



ARTS

Big Sugar going acoustic for Sid show

page 15



SPORTS

Towhees stung by Stelly's at Island tourney

page 21

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COMOX VALLEY RECORD



Comox teacher recovering from heart transplant ... 3



Record up for two Ma Murray awards ... 4

The Comox Valley Glacier Kings are through to the second round of the VIJHL playoffs.

The savings party appears to be over. Gas prices are on the rise.

Save the paint, buy a new bridge says Eriksson

Scott Stanfield

Record Staff

Instead of a paint job on an outdated and unsafe structure, Erik Eriksson would like to see a new bridge constructed on Fifth Street.

The Courtenay councillor has received positive feedback about his idea for a new bridge that would be wide enough to accommodate motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

It would be something like the new Craigflower Bridge in Victoria that includes three vehicle lanes, bike lanes, widened sidewalks and enhanced lighting.



The new Craigflower Bridge in Victoria was built almost entirely with federal government money.

FILE PHOTO

Nearly \$14 million of the \$15.5 million to replace the bridge was covered through the federal gas tax fund. The Town of View Royal and ICBC also kicked in funds. Eriksson considers the Craig-

flower Bridge to be a "mark of pride," as opposed to the "hulking monster from the '50s" that spans the Courtenay River.

When driving down the Fifth Street hill, motorists are confronted with an abutment where a veering left turn is needed to access the bridge.

"Coming back the other way you see a monster built in the '50s," Eriksson said at the Feb. 10 council meeting. "I want to ask everybody when they see this, do they really want to have this for another 50 years?"

The Fifth Street Bridge was built in 1960.

... see BRIDGE ■ 7

Real-life incident puts military training exercise to the test at 19 Wing

Erin Haluschak

Record Staff

A practice demonstration quickly turned to real life, as CFB Comox's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team helped neutralize a suspicious package Monday morning at the base's mail room.

Emergency response aided in cordoning off the building and surrounding area, explained Maj. Mary Lee, 19 Wing's public affairs officer.

Coincidentally, the EOD experts from across the Canadian Armed Forces are at the base to test their skill set around improvised explosive devices during a two-week exercise which began Feb. 16.

They held a training session off-base at the Comox Fire Department Tuesday morning as part of Exercise Taz Runner.

"It's quite uncanny timing," added Lee. "Even if the timing was a coincidence, we need to always be vigilant."

... see EOD ■ 3



Canadian Armed Forces Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD) experts from across Canada conducted a training exercise Tuesday morning at the Comox Fire Department.

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Christmas 'miracle' gives Comox man new lease on life

Second heart transplant in 15 years for Brooklyn Elementary teacher

Scott Stanfield
Record Staff

The Davies family — Tim, his wife Andi, and children Charlotte, 10, and Oliver, 7 — experienced a true Christmas miracle last year.

On Dec. 23, Tim had a heart transplant at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver.

For the second time. Fifteen years ago at age 25, the Comox man underwent transplant surgery, but that heart eventually stopped working sufficiently for his body.

Last summer, his name was put back on the transplant list. On Dec. 22, the family received a call that a donor heart awaited. The next day, Tim again underwent surgery.

"Pretty good Christmas gift although it was pretty scary for them," said friend Jessi Connaughton, noting the family had received a previous call. "They had one false alarm where they were put onto the helicopter and



Tim and his son Oliver give the "thumbs up" after a successful heart transplant surgery, Dec. 23. Below, Tim and his wife, Andi.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

sent over, and it turned out it wasn't going to go ahead."

After surgery, Tim spent the following month at St. Paul's. He was then discharged to an apartment in Vancouver — walking distance to the hospital — where he will remain while doctors monitor his progress.

His recovery has been slow but steady. He is exercising through a Healthy Heart program at the hospital which incorporates cardio and light weight training.

"When I first got out of the hospital it was a real challenge just to get up two or three steps, but now I can do about two flights of stairs," Tim said while walking with Andi on Kits Beach. "The strength is definitely improving."

The 41-year-old was born with a coarctation, or narrowing, of the aorta. He had a few corrective surgeries on his original heart, the last at age 18, but was eventually told a transplant was needed.

"With care and medication we

made it through to 25," he said.

Over the last two years, doctors did their best to keep things going without a second transplant. But Tim's health was failing to the point where it was taking a toll on his kidneys, among other things.

"It was a bit trying, being that close to Christmas," he said of the call for the second transplant. "But it was a real Christmas gift as well."

Time spent 10 days in hospital after the first transplant.

The second required two weeks in intensive care.

"The surgeon said it was a really messy surgery," he said. "My mom and dad were somewhat taken aback because the first one went quite smoothly."

Family members have been rotating visits.

"I've got so much support. I'm a fighter, I guess you could say. It's all turned out very well, thankfully. I know I caused my family a lot of stress. It was the first time my wife's been through it because I wasn't married when I had the first one done."

Tim — a special education assistant at Brooklyn Elementary in Comox — has been off work for more than a year. Andi has been working part-time between trips to Vancouver.

Trips across the water, coupled with the double cost of renting the Vancouver apartment while maintaining their Comox house has been costly, which is why Connaughton has initiated an online fundraising campaign to assist the family with expenses.

As of Feb. 20, the campaign had raised \$6,265. The goal is \$25,000. There are 54 days left to donate.

"People have been so generous, it's been really nice to see," she said.

To donate, visit bit.ly/1DBDpzz. "It's been really quite helpful," Tim said. "We're very grateful."

His father's cousin, who phoned from Wales to find the website, is among the donors.

Donations are also coming in through Brooklyn Elementary, where Charlotte and Oliver attend school.

reporter@comoxvalleyrecord.com

EOD: Forensic investigation determined package to be benign

Continued from Page A1

"Situations do happen, and the EOD teams know exactly what to do."

Around 10:45 a.m., an unmarked package was brought to the attention of military staff to take immediate action and evacuate the building.

The package was hard to track and didn't have any identifying

addresses, which raised a red flag for staff, noted Lee.

The EOD team neutralized the package, and following a forensic investigation, it was deemed the content to be non-threatening and benign.

Lee explained it's incidents like this that highlight the need for training, for both internal and external threats.

"It's a new environment where warfare exists," she said.

"Anywhere is susceptible to incidents, and it's necessary to be vigilant, and train the way we fight."

•••

Fifty members from the navy, army and air force are participating in Exercise Taz Runner, with the goal to improve proficiency

and interoperability with other military units through exposure to difficult Improvised Explosive Device Disposal.

"Explosive technology is evolving and our personnel need to ensure they will be ready to meet the challenge they pose, regardless of where in the world we are called upon to deploy," said Lt. Edward Jensen, 19 explosives

disposal flight commander in a press release.

Many of the participants are members of the RCAF who specialize in air weapons, however, as experts in dealing with explosive devices, they are often deployed around the world to support army, navy or joint operations as well.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK



Tony Ackland took this sure sign of spring: Willow buds at Dove Creek. Email your Picture of the Week submissions to editor@comoxvalleyrecord.com. It may get published in an upcoming issue.

Record up for two Ma Murrays

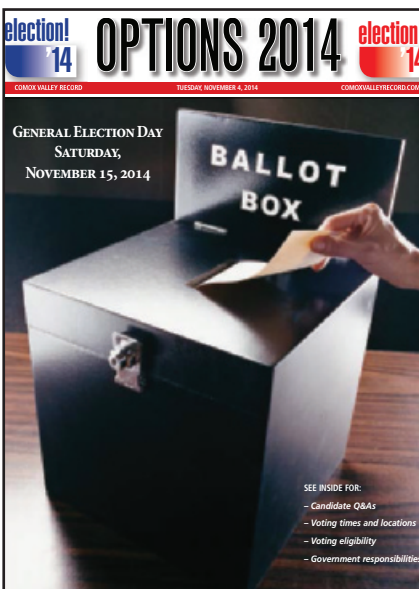
The *Comox Valley Record* has been named a finalist for two Ma Murray awards.

The Ma Murrays are the annual BC & Yukon Community Newspaper Association awards, recognizing excellence in journalism throughout the region.

The *Record* has been named a finalist (top three) for both the Overall Newspaper Excellence Award and Special Section Award.

The Special Section Award nomination is for the Options 2014 election supplement produced by the *Record* prior to the civic elections.

The *Record* is the only Comox Valley newspaper to be named a finalist in any category.



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2015 **RIO** LX MT Rio4 SX with Navigation shown¹ HWY / CITY 100KM¹: 5.3L/7.3L

\$21 weekly from for 69 payments
0% financing for up to 84 months
\$0 down payment¹

¹\$21 weekly payment includes \$1,500 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments based on 2015 Rio LX MT (R0541F) 84-month financing. After 69 weekly payments at \$21, weekly payments increase to \$43¹. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.¹



2015 **FORTE** LX MT Forte SX shown¹ HWY / CITY 100KM¹: 5.3L/8.0L

\$24 weekly from for 62 payments
0% financing for up to 84 months
\$0 down payment¹

¹\$24 weekly payment includes \$1,500 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments based on 2015 Forte LX MT (F0541F) 84-month financing. After 62 weekly payments at \$24, weekly payments increase to \$48¹. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.¹



2015 **OPTIMA** LX AT Optima SX Turbo shown¹ HWY / CITY 100KM¹: 5.7L/8.9L

\$36 weekly from for 28 payments
0% financing for up to 84 months
\$0 down payment¹

¹\$36 weekly payment includes \$1,000 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments based on 2015 Optima LX AT (O0742F) 84-month financing. After 28 weekly payments at \$36, weekly payments increase to \$73¹. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.¹



2015 **SORENTO** LX AT Sorento SX AT AWD 7-Seat shown¹ HWY / CITY 100KM¹: 9.0L/12.7L

\$39 weekly from for 50 payments
0% financing for up to 84 months
\$0 down payment¹

¹\$39 weekly payment includes \$2,000 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments based on 2015 Sorento LX AT (SR75BF) 84-month financing. After 50 weekly payments at \$39, weekly payments increase to \$79¹. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.¹

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Offers available on select new 2015 models through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who take delivery from February 3rd to March 2nd, 2015. Dealers may sell or lease for less. Some conditions apply. See dealer for complete details. Vehicles shown may include optional accessories and upgrades available at extra cost. All offers are subject to change without notice. All pricing includes delivery and destination fees up to \$1,665. AMVIC fee, tire tax of \$22, \$100 A/C charge (where applicable). Excludes taxes, licensing, registration, insurance, variable dealer administration fees (up to \$699), fuel-fill charges up to \$100, and down payment (if applicable and unless otherwise specified). Other lease and financing options also available. ¹Up to "Half Price Payments" for up to one year ("Offer") is only applicable on financing offers on 2015 Rio/Forte/Optima/Sorento/Rondo models. On approved credit, from a participating dealer in Canada between February 3rd and March 2nd, 2015. The Offer consists of a loan credit (up to "Half Price Payments Credit") that will range from \$500 to \$5,250 depending on model/trim. Customers can choose to take the full amount of the applicable Half Price Payments Credit as a one (1) time incentive that will be deducted from the negotiated price of the vehicle before taxes. Alternatively, customers can choose the up to "Half Price Payments" option and have their financing payments reduced (before taxes) by 50% until such time as the entire amount of the applicable Half Price Payments Credit has been exhausted. This may take between 10 weeks and 19 weeks depending on model/trim and the amount of the applicable Half Price Payments Credit. After the entire amount of the applicable Half Price Payments Credit has been exhausted, the customer will be required to pay the full amount of all regularly scheduled finance payments over the remaining term of the contract. Vehicle trade-in amounts and down payments are not calculated in the advertised up to "Half Price Payments". See dealer for complete details. ²Representative financing example: 0% financing offer for up to 84 months available to qualified retail customers on approved credit for the new 2015 Rio LX MT (R0541F)/2015 Forte LX MT (F0541F)/2015 Optima LX AT (O0742F)/2015 Sorento LX AT (SR75BF) with a purchase price of \$16,602/\$17,502/\$26,402/\$28,782 financed at 0% for 84-month period with \$0 down payment equals 69/62/28/50 reduced weekly payments of \$21/\$24/\$36/\$39 followed by weekly payments of \$43/\$48/\$73/\$79. Includes \$1,500/\$1,500/\$1,000/\$2,000 up to "Half Price Payments" credit. Cost of borrowing is \$0 and total obligation is \$4,302/\$4,002/\$5,365/\$5,262,782. Up to "Half Price Payment" incentive varies by model and trim level and may be taken as a lump sum or to reduce the financed amount. Offer ends March 2nd, 2015. ³Model shown Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price for 2015 Forte SX (F0748F)/2015 Rio4 SX with Navigation (R0749F)/2015 Sorento SX V6 AWD (SR75XZ)/2015 Optima SX Turbo (O0748F) is \$26,695/\$22,395/\$42,095/\$34,895. ⁴Highway/fuel consumption is based on the 2015 Rio LX+ ECU AI/2015 Forte 1.8L MPI 4-cyl MPI/2015 Sorento LX 2.4L GDI 4-cyl AI/2015 Optima 2.4L GDI AI. These updated estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on driving habits and other factors. ⁵\$1,000 Winter Edition Bonus amounts are offered on select 2015 Winter Edition models and are deducted from the negotiated purchase price before taxes. Available on financing offers only. Certain conditions apply. ⁶\$1,000 Winter Edition Bonus amount available on the 2015 Rondo LX AT (S-seat) Winter SE (RNT55S), 2015 Rondo LX AT (S-seat) Winter SE (RNT57E) and 2015 Optima LX AT Winter SE (O0745F). Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of printing. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit Kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.



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You ought to be in movies

Local fitness expert looking for former clients to appear on DVD

Terry Farrell
Record Staff

Mia Jerritt is looking for a few good clients - former clients, to be concise.

The local exercise specialist developed the Happy Back therapeutic program a dozen years ago.

The "post-rehab" program was so successful, Jerritt has decided to take the next step; she is creating a DVD so that back pain sufferers can complete the program from the comfort of their own homes.

Individuals will be able to follow Jerritt through six hours of instruction over a six-week period. She has teamed up with 30-year videographer veteran Steve Ray and will be filming the last weekend in March with editing and production to be complete by summer.

Here's where her former clients can help.

She is looking for testimonials on the program.

