

THE WEST ISLAND QUARTERLY

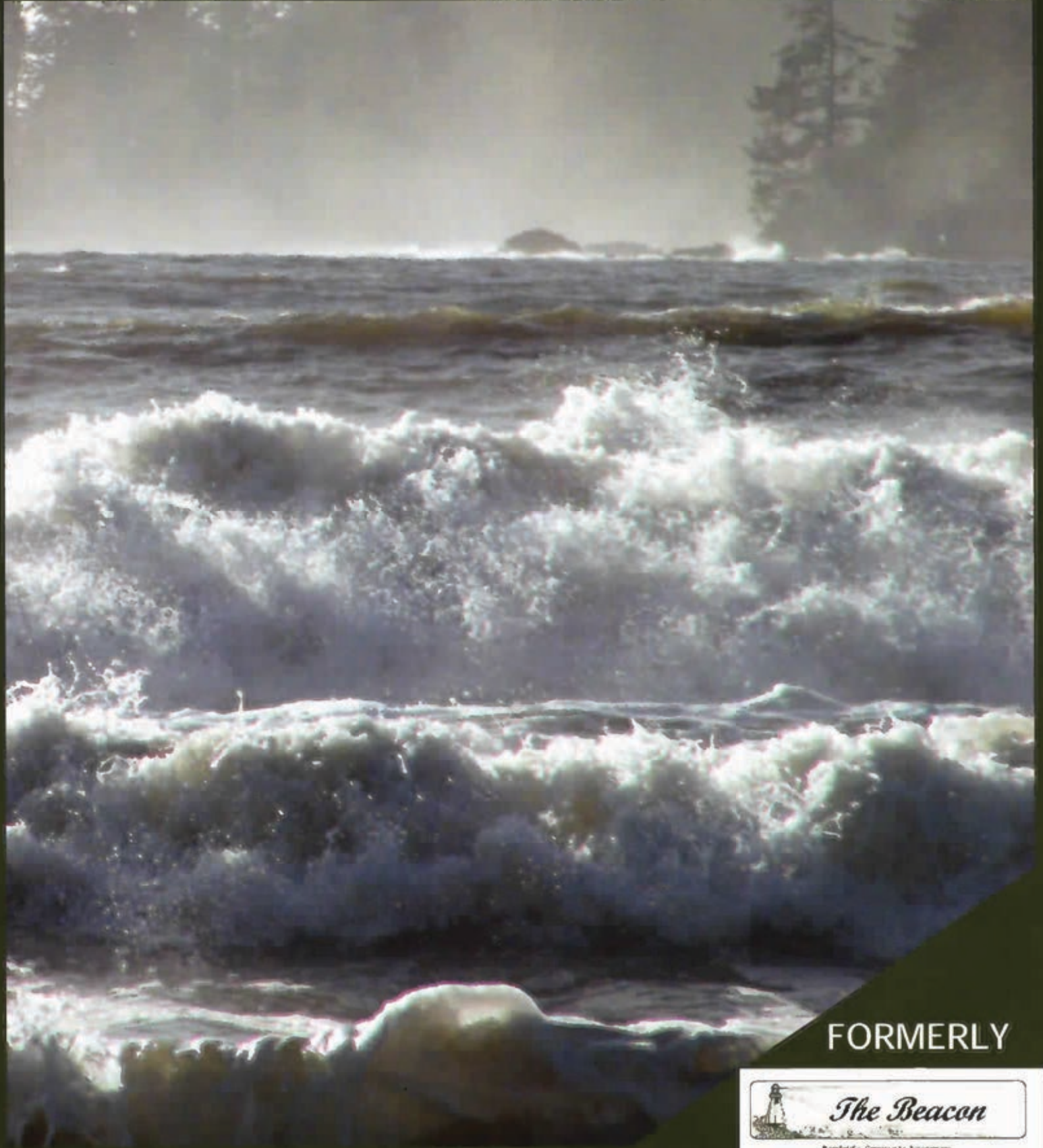
BARKLEY SOUND COMMUNITY JOURNAL



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WINTER 2010

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Hedy Demontigny

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Pachena Beach, Bamfield B.C. Canada

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Notice to all contributors; Your submissions are important to us and our readers. The West Island Quarterly cannot guarantee space for your article if it is not received by deadline. Please see deadline details below.

Spring 2010

April, May
& June

February 15,
2010

Summer 2010

July, August
& September

May 15,
2010

Fall 2010

October, November
& December

August 15,
2010

Winter 2011

January, February
& March

November 15,
2010

Bamfield Receives Telecom Hall of Fame Award

Contributed by the
Bamfield Historical
Society



"Back to coincidences...

Bamfield's Brian Gisborne of whale identification fame is a descendent of both the Hall of Famer, a man who ranks as one of the most unsung heroes in Canadian history, Frederic Newton Gisborne, and Sir Isaac Newton, who first explained gravity after being hit on the head with an apple."

Telecommunications Award Photo: S. Ochman



"Farewell from Bamfield before closing down after fifty-seven years of operation and leaving it to the shades of the past. The next signals you see will be those of Port Alberni. Goodbye, old man."

Last message sent from Bamfield Cable Station, June 20th, 1959

It's a small world. You sit in an airplane or at a coffee shop and exchange small talk with a stranger. Quickly, you establish a connection. Our Regional Director, Stefan Ochman, experienced such a revelation while attending the Telecom Hall of Fame Awards gala at the Museum of Civilization in Gatineau Quebec. Stefan was present to receive, on our village's behalf, an award for Bamfield's role in advancing submarine telegraphic communications.

Stefan found himself sitting next to Montgomery Gisborne, the great-great-grandson of Frederic Newton Gisborne. Frederic Gisborne, a descendant of Sir Isaac Newton, completed the first submarine telegraph cable in North America, a ten mile link between New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Later he was instrumental in establishing a 350 mile marine link between St. John's and Cape Ray on the southern tip of Newfoundland. These pioneering efforts heralded the trans-Atlantic cable, established in 1866, and the laying of the 4035 mile trans-Pacific marine cable between Bamfield and Fanny Island in the South Pacific.

The story of the Bamfield-Fanny Island link has been told by R. Bruce Scott (*Gentlemen on Imperial Service*, 1994, Sono Nis Press, Victoria, BC). Bruce Scott, builder of Aquilar House and a life-long employee of the Bamfield Cable Station, was attracted to Bamfield service by the following ad (RBS p. 14):

WANTED, boys fifteen years of age to learn submarine telegraphy and serve overseas. Apply Pacific Cable Board, 77 Pitt Street.

The Bamfield site was selected in 1901 after visits to Jordan River and Port Renfrew—sixty-seven years later, Bamfield was again selected, this time by five western Canadian universities for the Bamfield Marine Station, following a similar survey.

On 18 September, 1902, at two o'clock in the afternoon, the cable ship *Colonia* departed Bamfield with the North American end of the four-thousand mile long cable tied to a cedar stump. It took eighteen days to lay the longest cable ever laid in one piece. The project was completed

1 November 1902, realizing the dream of Sanford Fleming (two islands in the Deer Group bear his name) by connecting the countries of the British Empire—The All Red Route...Rule Britannia, Britannia rules the waves!

But the birthplace of international communications in Canada is Heart's Content, Newfoundland. On Friday, July 27th 1866, one year before Confederation, the eyes of the world were on this tiny Newfoundland fishing village as one of the largest ships on the planet, the *Great Eastern*, cased into Trinity Bay establishing the first working trans-Atlantic submarine cable. Just after 4 pm on July 27th, clear signals were exchanged between Newfoundland and Valencia, Ireland. The New World and the Old World were linked by submarine telecommunications and the vision of Frederic Gisborne was realized.

Heart's Content, known as North America's premiere cable town, operated for 99 years, closing down in 1965. The Bamfield cable station closed 20 June, 1959. The last telegraph message from Bamfield was sent by Baxendale, Elliston, Bailey, Gordon, Scott and Wallace (RBS p. 108):

Farewell from Bamfield before closing down after fifty-seven years of operation and leaving it to the shades of the past. The next signals you see will be those of Port Alberni. Goodbye, old man.

Following the Bamfield closure, Bruce Scott oversaw the dismantling of the station. Cable station windows, hot-water registers, and furniture can be discovered here and there about Bamfield. The last Bamfield cable employee was Peter Janitis, who with his dog Schmitt, cared for the foreshore compound retained by the cable company until the 1970's.

Back to coincidences...Bamfield's Brian Gisborne of whale identification fame is a descendent of both the Hall of Famer, a man who ranks as one of the most unsung heroes in Canadian history, Frederic Newton Gisborne, and Sir Isaac Newton, who first explained gravity after being hit on the head with an apple.

Stefan Ochman submitted the following transcripts from the gala event.

"To help us present the Awards, please welcome to our stage Ted Rowe, author of a newly-published book, *Connecting the Continents - Heart's Content and the Atlantic Cable*.

Ted Rowe: Ladies and Gentlemen, before there was a Canada there was telecommunications...Two years ago, in Montreal, the Telecom Laureate Awards shone a light on the little known history of Canadian telegraphy. That night, the Telecom Hall of Fame introduced to those in attendance the legend of Frederic Newton Gisborne, and inducted into the Hall of Fame a man who ranks as one of the most unsung heroes in Canadian history. It was Gisborne, a Lancashire-born scientist and inventor, and a descendant of Sir Isaac Newton, who in 1852, against all odds, completed the first working submarine telegraph cable in North America, a 10-mile span linking New Brunswick and PEI. His heroic efforts to build another telegraph link of 350 miles between St. John's, Newfoundland and Cape Ray on the southwest tip of the island are the stuff of legends. Gisborne confronted near starvation, extreme weather conditions and the death of a member of his exploratory team as he tramped across previously unexplored expanses of Newfoundland. His reward - bankruptcy and a near brush with debtor's prison. And throughout one of the greatest ordeals imaginable, Gisborne, a man whose vision was always larger than life, dreamed the unthinkable - of conquering the North Atlantic by undersea telegraph cable, the greatest technology challenge of his day. It is quite fitting that I now introduce to you my co-presenter for tonight's award - would you please welcome to our stage

the great-great-grandson of Frederic Newton Gisborne - from Orillia, Ontario, and an inventor in his own right - Mr. Montgomery Gisborne.

