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Issue #6 Volume #10

March 20, 2026

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## Gunn responds to town hall questions

By Kathy O'Reilly

Over 100 people turned out to a town hall hosted by North Island-Powell River MP Aaron Gunn at the Port McNeill Community Hall March 16.

Gunn gave a brief introduction before answering all written questions submitted by audience members, with time for one-on-one exchanges with constituents after the formal presentation.

"Thank you for giving up your Monday night and coming out, regardless of your political persuasion, to engage in your democracy and to ask questions and demand accountability of your local Member of Parliament," said Gunn. "This is an opportunity for me to hear from you and to answer your questions and to give you a little update on what I've been up to in Ottawa," he said.

"Back in Ottawa, we've been busy. I've been trying to be vocal as much as possible with my colleagues on bringing attention to the most important issues facing the people of this riding, this country, issues in my mind like the cost-of-living crisis that we've had. We've

been experiencing some of the highest inflation in more than 30 years. The price of groceries, the price of homes, have just become out of reach for too many, especially young Canadians," said Gunn. "As I said once before, there used to be a promise in this country, where if you worked hard, you paid your taxes, you followed the law, you'd be able to afford a home, groceries, and a decent standard of living," he continued, adding that is no longer the case.

Another issue Gunn has tried to bring up in the House of Commons is deteriorating public safety and a revolving door for repeat offenders. "Another issue that we have seen is the hollowing out of our resource sector. Obviously, we see that here in the North Island. Forest industry has been cut in half over the past 10 years. More than 10 coastal mills have closed since 2018" including the Atli chip plant in Beaver Cove.

"This is the result of government policies, and this is what I am trying to bring to people's attention both here in the rid-



Photo — Kathy O'Reilly

Over 100 people turned out to a town hall hosted by North Island-Powell River MP Aaron Gunn at the Port McNeill Community Hall March 16

ing and in the cities. People out of work, families cutting back and every week when I

go to the Comox Airport, I see people lined up going to get work wherever they can," he

said, because there are no jobs here.

Continued on Page 2



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# Gunn responds to questions at town hall

## Continued from Page 1

Other issues include Bill C9 which is “a nefarious attempt to restrict free speech and free expression in Canada”, the deficit, and the opioid crisis.

“Over the past 10 years more than 50,000 Canadians, mainly young Canadians, primarily young men, have died from drug overdoses here in Canada. That’s more Canadians dead than who died in the entire Second World War,” Gunn continued, attributing the numbers to policies that decriminalize hard drugs that has now been overturned, and handing out dangerous, addictive opioids.

Seventy-five per cent of Canada’s trade is with the United States. “There’s no replacement or magical substitute for the US market. We can’t control what the Americans are going to do, we can’t control who the Americans are going to elect, and we can’t as a country be willing to make a deal at any price, which, I think, is why it is more import-

ant than ever to diversify our trading partners, to increase inter provincial trade, but also, I think, most importantly, to actually start building things in Canada again,” he said.

Gunn told the audience he currently sits on the fisheries committee “where I’ve tried to stand up for fishermen and their families especially over government attempts to close 30 to 40 per cent of BC’s coastal waters to various forms of fishing - a measure that has the potential to collapse the entire industry” and believes that concentrating the same-sized fleet in a smaller and smaller area “will actually be worse for the environment”.

This action is part of the United Nations’ 30 by 30 plan which calls for protecting 30 per cent of the planet’s oceans, lands, and freshwaters by 2030. “In my view, we don’t need to copy and paste some UN plan, we can develop the best fishery management tools right here in Canada.”

Gunn said it was also im-

portant to guarantee access to salmon for recreational sports fisherman.

Gunn believes the solution to the trade dispute with the US is not “to form a strategic alliance with Beijing, but to actually start building things again here in Canada. It’s not to start subsidizing ship building in a state-owned shipyard in communist China. We should have actually built those ferries right here in British Columbia just like we should be building our own pipelines.”

Canada should “stop selling our oil at discount to the United States” and “start building our own refineries here in British Columbia, so we stop paying the highest gas prices in all of North America”.

When asked his stance on fish farming, Gunn said the bigger question was how we approach resource development as a whole.

“I think it has to be based on science, it has to be based on fact, and it can’t be based on ideology or politics,” he said.

“We also have to have the highest environmental standards in the world, and we have to live up to those standards. If companies and in-

dustries meet those standards, we have to allow them to proceed,” he continued.

“If there is evidence that they are impacting wild salmon stocks, we need to find new technology, we might need to move the farms, whatever has to be done to make sure we’re meeting those environmental standards without putting thousands of people out of work,” he said.

“Don’t allow ideology and politics to impact the decision making. But if there are reasonable concerns, let’s investigate, let’s use the evidence and then if they are causing an issue, let’s use technology, let’s move the farms, whatever it has to take, to make sure we’re not throwing 1,000 people out of work on the North Island without damaging the environment,” Gunn said, adding we don’t want “activist” policies in industry.

Lack of clarity and uncertainty can also cripple industry.

“We need to bring certainty and consistency back to our policy-making process.”

Gunn believes Marine Planning Areas (MPAs) are “completely unscientific”.

“These spatial closures to

protect fisheries that move in and out of the closures make absolutely no sense. I think they are probably worse for the environment than straight forward fisheries management.”

As for the First Nations freehold property issue, “I think private property rights has to be a red line that everybody can get behind. When it comes to protecting private property, we need to use every tool in the toolkit to defend it. That means appealing court decisions that we disagree with, and it means going all the way up to enshrining private property rights in the constitution,” said Gunn. “It creates more uncertainty which is an issue for private property owners, it’s also an issue for businesses and industry.”

Gunn was asked how a Conservative government would move forward in reconciliation with First Nations.

“I am in 100 per cent support that there can be efforts by the government and First Nations on cultural revitalization to help undo the damage that policies like residential schools created, help empower and revitalize First Nations lan-

guages which are, of course, so important to any culture,” said Gunn.

