

THE NEW BAMFIELDER

DELIGHTFUL RUMOUR: COMMUNITY SCHOOL ASSOC. HAS A NEW COORDINATOR

February/March 2020

www.bamfielder.ca

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CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) Bamfield Notes. David L. Baillie (transient owner of 86 Wichhams Lane, presently home of Joe and Heather Cooper) participated in the discovery that COVID-19 arose from a bat (some Asian food markets specialise in exotic wildlife. This provided an opportunity for this virus to hop from bat to man). The Bamfield Health Clinic is prepared to handle coronavirus cases. They can sample for the virus and isolate suspected victims. If you have flu-like symptoms and have had any possible contact with infected others, turn yourself in. *L. Druehl.*

Our Bon Vivant. “We were diving for boot sponges on a vertical rock wall. As we completed our collection an octopus surrounded the sponge patch with its arms and sent out threatening signals (deep red flashes). As we backed away the octopus returned to its den,” replied **Siobhan Gray** when asked her most impressive diving experience. Siobhan spent her early years on Ward’s Island, near Toronto. “Bamfield looks just like where I grew up.” When 15 she was in Vancouver where she lived on mum’s fabric worktable. Over the next few years she grew into a reputable fashion designer (2004 named the Leo Best Costume designer for short drama, in 2005 she was one of 5 nominees for the Gemini Best Costume Design). During this period of haute couture design, Siobhan sought a change. Acknowledging “a natural bent,” she took a year off and completed a divers’ instructor course. She came to the Bamfield Marine station in 2006 as a volunteer. In 2008, she hired on as the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre Diving Safety Officer. Upon visiting her digs, I expected to see a life supported by diving, supplemented by natural history pursuits (aquaria, bottles of preserved specimens), but no. “To make myself complete and put a few shekels in my pocket I do design.” Her present home and studio in Port Desire is the tenth Bamfield place she has lived in. Her thoughts on Bamfield: “All pretty much reclusive, a place where you can be yourself...where the support of the village is remarkable.” Very active in the Bamfield Emergency Program, she is often seen volunteering at various community functions, “I’m not married to these groups, just playing around.” Play on,



The old becoming new. The Federal Building that became the Bamfield Inn housed the telephone exchange, Canada Post, plus accommodation for the Customs Officer and family in the 1900s. **Robert McVie Sr.** was the last full-time customs officer. Upon later renovation it was used as an Inn/Pub/Restaurant. **Chuck** and **Doug Green** rented it to the Marine Station in 1972 as a student dormitory. Later the **Piatokas** operated it as an inn (**Bob Hope** was a guest). Following its heyday and a few failed renovations it began a long slide into decrepitude. A group of friends purchased it in 2018. To the great joy of the community, shareholder **Bruce Pow** has begun the restoration, estimated to take 4 years. Huge evidence of this can now be seen – the new roof and siding and doors and windows. No longer are tourists arriving on the Lady Rose greeted by a dilapidated old building, blue tarps flapping, broken windows letting the weather in ...their first impression of Bamfield. Bamfielders greet this development with respect and jubilation. For more information, there’s a letter from shareholder **Dr Branko Palcic** from Vancouver on www.bamfielder.ca. *Heather Washburn, photos by Marc Phillips, historical notes by Suzanne and Katharine Jennings.*

Straight shooting by Kurt. Six folks from Bamfield and Anacela attended firearms training for non-restricted guns (Rifles and Shot Guns - CFSC) and restricted guns (Handguns - CRFSC) just before Christmas. While most were interested in hunting, there was also interest in shooting as sport. Shooting sports include Black Powder, Cowboy-style, Olympic Rifle, Olympic Pistol, Trap, Skeet, and Tactical shooting. It’s a great family sport, teaching discipline, safety and precision. Shooting has been part of our Canadian Heritage since Jacques Cartier first landed in 1534. The CFSC/CRFSC is a 2-day course required as part of the licensing process for anyone. *Curt Smecher*

Lapses of TNB result from a fine aging process.

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. *The New Bamfielder* is a free but we encourage readers to contribute to Bamfield Community School Assoc. youth programs. *Louis Druehl*

Rumour suggests the Duke and Duchess of Windsor have considered Bamfield as an alternative to Windsor Castle...or was it Bamberton? We can only hope.

