

Rare whale donated to interpretive centre

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By Kathy O'Reilly A Bryde's Whale, the first of

its kind spotted in British Columbia waters, that washed up on the shore in McNeill Bay will find its final resting place at the Whale Interpretive Centre in Telegraph Cove.

After spending a few days working on the Bryde's Whale (pronounced Broodus), the remains were taken by Mike deRoos, a master skeleton articulator, biologist and accomplished builder, to Salt Spring Island, where they will be cleaned and put back together this winter. deRoos had re-articulated many of the large skeletons on display at the centre that were razed in the Dec. 31 fire that destroyed the WIC and parts of Telegraph Cove.

"As far as we know, there has never been a Bryde's Whale seen in Canadian Pacific waters," said Whale Interpretive Centre Director Jim Borrowman.

Bryde's Whales generally live in warm waters. Typically, they are not north of Mexico or southern California. Jackie Hildering of the Ma-



Photo – Marieke Knierim, Marine Education and Research Society

Dr. Felicia Vachon with the Marine Education and Research Society (MERS) examines the Bryde's Whale that washed up on the shore in McNeill BayMay 14. The first of its kind see in Canadian Pacific waters.

rine Education and Research Society, shared that: "There were two exceptional sightings of Bryde's Whales in

one sighted in November was initially alive with severe

2010 in Puget Sound. The The other was found dead in January of 2010. Bryde's Whales are considered one scarring from vessel strike. of the 'great whales,' or rorquals, which is a group that also includes Blue Whales and Humpback Whales.

Continued on Page 2



Bryde's Whale never been seen in BC waters

Continued from Page 1 Bryde's Whales are named for Johan Bryde, a Norwegian who built the first whaling stations in South Africa in the early 20th century. They can weigh up to 90,0000 pounds and range in length from 40 to 55 feet. An adult Humpback Whale can range from 46 to 56 feet.

The one found in Port Mc-Neill was approximately 23 feet (seven metres) in length. The whale was given to the WIC by the 'Namgis First Nation.

"We are very happy to build the relationship we have with the 'Namgis First Nation. They have gifted it to the WIC, and it will be a wonderful addition in our new building, hopefully in about a year," Borrowman said. "The rebuild in Telegraph Cove is moving ahead, with the boardwalk starting to appear down near the end."

The whale, identified as male, was found by a man walking his dog on the morning of May 14.

Thanks to a quick report by the local resident and collaboration with the Marine Education and Research Society (MERS), the incident was promptly relayed to both the 'Namgis First Nation and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) via the Marine Mammal Incident Reporting Line.

Initial photos suggested the whale was a Minke Whale, but once on site, MERS confirmed - with the support of Bay Cetology, a cetacean research group based in Alert Bay - that the whale was in fact a young Bryde's Whale.

The Nation is deeply concerned by the death of any whale, but the rarity of this species appearing so far north makes this event particularly significant. 'Namgis Guardians were dispatched on May 15 to monitor the site, educate onlookers, and ensure public and pet safety with respect to the animal.

"Namgis First Nation is very sad and concerned with the climate crisis and the health of our oceans. We will work with all parties to determine what has happened to this individual and hopefully come to better understand how to be the best stewards of our gwi'nakola our environment," said Chief Victor Isaac in a press release. The 'Namgis First Nation held a blessing ceremony to honour the whale and provide a respectful foundation for the scientific work that followed.

The initial necropsy by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) did not reveal anything obvious in terms of causes of death, but the animal was noted to not be in optimal body condition. Samples taken as part of the necropsy will be

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Photo – Marieke Knierim, Marine Education and Research Society

Callyn Holder, left, and Dr. Felicia Vachon with the Marine Education and Research Society (MERS) examine the Bryde's Whale (pronounced Broodus) that washed up on the shore in McNeill BayMay 14.

distributed all over the world to be studied.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Bryde's Whales are baleen whales that feed primarily on plankton and small schooling fish. They are rarely seen in waters north of 35° latitude - roughly the same latitude as Los Angeles, California.

