



The North Island

Celebrating 'True North Island' Life

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Photo — Mariti Mellow

Recognizing Resilience

Port Hardy's Lil Amigos Daycare had a visiting doctor, Emmett Crawford, this week who demonstrated great compassion for his patients, including Justice Johnny.

Former staffer disputes CFIB report

By Kathy O'Reilly

The claim that businesses are facing ever increasing taxes with little to show for it is "just wrong," says former Regional District of Mount Waddington Director of Operations Patrick Donaghy.

Donaghy is referring to a new report by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), that ranks the Regional District of Mount Waddington in the bottom five least efficient regional districts in BC, due to growing spending on bureaucracy that outpaces major economic benchmarks.

"While I cannot speak to the actual analysis carried out by the CFIB", the RDMW responded "brilliantly" to the two major economic disasters that occurred during the time period covered by the report. "In 2009, when the sub-prime crisis hit, the logging economy on the North Island basically came to a complete stop," Donaghy recalls.

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Residential school survivors still triggered

By Kathy O'Reilly

For most people Halloween is a time of joy – costumes, parties, trick or treating.

For Chief Richard Dawson it is a trigger and reminder of time spent at St. Michael's Residential School in Alert Bay.

"To some of us who are still here, the pain is real. For me, it is always a worry when Halloween comes around," said Dawson, who acted as speaker at the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation official program at the Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre Sept. 30.

"I can remember Halloween when I was in St. Michael's School looking through the window watching children run around with bags and it was a very painful time for me knowing I wouldn't have candy the next day," he said. "So, every day I fill my car with candy. Go on my two boats - you'll find bags and bags of candy."

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a day of remembering.

"It's a day of supporting one another – all of us who went through residential school," he said.

"There's a lot of sadness, there's a lot to remember, and I think it's something that we should never forget and never let the government ever forget what happened to us as a people and the intergenerational effects on the children, it's a huge thing, and it's something that I'm very proud to be a part of," said Dawson at the Port Hardy event.

"Our children need to understand what happened there to us. For us to be able to talk about those things, so that there is an understanding about residential schools," Dawson continued.

"Some of the children might not really want to know about it because it is in the past, but for us it is never, ever going to go away. Ones that did go to residential school and remember the loneliness, the starvation, the abandonment issues, wondering why your family didn't come to get you. It's always something that we feel. When I say I know how you feel, I do. I was there," he continued.

"Every one of us had a different experience and how we hold that, how we carry that, is different."

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a way to remind the people, the governments, the churches what happened to First Nations children in residential schools.

"They really don't know the devastation that it has on a people. But we are coming back. We are rebuilding."

"Today is an opportunity to come together to reflect on the legacy of residential schools and the ongoing impact on survivors, their families, and our community," said Port Hardy Mayor Pat Corbett-Labatt.

"It's also a time to commit



Photo - Kathy O'Reilly

Participants in the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation walked from Thunderbird Mall down to Carrot Park where they stopped briefly to drum, dance and sing before continuing on to the Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre for the official program.

necessary, work of building a better future for all," Corbett-Labatt said.

"The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation recognizes the tragic legacy of residential schools, the missing children, the families left behind, and the survivors of these institutions," she said.

The first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation was held in 2021. It was created by the Orange Shirt Society to recognize former student Phyllis (Jack) Webstad, six, who on her first day at residential school wore a shiny new orange shirt, bought by her grandmother, that was taken from her, and ourselves to the hard, but to honour the children who never returned home.

"The residential school era is one of the darkest chapters in Canadian history. Its effects are not confined to the past," Corbett-Labatt said.

"The ongoing impact of residential schools, and realizing it, is essential to reconciliation," she continued.

"Today is an opportunity for Indigenous and non-Indigenous members of our community to come together, to hear, to learn from the survivors and to acknowledge the immense harm and suffering the Canadian residential school system inflicted on generations of indigenous families across the country," said Corbett-Labatt. "Today

is a day to recognize the ongoing intergenerational trauma caused by residential schools and the forced separation of indigenous children from their families, communities, cultures and languages, but it is also a day to honour and celebrate the resilience, the resurgence and strength of indigenous people," she said.

"On behalf of the District of Port Hardy council and the citizens, I want to say clearly, we stand with you. We stand with you to create awareness in educating others and ensuring that this dark history is not forgotten."

"I'd like to acknowledge the resilience and the grace of our residential school survivors who have a history with the RCMP that is an embarrassment upon our orga-

nization, yet those residential school survivors, and their families, have shown us such grace and such welcoming to join to change the future and I appreciate it so much. It makes coming to work meaningful, more impactful," said Port Hardy RCMP Staff Sergeant Kim Rutherford.