Montgomery Gisborne: Thank you, Ted. It would take 14 years of struggle and failure before Frederic Gisborne's bold vision of trans-Atlantic telegraphy was finally brought to life. Sadly, events and history itself would see this heroic man shunted aside by American financier, Cyrus Field, who by most accounts is credited with the success for the first trans-Atlantic telegraph cable landing. But as students of telegraph history well know, and as my colleague tonight, Ted Rowe, makes quite clear in his new book "Connecting the Continents", the leading role and the grand vision of North America linked to the rest of the world by undersea

telegraph belongs to my great-great-grandfather, Frederic Gisborne.

And so it was, that on Friday, July 27th, 1866, one year before Confederation, the eyes of the world were on a tiny Newfoundland fishing village - Heart's Content - as one of the largest ships on the planet - the Great Eastern - eased into Trinity Bay with one end of the first working trans-Atlantic submarine cable. Finally, just after 4 pm in Heart's Content on July 27th, clear signals were exchanged between Newfoundland and Valencia, Ireland. The New World and the Old World were linked by telecommunications. The vision of Frederic Gisborne was realized.

Ted Rowe: Some 32 years later, in 1901, a plan by governments to develop secure and reliable communications across the Commonwealth, yielded North America's first trans-Pacific submarine cable, linking Canada's West Coast and the coastal village of Bamfield, British Columbia to Fanning Island in the mid-Pacific and then on to Fiji, Australia and New Zealand.

For 99 years, until its closure in 1965, Heart's Content was known as North America's premiere cable town...And for 58 years, until its closure in 1959, the cable station at Bamfield, B.C. was Canada's first and foremost communications link across the Pacific. Today, both Heart's Content and Bamfield remain proud of their unique and important roles and contributions to Canada and to the world through undersea telegraphic communications. And it is my great pleasure and honour, as a native son of Heart's Content, Newfoundland, and joined as I am tonight by Montgomery Gisborne, the descendant of one of our country's telecom pioneers and unsung heroes, to confer this Hall of Fame award on Canada's Atlantic and Pacific cable landing stations and the towns of Heart's Content, Newfoundland and Bamfield, British Columbia.

Montgomery Gisborne: To accept the Awards tonight, we would call to the stage a delegation of honoured guests from sea to shining sea -from the Province of Newfoundland, we welcome Ms. Linda Sooley, the Historic Site Supervisor for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador at Heart's Content, and representing the town of Heart's Content, newly-re-elected Town Councilor, Mr. Tolson Rendall. And from British Columbia and the town of Bamfield, please welcome the political representative of Bamfield, Mr. Stefan Ochman, the Regional Director, Electoral Area "A" (Bamfield) in the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District of B.C.

Established
May 30, 2005,
Canada's
Telecommunications
Hall of Fame
is a not-for-profit
organization with a
mission to
safeguard and promote
the past, present and
future excellence of
Canadian
telecommunications.
<http://www.telecomhall.ca>

Heart's Content Newfoundland
Population: 495

"Heart's Content is rich in history. It was the landing site of the first transatlantic telephone cable, connecting the old world to the new. It is also well known for its boat building, fishing, and as a trans-shipment port for newsprint during the days of the Newfoundland Railway. The town is rich in culture, with the citizens as it's greatest resource."

Donald Blundon, Mayor, Heart's Content, from
www.heartscontent.ca

If you are interested in participating in this program, or know someone who may be interested, please contact bcprograms@birdscanada.org.

Volunteering for this program requires no previous experience. Bird Studies Canada will supply all the necessary survey equipment, data forms, and information, and are available to help with training and answer questions.



Beached Bird Survey Program Seeking Volunteers

British Columbia is home to millions of seabirds, and these conspicuous animals are often the first indicators of natural and human-induced stress events. When a stress event occurs- due to oil spills at sea, red tide, heavy storms or entanglement with fishing gear, seabirds often wash up on beaches carrying with them clues as to the cause of death.

Every month, hundreds of Bird Studies Canada volunteers hit the beaches to document these strandings. Volunteers walk the beaches slowly with eyes trained just in front of their feet, visually combing through the wrackline and the rocks. A bird carcass invokes a flurry of measurements and note-taking, finishing up with tagging the carcass for potential rediscovery on the next month's survey. These individuals make significant contributions to environmental stewardship by gathering information which is used to develop long term datasets for bird carcass deposition on beaches.



Karen Barry surveys the wrackline for beached birds. Photo credit: E. Demers

Surveying beaches for beached birds is an incredibly useful, globally recognized tool for monitoring seabird mortality. In North America, beached bird survey programs have achieved relatively widespread coverage with the first surveys in BC occurring in 1986 when Alan Burger at University of Victoria started collecting this information. Since 2002, Bird Studies Canada has been coordinating this program in BC. The purpose of beached bird surveys is to monitor distribution, timing and variation in mortality of seabird populations, as well as the marine ecosystem as a whole. This helps to define what is normal, and enables more accurate quantification of the effects of episodic

(e.g., the El Nino Southern Oscillation) and chronic events (e.g., oil pollution). For example, the BC Beached Bird Survey information is used to determine what species of seabirds are most affected by oiling, what time of year the problem is most severe, and whether the proportion of oiled birds washing up on beaches is changing over time.

In addition to oiling, threats to seabirds include entanglement from fishing gear, habitat impacts, red tide, disease, food shortages and plastic ingestion. This year, a project dubbed 'Dead Bird CSI' has been initiated in collaboration with Environment Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. This project sends recovered seabird carcasses to the Animal Health Centre Lab in Abbotsford for a post-mortem examination to determine the cause of death. The stomachs are then sent to UBC for gut content analysis, to determine if the seabird ingested plastic. This additional work is offering vital insight as to how these other factors contribute to seabird mortality.

Bird Studies Canada is looking to expand the volunteer network throughout the BC Coast, and is looking for individuals from remote communities, such as Bamfield, to join the network. It is important that monitoring our environment involves the public and not just government agencies, and by participating in a science-based monitoring program you are helping to maintain and improve the quality of our marine environment.



Anne Murrey takes measurements. Photo credit: P. Davidson.

Linda Myres Celebrated

The Directors of the Bamfield Community School Association recently thanked and celebrated Linda Myres for her thirteen years of devoted work as Coordinator of the Association. It has been under Linda's continued guidance and creativity that the Bamfield community and school have become better places for us all to live.

Linda, thank you for all that you have given to us and I am sure you will continue to be involved in our community development.

Best wishes to you from Rae Hopkins and the BCSA Board of Directors.



Over the past thirteen years, Linda has spearheaded countless programs & community initiatives including but not limited to:

- Community Access Program
- Vancouver Island Regional Library
- Leadership Initiatives
- Community Capacity
- School Meals Program
- Youth Employment & Training
- West Coast Learning Network

- Bamfield Huu ay aht Broadband Project
- Museum/Archives
- Artisans Cottage
- Bamfield Changes Documentary
- Bamfield School for Coastal and Marine Studies
- Literacy Programs
- Entrepreneurial Initiatives
- Bamfield Community Library
- Community Use of Facilities
- Bamfield School for Coastal and Marine Studies
- Channel 5 News Bulletin
- Community Website
- Media Programs
- First People Digital Production
- The Beacon, Bamfield's Community Newspaper
- Digital Media Programming
- Non-Timber Forest Products
- Story Adventure & Archive
- Kix'in National Historic Site
- Tidal Tales
- Community Safety Programs

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THE COMMUNITY***

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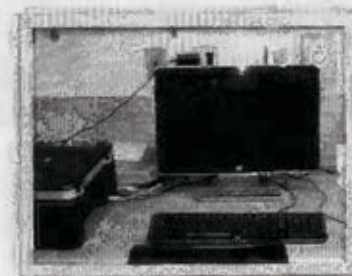
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 -The Bamfield Community Library
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 Please refer to Community Access hours

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We can help you design and print advertising for your business or organization. Please contact the BCSA office for printing/design rates.
capyi@bamfield.ca
**240 NUTHATCH ROAD, BAMFIELD
 250-728-1220**



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 4 pm 5 pm 5 pm 5 pm 5 pm 4 pm



by
Darryl Milne

Ok here we go, a new column and a new year! For those of you who don't know me I am the bass player for the Broken Group in Bamfield, B.C. (here comes some shameless promotion folks) You can check us out on facebook and become a fan. Type in the Broken Group. Also on the internet www.brokingroup.com Both sites have lots of photos and videos. In this issue I will feature my band, and "the Coffin Dodgers".

I am looking for bands from the west coast to feature as well as solo and duo acts. A songwriters corner is also coming! Contact me at quarterly@bamfield.ca

Any suggestions from you musos out there as to what you might like to see. I will gladly accept your c.d.s for review or exposure. Civilians don't be shy either. Got a favourite Island band? Coming soon....The CODS Also, the LOST BANDS OF BAMFIELD. So....we'll be right back after a quick break.....

TECH TIP: Having trouble hearing the ping when you tune harmonically? Rub a lead pencil in the string groove of the nut. This tip was brought to you by Chris Deadmarsh from NOTEABLE MUSIC SERVICES in Port Alberni. Chris said this tip came from Jimi Hendrix.

A Look Into the Past

Bob McVic with
"SoundHouse"



performing
in the loft of the
community hall
in 1972.

Treble In Paradise

"Jazz is not dead, it just smells funny"- Frank Zappa

"The Broken Group"



Darryl Milne
(bass & vocals)



John Hughes
(guitar & vocals)



Colin Bates
(drums & vocals)



Dan Conarroe
(keys & vocals)

The Broken Group hails from Bamfield, British Columbia, which is about 80 km from the nearest town by logging road. Bamfield has a winter population of less than 200 people, so it is quite remarkable that the stars aligned to bring us together in this tiny place. Although we've jammed together on and off since 1995, we really came together in 2003 to play the Toadstool Stomp, as part of the first Bamfield Mushroom Festival. Jamming is what we love, playing for Bamfielders is what we do. We are a party band, a wedding band, and funeral band. We've rocked most of the patios, lawns, beaches, houses, and halls around here, and we are the soundtrack to good times in this town. Our instruments are salt-coated and crunchy with beach sand, but hey, it comes with the territory...

We jam in our studio on the hill, where the whole town can hear us practicing our new songs. To play a show in East Bamfield, we have to move our gear up the hill to the truck, drive to the dock, move the gear into our boats, drive across the inlet, load the gear into another truck, and drive to the firehall, the pub, or where ever. We sometimes play out of Bamfield, and have done shows in Port Renfrew, Port Alberni, Denman Island, and the Sunshine Coast. For the most part, we get what we need right here, and are sure glad that people come to check us out.