Bryde's Whales are usually seen alone or in pairs, however, there have been reports of up to 20 loosely grouped together in feeding areas. Bryde's Whales eat an estimated 1,320 to 1,450 pounds of food per day. Their diet consists of krill, copepods, red crabs, shrimp, as well as a variety of schooling fish, such as herring, mackerel, pilchards, and sardines. Bryde's Whales use different methods to feed in the water column, including skimming the surface, lunging, and creating bubble nets. Bryde's Whales become sexually mature at around nine years of age and can mate year-round. The peak of the breeding and calving season occurs in autumn, and females give birth to a single calf every two to three years. Pregnancy lasts 10 to 12 months, and calves nurse for about 12 months.

To report a marine mammal or sea turtle incident or sighting call the BC Marine Mammal Response Network hotline at1-800-465-4336.

Friday, May 23, 2025

Thrift Store donates funds for furnishings

By Louise Nadeau

On May 13 volunteers with the Cormorant Island Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Store gathered at the Cormorant Island Community Health Centre (the hospital), for a tour with Site Manager Juliet Bullock.

The Thrift Store recently provided funding (\$53,562) to the 10-bed multi-level care facility for new furnishings.

Each room now has a new wardrobe, a dresser and a bedside table custom built in BC. Decades of dedicated fund-raising by the Thrift Store has provided the hospital with equipment, supplies and decorative arts.

Community residents support the Thrift Store with generous donations as well as dedicated shopping. The Thrift Store is open to the public every Tuesday (10 a.m. to noon) and Saturdays (noon to 3 p.m.).



On May 13, volunteers with the Cormorant Island Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Store gathered at the Cormorant Island Community Health Centre (the hospital), for a tour with Site Manager Juliet Bullock, third from left.



Photo – Kathy O'Reilly

A Sign Of The Times The Village of Port Alice has a new digital marquee purchased from Devlin Electric Signs in Nanaimo. The total purchase price, including electrical and installation, was \$65,000. It was funded by the sale of the village's Zamboni (\$35,000) and the Growing Communities Fund that it received from the Province of BC (\$30,000).



The Eagle

Friday, May 23, 2025

editorial



Bull Kelp can grow up to 25 centimetres (10 inches) per day and can reach heights of up to 30 metres (about 100 feet).

us:





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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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The Eagle

Escape Room forums highlight literacy skills welcome special guest Lucy

By Trish Weatherall

Join Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society (MWFLS) for two free, funfilled community forums with literacy-themed escape room activities, a poetry reading Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxfrom da'xw Nation writer Lucy Hemphill, light snacks, and the opportunity to give your

input on current learning programs and future projects.

"The escape room theme is The Library of Lost Words. It's a family-friendly event where participants will move table to table to solve puzzles together," said Kelly Anderson, literacy outreach coordinator at MWFLS. "The activities will let people practise their

Events & Experience Fund

skills, and also gain a greater understanding of the importance of literacy in our lives. We're also looking forward to hearing program feedback and ideas from locals. Participants will be entered into a draw for a grocery card. We are grateful to our funders who made this event possible!" "We're also really excited to

ry" said Kelly, "and she will have her books available at the event." The literacy society invites

Hemphill to read her poet-

everyone in North Island communities to attend one of the free events:

Port Hardy, May 27, 6-7:30 p.m. Civic Centre, 7440 Columbia Street Port McNeill, May 29,

6-7:30 p.m. Lion's Hall, 2897 Mine Road

Community Learning Needs Survey

If you can't get to the events, you can still give your input through an online survey at: https://tinyurl.com/6sd6hnxj. The survey will take about eight minutes and will help MWFLS prioritize community learning needs for all ages in each community in the Region of Mount Waddington. The survey will also be avail-

able at the community forums.



Photo – Kathy O'Reilly

Lucy Hemphill to read her poetry at an event held by he Mount Waddington Family Literacy Society.

