



The North Island

# EAGLE

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*Feathered Family*

*Photo – Christopher Knight*

Female Canada Geese lay from two to nine eggs with an average of five, and both parents protect the nest while the eggs incubate. As soon as the goslings hatch, they are immediately capable of walking, swimming, and finding their own food.



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# Malcolm Island residents protest AJ Elliott 0.6 FTE cut

By Kathy O'Reilly

A petition is circulating on Malcolm Island to stop

the reduction of one 0.6 full-time-equivalent teacher at AJ Elliott School in

Sointula. "Our projected enrollment for AJ in September is 22 students.

Using our current funding formula that works out to a reduction of 0.6 FTE from the current number," said District #85 Board of Trustees Chair Leighton Wishart.

"Our Board attended AJ Elliott for a school visit this morning (May 11), and after listening to the parents who turned out, I have a better understanding of their concern," Wishart said.

"They are under the impression there will be only one classroom next year with all 22 students. But the funding projected is actually for 2.0 FTE or two teachers plus support staff," he said.

"It appears to me confusion or maybe lack of understanding of the facts that may be the problem. The PTR (student/teacher ratio) will be 11-1 which is one of the most favourable in the district."

The decision is not sitting well with local parents.

"Sointula BC is facing a terrible injustice by the school board. They have, without notice, cut one of our most cherished 0.6 teachers and are calling it

a budget cut," said Spencer Chateauvert on Facebook.

"On paper, that may sound small. In a tiny rural school with only 22 projected students across eight grade levels, it is anything but small," said Chateauvert.

"Small schools cannot absorb cuts the way larger schools can," she continued.

"I worry that small schools in our neighbouring communities might face the same challenges in the near future and would like to see all of us use our voices to protect our children from the board's choices," Chateauvert said.

"At AJ Elliott, teachers are more than teachers. They are mentors, safe adults, coaches, aunties, and trusted community members woven into the daily lives of our children. Our school is not simply a building where curriculum is delivered, it is the heartbeat of our community," she said.

"And unlike larger communities, there is no simple alternative for families here. For many children, attending another school would mean long ferry commutes and extended days away from home at a very young age," she continued.

"We are asking the Board of Education to reconsider this staffing reduction and recognize the unique realities of small rural schools."

"With the reduction in staff, we should still be two classrooms most of the time but would be one classroom for a portion of every day as the 0.6 FTE that we are losing was covering the prep, admin and LART time that each teacher or administrator needs," said AJ Elliott Parent Advisory Committee President Brittany Swanson.

"The parents' concerns are definitely losing the teacher but also about the safety and educational quality of

having 22 students in one classroom for part of the time," Swanson said.

"There were several parents and community members who attended the school board meeting last night, myself included. We expressed our concerns and asked the questions about possibly remedies to this cut," she said. "We did not get any clear answers, and I personally walked out of that meeting with more questions than answers. The Board and Superintendent just kept repeating that nobody likes to make these decisions and cut jobs, but they have looked at everything and there are simply no solutions," she said.

"Our concerns about 22 students in one classroom led us to specific questions regarding maximum numbers of students in a classroom if a Kindergarten student is enrolled (which we do have). VINTA (Vancouver Island North Teachers' Association) language states that 17 is the maximum number of students when there is a K student with an exception if the board has demonstrated best efforts to not exceed this maximum," said Swanson.

"The ministry has a maximum of 22 students in a class with a K/1 split. What happens if our enrolment increases by one student (which it is projected to in the following school year) as then the class size would be in violation of the ministry language," she said.

"This issue is complex and our community and parents feel very strongly about not sacrificing the quality of our children's education for budget cuts."

A petition against the cut is circulating. It can be signed at Malcolm Island Food Company or online at [www.change.org/p/stop-harmful-staffing-cuts-at-aj-elliott-elementary](http://www.change.org/p/stop-harmful-staffing-cuts-at-aj-elliott-elementary).



Photo — Kathy O'Reilly

## MP Hosts Town Hall

North Island-Powell River MP Aaron Gunn was in Port Hardy May 11 for a town hall meeting at the Civic Centre. Gunn gave the audience an update on his work in Parliament before taking questions from the floor ranging from the resource economy to floor-crossings, private property rights, and the salmon allocation policy review.



