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Hardy Buoys transitions to indigenous ownership

By Kathy O'Reilly

After 32 years in business, Hardy Buoys Smoked Fish Inc. has officially transitioned to new ownership under the Hardy Buoys Smoked Fish Limited Partnership, marking a significant step forward as an Indigenous-owned enterprise.

A ceremonial transfer of ownership took place at the Hardy Buoys facility in Port Hardy on March 19.

The event included speeches, tours of the plant, and lunch at the Kwakiutl Hall.

The Limited Partnership is comprised of the Kwakiutl Nation Development Corporation (KNDC) – the economic development arm of the Kwakiutl Nation, supporting sustainable economic initiatives and long-term community prosperity. Upper Fraser Indigenous Sustainable Harvesters (UFISH) – a group of Indigenous fishing enterprises dedicated to strengthening Indigenous participation and sustainability within the seafood sector; and Authentic Indigenous Seafood (AIS) is serving as the General Partner. AIS is a national Indigenous-owned seafood organization focused on market access, Indigenous

economic development, and building resilient Indigenous seafood value chains.

This ownership transition reflects a shared commitment to preserving Hardy Buoys' legacy while supporting operational stability, workforce continuity, and long-term growth.

"Hardy Buoys has long been recognized for its quality products and strong community presence and will continue to be a major community employer," said Kwakiutl Development Corporation's Chief Verna Hunt.

Gord Sterritt, CEO for both UFISH and AIS emphasized that "this transition represents both continuity and growth for our network of fisheries as we move forward under indigenous ownership at Hardy Buoys. Our shared vision is to use this as our latest infrastructure investment to help growing participation in their fisheries value chains across Canada."

Operations at Hardy Buoys will continue without disruption, supported by the existing management team and workforce.

Hardy Buoys' owners Bruce and Carol Dirom have "creat-



Photo – Kathy O'Reilly

Bruce and Carol Dirom shake hands with Hardy Buoys Smoked Fish Inc. President David Moore, right, at a transfer of ownership event March 19.

ed a legacy here for the community and we just wanted to be part of it. I want to thank you for allowing us to be part of your legacy after 30 years and I congratulate you on your

retirement," said Sterritt.

"The journey has been raising four children, three kids and a business, for 30 plus years. We recognized a very long time ago that we would never have

made it this far without the help and support of this great community. We've had such great crew, staff, you guys, thank you," said Carol.

Continued on Page 2

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Handshakes helped build Hardy Buoys

Continued from Page 1

“There’s been many times that we doubted ourselves over the years and it wasn’t that we weren’t doing a good job, it was overwhelming,” said Bruce.

“There were many times that we just said, ‘it’s too much, we need to get out’, but that entrepreneurial spirit kept them going, kept them pushing and getting through those humps.

When this opportunity to sell came along it was a signal it was time.

“We can happily walk away knowing that we did everything we possibly could to keep this business going and keep the employment in the community. We’re very excited and grateful. We see a very bright future for Hardy Buoys moving forward,” he said.

“We’re going to be here to support them (the employees) and the company as we move forward.”

The Diroms have had the opportunity to sell the business in the past but did not.

“It was very important to Bruce and I making a decision to sell at this age in life. We knew that we had time on our side and it was really important that it was the right fit and we are so grateful and so proud to be transferring the ownership to you guys because you guys checked all the boxes,” said Carol.

The couple recalled how the business was featured on the CBC television show ‘The Big Decision’ in 2012.

“The only thing that we got out of it was that we were in negotiations with Walmart back east and when this aired on April 2, we got a phone call saying ‘we’ll take your product’ because they saw it on national TV and then we lost it,” Bruce laughed.

The exposure “was definitely good for the company” however. “I think it was just really good for morale,” said Carol.

Hardy Buoys started off in a garage at 5980 Hardy Bay Road in a 1,200 square foot space.

Many people helped along the way including James Walkus (Fishing Company). “I had no money, and I had no fish, and he had the fish, so we worked out a deal. Those deals would be on a handshake and that’s kind of the way this community works in a lot of ways, the close-knit part of it,” Bruce said.

“When we first started this conversation, we wanted business as usual. We wanted to make sure that as the ownership changed, that the business didn’t change. Its relationship with the community was going to be the same. Its relationship with the workers was going to be the same,” said Hardy Buoys Smoked Fish Limited Partnership President David Moore.

