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May 8, 2026

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Walk encourages continuing push for justice

By Kathy O'Reilly

To the sound of drummers and singers the annual march to remember Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit People wound around the streets of Port Hardy under sunny skies May 5. The crowd was welcomed outside North Island Building Blocks by Hereditary Chiefs Calvin Hunt and Richard Dawson.

“We gather on this day with purpose, to honour, to remember, and to advocate together for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People. Today is not just an event, it is a moment of reflection, of truth, and of responsibility,” said North Island Building Blocks Manager Stephanie Nelson.

In Canada, the 2019 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls concluded that this violence amounts to a form of genocide, driven by persistent systemic racism and failures in policing, justice systems, and social services.

“One of the horrific results is that Indigenous women are 16 times more likely to be



Photo — Kelsea Taylor

The annual walk to remember Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit People wound around the streets of Port Hardy drew a large crowd May 5.

murdered. Between 1,600 and 4,000 Indigenous people are missing,” Nelson said.

“We stand here in recognition of lives that were taken too soon, voices that were silenced, and families and communities who continue to carry

grief, resilience and strength. Each red dress we see is not just a symbol, it represents a person, a story, a loved one who should still be here,” she told the large crowd.

“To the families and loved ones present or represented

here today – we see you, we hear you, and we stand with you. Your courage in continuing to speak, to remember and to demand justice is powerful,” Nelson said. “Today, as we march together and share space, let us commit to more

than remembrance. Let us commit to action,” she said.

“Thank you to Gwa’sala-’Nakwaxda’xw Nations, Building Blocks for funding and the kind donation from St. Columba Anglican United Church.”

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Residential Live Roof a People's Choice Finalist

By Kathy O'Reilly

A local living rooftop has been named a People's Choice Finalist.

The project was created in Port Hardy by NATS Nursery on the roof of Dr. Alex Nataros' home. Nataros was looking for something unique that provided a place to unwind and meditate.

"I wanted to build a home that blends in with the environment as well as provide a peaceful space to enjoy views over Port Hardy and the sunset," Nataros said.

NATS Nursery was given freedom to create the garden design from layout, products chosen, plant assemblage and inspiration. Inspiration was drawn from Nataros' passion for the outdoors, nature and sailing.

The design is broken into four sections, each roughly representing one of the four elements - earth, wind, fire and water. The earth was represented with predominantly green/evergreen sedum with *Fragaria* (*chiloensis* and *vesca*) the main accent. The sky was represented with yellow sedum

for the sun and *Aquilegia* growing tall and delicately, reaching for the sky. Fire was represented with predominantly red sedum with *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*. Water was represented with blue/grey sedum and a mix of alliums representing delicate corals and jelly fish.

The RoofStone pavers create a wavy 'X', representing the waves and starfish, and the four points lining up with north/south/east and west representing a compass to always find your way. The paver loop around the chimney represents an anchor and the connection to hearth and home. RoofEdge was used to create a drain channel along the bottom profile of the roof and was filled in with rocks collected from the site by volunteers helping with the install.

In total there are 23 sedum varieties and 11 native accents used. Every plant selected supports nature and the environment, either supporting pollinators or providing food, with each blend having at least one edible plant or fruit bearing

plant. In addition to being beautiful, the live roof also has other benefits.

"The roof moderates the house heating and cooling - the place is very energy efficient and holds heat in the winter."

NATS Nursery is located in Langley and includes a modern propagation facility, greenhouses, shipping area, and offices.

In 2006, NATS was awarded the growing contract for the Vancouver Convention Centre, the largest non-industrial green roof in North America. The project involved supplying over 350,000 plants and covered a span of four years. Most notably, this significant undertaking represented a new direction for NATS as the company expanded its vision and product line to encompass the emerging area of green roofs and living walls.



Photo — Submitted

A local living rooftop on Dr. Nataros' Port Hardy home has been named a People's Choice Finalist.

United Way offers preparedness guides

As British Columbians and the BC Wildfire Service identify 28 active wildfires as of May 4, and

imposing a fire ban May 7, United Way British Columbia (United Way BC) is encouraging seniors, families, and individuals to use their Emergency Preparedness Guides to plan now for what's to come.

Seniors, families, and individuals are encouraged to know the risks and plan for floods, wildfires, and other climate crises.

Providing information on how to create a plan in case of extreme weather, the guidebooks outline critical, practical information like what to have on hand in case of an emergency, how to navigate power or utility loss, and insurance considerations.

"As wildfires and other climate-driven disasters begin earlier and intensify each year, resilience and preparedness are no longer optional: they are essential and preparation is key,"

says Kristi Rintoul, senior director, Community Impact & Investment, United Way BC.

"United Way BC is supporting communities and individuals before disaster strikes by ensuring they have access to clear, simple, step-by-step guidance that builds confidence, reduces chaos, and strengthens their ability to respond and recover when it matters most."

Three guidebooks are available; one for seniors, one for individuals and families, and one to support community-wide collaboration in preparation of a large-scale event.