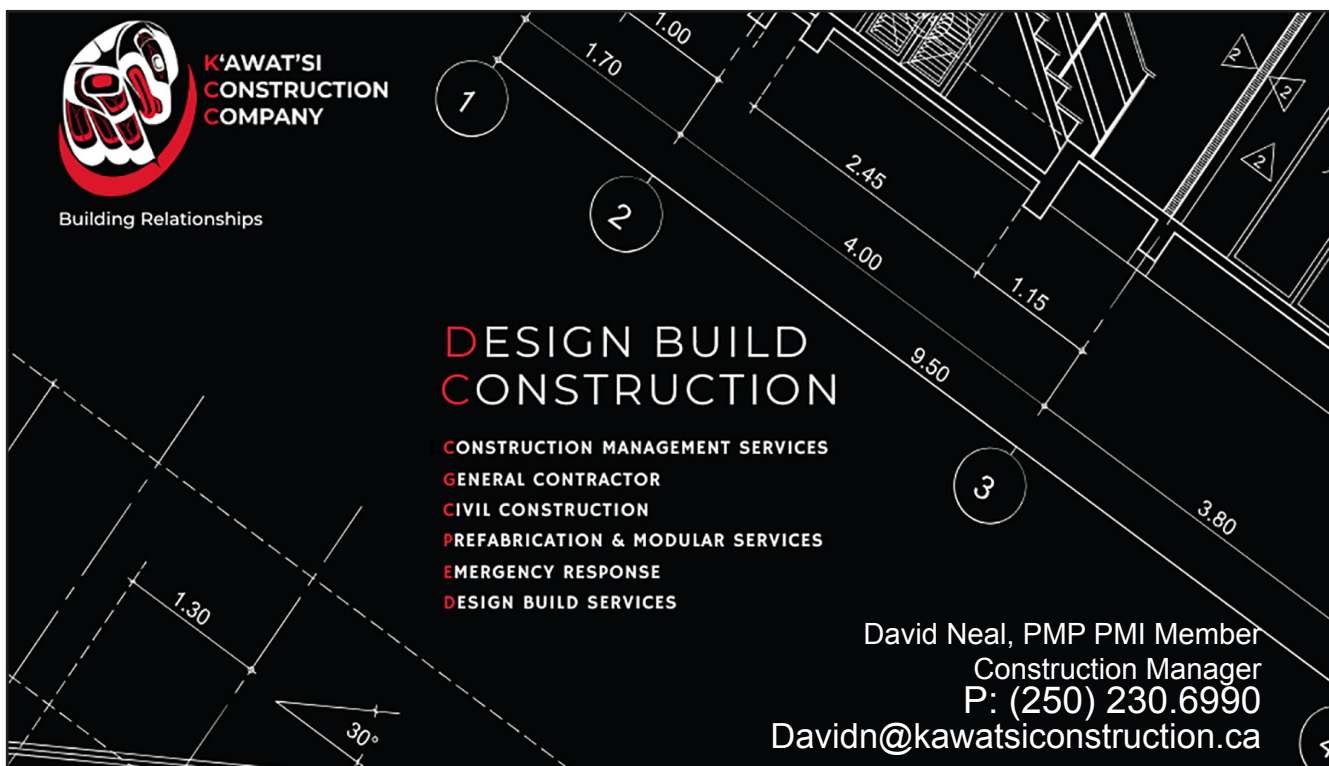
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# Hardy Rotary donates \$15,000 to whale centre

By Kathy O'Reilly

The Whale Interpretive Centre in Telegraph Cove has been given a big fund-raising boost by the Port Hardy Rotary Club.

The centre, run by the Johnstone Strait Killer Whale Interpretive Centre Society, was destroyed in the fire that occurred on Dec. 31, 2025.

Rotary presented society Chair Jim Borrowman and centre Manager and Head Naturalist Tyra Bain with a \$15,000 donation.

The Port Hardy Rotary Club joined the journey in rebuilding not only the Whale Interpretive Centre's building but also its collection of marine mammal skeletons.

"The Bryde's Whale, (pronounced Broodus) which died in McNeill Bay in May 2025, is a true North Island

project and the Whale Interpretive Centre is grateful for the support of the Port Hardy Rotary," said Treasurer Mary Borrowman.

The funds from Rotary have been applied to the articulation of the Bryde's Whale skeleton by Mike deRoos of Cetacea Contracting located on Salt Spring Island. The Bryde's Whale is scheduled to be completed by the end of June.

Bryde's Whales generally live in warm waters. Typically they are not found north of Mexico or southern California.

The whale was given to the WIC by the 'Namgis First Nation.

"The completed Bryde's Whale skeleton will promote learning about the biology and threats facing baleen whales in BC waters



Photo — Port Hardy Rotary Club

The Port Hardy Rotary Club donated \$15,000 to the Whale Interpretive Centre in Telegraph Cove.

and beyond.

"This will support the conservation of marine mammals and the marine environment," Borrowman

said.

The Whale Interpretive Centre anticipates it will be

in its new building in early July. There will be updates posted on social media and

the website ([www.killerwhalecentre.org](http://www.killerwhalecentre.org)) as the building continues.



## 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)

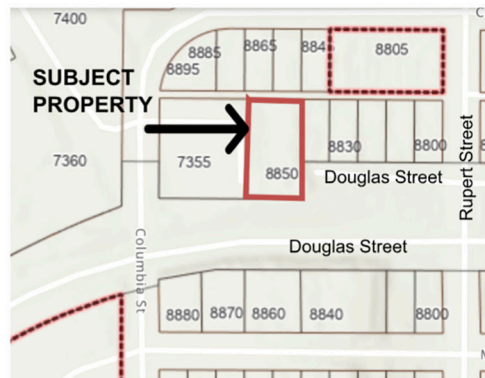
The subject property, located directly behind the RCMP detachment, is intended to continue serving as a community garden for local residents.

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](mailto:general@porthardy.ca)



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# editorial



Photo — Christopher Knight

A Canada Goose landing in the water.



The North Island  
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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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# PORT HARDY

## THROUGH THE DECADES & BEYOND

We respectfully acknowledge that Port Hardy is on the traditional territory of the Kwakiutl people, *Gilakas'la*

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OPEN HOUSE  
SATURDAY, MAY 23<sup>rd</sup>  
1:30-3:30 PM

PORT HARDY CIVIC CENTRE



The District of Port Hardy is celebrating 60 years of municipal incorporation. This Diamond Anniversary is more than a birthday - it's a chance to honour the people, stories, creativity, and history that have shaped our community, while recognizing our history reaches far beyond 60 years.

