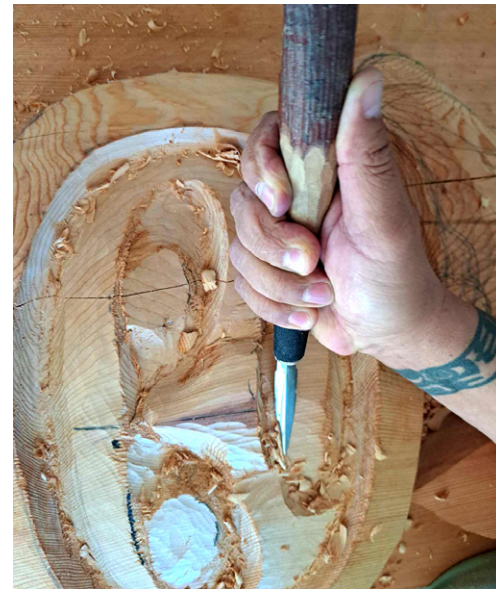
## ʔəms ʔayɛ / Our House

You've probably seen this vast new campus being built this year just off of Highway 101 at Tishosum, right beside the soccer field. Representing Tla'amin's first new cultural building in 200 years, ʔəms ʔayɛ will open in the summer of 2025.

It features:

- A 2,000-square-foot **feast hall and cultural gathering space** which will accommodate up to 350 guests and be used for sharing songs, dances, ceremony, and feasting.
- **Museum** to house Tla'amin cultural treasures and climate-controlled repository to store and archive Tla'amin material culture.
- A state-of-the-art **language lab and recording studio** for the transmission of Aya-juthem from one generation of Tla'amin citizens to the next.
- A **commercial kitchen** for preparing foods for cultural gatherings and community feasts
- A **covered outdoor area** for processing and cooking traditional foods.
- **Office space** for the growing Cultural & Heritage team who work passionately to revive Tla'amin culture.
- A new **Traditional Food Processing Facility** will be located adjacent, providing a home base for Elders, knowledge keepers and harvesters, to share wisdom about procuring and preparing foods from Tla'amin lands and waterways. It will include teaching space, large game and seafood processing areas, and large commercial freezers and coolers.
- **Gardens** for medicinal plants, a smokehouse, and a carving shed on site will serve as a cultural hub for the Nation.





**THE BIG VISION:** Above, carver Sherman Pallen with his orca mask, a replica of his great-grandfather's mask at the Royal BC Museum. Top centre, a part-way carved pole for Our House, being shown at National Indigenous People's Day celebrations at Tishosum June 21. Top right, Sherman carves with knives as sharp as he can make them. Centre left, the ʔəms ʔayə under construction this summer.

Centre right, Sherman paints an eagle mask. Above centre, Sherman watches Gordon Dick pencil in the design for one of the ʔəms ʔayə poles, in a tent outside of Governance House. Right, inspired by the home decor style of Haida, Heiltsuk, and Tsimshian artist (and fellow motorcycle rider) Roy Henry Vickers, Sherman carved Grandmother Eagle for his own living room. Photos by Pieta Woolley, and courtesy of Brenden Bredsen

## A HUGE THANK YOU!

To everyone who had a hand in the search for our beloved Piper, we appreciate all of your efforts to bring Piper home safe and sound.

*With much gratitude,  
Terri, Steve, and Piper Beck*



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“Our language, laws, and way of life come from this land, and it’s our responsibility to uphold the relationships that we have sustained for thousands of years. ʔəms ʔayɛ is going to be a teaching ground and a place to transmit ahms taʔaw (our teachings) and to prepare the next generation of Tla’amin people to carry on our sacred responsibilities.”

- Hegus John Hackett



**A NEW CENTRE FOR THE COMMUNITY:** Sherman Pallen is leading the team carving house posts for ʔəms ʔayɛ’s feast hall, which will open next summer. This rendering represents what’s being built at Tishosum now.

“I copied my great-grandfather’s design,” he said. “It took me three tries before I made a paddle I was happy with.”

Since then, his skills have expanded, working with mentors Gordon Dick, Carver Everson and others. He credits his brother-in-law, Kenny Paul, with starting him on the path.

“His knife was so sharp, he could shave his arm with it,” Sherman said. “I was so impressed. Even today I can’t get my knife as sharp as Kenny. Even sharpening knives is its own art.”

Now, Sherman’s work is part of some of Tla’amin Nation’s most meaningful structures. His seawolf design is carved into the Tla’amin canoe, and he carved an eagle into the reconciliation canoe, hehewšun. An oversized paddle, featuring an eagle with inset abalone eye, adorns the Tla’amin Health building.

Four years ago, a friend offered him a large cedar trunk. He accepted, put it in his garage, and kept logging.

Then, he retired. The first thing he did was commit to carving. Dance, song, stories, and basketry have been well-retained by ayajuthem-speaking Nations, he said. Carving, less so. In fact, Tla’amin’s mask collection was burned at the beach in the late 1800s. In his retirement, Sherman is committed to re-learning and passing on those skills.

His first project as a retiree: revisiting his great-grandfather’s masks. Unlike 38 years before, in November of 2023, staff at the Royal BC Muse-

um made Sherman feel truly welcome. They brought all four masks out of storage. Sherman could touch them and photograph them properly – learning from his great-grandfather’s hands.

“I wanted time to stand still,” he recalls. “I couldn’t spend enough time with the masks. I was so inspired.”

**That oversized cedar log** is still in his garage; it’s now a pole Sherman carved for his living room. Grandmother Eagle features the faces of children on her wings and a salmon to feed them, grasped in her talons. He phones Gordon and Carver regularly, sharing photos and learning from their tips. Rounder feathers; bigger, more courageous designs.

Two of the four house-posts are in his garage, too. The first has a raven (Tla’amin) and a grizzly bear (Homalko); The second has a thunderbird and an Orca (both Comox). The third has a raven and an eagle (both Tla’amin). This pole also features a two-colour basket design inspired by the weaving skills of his mother-in-law, Agnes Paul, (and is perhaps the first time a basket design has been featured on a pole, although Sherman pointed out that Carver carved a woven cedar hat into a welcome pole in Cumberland.) And the fourth, a thunderbird (Comox) and a mountain goat (Klahoose).

These house-posts will be part of ʔəms ʔayɛ’s celebration hall, set to open one year from now.

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“We have raised hundreds of ‘kids’ through their high school years, teaching them how to sweep floors, wash dishes, work as a team, and handle the fast-paced environment of a quick service restaurant.”



## Beyond the Chubby Chicken: 30 years of A&W off Joyce

**N**icki and Matt Lister own the A&W at the Town Centre. They’re responsible for turning this fast-food restaurant into an environmentally-forward-thinking, socially-responsible gathering place for the community.

**What happened 30 years ago? How did this all begin?**

**Nicki and Matt** • A few years after the original drive-in restaurant closed, a new 90-seat building in a new location with a drive-thru was built. Opening day was August 24, 1994. Nicki was part of the opening team and eventually became the assistant manager.

**What were some important moments along the way, from 1994 to 2004?**

**Nicki and Matt** • In December of 2007 the original owners, the Junck family, sold the restaurant to Matt and Nicki.

From 2008-2019 we hosted the largest car shows in Powell River. We have raised hundreds of “kids” through their high school years, teaching them how to sweep floors, wash dishes, work as a team, and handle the fast-paced environment of a

quick service restaurant. Many of these “kids” are now professionals in their careers and have become parents, creating the next generation of our A&W family.

**What’s unique about A&W here?**

**Nicki and Matt** • A&W has been in the community since the 1960s, and at its current location since 1994. We have employed family members from multiple generations, creating a broad A&W family in our community.

**What are you and Matt most proud of?**

**Nicki and Matt** • Having many long-term team members, some for 20 years. Supporting young people with their first job and knowing we are giving them the skills and support they need to be successful at work and in life. We enjoy creating opportunities for team members to stretch their skill set and learn new things.

**What’s the most challenging part of your work?**

**Nicki and Matt** • Keeping up with the changing dynamics regarding the team we employ. This can be mental health challenges, supporting those with learn-

**LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION:** It’s been three decades of A&W off Joyce in the Town Centre. Some of the region’s biggest vintage car shows happen here, as well as plenty of teen’s first jobs, award-winning service, and much more.

ing differences, and societal pressures. While challenging, this has also been the most rewarding work we’ve done. We have been successful at changing our training style or adjusting our scheduling in order to support a team member so they can be successful.

**What contributions has A&W made, that folks might not know about?**

**Nicki and Matt** • We support local charities, sports teams, families in crisis, and local cultural events. We often do this work quietly. We have always felt support from the community and in turn we always find ways to give back.

**Which staff should be recognized at this time, and why?**

**Nicki and Matt** • We have been so lucky to have an amazing team that is willing to

take on challenges and opportunities with a positive attitude.

Over the years A&W Home Office has recognized our restaurant for having Top Sales, Fast Service, and creating a Great Guest Experience. We hear from guests all the time how great our team is and how hard they work. We are very proud of all of them.

**What is your philosophy, as business owners here?**

**Nicki and Matt** • How we support our team reflects on our success.

**How will you evolve your business over the next 30 years?**

**Nicki and Matt** • Continue to strive for excellence in cleanliness, food safety, guest experience, and sustainability while expanding our skills to support our team. 🍌



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# Anything but square:

Laughter and camaraderie still at the heart of this club

The world was a different place back in 1964, when the Star Dusters Square and Round Dance Club got started at the Rancho Hall. At that time, former club president Sandy Graham remembers, Larry and Betty Olson learned the popular social dance and started the Star Dusters for the community to enjoy – adults and teens.

“Larry would only work day shifts at the mill so as he would always be free to call for our club,” Sandy said. Callers tell the dancers what steps to do. “They were the backbone of our club for 40 years.”

Club members danced to close the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria; at the 2001 BC Square Dance Festival; and attended the Penticton Square Dance Festival for many years.

In 2004, Gord Ruedig (see below), along with his now late-wife Yvette, took over for the Olsons.

Although square dancing may have lost its trendiness, for the 60+ members who participate weekly at the Rancho, it certainly hasn't lost its charm. The music is more modern, the dancers are more diverse, but the same things that attracted dancers 60 years ago still keep it relevant: it's an inclusive, fun, challenging-but-achievable, sometimes-sweaty social glue. Some things we all need more of, in 2024.



“Reckless abandon” that’s “a cure for just about everything”

BY GORDON RUEDIG

As a student in high school, I was offered the opportunity to take square dance lessons as part of the Physical Education curriculum. Actually, we were given a choice between learning to square dance and learning to play bridge.

I chose bridge...

After high school, I became active in the local music scene. I played with a few dance bands, wrote and recorded music, chasing the “dream” so to speak. It so happened that one of my band mates (Jim) was not only a square dancer but also the son of the Star Dusters’ Caller.

He always told me that I should come out and try it; I always declined stating that “square dancing had peaked in the seventies” and that I had “no time for such nonsense.”

A few years later I got married and left the bar scene and the band life behind.

But the songwriting hobby with Jim continued for

the next fifteen years. Although he’d given up on turning me into a dancer, his mother, Betty, persisted and every year at the beginning of square dance season my wife (Yvette) and I came to expect a call from her asking if we were ready to try square dancing yet.

Jim and I had become very close friends over the years we wrote songs together and when he passed away in 1998 I stopped writing. His passing left a large hole in many lives, and was particularly devastating for his parents.

Nevertheless, the inevitable call at the beginning of square dance season was not to be denied and this time Betty was more determined than ever.

She told us that if we didn’t come dancing, her husband Larry would likely quit calling.

Knowing what they had been through and the pain that they were in, I couldn’t say no. I later learned that she’d told her husband that he couldn’t quit calling because she’d just talked me and Yvette into

joining and he couldn’t let us down.

Knowing the pain we were in, he couldn’t say no.

What Betty knew, and what holds true to today, is that the social aspect that binds square dancers in seemingly reckless abandon is a cure for just about everything. You just can’t dwell on the negative things that are happening in your life amid the exuberance, laughter, and camaraderie that defines the activity.

I have met so many people and had so many laughs and good times along the way. I’ve danced to some amazing callers who leave you wondering “What did I just do? How is that possible?”

I’ve called to some amazing dancers whose enthusiasm is a joy to behold. I’ve met some amazing people who are always there for you on and off the dance floor.

Square dancing has greatly enriched my life; my only regret is that I didn’t start sooner.





**THROUGH CHANGING TIMES:** In black and white: The Star Dusters adult and teen clubs dance, 1971. Top, club sign: "Hospitality and fun are #1 with us!" is the slogan. Middle, original caller Larry Olson with new (since 2004) caller Gordon Ruedig. Middle, the Club dances at the Open Air Farmers' Market. Above, the winter 2024 introductory class at Rancho Hall.

### STAR DUSTERS 60TH

**When:** August 15 to 17.  
**Blackberry Fest:** See the Star Dusters perform (or participate!) at the Rotary Pavillion August 16.  
**60th Celebrations:** On the Thursday and Saturday, current and former club members will be dancing at the Rancho. On Saturday, there will be an open house with a potluck lunch at the hall - plus we'll have an anniversary cake.  
**Inspired to join?** Classes start up again in the fall. Contact president, Pat Bennett (604-485-7262) or caller, Gord Ruedig (604-487-9565), or any Star Duster member for further info.



*Photos courtesy of the Star Dusters*

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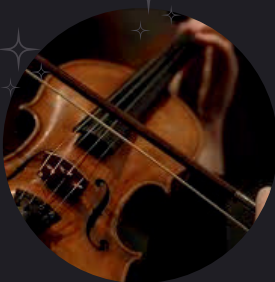
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**GRAND MARCH:** The four representatives from Powell River who danced with 600 others at the closing ceremonies of the Commonwealth Games in Victoria BC in 1994: Betty and Bill Martiniuk & Sandy and Cliff Graham. Betty, Bill, and Cliff are now deceased, but Sandy (wearing the blue dress) is still dancing.

## Sandy Graham



**S**andy Graham has been president of the Star Dusters several times over the years and was a key fundraiser during the Rancho Hall renovations.

#### How did you start square dancing?

**Sandy** • A couple of good friends invited me and my husband out to give it a try in 1980. I fell in love with it immediately. Lots of laughs (as only square dancers can). I was a young mother with three growing boys and square dancing provided me with a fun, no stress evening out. I took lessons for the first year and then was able to join the club. There is never any alcohol at our functions, and it is open to anyone who wishes to give it a try.

#### What do you like about it?

**Sandy** • I just love the music and love to dance. We have one of the best callers in the square dance community. It provides you with a good couple of hours of exercise, not only for your physical but also for your mental health. You meet lots of interesting people from various forms of life, and make many new friends. The square dance community is very open and a wonderful place to be.

#### Best thing to happen?

**Sandy** • I would say the most memorable thing to happen was when my husband and I danced with over 600 dancers from Vancouver Island in 1994, at the closing ceremonies of the Commonwealth Games. Also, all the weekend events throughout the years. We would usually camp at the square dance hall, where the event was taking place. The camaraderie before and after the dances was just as fun-filled as the dances themselves.