Annual General Meeting MWFLS invites the public to attend the Society's online AGM on June 11. Look for the Facebook event on @mwfamilyliteracy or email communications@mwfamilyliteracy. org to receive a link. Mount Waddington The

Family Literacy Society works with communities, schools and organizations to support literacy and learning for all ages on North Vancouver Island. Visit the MWFLS website to learn about their free learning programs at: mwfamilyliteracy.org

Vancouver Island North Tourism is now accepting applications for events and experiences taking place in 2025 (and up to March 31, 2026). Applicants may apply to receive up to \$5,000 through the Events & Experiences Fund.

The fund invests in the creation and enhancement of experiences, events, and festivals that attract visitors to the Vancouver Island North Region and improves the region's competitive appeal as a preferred multi-night destination on Vancouver Island. Priority will be given to events that take place in the off-peak season (Spring, Fall, Winter) to align with Vancouver Island North's goals of seasonal dispersion.

Events and experiences that foster interest from new product sectors and new visitor demographics are encouraged.

Applications will be considered on a rolling intake until all funding for the year is awarded. Funding notifications will be issued within three weeks of the application submission.

Tourism-related businesses, non-profit organizations, and Indigenous organizations in the Vancouver Island North Region are encouraged to apply. Completed applications must be submitted by e-mail to natalie@vancouverislandnorth.ca

All additional details and links can be found at vancouverislandnorth.ca



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Ladies Golf Week clinic at Seven Hills



Photo – Submitted CPGA professional Tara Roden is offering a clinic June 2-5 to celebrate Women's Golf Week.



By Kathy O'Reilly

CPGA professional Tara Roden is teeing up a variety of Intro to Golf clinics this season, beginning June 2-5 with free 90-minute sessions to celebrate Women's Golf Week.

"I am hoping this week will give women an opportunity to try golf for the first time, or if they have golfed before, learn a few things about the game which could help them enjoy themselves even more on the course," said Roden.

The clinics are from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Seven Hills Golf & Country Club. "I will be covering putting, chipping, pitching, full swing and some on course."

A fun wind up and three-hole experience on the course will conclude the

week. "This is a national PGA (Professional Golfers' Association) of Canada event hosted across Canada to celebrate women in golf and to introduce women into a game of a lifetime," Roden said.

"It is not only fun, social, and interesting, it is great family sport as well," she said.

"So, for any women keen on learning or curious about what golf is about, I look forward to meeting them and having fun with the basics.'

Roden held a similar clinic two years ago while Doug Petrie was still the Head Professional (GM) at Seven Hills. "I had 20 different women participate through the week. One was even from Holland. We still stay in touch."

All will be free for this week.

A four-week Adult Introductory series will be held Monday evenings beginning June 9, and four-week Junior Introductory series will be offered each month in July, August and September. The Adult series is \$125 and Junior se-

ries are \$75 (plus GST).

A dedicated golf professional with over 25 years specialised experience in golf instruction, Roden was responsible for the creation and development of numerous golf academy and lesson programs throughout British Columbia. She has been a PGA of Canada Golf Coach since 1990.

Register by calling the Seven Hills Golf & Country Club at 250-949-9818.

Sea View receives music money

ucation charity associated

with CARAS/The JUNO

Awards, proudly honoured

the inductees with Musi-

Counts Legacy Grants, pre-

sented by the Lewitt Family

Foundation.

Sea View Elementary Canada's leading music ed-School has been awarded a \$5,000 MusiCounts Legacy Grant in honour of Glass Tiger.

At the Canadian Music Hall of Fame (CMHF) induction MusiCounts. ceremony.



In tribute to this year's CMHF inductees - Dan Hill. Ginette Reno, Glass Tiger. Loreena McKennitt, Maestro Fresh Wes, and Sum 41 - six Canadian schools received up to \$20,000 in funding to support music programming in any approach or style.

The MusiCounts Legacy Grants empower schools to purchase new instruments, equipment, and resources to sustain existing programming or build new programs to serve students' needs.