"I probably put about 1,000 people through this program here in the Valley (either at her studio, The Core, or her past location, Fitness Excellence), so I'd like to get as many testimonials as possible," she said. "I already have quite a few written (testimonials) but I want as many as possible. And I'd really like to get about six or eight people who'd be willing to be filmed, to actually be on the DVDs as a live testimonial."

She's not expecting it to be too hard to find former clients who'd be willing to vouch for the product, based on the success rate.

"Just about every single person I put through the program has had phenomenal success," she said. "The success rate was about 93 to 94 per cent."



MIA JERRITT

Jerritt has also pitched the DVD to the producers of Dragons' Den.

"They thought it was a great idea, but they wanted it produced on DVD then brought to them again," she said. "They are super interested, but they have a process, so they want me to get the product on DVD and then re-pitch it. So that's what I'm in the process of doing now."

Filming will take place at the end of March and once the DVD has been produced, Jerritt will decide on whether she will re-pitch the idea to the dragons.

"I might be able to just pull it off on my own," she said. "But their advice was really good."

Jerritt plans to produce two additional DVDs on programs she has developed - one for individuals living with lower body conditions and one for people living with chronic pain.

Anyone who has experienced an improvement in quality of life due to the Happy Back program and is willing to offer testimonial for the program can contact Mia at www.medfitmia@gmail.com to share the experience.

editor@comoxvalleyrecord.com

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*Fri, Sat, Sun

NANAIMO to VANCOUVER
Duke Point to Tsawwassen
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5:45** • 8:15** • 10:45**
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Tsawwassen to Duke Point
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5:45** • 8:15** • 10:45**
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COMOX to POWELL RIVER
Little River to Westview
Effective Until March 31, 2015
6:30am • 10:00 • 3:15 pm* • 6:50** • 7:15*
*Mon-Tue, Thu-Fri, Sun Only
**Except Wed & Sat

POWELL RIVER to COMOX
Westview to Little River
Effective Until March 31, 2015
8:10am • 11:50 • 5:15pm* • 8:45
*Mon-Tue, Thu-Fri, Sun Only

Schedules are subject to change without notice.
Schedule provided by the Comox Valley Record.

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RCMP REPORT

On Feb. 16, Comox Valley RCMP stopped a vehicle with six occupants as it was believed the driver was driving in contravention of his licence restrictions. The driver was found to be a new driver and was exhibiting signs of alcohol impairment. A roadside screening device test was given which was failed. The youth driver was given an immediate roadside prohibition for 90 days and had the vehicle he was driving impounded for 30 days.

had been stolen from a building on the 1800 block of Surgenor road in the Black Creek area. The owner stated that sometime in the last two weeks a neighbour had seen a truck and trailer leaving the area with four males.

Comox break-in

On Feb. 20, a report of a break, enter and theft from a residence was called into police by a homeowner on the 100 block of Willow Way in Comox. Sometime overnight, an unknown culprit entered the residence via an unlocked outside window and once inside stole alcohol.

Stolen truck

Police took a report of a vehicle that had been stolen from the parking lot at St. Joseph's Hospital on Comox Ave. Feb. 16. The Ford F-350 pickup truck was located later in the day in Campbell River. This investigation is continuing.

School scoundrels

Police responded to a report of an attempted break and enter at the Mark Isfeld School during the early morning hours of Feb. 22. Three youths were seen attempting to get into the school.

Hay there - stop!

On Feb. 16 police received a report of a theft of hay. The hay



The Green Party of Canada Town Hall Meeting

Meet Glenn Sollitt-your federal candidate

Filberg Center - Evergreen Room - Courtenay

Wednesday, March 4th, 6:30 to 9PM.

Bring your questions • Bring a friend

Bring someone who hasn't voted recently

Learn why Glenn will earn your vote

Courtenay Alberni ED

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PICTURE of the Week

Submit your local photography to the Comox Valley Record ... please include your name and a short description.

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WANTED

Dallas Dawn KARDASH
DOB: 1989-12-15
168 cms, 57 kgs, Blonde hair, Hazel eyes

Warrants for:
Theft under \$5000
Breach of undertaking
Fail to appear X2
Comox Valley file # 2014-14916

Warrants as of 2015-02-24

Kevin Todd WILLIAMS
DOB: 1964-08-28
168 cms, 54 kgs, Brown hair, Blue eyes

Warrants for:
Theft under \$5000
Fail to appear X2
Comox Valley file # 2014-10288

Warrants as of 2015-02-24

Several sewer pump station options struck down

Scott Stanfield
Record Staff


Mack Laing, MacDonald Wood, Baybrook (Stubbs property) and Filberg parks will not be options for a second sewer pump station in

Comox, as approved Tuesday by the regional district board. Until May 12, the CVRD will continue evaluating properties suitable for the placement of the facility. The Courtenay pump station has reached capacity,

which necessitates the Comox No. 2 pump station. The project is a priority because of risks related to exposure of the sewage pipeline along the Willemar Bluff near Goose Spit. The facility had been pro-

posed for Beech Street in the Croteau Beach-Hawkins Greenway, which outraged the Area B neighbourhood. A key issue is impact on hydrology. The budget for the project is estimated to exceed \$10.7 million.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Comox Valley Pregnancy Care Centre 

Monday March 23rd - 7 pm
785 6th Street, Courtenay

All interested are invited to attend.
250-334-0058

Bridge: New structure would be an asset to downtown Courtenay

Continued from Page A1

It has since undergone a deck resurfacing, seismic upgrades and other maintenance. Cost to repair and recoat is estimated at \$2.2 million. Recoating will potentially extend the life of the bridge another 50 years.

Eriksson was the lone member of council opposed to recoating as the preferred project to receive federal funds.

He notes the Craigflower is a three-span bridge 115 metres long while the the Fifth Street Bridge is single span and less than half the length. A wider, safer bridge would encourage cycling, he added, also noting the esthetic appeal.

"We want to attract economic development. Why not a complete

bridge? What an asset that would be to our downtown — not to help the businesses per se, but to help us as a community to have a beautiful downtown."

Though located in Courtenay, Eriksson said the structure would be a Comox Valley bridge. He therefore feels broader involvement is required in the discussion.

"We should all be part of this. I think it's worth getting people wondering about it and whether or not they want to do it."

Recoating the bridge is pending approval of a grant application to the Building Canada Fund. The program requires local governments to contribute one-third of the funds for projects.

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Comox Return it depot - account #189

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ICBC's monopoly costing us

We're No. 2! It's a not a list British Columbians want to lead, however. After Ontario, drivers in B.C. pay more, on average, for auto insurance than people in any other province. In fact, three of the top four are provinces with public insurance.

We went for an Internet ride to seek a list of the average auto insurance costs by province. We found a few, some on private company websites, others through independent sources.

The list, from top to bottom, was the same on all of them, which tells us it's pretty solid.

So, Ontario is first, as in most expensive, followed by B.C., Saskatchewan and Manitoba, the latter three being public/monopoly situations.

We went on this search after receiving a news release from the Insurance Corporation of B.C. (ICBC). The good people at ICBC wanted to share how much money they are pouring back into the Comox Valley.

ICBC invested a whopping (insert sarcasm emoticon here) \$87,000 on road improvement projects in the Comox Valley in 2014.

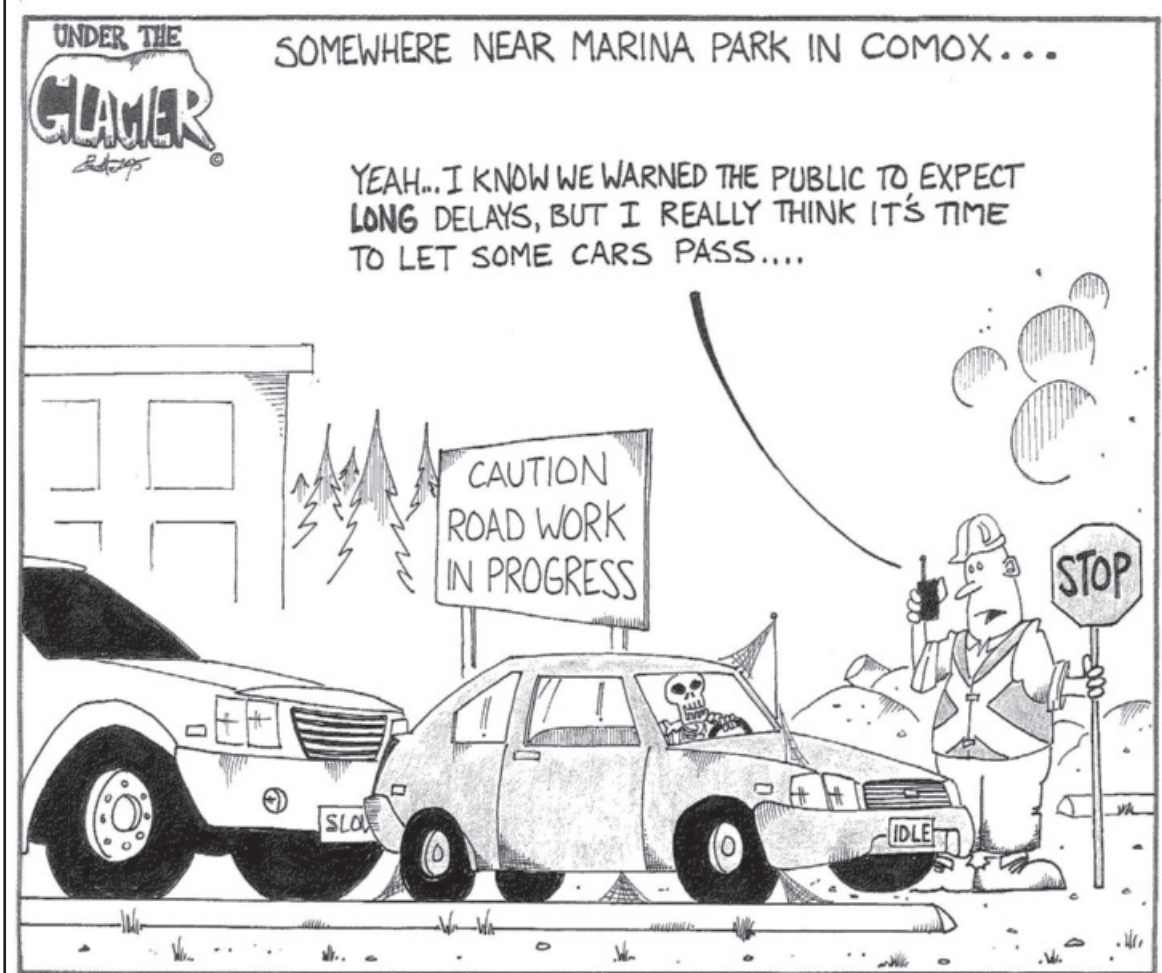
Now let's look at what Comox Valley drivers likely paid in car insurance in 2014. Most sources suggest the average paid by B.C. drivers annually to ICBC is a little more than \$1,100. A 2007 Canadian Vehicle Survey commissioned by the Canadian government determined there were 2.6 million on-road vehicles in British Columbia; that's less than two people per vehicle.

So, to cut some slack, let's estimate that there are 32,500 vehicles in the Comox Valley (population 65,000). Based on those numbers, we send just shy of \$38 million ICBC's way every year. And for that, we get \$87,000 back "to make Courtenay, Comox and Cumberland roads safer for everyone."

That's a 2.4 per cent return on our money.

We find it difficult to come up with any reason why this ICBC monopoly situation is a good thing for the people of B.C.

— Adapted from the PQB News



Liberals justify removal of surtax on the rich

The B.C. government's third straight budget surplus is the main battleground for provincial politicians this spring, with little else on the order paper to argue about.

The main conflict is over the tax cut for the rich that results from removing a two-year surtax on personal income greater than \$150,000 a year. It's an outrage, says the NDP, starving our threadbare government services of more than \$200 million over the next three years.

NDP leader John Horgan set the tone in his reply to Finance Minister Mike de Jong's budget speech:

"I can appreciate that the minister was celebrating with the champagne-and-caviar set, but the rest of British Columbia saw \$700 million in increased fees and taxes on their backs."

Old news, de Jong replied. It was a two-year surtax on high-income earners to help get B.C. out of its post-recession red ink, and it expired as it was legislated to do.

This political theatre doesn't help people understand what's actually going on. First, a lot of that red ink was B.C. Liberal blood from dismantling the harmonized sales tax and repaying Ottawa for that failed experiment.

Second, this temporary tax on the rich was a political strategy by de Jong and Premier Christy Clark, limping into an election most expected them to lose. De Jong's debut budget in February

2013 also accelerated a small increase in corporate income tax, stealing two populist planks from Adrian Dix's NDP platform.

Ending the surtax not only kept a promise, it kept B.C. competitive with Alberta on personal income taxes. High wage earners and many of their businesses are more mobile every year, which is why this year's budget also extended tax breaks for high-tech and digital media companies.

Another tweak in de Jong's budget was to increase the low-income cutoff for personal income tax from \$18,000 to \$19,000. Those with the lowest incomes are relieved not only of income tax but also medical premiums, which continue to march up by another four per cent, and are mostly paid by employers.

As with the federal election set for this fall, we will hear a lot about the burden on the vaguely defined "middle class." In B.C. they have to dig deeper for car insurance, hydro, ferry rides and post-secondary tuition, while those top-hatted champagne-sippers party on with their tax holiday?

Well, not exactly. Here's an assessment from Philip Cross, research co-ordinator at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute and former chief economic analyst at Statistics Canada.

Just after the 2013 B.C. election, Cross noted that Canada, its provinces, Europe and the United States have all been adjusting their tax systems to increase the load on wealthier people and ease it from the poor.

This has closed the wage gap considerably in Canada. By 2010, the top 20 per cent of earners were paying 58.3 per cent of all income taxes. That's up from 50 per cent in 1976, showing how long Canada's income taxes have been "progressive." This is the main reason why "income inequality," that other great cause of the left, started leveling off in Canada around 1998.

Cross points to measures like the low-income exemption from income tax. By 2013, the bottom 40 per cent of Canadian households were paying just 6.8 per cent of income taxes, and more than a third of income tax filers were paying none at all.

Cross asks and answers the central question: Should the rich pay more? "If it's a misinformed attempt to compensate for imaginary losses of low-income people, the answer is clearly no."

