

# THE NEW BAMFIELDER

***“BE CALM, BE KIND, BE SAFE” AND HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!***

***AND DON'T LET THE OMICRON VARIANT BITE!***

1 December 2021

www.bamfielder.ca

No. 126/75

**The tale of two Bamfield teachers.** First on the scene in 2020, **Laura Schmitt**, fresh out of the U. of A, with a teaching degree focused on elementary grades applied for over 30 positions, choosing Bamfield. I first encountered her on her Friday afternoon's run on Pachena Beach. Now she surfs with a small local group. She has surfed on Third Beach while camping: "Surf, sleep, surf, sleep." Now she involves herself with the Bamfield Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders, keeping Monday nights free for instructing Hip Hop dancing in the school. When asked about her inaugural Bamfield teaching, "I was nervous, for sure. I'd done practicums, but these students were mine, all mine!" She sees Bamfield teaching opportunities do not exist elsewhere, "a pioneer."



Laura's enthusiasm for things Bamfield encouraged her parents to purchase a home in Bamfield. Her dad, **Bob**, had retired and her mum, **Robin** (BA Ed. U. of A, MA Ed. U. Lethbridge with a focus on French) had 28 years teaching in Medicine Hat. Having a home in Bamfield and then an opportunity to teach here cinched it. Robin looks forward to enjoying Bamfield's outdoors, hiking, kayaking, and wants to explore ways to interact with the community. Worldly issues (COVID-19, Climate Change, Truth and Reconciliation) are considered, as appropriate, at K to 10 with the kids responding in thoughtful but distinct ways. According to the teachers, Bamfield Community School is operating smoothly with good support from SD 70. The kids are keen and they look after each other. No bullying here! And **Jaslyn Haberl** runs a remarkable kitchen. Robin and Laura are excited to explore ways the school can grow to meet the greater community needs. *L. Druehl*



**Bamfield Volunteer Kudos** to **Bob Baden** for his efforts/frustrations in resolving Bamfield parking issues; **JP Hastey** for securing property for the new Hall; **Rose Janelle & Tish McPhee** Bamfield's spiritual role models; **Marnie McAughtrie** for initiatives, making Bamfield a more enjoyable place; **Stefan Ochman** for decadal, effective and persistent advancing road safety and our community forest; **Heather Cooper** for advancing our history, **Les Butler\*** for chasing leaks in our ancient water system and **Patrick McNamara\*** for sorting our garbage; Volunteers **Phil Lavoie** (BVFD), **Amanda Vos** (First Responders) & their **Crews**, including the perennial **Roger Demontigny**, for their most demanding and essential Bamfield services; **Bob Beckett** Bamfield's promoter and protector in the outside world; **James Willock & Jan Teversham** for facilitating village communication; **Ron McDowell & Siobhan Gray** who, behind the scenes, are always supportive; all Bamfielders that quietly support our Unincorporated Village; the **Huu-ay-aht** who personally and at the political level support us; the **BC Hydro Crews\*** that manage to keep us on the grid; the **TNB** for bias, persistent, well illustrated, and perhaps entertaining reporting, and complete failure at raising funds for kids activities; and for **Family, Friends, & Detractors** for ignoring, stimulating, and hindering those named above in their pursuits. *Regards, TNB \*non-volunteers that perform beyond the call of duty.*

**Cozy in their little nests**, 39 Bamfielders zoomed through November Affairs. Our Regional Director, **Bob Beckett** noted the RCMP are working on a policing policy to accommodate expected tourism growth in Bamfield. **Robin Schmitt** noted the school has 19 students and that **Laura Schmitt** has started 'Ready Set Learn' for incoming kindergarteners, involving **Clara Clappis** and Paawats children. **Sally Mole** fights on for full community school association funding. Tuesdays basketball was attended by 30 dribblers. **Stefan Ochman**, Community Forests, "calls for bids for a 2.5 km trail from the end of South Bamfield Road to the coast have been called for." **Sheryl Mass**, Bamfield Parks, noted, thanks to **Malcom Richards**, the Smiley Rink (named after **Leonard Jennings** boat & his favourite fish) is refurbished. **Amelia Vos** happily announced 5 members of the BVFD are now certified First Responders. BVFD Fire chief, **Phil Lavoie** said they have accepted a bid for a new mini-pumper truck for the east side; ACRD will consider financing of this project. Art Council's **Julie Bradly** noted the annual Christmas Craft Fair will be held Saturday, 4 December, in the Rix Centre from 11am-4pm. Vaccine Passports and mask will be mandatory. Two grants-in-aid proposals to Community Affairs were advanced. **James Willock**, on behalf of Community Affairs, requested \$6,500 for the Bamfield Active Transport Network as part of the estimated \$26,000 total (\$13,100 from the Min. of Transport confirmed). The project entails 3 new trails on the west side and unpowered boat launch and storage facilities on each side of Bamfield Inlet. **Jan Teversham**, on behalf of the Pavilion Group requested \$5000 (but hopefully \$2000, exact amount to be finalized by the end of 2021). This grant is to cover past expenses of 12 architecture students who are developing plans for a West Park pavilion and other park facilities. These proposals will be reviewed at the next Affairs, following which they will be decided on by our Affairs Directors. *L. Druehl* abstracted from Jan Teversham's minutes.