#### Why is Square dancing still relevant in 2024?

**Sandy** • All the things that were wonderful about dancing in the eighties are still relevant today. Fun, friends, music, exercise. Today our caller calls to much more modern music than we used to have. This is bringing out some of the younger folks. Square dancing knows no age, it is great for one and all, young and old alike. I believe the upbeat music, which our caller chooses to use, is what is keeping it fresh and alive today.

#### Anything else?

**Sandy** • All I can say in closing is, come out and try it, you'll love it.

## Ronald Berg

**R**onald Berg started as a teen and has been square dancing for over 40 years.

#### How did you start square dancing?

**Ron** • My neighbour sucked me in to it.

#### What do you like about it?

**Ron** • Meeting people, lot of fun, opportunity to travel, the music.

#### What was the best thing that happened?

**Ron** • Going to square dance jamboree in Penticton in 1981 to 1985 with 3,000 dancers was very memorable - dancing outdoors at King's Park.

#### Why is square dancing still relevant in 2024?

**Ron** • Because the people in your square change, and dance in different places every time, no two dances are ever the same. Something is always new. Even after 40 years.

#### Anything else you want readers to know?

**Ron** • The vast majority of people who never try square dancing are missing out. Anyone who likes music can learn to square dance. People think they won't like it and then find out they love it. You should try it at least three times to give it a proper chance. Then you will know if you like it or not. **PL**







**CARRIED AWAY:** Dylan Gable and Laura Woods in the Rock Island Players' production of *Bus Stop* in 2013. The Texada Island theatre company was established in 1964.

*Photo courtesy of the Rock Island Players*

# Rocky start, but still rocking

BY PETER LOCK

"Do you think you'd be up for putting on a play? It's *Loggerheads*."

The convivial Irish lass, Pat Kelly, was hoping to stage her late husband John's celebrated script.

It was 1992 and my wife, Mary, and I eagerly jumped on board. So began our 30-plus year obsession with Texada's Rock Island Players (RIP).

Founded in 1964, the group's first presentation at Gillies Bay Hall was bedevilled by a power failure at intermission. With the rallying cry of "The show must go on," neighbours brought gas lanterns to finish the play.

RIP productions have enjoyed great support from the Texada and Powell River communities. The 1994 revival of John Kelly's *Fantasy, Flight and Feathers*,

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**TEXADA IS SO DRAMATIC:** From left, Mary Lock and Dylan Gable in "Kiss the Moon, Kiss the Sun" 2012. Rolly Thorpe and Dave Murphy in "Jest of Hahalaba" 2002. Peter Lock accepting the "Dramaturge" award in 2013, with Mary Lock, Dawn Hughes and Danijela Burec. Mary Lock and Dawn Hughes in "Kitchen Witches" 2014. Jenessa Rairie and Mike Sanford in "Murder in the Air" 2004

Photos courtesy of the Rock Island Players

featured seven male actors, most of whom were "rounded up" by Pat who set out to comb the local Sunday Farmers' Market for talent.

We brought the play to Powell River's Evergreen Theatre where, in my role as Willy Wall, I sat dying, my last whispers competing with the booming bass music issuing from the rear hall. It had been accidentally double-booked for a hockey banquet!

Since then Mary and I (as actors, producer and director) along with talented Texada crews have presented 28 plays. We have attempted to choose scripts carefully – ones that will challenge our actors and entertain our audiences.

We have presented comedies, murder mysteries and dinner theatres (a challenge when players appear amongst the audience – most of whom we know!). We produced a 1940's-style live radio show (including music, vintage ads and a mystery drama complete with on-stage sound effects). Classics, melodramas, Canadian and locally-written scripts have rounded out the program over the last 30 years. In addition, many island organizations have benefited from funds collected at the door.

Over these years RIP has been blessed with inspired, dedicated Texadans of all ages (over 180 par-

ticipants by count!) who have happily volunteered to act, construct sets, create props, fabricate costumes, apply make-up, and highlight the presentations with fabulous lighting and sound.

Our stage crew was once rewarded with spontaneous applause as the audience, fascinated, watched the complex scene change "choreography" completed in just seconds.

It has been a privilege to work with all our members. We are grateful for the opportunity to have participated in community theatre and we will miss the camaraderie. Now it's time for Mary and me to step aside. We leave the RIP in good hands. Veteran actors Danijela Burec and Dawn Hughes have taken up the reins. Bravo ladies!

I was pleased to assist in the revival this spring when the "new" RIP presented their fine production of *The Villain wore a Dirty Shirt*. On the last night I was honoured to accept (in humour) the "Drama-turge Award."

The Rock Island Players have been a welcome part of the Texada community for 60 years. Thanks to Danijela and Dawn "the show must go on" rings as true today as it did those many years ago.

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# Embrace the meltdowns:

## Adventuring outdoors with young kids is so worth it

BY DELYTH HARPER

**O**n an overnight backpacking trip last year, my one-year-old son woke up every few hours. We were staying at Golden Stanley Hut, on the Sunshine Coast Trail. At around 3 am he refused to go back to sleep, keeping everyone in the hut awake – including his three siblings.

I took him outside and laid in the dark in a hammock with him wrapped up in a raincoat as it drizzled down on us.

He had a nice peaceful sleep. I, on the other hand, was cold, wet, and tired.

If I let experiences like that – of which I've had many – deter me, I'd never set foot on a trail again with my kids.

However, for every wet, sleepy, or grouchy ex-

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## Tips for new family hikers

**If you are reading this** and thinking you might give it a go, I've got some tips that I've learnt through trial and error (mostly error) throughout my years of outdoor adventures with my kiddos.

**Start small.** If you and your kids aren't used to big outdoor excursions, start small and slow. Focus more on having fun than an actual destination those first few hikes.

**Keep your expectations low.** I cannot stress this enough! The lower your expectations for how smoothly a hike or backpacking trip will go with young children, the more opportunities to be pleasantly surprised when things actually do go okay.

**Pack the good food.** I often use special treats as an incentive to get my kids to continue along the trail or a thermos of hot chocolate for when we arrive at our destination. It's all about the snacks.

**Teach your kids to carry their own packs.** Whether it's a small day hike or an overnight adventure, get your children used to carrying their own packs so it's not all on your shoulders, literally.

**Go with friends!** Whenever you can, go with a group of families. My children will moan walking a couple blocks, but in a forest with friends they will walk for what seems like forever. Do not underestimate the power of community in making outdoor adventure experiences more successful and enjoyable. As a single mother to four young kids, going with a group is often the only way I can safely and successfully enjoy many of my backpacking and hiking experiences.

**Buy second hand** if finances are a barrier to enjoying hiking or backpacking. Most of my backpacking and hiking gear is sourced second hand. I'll write down what I want or need and then wait until I find a good secondhand option. Over the years I've slowly added to my gear collection as things pop up that I need. Don't feel like you have to get everything all at once, that's overwhelming and financially not feasible for many families.

Last but not least, **make it fun.** Focus on having a good time, take the meltdowns and tears in stride. Don't let a few bad moments or experiences deter you. If I let every negative moment impact me more than the positive ones, I'd never hike or backpack with my kids again.



**TRY IT. YOU'LL LIKE IT. :** Previous page, Brittany Hill (kids Jack Mitchell and Rylie Mitchell), Katie Glaze (kid Lennon Glaze), Delyth Harper (Theo Hill, Bode Hill, Nia Hill, Holden Hill) at Manzanita Hut. Above left, Brittany carrying Rylie, Theo, Holden, Brian, Delyth, Katie, Macey Minifie, Mark Minifie, and Nia on the trail on the way to Bliss Landing Hut. Above centre, Del with Bode, at Fairview Bay. Right, Bode in a sleeping loft.

perience, many more are wonderful. And most importantly, participating in outdoor, challenging family time is crucial if you want to raise hard-working, independent kids with deep knowledge of the place they're growing up in.

Last summer, for example, my just-turned-five-year-old hiked 15 km in a day.

When one of my sons was seven, he hiked seven km with over 2,000-meter elevation gain up a mountain with me and my dad, to camp there for two nights exploring all over together.

A few weeks ago, my two-year-old hiked six km between huts along the Sunshine Coast Trail on his first ever multi-day backpacking trip.

Kids are fully capable when given the opportunities to test their limits.

**Living in the qathet region,** I am immensely grateful for the access to the outdoors. As a parent to four young children between two to nine years of age, one of my favourite things to do with them is take full advantage of local hiking and backpacking opportunities.

There's a sense of peace I can feel settle down on all of us when we step out of our van and into the forest. Whether we're going for a short hike or an overnight backpacking adventure, you can see everyone start to settle down as their nervous systems begin to re-regulate in nature. It often feels like a big collective sigh of peace.

Some people think that when you have children, outdoor adventures will suddenly become impossible. In reality, having children doesn't mean you have to give up any of your outdoor passions or hobbies; instead, you can involve your children in what you love doing.

It's entirely possible to adventure outdoors with children; they'll be some of the best memories you'll ever make together. I've found continuing to enjoy the outdoors has benefitted us more than anything else we do together as a family.

If you're reading this and thinking "okay cool this all sounds great, but my kids would never or could never do that. They don't like walks let alone hikes," I'll let you know I've had more than my fair share of complaints from my kids.

Tears and meltdowns are common on the trail. In fact, it's extremely rare for us to hike without some sort of complaint or mini crisis. However, these occur inside at home as well; it's just that the acoustics are so much better suited for it outdoors than inside of four walls.

I'm not going to sugar coat it: outdoor adventures do pose some extra challenges with young children and do require a lot more planning and organization than just going solo. It is also attainable. After you do it once or twice, you'll see it's not as intimidating as you thought and what to pack and how to plan becomes almost second nature.

After years of packing for four young kids and a



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## Where to take young kids hiking – and inspiration

If you are looking for a group of people to hike with, join the Facebook group 'qathet Parents Meet-up' where we will often post details about open invite hikes.

Some of our favourite huts along the Sunshine Coast Trail are Rively's Pond Hut, Manzanita, Bliss Landing, and Golden Stanley as they're all fairly easy to access if you know where to drive and park. If you're looking for a good starting hut to try an overnight mini backpacking trip, I recommend Golden Stanley. You can park just a 10-15 minute walk away from the hut.

Some of our favourite hikes are Gibraltar Bluffs, Trinket Trail, Stillwater Bluffs, Kelly Falls, Suicide Creek, Pirates Cove, Haywire Bluffs, Hurtado Point, the Duck Lake trails, Tony's Point, Haslam Lake, Valentine Mountain from Wildwood bridge, and we love wandering around the trails in town like the Penticton, Complex, and Benchlands trail networks.

dog for hikes and backpacking trips, it's a breeze now.

So, if you're thinking "I could never" or "my kids would never" know that you can, your kids can, and the more you do it together, the more you'll want to keep doing it.

**Keep in mind, there are different types of fun.** Type 1 Fun is fun that's actually enjoyable while you're

doing it. Type 2 Fun is not actually fun in the moment, but fun in retrospect and enjoyable to reminisce about.

Hiking and backpacking with young kids is definitely a Type 2 Fun experience at times. It's tough, but worth it.

Outdoor adventures help children grow into creative problem solvers, risk takers while also knowing their limits, and to not fear being pushed outside their comfort zone.

Numerous studies reveal the impact of outdoor adventure on a child's cognitive skills and resiliency.

Playing outdoors helps children develop 'cognitive hardiness': that's a belief in themselves and their ability to make a difference in the world around them; intrinsic motivation to work hard to try again; and a view of failure as a chance to grow and learn.

In other words, outdoor adventure stimulates a growth mindset.

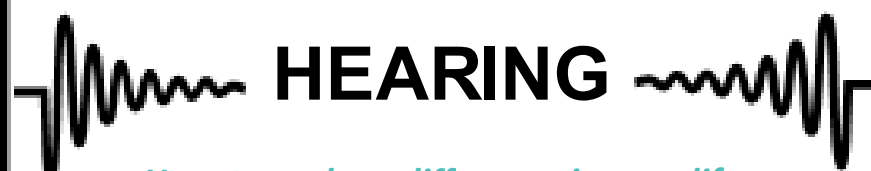
**I organize a lot of group hikes** and sometimes group backpacking experiences. These are always open to anyone of any level wanting to join in. They're always a blast and we do not judge anyone who has a meltdown on the trail before continuing, child or adult.

I'm here to let you know if you've been on the fence about adventuring and exploring with your children, just do it. You won't regret it, and years from now you'll look back on all the amazing things you and your children managed to accomplish outdoors, and those memories will last forever.

Yes, it's hard work, a lot of hard work at times, but the more you get out there as a family the easier it gets and the more you'll want to keep doing it. Start small, keep it fun, go with friends, bring the good snacks.

See you out there! 🐾

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# With the qSO, classical meets... well, everyone

The qathet region has always enjoyed a variety of ways to make music in groups, from pipe bands to concert bands to choirs – but never a symphony orchestra, until now.

BY KEVIN WILSON

**W**hen Marlene Chamberlain gathered a group of people to start an orchestra in September 2021, how did we fit ourselves into the existing and thriving local musical “ecosystem”?

First of all, we had to offer something that no-one else was already doing. We focused from the start mainly on Western classical orchestral music, offering amateur musicians of varied experience and skill levels the chance to play. After nearly a year and a half of rehearsing together, we began to perform in public, offering classical music performances to local audiences outside the wonderful two weeks of PRIS-MA in the summer.

We also offered local soloists the chance to play with a full-orchestra accompaniment: so far Susan Lines and Theresa Hargrave, voice; Arthur Arnold, cello; Manu Liefsoens, horn; and, coming in Novem-

ber, two local violinists in the slow movement of the Bach Double violin concerto.

Since it began performing publicly, the orchestra has accepted many opportunities offered to collaborate and play with other groups.

The Tla’amin Singers opened our very first public concert in Jan 2023, vocal group Vox Madrigal opened our Feb 2024 concert, members of the qathet Concert Band (qCB) joined us for performances at Music Monday in 2023 and 2024 (there’s a considerable overlap between Band membership and the qSO’s wind and brass sections), and we played at the 2024 Wu Woom festival.

