



The North Island

EAGLE

Celebrating 'True North Island' Life

Issue #51 Volume #9

January 30, 2026

North Island owned & operated

Valentine's Day Dinner
February 14
Featuring a 4-course menu!
Reservations recommended

Sporty
BAR & GRILL

8700 Hastings St., Port Hardy, BC
250-949-7811 www.sportybar.ca

NORTH ISLAND
TREE SERVICE
Proud to Call the North Island our Home

WINTER SALE!
10% off jobs over \$1,000
until March 31, 2026

- Tree Removal
- Trimming & Shaping
- Lot Clearing
- View Enhancement
- Hedge Trimming
- Skidsteer Services
- Brush Chipping

Our service areas include Port McNeill, Sayward, Woss, Port Hardy, Port Alice, and surrounding communities.

Fully Insured,
Certified Faller WCB

250-203-5324
northislandtreeservice.ca



Photo — June Hale

King And Queen

The 2026 Cain Cup took place Jan. 17 at Mount Cain. Hazel Schmidt, 16, is this year's Queen of Cain. Mark Hutchinson won the title of King of Cain. Schmidt is the youngest and first female to defeat even the men with a time of 56:28 See story on page 8.

Sandra Masales



North Island
REALTOR®
250-902-9271

sandramasales69@gmail.com

Advance Realty

4-7035 Market St.

Port Hardy, BC



Filomi Days in jeopardy

By Kathy O'Reilly

If more volunteers do not step up to the plate, Filomi Days could be cancelled this year.

For many years, a small group of dedicated individuals carried the responsibility of planning and delivering this event.

"The executive members that have been with us for some time resigned their positions so they could take time off from volunteering," said Vice Chair Rob Tucker.

"This left the society with only myself in an executive position and two directors who stayed on so we could have a quorum," Tucker said.

As those long-time volunteers have now stepped back, the society has been reaching out to the community to invite new volunteers to help continue this tradition.

Despite multiple requests, no one has come forward.

Planning for Filomi Days begins at least six months in advance. To meet required timelines, confirm logistics, and secure placement in the community calendar, a volunteer planning group must be in place before the next meeting on Feb. 2.

"We have four positions on the executive that need to be filled Chair, Vice Chair (currently filled by Tucker) Treasurer and secretary.

"Ideally, we would like the four positions filled. The directors are to support us in the event that we don't have a majority of the executive members present," he said.

Continued on Page 3

CARSON ROOFING
and
gutters!

Gutter Done!
250-230-7663
www.carson-roofing.com

HAAG
CERTIFIED
INSPECTOR
RESIDENTIAL ROOF

Approved Contractor
IKO
Specification Roofing Rain

BBB
ACCREDITED BUSINESS

- NOW Installing Gutters!
- FREE On-site Estimates
- 2-year Labour Warranty
- Licensed and Insured

michelle@carson-roofing.com
carson-roofing.com 250-230-ROOF (7663)



DISTRICT OF PORT HARDY NEWS & EVENTS



2023-2026 Strategic Plan Check-In

Visit www.porthardy.ca for more information.

NEW E-GOV NOW AVAILABLE!

The District has launched E-Gov. Property owners can view utility and property tax account balances online in real-time and make payments to an account using a credit card.

SCAN
ME!



To sign up for E-Gov, an email address for the account must first be registered with the District. Scan the QR code to learn more or contact the Municipal Hall.

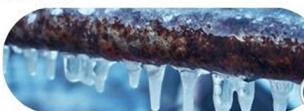
WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE UNDERWAY!

Cold weather means that brine trucks, sanding equipment and plows will continue to be out as needed to keep the roads safe for vehicles & pedestrians.



DON'T PARK ON THE STREET, TELL YOUR NEIGHBOURS...

Road maintenance equipment is BIG and requires a LOT of room to maneuver. Park in your driveway to give equipment operators the room needed to maintain the street in your neighbourhood. → This applies to trucks, cars, utility trailers, and RVs. Violators risk being fined or towed.



WINTERIZE YOUR PROPERTY!

Temperatures have dropped. Now is the time to winterize your home to avoid the headache and money on preventable repairs.

Isolate outdoor taps– Exposed fixtures are susceptible to freezing. Disconnect hoses and isolate taps to limit the risk of water damage.

Secure skirting around crawl spaces– Secure skirting to reduce the likelihood of the water lines below your home from freezing and rupturing.

Don't leave taps running!– Running taps not only wastes water, it is ineffective at preventing freezing.

NOW AVAILABLE Q-ALERT: SERVICE REQUESTS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS!

Have you noticed a street light flickering? Perhaps you've recently avoided a car-consuming pothole while driving down the road? Or maybe your neighbourhood has a new outdoor swimming pool thanks to a blocked storm drain. Whatever the problem, submitting a service request with the District has never been easier!

