

qathet

MARCH 2025

# LIVING

Swim  
against the  
current



100% LOCALLY OWNED • FIERCELY INDEPENDENT • ALWAYS FREE

TARIFFS • GARDENS • PUNK N' JAZZ • FILM & QUILT FESTS • 'OUR LIVES' BEGINS



qL's guide to free services in the region

# HELP IS HERE

Do you need help?

Does someone you love need help?

This region offers a remarkable crew of experts, who assist locals with mental health, physical health, parenting, elder care, crisis care, legal and bureaucratic challenges, housing, addictions, employment, and so much more.

*Help is Here* is a new resource that will run every month, on Page 2, in *qathet Living*. The vision is, the

more familiar this community is with what help is available, the more we can all assist each other to find it when it's needed.

Plus, watch this space each month for a special profile of a program or service that's available.

You won't always need this kind of help. But when you do, this is where to find it.

If you provide help and you'd like to appear on this page, please contact [Suzi@qathetliving.ca](mailto:Suzi@qathetliving.ca) (604-344-0208) or [Sean@qathetliving.ca](mailto:Sean@qathetliving.ca) (604-485-0003) to book a space.



**Youth & Family**



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**• FOUNDRY •**  
qathet



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

Free virtual services: [foundrybc.ca/virtual](http://foundrybc.ca/virtual)





**If you are experiencing:**

**Violence**

*We offer:*

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

**Trauma**

*We offer:*

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

**Poverty & Injustice**

*We offer:*

Support to people with limited means to legal information and to complete applications

**Safety & Advocacy for Everyone**



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

**Comprehensive source for local pregnancy care information!**

**Visit [pregnantinqathet.ca](http://pregnantinqathet.ca) today!**




**Who your program helps**

*Tag line.*

**Your Logo Here**

- Specific Services
- Resources
- Contacts
- QR code?

[www.yourorganization.ca](http://www.yourorganization.ca)



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**Looking for health services in qathet?**



Look for a copy of **ZEST**, the annual magazine/directory published by *qathet Living*. Pick up a free copy at our office, download it at [qathetliving.ca](http://qathetliving.ca), or scan the code above.





**Men Choose Respect**



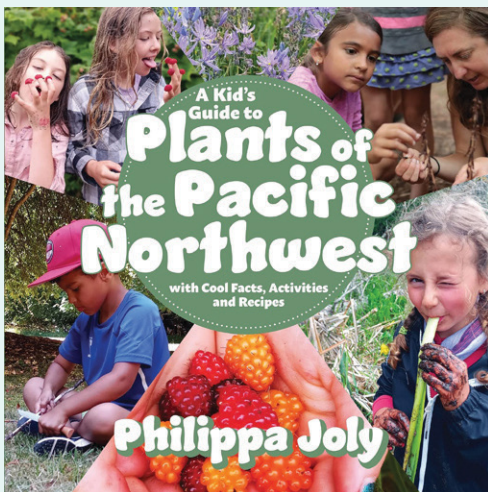
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A 9-week group for men who want to foster respect and safety in their personal relationships.

[menchooserespectprogram@gmail.com](mailto:menchooserespectprogram@gmail.com)



## Book of the Month:



### A Kid's Guide to Plants of the Pacific Northwest: with Cool Facts, Activities and Recipes

by Philippa Joly

Get ready to dig deep into the wonders of the Pacific Northwest! This engaging guide invites families and educators to explore over fifty fascinating plants, from the shiny, copper-hued arbutus tree to the soothing properties of plantain, perfect for making your very own salve.

With exciting scavenger hunts, games, and quizzes, learning about nature becomes an adventure! Discover edible berries, connect with Coastal Indigenous cultures, and cultivate a love for the outdoors while boosting confidence and well-being.



## Oceanside Entertainment

Tuesday to Saturday

10 am to 5:30 pm

4721 Marine

604-489-3028

## High Tide Games

Wednesday-Sunday

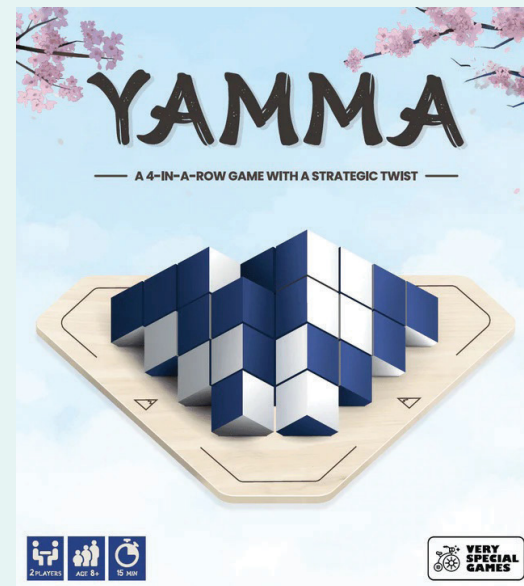
12pm-6pm

7030 Glacier

new phone number

604-208-6169

## Board Game of the Month:



### Yamma

by Very Special Games

2 players • Ages 8+ • 15 mins play time

An exhilarating twist on the classic Connect Four! In this captivating abstract strategy game, players vie to align four cubes of their color on a rotating board filled with triangular slots. Each cube stands on its corner, showcasing three vibrant colors that change with every rotation.

Yamma's intuitive design makes it easy to learn, yet the depth of strategy unfolds as two skilled players engage in a battle of wits.

## Creative people find treasures at Oceanside!

Studio Ghibli, Pokémon & More

Pride-Positive Gear

Books, Graphic Novels & Manga

Crystal Jewelry & Earrings

Video Games & Consoles

Puzzles: 2D and 3D

Board Games

Tarot Cards & Books

Fantasy Figurines:  
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Magic: The Gathering Cards

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Dungeons & Dragons Supplies

Squishmallows, TYs & More

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Art Supplies, Craft Kits & Stamps

Hockey Cards

& Much More



## Concerned about Porch Pirates?

**Need a safe address  
to ship your things to?**

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

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

Special order charge is \$5.00.



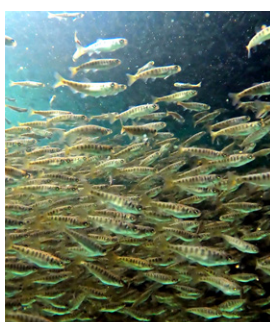
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ON THE COVER:

Salmon parr at the Powell River Salmon Society facility on the former mill lands in Townsite. To learn about volunteering to clip their adipose fins, see story on Page 6.  
Photo by Sean Percy



# Onward, and upstream!

I'd love to take a time machine and visit myself in early March of 2020, to describe the five years in between then and now. COVID. Masks and vaccines. Trucker convoy. Home prices. Wildfires. Graves at Residential Schools. Ukraine. Gaza. So much more. And now... A trade war with the USA?

Some important things remain. During March of 2020, this community taped paper hearts up in our windows and banged pots and pans for health care workers. In March 2025, the Canadian flags are flying, shoppers are seeking out made-in-Canada items, and there are a few "F U Trump" signs sprinkled around town.

We're a little chippier than we were back in 2020, I think, but the urge to pull together in uncertain times is still strong here. Maybe stronger. I hope so.

"Shop local" movements rarely last long, up against the lure of Amazon and Ikea. But maybe this time it will. It takes effort to support local and Canadian over cheap and ubiquitous from elsewhere. It requires swimming against the current. Maybe the silver lining of this trade war will be the

flashing silver of our scales, as we all push upstream together.

In this issue, *qL* offers some local analysis and advice about the impacts of the looming global situation. A handful of local experts dive deeper into what the tariffs might mean for us here in qathet (Page 8), and how to stick-handle your mortgage, if you're facing dramatically higher interest rates on renewal than when you bought during COVID (Page 27).

But this issue is also about how beautifully we hunker down. The biennial Celebration of Quilts is also a celebration of the region's magnificent quilters (Page 12). The Salmon Society is pulling together a legion of volunteers to clip fins, and secure our region's food fish (Page 6). And so much more.

I'm thrilled that the newest addition to *qL* is so strong this month: Our Lives, featuring birth announcements, obituaries, and more starts on Page 51.

Reading about these neighbours' lives made me feel less chippy, and more energized by love for this community. Upstream, indeed.



## IN THIS ISSUE

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Tourism Powell River

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of Commerce  
Coastal Women in Business



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“

By [the time I'm old] all the other old people  
will be covered in tattoos also, so we'll all  
be in the same boat.

- Jenny Allen Taves, **Page 30.**

”

**MARCH'S CONTRIBUTORS**



When **ANDY HENDERSON** is not transforming wood into bespoke furnishings, he can be found outside enjoying nature, pursuing countless activities. *See Andy's story, Discography, on Page 24.*



**ZEVON MATTHEWS**, 12, was born in Kingston, Ontario, and lives with his parents and older brother. He is on the U13 rep soccer team. He has been playing drums since he was 3. *See Zevon's story, Moxie meets STEM in Grade 7, on Page 22.*



Locally born and raised, **ANDY RICE** is a musician turned arts administrator bringing hands-on experience to the Townsite Jazz Festival, PRISMA, and other organizations provincially and nationally. *See Andy's story, Jazz, on Page 44.*



**JENNY ALLEN TAVES** is an artist and sentimental homebody whose love language is bringing group art projects to family events. jennyallentaves.com. *See Jenny's story, To tattoo or not to tattoo?, on Page 20.*



**ANNABELLE TULLY-BARR** is a 25-year resident of these beautiful lands, with an enduring passion for community spaces, early childhood development, writing and singing. *See Annabelle's story, Gardens, on Page 17.*



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BY SEAN PERCY

The Powell River Salmon Society has an ambitious goal – to clip the adipose fins of 300,000 tiny coho salmon before releasing them into the wild.

Clipping the fins does no harm to the fish, but marks them as hatchery-raised fish, which sometimes means they can be kept by sport anglers. It also means in three years, the hatchery will be able to tell how many wild fish are coming back to Lang Creek compared to how many hatchery fish.

This massive science and enhancement project requires a lot of volunteers. Staff from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans are coming to train the volunteers and do the tricky work of temporarily anaesthetizing the fish while they are clipped. Volunteers need only a steady hand and decent eyesight (or at least proper glasses) for closeup work.

Salmon Society member Terry Peters, who is coordinating the volunteers, says the project may be one of the largest volunteer clipping efforts in BC history. Paid staff have done similar, though usually smaller, clipping efforts in the past, but there's no money in DFO or the Salmon Society's budgets to take on the task this year. Machines exist to do clipping, but cost millions of dollars and are in short supply, especially during the season.

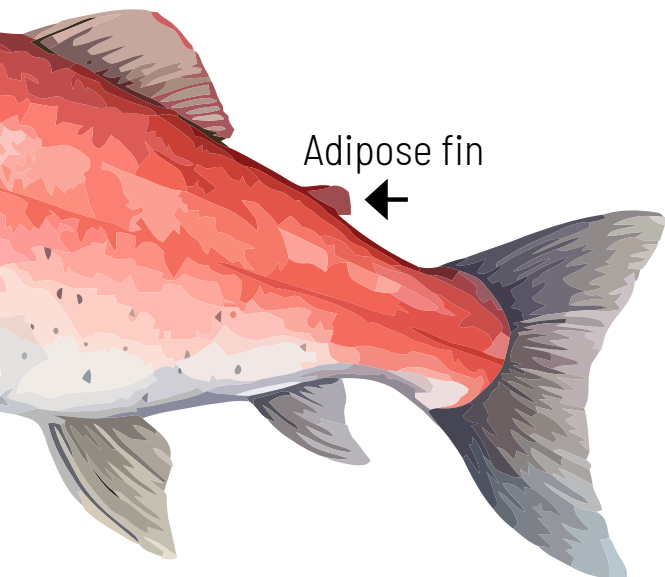
Sport retention of coho has been limited to hatchery fish in recent years, and with few hatchery fish clipped, it was impossible to tell which fish were hatchery-raised, so anglers had little opportunity to eat local coho. This effort should mean more fish available for local anglers when the coho return to the area in three years. 🐟

## VOLUNTEER CLIP-A-THON

**When:** April 14 to May 2

**What:** To reach their goal, volunteers will have to clip 20,000 fish per day for three weeks, so it will take a lot of volunteers. Three-hour shifts run from 9 am to noon and 12:30 to 3:30 pm weekdays.

**How to Help:** To sign up for a shift, contact Terry at [clippingrsalmon@gmail.com](mailto:clippingrsalmon@gmail.com) or call 604-483-9440.





me  
so you can  
catch me



*Top • Local angler Jonah McLaren caught this clipped coho last year. Photo submitted.*

*Right • At the clipping station inside the mill salmon enhancement site last year, volunteers removed the adipose fins of 60,000 coho. This year they're hoping to clip 300,000. Photo courtesy Powell River Salmon Society.*

*Background photo • Salmon parr swim in a tank at the Powell River Salmon Society facility in the Townsite.*



Did any of us have “Trade War” on our 2025 Bingo cards? Probably not, and yet, it looks like Canada and the US will fight each other (over... what?) with tariffs starting this month.

What will that mean for qathet?

qL asked a handful of locals to weigh in on how tariffs might impact us all.

It's not all bad news.



Sign on Marine by Barry Rice and Michelle Pennell

# Our experts riff on the tariff tiff

**Ron Woznow**

*Mayor of Powell River*

## “Buy Local”

There's nothing new or radical about the message to buy local. Ron Woznow knows that as much as anyone: he normally walks around with a “Buy Local” pin on his lapel.

It's something qathet tried to do, as a community, during COVID, to keep faltering businesses alive during the most restrictive months of the shut-downs.

But it hasn't been a consistent battle cry since then.

“It will only work as a movement if it becomes part of our every day decisions,” Ron said in an interview at the qL office mid-February. “People need to think enough about the community that buying local means something.”

At the grocery store, search out Canadian-made products, he advises. Show up at a dinner or a potluck with



an all-Canadian or an all-local dish.

Conversely, Ron is a big believer in free trade. When the original North American Free Trade Agreement was negotiated in the early 1990s, he recalls working for accounting firm Coopers & Lybrand. He managed a project helping the Canadian government un-

derstand how environmental standards would be regulated under NAFTA. That was in the same era many countries, including Canada, were signing on to World Trade Organization trade treaties.

Wealth is built and businesses thrive under free trade, Ron said. Economists for the last 250 years have believed that tariffs cancel the benefits of free trade agreements. So this current inward-looking era isn't serving us in the long term, he said. But it's a necessity for now.

Apart from shopping local, he also encourages residents of this region to do two things:

First, don't let the threat of tariffs deter you from moving forward with your plans to live your life. Build, invest, get an education, purchase assets as you normally would.

“Take a longer view,” he said. “Things always go up and down. If what you plan on doing makes sense today with a reasonable margin, in 10

years, it will probably look like it was a good decision.”

Second, he said, this probably isn't a great time to sink yourself into a bunch of consumer debt.

For the whole community, this is a unique opportunity to double down on creating and inviting new businesses in the region.

Boat building is a natural here, he said. The deep water port here makes a compelling case for more marine industries. With the dams, anything that requires a lot of energy could find this place attractive. That includes software or data processing.

For the existing local business community, he repeats his hope that locals will buy local and buy Canadian. If you depend on products that come from the US, he said, search now to see if you can find alternatives.

And, he hopes, businesses will consider expanding to fill in gaps left by the American tariffs.



## Ann Nelson

Tourism Powell River

### "It's about to get busy"

Once again, probably, someone else's loss may be our gain. When wildfires make tourism in the Interior of the province either too smoky to enjoy or downright dangerous, the RVs come rolling off the ferry and into qathet.

Similarly, Tourism qathet's Ann Nelson said, tariffs (plus a low dollar and Trump's behaviour) are driving Canadians away from vacationing south of the border.

In February, WestJet announced that the number of Canadians flying to the US dropped 25% after the tariffs were announced. Air Canada reported it was 30%. So Canadians may choose to stay and spend closer to home.

Everyday Americans, too, may choose to take advantage of Canada's extremely low dollar. Currently, it's sitting at about 68 cents US.

"I don't want to be crass or harsh," Ann said, "but I suspect a lot of Canadians will take the opportunity for their moral convictions to encourage them to explore Canada."

Tourists eat in restaurants, stay at hotels, in B&Bs and in short-term ac-



commodations and campsites. They buy groceries and gas, shop for art and souvenirs, rent boats and bikes. Sometimes, they even buy real estate.

Ann also doesn't want to sound too gleeful, either. Other local industries will be hit hard by the tariffs, she knows.

But strictly speaking in tourism numbers, tariffs are good news—at least for now.

"We don't rely on the US for anything except visitors."



### What actually happened?

1. On February 1, US President Donald Trump signed an order for 25% tariffs to be imposed on all goods coming from Canada. Oil and gas were to be taxed at 10%.
2. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau responded with a threat to tax some US goods 25% coming in to Canada.
3. The order was supposed to take effect on February 4, but the US delayed it until March 4.
4. In BC, public liquor stores halted purchasing alcohol produced in American Red states. Other provinces halted the sale of all American-made booze.
5. In the face of what might be a devastating trade war, some economists are predicting mass job losses. But at the grassroots, there's a font of new enthusiasm for buying Canadian, and vacationing in Canada.



qathet  
REGIONAL DISTRICT

qathet Regional Emergency Preparedness

# GET READY STAY READY

## Wildfire Season Starts April 1

Extended warm, dry weather conditions increase the possibility of wildfires in the qathet region.

If a wildfire threatens your home, you may receive an Evacuation Alert or Order. It's important to understand the difference.

### Know your Evacuation Stages

#### ALERT

Be ready to leave on short notice.

Gather your grab-and-go bags and arrange transportation.

#### ORDER

You are at risk.

Leave the area immediately.

Follow all directions from officials and evacuate using the route(s) identified.

#### RESCIND

All is safe. You can return home.

Stay tuned for other possible evacuation alerts or orders.

**TIP:** Always keep your vehicle's gas tank at least half full in case you need to evacuate on short notice.

If you spot a wildfire, report it as soon as possible by calling 1.800.663.5555 or \*5555 on your cell phone.

Sign up for the Community Notification System



Scan this code  
to sign up for  
alerts

Don't wait until it's too late!

Please contact [emergency@qathet.ca](mailto:emergency@qathet.ca) for more information.





## Colin White

CEO, Verecan Group of Companies

"If you want better long-term returns, you have to accept the pullbacks."

If your investment advisor is recommending changes to your portfolio because of Donald Trump or tariff concerns, get another advisor.

The actions of the president of the US—and just as importantly, the reactions of other nations and affected businesses—are unknowable. Guessing about any of this and acting on that guess is a fool's game.

If you have a long-term investment goal to maintain the purchasing power of your money and grow it further, then exposure to the stock market is a good idea. That expectation of higher returns includes periods of loss. Those losses are as certain as they are unpredictable. The only way to reliably get the longer-term benefits is to live through the pullbacks.



In the last five years, we have seen a global pandemic, inflation spike and retreat, interest rates go up and down, Russia invade Ukraine, and Israel go to war. The global economy found its way forward, and the stock market followed. The current uncertainty is no worse than what we've already seen over the last five years.

