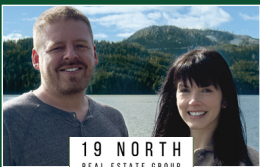




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Checking Out The Merchandise

Photo — Kathy O'Reilly

Shoppers turned out in droves for the Port McNeill Craft Market Nov. 15 that was held in both the Community Hall and the Old School.

Budding new business

By Kathy O'Reilly

Port Alice has a budding new business.

The village is the latest North Island community to have a retail cannabis store.

Work is currently underway on the new store in the FP Foods Plaza.

At the March 12, 2025 council meeting, a proposal from Derek Koel of Mainland Cannabis 247 Ltd. to open the store was considered.

"In 2024, The Village of Port Alice updated our Zoning By-law to include provisions for Cannabis Retail Sales. As the proposal fit the provisions in the Zoning Bylaw, the Council was in favour of the proposal," said Chief Administrative Officer Bonnie Danyk.

At its June 25, 2025, meeting Council reviewed a letter from the BC Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) regarding the application and voted in favour of the application.

Continued on Page 3

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Grant pays for new breakwater for Alice marina

By Kathy O'Reilly

Port Alice has a new breakwater.

Breakwaters reduce wave energy and protect coastlines from tides, currents, waves, and storm surges. They can also protect ships in a harbour from

marine hazards like wind-driven waves.

"The previous breakwater for our marina was comprised of logs/boom sticks. These logs had severely deteriorated and had minimal anchoring. This caused the previous breakwater to move around a lot, and logs to break free," said Economic Development Officer Ryan Nicholson.

"This resulted in logs becoming a threat to boats around our marina, and to the general waters surrounding us. The previous breakwater provided little to no protection and constantly put our marine infrastructure at risk," Nicholson explained.

This was particularly bad in the winter, resulting in minimal use of the marina in the off season. "We are hopeful that this new and improved engineered system, with significantly more anchoring, will provide a much safer marina that is used throughout more of the year."

The project is not quite complete, so there is not a final cost yet. The breakwater was quoted to be approximately \$300,000.

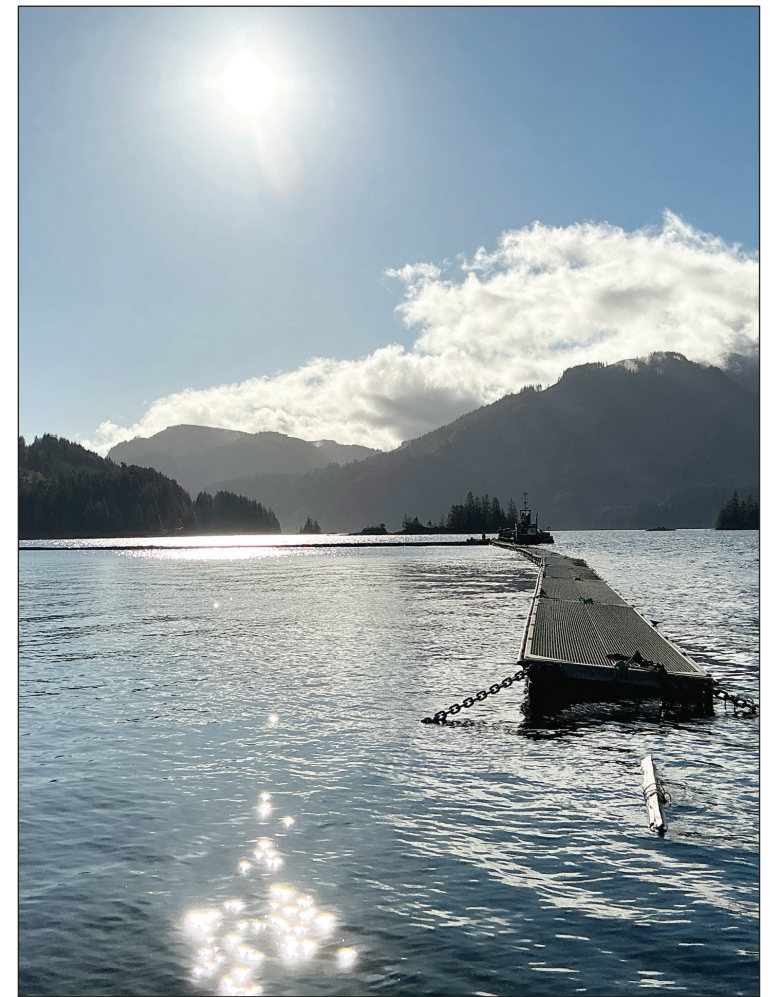


Photo —Submitted

Port Alice has a new breakwater using funds from a Destination Development Grant.