Tom Fletcher is legislature reporter and columnist for Black Press. Twitter: @tomfletcherbc
 Email: tfletcher@blackpress.ca

POLITICS

TOM FLETCHER



Record Question of the Week

This week: Yikes! It might be time for the Comox Valley Glacier Kings to rethink their marketing strategies. 93.2 per cent of respondents said they will not be going to any of the Comox Valley Glacier Kings's playoff games.
Next week: Would you buy property on Mount Washington considering the lack of fire protection services? Visit www.comoxvalleyrecord.com and vote.

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Dear editor,

Your guest editorial from *The Langley Times* (Feb. 19) says government should move more slowly in creating new assisted-dying law. As if it were possible for our lawmakers to move more slowly than they already do.

A year is plenty enough time. Whole wars have been fought

in less than a year. Babies are conceived and born in less than a year.

There are successful working models in other countries that can be adopted and adapted. Pick one, tweak it, discuss it within a set time frame, vote on the options by referendum, and shazam, it's done.

The fact it's an election year is irrelevant. We pay people to work, we don't pay them to campaign.

Telling government to take its time is like suggesting a glacier might want to slow it down a little.

J. Cates
 Comox

THIS PUBLICATION AVAILABLE ONLINE AT comoxvalleyrecord.com

Budget offensive to teacher

Dear editor,
 The following is an open letter to Comox Valley MLA Don McRae: The budget our government announced last week and its effects on British Columbia's public education are offensive. As a teacher in B.C. for over 15 years and with three children in elementary school, I have seen first-hand the impacts of years of cuts on our education system. Your facts are misleading and prevent the public from understanding how our government is choosing to use our public funds. What you are calling increased funding to education covers only the costs associated with the negotiated teachers' settlement reached last September. It does not cover the four per cent rise in MSP premiums, nor does it cover inflation and other fixed costs, let alone address funding shortfalls that boards were already facing.

School boards, which have faced year after year of gruelling cuts, are required to cut another \$29 million this year from their budgets that are already cut to the bone (past the bone, in many cases) and another \$25 million next year.

Funding to independent schools is increasing this year by \$30 million, the same amount that public school boards are being forced to cut, and will continue to increase next year.

Our local private school has an aid in every class and smaller class sizes. I had two students in my class with designations that would have given them 25 hours of aid time. This year they were given 14 hours each. There is no way we

Letters to the Editor

Send your letter to editor@comoxvalleyrecord.com, or drop it off at the Record office, 765 McPhee Ave. Please keep letters to a maximum of 300 words and sign with your name and hometown. We reserve the right to publish and to edit for space/clarity. Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are the sole opinion of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the paper.

could meet their needs. One student left in January for a private institution. This seems to be part of your plan.

You are forcing these cuts on our children's education system at the same time that you are trumpeting an \$800 million surplus and giving high income earners a \$200 million tax break. Given these facts, it is logical to reach the conclusion that our government simply does not care about children in the public school system, the majority of our children.

Our government (including you) is paid to take into consideration the needs of all our children, not just for the rich and privileged. Once again I ask you to stand up for what is in the best interest of our children. Sincerely,

Dominique McGrady
 Comox

Clearcutting to blame for urban deer problem

Dear editor,
 Many of us who are long time Island residents always wondered why is it deer have invaded urban areas all along the east coast of Vancouver Island in the past 10 to 15 years? So I put that question to both the guys down at our local sporting goods store, which caters to local hunters, Tyee Marine and Briony Penn, adjunct professor of environmental studies at the University of Victoria. And they both basically came up with the same answer.

To quote Ms. Penn: "Our coastal blacktails are very dependent in the winter on arboreal lichens which accumulate on older trees and most particularly on the old growth of south facing slopes where the sun hits the slope, and the combination of sun and old growth canopy reduces snow cover. It is places like McLaughlin Ridge (over by Port Alberni and recently mowed down by TimberWest) that provide critical winter habitat, especially when bad weather hits. When you lose this habitat the deer die or move to the cities to munch on tulips in

the winter. And, of course, cougars follow the deer. And...It is the fundamental reason we have cougar problems..."

So there you have it, more on the environmental disaster we are currently dealing with here in the Valley; all thanks to the creation of the Private Managed Forests Land Act back in 2003 by a newly elected Liberal government. In essence, the bill served as one colossal giveaway to the two timber corporations, TimberWest and Island Timberlands, since there's been virtually no government oversight of their operations here along the east coast of the Island since that day.

As one old logger so aptly stated, "The fox was left in charge of the chicken house" and, as a result, not only has all our incredible first growth virtually disappeared but now any mature second growth, (70 to 120 year old timber) is going, going...gone!! All which would have provided ideal habitat to blacktail deer and their close associates: the cougar.

Rick James
 Sandwick

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Session is FREE, but call to reserve your spot!

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Our RCMP workshop will help you identify signs of elder abuse including neglect, bullying, physical or financial abuse and violation of rights.

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Make an impression at career fair

The fifth annual North Island College Career Fair is March 11 at the Comox Recreation Centre.

"This is the perfect opportunity to meet hiring personnel, ask questions and make a great first impression," says Treena Nadon, NIC's employment advisor.

The fair connects 50 employers from trades, tourism, health, accounting, education and government sectors with students and job seekers. Employers include the Four Seasons Whistler, Canadian Armed Forces, Island Health, St. Joseph's Hospital, Pateman, Cloutier & Matthews Chartered Accountants, the City of Courtenay and the BC Construction Association. The event is nearly sold out. Three spots remain for employers and community organizations still interested in attending.

The free event runs from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.nic.bc.ca or email employment.resources@nic.bc.ca.



Meet employers from the business, trades, tourism, education, health, and government sectors at NIC's Career Fair March 11. PHOTO SUBMITTED

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Award nominations being accepted

Nominations are being accepted for the 2015 Vancouver Island Real Estate Commercial Building Awards, April 23 in Nanaimo.

The eighth annual celebration of the best in commercial and industrial construction is for buildings completed between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2014 from the Malahat to Port Hardy. There are 11 categories: Mixed Use, Seniors Housing, Community – Institutional, Community

– Recreational, Retail, Industrial, Multi-Family, Hospitality, Commercial Renovation/Restoration, Office and Green.

Nomination forms can be downloaded at www.vireb.com, or contact Sue Lessard at slessard@vireb.com.

Submission deadline is March 5. For more details contact Mark MacDonald at 1-866-758-2684 Ext. 120, or mark@businessvi.ca.

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MARKET REPORT

TSX Composite	15164.97	Stock Watch	
DJIA	18209.19	Royal Bank	75.05
Gold	1204.20	TD Bank	53.27
Cdn\$	0.8038 US\$	Bank of Nova Scotia	65.22
ETFs & Global Investments		BCE	55.21
Claymore BRIC (CBQ)	22.20	Potash Corp. of Sask.	46.00
BHP Billiton ADR (BHP)	52.31 US\$	Suncor Energy Inc.	38.34
Power Shrs. QQQ (Nasdaq 100)	108.60 US\$	Crescent Point Energy	31.41
Aberdeen Asia Pacific (FAP)	5.32	Cdn. Oil Sands	11.50
S&P TSX 60 (XIU)	22.35	Husky Energy	29.06
Government Bonds		Pembina Pipe Line	39.82
5 year (CDN)	0.76%	Transcanada Corp.	54.95
10 year (CDN)	1.32%	Teck Resources Ltd.	19.21
30 year (CDN)	1.96%	Cameco	19.91
30 year Treasury bonds (US)	2.58%	Investment Trusts	
Fixed Income GICs		Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners	38.11
EQUITABLE BANK	1 yr: 1.510%	Morgard Real Estate Inv. Tr.	17.57
HOME TRUST COMPANY	3 yr: 1.800%	Cdn. Real Estate Inv. Tr.	45.67
HOME TRUST COMPANY	5 yr: 2.100%	Riocan Investment Tr.	28.69

PAUL CHISHOLM
Vice President,
Investment Advisor
250-334-5611

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OFFICIAL NOTICE

35th Annual General Meeting Comox Valley Co-operative

Thursday, March 5th, 2015
Filberg Centre Upstairs

6:00 PM ~ Registration
7:00 PM ~ Light Dinner
8:00 PM ~ Meeting

IMPORTANT!

Please RSVP by February 23rd
for catering purposes.



Part 14
Election, Appointment and Removal of Directors

Election at Annual General Meeting
82 An election of Directors must be held at each Annual General Meeting to replace those Directors whose terms of office have expired or will expire at the end of the meeting in accordance with Rule 89.

Proposed change: No change.

83 A member may nominate a candidate for Director either before or at an Annual General Meeting at which a Director is to be elected.

Proposed change: A member may nominate a candidate for Director at least 60 days before the Annual General Meeting by contacting the Nominating Committee in writing. As per section 88 the Nominating Committee will contact the nominee and affirm that they are willing to stand as a candidate. If agreeable, the candidate has 14 days to submit an application to the Nominating Committee stating why the candidate wants to be a director and why they feel they are qualified to be a director. This should include a summary of relevant experience and a list of other directorships or committees they have served on and a summary of what skills they bring to the position.

Prior to the AGM the Nominating committee will review the qualifications of all nominees and bring forward a slate of recommended director candidates to the AGM for election. No further nominations will be considered.

Call: 250-338-8181
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Comox Valley Co-op

Community Service

What is your group up to?

The Comox Valley Record wants to recognize the many events that make our community a better place to live. Email your photos and submissions, titled "Community Service" to editor@comoxvalleyrecord.com.



Cumberland Old Age Pensioners' Organization, Branch #51 (Lamplighters) president Evelyn Bowers presents a donation to Sue Loveless, Executive Director of the Cumberland Community Schools Society, for use in the society's school lunch program.



Bob Miles of the Royston-Cumberland Lions donates a brand new iPad for use within the speech therapy program at the Comox Valley Child Development Association to Jennifer Lewis and Joanne Schroeder from the CVCDA.



The Royal Canadian Legion Courtenay Branch 17 members Mike Handel and Frank Burden presented a donation for \$5,000 to Lynn Dashkewytch of the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation to support the expansion of the Cancer Care Unit at St. Joseph's.



Members of The Royal Canadian Legion Comox Branch 160 are pictured presenting a cheque to St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation for \$5,000, in support of the hospital's Cardiac Care Unit.



The Rotary Club of Comox has recently provided a \$3,000 contribution to The Comox Bay Care Society and their Care-a-Van program. Pictured is Comox Rotarian member Ken Snyder presenting a cheque to Helen Boyd, program co-ordinator.

have your say

Send us your comments, views, concerns to editor@comoxvalleyrecord.com

I AM WRITING regarding the irritating trend in businesses of referring to people who work for them as "associates" rather than employees. One big box hardware store in particular insists on using this ridiculous term, which means nothing at all. Associated in what way? Are they friends of yours, or perhaps you know them from a sports league, club or hobby group? Is there something wrong with a business having employees? There is certainly nothing degrading about it, and it clearly states what your relationship is to the person who is working for you. We all know what employees are, and when we're looking for someone to help us find something, what we really want is one of your employees to come to our aid, not someone who may be associated with your company in some unexplained way. There's nothing wrong with basic, simple English, so let's use it. And while I'm getting my tiny little insignificant grumbles out so I can be free to have a nice day: I'm really beginning to wonder whether real estate agents are selling property, or themselves. More and more real es-

tate ads feature big pictures of beautiful blonds in enticing poses - do you have to be young, blond and beautiful to attract buyers, or to do a good job selling a piece of property? Whatever happened to pictures of houses and landscapes? It seems like the real estate business is turning into a "Miss Real Estate" beauty competition! For goodness sakes, will it be bikini poses and singing and dancing next?

TO THE GUY in red who was dropping F-bombs like it was a war on the ninth tee at Glacier Greens on Sunday: maybe golf isn't your game. We could hear you from the 10th green. We could see the others in your group. Looked like they were embarrassed to be with you. I know I would have been. Really, guy, if you can't control your temper, go back to the hockey rink, where that kind of attitude is applauded.

APPARENTLY THERE IS a recent mosquito epidemic on the Comox Peninsula. Real or not, the Aedes Doralis have invaded. Is it possible that burning beach wood in small amounts in

family fires on beaches at Goose Spit, Point Holmes and Kye Bay kept these invaders in check in the past? Perhaps burning beach wood is distasteful to Aedes Doralis, while bringing enjoyment to those who have a small beach fire. The \$5,000 is just a start to the studies.

THIS IS TO the lady who turned in an envelope with a large amount of cash to the Scotiabank, Courtenay. Thank you, thank you, thank you. What a kind and caring person you are. We are seniors, living on a very limited income, fighting some health issues as well, so it would have been very difficult for us to make up for the loss of that money. Sad to say, I think a lot of people would have been tempted into keeping it. People, please, if you come into a "windfall" like this please think about who might have lost it, it could be devastating to that person. Thank you again, my days are so much brighter, my troubles a little easier, knowing there are people like you out in the world. And a thank you to Sandy for tracking us down.

Facebook fanfare

Here's a look at what our Facebook followers have had to say on some of the postings on our page: another outlet for you to 'Have Your Say'.

Thread:
Erin Haluschak column - 'White privilege persists in Canada'

Responses:
RUSS MAHY - The distractions are everywhere. Thank you Erin for having the guts to pen this piece, and for the Record to publish it. Canada is not a free country as many would believe it to be. Terrorism at the hands of government officials has been going on here since the first ships arrived from Europe. You would think we would learn to respect people after a couple hundred years.

LEIGH CARTER - Very good series, Erin. And don't chastise yourself for a second or think that as a Caucasian reporter you are capitalizing on the inequalities, of which there were, and are, many. You are adding your voice to the words that need to be said; you become part of the vocal chorus speaking up and speaking out, and that's a very good, and very important, thing.

COLLEEN DANE - Have really enjoyed this series - thank you Erin Haluschak and the Comox Valley Record newsroom for taking the time to produce it.

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Gardening underway, cautiously

There is a good reason for keeping weather records for your garden, as it helps to remind you of what was happening a year ago, or even five, 10 years ago.

This month, I am checking last year's records quite frequently. I cannot believe the differences between February 2014 and 2015.

To date, this month the average low is six degrees Celsius warmer than February 2014. Average high is five degrees Celsius warmer. And judging by the long range weather forecasts, it does not appear we are going to be too far off this stat by the end of the month.

Looking back over the years, our current highs are more typical for March. The overnight lows are more April-like. Just a tad bizarre.