Come enjoy light refreshments, cake, and birthday activities to commemorate this special time! Feature celebrations include:

### Share Your Port Hardy Story

Help build a community timeline! Share memorable moments, times of celebration, history and culture of Port Hardy over the years. Pre & post incorporation photos and stories welcomed!

### Youth Button Collection Reveal

Come see the unveiling of the winning designs to be featured as part of the limited edition button collection. Created by local youth, inspired by Port Hardy!

### Port Hardy. Then & Now

Highlighting local history and culture from years past to today, iconic Port Hardy landmarks, locations, events, and more, reflect our community's strength, diversity, and resiliency. Discover how Port Hardy has grown and changed through the decades.

### Memory Map

Part of what makes Port Hardy a wonderful place is those memorable moments. For some it's a community event, a beloved activity, hobby, or place, for others it's the people that make Port Hardy truly special. Take a trip down memory lane, share your favourite Port Hardy moment!

Take in a feature display from the Port Hardy archives, courtesy of the Port Hardy Heritage Society!



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*Celebrating Community, Connections, & Shared History!*

# Students participate in traditional fish processing

As part of the preparations for the opening of the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Bighouse (Gukwdzi) in mid-June, students at Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School recently participated in traditional fish processing activities, including barbecuing and jarring salmon.

Guided by elders, community members, and knowledge keepers, students learned important cultural practices connected to food preparation, sharing, and community responsibility.

"These hands-on experiences provided meaningful opportunities for students to strengthen their understanding of traditional teachings while building connections with culture, language, and community," said Principal Reed Allen.



Photos — Dusty Dawson

Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School students recently participated in traditional fish processing activities, including barbecuing and jarring salmon as part of the preparations for the opening of the Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Bighouse (Gukwdzi) in mid-June.

## 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.**

## Hardy supports BackRoadIntel pilot

By Kathy O'Reilly

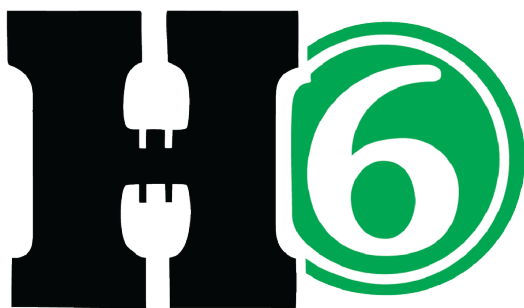
The District of Port Hardy has thrown its support behind the North Island Road Intelligence and Safety Initiative (NIRISI) pilot project. The Regional District of Mount Waddington has applied to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Community Emergency Preparedness Fund under the Public Notification and Evacuation Route Planning stream for the pilot project.

"The District of Port Hardy recognizes the unique challenges associated with emergency access, evacuation planning, and public safety across the North Island's remote and resource road networks," wrote Mayor Pat Corbett-Labatt in a letter of support for the project. "Our community experiences high visitor traffic along key re-

mote corridors such as Holberg Road and the Cape Scott access routes, underscoring the importance of reliable, data informed decision-making to support both residents and visitors," Corbett-Labatt said. "We strongly support the proposed pilot project using the Intellimass.ai BackRoadIntel platform to improve road-condition awareness, identify hazards, and strengthen evacuation route planning. This initiative represents a practical and innovative approach to addressing longstanding gaps in consistent, verifiable road condition data, which are critical to effective emergency management and infrastructure planning." The District of Port Hardy "values the regional and collaborative approach being advanced through this application. Participation across multiple North Island

communities will enhance data coverage, improve coordination between jurisdictions, and strengthen overall emergency preparedness throughout the region."

The pilot phase is fully funded through the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, requiring no financial contribution from participating municipalities and no commitment beyond the pilot phase. "This provides a low-risk opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness and potential long-term value of this approach", Corbett-Labatt said. "We commend the Regional District of Mount Waddington for its leadership on this important regional initiative and look forward to working collaboratively to enhance safety, resilience, and emergency preparedness across the North Island."



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# Pilot whisks downed starling baby to MARS

Sara Burr and Pat Davis recently rescued a baby bird that fell from its nest.

The baby was placed in a container for safekeeping. Robin Quirk, a local bird rescuer came to assist.

The chick was cold. Its eyes had not opened yet and it was barely moving. Quirk decided to rescue it.

“Sara and Pat were so concerned about its well-being,” said Quirk.

MARS Wildlife Rescue was called but the hospital was closed.

“I was able to hydrate a baby bird for the very first time,” said Quirk.

This was thanks to a recent workshop held

in Port McNeill. “Without this new skill that we recently were taught, the baby bird would not have survived. I want to say thank you to MARS Wildlife Rescue for teaching the North Island Rescuers to hydrate birds and wildlife,” said Robin.

The baby Starling made it through the night and was picked up by a MARS Wildlife volunteer rescuer Chris Hansen. Chris flew his small plane, a C-GCSW, to the Alert Bay Airport and then delivered the baby bird to MARS.

The baby Starling is healthy and is with other rescued baby birds at MARS Wildlife Rescue Hospital.



Photo — Robin Quirk, Robin's Eye Photography

Sara Burr and Pat Davis recently rescued a baby bird that fell from its nest in Alert Bay.



Photo — Robin Quirk, Robin's Eye Photography

MARS Wildlife volunteer rescuer Chris Hansen flew his small plane, a C-GCSW, Smyth Sidewinder, to the Alert Bay Airport and then delivered the baby bird to MARS.