These resources were developed especially for those who may find it difficult to navigate the Internet.

All books are available on United Way BC's website uwbc.ca/emergency-response-resources

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Conference brings new ideas to support community needs

Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society (MWFLS) team members returned from the Decoda Literacy Conference with practical strategies, new partnerships, and program ideas that will directly support literacy initiatives across the region.

MWFLS Executive Director Jessica Brown, Literacy Outreach Coordinator Kelly Anderson and Adult Literacy Coordinator Jeanne James-Hory joined more than 200 literacy practitioners from across BC and Canada for professional development April 16-17, 2026. BC's provincial literacy non-profit, Decoda Literacy Solutions, hosted the conference in Richmond, under the theme Literacy: Bridging the Gaps.

The conference offered a range of learning sessions, keynote speakers, and opportunities to exchange ideas with organizations doing similar work. These conversations are already opening the door to new collaborations and shared approaches that can strengthen literacy programming in rural and remote communities.

Workshops explored emerging topics, including the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in literacy work, both the opportunities and challeng-

es ahead. Sessions such as Bridging the Gaps through Art, Music and Family Storytelling, an inspiring food planning workshop, and a youth-led session all reinforced the value of creativity, inclusion, and practical skill-building in programming.

"Experiencing the conference together as a team was energizing and meaningful. The theme Literacy: Bridging the Gaps came to life through powerful keynote presentations by Zahra Esmail and Alexandra Samuel," said Jessica. "One of the most memorable highlights for me was the youth-led OWL (Opening Worlds to Literacy) program, which showcased the impact of youth leadership in literacy initiatives. We're excited to bring these ideas back to our programs and continue building inclusive, community-driven literacy opportunities."

Kelly visited with a representative from the BC Human Rights Commissioner about the Commissioner's Book Club. It recommends monthly adult and children's book selections to help readers connect with human rights issues.

"I treasured the time I got to spend with like-minded individuals and explore what

literacy supports we could try to include in our own region," said Kelly. "Kristin Dmytriw led an invigorating workshop on early literacy curriculum development. One of the main points was to slow down and meet our learners where they are at; she shared models that can be adapted to our own region. I can't wait to introduce components like a Family Book Club, where the key notion is shared learning together as a family unit."

Several ideas from the conference are already being considered for upcoming programs, including expanding creative, hands-on learning opportunities, collaborating on youth programs, and evaluating how emerging tools like AI can support literacy development.

"A key takeaway from the conference is the importance of strong community connections - being open, flexible, and ready to adapt as needs change," said Jeanne. "This really reinforced the importance of moving away from rigid approaches and, instead, responding creatively to the needs of our communities. It was encouraging to see that this responsive, community-driven approach that we use in the MWFLS is meaningful and of interest to others. By supporting one another and staying responsive, we can continue to meet people where they are."

Professional development like the Decoda Literacy conference helps ensure MWFLS continues to deliver responsive, innovative, and community-centered literacy programs that reflect the evolving needs of North Island communities.

The Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society works with communities, schools and organizations to support literacy and learning for all ages on North Vancouver Island. Visit the MWFLS website to learn about their free programs at: mwfamilyliteracy.org



Photo — Submitted

MWFLS Executive Director Jessica Brown, Adult Literacy Coordinator Jeanne James-Hory, and Literacy Outreach Coordinator Kelly Anderson joined more than 200 literacy practitioners at the Decoda Literacy Conference 2026.

Port McNeill RCMP officer charged with one count of assault

The BC Prosecution Service (BCPS) has announced that a charge of one count of assault contrary to section 266 of the Criminal Code has been approved against a member of the Port McNeill RCMP, Const. Keegan Schneider, following an incident that occurred in Port McNeill on June 21, 2025.

An Information charging Keegan Schneider was sworn on May 4, 2026, under Port Hardy Law Courts file number 19011-1.

The first appearance on this matter is scheduled for June 2, 2026 at the Port Hardy Law Courts. The charge was approved by an experienced Crown Counsel who has no connection with the accused. As this matter is now before the court, the BCPS will not be releasing any additional information or commenting further at this time.



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Photo — Robin Quirk, Robin's Eye Photography

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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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Coastal First Nations unveil plan for greater leadership and equity in salmon aquaculture

As the federal government enthusiastically champions Indigenous equity participation in pipelines and major resource projects, BC coastal First Nations say urgent action is needed closer to home. Food banks lines are getting longer in rural and remote communities where food insecurity and job losses in salmon aquaculture are being felt most acutely.

With aquaculture companies already scaling back operations ahead of the planned 2029 salmon net pen ban, First Nations leaders warn that the policy is undermining critical sources of employment, new foreign and Indigenous investment, and locally produced, affordable and sustainable food.

At a press conference on Parliament Hill, Chiefs from the BC coastal First Nations Finfish Stewardship Coalition (FNFFS) unveiled a plan for greater Indigenous equity and leadership in salmon aquaculture, while also welcoming the federal government's \$1.3 billion investment in wild Pacific Salmon conservation.