There are real human costs to the events we've seen in recent months, and more are likely to come. It is possible to have empathy and compassion for those affected while still recognizing the lack of long-term financial impact.

The financial industry excels at leaning into human emotion and exploiting it for gain. When people are afraid, it becomes a powerful force

to harness.

Who wouldn't want to protect themselves from terrible times? Yet these actions are either ineffective or sometimes downright dangerous.

The second part of the story is, any money you anticipate needing in the next couple of years shouldn't be invested in market-exposed or illiquid assets.

## Dave Formosa

President, PR Chamber of Commerce

Multiple Business Owner

"There could be a silver lining."

2025 was already a tough time to be in business, said Dave Formosa. The costs of taxes, insurance, labour and materials are "higher than ever," he said, and consumers' dollars are already stretched. Inflation is a real challenge.

All of these things have been on a slow hot burn since COVID. But this trade war, Dave said, may have the power to shake governments out of their dependence on the US, and start investing in self reliance again.

"Canada has not been supporting natural resources," said Dave. "Will we be looking more favourably at extracting natural resources and the movement of those natural resources? Will we invest in returning manufacturing to Canada, including medicine? Will we re-invest in our armed forces?"

Canada has depended too much on the US, Dave argues. "We've gotta start looking inward and doing things for



ourselves."

In the short term, Dave advises local businesses to carry on as normal and "buckle down. Watch costs and overheads, which will get worse. Be diligent and look for new opportunities and innovative ways to find new markets. Prepare for a recession, but work to grow instead of shrink."

For consumers: it's a "no brainer," he said. Buy local when you can.

"Don't lose faith. Keep an eye on bottom line."

# 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Daily Give-Aways

One (1) Give Away winner per business day  
from March 1st - March 30th, 2025

## Grand Prize Draw March 31st

One (1) entry per person per day  
One (1) Grand Prize consisting of a \$350.00 gift certificate  
will be drawn on March 31st, 2025 from all eligible entries.

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**Bob Marquis**  
Vice-Present, BC Truck Loggers Association  
Bob Marquis Contracting

“This is going to hurt.”

BC’s forest industries are no stranger to American tariffs. Last summer, the US raised tariffs on Canadian softwood lumber from about 8% to 14.5%. Now, bam, it’s gonna be 25%.

“This will hurt the logger, transportation, the whole supply chain,” said Bob. “It will really hurt BC. Logging is the third most important economic driver in BC. The port will hurt. They’ll even feel it in Vancouver.”

Here in qathet, the forest is a core industry. Thichum Forest Products (owned by Tla’amin Nation), Western Forest Products, the Powell River Community Forest, and BC Timber Sales are the largest operations. Many small businesses work directly for these giants, including planning foresters, loggers, truckers, accountants and bookkeepers, lawyers, mechanics, fuel suppliers and many more. Many smaller logging companies operate here too. Incomes are typically much higher than the regional average.

“Every time we have tariffs, we fight them, and we win every time. Can’t we push past this? They need our wood.”

Bob notes that even if there’s another reprieve on these tariffs, the US knows that picking on Canada’s forest sector is a power play. He doesn’t think that’s about to end.



Instead of bemoaning the tariffs, Bob hopes this is a once-in-a-generation moment to take a step back and collectively plan how to best use the land base in BC—for everyone’s benefit, and to protect the province from American interference.

“Ski hills, carbon capture, forestry, UNDRIP... there are all sorts of opportunities out here to better our industry and secure us socially,” Bob said.

“Finland is half the size of BC and cuts 73 million cubic metres a year. We’re down to 32 million. And they don’t have as many trees as us.

“BC must provide the certainty of a land base and harvest volume. Without this, the rest doesn’t matter.”

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This year marks 25 years since Wes Brown returned to his hometown and launched WB Contracting in Powell River. His team has been giving homeowners across the region a new look for more than two decades, so it was time for the business to have a new look, too. Watch for the new WB Contracting logo out and about in the community.



**New logo.**

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Wes Brown ■ 604-485-6656 ■ [wbcontracting.ca](http://wbcontracting.ca)







# It's Hip to be Square

Tradition and innovation: Quilt mania takes over Townsite

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ABOUT  
RENTALS!**





The bottom floor of the Legion vibrates with the hum of sewing machines on this Tuesday morning in mid-February. About 35 women—and one man—have their heads down, cutting, stitching, pressing, and showing each other their work. The Timberlane Quilters Guild Quilt Show is just a month away. Though most of this year's display quilts have already been completed, this fibre-obsessed crew is already working on quilts for the 2027 show.

This will be the Guild's once-every-two-years showcase, but the artisans show up for this commu-

nity constantly. They sew and donate their remarkable work to the locals served by Grace House, Youth & Family Services, qathet General Hospital oncology department, and fire departments. Every quilt-maker is motivated differently, but they all share an obsessive, mathematical, precision-driven urge to craft beautiful, useful, three-layer pieces that tell a story.

The show, at Dwight Hall, is a spectacular swirl of colour and form and expertise.

Here, a handful of Timberland Quilters Guild artisans share a bit about their quilts, and their craft.

## CELEBRATION OF QUILTS

**When & Where:** Saturday, March 22, 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, March 23, 10 am to 4 pm. Dwight Hall.

**What:** Artisan quilts on display, with a vendor market, refreshments and more.

**Tickets:** \$6 at the door. 12 and under are free.

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**Georgie Brewer**

"Once I start I'm like a dog with a bone."

This quilt pattern is called "Dear Jane," from 1863—a 13'x13' Civil War quilt. "It's one of the most difficult quilts to make," said Georgie. "All I could think about when making it was what it was like to make it in 1863. I imagine her sitting in the corner in candle-light, piecing this."

Georgie originally fell in love with paper piecing—and this quilt offers a unique challenge. Each block has up to 50 individual pieces. The wild triangle border adds an additional challenge.

"I gave up perfection," she said.

## Margie Facey-Crowther

"I love birds. I'm always creating with birds."

Decades ago, when Margie visited relatives in the Maritimes and saw quilts on every bed, she fell in love with the art form's aesthetics. But it wasn't until she was older and had more time that she started making them herself. Now she applies art techniques—including these watercolour pencils—to quilts. She once made 14 Christmas stockings for her family, each one with the relatives' favourite bird on it.



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# Meet the artisans



**Blayne Gardiner**  
“Quilting is math, and creative.”

When Blayne moved to Powell River to look after his mom, he didn’t have enough room to set up his wood shop. So, he turned to quilting, which offers many of the same joys, he said. “I’ve made quite a few quilts so far,” he said, of his three years with the guild. “Everyone is so generous with sharing their knowledge. And they’re so creative. They are doing things I didn’t think were possible with fabrics.”

The quilt Blayne is piecing now is a “block a day” challenge by Catherine Kerr. It results in a 90” x 90” quilt of 3” squares, each one representing a different technique of classical quilting. He dabbles in both modern and traditional techniques, and likes retro fabrics.



**FABRIC OF A GUILD:** Lunchtime is social time at a Timberlane Quilters Guild Tuesday morning at the Legion basement. There are about 65 members of the Guild, according to Nina Mussellam.

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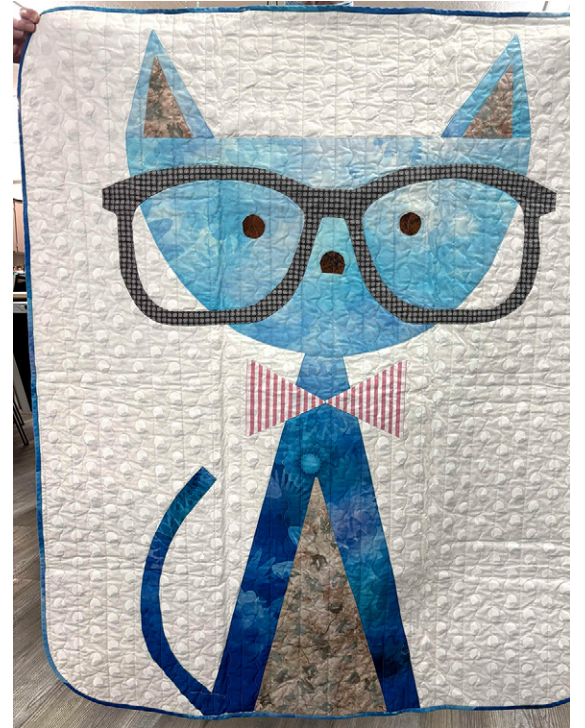
### Myrt Brewster

"Shape, motion and texture appeal to me"

Myrt grew up sewing on her mom's treadle machine. Her mom made and mended the family's clothes. If Myrt wanted doll clothes, she made them herself. As her skills

grew, so did the projects. She made her own wedding dress, and her sister-in-law's, too. Now, she applies those skills to quilts.


"My aunt made quilts for the Red Cross," she said. "They were very traditional, and used whatever fabric they had on hand. Now we have access to so much fabric that wasn't available in years past. Even when we make traditional patterns, we can enhance them."



### Cyndy Bresden

"People either take a class and make a table runner and—check—they're done, or quilting becomes an obsession bordering on addiction."

Cyndy started quilting in Saudi Arabia, with an international group of quilters. "Saudi Aramcos sponsored all these interest groups to keep the families working there happy and engaged," she explained. "When I moved back here, quilting helped me find my people."

Bright, unusual colour combinations, words in fabric, and unusual techniques, such as this puff quilt, inspire Cyndy. 



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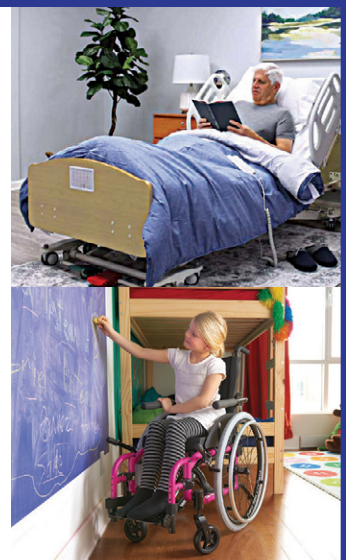
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**SHOCKED AND HEARTBROKEN:** That's how the Lang Creek Native Plant Garden Steering Committee described their reaction to the January 30 news that the garden would be removed to expand a parking lot. Above, volunteers plant the garden, near the Powell River Salmon Society facility.

# Who speaks for the gardens?

**W**hen a garden is cultivated in a public place, there is always a risk of it suddenly disappearing, suddenly being moved, pushed back or bulldozed in order to make space for something more “worthy.”

ty garden spaces. One I was personally involved in and is slated to be closed down completely this month, one that is under attack from vandalism and one beauty that is under threat from administrative decisions. They all



## THINKING THINGS THROUGH

WITH GUEST COLUMNIST ANNABELLE TULLY-BARR

What could worth possibly mean, in our community? Housing? I would say yes to that. Commerce or business opportunities for our community? I might say yes to that. But so a parking lot can largely be vacant? So the “unwanted” (people, habitat, even trees in this category) can be pushed out? This warrants a slower, more conscious conversation.

I want to talk about three communi-

ty garden spaces. One I was personally involved in and is slated to be closed down completely this month, one that is under attack from vandalism and one beauty that is under threat from administrative decisions. They all

**I received a panicked** email on Sunday, February 2. The Lang Creek Native Plant Garden that has been laboured over for years at the Alex Dobler Salmon Centre entrance is under threat to (reason cited) make room for school buses to more safely deliver students to the one-week-long Salmon

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"Inevitably, the kids would run from the gate to greet us, excited to be outside, excited to see what had changed in the few days since they were there last...had the raspberries ripened? Were the peas up? Were the strawberries red? Are the asparagus ready to eat?"

- Annabelle Tully-Barr

Expo in the fall. One week long. A post on the Pacific Salmon Facebook Page announced it at 5:41 pm on Jan 31 (a Friday).

The volunteer garden committee was thanked for their service, but not invited to participate in the decision (although they are invaluable!) or to plan (they received notice on Jan 30). And the garden has already had benches destroyed and removed in anticipation of a full on push back from the parking lot.

The Powell River Salmon Society would appear to override the myriad of community connections that created the garden in the first place, with the hearts and hands of dozens, and volunteer hours in the hundreds. The garden is well established and thriving, honouring native plantings, Indigenous language, and connection to place. It honours the land.

**The second garden** under threat of demolition is the garden space behind the soon to be moved Community Resource Centre, right downtown on Joyce. This garden I worked, planted, and taught within.

It has been in various forms of food production and community education for close to 20 years.

Community gardeners partnered and shared, some tenderly protecting wild corners and ceremonial spaces. Garden-savvy staff members of the CRC brought forth miracles and abundance from donated seeds and raised beds to serve fresh food at lunchtime.

It became a compost education centre, putting the infamous "Let's Talk Trash" team into action, with community money, grants, and donations in kind. That garden space inspired and received thousands of dollars of contributions from businesses throughout the decades.

The little corner of that community garden that I came to know was the Family Place Garden, tucked in the very back, where the cob bench used to sit, patted by little hands. We had a few raised beds of our own to plant. We also held song circles, story time, nature based activities and gardening crafts for the kiddos and their big folks.

Inevitably, the kids would run from the gate to greet us, excited to be outside, excited to see what had changed in the few days since they were there last... had the raspberries ripened? Were the peas up? Were the strawberries red? Are the asparagus ready to eat? And the parents unwound, wandered, knowing the kids couldn't go far, knowing dirt and bugs couldn't do too much harm.... and they found their own comfort in the tangle and unruliness of the plants, in the sunshine, in the weeds.

One mom, quite versed in wild foods, proudly taught others how to identify early wild greens; one

Dad showed us all about wild mushrooms; folks connected, shared, harvested and planted. There was enough space to have conversations, ease confrontations, create community. It wasn't always a neat and tidy outcome, it was a recipe that called for presence and awareness. How does your garden grow? What weeds are giving you trouble in your life? Where do you plant your feet? Who and what feeds you?

The presence of children made the rough edges smoother. It was easy to appeal to some street hardened folks to smoke outside the garden, to watch their language please, when little ones were about. And we watched some community folks take on strength based roles and leadership positions to keep the compost piles turned, to water the garden, to harvest and weed, to ask questions, to visit, to connect. It wasn't always easy, it wasn't always comfortable, but it was real. And we got to see one another. And hear one another. And expect the organic best to come out in the cultivated places of relationship.

**The garden that haunts me** I discovered last fall on a visit to the PR Public Library. A beautiful little interpretive garden was placed out front and I realized the two trees were savagely ringed with perhaps a knife. I showed photos to Library staff, who said they would bring it to the attention of the CCity, who funded and planted the garden. Since that time, the work of killing the trees has continued, and one has been hacked down completely. There is only a spear like stump left, pointing at the sky where one tree stood.

Who does that kind of thing? It must have taken a great deal of deliberate, focused energy to complete. And then I began to move past anger and sadness to try to understand. What is this a symptom of? How much pain is that person in, or are those people carrying, to act out so destructively against a being as giving and sedate as a tree? But we do it all the time in our society. We practice this kind of destruction, actively and without a moment's thought. And that, too, breaks my heart.

**So what is the worth** of a public garden space? A kind of collective faith? Perhaps a concrete act of reciprocity in action, something we all need to practice more, in my opinion. And it can take more time than we think we have, lots of sweat equity, but it may be part of our collective salvation. And the fruits may also spring up in the spaces that we never, ever anticipated. The harvest may come when you least expect it. That's the magic. That's the communion. That's love in action.





# Battle of the Badges

Firefighters versus the RCMP, for charity

On March 29, \$5 cash gets you a seat at the Hap Parker for the fourth annual Battle of the Badges charity hockey game. The event raises money for Cops for Cancer and the Powell River Professional Firefighters Charitable Association, which—among other endeavours—raises money for local school food programs.

“Fire won in 2022, police in 2023, and fire won last year in 2024,” said local RCMP officer Paula Perry, who is one of the organizers of the event. “We have a trophy presentation at the end of the



game, and, of course, bragging rights.” Two Canucks Alumni will join in, one playing on each team. Aside from the “battle” on the ice, the event features mascots Sparky the fire safety dog and RCMP Safety Bear; will both be at the game duking it out during period breaks. Beer garden and concession will be open. There will be a silent auction and a 50/50 draw. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the RCMP detachment, the firehall, Taws or 360 Realty. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

## Royal Canadian Mounted Police roster

- Jacob Joslin
- Bill Vanegteren
- Graham Kerr
- Jordan Ghadban
- Alexander McNulty
- Matthew Conley
- Jamie Parsons
- Joshua Revenberg
- Aubrey Palme
- Leyland Klassen
- Braedon Behan
- Harley Jones
- Matt Denniston
- Tim Venselaar
- Luke Denis

## Professional Firefighters roster

- Mollie-Anne Mikita
- Rob Crookshank
- Craig Galligos
- Kao Lawrie
- Jordan Marciniak
- Cody Lessard
- Hunter Drakeley
- Steve Olson
- Ryan Ciarniello
- Ross Ciarniello
- Alena Devlin
- Mitch Green
- Max Stewart
- Sid Allman
- Kyle Vasseur

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# To tattoo, or not to tattoo? That's Jenny's question

BY JENNY ALLEN TAVES

I've always loved tattoos, and have been tattooed many times, and also tattooed myself and other people.

It's a big commitment and a high-takes endeavour to add a permanent artwork to your body, but it's a lot of fun to get to personalize your own skin, and a meaningful way to claim ownership over the way you present yourself to the world. Some of my tattoos are symbolic, and some are just decorative, but the majority are my own artwork.

I got my first tattoo at 18, and now I've been tattooed (or tattooed myself) more times than I'm sure of. I started off with a small line drawing of a ship. I drew it myself, based on a little ship in a bottle that I bought when I had gone to Wales with my Granny that year. It represented travel and old timey aesthetics, both of which I love, but more than that it represented feeling connected to a place that is far away and part of me through history and heritage. Years later I had a wonderful artist add water and sky in the shape of a little bottle around it, but without the bottle.

My Granny was never a huge fan of my tattoos. I was the first in the family to get one and her protest was always "What are they going to look like when you're old?!" But I always assured her that I didn't really care, and also, by then all the other old people will be covered in tattoos also, so we'll all be in the same boat.

Over the years I've collected more tattoos. Often I have done this, starting with one tattoo that I add on to over the years. For example, the little swirly design I created and had tattooed onto my inner wrist on my right arm; 10 years later I had an artist extend into a black linework tattoo that wraps around my arm and sneaks a leafy tendril around and onto the back of my hand.

This addition was done by a very talented local artist who taught herself to administer tattoos and inspired me to learn to do the same.

So many of my tattoos were my own drawings I hired other artists to ink, so why not learn to do it myself?

I ordered a tattoo machine and, being quite con-

I practiced and practiced on fruit and "artificial skin" until I felt I had the hang of the tattoo machine, and then I spent my birthday tattooing...

- Jenny Allen Taves



fident in my drawing capabilities and possessed by this newly conceived opportunity, I practiced and practiced on fruit and "artificial skin" until I felt I had the hang of the tattoo machine, and then I spent my birthday tattooing a design I created in my sketchbook, a garter that encircles my thigh, with tentacle type swirls extending from behind a jeweled accent on the outside of the garter.