“We want it to grow and continue with that legacy,” Moore said. “I believe you are on the right track,” said Carol.

Aaron Gunn Town Hall responses - Part 2

By Kathy O’Reilly

North Island-Powell River MP Aaron Gunn hosted a town hall meeting at the Port McNeill Community Hall March 16.

During the event, attended by about 100 people, Gunn answered questions from the floor that were submitted throughout the meeting. Questions were placed in a barrel

and chosen randomly. All were answered.

Here is part two of those questions.

Gunn was asked about the gun confiscation program.

“We’re going to oppose every step along the way of this gun confiscation scheme for people. Not only is it a confiscation of private property, it’s a gross waste and misuse

of taxpayer dollars and it’s a gaslighting and distraction from what the real problem is, which is that criminals, gangs, and repeat violent offenders are using smuggled in illegal firearms from the United States and instead who do they choose to punish? Hunters, sport shooters and communities like Port McNeill.”

Regarding temporary foreign workers, Gunn said they are being used to mask a bigger problem.

“If there is unemployment in the community, the solution is to get those people to work

and figure out why they are not working and incentivize them to work,” said Gunn.

“When you bring over a bunch of cheap labour, you artificially depress wages, especially the working class and the lowest income people, and that hurts the people that are struggling to make ends meet the most,” he continued.

“I don’t understand why when I was growing up, all of the fast-food restaurants employed people in my grad class and in Grades 10 and 11, and now they say they can’t find anybody and it’s not like

those young people don’t exist,” he said.

Gunn was asked his position on foreign/American foundations providing significant funding dollars to environmental Non-Government Organizations (NGOs).

“I think it’s a form of election interference quite frankly. They should be raising all of their funds here in Canada and not taking it from the United States or another country.”

Asked where his party stands on floor crossing, Gunn responded “it’s one of the least democratic things I have ever

seen. I think if you want a majority government, or a mandate, you should do it through the ballot box”.

Gunn was asked his position on transgender rights on the North Island.

“I think if you are an adult you should be free to do whatever you want, but in our public education system, I don’t think we should be forcing irreversible surgeries or hormones on young people when they are in a challenging time in their life, or struggling with confusion, or mental illness, whatever the case may be.”



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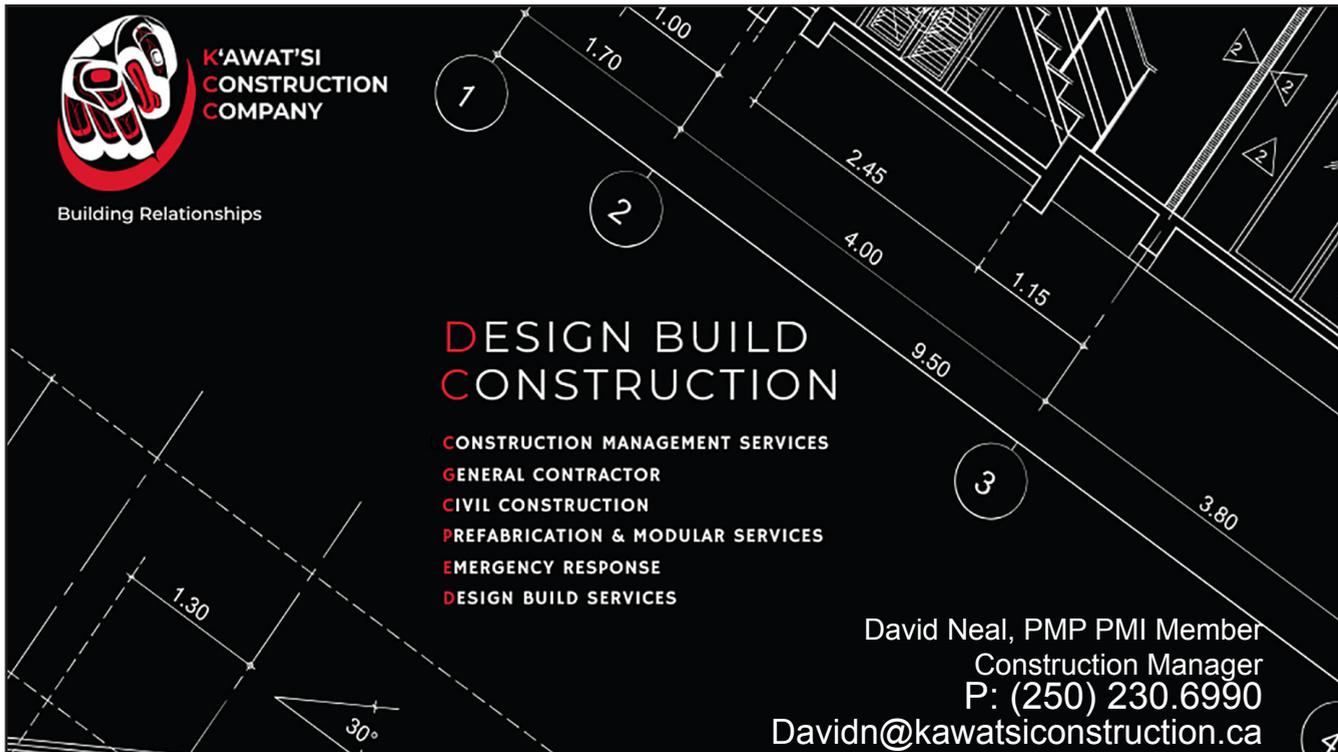
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DISTRICT OF PORT HARDY NEWS & EVENTS