“The second piece of the puzzle are individual historical land claims. The third piece is economic reconciliation. For decades, First Nations were obviously unfairly left out of the economy and economic prosperity, so we need to find different ways to make amends, to reconcile and include them in the economic growth going forward of the country,” he said.

“What I think we can’t do is have agreements that don’t have a degree of finality on them. We can’t keep revisiting this over and over again which causes more division,” he continued. “There becomes a democratic deficit if a small group of people that are not democratically accountable to everyone else gets to make decisions over things that affect everybody else’s livelihoods and life. That’s not, I think, congruent with being in a democracy, but I think we need to find a way to move forward together.”

*See more on the town hall meeting in the March 27 issue of the Eagle.*



## VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE PUBLIC NOTICE

### 2026-2030 Financial Plan Presentation

**TUESDAY MARCH 24, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.**  
In the Larry Pepper Room at the Community Centre

As required under Section 166 of the Community Charter, The Village of Port Alice will be presenting the proposed 2026-2030 Financial Plan in an open meeting.

The Presentation will be also be available on [www.portalice.ca](http://www.portalice.ca) in advance. Please send any questions to [cao@portalice.ca](mailto:cao@portalice.ca) before 4:00 pm on Monday March 23, 2026.

If you have any questions with respect to the process or require information prior to the meeting please call the Village Office at (250) 284-3391.

Bonnie Danyk  
CAO / CFO  
Village of Port Alice

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# Councillors say SD#85 gym decision “lacks wisdom”

By Kathy O'Reilly

District of Port Hardy council has given a failing grade to the School District #85 board of trustees.

The board denied a request for the Robert Scott School gym to be used for community recreation.

The request was made by Nicki Ranger, North Island Crisis & Counselling Centre Society (NICCCS) executive director and Heather Nelson-Smith, chief administrative officer with the District of Port Hardy.

In their presentation, the two women said that by relocating StrongStart into available classroom space - currently the MLA office which has not been used since October of 2024 - the gym could be shared between NICCCS and the District for youth, recreation, and community programs. The change would address a critical shortage of indoor program space, support expanding youth services such as Foundry, and align with Island Health's call for strengthened post-COVID youth supports.

“The Board of Education does not support moving StrongStart out of the gymnasium at Robert Scott Elementary School or in entering into a lease with another organization for this facility,” wrote board Chair Leighton Wishart in a response to the request.

“Even if all the other space at the school wasn't leased on a long-term basis, which it is, the Board views the

RSES Gym to be the perfect location for the Board's StrongStart Program and acknowledges the wonderful work being done by Charmaine Hoet and NICCCS,” Wishart continued. “The Board understands the wish of the District of Port Hardy for more community recreation space, so it has instructed senior staff to explore other options with you.”

This would include revisiting the 1997 agreement with the District of Port Hardy to see if there is a possibility to expand the number of hours of reciprocal use at other schools. Suggestions include adding use of the Port Hardy Secondary School and Eagle View Elementary School gyms on the weekend, as well as looking at using the Fort Rupert School gymnasium on weekday evenings.

Council has been talking about Robert Scott school as a facility that could be used for community purposes for quite some and the gym would be a huge benefit to our community, how important that gym would be as part of recreation in the community, said Councillor Fred Robertson at the March 10 regular meeting of council.

“I'm a little concerned that we would receive this letter from them,” Robertson said. “I just think it's a decision that lacks wisdom. It's a

bit like the District of Port Hardy saying ‘well we have this pool and we have parents and tots swimming at this pool and that's great and that's all we're going to do. We'll shut it down for everything else,’ he continued.



“I don't really understand their reasoning. I hope that the school board in their wisdom is able to revisit that decision and work with the town and bring it into the auspices of recreation programming.”

“To me it's cut and dried. It's much needed, not for one specific group but for many,” said Councillor Brian Texmo.

“It isn't being used to capacity, whatsoever,” Texmo said.

“There is an election this fall and I hope that everyone questions whoever is running for school district on what their stance is on this gymnasium use because it's under-utilized. Port Hardy needs a gymnasium,” said Councillor Janet Dorward.

“All the parties in the school, in the spaces were consulted and all (were in) strong agreement and for

the school district to come back with this response - it lacks wisdom is a good way to put it,” Dorward said.

“That gym floor is the best floor on the North Island by far for people to play any sport on,” said Councillor Dennis Dugas.

“You want to work with them not against them, but we can't just accept this letter. We've got to keep this rolling, we can't just let it

drop,” Dugas stated.

“To me it's a no brainer but obviously there is a reason why they are saying no and that letter doesn't really tell us why.

“It's just an excuse I guess, if you want to put it that way, but it's not good enough for me,” he said.

“I think maybe we will leave it with our CAO and the executive director to come up with an idea of

what to do next, whether it's writing a letter saying thank you for your response, we're not very happy with it, and we would like to continue working because we feel this is a community need that needs to be addressed sooner than later.”

“I just want to chime in (that) I'm not sure they did their homework by reading this entire package,” Dorward said.

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# editorial



Photo — Robin Quirk, Robin's Eye Photography

The Black Oystercatcher is a year-round resident of rocky coasts from Alaska to California.



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— Our beautiful First Nation's eagle (kwikw) courtesy Nakwaxda'xw artist Davis Henderson  
 Cover eagle photo James O'Reilly  
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# Quatsino in initial stages of big house plans

On March 3, Quatsino First Nation gathered in east Coal Harbour at the site envisioned for a future Big House.

“At this point, we are still in the early stages. We do not yet have pre feasibility planning completed, and the next

step will likely be to procure an architect to work with our project managers,” said James Redford, Quatsino First Nation director of Lands and Resources. The big house marks a significant milestone in the Nation’s cultural revitalization,

as the new reserve moves from a site shaped by former industry into a place guided by QFN laws, responsibilities, and the living presence of the Quatsino community. As part of honouring this transition, representatives from BHP (Island Copper

Mine) were invited to witness the ceremony, set foot on the territory, and solidify a mutual commitment to the positive, productive, and restorative relationship between BHP and Quatsino First Nation.

