

# THE NEW BAMFIELDER

No room in this issue to describe Bamfield's largest event: The Community Hall's Easter Egg Hunt...it was stupendous!

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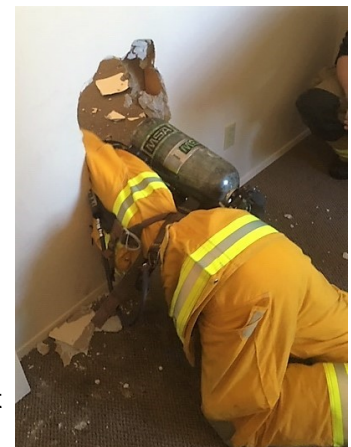
**Spiritually motivated, George Nookemus**, born 1 November 1952, resides and carves at 420 Kiixin Road in Anacla. He recalls attending the Bamfield **Eric Godson Memorial School** not being a pleasant experience. He did share a math reader with **Linda Ostrom** in the third grade. Other school mates included the **Jennings** sisters, the **Logan** boys, the **Janitis** girls, the **Burkholder** kids and **Al**, the **Hanson boy**. He happily recalls **Molly Fullerton**, the sub-teacher and **Margaret Parady**, the Red Cross nurse. A chronic asthmatic condition interrupted his schooling...he spent many prolonged visits in the **Nanaimo Indian Hospital**.



In grade six, he was challenged to draw the King of Spades playing card on a large sheet of paper. From that point onward, his destiny as an artist was assured. He sold his first mask at age 14. He describes his drawing and carving skills as being self-taught and being driven by visions, but recognizes the influence of his father, **Edward**, a carver and his mother, **Mabel**, who was a master

Huu-ay-aht basket weaver, as was her mother, before her. He learned carving the "old way" from **Fred Peters**, with whom he carved canoes and totems. He makes his own tools, from formidable adzes for large pieces to delicate chisels for his hummingbird carvings. His subjects, the sea otter and the blue heron and the salmon are derived from encounters around the Cape Beale headland. Most recently he has been working on killer whale pieces (photo, a commissioned 8-foot carving of a breached whale he observed off Ohiat, near Helby). A smaller version was presented to **Keith Wyton** in honour of his tenure as Regional Director. He worked at the **Raven Song** on the Victoria waterfront and has done projects with the **BC Royal Museum**, that has acknowledged his excellence. His marketing is word-of-mouth: **Senator Bill Bradley, Ret.** (a presidential candidate and pro NBA basketball player who reaped All-American and pro Hall-of-Fame honours) acquired a Sun Mask from George. *To be continued.*

**Sleep over. Michelle Ferraby, Owen Newson** and I spent 2 nights with the Langford fire department for a ride-along weekend. We were there to participate in their practices and go along on their call-outs. Practice-wise, we learned about their main engine operations and some auto extrications. The best thing about the weekend, though, was that they had access to town homes set for demolition, and we went through some interior operations, such as self-rescue through walls, finding exits while blindfolded, clearing windows for ladder rescue, and even self rescue out of a window. Call-out wise, we rode along to motor vehicle incidents, small open burns; nothing over serious (the experience of a large fire would have been excellent, but I'm glad it was a fairly safe weekend for all). *Phil Lavoie*



**April Affairs.** 20 villagers attended the sharp and brief (54 min.) Community Affairs meeting. **Bob Baden**, representing **Bob Beckett**, Reg. Dir., noted the Fire Chief **Phil Lavoie's** contract has been renewed. Cellphone coverage to be discussed with Telus and ICBC has been asked for accident status for the Bamfield Road. ACRD looking into status of Brady's Beach camping. Bamfield ambulance waiting final approval. Bob Baden met with representatives of HFN, Highways, and ACRD re public parking in Bamfield. Kristin Russell thanked TNB for supporting school music (You are welcome!), The six students moving on to high school next year will visit school folks in Port. **Jerry Gassner** read **Linda Myres'** report ([www.bamfielder.ca](http://www.bamfielder.ca) for full Affairs minutes). **Donna Dunn** RN noted one can do 'virtual' doctor visits over Skype as an alternative to Tele-Health. **Sheryl Ferguson**, Bamfield Parks, noted **Liz Issac** is the new park manager and there will be a work-bee May 5, 10 am with a pub picnic. **Martin Pilar**, School Association coordinator, reviewed activities and noted cooking classes will start May 16. **Christine Gruman** noted a May 11 Pachena Bay BioBlitz, a collaboration between HFN, BMSC and Parks Canada. *L. Druehl*

Letters and comments are welcome. Submissions will be edited for clarity and taste, and should be brief. Classifieds should not exceed 15 words (no commercial ads). All submissions must have the author's name and telephone number. Submit to [ldruehl@island.net](mailto:ldruehl@island.net). *The New Bamfielder* is a free but we encourage readers to contribute to Bamfield Community School Assoc. youth programs. *Louis Druehl*