Quick and convenient, Q-Alert is an online reporting tool residents can use to let the District know when a municipal service needs attention. How? It's simple:



1. Notice issue
2. Scan QR Code or visit porthardy.ca
3. Fill in key details about the issue/concern
4. Drop a pin for accuracy
5. Upload a photo for context
6. Click 'create request'

We take it from there, it's that easy! No need to wait until office hours the next day to call to report a concern. Plus, Q-Alert will keep you informed of the status of your request, and you will be notified as soon as it is completed.

Call 250-949-7505 to report an after-hours operational emergency.

CALLING EDUCATORS OF GR. 4-7 CLASSES (PORT HARDY & AREA)

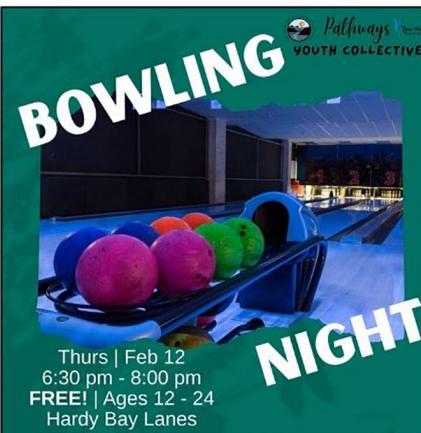
Register your class for the 2026 Port Hardy Emergency Preparedness Fair for a chance to...

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 15TH
EMAIL GENERAL@PORTHARDY.CA FOR MORE INFORMATION OR CALL 260.949.6665

WIN A PIZZA PARTY!

Join local response agencies and help raise emergency response awareness in Port Hardy!

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 15TH
EMAIL GENERAL@PORTHARDY.CA FOR MORE INFORMATION OR CALL 260.949.6665



Pathways Youth Bowling Night

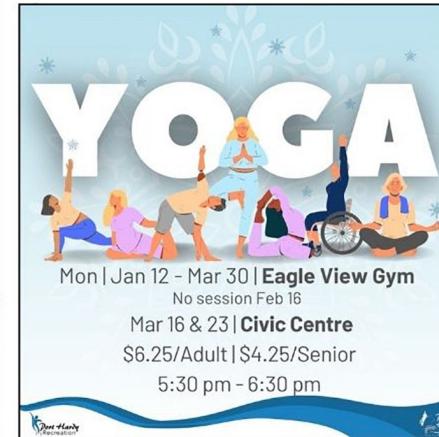
Thurs | Feb 12
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
FREE! | Ages 12 - 24

Lace up your bowling shoes and join Pathways Youth for an evening of fun, laughter, and friendly competition. Enjoy a welcoming space to hang out, meet new people, and spend time with friends on the lanes. This event is part of the Pathways Youth Collective, a monthly series hosted in partnership with NI Crisis and Counselling and Port Hardy Recreation. **Snacks will be provided.**



Drop-in Pickleball
Sun - Fri | 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tues | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Fri | 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm | ½ court
\$4/session | \$60/membership
\$2 paddle rental

Pickleball is a combination of badminton, tennis and table tennis that continues to grow in popularity. This fun activity is accessible to a wide range of players and accommodates participants at every fitness level. Drop-in or pay for a membership to play as often as you would like. **No session Feb 1, 13, 16 & 19**



Yoga
Mon | Jan 12 - Mar 30 | Eagle View Gym
No session Feb 16
Mar 16 & 23 | Civic Centre
\$6.25/Adult | \$4.25/Senior
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

This flow-based class includes sun salutations, balance postures and floor work. It concludes with relaxation and metta (loving kindness meditation). This class will build strength and balance, improve flexibility and range of motion, calm the mind and revive the body. Drop-in or pre-register.



Community Garage Sale
Sun | March 1
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Come to our one stop shop for hidden gems at our Community Garage Sale! Table rentals are \$10 each, no food vendors allowed.



Hardy Hustle 10K & Half Marathon
Sun | May 31
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

The Hardy Hustle is back for its fourth year! Choose between a 10KM or a Half Marathon as you run through town and follow the stunning waterfront of Port Hardy. Run it. Walk it. Hustle it. Limited swag is available on a first come, first served basis. The racecourse will close at 2:00 pm, any participants finishing after the 4 hour time limit will not be scored as official finishers. Registration is non-refundable. Don't wait. Register today!



10K
All Ages
\$40/person

Code: SP26-CE02

Half Marathon
Ages 15+
\$80/person

Code: SP26-CE01



Register online: app.univerusrec.com/porthardyrecruitmentpub or scan the QR Code.

For more information:
visit us at 7400 Columbia St.
call: 250.949.6686 ex 201
email: recreation@porthardy.ca

SCAN
HERE
TO
REGISTER!