Dirk "Twang" Segtro, - Guitar.
Al "Bones" Archibald--Drums.
Ziggy Hayes--Bass

"The Coffin Dodgers"

Email-markziggyhayes@gmail.com

The Coffin Dodgers are a fun filled group from Nelson B.C. After decades of playing in other bands they formed last year and have already earned a reputation as one of Nelson's best parties, playing at festivals all over the Kootenays. With a repertoire that covers blues, rock and roll, funk, country, folk and reggae, they have achieved a fusion that satisfies all tastes. They are currently working on their debut C.D. "What The", that is due out next summer, and are working up their live show for next summers festival circuit. If everything works out, expect to see this fun loving group next summer at the big soulstice concert in Bamfield in June. Look for them to be playing at other festivals around the province.





My Green Thumb

~Tales of a West Coast Gardener~

by Michelle van Boven
Email: mygreenthumb@mybamfield.ca
Blog: bamfieldgreenthumb.blogspot.com

As I'm sitting here writing this article in the middle of November, the sun is actually shining! It's a day for wandering down to the beach with friends or even to spend a few moments in the gardens to see what is still in flower & what has survived the first batch of drowning rain storms.

I think I have the gardens ready for the winter. My new additions to the landscaping projects have been the introduction of 11 **peonies!** I remember my mom's peony plant from many years ago & thought that they would be a wonderful addition to my rather eclectic garden style. While I had only actually planned out spots for 6, I did manage to find homes for the other 5. Cross your fingers that I planted them correctly! My last one went in only a few days ago & is named 'Sea Shell' - a surprise gift from my mom from a nursery in Ontario.



I have found one way to keep on top of all the things that we need to do in our gardens is to follow a **seasonal check list.** Until you become familiar with your own

specific garden chores, one great place to find such a list is **Canadian Gardening** (www.canadiangardening.com).

Wow! That seems like quite a list, but on those lovely Autumn days where the sun was shining & the air was still warm, these chores go by quickly. Before you know it, you are receiving the first of the seed & plant/bulb catalogues in the mail!

Yes, my first one arrived in early November & I couldn't help pouring over it for days on end, thinking of all the wonderful flowers & vegetable seeds I want to include in next year's gardens! I received one from a different company than I usually get; it's from Ontario & is called: Thompson & Morgan. I've never heard of them & while their selection is great & varied, I had already decided last spring that I was going to purchase my mail-order seeds from something a little more local & from plants acclimatized to the west coast growing conditions.

At **West Coast Seeds** they specialize in **organic, open pollinated, heirloom and**



heritage seeds if you are interested in organic growing.

They are based out of the Vancouver area & I believe I just might have better success with their varieties than the ones I tried this past year that came from back east & as far away as Germany! While I don't want to put down the other catalogue, I find that purchasing seeds or plants on-line or even through garden centres, requires research & a good recommendation from someone who's had success with the product. So—I will let you know next summer what happens with my next attempt at growing vegetables!

Winter is a time for reading gardening books & planning for spring. I'd rather skip the rain & gray skies all together!

Let's just move into **spring** where February is one of my favourite months. Not only is it the shortest of the year, but we get awesome amounts of **sunshine** & it's warm enough to get outside for the first hit of gardening fun! I will be found in my raspberry & loganberry patches, pruning out last year's dead canes & trimming up this year's canes. Transplanting is easy as the ground is still workable, if a bit chilly, but the muscles really appreciate the work-out after a few months of inactivity.

This is just a short & quick list; I know of other things that I do in the garden in the spring (weeding out the dandelions from the yard, digging in compost gathered during the winter, sowing seeds of annual or biannual wildflowers). I also hit the garden centres for any left-over bulbs that should have been planted in the fall as they are usually greatly priced & will typically give a good return of flowers the following year. And I also take lots of time to enjoy the crocus that are now appearing—yellow seems to be the first colour & I'm glad I have some in my deck boxes!

If you have any questions or comments you'd like to share, **email me.** I've also started a **gardening blog** to go more into detail my experiments, successes & failures. It's great to see so many people in our community getting into the gardening spirit! **Grow Bamfield, Grow!**



Michelle gardening at 2 1/2 years old

My **fall check-list** chores included:

- Harvest ripened vegetables
- Divide overgrown perennials (daylilies, iris, lady's mantle, feverfew, helenium)
- Plant spring & summer-flowering perennials about 6 to 8 weeks before winter sets in (peonies, columbine)
- Plant spring bulbs such as daffodils & crocus
- Clean up yard—leaves & dead plant material make wonderful mulch or compost
- Turn off water taps & store hoses
- Find lost tools, clean, sharpen & store for next spring
- Dig up tender bulbs & plants & store in cool, dry & dark place (tulips, begonias, geraniums)

My **early-spring garden checklist** includes:

- Houseplant maintenance—dust off in the shower & fertilize at 1/2 strength
- Start seeds for annuals, tomatoes & peppers (not too early like I did last year—wait til at least April 1st...)
- Yard clean-up of twigs & leaves (mulch!)
- Start cool-weather crops: radish, peas, onions, lettuce, leeks
- Fertilize fruit shrubs & canes: blueberries, raspberries, loganberries & mulch with shredded newspaper
- Fertilize flowering shrubs: roses, rhododendrons, azaleas
- Start weeding out the gardens & flower beds of buttercup, dandelion & grass





BVFD Officers elected at the AGM are:
 Back row: Larry Myres, Treasurer; Dennis Morgan, Captain; Max Salamon, Deputy Chief.
 Front Row: Rick MacLeod, Captain; Mark Kelly, Chief; Gord Hawkins, Captain; Don Amos, Captain.

In Case of Fire
 dial 911



Fire Chief's Report

Annual General Meeting 2009

Firefighting Apparatus

At present BVFD apparatus and equipment inventory is in good shape. This past year we replaced the outboard engines on the fire boat. The process was not an easy one due to the involvement of the ACRD. In the next few years we are going to be looking at the replacement of the hull.

This year we also purchased a new piece of equipment called a FIT-5 The FIT-5 is a fire extinguisher that is placed as close to the seat of the fire and essentially knocks down the fire and heat making it safer for our firefighters to do their job.

Recently we purchased our first set of Jaws Of Life. This new (to us) equipment was a demo set from one of our suppliers and was purchased for half the price of a new set. The set is a compact battery powered unit that is much more portable than the standard hydraulic system.

New Fire Hall

At present our new fire hall is now fully operational. This past year has seen the completion of the kitchen, the finishing of the trim in the event hall, and purchase of a 17 KW generator for the facility. The generator will be installed soon to get ready for the winter season. This year's projects on the new hall include finishing the Mezzanine in the truck bay, Landscaping of the backyard by the Auxiliary and some more interior finishing to complete the facility.

Training

In the spring of 2009 the BVFD participated in training facilitated by the Bamfield Marine Sciences Center. The training included Level One First Aid and the SVOP boating course. Due to nature of our water based activities, this course was necessary to operate our fireboat.

This year two of our firefighters attended and participated in a course in Comox presented by the BC Harbour Authority. The course, Marine Firefighting for Land Based Firefighters is well described in the title.

Tsunami Warning System

Currently the Bamfield Tsunami Warning System has two stations in operation.

Because we have built this system from the ground up it has taken some time to develop and test. We tested the system in May and have determined that more sites are needed. Talks are on going with the Bamfield Marine Sciences Center and the Huu Ay Aht First Nations on the installation of additional stations being installed at each site. Feedback from the public following our next tests would be appreciated.

Fire Daze

This year's events were a big success. Thanks to all the members and the B.V.F.D. Auxiliary for all the effort put into the fishing derby and the intertidal golf tournament. Without the support of the village of Bamfield none of this would be possible.

Future

We continue to upgrade, train and move forward as a department.

I would like to thank our Current members, Officers and support staff for all their work this past year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our new members that have joined the department in 2009

As in past years, I would like to thank the community for its support and cooperation with the Bamfield Volunteer Fire Department. We try to be mindful of our community involvement as well. We continue to be involved with the Community School with Fire Prevention Week and the opening BBQ. As well, we are involved in a small way with Music By the Sea and the Mushroom Festival.

Our low incident rate is a direct result of safe fire practices in the village of Bamfield.

New members are always welcome.

Community input is appreciated. Please send your comments and suggestions to:



bvfd@island.net

Or to
 Mark J. Kelly
 Fire Chief

westside@island.net

250 728 3382

250 731 4831

Upcoming Conferences at the Bamfield Marine Science Centre

Spring 2010 promises to be another busy season at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre. Once again there are several exciting conferences and symposia on the calendar. These events will bring some interesting people to Bamfield from around the world. Here are a few key dates to watch for extra activity at BMSC.

Feb 9-11 First Annual Barkley Sound Knowledge Symposium hosted by the West Coast Aquatic Management Board

This Symposium will be a unique 3-day gathering for the integration, summary, and synthesis of scientific, indigenous, and other local knowledge of the Barkley Sound ecosystem. The goal is to assemble ecological knowledge of Barkley Sound into formats that may be used to support marine planning initiatives, and to inform the general public. One of the elements developed for the symposium is an open Barkley Sound wiki-site known as the Barkleypedia where submitted symposium abstracts and authored articles can be published. Visit the Barkleypedia wiki at <http://www.westcoastaquatic.ca/barkleypedia/wiki>

March 5-7 The 31st annual Pacific Ecology and Evolution Conference (PEEC)

The PEEC is an annual conference for graduate, post-doctoral, and advanced undergraduate students conducting ecological and evolutionary research at Western Canadian and American universities. This conference provides a forum for presenting current research advances in the fields of ecology and evolution, and gives students an excellent opportunity to make contacts, obtain feedback, and exchange ideas with their peers. The remote setting of this conference at BMSC allows attendees to be immersed in a dynamic coastal environment and encourages a lot of communication between West Coast Universities. Evening festivities are a tradition.

March 27-30 Cyamus Regional Group of the International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC)

The Cyamus regional group encompasses the West Coast of North America; including Alaska, Baja California, and Hawaii. Members represent libraries at academic, governmental and private institutions concerned with the marine and aquatic environments. Annual meetings are held each Spring. This year, Sarah Tyne and the BMSC Devonian Library will be hosting this intriguing professional group. Leslie Rimmer, former BMSC librarian, will be attending representing Simon Fraser University, we hope she still has her old gumboots!