Lately, we’re seeing smaller groups form out of relationships and opportunities offered by the qSO: Quintette Bleu (previously Trio Bleu) has been playing together since Feb 2023, and five other small ensembles performed at the qSO’s May concert. We’re hoping that they and others will continue to play

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**PERFORMERS AND POLLINATORS:** From left, the qSO in performance, conducted by Kevin Wilson. A clarinet trio, spawned by the qSO. The qSO performs at PRISMA for Kids in June, with youth fiddlers. Vox Madrigal's team of extraordinary voices and talents (including teacher Susan Lines). Quintette Bleu (right).  
*Photos courtesy of the qSO and Vox Madrigal*



chamber music together and invite others to join in. Outside the region, we even visited the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra on the lower coast, meeting up in Pender Harbor for a day of playing together as a large group, and playing for each other. We had a blast, and hope this was just the first of many visits! We're very keen to get youth involved in playing classical music, and we've connected with them in several ways. Students play in the qSO tuition-free, and we've been happy to welcome six of them over

the last few years. Youth, aged 10 and over, who have played an orchestral instrument for two years or more and can read sheet music, are very welcome to join us! Collaborating with a couple of local youth fiddle groups was fun: the Orchestra played as "backup band" to the Kelly Creek Fiddlers at Music Monday in 2024 (what better way to introduce kids to the orchestra than to wrap one around them?) and musicians from the qSO played with the qathet Fiddlers at PRISMA's kids concert this year. 🎧

## How to get involved in qathet's extraordinary music scene

- **Join the qSO:** contact Kevin Wilson [musicdirector@qsorchestra.ca](mailto:musicdirector@qsorchestra.ca)
- **Join the qathet Community Band:** contact Steven Cramaro [cramarosteven@gmail.com](mailto:cramarosteven@gmail.com)
- **Powell River Academy of Music:** [powellriveracademy.org](http://powellriveracademy.org) and see ad on Page 18.
- qSO oboist Susan Lines (and Vox Madrigal singer) is a voice and music teacher who will be teaching three music courses at VIU tiwšəməwtx™ Campus: Check VIU's website for details: [pr.viu.ca/community-education-and-training](http://pr.viu.ca/community-education-and-training)
- We recognize that access to music education can be challenging for some families. qSO will make funding available starting this September to sponsor a youth who wants to pursue music lessons. The ideal candidate will be 10 or older, with an interest in beginning or resuming lessons on an orchestral instrument. Know someone? Please contact [youth@qsorchestra.ca](mailto:youth@qsorchestra.ca)
- Come and be part of the qSO, as a musician or audience member! Rehearsals start up again in the Fall on September 7, 10 am to noon at the Cranberry Seniors Hall at Cranberry and Manson. Our next concert will be Sunday, Nov 17, 2 pm at the Evergreen Theatre, with the theme "An Afternoon in Europe", featuring music from Spain to Norway, Ireland to Hungary. See you there!

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## A GROWING CONCERN

# Tenacity (and compost) transformed this rocky plot into a lush landscape

**H**eather A. Webb and Terry Freund's sunny property Lilac Hill is just up the street from Mowat Bay in Cranberry.

Originally from Maple Ridge, the couple bought the property in September 2018. Heather created her two previous gardens, and this one, from scratch.

"I had over 200 perennials on a small city lot," Heather recalls. "When we moved we brought most of the garden with us. Many of the plants are gifts from friends and they are very important to me."

There was no garden when the couple moved here; only large specimen plants, including a rhododendron estimated to be over 60 years old. The most unique feature of the garden, explained Heather, is the view, which includes the cliffs of Mowat Bay, a bit of the lake and the mountains in the distance.

Improvements are speeding up; Terry retired from Save-On Foods this spring, and has been busy building deer fencing (necessary!), and several small structures in the garden.

### How did you start gardening?

**Heather** • As a child I spent time with my grandmother who loved flowers and I remember how pretty everything looked. I have her yellow azalea; it was given to her as a Mother's Day gift in 1963.

When my aunt sold her house, it was dug up and went to my aunt's other garden, then it came to us. We brought it when we moved here from Chilliwack.

The azalea had lots of blooms this year. I learned how to garden by joining garden clubs, reading books and listening to the

experts. Also hard work and tenacity!

### Tell us about your current garden

**Heather** • The property is one-quarter of an acre and I saw the potential in my mind for the garden. Luckily, Terry enjoys building structures so we started planning. The first structure he built was the hosta enclosure. Terry has gone on to build a new potting shed, a tool shed, and a glasshouse from old windows. We also have a compost area made from concrete blocks. I grow all kinds of perennials and a few annuals from seed. Vegetable gardening is a challenge because we are not fenced.

### What have been your biggest gardening successes? What are you most proud of?

**Heather** • My biggest success with the garden is taking barren, rocky ground and by sheer force and two spades later I now have healthy, fertile soil. I bring in three yards of compost every spring and I am very proud of how well the plants grow because of my efforts.

### What are your greatest gardening challenges?

**Heather** • The biggest challenges are the rocks, the deer, and sometimes the wind.

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

**Heather** • My husband and I invest in garden structures, they give the garden a foundation to grow on and good quality tools.

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

**Heather** • I photograph the plants I grow and share them on social media, I started a Youtube channel called Gardening on Li-

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**SWEET & SUNNY IN CRANBERRY:** *Left*, Heather A. Webb and Terry Freund under their arbour. *Left below*, the hosta grove. *Above*, Salvia 'Sensation Dark Blue.' *Right*, Erigeron 'Azure Fairy.' *Below right*, daylily 'Bela lugosi', wild flowers, and tall aconite or Monk's Hood. *Below*, some of Terry's structures, which give the garden flow and purpose.

lac Hill, I have a gardening blog, I do all the social media available. I really enjoy seeing what other gardeners are doing from around the world.

**Advice for new gardeners?**

**Heather** • Really think about how much time you want to give the garden, plants need care and attention, there is no such thing as maintenance-free gardening! Know your land and the conditions you have, buy plants accordingly. Do research to see if it's the right plant in the right place. Join the garden club and go visit gardens. 🌱

**What are five things you'll be doing in your garden in August?**

August to do: Keep up with the watering and deadheading, sit and enjoy our efforts, visit with guests, clean my house!

*Note:* Heather A. Webb also posts about her garden on YouTube, at the channel "Gardening on Lilac Hill."



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## | MADE THE MOVE

# A cappella duo finds harmony with qathet's chill vibe

**T**im and Susan Everett are former East-Vancouverites. They met at Vancouver Community College while studying vocal music in 1987. After that they spent their lives living in an old house off Kingsway and Fraser, working their music and “real jobs.”

As students they formed an a cappella singing quartet (called WAG) that continues performing to this day. Sue went on to become the administrator at the VCC School of Music. Tim worked in the Comicshop, and also as a history tour guide.

A few years ago they realized that their kid was grown up and they were tired of city life, so they set their sights on a quieter existence, and arrived in spring of 2023.

### Why did you choose to move here??

**Tim** • The grind, expense, and kerfuffle of living in Vancouver got old. Back in the 90's we had spent years touring our a cappella group around BC. We remembered our visits to the qathet region. The people, natural beauty, and affordability made it the place for us.

**Susan** • We wanted to retire somewhere in a more affordable coastal landscape, with a slower pace and easy access to nature...and a hospital!

### What surprised you about qathet once you moved?

**Susan** • I am blown away by the sheer number of festivals, special events, workshops, and community initiatives. I hadn't anticipated how often I would have to choose between which two or three events I could attend on a given day. And everything is so much more affordable and accessible than it was in Vancouver.

**Tim** • We knew it was wonderful... but everything was just more lovely that we had expected.



**HALF OF WAG:** Tim and Susan Everett will be joined by their Vancouver bandmates at the Wishing Well August 11, for their first concert here (see Page 39.)

### Where is your favourite place here?

**Tim** • T'ishosum, where we have our home.

**Susan** • Aside from Gibsons Beach and T'ishosum... my favourites so far are Okeover Inlet and Myrtle Point.

### What would make qathet a nicer community?

**Tim** • I'd like to see a stronger economy. I get the sense that some folks here have a hard time getting by.

**Susan** • Perhaps more affordable rental housing?

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

**Susan** • I think the area could benefit from increased infrastructure to support safe commuter cycling, especially on the Highway and major roads. I think some effort has been made already and I hope that will continue.

**Tim** • East Vancouver is an extremely diverse place. I miss that, and believe that all communities benefit from diversity.

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

**Tim** • We had a long string of mishaps and setbacks: ordinary real-life stuff to do with finances and pandemic and professional and personal life. But, I have no com-

plaints. We are so privileged and fortunate. The challenge I face now might be just structuring my time in a relaxed, yet forward way. So many lovely projects and little rabbit holes.

**Susan** • One of the biggest challenges was landing a place to live. A year plus later, my current challenge is figuring out which interests to pursue (apart from a cappella singing) within our new community.

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

**Tim** • I'm Métis, and I feel this for all jurisdictions: we need to focus on reconciliation with First Nations (in our case the wonderful Tla'amin Nation). We all need to move forward, together with First Nations, in addressing the wrongs of colonialism to build a positive, modern home for all.

### What are qathet's best assets?

**Susan** • A vibrant arts scene and numerous accessible performance venues, a variety of really good cuisine, ready access to so many hiking trails and lakes, lots of parking, no real traffic, slower pace...and so many supportive and friendly people!

**Tim** • The fact that it is a full-fledged “place” on it's own. It isn't a tourist strip or a developers' destination. It's a rural coastal city with a history. The pace is exquisite.

### What is your greatest extravagance?

**Tim** • The cost of ferries up and down the coast, or the occasional flight, by necessity. Thankfully, the trips are becoming less frequent.

**Susan** • My garden. I had little time or space previously, and have relished putting a lot of time and energy into gardening since moving here.

### Which talent or superpower would you most like?

**Tim** • That's a dangerous question for a former comic store employee. Obvious answer? Flight. I mean... who wouldn't like to be able to fly up and see the spectacular views here? Also... I am content with the talents I feel I have. There's always a song to sing, a story to write, a picture to draw, and more. I feel lucky to have a chance to enjoy doing the things I love, here in qathet.

**Susan** • Definitely flight! I'd love to soar to the tops of mountains and enjoy the amazing vistas. As far as talent, I'd love to be able to do visual arts or creative writing. Perhaps, with more time and much inspiration all around me, I'll be able to focus on developing those skills. 🐾

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



## ʔAYʔAJUΘƏM? YOU GOT THIS

BRIANNE LOUIE

q<sup>w</sup>iq<sup>w</sup>i

Sandy Beach

taq<sup>w</sup>ə

Octopus

k<sup>w</sup>usɛnaqəɸ

Sea Star /  
Starfish

pik<sup>w</sup>ɛm tə qayɛ

Bioluminescence

nɛk<sup>w</sup> čɛʔ

Out in  
the ocean

## ʔayʔajuθəm orthography

ɸəʔamɛn | kómoks | χ<sup>w</sup>ɛmaɸk<sup>w</sup>u | & λohos

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

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

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

ɛ	eh
ɪ	ih
ʊ	oo as in look
ə	uh
č	ch
č̣	popping c
ǰ	dg
ḱ	popping k
k <sup>w</sup>	kw
ḱ <sup>w</sup>	rounded, popping k
ɬ	Breathy L sound
p̣	popping p
q̣	popping q

q <sup>w</sup>	rounded q
q̣ <sup>w</sup>	rounded, popping q
š	sh
ṭ	popping t
t <sup>θ</sup>	t-th
ɸ	tl
θ	th
x <sup>w</sup>	wh (like in who)
χ	Hhhh
χ <sup>w</sup>	Hhhhwh
χ̣	kl
χ̣̣	popping kl
ʔ	glottal stop: uh oh



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**HIDDEN IN THE TIMBER:** Starting on July 10, the Powell River Logger Sports chainsaw carving competition attracted local and international talent. The top three winners are Blue Heron by Kamron Garbe (Regina, SK – last year’s PRLS #1, too); The Family Deer by Benji Waretini-Hemara (New Zealand); and Western Bench, by Shea Larking (Seymour Arm, BC, not pictured.) The sculptures stood at Willingdon Beach through July, and were moved to their new homes by the end of the month.

*Photo courtesy of Powell River Logger Sports*

## Logger Sports 2024 winners

On July 13 and 14, top local and international competitors chopped, sawed, and climbed their way to victory at the Loggers’ Memorial Amphitheatre at Willingdon Beach. Here’s this year’s winners:

Canadian Championship Novice Axe Throw – **Steve Valentyne**

Novice Underhand Chop – **Connor Robertson**

Novice Tree Climb – **Callum Simmons**

Intermediate Underhand Chop – **Mitchell Brown John**

Intermediate Obstacle Pole – **Brad Laviolette**

Intermediate Husky Stock Saw Challenge – **Connor Robertson**

Canadian Championship Intermediate Tree Climb – **Cash McQuaid**

Intermediate Springboard – **Jake Hewitt**

Intermediate Double Buck – **Jake Hewitt/Morgan Bischoff**

North American Championship Intermediate 100 CC – **Jake Hewitt**

All Around Novice of the Day – **Steve Valentyne**

All Around Intermediate of the Day – **Jake Hewitt**

Sportsman of the Day – **Dustin Miller**

Peter Colliver Memorial Chop – **Karl Bischoff**

Open Underhand Chop – **Stirling Hart**

Open Obstacle Pole – **Mitchell Hewitt**

Open 4 Board Springboard – **Mitchell Hewitt**

Open Double Buck – **Stirling Hart/Mitchell Hewitt**

Open Single Buck – **Stirling Hart**

Canadian Championship Open 140CC Hot Saw – **Mitchell Hewitt**

North American Unlimited Hot Saw – **Stirling Hart**

Open Axe Throw – **Stirling Hart**

Canadian Championship Tree Climb – **Brian Bartow**

Jack and Jill – **Stirling Hart/Allison Briscoe**

Ladies Axe Throw – **Sarah Mooney**

Ladies Single Buck – **Allison Briscoe**

Jill & Jill Bucking – **Dawn Briscoe/Allison Briscoe**

Ladies Open Underhand Chop – **Andrea Hand**

Canadian Championship Ladies Novice Underhand – **Megan Keogh**

Open Logger of the Day – **Stirling Hart**

Lady Logger of the Day – **Allison Briscoe**

Sportsman of the Day – **Nick Hall**



# Sunshine Music Festival

## Labour Day Weekend!

Under the big tent at Palm Beach Regional Park

## Saturday Aug 31 & Sunday Sept 1

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Scout Mountain ☀️ Murfitt & Main ☀️ Emily Triggs ☀️ Maddie Storvold

Dally Mon ☀️ The Kitchen Sink ☀️ Hatfield Union ☀️ Spirit Singers ☀️ CJ Beauchamp

**Gates open 10:30 am**

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**MEET FISCHER AND SERRANO:** Fischer (left) and Serrano (right), with the RCMP's Victim Services worker Christine Schreiber, Staff Sergeant Rod Wiebe, and Paula Perry, Powell River's Community Policing Officer.

## Help sponsor a litter of assistance dogs

The City of Powell River proclaimed August 4-10, 2024, to be International Assistance Dog Week. This week celebrates the extraordinary contributions of assistance dogs in transforming lives. They provide invaluable support and companionship to individuals with disabilities, enhancing their quality of life and independence.

This year, the qathet community celebrates the exceptional contributions of two Pacific Assistance Dogs (PADS) residents: Fischer, a PTSD Service Dog, and Serrano, an Accredited Facility Dog (AFD).

Pacific Assistance Dogs Society (PADS) raises, trains, and places fully certified assistance dogs. Our service (mobility and PTSD), and hearing dogs provide life-changing independence to those with disabilities. Our accredited facility dogs work with community professionals, such as teachers, RCMP, and psychologists to help support healthy communities.

### PADS Fischer: A Lifeline for PTSD

Fischer is a devoted and well-known PTSD service dog within the qathet community. He serves as a beacon of hope for his client, Matt Staley, a veteran who served in the Canadian Army for over 20 years.

Trained specifically to support post-traumatic stress disorder, Fischer performs tasks that help mitigate Matt's symptoms: interrupting nightmares, providing deep pressure therapy, and creating a physical buffer in crowded spaces.

For Matt, Fischer's presence is not just comforting, but vital, offering security and stability that allows for greater participation in daily activities and social interactions.

Matt, now a certified life coach who helps people overcome their own challenges, is forever grateful for being matched with PADS Fischer and states that "he is stalwart and an incredibly astute worker, who has had my six wherever we go!"