Atli Chip to shut down in March due to Crofton closure

The North Island is losing another employer in the forest industry.

Atli Resources LP Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Lok said in a statement that the Atli Chip LP facility in Beaver Cove will close in March due to "ongoing structural changes affecting British Columbia's coastal forest sector."

The closure affects nine employees and about 10 contractors.

The company said a major factor was the announcement of the closure of Domtar's pulp mill in Crofton, BC, which Atli says effectively eliminated the demand for wood chips produced at Beaver Cove.

Atli, which is co-owned by the 'Namgis First Nation, says it and its partners, including Domtar, are looking at alternative uses for the site, calling the plant's closure "a necessary pause" but "not an exit" from Vancouver Island's forestry sector.

"My heart goes out to the employees of the Atli Chip Plant in Beaver Cove, just outside Port McNeill, who will be losing their jobs less than a month after Christmas," said North Island-Powell River MP Aaron Gunn in a Facebook post, blaming both provincial and federal government policies.



Photo — Atli Resources LP

Atli Resources LP's facility in Beaver Cove will close in March due to ongoing structural changes affecting British Columbia's coastal forest sector.

Hardy agrees to support Wounded Warrior Run

By Kathy O'Reilly

The District of Port Hardy will once again be throwing financial support behind the Wounded Warrior Run.

At their regular meeting Jan. 13, Council agreed to provide a \$1,000 donation funded from the 2026 Grant-in-Aid budget.

"In 2026, we will be embarking on the 13th annual Wound-

ed Warrior Run BC," said Director Jacqueline Zweng in a letter requesting funding.

"This event has become the largest fund-raiser for Wounded Warriors Canada in BC, helping our Trauma Exposed Professionals and their families," Zweng said.

The run will begin in Port Hardy Feb. 22 and end in Victoria March 1.

Volunteers make new sign a reality

Coal Harbour has a new sign courtesy of the efforts of Mark Jenson, Carla Reusch, Joel Eilertson, Lionel Hole, Emmet, Rick Yaciw, Brian Yaciw and Bud and Diane Masales. The Coal Harbour Local Community Commission was also involved, and the Regional District of Mount Waddington paid the nominal bill from The Hobby Nook.

Filomi Days needs volunteers

Continued from Page 1

"I could not run the event by myself and felt that if we didn't have volunteers come forward for the executive, we couldn't hold the event."

The executive meets monthly to check on the progress of the positions that have been volunteered for, fireworks, parade, vendors, Duck Race, kids' zone, music, etc.

The next executive meeting is on Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. at the municipal hall.

Support can take many forms, and even a modest time commitment can make a meaningful difference.

Please reply to this email or contact Rob Tucker rob.tucker@bcbudget.com no later than Feb. 2 if you are willing to help.

Wounded Warrior Canada (WWC) is a nationally recognized mental health service provider dedicated to serving ill and injured Trauma Exposed Professionals and their families.

A Trauma Exposed Professional is an individual who, through the course of their regular job duties is continually exposed to traumatic events involving actual or threatened: death, serious injury, and/or sexual violence. Trauma Exposed Professional include but are not limited to the following professions: Military, Police Officer, Fire Fighter, Paramedic, Corrections Officer, Security Officer, and Health Care.

"Our range of clinically facilitated programs have been developed to support the unique needs of Veterans, First Responders and their families," she said.

"Our programs support individuals, couples, spouses, surviving Family members, and children of those who serve or have served our country and communities. WWC recognizes that only through ongoing partnerships, multi-organizational collaboration, and sustained community involvement can Trauma Exposed Professionals and their families recover from their injuries and return to a state of well-being in community."



K'awat'si
Construction
Company

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS



National
Home Warranty

DESIGN BUILD CONSTRUCTION

- 360 DESIGN SERVICES
- CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
- CIVIL CONSTRUCTION SERVICES
- EMERGENCY RESPONSE
- GENERAL CONTRACTOR
- PREFABRICATION & MODULAR SERVICES
- ELECTRICAL SERVICES



K'AWAT'SI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
WWW.KAWATSICONSTRUCTION.CA (250)230-6990

editorial



Photo — Robin Quirk, Robin's Eye Photography

Splish splash - It is bath time for two juvenile Bald Eagles.



The North Island
EAGLE
Celebrating 'True North Island' Life



The North Island Eagle is published each Friday in Port Hardy, British Columbia, Canada, as a sole proprietorship located at Box 2167, Port Hardy, BC, V0N 2P0. The content of The Eagle is copyright and reproduction without the proper written consent is strictly prohibited.