May 21-24 Canadian Society of Zoologists (CSZ) Satellite Meeting

In May, Dr. Greg Goss will lead a satellite meeting of the Canadian Society of Zoologists (CSZ) to Bamfield. The CSZ strives to advance the study of animals and their environment. It is a professional organization dedicated to the enhancement of education and research in zoology at the provincial, federal and international level. Dr. Goss is a professor at the University of Alberta and a long-time researcher at BMSC. The research he conducts at BMSC each year aims at understanding the fundamental aspects of how fish move ions (primarily Na⁺ and Cl⁻) and acid-base equivalents between the fish and its environment to achieve acid-base balance.



For current information on what's happening at the Sciences Centre please visit www.bms.bc.ca

Photographs courtesy of Sarah Tyne and Jeff Reynolds



Frank P. Baird

Frank Baird took his last breath on this earth Tuesday morning, November 3, 2009. He led a very full and active life for 85 years. He died at the age of 93, very peacefully in his own home, in his own bed, and with his family close by.

Frank was born July 11, 1916, in Bokchito, Oklahoma, the first of five children. His family moved to the northwest in the 1920's and settled in Wenatchee, Washington in 1935. In 1939 Frank entered the University of Washington where he met his future wife, Virginia Summerson (Jimmy) of Spokane. They were married September 6, 1943, in Denver, CO. Frank joined the U.S. Army in 1940. He tried to join the Canadian Air Force earlier but couldn't.

After the war, Frank went back to college, studied fisheries but graduated in dentistry from the University of Washington Dental School in 1950. In 1957 Frank and Jimmy moved to Wenatchee with their three kids, Dave, Jerry, and Julie.

Frank, Jimmy, and Jerry's first visit to the west coast of Vancouver Island was 1960. They trailered a boat out the long and treacherous road to Tofino and went about 15 miles north by boat to camp, explore, and fish. From then on they returned to the west coast, but launched a boat in Port Alberni and motored up the Alberni Inlet. Most of the time the family set up a major camp at Cable Beach (just beyond Bradys Beach), and moored their boat in that protected little bay. The early 60's was their first taste of the small fishing village of Bamfield. The family would camp for 10 days or so fishing and recreating the entire Barkley Sound area. They would come up for winter stays too, many times spending the Christmas holidays in a floating cabin in Sunshine Bay.

They purchased their Bamfield property in 1967 from Bert and Hazel Jones and Clarence Fry all of Bamfield. But it took 14 more years of being "boat people" before they would begin the task of building their home that now stands just behind Bradys Beach. Frank was 65 and Jimmy was 60



years old when they first started scratching the ground for a place to live. The family fell trees, dug up salal bush, salmon berry, and cleared the land by hand. A small cabin was done by summer where they could stay while working on the house. The cabin had a wood stove for heat, a propane stove for cooking and a propane refrigerator and a couple of water barrels stuck up in a tree with a hose running into the cabin for cold running water. At that time we were way off the grid. People who visited got the upper bunk or camped on the beach.

After 7 years of hauling all the lumber, cement, concrete blocks, windows, stoves, bathtubs, rugs, everything then building the house, it finally got finished. Everything was brought by the Lady Rose, then loaded onto a small trailer pulled by a Kubota tractor, then hauled from the West Government Dock out the old Brady Beach trail to the house. There were plenty of exciting slides with a too heavy load down the steep hill just before the beach. A lot of lumber for the cabin and house was cut by Ronny Logan at a mill where Mill's Landing is now and also from Chuck Green's saw mill down the Alberni Inlet.



In 1987 Frank and Jimmy fully retired from his orthodontic practice in Wenatchee. The family-built home was finally done but the little cabin seemed like home. It was awhile before they actually moved into the house. They spent about 9 or 10 months in Bamfield now and really joined the community. They continued to fish and recreate in all of Barkly Sound. I can remember going out 20 miles in the fog and rolling seas, turning green and barfing over the side while Mom and Dad pulled in their limit and my limit, too. Jimmy never missed a fishing venture, in fact, she has caught the 2 biggest fish we've landed in our 49 years; a 47#er and a 49#er.

To say the least Frank enjoyed chopping wood and stacking firewood. He built four woodsheds and after all the woodsheds were all full, there was always more wood to stack. He tore down one woodshed just to make it bigger. By winter people always saw wood stacked around the front of the house so high you couldn't see out the first story windows. He learned wood turning on the lathe, trying to find a hidden gem inside an ugly piece of driftwood. If people showed up right as he was finishing a bowl, often times they'd find themselves walking away with it as a gift. His nick name became "Woodpile".



Jimmy's garden is a real gem. Over the years it got bigger and bigger. In the 80's there was much more of a lady's garden club than there is now. Irma Cashin, Kay Monrefet, Ebba Jennings, Stella McMillan, Margaret Turvey, and later Brunhilde talked, traded, and transplanted flowers and shrubs that ended down at Jimmy's garden.

Over the years you see a lot of changes. The Bamfield Marine School was just getting going when we first started coming up to Bamfield on the one hand. But not too long ago there was quite a fishing fleet on the west coast. It used to be quite a challenge motoring up the Alberni Inlet with all the fishing nets strung out. The Bamfield Inn was operating and Ostrom's Fuel and Machine Shop was a famous stop for just about anything you might need or need

repaired. Of course, the Inn and Ostrom's have for some time now become dilapidated.

One thing that hasn't changed all that much is Bradys Beach. Visitors and locals alike still come to take in the beauty and the magic the Bradys Beach has to offer. They walk, they wander, they wonder, they picnic, they swim; there are weddings and memorials. There used to be a few more campers than now. There are probably a few more day visitors to the beach as Bamfield becomes more advertised and recognized as a destination resort. There is a toilet now—we are happy to have that. But all in all, Bradys Beach is still pretty much the same.

From 1987 on, Frank and Jimmy spent most of their retirement years at their house behind the beach in Bamfield. They feel pretty lucky to contribute and to be a part of Bamfield for more than 40 years. Their social group and their spirit were certainly more evident in the Bamfield community. They would walk the beach several times a day and were always grateful for where they lived and didn't want to see it any different.

The October of 2001, Frank at the age of 85, put up 2½ cords of hemlock firewood to fill the wood shed before leaving Bamfield for winter. He never got back. A wood lathe accident, some surgery, a bad flu, and congestive heart failure took the wind from his sails. He still kept active a number of years in Wenatchee walking, but eventually that even dwindled. The last couple years were pretty tough. Frank Baird just died of old age.

In April there will be a "Celebration of Life" at the family home in Wenatchee, and in May when the rhododendrons are in bloom there will be a celebration at their Brady Beach home in Bamfield. Friends, come and share a few stories.



NEPTUNE is an acronym that stands for **North-East Pacific Time-Series Underwater Networked Experiments**.

Here's why:

North-East Pacific Home to the Juan de Fuca plate—smallest of Earth's 13 tectonic plates. Its small size and close proximity to the coast gives NEPTUNE a unique opportunity to observe tectonic processes.

Time-Series NEPTUNE Canada hopes to provide continuous observations for 25 years. The data we gather will allow scientists to study both episodic events and long-term changes.

Undersea Instruments comprising the underwater observatory will operate at depths ranging from 17 to 2660 metres.

Networked Hundreds of instruments will be connected to the Internet via shielded cables carrying both power and fibre optic communications lines. A sophisticated database will archive and provide network access to this immense wealth of data.

Experiments That's right, experiments with an 's'! We expect the scientists using NEPTUNE Canada to conduct thousands of unique and exciting experiments over the life of the project. Interested researchers are more than welcome to get involved.



NEPTUNE Canada

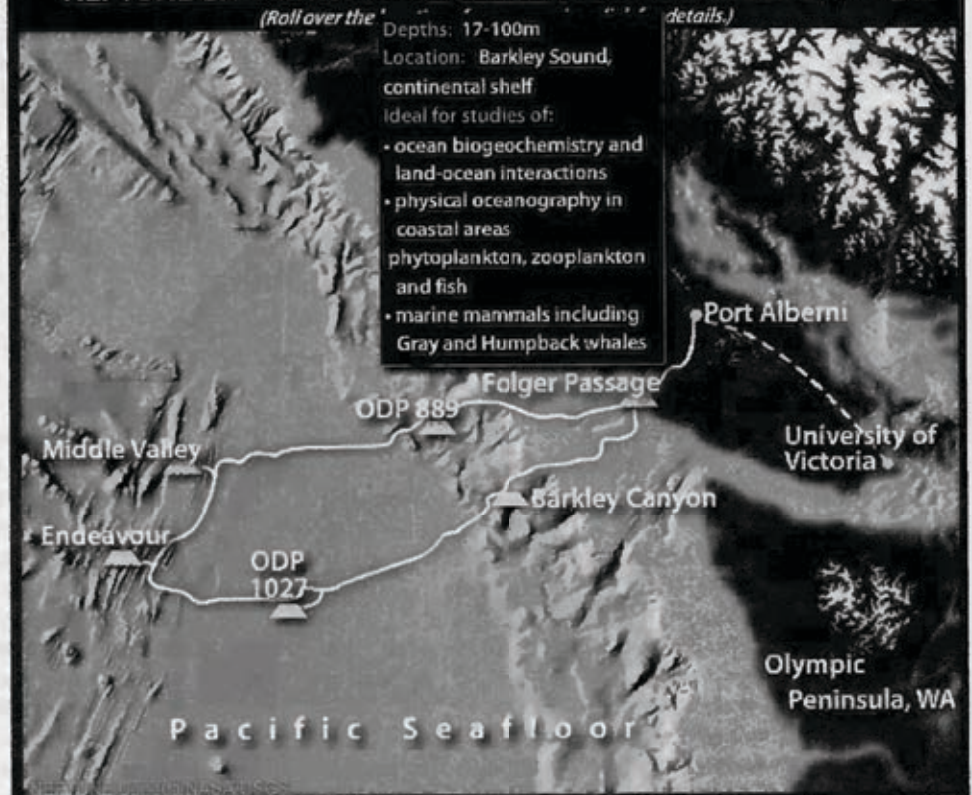
Transforming Ocean Science

NEPTUNE Canada is building the world's largest cabled seafloor observatory off the west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The network, which extends across the Juan de Fuca plate, will gather live data from a rich constellation of instruments deployed in a broad spectrum of undersea environments. Data will be transmitted via high-speed fibre optic

communications from the seafloor to an innovative data archival system at the University of Victoria. This system will provide free Internet access to an immense wealth of data, both live and archived throughout the life of this planned 25-year project.

