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Photo — Kathy O'Reilly

Firefighting Forcible Entry

Two Port Hardy firefighters demonstrate forcible entry techniques using a training door prop at an open house held Oct. 3 as part of Fire Prevention Week. The pair is using firefighter tools called a Halligan bar and fire axe, (the tools of choice by most firefighters. The training door allows firefighters to practice the techniques of forcible entry into structures with locked inward and outward swinging doors.



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Regenerative tourism series gives operators a road map

By Kathy O'Reilly

Vancouver Island North Tourism is offering a Regenerative Tourism Workshop Series for tourism operators seeking a competitive edge while making a positive local impact.

The series includes virtual sessions on Oct. 15 and 20 from 9 to 11 a.m., followed by an in-person strategy day on Oct. 29 at a to be determined location.

"We have two virtual sessions on Oct. 15 and 20 from

9-11 a.m., and an in-person day on Oct. 29," said Natalie Stewart, tourism development specialist.

"I am hoping for registration completed by Oct. 9 as we have our first session on the 15th; however, I will keep registration open until the course is full at 8-10 participants," explained Stewart.

"We are purposefully keeping this cohort small so participants can interact with each other and get the

support they need to design their own regenerative action plan," she said.

Regenerative tourism is a practice that aims to enrich and sustain a place through travel, moving beyond reducing harm, towards actively supporting local ecological and community vitality.

"Vancouver Island North's wild coastline, old-growth forest and abundant wildlife are exactly what more travelers are looking for, and that growing popularity brings

both opportunity and responsibility," Stewart said.

"Beloved places like San Josef Bay and Cape Scott Provincial Park are already seeing rising visitor numbers that can wear down trails, campsites and fragile shorelines without careful stewardship, and climate pressures like wildfire and warming oceans add to that urgency," she continued.

"Growth also needs to strengthen our local communities rather than strain them, especially with housing already tight. Indigenous-led experiences, rooted in Kwakwaka'wakw culture and the nations of the region, are central to both reconciliation and what makes the North Island unforgettable. Regenerative tourism gives VINT (Vancouver Island

North Tourism) a clear, credible framework to tie all of this together."

The series will engage with tourism businesses to learn

Virtual Session 2 covers practical execution, operational problem-solving, and place-based storytelling.

The In-Person Strategy Day will feature hands-on collaboration to map out three-month, six-month, and one-year Regenerative

Action Plan, with a small number of clear actions you can take.

Participants can expect this work to help them gain early adopter advantage with guests, funders, and DMOs by addressing real world operational constraints through a regenerative lens with industry peers and leave with a tailored, actionable roadmap for their business.

Have questions? Reach out to us at natalie@vancouver-islandnorth.ca



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For over thirty years, Tiller's Folly have served as modern-day storytellers, bringing the pioneer history of the West to life through song. From the beginning, the band set out to create acoustic music that is both progressive and timeless—rooted in tradition, yet reflective of their Pacific Coastal home. Blending Scottish, Irish, and Maritime folk influences, Tiller's Folly have developed a distinct sound they call *Pacific Canadiana*. Over time, they've continued to expand and refine this style, preserving the stories of the West while exploring new creative horizons.

Saturday, October 24, 2026 7:00 pm
Port Hardy Civic Centre

Tickets at Café Guido, Essentials Refillery in Port McNeill, and from Gail Neely in Port Alice.

Tickets \$35.00 Students (0-17) \$10.00
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Regional District of Mount Waddington NOTICE OF MEETING CHANGE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with the Regional District of Mount Waddington Board Procedure Bylaw No. 875, 2014 that the dates for the upcoming Regional District of Mount Waddington Board meetings and the Mount Waddington Regional Hospital District meetings originally scheduled for October 20, 2026, November 17, 2026 and December 15, 2026 have been rescheduled. Meeting times and location will remain the same. The meetings will now take place as follows:

October 21, 2026, at 2044 McNeill Road, Port McNeill, BC
Mount Waddington Regional Hospital District Meeting: 11:30am
Regional District of Mount Waddington Board Meeting: 2:00pm

November 18, 2026, at 2044 McNeill Road, Port McNeill, BC
Mount Waddington Regional Hospital District Meeting: 11:30am
Regional District of Mount Waddington Board Meeting: 2:00pm

December 16, 2026, at 2044 McNeill Road, Port McNeill, BC
Mount Waddington Regional Hospital District Meeting: 11:30am
Regional District of Mount Waddington Board Meeting: 2:00pm

Electronic Access: Members of the public may also view or participate in the meeting online via Zoom.

Purpose of the Meeting:
The Board meets to consider general corporate business.

Agenda & Public Inspection
The full meeting agendas, including background materials will be available for public review no later than 12:00pm on the following days:
- **October 16, 2026**
- **November 13, 2026**
- **December 11, 2026**

Online: The Regional District's portal at www.rdmw.bc.ca
In-Person: The front reception desk at the Regional District of Mount Waddington Office, Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30 pm, excluding statutory holidays.

Barbra Mohan
Interim Chief Administrative Officer
Regional District of Mount Waddington

Four candidates on ballot for provincial election Oct. 24

Four candidates have put their name forward to run for North Island MLA - Conservative Anna Kindy, NDP Sara Lopez, Green Party Benjamin Olsson, and Independent Richard Lambert.

Here is some information about each of the candidates in the Oct. 24 provincial election.

Kindy's journey in medicine began with her graduation from the University of Alberta Medical School in 1986. Early in her career, she worked in remote Quebec, gaining valuable experience and contributing to underserved communities. From 1989-1992, she balanced a career as a family doctor in Port Hardy with her husband, who was also a GP, while simultaneously competing on the World Cup circuit in mogul skiing. Her dedication and perseverance led her to represent Canada in mogul skiing at the Albertville Olympics in 1992.