— Our beautiful First Nation's eagle (kwíkw) courtesy Nakwaxda'xw artist Davis Henderson
Cover eagle photo James O'Reilly
GST# 754836294RT000

To advertise
Call: 250-949-0337
Email publisher@northislandeagle.com

Follow
us:



Kathy O'Reilly
Owner/Publisher



Kelsea Taylor
Photography/Ad Design

New bike path to Storey's Beach discussed

By Kathy O'Reilly

A desire to have a bike/pedestrian lane on Byng Road was a topic of discussion at the Jan. 13 District of Port Hardy regular council meeting.

"I am writing to you to request consideration for a bike lane to be installed on Byng Road starting from the intersection of Byng Road and Fort Rupert Road to the intersection of Byng Road and Highway 19," said resident Tracy Hamilton in a letter.

"The road significantly narrows at this intersection for the duration of the road to the Highway 19 intersection," Hamilton said, adding there is a 2.3 kilometre stretch which does not have a shoulder lane for pedestrians and cyclists. "There are no streetlights or reflective markers along this road, and the pavement is severely denigrated in several areas making bike riding treacherous," she wrote.

"The speed limit on Byng Road is 60km/h. This requires drivers to allow 1.5 metres between themselves and bike riders. This presents increased risk for drivers as well as the lanes are narrow and there are many blind spots along this route," Hamilton continued. From 2020 to 2024, ICBC data shows six vehicle accidents along Byng Road.

"I think this speaks to the need for separate bike lanes to ensure pedestrian and cyclists can travel safely

on this road as well as vehicles."

There were 12 vehicle accidents at the intersection of Byng Road and Highway 19 and an additional five accidents at Fort Rupert Road and Highway 19.

"I am mentioning these accidents on Highway 19 because of suggestions that cyclists ride Highway 19 instead of Byng Road, but I feel that route is much more dangerous due to the increased speed of 100km, and the number of transport and large trucks along this route," she continued.

"A bike and pedestrian route from the Ta'yagul (Storey's Beach) and area into Port Hardy could be achieved by restoring the Commuter Trail that starts behind Fort Rupert School and ends on the ferry terminal road," Hamilton said. "I have started a public petition to raise awareness and to help Mayor and Council understand the impact a bike/pedestrian lane along Byng Road would have for the members of the community.

"We have gathered 135 signatures at the date of this letter."

"I think it's pretty challenging to do because a lot of it is the Ministry of Highway's road, it's not the District of Port Hardy's road," said Port Hardy Mayor Pat Corbett-Labatt.

"The Commuter Trail is more of a hike than anything. It's pretty steep and

to actually get into town is quite the trek and I think it's more of a recreational trail," said Councillor Brian Texmo.

"I agree and support the idea, because as a kid trying to ride a bike out to the beach was terrifying and I do believe that there should be something," Texmo said.

"But how do you deal with this when the road is so narrow. It seems kind of monumental in my mind and I don't really know the steps of doing something like this," he continued.

"I'd need to be more educated on how something like this could get done in the first place and what the steps and hoops are to go through are, which sound like they are pretty big," said Texmo.

Council should forward the letter to the Port Hardy Rotary Club and to the Kwakiutl First Nation and ask them for consideration



Photo — Kathy O'Reilly

A bike/pedestrian lane on Byng Road was a topic of discussion at the Jan. 13 District of Port Hardy regular council meeting.

in making a commuter bike trail and "see if we can

Corbett-Labatt.

move that forward," said

"It's well needed, but the alternative would be some

sort of actual grade trail, put in properly, rather than the hike," Texmo said.

Annual job fair returns to Civic Centre

By Kathy O'Reilly

The region's largest annual job fair returns to the Port Hardy Civic Centre on Tuesday, March 3, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. This free community event, hosted by WorkBC Centre-Port Hardy is open to the public, and employers throughout the region are welcome to participate by reserving an exhibitor table in advance of the event date.

"So far, we have 22 employers confirmed with more pending and we hope getting the word out will help

get more employers on board as well," said North Island Employment Foundations Society Marketing Coordinator Colleen Wilson.

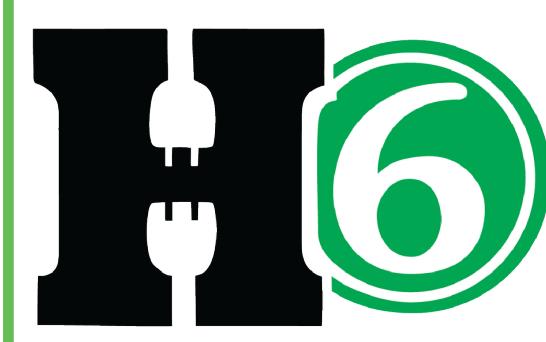
"We keep an updated list of confirmed employers at the following location on the NIEFS website for members of the general public <https://niefs.net/port-hardy-job-fair>," Wilson said.

"The job fair is held annually, and it's a great opportunity for local employers to connect directly with job

seekers of all ages and abilities," she explained.