Attendees listened to culture keepers, Chief and Council representation, and singers; turnout was robust despite the rain. To solidify this commitment, copper (t’lakwa) was gifted to BHP representatives Bryan Fetter, Stacey Hannam, Jay Hartling, and A.J. Nichols (in absentia).

Through this, QFN established a shared understanding of t’lakwa that goes beyond its monetary value. For Quatsino,

t’lakwa carries both spiritual and legal significance. It represents accountability, and the responsibilities embedded in connections between families, nations, land, and partners. T’lakwa has its own spirit. Giving t’lakwa recognizes a relationship under law and custom, and it signals that all parties are expected to act with care, respect, and integrity.

T’lakwa carries QFN as ancestor, law, crest, art, spirit, and instrument of justice and reconciliation.

BHP is moving forward with QFN in mutual responsibility and respect, bound by tradition going back to time immemorial and the weight of Canada’s

UNDRIP commitments. That evening, the BHP representatives joined the community for dinner and discussion.

Ninety-two community members attended, and the BHP/QFN negotiations team spent two hours responding to questions from members. Representing the interests of Quatsino were Councillor Marilyn Marash, Economic Development Manager Glen Worthington, Redford, lawyer Caitlin Stockwell, Firelight Director Ginger Gibson, and Firelight Research Manager Tara Lamothe. Members are invited to email further questions to James Redford at lands@quatsinofn.ca.

## 19 Deep patio approved

By Kathy O’Reilly

Hotel 19 has received the stamp of approval on two applications for its new 19 Deep Public House. Hotel 19 owners have applied for a liquor primary license through the Liquor and Cannabis Distribution Regulation Branch. As part of that application, council was asked to participate in a community engagement which included posting a notice down at the new hotel, said Chief Administrative Officer Heather Nelson-Smith. The sign allowed for comments to be received by March 2. “We did not receive any comments in opposition,” Nelson-Smith said. “Given that the zoning for this property meets all of the requirements, it’s a recommendation of staff that council endorse the liquor primary license at the

19 Deep Public House.” Council also approved development permit changes that will allow for a patio in front of Deep 19. “We’ve done the signage amendments, we’ve done a development variance permit, and now we’ll be doing an amendment to include the patio on the front of the property,” Nelson-Smith explained. “This is just amending the entire development permit into one which includes the signage, the exterior and the add on for the pub which includes the overhang and the variance so this would just be finalizing all of that into one final amended building permit.” “I have to say the owners are doing an amazing job down there and I know that they will be glad to have all this done and just be operating,” said Mayor Pat Corbett-Labatt.

## IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

### SEAWARD-TLASTA BC TIMBER SALES FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN AMENDMENT #2

The Seaward-tlasta BC Timber Sales (BCTS) Business Area Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP #1000) has recently been amended to include Mamalilikulla First Nation as a signatory to the FSP and the addition of their licenses to the South-Central Coast (SCC) Forest Development Unit (FDU). The licences to be added to the FSP are as follows: A99915, A99991, A92059, A92058. This amendment was granted under *Section 20(3) of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR)*, without a review and comment period.

This most recent amended plan can be viewed online at:

[gov.bc.ca/SeawardTlastaFSP1000](http://gov.bc.ca/SeawardTlastaFSP1000)

A hard-copy version of the current FSP can also be viewed, by appointment, in Port McNeill at the Seaward-tlasta Business Office located at 2217 Mine Road, Port McNeill, B.C. Office hours are Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 pm – 4:30 p.m.

To view the FSP, or for further information, please contact:  
Mascha Bremer, RPF, Planning Forester, P.O. Box 7000,  
Port McNeill, B.C., V0N 2R0, Telephone 236-319-4017,  
or e-mail [Mascha.Bremer@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Mascha.Bremer@gov.bc.ca)



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# lifestyles & leisure

## Surrounded by beauty and nature anything is possible

It is amazing how much tranquility can be discovered along secluded, untouched waterways, where the scenery is nothing short of breathtaking and the palette of the natural world colours the soul. The all-encompassing beauty of Mother Nature instills into the adventurous a deep sense of well-being, nurturing an appreciation for life's elegant simplicity in an ever changing holographic world of artificial intelligence.

For those seeking respite from the complexities of connectivity, there is no better antidote for us than to pack up, leaving anything electronic behind, and retreat into the countryside. I am fortunate that my family shares a like passion of wild places and recognizes the immense value that wilderness habitats offer to humanity.

In pursuit of such rejuvenation, my wife Christine, our enthusiastic Aussie Shepherd Rosie, and I set out one radiant Spring morning for a needed disconnect, to camp by an unnamed lake; nestled in the northern part of the Vancouver Island mountain ranges. It is an ideal wilderness location where Rosie can run free exploring every detail of the camp environment and surrounding wild habitat unfettered; a beautiful place where Christine and I can relax and enjoy a visual



odyssey without scrolling: panorama sunsets and lake sunrises merging seamlessly into the heavens.