The bond between Fischer and Matt is a testament to the life-changing impact of assistance dogs. Fischer's ability to sense and respond to Matt provides a level of support that extends beyond traditional ther-

### MEET THE PADS PUPS

**When:** August 16 at Blackberry Fest.

**What:** Learn more about PADS and help launch the qathet Community Fundraising Campaign (to June 6, 2025) with the goal of raising enough money to sponsor and name a litter of PADS puppies.

**Learn more:** pads.ca/qathet, or on Facebook and Instagram



apies. His presence is a reminder that recovery and resilience are possible, and he plays a crucial role in Matt's journey toward healing and empowerment.

### PADS Serrano: Bridging the Gap with the RCMP

AFD Serrano works with Christine Schreiber, the program coordinator of Victim Services at the Powell River RCMP detachment. Serrano's role with the RCMP involves providing emotional support to victims of crime, witnesses, and even officers experiencing high levels of stress. He is also a welcome visitor to local schools and provides comfort and emotional support to students, helping to create a calming and reassuring environment.

Christine shared with us, "although he has only been my partner for a short time, he has already made such an impact on the program. His soulful eyes and sweet demeanor makes for love at first sight for everyone he meets."

### A Community United by Support

The presence of PADS Fischer and Serrano in this community underscores the diverse ways assistance dogs contribute to society. As we celebrate International Assistance Dog Week, we recognize the tireless efforts of these remarkable animals and organizations like PADS that train them. Their impact extends far beyond the individuals they directly assist, fostering a sense of unity and support within our community. 🐾

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# Mt Mahony:

This very big deal is about to get even bigger

**A**fter years in the works, Mount Mahony's 'Phase 1' opened in June.

Initiated by the 500-member qathet Regional Cycling Association, the trails are a collaboration between multiple local groups and levels of government; this first phase was funded by the Powell River Community Forest (\$360,000).

Explaining the significance and glory of these new mountain biking ame-

nities is **Jordan Marciniak**, the trails director for the qathet Regional Cycling Association.

With his sister Hillary Marciniak, Jordan is also an owner of Mahony Bike Co, which offers mountain bike training, guided tours, action photography and more.

You'll find Mt. Mahony's beginner-through-advanced mountain bike trails near Inland Lake. Learn more about how to ride them at [qrca.ca](http://qrca.ca).



**OPENING DAY:** *Above*, Hillary Marciniak riding down the new descent trail "ʔiʔajusθot." *Centre*, unveiling of the new sign at the opening to the parking lot. The sign was designed by Carl Hanson and Miles Arbour, both qRCA board members. *Above right*, high fives being handed out after the ribbon cutting and start to a group ride up the Kwumkwum climb.

Photos by Keilan Guild @keilanguild

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## Mount Mahony: what are the new trails?

**Jordan** • The “Inland Lake Connector” is self explanatory as it connects the network to Inland Lake. It is wide enough that an adaptive mountain bike could use the trail along with hikers, runners, and of course cyclists.

“In the meantime,” which was named by the main builder of the trail, is also a connector style trail that links the parking lot with other trails.

“kʷukʷum” is the new climb trail that leaves from our new parking lot and wanders up the mountain and connects to trailheads. Stage 3 of this climb is completed with Stage 4 to be built in the fall. This trail was named by the language team with the Tla’amin Nation. It means “going up from the ocean (going up to the woods).” This is huge for our cycling community to get a machine-built climb trail. It keeps cyclists off the logging road and offers a much nicer experience in the network.

ʔiʔajusθot, which mean “having a good time,” is our new green descent trail. This trail has been the key in getting more kids and families out on to Mahony now that they have a safe and fun trail to get them hooked on riding. It’s smooth and flowy with rolls, jumps, and berms. The trail exits right into the parking lot.

Above the green trail and partway up our climb trail is “Big Wheeler,” which is a blue descent trail. Blue rating makes it more difficult than a green rated trail. There is rougher terrain, steeper descents, and more adversity of features. This is a great stepping stone for riders wanting to develop and work towards riding black diamond trails. It was named after a modified wheelbarrow that is owned by the Chain Gang. The contracted builder was so impressed by the design he asked to purchase one.

## What’s your favourite part of the development?

**Jordan** • The parking lot has given mountain bikers a place to call home and has helped in growing the strength of our mountain bike community as we can now host social events and group rides with a great start and end point.

## What’s next?

**Jordan** • We currently have approval for a few new trails that we will be breaking ground on in the early fall when it is safe to run equipment and saws in the forest.

We have hired Howler Contracting (Whistler) to build the final section of climb trail which will take our network up as high as the top of “Fairies Wear Boots.” We will be build-



ing Descent 3 and Descent 4, which will both be blue-rated (medium-difficulty) descents. These will be hand-built trails that volunteers will collaborate on.

As well, we are currently going through another authorization process to get more trails approved. These are trails that local builders have planned and designed. So there will be some creative and unique trails popping up over the next couple of years.

## How does local mountain biking infrastructure compare to that in Sechelt, Squamish, or Cumberland? How do we stand out? What are we missing?

**Jordan** • It is tough to compare ourselves to places like Squamish and Cumberland as they have been established in the mountain bike world for many years now.

Powell River and Mount Mahony are still in their infancy, in the grand scheme of things. Fortunately, we have the opportunity to look at these other riding networks and cycling communities to pick and choose things we like and don’t like about their networks. Over time we will consistently gain more and more trails on Mount Mahony.

The qRCA is committed to open communication with the land owners, trail builders, the Tla’amin Nation, cycling community members, and government agencies to ensure all the boxes are checked and everyone is on the same

**Top:** Current and past board members from left to right: Brad Winchell, Patricia Winchell, Lindsay Gosnell, Brendan Behan, and Ty Bourassa. **Bottom:** The new fire pit area for post-ride BBQs and social events. The ring was donated by Doug Fuller and is a recycled excavator track—which is fitting as the new parking lot is on an old quarry site.

Photos by Keilan Guild @keilanguild

page when it comes to new trails.

Quantity of trails is one thing we are missing in comparison to Squamish and Cumberland. But I will take quality over quantity any day.

We certainly have quality mountain bike trails. OG, Quick-e, and Fairies are among some of the best trails I’ve experienced, and I’ve done a lot of riding throughout BC.

Another thing our network needs is a skills park—a place where all riders can go and practice drops, jumps, and technical skills. A plan for a skills park is in the works.

I have no doubt that Powell River is a world class riding destination, and we are becoming more and more talked about in the mountain bike world. The terrain that Mount Mahony has to offer is incredible. The dirt that we have in this region drains incredibly well, which means we can enjoy our trails nearly all year long.

It rarely snows on the Mahony network. This is something that sets Powell River apart as nearly all other riding communities will have an “off season.” We have adopted the slogan “Ride here all Year” as it is a huge part of why this place is so great!

What also makes Powell River a great destination for mountain bikers are the ocean, the lakes, the sunsets, the camping, the restaurants, and the lack of crowds. We have something special here and the development of mountain bike trails will continue to add benefit to the local economy as well as quality of lifestyle for locals.

## Anything else you’d like to add?

**Jordan** • If you have ever been interested in mountain biking then there is no better time to jump in! It adds so much benefit your life.

It can be a sport, a hobby fitness routine, meditation, and offers all riders a sense of community and belonging.

We have two great local shops, Taws Bike Garage and Suncoast Cycles, to answer any bike questions as well as mountain bike coaching and instruction through Mahony Bike Co. 🚲

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**QUILLAYUTE CROSSING:** On August 21, 1954, 70 years ago this month, a crowd eagerly waited the arrival of the first Saltery Bay-Earls Cove ferry, the *Quillayute*.  
*Photos courtesy of the qathet Museum*

# First ferry to Earls Cove

In 1954, the dual construction of a highway extension through the Sunshine Coast and the building of ferry facilities at Saltery Bay and Earls Cove brought Powell River one step closer to Vancouver.

The Black Ball Ferry Company built the docking facilities and slips, while the government contracted a construction company to expand the Sunshine Coast highway.

The highway expansion, which spanned from Kleindale to Agamemnon Bay, took two years and had significant delays due to the geography of the area. As a temporary measure, while people waited for the road to be finished, the ferry ran from Saltery Bay to Madeira Park throughout July of 1954.

Thanks to a loan given by Black Ball, the road was eventually finished, and the ferry *Quillayute* began to travel the route we all know well today.

In early August, the *Quillayute* completed trial runs and made a five-hour cruise of Jervis Inlet to raise funds for the lots that would become Palm Beach Public Park. The cruise included entertainment and a coffee bar. Despite dull skies, tickets sold out and

\$1,100 (\$11,500 today) was raised for the new park. The first official run from Saltery Bay to Earls Cove occurred on August 21, 1954.

Hundreds of cars lined up to make the crossing, and some even camped out overnight in order to take the first ferry over.

The *Quillayute* could hold 600 passengers and 50 cars and had previously

operated through Howe Sound going between Gibsons and Horseshoe Bay. Ferry fees started at \$1 each way for passengers, while cars were charged an additional \$3 each way.

The new route was a welcome addition, one many thought was a long time coming. The route not only opened Powell River to the world, but also brought regular vacationers to the Sunshine Coast.

*Editor's note: In 1954, two passengers and a car on the Saltery Bay route cost \$5, or \$57.23 in today's dollars, according to the Bank of Canada Inflation Calculator. Today, that same crossing (using an Experience Card) costs \$61.55 – not too far off.* 🍷



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## WHAT'S UP

### Tla'amin election coming up September 14

The current hegus, John Steven Hackett, is running for a second term. Challenging him for the position are Clint Williams, Cathy Galligos, and Arnie Patrick Courtney.

Running for Legislator (eight will be elected) are: Erik Blaney, Arnie Patrick Courtney, Gloria Francis, Marina Gallagher, Callum Galligos, Craig G. Galligos, Leonard Harry, Doreen Hopkins, Dillon Johnson, Brandon Louie, Larry Louie, Losa Luaifofo, Jordan Mitchell, Gladys Osawamick, Denise Smith, Tanner Timothy, and Clint Williams.

Tla'amin elections take place every four years.

### What's the big deal about billeting a hockey player?

Hockey is a highly competitive, physically, mentally, and financially demanding sport.

Imagine being a young person aged 16 to 20 years old moving away from your home, your family, and everything you know to pursue your sport while chasing the dream of a scholarship.

Worst yet, imagine being the parent of a young person you are still raising who is moving across the province, across the country or in some cases, across the world.

This is where billet families are key.

Billeting is a huge part of the Powell River Kings program. Local families open their homes and hearts to these young players to provide them with a safe and nurturing environment to decompress while they are here pursuing their dreams.

In return, those same billet families have the opportunity to form a lifelong connection with their player and his family, \$800 monthly in grocery cards, season tickets for household members, a discount at the Kings Street Merchandise Booth and attendance at team events.

It has been the most rewarding and amazing experience for our entire family.

Here is a quote from Anthony Lucarelli's parents, Pat and Chantal:

"Sending your son away from home can be a very nerve wracking, stressful experience as parents, but once you realize the benefits of a billet family those feelings quickly change to excitement. Having a billet home that treats your son as family is an experience you will cherish forever. We could not be more grateful for the support our son got from his bonus family!"

For more information, please visit [powellriverkings.com/billeting](http://powellriverkings.com/billeting) or reach out to Aaron Reid at 604-414-5195.

- Aaron Reid

### Will you volunteer for ElderDog?

qathet dog lovers are working hard to set up a local chapter or "pawd" of ElderDog Canada and are looking for people interested in being coordinator volunteers.

Coordinators needs to be in place before they can run the "pawd" and once that happens volunteers can be recruited to work with dogs and owners, says qathet resident Sidney Clare pointing to a brochure.

ElderDog Canada chapters exist in nearby communities including the Lower Sunshine Coast and the Comox Valley.

ElderDog Canada is a not-for-profit national charity that helps older people and older dogs. "We help seniors care for their dogs at home; find new homes for older dogs who lose their human companions and conduct research and educate about the role of dogs in the lives of older people. There are no fees for our services," states their brochure.

The goal of ElderDog is to help keep elderly dog owners in their own homes with their dogs as long as possible by providing support and service that



makes it possible.

Volunteers who value elders, are compassionate and patient, value the human-canine bond, are reliable and have good interpersonal skills are required. As well, volunteers will be needed to fill various roles once the local chapter is established.

These roles include leadership, dog care support, fostering, education, events, outreach, and administrative support.

For more information email [info@elderdog.ca](mailto:info@elderdog.ca) or visit their website at [elderdog.ca](http://elderdog.ca) or [facebook.com/elderdog](https://facebook.com/elderdog) or call 1-855-336-4226.

### Cool and comfy at The Pat... then a flood

It began as a "simple" project to renovate an aging auditorium but quickly turned into widespread improvements of what felt like every nook and cranny of our almost 100 year-old grand dame: The Patricia Theatre.

In the end we repaired and upgraded a number of previously unknown structural, electrical, and plumbing issues, laid insulation in the attic, replaced the 50-year-old sprinkler heads and scrubbed, patched, and painted our way through the concession, the bathrooms, the auditorium, and even backstage!

We have a new movie screen as well as an enhanced sound system. The lob-

by and box office are sparkling with new carpets, and detailed finishes throughout.

New "big-a\*\*" fans were installed, as well as A/C in the auditorium and concession-reconfigured and upgraded - with a facelift to original cabinetry, as well as a new pop tower and a kegerator (currently filled with small batch artisanal ginger beer and house-made sodas to come.)

And with inspiration from our beautiful peacock murals, we've now adopted two lively (not live) new mascots (look for them when you come to the theatre and as we bring in some fun Patricia merch.)

Like most projects involving historical gems like ours, the renovating, repair, and restoration will be an ongoing labour of love.

The restored canopy will be installed in the next few months and we hope to relocate the old vertical light-up PATRICIA sign to the patio area, which will be spruced up and made usable soon so we can all enjoy the view and the lovely gardens.

Sincerest thanks go to all who continue to donate their coins, bills, time, and most of all themselves as movie goes at the one and only Patricia Theatre!

\* As *qL* was going to print, there was an upstairs leak which flooded the renovated bathrooms. Support your local theatre! 🐾

- Laura Wilson



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

Coffee • Food • Art • Books • Gifts • Soap • Tea • Candy • Games • Gourmet Treats  
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Please Support Local Businesses! Follow Powell River Marine Stroll on Facebook





## Flower business blooms

After just a year operating as a home-based florist business, **Janet Lowes** has moved into a Marine Avenue storefront with a walk-in cooler. **Bloom Wildly** is now located at 4712 Marine Avenue. **Spoolz**, the vintage and quilt store that did occupy that space has moved next door.

Janet takes pride in long-lasting, huge arrangements at low prices. "I think no matter the budget everyone who is either celebrating a life event or mourning a loss deserves beautiful flowers. And I will find a way to help without them breaking the bank," she said. Contact Janet at 604-489-3384.

## Thrift shop to move into CRC space

The **Powell River Healthcare Auxiliary** has purchased the building housing Lift's **Community Resource Centre**, emergency shelter and overdose prevention site (OPS) programs at 4752 and 4746 Joyce Avenue. The Auxiliary's thrift store hopes to move in next year.

Lift's lease will be honoured through March 31, 2025, and the organization has begun working with local and provincial partners to pursue new program sites for the CRC (which has been there since 2007), emergency shelter and OPS in time for their lease expiration.