"It's also a popular networking event for the career curious who are interested in learning more about current conditions on the local labour market, and pathways to different occupations that are sought after on the North Island."

Interested employers are invited to contact Employer Services Coordinator Serena Gill at serena.gill@niefs.net for further details.



Electrical Services LTD

FRS #: 000236055

Contractor Licence #: LEL0208438

• Residential • Commercial • Silver Label
inspections for Mobile Homes

Since 2019 in Port McNeill



CALL OR TEXT
(250) 902-8072

h6electrical@gmail.com

lifestyles & leisure

Hounds of Cuchulain ready to howl in Hardy

The Hounds of Cuchulain, a seven-piece band from Victoria, BC, delivering vibrant performances steeped in Irish, Scottish, English, and original folk music, are the next act in the North Island Concert Society season.

They will be performing Saturday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Port Hardy Civic Centre.

Inspired by legends like The Dubliners, The Pogues, The Irish Rovers, The Corries, and The Chieftains, their dynamic shows feature lively dance tunes, historical ballads, engaging stories, and enchanting melodies. The group comprises Wolf Edwards on lead vocals and guitar; Madeline Townley on tin whistle, Irish harp, and vocals; Briana Kennedy on fiddle and vocals; Dexter Simpson on Irish tenor banjo; Benjamin Garrison on mandolin and vocals; Jeff Feltmate on fiddle and

bodhrán; and Theodore Waite on double bass. With a dedication to sharing their music across diverse communities, The Hounds have performed on over 300 stages since their formation, spanning Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, and mainland BC.

This expansive reach includes bringing their energetic performances to major events such as the Victoria Highland Games, ScotFestBC, and the Grey Cup Festival. You saw them in this area at the North Island Music Festival several years ago. To date, the Hounds have released three full-length albums, with their latest release a collection of original compositions. The band's name arises from the Celtic myth of the mythological character, Setanta. As a young boy, Setanta accidentally kills the fierce guard dog of Culann the Smith while playing hurl-

ing. To make amends, Setanta offers to take the place of the guard dog until a replacement can be found.

Over time, he becomes known as Cú Chulainn, or the Hound of Culann, and proves himself as a fierce warrior in Irish mythology, known for his heroic deeds and loyalty.

Given that the myth has Irish, Scottish, English, and Welsh roots, the band felt it an appropriate name. Anyway, it sounds very cool.

"To us, the image of the (Irish) Wolfhound is emblematic of the history and variety of folk music: as a call to action, a racing reel, or music to bring to mind home, hearth, and good company," said Edwards. Tickets are available at Cafe Guido in Port Hardy, Essentials Refillery in Port McNeill, and from Gail Neely in Port Alice: Adults/Seniors \$35, Students \$10.



Photo — Hounds of Cuchulain

The Hounds of Cuchulain will be performing Saturday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Port Hardy Civic Centre as part of the North Island Concert Society season.

Sisu Theatre announces new season, new artistic director

Tammy Hampel, founding Artistic Director since 2020, has begun her new role as Manager for the Sointula Museum.

"We would like to thank her for her years of dedication and wish her well in this new position," said Marley Rosgen, who has been appointed the new Artistic Director for Sisu Theatre.

"I'm delighted to be passing the reins over to Marley," says Tammy.

"Marley has the passion, creative muscles and practical skills to continue to build the theatre company. I look forward to being in the audience for wherever she takes us!"

In 2023 Marley starred in 'No Wonder!' a play written by the founder of Sointula, Matti Kurikka. She then joined the Board of Directors and continued to act in their next two productions.

In 2025 she was the Assistant

Director for 'Sointula History Plays: Part 1' by Hampel.

"Our first production for 2026 will be a presentation in early May. We are thrilled to present John Gogo with his engaging one-man show 'The Coal & Wood Show'.

Haunting folk tales told by four generations of a Vancouver Island pioneer family, offering a fascinating look beneath the surface of history unfolded from

1895 to 1995. Join us in the Athletic Hall on May 8 for musical storytelling.

"Our fall production will be a re-visioning of 'It's a Wonderful Life - A Live Radio Play' by Joe Landry. A holiday treasure will come to life on Dec. 11 and 12 in the Athletic Hall. This production will be directed by long-time associate of Sisu Theatre, Darryl Luscombe, marking his directorial debut."





G7
**GUTTER
SOLUTIONS**

Services

- Professional installations
- Gutter and eavestrough installation
- Downspout cleanouts
- Leaf gutter guards
- Gutter cleaning
- Soft wash siding, soffit, and exterior gutter cleaning
- Exterior windows

The Hounds of Cuchulain will be performing Saturday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Port Hardy Civic Centre as part of the North Island Concert Society season.