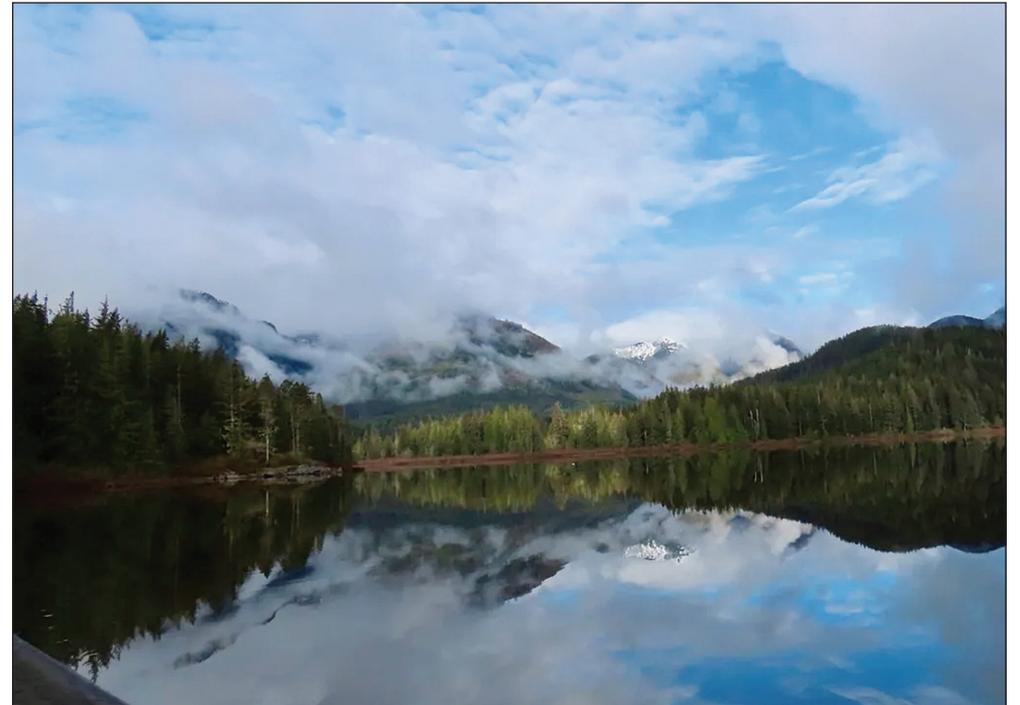
The anticipation of preparing for such an outing begins long before the outing and always causes a special exhilaration. There is unique joy in assembling gear, pouring over Backroad maps, and imagining the adventures to come; each step gathering gear feels like a promise of discovery, with the heart quickening thought of sleeping in the solitude of untamed wilderness.

On arrival to the campsite the day was utterly calm, the water a flawless mirror, the air brisk and invigorating. It had recently rained and a gentle morning mist imparted extraordinary vibrancy to the forest's colours, making every leaf and blade of grass stand out in sharp relief against the backdrop of Evergreen and Alder trees. In every direc-

tion, the forest was adorned in infinite shades of green while distant snowcapped mountains added a crowning touch of perfection to this inspiring day, reminding us of nature's grandeur; and a sense of rebirth that accompanies each spring arrival.

The campsite held an air of excitement long before we began the process of set up. Christine and I worked together in a well-practised routine, unloading gear, backing the RV beneath a canopy of evergreens. All the while Rosie is in her element from the moment her paws hit the grass. With her tail wagging and nose to the ground she darted around to investigate every nook and cranny, keenly observing each piece of equipment as we unpacked, eager to lend a hand.

She circled us with boundless energy and periodically paused to make sure we were all together before returning



The water on the lake was a flawless mirror.

Photo — Christine Patterson

to her joyful explorations running here and there. Her excitement was infectious, infusing our preparations with a palpable sense of joy.

The forest echoed with Rosie's playful barks and the sounds of our laughter as she "helped" inspecting the kayaks and carried lengths of sticks, she was determined to be useful.

Soon, with our home base established, we readied our kayaks, stowing tackle and securing rods within easy reach.

The final act was a sense of release as we placed the kayaks on the lake shore, eager to glide off into the quiet waters in "pursuit of happiness". All the while, we found ourselves wondering what extraordinary surprises nature might reveal to us today?

Perhaps an unexpected beaver, bear, deer or elk sighting, or a dazzling display of birdlife behaviour; an osprey, a hawk, or Ruffed Grouse. Perhaps we'd be fortunate to capture a rare moment of awe that would linger in our

memories forever... Surrounded by nature's vitality and beauty anything was possible. Accompanied by Rosie's irrepressible spirit we marvelled at endless opportunities awaiting discovery on this remarkable adventure.

Camp work done we launched our Kayaks and paddled into endless possibilities. Our chosen destination was a hidden, lily pad shallow alcove, a wonderful sanctuary for trout and a haven for wildlife, elk, beaver, bear.

Continued on Page 7

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# Wild habitat belongs to a multitude of animals

Continued from Page 6

Exciting possibilities awaited amidst unmatched serenity amongst cattails, bunch grass, and willows. I worked a fly rod with a nymph among the lily pads when a gentle swirl appeared on the water's surface four metres away; a magnificent trout had taken the carefully tied fly I crafted over the winter, dreaming of this very moment. Indeed, some dreams do come true! Cutthroat Trout thrive in these clear and unspoiled streams, and generally weigh from half a kilogram up to two kilograms or more. In this water course they maintain a self sustaining trout populations, laying eggs reproducing the next generation naturally in these pristine waters. British Columbia is home to several species, the most distinguished lake fish is the Cutthroat recognized by a characteristic red, pink, or orange linear markings under their lower jaw, hence their name. The fly rod bowed as the trout fought vigorously, displeased at having been deceived by the nymph's life-like form, a thrilling contest ensued. He sprang into dazzling runs and leaps, casting sparkling droplets into the sunlight. At last, he relented, allowing for the gentle placement of my net beneath his sleek healthy form unharmed. It's natural splendour captivating all our attention. I lingered in admiration with my remarkable catch! Just a few thoughts regarding his home, his preferred fare, and the various wildlife companions

he shared the pond with; the essential inquiries one ought to make to a trout. After a respectful farewell, he was quickly released back into the marsh as I was left overflowing with gratitude for that fleeting precious moment with my adversary. He swam swiftly back into his watery sanctuary under lily pads, perhaps to be encountered again in these lush, natural surroundings on another extraordinary day.