PORT HARDY TURNS 60 – DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



This year, the District of Port Hardy proudly celebrates 60 years since its incorporation as a municipality. 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 that our history reaches far beyond 60 years. Let's make Port Hardy's 60th birthday a celebration to remember!

Check out the 7th edition of the District Connection, learn more about the planned celebrations and how you can participate including how to submit your Port Hardy story and photo and get the Commemorative Button contest details!

Copies of the District Connection are also available at the Municipal Hall or online at porthardy.ca.



Port Hardy Annual Spring Clean-Up Week

11 am - 4 pm | May 19 - 23
FREE Drop-off at Fox's Disposal
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HIGH GROUND HIKE

Coffee with the Mayor

April 9, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
May 7, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

HARDY HUSTLE

10K & HALF MARATHON

MAY 31, 2026

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

Choose between our scenic 10K or challenging half marathon and experience the energy of race day in Port Hardy. Feel the excitement, hear the cheers, and embrace the challenge as you walk, jog, or run your way to the finish line. Fees include race swag, post run snacks and a medal. Limited swag is available on a first come, first served basis. Don't wait. Register today! Limited swag available on a first come first served basis.



10K
All Ages
\$45/person
Code: SP26-CE02

Half Marathon
Ages 15+
\$85/person
Code: SP26-CE01



SHARE YOUR PORT HARDY STORY!

Help Us Celebrate 60 Years! We're collecting historic photos & stories for the Port Hardy Timeline Project.

Do you have a photo from years past? A moment that captures our community's history? A story that deserves to be remembered?



We want to see it!

Selected submissions may be featured as part of our 60th Anniversary celebrations. Scan the QR Code to learn more.

Youth Commemorative Button Contest



To celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Port Hardy's Incorporation, we're inviting local youth to help us mark this milestone in a creative way!

We are looking for original artwork that can be featured on a commemorative button to be worn throughout the 60th Anniversary year.

Artwork Submission Deadline: May 1, 2026

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Volunteerism is alive and strong throughout the year. If you know a volunteer deserving of recognition, nominate them today!



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Port Hardy Emergency invites local youth and families to take part in the 2026 Emergency Preparedness Fair. Join local emergency response agencies for a chance to help raise awareness on the importance of being emergency prepared.



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Thanks to North Island Crisis & Counselling Centre we are able to offer this program for **FREE!**

Easter Pool Party

All Ages
Tuesday, April 7
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
\$6 / Person

Easter Pool Party

All ages
Tues | April 7
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
\$6/person

Make a splash at our Easter Pool Party and celebrate spring with a fun and festive swim for all ages. Bring the whole family and enjoy an evening filled with exciting pool games, laughter, and a chance to win fun prizes.

Pre-registration is encouraged.

We invite you to celebrate our

FREE! SPRING FESTIVAL & PORT HARDY'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

Saturday, April 18
VENDORS | BOUNCY CASTLES | GAMES
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General Public: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Don Cruickshank Memorial Arena
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Spring Festival

All Ages
Sat | April 18
Sensory Friendly:
10:00 am - 11:00 am
General Public:
11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Arena Dry Floor
FREE!