Visit the Neptune website for more info <http://neptunecanada.ca/>

NEPTUNE Canada network in coastal southwest British Columbia



Diving the Node

Thursday, December 10, 2009 was an exciting day for Dive and Safety Officer Siobhan Gray and BMSC diver Kylee Pawluk. It was both their first time diving offshore in Barkley Sound and a rare chance to be Neptune divers. After dropping a cinder block onto the node, the divers plunged in, armed with a camera and a measuring tape to scope out a site for cameras and other data loggers. The node is made up of about three pinnacles

connected by a series of valleys and the whole mound is covered in amazing life. From schooling rockfish, the largest cabezon (a type of large sculpin) we've seen, to enormous mussel beds and prolific hydrocorals, it was truly a dive rich in animal life. Though a gorgeous dive at an amazing site, the effort will have to be repeated due to the disappearance of the cable.

Kylee Pawluk



NEPTUNE Canada

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24th Annual Pacific Rim Whale Festival

A Celebration of Coastal Life!

Community of Ucluelet Proudly Taking Part In
Hosting 9-Day Event March 6-14, 2010

Seasoned locals affectionately coin this time of year best as 'festival season', for there's a solid network within our community who take the opportunity (some for a couple of decades now!) to plan for the arrival of whales, travelling visitors, and springtime alike. It's nearing Pacific Rim Whale Festival time - a tradition that the community of Ucluelet has helped shape since 1986 by partnering with Tofino and Pacific Rim National Park Reserve to jointly host more than seventy-five events.

The Whale Festival is an extraordinary opportunity to learn about coastal life & marine ecosystems, and a great example of west coast spirit, hospitality, sense of community and culture. Marking the official opening of the area's prime whale watching season, festivities - many free of charge - include culinary, musical, family-friendly and educational events.

In spite of all the fun, remember the real stars of the show are the whales themselves. Not long ago, eastern Pacific grey whales were listed as near extinct, but have since recovered to estimated pre-whaling numbers. It's the largest grey population that exists on the planet! We're lucky enough to see them en-route first-hand and be able to increase public awareness about their remarkable existence. With a significant focus on marine ecosystems and coastal life education, the Whale Festival celebrates the continued protection and annual return of migrating Pacific grey whales to our coastal waters each spring. Whale Festival fundraising efforts benefit local marine field-based research initiatives, which in turn support the whales!

Remarkably, the Whale Festival is generated almost entirely by volunteers. It really is! What results is a group synergy that is unlike any other event on the West

Coast! Aiming to educate, inspire, and raise the spirits of the young & young at heart, the Festival Society welcomes volunteers from near and far, including the annual boatload of Bamfielders that make the trip to take part.

For more information, including a growing calendar of events, visit www.pacificrimwhalefestival.com.



Photographs courtesy of Marla Barker

Contact the Pacific Rim Whale Festival Society:
Marla Barker
Festival Coordinator
info@pacificrimwhalefestival.com
250-726-5874

For more information about visiting Ucluelet, go to www.ucluelet.travel.



From March 6-14, 2010, some events already on Ucluelet's hosting calendar include:

- **14th Annual Chowder Chowdown** - Indulge in up to 12 chowders in competition from local chefs.
- **Traditional Cedar Weaving: Workshops with First Nations Artists & Weavers** - Learn weaving techniques & history and take home your own creation.
- **Ucluelet Aquarium Season Opening: Up Close & Personal!** - Ucluelet's own Aquarium opens its portal to the underwater wonders right from our own backyard.
- **Whale Watching Station & Interpretive Loop: Amphitrite Point Lighthouse & Wild Pacific Trail** - Join naturalists for interactive land-based viewing from this traditional whale-spotting point.
- **Ucluelet Maritime Kids Day** - Fun & educational activities for all ages!
- **Barnacle Blues: David Gogo Live in Concert** - a fundraising evening of fine food, drink, auctioned prizes and talented musicians.



Join in the creation of the celebration:

- **Volunteer!** The more the merrier! Contact us or fill out our online form.
- **Present or Perform!** Have a workshop, research project or talent to share? We've got a mighty captive audience.
- **Support in any of many ways!** By donation of cash, services, in-kind contribution or by purchasing a membership!
- **Attend an event!** Come and enjoy - after all, that's what it's all about: celebrating our coastal lives!
- **Tell your friends, family & visitors!** Spread the word on this Vancouver Island feature event!

School District 70
Port Alberni • Bamfield
Tofino • Ucluelet



Community Participation Requested

School District 70 presents Operational Review for Community Response

School District 70 presented community audiences in the Alberni Valley, the West Coast and Bamfield with the current District Operational Review in late November and early December 2009.

The report offers current and historical data pertaining to the District's financial responsibilities, enrolment, and school facility capacity ratings.

The District is faced with increases in expenses for the HST beginning in July, 2010, teacher wage, benefit and pension increases, carbon tax offset purchases, and classroom enrolment regulations that are not funded by the Ministry of Education. In addition to these increases, the annual Facilities grant for repairs and maintenance and the Declining Enrolment grants have been cancelled by the Province.

Enrolment in School District 70 has been on the decline for several years in part due to declining economic opportunities in the region. Alberni Valley schools are projected to be operating at 78% of capacity in 2011, while West Coast and Bamfield schools are projected to be operating at only 55% capacity. Since 2002/03 when 5 schools were closed, the District has enrolled 972 fewer students. By 2015, another 721 students are projected to be lost from the District enrolment tally.

School Districts in British Columbia may not operate at a deficit. The current \$1.84 million deficit must be made up by the end of the 2011/2012 school year. While School District 70 prioritizes student graduation where every individual will walk the stage with dignity, pride and a plan, the District must meet its financial obligations to operate with a balanced budget. Seventeen categories of District expenses have been reduced already. Additional options for the District to reduce operating costs include reviewing all staffing levels (non-enrolling staff and undersubscribed courses), reviewing all service levels (transportation, clerical, custodial, maintenance), not replacing retiring administrative staff (5 in the next 2 years), closing facilities and

exploring new revenue streams (e.g. academies, international education).

At this time, the District is unable to run a deficit, reconfigure grades levels in Port Alberni schools, combine VAST with Alberni District Secondary School, sell school property, or lay off administrators without incurring severance liabilities.

Community participation is requested in considering options for retiring the deficit. The late 2009 information sessions in the communities are the beginning of a continuing consultation process taking place in January 2010. Based on community and District input, The Board of Education will make a decision prior to March 5, 2010.

In order to balance the School District 70 operating budget for the next 2 years, the District is considering the following options (Operational Review details are available at www.sd70.bc.ca):

For the 2010/2011 school year:

- Close Alberni Valley Elementary School
- Alter the school year to reduce travel in the West Coast and Bamfield schools
- Reduce Secondary School administration by 1.0 FTE

For the 2011/2012 school year:

- Close a 2nd Alberni Valley elementary school
- Close/combine elementary school on the West Coast
- Do not renew the VAST lease in Port Alberni.

A response form (SD70 Deficit Reduction - Public Feedback Form) is available on line at www.sd70.bc.ca within the Operational Review document. Please consider the future of our communities. Informed discussion and community stakeholders expressing reasoned ideas will influence the outcome of this consultation process.

Linda Myres
Bamfield resident

School District 70 Contact Information

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V9Y3Z4

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250 723 3565

District Office Fax
250 723 0318

Cam Pinkerton, Superintendent
Email: cpinkerton@sd70.bc.ca
Telephone: 250 720 2770

**SD70 (Alberni)
Operational Review
Community Input Session #1
November/December 2009**

<http://www.sd70.bc.ca/Operational%20Review.htm>

Memorial Tree

Original Lino Cut
by: Tanya Porter



**Sharon Edythe
Mueller,
1946-1991.**

Sharon Edythe Mueller, born on January 23/1946. First daughter for Andres and Edith Garcia. With six older brothers, she

was a welcome sight for the family. She has one younger brother and two younger sisters. Yes, ten in all for the Garcia family. She attended Eric Godson Memorial School until grade nine then left for high school in the city. She worked at the BC Packers store as a clerk for many years. She met and married Werner Mueller in 1966 at our United Church in Bamfield. They moved to Bralorne, BC. Where Vern worked in the mines. Then to Huston, BC for a few years. After their two sons Carl & Ricky were born they moved back to Port Alberni. She then worked as a clerk for the K-Mart store. At age 44 she died of a massive heart attack while attending the K-Mart Christmas Party. We miss her very much and think of her often.

Her loving sister Dolores Bowker.

Margit (Anderson) Newnham (1913-2000)

Margit was born in Saanich, Victoria, B. C. on the 27th of January 1913 and died on 27th of August 2000. She attended Bamfield School and left Bamfield at age 18. Later married in Victoria and resided there. She had five children. Her parents Mr. & Mrs. Julius Anderson remained in Bamfield until the 1940's. Her brother Einar lives in Port Alberni.

John Eric Gustav Ostrom (1890-1945)

Ostrom's Machine Shop was established in the 1920's when John Ostrom settled in Bamfield and bought Percy Colville's shop, then located on the west side. It was put on a float and set up on the east side at the present location. A modest home was built where the MacMillan's fish camp now stands and an orchard shaded the grounds beyond.



Bill Mather, long time resident of Bamfield, retired member of the Bamfield Coast Guard, and devoted member of the Bamfield Volunteer Fire Department passed away November 23 2009. He will be missed by his family, community and friends.

We will highlight Bill's life in the Spring issue of The West Island Quarterly.



*Would
you
like to
have a
loved one
included
on the
Memorial
Tree?*

Contact:
Nancy Hendry
Memorial Tree Society

250 728 3119
hendrynancy@yahoo.ca

The main opportunity provided by the proposed improvements to the West Bamfield dock will be to provide diverse tourism amenities which will capture new and expanding visitor interest. The improvements will also make the dock more functional for Bamfield residents and the usual commercial, sport fishermen and the boating public. The project includes:

- 1. Firefighting Improvements (\$35,000):** The dock has to be made safer. Presently the dock has limited firefighting capabilities. Provide dry main system. Increase number of portable extinguishers.
- 2. Resurface Ramp (\$5000):** Existing wooden surface will be changed to expanded metal cleats. An apron will be added at the bottom of the ramp to help with the transport of luggage with wheels. This will greatly improve safety and access for the public year round.
- 3. Expand Approach at Top of Ramp (\$15,000):** Provide a small parking area for hand carts. This will reduce congestion at top of the ramp. A small office will be built in this area.
- 4. Office Building (\$10,000):** This will provide a small work area for wharf manager, phone line and computer for internet access for boaters.
- 5. Build New Pod Float (\$60,000):** This new float will be inside the inner float. This low float will provide easy access from dinghies, rowboats, kayaks and canoes. It will also provide an out of the water parking area for small light boats such as kayaks. In addition, this float will provide day use for dinghies to access shore facilities. This will be a real draw for kayak and large boat tourism.