"The funding for this new breakwater was provided through the Destination Development Grant, which also allowed us to replace the concrete boat ramp, install free public Wi-Fi, increase parking, and add public seating, bear resistant garbage containers, and much more," Nicholson said.

"We are very happy that a huge majority of the work here was completed by local North Island businesses. A huge thank you to Mowi Canada for their help and donations towards this project.

"We could not have done this without them and their continual support of our community."

Health gains and inequities highlighted

Island Health's Chief Medical Health Officer has released her 2025 Population Health Status Report, offering an in-depth look at the health of people across the region with a focus on children and youth.

Among the positive trends, the report notes a 41 per cent drop in child and youth poverty between 2016 and 2021, childhood immunization rates that now exceed the provincial average, and declining rates of substance use and self-harm among youth.

"This report shows that progress is possible, and already happening," said Dr. Réka Gustafson, Island Health's chief medical health officer and vice president of population and public health.

"From decreasing child poverty rates to improved youth mental health, we're seeing positive shifts that reflect the strength and resilience of our communities," Dr. Gustafson said.

The report also notes declining life expectancy and differences in health outcomes driven by social determinants of health including geography and income.

Life expectancy varies by up to eight years depending on where people live within the region, with men disproportionately affected by premature mortality, largely due to unregulated drug poisonings.

Residents continue to use more tobacco, cannabis, and alcohol compared to the rest of the province despite an overall decline in use.

The region has also seen increased cases of communicable diseases including syphilis and tuberculosis, with housing insecurity being a risk factor.

"Substance use continues to be elevated in the Island Health region, leading to avoidable harms like injury, illness and death," said Dr. Gustafson. "We must continue investing in upstream prevention, develop a comprehensive system of care, and address the root causes of health inequities. By equipping communities with evidence to shape policy and promoting healthier public attitudes and policies around substance use, we can begin to shift the culture."

The report also highlights ongoing mental health challenges among youth, including a notable decline in their sense of community connection since 2018. While some indicators are trending in a positive direction, overall youth mental health has yet to rebound to pre-pandemic levels.

Dr. Gustafson says sustained health promotion and prevention activities are key. "To make a real difference, we must intervene early, work collaboratively across sectors, and focus on the social conditions that shape health," said Dr. Gustafson. "These are not just health system issues - they are community-wide challenges."

The report is intended to serve as an engagement tool to support dialogue among public health staff, clinicians, local governments, and community organizations across the Island Health region.

In British Columbia, medical health officers have the statutory responsibility to monitor and report on the health of the population, providing advice on public health issues and the implementation of relevant health promotion and protection policies.

To read the full report visit Population Health Statistics & Publications | Island Health



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Photo — Ryan Nicholson

The Village of Port Alice is taking steps to determine the future of the Quatsino Chalet Annex apartment building located at 1113 Nigei Street.

Alice has Annex condition assessment done

By Kathy O'Reilly

The Village of Port Alice is taking steps to determine the future of the Quatsino Chalet Annex located at 1113 Nigei Street.

On Oct. 7, 2024, the Annex was auctioned at the annual tax sale. There were no bidders on the property, so the Village of Port Alice was deemed the purchaser.

"I am currently in the process of transferring the title to the Village of Port Alice," said Chief Administrative Officer Bonnie Danyk in a report to council.

"The Village of Port Alice Council will need to decide if they would like to sell the building at market value or if they want to renovate it and use it for housing," Danyk said. There is a strong need on the North Island for both subsidized seniors housing and employee housing for health care and service sector workers.

"I would recommend that one of the first tasks to be done is a condition assessment on the building. This will give us a baseline of what will need to be repaired immediately as well as an understanding of what services are

shared with the Quatsino Hotel (heating, hydro) and what the process would be to sever them. The Village should also work on making the building more secure and consider adding an alarm system."