In 1998, Anna and her husband, Dr. Peter Olesen, a surgeon, made the pivotal decision to move to Campbell River to both work and raise their three children. Kindy's commitment to healthcare extended to international missions in Guatemala. She specialized in addiction medicine and embraced principles such as informed consent, doing no harm, and upholding bodily autonomy as core tenets of her practice.

Kindy's vision for the North Island is one of positive change and empowerment. Her mission is to provide the North Island's population with a strong voice, driving improvements in their standard of living, work environments, and access to healthcare.

Lambert grew up in Port McNeill and went by Richie. After graduating from North Island Secondary School, he worked locally on the island before deciding to join the Canadian Forces. He served with the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry for 15 years. During his service he met his wife Christen Daugherty-Lambert. They have been together for 26 years and have two sons. Lambert was released from the military in 2011 and moved to Campbell River. He retrained to become an electrician where he worked on many projects on Vancouver Island including Campbell River Hospital and the John Hart Dam. Due to the travel with the Military and the construction industry he found himself wanting to be home more, so he decided to move to retail building centres.

He has lived on the North Island for three decades and has seen too many communities dwindling down with jobs, medical and people. The only thing that has increased is the social problems and the cost of living.

Lambert's goal is to find and provide solutions and relief to North Island communities to the best of his abilities.

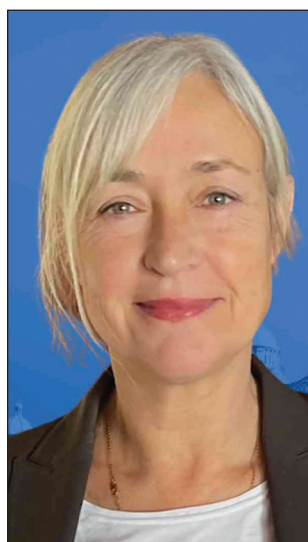
Lopez has called Campbell River home for more than a decade, choosing to raise her children close to their Kwakwaka'wakw and Nuu-chah-nulth community, culture and family.

Her career in nonprofits, arts and culture, social justice and community service has always been about standing up for people who too often don't have a voice.

As Executive Director of the Campbell River Art Gallery, Lopez stood her ground when the city council moved to remove the Gallery's tax-exempt status, fighting back with broad community support and winning that fight.

Today, through her work with Habitat for Humanity Vancouver Island North, she continues to advocate for affordable housing and stronger communities.

Olsson is a Registered Social Worker, healthcare professional and longtime North Island resident who has called



Anna Kindy
Conservative Party



Richard Lambert
Independent



Sara Lopez
New Democratic Party



Benjamin Olsson
Green Party

Campbell River home since 2010. He moved to Vancouver Island because of his love for the coast and has developed a deep connection to the communities and natural environment of the North Island.

Olsson holds a Diploma in Social Work from Red Deer College and a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Regina. He later completed a Post-Degree Diploma in Inter-professional Mental Health and Addiction at Camosun College. His career has included work in social services, healthcare, mental health and community wellness.

Community involvement has been a constant throughout Olsson's life. He has more than two decades of union activism, has participated in election campaigns and has supported a wide range of local causes including Pride events, the Terry Fox Run, Cops for Cancer, Habitat for Humanity, the Campbell River Hospice Society and harm reduction ini-

tiatives. Olsson has also been active in advocating for the protection of green spaces and critical salmon habitat. He believes the North Island's communities, forests, coastlines and ecosystems are worth protecting for the people who live there today and for future generations.

His political involvement began early and has included organizing, union work and serving as leader of the Green Party of Saskatchewan in 2003.

He brings that experience together with decades of front-line work supporting individuals, families and communities.

Olsson is running in North Island to bring his experience in social work, healthcare, community organizing and environmental advocacy into public service, with a focus on listening to local residents and acting in the best interests of the communities he calls home.



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editorial



Photo — Robin Quirk, Robin’s Eye Photography

A Great Blue Heron walks along a floating tree.



The North Island
EAGLE
Celebrating ‘True North Island’ Life



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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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School board hopefuls answer a series of questions

The Vancouver Island Teachers Association reached out to candidates running for trustee positions in the Oct. 17 election for School District #85. An All Candidates' Forum is scheduled at Sunset Elementary School (gym) on Wednesday, Oct. 21 starting at 6 p.m.

Here are their responses.

What are your thoughts on "parental rights and responsibilities" as they apply to the educational setting?

Fred Robertson

Clearly, parents play a critical part of their child/children's education. And they are critical in supporting their child/children in classrooms. Without parental support, it is that much more difficult for a child to thrive in school. After more than 30 years of teaching I know this to be true. However, parents do not set curriculum. If there is some part of a curriculum a parent may not like or object to, there are very clear processes they can follow to object. The role of a Trustee is to ensure these processes are adhered to and that a parent's concern is heard. School boards must balance their obligation to support teachers and educational assistants and the curriculum and to hear what a parent may be saying, and ensure due process is followed.

Lawrie Garrett

Parents are entitled to be informed of their child's education at the public school they attend. Parents should seek information on curriculum, class size and makeup, inclusivity and cultural learning that will occur. It is best to consult with the classroom teacher and school principal with any questions they may have. They may also want to join the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) at the child's school to interact with other parents in your area.