Port Hardy is turning 60 and we are throwing a party at our annual Spring Festival! Join us for a vibrant event filled with local vendors, 60-themed games, bouncy castles and tons of community spirit.

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SCAN HERE TO REGISTER!

editorial



Photo — Robin Quirk, Robin's Eye Photography

Common Goldeneyes were nicknamed by hunters as the 'whistler' for the loud whistling sound their wings make in flight, which is more pronounced in the winter.



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EAGLE
 Celebrating 'True North Island' Life



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— Our beautiful First Nation's eagle (kwikw) courtesy Nakwaxda'xw artist Davis Henderson

Cover eagle photo James O'Reilly

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Upgrades worth \$45 million to Port Hardy Hospital

Upgrades are coming to Port Hardy Hospital.

“People in the northern Island deserve dependable, high-quality care in their community,” said Josie Osborne, Minister of Health. “These upgrades to Port Hardy Hospital will modernize the emergency department, create culturally safe spaces and improve the facility for patients, families and staff. Investments like this are part of our work to strengthen health-care services in rural and remote regions and make sure all communities have the support they need.”

The total anticipated project cost is \$45 million, including \$39 million from the Province, \$5 million from Island Health and \$1 million from the Regional Hospital District of Mount Waddington.

The improvements include:

- upgrades to the emergency department, including a building extension and ambulance canopy
- conversion of existing of-

space and storage space into long-term care rooms for seniors, with up to five beds

- new culturally safe spaces, including a sacred space and Indigenous health office, to support the delivery of culturally safe care

- expanding and modernizing the maternity delivery suite

- expanding and modernizing laboratory services

- morgue expansion

- 21 new parking stalls and rough-in for future electric-vehicle charging stations

- expansion of administrative areas to improve staff work-spaces and increase efficiency

“This project will help support patients, staff and the broader community in Port Hardy for decades to come,” said Bowinn Ma, Minister of Infrastructure. “Modernizing this facility will strengthen the region’s health-care system, investing in the infrastructure we need to make sure people on the northern Island have access to reliable, high quality

services close to home.”

Port Hardy Hospital opened in 1980 and is the largest hospital in northern Vancouver Island region, with more than 6,000 emergency room visits annually. This will be the first major upgrade to the hospital since its opening.

“Enhancements to Port Hardy Hospital are helping to ensure people across northern Vancouver Island can access care closer to home, when it matters most,” said Leah Hollins, board chair, Island Health. “Emergency department upgrades, the addition of culturally safe spaces, long-term care beds and other important investments will allow the hospital to better meet the unique and diverse needs of the communities it serves.”

Construction on the project is anticipated to start in summer 2026 and will take approximately three years using a phased approach to minimize service disruption, with completion antic-



Photo — Island Health

Port Hardy Hospital is getting \$45 million in upgrades.

ipated in late 2029.

“This is an important step for the entire Mount Waddington region,” said Andrew Hory,

chair, Mount Waddington

Regional Hospital District. “These upgrades will help improve access to emergen-

cy care and support better health-care worker recruitment and retention in our communities.”



Photo — Guylaine Longpre

Burl Moved To New Spot

The World’s Largest Burl has been moved to a new location on the corner of Broughton Boulevard and Shelley Crescent in Port McNeill after it, and the structure it was housed under, went up in flames. “This spot was chosen because it will be more visible when you come to town or walking up from the harbour area. We will also be able to change the use from a parking spot to a nice gathering space, which will have some beautification upgrades, and people can visit the Burl and enjoy the area,” said town Chief Administrative Officer Brenda Johnson.



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Pine Martins vicious and opportunistic assassins

On any given day, winding nature trails through the wonders of the Pacific Northwest forests unfold stories like a living Rudyard Kipling book. Walking a brown peat pathway covered with soft moss and fir needles, brings to every footfall a sense of peace and anticipation of what is around the next corner. Christine, Rosie and I crave these outdoor experiences even after many years of enjoyment. Each new season paints its own masterpiece of discovery, spring's riotous renewal full of vigour of newborn life in the freshness of air, summer's lush green purified understory, the gold and brown harvest of autumn, and winter's quiet, white cozy slumber of hibernation. Would wildlife reveal itself today? Hiking on North Vancouver Island is never just a walk! It is an immersion into a wild world constantly remaking itself. It is a visual odyssey of a continuously evolving palette that tantalizes all our senses: Sight, sound, aromas, and touch. Along a Spring trail, sword ferns unfurl, lilies blossom, and salal, salmon and huckleberry fruit crowd trail edges of summer; all the while deep in a forest core shadows of tall Sitka Spruce, Hemlock, Cedar, and Douglas-fir stand as sentinels protecting Mother Nature's playground. The drumming of a Ruffed Grouse weaves through the air, an