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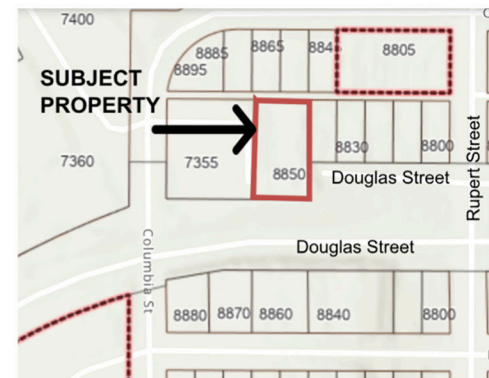
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# 'Tis the season to start checking for ticks

By Kathy O'Reilly

The Village of Port Alice is cautioning residents to watch out for ticks.

"It has been reported that ticks have been found on pets and people around town and at Link River and surrounding areas," the Village posted on Facebook, adding, "It is important to take steps to check for ticks after enjoying the outdoors."

"I would say that it is too soon to tell if this will be a 'bad year' for ticks, but it is now certainly warm enough for ticks to be active and looking for hosts like dogs or humans," says North Island Veterinary Hospital's Dr. Emily Gatto.

"Given our climate is becoming more mild, we should expect ticks to continue to expand their range northwards. Thankfully we do not have as many ticks on the North Island as the rest of BC and much of Canada, but they are still here and still pose a risk to pet health! So just because you haven't seen one before or that your pet hasn't had one before," Gatto said.

Pet owners can protect their pet by using tick prevention products like Bravecto, Advantage, Revolution, Credelio, etc.

"Choose products carefully, as over the counter products available at pet stores, hard-

ware stores, or grocery stores generally aren't as safe as veterinary products - this is especially true for cats who are more sensitive to the chemicals used in over-the-counter products," she said.

According to HealthLink BC, ticks can carry a variety of nasty and life-threatening diseases, and having your pet on some type of prevention will kill the tick before the disease can spread.

Most tick-borne diseases require the tick to be attached to the pet for 12-24 hours or more before there is a risk of transmission, and these products will kill the tick before they have time to pass on the disease. Checking your pet

carefully for ticks after you are outside is a great idea, too. Ticks can be very obvious when large, but many ticks are smaller than a pin head when they are younger and not so full of blood, so they can be really hard to find. This is why even if you check your pet carefully, tick prevention is still recommended.

"Ticks like to crawl up longer blades of grass to search for their next meal, so keeping pets out of tall grass or cutting tall grass on your property can also decrease the risk."

While most tick bites do not result in disease, some do.

Ticks burrow part way into the skin, bite, draw blood, and then drop off. The feeding tick's mouth will be under the skin, but the back parts will be sticking out.

When they are full of blood, they are usually blue-grey in colour. This is called an engorged tick.



Photo — Submitted

A tick on the left and an engorged one on the right.

If you find a tick on your skin, you need to remove it as soon as possible. Check your entire body and clothing.

Do not stop when you find one tick. There may be more. Make sure the lighting is good, so you do not miss seeing the tick(s).

If you cannot reach the tick or see it clearly, get someone else to remove the tick for you or see a health care provider

to remove it. See your health care provider to remove the tick if it has buried itself deep into your skin. This happens if the tick has been on you for several hours or even a day or two.

When a tick has burrowed deep into your skin, it is very hard to remove the tick without leaving some mouth parts behind, which can cause an infection.

## No reasonable grounds for charges against Port Hardy RCMP

The Independent Investigations Office of BC (IIO) says it has found no reasonable grounds that an officer committed an offence and will not be recommending charges.

The IIO shared its findings of an incident that took place on April 10, 2025. According to the report, several hours after being released from custody by Port Hardy RCMP, a woman "who is Indigenous was found lying unresponsive on the ground, only a short distance from the detachment."

According to the report, the woman was transferred from a local hospital and airlifted to Victoria.

Upon reviewing the incidents, evidence, police reports, witness reports and statements from the woman, the IIO determined police were not at fault.

"I do not find reasonable grounds to believe that an officer may have committed an offence under any enactment, and the matter will not be referred to Crown counsel for consideration of charges," said Jes-

sica Berglund, chief civilian director of the IIO.

The IIO determined there was no evidence to suggest that officers could have foreseen a future medical event at the time of her release and releasing her when she declined a ride home and opted to walk "did not constitute a breach of the duty of care owed by police."

"Although no breach of the duty of care is established, it is important to acknowledge that the AP (woman) is an Indigenous woman with complex vulnerabilities, some of which were known to police. The 2019 report Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls recognizes that Indigenous women with intersecting health, substance use, and social vulnerabilities face heightened risk at points of police detention and release, even where officers act in accordance with policy and assess individuals as able to care for themselves."

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Photo — Kathy O'Reilly

**Be Prepared**

At the Emergency Preparedness Fair May 9 representatives from various agencies were on hand to talk about how to prepare for an emergency. The District of Port Hardy's Chief Administrative Officer Heather Nelson-Smith, centre, and Councillor John Tidbury, right, were on hand to talk about the new Port Hardy Dashboard that gives residents quick access to services, mass notification alerts, events and community links.



Photo — Kathy O'Reilly

**Banking On A Barbecue**

Coastal Community Credit Union hosted its annual barbecue in support of the Port Hardy Seniors Centre Society on May 8. Society members sold homemade baked goods for dessert.

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

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# lifestyles & leisure

## Capturing the spirit of a moose with camera

Dawn broke at our northern British Columbia camp, as a thin mist rose off Manson Lake. The sun was welcoming and gradually dispelled lingering frost and darkness. Far removed from the clamour and distractions of metropolitan life, our surroundings were steeped in tranquil serenity of autumn colours and the only sounds heard were nature's own. The rush of city urgency seemed worlds away.