Uplifted by the experience, we paddled away in silence, ever hopeful of further wildlife sightings. We inspected new shavings on a beaver lodge, and kept a watchful eye on game-worn trails that threaded through abundant marsh grass, cattails, salmonberry bushes, and wild rhododendron; these were nature's garden pathways used by a variety of wildlife. The peace was palpable as we drifted in these quiet recesses unseen by humanity on that mirror sunshine day. All cares floated away. Life unfolded as it ought, peacefully without anxiety. Then, without warning, the silhouette of a Roosevelt Elk emerged as a shadow from the forest's edge, as a Red Winged Blackbird whistled above as if announcing his presence. We have seen these magnificent ungulates here many times before. One cannot help being awestruck by such remarkable fortune, and ever mindful the wild habitat belongs to a multitude of animals large and small. Nature is gracious when she shares

her inhabitants to us, and excels at seizing one's attention in spectacular fashion, and did so that day. The passage of time ever generous and attentive in the outdoors paused for a moment, and stood still as sunlight played across the elk's regal form, highlighting another remarkable treasure of the wild kingdom.

Indeed, nature's grandeur is undeniable. Once again, our cherished retreat provided a wealth of unforgettable memories, reaffirming the splendour of these wild habitats for both angling and wildlife viewing, and highlighting a need for thoughtful protection. This tranquil sanctuary, rich in biodiversity and ecological value, serves as a poignant reminder of the responsibility we all bear as stewards of our natural resources. Every moment spent among pristine waters and forested mountains deepens our appreciation for the delicate balance that sustains these ecosystems, a balance that can only be sustained through vigilant care and responsible recreation.

It is imperative that we tread lightly, respecting the habitats that nurture not only fish and wildlife but also our own sense of well-being. Practising catch-and-release angling, adhering to established trails, and minimizing our footprint are essential steps in safeguarding the integrity of these landscapes for future generations. Responsible use ensures that the marshes, lakes, and forests remain vibrant and resilient, continu-



Photo — Christine Patterson

Rosie explores every detail of the camp environment.

ing to offer refuge to both wildlife and those who seek renewal in nature's embrace.

As we reflect on the day's adventure and the privilege of encountering wildlife in natural ecosystems, we are reminded that true enjoyment of the wilderness is insepara-

ble from its preservation. The ongoing commitment to habitat protection is not only an act of gratitude, but a promise we make to the land, its inhabitants, and our families. And so, with renewed purpose Christine, Rosie, and I set about planning our next

chapter of adventure, ever mindful of our duty to safeguard the wild places we hold dear, ensuring their majesty is safeguarded for children yet to be born.

Wishing all safe travels ahead.

Gord

## MOUNT WADDINGTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT/ REGIONAL DISTRICT OF MOUNT WADDINGTON

### Bylaw Adoptions of the 2026-2030 5-Year Financial Plans

The Mount Waddington Hospital District will be holding a Board Meeting on **March 31, 2026 at 11:30 am** to adopt Bylaw No. 112, 2026-2030 5 Year Financial Plan.

The Regional District of Mount Waddington will be holding a Board Meeting on **March 31, 2026 at 2:00 pm** to adopt Bylaw No. 1072, 2026-2030 5 Year Financial Plan.

Additional information can be obtained via:  
Website: [www.rdmw.bc.ca](http://www.rdmw.bc.ca)  
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# North Island Reflections



A Bald Eagle carries an octopus arm home for dinner. Photo by Robin Quirk, Robin's Eye Photography. If you have a photo you would like to share with our readers please email [publisher@northislandeagle.com](mailto:publisher@northislandeagle.com).