"Why don't we get over it? It's not for us to get over. It's for the world to understand and be educated on what happened to First Nations throughout Canada. To continue to educate is why we do this on a yearly basis, to understand that this will never go away," said Councillor Darryl Coon.

"The survivors endured that pain and trauma so we can continue on in our lives as First Nations. To educate and teach so that something like that will never, ever happen again. If we don't continue that fight, then we are doing an injustice to those that endured such trauma and pain," Coon said.

"Within the North Island, we have the RCMP here, first responders, paramedics, that's part of reconciliation, being able to come and sit with the councils of the First Nations in and around the North Island to better understand and learn how they can work, and how we can work with them, on a better relationship," Coon continued.

"Next year, look at the crowd in this room, we may be in the Civic Centre," he said.

"It warmed my heart to see all of the businesses closed down in recognition and acknowledgment of Truth and Reconciliation Day," said Chief Paddy Walkus.

"I'd like to take a second or two to acknowledge someone that has always been there for everyone, not just First Nations. I'd like to stand up for John Tidbury for the work you have always done," Walkus continued.

"That's the teachings of our old people, was always to do that, to help somebody in life. You demonstrate that in your lifetime of work for all of us. Gila'kasla to you. We love you for who you are."



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RDMW programs support businesses

Continued from Page 1

The RDMW was about to commence a large upgrade of 7 Mile Landfill with the federal government making "vague promises to provide funding".

A tender has been advertised, with a large contractor from outside of the North Island the likely recipient.

"In a brave decision, the Board directed staff to self-manage the work and utilize local resources. When normal stimulus funding was months away from approval, the RDMW had over 20 pieces of heavy equipment working seven days a week, 10 hours a day for two months," said Donaghy who worked for the RDMW from 2006 to 2024 when he was terminated.

"It is likely that approximately 40 operators and heavy equipment mechanics were able to stay on the North Island working near full time hours as opposed to working in the oil sands where often they would not return to forestry," he said.

"The 2009 upgrade project saved a number of contractors from bankruptcy and kept skilled workers here because the RDMW Board saw what was happening and took a major risk to support local businesses."

The other crisis was COVID.

"This was the RDMW's finest hour. Not only did staff and management maintain regular support for residents and businesses by keeping essential services going by using smart safety protocols, it provided critical support for the local economy," Donaghy said.

"Cathy Denham, the emergency coordinator accessed large supplies of sanitizer when it was next to impossible to buy as suppliers were trying to meet demands," he explained. "Staff went out to distribute (the sanitizer) to private and public organizations that allowed

them to continue to operate as opposed to shutting down for health regulations," said Donaghy.

The RDMW also identified the gap between VIHA's data showing low incidence of COVID and panic on social media.

VIHA' had publicly accessible websites but did little to direct the public to relevant pages.

The RDMW, using targeted adds on Facebook and other sites showed the North Island public where to get accurate information.

"The RDMW had also proactively stockpiled significant supplies of PPE and provided critical resources to small communities and First Nations to keep people safe."

Former Manager of Economic Development Pat English throughout the emergency kept all communities aware of economic stimulus that the federal and provincial governments were making available.

"Pat and his predecessor Neil Smith were constantly working with businesses to address their strategic priorities," said Donaghy.

"From the logging academy in Woss, which helped the logging industry recruit young workers with basic skills to replace a rapidly aging work force, to organizing the North Island tourism businesses through VINTA, the RDMW always knew and acted to sustain the local economy," he said.

"The RDMW was also a critical support to getting the fibre optic link to the North Island and provided support for run of the river and wind farm projects that helped stabilize an economy that had been contracting for nearly two decades."

At the community level, the RDMW has a long list of accomplishments including the regional mutual aid agreement that ties all fire departments together in times of crisis.

"From my recollection, every community on the North Island had benefited from quick support from other communities as opposed to the complex web of one to one agreements."

The RDMW also established the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team that supports all North Islanders who have experienced trauma reducing the likelihood of PTSD.

Likewise solid waste, which is one of actual core functions of Regional Districts, has been a critical service to support residents, businesses and North Island communities.

"The RDMW was critical in regionalizing recycling so that it was run in an efficient sustainable manner. Previously recycling was mostly operated by overworked volunteers who faced constant peril due to a very cyclical market," Donaghy stated.

When Recycle BC was established, it was the RDMW who led the North Island into curbside pickup or eco-depots.