Roland LeFort

Parents/guardians play a vital role in how students find success throughout their educational career. The primary caregivers should be involved with their child's education and be supportive of students and

staff alike in working towards a common goal. Unfortunately, not all situations are positive, where misunderstandings and conflicting perspectives on life choices can lead to issues between the student or staff and the parent/guardian, potentially putting the student's safety into question. I believe that staff need to prioritize the safety of the student over any other request, as each student's health and wellbeing needs to be #1. We continue to see significant challenges for our students regarding mental health and access to services, both in the school and in the community. These challenges include issues of self-harm but also manifest themselves in chronic absenteeism.

Jeff Field

Parents and families may believe in certain values or ideologies in the privacy of their own homes. In a public education system, educators must support the needs of students and a curriculum that is not based on one ideology or set of values. As such, trustees must support the professionalism of their staff to deliver a curriculum that is not subjected to censorship.

Christine Swain

I have two children in public school, I understand the concern regarding parental rights and responsibilities given the range of information students have access to. We all have the right to have our children taught with respect and care regardless of our cultural, spiritual or political beliefs. It is important that, regardless of individual ideologies, students are given the opportunity to receive an unbiased education that will support diversity and equity within a larger society. As your School Board Trustee, I will demand unprejudiced and equitable access to learning for all students within our school district, ensuring all young people receive an education that promotes diversity and inclusivity.

Leighton Wishart

Parents have an important and

legitimate role in their children's education. They should be informed about their child's attendance, behaviour, progress and educational program, and they should have meaningful opportunities to communicate with teachers and the school. That is already reflected in BC's School Act. At the same time, parental rights need to be balanced with the professional responsibilities of teachers and school administrators. Teachers need to be able to maintain a safe, respectful and inclusive learning environment and deliver the curriculum established by the province.

I believe the best approach is partnership rather than confrontation. Parents, educators, administrators and trustees all have different roles, but we share the same fundamental objective: doing what is in the best interests of students. As a trustee, I would encourage open communication with parents and ensure that their concerns are heard, while also supporting educators in carrying out their professional responsibilities. We should be working together, not creating an adversarial relationship between parents and schools.

What can trustees do to help address the youth mental health crisis facing the North Island?

Fred Robertson

Youth mental health is at a crisis level in our community. It shows up in many different ways in our schools. Supporting classrooms and schools with available resources and personnel is a first step. Providing appropriate training to help deal with mental health issues is the responsibility of district administration, in consultation with teaching and support staff. The School Board must support this through their budget process. The youth mental health crisis does not just happen at school. Youth experiencing mental health challenges are going through difficult times in and out of school. It is essential for the School District to work in conjunction with other local agencies to provide the services and support for youth when

they need it.

Lawrie Garrett

Our school board has been a strong advocate for helping students with mental health problems by having school counselors in both the secondary and elementary schools. In addition, we were able to get funding for a community outreach worker which has proven beneficial. Going forward I would like to see us strengthen our relationships with local service providers such as the Foundry and Child and Youth Mental Health to provide wrap around support for our students.

Roland LeFort

A few things that we can do to help address this issue: Emphasis on staff training to help identify youth facing mental health crisis early, and on implementation of programs to assist them. Petition and apply for provincial supports and grant funding to provide more programs, supports, and staffing for at-risk youth. Work with local support institutions to have more integrated help within the schools and/or create connections for students to have external support.

Jeff Field

The Board has been receiving grants from the provincial government to help address youth mental health issues. This grant money is distributed to schools for them to decide how best to use it. Workshops that encourage communication and group activities help to avoid isolation and depression. Workshops that talk about limiting screen time and educating students on social media dangers are also essential. The Board has also supported the need for a second elementary counsellor and a community outreach worker. As well we work with outside agencies to help the youth in our communities.

Christine Swain

As a counsellor I hear of the struggles young people have with their mental health and see many students unable to attend school consistently because of this. Connection to school is a protective factor for children

and youth. Connection to the adults in their schools supports student mental health and overall well-being. As your school board trustee, I will advocate for increased resources, funding, and training for those who care for our children and youth through out the school day. These additional resources will support school staff in feeling confident and able to provide supportive environments within schools.

Leighton Wishart

Trustees cannot solve the youth mental-health crisis on their own, but we have an important role in ensuring that our schools are part of the solution. First, we need to make sure students have access to appropriate supports within the school system and that staff know how to identify students who may be struggling. We also need strong working relationships with community health and mental-health providers so students can be connected to services when their needs go beyond what a school can provide.

On the North Island, geography makes access to services particularly challenging. We need to advocate for services that recognize the realities of rural and remote communities. The recent expansion of Foundry services into Port McNeill, Alert Bay, Sointula, Woss and Port Alice, connected to Foundry Port Hardy, is an example of the kind of regional cooperation that can improve access for North Island youth. We also need to recognize that chronic absenteeism can be a symptom of underlying issues rather than simply a discipline problem. Schools need to understand why a student is not attending and work with the student and family to address the barriers. As trustees, our role is to provide leadership, establish priorities, allocate resources responsibly and advocate to senior governments for the resources our students need.

As a trustee, how will you support educators facing in-

creasing levels of violence in schools?

Fred Robertson

Sadly, violence in schools seems to have been increasing in recent years. In response to this, there are two important documents available to not only help prevent violence from occurring but also to address it should a violent incident occur. These documents are the Work-Safe BC legislation regarding Violence in the Workplace and the Collective Agreements negotiated between teachers and the School District and Province and the Collective Agreement with support workers. The Legislation and Collective Agreements provide a very concrete path to prevent violence in schools, and to address it should it occur. The role of the School Board is to ensure the established process is followed and to ensure the School District fulfills its obligations.