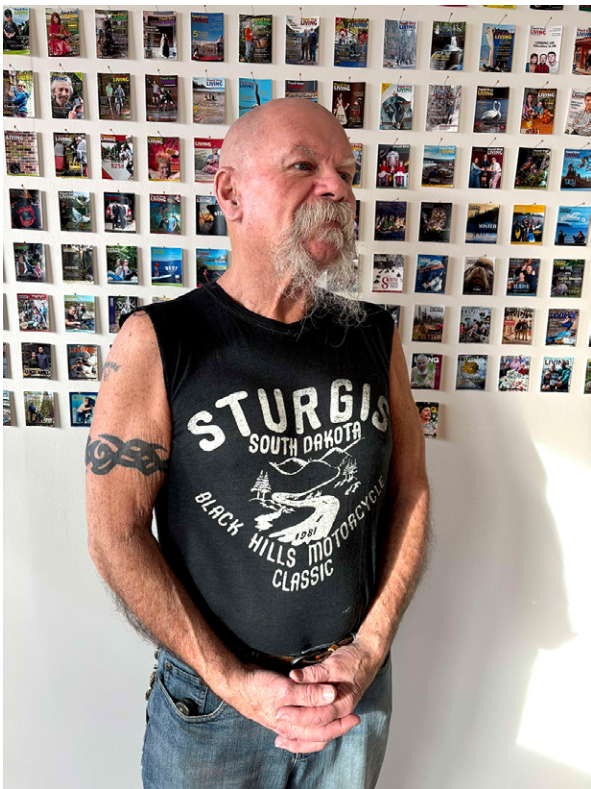
I completed the outline of the tattoo and tendrils in one sometimes awkward sitting, completing the part on the back of my leg looking over

my shoulder into a mirror.

I proceeded to continue tattooing myself, and moved on to friends, family, and friends-of-friends, until I decided that tattooing was too stressful. I didn't like creating art at such high stakes, knowing that these people I cared about would have these drawings of mine on their bodies forever, no matter how they turned out.

I was excited to learn to tattoo and to have access to as many tattoos as I can physically handle, but I was coming to an end of my interest in taking responsibility for inking art on other people.

Now it's been years since I've been tattooed or tattooed anyone, but I'm starting to think again about maybe getting another tattoo, maybe something to represent my kids, who have started growing up and getting tattoos of their own.



His tats started tough, but now they're full of heart

Nearly 45 years ago, Bill Hopkins got his first tattoo at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota—an event that attracts all kinds of riders and rebels. "Sturgis 81" remains on his right bicep—a reminder of a different life.

Since then, the local Education Assistant has accumulated much more art, from the many eras of his life. He has a Celtic knot (above) when he was into unicorns, he got a Pegasus on his chest in memory of a friend who died, and much more.

Now, it's a shared family passion. "Both of my daughters didn't like needles, but now they have more tattoos than I do!" he said.





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# Three Tattoo Tales

The last of qL's series on how we mark life's transitions, and what we choose to reveal to each other on our skin.



**TRADITIONAL MARITIME TATTOOS:** This pig and rooster are on Jack Darling's thighs. They represent survival after a shipwreck.

## Memorable ink from before and after the Royal Canadian Navy

BY JACK DARLING

**M**y first tattoo was when I was in grade eight and living in Esquimalt. I was part of a "street gang" named the Ramrods. During a Grade 8 art class my "gang" and I used India ink and a needle to tattoo "Ramrods" onto our wrists. This was my first tattoo.

I covered mine with a Band-Aid and when I got home, my father asked me what happened.

I told him I had a small cut on my wrist, hoping that would satisfy him. But my explanation caused him to give me a razor blade and tell me to cut it out, which I did for the most part. Remnants of that tattoo still remain on my wrist.

I did not get a tattoo again until I retired from the Royal Canadian Navy many decades later because I could not afford one.

I have gotten many tattoos over the years, two of which are a pig and a rooster which are traditional maritime tattoos to protect sailors from drowning. They are usually tattooed on the top of each of your feet. But because my feet are extremely sensitive, I had my pig and rooster tattooed on each of my thighs by a tattoo artist here in Powell River.

There are several explanations for this tradition. But, the most probable one comes from the realization that



if there was a shipwreck there was nothing better to have around than a couple of the wooden crates that the roosters and pigs were kept in on ships.

At best, you'd be able to scramble on top of a broken plank or if you're really fortunate, a


bulkier item like a passenger's chest or the door to the captain's chamber. But, probably you would end up in a pigsty or chicken coop.

These lightweight crates would usually float and so pigs and roosters had

During a Grade 8 art class my "gang" and I used India ink and a needle to tattoo "Ramrods" onto our wrists.

- Jack Darling

a higher survival rate in shipwrecks.

Their cages prevented so many drownings that sailors started getting pig and rooster tattoos for good luck. They remain popular today even in non-traditional styles. 

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# Moxie meets STEM in Grade 7



BY ZEVON MATTHEWS

**I**t started when our teacher, Mr. Stephen Ball, told me that I could make a huge cardboard ball for STEM. It started out great with me creating the templates on paper then on cardboard. But that is when I needed help because it was a lot of work for one person.

Mr. Ball said that Wren Barfoot could help so we traced them on cardboard and after messing up several times we cut them out.

We had three different templates squares triangles and pentagons as we started to put it together it became harder and harder to put the screws in without someone on the inside of the ball.

So, Wren went in and we managed to get about





**BIG IMPACT:** Henderson students Sammy Chartier, Wren Barfoot, and Zevon Matthews with their STEM project, a geodesic dome. *Photos courtesy Stephen Ball*

half way before Sammy Chartier came and also went inside the ball to hold the triangle templates while I screwed them in.

Sammy had a hard time getting in and out of the ball because the hole in the ball was so small he could barely squeeze out.

Once we had finished the ball, we took it outside to take the photos of it. We took all sorts of pictures of just the ball, and with all of us with the ball,

and with me holding the ball over my head.

Overall, this was a great experience, and we all enjoyed working together.

An interesting fact about the dome: the Make-Do Screws we used came in two different sizes depending on how thick the cardboard was. To get the screws in the cardboard first you must poke a hole with one of the tools and then you line them up and screw them in. **PL**

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# Discog

Inclusive, egalitarian, meditative, why disc golf has quickly stolen the

BY ANDY HENDERSON

I first played disc golf 30 years ago, but I didn't have access to courses until I moved to qathet.

Thanks to the qathet Disc Golf Club, I have found this inclusive community from which players can take what they want – any level of involvement in competition, fun, or socialization.

Full on addiction to disc golf comes with significant investment in practice time, as well as multiple discs achieving different results, along with learning their properties and how to throw them. Once I learned the effects of different throwing styles, weather conditions, disc molds, plastics or weights that improved my grip, distance, or accuracy, there was no denying or suppressing my addiction.

All this knowledge is synthesized at every shot. Careful consideration is given, and risks managed.

Being non-athletic, satisfying my competitive urges in middle age has been an fascinating process. The mental challenges and relentless motivation of playing any game well, especially competitively, add to my journey.

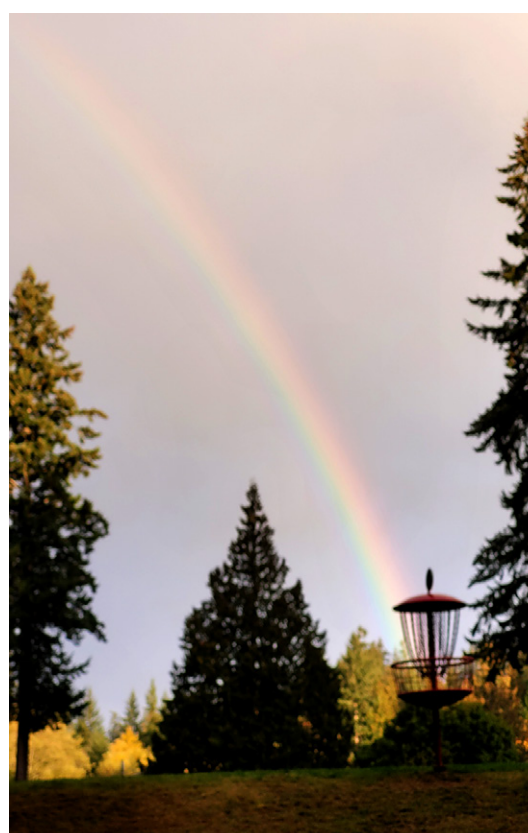
Emotional fortitude and control is one of the great aims of meditation and personal growth. Being at peace, deflecting worry, and forging ahead with absolute confidence is a respectable goal in any pursuit.

After a couple years of local club and regional tournaments, I joined the Professional Disc Golf Association, the international organization through which players can compete at every level, track their performance with records, ratings, and rankings.

After three years as a "pro," I feel confident and evenly matched with my peers (in age-protected divisions). At the highest level of play, participants can all do all the shots needed to win... but can they do it consistently or when it counts? It really becomes the mental game; confidence and focus account for everything.

My ability on any given day is also a metric of physical health. As I age, stiff and sore joints and limbs change daily and reinforce the habits needed to stay fit and flexible.

I'm not alone in my enthusiasm for the sport.



**FLYING SAUCERS:** Top, Todd Griffiths tosses discs into a basket at Sunset Park—one of six courses here in qathet. Far left, three-time club champion Nate Jantz with his trophy. Left, blessed by a rainbow, this basket is at Craig Park. Discs are available at Gear Attic in Townsite Market. Photos by Andy Henderson and Carl Anderson.



# raphy

outdoors and nearly free:  
e hearts of so many locals.

## Why Disc Golf?

Since 2017 Disc Golf has been alive and growing in the qathet district thanks to its multitude of benefits.

Throwing discs, the game of golf, and walking in a park is a fantastic leisure activity. The game and skill set are more dynamic than golf and playable on virtually any terrain. Players use discs – well honed Frisbees – to reach a target or basket with chains to catch the disc.

Local enthusiast James Mack sums up the greatest benefits: “Walking, community, being outdoors.” Sam Alescio adds, “Mental health would be the biggest benefit, especially during COVID-19. A safe space, outside with great human interaction.”

Intermediate local Jeffery Mickelson keeps playing because he says he “likes using my brain and not strength.”

Even without the thrill of amazing throws, the benefits of forest bathing, a strenuous walk in the woods and daily decompression go a long way towards finding peace and daily balance. Jeremy Taves agrees the socialization is key but adds, “the fun, competitive nature of the sport” keeps him keen. Furthermore, the cost of disc golf is virtually nil: free access in public parks with very affordable discs.

For these reasons, disc golf exploded worldwide during the pandemic. This accessible no-contact outdoor pursuit led to a boom in new players, disc sales, and growth of the sport at every level. Most cities have leagues or clubs with weekly organized, casual or ranked competitions.

qathet is blessed with six disc golf courses, easily among the highest per capita anywhere (see sidebar). Local governments first established disc golf courses in 2017-2018 and organised early tournaments the first year. The qathet Disc Golf Club grew out of this, under the leadership of James Mack, and has since hosted Island Series tournaments as well as fundraising events like the Ice Bowl 2021, and Glitch

## qathet's 6 disc golf courses

### Larry Gouthro Park

A great beginners training course, offering quick pace of play, fewer lost discs, lots of birdie opportunities

### Sunset Park

Very challenging, even to experts, and controlled fairway shots through the fir trees are what's required.

### Craig Park

Beauty and serenity are unmatched on the coast. Players from all over BC remark their delight and joy. The unique red baskets have their own character and with only a couple of long holes, it is beginner friendly, yet challenging for all levels.

### Texada Bella Maria

Mostly short holes (more aces!) but challenging nonetheless. The Sayayin troupe are continually improving the course and making the most of it. At Shelter Point.

### Penticton Maze

A rough tonal course, and has no permanent infrastructure. Many find it difficult for the number of trees and navigation. A great test of skill for better throwers.

### Creekside Campground

This seasonal course is qathet's newest addition, near Lang Bay. Club member Jeremy Taves approached property owner Ciaran Wilson and now there is a pay to play nine-hole layout until May, to be revised and hopefully resumed next autumn.

### Championship.

In 2024 we joined the Sunshine Coast Disc Golf Association for club to club team competition.

Like myself, three-time club champion Nate Jantz loves to play tournaments. “It is a goal to work towards that holds me accountable for trying to improve. Competition teaches you to handle mistakes and losses.”

According to uDisc, the most popular app used by disc golfers, Powell River is ranked as the fourteenth best disc golf destination in Canada and fourth in British Columbia, because of the number of courses and the beauty, access, and upkeep.

The sport lacks the elitism of ball golf. Players of any age, gender, socioeconomic background or ability simply come together for the thrill of flight.



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## SPRING BREAK COMIC CAMP – March 17-21

With author Maya McKibbin, a 2S multidisciplinary animator and illustrator. They are Irish-settler, Ojibwe with roots in White Earth Nation and diaspora from Zacatecas in Mexico. They grew up in ch’atlich and later in England. Maya illustrated the picture books *Swift Fox All Along*, written by Rebecca Thomas, which was nominated for a Governor General’s Literary Award, and *The Song That Called Them Home*, written by David A. Robertson. Maya’s work has also appeared in graphic novels and comics, including Image Comics’ *The Silver Coin #5*, *Salmon Run*, *Shades of Fear* and Amanda Strong’s adaptation of *Four Faces of the Moon*.



## INTRO TO SOULCOLLAGE® – March 29 • 2-5 pm

Discover the power of archetypes. Heather Conn facilitates this fun and intuitive art workshop on SoulCollage®. What images, animals, or objects represent the inner and outer you? Registration required - contact Mark at mmerlino@prpl.ca.

## TEEN HAIKU POETRY CONTEST – all through March

Teens aged 12-18 are invited to celebrate and share by writing a haiku. The top three entries will win a prize! Contest closes midnight April 26. For details, visit prpl.ca/event/teen-poetry-contest-haiku-edition/

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**LIKE GOLF, BUT CHILLER:** Top, author Andy Henderson (right) throws a disc at Sunset Park as his team looks on. Above, the Coastal Cup, 2024.

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## Join the disc golf craze

qathet Disc Golf club meets for club rounds one weekday evening – in the dark for glow golf in winter- and one weekend morning most of the year. See the qathet Disc Golf Facebook page for more.

The Glitch Tournament is March 30, and the Coastal Cup is April 6 & 13.

qathet Disc Golf Club activities are not only for members – anyone is welcome to join group rounds.

Disc Golf is such an easy individual activity but most players claim that “community” is the biggest draw. Grassroots and volunteerism prevail at every level and nothing exists without members’ efforts. Seeing the same faces weekly, seasonally, or annually at competitions reinforces the bonds gleaned from shared enjoyment—an inclusive activity free from divisiveness and conflict.

Joining others to play facilitates

skill development by witnessing different kinds of shots and the techniques to do so with support and encouragement.

Trying other discs is also critical. There are hundreds of different molds in different plastics and they all work differently – each player should find the equipment that works best for them. Picking up the rules and strategies are another benefit of group play.

In league play, there are numerous ways to score disc golf aside from individual scoring. These include doubles, team, or match play and skins. Even theme rounds with various challenges can change the dynamic.

Greater club membership will enable more variety. Competitive events of any size have divisions for player levels and the PDGA has over 30 divisions based on gender, age, and skill. **CL**



# COVID CRUNCH

It's been five years since the pandemic lit up real estate here. With that big boom of buyers about to renegotiate their terms, *qL* asked for some advice and insight from locals in the know.

## Warren Behan

Royal LePage realtor

"I'm very optimistic it's going to be a good year."

In Warren's 34 years selling real estate in qathet, the wildest ride has been in the past five years. "We've always had out of town buyers, but then COVID hit, and suddenly, people were working from home, and asking themselves, "If I'm working from home, where do I want to live?"

Homes that had sold for \$400,000 in previous years were priced at \$650,000, and "selling for \$800,000 with no conditions – in cash."

At the time, of course, interest rates were just 2.5%, as the Bank of Canada worked to stimulate the economy under the pandemic. Some folks stretched their budgets, because they were able to with these very low lending rates.

But even though those COVID-era five-year mortgage terms are coming up for renewal now at much higher



rates, Warren isn't anticipating a flood of homes on the market.

"People seem to roll up their sleeves and make it work," he said. "Some people will need to downsize or extend their amortization for sure. It's like when the mill closed. We didn't see 2 homes hit the market all at once, like some anticipated."

## 5 years since COVID: A real estate journey in qathet

Year	Number of properties sold in qathet	Bank of Canada interest rate	Conventional 5-year mortgage	Median selling price for a home
2019	332	1.75%	5.34%	\$349,000
2020	416	.25%	4.79%	\$399,900
2021	431	.25%	4.79%	\$485,700
2022	438	.25%–4.25%	6.49%	\$660,000
2023	308	4.5%-5%	7.09%	\$635,000
2024	304	4.75%-3.25%	6.84%	\$629,000 (fourth quarter)

Note: Data is from the Canadian Real Estate Association, the Bank of Canada, and local realtors Neil Frost and Curtis Yungen. The "Conventional 5-year-mortgage" represents the extremes for each year, from Canada's major banks. Many purchasers secured 5-year mortgages at rates much lower than these.

Similarly, he isn't anticipating a significant impact on real estate from the American tariffs.

In fact, after two years of lower-than-COVID-level sales, Warren said that it looks like the market is picking up again for 2025.

"Last year we had a quiet start to the year, and it wasn't that busy until the spring. This year, we started getting calls right after Boxing Day. I'm predicting we'll have a much busier

spring market. There seems to be a lot of pent-up demand."

Out-of-town buyers are here to stay as a driving force in the market, he noted. Why?

"We have an abundance of great, clean water, as well as a diverse selection of fantastic restaurants. The people are friendly, and the outdoors are second to none. Our property taxes are a little high, but hopefully that is being addressed."





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**April 2**

**Thinking About Buying a Home? Let's Talk!**

5:30-7 PM at First Credit Union (4721 Joyce Avenue). Buying a home can feel like a big, overwhelming process—but it doesn't have to be! See more on Page 17. Free masterclass with a team of experts who will break down everything you need to know about mortgages (including construction mortgages), investment properties, financing, and the home-buying process with insights from Nici Bull-Clarke and Sarah Stoltz from Royal LePage, along with the team from First Credit Union. Whether you're a first-time buyer or just want to brush up on the latest tips, this is your chance to ask questions and get expert advice—all in a relaxed setting. Come hang out, learn some helpful info, and get ready to take the next step toward homeownership. Sign up today at [firstcu.ca](http://firstcu.ca).

## Austyn MacKinnon

460 Realtor

"Let's get creative."

This is a very different market than during COVID, Austyn explained. The benefit is it's more balanced.

"People can't handle the stress of quick decisions and spending without due diligence when they're buying something this big," she said, referring to the crazy market of 2020 and 2021, when many buyers jumped in without even an inspection.

The drawback is, for those who bought during that hot market and want to sell now, they may be taking a loss. And, those higher-priced properties are not moving the way they did during COVID.

Of the 15 luxury waterfront properties listed last spring in anticipation of all the summer buyers, only a few sold, she said. The highest-priced one at \$2.2 million, and the lowest-priced one, at \$1.1.

The City has cracked down on short-term rentals, which makes some buyers look at properties differently. And "lenders are so picky now, if they hear negative details about the house, they're make borrowing difficult."