"We're extremely grateful for the use of this space for the past 17 years," stated Lift's executive director Kim Markel. "We're dedicated to finding a new space, or spaces, to continue to offer these essential services."



## BUSINESS AFFAIRS

SEAN PERCY

### Why not elope?


When **Jocelyn Bacon** and her husband moved to qathet, it didn't take long for her to realize she needed to move her business, too. "When I saw how beautiful it was, I knew I had to do my very best to port all my work up here to the coast!" **Jocelyn Bacon Events** and **Sea to Sky Elopements** take care of all the details for couples opting for intimate and adventurous elopements. By providing tailored packages that include activities like hiking, kayaking, and helicopter tours, she sets up unforgettable days for couples to "create intentionally present elopement experiences." Contact her at 604-833-0524 or visit [jocelynbaconevents.ca](http://jocelynbaconevents.ca) or [seatoskyelopements.co](http://seatoskyelopements.co).

### Whales and tales

qathet has a new adventure tour company. **Matthew Emig** is running **Rugged Coast Expeditions**, offering wildlife and adventure education tours. He uses the unique *Black Barnacle*, an ex-military custom RIB (rigid inflatable boat). Matt, a long-time guide and mariner, leads the tours, which include wildlife viewing, ecological education, history, geography, and geology. The most popular are 2-2.5 hours in duration. A naturalist, adventurer, and his-

tory lover, he is an outdoor educator and a natural story teller who makes the tours both fun and educational. From search and rescue, to commercial fishing, to marine rescue, to grizzly bear and whale tours, Matt has had a colourful history on the water, so always has a tale to share. "The whales, sea lions, river otters, seals, eagles, vultures, moon jellies, and more make every tour a new adventure," says Matt. Visit [ruggedcoastexpeditions.com](http://ruggedcoastexpeditions.com) for more information, email [tours@ruggedcoastexpeditions.com](mailto:tours@ruggedcoastexpeditions.com), or call Matt at 604-483-6065.

## Local heads BC Co-op Association

After 15 years at First Credit Union, **Tara Chernoff** has accepted a position as executive director of the **BC Co-operative Association (BCCA)**. "First Credit Union provided me with countless opportunities for growth and development, and I cherish both the highlights and the challenges that have shaped my career. I am grateful to have worked with such passionate, purpose-driven people during my time there," said Tara. BCCA is a member services organization that helps BC co-ops and credit unions with training, collaboration, networking and more. As executive director, Tara will develop a compelling three-year strategic plan in collaboration with the board, to grow the association's reach and relevance and build a strong funding model to support the association delivering on its purpose. "Since the BCCA supports cooperatives throughout British Columbia, I have the opportunity to work remotely, and I'm thankful for the chance to keep working in the beautiful region of qathet," Tara said.  [sean@prliving.ca](https://twitter.com/sean@prliving.ca)

## Rick Berghauser & Associates Counselling Services



Voted #1 Best counsellor

"Thanks to everyone who voted. It is such an honour to support so many individuals, couples, and families in this wonderful community."

Rick has been working in counselling for more than 20 years. He received his Bachelors of Arts in Psychology from Trinity Western University and then went on to complete a Masters of Education in Counselling Psychology from the University of Victoria. Rick is a Canadian Certified Counsellor with the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association.



**OUR TEAM:** Arnold Mulder, MTS-C, CCC; Laura Chan, Marriage & Family Therapist, RCC; Rick Berghauser, BA Psych, MEd Counselling Psych, CCC

### Change your life

"The idea of entering an office with a stranger and opening up about personal experiences, feelings, fears and beliefs can be intimidating and can keep some from experiencing the many benefits a therapeutic coaching experience can bring. However, I encourage you to call and see how this could be a life changing experience for you." – Rick Berghauser, Canadian Certified Counsellor

FIND OUT MORE AT [BERGHAUSER.CA](http://BERGHAUSER.CA)

[berghauser.ca](http://berghauser.ca) 604-223-2717 #200-7385 Duncan Street V8A 1W6

## AUGUST at the Library



### Protect your Property

Learn how to reduce the risk of wildfires around your property from qRD FireSmart Coordinator, Marc Albert  
August 8 at 3pm

### Author talks

Author Don MacKay will present his novella **August 13 at 7pm** and author/artist Michael Kluckner will present **August 23 at 4pm**



### Blackberry Festival

Celebrate with us on **August 16** by visiting the library table on Marine Ave and participate in the library's scavenger hunt!

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

For more information, contact:  
[info@prpl.ca](mailto:info@prpl.ca) • 604-485-4796





## Everything but...

Launching out of the unparalleled jazz program at Brooks Secondary School, all of the talented members of the jazz/funk combo **Kitchen Sink** have now graduated. Catch them opening the **Sunshine Music Festival on Saturday, August 31 at Lang Bay**. From left, they are: Tai Brown, Anthony Mulder, James Leishman, Nathaniel Hargrave, and Aaron Schweitzer.



# August in qathet



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2. At our Blackberry Festival booth!
3. In-person with us on Sep 11



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[powellriverskatingclub.uplifterinc.ca](http://powellriverskatingclub.uplifterinc.ca)

## AUGUST EVENTS



**THROUGH YOUNG LENSES:** Above, Peter Harvey mentors campers Menatthey-Blaney, Rowan Durnin, Taylor Kishimoto, and Mia Welp in the qathet Film Society's annual youth film camp. The short films screen at the refreshed Patricia Theatre August 9 at 3 pm - by donation. Learn more about the renovations to the Pat on Page 35.

1

Thursday

**Thursday Night Market**

6 to 9 pm, Willingdon Beach. Food, crafts, and more.

**Claire Coupland and the Alter Egos**

7 pm start, 6:30 pm doors at Gathered Farm & Florals, 2802 Zilinsky Rd. Tickets on Eventbrite or at the door. \$22.63. (12 and under free.) Folk finger picking, jazz influenced progressions and a powerful yet tender vocal delivery.

**Film • Thelma**

1:30 pm matinée and 7 pm, The Patricia Theatre. Inspired by a real-life experience of director Josh Margolin's own grandmother, THELMA puts a clever spin on movies like MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE, shining the spotlight on an elderly grandmother as an unlikely action hero.

2

Friday

**Shortshorts and Animal Shirts Dance Party**

8 pm to 1 am, Lund Gazebo. With DJs Red Hot, Minerva, Rowan, and Tropica. Entry by donation. All money will go to Cinema Politica and qathet Civic Voices.

**Elise LeBlanc in concert**

7 pm start, 6:30 pm doors at Gathered Farm & Florals, 2802 Zilinsky Rd. Tickets on Eventbrite or at the door. \$22.63. (12 and under free.) Alt-country singer-songwriter based in Cumberland, BC. Her music is inspired by classic country, Appalachian folk, and western swing.

**Potential Union in concert**

7 pm, Star Dusters Hall. \$15 suggested donation. All ages punk show. With special guests, Hysteria.

**Film • Despicable Me 4**

7 pm, The Patricia. Now begins a new chapter as Gru and the girls welcome

a new member to the Gru family, Gru Jr., who is intent on tormenting his dad. Gru also faces a new nemesis in Maxime Le Mal and his femme fatale girlfriend Valentina and the family is forced to go on the run. Starring the voices of Steve Carrell, Kristen Wiig, Will Ferrell, and Sofia Vergara.

3

Saturday

**qathet Art & Wares Third Birthday Party**

10:30 am to 5:30 pm, qathet Art & Wares. A bit of a re-birthday because it's also the grand re-opening at the new location in the bowling district. Tons of fun things to do and eat and win. Everyone is invited!

**Last day to bid in the Savary Island Land Trust Art Auction**

See more at [32auctions.com/SILTauction2024](http://32auctions.com/SILTauction2024). Other fundraisers this summer include a 50/50, t-shirt and more. See [savaryislandlandtrust.org](http://savaryislandlandtrust.org) for full details.



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[READYTINYHOME.CA](http://READYTINYHOME.CA)

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7 PM

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Films  
Weekly

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## Texada Island Blues & Roots Fest begins

Weekend fest at Gillies Bay. A showcase for artists that live within a 100 km radius of Texada Island, from the Sunshine Coast and Vancouver Island. [texadabluesfestival.com](http://texadabluesfestival.com)

### Film • Despicable Me 4

1:30 pm and 7 pm, The Patricia.

### Open Air Farmers' Market

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

# 4

Sunday

### Texada Island Blues & Roots Fest

[texadabluesfestival.com](http://texadabluesfestival.com)

### International Assistance Dog Week Begins

See story on Page 31. Through August 10.

### Open Air Farmers' Market

12:30 to 2:30 pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds.

### Film • Despicable Me 4

1:30 pm and 7 pm, The Patricia.

# 5

Monday

### BC Day Stat

Film • Despicable Me 4  
7 pm, The Patricia.

# 6

Tuesday

Film • Despicable Me 4  
7 pm, The Patricia.

# 7

Wednesday

Film • Despicable Me 4  
7 pm, The Patricia.

# 8

Thursday

### Protecting Your Property from Wildfire

3 pm, Library. Learn strategies for how to reduce the risks of wildfires around your property and home from the qRD FireSmart Coordinator Marc Albert. For information contact Mark at [mmerlino@prpl.ca](mailto:mmerlino@prpl.ca)

### Thursday Night Market

6 to 9 pm, Willingdon Beach. Food, crafts, and more.

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

7 pm, Rotary Pavilion, Willingdon.

# 9

Friday

### Short films screening: qathet Film Society's annual youth film camp

3 pm The Patricia. Admission by donation.

### Film • Twisters

7 pm, The Patricia. A retired tornado-chaser and meteorologist is persuaded to return to Oklahoma to work with a new team and new technologies.

# 10

Saturday

### Fins & Skins Golf Tourney begins

Morning fishing derby and afternoon golf tournament followed by dinner and prizes at Myrtle Point Golf Club. Net proceeds support the Powell River Salmon Society. Hosted by Josh Statham Group. Myrtle Point Golf Club. To register call 604-223-5674

### Open Air Farmers' Market

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

### Bu VonBlume in concert

7:30 pm, Wishing Well Gallery. All ages show. \$15. Vancouver Island multi-instrumentalist Lou Kinglish (normally an accordion player) teamed up with some of the heaviest hitting funk, brass, jazz and punk virtuosos around to create Bu VonBlume; a band that mixes hilarious theatre antics with down-right dangerous bass and horn lines to cook up a real dance fiasco.

### Film • Twisters

1:30 pm and 7 pm, The Patricia

# 11

Sunday

### WAG a cappella concert

3 pm, The Wishing Well 6251 Yew, Townsite. Suggested \$10 at the door, or pay what you can. WAG is an a cappella quartet originating in Vancouver. Half the group recently relocated to the qathet region. This will be their first local show. Tim, Doug, Katrina, and Susan create their music using just the human voice. They have literally been singing together for decades. Leaning on pop, folk and jazz styles, a WAG concert is sure to entertain with finger-snapping cover tunes and well-crafted original songs. [wagacappella.com](http://wagacappella.com). See story on Page 28.

shower is expected. Best viewing after midnight, when the moon is below the horizon. The meteor shower runs from July 17 to August 24.

### Film • Twisters

1:30 pm and 7 pm, The Patricia

# 12

Monday

### Film • Twisters

7 pm, The Patricia

# 13

Tuesday

### Farmers' Market Work Party

5 to 9 pm, all welcome

### Reading of novella Gambari, by local author Don MacKay

7 pm, Library. An account of racial intolerance in Canada during the Second World War.

### Papermaking with the qathet Museum

10 am to 3 pm, outside the Museum. \$10. Registration required: [programs@qathetmuseum.ca](mailto:programs@qathetmuseum.ca).

### Film • Twisters

7 pm, The Patricia

## Star power at the writers & readers fest

Naomi Klein, Wade Davis and Anne Marie MacDonald: what do these three famous Canadian authors have in common? Their presentations were sold out more than a month in advance, at the 2024 Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts.

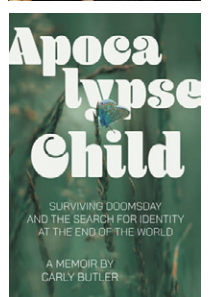
Fortunately, there's still plenty to see and do, for writers and readers, August 15 to 18 at the annual festival in Sechelt.

qathet's own Megan Cole, director of programming and communications for the BC and Yukon Book Prizes, moderates a "New Voices" panel with Tara Sidhoo Fraser and Carly Butler August 18.

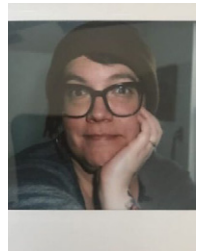
Grant Lawrence, author of *Adventures in Solitude: What Not to Wear to a Nude Potluck and Other Stories from Desolation Sound* and other qathet-located books, appears as part of Harbour Publishing's 50th anniversary event earlier that day. Folk musician Jill Barber, who performed a trio of concerts in this region through July with spouse Grant, closes the event.

Comedians Brent Butt and Deborah Kimmitt, Elder Sam George, children's author Kyo MacLear and many others are on stage to illuminate and inspire.

See [writersfestival.ca](http://writersfestival.ca). 



**NEW VOICES:** On August 18, qathet's Megan Cole (right) will moderate a panel with emerging writers Tara Sidhoo Fraser and Carly Butler, in Sechelt at the 2024 Sunshine



Coast Festival of the Written Arts.



**August 24 & 25**  
10am to 4pm

A free annual self-guided event, with over 50 artists participating. Experience the diversity and excellence of the art community of qathet.

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


## Texada Island Firefighters BBQ Fundraiser

Sept 2 starting at noon at Shelter Point Park

Featuring music by the Ryder Bachman Band. Raising funds for a much-needed Wildfire Rapid Attack Vehicle. To donate or sponsor, email [training@gilliesbayvfd.ca](mailto:training@gilliesbayvfd.ca) or call Gillies Bay Assistant Fire Chief Ben Reiman at 604-910-5601

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## AUGUST EVENTS

# 14

Wednesday

**PR Skating Club registration begins**

See ad on Page 41.

**Film • Twisters**

7pm, The Patricia

# 15

Thursday

**Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Word begins**

In Sechelt through August 18. Join Canada's longest running summer gathering of Canadian writers and readers, featuring established literary stars and exciting, new voices... with opportunities for writers and readers to mingle amidst Rockwood's heritage gardens. [writers-festival.ca](http://writers-festival.ca)

**Powell River's own CCMA-winning country fiddle duo, Twin Kennedy**

Evergreen Theatre. An evening of up-close-and-personal acoustic music, sharing songs from our CCMA-nominated album "Homebound" and of course some sizzling fiddle tunes from Julie off her recent win as CCMA Fiddle Player of the Year! See story on Page 42.

**Movie Under the Stars • Puss in Boots: The Last Wish**

8:30 pm / dusk, Larry Gouthro Park. Free show. Food trucks are Rosemary Lane, Dump Run Provisions & Convenient Chef. Brought to you by First Credit Union. Bring your blankets, chairs, and snacks, and enjoy a night under the stars with your community.

**Thursday Night Market**

6 to 9pm, Willingdon Beach. Food, crafts, and more.

**Film • Twisters**

7pm, The Patricia

**Early deadline for qathet Living**

September issue deadline for events and ads: Aug 15.