Lawrie Garrett

I think that schools should be a safe workplace for our staff free from physical, verbal and social media assaults. We are striving to create healthy, supportive and positive learning experiences for students with a caring staff in trying times. Our goal should be to build community engagement around respectful behaviour for educators, families and students.

Roland LeFort

The answer is different between students and the adults either in a caregiver or community members interacting with staff. For Students: Each student will have different needs, so we will want to prioritize employee safety while still providing for the student as best as possible. For aggressive students without medical/mental complications, remote learning options should be explored and implemented, to provide a safe educational option, with gradual reintegration should it be deemed safe for staff and other students. For Adults: Bullying and harassment should have a zero tolerance with regards to knowing adults.

Continued on Page 7

Trustee candidates talk top priorities if elected

Continued from Page 6

Not only is it severely detrimental to the wellbeing of staff and students, but it is in direct violation of the Worker's Compensation Act. Our job is to ensure the health and safety of staff and students, and enforcing not only SD85 policies, but provincial acts to promote safety in the workplace should be our default.

Jeff Field

The Board and senior management have to work with our partner groups to ensure our employees can work in a violence free workplace. Trustees have to support programs like self-regulation that help students control their behaviour so they can concentrate on their learning. We also have access to outside specialists that can come into our district to help students with behavioural issues. It is important that we maintain good working relationships between our HR staff and the union representatives to help address the issue. One way is through contract negotiations. When criminal activity is involved, we can ask the RCMP to investigate.

Christine Swain

Children and youth that feel they belong, that they are heard, and that they are cared for are less likely to act out towards staff and other students. When school staff feel that they have the resources, support and capacity to respond to student needs and behaviours in a caring and connected way, they would be more able to prevent many of the violent incidents they are facing now. Not only are many of our students dis-regulated, many of the staff, understandably, are feeling overwhelmed and dis-regulated. This is why it is critical to increase resources for schools and equip staff with what they need to feel good about the job that they are doing.

As your School Board Trustee, I will support measures that hold those behaving aggressively or violently towards school district staff accountable when prevention efforts are not

enough. Though this may look different depending on the specific situation, it is the responsibility of the school district and the board to ensure we uphold our values and protect all people in our schools.

Leightan Wishart

Every employee deserves to come to work in a safe environment and return home safely at the end of the day. Student safety and employee safety are not competing priorities - they are connected. As a trustee, I would support strong violence-prevention policies, appropriate staffing and training, timely reporting and follow-up of incidents, and appropriate supports for both students and employees. We also need to distinguish between supporting a student who is struggling and accepting violence or abuse toward staff. A student may need significant intervention and support, but that does not mean educators should be expected to tolerate unsafe behaviour.

The same standard should apply to adults. Disagreements with educators, administrators or trustees must be handled respectfully. Verbal abuse, threats and harassment - whether in person, by email or through social media - should not be considered an acceptable part of working in public education.

WorkSafeBC recognizes workplace violence as an important health and safety issue in K-12 schools and emphasizes prevention, reporting, response and reassessment of practices. I would continue to support our staff, listen to their concerns and ensure that safety issues receive the attention they deserve at the board table.

What are your top three priorities as a trustee?

Fred Robertson

As a Trustee the top priority is really quite self-evident. The Board's main role is to see students receive the best support and education to ensure their success in school. The tricky bit is how does a School Board, with limited authority, manage this priority. The hard work of learning is done in schools and

in classrooms. Trustees set the budget each year. The budget is a reflection of their priorities. Trustees must commit all available finances and resources to support schools and classrooms.

School Boards do not exist on their own little island. They are a part of a larger community. The School Board must collaborate with local governments, (Municipal and First Nations), and agencies such as the Crisis and Counselling Centre, Island Health and the First Nations Health Authority and services that have 'youth' as a part of their mandate. There are many overlapping interests. Working together makes for healthier and stronger communities. School District funding is mostly based on a per student basis. While this may work for more urban school districts, it puts more rural and geographically dispersed districts at a disadvantage. SD#85 needs to work with Municipal governments, other School Districts and the Provincial Government to establish a Task Force to study Rural Education Funding. This would be a first step toward establishing more equitable funding.

Personally, I bring a fresh perspective and proven leadership skills. I am committed to open communication and to work collaboratively.

Lawrie Garrett

Improve graduation rate for our school district with our students leaving with the tools for the next phase of their lives including critical thinking, communication skills, numeracy, literacy, social-emotional, wellness and resilience.

Improve attendance across the School District in order to encourage continuity of learning as educators build their lesson plans to cover the curriculum. Continue our local North Island tradition of incorporating our natural environment in the learning cycle.

Roland LeFort

Accountability
Financial Accountability - ensuring that funding is going

where it's needed to provide the best educational experience for students and staff alike.

Educational Accountability - ensuring that students are finding success on their own merits.

Reporting Accountability - Implementation of programs and policies will need transparent reporting and communication with the affected parties to indicate successes and failures so we can continue to develop in a positive direction.

Indigenous Culture & Language - I would like to work towards more inclusivity of indigenous culture and language into all grade levels to create a more seamless transition for all students from school to school. Indigenous culture is integral to where we live and working more closely with the surrounding communities, elders, and historians, should be a priority for the board to provide excellent education and maintain cultural heritage for all students.

Future Proofing - Employee Recruitment/Retention - We are a remote community, and getting the right people involved is critical to student and program success. I don't want to see good staff members leave due to job instability or lack of benefits. Diversity in our staffing will help keep the school district running smoothly year after year.

Facility Management - Lowering our liability for aging infrastructure is not only going to save us money in the long run, but create a safer, more stable environment for our educators and students. We need to be continuously improving infrastructure and being diligent about its maintenance to keep our schools running.