That said, the federal government has made some changes to make it easier to get into the market. For example,



newly-separated people can qualify for first-time homebuyers provisions, even if they owned a home in their marriage.

And, both new homeowners and new builds qualify for 30-year mortgages, which makes buying more affordable month-to-month. Plus, you can change lenders now, without going through a stress test.

In other words, quite apart from the global situation, there has been so much change in the real estate market and rules lately, asking questions when you buy, sell or re-new is more important than ever.

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Meaghan Westie

Remax realtor

“Talk to all of your professionals.”

During COVID, many locals secured incredibly low mortgage rates, some as low as 1.45%, which is practically unheard of, said Meaghan. Real estate prices skyrocketed, and competition was fierce. Nearly every property sold significantly above the asking price.

However, the landscape has dramatically shifted. Interest rates have risen substantially. For those facing significant increases in their payments, they may need to explore options like a mortgage helper, refinancing, or potentially downsizing.

“Many buyers I’m working with are seeking properties with mortgage helper potential, such as suites or carriage homes,” said Meaghan. “This reflects a growing desire for financial independence and a more sustainable lifestyle, particularly given the current economic climate.”

The rise of remote work during the pandemic significantly influenced real estate decisions, said Meaghan. However, many employers are now recalling employees to the office or discontinuing remote work options. This is leading some homeowners to re-evaluate their living situations.

Sellers who purchased at the peak of



the market may face significant losses. Selling prices have generally declined, and many homeowners could experience losses exceeding \$100,000 in market value.

Long closing dates are becoming increasingly common, particularly with buyers who often rely on subject-to-sale purchases. Tenant-occupied properties also present challenges due to Residential Tenancy Act regulations.

To navigate these challenges, sellers should engage a strong team of professionals, including a realtor and a mortgage broker, said Meaghan. “My mortgage broker recommends 6-9 months of planning to ensure homeowners have the necessary information and options to make informed decisions.”

Monica Peckford

Invis West Coast Mortgages broker and Realtor

“It pays to go see a broker.”

When Monica started brokering mortgages back in 21, and now, after a volatile nearly 25 years, Canada’s fixed rates are the same, and they’re coming down even further.

Monica’s work is about helping her clients survive the volatility of the housing market. She urges those who are renting now to give her a call—don’t assume you can’t afford to buy, especially when rents are at least as high as mortgage payments.

And for those who bought their home at a historically low rate and high cost, who’s five year terms are coming up now, she also urges them to call a broker.

“We know all the little tricks,” she said. For example, one lender will count a future suite in your home as part of your income—even though it



hasn’t been built yet. And, Canada changed its insured mortgage rules in December; now you can buy a home of up to \$1.5 million with just 8.3% down. Or, 5% down if its under \$500,000 and 10% on the balance up to \$1.5 million.

Those coming up to the end of their five-year term can refinance their mortgage when it comes up. That might include extending the amortization period, consolidating debt into the mortgage, or switching lenders to secure a lower rate.



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## Rachelle Ford

Royal Bank of Canada Mortgage Specialist

"If you renewed last summer, it would have been worse."

If you took out a \$450,000 mortgage in 2020, when the rate was 1.79%, your monthly payment was \$1,860 if you locked in for five years. If that same mortgage comes up now at 4.44%, your monthly payment will be going up to \$2,475—an increase of about \$6 a month.

On it's own, that amount won't devastate most home owners, said Rachelle. But they're facing that increase along with much higher prices on groceries, fuel and other basic living expenses.

"I don't think people are panicking," said Rachelle, noting that rates are coming down from last year's high. "Everybody just wants to get the best rate and the lowest payments, because everything is so expensive."

Rachelle has been an RBC mortgage specialist for more than 20 years. No broker has access to RBC mortgages,



she explained, and the RBC handles about 25% of Canada's home mortgages. She has seen the market swing and fall here, and internationally. Trying to predict what's going to happen over the next five year term is fruitless, she notes.

People are resilient, she has found. She's seeing many more locals buying property together with family. Inheritances become down payments or help pay down mortgages. Some parents downsize to give their adult kids downpayment on their own homes.

Some families buy a new property all together. And some parents add their adult kids into the existing mortgage, so they all pay for the family home together.

## Cait Holmes

Mortgage Architects broker

"Start shopping now."

When Canadians were buying homes under COVID's very low .25% interest rates, Cait remembers the head of the Bank of Canada making a crucial statement: that rates would stay low for a very long time. Of course, that wasn't true. Rates started to climb by 2022, and reached 5% by 2023. Although they've come down from there, that era taught us ow volatile everything is right now.


"Things are changing daily right now," Cait said. "With the tariffs and Trump and inflation, rates may go really high again, or they may go lower."

Cait advises countering the unstable economic climate with getting your own financial affairs in order. You can lock in a mortgage up to 13 months

out from renewal—and change it up again if rates become more favourable. To get the best offer, make sure your credit is in check. If you're employed now but you might not be in the near future, arrange your mortgage ASAP.

"Younger generations are turning to brokers," she explained. "If you go to the bank, it's like buying a pair of shoes at the Nike store. Going through a broker is like going to SportCheck—there's all different brands, and you might find something that fits you better."

Ultimately, renegotiating your mortgage is a very personal moment. If you have young kids at home, getting that monthly payment down through a longer amortization might make sense. If you're an empty nester in the last 10 years of working, you'll want to get out of debt as soon as possible.

"It doesn't cost anything to go shopping and get a rate hold," she said. "If rates go down, great, you can lock in there." 

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# Lichen n' hikin' n' family drew these biologists

**T**egan Padgett, her husband Travis Heckford, and their two sons Ruben, 4, and Dylan, 1, recently moved to qathet.

Tegan grew up at Myrtle Point and Travis grew up in Vancouver and Nanaimo. They both pursued biology in school and completed their undergraduate degrees at Vancouver Island University and eventually moved to Newfoundland to do their graduate education, where Tegan completed her MSc in lichen ecology and Travis completed his PhD in landscape ecology.

They got jobs with the BC Government in Williams Lake, and lived there for four years with Tegan working as a senior ecosystems biologist and Travis as a research landscape ecologist.

They enjoy spending time outside exploring new areas with their kids and contributing to conservation biology. Tegan is a member of the COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) sub-committee for lichens and mosses.

## Why did you choose to move here?

**Tegan** • To be closer to family and have more support while raising our kids. It's a great town and nice to be close to the ocean.

## When? Where from?

**Tegan** • We moved here in October 2024 from Williams Lake, BC.

## What surprised you, once you moved?

**Tegan** • All of the fun family activities that go on in this community was a nice surprise. Also, it is great that the emergency department here doesn't close. We dealt with lots of emergency department closures in Williams Lake.

## What made you decide to move here?

**Tegan** • We wanted to move back eventually so when my mom decided to downsize her living situation and made her house available to us, we decided it was a good time to make the move. Once we negotiated working remotely in our current positions, we were ready to make the move.

## Where is your favourite place here?

**Tegan** • Stillwater Bluffs, Tin Hat Mountain, and the Ragged Islands (Copeland Islands).

## How did you first hear about qathet?

**Tegan** • Since I grew up here, I knew it was a place I wanted to come back to. My family has been here a while with my great grandparents building their homestead in the Valley leading to it being called Padgett Road.

## What would make this a nicer community?

**Tegan** • More doctors. We are needing a family doctor and it would make this community better if there were more doctors or a different system to support people's medical needs.



**GOOD COFFEE AND WIDE OPEN SPACES:** Tegan Padgett and Travis Heckford moved here with their sons Ruben, 4, and Dylan, 1, last fall. The telecommuting biologists have extended family here.

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

**Tegan** • Williams Lake had several share sheds or places to drop off stuff that other people can take for free. I think one is coming soon so it will be great to have that service in the community.

## What are qathet's best assets?

**Tegan** • Great community, beautiful outdoor recreation, and interesting and diverse ecosystems. Great lichens too!

## What is your greatest extravagance?

**Tegan** • We bought a very nice espresso machine. We are tired parents and need our good coffee!

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

**Tegan** • We have not had any challenges trying to make a life here. Besides the stresses of selling a house and moving, everything has worked out really well.

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

**Tegan** • The ability to genetically ID anything with my fingertip! This would be very useful for tricky lichens species.

*If you moved here within the last couple of years and would like to appear in this column, email editor@qathetliving.ca!* **✍**

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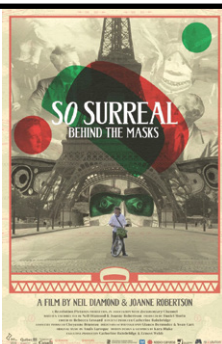


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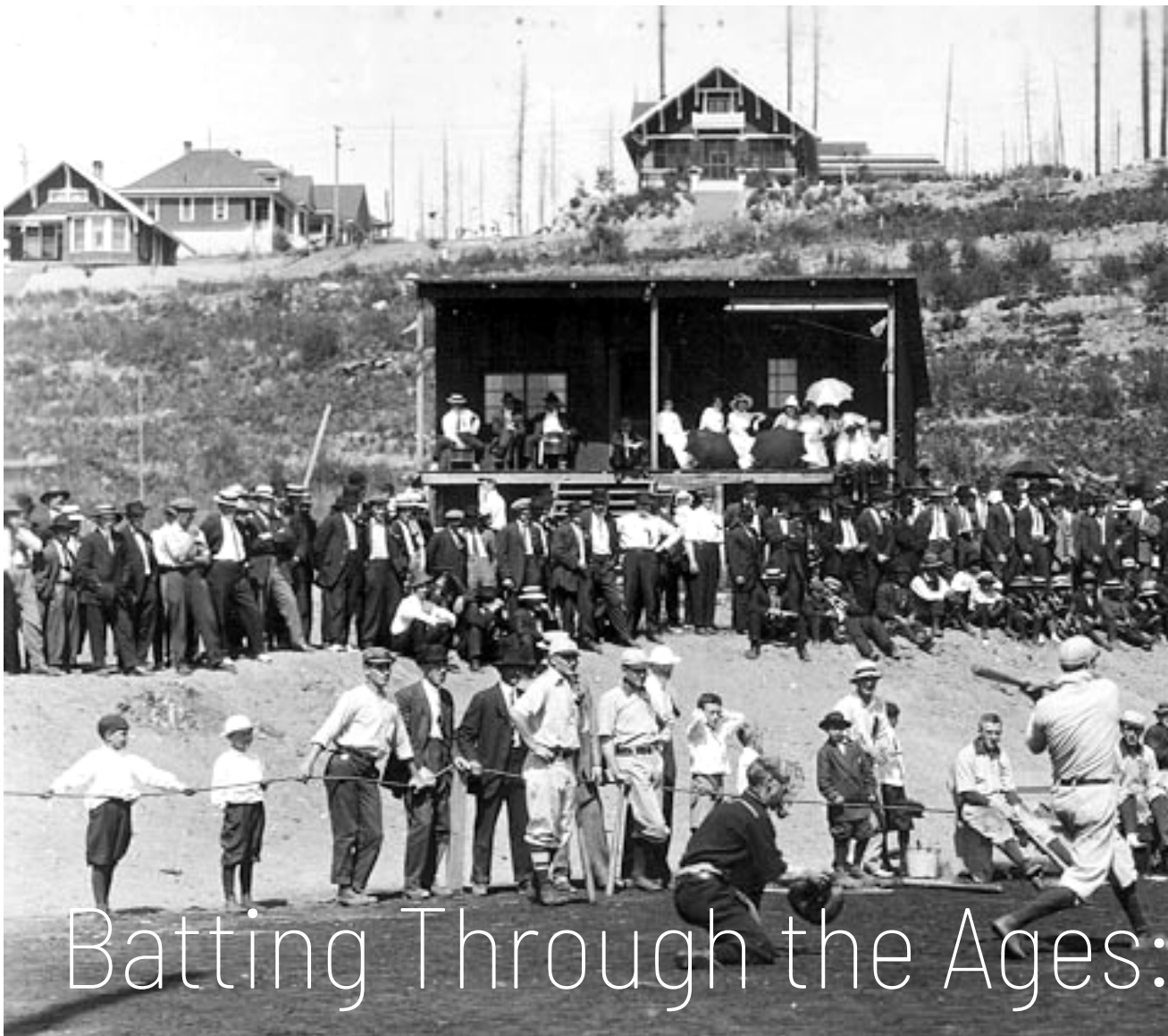
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## Batting Through the Ages:

**B**aseball was one of the earliest sports played in Powell River, thanks in part to a hastily built baseball diamond built beside the Rodmay Hotel. This field, the Riverside Oval, built in the 1930s, would become the field where many sports would be played, including soccer and lacrosse. However, even as early as 1911, regular baseball games were organized between Powell River, Courtenay, and Cumberland. Teams would travel across the gulf, often bringing half of their town along.

On Dominion Day in 1914, soccer (known as football at the time) made its debut in Powell River. The sport quickly gained popularity, surpassing lacrosse, and from that point on, soccer and baseball would vie for dominance in for the next couple decades. During this period, the two sports regularly attracted the largest crowds, as noted in 1925 article in the Powell River Company Digester.

Eventually, sports would diversify in town with lacrosse making a comeback in 1926 with the formation of their own association, but baseball always remained a fan favourite.

Over the years, several different leagues began to form in Powell River. The first was the Intermediate League, which originally included the teams the Pats, Giants, and Braves, in addition to the Senior and Junior Leagues. In 1929, the mill started an inter-departmental league, further expanding community participation in the sport.

These leagues evolved over time, with new teams joining and existing ones merging. However, due to travel challenges of the time, these early leagues were often isolated from provincial competitions.



## BLAST FROM THE PAST

**DEVAN GILLARD**

### MINOR BASEBALL & FILM DAY

**Where & When:** March 29, 1:30 pm, Patricia Theatre

**What:** See Rookie of the Year free when you register for the season on-site or before. \$5 for everyone else.

**Register:** Minor baseball registration is currently open until March 31st. To register, visit [www.PRMB.org](http://www.PRMB.org)

As baseball continued to grow, softball emerged in the late 1930s, providing an avenue for women to take up the bat. As the decades passed, games moved from the baseball diamond behind the Rodmay Hotel to Timberlane Park.

Today, Powell River boasts several baseball fields, with Larry Gouthro Park serving as one of the primary venues. Gouthro, who was instrumental in the early development of baseball in town was honored in 25, when Manson Park was renamed in his honour. Now, from April through July, you can find minor league players ranging from 4 to 18 years old on the fields at JP Dallos, DA Evans, and Larry Guthro Parks. Last year, a group of U13 "little league" athletes made a remarkable run, advancing all the way to provincials and securing second place. **CL**

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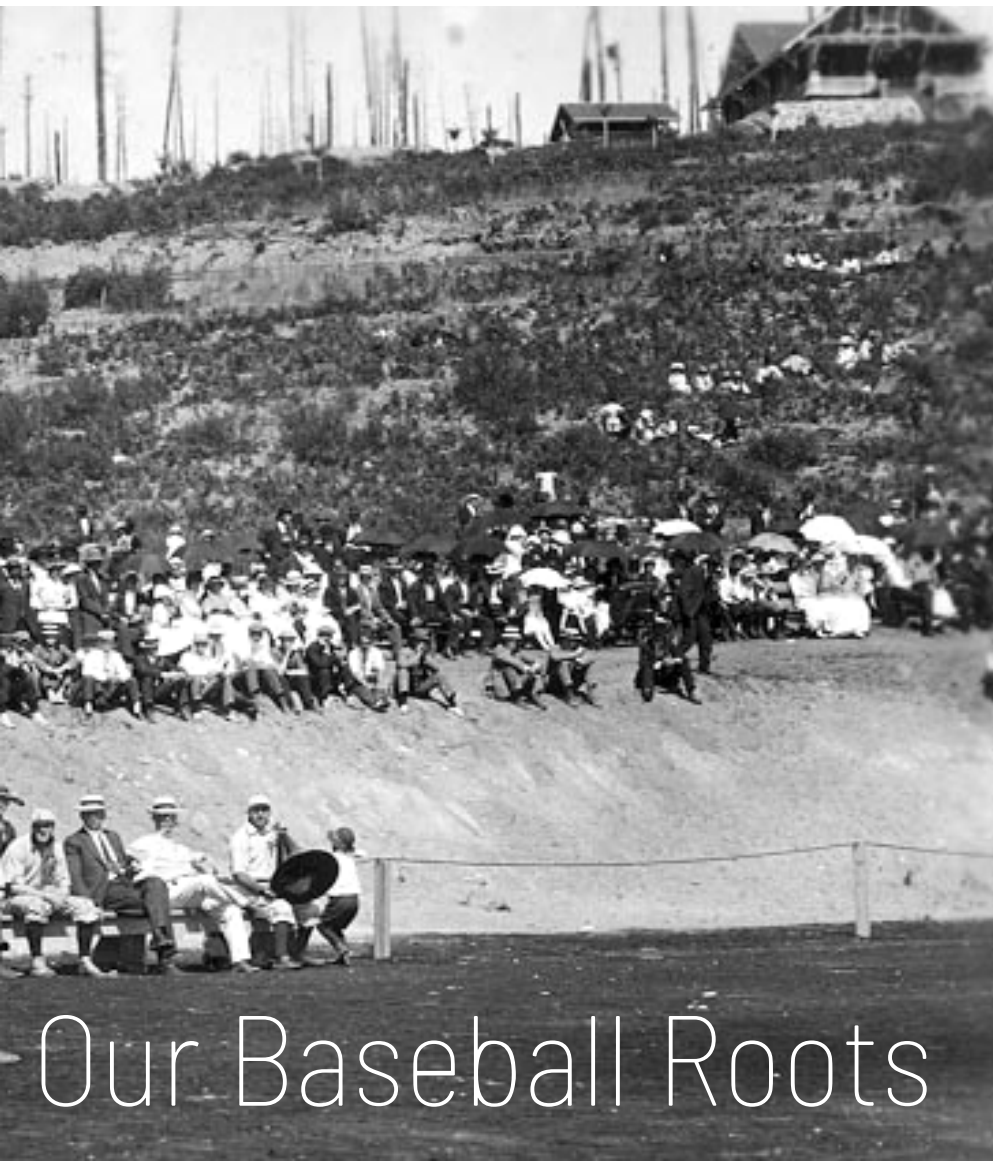
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# Our Baseball Roots



**TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME:** Top, the field next to the Rodmay Hotel was the original site for community and mill teams (photo from the 1930s). Above, the second regional team, in 1913. This team traveled to play against Courtenay and Cumberland.

*Photos courtesy of the qathet Museum*

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**IN THE LOOP:** Above, Town Centre owner Jack Barr leans up against a post at the new-ish bus exchange at the mall. Right, from the top, new spaces are nearly complete. The exterior dining area will be ready for spring; CIBC got a full reno and a new entrance, and Noodle Box is nearly there.