The campsite was ancient and lay beside a remote lake nestled in a boreal forest of spruce, poplar, and birch trees, standing tall against a bright cloudless sky, leaves and greenery glowing with autumn's colourful artistry. The air carried a scent of woodstove smoke, and a crispness prompted us to wear wool layers. As we left to explore, the camp's stillness was broken only by a gentle splash of a trout.

Earlier in the week I encountered a moose near an old wood grove. The memory drew me back to a nearby trail barely visible; subtle hoof impressions meandered aimlessly through a forest floor lit by shards of morning sunshine. Walking forward bush pressed against my wool jacket, leaving traces of melting white frost. I hoped to capture the spirit of an Omine-



ca moose in a photo, rather than with the finality of a rifle. This was my late brother John's favourite hunting ground; mixed conifer and deciduous trees intersected with open meadows of autumn coloured browse: willow leaves, twigs, buds, and bark of woody plants; creating a unique perfume attractive to wildlife and spoke to the remoteness of this place. Manson Lake lies in the heart of the Omineca, a land with indigenous and pioneering stories as plentiful and inspiring as one's imagination.

Historically, this region saw an influx of thousands of hardy gold prospectors in the late 1800s, a Gold Rush transformed portions of these dense forests and quiet rivers into bustling camps and supply trails. Miners trekked for two weeks from Fort St. James to access these hidden valleys

to camp at the very site we were in; their footprints long gone, lost beneath the moss and needles of time. However, their pioneering legacy still lingers in the names of creeks that echo tales of long-abandoned diggings and lost treasure.

In earlier times, Dene and Dakelh peoples travelled ancient portages here, following the same wildlife trails I now walk, trading and gathering long before prospectors arrived. Their deep connection to the land is still present, woven into a cultural fabric alongside the later pioneers.

Open spaces were dressed in dazzling golden yellows, burnt orange, slashes of red, and vivid greens; a living tapestry, iridescent in the filtered early morning sunlight. Every footfall fell silent on beds of moss, grass, fallen leaves, and old needles. Today, my footsteps in-



Photo — Gord and Christine Patterson

**Moose are the largest members of the deer family, standing 1.8 meters tall or more from hoof to shoulder.**

conspicuously blended with the distant calls of Ravens, Chickadees, and the steady hum of the forest.

Suddenly, as if conjured by woodland shadows themselves a young bull perhaps four years old in all his magnificence appeared in the trail's dense foliage, standing motionless just metres away; a large dark 300 kilogram form outlined against the kaleidoscope of autumn leaves and spruce greenery. For precious seconds, the entire forest seemed to

pause, ambient sounds faded into the hush as we regarded one another in awe. The cool morning air, tinged with the scent of earth and leaf litter, was visible in our breath as we exhaled, dissipating like ghostly wisps. His antlers were that of a three-year-old just beginning to broaden with the promise of maturity. They reflected shards of sunlight filtering through the golden birch canopy, framing the animal in an amber halo.

Time itself suspended as

we both stood there, the camera forgotten momentarily at my side, my senses enriched by the moose's captivating presence.

Every detail was vivid: the subtle twitch of an ear, the shimmer of his chestnut hide, the pinpoint silver in his eye, and the way its hooves sank silently into the mossy earth. Our eyes meeting with recognition, and in them I saw not just the wildness of an animal, but a sense of calm.

**Continued on Page 11**

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MONDAY 10AM - 5PM  
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WED. & THURS. 10AM - 5PM  
FRIDAY 10AM - 6PM  
SATURDAY 10AM - 6PM



# Human history stitched into the wild like a quilt

Continued from Page 10

As I stood, I tried to imagine the Omineca as it was two centuries ago, and gold seekers lured by dreams of fortune, the surveyors map-

ping remote rivers for fur companies, and First Nations communities whose oral stories have spoken to this land through countless generations. Omineca's riv-

ers, such as the Nation once served as lifelines of commerce and communication, their banks bearing witness to freight canoes, dog teams, and makeshift settlements

now reclaimed by the forest. Even today, relics of old cabins and rusty tools can be found if you know where to look, subtle reminders that human history is stitched into the wild like a quilt, not set apart from it.

My own heartbeat thundered in my chest, loud and insistent, a reminder of the thin line that separated me from the wilderness I sought to understand. For a breathless eternity, the bull and I were both transfixed, two lives from different worlds, sharing the same silent space in an awakening woodland.

Then, with the grace of an apparition, the moose took a single step backward, shoulder muscles rolling beneath its dark coat, and with barely a sound, the forest giant turned and melted away magically into the undergrowth and vanished.

All that remained was a lingering rustle of leaves and the memory of our piercing locked gaze. In that instance I had a sudden awareness that I had been witness to something rare, a fleeting connection of human and wild, and a link to the layered history of the Omineca, sewn forever into the quiet memory of these boreal woods my brother loved so much.