But, as scary as it may seem, it is tremendously exciting to be in the garden in February. However, warming temperatures mean the garden chores have moved way up ahead of the normal schedule.

Still at the top of the list is the semi-annual pruning on the fruit trees and spraying them with dormant oil. The spraying is a must as we have had forest tent caterpillars for the

last two years and this warm weather will instigate early hatching of over-wintering insect eggs.

While pruning the fruit trees is a normal February garden chore, pruning some of the other shrubs are not. We always wait for leaf bud break on the hydrangeas before

cutting them back to two strong leaves. With our penchant for a late frost, leaving the old blossoms on the hydrangea protects those tender leaf buds.

It is not unheard of for Black Creek to have wild weather in April. Hailstorms, at least one, have typically been the norm for us. Fingers crossed there will not be any hard frosts in the next couple of months because the size of the newly emerging leaves means the hydrangeas must be pruned now.

Looking at the vegetable garden, I cannot believe how high the garlic has grown already. The soil is definitely warming up.

Some of my school garden students have started taking, and recording, daily soil temperature readings this month. Early test results had average readings between 12 and 13 degrees Celsius.

At those temperatures we should already have lettuce, kale, spinach and pea seeds planted in the garden. We could also sow Swiss chard, leeks, onions and turnip seeds now. Another two to three degrees warmer and we could sow carrots, beets, broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage.

Granted, the temperatures I quoted for sowing the different vegetable varieties are more at the minimum end of their temperature range for germinating. All of them would prefer warmer soil.

DUCHESS OF DIRT

LESLIE
COX



So, this warm weather presents quite a dilemma in the vegetable garden. Do we dare direct seed our lettuce, kale and spinach now? Should temperatures drop, germination would be sporadic.

We could start the seeds indoors. But again, if temperatures drop, we could be looking after flats of gangly seedlings while waiting for the thermometer to rise again.

When it comes to the weather and gardening...approach with caution. But what fun to have seedlings up indoors - three weeks ahead of my 2014 schedule!

Leslie Cox co-owns Growing Concern Cottage Garden in Black Creek. Her website is at www.duchessofdirty.ca and her column appears every second Thursday in the Record.

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Community Information Session

Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Stan Hagen Theatre, Komoux Hall (K104)
North Island College, 2300 Ryan Road
Courtenay, BC

The North Island Hospitals Project (NIHP) is hosting a community information session to provide an update on the new, 153-bed Comox Valley hospital slated for completion in late 2017.

The meeting will start with a presentation, followed by a question-and-answer session related to the procurement, design and construction of the new facilities. The NIHP team and representatives from selected proponent Tandem Health Partners will be on hand to answer questions and gather input. For more information visit the NIHP website at: nihp.viha.ca



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*See store for details. Hot Buys & Final Markdowns excluded. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Sale ends March 2nd, 2015 or while supplies last.

Resources helpful for examining depression

I think I'm getting depressed. In the last couple of months I've lost interest in things that I usually enjoy doing – sports, visiting with my friends – even reading. I'm generally pretty high energy and busy with lots of things. I feel like I need to do something about this, but am not into counselling or any of that "touchy/feely" stuff. Are there any self-help things that I can do on my own?

CONSULT A COUNSELLOR

DIANE DAVIES



Feeling Good by Dr. David Burns. This is a terrific book that outlines solid information and techniques in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy. The techniques in the book have been well researched. It offers clear information about how to address the kinds of thoughts that one has when feeling depressed

and/or anxious.

If a step-by-step workbook might fit your style, consider *The Mindfulness and Acceptance Workbook for Depression* by K. Strosahl and P. Robinson. It is a practical and user-friendly write in workbook which focuses on the working with depression with a perspective of becoming aware of our own way of reacting to things, guiding one towards taking charge of doing things in a more satisfying way.

Would you be interested in an approach which uses audio methods? Dr. Michael D. Yapko is an expert in depression and hypnosis. He offers books, such as *Breaking the Patterns of Depression*, as well as a series of self-hypnosis CDs: *Focusing of Feeling Better*. The CDs outline factual information about depression and coping with it, as well as actual hypnotherapy sessions for you to listen to. These address different aspects of depression. They help your mind shift towards better ways of being. Google his name,

and you will reach his website.

How about an online site that offers free Cognitive Behaviour Therapy through a university research program? moodgym.anu might suit you. It offers a multiple choice approach to addressing disturbing (depression and/or anxiety) thoughts.

So, there are many self-help approaches to depressed thoughts. Hopefully one of those will suit you.

Also be aware of some indicators that further assistance may be needed. These include finding that you are having suicidal thoughts and feelings that you are making plans to act on. Finding that you are missing work, actually staying in bed with that chocolate for more than a weekend. Finding depression does not shift, even if you are working reasonably consistently with one of those self-help methods. These are signals to yourself that some other assistance is needed. In that case, it may be helpful to consult a registered clinical counsellor.

To ask a question of the counsellors for a response in future columns, e-mail info@pacifietherapy.ca.

Consult a Counsellor is provided by registered clinical counsellors Nancy Bock, Diane Davies Leslie Wells, Andrew Lochhead, Bruce Muir, Sara-Lynn Kang and Carolyn Howard at Pacific Therapy & Consulting inc. It appears every second Thursday in the Record.

This topic has come up before in this column. It's always good, so thanks for asking.

It is a tremendously helpful thing to understand when you are heading down a road of depression. I do have some solid recommendations for some self help books and websites.

Before you rush off to the bookstore, though, it may be helpful to ask yourself when the last time was that you had a check-up with your doctor. Some common medical conditions have the symptoms you describe. You wouldn't be the first person to spend time feeling low, wondering why and what to do when, for example, they had low blood iron.

As well as checking out the resources, consider that, too.

Here are some resources to check out.

Think twice before applying shades of grey to floors

Shades of grey might make a good novel or movie (though that's debatable), but it's not a good colour scheme for your wood flooring when you live on the raincoast!

They say home is where the heart is. Real wood floors have heart and soul not found with other flooring mediums, offering warmth during nine months of grey skies. So, hip and stylish though they may seem, why on earth would you want a grey floor?

Unless you're using it to balance wooden walls or ceiling, adding grey to your largest interior design element will likely come across as cold and uninviting. In my opinion, it's also a bit too trendy for something that you'll want to last a century or more. Wood, on the other hand, is built to last – both physically and stylishly.

When it comes to wood tones, go for medium browns and reds, or mixtures of the two. Like the cover of a certain

popular book, they hide all kinds of sins. Lighter floors show wear the quickest, while dark floors show every speck of dust.

If you'd like to experiment with 50 Shades of Grey in order to warm up your home, more power to you – we're not ones to judge. But if you really want to find your warm, happy spot, you'll need hardwood.

Steve Roscoe is the owner of Woodland Flooring: handcrafted flooring sustainably harvested from B.C. woods. He can be reached at 250-890-0402 or www.woodlandflooring.com.

YOUR HOME

STEVE ROSCOE



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This week's feature:
Discovering Iceland...
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February 20th	Brian Fairbrother
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February 22nd	Loretta Semple
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The softer, soulful side of Big Sugar

Mark Allan
 Special to the Record

For Big Sugar's latest foray to the Comox Valley as part of the Sid Williams Theatre Society's Blue Circle Series, frontman Gordie Johnson promises to reproduce the unorthodox way the band recorded its most recent CD.

The album is *Yardstyle*, an acoustic, percussion-heavy collection of 11 languid, soulful acoustic reggae-inspired tunes.

"In Jamaican culture, a yard is a group of tenement houses or shanties around a central dirt square where the well pump is and where you build a fire

at night and people cook there," Johnson explained in a phone interview from his current home state of Texas. "It's a cultural reference to the way we strip down our music, and we gathered people around and we sat in a circle and just played songs. The only thing that was missing in the studio was the campfire."

There probably won't be a campfire on the Sid Williams Theatre stage March 10, but Johnson said he and other Big Sugar regulars Garry Lowe (bass), Kelly Hoppe (harmonica, sax and melodica), Friendliness (keyboards) and Stephane Bodean Beaudin (drums) will be joined onstage by several percussionists.

"Our touring version of the band will be eight people," Johnson said via speakerphone as he drove into Austin. "It really is all acoustic; it's such an intimate and spiritual kind of a musical event for us. We're sitting close together."

Gordie Johnson

It's really like a folk music performance, he summarized.

"That's the way we made the record," Johnson said, indicating it wasn't necessarily by design.

"By the time we pressed record on the first song, a handful of our Toronto yardies showed up, a couple of the Trews ... came wandering in the door."

"There are 12 people on every song on the record," Johnson said.

Interlopers were encouraged to grab a drum and join in.

Sitting around yardstyle and chanting with several drums is how Big Sugar is at its most comfortable, Johnson said.

"If you were to sneak up on Big Sugar in the wild," he joked, "you wouldn't find us jumping around with double-necked guitars and Marshall amps. That's not what we do when we're rehearsing or writing or hanging around."

"That (acoustic with hand drums) is what we sound like when we're sitting around playing for ourselves, which is why it's so easy to tour like that."

Big Sugar hasn't abandoned electricity (Johnson said there's an electric album in the can), but for *Yardstyle* and the current tour the band thought, "Hey, why don't we share this with people? We're doing it anyway."

Big Sugar performs March 10 at the Sid Williams Theatre. For details, visit sidwilliamstheatre.com, phone 250-338-2430 or visit the Sid box office at 442 Cliffe Ave. in Courtenay.

Mark Allan is a freelance writer and a former editor of the Comox Valley Record.

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Fifty Shades of Grey 18A: Sexually suggestive scenes, nudity; Nightly except Wed: 6:50 & 9:40; Wednesday, March 4: 9:40 only; Sat & Sun Mats: 12:45 & 3:40
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FLY LONDON
 Just a few of our new early arrives of Spring 2015.
 Don't Walk Fly

Globetrotting Persian dancer makes local stop

Internationally acclaimed dancer/scholar Farima Berenji will be at the Abbey Studio in Cumberland for a dance presentation March 6.

Berenji is an Iranian-born scholar and an award-winning performing artist, instructor, dance ethnologist and archaeologist.

Aside from her Cumberland visit, her touring schedule in 2015 includes California, Alaska, Czech Republic, Turkey and Iran.

Come experience an evening of Persian traditional and sacred dances at the Abbey Studio in Cumberland. The evening will start with dance performances by Berenji, Taiya Curle, Lynene Allen, Cathy Stoyko and friends and will be followed by a Sema gathering (sufi whirling) guided by Farima.

Everyone in attendance is welcome and encouraged to participate in some way and can benefit from this healing gathering regardless of physicality or age.

Bring soft-soled leather shoes or socks for whirling and wearing light or white colours is suggested.

Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. with performances beginning at 8. The Sema gathering runs from 9-10:30.

Admission is by donation at the door.

Money collected at the door will go towards Farima's travel expenses.

Farima will also be teaching dance workshops at the Abbey Studio on Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8.

The Saturday workshop will focus on traditional Persian dances from the Caspian Sea region where dance and music depicts the life of a people who live in the rice

fields, love nature, and lead a simple life.

Participants will learn history, costuming, and dance styles such as Ghassem Abadi (rice/basket dance), Mazandarani, and Taleshi.

Farima's Sunday workshop "Awakening," is based on her many years of research on Persian, Near Eastern, and Ionian sacred and mystical dances, history and rituals.

Students are asked to bring a flower that inspires them.

For more information about the Friday evening event on March 6 or to register for the dance workshops contact Cathy Stoyko at 250-218-0704 or visit the Abbey Studio on Facebook. For more info about Farima visit her website farimadance.com.

The Abbey Studio is located at the corner of 1st and Penrith Avenue.



What's HAPPENING

To have your entertainment event included in our *What's Happening* lineup, please send the details of your event to editor@comoxvalley-record.com. Event listing should be no more than 50 words and should include date, time, place and cost.

ART

PEARL ELLIS GALLERY IN COMOX PRESENTS: "CATCHING THE LIGHT" - A SHOW & SALE by "LESLIE DUNSMORE & MARY HICKS" opens Feb. 17 and runs to March 8. Open Tuesday - Saturday from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday 1 - 4 p.m., closed Monday. Free Admission. Located at 1729 Comox Avenue. FMI and to see a virtual gallery of the current show go to www.pearlellisgallery.com.

STUDIO B IN CUMBERLAND is proud to present a new exhibit entitled "Wood Vibe Tribe" of wood works by Brad Rhadwood and Andy Smith, with special appearance by Chris Boux. The exhibit opens on Friday, Feb. 13, with all three artists present at the reception from 7-11 p.m. Studio B Gallery is located at 2704 Dunsmuir Avenue in Cumberland.

TEXTILES SHOW: Pieces: Celebrating Textiles is a showcase of contemporary thinking on textiles, March 27th - 29th, at the Florence Filberg Centre. Weekend passes \$205, Friday night gala opening - \$40, Saturday - \$100 and Sunday \$90. FMI: piecescelebratingtextiles.com, 250 338-4747

THEATRE

IMPROV: Pleasure Craft Theatre presents: Dodge Force, Live Improv Soap Opera, Tuesday nights from Feb. 10 to March 10, 7-8 p.m. at Studio Live in Cumberland. 2679 Beaufort Street. Fun improv show! \$5 all ages.

PIED PIPER: On Saturday, Feb. 28 at 3 and 6:30 p.m. take a trip to Hamelin Town with Missoula Children's Theatre, as over 50 local students present THE PIED PIPER, an original musical adaptation of this classic tale. Performances at Ecole Puntledge Park Elementary School. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children and are available at the door. For more information, call Kim at 250.334.4495 ext 116.

MARCH

Co-Val Choristers Spring Production of "Yours Anne" - A musical based on the Diary of Anne Frank, run March 20 to 29 at the Old Church Theatre. Theatre box office Tuesday and Thursday 10 am to 2 pm or reserve seating by calling 250-334-2992.

APRIL

Courtenay Little Theatre presents Ronald Harwood's "Quartet" at Sid Williams Theatre. \$22 all seats at Sid Ticket Office: www.sidwilliamstheatre.com (250) 338-2430. Showtimes April 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18 - 7:30 p.m. Matinee Sunday, April 12, 2 p.m.

CALENDAR

Friday, February 27
PROSE & POETRY - Comox Valley Writer's Society and the Courtenay Public Library invite the public to our Monthly Reading Series. New and published writers will read their work at the Courtenay Library Events Room from noon to 1:30 p.m. For more information and to sign up to read please call 338-0965. Everyone is welcome. This is a free event, refreshments will be served.