Through the support of the Lewitt Family Foundation, these grants reinforce CAR-AS' mission to preserve and enhance Canada's music industry - from inspiring the next generation of musicians in classrooms to honouring excellence on the national stage.

"CARAS' mandate is to support Canadian artists from birth to myth," said Kristy Fletcher, president of MusiCounts.

"This powerful narrative is evident through the MusiCounts Legacy Grants, which celebrate the achievements of Canada's most revered artists by helping fuel a new generation of music-makers in our country." Some of the instruments that this year's recipient schools will be receiving include pitched and hand percussion, handbells, tubanos, steelpan, and African drums - helping to bring vibrant, culturally-diverse musical experiences to classrooms across the country.

"On behalf of the Lewitt Family Foundation, I extend my most heartfelt congratulations to the inductees to the Canadian Music Hall of Fame," said John Lewitt.

"We're so honoured to recognize their impact by investing in a new crop of musicians through the MusiCounts Legacy Grants."

Each year, MusiCounts receives hundreds of grant applications from school music programs nationwide.

The MusiCounts Legacy Grant recipients are selected from this pool in honour of the CMHF inductees.

Friday, May 23, 2025

The Eagle

BC Movement Arts brings the fun

A BC Movement Arts AND Sointula Resource Centre FUNd-raiser is happening May 30 and 31 at the Finnish Organization Hall in Sointula with two shows of Pants by Tara Cheyenne Friedenberg Performance.

On Friday, there will be free appetizers and cash bar prior to the performance. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday there will be the show only starting at 7:30 p.m.

Pants takes a deep dive into the shallow end of the gender binary through raw comedy and dance that crawls inside our "packaging".

Profoundly personal storytelling is delivered through alarming comedy and movement that reveals the heart of the matter.

Created in collaboration with Kate Franklin (co-choreographer), Josh Martin (creative collaboration), and Joanna Garfinkel (dramaturge).

Tara is an award-winning creator, performer, choreographer, director, writer, and artistic director of Tara Cheyenne Performance, working across disciplines in film, dance, theatre, and experimental performance. She is renowned as a trailblazer in interdisciplinary performance and as a mighty performer "who defies categorization on any level".

Tara is known for her unique and dynamic hybrid of dance, comedy and theatre. She is sought after for creating innovative movement for theatre and has performed her full-length solos and ensemble works around the world.

Tickets are available via email: movementartsbc@gmail. com by calling: 604-970-3206 or in person at the Sointula Resource Centre (220 B 2nd St, Sointula.



Photo — Submitted A BC Movement Arts and Sointula Resource Centre FUN-draiser is taking place May 30-31 with two shows of Pants by Tara Cheyenne Friedenberg Performance.





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North Island Reflections-



A honey bee on a yellow Kale flower. 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 ...



Final Sobriety Walk for Cancer set for June 3

The 4th Annual Sobriety Walk for Cancer is taking place June 3 to June 12. The event raises funds for the BC Cancer Foundation in

the BC Cancer Foundation in Victoria. "This year will be my final

SW4C as I focus on my family, having dedicated 3,000 kilometres to this cause over four years," said Thomas Wamiss.

"Created by my late father, Chief Helagalis (Spruce Patch Wamiss), and me, the event began with my solo walk from Port Hardy to Victoria," Wamiss explained.

"Through challenges like severe blisters, we evolved the event, including cycling and community support, to complete the distance."

The funds from this year's event will be steered towards The Pavilion, a place that is focused on a more holistic approach, and that is there to not only support the cancer patients, but also has resources that can help answer questions a doctor isn't necessarily very clear on when someone is diagnosed.

For example, Pavilion staff can answer questions like how patients can to talk to their children about cancer or options once diagnosed. Since the first Walk, Wa-

Since the first Walk, Wamiss has gained quite a following on social media.



Photo – Submitted

Thomas Wamiss 4th Annual Sobriety Walk for Cancer will be taking place June 3 to June 12. The event raises funds for the BC Cancer Foundation located in Victoria.

"Both my personal Facebook and the Sobriety Walk for Cancer Facebook pages have been gaining more and more interest and followers," he said.