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*

**Forty-one boardwalk goblins prevailed on Halloween.**

Bamfield Mercantile and **Marine McAughtrie** sponsored a carving contest, providing free pumpkins. There were 41 entries. First place went to **Maddie Halupka** for "Squirrel on a Picnic Table", a close second place went to **Sheryl Mass** for her "Witch House". Winners received a pizza of choice. Next year we will likely try raising funds for a charity. *M. McAughtrie*, photos, too.



...while at Anacla the Halloween night sky sparkled and crackled.. Photo by **Stella Peters**.



**'Lest we forget'** will not happen in Bamfield. A small gathering to commemorate Remembrance Day took place at **Eileen Scott's** Grappler home. Following the televised proceedings, stories were shared and a **Gail Hogarth** clam chowder with cheese biscuits was enjoyed. Eileen reflected on being a young lady in London during the blitz, how she became a Canadian war bride, her crossing of the Atlantic in convoy, and her rail trip across Canada, ending up at 2 am in frozen Saskatchewan. Eileen with her memories of that awful time is a living Bamfield treasure. photo by G. Hogarth, L to R. Roger, Rae , Eileen, Hedy, Louis.



**Community Hall under alligator attack.** The Directors of the Bamfield Community Hall are up to their armpits in alligators since the 99-year lease agreement for a section of the Eileen Scott Centennial Park was signed by **J.P. Haste** and **Rose Janelle**. For this reason, the annual Hall Christmas Social is cancelled. The Hall will be providing Christmas Stockings for all the school kids. Of course, the Hall's Robbie Burns Dinner will be held in the Fire Hall on Saturday, 6 pm, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, when Hall Memberships and Bamfield telephone directories will be available. *L. Druehl*

**Bamfield's favourite theatrical event,** the Bamfield Community School's Christmas concert (Vacc passport & masks required) will be held at the school 6:30 – 7:30, Tuesday, December 14. This is always a crowd pleaser. And this year is special, as it will be a 'coming out' event for our school kids after a restrictive COVID season.

**One Bamfield or two?** In the beginning (before Bamfield Main opened in 1962) Bamfield consisted of homes for aboriginals, non-aboriginals, including 10 Japanese families. This village was connected by water—Bamfield and Grappler Inlets. No matter where you lived, you had to go by boat. World II removed the Japanese and the opening of Bamfield Main led to an expansion of Anacla. Further, Bamfield Main gave road access to Port Alberni and beyond: an easier access for folks living in east Bamfield than west Bamfield. Slowly, much of Bamfield's infrastructure moved from west to east. First was the Community Hall, then the school and finally, the health clinic. Today, the only reason



eastiders must go to the west side is to get their mail (of course friendships require otherwise). At one time, Bamfielders took perverse pride in having to boat across the inlet to attend dances and meetings...there was something special about coming out of miserable weather into a steamy hall packed with friends where you could debate issues or jive or share food. Are gentrification, COVID, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century expectations molding a different Bamfielder? Zoom meetings, a potential west side meeting pavilion, scarcity of moorage point to a cleaving of Bamfield. The looming new

Community Hall, the potential of cross inlet kayak/canoe moorage, an excellent water taxi service and a sprinkling of gumbooters signal the potential of a One Bamfield. Photo by **Marc Phillips** of 62 Bamfielders, in June 2015 at the Bamfield Fire Hall, being roasted by CBC comedian, **Jonny Harris** on his TV show *Still Standing* (Bamfield was the first episode on this long-running series). Jonny captured the uniqueness, silliness, and the beauty of our diverse village. When Jonny asked **Rose Janelle** about the hardship of living on the west side, she responded, "The sweetest fruit is always on the highest branch." *L. Druehl*

**Tuesday night basketball is HUGE with real talent from our youth, we are hosting a basketball clinic put on by Rain Basketball Academy, December 11. Please register in advance: Sally at [bcacoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:bcacoordinator@gmail.com), or call 250-728-1220. We are grateful for the financial support from HFN to present this program.**