"Communities the size of Quatsino and Winter Harbour have full service which is nearly unprecedented given their very small size and isolated locations," he stated.

"The solid waste program has also been an economic driver. Intelligent management of asbestos allows for worker safety but without an excessive burden on the construction/renovation industry as opposed to others regional districts. The solid waste program's partnership with the Heiltsuk and other central coast First Nations has probably added an additional 10 per cent to the North Island consumer population," Donaghy continued.

"When empty waste bins head to Bella Bella, they often haul items from Port Hardy's retailers. The RDMW Board wanted these communities to link to Port Hardy as opposed to Prince Rupert.

Also, for over a decade, 7 Mile Landfill made all the North Island communities, both non and First Nation ones, carbon neutral," he said.

"There are many other incidences of the RDMW showing exceptional commitment to working with our communities and businesses."



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editorial



Photo — Robin Quirk, Robin's Eye Photography

A Humpback Whale was photographed from the shoreline in Alert Bay trap feeding.





The North Island 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 GST# 754836294RT000

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Canadians knew what was happening

By Kathy O'Reilly

"The truth is Canada knew what was happening," said Island Health Indigenous Health Manager Dean Wilson at the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation official program at the Sacred Wolf Friendship Centre Sept. 30.

St. Michael's Residential School in Alert Bay closed in 1974. The last federally funded Canadian Indian residential school, Kivalliq Hall in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, closed in 1997. However, the appalling conditions inside the schools were known far earlier. "Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce was the medical inspector in charge of residential schools, and he went around, to every single school in Western Canada and he weighed the kids, and he measured how tall they were, and the size of their stomachs and the lengths of their arms and he examined the food that they had," Wilson said.

Speaking from memory and not certain of exact dates, Wilson said Bryce "looked at the conditions in which they were living, and in 1909 (actual date 1907) he wrote a

report, and he said, 'I believe the conditions are being deliberately created in our Indian residential schools to spread consumption which is what they used to call TB (Tuberculosis)," Wilson explained.

"And he wrote a report about it including all these details including the death rates at the schools. He also calculated the numbers of kids who were identified as having TB and then sent home to die," he continued. "His conclusion was that over half the children attending the schools were dying."

The report was sent to Superintendent of Indian Affairs Duncan Campbell Scott who's response was that it was readily acknowledged that Indian children lose their natural resistance to illness by living so closely in the Indian residential schools, and they die at a much higher rate than they do at home, because TB was a big killer, but "this does not justify a change in the policy of this department which is geared towards a final solution of the Indian problem.

Continued on Page 6



Photo — *Port Hardy Fire Rescue*

Department Demo

Port Hardy Fire Rescue hosted an open house, recruitment drive, and a live demonstration Oct. 4 as part of this year's Fire Prevention Week Oct. 5-11, The theme this year is "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home," that works to educate everyone about using these batteries safely.





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North Island Reflections



A female Savannah Sparrow must gather 10 times her weight in food to feed herself and her young during the eight days they are in the nest. 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 ...



Living conditions spread Tuberculosis

Continued from Page 5

"Those are very chilling words. Those are words that we would hear echoed a few decades later by someone else," said Wilson.

According to Wilson, for 10 years, Bryce tried to ring the alarm.

He tried to publish his results, but was blocked by the Government of Canada until he finally published his report on his own called 'A National Crime' about 15 years later.

Bryce was eventually fired, and the post of medical inspector was eliminated and "now with no one looking in, the conditions got worse".

In 1920 (1922), Scott pressured the government to make it mandatory that all indigenous children must attend residential school.

In addition to Bryce's report, newspapers also reported on the conditions.

"It was published on the front page of the Ottawa Citizen.

"In 1940, the Toronto Globe, that would later become the Globe and Mail, the front

page was that children were dying in residential schools. This was never secret to people making decisions."

When the Kamloops 215 were found, "it kind of shocked a nation because we kind of told ourselves some good fairy tales about the kind of country we are, and we are a country that does good, but not everything," Wilson continued.

"So, now when we hear people saying, 'where are the bodies', 'what's going on', 'this is a hoax', it is really important to give them factual information," he said.

"Today, we've assembled, we've come together. We're honouring incredible people who have endured so much and are still here." Wilson said.

"You are strong and resilient. It's an honour to be in your presence. You are heroes to all of us. You have kept everything going," he said.

"Everybody who is here today stands on your shoulders because you are the foundation for everything," Wilson said.

"The plan didn't work."