If the Village decides to keep the building and renovate it for housing, they will need to fund it. Current programs such as the Federal Government 'Build Canada Home' and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) 'Affordable Housing Fund' are for new builds only. CMHC has an 'Apartment Construction Loan Program: Seniors Rental Housing' but there is a minimum of 50 units required. There are funding and loan programs with a strong focus on green infrastructure available through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. BC Housing may also have funding programs or partnerships available.

"Once the condition assessment is done these programs can be researched more thoroughly to see what available options are," Danyk said.

At their regular meeting Nov. 12, council agreed to proceed with a condition assessment.

Port Alice business community is budding

Continued from Page 1

"The retail space is in the process of being renovated and Mainland Cannabis 247 Ltd. is hoping to be open before Christmas this year," Danyk said. "The Village of Port Alice

is excited to have another retail business," she continued. "Mainland Cannabis 247 Ltd. has successfully run Cannabis retail stores in Port Hardy and Port McNeill, and we expect them to be successful in Port Alice as well."



Photo — Kathy O'Reilly

That's A Wrap!

Sunset Elementary School's Parent Advisory Committee members were on site at the Port McNeill Craft Market Nov. 15 helping customers get a jump on their Christmas gift wrapping as a fund-raiser for the school.

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editorial



Photo — Robin Quirk, Robin's Eye Photography

Crows' feet include a counter-current heat exchange system that prevents freezing in cold weather.



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— Our beautiful First Nation's eagle (kwikw) courtesy Nakwaxda'xw artist Davis Henderson
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U18 Wild host kickoff female tournament

The Tri-Port U18 Wild hosted the inaugural Wild Kickoff Female Hockey Tournament from Nov. 14–16, welcoming teams from Vancouver, the Campbell River Hurricanes, and the Cowichan Capitals.

Over three days of exciting hockey, the Wild battled through four games opening against Campbell River on Friday, facing Cowichan and Vancouver on Saturday, and capping it off with a thrilling rematch against Vancouver in the finals.

The hometown crowd had plenty to cheer about as the Tri-Port Wild captured gold, with Vancouver finishing second and Campbell River taking third.

The Port Hardy arena was full with fans, including many younger female hockey players. Their cheers, alongside longtime supporters, created an unforgettable atmosphere for the tournament.

Player highlights include Scarlett Sawyer and Emma Clair showcasing their offensive skills, scoring multiple goals and assists across all four games.

Liv Humphrey delivered a breakthrough performance in the finals, netting multiple goals to secure the win.

Despite suffering an early injury, Tessa Russell played



Photo — Submitted

The Tri-Port U18 Wild hosted the inaugural Wild Kickoff Female Hockey Tournament from Nov. 14–16 and captured gold by defeating a team from Vancouver. Campbell River finished third.

an outstanding tournament. Kiya Miller energized the crowd every shift, with fans chanting “It’s Miller time!” whenever she hit the ice.

On defense, Ava Santin, Rylan Allen, and Skyar Mintz worked hard all weekend long combining strong defensive plays with goals and assists. First year player Tomika Jack King impressed with her heart

and hustle, while Dodie Humchitt proved a powerful force along the boards, consistently coming away with the puck. Aaliyah Johnson translated hard work in practice into smart plays on the ice.

Goaltender Jordan Windsor anchored the team with steady performances. Teagan Fraser left it all on the ice in the third game, tal-

lying a goal and an assist. Kilynn Wilson and Mya Hunt added physical presence and play-making ability, rounding out a balanced team effort.

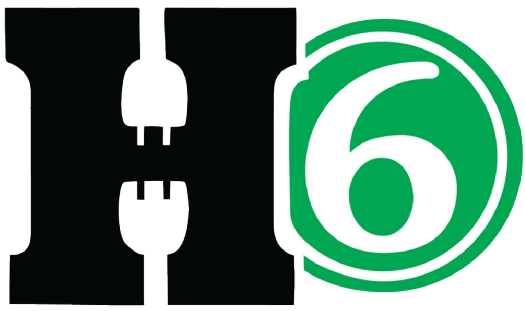
Behind the bench the Wild’s success was supported by a dedicated staff: father-daughter duo Dave and Karmen Sawyer, the ever calm Sarah Case, and newcomer Kaitlyn Wilson.

A huge shout out also goes to Aaron Miller, team tournament manager, and the many volunteers who made the event possible.