250-230-4705

250-230-4719

G7guttersolutions@gmail.com

Based in Port McNeill
Serving the entire North Island

U18 TriPort Wild bring home gold from WickFest 2026

The U18 TriPort Wild capped off an unforgettable weekend in Surrey by capturing gold at WickFest 2026. One of the largest female hockey festivals in North America. WickFest, founded by Olympic medalist and hockey trailblazer Hayley Wickenheiser, brings together teams from across Canada and the United States with the shared goal of elevating and empowering females in hockey.

The Wild travelled to Surrey to compete in the U18 Bronze Division. The tone was set early with a night at the Pacific Coliseum, where the team watched a Professional Women's Hockey League matchup between the Vancouver Goldeneyes and the Toronto Sceptres, an exciting start that fueled their energy heading into competition.

Goaltender Jordan Windsor anchored the Wild throughout the event, backed by a deep offensive lineup featuring Aaliyah Johnson, Dodie Humchitt, Emma Clair, Kia Miller, Kilynn Nicholson, Liv Humphrey, Mya Hunt, Scarlett Sawyer, Tessa Russell, and Tomika Jack King. The team missed forward Teagan Fraser, who was unable to attend the tournament.

On defence, Ava Santin, Mecca Humphrey, Rylan Allen, and Skylar Mintz provided steady, reliable play. The team was led by Head Coach Dave Sawyer, with Assistant Coaches Karmen Sawyer and Sarah Case, and Team Manager Melissa Allen supporting the group throughout the weekend.

Over the three-day festival, held Jan. 23–25, the Wild played four round robin games. They opened with a commanding 6–1 win over the Surrey Falcons before battling to a 2–2 draw with the Kelowna Rockets later that same day.

The following morning brought another strong performance in a victory over the Victoria Reign, but the team faced a setback with a hard loss to the undefeated Lillooet Pistons.

Their overall results placed them second in the standings and earned them a spot in the gold medal final, a rematch against Lillooet.

The championship game delivered all the intensity and emotion expected of a final. Both teams played with grit and determination, but the Wild refused to back down. With the score tied late in the third period, the Wild struck with just 1:32 remaining, scoring the go ahead goal that secured a thrilling 2–1 victory and the gold medal.

The bench erupted, fans roared, and the players celebrated a hard earned win built on heart, teamwork, and resilience. Coach Dave was gleaming with pride.

The team extends heartfelt thanks to their fans, sponsors, and everyone who supported them throughout the season.



Photo — Submitted

The U18 TriPort Wild capped off an unforgettable weekend in Surrey by capturing gold at WickFest 2026.



Photos — Kathy O'Reilly

Cultural Crafts

The Immigrant Welcome Centre and the Mount Waddington Welcoming Communities Coalition held a Culture and Creativity Day in Port Hardy Jan. 25 at the Port Hardy Civic Centre. Activities included Origami and Ramadan crafts.

NOW OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK

NEW OWNERS | NEW PRODUCT | NEW SERVICES | NEW HOURS

SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM
MONDAY 10AM - 5PM
TUESDAY CLOSED

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



Walk-Ins Welcome
Scan to book your appointment



North Island **Reflections**



Walking the plank - A Great Blue Heron. 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 ...

McWilkie's

Monday: CLOSED

Tuesday: 4pm-8pm Pitas 20% Off

Wednesday: 4pm-8pm Burgers 20% Off

Thursday: 4pm-8pm Seniors Save 20%

Friday: 4pm-8pm Kids Eat Free

Saturday: 12pm-8pm Daily Special

Sunday: 12pm-8pm Wraps 20% Off

1-833-629-4554 [MENU AT MCWILKIES.CA](http://MCWILKIES.CA)

Teenager makes history in Cain Cup

By Kathy O'Reilly

A young North Islander streaked down the mountain to win the top to bottom 2026 Cain Cup race.

Hazel Schmidt, 16, is the youngest competitor ever to win, and beat all male competitors, to be crowned Queen of Cain at the annual event Jan. 17 with a time of 56:28. Mark Hutchinson won the title of King of Cain.

Hazel started skiing at Mount Cain at the age of two. Hazel, who loves the freedom of skiing, aspires to make the top 10 in Canada and possibly compete in the Olympics one day.

"We had a Hyde Creek teenager make history this weekend at Mount Cain. She was the youngest winner of the Cain Cup, and she also was the only girl to ever beat all



Photo—June Hale

Hazel Schmidt, 16, made history as the youngest skier to be crowned Queen of Mount Cain.

the boys. So, big shout out to Hazel Schmidt for her history making event," said Area C Director Kathryn Wykes

at the Regional District of Mount Waddington monthly board of directors meeting Jan. 20.