Financial Stability - Our school district should not be unsure on whether we will be running on a year-to-year basis. Financial security to allow for fluctuations in enrollment and funding levels should be top of mind. That security should give us time to adjust and minimize the impact on students

and staff.

Jeff Field

First, our schools must be safe and inclusive. We must support programs like ERASE and work to stop bullying and discrimination. We need to foster a caring environment where everyone can learn.

Second, we need to ensure that staff have the resources to do their job and make sure that the budget is supporting district educational goals. Third, I believe in land-based learning. As well as supporting indigenous ways of learning it is important to get students out of the building to experience their natural surroundings. It is amazing to watch a group of young students at Hardy Bay or Storey's Beach doing beach studies at low tide. This type of activity can help to support physical and mental health. And, you never know you might just develop a new friendship with a classmate while exploring these tidal pools.

Christine Swain

Identifying and advocating for resources to support mental health and wellbeing of all people in Vancouver Island North Schools Equity in funding for rural schools. Increasing the connection between schools and community.

Leightan Wishart

Student success and well-being.

Every student deserves the opportunity to succeed, regardless of where they live in our district. That includes strong educational programs, mental-health supports, safe schools and opportunities for students to develop the skills they need for their future.

Safe, supportive and respectful schools. Students and employees need to feel safe, respected and supported. I want to see continued attention to violence prevention, student behaviour, mental health and the recruitment and retention of the staff needed to support our schools. Responsible financial management and strong rural schools. We have to make every education dollar count. With continuing financial pressures and changing enrolment, the board must make difficult decisions responsibly and transparently while protecting classroom learning as much as possible. At the same time, we must recognize that our rural and remote schools are essential parts of their communities and cannot always be measured simply by enrolment numbers. After many years as a trustee, I believe experience matters. My priorities are straightforward: put students first, support our staff, and make responsible decisions that protect the future of our entire district.

Elect
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First Nations “doing our best to turn the tide”

By Kathy O'Reilly

Truth and Reconciliation activities were held in Port Hardy on Sept. 30. A march travelled from the Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre to Carrot Park and back, where participants gathered for speeches and lunch.

Kwakiutl Chief David Knox welcomed attendees, including survivors, and spoke about historical and intergenerational trauma. He recalled the banning of the potlatch in 1844 and said, “1920 is when they threw us heavily into the residential schools.”

“It’s an emotional day right now, hearing about those that never came home. How we make wrong to make a right is to unite, to work together to find those solutions,” Knox said.

Island Health Indigenous Health Manager Dean Wilson said colonial policies have had lasting impacts on Indigenous people. He noted that, until 1950, the singers who participated in the parade “could have been arrested for that, and we could have been arrested for attending.”

Speakers and representatives from local organizations described their commitment to reconciliation, positive change, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 Calls to Action.

“Just a reminder, of those 94 calls: only 15 have been implemented. We’re way behind where we are supposed to be

and meeting resistance when people forget the history,” Wilson said.

“So today is not a celebration. Today is not a holiday. Today is a day to remember that history,” he said.

Wilson also addressed claims by residential school deniers that children died because tuberculosis was widespread. “When the TRC looked at the evidence before them, they realized that a child in a residential school was more likely to die of disease than a soldier fighting on the front lines of World War I,” he said.

Wilson cited Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce, the medical inspector responsible for residential schools, who visited schools across Western Canada.

In 1909, Bryce’s report was sent to Superintendent of Indian Affairs Duncan Campbell Scott. Scott acknowledged that Indigenous children lost their natural resistance to illness while living in close quarters at residential schools and died at far higher rates than children in their home communities. However, he maintained that this did not justify changing a policy “geared towards a final solution to our Indian problem.”

Although people repeatedly tried to raise the alarm, their warnings were ignored.

“It was never a secret what was going on in the schools,” Wilson said.

“That’s the legacy we are



Truth and Reconciliation Day activities were held in Port Hardy on Sept. 30 including a march followed by a gathering at the Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre.

living with - the impacts of that. We have to let that documented, real history live in our hearts,” he continued.

Wilson emphasized resilience: “The plan didn’t work,” he said, adding that what is “really important to remember is the resiliency.”

Chief Paddy Walkus thanked “each one of you who have helped us in so many ways.”

Walkus said residential schools created apathy

“amongst our people. We just didn’t care. I was a product of that”.

“I needed to share the despair of our community. It’s coming back to where our people can start acknowledging and being a part of society,” he continued.

“We couldn’t even reach our child to teach them the values because they were removed. That resulted in a lot of the apathy. I just didn’t care anymore. The loss of language, the loss of identity, the loss of everything that meant something in our lives, was not there.”

“We’ve been in a dark hour, but together we will uplift. Together we will uprising and become an integral part of society that the governments tried to wrest from us and pull from us, bringing us to that moment of despair.”

“We’re not here to cry about everything that happened to us. We’re doing our best to turn the tide.”

District of Port Hardy Mayor



Photo — Kathy O'Reilly

Pat Corbett-Labatt said reconciliation extends beyond a single day or event. “It is about the work we do throughout the year to build understanding, respect and stronger relationships,” she said.

“I look forward to a future with less divisiveness and more understanding, respect and willingness to listen to one another,” Corbett-Labatt said.

The District of Port Hardy has a relationship agreement with the Kwakiutl First Nation that recognizes the communities’ shared future and commits them to working together. “Reconciliation is something we all have a role in, and together we can help build a stronger, more respectful and more inclusive Port Hardy,” Corbett-Labatt said.