*This week's Reflection sponsored by ...*

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**WEEKLY SPECIALS!**

**MONDAY: CLOSED**

**TUESDAY | 4PM-8PM: 20% OFF PITAS**

**WEDNESDAY | 4PM-8PM: 20% OFF BURGERS**

**THURSDAY | 4PM-8PM: 20% OFF • AGES 65+**

**FRIDAY | 4PM-8PM: KIDS EAT FREE**

**SATURDAY | 12PM-8PM: 20% OFF SALADS**

**SUNDAY | 12PM-8PM: 20% OFF WRAPS**

**LOCAL • FRESH • MARINA EATS**

*Follow the Sasquatch!*

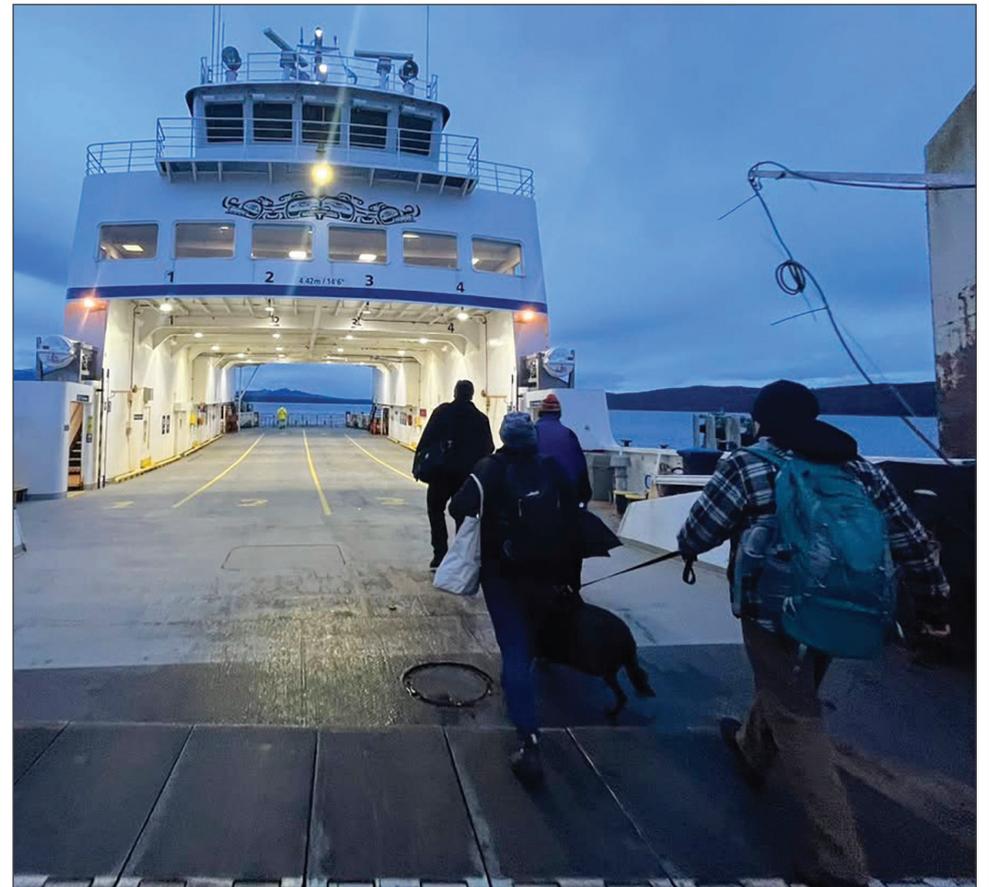


Photo — Michelle Jensen

### *End Of An Era*

The Quadra Queen II, a 49.6-metre BC Ferries vessel built in 1969, serving the Port McNeill–Alert Bay–Sointula route with a capacity of about 26 vehicles and 150 passengers/crew, made its final farewell voyage March 18 before retiring. The larger Island Aurora is now back in service much to the delight of ferry users who have been frustrated with the smaller boat's shortcomings.

The Gatehouse Theatre has applied for a Permanent Liquor Primary Licence for the Gatehouse Theatre in Port McNeill.

As part of the application process, the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch requires the Town to gather public feedback.

Residents are invited to comment on:

- Location of the theatre
- Event capacity
- Proposed hours of liquor service
- Possible noise or community impacts

Residents may submit comments or feedback to [reception@portmceill.ca](mailto:reception@portmceill.ca) until March 27, 2026.





# Bear Smart Week

WHEN IT COMES TO BEARS, PREVENTION IS KEY! March 22-28



## BECOME A BEAR SMART VOLUNTEER!

Bear Smart aims to reduce occurrence of human-bear conflicts. As a volunteer, you'll share information on the importance of being bear smart raise awareness on how to reduce human-bear conflicts, assist the Conservation Officer Service in spreading awareness of bear sightings in the area, and make recommendations to Council on initiatives that reduce conflict.

Volunteer activities include:

- Booths at community events
- School presentations and outreach
- Visiting with door-to-door campaigns
- Content creation (i.e. posters & social media)
- Preparing articles for website and newspapers

Interested in becoming a volunteer? Scan the QR code to learn more about the program or contact us directly by email at [general@porthardy.ca](mailto:general@porthardy.ca) or call 250-949-6665.



Being bear smart is a preventative measure that supports safe co-existence with wildlife. When a bear uses a community to find food rather than to pass through, the risk of dangerous interactions increases for both bears and people. Bears prefer natural food such as salmon and berries. However, a bear can become food-conditioned when rewarded by easily accessible human-provided food. Taking action at home, work, or when recreating in bear country, helps reduce the likelihood of human-bear conflict.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Keeping bears wild starts with you! Here's how you can help:

- Secure your garbage & recycling – Store bins in a locked area until pickup day.
- Remove attractants – Bears love more than just food! Items like pet food, bird feeders, unpicked fruit, gasoline, oil, and even scented soaps can lure them in.
- Report bear sightings – Call the RAPP line (1-877-952-7277) to report any bear activity in your neighborhood.
- Educate others – Share Bear Smart tips with your family, friends, and coworkers.
- Volunteer- Join our team to help spread information about how to be Bear Smart.

**SCAN ME!**

Register for WildSafeBC's **FREE**, online Bear Safety Course! Learn bear safety tips when recreating!



### AVOIDING BEAR ENCOUNTERS

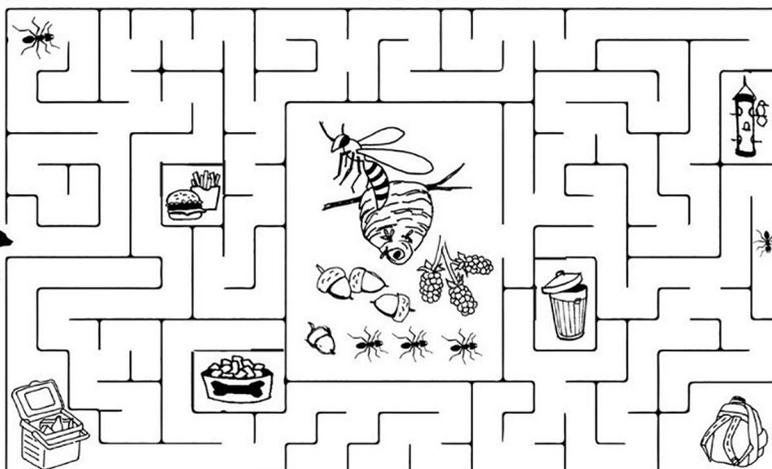
Don't surprise a bear when you adventure out. Here are a few tips on how to avoid an unexpected bear encounter:

- Watch for bear signs like scat.
- Manage attractants.
- Talk or sing to avoid surprising a bear when in bear country.
- Be aware of your surroundings and don't use headphones.
- If you find an animal carcass, leave it.
- Avoid hiking alone.
- Carry bear spray, have it readily accessible, and know how to use it.
- Keep pets leashed and under control when in bear country.
- Use extra caution when in bear habitat.

**Did You Know?**  
These are all attractants

**DO YOU KNOW** what the No. 1 bear attractant is?  
**GARBAGE!**

Bears have **GREAT** memories! It only takes one (1!) time for a bear to remember where it found a yummy, unsecured can of garbage.



### SUPER SIZE ME!

Bears can consume up to 25,000 calories per day, that's the equivalent to a whopping 50 Big Macs or 500 apples! While humans may not share their dietary preferences, one thing is clear: food is always on their mind!