# 16

Friday

**Blackberry Fest Street Party**

Car-free on Marine Ave. Stay tuned for more info on the full week's schedule of other Blackberry Fest events.

**Book Blow-Out at Oceanside Entertainment begins**

By donation. See ad on Page 3 for more.

**Film • Deadpool & Wolverine**

7pm, The Patricia

# 17

Saturday

**Book Blow-Out at Oceanside Entertainment**

By donation. See ad on Page 3 for more.

**Open Air Farmers' Market**

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

**Film • Deadpool & Wolverine**

1:30 pm and 7pm, The Patricia

# 18

Sunday

**Run the Rock**

Texada marathon / half marathon / 8K. [runtexada.ca](http://runtexada.ca).

**Last Day: Book Blow-Out at Oceanside Entertainment**

By donation. See ad on Page 3 for more.

**Open Air Farmers' Market**

12:30 to 2:30 pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds.

**Film • Deadpool & Wolverine**

1:30 pm and 7pm, The Patricia

# 19

Monday

**Full moon**

Seasonal blue moon.

**Registration opens: Fall, Recreation Complex**

See ad on Page 2, or the *Active Living Guide* at [powellriverprc.ca](http://powellriverprc.ca).

**Film • Deadpool & Wolverine**

7pm, The Patricia

# 20

Tuesday

**Seniors Together program**

11:30 to 1pm, Cranberry Seniors Centre. Free lunch event. Pre-register at 604-485-2891.

**Film • Deadpool & Wolverine**

7pm, The Patricia



# 21

Wednesday

**Film • Deadpool & Wolverine**

7pm, The Patricia

**Planes, trains, automobiles, buses, and ferries?**

6:30 to 8 pm, Library. Public Forum on the woes of rural transportation and some possible fixes. A panel of speakers and engage in discussion. Hosted by qathet Community Voices.

# 22

Thursday

**Archaeology Day with the qathet Museum**

10:30 am to noon, outside the Museum. \$7 per child.

**Thursday Night Market**

6 to 9 pm, Willingdon Beach. Food, crafts, and more.

**Film • Deadpool & Wolverine**

7pm, The Patricia

# 23

Friday

**Vanishing British Columbia with Michael Kluckner**

4 pm, Library. Award winning author and artist Michael Kluckner presents his engaging, insightful, and visually appealing book on the changing landmarks and roadside memories from across BC.

**Alex Mackenzie, Comedian, Live**

8 pm, Evergreen Theatre. \$34.95, or \$39.95 at the door and day-of. Tickets on eventbrite.com.

**Beach Crashers concert & Second Beach Clean-up**

Concert 8 pm-ish, Second Beach. Collective beach clean-up at 5 pm with dj Weiraryu. Bring your rakes, magnets, metal detector

and muscles. All beautification efforts welcome. It is a free concert with a donation jar for the dump run. This is an event for all the friends of Second Beach.

**Film • Deadpool & Wolverine**

7pm, The Patricia

# 24

Saturday

**Farmers' Market Storytime**

11 am, at the Open Air Market. With the Library.

**Lang Bay Market**

10 am to 1pm, Lang Bay Hall.

**qathet Studio Tour begins**

A free self-guided event featuring artists from Lang Bay to Lund. Tour artist homes and studios to see where the creative magic happens. qathetstudiotour.ca

**Open Air Farmers' Market**

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

**Film • Deadpool & Wolverine**

1:30 pm and 7 pm, The Patricia

**Kings Dinner & Auction**

Dwight Hall, Doors at 5, dinner at 6. Tickets from tickets@powellriverkings.com.

# 25

Sunday

**qathet Studio Tour**

qathetstudiotour.ca

**Rec Complex Pool & Hot Tub close for annual maintenance**

Through September 15.

**Open Air Farmers' Market**

12:30 to 2:30 pm, Paradise Exhibition Grounds.

**Film • Deadpool & Wolverine**

1:30 pm and 7 pm, The Patricia

# 26

Monday

**Film • Deadpool & Wolverine**

1:30 pm and 7 pm, The Patricia

# 27

Tuesday

**Film • Deadpool & Wolverine**

1:30 pm and 7 pm, The Patricia

# 28

Wednesday

**Tech Savvy**

– **Ancestry.ca**

3 pm, Library. Learn about different genealogical research tools, including Ancestry.ca that you can access for free through the Library. To register, contact Mark at mmerlino@prpl.ca

# 29

Thursday

**Music in the Park • Madam Mayhem**

7 pm Willindon Beach, Rotary Pavillion. Sponsored by the City.

**Artist Trading Cards**

5:30 to 7:30, Westview Bowling & Billiards. With qathet Art & Wares.

**Thursday Night Market**

6 to 9 pm, Willingdon Beach. Food, crafts, and more.

# 31

Saturday

**Sunshine Music Fest**

Line-up TBA. Weekend-long music fest at Lang Bay, plus vendors, food, kids area, and more. sunshinemusicfest.ca.



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**Thank-you  
and congratulations!**

Thanks for all the votes!

Your voting, both online and in printed submissions, made possible the July "Best of qathet" awards, as featured in the July issue of *qathet Living*.

All who voted were entered in a random draw to win a Pollen Sweater. This year's lucky winner was **Victoria Ketchum**. She visited the Pollen Sweater's shop in Lund to choose her classic placket in the colour "Calypso." Congratulations, Victoria!

The "Best of qathet" contest is organized and run by *qathet living*. We deeply appreciate the support of Pollen Sweaters, our readers, and the hundreds of people who took the time to vote.





# Wash the dishes? Or practice music?

## Top tips to inspire kids this fall, from Twin Kennedy

**N**ashville-based country music stars Julie and Carli Kennedy grew up in Powell River, practicing instruments just like hundreds of local kids and teens do now. Here, the twins explain how their family helped shape the attitude and discipline that carried them towards their dreams.

### How old were you when you started playing an instrument – and was that the right age?

**Julie & Carli** • Our first instrument was the piano – we both started at five years old, and it was the perfect age for us to get started. As identical twins, we were used to sharing everything, so it was fun to pick our own instruments at seven years old when Carli chose guitar and Julie chose fiddle!

### Who taught you?

**Julie & Carli** • We were fortunate to have wonderful music teachers in Powell River, learning at the Academy of Music and in school. Our first teachers were our parents – Mom would sit with us at the piano, nurturing our skills, while Dad would strum his guitar and sing harmonies, setting the foundation for our future as a family band!

### How did you get involved in singing?

**Julie & Carli** • We started out singing in a family band, performing at local events like Blackberry Festival and Sea Fair, singing for the seniors at the retirement home, and entertaining visitors on cruise ships docked in the harbour. We always loved performing, and we knew since the time we were kids that we wanted to be on stage!

### What were your biggest challenges, through your preteen and teen years, being involved in music?

**Julie & Carli** • Pursuing big dreams in any field takes dedication and discipline. Choosing a career in the arts doesn't come

## TWIN KENNEDY HOMEBOUND TOUR

**When:** August 15, 7 pm, Evergreen Theatre. Doors at 6:30 pm.

**What:** Cancer-free and coming home! Twin Kennedy is excited to be returning to Powell River for an up close and personal acoustic duo show.

**Tickets:** \$30 for adults, \$15 for kids 12 and under. At the Powell River Recreation Complex and at [twinkennedy.com/shows](http://twinkennedy.com/shows).

with a road map, and the biggest challenge can be overcoming your own fears or doubts. We were blessed to have the support of our family and to grow up in a town that was rich in musical opportunities.

### Did you practice regularly?

**Julie & Carli** • We asked our parents about this one... and they said we were diligent practicers! We were always passionate about our music. Now, as professionals, we follow a strong practice routine to be stage-ready. We're thrilled to announce that we will soon be releasing an online course to share what we've learned with aspiring performers! Stay tuned by following us @twinkennedy for updates on our Twin Kennedy Music School coming soon!

Our parents had a clever trick to get us to practice on less eager days: we didn't have to do dishes if we practiced music. So you can bet there was a lot of music happening as soon as we took our last bites of dinner! Haha!

### What advice do you have for local parents who want their kids to stick with music to adulthood?

**Julie & Carli** • Music should be a joyful adventure! Ensure that playing music is



**PRACTICE MAKES PERFORMERS:** Top, Twin Kennedy with their family band here in qathet. Above, Julie and Carli Kennedy as the award-winning Twin Kennedy – touring to promote their album, *Homebound*.

fun, as this will encourage kids to make it a lifelong passion. Finding the right music teachers is important, and being able to explore a variety of genres and instruments can be a great way for students to find the right fit – some students might fall in love with classical piano, while others will enjoy playing country fiddle tunes and dancing around the room! We've always loved a combo of both!

### What difference did music make in your lives, as children and teens?

**Julie & Carli** • Music has shaped our lives in more ways than we can count. As children and teenagers, music gave us joy and

purpose. We continued on to university to study music and eventually made the move to Nashville, TN to continue our music careers. We have met some of our dearest friends through music, and we met our husbands in Music City!

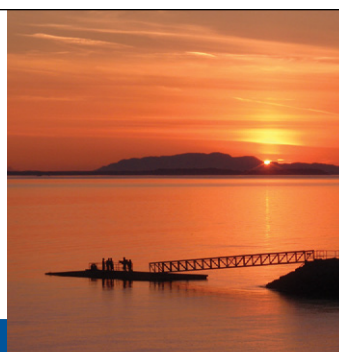
### Anything else you'd like to add?

**Julie & Carli** • We're so excited to return home to Powell River for a show at the Evergreen Theatre on August 15th! It's going to be a night filled with celebration, songs, and stories on the same stage where we got started as young performers! We hope you will join us for this special evening! 🎶

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**ICONIC PARACHUTE:** Above, the festival grounds feature a shade tent, vendors market, kid zone, food stalls, swimmable beach, and much more. Below, festival closers “rocking hillbilly trio” Cousin Harley.

**BY KAREN WOOTTEN AND DANNY VINCENT**

The Sunshine Music Festival is now officially a gathet Region musical institution. Many of its current volunteers spent their childhoods going “festival feral” every Labour Day weekend at Palm Beach Regional Park.

It’s easy to see why they have stuck with the event, with its beautiful setting overlooking the Salish Sea, its many and varied artisan and food vendors, and its dedication to being zero-waste and family-friendly. And, of course, the music!

This year, don’t miss **Tambura Rasa** for a cultural cross-pollination that fuses contemporary grooves and traditional rhythms from the Balkans, Spain, Turkey, the Middle East, and beyond. Leader of the quintet Ivan Tucakov (acoustic guitar, lead vocals) was born in Serbia and has travelled widely, packing musical styles and influences in his suitcase in every stop along the way to his current home in Vancouver.

He is joined by multi-instrumentalist Pepe Danza, Trevor Grant (drums), John Bews (electric bass), and Michael Fraser (gypsy swing violin).

Dancers will also love **Cousin Harley**: rockabilly mixed with country, blues, bebop, western swing, and Appalachian hillbilly attitude. Paul Pigat’s superb guitar and vocals have been driving this Vancouver-based trio for 20 years, alongside Keith Picot (upright bass) and Jesse Cahill (drums).

Variouly called “an unstoppable rock ‘n roll



wrecking crew” (Salmon Arm Roots & Blues) and the “Motorhead of Rockabilly” by a fan, Elmore Magazine suggests “strap yourself in, buckle up, and let Cousin Harley take you on an exhilarating ride.”

From closer to home, **Whatever Four** presents upbeat, genre-defying, improvisation-based jams. Local favourites Karina Inkster and Walter Martella might be the only two people who have ever wondered what it would sound like to mix together jazz and funk on keyboard (Walter), drums (Sasha Uhlmann), and bass (Jacob Krauss), and then throw in a didgeridoo (Karina) for good measure.

Come and listen to the answer you never knew you

# Festival Feral:

## Generations groove at the Sunshine Music Fest

### SUNSHINE MUSIC FEST

**When:** August 30 (opener at Cran Hall), then August 31 & September 1.

**Friday:** Jeff Plankenhorn (Cran Hall, by donation)

**Saturday:** The Kitchen Sink; CJ Beauchamp; Emily Triggs; Scout Mountain; Potential Union; Schryer, Enblom & Dobres; Tambura Rasa; Jeff Plankenhorn

**Sunday:** Whatever Four; Dally Mon; Maddie Strovold; Murfitt and Main; The Hatfield Union; Joe Nolan; Saltwater Hank; Cousin Harley

**Where:** Palm Beach. The Festival is grateful to hold this event on the lands of the Tla’amin and Shishálh people.

**Tickets:** Daily and Full Weekend tickets now on sale. Klds 12 and under free. Seniors & students \$70/weekend, \$40/single day. Regular \$80/weekend, \$50 single day. For more info and to purchase tickets visit [sunshinemusicfest.ca/](http://sunshinemusicfest.ca/)

needed!

One of the wonderful things about Powell River is the musical influences available to our youth. The lively and talented jazz/funk combo **Kitchen Sink** (Nathaniel Hargrave, Aaron Schweitzer, Anthony Mulder, Tai Brown, and James Leishman) has taken full advantage. They have played the Townsite Jazz Festival among other events, and we are happy to have them as the festival opener on Saturday morning. They are a great reason to be there when the gates open! 🎸



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## SEPTEMBER EVENTS PREVIEW

**DANCE WEEK:** Two can't-miss dance performances are coming to qathet, just a few days apart. **Above**, with Ballet Kelowna, Tla'amin member Cameron Fraser Monroe's first major work of choreography, *taqəš*, comes to the Max Cameron September 11. **Right**, with Caroline Shaw and Vanessa Goodman, *Movement Arts BC's Gardens and Graveyards* examines themes of memory at the Evergreen September 8.

*Photo above by Abigail Wiens*

### September 1

#### Sunshine Music Fest

Weekend-long music fest at Lang Bay's Palm Beach, plus vendors, food, kids area and more. [sunshinemusicfest.ca](http://sunshinemusicfest.ca). See Page 43.

### September 2

#### Labour Day

Don't wear white after this holiday.

#### The Texada Island Firefighters 3rd Annual BBQ Fundraiser

Shelter Point Park starting at noon featuring music by the Ryder Bachman Band. Raising funds for a much-needed Wildfire Rapid Attack Vehicle. If you are interested in donating or sponsoring, email [training@gilliesbayvfd.ca](mailto:training@gilliesbayvfd.ca) or call Gillies Bay Assistant Fire Chief Ben Reiman at 604-910-5601.

### September 3

#### Schools re-open after summer

Part-day.

### September 5

#### qathet Concert Band open rehearsal

7:30 pm, Brooks School Band Room. If you play an instrument (woodwind, brass, percussion) and are interested in joining qCB, please plan to attend to find out what we're all about and what happens at rehearsals. For more information please email [qathetconcertband@gmail.com](mailto:qathetconcertband@gmail.com)

### September 7

#### Motorcycles: Food Bank New and Used Toy Roundup.

Tour begins at 2 pm from Timberlane. Call or text Bob Stewart at 604-223-7488 if you need toys picked up. Collecting new and used toys for Christmas distribution.

### Texada Paint Out

Capture the stunning scenery of Texada Island at Shelter Point. [texada.org](http://texada.org)

#### qathet Symphony Orchestra rehearsals begin again

10 am to noon, Cranberry Seniors Centre at Cranberry and Manson. Learn more on Page 24.