We all have birthdays, but the perennial celebration of **Steve Clarke's** B.D. transcends the man and his famous martinis. One discovers at 163 Burlington, at Steve's B.D. do, many non-resident owners—surly there is a more endearing descriptive for these kind, interesting, tax-paying folks. We have east-siders, Port Desireans, west-siders, end-of-the-roaders, tree huggers and red necks. NROs prevail in my neighbourhood, Grappler: Of the 25 residences, only 6 are occupied fulltime. *L. Druehl*

A local phenomenon. Winter solstice in Port Desire, when the sun rises at 8:11 and Sets at 4:26, giving an 8:h hour and 15 minute day, was offset by this spectacular colour display, anchored on Dwayne Nookemus's residence. *L. Druehl*



A fine visit. Premier **John Horgan** and his wife came in on the Saturday, December 28 ferry, toured the boardwalk and impressed the few folks they encountered. **Lars Mogensen** commented on the road and the Primer replied, "...doing everything with Bamfield we can." Then **Mandy Ross** stated "...happy he didn't see LNG." And it was time to ferry back to Port. Local speculation as to why the visit ranged from political motivation to a nice thing to do: cruise the fjord, walk the boardwalk, with one's wife on a Saturday. Another possibility: John Horgan did his Masters Degree at the University of Sydney, in Australia. The title of his thesis was: The Pacific cable : a study of the 'connectional history' of Australia and Canada within the British Empire, 1872-1902 (Thank you **Beth Rodgers** for searching this out). *L. Druehl, photo the premier with Mandy's parents.*
Mandy's view: My parents, **Susie** and **Steve Ross** chatted with Horgan on the boat ride home and said he was very open and personable. I chatted briefly with him on the boardwalk. He said that Bamfield has a special place in his heart because he did his masters in history at the marine station. From talking with him it is obvious he is concerned about the condition of the road and wants to find ways of making it safer. He didn't commit to any solutions but was reassuring that it was an important issue and they are taking it seriously. I found him super friendly and down to earth.



January Community Affairs saw 16 Bamfielders learning about the status of the Bamfield Road from **Charlie Clappis**: 3 meetings since Premier's visit, the road will remain private, oversize logging trucks are being phased out, the Province will put money into the road but not designate it a public road. **Bob Baden**, reporting for **Bob Beckett**: Telus will upgrade Cell reception; a MOTI review of west side parking, for the east side, and other issues is under way; ACRD is updating bylaws, changes will be brought forward; ACRD passed a motion to improve Cell along the Bamfield Road. **Kristin Russell** noted \$1300 were raised at Christmas Concert, two new students bring enrolment to 21, new resident **Julie Bradley** will be covering prep time for the teachers. School Association Chair, **Christine Groman** announced dental cleaning coming to Bamfield soon. **Stefan Ochman**, Community Forest, announced 1 km trail in the forest has been surveyed; maps will be available for public viewing. **James Christie** has proposed to acquire the west government dock as a Bamfield Community Asset.

February Community Affairs saw 13 Bamfielders. **Regional Director's** report: Telus will be making announcement soon. Parking for east siders on the west side funding discussed. **John Mass** will initiate west side road work. There will be a road meeting 9 March, 6:30, school. **ACRD** has concerns re divestiture of the west dock. ACRD has applied for a grant to study affordable housing. **Community School** new students **Harley** and **Hailey**, from Nitnat. **First responders** have a core crew of 5. Four are required for call-outs. Looking for new members. **Health Clinic's** new nurse, **Heather Peterson**, will work 6 weeks on 6 off. Abstracted from Liz Isaac's minutes

BAMFIELD'S FAVOURITE RACONTEUR TURNS 89. Despite his

advanced age and the party venue, (the Brock Fahrni long term care facility), **John Evans** has not lost his verve for life or his comedic chops. We were regaled with new-to-us stories, which we fact-checked as usual, about friends maintained since his youth in Montreal. **Miles Outerbridge**, a member of Bermuda's ruling families, known as the "Forty Thieves," had just turned up his toes at 87. Somehow that story led to **Victor Emery**, who with his brother **John** and two friends, on their own initiative, entered the 1964 Winter Olympics and won Canada's only gold medal that year, after only 4 practice runs in a borrowed bobsled. The upset victory earned them a place in Canada's Sports Hall of Fame. John, with the help of his companion and carer, **Klara**, hopes to be in Bamfield next summer. Meanwhile call him or drop by. You'll be glad you did. *Judith Phillips*. Photo by M. Phillips



THE ROAD AHEAD
SEEKING BETTER SAFETY
AND MAINTENANCE
ON THE BAMFIELD ROAD
MARCH 9 6:30pm Bamfield
Community School

LEARN about present road status, legislation, and options for better care
SHARE questions and concerns about the future for our road
SEND a message to government.

A Bamfield Community Affairs Forum