Chief David Knox



Chief Paddy Walkus

Hardy council hopefuls respond to rapid fire questions

By Kathy O'Reilly

Over 100 people showed up at the Port Hardy Civic Centre to see municipal council candidates introduce themselves and answer questions.

The All-Candidates meeting was hosted by the Port Hardy Fish and Wildlife Society with 10 of the 12 candidates attending. Incumbent Councillor Janet Dorward and hopeful David Grainger were not present. Dorward did send opening and closing statements to be read at the meeting.

With strict and short timelines candidates fielded a number of questions. They were given a minute to tell the crowd why they were running.

Don Braithwaite

I come originally from Campbell River. Don't hold that against me.

I've lived up here now for about five years. My dad had Gulf Airlines back in the 70s. So, we've been around here our whole lives, my wife is from here. Thought we'd give this a go. It's a great place, really love it. I ran for council 26 years ago in Campbell River. I ran 175 votes short of getting in and I just figure with the young kids I have; it's time to try again.

I also worked in all the major industries, fish farming, logging and mining.

Alfred Gagnon

I've been here in Port Hardy for since I'm 17 years old. So, I've spent a lot of time here, and I've seen the community change dramatically, especially when our mine closed, and I saw also how resilient the people of Port Hardy are.

There's a way to go into the future thinking that possibly we'll have more industries up here coming to our town. This town of Port Hardy has been very resilient through the years, going through all the changes and the times that we have gone through with it. I raised two kids up here and a lot of people probably have met my kids, Kendra and Sebastian. They are now living in Courtenay.

Athena Guy

Let's just get right to it. What I would bring to this community is awareness. I've learned a lot from the people in this community, I've seen a lot of struggles, I've seen a lot of getting along. I've seen a lot of mishaps and misunderstandings. And one of the things that I realize is that there's just a little bit of a disconnect where we kind of put our perception, where we focus on things. So, that's what I would bring, is an awareness to kind of shift our perspective, so we can kind of see things differently, so we can make the changes to go forward.

Adam Ireton

My wife and I moved here in 2006. We were here on a short-term contract and have made Port Hardy our home since then. I've been involved with the community in several different ways over those years with the Rotary Club, volunteering with sports, the Chamber of Commerce and so on. My wife and I also own a small business in town, so we've seen the struggle that a small (business faces)

I think that I would be a valuable member to the council. With my business background and the experience that I've had dealing with the

Doug Kerr.

I'm a resident of Port Hardy and a business owner in Port Hardy.

I retired from the Coast Guard Lighthouse Service in 2025. Before that, I owned a photographic and framing business in Courtenay.

I moved to Vancouver Island in 1988 and have had the privilege to have lived and participated in several communities, including Port Alberni, Campbell River and the Courtney/Cornox area.

I've participated in various organizations over the years, including Lions Club and the Cornox Valley Art Gallery Board of Directors.

If I'm elected, I welcome the opportunity to serve within the town of Port Hardy and help



Photo — Kathy O'Reilly

An All-Candidates meeting was held Oct. 5 at the Port Hardy Civic Centre hosted by the Port Hardy Fish and Wildlife Society with 10 of the 12 candidates attending.

create a thriving and exceptional community.

Angela Porter

My husband and I own Port Hardy Building Supply in town. I was born here, raised here, moved away, moved back. Raised my children here, my grandchildren are being raised here, my roots here are deep.

There's a lot of things that a lot of you have come to me in the last couple of days and told me that you'd like to see changed. And I believe that all of us are on the same page from my conversations with these other people.

I think that it's going to be a good race this year, and I think that all of you have some really tough decisions to make, and I hope that you make them fully conscious of what you've read, what you see, and what you know, not based on other people's opinions or persuasions.

We have to become part of the rest of everything else to make sure that everything is going to work together.

Gavin Scott

I would like to thank everyone for being here. I'm not here for myself. I'm here for you. I will work with council and the mayor to bring new ideas. I have lived all over

Canada. My first husband was military.

I would like to bring economic ideas where we form partnerships like Grace Manor in Edmonton, where the Salvation Army built a seniors' housing with the town.

I'd like to bring those ideas of working with the provincial government, the federal government, and other governments.

We can't do this alone. We can only do this together. And if we continue to think that we're a remote community that can survive by just being ourselves, that's not the mentality that's going to work. We have to become part of the rest of everything else to make sure that everything is going to work together. So, by bringing in other money, we are not responsible as taxpayers for everything.

David Summers

I've operated a fishing charter business here in Port Hardy for the past 20 years, and over the last several years, my wife and I have made Port Hardy our full-time home.

We're raising our two daughters here, who are now 2 and a half and 10 months old.

If elected, there are four areas I want to focus on. First, I'll be a fierce advocate for our

resource industries and small businesses. Forestry, fishing, mining, tourism, and the many businesses and workers that support them are fundamental to our community and region.

Second, I want to focus on building family housing. If we want to attract young families, skilled workers, entrepreneurs, doctors and nurses, we

need homes for them. Housing is both an economic and a community issue.

Third, I'll work toward getting our emergency room open 24 hours a day and make sure our community's voices are heard loud and clear by both Island Health and the provincial government.

Continued on Page 10



Kerr X

Port Hardy
Council

Small business owner in Port Hardy Retired lighthouse keeper

Why are you running for council?

I like this community. I like this town so much that over the past year I've spent my time to open and operate a business in the town and I plan on staying. I feel that I can bring some of my experience to the community and be a positive force and contribute to the betterment of Port Hardy.