1. Hyperphagia
2. Sloth
3. Cub
4. Stay Calm
5. Berries
6. Huff
7. Larvae
8. January
9. RAPP
10. Boar
11. Purr
12. Garbage
13. Grass
14. Sow

R L A R V A E Y B J H C M W T  
 B A F G M B G Q H E L C C V L  
 M Z P J A H O G Q U R H U Y S  
 Z M U P V R U A U S F R B Y B  
 G C G H A J B W R S E F I D N  
 E Q R R L G Z A F K L G C E M  
 K N A L A R O C G H S O G F S  
 K Y S F S A N Q F E M Y T H R  
 L S S F Z J N V O A M I D H P  
 J U A D G B R R I S W X Y I P  
 H Y P E R P H A G I A C W F G  
 N H E S T A Y C A L M W W E V  
 N D E L T T J V A T W V S Z A  
 U J A N U A R Y I R Z E O C K  
 P U R R T J H P H Q J C W P N

### I follow my nose, not a map!

Bears have an **incredible** sense of smell. Equipped with a long snout, a bear's sense of smell is 2,100 times better than a humans. This allows bears to pick up a scent from more than 2 km away!

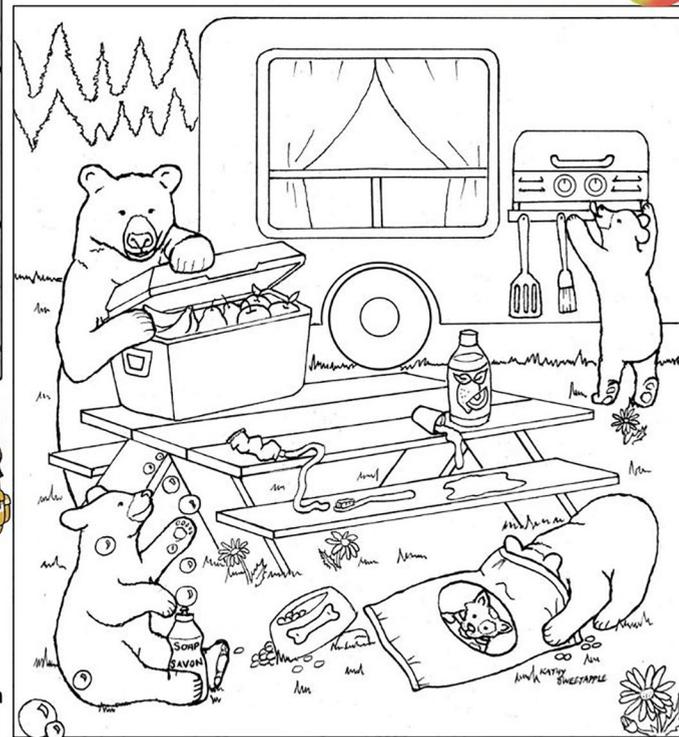


**RAPP**  
Report All Poachers and Polluters  
Conservation Officer 24-Hr Hotline:  
**1-877-952-RAPP (7277)**

[rapp.bc.ca](http://rapp.bc.ca)

**MYTH OR FACT?**  
Reporting sightings to the Conservation Officer Service results in the bear being removed.

**MYTH!** Reporting sightings to the COS MAY NOT result in removal. If reported early, COs, municipal staff, and Bear Smart volunteers may be able change human behavior before it results in removal of the animal.



Go "Bare camping." Keep your campsite free and clear of bear attractants. Uh oh! A camper has invited a bear family into their campsite with attractants. Colour the attractants.

© Parks Canada/Parcs Canada



# Who you gonna Call?

North Island Business Directory

FIDELI PEDORTHIC  
Port Hardy  
250-949-7060

## Shoe & Boot Repair

Logging - Meindl - Blundstone - Birkenstock & More

9:30am - 2pm Tuesday - Saturday  
Market Street next to Credit Union

## STRYKER ELECTRONICS LTD.

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Marine Electronics & Supplies  
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Fax: (250) 949-8077  
E-mail: [info@strykerelectronics.com](mailto:info@strykerelectronics.com)  
[www.strykerelectronics.com](http://www.strykerelectronics.com)  
Toll Free: 1-888-839-8022

6710 Hardy Bay Rd  
Box 169, Port Hardy  
B.C. V0N 2P0

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**250-902-7027**  
[dkfbooks.ca](http://dkfbooks.ca)

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4-7035 Market Street, Port Hardy

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Michelle Lee, RD.RDT.BA — Denturist

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[patty\\_fisher\\_\\_@hotmail.com](mailto:patty_fisher__@hotmail.com) **250-949-6111**

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To have your business be part of our positive message call **250-949-0337** or email [publisher@northislandeagle.com](mailto:publisher@northislandeagle.com)

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Want to promote your business?

Call: 250-949-0337

or email: [publisher@northislandeagle.com](mailto:publisher@northislandeagle.com)

## MELAN CONSTRUCTION LTD.

[info@melanconstruction.ca](mailto:info@melanconstruction.ca)



[www.melanconstruction.ca](http://www.melanconstruction.ca)

# It's time to book ahead for the new year!

William Melan: 250-618-7410

# classifieds/marketplace

## Services

**BUILDING DESIGN**  
energeticenterprises.ca  
250 949 7008  
30 years experience

## Boats

12-foot aluminium boat comes with electric motor and new oars. \$600 OBO.  
250-878-6625

14-foot Glastron fibreglass boat, seats four, 40hp Suzuki, 40hp trolling motor, four life jackets, downriggers, hand-held marine radio and more. \$5,000.  
250-281-2281

LUND WC-14 boat c/w 9.9 Johnson motor, trailer, seats, oars, rod holders, NAV lights and more. Asking \$7,800.  
250-956-3300

3288 Bayliner, twin 4-cylinder diesels. \$25,000.  
250-306-4417

## Fishing

Skookum stainless steel halibut harpoon. \$50.  
250-949-0118

Shimano moocher 200 GT fishing reel with 7-ft buzz bomb special. Mooching or trolling rod. Both in good shape. \$60.  
250-949-0118