ACRD Regional Directors Report

Waste/Recycling Transfer Station

The Bamfield Waste and Recycling Transfer Station is functional but still needs some improvements such as additional signage, a better ramp and a small shed for reuse articles. At the October 19th Community Affairs meeting, Don Anderson, ACRD's Manager of Environmental Services, explained the challenges Bamfield faces with garbage and recycling, the major one being the cost of these services in a remote area. It seems that we are on budget, having spent in the first 6 months of this fiscal year from April to September 2009 app.\$29,000 on garbage (Budget: \$55,000), \$7000 on recycling (Budget: \$17,000) and About \$2400 as payment from West side garbage in most part collected at the Bamfield General Store

New Pump and Generator Project

A first tender for the pump and generator on a moveable pump house on skids was sent out in early September by McGill Engineering to a number of companies. Since the deadline for closing of the bids was very short, only one bid for about \$100,000 more than the funds available for this project was submitted. So then it was back to the "drawing board" with the plan now to place the new pump and generator in a revamped existing pumphouse. The closing date for the bids is November 23, 2009. Since this project was placed on Bid B.C. this time for a longer period, I hope bids come in well under the amount of funding we have for this project (\$160,000 "Towns for Tomorrow" funding plus \$40,000 Bamfield's contribution). The Bamfield Water Committee will meet on November 24, 2009 to help make a decision on whom to award the contract and to review Bamfield water-related bylaws. If all goes well, the ACRD Board will approve contractor on November 25, 2009.

Recognition Award for Bamfield

On November 4th, 2009 at the Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, I attended the Telecom Hall of Fame Rewards Gala to receive a special recognition award for the village of Bamfield as being one of Canada's original submarine telegraph cable landing sites. The other birthplace of international communications in Canada is Heart's Content, Newfoundland.

Grants-in-Aid Bamfield

If you have projects you would like to see happen in Bamfield, please present your idea with a budget at a Community Affairs meeting.

Fishermen's dock

In June 2008, funding in the amount of \$13,000 was approved by the Island Coastal Economic

Trust (ICET) on a 1:1 ratio to provide electricity, lighting, and water at the West Bamfield Fishermen's dock. Due to delays with the electrical contractor, this project to install two water taps and two towers with 10 electrical outlets each never came to fruition in 2008.

In January 2009, John Mass, President of the Bamfield Harbor Authority attended a conference where he found out about funding from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Small Craft Harbors (SCH). He later forwarded to the SCH Bamfield Harbor Authority's wish list of necessary work and improvements for the West Bamfield Dock. In June 2009, SCH committed up to \$200,000 to carry out some of the proposed improvements. With planning during the summer, water connections were installed in September 2009 at a cost of approximately \$8,000. In addition, installation of 6 lighted towers with 10 electrical outlets each, as well as 2 lamps on the dock approach was completed by November 2009 at a cost of approximately \$73,000. I informed the ICET that the \$13,000 will not be used for electrical and water connections. However, since further improvements are needed in order to make the West Bamfield Dock more attractive to the boating public, a Phase 1 funding request to ICET for \$50,000 to complete 9 components of a project that will cost \$185,000 was submitted in October 2009. This application was for funding for further improvements to help make the West Bamfield Fishermen's dock a destination of choice for boaters from up and down the coast. Tourists coming by boat will make Bamfield a place of choice to tie up, obtain power and water, step ashore and visit the memorable boardwalk and Brady's Beach. Apparently, most of ICET funds have been now awarded. I am hopeful that government will replenish this important source of funding for community projects. We can only wait the winter and see how this plays out.

Bamfield Road

At a meeting with Shirley Bond, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure at the UBCM in Vancouver, I informed the Minister that the 1963 Bamfield Road Agreement is up for renewal on April 1, 2010. She promised that her staff will keep the Bamfield Road Association informed about planned revisions to this antiquated agreement and discussions between the Forest Companies and the Ministries. The Resource Road Act is back "on the table" and meetings are again happening between various players including the Ministry of

Transportation and Infrastructure, Ministry of Forest and Range and the Forest Companies with cutbacks, no ministry wants to deal with the Resource Road "hot potato". Ombudsman Roger Harris's report "A Road Less Traveled" with a number of recommendations applicable to the Bamfield Road is now gathering dust on Government shelves. The public is a major user of the Bamfield road. The Bamfield road should then be maintained to ensure public safety. Current industrial road standards just "do not cut it". Let's make the Bamfield Road a Forest Service Road, a Resource Road or whatever. I sincerely hope that Government gets on with it really soon and finds a long-term solution to improve the overall condition of the Bamfield Road. The status quo on the status of the Bamfield Road is no longer acceptable!

The Bamfield Road Safety Association Annual General Meeting on a beautiful Saturday afternoon was not well attended. However those present did find out the following. The BRSA has a phone number with a recorded message: 250 731-3223 and e-mail: info@bamfieldroad.com. A verbal summary was presented on the amount spent on the Bamfield road in 2009: Grading \$120,000; 21 culverts: \$140,000; Rock walls at km 30 and 32 \$130,000; Miller Creek bridge \$71,000, Armor at Central, Parsons and Thomas Creeks \$40,000. App. \$150,000 remains for further upgrades and some funds set aside for

snow plowing. Joe Pearson, BRSA President, is trying to set up a meeting with the Ministries and Western Forest Products to discuss priorities. I believe most of the road upgrade funds will go to fix the road washouts following the mid November pineapple express.

Update on Treaties

Federal and provincial negotiators presented an update on Treaties to the ACRD Board on October 28, 2009. Highlights of their presentation include: The Yale Treaty in the Fraser Canyon is close to final agreement. The Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation in the Tofino area is moving quickly with incremental agreements towards treaty. Treaty negotiations with the Ditidaht First Nation are ongoing. The Hupacasath First Nation Treaty Office is closed down. Negotiations with the five other Nuuchah-nulth Tribes, including the Tseshah and Ahousah First Nation are in the early stages of the Treaty process and things are moving slowly. The Maa-nulth treaty effective date is April 1, 2011. The big news for the Bamfield area is that the road between Bamfield and the West Coast Trail will be paved in 2010.

Woodstove Change-out

From November 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010, a woodstove change-out program, organized by the Air Quality Council, offers a \$400 incentive to exchanging your old functioning stove for a efficient model. For more information, visit the ACRD website.

6. Build new Finger Docks (\$16,000):

The installation of 6 small finger floats on the inside finger will create 13 spaces where only 6 boats can now park. These spaces would be for small boats and in turn this would free up more space for the large vessels at the outside finger.

7. Signage (\$3,000):

With all these improvements, the main users will become, not fishermen, but the boating public in general. Appropriate signage indicating facilities, fees and instructions will be installed.

8. Connect Anchors (\$15,000):

Connect concrete anchors to provide greater strength when large yachts are moored.

9. Refresh existing Approach to Dock (\$26,000):

Replace bull rails and decking, new lighting and signage. This face lift of sorts will create a more appealing approach and impression for tourists.



Bamfield Road Association

As fall comes to a close and winter soon to be arriving, all Bamfield Road drivers are reminded that with the seasons heavy rainfall events and snow brings quick and sometimes dangerous changes to the road conditions. Although a number of culverts were replaced this past spring and summer, one hundred year averages of rainfall are higher and the possibility of washouts are always present. Use caution, especially at night. Freezing at the higher elevations is now happening on clear nights. The result is frost and black ice. Snow is just around the corner. By now all vehicles should have good winter tires on and consideration should be made to have a winter emergency pack under the seat or in the trunk. Over the past years we have had instances of the road being impassable for a number of hours, and in some cases, overnight. Keeping warm and hydrated is important should you get stuck on the road or go into the ditch. Use common sense should you run into difficulties. Stay with your vehicle. When running the

motor, do so for short intervals with the window cracked open. Somebody will most likely be along within a reasonable amount of time that can offer you some assistance. This year, thanks to an extra one time only funding that was announced the Bamfield Road Safety Association, snow grading should be consistent all winter long. That doesn't mean that you should take unnecessary chances on the road. Come to our website at brsa.ca and check on current conditions. Or give our Road Safety Hot line a call at **250 731 3223**. Of course we can't be on the road every day so if you have a road update that affects the safety of drivers, please don't hesitate to call me and I will get it posted as quickly as I can. I am at my office at 250 728 3400.



The Bamfield Road Safety Association held it AGM this past Oct and although not well attended by the public, industry and government participation was excellent. A number of important issues were discussed. The final available funding previously announced is slated to be spent this fall and early winter. The Ministry of Forests and Range has asked for the association direct involvement in deciding where this money should be spent. It must go on a safety related project. The association is working with its liaisons to determine where this funding should be allocated.

We also presented our new logo and letterhead. Announced the completion of our upgraded webpage (www.brsa.ca) Please come and take a look at the new site. The associations current leadership has been reappointed for a second term.

BHCAP abalone is served at these fine restaurants in Vancouver and Toronto



Featuring the finest seafood from local waters and around the world, prepared with fresh local produce and innovative sauces, C is the dining destination for seafood lovers. You will discover the riches of the oceans prepared in ways never before imagined.

We are devoted to serving you sustainable seafood from our local waters and ingredients that are distinctive and home grown. As the founding restaurant in the Vancouver Aquarium's Ocean Wise Program, Executive Chef Robert Clark has deconstructed seafood supply lines, dealing directly with the fisherman, to ensure a product that is of the highest quality while respecting environmental sensitivities.
ph 604.681.1164 fx 604.605.8263
2-1600 Howe Street Vancouver, BC
info@prestaurant.com




Starfish
OYSTER BED & GRILL

Open since the fall of 2001, Starfish features a unique assortment of oysters shucked by World Oyster Opening Champion, Patrick McMurray. The menu changes daily to include fresh fish and shellfish as well as steak, duck and other land food. shopping. Dress is smart casual.
Reservations recommended.
Please call 416-366-STAR (7827)

Culinary Artists Supporting Species at Risk Outplanting Program

Pinto abalone, once an abundant food source on the West Coast, has been in decline for more than 2 decades. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans closed the abalone harvest in 1990 to all commercial enterprise as well as personal use harvesting.