My experience of having lived in other towns and being a part of various boards and volunteer groups has given me the opportunity to see how other communities have made changes for the better and I can certainly put many those ideas forward in a council setting. In short, I am an individual with fresh eyes and fresh ideas willing to work hard within the existing municipal system to bring about positive results for the community.

Contact Doug Kerr at - raincst@gmail.com

Authorized by D. Kerr - Financial agent - raincst@gmail.com

North Island **Reflections**



A bumper crop of apples on Cormorant Island. 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.

This week's Reflection sponsored by ...

Candidates introduce themselves at Hardy forum

Continued from Page 9

Finally, I want to help find practical, compassionate solutions to our downtown challenges. I'm running because I believe in this community, I know what Port Hardy is capable of, I know what challenges we face, and I believe we can bring new ideas to help Hardy prosper.

Brian Texmo

I'm 39 years old. I've spent all 39 of my years in Fort Hardy. I love this community. I'm out in the community as much as I can through volunteerism. I run business, two businesses in town, North Island Power and North Island Wild. I have so many friends in this town that I care about and family. I want to see Port Hardy do well. I want to see Port Hardy succeed.

I want to see it continue to grow, but I'm also not going to neglect the fact that there's some serious issues

that we're all seeing around town that need to be resolved and we need to heavily advocate for. And that's what I'm here for. I'm not afraid to have the hard



conversations. I'm not afraid to listen. I'm not stubborn. I will change my mind. I'll listen to each and any one of you. You can come and talk to me anytime you want, and that's what I'm there for. I'm here to represent you guys, and that's what I'm running for is because I care.

John Tidbury

I would like to start by saying thank you to the citizens of Port Hardy and

who put their trust in me and voted for me in the last election and to everyone who has taken the time to be here tonight, thank you. It is truly an honour to serve the people of Port Hardy. I hope to have the opportunity to continue serving our community. Being a member of council has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, every time I sit around the council table, I am reminded of the responsibilities we have to the people of the community. I enjoy working together with my fellow council members, listening to different ideas, discussing issues, and making decisions that will help move Port Hardy forward at the end of the day, which is what we're here to do, to work for the people of Port Hardy and for the future of the community.

Janet Dorward

Good evening, everyone. I'm sorry I can't be there with you tonight. Our family recently welcomed a new grandchild, and I'm away helping his parents give him the very best start in life. As much as I want to be there for tonight's discussion, this is one of those moments when family come first, and I hope you'll understand. I'm asking for your support for a fourth term on Port Hardy Council, because I continue to care deeply about this community and its future.

Over the past term, I've been proud to work alongside council, district staff, community organizations, and residents on issues that matter to Port Hardy - from recreation, infrastructure, better communication with our residents, and the local economy, to advocating for housing and healthcare. There is still a lot of work ahead.

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lifestyles&leisure

Brazilian student embraces year of discovery in Port Hardy

By Kathy O'Reilly

A Brazilian exchange student in Port Hardy is living a dream she has had since childhood.

Maya Pioli, a Rotary exchange student from Brazil, arrived on the North Island Aug. 26 to begin her year abroad.

"Going on an exchange has been a dream of mine since I was little. I also needed a change: I wanted to step outside my comfort zone, experience a completely different culture, make connections and friendships I never would have made at home, and learn to be independent," Maya explains.

"I wanted to challenge myself, discover more about who I am, and experience life from a completely different perspective.

"I knew it would be a big step, especially because I would be spending an entire year away from home, but I was excited to see where this experience would take me and all the memories I would make along the way."

Canada has been a country Maya always wanted to visit. She also wanted the opportunity to improve her English and experience the Canadian way of life.

Maya is from Marília, São Paulo, Brazil, a city of about 240,000 people.

"For Brazil, it's considered a relatively small city, but compared to Canada, it's actually quite a large city."

Among the biggest adjustments for Maya are the differences between school and everyday life in Brazil and Canada.

"Brazil is generally much more crowded and busy, while life here feels quieter, safer, and much more connected to nature," she said.

"I feel like I have more freedom here because I can walk around without worrying as much about my safety. But I've found people in both places to be very welcoming and friendly."

Maya is taking Grade 12 classes at Port Hardy Secondary School, but she will complete her graduation requirements through her school in Brazil rather than graduate in Canada.

"I still have to graduate from my school in Brazil."

The Canadian school system differs from Maya's experience in Brazil in its daily schedule, academic calendar, and approach to choosing subjects.

"In Brazil, my classes start at seven in the morning and finish around 1 p.m., and I don't get to choose my subjects. My school year starts in February and ends in November, so we have our winter break in the middle



Photo — Kathy O'Reilly

Maya Pioli, a Port Hardy Rotary exchange student from Brazil, arrived on the North Island on Aug. 26

of the year," she explained. "Here, I really like that I can choose some of my classes and take subjects that I'm actually interested in."

At home in Brazil, Maya

rode horses, spent time with her dachshund, and enjoyed reading.

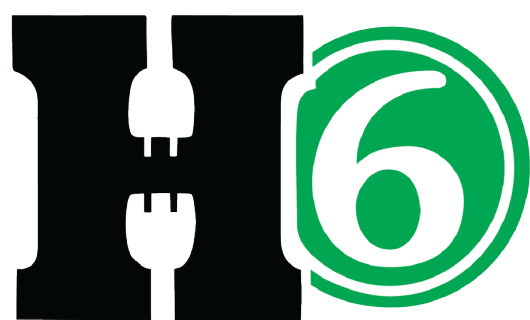
While here, Maya wants to experience as much as she can.

"I want to explore the is-

land, I'm really excited to go hiking, see more of the beaches around here, and hopefully go skiing," she said.

Maya loves Port Hardy so far.