Their message was clear. The timeline is urgent. Reversing the Trudeau-era 2029 net pen ban is essential for sustainable growth. At stake is significant new foreign direct investment, and the long-term economic participation of First Nations communities in a sector where they are already key partners.

Coalition Chiefs say this approach directly aligns with the (Mark) Carney government's federal priorities: attracting investment creating jobs - including for youth, improving affordability, strengthening food security, and advancing economic reconciliation in an increasingly uncertain global economy.

"BC coastal First Nations believe in conservation and having a choice to responsibly develop sustainable aquaculture economies for our people and within our territories, and salmon aquaculture is the backbone. 100 per cent of salmon farms operate with the permission of Rights-holder Nations. In the midst of an affordability crisis, and in a sector where 2/3 of the workforce is under 35, maintaining jobs that grow Canadian food for Canadian families should be a priority for the Government of Canada. "BC coastal First Nations are calling on the Carney government to immediately reverse the 2029 Trudeau net pen ban so that they can implement our responsible plan to drive new foreign investment

and increase our equity investment in the BC salmon aquaculture sector," said Dallas Smith, Tlowitsis First Nation and Spokesperson for the FNFFS.

The next six-year salmon grow-out cycle begins in June 2026. Without policy clarity, aquaculture companies face two stark options: proceed with production only to cull millions of healthy fish in 2029 or halt the cycle entirely - triggering immediate job losses across rural, remote, coastal and Indigenous communities.

The FNFFS Chiefs unveiled their own proactive, five-pillar plan for their future in the salmon aquaculture sector including: A transformation of the ISO-accredited Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences (CAHS) to the ISO-accredited Indigenous Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences (iCAHS), located in Wei Wai Kum territory - braiding western science with Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK); The creation of a Nation-led Salmon Stewardship Fund - requiring salmon aquaculture companies to make a per-harvested-tonne contribution to the new Indigenous Centre for Aquatic Health Science (iCAHS); A majority equity Indigenous investment in the largest seafood harvesting facility network in western Canada; Increased First Nations equity investment in BC coastal aquaculture industry and ancillary businesses up and down the supply chain; Beginning in 2029, First-Nations-issued salmon aquaculture licences.

BC's salmon aquaculture sector currently generates \$1.12 billion in annual economic activity, including \$483 million in GDP, and supports more than 4,000 jobs. Two-thirds of the workforce is under the age of 35.

For the more than 1,000 First Nations workers in salmon aquaculture, this includes over \$59.9 million in annual wages.



Photo — Kathy O'Reilly

Gas Convenience

The Quatsino Gas Station, on the Quatsino First Nation, opened for business May 4. Ivan Voyageur used the opportunity to fill up his tank.



DISTRICT OF PORT HARDY PUBLIC NOTICE DISPOSITION OF MUNICIPAL LAND



In accordance with Section 26 of the *Community Charter*, the District of Port Hardy hereby gives notice of its intention to dispose of an interest in land by way of lease.

The District proposes to enter into a lease agreement with the Hardy Gardeners Club for the use of municipal property legally described as:

**LOT 2, SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 9,
RUPERT DISTRICT, PLAN 41568
PID000-705-128**

(Civic Address: 8850 Douglas Street, Port Hardy, BC)

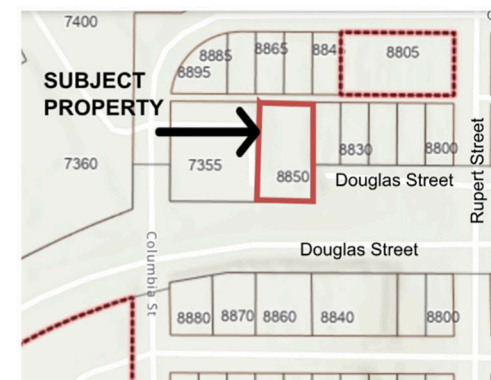
The subject property, located directly behind the RCMP detachment, is intended to continue serving as a community garden for local residents.

The proposed lease will authorize the Hardy Gardeners Club to manage, maintain, and enhance the community garden, including coordination of garden plots and site improvements.

The lease is anticipated to be for a term of three years, with the option to renew with a nominal annual rent of \$1.00.

This notice is being published for two consecutive weeks in accordance with the *Community Charter*.

For more information, contact:
Heather Nelson-Smith, CAO
Phone: (250) 949-6665 Email: general@porthardy.ca



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Mudless Bowl

Photo — Kathy O'Reilly

The annual Port McNeill Mudbowl soccer tournament held May 2 and 3, featured hundreds of players in the U6 to U18 age groups. Above, action between the Port Hardy and Port McNeill U-8 teams.