There is a profound satisfaction observing wildlife,

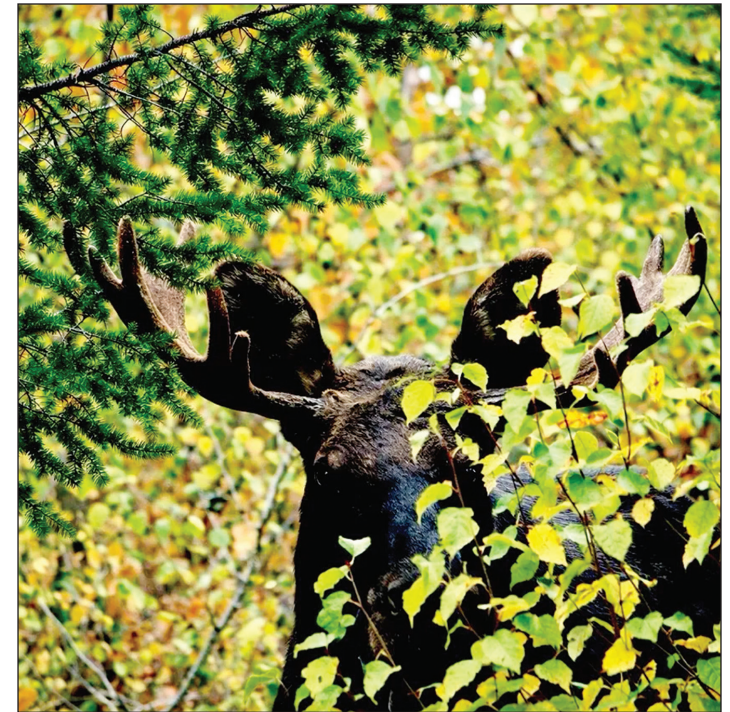


Photo — Gord and Christine Patterson

**A moose peeks through the leaves.**

clandestinely photographing instinctive behaviours and the subtle unfolding of wildlife personalities. I was fortunate to experience a moment that revealed the true spirit of the wilderness, curiosity suspended in the spaces between earth, trees, and heaven.

This encounter was made all the more meaningful by the thought of my late brother John, whose memory accompanied me throughout the morning, offering a sense of companionship in a setting he cherished deeply.

Such moments are recalled time and again, not simply for the animal, lake, or the forest beauty. Recollections

are revisited to feel the Wild Kingdom's connection to ancient stories, aspirations, and to relive shared experiences of families that have shaped the Omineca. Perhaps the paths of the wild and those dear to me will intersect again.

As I returned to our Manson Lake camp, the experience lingered, reflected in the tranquil lake waters mirroring the golden, green, and blue hues of autumn. I will always recall the serene solitude felt in the boreal woods that day, and the lasting presence of my departed brother John.

**Safe travels,  
Gord**

## Sointula Museum art shows

By Kathy O'Reilly

The Sointula Museum will be featuring its fourth summer of monthly themed art shows beginning in June.

This summer's themes are: June - The View from Here; July - Colours of Malcolm Island; August - Only on Malcolm Island; and September - Our Glorious Roadsides.

Opening dates for each show will be on: Sunday, June 7; Sunday July 4, Sunday, Aug. 9 and Sunday, Sept. 6.

Each opening is from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

"These shows will feature local Malcolm Island artists and our museum," says Sheila Roote.

"All media may be used and can be representative, abstract or non-objective, as long as the pieces fit within the monthly theme," Roote said.

"Similar to past years, we expect six to 10 artists to participate in each show, with a different mix of artists each month," said Roote.

"All the artwork will be available for purchase with a portion of the proceeds supporting the Museum's art show and ongoing Museum projects."

The museum will be open daily from 12 noon to 4 p.m. from June 1 to Sept. 15.



Photo — Submitted

**The Sointula Museum will be featuring its fourth summer of monthly themed art shows beginning in June with The View from Here.**

Winter hours begin Sept. 16 and the museum will be open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 12 noon to 3 p.m.

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## North Island Reflections



A Great Blue Heron has a successful fishing expedition. Photo by Robin Quirk, Robin's Eye Photography. If you have a photo you would like to share with our readers please email [publisher@northislandeagle.com](mailto:publisher@northislandeagle.com).

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

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<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	FULL MENU 4PM - 8PM	BURGERS 20% OFF
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	FULL MENU 12PM - 8PM	20% OFF FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
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Photo — Lorne Doerkson - MLA for Cariboo-Chilcotin, Assistant Deputy Speaker

Rosaline Glynn was honoured as a recipient of the 2026 BC Achievement Award during a prestigious ceremony held at Government House in Victoria May 6. Joining her, back row: John Labatt, Matthew Glynn, Tom Glynn. Front row: Mai Wazir, Tom Mallette, John Tidbury, Mayor Pat Corbett-Labatt, Rosaline Glynn, Matty Cervantes, Shanti G. Cervantes, North Island MLA Anna Kindy and Bonnie Bergeron.

## Rosaline Glynn receives BC Achievement Award

By Bonnie Bergeron

Rosaline Glynn was honoured as a recipient of the 2026 BC Achievement Award during a prestigious ceremony held at Government House in Victoria May 6.

The event brought together an inspiring and diverse group of individuals from across British Columbia, including lawyers, physicians, educators, artists, entrepreneurs, volunteers, and community leaders of many cultures and generations, all recognized for making meaningful contributions within their communities and beyond.

Among those celebrated, Rosaline Glynn stood proudly for her unwavering dedication to community service, particularly during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. She helped orchestrate support systems, community outreach, and meaningful connections for seniors and others in need during a time when isolation and uncertainty affected so many. Through her leadership and involvement on the board of the Hardy Bay Senior Citizens' Society, and numerous volunteer organizations to support North Island citizens in their health, housing, as well as preservation of heritage and services for all Rosaline's efforts reflected compassion, resilience, and

a commitment to ensuring people felt supported, valued, and cared for when it mattered most.

