

THE NEW BAMFIELDER

YOUR DONATIONS TO TNB SCHOOL ASSOCIATION'S YOUTH PROGRAMS PROVIDE ANACLA & BAMFIELD YOUTHS ACTIVITIES OTHERWISE NOT AVAILABLE: E.G. SWIMMING IN PORT, MUSIC LESSONS, TRAVEL TO COMPETITIONS.

1 March 2023

www.bamfielder.ca

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Bamfield's Democracy Wobbles

Unincorporated Bamfield is a cluster of properties, many belonging to non-resident owners, is self governing as long as we play by government rules. Our formality is represented by our ACRD representative, **Bob Beckett** who facilitates our conversation with the ACRD and **James Willock**, chair of Bamfield Community Affairs Society. Affairs provides venue for our numerous committees and institutions to explain their activities to the general public, provides funding through a Grant-in-Aid program, and takes the initiative dealing with local issues. The heart and core of Bamfield are the 16 volunteer groups listed below. Their directors may be appointed by our Regional Director or by the public at Annual General Meetings or Community Affairs. Recent poor AGM attendance, maybe the result from poor advertising and/or zoom couch disease, limits community participation. *L. Druehl*

VOLUNTEER-DRIVEN ORGANIZATIONS

ACRD Bamfield Parks Commission
ACRD Bamfield Advisory Planning Com.
ACRD Bamfield Water Board,
Bamfield Community Affairs Soc.
Bamfield Art Council,
Bamfield Chamber of Commerce,
Bamfield Community Emergency Pgm..
Bamfield Community Hall Society,
Bamfield Community School Assoc.
Bamfield First Responders,
Bamfield Harbour Authority,
Bamfield Historical Society,
Bamfield HFN Community Forest
Bamfield Memorial Tree
Bamfield Road Safety Association,
Bamfield Volunteer Fire Dept.

Participate in Bamfield volunteer groups and help create/preserve the your community.

Bamfield Harbour Authority Controversy. Since 1952, Bamfielders have managed the west side moorage facilities (aka Fishermens' Dock). Their responsibilities were to maintain the floats for the government and assure the limited moorage spaces were equitably distributed among the villagers and visitors. Fees were charged to meet these functions. Recently, the Authority has been challenged in its distribution of moorage space and this has required a lawyer's assistance to the tune of \$6292...an expense not covered by the Authority budget. A Grant-in-Aid was sought from Community Affairs, to cover this extraordinary expense. The Affairs Board turned the Authority down on the grounds it did not contribute to Bamfield (my words). This Affairs Board decision deprived the Authority of a public hearing. If the Authority presented, the public could advise the Board and then the Board could say no, or not. The question is, does protecting community moorage deserve the same credit as creating new moorage? Let the public voice their opinion. *L. Druehl*

27 Folks Zoomed in February's Affairs meeting. Our perennial bearer of good news Terri Fong presented Bamfield's ACRD 2023-2027 budget. Bottom line there will be a 21% property tax increase, coming to about \$150/household. This reflects increased costs, particularly for fire fighting (two independent systems needed for east/west sides), waste removal, along with general inflation. \$26,000 for Bamfield Parks (\$8000 transferred to park, remainder withheld for ACRD services). 13 building permits were issued last year (9 residential, 3 commercial, 1 shed). **Ben Howells:** a Pachena Bay Music Festival will be held 14-16 July, 500-800 attendees expected. Regional Director **Bob Beckett** will seek ways to reduce property taxes. He described the Ukraine/Bamfield connection. Bamfield Marine Station's director **Sean Rogers** noted two Ukraine high school students will be visiting Vancouver Island, in conjunction with Bob Beckett. He noted the growth in kelp forest research has been the success story for 2022. **Jaslyn Herbel** (School Association) noted an active program (check newsletter), the always appreciated community lunch on 9 March, and an informative Aquaculture visit at the Nova Harvest hatchery. **Sheryl Mass** (Bamfield Parks) said an ACRD grant will pay 80% of costs for much needed Information Centre repairs. Community Forest (**Stefan Ochman**) declared 90% of trees planted last year died. The Community Forest Board will now base all decisions on an ecological-based management plan. **Bob Schmitt** (Emergency Preparedness): Medical supplies on east side updated by Health Clinic; west side will be inventoried soon. Sheryl Mass gave first presentation for repair of west side public WC's. Meeting adjourned after 2 hrs 7 minutes. Abstracted from **Jan Teversham's** minutes.



Kapt Kelp does not see her shadow in Grappler!

Coming to The New Bamfielder, exposes of **The Angel of the Light, Salal Joe, Machete Eddie, Shaky Bill, Builder Bob** and other mythical Bamfielders. Stay tuned.