Photo — Natasha Griffiths

Rotary Park Playground Upgrade

Several years ago, the Port Hardy Rotary Club stepped up to invest in new park equipment to replace aging playground equipment. This upgrade was greatly needed and reflects Rotary's ongoing commitment to enhancing local spaces for families and children. Following archaeological approval, Rotary got approval to put in the new equipment which was installed May 8.

Hardy receives \$100,000 for situation table

The District of Port Hardy has received a \$100,000 grant to train new partners and build capacity for its Safe Community Situation Table.

The successful Safe Community Situation Tables in the Comox Valley and Port Hardy are building capacity to address complex social challenges by delivering quicker access to services for people at high risk of harm, victimization or committing crime to survive.

"Situation Tables support safe communities, ensuring police and front-line responders can access improved services for people in crisis or at risk due to mental health, addiction, brain injuries or other complex needs," said Nina Krieger, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General. "Public safety challenges are best addressed through a collaborative, co-ordinated and community-based approach, and the situation tables in the Comox Valley and Port Hardy have demonstrated strong benefits for these communities."

Through ongoing collaboration with local partners, the table continues to proactively identify community members at risk and connect them with the right supports.

Through this preventative approach, the table is reducing harm, closing service gaps and improving outcomes for people before a negative event occurs.

The Port Hardy table launched in February 2024 and is com-

prised of community partners and agencies from the health, law enforcement, education, human services and non-profit sectors. The partners meet weekly to address issues pertaining to their community, such as mental health and addictions, homelessness, poverty, violent repeat offending and survival crime.

"The Safe Community Situation Table is an important step forward in supporting vulnerable people in Port Hardy," said Patricia Corbett-Labatt, mayor of Port Hardy. "By bringing local partners together, we can respond earlier and more effectively to complex challenges. I also recognize the Salvation Army for its leadership in co-ordinating this work. Their commitment, alongside our front-line partners, helps ensure people receive the care they need. Together, we are working to build a safer, healthier, connected community."

Safe Community Situation Tables provide a structured, collaborative approach to managing complex or urgent circumstances by bringing together key groups and using systematic processes to mitigate risk and develop action plans to respond more effectively and efficiently to the needs of each individual. Furthermore, aggregate data analysis helps policymakers assess gaps and risks in their local communities.

The situation tables are considered a best practice for improving community safety and well-being by enabling community

front-line workers to:

- proactively identify risks through real-time information sharing
- reduce long-term demand on emergency and police resources
- leverage and co-ordinate existing community assets and relationships between health supports, victim services, and culturally safe support and services
- plan and deliver collaborative interventions before an incident occurs
- reduce increased risk in people's lives

In February 2024, the District of Port Hardy received a \$60,000 grant from the Province to implement a Safe Community Situation Table.

There are 56 funded situation tables and intervention circles in BC. Of these, 42 of these operational, while the other 14 are under implementation.

Since 2018, more than \$3.5 million has been provided to B.C. regions and communities to facilitate local situation tables, Indigenous intervention circles and other related initiatives.

For more information about Safe Community Situation Tables, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/policing-in-bc/collaborative-public-safety-program/situation-tables>

Port Hardy's Rosaline Glynn wins BC Community Award

Port Hardy's Rosaline Glynn is going to have to make room on her trophy shelf.

Glynn is a recipient of a 23rd annual Community Award.

Premier David Eby and Walter Pela, Chair of the BC Achievement Foundation, announced the recipients.

The program recognizes outstanding British Columbians whose leadership, generosity and dedication strengthen communities across the province.

"Congratulations to the recipients of this year's Community Award," said Eby. "Whether leading grassroots initiatives or

mentoring future change-makers, these individuals demonstrate the power of community and the impact of generosity. Their inspiring efforts are an example

of what we can achieve together."

"BC Achievement exists to honour excellence and inspire achievement throughout the province," said Pela.

"This year's recipients embody that mission. Their stories of leadership, service and resilience remind us that meaningful change begins at the community

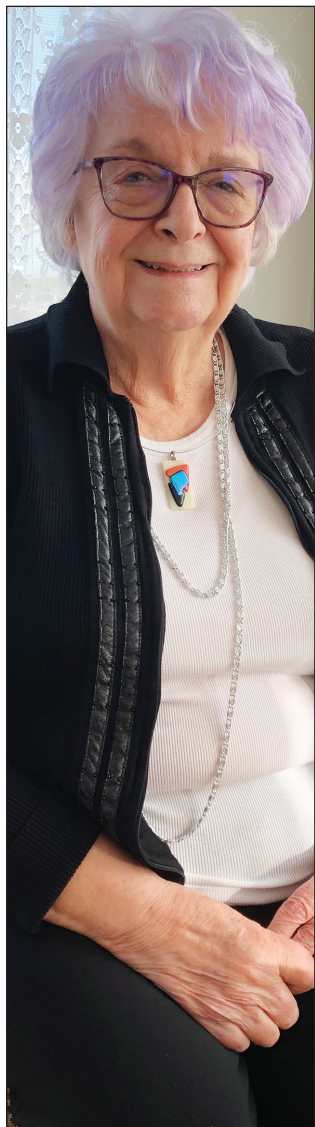
level, and that every act of contribution helps build a more engaged and vibrant British Columbia."