Owl call drifts down from a hidden perch. A breeze carries the scent of rain, distant cries of eagles or a lone wolf howl greeting a sunrise. The forest is a living entity always willing to entertain with an amazing ecosystem filled with beauty and wonderful flora that begs to be seen, and countless interdependent inhabitants that strive to remain unseen.

We always hope to spot wildlife, perhaps a spring bear newly awoken from its winter slumber, a shy Black-tailed doe and fawn, a darting Red Squirrel, or the splash of a trout chasing dragonfly larvae hanging above a stream trying to escape the current by crawling up an overhead branch. Yet, the forest is a dominion of modesty protecting its own from view in secret nooks and hollows; wildlife are masters of disguise. Beneath twisted roots, in tangled thick undergrowth, and among the moss and lichen covered boughs

above, countless eyes observe inquisitively, unseen. It is the eternal mystery of the woods: how many creatures large and small remain cloaked and silent as we walk by, witnessing our passage from camouflaged hide-a-ways, as we walk on carefree and unaware.

However, on this cool spring morning, as dew drops clung sparkling to the tips of conifer needles, Christine, Rosie, and I looked over a rise to a rotting log decorated by fungi and green vegetation. Suddenly, a flash of movement, a slender, chestnut-brown shape with a creamy throat darted up from behind its chosen home. We froze, hearts racing at our good fortune and delight. There, bold and curious, stood a Pine Marten, its bright black eyes wide and whiskers twitching. For a few precious seconds, the little carnivore regarded us in the sunlight, black nose testing the damp air, before it melded back into the brush



Photo — Christine Patterson

Pine Martins are a member of the weasel family. This one was the size of a small cat.

as silently as it had appeared. Where had it come from and where did it vanish to?

The Pine Marten was about the size of a small cat, a member of the weasel family, it is quick and stealthy ambushing

unsuspecting prey with skilled precision in the Wild Kingdom's circle of life. As cute as it appears, it is a nimble and opportunistic assassin whose diet reflects the diversity of Vancouver Island's rainforest.

Primarily a carnivore, it feasts on small mammals like voles, mice, and squirrels, but it is not above raiding bird nests for eggs and chicks when the opportunity arises.

Continued on Page 7

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Cilantro Beef Kebabs - Sugar handling made easier

By Susan Holbrook

I know I talk a lot about gut health because it really is the root cause of many health issues.

One of these health problems that is so common and insidious is sugar handling issues such as insulin resistance, hypoglycemia, pre diabetes and of course diabetes (type 2) itself.

Altering your diet is very important to preventing or managing these diseases.

It doesn't mean that you can't have delicious meals, but it does mean eliminating high glycemic carbohy-

drates and other sugars from your diet. There is a book called The Diabetic Fix by Mike Geary, a certified personal trainer and nutrition specialist, that is available online to order in hard copy or a digital version. It gives you a well laid out plan to follow and lots of great information.

I particularly liked a reference to cilantro. He said, "Cilantro is known for its anti-inflammatory compounds and its cholesterol-lowering ability, as well as its ability to remove toxic metals (like mercury

and lead) from the body. Cilantro is more than twice as effective as antibiotics against the food-borne salmonella bacteria that cause food poisoning. Cilantro is a powerful weapon to use in fighting diabetes, along with a low-glycemic diet. In fact, cilantro is so effective at lowering blood sugar, it is known in some circles as the anti-diabetic plant."

So, here's a delicious recipe that has become an all-time favourite for me!

It includes a sauce that is pesto like and reminiscent of Chimichurri. It includes

curry powder that contains turmeric, the powerful anti-inflammatory spice. It's rich in antioxidants that battle inflammation, prevent Alzheimer's Disease, burn fat, and enhance the immune system. It also helps safeguard against those dangerous chemicals that can come from grilling meat.