# What's up at the Town Centre?

BY PIETA WOOLLEY

NoodleBox, the Canadian fast food chain that started as a food truck in Victoria in 21, will open at the Powell River Town Centre mall this month. So will Canadian BarBurrito, which first opened in Toronto in 2005. If you shop regularly at the Town Centre, you'll know it has been under construction for months, as these two new restaurants got ready to open, CIBC was renovated, and Winners re-shapes the north end of the building. The 25,000-square-foot Winners store is on schedule, and set to open May 13. Winners is also Canadian—part of the same chain that owns HomeSense and Marshalls. It was founded in Toronto in 1982. “We’ve overcome a few delays and hurdles,” said Andy Evans, acting general manager at Town Centre, “but we are well underway with achieving our construction milestones for Phase 1 and have already begun executing plans for Phase 2, which will include exciting interior renovations and updates.”

The long-anticipated Smili Dental is

already open and serving clients. The BC Liquor Store increased in size by about 1,900 square feet and is getting a total remodel as well. To keep up with the expansion, the Town Centre is hosting a job fair March 20 to 24 (see next page and Page 29 for details.) Some of the stores looking for workers are Shoppers Drug Mart, Save-On-Foods, and Winners. Perhaps the most visible change so far has been the bus exchange, which moved from the Liquor Store entrance to the west side of building nearly a year ago, to make way for the Winners renovation. Bus riders have waited, with no shelters, in extreme heat, wind and rain, and snow so far. The City of Powell River has promised bus shelters in this location and has found funding for them. They will be installed this spring. Town Centre owner Jack Barr notes that the exchange sits on his privately-owned land. The exchange was first located there about 30 years ago, an informal deal negotiated between his father and the City.

Last year, Jack gave BC Transit six months notice that the exchange would have to be moved, he said, but administration said they needed two years to secure funding. Jack noted Winners needed to work faster than that. Jack has already spent more than \$350,000 building the exchange in the parking lot, which required specialized materials to accommodate the heavy kneeling buses, he said. “The mall is getting bad press over the lack of shelters, but it’s really not my responsibility,” said Jack, who said that the Town Centre benefits from hosting the exchange, but the City also

benefits from not having to find other land to build one on, or construct it or maintain it. Plus, he offers dedicated washroom and indoor space to the drivers. Jack was hoping local government would share the cost of constructing the exchange. Twenty years ago, when the bus stop by Starbucks was built, the shelter went up nearly immediately, he said. Jack isn’t sure why these shelters seem so much more complicated and costly. He is hoping to formalize the bus exchange hosting agreement with the City soon.



## Resume ready if you want work

Two job fairs are on the horizon.

The first is coming up March 20 to 24 at the Town Centre. Winners, Shoppers Drug Mart and Save-On-Foods are all looking for workers. Drop by 9:30 am to 5:30 pm with your resume on any of those days. See more in the ad on Page 29.

The next is through WorkBC Centre, featuring a mix of employers from a variety of industries. It happens April 10, 2 to 3:30 pm at the Rec Complex's (Cedar Room) off the upper foyer. Expect "light refreshments, bring your resume, and be ready to connect."

## Count yourself In if you're unhoused

On March 7, Lift Community Services is spearheading a Point in Time Homeless Count, "a 24-hour snapshot of the minimum number of people experiencing homelessness in a community." The event collects demographic information about those who are experiencing homelessness and a record of their experiences.

The first count was in 2023, when the agency found 126 unhoused people.

Jessica Colasanto, Lift's community resources manager, explained: "If you are living outside, couch-surfing, living in a car, or staying with a friend, we want to hear from you. Your voice is important in helping identify housing needs in our community. Come see us at the CRC or the Library, or call us at 604-414-6369."

The count is a project of BC Housing and the Ministry of Housing.

## Brooks to Westview bike path: construction begins

In February, work began on the Mid-Level Connector, a multi-use path through the woods between Townsite and the Rec Complex. It features a compacted fine crush rock surface and lighting.

The \$1.6 million, 1.5 kilometre route is funded mostly through the Powell River Community Forest and the BC Government (CleanBC Communities), with a \$450,000 contribution from the City's Active Transportation Fund.

## And the King Charles III Coronation Medals for 2025 go to...

On March 8, the following locals will receive a medal from the King. The ceremony takes place at the Tla'amin gym, doors open at 1:30 pm, and the event starts at 2 pm.

**Jane Waterman** has worked tirelessly to provide restorative justice services to the qathet region since 24. She was integral player in starting the **Texada Island Restorative Justice Program** and has been volunteering for 20 years as a caseworker, coordinator, and board chair. Her colleagues see Jane as an unbelievable advocate for community building

and justice, who leads from behind with strength, perseverance, and humility. Jane has advocated for restorative justice services stating, "If the youth is willing to take responsibility for their actions, Restorative Justice is a very good avenue to take. Restorative Justice can reduce costs, and, in the end, it promotes public safety by providing healing, reparation, and re-integration into the community." The benefits to those affected in her community have been realized given her steadfast dedication to this cause.

**Elsie Paul**, whose traditional name is **Qazustala's**, which translates to, "a welcoming person with a wealth of knowledge, someone who shares her culture" is an Elder and knowledge keeper for the Tla'amin (Sliammon) Nation. She is a residential school survivor and one of the few living people to speak the Tla'amin language fluently. She holds an honorary Doctorate degree from Vancouver Island University and has co-authored a book, *Written as I Remember it: Teachings From the Life of a Sliammon Elder*. In 1972 Elsie took on the position of **Administrator in the Social Services Department in Tla'amin**, where she worked there for 24 years. She was one of the founders of the **Tsow-Tun-Lelum House Treatment Centre**, she served as Justice of the Peace in Victim Support Services and Aboriginal Policing, and she also taught part-time at Malaspina College. Elsie was elected to Band Council and served with them until she retired in 1999.

**Lieutenant Kenneth Stewart** became the **commander for the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps** in Powell River in 2016 where, still today, he has taught and engaged young cadets with a focus on developing the attributes of good citizenship and leadership, promoting physical fitness, and stimulating an interest in the Canadian Armed Forces. He has certainly proven his dedication in teaching young cadets about social responsibilities, cultural influences, anti-drug use, anti-bullying, and positive lifestyles. Kenneth himself joined the sea cadets in 1979 when he was only 13 years old. The experience he said, taught him a sense of respect, discipline and to work as a crew, problem solving and leadership. He continued his involvement with the Royal Canadian Navy with the naval reserve and continued his own learning to become a commissioned officer and hone his skills with training about youth and child development.

**Elder Doreen Point**, whose traditional name is **Les.Pet** is a residential school survivor. Doreen worked as a teacher's aide in Powell River for 15 years. Through the mid 1980s to early 20s, Doreen attended the Native Education Centre. Upon graduation she worked at the Social Planning and Research Council of BC. During this time, she and her husband were the **first Aboriginal Foster Parents in the province**, fostered children for 20 years and adopted four of these children. In 1999, Doreen was 1 of 6 women who **founded the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents**, and she remained their treasurer for 20 years. As an Elder, Doreen continues to share the benefits of her compassion and learnings with her community. 🐾



## This work takes all of us.

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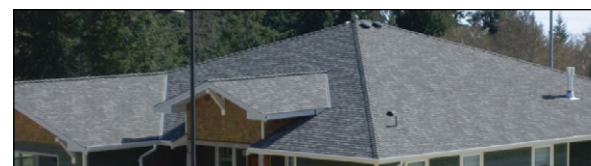
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**2. Phone us!**

It's easy to start your return by phone! We can set up an appointment, download the slips that are on file at the Canada Revenue Agency, then update any missing information you may have! After your return is complete, you can come in to sign your return, or we can get you to sign electronically!

**3. Mail us!**

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## BUSINESS AFFAIRS

SEAN PERCY

### Wildwood electrician sparks change

Steve Watson has been working as an electrician since he was 18, but now he has formed his own business, operating as **Wildwood Electric**. Having recently finished a major project with the new apartments near the hospital, he's ready to take on new clients with jobs of any size, from new builds to minor renovations. Steve has lived his whole life in Wildwood and is operating from his home shop, so he's offering a discount to those in the neighbourhood. Contact Wildwood Electric at 778-758-0180.

### Maybe a merger?

Opening in 1936, Powell River's **First Credit Union** was the first co-operative financial institution in BC; **Vancity** followed a decade later. Now the two are in discussions to merge.

Branding will stay the same, but FCU clients will get access to many more branches, from Alert Bay to Vancouver and beyond. And, more financial products, including Vancity's innovative mortgages that allow groups of non-related people to buy a property together.

According to the media release, FCU clients will get "access to Vancity's wider array of financial products and services, deeper capital, larger networks, and growing technological capacity. The distinct identities of both credit unions will be maintained as will a commitment to local employment."

### Familiar faces heat up propane market

A new player is bringing some new services to the propane business in qathet, but it's from a familiar Powell River name. **ProFuel Propane Ltd.** is being launched next month by **Taran Brown** and **Lori Brown**. The family owns Aero Services, which will be the main location for ProFuel, at 7327 Duncan Street. "We saw an opportunity to provide Powell River with locally-owned propane service that prioritizes community values, reliability, and customer care," said Taran. "Our primary service is propane distribution, offering residential, commercial, and industrial propane

solutions with a focus on reliability and customer care." ProFuel will offer a tank exchange program. Customers can swap tanks at Aero, Top of the Hill in Wildwood, the Shinglemill, and another soon-to-be-announced Westview location, with 20lb, 30lb (forklift style), 40lb, 60lb and 11b tanks at all locations. They will also provide tank filling and recertification. ProFuel will also sell Broil King BBQs, Reznor Heaters, Generac generators, and have a selection of parts, along with offering service and installation. For more information, call 604-344-4208 or visit profuelpropane.com

### Glass for showers and railings

Since **Marcus Canning** moved to qathet, he has been asked to do glass work. Despite having focused his work here on countertops, word got out that he had done glass work in the Lower Mainland. So he has responded to the market demand by starting **Manzanita Railings** with his wife **Lindsey Gonnell**. She runs Manzanita remotely and brings samples to clients. They specialize in the design and installation of high-quality shower glass enclosures and railings. "We really enjoy helping people make their patio and washroom design ideas come to life. We are happy to install large panels and do custom work," said Lindsey. They offer a range of products for railings, from economical aluminum to frameless glass. Shower glass enclosure styles include frameless, semi-frameless, and custom glass enclosures, crafted to your specification. Manzanita's team of experienced professionals ensures a seamless experience from initial consultation to final installation. Contact Lindsey at sales@manzanitarailings.com or 604-213-0333.

### Nancy retires

As anyone who has driven to Lund for a blackberry cinnamon bun knows, **Nancy's Bakery** is a local landmark. **Nancy Bouchard** started the bakery, first downstairs under the pub, followed by several years next to the water taxi office. "We bought the harbour edge land and built the present bakery in 24," Nancy said. She has been running the bakery for 33 years- exactly half her life. Following the death of her daughter last summer, Nancy and Ben are raising a teenager, "so there will be little lazing around for me in retirement," she said. The bakery is now owned by **Paul Baines**, originally from Liverpool.

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

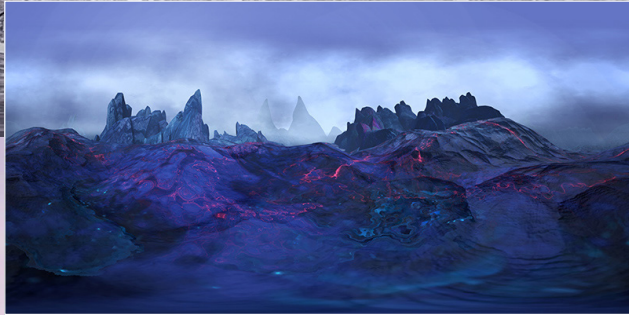


**March is your chance to try  
virtual reality—and let Texada’s  
geology blow you away**

How big is time? On Texada, the everyday existence of human life—work, play and dreams—is juxtaposed with the tectonic shifts of the planet rising and falling in cyclical patterns of creation, extinction and renewal.

Co-directors Claire Sanford (originally from Texada) and Josephine Anderson merge 360-degree live-action footage, with 3D animation of geologic upheaval for an immersive, poetic experience.

Hands-on viewing is available this month at the Texada Museum (March 6); at the Patricia (for qIFF, see times at qathetfilm.ca); and at the qathet Art Centre (March 24 to April 3).



**March** events



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## MARCH EVENTS

**Spring is  
Coming**

Equinox is March 20.  
Seedy Saturday  
is March 8

# Music, maple & more

make the Francophone Fest

**G**et ready for the 2025 Francophone Festival Saturday, March 8! This year's festival, taking place at Association francophone de qathet located at 5110 Manson Avenue, kicks off at 10 am with a traditional **sugar shack brunch**, featuring delicious **maple taffy on snow** – a perfect way to experience a beloved French-Canadian tradition.

Tickets for this event are available for online purchase at [www.afqa.ca](http://www.afqa.ca).

Afterward, the festival will continue with a full afternoon of family-friendly activities—free entry for all!

From noon to 3 pm, there will be a range of fun activities including the **Orca Bus**, a **treasure hunt**, a **campfire** with marshmallows and bannock, and an engaging Francophone **story time** with Sonia Zagwyn from the Powell River Public Library.

To get everyone moving, a lively **family dance** session with France Gendron will follow. For a tasty treat, Just Fry's **Poutine Truck** will be on-site, offering delicious poutine to keep you fueled throughout the afternoon.

The festivities will continue into the evening with an incredible musical performance by the talented **Alpha Yaya Diallo**; guitarist, singer, songwriter and a three-time Juno Award winner! A true multi-cultural artist, he performs in French, English and his native Guinean languages of Fulani, Malinke, and Sosoxi.

This highly anticipated show will begin at 8 pm, with a cash bar and delicious finger foods available throughout the evening.

This festival is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the richness of Francophone culture and the French language, which continue to thrive in our community.

Everyone is welcome to join!

Special thanks to Canadian Heritage for their generous funding, making this celebration possible. Be sure to grab your tickets online for the sugar shack brunch and evening performance. We look forward to celebrating the vibrant Francophone culture with you on March 8th!

—Joëlle Sévigny



**THE MARCH 8 PHENOMENON:** Above, maple sugar on snow—the ultimate Canadian spring treat, at a sugar shack at the Francophone Festival. This year, the event happens March 8, along with a boggling number of other wonderful events, including Seedy Saturday, the qathet International Film Fest, the Food Bank fundraising dance: A Night in New Orleans, the Festival of Performing Arts Grand Concert, and much more. March 9 is just as busy!

**5**

**Wednesday**  
Lent Begins

**6**

**Thursday**

**Festival of  
Performing Arts •  
Dance**

Evergreen Theatre, with adjudicator Jade Leech.

**TEXADA Virtual  
Reality (VR) film  
screening**

10 am to 2 pm, Texada Museum. By filmmakers Claire Sanford (who grew up on Texada) and Josephine Anderson. Co-presented by Texada Heritage Society and qathet ART. Viewing hours 10 am–2 pm

**Comedy Misfits**  
[jumpcomedy.com](http://jumpcomedy.com).

**7**

**Friday**

**U11 Rec Hockey  
begins**

Tournament at Hap Parker

**Coy Cup qualifier  
begins**

Regals vs Rossland best of three. Hap Parker.

**qIFF • qathet  
International Film  
Festival Opening  
Party: Can I get a  
Witness?**

7pm screening. Special guests Director Ann Marie Fleming, Producer Raymond Massey, and crew from Vancouver, with local actor Kymo Van Oers and associate producer Tony Papa, talk about the locally filmed *Can I Get A Witness?* Preceded by short film, *Big Trees*. See [qathetfilm.ca](http://qathetfilm.ca) for more.

**8**

**Saturday**

**International  
Women's Day**

**Seedy Saturday**

10 am to 3 pm, Dwight Hall. Meet local farmers and master gardeners. Speakers, demonstrations, vendors, workshops, seed Swap and more. Admission by donation.

**King Charles  
Coronation Medal  
Ceremony**

1:30 pm, Tla'amin Gym. See recipients list on Page 34.

**U11 Rec Hockey**

Tournament at Hap Parker.

**Uptown Market**

10 am to noon, on Joyce at the Community Resource Centre.

**qIFF • All We Imagine  
As Light**

1:30 pm Patricia. See [qathetfilm.ca](http://qathetfilm.ca). For International Women's Day, this screening will feature Claire Sanford and Josephine Anderson, who will tell us about creating their Virtual Reality production, *Texada* and describe their VR workshop

**A Night in New  
Orleans: Food Bank  
Fundraising dance**

Carlson Loft. With Gary Comeau and the Sounds of New Orleans. \$40. Tickets available at the Carlson Club downstairs and at the Food Bank (behind Ecosentials). Food for sale by Blue Agave. Silent auction, 50/50 draw and more!

**Francophone Festival**

10 am til late, Association francophone de qathet (5110 Manson). A tradition—

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al sugar shack brunch, featuring delicious maple taffy on snow, music and much more. See previous page for more.

### FOPA Grand Concert

7 pm, Evergreen Theatre. Tickets are available from Powell River Academy of Music, the Peak newspaper office or at the door. The tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors and students. The Grand Concert is a showcase of performers from the Festival.

### Coy Cup qualifier

Regals vs Rossland best of three. Hap Parker.

### qIFF • Bird

7 pm Patricia. MP Rachel Blaney will speak about the enduring importance of International Women's Day, along with Yukon filmmaker Jessica Hall, who will go into the challenges of making a film inside the doll houses her sister lovingly constructed. Preceded by short *Saturday*. See [qathetfilm.ca](http://qathetfilm.ca).

### TEXADA Virtual Reality (VR) film screening at qIFF

Daily screenings. For exact hours, see [qathetfilm.ca/texada](http://qathetfilm.ca/texada). Through March 18.

9

Sunday

### Daylight Savings Time starts

Turn your clocks ahead an hour

### Farmers' Market

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

### Sunday song circle

Cranberry Hall

### qIFF • Flow

1:30 pm Patricia. See [qathetfilm.ca](http://qathetfilm.ca). Preceded by short film *Maybe Elephants*.

### Accordion Extravaganza

2 pm, James Hall. Entry by donation. Proceeds going to the upcoming Accordion Festival in May. Join us for a matinée concert and preview of the 4th annual qathet Accordion Fest! This one-hour performance will feature classical, jazz, and tango music, including new repertoire. Also enjoy a sneak peek of an upcoming album we recorded with a 5-piece tango band. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy unique music and support a local tradition!

### Spring Concert, qathet Concert Band

2 pm, Westview Elementary.

### AC/DC Experience

7:30 pm, Evergreen. Tickets on Eventbrite.

### U11 Rec Hockey

Tournament at Hap Parker

### Coy Cup qualifier

Regals vs Rossland best of three. Hap Parker.

### qIFF • So Surreal: Behind the Masks

7 pm Patricia. See [qathetfilm.ca](http://qathetfilm.ca). Also, Eileen Francis, Peg Campbell, Angela Kendall, Davis McKenzie, Claudia Medina, and Emily White, will introduce the teaser for their documentary *Təm kʷaθ nan* Name-sake that will be released later this year.

10

Monday

Commonwealth Day

### Spring Registration for Powell River Parks and Rec (the Rec Complex) begins

See ad on Page 23.

### qIFF • Virtual Reality Workshop

1:30 pm, Patricia Theatre. In this workshop, filmmakers Josephine Anderson and Claire Sanford unpack



**COZY DISCOURSE:** The screening room upstairs at the Patricia Theatre offers a friendly vibe for the Morning-After Film Salons at noon most days during the qathet International Film Festival March 7 to 15.