The 2026 Community Award recipients were hon-

oured at a formal presentation ceremony in Victoria on May 6, in the presence of the Honourable Wendy Cocchia, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

PORT HARDY TOWN HALL

with MP Aaron Gunn



Rosaline Glynn



Monday

11



Monday, May 11, 2026



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Doors open at 5:30PM



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McNeill council supports skatepark grant application

By Kathy O'Reilly

Efforts to build a Port McNeill skatepark are rolling along.

At their regular meeting April 28, council agreed to a request from the Port McNeill Skatepark Committee for municipal funding support toward a 2026 BC Gaming Grant (Capital).

The Port McNeill Skatepark Committee has completed initial design development with Radius Skatepark Designs, the same company that built Port Hardy's new park.

Council agreed to commit up to \$200,000 toward the project, conditional upon a successful application to the 2026 BC Gaming Grant for the purpose of securing matching capital funding. "The Port McNeill Skate-

park Committee is beyond excited about the Town's commitment of \$200,000 to support our Gaming Grant application that will be submitted later this year. BC Gaming grants are highly competitive, and this commitment will make our application very strong," said member Miranda Keys.

"We decided on the Cenotaph Park after extensive community polling and feedback. Our community wanted a park that was visible, centrally located and accessible," Keys said.

"This location will also tie into recreation trails in the forested section donated to the Town by Western Forest Products below the Regional District (of Mount Waddington) offices," she said. "It will be the recre-

ational 'hub' that links all of our community recreation spaces together with the arena, pool and track nearby and easy access from school for our core user-base: the children of Port McNeill."

Going forward, the committee is working hard on organizing more community fundraisers and will be approaching businesses to contribute to what will be a beautiful addition to Port McNeill parks and recreation infrastructure.

"We encourage businesses and community members to attend our monthly meetings that happen on the first Thursday of every month and to follow our Facebook group for updates and communication."

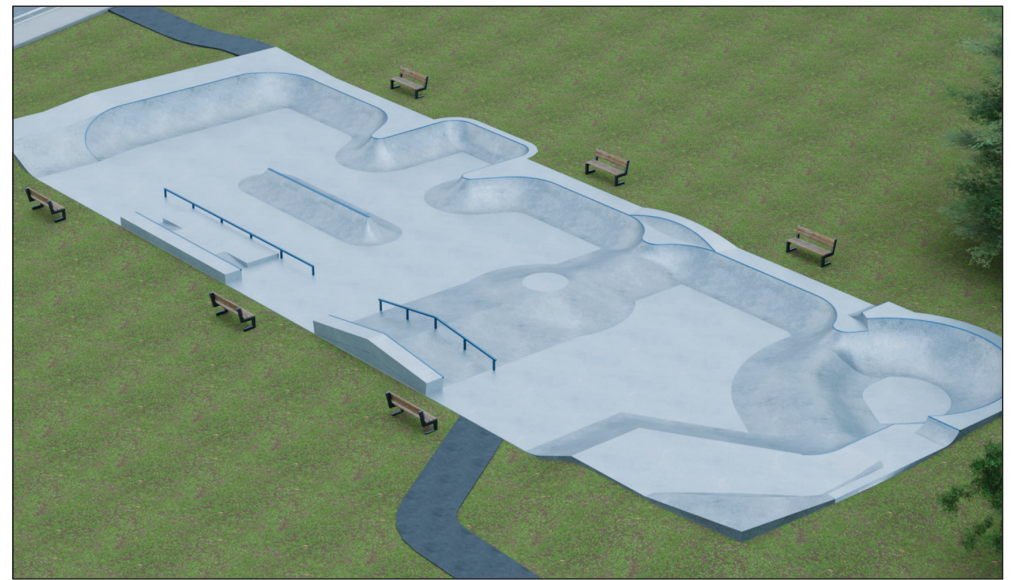


Photo — Submitted

At their regular meeting April 28, council agreed to a request from the Port McNeill Skatepark Committee for \$200,000 funding support toward a 2026 BC Gaming Grant (Capital) application.

North Island Farmers & Artisans Market



2026 Market Schedule

Port McNeill - IGA Plaza

- May 16 • May 30 • June 13 • June 27
- July 11 • July 25 • Aug. 8 • Aug. 22
- Sept. 5 • Sept. 19

Port Hardy - Carrot Park

- June 14 • June 28 • July 12 • July 26 • Aug. 9
- Aug. 23 • Sept. 20

Port McNeill Markets
Saturdays - 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

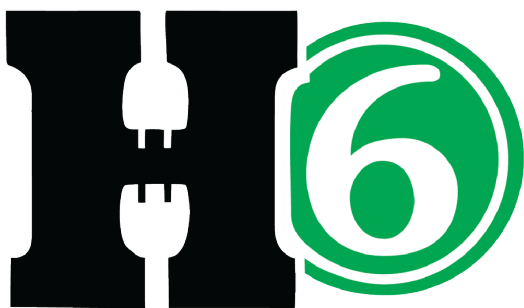
Port Hardy Markets
Sundays - 11 a.m.-2 p.m.