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

Bamfield Trails, a great recreational asset. **Stefan Ochman** noted that the Boomer Trail was a 2021 project and not a 2022 as reported in TNB. He then added: "With funding from the BC Rural Dividend Fund, approximately 15 km of trails were flagged and a 1.1 km long Boomer trail, connecting Binnacle and Tower Roads, and 1 km Serenity loop were built in east Bamfield by 2 local workers from September 2020 to April 2021. With funding from Island Coastal Economic Trust, a trail, approximately 2.1 km in length, was built by a contractor from November 2021 to May 2022 through old and second growth forest, connecting the Community Forests in east and west Bamfield." *Invite your away friends to enjoy our local trails.*

Boomer Trail
1.1 km ONE WAY

John David George Boom
"BOOMER" was a Dutch immigrant born on April 4, 1952. He grew up in the Okanagan, obtained his degrees from Simon Fraser University and attended the first Bamfield Marine Station's summer course in 1972. He essentially stayed. Boomer built sheds, floats, wharves, was Bamfield's Regional Director, trucked shrimp to Vancouver, bought and lost Bamfield property, conquered salmon DNA, helped develop Helby Island and built the "Cedar Palace", which stands, as a sentinel, just meters from this trail entrance. He also counselled broken hearts and fools. Boomer was taken from us by the sea on February 25, 1996.

Graphics by SCHIRAMM DESIGN • Ucluellet, BC 2023

MAP KEY

- BAMFIELD COMMUNITY FOREST
- PACIFIC RIM NATIONAL PARK RESERVE
- BOOMER TRAIL
- Serenity Loop (5 km)
- Boomer Trailhead
- East Bamfield
- West Bamfield
- East West Trailhead
- East Beale Trailhead
- Life Saving Trail
- ANACLA

You are in the traditional territory of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations.

Bamfield's Black History. **Joya Carson-Austin** volunteered to explore Bamfield's Black history for the TNB, using **AI-ChartGP**, a search/compose model. Here is the robot's essay: *While there is limited information specifically on Black history in Bamfield, there are some broader historical connections to the region. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Bamfield was important to development of the telegraph communication in Canada. In 1901, the first transpacific telegraph cable was laid from Bamfield to Fanning Island, opening communication with the rest of the world. One notable Black Canadian who played a significant role in the development of telegraphy in the country was **Anderson Rufin Abbott**. Abbott was the first Canadian-born Black person to earn a medical degree, and he was an accomplished telegrapher. In 1861, Abbott was appointed as the first Black telegrapher in Canada. While Abbott's work was not directly connected to Bamfield, his contributions to the development of telegraphy in Canada are an important part of the country's history. ED's note: In a word, Bamfield does not have a Black history, but if you look hard enough, you will find connections.*

Bamfield's 36th annual Christmas bird count started on a calm December 17th morning. Twenty-one birders observed more than 3200 birds representing 68 species in the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Hahuuli. The data contributes to the oldest and largest citizen science project in the world. View the worldwide trends here: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/where-have-all-birds-gone>. Thank you to the Canadian Coast Guard, Bamfield Marine Science Center, Breakers Marine, **Mark Laws** and **Max Salamon** who contributed transportation for the count which would have been impossible without the guidance of **Anne Stewart**. Bird highlights include a yellow billed loon, a peregrine falcon, three ancient murrelets and an all-time Bamfield high count of 40 rhinoceros auklets. Thank you to **Mel Edwards** who shared a prayer chant to wish safe travels. Birders (and birds) were thankful the count occurred prior to a chilly end of 2022. *Daniel Zayonc*

Back from his second Ukraine visit. **Bob Beckett**, in a CBC radio interview, 9 February, shared his experiences. He and a colleague delivered 18 fully loaded hockey bags full of medical supplies, fire - rescue equipment, and some



school supplies. Medical supplies divided up for two regional hospitals and the front lines. 3 medical orthopaedic drill sets were given to 3 hospitals including a military hospital with a request for additional drills and or attachments. On one occasion he visited a neonatal unit "...so many premature babies, one weighing 500 grams born in a bomb shelter."



When asked about differences between his two trips, Bob described being swept up in the celebration of the passing of two soldiers, which is now a weekly event. "The Ukrainians are a wonderful and resilient people." *L. Druehl*. Later Bob added BMSC has agreed to host two high school students on a field trip program. "My organization is covering the travel costs, and SD62 is billeting the students." Photos: top. Departure. Mid. Delivery medical supplies, bottom delivering BC-made orthopedic drills, from Beckett.



Sheet ice in Grappler. Old-timers warn of sheet ice cutting a boat's hull at the waterline.



Tweet, Tweet, Birders. Hey, Daniel, did you count us, the RWBB of Grappler?