## Lean in with salons & local short films at qIFF

**B**eyond the features and the galas, the qathet International Film Festival (March 7 to 15) offers more intimate ways to get close to film—and your neighbours.

The Morning After Film Salons (see right) are at The Pat, noon most days, led by local film experts, and offer a time to reflect on the film from the night before.

"I've always loved the conversations in the aisles and in the lobby at the Pat," said Peg Campbell the qathet Film Society's education director. "I always find that, in conversation, my ideas expand. I realize more about what I am feeling about it."

This year's fest also features three short films by locals, screened before a feature: *Paddling Tu DesDes* by Jeremy Williams (March 15, 1:30 pm); a preview of *Təm kʷaθ nan* Namesake by Eileen Francis, Dr. Evan Adams, Davis Mackenzie, Emily White, Peg Campbell, Angela Kendall and Claudia Medina (March 9, 7 pm); and *Texada*, the virtual reality film by Claire Sanford and Josephine Anderson (multiple viewing times)

### In the Salon:

**Emma Morgan-Thorp** • Saturday March 8 – with director Ann Marie Fleming, actors Keira Jang and Kymo Van Oers and crew to discuss *Can I Get A Witness?*

**Tai Uhlmann** • Sunday March 9 – with guest Jessica Hall, director of short film *Saturday*, screens 7 pm March 8) and discuss films *All I Imagine as Light* and *Bird*

**Peg Campbell** • VR workshop March 10 1:30 – 3:30 pm with, co-directors of *Texada* Claire Sanford and Josephine Anderson

**Claudia Medina** • Wednesday March 12 – discuss *Soundtrack to a Coup d'Etat*, *There is No Evil* plus short *Inke: For When the Starving Return*

**Paul Demers** • Thursday March 13 – discuss features *Diving into Darkness*, and *Universal Language*

**Claudia Medina** • Friday March 14 – discuss *Queens (Reinas)* and *The Room Next Door*

**Tai Uhlmann** • Saturday March 15 – *JoJo's Pebbles*. Discuss features *The Monk and the Gun*, and *Queer*

**Lisa Moffatt** • Sunday March 16 – with Producer Shirley Vercruysse of *The Stand*, and Jeremy Williams *Paddling Tu DesDes*, and also to discuss *Kneecap*

Treats provided by 32 Lakes Café and Bakery

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## Dark history with a 2025 & teen spin

H\*tlers Tasters is a dark satirical comedy about teenagers and tyrants.

Written by Michelle Kholos Brooks, the daughter-in-law of Mel Brooks, this play is based on a footnote in history when 15 German female teenagers were selected by the Third Reich for the job of tasting Hitler's food for poison prior to him eating it.

Sitting in a sparse bunker and convinced their job is an "honour to die for the Motherland... er... Fatherland... um Deutschland" and bored out of their minds, they wait for their next meal.

The young women engage in typical teenage squabbles as they reveal their insecurities, throw obscenities at each other, gossip about movie stars, talk of sex and boys, take selfies on their locked cell phones and dance to contemporary music.

At times they are mean to each other, selfish and vulnerable as they contemplate their jobs, their commitment to the Fuhrer and their fear of always being watched and listened to.

Running throughout the play, the young women find the "entitlement" of their job, undoubtedly

### H\*TLER'S TASTERS: A PLAY

**When:** March 14, 15, 21 & 22, Magpie's Diner.

**Tickets:** \$25 and are available at Magpies Diner and Rocky Mountain Pizza and Bakery.

a hellish nightmare of roulette. The unknown outcomes of their meals make them aware of their usefulness to the Reich, their own mortality, and how easily they can be discarded and replaced.

The four women go from extreme patriotism to depression, usefulness to worthlessness all within their context of coming of age and being influenced by the world around them.

The playwright has taken a real story from the tyrannical rule of the German Reich and has inserted the present with cell phones and movie stars.

Director **Stephanie Miller** has created a fine balance between the past and the present, fear and bravado, awareness and ignorance with the actors.

The four teenagers are brilliantly played by **Christine Cook, Kaela George, Kelsey Roosenmaallen and Stephanie Zaleski.**

- Stephen Miller

## MARCH EVENTS

the techniques and strategies for making work in virtual reality. Using their new VR documentary *Texada* (produced by the National Film Board of Canada) as a case study, the filmmakers share insights, challenges and real-world examples of what it is like to undertake a virtual reality collaboration. They will demonstrate shooting with a professional 360-degree camera and share experiences working alongside animators, developers and participants. With practices rooted in themes of time, identity and the natural world, the filmmakers unpack the question: how do we think immersively? What opportunities does this present, and how does it help us see the world differently?

### qIFF • Soundtrack to a Coup d'Etat

7pm Patricia. See qathetfilm.ca.

# 13

Thursday

### qIFF • Queens (Reinas)

1:30 pm Patricia. Preceded by short, *Hairy Legs*.

### qIFF • The Room Next Door

7 pm Patricia. Preceded by film short, *Loca*.

### Full Moon Eclipse

The entire full Moon will pass through Earth's shadow on March 13, visible in much of North America. The eclipse starts at just before 9 p.m. Pacific time. Maximum eclipse is at midnight, and the Moon leaves Earth's shadow at 3 a.m. (March 14). Depending on substances in our atmosphere at that time, the totally eclipsed Moon could appear orange, red, or even brown. During eclipses the Moon's eastward movement really becomes apparent, as it revolves around Earth each month.

- Angelika Hackett

# 11

Tuesday

### qIFF • Evil Does Not Exist

7pm Patricia. Preceded by short, *Inkwo: for then the Starving Return*.

# 14

Friday

Purim

### Last day of school before Spring Break

Classes resume on Monday, March 31.

### Guided Nature Walk

11am to 11:45am, Museum. Oriented for families with children ages 4-8. Children 4-5 must have a parent or guardian with them. Explores nature and history with a walk on the Millennium Trails. Free

### H\*tlers Tasters

Magpie's, Townsite Actors Guild. See story, left. Also on March 15, 21 & 22.

# 12

Wednesday

### qIFF • Diving Into the Darkness

1:30 pm Patricia. Director Cristóbal Ruiz plus crew will talk with Paul Demers about filming base jumping in the mountains under dire conditions for the short film *The Beginning*. See qathetfilm.ca

### qIFF • Universal Language

7pm Patricia. Preceded by short film *Samaa*.



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### qIFF • The Monk and the Gun

1:30 pm Patricia. Local filmmaker Jeremy Williams will introduce his short film, Paddling Tu DesDes. See qathetfilm.ca

### qIFF • Queer

7 pm Patricia. See qathetfilm.ca

# 15

**Saturday**

### Urban Sketching

2 pm, 32 Lakes. Hosted by qathet Art & Wares.

### qIFF • The Stand

1:30 pm Patricia. Preceded by *Paddling Tu DesDes*.

### Uptown Market

10 am to noon, on Joyce at the Community Resource Centre.

### Crib Tournament

Land Bay Hall. \$25. Register by March 11 by calling 604-483-1440. Crib nights Thursdays, 7 pm at Lang Bay Hall, \$2.

### Curling Club end of season Mixed Bonspiel

\$25 entry per person.

### H\*tlers Tasters

Magpie's, Townsite Actors Guild. See story on Page 40. Also on March 21 & 22.

### Nosing and Tasting the Water of Life

2 pm, Library. Local authors Greg Cran and Adam Drummond will present their book on the history of whisky in Scotland and the alchemy of whisky tasting and pairing. For info mmerlino@prpl.ca

### Harmony Vespers with Jamberries

4 pm, Powell River United Church. With Trish Windsor, Colleen Currie, Jack Wiebe, Roy Carson, Leslie Chorus, and Jan Giffen.

### Homegrown: Singer Songwriter Showcase

7 pm, Evergreen Theatre. Ben Wittrock; Tyler Bartfai; Austin Parise; Ben Wayne Kyle; Dawson Wikene. \$25.

### qIFF • Closing Party: Kneecap

7 pm Patricia. Local DJ Minerva (Claudia Medina) will be at our closing party, spinning Indigenous tunes to get us in the mood for the Gaelic punk of Kneecap. See qathetfilm.ca.

# 16

**Sunday**

### All-ages rock show awareness-raiser for The Foundry

6 pm, The Alley Powered by Persephone. With Potential Union, The Equals, Hystera, and Sharome! The Foundry is a provincial program that supports young people aged 12-24, which will soon open in qathet.

### Farmers' Market

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

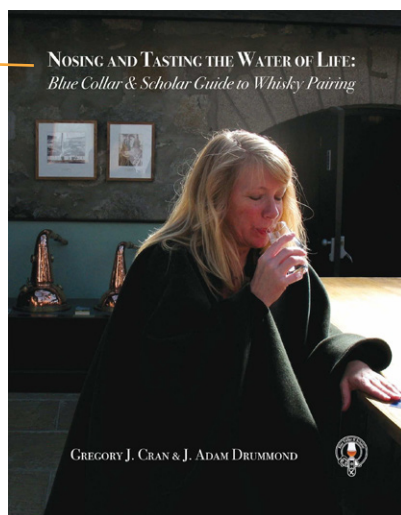
### qIFF encore • Can I Get a Witness

1:30 pm Patricia. Preceded by short film, *Big Trees*.

# 17

**Monday**

St. Patrick's Day



### Community Spaghetti Dinner

4:30 to 7 pm, Powell River United Church. A delicious meal, great conversation, and a welcoming atmosphere. There will also be a play group 5:30 to 6:30 for your children. Bring your friends and family—all are welcome! Sue Paquette : Chip.paquette@gmail.com

### qIFF encore • Flow

7 pm Patricia. See qathetfilm.ca

# 18

**Tuesday**

### Film • Dog Man

7 pm. The Patricia. Half human, part pooch, and doggedly upbeat, the hero Dog Man pounces onscreen in an adorably absurd animated family comedy of freewheeling hijinks. Based on the best-selling book series, Dog Man.

# 19

**Wednesday**

### Film • Dog Man

7 pm. The Patricia.

# 20

**Thursday**

Spring Equinox

### Town Centre Job Fair

9:30 to 5:30 pm, in the mall. Hiring partners include Winners, Shoppers Drug Mart and Save On Foods. On until March 24.

See ad on Page 29 for more.

### Film • Dog Man

1:30 pm matinee and 7 pm. The Patricia.

# 21

**Friday**

### Pointed Sticks and Big Tall Garden

Carlson Loft. See more about Big Tall Garden on Page 46.

### H\*tlers Tasters

Magpie's, Townsite Actors Guild. See story on Page 40. Also on March 22.

### Town Centre Job Fair

9:30 to 5:30 pm, in the mall. Hiring partners include Winners, Shoppers Drug Mart, and Save-On-Foods. On until March 24. See ad on Page 29 for more.

Join Coastal Women in Business & qathet Safe

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## Battle of the Badges Charity Hockey Game

**Saturday, March 29 at Hap Parker Arena. 6 pm. Canucks alumni.**

Tickets at 460 Realty, TAWS, the Fire Hall, RCMP Station and at the door.

Proceeds split between Cops for Cancer Tour de Coast and the PR Professional Firefighters Charitable Society's Feed the Kids program.



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MARCH EVENTS

Kings vs Cowichan Valley

7pm, Hap Parker

Film • Disney's Snow White (live action)

7pm, The Patricia. Rated PG Disney's Snow White is the long awaited live-action musical reimagining of the classic 1937 film. Starring Rachel Ziegler (West Side Story) in the title roll and Gal Godot (Wonder Woman) as her stepmother the Evil Queen.

22

Saturday

Laylatul Qadr

Celebration of Quilts begins

Dwight Hall. 10 til 5 Saturday, 10 til 4 Sunday. See story on Page 12.

Town Centre Job Fair

9:30 to 5:30 pm, in the mall. Hiring partners include Winners, Shoppers Drug Mart and Save On Foods. On until March 24. See ad on Page 29.

Uptown Market

10am to noon, on Joyce at the Community Resource Centre.

H\*tlr's Tasters

Magpie's, Townsite Actors Guild. See story on Page 40. Also on March 21 & 22. March 26.

Kings vs Cowichan Valley

5pm, Hap Parker.

Film • Disney's Snow White (live action)

7pm, The Patricia.

23

Sunday

Town Centre Job Fair

9:30 to 5:30 pm, in the mall. Hiring partners include Winners, Shoppers Drug Mart, and Save-On-Foods. On until March 24. See ad on Page 29.

Farmers' Market

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

Celebration of Quilts

Dwight Hall. 10 til 5 Saturday, 10 til 4 Sunday. See story on Page 12.

Film • Disney's Snow White (live action)

7pm, The Patricia.

24

Monday

Last Day: Town Centre Job Fair

9:30 to 5:30 pm, in the mall. Hiring partners include Winners, Shoppers Drug Mart and Save-On-Foods. On until March 24. See ad on Page 29.

qathet Friends of the Library Book Donation Day

3 to 5 pm at the Library.

TEXADA Virtual Reality (VR) film screening begins

Monday to Thursday 2 – 5pm, qathet Art Centre. Through April 3.

Transformation in Troubling Times: qathet Climate Alliance AGM & finger food pot luck

5–7 pm at CranHall. Be there if you care. jansla-kov@proton.me

Film • Disney's Snow White (live action)

7pm, The Patricia.

25

Tuesday

Garden Club meeting

7pm, Cranberry Seniors Centre. There will be a feature speaker on gardening. Everyone welcome. Doors open at 6:30.

PRISMA ticket sales begin for the Public

See ad on Page 29.

Bridging Community Differences

2pm to 4 pm, Cranberry Seniors Centre. Really listening to each other brings healing and change. This session invites participants to have authentic conversations with people sharing different perspectives on key community topics. We'll use the Livin-groomConversations.org process — small groups (of 4-6) that give us an opportunity to really hear from each other and come to know each other's humanity. It's for "newbies" and also people who have been part of a BCD session before. To RSVP or for more info, email Kate@emergcollab.com

Film • Disney's Snow White (live action)

7pm, The Patricia.

26

Wednesday

Powell River Logger Sports AGM

7pm, location TBA. Watch the Facebook page for more. Logger Sports and the chainsaw carving competition are happening this year—July 9 to 13.

Film • Disney's Snow White (live action)

7pm, The Patricia.

27

Thursday

Pranatricks

Wishing Well. \$18 online, \$25 at the door. Cumberland-based Pranatricks is an Indie-Psych-Folk artist who transforms traditional songwriting into a mesmerizing, boundary-pushing experience. Blending indie folk, psych, and alternative rock with instrumental loops, he crafts immersive soundscapes that feel more like performance art than a typical singer-songwriter set.

Radio communications through history

3:30-5:30 pm, Museum. Come to the Museum to learn about the importance of radios throughout history with a special focus on the qathetregion. At the end, make a simple radio to take home. \$15. Ages 8-15. All materials provided.

Artist Trading Cards

5:30 pm, Westview Bowling. By qathet Art & Wares.

Film • Disney's Snow White (live action)

7pm, The Patricia.

28

Friday

LegZZ The ZZ-TOP Tribute Concert

Evergreen Theatre

U11 & U15 Rec Stars Hockey Tournament begins

Hap Parker.

Film • Disney's Snow White (live action)

7pm, The Patricia.

29

Saturday

Film & Minor Baseball Registration • Rookie of the Year

1:30 pm, Patricia Theatre. Anyone can watch the film for \$5 (free for Powell River Minor Baseball players who have already registered). See ad on Page 52

Uptown Market

10am to noon, on Joyce at the Community Resource Centre.

Battle of the Badges charity hockey event: RCMP vs. Firefighters

5pm doors, puck drops at 6pm. All seats \$5. See story on Page19.

Discover the Power of Archetypes: Intro to SoulCollage®

2 to 5pm, Library. Heather Conn facilitates this fun and intuitive art workshop on SoulCollage®. What images, animals, or objects represent the inner and outer you? To register, email mmerlino@prpl.ca

U11 & U15 Rec Stars Hockey Tournament

Hap Parker

Film • Disney's Snow White (live action)

7pm, The Patricia.

30

Sunday

Farmers' Market

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

Paddling For Life Dragon Boat Team Burger & Beer

4:30 to 7 pm at the Carlson Club, lower level. Silent auction and 50/50 draw. Tickets are available from Carol Hamilton at kchamilton47@gmail.com or any team member

Disc Golf Glitch Tournament

In Lund. Food Bank fundraiser. Find out more at qathet disc golf club on Facebook, or qathet disc golf on Instagram.

U11 & U15 Rec Stars Hockey Tournament

Hap Parker

Film • Disney's Snow White (live action)

7pm, The Patricia.

31

Monday

Eid ul Fitr

(Tentative Date)

Kindergarten Registration deadline for qathet School District

For children born in 2020. See ad on Page 23.

Kathaumixw T-Shirt Design contest deadline

for qat'aymixw.

Back to school: Spring Break is over

Film • Disney's Snow White (live action)

7pm, The Patricia. PL

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PEEK AHEAD TO APRIL EVENTS



**READY FOR THE GALA:** Above, Chamber of Commerce manager Sheilah Denholm at a networking event at the Designer Signs and *qathet Living* magazine offices in February. The Chamber's more-glamorous annual gala and awards dinner is coming up April 5. Need tickets? See the ad on Page 44.

**April 1**  
**The Knitting Pilgrim—**  
**One man show**

7:30 pm, Powell River United Church. One man with questions. Three huge hand-knitted tapestries. A 15-year search for answers, with lots of funny, moving, life experiences along the way. Suggested donation \$20.

**Wildfire Season Begins**  
See ad on Page 9 for more.

**Film • Disney's Snow White (live action)**  
7pm, The Patricia.

**April 2**  
**Financial Management and Health**

5pm, Library. Financial planner Lena Keshysheva will share actionable strategies for reducing financial stress and enhancing your quality of life and long-term well-being. For info mmerlino@prpl.ca

**Thinking About Buying a Home? Let's Talk!**

5:30-7 PM at First Credit Union (4721 Joyce Avenue). Buying a home can feel like a big, overwhelming process—but it doesn't have to be! See more on Page 17. Sign up today at firstcu.ca

**April 4**  
**Poet Cynthia Sharp**  
5pm, Library. Celebrate nature in an eco-conscious theme with Cynthia Sharp, who will present her uplifting and award-win-

ning book *Ordinary Light*. For info mmerlino@prpl.ca

**April 5**  
**Cran Hall Presents: Aleksi Campagne**

7pm, Cranberry Hall. Aleksi (son of folk icon Connie Caldor and Paul Campagne of bilingual band Hart Rouge) received the 2024 Canadian Folk Music Award for francophone artist of the year on his debut album. Aleksi's music blends folk songwriting (in French and English) with an edgy, multi-layered sound that uses haunting vocals, astonishing violin, and looping effect pedals. Be sure to get tickets early. (\$25/\$30) info@cranhall.org and The Nutcracker Market on Marine.

**Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner**  
See ad on Page 44.

**April 6**  
**Tartan Day**

**April 10**  
**WorkBC Centre Powell River Job Fair**  
2pm – 3:30 pm, Recreation Complex (Cedar Room) off the upper foyer. We'll have a mix of employers from a variety of industries. Light refreshments, bring your resume, and be ready to connect.