Outdoor Market

Photo — Kathy O'Reilly

The first outdoor Farmers and Artisans Market of the season took place in the greenspace by IGA in Port McNeill May 2. The next market is set for May 16.



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Alert Bay Bookery library stand vandalized

In the very early hours of April 29, 40 books and their book ends were removed from a handcrafted local Bookery that

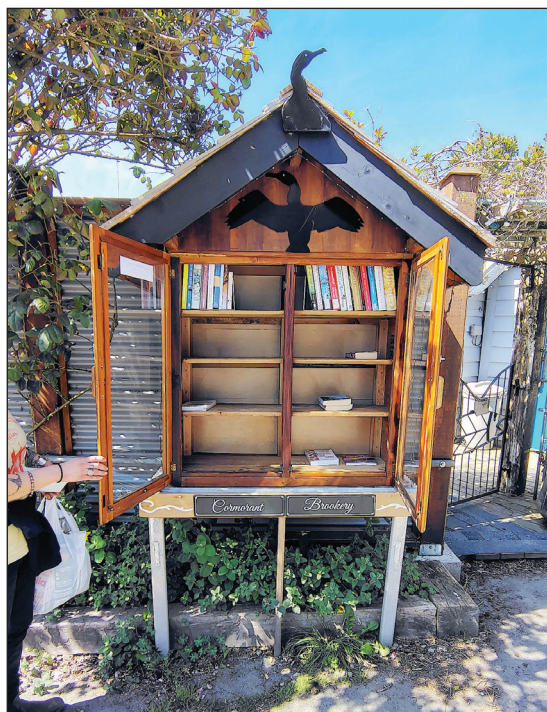
stands at the side of the street and across the road from the Bayside Restaurant in Alert Bay. Fortunately, all of the books and their bookends were found undamaged and retrieved from where they had been carelessly thrown onto the beach beside the Seine Boat Inn.

A local business was witness to the vandalism as it was caught on 'camera' and three individuals were easily recognized. It was a shameful, senseless and act that did not serve any good purpose in the community.

The Bookery, aka Cormorant Island Rookery, is a little library that offers everyone who lives in, or visits Alert Bay, free access to books. A small sign on a window reads "Welcome - Take a book, leave a book, read a book".

The library gains its books by donation and often from the local recycle depot, helping to keep books out of the landfill.

A variety of books for men and women can usually be found at the library but children's books are always in short supply and are greatly appreciated when received.



Photos — Robin Quirk, Robin's Eye Photography

Left, the Cormorant Island Bookery stand. Above, books were senselessly strewn along the beach. Fortunately, they were found undamaged.

Aces Roofing is now doing estimates in Port Alice, Port Hardy and Port McNeill

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lifestyles & leisure

Children visit farm to see little livestock

By Robin Quirk

Students had the opportunity to check out some other kids and lambs last week. “We were so happy to welcome students from T’lisa_lagi’lakw School to Alert Bay Farm for a recent elementary school field trip,” said Alert Bay Farm owner Emma Campbell.

Two RCMP came out to be with the group as well.

“It was a fantastic day, with lots of hands-on learning as the students spent

time getting to know the sheep and goats up close,” said Emma.

The children, under the supervision of their teachers and other adults, were allowed to feed the adult goats and had the chance to hold a baby lamb before heading back to school.

Visits like this create meaningful educational opportunities for local children - giving them a chance to connect with where their food comes from, learn

about animal care, and experience farm life in a real and engaging way.

“We’re especially grateful to our neighbour and friend, Larry Hill, who leases the fields to Alert Bay Farm. As the owner of the Orca Inn, he’s well known for running a successful pub, restaurant, and hotel - but he’s also a strong supporter of local initiatives like this. His involvement helps make these educational experiences possible,” she continued.

“It’s a wonderful example of how collaboration between neighbours and local businesses can come together to support learning, create opportunities for our youth, and strengthen our community spirit.”



Photos — Robin Quirk, Robin's Eye Photography

Students from T’lisa_lagi’lakw School visited Alert Bay Farm where they had the opportunity to feed animals and hold some babies.



Alert Bay Farm owner Emma Campbell carried the lambs and placed them in eager arms.



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SATURDAY 10AM - 6PM



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U17 girls volleyball team brings home silver from Provincials

A group of determined young athletes from across the North Island has made their communities proud, bringing home a silver medal from the U17 Volleyball Provincials held in Abbots-

ford on April 26–27.

The team, made up of players from Port Hardy, Port McNeill, and Port Alice, came together this season to form a strong and competitive squad. Under the

leadership of coach Sterrin Lazarowich, the girls balanced travel and commitment, practising each week in both Port Hardy and Port McNeill. Their dedication and teamwork clearly paid off.