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Forest Operations Map (FOM)

Western Forest Products Inc., Central Island, gives notice and invites comment on the **Forest Operations Map (FOM) 646-011** within the North Island – Central Coast Natural Resource District.

FOMs show the approximate location of proposed cutblock(s) and/or road(s) and may be relied upon for the purposes of cutting permit and/or road permit application until **October 10th, 2028**. The FOM can be viewed and commented on from **October 10th, 2025, to November 9th, 2025**. Comments can be accepted through our online form, email (**FOM-ENG@westernforest.com**), in person at the address above, or by mail at **5000 Railway Ave, Woss, BC, V0N 3P0**.

Please visit www.westernforest.com/fom-centralisland/ to view the FOM online and provide comments digitally. After making an appointment, the FOM can be viewed at our place of business between the hours of 8 am to 4 pm, excluding weekends and holidays.

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lifestyles&leisure

Highland dance competition set for NISS Oct. 18



Photo — Mount Waddington Highland Dancing Association

The Mount Waddington Highland Dancing Association is hosting its 16th Annual Open Fall Competition at North Island Secondary School on Saturday, Oct. 18.

The Mount Waddington Highland Dancing Association is hosting its 16th Annual Open Fall Competition at North Island Secondary School on Saturday, Oct. 18.

The MWHDA annual Highland Dancing competition is sanctioned through Scotdance Canada, and is held every year in the fall, alternating yearly between Port Hardy and Port McNeill.

The Association was formed in 2009 to support the sport of highland dancing on the North Island. The MWHDA membership includes the families of dancers from around the North Island such as Port McNeill, Port Hardy, Port Alice, Woss, Sointula, Alert Bay, and beyond.

Dancers train for either competitive or recreational dance, and many take exams through the Scottish Dance Teachers Association.

There are over 50 active dancers in the area, ranging in age from three to 'over 40'.

New this fall is the alumni program.

Many of the dancers travel around Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and North America to compete. Dancers also participate in many community events in the North Island, including Filomi Days, OrcaFest, the Mount Waddington Fall Fair, Robbie Burns dinners, and much more. Doors for the fall competition open at 9 a.m. and the competition runs from 9:30 a.m. until approximately 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 (cash) per person at the door. Bring cash for the all-day concession, raffle baskets, and 50/50 draws as well.

This competition will showcase world class and local talent.

Skatepark location chosen

By Kathy O'Reilly

There has been an exciting development in the ongoing efforts to bring a skate park to Port McNeill.

Town Council approved the use of the undeveloped field located between Campbell Way and McNeill Road - just below the cenotaph -a s the designated site for the future skate park.

Council noted the proposed location aligns well with the town's broader vision for expanding recreational opportunities in the area.

"Currently, our committee is working closely with the Town of Port McNeill to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which will be a key milestone in moving the project forward into its next phase. We're thrilled by the town's support and the momentum this gives our initiative," said Skatepark committee member Ashlee Wall.

"The finalization of the MOU will allow us to move forward in seeking larger grants," Wall said. Currently, "we have approximately \$30,000 in funds

and donations in kind," she said. "As far as a contractor goes, we are certain that we will go with a professional skatepark design and build company, but which one remains to be determined," she said. "We look forward to keeping the community updated as the project progresses."

8th Annual General Meeting

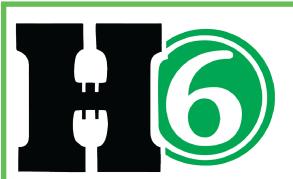


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To anyone we may have missed ... Thank YOU!

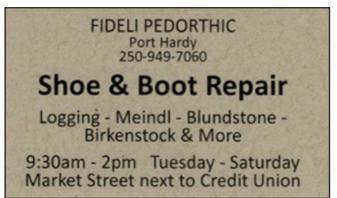
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North Island Business Directory







The Eagle

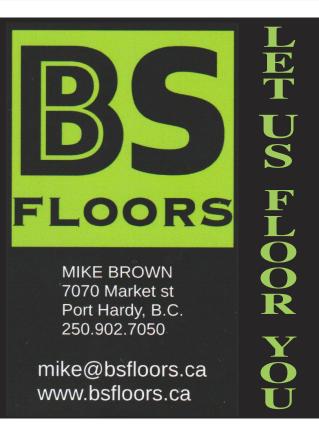
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Celebrations of Life

KENNETH MICHAEL RYAN

October 24, 1949 - September 18, 2025

We are saddened to announce the passing of Kenneth Michael Ryan on September 18, 2025 after a long hard battle with cancer. He was predeceased by his parents, Edna and Murray Ryan. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Debra, sons, Kevin (Heather) and James, sister, Lesley and many nieces and nephews.