"My spiritual healing journey has been an inspiration to many. "Some have admitted that they have made changes towards a healthier lifestyle and stepping away from their addictions, from what I share on Facebook," Wamiss said. For more information or to donate please contact Thomas Wamiss at 250-949-1069.

Alice's Tale told at Gate House

By Kathy O'Reilly

Laughter, some tears, and music, in a heart-felt story of love and family, are coming to the Gate House Theatre on May 24 and 25 at 6 p.m.

Alice's Tale is a heartfelt story about motherhood, forgiveness and persistence despite obstacles.

Alice's Tale is a musical created by Vancouver Island artist Emma Garriott and performed by local talents.

"A small group of community members and myself are performing a musical. In honour of Mother's Day, which was this month, the story is about motherhood spanning generations, their victories, trials, joys and tragedies," Garriott said.

"We are a small cast of local actors/singers - every one of us is dedicated to share this story with you. Please feel free to laugh along with us as we portray characters as flawed and human as we ourselves are," she said.

"When I first started creating Alice's Tale two years ago, I could have only dreamed we would be here now, standing in the Gate House Theatre, presenting this story. I hope the experience brings joy, laughter, healing and a deeper love for your loved ones."

This production is 14+. Some content might not be suitable for children. Viewer discretion is advised.

The Eagle

West Coast artist brings tour to Gate House

In a live, fast-paced and funny variety-style, West Coast event bestselling BC author, broadcaster, historian and humourist Grant Lawrence ("Adventures in Solitude") is bringing his hit touring show to the Gate House Theatre in Port McNeill June 7 at 8 p.m. "It's always a thrill to bring this show to smaller venues and towns," states Grant



Happy 100th!

Family and friends gathered at the Alert Bay Legion Hall to celebrate Joyce Wilby's 100th birthday on Sunday, May 18. Joyce has lived in Alert Bay since 1948 and feels there is no other place to be. She would like to thank everyone for all the heartfelt birthday wishes she has received.

Lawrence. "I get to share the outdoor adventure stories of growing up in Desolation Sound - and to have a musical line up like this is really something special."

Lawrence's show has toured up and down the coast since 2018, including several recent sold-out performances in West Vancouver, Savary Island, Sechelt, and Victoria.

"The way it works is that the performers take turns: I tell a story, then one of the musicians performs a song or two, then I return with a story and on it goes," explains Lawrence.

"There is a special alchemy that happens when transitioning from story to song in a live setting. It can be pretty magical."

The acclaimed radio host and author will read from several of his bestselling memoirs, all of which partially take place along the coast of BC, as well as from his top-rated podcasts, and never-before-heard stories.

"It could be a story of a nude potluck in Desolation Sound, or missing another ferry, or the fascinating brand-new story I've been writing about a family of local orca whales," Lawrence teases.