SHOPRITE AT HOME

REMINDER TO PREBOOK

FLOWERS FOR

Valentine's Day

CALL TO ORDER

250-956-3568

 A promotional image for Valentine's Day. It features a large bouquet of red roses in the foreground, set against a dark background with numerous blurred red hearts. The text "SHOPRITE AT HOME" is at the top, followed by "REMINDER TO PREBOOK" and "FLOWERS FOR" in a larger font. Below that is the stylized text "Valentine's Day". At the bottom, it says "CALL TO ORDER" and provides the phone number "250-956-3568". There is also a small illustration of a winged Cupid figure holding a bow and arrow.

Foundry to expand services to Port McNeill

More youth on the North Island will benefit from increased access to mental-health and substance-use supports as Foundry expands services to Port McNeill.

Foundry is already in Port Hardy.

"Young people face more pressure and stress every day, and it's important they have a safe place to turn when life feels overwhelming," said Josie Osborne, BC Minister of Health.

"With the expansion of Foundry services, youth will have easier access to the trusted mental-health services and programs Foundry provides."

This new location will help young people and their families access support closer to home. In these communities, young people between 12 and 24 and their caregivers will have access to free, confidential and low barrier supports in person or by connecting virtually to their nearby Foundry centre.

Foundry services include drop-in counselling, peer support, physical and sexual health care, access to groups and workshops, and support with education and employment.

Service availability at each space may vary and will be determined alongside youth and families to reflect community needs.

"Providing more young people with confidential, same-day access to mental-health and substance-use supports within small communities will ensure that youth experiencing challenges can easily connect to supports when they need it," said Amna Shah, parliamentary secretary for mental health and addictions.

"Expanding Foundry services is an important part of the work we are doing to ensure more young people feel seen, supported and cared for in their own communities."

Once established, the new location will operate within an existing community space and be an extension of a Foundry centre in a neighbouring city or town.

The same local organization connected to the neighbouring Foundry centre will be operating services at the new location to ensure consistency in programs and services. Port McNeill will operate under the umbrella of the North Island Crisis and Counselling Centre Society and connected to Foundry Port Hardy.

New group allows dads/babies to bond

Starting in February, there will be a new way for new dads to get together on the North Island.

North Island Community Services, in partnership with Island Health, has launched a new drop-in group available for dads with children aged 0 to 3.

The group will discuss what it means to be a dad, provide networking and connecting with other dads, offer parenting strategies and communication skills, discuss stages of development, how kids grow and relationships.

The group will be meeting from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. from Feb. 6 to March 13 at Cheslakesee School in Port McNeill on the first and third Fridays, and at Robert Scott School in Port Hardy on the second and fourth Fridays. No registration is required.

Contact Shannon at familyconnect@nicommunityservices.ca or 250-230-3763 for more information.

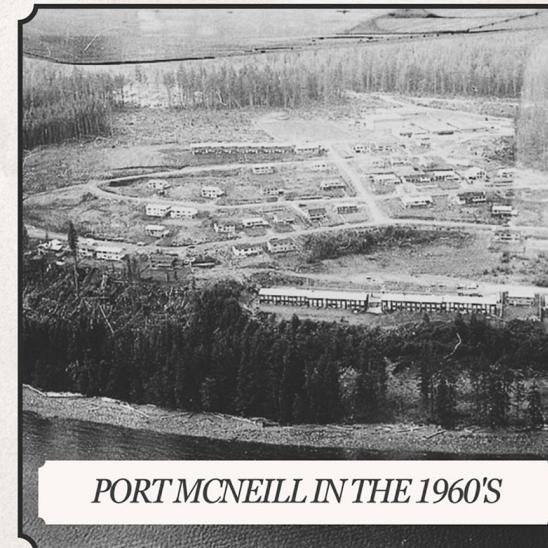
The Province is providing \$1.7 million to Foundry centres to expand service availability in nearby communities, and annual funding toward operations and service delivery to ensure young people have the support they need when they need it.

The Province is committed to expanding Foundry services throughout BC. Enhancing supports for youth living with mental-health and substance-use challenges is an integral part of creating a seamless continuum of care for people in BC.

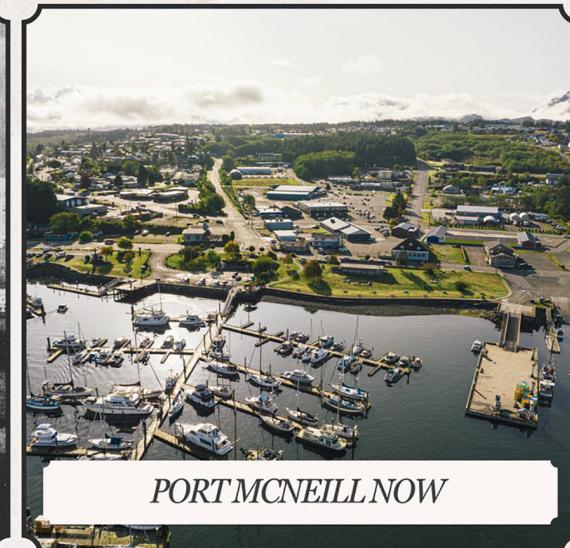


TIME TO COME HOME

**PORT MCNEILL IS CELEBRATING 60 YEARS!
COME JOIN US FOR A DAY OF SKATING, FOOD, MUSIC
AND FESTIVITIES AT THE CHILTON ARENA.**



PORT MCNEILL IN THE 1960'S



PORT MCNEILL NOW

Date & Time

February 18, 2026
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Address

2205 Campbell Way
Port McNeill, BC

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
RECEPTION@PORTMCNEILL.CA**



Who you gonna Call?