Cilantro Beef Kebabs
serves 2 to 3

Soak several wooden skewers in water.

Place these ingredients into a blender or food processor.

1 bunch of fresh cilantro
1 small red onion or shallot, peeled

2 cloves garlic, peeled

1 jalapeno trimmed and chopped roughly

1 TBSP grated fresh ginger

1 tsp pink salt

4 TBSP olive oil

Juice of 1 lime

Put ½ cup aside in a separate bowl for topping the finished kebabs. Stir 1 tsp curry powder into the rest and add

2 NY Strip steaks trimmed and cut into chunks. Let marinate for about 1 hour.

For kebabs prepare red onion, bell peppers and any other veggies such as zucchini or mushrooms that you would like. When the meat is finished marinating, thread the meat and veggies on to the skewers.

You can place the kebabs on a grill pan for broiling or on a barbecue. Grill or broil the kebabs for 8-10 minutes turning the skewers every two minutes.

Serve with cilantro sauce, plain yogurt, and a green salad. I enjoyed it with papadums placed in an air fryer for a minute or two. Careful, they can easily burn.

Papadums are just lentils so all good on the glycemic index. Instead of beef use chicken, lamb, pork or prawns. What a versatile recipe!

Please visit my website for more information and recipes. www.co-creative-healthsolutions.com or text 778-788-4325.

Pine Marten encounter

Continued from Page 6

It is an Olympic speed climber and squirrels and birds are not safe from its voracious appetite high into the trees. Autumn's plenty affords small critters somewhat of a respite as the weasel supplements meals with berries and fruit.

The Pine Marten is a solitary wanderer, weaving silently through forest undergrowth searching effortlessly among the branches of tall conifers in the soft light of dawn and dusk, using these twilight hours to full advantage to hunt and explore. The marten marks and patrols a spacious territory, and enjoys spending its days resting in hollows, abandoned nests, or thick brush piles.

This clever, observant weasel is rarely seen by hikers, embodying the secret spirit of the forest: alert, curious, and perfectly attuned to the rhythms of the wild places it calls home. In early spring, female Pine Martens give birth to litters of two to five kits in well-hidden soft cozy dens tucked within hollow trees or old squirrel nests.

The young are born blind and helpless, relying totally on their mother's care for several weeks before venturing out to learn the skills of hunting and survival by summer's end.

Our joy was palpable long after this marvelous mammal vanished. We knew we had been granted a rare gift, a fleeting glimpse into the secret world that thrives just out of sight. It left us wondering: how many other God's creatures had watched us from their shadowy refuges? Are we the observers or the observed? How many silent paws, sharp eyes, and beating hearts had we walked by hidden in the quiet, patiently watching us as we wandered through their home?

In the wilds of British Columbia, the greatest adventures are not just in the sights we witness or photograph; but in the endless stories playing out, unseen, all around us, waiting for those rare, magical moments when another chapter in Nature's grand book chooses to reveal itself. We finished the day elated and again humbled by the hidden lives within. The forest, in its quiet wisdom, continuously teaches us to walk softly, to watch, and to cherish every fleeting connection with its elusive inhabitants. Sightings that enrich our being and remind us of our place in nature's grand design.

Isn't nature grand.

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MOUNT WADDINGTON REGIONAL HOSPITAL DISTRICT/ REGIONAL DISTRICT OF MOUNT WADDINGTON

Bylaw Adoptions of the 2026-2030 5-Year Financial Plans

The Mount Waddington Hospital District will be holding a Board Meeting on **March 31, 2026 at 11:30 am** to adopt Bylaw No. 112, 2026-2030 5 Year Financial Plan.

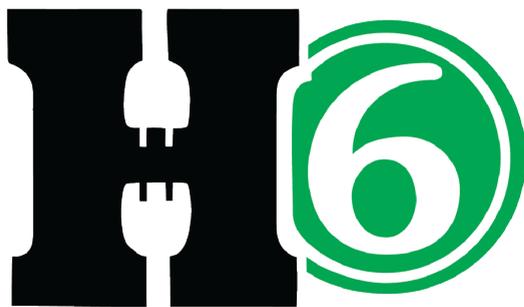
The Regional District of Mount Waddington will be holding a Board Meeting on **March 31, 2026 at 2:00 pm** to adopt Bylaw No. 1072, 2026-2030 5 Year Financial Plan.