"I often decide upon which



show, and sometimes there are

even story requests which I try

On the origins of the Stories

and Songs show: "I spent way

too many years playing in a

touring rock band (Vancouver

band the Smugglers, formed

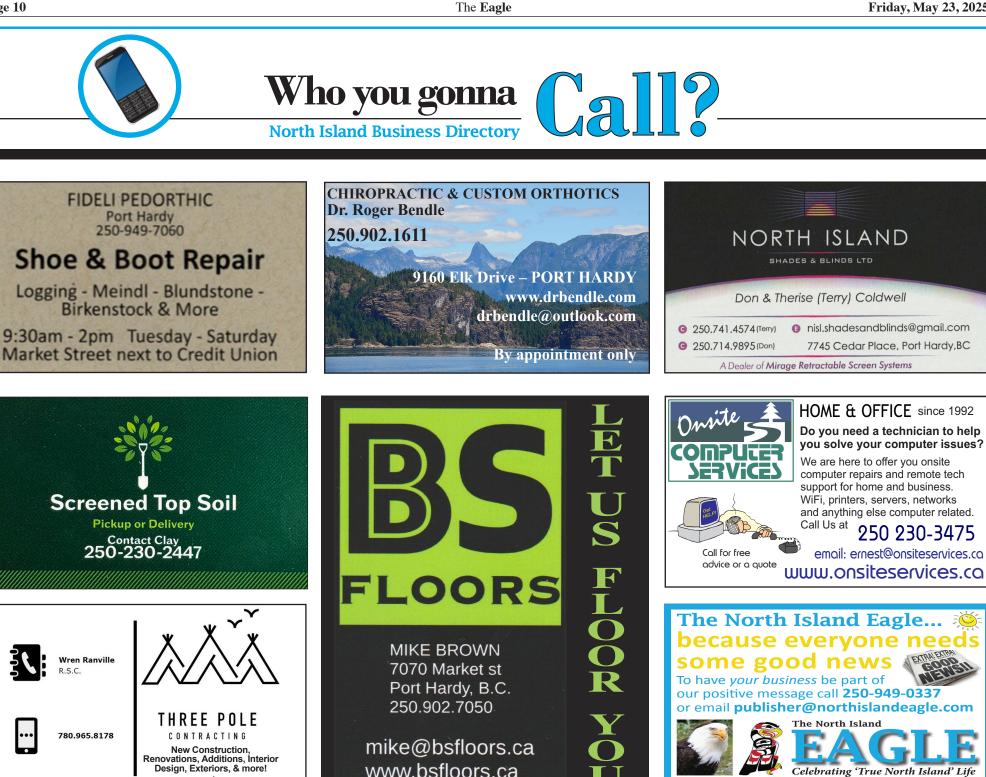
to honour."

Photo — Submitted Grant Lawrence is bringing his hit touring show to the Gate House Theatre in Port McNeill June 7 at 8 p.m.

stories to tell the week of the in 1988)," says Grant.

"So, when I started this show, I decided that I only wanted to tour it to places that I actually wanted to go to. That includes Brackendale, Errington, and Port McNeill. The musicians are also thrilled to be performing in these places."







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Oceans Crossword Puzzle

<u>Across</u> 2. What is a community of organisms that live on or near a "Benthic Zone?' 4. What is the salt content of water called? 5. What is an underwater mountain called? 10. What is the slope that connects the continental shelf and the abyssal plain called? **11.** What is a large 3. What is the flat stream of moving region on the ocean water through the floor called? oceans called? 12. What is a deep valley on the ocean floor called? 6. What is energy that moves through a body of water? 7. What is the daily <u>Down</u> rise and fall of ocean 1. What is the part water called? of the ocean that 8. What are the starts at the coastline active swimmers in a and ends at the sloping part of the ocean floor? body of water called? 9. What are the tiny organisms called that drift in the ocean?



Melanie McRann Cell: 778-886-5219

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A warm and welcoming 4-bedroom, 2-bath home on a family-oriented street just minutes from schools. The lower level features a spacious entryway, bright rec room with cozy wood stove, a 4th bedroom, 3PC bath, laundry/storage room, and access to an enclosed carport. Upstairs, you'll find a beautifully updated kitchen that opens to a bright living and dining space with large windows and access to a sundrenched balcony. Three additional bedrooms and a full bath complete the main level. Enjoy a fully fenced backyard with a covered patio—perfect for entertaining, kids, or pets. Ample parking makes everyday living easy in this family home.

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

7111 Highland Dr, Port Hardy

This fully furnished 4 bedroom, 2 bath home offers a large foyer. The ground level features a large bedroom with built in closets, laundry, workshop, bathroom and garage entrance. Upstairs are 3 more bedrooms, the main bathroom with updated counter and sink, updated kitchen with built in pantry, bright living and dining rooms with access to the back deck and yard with multi level patios, and gazebo. Recent updates include vinyl sliding door to the back deck, generator, new roof in 2023, new wall mounted heat pumps. Included is a Cobalt boat with inboard Chevy, 9.9 Mercury kicker, with all of the equipment you need to go catch fish immediately.



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