#### First Kings game of the season

1:30 pm at the Hap Parker arena, vs. Alberni Valley Bulldogs.

### September 8

#### Graveyards & Gardens dance performance

7 pm, Evergreen. With Movement Arts BC - the first of two performances here this year. See ad on Page 12.

#### Kings vs. Alberni Valley

1:30 pm, Hap Parker.

### September 11

#### Ballet Kelowna's *taqəš* and Other Works, by Tla'amin choreographer and dancer Cameron Fraser-Monroe

7 pm, Max Cameron Theatre. Tickets \$30 for adults and \$20 for 18 and under, at The Peak, The Nutcracker Market, online at [maxcamerontheatre.ca](http://maxcamerontheatre.ca), and at the door (although it's likely to sell out in advance.)

#### In-person registration for the PR Skating Club

See ad, Page 38.

### September 12

#### qathet Concert Band open rehearsal

7:30 pm, Brooks School Band Room. If you play an instrument (woodwind, brass, percussion) and are interested in joining qCB, please plan to attend to find out



what we're all about and what happens at rehearsals. For more information please email [qathetconcertband@gmail.com](mailto:qathetconcertband@gmail.com)

### September 14

#### Tla'amin Nation Election

The hegus and eight Legislators to be elected.

### September 14 & 15

#### Fall Fair

Paradise Exhibition Grounds. Harvest festival with a judged competition in growing, baking, crafting and much more. Vendors, music, food, meet the animals, and celebrate fall.

### September 15

#### Viva la Village: Celebrating a Village Way of Life at Hearthstone Village Cooperative

1-5 pm, 11332 Highway 101. Yard/bake sales, dance party, BBQ, and more. All welcome.

#### Zany Zucchini Races

At the Fall Fair. Ages 5 to adult. See Page 13 of the Fall Fair Guide for more.

#### Italian Day

11:30 to 2:30 at the Italian Hall 5866 Lund Hwy.

#### Cranberry Community Hall Association annual AGM

3 pm sharp, Cran Hall. For further information contact [info@cranhall.org](mailto:info@cranhall.org). New members and new interest in serving on the board very welcome.

### September 18

#### Supermoon

Look up

### September 20

#### Pro-D Day

School is not in session, qSD

#### Kings vs. Victoria Grizzlies

7 pm, Hap Parker.

### September 21

#### Completely Creedence

Tribute to CCR. Evergreen Theatre. Tickets available in person at the Rec Centre or 1-604-485-2891

#### Kings vs. Victoria Grizzlies

5 pm, Hap Parker.

### September 22

#### Fall Equinox

Cool.

### September 30

#### Truth and Reconciliation Day

Walk TBA. Schools closed.





# Do you take care of locals' health?

Make sure you appear in ZEST, qL's annual health & wellness resource

## Contact us by September 5 for a free listing in:

Acupuncture & Eastern Medicine  
 Addictions  
 Age-in-Place / Home Support  
 Assisted Living  
 Birth & Babies  
 Children & Youth  
 Chiropractic  
 Clean / Disinfect  
 Counselling  
 Dental  
 Emergency Shelter  
 End of Life  
 Eyes  
 Feet  
 Food & Nutrition  
 Health & Abilities Supports

Hearing  
 Low Income Support  
 Massage & Laser  
 Medical Clinics  
 Movement  
 Naturopaths  
 Pharmacies  
 Physiotherapy & Sports  
 Reproductive Health  
 Sexual Health  
 Societies  
 Speech & Language  
 Support Groups  
 Wellness  
 VCH Services  
 & Other Services

ZEST 2024 comes out inside the October issue of qathet Living magazine.

The booklet provides qathet's only complete print health and wellness guide.

To help new clients find your services, book an ad by September 11.

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Market: 6-9 pm

Take-down: 9-9:30 pm



## Willingdon Beach

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“My name is Rick Giesing. I live in the Forest. My workshop is filled with objects of all sorts. I look around me and I am amazed how things fit together either in harmony or juxtaposition. Sculptural elements join each other; assemblages appear and montages construct themselves. The thrill is in the doing and the surprise of the outcome. I hope to continue doing it because it puts my head in a good space and I am able to amaze myself.”

### Art Shows in August

#### qathet Studio Tour

##### Lang Bay to Lund

August 24 & 25. See next page.

#### Crucible Gallery

##### Out Of The Woods Again

August 1-31. Rick Giesing. Hours: 1-5 pm Wednesday to Saturday

#### Artifact Gallery

##### The Nature of Nature

To August 10. Roy Schneider. See Page 50.

#### Powell River Public Library

##### Construct + Revelation

Arthur Nouwens. Through August.

#### Tidal Art Center

##### Summer Group Show: Portraits

Through August 18

##### Imbalance in balance

August 22 to September 8. Yeonmi Kim and Andy Henderson from Designature Art & Home. See next page.

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**NATURALS:** Andy Henderson and Yeonmi Kim, the brains and hands behind Designature Art & Home, are showing at Tidal Art Centre.

qathet Studio Tour August 24 & 25

## Galleries and group spaces an easy entry into artists' worlds

**F**or newbies to this region's art scene, the qathet Studio Tour offers unparalleled access to skilled creatives in their working environments. If you're a little shy about dropping in, starting with a gallery or a group show is a casual way to kick off your weekend.

The tour is a chance to say hello to the relatively new Artifact Gallery. It's on the main strip of Marine Avenue Autumn Skye Morrison is celebrating one year since opening in August of 2023.

It's also a moment to say goodbye to Turadh Fine Art at Townsite Market. After six years representing other artists, painter Anna May Bennett will shift the space to become her own studio; the last day for other artists' sales is August 17.

Whether you're on a buying spree or just enjoying a pleasant day out with friends, the artists of the Studio Tour are looking forward to sharing their work and spaces with you.

### QATHET STUDIO TOUR

**When:** August 24 & 25, 10 am to 4 pm each day

**What:** Annual public self-guided tour of 34 private studios and galleries from Lang Bay to Lund. Organized by qathet ART.

**How to tour:** Plan your route by finding the map and descriptions of each stop at [qathetart.ca](http://qathetart.ca) or look for the print booklet.

### Galleries and group spaces on the qathet Studio Tour

- Cranberry Seniors' Centre will host seven artists: Haslam Art Studio (Eve and Alan Jones), Janet Southcott, Johanna Beyers, Joyce Furness, Robbie Matheson, Superchick Creations (Katie McLean), Westcoast Wild Originals (Helena Pedersen)
- Timberlane Fine Arts Association
- Patricia Letterpress
- Sparrowfelt Fibre Arts Studio (Vanessa Sparrow) and Willow Avenue (Catherine Langevin)
- Rochelle Nehring and Glen Higgins
- Hillside Studio (Valerie Marikle and Dionne Robert)
- Artifact Gallery (Autumn Skye Morrison, Meghan Hildebrand, Prashant Miranda and others)
- Turadh Fine Art (Anna May Bennett)
- Tidal Art Centre (Yeonmi Kim and Andy Henderson)

## Imbalance in balance: reclaimed wood inspires one-of-a-kind art, furniture and decor

**BY YEONMI KIM AND ANDY HENDERSON**

**D**esignature Art & Home will be exhibiting new artwork, furniture, and decor at **Tidal Art Centre** from August 22 to September 9.

In the new show, *Imbalance In Balance*, we explore furniture with great diversity from artistic exploration to household basics and home decor. Bound by only technical limitations, we use a diverse range of material.

Our love of nature and commitment to its preservation inform all of our creative practices by using predominantly reclaimed and recycled wood for our work.

From demo, second hand, driftwood, and local harvesting, we have striven to produce carbon neutral goods and reduce waste.

Furthermore, we like to incorporate found materials such as fabric, metal, or recycled parts of furniture.



Part of our design aesthetic is to use the shapes, lines or grain of wood in the material and build the design around those features rather than designing objectively – which often wastes much material. We let the wood we acquire inform the design by its strengths and limitations.

A chair blooming at the end of a tree; parts of an old chair combined with boards from different eras with different properties. A meeting of hard wood and soft fibers. Western practical design is added to the beauty of Oriental lines.

The works, which lie somewhere between modern furniture and installation art, may be somewhat unfamiliar to the audience, but the unfamiliarity is quietly balanced with meticulous planning.

*Imbalance In Balance* is a combination of substances with different properties.

Our lives overlap in a work of art where seemingly inharmonious elements support and balance each other, creating a new life. 🌱





**CURATORS:** Above, owners and curators Neo Alexander Corbett and Autumn Skye Morrison, at Artifact Gallery. Below, baskets by Dawn Myers Basket Weaving and antique sculpture collected by Conrad Sarzynick.

## Functional and spiritual objects peak “creative curiosity”

**BY AUTUMN SKYE MORRISON**

This community is abundantly rich with creativity, skill, and ingenuity, featuring a spectacular variety of styles and mediums created by artists from many walks of life. The multitude of galleries, artist studios, boutiques, markets, and murals in the region is a testament to this.

Last summer, a little space became available on the sunny side of Marine Ave in the heart of qathet, and the concept of a new style of gallery was born. Artifact Gallery opened the evening of the Blackberry Street Festival in late August, and it has been evolving and gaining notice throughout the past year.

When you walk into the gallery you are met with a visual tapestry of beautiful colours and textures: evocative paintings and delicate drawings hang on the walls, and functional pottery and decorative sculptures sit on tables and pedestals. Glass cases contain an extensive array of handmade jewellery. Intricately woven baskets and wall hangings of natural fibres are suspended between paintings and nestle in groupings with plants and mysterious antique carvings. Shelves are lined with nourishing herbal remedies, natural body products, healing crystals, and sparkling geodes.

Though each item is a world unto itself, together the collection offers an immersive and inspiring ex-

perience with the invitation of creative curiosity and spiritual reflection.

Artifact Gallery celebrates uniqueness, quality, and craftsmanship, and seeks to share inspiration with the local community and our visitors while supporting qathet’s artists and artisans. Operating as a hybrid cooperative-commercial model, everyone who works in the gallery is also an Artifact artist. The overall vision, curation, and management is facilitated by local couple Autumn Skye Morrison and Neo Corbett.

Artists and Artisans include Autumn Skye, Meghan Hildebrand, Roy Schneider, Prashant Miranda, Doris Kozlovic of Stoned & Beautiful, Mischa Brooks-Thoma of The Natural Soap Lady, Dawn Myers Basket Weaving, Hayley Kershaw of The Woven Dream, Amber Friedman of Wild Spirit Apothecary & Live Ta Dye, Teresa Harwood-Lynn of Junkery to Jewellery,

Kelsey Oksanen of Tapiola Designs, Conrad Sarzynick, Patricia Sparks, Anastasia of Terraria Studio, Shivaun Gingras of Wildwood Pottery, Solene Chatain, Dee Light of Earth Inspirations Pottery, Haley Hunt-Brondwin, and more!

Visit Artifact Gallery at 4690 Marine Avenue in qathet, and fill your senses with beauty and inspiration! 🐾



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# Wildfire, peace, and paint

Fine art and tempestuous nature influence Roy Schneider's reverential landscapes

BY RICK CEPELLA

For two decades, painter Roy Schneider spent half of each year working for the Alberta Wildfire Service, isolated in 100' tall lookouts. From his posts, he became a keen observer of nature through the seasons.

The most active part of the fire season is the spring when the snow disappears and exposes the last year's tall cured grasses which carpet the boreal floor, he recalls. "It is a dry and windy time and we regularly see our biggest fires." Then the rains and lightning fires. Observation, yard work and maintenance, hauling water and looking after our physical needs are long days. "Then when it rains for days or snows or is foggy, our time is our own and there are lots of opportunities to paint or hike."

The service flew in his easel and supplies. "It was really an ideal situation for artistic reverie and practice. Interesting things happen in that isolation. Peace descends that is really quite profound. Ego diminishes and perception is heightened. It is the zen parable of the empty teacup. Painting then can become a very pure thing. Just art and nature. A reverence for nature, and a love of art."

Now, Roy paints from his studio in Wildwood. You can visit him there during the qathet Studio Tour August 24 and 25, or find his work at Artifact Gallery until August 10.

His work has been collected by philanthropists across Canada and the USA, and his client list includes Oxford University Press, Bon Appetite Magazine, Style Magazine, and many more.



His origin comes from a love of drawing; Roy started art lessons at 14, evenings at the old Edmonton Art Gallery. After graduation, he entered The Alberta College of Art and Design, majoring in painting and printmaking.

"When I was young and in art school, what was happening in New York was of course very exciting to me," he said. "Abstract expressionism, colour field painting and all the practitioners of those movements made a big impression on all of us young artists, and that was a natural thing. However now that I am older I look further back in art



**SHOW SEASON:** Artist Roy Schneider hangs his show, *The Nature of Nature*, at Artifact Gallery on Marine Ave. Through August 10. Photo by Autumn Skye Morrison

## ROY SCHNEIDER'S AUGUST

### Show at Artifact Gallery:

To August 10. *The Nature of Nature*.

### On the Studio Tour: August 24 and 25

in his studio in Wildwood at 6421 Hillcrest Avenue.

**Contact:** info@studioschneider.ca studioschneider.ca 780-516-3448

history for inspiration and motivation. I look to the great naturalist painters like Sargent, Homer, Sorolla, and our great Canadian painters as well. All of whom I characterize as 'painter's painters.' Great observers of the world and artists with enormous talents, virtuosity, and craftsmanship."

Now on the West Coast, Roy is ex-

ploring the wider vistas and atmospherics of the coast mountains. Landscape, he said, "is so direct. There's no need for explanations or art theory. It's pure painting: structure, composition, colour, value, and temperature."

In the past, Roy said, his work has ranged from figurative to magical realism. But now, five years into retirement, he's leaning in to what all those years in the Wildfire Service taught him, from isolation and observation.

"These days I think it is really important that we study and revere nature," he said, as Jasper started to burn in yet another summer of wildfires and evacuations.

"We are sadly very out of touch. I hope I can inspire people to have another look." 🐼



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## MAIL BAG

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

## Move Over, Spuzzum

Hi Pieta,

Zunga is perfect!! I absolutely loved your article ["Best of Zunga," July 2024] and the reasons why this name suits our town to the ground.

Move over Spuzzum! Zunga will be the town with the coolest name in the province.

Cheers,

- Lesley Moseley

## No one misses 'York'

To the editor,

My family roots are in Toronto – a city that went through its own renaming process almost two hundred years ago. The city's name comes from the Kanyen'kéha word "Tkaronto," which means "the place in the water where the trees are standing" – a reference to tall wooden stakes that once formed fishing weirs in the area.

In 1793 the first English settlers renamed the town York, in honour of the Duke of York. Even way back then, there was an awareness that something was being lost in the anglicization – an Irish writer travelling through Upper Canada a few years later "lamented that the Indian names, so grand and sonorous, should ever have been changed for others. Newark, Kingston, York are poor substitutes for the original names of the respective places Niagara, Catarqui, Toronto."

In 1834 the town of York was debating a return to its Indigenous name, Toronto. Some people were upset by the proposal. At this time, the Indigenous Mississauga had seen their territory reduced from 4 million acres down to a 200 acre parcel on the nearby Credit River.

Over 93% of the town's population was now of British ancestry and, for many, the adoption of an Indigenous name was seen as an insult to their shared heritage.

