

# THE NEW BAMFIELDER

Bamfield's 2022 arrival brought frozen pipes, two 20-plus hour power outages, lovely snow, king tides, a mini-tsunami, 3-plus hour Port road trips, no milk and, alas, no Haggis...but we survive!

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Just when we are comfortable ignoring the looming threat of a major earthquake and associated tsunami, the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apaia Volcano, off the Tonga shore, erupts sending molten stone and ash 30 km into the air (photo left) and generating waves moving at jet-plane speed to our shores, 9000 km away. Nationally, Canada's Ocean Networks' off BC-shores electronic array can detect deviations in sea level as small as 7 mm and Tofino radar can detect rogue waves as they pass over the horizon. Locally, **Jerry Baird** on Bradys Beach, observed a series of about 12 wave cycles, about 5 minutes apart, each rising from about the 7-foot tide level to 12-foot level. And **Stella Peters** captured "tidal waves" rushing up Pachena River (photos left).



How were we alerted? According to **Lisa Bye**, members of the Bamfield Community Emergency Program were alerted by radio. An all-island Zoom establishes an action plan. Normally, this would be with the Bamfield Coordinator, however, as we have no coordinator, the ACRD represented Bamfield. The Zoom plan was based on the evidence there would be no significant waves, but ocean currents may be an issue. The Bamfield members gathered at the Firehall and focused on informing marinas and others.



A welcoming to the evolving village of Bamfield. In east Bamfield near the Hacas Inn proudly stands a totem pole created by Huu-ay-aht First Nations master carver **George Nookemus** from Anacla. The Whale represents Huu-ay-aht culture; the Bear represents the Nookemus family. The Frog stands for transformation and growth. The Huu-ay-aht Cultural team report that the totem was created as a reconciliation piece. Look carefully to see hidden animals, such as the Wolf in the Bear's tail. *Heather Washburn*. Photo by Marc Phillips.

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

**Sorry for the inconvenience!** *Frances Barkley* refit 7 February- Estimated 21 February. Van service will be provided on the regular sailing days. Hand-loaded freight only. Passengers must book ahead (250-723-8313). Check our website and Face Book page for updates. **Mike Surrell**, Lady Rose Marine Services

**TNB PANDEMIC COINAGE DONATIONS:** Bitcoins = 0, Toonies = 45, Loonies = 60, Quarters = 149, Dimes = 72, Nickles = 91. Gum Wrappers = 1. (Of course, there were paper money donations). **TNX, supporters of the The New Bamfielder's children's programs!**

**"Potholes plague BC roads,"** TV News... Really?

**2022 January Weather.** We had a cold spell over the holidays, did you notice? I recorded a minus 6.6 Celsius (20 F.) on the coldest day—that would be December 27. It seemed a bit colder and most likely was in the harbor. I think out front on the water, temperatures might provide a degree or 2 warmer than just inside. **Les Butler** told me he saw a minus 10 C. I think that would be a correct temp. Anyway, I looked back over my weather recording since 2006, and the coldest I have recorded was a minus 6.6 degrees C. So this cold spell was the coldest I have recorded in the last 15 years. BRRRR! No wonder there were so many frozen pipe problems in Bamfield. On the rainy end of things, the first half of January was pretty wet—the first half of January registered 307 mm of rain. A 3-day wet spell had 144mm of that total. The last half of January has been rather gorgeous for January weather in Bamfield. A normal January rain total is 350mm. We are just a bit above that this year. *Jerry Baird on The Beach* (Welcome back, Jerry! TNB)

### **CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF A BAMFIELD WILDFIRE!**



**West side New Year's** revelers' fireworks misfire, penetrating the Bamfield Harbour Authority storage shed (photo). Quick work on the icy wharf (known locally as the Fishermen's Wharf), discharging 3 fire extinguishers, quelled the inferno. One wonders where this Side Winder would have ended up if it was not intercepted by the shed..

**January Community Affairs** attended by 49 folks, a record Zoom attendance, was well orchestrated by **Jamie Willock**. A meaty presentation by our Regional Director, **Bob Beckett** dealt with drinking on the boardwalk; A 4-year Community Works Funds grants involving 5 Bamfield projects: Community plan development, Liquid waste disposal; Westside water line improvement; Centennial Park playground equipment upgrade; and a westside firehall. Westside road issues: Mainroads is drawing up contract covering maintenance. **Sean Rogers**, BMSC, noted activity re Bamfield's K to 12 is encouraging; a ribbon cutting re the sewage facility is expected in April; and the station is to undergo long-range planning that will involve Bamfield. Community Forest (**Stefan Ochman**): East-West connector trail under construction; **Tony Wong** of Quinry Consulting is advising on 20 year harvest plan. **Rae Hopkins**, Bamfield Harbour Commission: **Shannon Mendt** is the new wharfinger; moorage rates will increase 5% this year. Super thanks to **Amy McConnell** for years of excellent wharfing. Two grants-in-aid were given their second reading: \$1843.90 for West Park planning by UBC architecture students and \$6500 for surveying and planning west side trails and kayak docks at Nuthatch and Westminster. *L. Druehl*, abstracted from unofficial meeting minutes by **J. Teversham**

**Forest giants reprieved.** The Nanwakolas Council, which represents four First Nations, and Western Forest Products have agreed to defer old-growth logging in a section of forest north of Campbell River, for two years. This is in concert with BC's request there be a 2-year moratorium. *CBC Radio News*

**Fire House News.** According to **Phil Lavoie**, Fire Chief, BVFD, the west side will get a new (>\$300K) pumper truck in one year. The BVFD received a \$1000 grant from Ultimate Fishing Town for their help with the fishing derby. The volunteer membership, those folks who weekly train to keep us safe (and to keep our insurance rates down) has not been diminished by COVID.

**Affairs Directors Decisions** following the January meeting. The board voted unanimously to approve the 2 Grant in Aid applications for the following projects: 1) West Park Pavilion \$1840.00 for expenses occurred by architecture students during their planning exercise, advanced by **Jan Teversham**. 2) Bamfield Active Transportation Project - Trails & Docks \$6,550.00 for planning and survey expenses for new west side trails and east/west kayak docks, advanced by **Jamie Willock**.

**Birding on a beautiful** winter solstice, 18 participants observed 69 species and over 1800 individual birds.

Highlights: a juvenile Snow Goose roaming with a blizzard of Greater White-fronted Geese in Anacla, two Wilson's Snipe, and a few predatory raptor observations. Thank you to



the observers and businesses (Paradise Taxi, Bamfield Mercantile, and Bamfield Marine Science Center) who supported the count with boating support. The count occurred on Huu-ay-ah-t First Nation hahoulthee. *Daniel Zayonc*

**A limited Affairs discussion** regarding drinking on the boardwalk pursued. The focus was on avoiding getting caught; paper cups were suggested. This congregation is unique to west Bamfield (smaller, less energetic gatherings, drinking coffee are often observed in front of The Market) and quite harmless. However, some Bamfielders (and maybe visitors) could be intimidated by the human bottleneck on the boardwalk, which may have precipitated the RCMP involvement in the first place. *L. Druehl*

**A thought:** *Could the proposed west side fire hall and pavilion be one in the same? The east side fire hall serves both functions.*