"Everyone has been so welcoming, and I've already made so many great memories here. I really love how beautiful it is and how much nature there is all around."



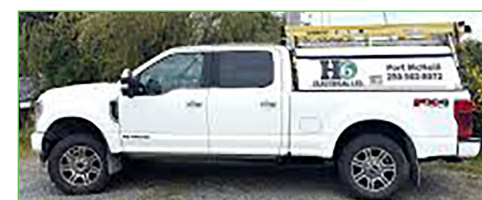
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BC Movement Arts Society presents: Dirt

Returning to Campbell River and Sointula, Tentacle Tribe transcends the boundaries between street and contemporary dance with a striking piece - 'DIRT' - for five virtuoso performers.

Through its raw expression, this creation is a critique of humanity's conquering relationship with the planet. The quintet mixes puppets and movements in an unusual conceptual hip-hop. Choreographed by Elon Höglund, 'DIRT' is a profound meditation on our ancestral connection with the Earth.

Tentacle Tribe is a Montreal-based dance company co-founded in 2012 by Canadian dancer Emmanuelle

Lê Phan and Swedish dancer Höglund. Approaching choreography through a wide variety of movement philosophies, Tentacle Tribe concocts uncommon dance works with a contemporary approach.

The company is internationally renowned for its unique style of "conceptual hip-hop," blending b-boying, b-girling, and street dance with contemporary flow. Tentacle Tribe has toured nationally and globally across contemporary and street dance festivals and presentations.

The Campbell River show will be at the Tidemark Theatre Thursday, Oct. 15 at

7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$13.50 to \$38 plus venue fees and GST.

For tickets please visit: <https://tidemarktheatre.com/evens/> or call: 250.287.7465

In Sointula, the performance is Saturday, Oct. 17 at the Finnish Organizational Hall at 7:45 p.m.

To reserve please: Email: movementartsbc@gmail.com or call: 604-970-3206.

For discounted Group rates for eight or more please call Mary-Louise Albert at 604-970-3206 or email: movementartsbc@gmail.com

*Tickets are also available at the door for all shows (but people are respectfully encourage to reserve).



Photo — Submitted

Presented by the BC Movement Arts Society, returning to Campbell River (Oct. 15) and Sointula (Oct. 17), are Tentacle Tribe who will be performing Dirt.

Restrooms require emergency pump out

Kathy O'Reilly

A member of the public questioned two emergency campground-toilet pump-outs costing a combined \$5,290.95 at the Regional District of Mount Waddington board meeting on Sept. 22.

The emergency sanitary services were carried out in August at Bere Point Campground and Quatse River Campground after the toilets reached capacity. Immediate pumping was required to keep the facilities sanitary and operational. The emergency pump-out at Bere Point Campground cost \$3,116.40. The emergency pump-out at Quatse River Campground cost \$2,174.55. "We're just wondering, is that not part of the maintenance of a campground?" a member of the public asked during question period. "Whoever the caretaker is, wouldn't that be regular maintenance?" She added that friends who had visited the area stayed at Quatse River Campground. "They told us the bathrooms were disgusting. There was mould, and

she kept her shoes on."

"I honestly don't know exactly how that contract is laid out. I'm not sure whether the contractor or the parks crew initiates that activity," Chair Andrew Hory said. "I know that we have had other feedback that wasn't positive either. The board is highly aware of that feedback and is interested in seeing conditions improve, because the last thing you want when you go somewhere is to feel like you can't use the facilities without needing to be decontaminated afterward," Hory said. "I can get back to you on exactly what triggers a regular pump-out and what circumstances would require an emergency pump-out," he said.

"If there is a need to improve how that gets monitored, then I think we would all have to see that as well, right? Because as you mentioned, these things are known facilities and monitoring them should be built in at the operational levels."

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October 17 Vote Guylaine Longpre for Area C

Guylaine Longpre	My Commitment	About Guylaine
FOR AREA C DIRECTOR Regional District of Mount Waddington  - Investing in our community - Supporting transparent, accountable leadership - Protecting our natural environment	As your Area C Director, I will work to: - Provide fair and respectful representation. - Support transparency and accountability. - Keep residents informed about decisions affecting Area C. - Work with the Regional District Board to strengthen local services and represent Area C priorities. - Support an active Hyde Creek Advisory Planning Commission so residents have a meaningful voice in local planning. - Ask questions and seek accountability for services Area C residents rely on. - Listen to residents and support meaningful community consultation.	- I moved to Hyde Creek in 2007. - I served on the Hyde Creek Advisory Planning Commission (APC) for 12 years, from 2011 to 2023. - I have volunteered with the ICBC/RCMP Speed Watch road safety program since 2010. - I have volunteered with the Policing Society since 2018. - I am a member of the Save the Burl Restoration Group and helped with fundraising. - I worked for Air Canada for 46 years. 



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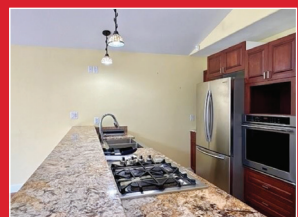


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Prime semi-waterfront location. Meticulously maintained, ocean-view bungalow. The main floor features an airy open layout with vaulted ceilings in the living room, rich hardwood floors, and a galley style kitchen with granite countertops. The main level offers seamless living with a spacious bedroom and full bath. Step down to the bright walk-out basement, heated by in-floor radiant heat. Versatile layout complete with a second bedroom, a 3-piece bath, family room anchored by a propane fireplace, a flexible den/flex space, and laundry facilities.



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

SOLD — 903 Maquinna Avenue, Port Alice!

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