The evening served as a reminder that achievements come in many forms and that every individual has the ability to create positive change. Whether through large-scale leadership or quiet acts of kindness behind the scenes, contributions to community truly matter. Rosaline's recognition stands as an inspiration to others to continue striving, serving, and caring for those around them; because even when those efforts are not always publicly recognized, they are deeply valued and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

As community members see Rosaline following this honour, may it also serve as a reminder to congratulate and sincerely thank those who give so much of themselves in service to others.

Volunteers, organizers, caregivers, and community leaders often work quietly behind the scenes with little recognition, yet they are the foundation of strong and caring communities. A simple thank you, acknowledgement, or gesture of appreciation, can go a long way in uplifting those who dedicate their time and hearts to helping others.

# Dessert like Coconut Cake is occasionally a nice treat

By Susan Holbrook

I've written about sugar substitutes before, but I think a revisit is in order. Since I recently got older, I thought it would be nice to enjoy a dessert. I'm not a huge dessert person but there's always occasions when it would be a nice treat.

Stevia is still one of safest sugar substitutes however, buyer beware. Some stevia is refined with toxic chemicals (eg. formaldehyde) in private proprietary procedures linked to the largest international corporations and the sugar industry.

Look for brands that don't use chemical extraction processes but use water extraction.

Top-rated, safe stevia brands that focus on pure ingredients, non-GMO, or organic certifications include NOW BetterStevia, Sweet-

Leaf, and Stevia Select.

Aspartame (Equal), sucralose (Splenda) and Agave (high glycemic) all have well known issues and I don't recommend them.

Lakanto Sweetener is made from luo han guo, a sweet Chinese herb. It was raised by monks for centuries, so it is often called "monk fruit". It also contains erythritol. It has a gratifying sweet flavour, no aftertaste, zero carbs calories, and contains no sugars. It does not affect blood sugar levels. It is used cup for cup like sugar. Swerve is very similar to Lakanto.

To elaborate, erythritol is a fermented sugar alcohol, while generally considered safe, it is increasingly associated with serious cardiovascular risks, including increased potential for



blood clots, heart attack, and stroke. Common side effects include digestive issues like diarrhea, bloating, and gas, especially with high consumption.

So if you are wanting to sweeten your coffee or tea, I'd use stevia. I would use the Swerve or Lakanto in the occasional dessert because for reasons mentioned, I wouldn't want to overdo it.

## Coconut Cake

5 eggs  
1 ¼ cups melted coconut oil  
2 cups full fat coconut milk  
½ cup Lakanto or Swerve  
2 tsp pure vanilla extract  
2 ¼ cups almond flour  
¾ cup coconut flour  
1 cup unsweetened shredded coconut  
2 tsp baking soda  
½ tsp pink salt

Preheat oven to 350F. Oil two 8-inch cake pans and line the bottom with parchment.

In a large mixing bowl,

combine eggs, coconut oil and milk, sweetener and vanilla. Whisk until completely combined.

In a medium bowl, combine all other dry ingredients. Whisk.

Combine wet and dry ingredients together and mix until smooth. Evenly distribute the mixture between the 2 pans. Bake for 45 to 50 minutes until the cake is set in the middle. When a toothpick comes out clean, they are done.

Allow the cakes to cool for 5 minutes and remove from pans on to a wire rack. Frosting:

4 Tbsp cool water  
1 Tbsp gelatin  
1/3 cup boiling water  
2 Tsp vanilla extract  
1 TBSP sweetener

Pour cool water into a small bowl and sprinkle the gelatin over and allow it to fully absorb. Then add the boiling water and allow gelatin to dissolve. In a high-speed blender combine all ingredients and blend until smooth. Refrigerate four hours to set. With electric mixer, whip on high before use.

Please visit my website for more information and recipes. [www.co-creative-healthsolutions.com](http://www.co-creative-healthsolutions.com)



Photo — Robin Quirk, Robin's Eye Photography

## Gardening Goodies

The Gumboot Gardeners were out selling seedlings, baking and books at the first Alert Bay Market of the season on May 9. The event raised \$1,047 which will go towards the group's Boardwalk Beautification project. The volunteers grew the seedlings and donated their own plants to the sale.

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## Port Hardy Annual Spring Clean-Up Week

11 am - 4 pm, May 19 - 23

FREE Drop-off at Fox's Disposal  
Tacan Site (5990 Steel Rd.)



The Annual Spring Clean-Up Week returns May 19-23. Port Hardy residents may dispose of **accepted** items (see list below) at the Tacan Site **FREE** of charge.

### NO:

Fluorescent tube lights, hot tubs, tires, chemicals, drywall, ceiling tiles, carpet, insulation, linoleum, floor tiles (ceramic ok), contractor waste or commercial waste.

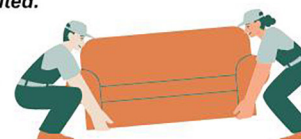
### ACCEPTING:

- Furniture (wooden or fabric-covered wood)
- Residential wood waste
- Washers, dryers, stoves & dishwashers
- Rugs and mattresses
- EMPTY propane tanks with valves removed
- Styrofoam packaging
- Scrap metal, barbecues
- Toys, bicycles, child car seats, strollers
- Batteries
- TV & computer monitors to be placed in designated bins
- Food waste accepted at regular cost\*

A maximum of 3 vehicles is permitted at a time. Respect and follow directions from staff at all times.