The Wild have already started their regular season strong, with wins against the Campbell River Hurricanes and Victoria C1. Next weekend, they’ll face Victoria C3 in Sooke and the Cowichan Valley Cap-

itals in Chemainus. Their next home game is set for Dec. 13, before heading to Nanaimo for a post-Christmas female hockey tournament.

The Wild would like to thank the generous support of Prosperity, Cape Scott Wind LP, K’awat’si Marine Services, and Mowi for their commitment to female hockey.



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Photo — Robin Quirk, Robin's Eye Photography

Over the last month a juvenile Snow Goose has been foraging and resting in Alert Bay.

Snow Goose visits Alert Bay

By Robin Quirk

Over the last month, Alert Bay has been blessed to see a rare visitor.

A juvenile Snow Goose has been foraging and resting down by the Health Centre and field by the U'mista Cultural Centre. There is a concern that it could be hit by a car or injured in some way. It does not seem to be afraid of cars and people. Mars Wildlife Rescue believes the goose has flight exhaustion.

Snow Geese are medium-sized geese that breed from late May to mid-August. But they spend more than half the year flying to and from their warmer winter homes.

Migration begins in late August, with most birds arriving on and staying in fall staging areas from September through November, depending on latitude and influenced by weather conditions. Arrival in wintering areas is from October to December.

During their spring migration, huge groups of Snow

Geese fly very high. They (4,800 kilometres) from their travel along specific paths, winter areas to the Arctic flying over 3,000 miles tundra.



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Artist creates whimsical portraits of women

By Kathy O'Reilly

When artist Norma Jean Bone and her sister Cindy closed on their townhouse, they had never even heard of Port Alice.

"My sister and I were thinking about retirement. Tired of renting, we wanted to own our own place, so we started looking on-line for the cheapest homes in all of BC. We were living in Surrey at the time," Norma said.

"Every bid was turned down except for a townhouse in Port Alice. After all the legal stuff was handled and money deposited, we asked ourselves, 'Where is Port Alice?' We had never heard of the place," she explained.

They bought the property sight unseen.

"Although there were some surprises and a lot of TLC that needed to be done, the Lord had given us a perfect home and an amazing view. That was nine years ago."

Norma was born in Saskatchewan, grew up in Calgary, lived in Kamloops and eventually moved to the Vancouver area.

"I have never had a 'career' but have had a multitude of jobs from office administration to school janitor, to bus driving, warehouse work, and finally construction, which taught me everything I needed to know to turn our place in Port Alice into a beautiful, cozy home," she said.

From a very early age, her dream was to become a famous artist and to be able to live off earnings from her work. "But life has mostly been about survival. In grade school, I spent most of my time gazing out the window or standing in a corner or sitting in the hallway. The only time I paid attention was during art class."

Her Grade 3 teacher phoned Norma's mom and suggested she enroll her in the Children's Saturday Morning Art Program, for children in Grades 1 to 6, at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary.

"I walked an hour to get there, rain or snow, but it was the highlight of my little life. As a teenager, on into adulthood, I sold my paintings. I love faces and have mostly done portraits in oil or graphite. I lean toward realism."

As an adult Norma has studied at the Alberta Institute of Art, later called Alberta University of the Arts in Calgary; trained under noted artist T.A. Goodchild; and attended Caribou College art programs in Kamloops.

Norma has had some success in various Juried Art Competitions: Federation of Canadian Artists on Granville Island, Vancouver; Burnaby Arts Council Gallery (her first solo exhibition); Gallery on Main, Lacombe, Alberta; Cambridge House International Showcase for Visual Arts, Vancouver. "My motivation and inspiration come from my faith in Jesus. I see His handiwork everywhere."

For several years Norma has been fascinated by seashells. "Each one is intricately constructed with a variety of colours and patterns and magnificent shapes," she explained.

"Unfortunately, their iridescent beauty is hidden on the inside, much like us humans. Walking along the beach one day, head down looking for shells, sea glass and unusual rocks, a picture popped into my head of this face with goggles and sea creatures in her hair," she recalled.

"I brushed it off a couple of times until I realized that my God was speaking to me. I saw exactly how to do it; the form,



Photo — Kathy O'Reilly

Port Alice resident artist Norma Jean Bone stands with a collection of her artwork at the Christmas Creations Craft Fair Nov. 16 at the Port Alice Community Centre.

the strips of material and wool drenched in paint, the glass and how to do the eyes, the shells, the sea creatures and of course the humour," said Norma.