One angry judge wrote disparagingly that politicians were "shrinking from all remembrance of [England's] glory [and] have urged to the seat of

the King's government the wild and terrific sound of Toronto."

During a debate in the Legislature, politicians argued that "much inconvenience would result from changing the name." Another "could not feel that the jingling sound of Toronto was so very musical and delightful."

Another "preferred the old original Indian names" and lectured the assembly on the Indigenous roots of other place names such as Manhattan.

Ultimately the vote passed 22-10.

- Craig Turney

## Dental Dam

To the editor,

I have been wondering how to get this word out ["Dental Plan Needs a Floss," June 2024]. I too was excited to get a dental card in the mail. But it means nothing. They did not consult the dentists re plan and no Powell River dentist is accepting it.

The word needs to be out.

- Kathleen O'Malley

## Almost the last Last Word

Dear Isabelle,

On the 60th anniversary of our July 13, 1957 marriage, our family hung a 60 above our dining area sliding glass door (see image, above). The last anniversary that Len and I celebrated together was our 63rd. (Each year after our 60th, the numbers were upgraded!)

That 63 has seen good service: Phil turned that age and this year YOU and our Dan will achieve that age. Therefore, I decided to send this to offer my congratulations.

Len and I watched your Powell River career from its early beginnings. Of course, one event which I always will cherish was our being together at Dan and Pauli-Ann's when you covered the story of Robbie Everett at the Telethon. You are well aware that we became avid fans of *Powell River Living*.

Frankly I do not know what lies ahead when I pick up each monthly edition. I give the first few pages a quick review and then, ALWAYS, turn to LAST



WORD to see 'what Isabelle has to say this month'. You can imagine how I felt this month to discover that you were announcing your retirement. Tomorrow would have been our 67th Anniversary.

This evening I have been going over the menu for a wee event I am having to celebrate tomorrow.

Therefore, I decided to take this picture to send with my Best Wishes. YOU are SO DESERVING of the recent award you received as Outstanding Woman In Business of the Year. Since 2006 I have appreciated your keeping me connected to this COMMUNITY.

May your future RUNWAY continue to be enriched because of your determination to make ONE'S LIFE MATTER.

Sincerely,

- Muriel Carriere

## These letters never get old...

Hello Isabelle,

I've been meaning to congratulate you for years.

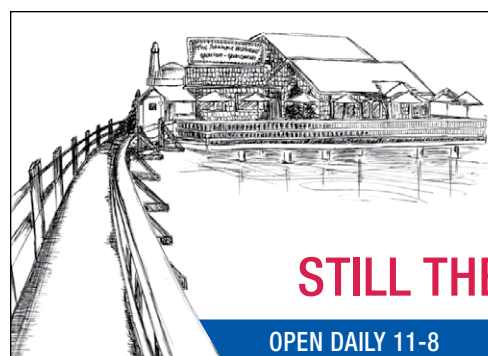
I worked as a photographer for the *North Shore News* for 37 years, consistently Canada's best community newspaper. When I retired and moved to qathet I knew I was gonna miss the local stories and updates of my beloved hometown newspaper, but was I wrong.

Your *qathet Living* is consistently one of the best pieces of journalism any community could hope to have. From the stories to the photography to your op ed, the layout and even the ads.

I only hope the residents of the qathet region have an idea of how lucky they are to have you, your staff and contributors filling the pages with great journalism every month.

Thanks and keep up the good work

- Mike Wakefield.



## The Boardwalk Restaurant in Lund

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## TAKE A BREAK

# I see you. You matter. Keep going.

They say to surround ourselves with people who inspire us. Those who already do what we too wish to do, have achieved a goal we strive for, or otherwise uplift and encourage us simply by their way of being. Sometimes we find this happens organically as people tend to gravitate toward like-minded community.

We might find ourselves surrounded by others living the dream – whatever that dream of ours may be. This sort of company ignites a spark of can-do within us, propelling things forward, modelling possibility, and generating a creative field that we might attune ourselves to. Not to mention any practical aspects like tips, leads, or connections.

However, this inspiring quality that naturally elevates us may take time to find, and when we do, it might come with conflicting emotions. Oscillating between feelings of inspiration, hope, or encouragement with those of otherness, longing, or competition.

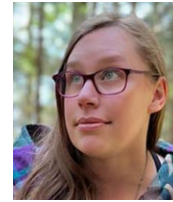
Becoming an encourager ourselves, championing those around us, and cheerleading for what we want to see more of in the world, is a means of replacing competition with collaboration. When done honestly, we shift into seeing the best in each other. Those around us become both inspired and inspiration.

They also say, “Tell your friends you love them,” and this is a form of that.

Sharing what’s within another whom we are inspired by, naming an admirable quality – and speaking it to them – encourages those we are in relationship with to reach new heights through our honest witnessing.

The hard-working solo parent, the artist at the market, our elders and children, a mechanic who goes the extra mile, graduates we haven’t even met. As simple as a one line text, a kind letter, or social media ‘Like’; it all says, “I see you. You matter. Keep going.”

It feels good to do and carries significant im-



## RETURN TO REVERENCE

JULIETTE JARVIS



pact—even if we think they must surely already know. Perhaps especially if we think they already know.

Oftentimes, folks are quietly wondering if they’re on the right path, wrestling with doubts, or experiencing imposter syndrome. A few heartfelt words can keep someone going when otherwise they might give up.

By fostering these aspirational qualities, we cultivate a stronger sense of community. One we want to be a part of.

So go ahead and say, “Hey, you inspire me!” or “I enjoy this about you,” and let that spark inform and move us. Raising one another, uplifts us all.

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

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# TAKE A BREAK

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

- |            |           |             |
|------------|-----------|-------------|
| AYAJUTHEM  | FALL      | PATRICIA    |
| BCUC       | FERRY     | QUARTET     |
| BILLET     | GAS       | QUILLAYUTE  |
| BLACKBERRY | HEATHER   | ROCK        |
| BLOOM      | HIKING    | RUGGED      |
| BOOKS      | HURTADO   | SCHOOL      |
| CANDIDATES | JERVIS    | SQUARE      |
| CARVING    | KIDS      | STARDUSTERS |
| COVE       | LILAC     | STUDIOS     |
| DANCING    | LISTER    | SUSTAINABLE |
| DATES      | LOGGERS   | SYMPHONY    |
| DEADHEAD   | MAHONY    | THEATRE     |
| ELECTION   | MANZANITA | TOUR        |
| ELOPE      | PADS      |             |

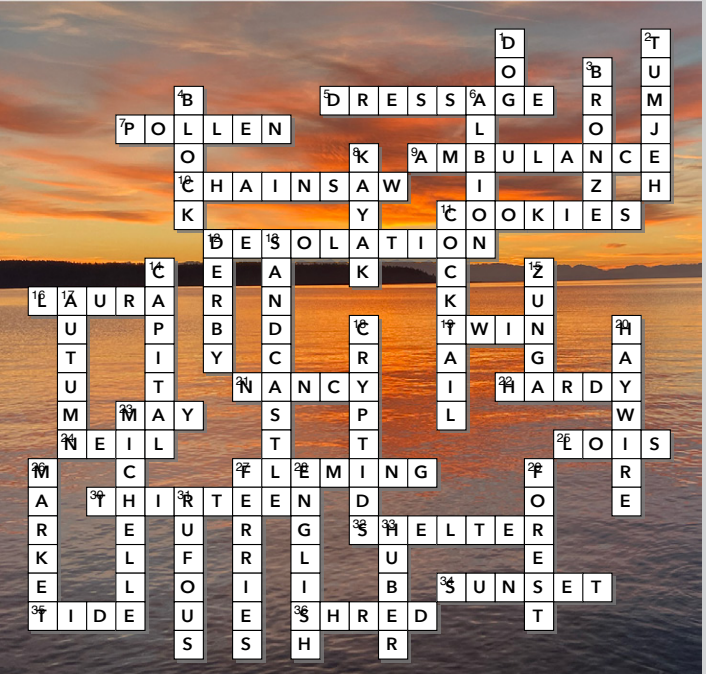


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### SOLUTION TO JULY PUZZLE



The crossword puzzle solution grid is displayed against a sunset background. The words are filled in white boxes on a dark grid.



**the owl & bear**  
 herbs and curiosities

**“Perfection is no small thing, but it is made up of small things.”**  
 - Michelangelo



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# Handing off the magazine, heading off to find the new Iz

A good guest knows when it's time to leave the party.

There are several variations on this quote, but I've always liked it because it speaks to how I feel about leaving *qathet Living* magazine and retirement. Specifically, my retirement.

Retirement is all about change. Change and acceptance which isn't always easy. It's hard to acknowledge that I will no longer own and oversee a business that I created from an idea in my head – a business that I have loved, a business that I watched grow alongside my own children.

In many ways, *qathet Living* has been like another child. I birthed it, nurtured it, watched it toddle uncertainly towards teenagerhood and then grow up and discover its own identity.

This magazine has been a huge part of my life for eighteen and a half years. Now it's time to say farewell.

I realize that I've been extremely lucky in that I've found meaning in my work and have loved what I do, as that's not the case for everyone. For that, I'm grateful.

In much the same way that it was difficult to come to terms with who I was when my children grew up and left home, I know I will struggle with who am I without *qathet Living*. I will no longer be Isabelle the publisher or Isabelle the business owner, but I will still be Isabelle. I will still be me and I will continue to embrace all the other parts of me that make me who I am, but just without the magazine.

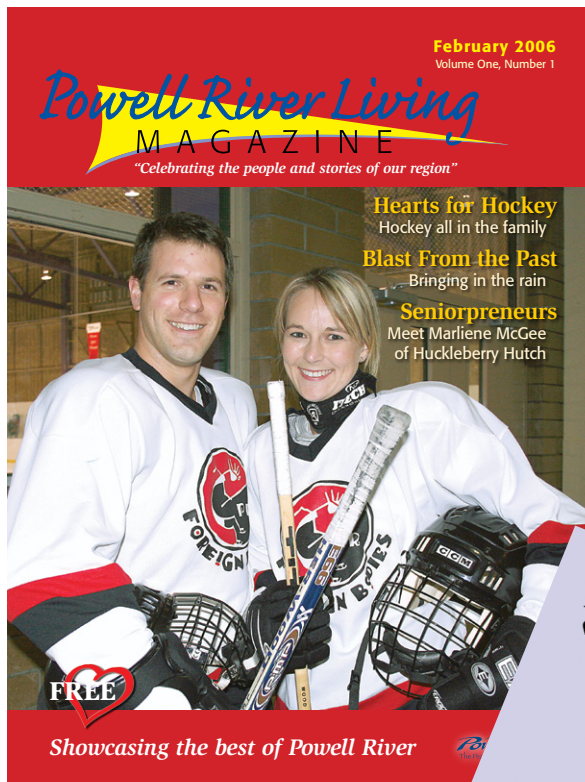
I will be leaving on a cross-Canada trip in September (hopefully) with Jigs, Zunga and Decoy and we will bring the book *Toller Tales: Jigs and Zunga Take A Trip*, to life! My Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers will go to Nova Scotia and meet their relatives and discover their roots!

While I take a pre-retirement holiday, Sean Percy, our associate publisher, will run the magazine with Pieta Woolley, our magazine's extremely capable editor and graphic designer, along with Suzi Wiebe, Lauren Diemer, Lisa Beeching, and Bob Fershau, with help from Ann Nelson, Roberta Pearson, Robert Dufour, Juliette Jarvis and Devan Gillard – plus the entire community that contributes stories, pho-



## LAST WORD

ISABELLE SOUTHCOTT



tographs, blips, tips, ideas and feedback each month.

I'll work remotely and later this year Pieta will become the magazine's new owner.

I don't expect you'll notice a whole lot of change at first. Jigs, Zunga, Decoy and I are going to monitor gas prices as we drive across the country and report on the differences we see. I'll continue to write 'Last Word' and do some other things for the magazine on my holiday.

As much as I'm nervous about the change that lies ahead when I finally retire, I'm excited for Pieta and

Sean. They are both much younger and have the fire needed to take *qathet Living* to the next level.

As for me, I'll be spending some time in Nova Scotia and some time here. I've spent 31 years living on the East Coast and 31 living on the West Coast. My kids and family are in BC, but the pull of the Fundy Tide is strong and adventure is calling.

My dad always joked that he'd "lived past his best before date" when he hit 90, and I think that phrase can be applied to many areas of my own life. Sometimes you have to step aside to make way for something new. If you don't remove the roadblock, you'll never be able to move ahead and the next generation will be held back.

Pieta and Sean have new ideas, more energy and all the experience they need for *qathet Living* to be a roaring success. Just like parents don't want to hold their children back, I don't want to hold them or the magazine back. I don't want to overstay my best before date.

I remember how I felt when I was ready to take the next step back in 2006. I was champing at the bit to see my ideas come to life. Armed with just a "dummy" and a rate card, I visited potential advertisers and

chased down stories and photos to bring my dream to life. Robert Dufour and Barb Rees were instrumental in helping me achieve that vision: Robert, with the graphic design and Barb, with selling ads and writing. With that first issue we created something to be proud of and to build on. Something that we have been building on ever since.

I'm excited for the future. For me, for the magazine, for this community and for everyone here at *qathet Living*. And with that dear readers, I'll enjoy my last pickled prawn, fill up the gas tank and hit the road.

isabelle@prliving.ca





**WHAT'S THERE:** The 6.4 hectare site across from Willingdon Beach features plenty of greenspace, including an amphitheatre, active transportation trails, and outdoor classroom areas. Two ponds (above) are fed by natural springs and many native plants have been planted, including over 6,000 trees. Right, structures include (from top) the Transfer Station, Recycle Depot, and Scale House.

# Resource Recovery Centre: Phased Opening Summer 2024

The Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) is in its final stages of construction and will be opening summer 2024, starting with the new Transfer Station.

Visitors will enter the site using the new access road on Marine Avenue between Willingdon Beach Campground and Brooks Secondary School. Following the road into the site, turning right will lead residents to the new **Recycle Depot** and access to free drop-off of recyclable materials like paper, plastic, and metal packaging, foam, glass jars, used oil, lightbulbs, and more.

Continuing further into the site will lead visitors over the scales of the **Scale House** and through to the **Transfer Station**. Following the counter clockwise flow of traffic, residents will have the opportunity to stop at areas designated for reusable and recyclable materials such as tires, clean wood, appliances, yard and garden waste, construction and demolition waste, and scrap metal, before reaching the residual waste (garbage) bin. The loop ends at the Transfer Station building which has two large bays for commercial loads of organics and residual waste.

The qathet Regional District looks forward to welcoming residents to the RRC in summer 2024. To learn more about the project, visit [qathet.ca/current\\_project/resource-recovery-centre/](https://qathet.ca/current_project/resource-recovery-centre/).



Transfer Station



Recycle Depot



Scale House

The story of the site's transition from incineration to resource recovery is embedded in its design. Materials left behind from its decades as an open pit incinerator site are now incorporated into functional art pieces like fencing and footbridges. The old incinerator has been left standing as a reminder of the steps the region has made to rewrite its relationship with waste.



A woman in a dark blue, long-sleeved, flowing dress is captured in a dynamic dance pose on a beach. She is leaning forward, with her head tilted back and her arms extended horizontally. The background shows a beach with driftwood and a body of water under a cloudy sky.

*Laszlo Tamasik*  
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