### CURBSIDE PICK-UP FOR SENIORS & PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Seniors and persons with disabilities may register for free, curbside pick-up of accepted items only. Registration is open May 4-8. Call the Public Works Yard at 250-949-7779 between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm to sign up. **Space is limited.**



Questions? Contact us!  
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# classifieds/marketplace

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250-281-2281

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

250-956-3300

Your household classified ad here Free.

250-949-0337

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.

250-949-0118

3 Hardy Silex Steelhead reels in mint condition, 1 new. Serious inquiries only.

250-949-7630

11ft3in. Lamiglas steelhead fishing rod. Mint condition. \$225 firm.

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Your classified ad here Free.

250-949-0337

## Mechanics

Super heavy duty 15-inch crescent wrench with a rubber grip. Cost \$75. Will sell for \$35.

250-949-0118

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250-949-0118

## Miscellaneous

Washing machine, GE commercial grade, with all original paperwork. In very good condition. \$350.

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leave message

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.

250-949-0118

Your classified ad here Free.

250-949-0337

Simonize 10-inch random orbit polisher/waxer, like new with carrying case. \$90 new will take \$30.

250-949-0118

## Obituaries

### Brenda Marie Fleeton (Somerville)

September 23, 1956 - May 9, 2026

It is with great sadness that I announce the peaceful passing of Brenda in the Port McNeill Hospital after a short but courageous battle against Liver Cancer. She will be dearly missed by her husband of nearly 43 years Malcolm as well as many friends and colleagues.

Brenda was pre-deceased by her parents W.R. (Bert) and Helen Somerville. She is survived by her brother Robert (Bob) Somerville (Erika), nephews Steven and Chris; sister Audrey Somerville, niece Gabrielle; brother in law Christopher Fleeton (Suzanne) niece Elizabeth (David) and nephew Alex (Samantha).

Brenda was born in Brandon, Manitoba and spent her first eleven years in the small town of Killarney, Manitoba before moving to Chilliwack and then Maple Ridge, BC. Brenda graduated with top honours in high school before enrolling at Douglas College and then Simon Fraser University where she received her Bachelor of Arts in English Literature.

Her love of travel started with a solo trip to the UK before meeting her future husband in a community band in Maple Ridge as she followed her passion for music. They were married August 20, 1983. Brenda worked in the library at SFU before moving to the North Island 42 years ago to follow her husband in his teaching career. Shortly after arriving Brenda was hired by the Forest Service in Port McNeill where she worked for 32 years in a variety of positions. Her natural leadership and passions for volunteering began with the Social Committee at work and branched into the Mount Waddington Regional Fall Fair, North Island Concert Society, Northern Vancouver Island Regional Science Fair and supporting the schools with many projects of making lunch for students or the sudden order of 300 cookies her husband needed for an event.

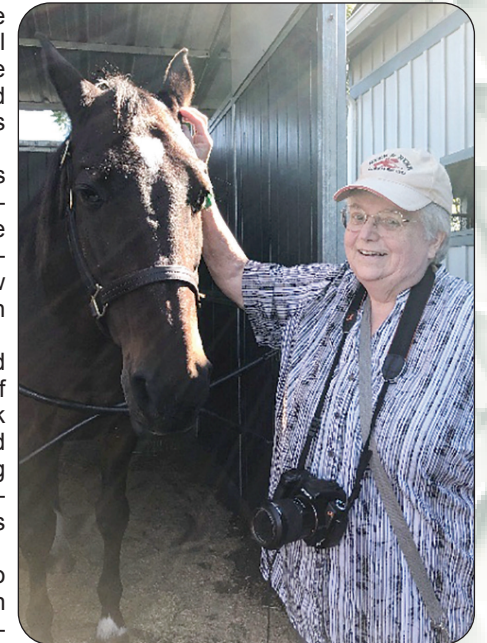
Brenda continued to follow her passion in music by singing with the Tsusquana Choir, Bell Ringing, North Island Community Band, or playing for school Christmas concerts and productions.

Brenda was an excellent hostess for many events and loved to cook or bake. Her favourite hobbies included reading voraciously or crocheting some new item for a friend, baby, or craft market. She became well known for her preserves and went to many community markets selling the products. She received numerous trophies from the Fall Fair each year in Crafts, Photography, Kitchen skills or Gardening as well as winning the Grand Aggregate Rose Bowl many times.

A further passion for Brenda was travelling as she saw every province, territory, or state except for Nunavut and Hawaii. She loved the RVing life of adventure as well as the cruising world of Alaska, Caribbean and East Coast. Her life has touched so many in the North Island and she will be dearly missed by all including her Forest Service family and friends especially Debbie Riehl with who she developed a strong bond. Thank you to the staffs at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital, Port McNeill Hospital, and Ambulance teams for their warm and compassionate care over the last month.

*No service or flowers by request. If you wish to make a donation please consider Autism BC, Variety Club Tent 47 or a Food Bank.*

The North Island will miss her contributions but keep those community activities happening for future generations.



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**147 Maquinna Avenue, Zeballos \$399,000 MLS® # 1020197**



3 bedroom plus den, 2 bathroom 2 level home with beautiful custom woodwork throughout. Upstairs offers original hardwood, 3 bedrooms, family room and full bathroom. Laundry beside the family room. Living room has access to the back yard and is open to the dining area connected to the kitchen. Custom West Coast Alder cabinets. Updates within the last 6 years include a heat pump, new rails on back deck, new metal roof, and bathtub & surround upstairs. Outdoors offer 1/4 acre, 26x33 garage and woodshed. Garden beds.



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