The tournament weekend was filled with exciting and hard-fought matches. Despite a challenging start, the team rallied on Sunday to finish first in their pool, with point differentials securing their position after a closely contested opening loss to TC Blue from Chilliwack.

They bounced back with an impressive three-set victory over VVC Nova from Vancouver (19–25, 25–17, 15–13), followed by another three-set win against SCVC from the Sunshine Coast, demonstrating resilience and determination.

Monday's playoff action saw the North Island team continue their strong performance, defeating NewWest Crush in two sets (25–23, 25–16), earning them a spot in the Top 3. A decisive win over Raincity (25–19, 25–23) advanced the team to the Gold Medal match, an incredible achievement at the provincial level.

In the final, the team faced a tough opponent from Campbell River in a back-to-back match-up. After a competitive and hard-fought game (19–25, 25–17), the North Island team secured a well-earned silver medal, capping off an outstanding tournament run. The medal ceremony was a proud moment,



Photo – Submitted

The North Island girls volleyball team brought home silver from the U17 Volleyball Provincials held in Abbotsford on April 26–27.

with each player recognized individually on stage - a fitting celebration for a team that showed dedication, perseverance, and true North Island spirit.

This silver medal finish highlights not only the talent of these young athletes but also the strength of collaboration between North Island communities. Their success is a testament to hard work, strong coaching, teamwork, and the support of families and the broader community.

Congratulations to the team

and coach Sterrin Lazarowich on an incredible season and a memorable provincial performance. If anyone is

interested in registering or learning more, please reach out to porthardylvolleyball-club@gmail.com



Photo – Submitted

Provincials Participants

Jillian Wenman and Teagan Fraser earned full roster spots on the River City Football Club U15 REP team out of Campbell River after tryouts last summer. Their team has had an incredible season, finishing as Island Champions and earning a spot at the Provincial Championships in Kamloops July 14–18. To help support their journey, funds were raised at the Annual Port McNeill Mudbowl Tournament May 2 and 3 to assist with transport and accommodation costs.

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North Island Reflections



A sure sign of spring on the west coast is the emergence of the spectacular Western Skunk Cabbage. Photo by Robin Quirk, Robin's Eye Photography. If you have a photo you would like to share with our readers please email publisher@northisland-eagle.com.

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Photo — Submitted

John Gogo with his Coal and Wood Show is playing on Saturday, May 9 at 7 p.m. at Port Hardy Civic Centre as part of the North Island Concert Society concert series.

John Gogo's Coal and Wood show at Civic Centre

North Island Concert Society welcomes back to the North Island former resident John Gogo with his Coal and Wood Show on Saturday, May 9 at 7 p.m. at the Port Hardy Civic Centre.

Balladeer and actor John Gogo hails from a musical family in Snuneymuxw aka Nanaimo, on Vancouver Island. He's best known for writing and performing his folk songs about the people and places, the true and the tall tales of the Canadian west coast, the islands in particular. From Haida Gwaii to St. John's to Old Crow, John has played community halls and big houses, festivals and pubs, theatres and beer parlours with such notable and diverse artists as Willie P. Bennett, Blue Shadows, Valdy, Crash Test Dummies, Australian Paul Kelly and Fred Eaglesmith. John has just produced and released his 6th record 'Western Balladeer' featuring the single and video 'The Morning After' - an unpublished, virtually unknown Robert Service poem written circa 1900 on the back of a bank draft. Service promptly gave it away to his banking colleague. Roughly 120 years later the poem was gifted to John for the express purpose of turning it into a song. After writing the music and a chorus lyric, John asked his brother Paul Gogo (Trooper) to play a barroom style piano track. Ultimately recognizing the song's great duet potential, John invited Canadian folk music icon Valdy to lend his voice to the song.

'Western Balladeer' also includes six new John Gogo songs. 'Western Balladeer' features John's daughters, singers Jeri Gogo and Jena

Gogo along with Jena's partner Eric Duquette (aka 'Duke & Goldie') as well as Tyler Lieb on pedal steel guitar and bassist (and cousin) Brent Gubbels. Other featured performers are David Essig on lap steel, Rick Scott and his dulcimer while Dazy Weymer sang a bass vocal and Daniel Lapp played some sweet fiddle.

"One of the most talented singer songwriters this area has ever produced," Joseph Blake Victoria Times.

COAL AND WOOD SHOW

This engaging one-man show written and performed by John Gogo revisits the gritty coal mining and logging towns of Vancouver Island on Canada's rugged western coast. Haunting folk tales told by four generations of a Vancouver Island pioneer family offer a fascinating look beneath the surface of history unfolded from 1895 to 1995. Their songs explore the unique and layered lives of heroes and villains: the visionary Finns of Sointula, the notorious Dunsmuirs, labour martyr Ginger Goodwin, the ghost of Clarence Ballance and the infamous Brother XII of De Courcy Island.