Ken was born in Vancouver but spent his child-hood years in Dawson Creek. Ken met Deb in Tahsis in 1972. After several years in Tahsis and in the Lower Mainland, they moved to Port McNeill in 1976. He got a job at Canfor's Beaver Cove Dryland Sort where he worked until retirement in 2006.

Ken loved his sons and was very proud of the young men they grew into. Ken was most happy when he was "in the wind" on his motorcycle. He

had numerous trips with friends throughout BC and Arizona. He also loved his lap dog, Rusty. He spent much of his last days as Rusty's treat dispenser.

The family would like to thank Dr. Armogam and Alison for the their care, kindness and support throughout this journey. Thanks also to the hospital and home care staff for their care, kindness, support and laughter during his home and hospital stay. Thanks to his morning coffee guys for your friendship. Special thanks to Bert and Rollie for taking Ken out fishing and catching! That was the highlight of his summer and always brought a smile to his face when he talked about it..and eating "his" fish. And thank you Port McNeill.

Ken was predeceased by his best buddy, Kevin "Beechnut" Beecroft in 2010 after HIS battle with cancer. They're together again, laughing and in the wind.

An informal celebration of life will be held on November 1, 2025 at the Port McNeill Legion from 1-3pm.

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Expressions of Interest



Expression of Interest for the Installation of EV Chargers

The RDMW is seeking expressions of interest from qualified electrical contractors for the installation of approximately 18 Level II EV Chargers at various locations throughout the region.

Interested contractors can read the complete Request for Expressions of Interest on the RDMW website Regional District of Mount Waddington.

Questions concerning the REOI should be sent via email to

Pat English, Economic Development Advisor, penglish@rdmw.bc.ca

Coming Events



Coming Events



Coming Events



Coming Events



Services

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

236-255-2238

Local 3D printing in Port McNeill.

403-620-0033

Tires

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

Travel Trailers

2012 19' Silver Creek Travel Trailer. Bunk model. Pull down couch at front, double/single bunks at the back. Sleeps 6. In great condition. Everything works perfect. \$15,000 OBO 250-902-9271

Wanted

Looking for a car towing dolly to pull a small car behind a motorhome.

250-209-0945

Find 10 Differences





Melanie McRann Cell: 778-886-5219



Ronnie (Veronica) Sam 19 North Real Estate Group Cell: 250-527-0036



Sarah & Drew Cell: 250-902-8872



Johan Olsen Cell: 250-209-9667



Sandra Masales Cell: 250-902-9271

BUILD IT AND MOVE-IN READY PROPERTIES

7195 Rupert Street, Port Hardy MLS® # 1011646 \$140,000





Unlock the potential of this commercially zoned lot in the heart of downtown Port Hardy! Zoned C-2, this lot offers both commercial and residential possibilities, this property is the perfect canvas to bring your vision to life. Ideally located just down the street from the ocean and all town amenities, it provides excellent visibility and convenience. Whether you're dreaming of a business venture, a mixed-use development, or a unique new addition to the community, this lot is full of opportunity.

306 Haida Avenue, Port Alice \$215,000 MLS® # 1011042





Beautifully updated, move in ready 3-level townhouse. The entry level offers an inviting open-concept living and dining area, cozy kitchen, a convenient half bath, and access to a spacious deck, perfect for soaking in the scenery or entertaining guests. The home is almost entirely freshly painted in a neutral palette, the home features new flooring and trim on both the entry and lower levels. Upstairs, you'll find three comfortable bedrooms and an updated bathroom with a sleek tile shower. The bright lower-level rec room opens to a covered sitting area for year-round enjoyment, while the large laundry/utility room provides abundant storage.

9489 Scott Street, Port Hardy \$439,000 MLS® # 996147



Four bedroom, 3 bath split level home. Updates include new kitchen and appliances, modern bathrooms, flooring. Walk in on ground level with a bedroom to the right. Up a few steps to the open dining/living with propane fireplace (currently not connected). Kitchen is open to the dining and then a few steps down to the family room with access to the back deck. Laundry and 2 piece bath leads to the single garage. Upstairs offers the main bath, two bedrooms plus primary which offers a 3-piece ensuite and a Juliet balcony overlooking the fully fenced yard. Parking for 3 vehicles. Front yard is also private. Looking for a more unique layout this could be the one!

SOLD

310-791 Marine Drive, Port Alice 2244 Haddington Crescent, Port McNeill Royal LePage Advance Realty

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

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