ALI HENRY - Bossa nova, blues and jazz with a timeless vocal style, the Ali Henry Quartet is the perfect dinner date. Waverley Hotel. \$5 cover

Saturday, February 28
FASHION SHOW FUNDRAISING LUNCH - Order of the Eastern Star, Florence Chapter 53 is having their Spring Fling Fashion Show from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Comox Legion Upper Floor. A \$12 ticket gets Soup-Sandwich-Dessert-Tea & Coffee, with fashions from Shar-On's All size Fashions. All fundraising monies stay in the Comox Valley **EVENING WITH GYPSIES** - The Deep Sea Gypsies offer a sound that is all their own, playing an original innovative combination of '60s psych blues rock, '70s southern rock and hip hop. Joined by Band of Rascals, who deliver foot stompin' blues rock, this will be a good, loud, rock 'n' roll party at the Waverley. \$12 advance tickets online at cumberlandvillageworks.com

Sunday, March 1
GRAND PIANO INAUGURAL CONCERT - St. John The Divine Anglican Church proudly presents an afternoon concert featuring pianists, Peter Walker & Dagmar Kilian and flutist, Tracy Canil. The light classical music performance starts at 2 p.m., 579-5th Street. Entrance on Harmston Ave. Admission by donation. Everyone welcome!

CORONATION STREET FANS UNITE - Enjoy a good chin wag about the happenings, such as Sinead's health and what's up with Owen? Along with the rest of the gang on the "Street". 2-3 p.m. at Kiwanis Village, 635 Pidcock Avenue. \$3 admission. FMI call Wendy 250 897-3697

Monday, March 2
KARAOKE KOMOTION - Karaoke at Chances Casino from 8:30-11 p.m. with hosts Rod & Suzy McNeil. Free admission.

Tuesday, March 3
1st Tuesday Fundraiser - Mex Pub, featuring Tina Filippino. All proceeds go to Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Friday, March 6
WEST, MY FRIEND - An acoustic blend of instruments and four-part harmonies challenges the conventions of popular music to create a performance that is both engaging and innovative. They play the Cumberland Hotel tonight, a Vancouver Island MusicFest presentation. Tickets are \$20 at www.islandmusicfest.com or call 250-871-8463.

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Big Little Lions in the Valley

Big Little Lions are coming back to where it all began.

The songwriting duo of Comox Valley's Juno Award-winning Helen Austin and Cincinnati, Ohio's award-winning Paul Otten are returning to the Comox Valley - where they performed live together for the very first time - and will grace the stages of two local venues.

Since forming the band in early 2013, Big Little Lions have gone on to win the top John Lennon Songwriting Contest award of Song of the Year, first place in the International Songwriting Competition as well as many other awards.

The band made its live debut at a special free outdoor concert at Filberg Park last summer, before heading States-side for a mini tour.

It's the same idea this time around.

Fresh from playing at this year's National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) show, the Big Little Lions are doing a Vancouver Island tour before they head to Austin, Texas to play showcases at South By Southwest.

They will be playing at Zocalo's in downtown Courtenay on Thursday March 5 at 7:30 p.m. and The Roy (formerly The Backstreet) in Royston, March 6 at 7 p.m. and they will be joined by Daisy Squires on various instruments and Jim Stepan on percussion.

Between them they have hundreds of placements on TV,



Big Little Lions - Helen Austin and Paul Otten - are returning to the Comox Valley for a pair of shows. PHOTO SUBMITTED

ads and movies and their music can be heard on MTV, IKEA and network TV shows. Their songs are a dynamic fusion of feel-good and deep emotion that leave the listener with a strong emotional reaction and

have been described as "Pomplamoose meets Mumford & Sons".

For more information, or to see other Vancouver Island tour dates, visit www.biglittlions.com

Victoria's poet laureate offers inspiration for Valley hopefuls

Nominees for the Comox Valley Poet Laureate Search might take inspiration from Victoria for their presentation to the panel judging works submitted.

There, poet laureate Linda Rogers was at city council once a month, often presenting another word artist, during her time in the role. She often wrote poems to celebrate community leadership/citizenship.

"Some of my most enjoyable projects involved kids and elders," she says.

Rogers, who has published a



LINDA ROGERS

number of poetry and children's books, is one of the jury members who will be selecting the Valley's poet laureate from entries submitted to www.comoxvalleyarts.com

She is originally from Port Alice.

During her three-year tenure as Victoria poet laureate, Rogers organized sidewalk chalk poetry to celebrate Valentine's Day; putting merchants and poets together for works in store windows; poets responding to

visual art, resulting in a book with 60 artists and 60 poets, a poetry collage with the general public and artists working together, among other projects.

The search is on for the Valley's first designated poet laureate, to engage and inspire the community for a two-year term. Nominees/applicants can come from any form of verse, from classic, free-form, lyrics, rap or spoken word.

The event is being organized by the Comox Valley Community Arts Council. Among the prizes bestowed upon the winner will be an opportunity to open for iconic Canadian spoken word artist Shane Koyczan March 24 at the Sid Williams Theatre.

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*for more details on the contest and Sip Around, head to ComoxValleyDineAround.com

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	Spice Hut	250-941-7444	spicehutcanada.com
\$27	Atlas Café	250 338-9838	atlascafe.ca
	Avenue Bistro	250 890-9200	avenuebistro.ca
	Bamboo Inn	250 339-3500	bambooinncomox.com
	Bisque	250 334-8564	bisquerestaurant.ca
	Blackfin Pub	250 339-5030	blackfinpub.com
	Chances Red 21 Gaming Tap & Grill	250 334-4531	playtimegaming.ca
	Griffin Pub	250 339-4466	griffinpub.ca
	Manvirro's Indian Grill	250 898-8858	manvirrosindiangrill.com
	Martine's Bistro	250 339-1199	martinesbistro.com
	Prime Chophouse & Wine Bar ...	250 871-7292	theprimechophouse.com
	The Westerly Family Restaurant...	250 338-7741	thewesterlyhotel.ca
	Timber Room at Crown Isle	250 703-5000	crownisle.com
	Tita's Mexican Restaurant	250 334-8033	titas.ca
	Toscano's Trattoria	250 890-7575	toscanos.ca
	Union Street Grill & Grotto	250 897-0081	unionstreetgrill.ca
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\$37	Bisque	250 334-8564	bisquerestaurant.ca
	Locals	250 338-6493	localscomoxvalley.com
	Prime Chophouse & Wine Bar ...	250 871-7292	theprimechophouse.com
	The Breakwater at Kingfisher ...	250 338-1323	kingfisherspa.com

Stanton pickin' at the Studio

Sunshine Coast singer/songwriter and fingerstyle guitarist Joe Stanton will be returning to Vancouver Island this March for four concerts, including one in the Comox Valley at Studio Live in Cumberland on Wednesday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Stanton made lots of friends here after performing at the 2012 Vancouver Island MusicFest, and was called "one of B.C.'s finest fingerstyle guitarists" by Vancouver Island's Longevity John.

Stanton's philosophy of "playing wherever they'll listen" has taken him and his Martin D28, on a 30-year journey from his favourite haunts in his home on the Sunshine Coast, to a concert in a hot air balloon over the Swiss Alps, to the Kerrville Folk festival in Texas, to the world fingerpicking championships in Kansas.

His acoustic guitar style has been likened to his heroes, Leo Kottke, Chet Atkins, Bruce Cockburn, and his songwriting has resulted in four CDs, styles ranging from bluegrass, to contemporary folk, to alt country.

Over the years Stanton has performed all over Canada, the U.S. and Europe.

Stanton's most recent *Vintage* is a compilation of favourite songs from all of his releases, along with a few new solo guitar instrumentals.

Come and hear Joe Stanton at Studio Live, located at 2679 Beaufort Ave. in Cumberland. Advance tickets are \$12 at Bop City Records, Courtenay, Blue Heron Books, Comox and Rider's Pizza, Cumberland or at the door \$15.

Studio Live
March 4
7:30 p.m.



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Your Guide to Entertainment in the Comox Valley

FEB 26 - MAR 11 COMOX VALLEY RECORD

Thu. Feb 26

Open Jam Hosted by Barry P & Friends at The Mex Pub 8pm

Live Music She Said spoken word by Elevate The Arts is at Zocalo Cafe. Starts 6pm

Fri. Feb 27

Karaoke Come sing your heart out at the Cumberland Hotel with Karaoke with Kim 9pm-1am

Live Music Anderson Jazz is playing at Zocalo Cafe 7-9pm

Live Music The Griffin Pub has Big Daddy playing starting 8:30

Live Music "Just Another Friday" Featuring local top DJs & guests at The Mex Pub 9:30pm Cover

Live Music Check out Ali Henry at the Waverley Hotel. Cover is \$5 and their bossa jazz/blues sounds is perfect for dinnertime!

Sat. Feb 28

Live Music The Lazy Mike & the Rockin Recliners is playing at the The Cumberland Hotel 9pm-1am

Live Music Check out The Deep Sea Gypsies at the Waverley Hotel. They're quite the innovative band with a sound all of their own. Tickets are \$12 advance and are available online, at the venue, Bop City Music and by phone 250-336-8322

Live Music The Annie Handley Band is at The Mex Pub 9:30pm No Cover

Live Music Black Swan Fiddlers are playing at Zocalo Cafe 7-9pm

Sun. Mar 1

Live Music/Brunch Join in on the Bluegrass Brunch at the Waverley Hotel. Food starts 10:30, Music 11am-1:30pm

Meat Bingo Come down to the Cumberland Hotel and support the Royston/

Cumberland Lions Club with their meat bingo 1-3pm

Live Music The Griffin Pub hosts a Ceilidh 3-6pm with Matt & Billy Mac

Tue. Mar 3

Live Music First Tuesday Fundraiser for the CV Food Bank featuring Tina Filippino hosted by Bruce and Judy Wing at The Mex Pub 8pm

Wed. Mar 4

Live Music Doug Cox and Todd Butler are at The Cumberland Hotel 7:30-10:30pm

Live Music It's the Piano Bar at the Griffin Pub with Rob Petrie!

Karaoke at The Mex Pub. Win up to 1000 loonies 9pm

Thu. Mar 5

Open Jam Hosted by Barry P & Friends at The Mex Pub 8pm

Live Music Big Little Lions (with Helen

Austin and Paul Otten)is playing at Zocalo Cafe 7-9pm

Fri. Mar 6

Live Music Come see West My Friend, a MusicFest show at the Cumberland Hotel Tickets \$20 Starts 8pm

Live Music The Griffin Pub has The Enablers playing starting 8:30

Live Music "Steelhead" Live Rock at The Mex Pub 9:30pm No Cover

Live Music Indigo Jazz is playing at Zocalo Cafe 7-9pm

Sat. Mar 7

Live Music Broken Group is playing at the The Cumberland Hotel 9pm-1am

Live Music Check out Shane Phillip at the Waverley Hotel. He's got it goin on with his percussion, guitar, didgeridoo all at once! Tickets are \$15 advance and are available online, at the venue, Bop City

Music and by phone 250-336-8322

Live Music "CURL" R&B Sweethearts. All girl band from Victoria at The Mex Pub 9:30pm No Cover

Sun. Mar 8

Live Music/Brunch Join in on the Bluegrass Brunch at the Waverley Hotel. Food starts 10:30, Music 11am-1:30pm

Meat Bingo Come down to the Cumberland Hotel and support the Royston/ Cumberland Lions Club with their meat bingo 1-3pm

Live Music The Griffin Pub hosts a Ceilidh 3-6pm

with Matt & Billy Mac

Wed. Mar 11

Live Music Doug Cox and Todd Butler are at The Cumberland Hotel 7:30-10:30pm

Live Music It's the Piano Bar at the Griffin Pub with Rob Petrie!

Karaoke at The Mex Pub. Win up to 1000 loonies 9pm

Thu. Mar 12

Open Jam Hosted by Barry P & Friends at The Mex Pub 8pm

Live Music New Mother Earth is playing at Zocalo Cafe 7-9pm

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March 7 - Broken Group
March 12 - Greasy Garage Band
March 14 - Annie Handley
March 28 - Little Big Shot
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MAR 6: **STEELHEAD**
Live Rock 9:30pm No Cover
MAR 7: **CURL**
R&B Sweethearts all girl Band f/Victoria 9:30pm No Cover
MAR 13: **JUST ANOTHER FRIDAY**
Hosted by James Dean & friends w/ guest DJ's 9:30pm Cover @ door
MAR 14: **THE FABULOUS MUTTS**
Live Rock 9:30pm No Cover
MAR 20: **JUST ANOTHER FRIDAY**
Hosted by James Dean & friends w/ guest dj's 9:30pm Cover @ door
MAR 21: **MACHINE GUN KELLY**
Live Rock 9:30pm No Cover
MARCH 27: **BABY JANE** Live Rock 9:30pm No Cover
MARCH 28: **KIN FO** Prizes for the best dressed Hillbilly & Games 9:30pm No Cover
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win up to 1000 loonies 9pm
THURSDAYS:
OPEN JAM NIGHT
With The Core 8 pm
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Glacier Kings grab 3-1 series lead in VIJHL playoffs

-- SEE PAGE 22

SPORTS

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Towhees stung by Stelly's at Islands

North Island champs bid for B.C.s berth comes up short

Earle Couper

Record Staff

The back door to the B.C.s beckoned to the Vanier Towhees senior girls basketball team. But Stelly's Stingers slammed it shut on them.

The Towhees were in Port Alberni for the Vancouver Island 3A championships on Feb. 19-21 and lost to Stelly's 66-60 in overtime in a four-team playoff to determine the third Island berth to the provincials.

"Poor shooting at the free throw line and missing layups hurt us," said Vanier coach Heidi Zirkl. "However we pressed them well and ran an exciting fast break." Top scorer was Hope Lewis with 22. Sienna Barth added 11 and Sloan Hofmann had 10 points and eight rebounds before fouling out early in the fourth quarter.

The Towhees dropped their opener at the Islands 50-32 to Mount Douglas with two starters fouling out. "Poor shooting and many turnovers hurt us," Zirkl said.

Hofmann had 15 points, 12 rebounds and seven steals while Barth tallied eight points and Chloe Speed collected nine rebounds.