North Island Business Directory

FIDELI PEDORTHIC
Port Hardy
250-949-7060

Shoe & Boot Repair

Logging - Meindl - Blundstone -
Birkenstock & More

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



STRYKER ELECTRONICS LTD.

Communication & Navigation Equipment
Marine Electronics & Supplies
Refrigeration
SALES · SERVICE

Tel: (250) 949-8022
Fax: (250) 949-8077
E-mail: info@strykerelectronics.com
www.strykerelectronics.com
Toll Free: 1-888-839-8022

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

CHIROPRACTIC & CUSTOM ORTHOTICS
Dr. Roger Bendle

250.902.1611



avec denture clinic

Life is Beautiful

COMPLETE & PARTIAL DENTURES
IMMEDIATE DENTURES | ADJUSTMENTS
IMPLANT SUPPORTED DENTURES
RELINES, REBASES & REPAIRS

Michelle Lee, RD.RDT.BA — Denturist
#8405 Byng Road Port Hardy, BC **250.949.6522**
located at the Pioneer Inn cell **250.327.1221**

The North Island Eagle... ☀
because everyone needs
some good news ☀

To have *your business* be part of
our positive message call **250-949-0337**
or email publisher@northislandeagle.com



The North Island
EAGLE
Celebrating 'True North Island' Life

www.northislandeagle.com Facebook: @northislandeagle

BS FLOORS

MIKE BROWN
7070 Market st
Port Hardy, B.C.
250.902.7050

mike@bsfloors.ca
www.bsfloors.ca

L
E
T
U
S
F
L
O
O
R
Y
O
U



danielle@dkfbooks.ca

250-902-7027

dkfbooks.ca

9D-9250 Trustee Road

Who you gonna call? ☀



Want to promote your business?

Call: **250-949-0337**



or email: publisher@northislandeagle.com



info@melanconstruction.ca



www.melanconstruction.ca

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

William Melan: 250-618-7410



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

HOMES FOR FIRST-TIME, TO ESTABLISHED OWNERS

209-7450 Rupert Street, Port Hardy
\$131,000
MLS® # 1024019



Welcome to this bright two-bedroom, one-bathroom second-floor condo. The open living and dining area is filled with natural light and offers access to the balcony. The kitchen provides ample counter space with room to customize with additional storage, along with the added convenience of in-unit laundry. The primary bedroom features a walk-in closet, while the second bedroom is a generous size. The unit is complete with a large in-unit storage space. The building exterior has seen several updates in recent years, including new siding, windows, and refreshed balconies. Vacant and ready for quick possession.

5060 Beaver Harbour Road, Port Hardy
\$655,000
MLS® # 10160804



Full side-by-side duplex in the desirable Storey's Beach area. Walking distance to the beach as well as the convenience store in the opposite direction. 10 minute drive to town. Ideal investment as both tenants are excellent and would love to remain. Side 1 offers a large storage room that can be converted back to a garage. Laundry is in this room. This side is fully updated with beautiful kitchen, two separate living rooms, 3 bedrooms up and 2 full bathrooms. Side 2 offers laundry off the garage, functional kitchen, large living room and convenient main floor powder room. Upstairs has 3 bedrooms and a full bath. Shared fenced large yard on this double sized corner lot.

801 Nimpkish Heights Road, Hyde Creek
\$1,169,000
MLS® # 1022167



Want a ton of space for your family or a home based business? This home and property has everything you could want. For the family, currently set up as a 5 bed plus den, 2 bath home with room for expansion or changes. For a business, this was previously set up for a gallery with tons of storage, display and multiple work areas. Tiled heated floor, 29 skylights make the work areas naturally bright and comfortable. The potential for B&B or hobby farm is great as there are areas that could be closed off from the main house. The 2.15 acreage is covered with 65 rhodos and other perennials, fruit trees, berries, greenhouse and raised beds with herbs and veggies.

ROYAL LEPAGE
Helping you is what we do.™

Royal LePage Advance Realty
4-7035 Market Street, Port Hardy, BC
250-949-7231
www.porthardyrealestate.net

ROYAL LEPAGE
Helping you is what we do.™