Additional information can be obtained via:

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North Island Reflections



A Bald Eagle and its watchful eyes. 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 ...

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Follow the Sasquatch!



Photo — Kathy O'Reilly

Rodrigo Morales was busy selling his jewellery at the Port McNeill Farmer's Market at the Lions Hall March 14. Marales has launched a new business called 'Pikhoyo Jewellery' featuring earrings and necklaces like the one below.

Tree joints used for jewellery

By Kathy O'Reilly

Rodrigo Morales from Chile has launched a unique jewellery business in Port McNeill using specialized local wood.

Rodrigo's business 'Pikhoyo Jewellery' is based on pikoyo or picoyo which uses araucaria tree (Monkey Tree) resin to make cabochons – or charms.

"I started this project six months ago after finding some very special pieces in the forest that are produced by certain types of pine trees," said Rodrigo.

In Chile, the Araucaria produces resin between the branch and the trunk.

"Once the tree disappears after hundreds of years due to decomposition, this special prod-

uct is obtained, very similar to those produced by cedar trees in this country," he said.

What makes these pieces special is their amber colour, their hardness, and especially the length of time they can last once the tree disappears.

"I enjoy doing this. It has a special connection with nature, and each collection allows me to discover and learn new things around Port McNeill," he said.

To create his jewellery, Rodrigo mainly uses a coping saw and sandpaper with different grits.

A coping saw is a specialized bow saw with a thin, replaceable blade designed for intricate, curved cuts, detailed woodworking, and creating coped joints in trim.

While the jewellery is new, "I have been involved with wood in various ways throughout my life, as I am a carpenter and also a furniture maker."

Approximately two years ago, Rodrigo came to Port McNeill at the invitation of a friend who has lived here for some time. "What I like about this place is the tranquility, the nature, and the people who live here."

Rodrigo is from the city of Curacautín in the Chilean province of Malleco. Curacautín is located 90 kilometres northeast of Temuco, in a valley near the volcanoes Tolhuaca, Lonquimay and Llaima, all of which can be seen from the city. "Even though the city of Curacautín is on the other side of the world, we have many things in common, such as rivers, lakes, mountains, and some animals. Perhaps the only difference would be the volcanoes," he said.

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Peregrine Falcon rescued after striking sailboat

By Kathy O'Reilly

For the first time, Alert Bay bird rescuer Robin Quirk was called into action to save a Peregrine Falcon.

The aide was rendered after Quirk received a call from Page Escallier. On Wednesday, March 18 at about 7:30

a.m., Page heard a very loud thud on her boat.

"I initially thought I'd been hit. So, I ran onto the deck to find a Peregrine Falcon down on my starboard side deck and feathers covering my aft cabin," she recalled.

"I startled the falcon, and

it took off, but didn't get far, maybe 30 feet behind my boat and onto the dock between the pilings and the electrical box." By then, a murder of over 60 crows had swarmed on the surrounding boats, making a ruckus.

"I spoke calmly, and after 15 minutes the crows flew away. I decided to leave the falcon alone and give it some space to leave."

Again, about 15 to 20 minutes later, the crows returned. Page went back to check on the falcon, to find it still there.

She reached out to MARS Wildlife Rescue in Merville to alert them of the situation and that the bird was still at the docks. They proceeded to reach out to Robin.

"I had thought I would drive to Robin's, so I walked past with my head averted to keep it calm and ask for assistance. When I saw two men on the dock and told them my concerns about the situation, one approached to see the bird, and, frightened, it took off only to land in the water between the pilings."

With a few more calls and advice from Mars, Page decided her fish net was its best chance. By then, the falcon had swum under the docks and was on a ledge on the opposite side. After some manoeuvring her net through the pilings, Page was able to catch the falcon and pull it out of the water and onto the dock.

"There I covered it with a towel, returned to my boat and couldn't believe I was sitting in my cockpit with a Peregrine Falcon in my lap!"

Robin arrived with a carrier within minutes, and after carefully cutting the net to release its foot, the falcon was secured.

"I am very grateful I was there to help such an amazing animal and add an exciting adventure and story to my life on a sailboat!"

Robin placed the falcon gently into the bird crate, but the door would not close because the falcon now had a grip on the towel that it had been wrapped in. Robin tucked the towel into the crate and shut the door. She hoped the bird would release the towel once it relaxed.