Vanier used a good fast break and press defence to defeat Alberni 65-55 in their second game. Barth and Speed scored 17 points each while Lewis and Ber-



Susie Hang of Vanier vies for possession of the ball against an Alberni opponent during Island championships. Sienna Barth (left) and Shelby Turnbull of the Towhees are ready to lend a hand. Vanier defeat Alberni 65-55.

PHOTO BY SUSAN QUINN / BLACK PRESS

nie Enriquez added 11 apiece. Hofmann had nine rebounds and 10 steals.

Stelly's went on to defeat Belmont in OT to finish third and earn a chance at provincials.

North Champs

The Towhees went to the Islands as the

"All in all it was a good season with an overall record of 18-13."

Heidi Zirkl

North #1 seed. At the North Islands, they defeated Dover Bay 54-22 as Barth (14), Lewis (12) and

Enriquez (12) led the scoring.

In the championship game they knocked off Cowichan 52-32 with

Speed (13), Hang (11) and Molly Mifsud (11) pacing the attack.

"All in all it was a good season with an overall record of 18-13," Zirkl said. "With only two graduating seniors, the Towhees are looking forward to next season," she added.

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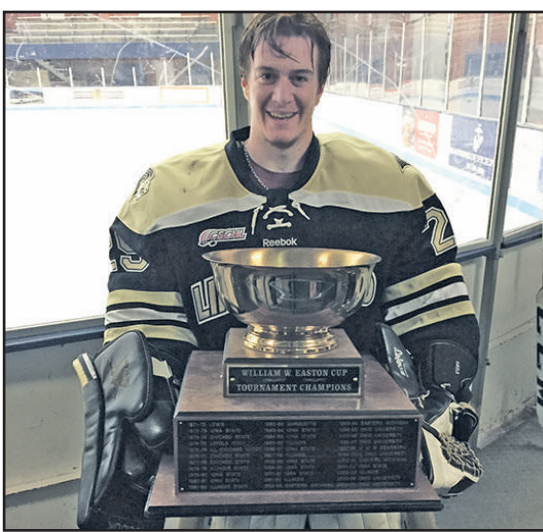

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Tourney MVP Michael Hails with CSHL championship trophy. PHOTO SUBMITTED

Hails 'mane' man for Lions

Earle Couper
Record Staff

Former Comox Valley Glacier Kings goalie Michael Hails is enjoying a terrific freshman year at Lindenwood University. On Feb. 21-22, he led the Lions to the 2015 Central States Collegiate Hockey League Conference tournament championship.

Hails, who played for the G-Kings in 2012-13 and 2013-14, was named tourney MVP. The 20-year-old Coldstream, B.C. native finished the tournament 2-0-0 with a sparkling 1.37 GAA and .959 save percentage.

Lions' assistant coach Mark Abney notes Hails stopped 31 of 32 shots in a 2-1 overtime win over #2 seed Robert Morris and 40 of 42 in a 3-2 win over #1 seed Ohio.

"Michael finished the regular season with a 9-2-0 record, 2.34 GAA and .930 save percentage. He also had a great start in the classroom, earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average," Abney added.

Lindenwood University (in St. Charles, Missouri) now turns its attention to the American Collegiate Hockey Association Div. 1 national championships.

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G-Kings grab 3-1 series lead over Bucs

Earle Couper
Record Staff

The Comox Valley Glacier Kings are a win away from advancing to the second round of the Vancouver Island Junior Hockey League playoffs.

The Yetis grabbed a 3-1 stranglehold in their best-of-seven first-round series with the Nanaimo Buccaneers by bouncing the Bucs 8-4 on Monday night at the Nanaimo Ice

Centre.

Kyle Wade tallied twice for the Icemen with Dylan Sampson, Ethan Sundstrum (A/P), Jonas Horvath, Liam Shawn, Derian Hamilton and Austin McNeil netting one each.

Comox Valley outshot Nanaimo 27-24 with winning goalie Zach Straza earning first-star honours. The Yetis went 4-for-10 on the power play and enjoyed period leads of 3-0 and 5-1.

Game 5 in the series goes

Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Comox Valley Sports Centre. If necessary, Game 6 is Feb. 26 in Nanaimo and Game 7 Feb. 28 in Courtenay.

ICE CHIPS In the other three first-round series, the Campbell River Storm are up 3-0 on the Oceanside Generals, the Victoria Cougars lead Kerry Park Islanders 3-0 and the Saanich Braves and Westshore Wolves are tied a 2-2 ...

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Graham is PACWEST Athlete of Week

Courtenay's Hilary Graham is one of six PACWEST Athletes of the Week for Week 19.

This past weekend, Graham and the Camosun Chargers women's volleyball team hosted the upstart College of the Rockies Avalanche at the Pacific Institute for Sports Excellence at Camosun College in Victoria.

The Chargers have steadily increased their lead at the top of the PACWEST standings while the Avalanche have rapidly ascended into the top four in the standings heading into the action on the weekend.

Graham has donned the #11 jersey for five seasons in the PACWEST. A two-time league all-star, Graham aided the Chargers cause with an impressive 4.5 points per set over the weekend as the Chargers defeated the Avalanche 3-1 (25-23, 27-29, 25-22, 25-21) on Saturday and again 3-0 (25-23, 25-23, 25-22) on Sunday.

"Hilary's point production over the weekend against an opponent that makes it extremely difficult to put the ball away was impressive," said Camosun head coach Chris Dahl.

Graham has been a consistent presence on the PACWEST leader

board for years now, but has increased her offensive totals as the Chargers approach the PACWEST Championships, which will be hosted at Camosun this week (Feb. 26-28)



GRAHAM

the coach added.

"As an accomplished all-star she's finding ways to improve her play, even in her fifth year. It's the small things that are important to our game as we continue to seek success as a unit on the floor," Dahl said.

"Hilary's performance of late suggests that we're getting closer to that special

time of the year. The league's elite players and teams zero in on peak performance. Hilary is starting to do that alongside her teammates.

"Playoffs are just around the corner and we're looking forward to welcoming the rest of the PACWEST to Camosun College and Victoria," said Dahl.

- PACWEST

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Vancouver Island is truly a fisher's paradise

Over the past couple of days I have had occasion to take an in-depth look at what a wonderful place Vancouver Island is for people who love the outdoors and partake in the delirious hobby of recreational fishing in all of its varied forms.

I am using the exploits of two of my regular fishing buddies, Bryan Allen and Chuck Ashcroft, and myself on Feb. 22 and 23 to illustrate why this Valley in particular and Vancouver Island in general is such an Elysian Field for the recreational anglers' virus.

On Sunday Chuck went chinook salmon fishing off the hump at Kitty Coleman thinking that Bryan and I had gone prawning and crab fishing to the south. He had a challenging day fishing in choppy seas, but managed to net a prime winter chinook of 17 pounds.

Bryan in the meantime thought Chuck and I had gone chinook fishing, so he headed south of



Two tasty one-meal trout. PHOTO BY RALPH SHAW

OUTDOORS

RALPH SHAW



Denman and Hornby islands in search of some illusive prawns, Dungeness crabs and possibly a chinook or halibut. A large exchange of tidal waters complicated his prawning adventure, but he did manage a nice catch of spotted prawns

In the meantime I had not planned to go on the water this weekend but, after our

company left on Sunday morning Elaine said, "Why don't you take the new truck and go down to Spider Lake this afternoon?" Good question – within half an hour I was on the road to Spider Lake and some mid-winter fly fishing for trout.

When I arrived at the lake it was warm, sunny and there were seven other anglers busy fishing winter trout. As I rowed onto the lake I saw a sedge fly that had just emerged in the unusual warm weather.

Between 1 and 4 p.m. I had two nice trout to the net caught on

a sedge pupae fly pattern fished on a wet line.

Fast forward to Sunday evening and a brief telephone conference. Bryan, Chuck and I had arranged an oyster and clam digging trip to take advantage of the five-foot low tide on Monday afternoon. There had been no rain for several days; which meant the shellfish would be free of surface pollution and shell fish closures. In a short space of less than an hour we each had a limit of prime Baynes Sound oysters and two nice pails of Manila clams for clam chowder.

In the space of 48 hours three retired seniors living in the Comox Valley had successfully partaken in winter chinook salmon fishing, spotted prawn fishing, trout fly fishing, clam digging and gathering oysters. These activities took place in Area 14 and Spider Lake.

To help you plan fishing trips, pick up a free copy of this year's Tide & Bite Guide 2015 - published by

Larry Stefanyk of the *Island Fisherman* magazine. They are available at the *Comox Valley Record*.

Ralph Shaw is a master fly fisherman

who was awarded the Order of Canada in 1984 for his conservation efforts. In 20 years of writing a column in the *Record* it has won several awards.

KMRBL meet

The Komoux Masters Real Baseball League is holding their start-up meeting March 10 at 7 p.m. in the Investors Group office in Courtenay.

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RALLY TO PROTEST WILDLIFE ALLOCATION CHANGES

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Make it clear to elected officials you are not supportive of the recently announced changes to Wildlife Allocations

Guest Speakers

Dr. Andrew Weaver

Deputy Leader, MLA, Green Party

Mr. John Horgan

Opposition Leader, MLA, NDP

Mr. Dan Brooks

Leader, BC conservative Party

Ms. Katrine Conroy

MLA, NDP

LEARN MORE

VICTORIA RALLY ALLOCATION

Residents of British Columbia:

We are planning a peaceful rally March 2nd, 2015 on the steps of the Legislature in Victoria. This is your opportunity to make it clear to elected officials you are not supportive of the recently announced changes to Wildlife Allocations.

If you want to bring a sign that represents you and your family please do so, but do not bring partisan or politically charged signs. Signs such as, "Resident Hunters First", "BC Families First", "BC Wildlife belongs to British Columbians" and "Hunting for Health" are appropriate. Dress as you would if you were going to work. It's an important message: Hunters come from all walks of life.

Why are we taking this action?

On December 14, 2014 government gave foreign hunters, who are represented by guide-outfitters, 20-40% of allocated wildlife. This decision is unprecedented in North America and is not good for British Columbians, resident hunters or wildlife. In most jurisdictions in North America, foreign hunters are allocated 5-10% of harvestable wildlife which means fewer opportunities for resident hunters.

Justification for this policy appears to be centered around subsidizing the Guide Outfitting industry in British Columbia at the expense of British Columbians. In the last 10 years, the number of resident hunters in BC has grown from 84,000 to 102,000 – an increase of roughly 20%. During the same time, the number of foreign hunters has dropped 30%, from 6,500 to 4,500. There are currently about 230 Guide / Outfitters in British Columbia. At a time where the number of resident hunters is increasing while the number of foreign hunters are decreasing, why would government decide to allocate more wildlife to foreigners?



Resident hunters contribute more than \$230 million annually to the British Columbia economy. Resident hunters donate more than 300,000 hours of their time toward conservation projects. Government collects more than \$9 million per year in the form of license fees and habitat surcharges for conservation from resident hunters. These numbers are extremely important to wildlife and the economy. Government has decided to subsidize a small group of business people against the will of voters and taxpayers. This policy must be revisited and changed.

WE ARE CALLING ALL RESIDENTS TO ATTEND – THIS POLICY CHANGE STANDS TO AFFECT YOU

Wildlife is a public resource which is being privatized. We have had great support from non-hunting British Columbians in this battle. Policies such as this could soon affect anglers, hikers, photography enthusiasts, berry pickers, beachcombers and parks users. It's time for BC residents to stand up and make their voices heard.

Please join us March 2 on the steps of the BC Legislature in Victoria.

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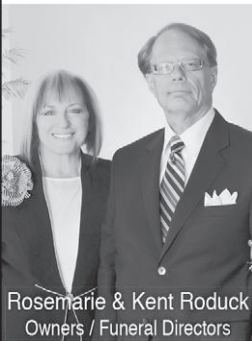
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IN MEMORIAM

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Peter Ronald Wybenga

August 8th, 1944 ~ February 18th, 2015

Born: in Zwaagwesteinde, Netherlands. Immigrated to Canada with his family in 1951.

Peter passed away peacefully in his 70th year, at his home in Comox B.C. surrounded by his loving family. He was blessed to have been able to stay in the home he loved, with wonderful care from his wife Carol and family.

Peter wore so many hats (and we must admit, looked darn good in all of them) ~ Loving Husband ~ Dad ~ Son ~ Step-Father ~ Brother ~ Uncle ~ Cousin ~ Son-in-law ~ Brother-in-law ~ Grandfather ~ Great Grandfather ~ and all round loyal loving friend to many people.

A loving son, to his Mother and Father, Diana & John Wybenga (predeceased by both of them). A wonderful brother to his sisters Tinie (Dick) Spanjer & Grace (Jack) Walda, of Baachvilla, Ontario, Married in 1969, to Lynne and they had two beautiful daughters. An adventurous, loving, awesome Dad to his two beautiful daughter's Heidi (Russell) Watson of Ingersoll, Ontario & Karen Wybenga of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia and lovely granddaughter, Kristen.

He was remarried in 1990 to Carol. He was such a loving, kind, devoted husband for 26 years. He also was a wonderful Step-father to Carol's children Jason (Roberta) Clarke & Amanda (Jamie) Richardson & being Grandfather (Papa) to Jessica, Jasmine & Kristina & being just the best great grandfather (Papa) that sweat little Sophia could have been blessed to have in her life, albeit for such a short time.

The sun rose to shine on her & she was his joy. Her essence seemed to breathe new life into him, as he valiantly fought terminal cancer.

Also survived by; Father & Mother-in-law, Ray & Nora Rasmussen of Comox, Sister-in-laws: Heather (Brian) Gooding of Mill Bay, Noreen (John) Queen of Courtenay, brother-in-laws: Glen (Deb) Rasmussen of Nanaimo, Eric (Vicki) Rasmussen of Courtenay. Also numerous, nieces & nephews, and a multitude of wonderful friends, he treasured.

Peter lived his life with exuberance. Always having an adventurous spirit. He did it in so many wonderful ways that not many could rival. His adventurous were many, he travelled the world. Peter served over 20 years with the Canadian Military. Retired, then continued his service with the Canadian Reserve Forces & Peacekeeping with the MFO in the Middle East.