Tickets are available at Cafe Guido, Essentials Refillery, and from Gail Neely in Port Alice as well as at the door. For further information please phone 250-956-067. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$10 for students. A concession will be provided by Port Hardy Secondary School. A raffle will be available that evening with prizes of a stay at Telegraph Cove Resort and Prince of Whales Tours and other items.

Residents walk to honour missing and murdered

By Robin Quirk

The Malkwala Memorial Walk and Community Gathering to Remember the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2 Spirited was held in Yalis/Alert Bay on May 4, 2026.

Malkwala means “to remember”.

“It was a day to uplift, remember and honour those missing and support families.” Everyone was welcomed and encouraged to wear red. The walk began at 9:30 a.m. at the BCFerries Terminal and traveled up to the Gukwdzi (Big House).

There was a good turn out and the weather was perfect. The RCMP led the walk and were present throughout the gathering. Chief Victor Isaac and Mayor Dennis Buchanan were present for the walk as well.

At 12 noon, lunch was served and with activities following.



The Malkwala Memorial Walk and Community Gathering to Remember the Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2 Spirited was held in Yalis/Alert Bay on May 4.

Photo — Robin Quirk, Robin's Eye Photography

Borrow a Board program kicks off in Alert Bay

By Kathy O'Reilly

Alert Bay skateboarder Jack Watson is doing his best to spread his love for the sport with a new program.

Jack, organizer of the annual skateboard competitions in Alert Bay, has set up a skateboard lending library called Borrow Board – Village Boards, at his 443 Fir Street home.

The intent is for people to borrow a board for the day and then return it.

“I’m a skateboarder myself and love to try and give other people the opportunity to skate as well,” Jack said.

“In Alert Bay we do an annual spring cleanup where people will put things from their house on the curbside to be either picked up by the community or go to the dump,” he explained. “I found a bunch of old skateboards and had some extra of my own as well. I want to see them be used so I thought this was a good idea.”

Jack had to change grip tape, bearings, bushings, and even re-glue some boards.

“I use the back of my wife’s bread stand and just wheel them outside my carport on nice days.”

Anyone who has old skate supplies, boards, hardware,

etc. is invited to drop them off.

“My goal is for everyone to have the opportunity to skate and keep skateboarding alive in Alert Bay.

Fir Street, he says, is “one of the nicest roads I’ve ever cruised on”.



Photo — Jack Watson

Alert Bay skateboard enthusiast Jack Watson has set up a skateboard lending library called Borrow Board – Village Boards, at his Fir Street home.

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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

Cars

Geo car, never used. Electric, MP3 player, custom seat in back. Paid \$11,000. Asking \$8,500.

250-902-9013

Fishing

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

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

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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

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

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Husqvarna Reel Mower, used once. \$100.

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Miscellaneous

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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.

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Terratek 18-volt cordless impact driver. Comes with two batteries and a charger. Hardly used. Cost over \$100. Will sell for \$25.

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FEATURE HOMES OF THE WEEK

703 Nigei Street, Port Alice \$244,500 MLS® # 1034793



Beautifully updated main and top level of this 1500 sqft, 3 level townhouse in Evergreen Terrace. Enjoy the beautiful view of the inlet from the 8x20' deck off the dining area as well as the bedrooms upstairs. The main level living offers a 2 piece bath at the front door. New heat pump. Downstairs is awaiting a new owner to update if they choose. Laundry and family room located there. Carport parking and small garden area. This unit comes mostly furnished, ready to move in or rent out. Perfect sized garden out front for easy maintenance.



Melanie McRann
 Cell: 778-886-5219

1112 Maquinna Avenue, Port Alice \$505,000 MLS® # 1020197

New Price!



Beautifully maintained and updated 5 bedroom 2 bathroom oceanview home. Open concept kitchen, living and dining. 3 bedrooms on this level - primary has a walk in closet, bay window, slider to the wrap around deck and a full ensuite with tub. The main bath offers 3 piece with tiled shower. Downstairs are 2 more large bedrooms and the laundry area with workshop with access to the carport. Outside, a single carport with plenty of space and storage, large backyard with garden shed and partially fenced yard.



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

400 Englewood Drive, Port McNeill \$454,900 MLS® # 1027942

New Price!



The main floor features new flooring, and fresh paint. Relax by the stone fireplace or enjoy the kitchen with eat-up seating and room for a full dining table. Sliding doors off the kitchen lead to a deck overlooking the backyard. The Primary includes a luxurious walk-in shower. The main bathroom has also been tastefully renovated, and the additional upstairs bedrooms are well-sized. Downstairs has an additional bedroom, family room with wood stove, a full bath with sauna, laundry room, storage or wine cellar space, and a workshop.



Johan Olsen
 Cell: 250-209-9667

SOLD — 6155 Beaver Harbour Road, Port Hardy; 74-5450 Beaver Harbour Road, Port Hardy!

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