"I decided to go to get some help from a friend to hold the falcon while I cut the towel away," said Robin.

Maureen Towers kindly volunteered. "To our delight it had let go of the big towel, so all was well. It was hard to see any injuries at this point, but it seemed to be favouring its right shoulder." Once home, Robin and Mars started looking for transportation for the bird.

Mars contacted Robin with news a ride was on its way to pick up the falcon around 2

p.m. Robin caught the noon ferry to Port McNeill which was incidentally the last full trip of the Quadra Queen II.

Chris Hansen volunteered to pick up the Peregrine Falcon and drove it to MARS Wildlife Hospital.

When she arrived at MARS they discovered she had head trauma, swollen legs, no fractures and was eating. She was placed on anti-inflammatories to reduce the swelling in her legs and monitored over the weekend. By Monday

her legs had responded well to the medication. Although it is found on six continents, the Peregrine is uncommon in most areas; it was seriously endangered in the mid-20th century because of the effects of DDT and other persistent pesticides.

Regarded by falconers and biologists alike as one of the noblest and most spectacular of all birds of prey and in power-diving from great heights to strike prey, may reach speeds of 200 miles per hour.



Wood jewellery

Continued from Page 8

"Obviously, the food and language are very different."

For now, Rodrigo and partner Ashley Whalen, "who has also been an important part of this project", are selling their product at the farmers' markets. You can also find them on Instagram @ pikhoyo.jewelry.

"All our products are made with collected materials and are not obtained from manufactured or processed woods."



Photos — Robin Quirk, Robin's Eye Photography

A juvenile Peregrine Falcon, nicknamed Volare, that flew into a sailboat in Alert Bay sits in a cage ready for transport to Mars Wildlife Rescue. Left, Page Escallier holds the majestic bird of prey.



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classifieds/marketplace

Coming Events

Tri-Port Pride Society Annual General Meeting



**Tues., April 14th
6:30 pm**

Port Hardy Civic Centre,
Hydro Room

For virtual invite -
email: triportpridesociety@gmail.com

Boats

12-foot aluminium boat comes with electric motor and new oars. \$600 OBO.
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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.
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Long line or halibut block, cost \$500+ will sell for \$200.
250-949-0118

Fishing

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Coming Events

The Seniors Advocate is presenting at Hardy Bay Seniors on April 17th at 1:00. No fee but register at hardybayseniors@gmail.com

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The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is **Crown Land File # 1402181**.

Comments may be submitted electronically via the provincial Applications, Comments & Reasons for Decision webpage at

<https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/>. Alternatively hard copy comments may be directed to the Senior Land Officer, Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship at 142-2080 Labieux Rd, Nanaimo, BC V9T 6J9.

Comments will be received by WLRS up to May 8, 2026. WLRS may not be able to consider comments received after this date.

Please visit the website at <https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/> for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information contact the Freedom of Information Advisor at the Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship office in Nanaimo.

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Obituaries

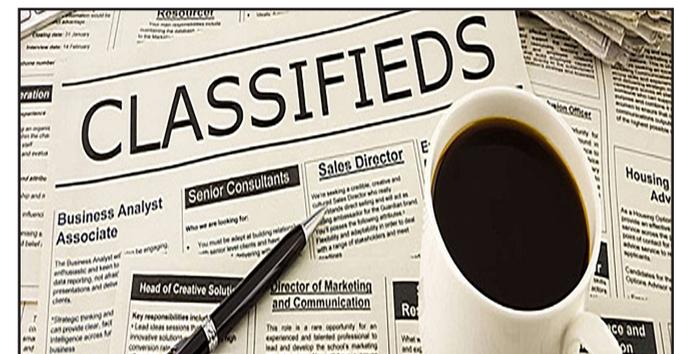
Stephen Douglas Charlesworth

Feb. 18/1943-March 20/2026

Our Dad passed away March 20/2026. He leaves behind three daughters Shelley (Gordon) Wigman, Sheri (Mark) Hilts, and Sylvia (Ken) Knorn along with 8 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Mom and Dad loved Nakusp and returned there to visit family and friends.

Dad was predeceased by his wife Betty and son Robin.





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Johan Olsen
 Cell: 250-209-9667

147 Maquinna Avenue, Zeballos \$399,000 MLS® # 1029383



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Sandra Masales
 Cell: 250-902-9271

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