Peter also worked at Glacier View Lodge for 10 years. He loved working there, he enjoyed the residents so much. He was kind & selfless and brought joy & smiles to their faces with his beautiful voice, singing songs they loved. Hugs were also, always readily available & given freely. Peter had a lust for life that was immeasurable. He never met a stranger. He exuded love and laughter.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks to Dr. Winters for the unwavering dedication and wonderful care that she gave to Peter, enabling him to fulfill his wish to pass at home. Also for the continuing support & guidance she provided to his wife & family.

Many thanks also to Dr. Coppin & Dr. Savage (Victoria) Dr. Clark, Dr. Thomas, (Comox Valley) also St. Joseph's medical staff in the Cancer Clinic, Comox Valley Hospice & Healing Touch, V.I.H.A. nursing staff for their dedication & compassion.

The family request anyone wishing to make a donation in Peter's memory, that it be made to the St. Joseph's Hospital Cancer Clinic, Comox.

A Celebration of Life for Peter will be held on Saturday, February 28th, 2015, from 2:00pm - 4:00pm at his home. A chance for family & friends to share a story or special memory, of how their lives were enriched by this wonderful man.



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Hynes, Alice Frances (Nee Wilson)

Born July 6th, 1931 in Montreal, QC, she passed away peacefully in Newmarket, Ontario on February 19th, 2015.

Predeceased by her husband Gordon, Alice is survived by her three children Kevin, Colleen and Brian, several grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Her caring nature and wonderful sense of humour made her a force to be reckoned with and will be greatly missed by all who spent time with her.

As per Alice's wishes there will be no funeral service. Donations may be made in her memory to the Heart and Stroke foundation or the Canadian Cancer Society.



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"Gone but not forgotten."

THE FAMILY

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DEATHS

HUSTINS - Byron Wayne

passed away Feb. 13, 2015 at Glacier View Lodge. He is survived by his wife of 55 years Nicholi, son Donald, daughters Heather and Carol, 7 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

He served in the RCAF for 25 years in Europe and across Canada also earning his Jump Wings and Master Jump Parachute.

His retirement was filled with travelling over 50 countries. He loved his dachshunds all his life.

His family wishes to thank Dr. Bradley Harris, the Courtenay ambulance service for many trips, and the staff of Glacier View Lodge for their extraordinary care and compassion.

At Wayne's request, a private interment will be held at a future date.

Flowers gratefully declined. To those who knew him, a glass of cheer raised in his honour would be greatly appreciated.



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Forbes, Connie Marlene

(Nee McKay) of Comox

April 28, 1935 ~ February 14, 2015

Our loving wife, mother, grandmother, and friend peacefully left us, at home surrounded by family. Reunited with her beloved Golden Retriever, Chloe.

Connie is survived by her husband and loving partner, Lewis (Lou) Forbes. Missed by daughters Suezanna (Lynn) Wadsworth and Cheryl (Jim) Stevenson, son Richard (Jennifer Morris), and her six grandchildren. Each one of them, her favourite; Graysen, Brandon, Justin, Kaila, Ian, and Bayley.

She is also survived by three sisters and two brothers, as well as many longtime friends and extended family. Predeceased by her parents John and Maude, three brothers and a sister.

Connie showed the meaning of love and the power of positivity to all who met her. She was an enthusiastic supporter of her children and grand children's activities, endeavours and sports. Her contagious smile and sense of humour was always in the forefront.

Always loved. Never forgotten.

No service by her request. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or Heart and Stroke Foundation are appreciated.



Collin Phillip Berg

1937 - 2015



Passed suddenly and peacefully at St. Joseph's Hospital. Jan. 23, 2015, he was 77 yrs. old when he passed. Collin was born in Duncan BC, and spent his early years in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan where his family had moved. He later lived in Regina, and Kelvington, Sask. where he attended school. Collin as a young man, loved swimming and wrestling, and worked hard to help support his

family. Later he lived in Alberta, where he worked in the oil fields and for the Dept. of Hwys. In the early 1980's Collin relocated with his mother to Vancouver Island, where he remained through to his retirement years. He enjoyed his life here in the Comox Valley, where he was employed at a local farm and volunteering at the CV Food Bank, during that time Collin raised Siamese Cats. Collin lived his remaining years in the Views at St. Joe's Hospital. There he enjoyed the many activities provided there, taking part in the Pioneer Olympics, fishing, playing Crib and gardening. His favourite haunt was out on the back patio where he could soak up the sun while watching the view of the Harbour and Comox Glacier.

Collin will be lovingly remembered by his family, and friends, as well as the caring staff in both Ocean View and Eagle View at St. Joe's Hospital. He is survived by siblings: Lawrence Berg, Black Creek BC, Marilyn Ash, Saskatoon, Sask. and Shirley Walker, Chilliwack, BC. Collin has many nieces and nephews, who will always remember him as the kind and generous man he was. They are: Rachel (Dan) Hagen, Chase, Carolina, Jessica; Richard (Patti) Love, Donna Jean, Patrick; Robert Love (Gladys), Christopher, Jay; Star Love (Steve Kozalidis), Billy; Terry Love (Angela), Greg Love, Richard, Natasha-Starlette; Pat Love, Haylee, Koal, Titan; Erica (Matt) Grouit; Terry (Charlotte) Ash all of BC; Collina Fast, Bailey, Jessica, Hans and Aiden; Bruce (Joy) Walker, Tulene, Trenton, Tayeen, Terla, Thetra, of Alberta; and finally, Lori (Barry) Remai; Erin, Cara, Alec, of Saskatchewan.

Collin was predeceased by his parents Oscar Berg and Elizabeth Barnes, step-father- Bertram Barnes, brother Maurice Berg, Sister Betty Love, Brothers in-laws Bill Love and Vern Ash.

The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to all the staff and Drs' who cared for Collin during his final years at St. Joe's.

"Uncle Collin, we'll ever hold you near to our hearts."



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INFORMATION

INFORMATION

Woolsey, Mary Ailsey

September 22, 1940 ~ February 22, 2015



Mary passed away peacefully at St. Joseph's Hospital. She was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Mary lived in Calgary for 30 years where she raised her children. Then she moved to Eagle Bay, B.C. where she lived until 2010 she she moved to Courtenay, BC. Mary is survived by her husband Edward of 54 years, daughter Phylis Edgar (husband Gerald) Courtenay BC, son George Woolsey (wife Lai) Milton ON, son Laine Woolsey (wife Anna) Calgary - Grandchildren Sylvia Edgar, Calgary AB, Janice Edgar Calgary AB, Janice Edgar Courtenay BC, Jason Woolsey Quebec City QC, Darren Woolsey Milton Ontario, Lea Woolsey Milton ON.

A small celebration will be held at her home - 1827 Tull Ave. Courtenay, Thursday, Feb. 26 at 2pm. If you wish to give a donation could make a donation to the Canadian Cancer Society.



FERGUSON, JAMES

April 15, 1930 - February 20, 2015

It is with great sadness that the family of James Ferguson announces his passing. Jim is survived by his son Scott Ferguson (Kim), his daughter

Jaye Mathieu (Gerry), his grandchildren: Jesse Ferguson (Kylie), Kirsten Cooper (Tyler), Hannah Molnar (Aaron), Chris Mathieu (Nicole Marlyn), Kim Walker (Troy), his great-grandchildren: Tate, Faris, Payton, Ashton, Presley, Riley, Evie, Kennedy and Charlotte, and also numerous nieces and nephews.

Jim is predeceased by the love of his life, his wife of 60 years, Louise Ferguson, his parents James and Jane (Jean) Ferguson, and his siblings: Ruth, Robert (Bobby), Jean, Janet, Isabella, Jemima, Loretta and Henry (Harry).

Jim was born and raised in Merritt, BC and moved to Vancouver Island (Bevan) with his family when he was a teenager. He worked as a miner at No. 8 and as a logger in the Campbell River area. Jim "Ferg" met his future bride, Louise Axdal, at a skating rink in Vancouver just shortly before he went to the Korean War as a paratrooper in the PPCLI. Upon his safe return Ferg and Lou were married in Vancouver, BC where they lived and raised their two children, Scott and Jaye.

Ferg rose up the ranks at Oakalla Prison Farm in Burnaby, BC and was the Deputy Warden when he retired early in 1973 to leave the city life behind and make their home at the Oyster River. Ferg and Lou bought a couple of chainsaws and worked together doing spacing contracts and tree planting for Crown Forest. The couple had two Christmas tree farms and spent many years grooming and selling their trees locally. They both loved being outdoors and thoroughly enjoyed their work. Ferg loved to golf. He won two club championships in his day, one at Green Acres Golf Course in Richmond, BC and one at Comox Golf Club. He gave countless lessons to people who needed some help with their game. Ferg loved to visit and he enjoyed a lively discussion on pretty much any topic. He loved telling stories of his younger days in Merritt, his time spent logging and mining on the Island, and his days in the PPCLI. He would sit in his kitchen chair, usually with a glass of rye in his hand and he would always have a captivated audience. Ferg and Lou shared so many good times at the Oyster River, they loved having people over and their house was always open. Someone was always popping in just to say hi or to stay a while and enjoy the awesome hospitality. Everyone of every age who knew Fergie loved him.

In 2009 Ferg and Lou moved to Cumberland, BC where they lived next door to Jaye and Gerry. They enjoyed their life there seeing their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren regularly. Ferg always spoke of what a great life he and Lou had and how proud he was of his family. When Louise passed away in April 2014, Ferg was never the same. He was ready to join Louise.

A celebration of life will be held for family and friends at a later date. Flowers gratefully declined, donations to BC Children's Hospital are appreciated. www.bccf.ca/donate.



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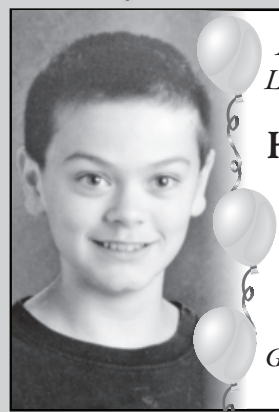
How wonderful it is that no one need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world

CELEBRATIONS

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays - Weddings - Special Occasions - FamilyAlbum

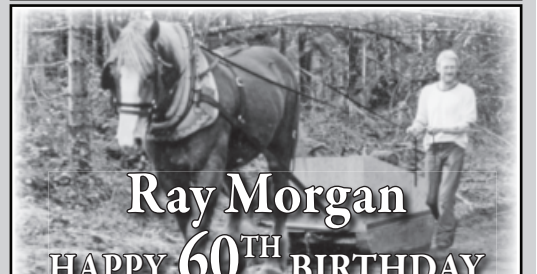
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features@comoxvalleyrecord.com
Deadlines: Tues. 12 noon and Fri. 12 noon



A time to celebrate as Liam is now a teenager

HAPPY 13TH BIRTHDAY Liam

...with lots of love, hugs & kisses...
Grandma & Grandpa Poole



Ray Morgan

HAPPY 60TH BIRTHDAY

February 26, 1955 - December 26, 2013

...we miss you everyday
xoxo, Sherry, Rod & Becca



60 Years

Norman & Julie Blondel got Married 60 Years Ago

Norm, an RAF Corporal, and Julie, a NAAFI girl (Navy, Army and Air Force Institute) met in 1954 at RAF Thorney Island, near Portsmouth, England and soon were engaged. In January 1955 Norm received his posting instructions to Namao, Alberta, so they decided to marry early, on February 26 1955, so they could have their "honeymoon" in western Canada. Upon return to the UK, Norm purchased his discharge from the RAF and joined the RCAF in 1958. After boot camp he was posted to Greenwood, Nova Scotia, serving as a Flight Simulator Technician. That's where their son Neil arrived. He also served at Ottawa, where daughter Dawn Marie turned up. Their little family were then posted to RCAF Station Comox on July 1, 1970. "We ended up in the Canada day Parade," Julie remembers. In 1978 they received a posting to Baden-Soellingen, Germany, returning to CFB Borden, Ontario, where Norm instructed young military students in the trade of Integral Systems. Another posting in his old trade followed to CFB Cold Lake, Alberta, with a final stop back at CFB Comox. There, Julie found employment in the original Mexicana hotel while Norm worked on, and then closed down the CF101 Voodoo flight Simulator. He retired in 1987 from 442 Squadron and occupied himself doing renovation work for a few years. During his time at CFB Comox and during retirement, Norm worked at the Base newspaper, the "Totem Times," working his way up to the editor's chair in 1990, Julie working alongside as his production chief. During their six years at the "Fishwrapper" they and their team of volunteers achieved six national awards for Best Military Newspaper. They will celebrate their diamond anniversary at the Crown Isle Restaurant with their family, who all live in the Comox Valley.



Quality Foods Cake Winner of February 26th, 2015
Norman & Julie Blondel

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CARDS OF THANKS

CARDS OF THANKS



standing Drs. Pam Aldis & Sara Sandwith, seated Drs. Itta Winter & Debra Wiens

Thank You from Dr. Wiens

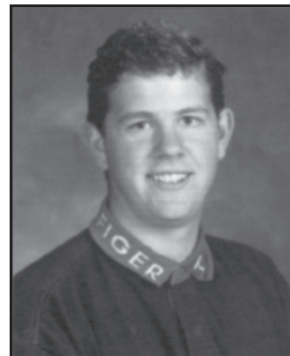
I send this heartfelt message of thanks to all the patients who overwhelmed me with kind words, cards and gifts on the occasion of my retirement from medical practice. It has been a great privilege for me to know and serve you over the past 18 years. I have great confidence that you will be well looked after as Dr. Sandwith carries on with Dr. Winter at Cottage Medical.

Sincere best wishes,
Debra Wiens

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM

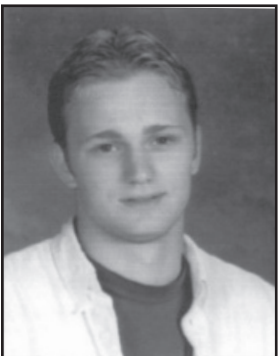
BEN



1981

1998

ALEX



You, the sun, that broke each dawn,
Day upon day since you were born,
Those sparkling eyes beamed youthful rays,
and brightened e'en the darkest days.

You, the west wind, warmth you brought,
The chills of life reduced to nought,
All frosty moments thawed away
With your sweet smiles - you had that way.

We miss you more than words can tell,
Still deafened by the toll bell's knell
On angel wings you now do fly,
Far above yon azure sky.

For Ben and Alex

With all our love

The Bellamy and Salmon families.