"The possibilities were endless. I was joyously obsessed! Each piece takes several weeks to complete due to drying time before proceeding to the next step. And then there is the hard, tedious task of making the frames which is only made possible by my experience in construction," she said.

"My art is reminiscent of 'Relief Art' in which designs or sculptures are carved into marble, eliminating the background, and causing the figures to stick out. Ancient cultures as well as modern day artists have used this method," she explained.

"I have tried to imitate this ancient art form by using mixed medium and keeping the form as neutral as possible, reflecting the original use of natural stone, marble, wood, etc.," she said.

"I begin with a Styrofoam head, covering it with strips of material saturated in paint to give a textured look. Because I keep it neutral, texture is very important to give it depth and movement."

Norma has presented her whimsical pieces recently at markets in Port McNeill and Port Alice.

"I am so surprised and blessed by the favourable response from the public to my exhibition. Many thanks to everyone who purchased one of my pieces."

Johnston at NDP leadership debate

The first official debate of contestants for the federal NDP leadership takes place Nov. 27 in Montreal. You're invited to join NDP members and supporters from the Comox Valley and beyond, including former North Island-Powell River MP Rachel Blaney, to watch and discuss the debate together, in-person. The debate will take place starting at 4 p.m. at the Little Red Church in Comox. The debate will stream live at ndp.ca/debate. Five candidates have been confirmed for the debate and the contest so far: Tanille Johnston, Rob Ashton, Avi Lewis, Heather McPherson and Tony McQuail. Johnston was the NDP candidate in the last federal election for the North Island-Powell River riding. The new leader will be chosen on March 29, 2026.



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

Local gardening services from once-a-year fall and spring cleanup, to scheduled garden maintenance. Laurie.
250-230-2335

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



Services

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

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

Tires

4 205/55R 16 M&S tires and black rims for sale. They are 2 years old. Asking \$900.
250-230-1118

Coming Events

Hyde Creek Recreation (HCR)

AGM
Annual General Meeting

November 24, 2025
7. p.m. Hyde Creek Hall

Your voice is needed to plan the future of our park.

Annual elections for HCR Directors

Open to Hyde Creek and Nimpkish Heights Residents

Port Hardy Holiday events present:

**Christmas shopping event:
December 6th**

**Port Hardy Civic Centre
11am-3pm**

Hyde Creek Christmas market
When: December, 13th
Time: 10:00-2:00
Where: Hyde Creek Hall

Tires

4 matching winter tires for 16-inch rims. Used one season. 235/65R 16 103H. Tubeless steel-belted radials. \$300.
250-974-8336

Tires

2 tires and rims for a boat or travel trailer. 205/75/R14. In good shape. \$120.
250-949-7678

classifieds/marketplace

Careers



Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Daycare
Gila'ga Gangānanam Aboriginal Head Start
PO Box 1154, 184 Ba'as Road
Port Hardy, BC V0N 2P0
Phone (250) 949-9838



Early Childhood Educator (ECE)
Employment Opportunity

There is a full-time Early Childhood Educator (ECE) position offered at the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Daycare and Gila'ga Gangānanam Aboriginal Head Start starting immediately.

The Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Daycare and Gila'ga Gangānanam Aboriginal Head Start is a licensed daycare centre located on the Tsulquate Reserve in Port Hardy, British Columbia. The daycare primarily serves Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw band membership with a focus on following the components of Aboriginal Head Start program for children up to 4 years old.

Qualifications and Education:

- Early Childhood Education certification with license to practice
- Current First Aid Certificate
- Updated Criminal Record Check

Experience and Skills:

- Experience working in a daycare, pre-school or a Head Start program, preference will be given to those with Head Start work experience
- Knowledge of daycare operations and some reporting requirements
- Planning and implementing culturally and developmentally appropriate activities
- Develop and implement child-care programs that support and promote the physical, cognitive, emotional, social, and imaginative development of children
- Lead and guide activities and provide opportunities for children to express creativity through art, dramatic play, music, sensory activities and physical movement
- Provide guidance and sensitivity towards children with diverse needs, including toileting and challenging behaviours
- Respect individual family needs, choices, and confidentiality while communicating with parents, guardians or other staff members
- Assess the abilities, interests and needs of children and use this knowledge to adapt programming and the environment for greater success
- Work collaboratively with coworkers, parents and community supports
- Maintain an environment that protects the health, security and well-being of children