Baby Big John downrigger has a 14-inch arm with a pulley on the end. Has a five-inch reel with handle and a brake and a mounting bracket. Very cute and would be good for a small boat in a lake. \$25.  
250-949-0118

Your classified ad here Free.  
250-949-0337

Scotchman's or boat bumpers - one 60 inches around, cost \$100 will sell for \$30. 2 58-inches around \$25 each.  
250-949-0118

Long line or halibut block, cost \$500+ will sell for \$200.  
250-949-0118

## Fishing

Scotty downrigger with 17-inch arm with a pulley on the end. Has a brake and mounting bracket and counter and all works fine. \$50.  
250-949-0118

Great big monster gaff hook, 4 foot long, eight inches across at the hook, stainless steel, cost \$100 will sell for \$50.  
250-949-0118

3-foot halibut gaff hook, stainless steel. Cost \$70 will sell for \$35.  
250-949-0118

3 Hardy Silex Steelhead reels in mint condition, 1 new. Serious inquiries only.  
250-949-7630

11ft3in. Lamiglas steelhead fishing rod. Mint condition. \$225 firm.  
250-902-8413

## Furniture

McLary antique wood and coal stove for sale \$1,200. Good condition.  
250-702-2727

## Mechanics

16, 3/4 inch Craftsman sockets, range from 1 inch to 2 inch, 3/4 inch 20-inch 5649 Proto ratchet and extensions, a 15 inch, a 7 inch, and a 4 inch. \$450  
250-949-0118

Your household classified ad here FREE.  
250-949-0337

## Miscellaneous

Washing machine, GE commercial grade, with all original paperwork. In very good condition. \$350.  
250-949-8655  
leave message

Generator, Firman 3650 watt, never been used, \$800 OBO.  
250-949-6292

Arrow canopy, from a Ford Ranger, fire red, 6 foot long, 2 feet high and four and a half feet wide. Excellent condition, no scratches. Asking \$600.  
250-884-4286

## Coming Events



Connection  
Comraderie  
Community  
Are you looking to add  
more purpose, and  
excitement to your day?

Thursday's at 7:00 PM  
Port McNeill Old School

## Coming Events

The Seniors Advocate is presenting at Hardy Bay Seniors on April 17th at 1:00. No fee but register at hardybayseniors@gmail.com

## Miscellaneous

Simonize 10-inch random orbit polisher/waxer, like new with carrying case. \$90 new take \$40.  
250-949-0118

## Services

Red seal journeyman electrician looking for small, residential jobs. 30+ years experience. Reasonable rates. All quotes are free. Call Jesse.  
236-255-2238

Electric yard art and landscaping services. Specializing in outdoor feature lighting, water ponds, custom garden fountains and waterfall features, underground sprinkler systems, drainage pipes, fencing repairs, raised garden beds, greenhouses, walkways, landscaping maintenance and waste removal. Consultations and design quotes are free.  
236-255-2238

PALMISTRY, TAROT AND PSYCHIC READINGS with Roxanne. Clear and concise help in all areas of your life. Sessions available by phone or in person (Malcolm Island). Healing-Search.com  
604-902-3881

Local 3D printing in Port McNeill.  
403-620-0033

## Public Notices

### LAND ACT:

#### Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land

Take notice that we, **Valetudo Holdings Ltd.** from **Kamloops BC** have applied to the Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship (WLRS) for a **Foreshore Lease Expansion** to include a parking area situated on Provincial Crown land located on **Rough Bay** in **Sointula BC**.

The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is **Crown Land File # 1402181**.

Comments may be submitted electronically via the provincial Applications, Comments & Reasons for Decision webpage at

<https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/>. Alternatively hard copy comments may be directed to the Senior Land Officer, Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship at 142-2080 Labieux Rd, Nanaimo, BC V9T 6J9.

Comments will be received by WLRS up to May 8, 2026. WLRS may not be able to consider comments received after this date.

Please visit the website at <https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/> for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information contact the Freedom of Information Advisor at the Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship office in Nanaimo.

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**Melanie McRann**  
 Cell: 778-886-5219

## FEATURE HOMES OF THE WEEK

**5060 Beaver Harbour Road, Port Hardy \$655,000**    MLS® #1016080



Full side-by-side duplex in the Storey's Beach area. Walking distance to the beach as well as the convenience store. Ideal investment as both tenants are excellent and would love to remain. Side 1 offers large storage room with laundry and is fully updated with beautiful kitchen, two separate living rooms, 3 bedrooms up and 2 full baths. Side 2 offers laundry off the garage, functional kitchen, large living room and main floor powder room. Upstairs has 3 bedrooms and a full bath. Shared fenced yard on this double sized corner lot.



**Ronnie (Veronica) Sam**  
 Cell: 250-527-0036

**7215 Rupert Street, Port Hardy \$729,000**    MLS® # 1011203



2 years remaining on home warranty for this 2 bedroom plus den, 3 bath, 3 car garage Aspire Custom Design home. Large entrance on ground level with beautiful epoxy painted concrete. The ground level offers a pantry, entrance to the garage and maintenance room, home gym (equipment included), bathroom and bedroom area with murphy bed. Upstairs is the living, kitchen and dining all with a great view. The main bedroom has a walk in closet and ensuite. The second bedroom has its own ensuite as well.



**Johan Olsen**  
 Cell: 250-209-9667

## Are you thinking of selling? Now is the time!

If you are considering selling your home, now is the perfect time to make your move.

With a significant shortage of homes on the market, your property could be in high demand, potentially leading to a quicker sale and competitive offers.

Buyers are actively searching and with fewer homes available, your listing could stand out more than ever.

Take advantage of this opportunity to maximize your return and work with one of our Realtors® to navigate the process smoothly.

**Don't wait! The market is calling for homes like yours!**



**Sandra Masales**  
 Cell: 250-902-9271

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