Beginning in 2000, with the incorporation of the Bamfield Huu ay aht Community Abalone Project, pinto abalone have become a focus of a community development initiative providing educational forums, the development of a hatchery and growth tanks, out planting larvae and juvenile animals and research projects. The member organizations, Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre, Huu ay aht First Nations and the Bamfield Community School Association bring their talents and expertise to the project in partnership with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Environment Canada, and other provincial and federal funding partners.

Pinto Abalone, *Haliotis kamtschatkana*, was declared a Species At Risk in 2004. **This announcement** challenged the BHCAP's goal to develop a community based abalone aquaculture and stewardship program. The Project worked with the Minister for Fisheries and DFO to develop a permitting process for sales of abalone to support the hatchery and out planting programs. BHCAP members know that the sale of abalone to restaurants supporting sustainable fisheries raises the awareness of the fragile abalone stocks and the necessity of continued research into the decline of pinto abalone on the west coast. BHCAP, in collaboration with DFO, now issues permits for harvesting of cultured abalone from the BHCAP facility and allows shipping to approved restaurants. BHCAP abalone are now served in 2 restaurants that support sustainable seafood procurement. **C restaurant** in Vancouver and **Starfish Oyster Bed and Grill** in Toronto serve pinto abalone to discerning gourmet seafood diners. The restaurants also share the Bamfield Huu ay aht First Nations Community Abalone Project community development story along with the delicacy. Both restaurants subscribe to sustainable food purchasing and have developed a

relationship with the west coast project. With sales to **C** and **Starfish** the public has been introduced to the delicate mollusc after 20 years of abstinence. These sales support the vision of a viable community based aquaculture and stewardship program.

Despite the work that BHCAP has undertaken, the outlook is not encouraging for the species. The 5 year Species At Risk Act re-assessment has been completed. After reviewing new survey results of keystone wild populations and predictions from population models developed by DFO, the Committee On the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has recommended that the status of *Haliotis kamtschatkana* be elevated from "threatened" to "endangered". There has been no improvement in the abundance of abalone in permanent monitoring sites. Population models predict that under the present trend, abalone will be extirpated from British Columbia waters in about 50 years.

It is yet unclear how upgrading the assessment status of abalone will effect BHCAP. Regulations and access to wild abalone brood stock for out planting may become more difficult. BHCAP members think that in light of these grave predictions more resources should be committed to direct proactive stock recovery initiatives such as hatchery spawns and out planting.

BHCAP is currently applying for a Kelp Farm License in order to ensure a natural diet for feeding the abalone in the growth tanks. This initiative, if approved, will provide additional jobs in the community. The Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre has committed to a long term study of *Haliotis kamtschatkana* to research and monitor the species and environment using resources available from 5 western universities and other partnerships. The Bamfield Huu ay aht First Nations Community Abalone Project and its partners are the best hope for understanding the decline and recovery of the species.

Linda Myres
Secretary, BHCAP

Sing for Literacy



January
27

Family Literacy Day



Founding sponsor
HONDA

Family Literacy Day is all about brushing up on your literacy skills in fun and different ways! There are so many activities you can do to practice your literacy skills, such as following a recipe, reading a road map or singing from a song sheet.

This year's theme is *Sing for Literacy!* Singing is a great literacy activity for families because it provides a fun way to expand spoken vocabulary and creates a strong bond. Singing allows you to learn patterns of words, rhymes and rhythms, and is strongly connected to language skills.

Family Literacy Day, held annually on January 27, was developed by ABC CANADA Literacy Foundation and Honda Canada in 1999 to encourage families to read and learn together on a daily basis. Thousands of Canadians take part in this initiative every year by hosting FLD parties or participating in literacy activities in schools, libraries and literacy organizations across the country.

Family Literacy Activities

Literacy is more than books. There are several ways to keep your literacy skills sharp - all it takes is practicing for 15 minutes every day. Reading, writing, playing a game, following a recipe, or even singing a song all help prepare children for challenges ahead and sharpen skills for adults. Here are some activity ideas to practice your literacy skills:

The Count: Have your child count out the change required to make a purchase. Re-enforce the importance of math in everyday life.

Daffy Dictionary: Choose a word from the dictionary and write it on a piece of paper with one correct definition, then make up two more definitions that are incorrect but 'sound' like they might be accurate. See who can guess the correct definition. Teams can play this game, with members coming up with the daffy definitions together and also guessing the other team's correct definition.

Family Game Night: Set up a family board game night where a different game is played each week. Have each member of the family involved in reading instructions and game cards and keeping score.

Hi Ho the Merry-o: Engage in sing-along sessions with your children.

Karaoke Night: Rent a Karaoke machine and invite the neighbours over for a party. Not only is this activity fun, but it also encourages, reading, singing and family involvement.

Map out your trip: Have your kids create the map for your next road trip so that they can navigate by reading signs and billboards. Create a trip journal.

Sharpen your mind: Do crossword puzzles, word jumbles and word searches on your lunch break.

Sous Chef: Following recipes is a great way to improve both reading and math skills. Ask your children to read the instructions out loud and help measure the ingredients when making a treat for the family.

Surf the Internet together to find great websites that support your hobbies and interests.

Write your own adventure: Write a short story as a family with alternative endings written by each family member.

"You've Got Mail": With adult supervision, have children go online and find a suitable electronic postcard to customize and send to a loved one.

For more fun activities to practice your literacy skills, visit http://www.abc-canada.org/en/family_literacy/tipsandactivities.

The Vancouver Island Regional Library branches celebrate Family Literacy Day each year with local activities. Contact your local branch for details.

Hedy's Pottery



Hedy Demontigny

450 Pachena Rd.

Bamfield, BC

V0R 1B0

250 728-3355

hdemont2@gmail.com

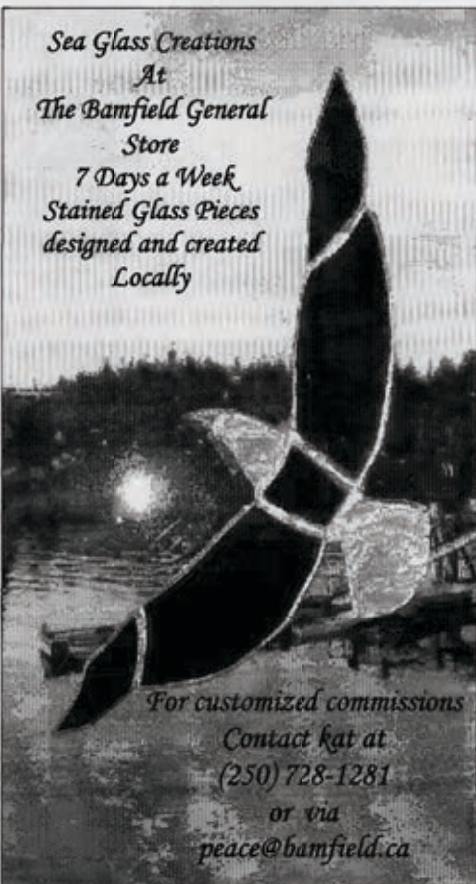
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(250) 728-1281

or via

peace@bamfield.ca

A Sluggish Event



Last was awarded to this scribe from Lot 18, and was awarded the loser of the year award for the poorest showing in many a year. Tempers flared when a slug was tried to be entered by proxy from Rich and Lois Palmer, (formerly of Bamfield) now from of all places "Edmonton", (which is not even in our province.) Judges are checking to see where Edmonton is. The above mentioned party was usually the scrutineer, and was noticeably absent this year, as the track was not levelled to his standards, nor cornering and wind drift not taken into account.

Slug racing by proxy will not be tolerated and Mr. Palmer of "Edmonton" should not think because of his former standing in the community, he can try to bulldoze race officials into unsavoury practices. This year, off track betting was unheard of,...could it be because of Mr. Palmer's absence?? We hope not.

The economic downturn of the country was evident even at the annual World Famous Helby Island Slug Race. An unusually low turn out of competitors this year was reflected in the lowest number of participants in the 16 year history of this earth shaking event.

Even so, good food was enjoyed by all but noticeably absent was the usual array of expensive beverages enjoyed by some guests. Bottled water seemed to be the drink of the evening, although some of the more affluent guests quenched their thirst with Budweiser beer. The cuts of meat were still of high standards as the all beef patties and tube steaks were noticed on the grille.

Noticeably absent this year was the usual grilled salmon, ... because the participants this year couldn't catch one!

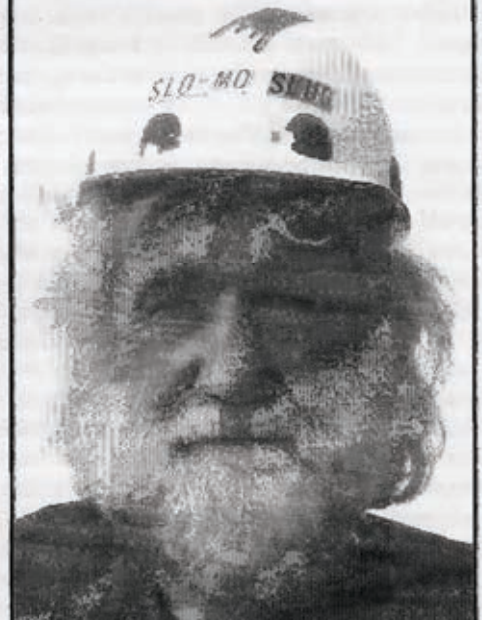
The race itself was short lived with a winning of 3:36 minutes for the winner who was by chance from the east side this year again. Only four animals competed for the coveted trophy and ceremonial hat with the winner being 6 year Paolo Robles of Lot 14. Second place went to John and Georgine of Lot 23. Third was taken by the residents of Lot 12, who want to remain un-named due to their slug's poor showing.



Out of town guests were Sally and Nelson from "Edmonton", Sara and Dwayne from Calgary, and Martha from Austria. Along with our regulars from Los Angeles, New York, Port Alberni, and Chemainus, a good time was had by all, with good food, good friends, and lots of laughs.

Security and clean up was once again handled by Sam, the wonder dog, and assisted by his new friend Ada. We hope all this lunacy continues next year.

2009 World Famous Helby Island Slug Race RESULTS



1st place 'Hockey' handler
Paolo Robles from Los Angeles.

2nd place 'Gypsy Baron' handler
John and Georgine from Port
Alberni.