**Heroic night recalled.** **Clifford Charles** reminisced at a Port Alberni Maritime Heritage Society meeting on the life-threatening events of 29 February 1976. A storm struck during the herring season, catching many off guard. The Cape Beale lighthouse keeper spotted the *Bruce I.*, a herring seiner, floundering near shore. **Martin Charles** and his son, **Clifford**, Capt. **David Christney** and **Bob Amos** of the Bamfield Lifesaving Station set off for Cape Beale. They pulled two men from a raft and started home, only to discover there were 2 men left behind. They returned and discovered a third clinging to the rock, 10 meters up. The US Coast Guard was called, and they dispatched a helicopter that retrieved the rock-bound survivor, only to crash. Now the Bamfield crew rescued all aboard the helicopter. All were awarded for their bravery and Martin had a Hero Class patrol named *M. Charles M. B.* (= Medal of Bravery). *Abstracted from Alberni Valley News, 13 March, 2019.*

**A major decision reached.** At a special Community Affairs meeting, 29 April, 29 attendees considered funding of east side parking. **Bernie Whyton** provided background and **Bob Baden** advanced the application for \$28 K from Community Affairs, in addition to about \$25 K donated by highways in the form of culverts, concrete barriers and signage and, hoped for, gravel from the Huu-ay-aht First Nations. The primary issue was public safety and secondary, parking for west siders and west side businesses. When asked if the Chamber of Commerce would contribute, Bob replied, "They declined to participate." Other concerns were how to enforce no parking signs (RCMP could ticket when they are in town); are we liable (no); could parking spots be assigned to lodges and such (this is a possibility, but first the construction). Following the public meeting, all 11 directors met to make the final decision. The motion to provide up to \$25 K for the project was approved. This was not a unanimous decision. *L. Druehl*

**Some May Events.** **5th.** Eileen Scott Park work-bee and pub picnic, 10 am. **11th.** Historical membership drive and lecture, 7 pm, marine station. **18th.** Dodger Cove picnic (contact **John Mass**). **21st.** Community Affairs AGM, 6:30, school. **29th.** Community School lunch, 12 noon, school. For other events, contact **Martin Pilar**, BCSA.

**Community Garden Plots Available** on the west side (**Andrea Butler**) and in the Eileen Scott Centennial Park (**Rae Hopkins**). You provide the seed and sweat, and Eureka, fresh veggies!

**Important Civic Election.** The Bamfield community Affairs AGM is on May 29th, 6:30, at the school. All present directors resign and a new slate will be elected. These folks make major decisions for Bamfield, including a recent \$25,000 commitment to east side parking. Join them. Be heard. *L. Druehl*

**Earthquake: duck, cover, hang on; Tsunami: grab go-bag and head for high ground; Wildfire: to the islands, Black Hole: pray.**

**Bamfield Parks** participated in The Community Re-Greening Program, funded by BC Hydro. We planted 69 trees - Acers, Syringa Palibin, Malus Spring Snow, Honey Locus, and western red cedars. The planters were **Andrea Butler, Dane Dentoom, Chris Hansen, John Mass, and Sheryl Mass** representing Bamfield Chamber of Commerce. Photo, Andrea with shovel. ED's note. 5 trees were run over a few nights later.



**Best deal in town.** The monthly Anacla/Bamfield community potlucks are a great opportunity to chat, relax and stuff yourself. **Stella Peters**, the driving force behind these events, regularly provides a turkey. A thought: provide your own eating ware and reduce plastic waste. Photo L-R, Sarah Dennis, Hedy Demontigny and Stella Peters. .



**You try to parallel park one of these.** The Eileen Scott Centennial park lost a piling during a visit by a pile driver (they replaced it), maneuvered by the tug *Timber Gale*..

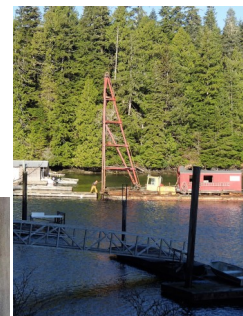


Photo left by **Rae Hopkins**, the **Jane Goodall of Port Desirean Hummers.**



**Bamfield Historical Membership drive and lecture.** **Capt. Jim Moncur, Marine Pilot, ret., and Bamfielder will speak in the marine station cafeteria Saturday, 11 May, 7 pm. Also, refreshments and silent auction.**



**Close to Greatness.** An abscessed tooth sent me whimpering to the dentist. "You have two options: root canal or extraction." An X-ray removed the first option. "Pull it," I said. "See that picture?" he said, pointing at a photo of the dentist with a smiling **Wayne Gretzky**, "Just think, you will be sharing this hand with the Great One." Somehow, it made a difference. *An Awed Bamfielder*