Salary and Benefits

- \$28.00 - \$33.00/hour (commensurate with qualifications and experience)
- Extended health plan and pension plan available after a three-month probationary period

This position is open until filled. Only those short-listed will be contacted. Please e-mail applications, including a cover letter stating your interest, a current resume listing experience, qualifications and a minimum of two references, as well as a copy of your certification to:

Reed Allen - Daycare Manager
Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Daycare
Box 1154, Port Hardy, B.C., V0N 2P0
Tel: (250) 949-9838
E-mail: daycaremanager@gwanaknations.ca

North Island Reflections



A Bald Eagle ready for take off. 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 ...





Port Alice Marina

Menu at McWilkies.ca

Monday	Wing Night 5pm-8pm	Friday	Kids eat free 3pm-8pm
Tuesday	Gyro/Donair Night 5pm-8pm	Sat.	20% off Fried chicken 5pm-8pm
Wed.	- 20% off burgers 3pm-8pm	Sunday	2 for 1 Cod 3pm-8pm
Thursday	20% off for 65+ 3pm-8pm	1-833-629-4554 1-833-MCWILKI	



Melanie McRann
Cell: 778-886-5219



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



19 North Real Estate Group
Sarah & Drew Cell: 250-902-8872



Johan Olsen
Cell: 250-209-9667



Sandra Masales
Cell: 250-902-9271

THESE TRI-PORT HOMES ARE WAITING FOR YOU

11-8805 Central Street, Port Hardy
\$330,000 MLS® # 1020521



Featuring hardwood flooring throughout, modern finishes, and a move-in-ready design, with expansive windows framing stunning ocean and mountain views. A well-defined main level layout featuring distinct kitchen, dining, and living areas offer both functionality and style. The generously sized primary bedroom on the top level has the best view in the home. Completing the floor are a full-sized main bathroom and two additional comfortable and inviting bedrooms. Two outdoor spaces, including a front balcony and backyard patio with garden space, provide the ideal setting to relax and enjoy the fresh ocean air.

25-2697 Mine Road, Port McNeill
\$339,000 MLS® # 1006572



This inviting 3-bed, 1.5-bath townhouse perfectly blends comfort, style, and value. Freshly painted throughout most of the home, this space features an open-concept main floor ideal for relaxing and entertaining. The kitchen with updated cabinets flows into the living and dining areas. Outside is a private, fenced patio. Upstairs are 3 bedrooms, including the primary, along with a full bath, laundry space & large storage closet. Other highlights include an attached single garage, plus a low strata fee that keeps costs manageable. This home is an opportunity for first-time buyers, investors, or anyone looking to downsize without compromise.

8810 Douglas Street, Port Hardy
\$472,500 MLS® # 1020218



Stunning home with breathtaking ocean and mountain views from the living room, kitchen and covered deck in this bright, updated central Port Hardy home. The main floor features 2 spacious bedrooms and a 4-piece bathroom with a deep soaker Jacuzzi tub, while downstairs offers a large family room with a wood stove and 2 more spacious bedrooms. Outdoors, enjoy a covered deck with new stairs, a stunning, fully fenced backyard and garden, two storage sheds and a wired workshop. Wide driveway and a 2023 roof complete this exceptional property - comfort, style and spectacular scenery all in one!

7215 Rupert Street, Port Hardy
\$849,000 MLS® # 1011203



Fully furnished, ultra modern ocean view home. 3 years remaining on home warranty for this 2 bedroom plus den, 3 bath, 3 car garage Aspire Custom Design home. The lot below is included in this sale. Large entrance on ground level that offers a pantry, entrance to the garage and maintenance room, home gym (equipment included), bathroom and bedroom area with murphy bed and access to the yard. Upstairs is the living, kitchen and dining area all with a view. The main bedroom has a large walk in closet and beautiful ensuite. The second bedroom is at the opposite end of the house with it's own ensuite as well.

SOLD

306 Haida Avenue, Port Alice
509 Burman Court, Gold River

Royal LePage Advance Realty

4-7035 Market Street, Port Hardy, BC

250-949-7231

www.porthardyrealestate.net



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