3rd place 'Doug' handler Lot 12
(secretly from New York)

Slo-Mo Hat 'Baby' handler Paul
Bottomley from Chemainus.



Corbin Sidney Wyeth was born to Russell Wyeth and Christina Holmes on July 30, 2009. The whole family would like to thank Donna and everyone at the Coast Guard for their help bringing Corbin into the world 6 weeks earlier than expected. The care Christina and Corbin received at the outpost hospital and during the boat ride to meet the helicopter in Port Alberni (and also

subsequently in Richmond where he was born, and both Kamloops and Nanaimo, where he continued in intensive care) was fantastic.

We also would like to thank Katie Lotterhos and Natika Bock who helped Digo (our dog) catch up with us eventually in Nanaimo, Sarah Davies (also in Nanaimo) for collecting luggage in Bamfield (and amassing a complete set of new-born 'equipment' for us with no advance notice), and the BC health care system for ensuring Corbin caught the travel bug early in life. And finally, we want to thank everyone at the marine station who helped Russell cope with an entirely different end to the summer's research than originally planned. Corbin is now thriving back home in Antigonish, Nova Scotia!



Thank you again.



On behalf of the Vancouver Island Health Authority and particularly the Bamfield Health Centre, I would like to extend thanks to Megan and Brodie Geall.

The Geall's generously donated the proceeds from Erica's baby shower towards the purchase of a new baby scale at the Bamfield Health Centre. This is a welcome and needed addition to the clinic and is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Kilpatrick

Rural Health Manager
Bamfield Health Centre, Tofino General Hospital



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Jumping thru Hoops

Skye Butler



Hi, my name is Skye Butler, I have recently been hired as the Community Access Program (CAP) youth intern. If you are interested in learning how to use a computer or need help with any projects you have on the go, feel free to stop by the CAP Site and I will gladly help you. We offer many services at the (CAP) site in the Bamfield Community School including printing, photocopying computer and internet access.

As a youth intern I look forward to helping you solve technical issues as well as improving my knowledge of web design and networking. I enjoy working with multi-media, such as photos and videos and plan to create a Facebook group to help notify the community of upcoming events as well as update our current website.

Look for updates on the annual Hoops for Heart as well as the Jump Rope for Heart activities I will be organizing along with Geo Caching outings and drop-in activities on Friday and Saturday afternoons.

Transformations

Kathleen (kat) Peace BCSA Coordinator

As I sit down to write this, not only does the year 2009 draw to a close but an era at the Bamfield Community School Association (BCSA) ends. At the BCSA Annual General Meeting, as well as thanking Linda Myres for all the years, effort and hard work she put into the community we said good bye to her as our coordinator then welcomed her onto the board of directors as treasurer. As a thank you gift, Myres was presented with a carving of Raven by local artist, Harry Williams. Myres was quick to point out that Raven was a one of the many manifestations of trickster. Trickster being a non-specific species mythological figure who fools his/herself while tricking others into creating harmony in their lives.

Raven is also known as the Transformer. So begins, my time as coordinator of the Bamfield Community School Association and who knows, with Raven being an agent of transformation, what possibilities will transpire. The sky is the limit. Speaking of sky, Skye Butler has been hired as the BCSA's new Community Access Program Intern to be on hand to assist you with your computer/internet/printing needs.

Stay tuned to the Bamfield Community Portal website or local bulletin boards for information regarding upcoming events and projects. A Robbic Burns Dinner is being planned for Saturday, Jan 23rd, 2010 at the Bamfield Community Hall. Look for tickets on sale in January. Also Radio Play project is in the works and plans for workshops, art projects and a choir are underway. In the meantime, I invite you all to become agents of change by stepping forth and discussing your ideas/projects with us to see how BCSA might assist you as well as the community.

Books, books, and more books plus CDs and DVDs bounced their way down the logging road to the Bamfield Community Library from the Vancouver Island Regional Library in Port Alberni. Among the new arrivals, is a new selection of audio books. The next change over will be in three months, if you are after a certain genre, author or subject matter, please pop into the Bamfield Community School Association Office and let us know as we are happy to request material for you.

Recently, The Vancouver Island Regional Library hired Colleen Nelson as their customer service librarian for our region. While based out of the Port Alberni branch, Nelson will be working on expanding programming and resources for children and youth in our area. "Look for good things to come," said Nelson.

Look also for a collection of recently donated woodworking books to be out on the shelves soon. One good turn deserves another, the Bamfield Community Library runs as a voluntary organization and we thank those who take the time to check-in their books, CDs and DVDs as well as shelf them. The library is seeking volunteers to help catalogue, card and shelf newly donated or purchased additions to the Bamfield Permanent Collection.

If you have a couple of hours to spare per week and would like to volunteer your time carding books then entering them into an excel spreadsheet file or if you have an interest in Bamfield past and would like to input historical information into our newly created database, volunteer positions are available at the Bamfield Community Library and Museum & Archives. Please contact the BCSA at (250) 728-1220 for further information.

Remembering Peter Fletcher

On November 5th, 2009 people gathered to honour the life of Peter Fletcher. He had a Bamfield 'connection', in three ways, really. First he spent time as a young boy at the Cable Station when his father was stationed there as a technical operator and secondly, he was married to Penny Barber, who was born and raised in Bamfield until her older brothers and sisters were ready for high school and the Barber family moved to Victoria. Thirdly, Pete's grandfather, was who I remember as, 'Pop' Brain, a former cable station worker, builder of the first house on the footprint of ours (burned down and was rebuilt by John Maben and his brother Bill) and who lived in a cabin between the Barber's and Phillips' property (about where the ramp for the east dock is now). Gordon Thurston, who gave the eulogy, has graciously agreed to send me a copy of his address and I include some quotations from his memorial of Peter. Thurston:

"As his beloved wife Penny points out he was larger than life and as a man that loved the out of doors, he was open to living in an expansive way as a result, from camping and boating to entertaining anyone with whom he shared his gifts. As a bit of an entertainer wherever he operated Pete could capture the moment and anyone with whom he shared it through his storytelling, along with a little song and dance for emphasis. And even though someone who was more comfortable in jeans and muscle shirts or Sooke tuxedos in the winter (gray woolen underwear), Pete embraced life with the wit and will of an artist, from writing and even poetry to illustrating his works with drawings, including cartoons for kids and most recently his grandkids..."

"...With his brother Derek (he grew) up between here and his native Australia. Actually while his father was from down under Pete only just happened to be born down there while his parents were there visiting.

Home was really Montreal in Canada, which is where he grew up until he was five when the family moved to Vancouver Island when his father became the technical operator for the trans-Pacific cable line. However after that four-year stint they did move back to the land of his birth for a while. So his formal schooling took place between the remote coastal village of Bamfield here on Vancouver Island and the much bigger island-continent of Australia."

"And so when the family moved yet again back to Canada – in fact taking up ownership and operation of the Malahat Chalet and service station Pete put his outdoors aptitude and attitude to good use when he and a friend got a job surveying along the West Coast as far up as Prince Rupert. However after that, along with working in a paper mill and joining the reserves he landed the best of all jobs when he got on as a lighthouse keeper. Saturna Island, Cape Scott and Ballenas Island are warm spots in his heart – as were all the other stations when, as foreman at the Coast Guard base here, he was responsible for servicing all the lights in the area. In fact in that role Pete became invaluable to the Coast Guard service in many ways – including as a blaster. He was the guy that set the charges for removing rock and old foundations for new."

The service for Pete was well attended by ex-Bamfielders, many friends from the Coast Guard and from Sooke, Cowichan Bay and its' Wooden Boat Society. On a personal note, it was wonderful to see the whole Barber family—mum, Ada, and Fred, Peggy, Alex, Patty, Geoff and Raymond.

Peter Fletcher leaves behind his wife Penny, daughters and sons, Sharon, Dan, Jennifer, Kyle and his six grandchildren, and his brother Derek.

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Community Events, Meetings and Activities

January 2010

- Friday, Jan 15th, Taking Stock Workshop 12:30pm at the Bamfield Community School — Soup and a Bun lunch followed by a sustainable income workshop
- Sunday, Jan 17th Breaking into Glass Workshop @ The McKay Bay Workshop
- Saturday, Jan 23rd The Robbie Burns Dinner at the Bamfield Community Hall
- Wednesday, Jan 27th Family Literacy Day Celebration Lunch at Bamfield Community School

February 2010

- Hoops for Hearts, Heroic Olympic Celebrations

March 2010

- The Bamfield Heritage Society AGM
- Spring Break Activities: Geo Caching
- The Collective Cooking Club

*Be sure to check the
Community Portal and Bulletin Boards
for further information about events meetings and activities.*

THE WEST ISLAND QUARTERLY

BARKLEY SOUND COMMUNITY JOURNAL

Due to unavailability the West Island Quarterly was unable to publish the January, February and March tides in this issue. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Visit www.ucluelet.travel Ucluelet

Events on the edge



March 6-14, 2010
Pacific Rim Whale Festival



June 13, 2010
Edge to Edge Marathon



July 23-25, 2010
Ukee Days

For your consideration before preparing your 2009 tax return

The **Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC)** is a non-refundable tax credit based on eligible expenditures incurred for work performed or goods acquired after January 27, 2009 and before February 1, 2010 under an agreement entered into after January 27, 2009.

The HRTC can be claimed for renovations and alterations of an enduring nature and that are integral to the eligible dwelling (such as your home or cottage) or the land that forms part of the eligible dwelling. The cost of routine repairs, maintenance, and expenditures not integral to the dwelling are not eligible.

The 15% non-refundable tax credit can be claimed on eligible expenditures of more than \$1,000 but not more than \$10,000. The maximum tax credit that can be claimed to reduce your federal income tax is \$1,350.

Be sure to get your contracts in writing and keep your receipts. You do not have to submit your supporting documents with your income tax and benefit return; however, you must ensure this information is available should the Canada Revenue Agency request it.

The HRTC can be claimed when filing your 2009 tax return.

A **Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP)** is a retirement investment plan registered with the government to which you or your spouse can contribute through RRSP-eligible investments, such as some stocks and mutual funds. The deadline for making RRSP contributions for deductions against your 2009 income is March 1, 2010.

Be sure to itemize costs for attending *medical appointments* (e.g. mileage, hotel) to include with your medical expenses claim.

Larry K. Myres Chartered Accountant

156 Wild Duck Road
P.O. Box 107
Bamfield, BC
V0R 1B0

250 728 1232
250 728 2315 (fax)
lmyres@island.net



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