**2025 VIU Year-End Celebration & 50th Anniversary**  
11:30 am–2 pm, VIU. Our annual celebration of student success. This year's

celebration will also mark the closing out of our 50th Anniversary festivities. There'll be ceremonies, food and entertainment as well as a number of special guests in attendance.

**VIU Alumni Event**  
Led by VIU Anthropology professor, Dr Marie Hopwood, "The Archaeology of Beer" will be a fun, informative event exploring ancient beer recipes (including a Mesopotamian beer recipe that we will be reproducing in an exclusive taster for all attendees!). Details coming soon.

**April 10 to 12**  
**Townsite Jazz Festival**  
See story on Page 44 and ad on Page 19.

**April 13**  
**Palm Sunday**

**April 14 to May 12**  
**Powell River Salmon Society Clipping Program: needs volunteers**  
See story on Page 6.

**April 19 & 20**  
**Springtime Garden Market**

**April 20**  
**Easter Sunday**

**April 26**  
**Film • Freedom Express**  
2pm, The Patricia. Beer and brats with CJMP.



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- The Peak
- Powell River Garden Club
- Powell River Kings
- Powell River Realtors
- Powell River Town Centre Mall
- Powell River Vintage Car Club
- Provincial Employees Community Fund
- qathet Living
- Rotary Club of Powell River
- Royal Canadian Legion #164
- Save-On-Foods
- Target Installations
- Timberkids Charitable Foundation
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- Westview Baptist Church Love Fund
- Westview Flying Club
- Zaikow Agencies

A special **THANK YOU** to our volunteers for all the hard work throughout the year prior to distribution, and on Hamper Distribution day.

The continued generosity of this community is outstanding!







Townsite Jazz Fest April 10 to 12

# Ready for rhythm

**P**owell River's Historic Townsite will come alive next month (April 10–12) with the electrifying sounds of jazz, soul, funk, and world music. With 10 ticketed concerts at venues large and small, and student ensembles opening each show, this year's Townsite Jazz Festival promises a diverse lineup that will thrill music lovers of all genres while showcasing musicians of all ages.

Highlights include:

**Two Much Guitar**, which will see Canadian jazz legends Oliver Gannon and Bill Coon trade licks on jazz standards and original compositions.

**Karen Flamenco**, a spellbinding troupe of Vancouver-based musi-

cians and dancers who will bring the passion of Spain to the qathet region.

**Jazz & Appys**, a fundraiser for the Brooks Secondary music program featuring saxophonist Steve Carson – one of Powell River's finest musical exports.

**The Julio Ávila Cuban Band**, a 10-piece powerhouse from Vancouver that will have Dwight Hall bouncing into the late evening with Latin rhythms.

Individual tickets are on sale now, with discounts for students and young children at select concerts. A limited number of festival passes are also available. For the full lineup and schedule, visit [townsitejazz.com](http://townsitejazz.com).

- Andy Rice

**JAZZ FANS:** *Left*, A familiar face to qathet region audiences, Ben Wayne Kyle (pictured here with his Vancouver-based trio) is set to open the 2025 Townsite Jazz Festival with a concert on April 10 at Shinglemill Pub and Bistro. He's also performing at Homegrown at the Evergreen March 15. *Below left*, based in Vancouver, the Julio Ávila Cuban Band will bring irresistible Afro-Cuban rhythms to this year's Townsite Jazz Festival, guaranteeing a night of high-energy dancing and vibrant Latin grooves. *Below*, led by Karen Pikethly, the face of flamenco in Vancouver, the highly acclaimed Karen Flamenco intertwines masterful storytelling, passionate music and spirited dancing to capture the thrill of a live audience.



The annual Powell River Chamber of Commerce

## Business Awards gala and dinner

is set for **April 5, 2025** at Dwight Hall

Reserve your tickets now: 604-485-4051



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# The Knitting Pilgrim

**A**ctor, writer, and knitter Kirk Dunn will present his one-man show at 7:30 pm April 1, at Powell River United Church. The show combines personal storytelling, image projection, and three huge knitted panels, designed in the style of stained-glass windows, that look at the commonalities and conflicts of the Abrahamic Faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

It recounts Kirk's 15-year artistic and spiritual journey handknitting the ambitious project, and looks at why the faiths struggle to get along today, the meaning of art, the hell of grant-writing and the power of love to overcome major obstacles (and minor mishaps). [kirkdunn.com](http://kirkdunn.com)



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Two rock musicians who built their musical foundations as kids here in qathet are playing local stages this month.

With **Big Tall Garden**, **Hamish (Greg) Thomson** takes the Carlson Loft on March 21, opening for The Pointed Sticks. He started with the Clansman Pipe Band.

With **Razorvoice**, **Ben Wittrock** plays The Evergreen at Homegrown, a local singer-songwriter showcase March 15. The next day, the band plays The Alley, at an awareness-raiser for The Foundry. He started with the Academy of Music.

Here, they reveal how they succeeded on stage, and adapted their careers as their lives progressed.

# Rock & role models

Hamish (Greg) Thomson • Big Tall Garden drummer & songwriter • Film & TV composer

## About Big Tall Garden

Big Tall Garden started back in 1988 at Capilano College when I met guitarist and singer Duane Murrin and bassist Jon Frederiksen who were also taking the music program there.

Duane and Jon were already pals as they went to high school together in North Vancouver. There was something special that one can't really describe. It was a feeling that we all knew we were meant to be together as a band and more importantly, as friends.

We started jamming together and making songs... Felt like we were little kids in a candy store being so aligned with each other.

We pulled inspiration from bands, like The Police, Zeppelin, Queen, and The Who... Great classic rock bands, also punk and ska, prog and folk elements as well. We released a few cassettes in the early 1990s.

By then we had established a solid fan base and were doing lots of shows, including playing at the Town Pump, The Railway Club, The Commodore, The Media Club, Richards on Richards, etc.

This year marks the 30 year anniversary of making our first CD, Full Fathom Five.

We are celebrating by doing a re-release on vinyl later in the year.



**FROM THE CLANSMAN PIPE BAND TO RIFF ROCK:** Big Tall Garden drummer and songwriter Hamish (Greg) Thomson (left) with Duane Murrin and Jon Frederiksen. The three met at Capilano College's jazz program.

## Growing up in Powell River

I feel super grateful to have grown up in such a beautiful little town. I was born in the old hospital near the mill. PR felt like a great place to be wild and free as a little kid!

My dad, George Thomson, was a high school teacher up there and seemed to know everyone in town! My mom was Shirley Thomson, and my siblings are Bruce, Patti, and Colleen Thomson.

In my early years we lived on Gordon Avenue and then moved up to

Adam Street. I attended Edgehill Elementary, Oceanview, and then Max Cameron.

## Music ed in PR

I joined the Clansman Pipe Band at 6, playing the snare drum. Both my dad, George, and brother, Bruce, played bagpipes and when I was a kid the pipe band needed more drummers so that's where it all started for me. Basically, my entire music career started at that moment!

My drumming teacher in the pipe

## BIG TALL GARDEN

**When:** 8pm, March 21

**What:** Big Tall Garden opens for The Pointed Sticks

**Where:** Carlson Loft.

band was Phil MacMillan. He was an incredible drummer and great mentor for me. 10,000 hours of practising snare rudiments... And participating in endless practices with the band and doing parades and competing at highland games.

In high school, I joined the high school concert and jazz bands.

## Music ed after high school

I made my way to North Vancouver to attend Capilano College and studied music in the jazz program for two years. It was an incredible experience to be surrounded by so many other like-minded musicians, and such great teachers and mentors there! I learned a lot.

I didn't go back for any other formal schooling, but found mentors in the industry that I admired, and was able to work with them, learning more

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48





**FROM THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC TO GRUNGE PUNK:** Razorvoice started in Los Angeles but is now based in Victoria. Here, guitarist and songwriter Ben Wittrock puts on a show with Alex Campbell, Saul Sitar, and Fin Edwards. Ben Wittrock is the son of a BC Ferries worker and an RN.

*Photo by Adam Lee*

Ben Wittrock • Razorvoice guitarist & songwriter • Audio engineer

## About Razorvoice

Razorvoice is the project I started while living in Hollywood as a way to channel my creativity. It has evolved with me through different chapters of my life—from its early days in LA, to Vancouver, and now to my home base in Victoria. I jokingly describe our sound as grunge punk popsicles dripping in distortion—a mix of melodic positivity, powerful drum parts, and gritty guitars.

We've been playing regularly in Victoria at Lucky Bar and all-ages DIY venues through Pop Punk Parties I host, as well as shows with the Victoria Ska & Reggae Society. The band lineup right now includes some of the most talented musicians I've had the privilege of working with: Alex Campbell, Saul Sitar, and Fin Edwards (a 19-year-old powerhouse on bass who also fronts the Nanaimo-based band Dangerbox.)

In 2019, I released Unmute, an album I recorded in an abandoned warehouse in Powell River (shout-out to Randal and Meralon Drader for gear such as the NeoTek that recorded Trooper's first 3 records alongside City Transfer for making that possible!). Now, we're gearing up to release new music that truly captures where Razorvoice is headed.

## Homegrown & Foundry Events

**When:** March 15 and 16

**What:** Two local events featuring Razorvoice.

**Learn more:** Check them out in the qL calendar on Page 41.

## Growing up & Music Ed in Powell River

The Riv gave me my start in music; thanks to my childhood best friend's family, the Biasuttis. They had guitars lying around for me to be exposed to.

I grew up in Westview on Gordon Avenue, where my dad, Bruce Wittrock, worked at BC Ferries for 26 years, and my mom, Noreen MacRae, was a well-respected RN at the hospital. I attended Assumption School from K-9 and was fortunate to have access to the Powell River Academy of Music, which played a huge role in shaping my musicianship.

One of my first music teachers was Carli Kennedy from Twin Kennedy, who taught me guitar before passing me along to Bob Drage, who helped me dive into jazz and music theory.

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 49*



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**THE PIPE BAND NEEDED DRUMMERS:** Above, Hamish Thomson (centre) with his brother Bruce on the left with the bagpipes. Right, Hamish now.

## Hamish Cont.

about my craft through experiences rather than official schooling.

A couple of mentors that really stood out to me were Mark Roberts, who was the drummer and musical director for Massive Attack in their early records... he took me under his wing in London and taught me a lot about drumming and live performances and combining acoustic drumming with electronics, etc.

Another mentor and friend is Howard Redekopp who has produced a ton of amazing bands, like Mother Mother, and Tegan and Sara. He taught me a lot about being a music producer and working in the studio and the subtle art of mixing music.

Another mentor is Krish Sharma who has worked with the Rolling Stones and Don Was.

## Music projects you're most proud of

When I was in high school, I got into a band called the Moondog Matinee Orchestra, which later became the Crosstown Trio with John Tyler and Dan Erickson.

Playing with these guys gave me my first start at playing real bands, even though I was much younger than them they took me in and welcomed me as a friend and band mate.

I'm definitely proud of my work with Big Tall Garden. I also signed a deal with Nettwerk Records under the name The Hermit where I released a couple of records doing live electronica.

And now my career has evolved into being a composer for film and TV.

That's been my main music gig for the past seven years. I got my start into TV and film composing with the indie movie, *Grand Unified Theory*

Having a family and kids gave me a different perspective on what was important to me. So, I adjusted my goal and vision to [include composing for film], still having a sustainable career in music.

- Hamish Thomson



which led to me getting a job being composer for the TV series *Chesapeake Shores*. I also did work for Netflix called *Operation Christmas Drop* and most recently a thriller called *The Image of You* for Paramount and CBS.

## Advice for local teen musicians

There are so many ways people can pursue a career in music. I think it comes down to trusting our personal gifts and talent and believing in ourselves and our craft.

I encourage people to have a vision for what they want to go after... What does that look like?

For me, my goal when I graduated from high school and went to music college was to be in a band and tour, put out records and to have a successful career doing that!

I was able to do a lot of that which I am grateful for but life took a few different twists and turns such as having a family and kids which gave me a different perspective on what was important to me. So, I adjusted my goal and vision to still having a sustainable career in music even if it didn't look exactly like how I envisioned it in the first place.

Now my career has evolved into having a successful and sustainable career composing for TV and film.

I encourage people to dream big and go after those visions, but also be OK if things turn out a bit differently. Always communicate with others, be kind and be open to the possibilities.

The music industry can be very competitive, but I believe in building community!

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**TOTALLY POWELL RIVER:** Top, Ben Whittrock (in the Brooks Music t-shirt) with and Chris Brinton in their teen-era band Superjuice. Above, with the Kennedy Twins; Carli taught him guitar.

### Ben Cont.

Drum lessons with Andreas David and vocal lessons with Megan Skidmore at the Academy also played a big part in my early development.

At Brooks Secondary, I was lucky to have teachers like Roy Carson, who nurtured creativity and a rock 'n' roll spirit, and Paul Cummings, who led an incredible choir and jazz band program.

That being said, my punk rock tendencies often got in my own way of growth—my band Superjuice (thanks to Wes Oram on drums and Christ Brinton on bass; followed by Superjuice 2.0 with Chris Hummel, Austin Parise and Rayne Muir) was my main focus, and I was eager to carve my own path. Looking back, I'm so grateful for the opportunities and guidance I received from the community.

### Music Ed after high school

At 17, I left Powell River and moved to LA, where I partook in classes at Musicians Institute and soaked up as much knowledge as I could while playing, engineering and sitting in on sessions at legendary studios such as Grandmaster NRG, East West, and smaller ones such as 4th Street. To support myself, I learned audio engineering—not just as a “Plan B,” but as a way to shape my own music and help amplify the voices of the community around me.

That experience gave me the skills and connections to continue making music at a professional level. It also reinforced my belief that if you have a strong enough desire for a vision, you have to surround yourself with people who are doing it and learn everything you can.

Take care of yourself. I pushed myself too hard for years, and my body told me so when I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis after the right side of my body went numb... due to stress, heat, and lack of sleep.

- Ben Whittrock

### Music projects you're most proud of

Right now, I'm most proud of 2020 Eyes, a collection of songs we are about to tour. It features a mix of tracks I self-recorded, as well as four produced by Theo from Gob and engineered by Paul Silveira at The Armoury in Vancouver.

After self-producing my last record Unmute, I've been eager to collaborate, filtering songs through multiple perspectives for a unique outputting creative result. So this release also features two songs I co-wrote with Glen Willows from Harlequin, recorded live off the floor with Razorvoice's previous lineup featuring CoaastGxd on bass before Fin stepped up in his honor.

On top of that, two new live-off-the-floor recordings—*Masquerade* and *Death Won't Kill My Vibe*—with the current Razorvoice lineup from this year have us gut-bustingly excited. There's something raw and electric about capturing a band's energy in the moment, and I can't wait to play these songs on the road, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones.

### Advice for local teen musicians

Don't wait for permission. Start now. Write, record, and play as much as you can. The Riv' is a great place to develop your craft without the distractions of a bigger city. Learn to listen... maybe sometimes to well-respected elders, but more importantly to your first initial intuition and instinct before sponsored thoughts of other's cloud it. Take action!

Take advantage of local mentors. There are amazing musicians and teachers in the community who can guide you if you're willing to listen and put in the work. Push yourself outside your comfort zone. Travel, meet people, and immerse yourself in different music scenes.

Take care of yourself. I pushed myself too hard for years, and my body told me so when I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis after the right side of my body went numb for two weeks due to stress, heat, and lack of sleep. I thought being straight edge and eating a healthy diet was enough, but burning out on too many late-night studio sessions, live sound gigs, and touring proved otherwise. Balance. Keep life humorous, fun and joyful. 🐱

### Homegrown Concert Line-Up

March 15. See more on Page 47



At 24, Dawson Jaxn already has a decade of musical gigs behind him. While he enjoys playing guitar and writing, his passion is in singing and it's the voice of this man that will reach your core.



Austin Parise has been playing in and around Powell River for 15 years. As a founding member of Potential Union, Parise brings the energy of his punk rock roots to his solo endeavors.



Tyler Bartfai is a guitar and vocal driven singer-songwriter. His writing and live shows have been described as hopeful, transparent, and vulnerable, with influences from across genres.



Ben Wayne Kyle is based in Vancouver after being raised in the Powell River music scene. Ben plays jazz, folk, funk, and rock. He will be performing songs from his brand new self produced EP.



Ben Wittrock launched in LA before collaborating with Glen Willows (Harlequin) and Theo Goutzinakis (Gob). With Razorvoice and Vans Warped Tour, his music fuels connection & transformation.



# Our Lives



## Welcome Rowan Arthur Outram-Dunsmore

Born January 27, 2025, at  
9:38am, to proud parents  
Charlotte Outram and  
Jordan Dunsmore.  
8lbs, 15oz.



## In Loving Memory of Fred (Earl) Fogarty

Fred (Earl) Fogarty, a devoted father of five, passed away on December 4, 2024.

Born in Ireland and a long-time resident of Powell River, Fred spent much of his life as a logger, known for his do it yourself spirit and readiness to help others.

He is survived by his children, Kieran, Bronwynne, Stefan, Caitlin, and Declan.

His legacy of hard work and resilience will continue to inspire all who knew him.



## In Loving Memory of Panagiotis (Peter) Rounis

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Peter Rounis, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, who left us on January 12, 2025, at the age of 79.

Born on January 21, 1945, in Doliana (Δολιανιά), Greece, Peter lived a life full of love, wisdom, and kindness. He found joy in the outdoors, with passions for hunting, fishing, and gardening. He cherished his roles as a husband, father, grandfather, and friend. Peter had a long career as a restaurant owner and whether at his establishment or his home, he always ensured everyone left with full bellies and full hearts.

In Greek, one word that encapsulates him is “philotimo” (φιλότιμο)—a deep sense of honour, generosity, and selflessness. He was a gentle and generous soul, known for his warm smile and unwavering support. Peter would go out of his way to help anyone in need.

Peter is survived by his beloved wife, Martha; his children, George (Lene), Bill (Siona), and Jenny; and his cherished grandchildren, Demetria, Nikos, Panagiota, Kostadina, and Anastacia. He was predeceased by his brother, Kosta, and is lovingly remembered by his brothers, Nikos, and Bill, along with a wide circle of friends who will forever hold his memory close to their hearts. The family would like to thank the amazing staff at the Palliative Care Unit for their tender care and all the physicians and nurses that treated him this past year.

A funeral service to honour Peter’s life was held at St. Mary’s Parish, located at 1135 Fourth Ave, Ladysmith, BC V9G 1A3, on Monday, January 20, 2025, at 11:00 am. The service was followed by prayers at the cemetery. Family and friends gathered afterward at St. Mary’s Hall to share memories and connect.

Donations could be made to Nanaimo Community Hospice, Nanaimo Red Cross, or the BC Cancer Foundation.

## Happy Retirement Rod Wiebe



December 27, 2024 was my last day as a member of the RCMP—a career I began September 21, 1990. All I can say is, “What a rewarding career!” It afforded me the privilege of serving the communities of Prince Rupert, Salmon Arm, 1 Mile House, Revelstoke and Powell River.

From jumping onto small float planes in Prince Rupert, to jumping out of a perfectly good helicopter with dive gear on in Salmon Arm, to patrolling



the snow covered mountains of Revelstoke on snowmobile, to policing the waters of Desolation Sound, it has truly been a career nowhere near the ordinary.

As I trade in my gun belt for a tool belt I want to thank the community of Powell River for being so supportive of your police service. Suzi and I call Powell River home and we have no plans of leaving.



# In Loving Memory of Alice Fougère

**A**lice Fougère (Nassichuk) passed away peacefully at the age of 91 at her home in Powell River on February 27, 2025 with family by her side.

The only regret in Alice's life was having to retire at age 65. If she could have, she would still be working in the office at Brooks School today.

Although her health slowed her down slightly in the past few years, it in no way impeded her ability to make her weekly Lotto Max and Keno purchases!

Alice was born in Powell River to Katie and Bill Nassichuk. She grew up on Duncan Street graduating from the old Brooks School in 1952.

In her youth she worked at The Panda Cafe and at the Fiesta Restaurant on Marine Avenue, earning 17 cents an hour.

What she really wanted was to be a police officer. After exploring that option in Vancouver, she chose to leave that path to her younger brothers.

While she was in Vancouver, she worked at the Woodward's food floor for six months, then on returning to Powell River, worked at Mitchell Brothers.

Shortly after that, she began her career with School District 47 after her old principal came to the store to headhunt her for his school. She started working as the secretary in the main office at Brooks School in 1953. Many people say that she ended up doing a lot of "policing" there over the years where she affectionately became known as Miss Brooks.

When she retired in 1999, she was making \$17 an hour, "big bucks" in comparison to her days at The Panda decades earlier!

Alice Nassichuk married Leonard Fougère in June 1957, linking her to all the Powell Riverites who, like Len, were transplants from Nova Scotia. That same year, with the help of Alice's dad Bill, Len built their house on Manitoba Avenue. There they raised their four beautiful boys, and she remained there until her passing.

She watched her sons graduate,



marry, and start their own families. She never dreamed of also seeing all her grandchildren graduate, marry, and give her great-grandchildren. Witnessing all those milestones for the family brought her so much happiness and pride.

In her retirement Alice continued to keep in touch with (and an eye on) many kids she saw go through the school system in Powell River. While her unofficial title when working was "Miss Brooks," in retirement she was affectionately called "Mrs. Google." She always seemed to know the who, what, when, where, why and how of countless people and stories, and kept her valued friends and contacts very close right up to her final days.

Alice often knew what people were in need of, whether they knew it or not, and she was selfless in always giving her help to them. She managed to continue to do so even when she became housebound.

Alice is survived by her sons Blake (Brenda), Todd (Louise), Ward (Amanda), Randy (Christine), her 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, as well as her sister Julie Forbes and brothers Walter, Don, Ron and Sandy Nassichuk. She was predeceased by her husband Len (2017) and brother Michael (2018).

We would like to extend our most sincere thanks to Dr. Blake Hoffert, and in more recent years, Dr. Amy Sawchuck, the amazing team at Family Tree Medical, all the awesome Home Care nurses and care aides, the staff at the Powell River Hospital's Emergency Room, ICU, and Ambulatory Unit, and Pat and Joanne and staff at Stubberfields. We also wish to thank Father Patrick Tepoorten for his ongoing support, and most especially for all those who supplied her with her steady supply of newspapers in the last few years.

No service by request.

# Our Lives

## Births • Weddings • Obituaries & Other Life Moments

Your life matters to this community. Each year, about 120 locals are born, 75 couples are married, and 300 of us die.

At *qL*, we believe the most important moments of your life should be shared, because these moments are a part of all of our lives.

That's why, starting in this issue of *qL*, every birth, wedding and death among the people of this region can be acknowledged, for free, in this magazine.

### What is free?

An 18th size space (see below) for every birth, wedding, or death of a person whose home is in this region. The event must have been within the last three months.

### How to book it

By the 15th of the month, send an email to [ourlives@qathetliving.ca](mailto:ourlives@qathetliving.ca), with the image and text you'd like included. The free announcements are big enough for one photo and about 30 words of text – including the name(s) and dates.

### What if I want a bigger space?

Yes, you can book more space – up to a full page – and include more images and more text, for a fee. Email [ourlives@qathetliving.ca](mailto:ourlives@qathetliving.ca) and we will send you more information.

### I'd like to announce a different life event, such as a retirement, a new hire, a graduation, a memorial, an anniversary, etc.

You bet! These events matter to the community, too. They are not part of the free package, but they are certainly welcome in the **Our Lives** section.

(See above for details) **Free:**

Married February 15, 2025

### Ginnie Chen & Aaron Gustafson

Ginnie and Aaron met and fell in love at LaFarge Quarry. They said their vows in front of 100 close friends and family members at Gilles Bay Community Centre.



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# TAKE A BREAK

## Ready for the Quickening? I'm Not...Yet

March brings us the Vernal Equinox, the halfway point between Winter Solstice (the longest night) and the Summer Solstice (longest day), and marks the first day of Spring according to the Gregorian calendar.

When we think of Spring, it often comes with remembrance of croci, greening buds, baby animals, first vacations and-the-like, but at the time of this writing, we still have snow on the ground and our usual last frost date doesn't land until late in April.

Springtime flowers, flip-flop sandals, and the general uplifted mood of warmer days feels rather far away at the moment. Last month, a topic contender for this column centered around taking our time coming out of Winter's encouragement to lay low and slow, but I chose something else instead.

Yet, here it is again. A sense of slow emergence into the bustle of our year.

Mind you, being housebound and sick for three weeks may be emphasizing this for me, though I know I'm not alone in feeling a need to pare down extraneous efforts, distractions, and self-imposed obligations. While deadlines still need to be met and the daily do still needs to be done, I can't help but think of conserv-



## RETURN TO REVERENCE

JULIETTE JARVIS

ing energy for what lies ahead. Like a chick taking pause before pecking out of a too small shell, or quiet moment before the burst of effort a seed makes when sending out first roots.

I asked my Oracle cards for direction, and pulled one associated with the fullness of Summer as well as extracting old beliefs that aren't supportive. Plants have been added to a talisman about to be sent into a sacred fire, intended as softening for what had been very hard personal work.

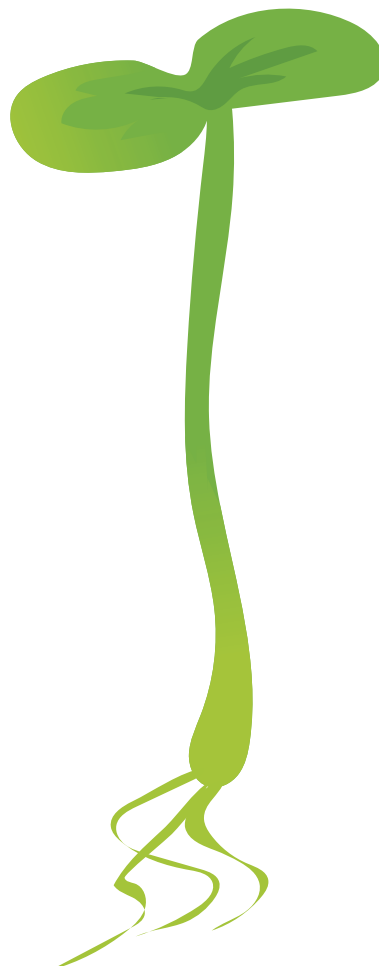
It makes me think of viewing things on an even longer timeline, beyond equinox. Adding what natural comforts we can to that which we find hard right now. To continue letting go of aspects in life that drain our vitality, and not be too anxious of the slow goings of it.

A very Chop Wood, Carry Water, basic tending of necessities. Of moving away from trying to plan or overthink, and instead move deeper into the body's innate wisdom.

Trusting that the way forward will reveal itself as naturally as Spring follows Winter, and perhaps the job right now is to keep resting and restoring ourselves.


\*\*\*

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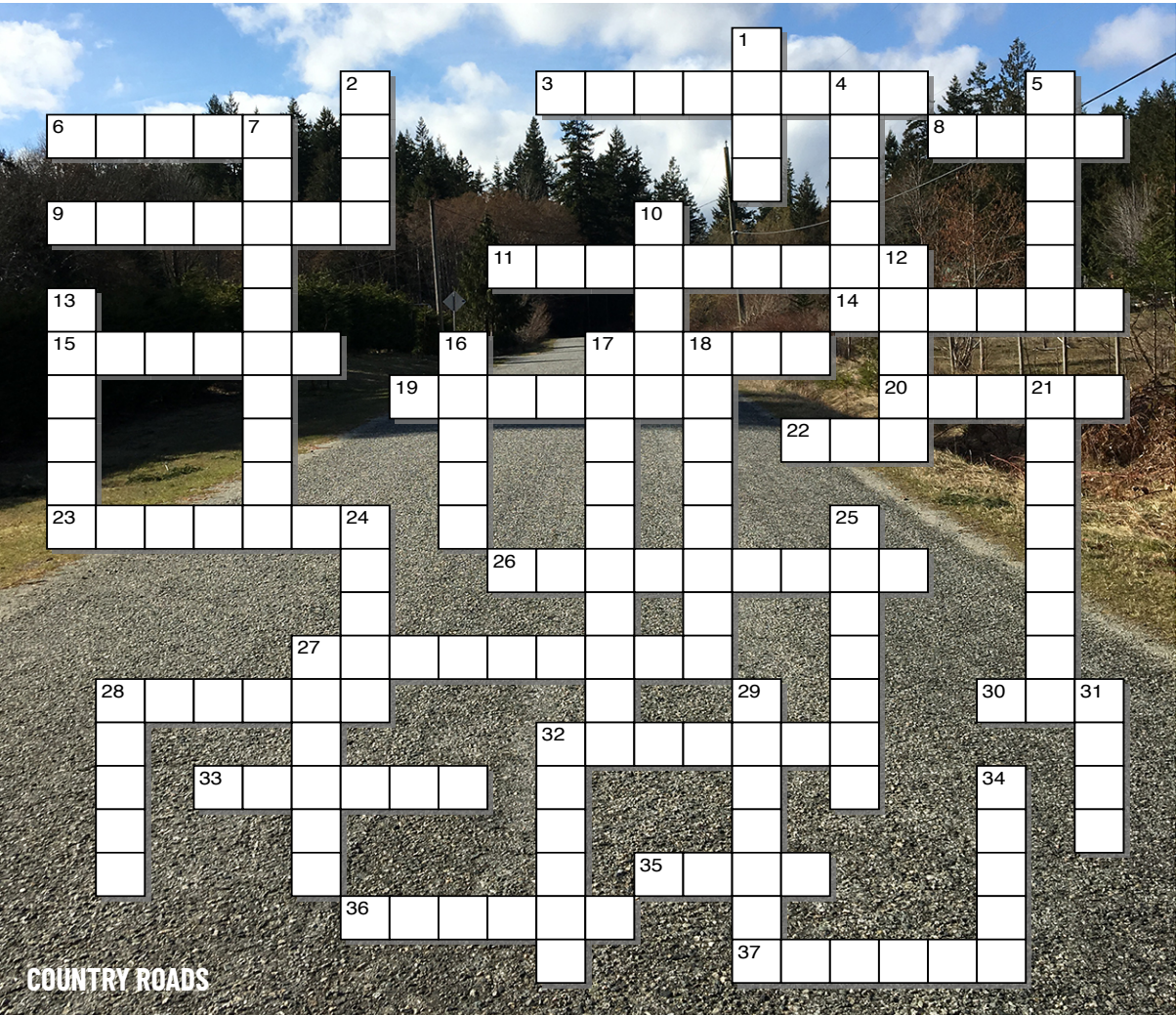


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TAKE A BREAK



Across

- 3) Top of Duncan, left past mobiles
- 6) Really dark point
- 8) Coffee maker's road
- 9) Has Kathie Lee's name
- 11) Not looking North
- 14) Cultivator Tucks in
- 15) Picked this name out of a hat
- 17) Pictured, Bond's Daniel
- 19) Cuts through Paradise
- 20) Donald brings flowers
- 22) \_\_\_-oh-one
- 23) Bob's longer road
- 26) Man who digs for fish
- 27) Okeover's access, or the Strait
- 28) Whiskey Place
- 30) Not the new mine
- 32) Sink fixer, diff spelling
- 33) Gusts of snow, spelled Theo's way
- 35) Lund road, Star Wars character
- 36) Between the hills
- 37) Walk drunkenly, but with one g

Down

- 1) You can see from this road
- 2) Highway to the end of the road
- 4) Up to Myrtle Point Heritage Farm
- 5) Small rock beach
- 7) Almost to Lund, water side, okay?
- 10) Start with a u
- 12) Untamed, spelled Oscar's way
- 13) Soldier's garb
- 16) Wreck-It's road
- 17) A hundred
- 18) Named after reef
- 21) Not the north valley
- 24) SC Trail's start point
- 25) How to get to Scotch Fir
- 27) Farmer's Market road
- 28) Raving mad
- 29) Beach rd after former RD director
- 31) This FS road is quackers
- 32) Arnold, or one waving fronds
- 34) Before, spelled Richard's way

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

It was one of those February nights. Due to illness and busy-ness, dinner hadn't been planned or prepped.

On my way home from work,  
I needed to dredge up  
something to feed the family.

We've learned to sustain teenagers on a budget, so usually we're pretty good about cooking at home. We make sourdough. We soak our own beans. Most days, there's plenty of reasonably nutritious and delicious food lingering around the fridge.

Just not today.

"I'm just gonna stop and get something frozen," I messaged home.

So I parked at a big grocery store and grabbed a pack of English-style fish fillets—on sale for \$6—plus yam fries and a cucumber, and drove home up Highway 101. The sun was setting, revealing a stunning view of the Salish Sea, choppy and grey under the pale pinks and reds of the sky.

Later as the fish and fries warmed in the oven, I read the packaging. On the High Liner box (the one with the bearded Hemmingway-like captain character,) I learned the fish was made from "domestic and imported ingredients."

I got curious.

High Liner, I read on the website, is a company that started in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia in 1899. It's



## LAST WORD

PIETA WOOLLEY

still a Canadian company, with products made in Canada. Although the website, notes, "we source seafood from around the world."

My fillets were made from pollock—a relatively sustainably-caught fish. Most pollock comes from the North Pacific, in Alaska.

This meant I was going to feed my family fish that was likely caught in Alaska, transported to the High Liner manufacturing facility in Lunenburg, then transported back across the country in a freezer to Powell River, for \$6. Inconceivable!

I'm not a big believer in consumer activism, generally. That's in part because most consumers are so stretched for money and time, it's unfair to burden them with social change when they're just trying to feed their kids. And, consumer movements are notoriously difficult to organize strongly enough to make an impact.

But I am a big believer in the power of government.

**Environmentally, this dinner was a disaster.** It's ludicrous that fish that has crossed the country twice—more than most Canadians do in a decade—is an easy cheap grab for dinner here in qathet.

The Salish Sea is right there. It is full of fish. Delicious fish. Wonderful shellfish.

Socially, too, this dinner was a disaster. Very little economic activity was generated in qathet by my purchase of these High Liner fillets. No one went fishing. No one owned or worked in a processing facility. Zero people made the packaging or designed the branding and marketing.

Finally, politically, this dinner has become a disaster. Although American fish will not be subject to

Canadian tariffs—at least according to the preliminary lists of tariffed goods—we're in a trade war. This pollock represents the enemy.

**I hope that** the President Donald Trump-initiated tariffs and his ensuing trade war with Canada doesn't destroy our economy.

But I also hope that this is a real moment for Canada—and qathet—to untether ourselves from the most bizarre conveniences of trade liberalization, and localize ourselves. For both sustainability and sovereignty.

It can start with fish.

And, it already has.

The Powell River Salmon Society is planning to clip 300,000 adipose fins this spring, with the community's help (see Page 6). When a local catches a clipped salmon, they can (assuming regulations keep up) keep it because it's clearly a hatchery fish.

This is a good news story for anyone who already feeds their family out of the Salish Sea.

But there's still so much more to change.

Back in 2019, I wrote an investigative piece for *qL's Home Grown* magazine about fish exports. I learned that between 80% and 90% of this province's wild-caught fish is exported outside of Canada. Because fish is a regulated natural resource, our governments have the power to keep more of our fish local—and to stimulate businesses that will turn whole fish (which can be daunting on a weeknight) into affordable frozen, canned, and filleted products.

Currently, Okeover oysters can't be sold here directly; they have to be processed in a federally-licensed facility on Vancouver Island, according to law. Few make it back here onto local tables. Surely, we can do better.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans vastly prioritizes the commercial catch for salmon over the recreational fishery. Locals raise their voices every year the DFO restricts recreational anglers from keeping a reasonable amount of salmon from the ocean that is literally right there.

The local prawn sales and summer fish market at the Westview Marina are wonderful—but there could be so much more connecting locals with their fish.

What would it take politically to ensure the local grocery stores are full of Salish Sea salmon and shellfish, labeled with a "local" logo and processed for convenience?

What economic policies would it take to bring prices down for consumers, so a bag of BC spot prawns cost the same as a bag of prawns grown in closed containment in Thailand?

How much stronger would we be as a region, if fish were seen as the crucial core of our independence, our social and food sustenance?

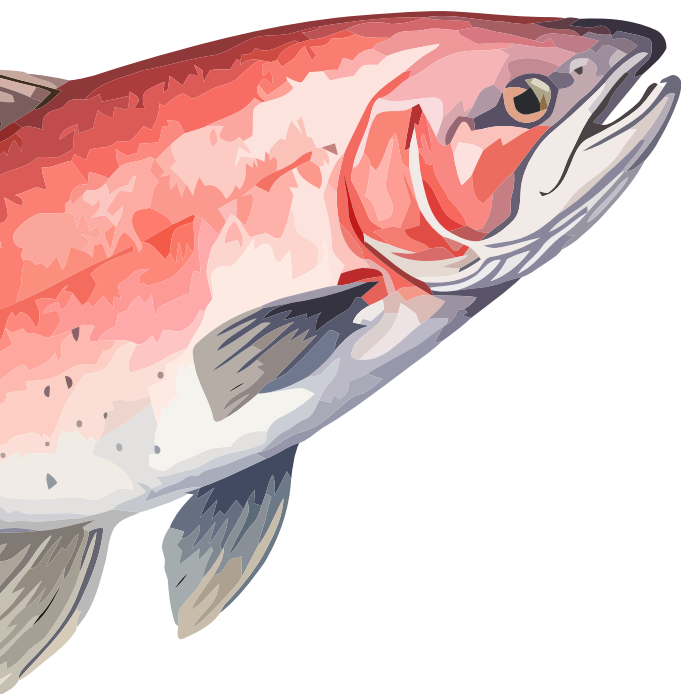
**The potential implications** of this trade war are too big to fathom right now. There are simply too many unknowns.

But fish? Getting our fish back to feed ourselves is such an obvious social and environmental good. It's a practicable, strategic place to start.

During COVID, as supply chains broke down and shutdowns forced us to re-evaluate our political and economic systems, we talked a lot about strengthening Canada's independence.

We didn't do it.

Trump just handed us another chance. **qL**





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