Ben and Alex were killed by a reckless driver, 21 Feb. 1998



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IN MEMORIAM

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PETS

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ANGEL ESTATE SALES:
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COURTENAY- 2849 Elderberry Cres. Sat & Sun, Feb 28 & Mar 1, 9am-1pm. Large Scrap-booking & cardmaking supplies, new and used.

GARAGE Sale: 4632 Gail Cres. Courtenay. Many household items, Spring cleaning sale. Saturday Feb. 28, 8-2pm

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

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OCEAN VIEW - Willow Point
 2-level 2400 sq.ft. 4-bd, 2-lrg bath, lrg family room with wet-bar, 2 gas fireplaces, electric & woodstove heat, dbl garage with digital entry and alarm system, 2 large decks, 18x36 fully wired 220 shop, plus wood shed on large private lot with fruit trees and lots of parking, in great area near the beach, Campbell River. Call (250)923-8082 or email: darry@shaw.ca for info & pics

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Puzzling

Fun by the Numbers:

SUDOKU

Level: Intermediate

							5	
7	6		1					8
9	1			8				
5			2					
				7		3		
	8			4		2		9
1			6					
8						3		
	2	7	4					9

Answers to above Sudoku puzzle

1	6	8	4	5	7	9	2	3
2	9	9	3	1	6	7	4	8
4	3	7	8	2	9	6	5	1
6	7	2	5	4	3	1	8	9
5	1	3	9	7	8	2	6	4
9	8	4	1	6	2	3	7	5
3	2	9	7	8	5	4	1	6
8	4	6	2	3	1	5	9	7
7	5	1	9	6	4	8	3	2

SUDOKU

Level: Advanced

	4			2				
	8	7		6				9
2			9			7		
9								
							8	
	5	2				1		
						2		
5	6				1	3		7
		3	7					5

Answers to above Sudoku puzzle

5	1	6	9	8	7	3	2	4
7	4	3	1	6	2	8	9	5
8	9	2	3	5	4	1	6	7
4	7	1	6	3	9	2	5	8
6	8	9	2	7	5	4	3	1
3	2	5	4	1	8	9	7	6
9	3	7	8	4	6	5	1	2
2	6	4	5	9	1	7	8	3
1	5	8	7	2	3	6	4	9

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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CLOSE TO DOWNTOWN, 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, top flr unit, 5 appls, deck, res. pkg, N/S, cat neg. w/refs, Avail. Mar 15 - \$1,200/mth

STEPS TO THE BEACH, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 5 appls, B/I vac, gas F/P, wrap-around patio, storage shed, 2 res. pkg. spots, N/S, sm pet neg. w/refs, Avail. March 1 - \$1,200/m

CLOSE TO THE COLLEGE, bright top floor, 2 bdrm, 1 bath, 5 appls, gas F/P, laminate & carpet, balcony, res. pkg., N/S, inside cat neg. w/refs, Avail. Mar 1 - \$825/mth

SUNRIDGE TOWNHOUSES, 2 bdrm & den, 2 bath, 5 appls, electric F/P, carport, balcony, N/S, No pets, Avail. Mar 15 - \$1,050/mth

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TOWNHOUSES



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THREE LEVEL DUPLEX 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 3 appls, fenced yard w/shed, N/S, No pets, Avail. Mar. 15 - \$1,000/mth

CLOSE TO DOWNTOWN, 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, top flr unit, 5 appls, deck, res. pkg, N/S, cat neg. w/refs, Avail. Mar 15 - \$1,200/mth

STEPS TO THE BEACH, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 5 appls, B/I vac, gas F/P, wrap-around patio, storage shed, 2 res. pkg. spots, N/S, sm pet neg. w/refs, Avail. March 1 - \$1,200/m

CLOSE TO THE COLLEGE, bright top floor, 2 bdrm, 1 bath, 5 appls, gas F/P, laminate & carpet, balcony, res. pkg., N/S, inside cat neg. w/refs, Avail. Mar 1 - \$825/mth

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TRANSPORTATION

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MAZDA 2007 Pick-up. 24,000 km. Silver, A/C, P/B, P/S, stereo, box liner, 4-cyl, RWD. \$10,900. Like new. Call (250)203-6657 or (250)286-1308, Campbell River.

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Call 250-334-9717



Julian Laffin prepares a kelp seed spool for deposit into the estuary.

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Project Watershed planting kelp for fish habitat enhancement

Project Watershed has added a new restoration initiative as part of its 'Keep It Living' estuary campaign.

"For the last three years, Project Watershed has focused its estuary restoration efforts on tidal marshes," said Project Watershed technical director Dan Bowen.

A tidal marsh is a type of marsh that is found along coasts and estuaries, of which the flooding characteristics are determined by the tidal movement of the adjacent estuary. Two vegetation systems are prominent: a shoreline salt marsh with small channels for fish migration and eelgrass which runs into the water (intertidal exposed at low tide and subtidal under the water).

These vegetation systems are part of the salmon highway as Pacific salmon migrate from ocean to upland rivers and back again. They provide important habitat for feeding and protection from predators such as the harbour seal. These habitats are also crucial to other estuarine wildlife including forage fish and water birds.

"Another important component of this natural highway are kelp

forests," said Paul Horgen, chair of the Project Watershed board. "On January 28, our society started a new habitat restoration initiative by planting our first bull kelp sites." Bull kelp beds or forests provide additional critical habitat for fish, including juvenile salmon, but have been in serious decline in local waters in recent years.

"The new initiative, in collaboration with the Nile Creek Enhancement Society (NCES), aims to stimulate bull kelp recovery by growing kelp plants on bottom-anchored lines at two sites, one near the Kingfisher Resort and the other near Royston," said PW director Bill Heath.

From adult plants produced by summer or fall, there will be new habitat and carbon fixation as well as release of reproductive spores to start new kelp beds in the area.

The kelp sites were planted by Rob Zielinski (Hornby Island Diving and NCES), Julian Laffin (NCES) and Bill Heath (NCES and PW director) using kelp seed (immature plants on spools of twine) that was wrapped on grow-out rope secured to anchors.

Philosophers' Café asks why we question science

Why, when people are more educated than ever in the history of humankind, do we have a very substantial proportion of the population holding beliefs that do not appear to be supported by science?

Various groups question the efficacy of vaccines, evolution and global warming despite the evidence scientists place before us. Why would we choose to take actions that are not in our own best interests?

Come to the Philosophers' Café on Wednesday, March 4, as psychologist Frank Young helps us explore this perplexing question.

Once a month a speaker will introduce a theme to the Café, and then all who attend can join in respectful, non-partisan conversation, or just sit back and listen. As with each Café, the host will have just 10 minutes to introduce the topic, and then the floor is open for 50 minutes of moderated discussion.

The event runs from 7-8 p.m. at the Comox Quality Foods Café (in the solarium) 2275 Guthrie Road, Comox. There is no admission charge.

For more info: peter@peterschwarzhoff.ca

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Discovering Iceland and Land Rover's new sport

Reykjavik, Iceland.

It's as though we are driving over breakfast cereal.

The "crunch, crunch, crunch, crunch" sound of the crisp snow below the all-new 2015 Land Rover Discovery Sport's cabin is both appetizing and unnerving.

The studded tires bite into the slippery surface, which calms the nerves but visibility is slim to none – save that illuminated by our headlights – and traction changes after every rotation of the rubbers. Yet, I have confidence in myself, the tires and a vehicle whose DNA stems from a lineage of predecessors born in environments devoid of traction.

Though it's 9:08 a.m., the sun has yet to show itself and a blanket of pitch black envelops the country. To add to the ambiance, Iceland is a place

where mythical beings are embedded in its folklore!

As we traverse the topography, it's almost as though one of the Norse gods, or trolls, is looking over us from above and shaking a sifter of powdered sugar. This dusting of snow is a fanciful act of beauty in the dark setting.

I can't see much around me. At all. But I know that one side of the trail we're navigating is a steep drop off. While I'd love to drift the compact luxury SUV through some fantastic curves on these abandoned roads, now is not the time to try to be a hero. I'll wait for another opportunity and the absence of a cliff. In 100 metres, we will be turning left onto a street whose name I couldn't pronounce correctly even if the prize was a large sum of money. Streets in this part of Iceland are not marked per se. We best follow the GPS-based instruction if we want to stay on track. Iceland's sliver of sunlight per day during the winter



“As we traverse the topography, it's almost as though one of the Norse gods, or trolls, is looking over us from above and shaking a sifter of powdered sugar.”

Alexandra Straub

averages about six hours. We're just about an hour and a half before sunrise.

At that time, I'll better be able to see these capable SUVs and their performance abilities. Right now, I'm feeling its four-wheel drive (4WD) system at work. The standard Terrain Response system is set to snow/ice/gravel, and the seat warmers are on full blast.

I'm also feeling the comfort and hospitality of its gracefully executed cabin and am enjoying the calm of the interior environment. It might be frigid and rough outside, but not from where I'm sitting.

The Discovery Sport will be available with one engine in Canada, and a great one at that. It's a 2.0L, turbocharged 4-cylinder with 240 horsepower and 250 lb-ft of torque. It's then matched with a 9-speed automatic transmission whose shifts are as smooth as some of the ice we're driving upon. It doesn't feel underpowered yet is relatively humble in power numbers.

Regardless, for what most people will do with this, it's plenty.

There's also room for up to seven passengers (there's a 5+2 configuration with stadium seating available) and a wading depth of 600mm (24-inches), which we tested out as we crossed a river. Yes, a river. Just don't open your doors for any reason in the process.

Other premium features include six USB outlets, 829L of cargo space behind the second row seats and an infotainment system that is fairly intuitive to use.

Throughout the day, our travels took us over almost every imaginable surface in Iceland: snow, ice, gravel, rocks, rivers, pavement, water and more.

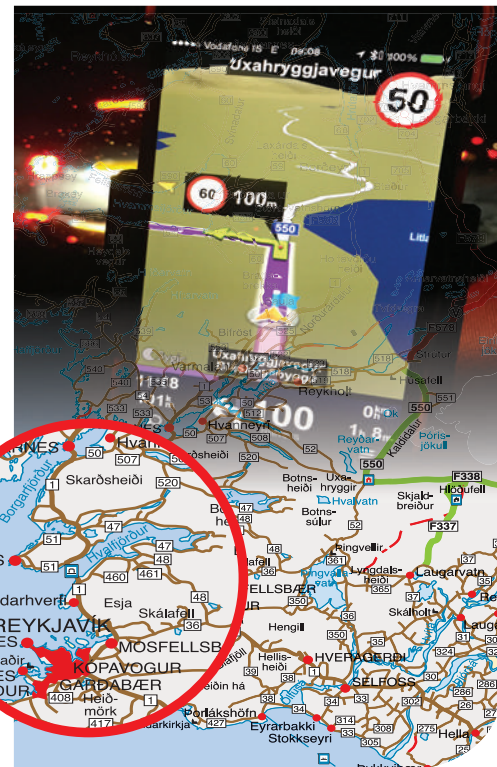
When we ended our adventure in Reykjavik, the "tap,

tap, tap, tap" of the studded tires resembled that of a mouse tap-dancing. The pitter-patter over the cobblestone streets meant our day was done, but not without being filled with everlasting memories. Iceland, a country that is hauntingly barren yet its winter beauty suggests a feeling of warmth (along with its geothermal baths and activity.)

And the companionship of the Land Rover Discovery Sport only added to the magic of the world's northernmost capital city.

The Land Rover Discovery Sport is set to arrive this spring and has a starting MSRP of \$41,490.

Contact: alexandra.straub@drivewaybc.ca



Question of the Week

In recent weeks, Driveway has featured a number of stories about winter driving. Given the early arrival here of warmer weather, have you removed your winter tires or will you wait a little longer?

Go to DrivewayCanada.ca for question of the week



Safety Tip:



Hydroplaning happens when tires lose contact with the road surface and float on a film of water. If you find yourself hydroplaning, ease off the accelerator and keep steering in the direction you want to go. Avoid braking.

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Stylishly built for Great White North

Not that long ago, if an all-wheel drive (AWD) vehicle was on a buyer's shopping list, the options were largely limited to SUVs and trucks.

Today the automotive landscape has exploded with manufacturers offering many more AWD vehicles. In fact, 48 percent of all vehicles purchased in Canada come with AWD or four-wheel drive (4X4).

For Fiat Chrysler Automobiles Canada (Formerly Chrysler Canada) the percentage is even higher, at roughly 58 percent. Thanks, in part, to the success of the Jeep brand and the many vehicles sold under that off-road-ready marque. The latest entry, the Jeep Renegade, will be arriving at dealerships around April but just last week I had a chance to drive this small Jeep in classic Canadian winter conditions just outside of Montreal.

Looks

The setting for the winter driving program was at ICAR, an enthusiast's racing facility built on the abandoned aprons and taxiways of the old Mirabel airport, including a slalom



course, road coarse and off-road adventure. The bold orange Renegade instantly jumped out against the howling wind and at-times, whiteout conditions. The Renegade is built in Europe on the same platform that Fiat uses to make the all-new Fiat 500X. This cost sharing, multi-vehicle offensive is what has helped Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) to be so successful over the past few years. The engineering and design was done in Michigan to insure the Renegade has all the classic Jeep characteristics, from the round headlamps and classic Jeep grille, to the trapezoidal wheel arches, appropriate ground clearance and overall bold styling.

“The Jeep Renegade follows on the heels of some other stylish compact crossover vehicles like the Kia Soul and Nissan Juke that provide a bit more flair, rather than just practicality.”

Zack Spencer

The Renegade is smaller than the Compass and Patriot models in the lineup, helping to promote the red-hot, small crossover segment even further.

Inside

With a high seating position and boxy roofline, the Renegade has a lot of headroom and large windows, making this compact crossover feel open and airy. The dash and surrounding trim is filled with eye-catching touches, like the speaker grilles and air vents that come painted for more panache. The front seats are supportive and provide a nice look down the long hood, making this feel more “trucky”. The back seats offer plenty of room in this class and the cargo area is what Jeep calls class leading. Prices start at \$19,995 for base Sport model with front wheel drive (FWD) and the first AWD model starts at \$25,995. The volume leader will be the North trim with alloy wheels, starting at \$27,494 for an AWD version. The problem will be the higher end trims, like the \$31,995 Limited, that look pricy compared to a bigger to a compact SUV, like a Honda CR-V, with a much more powerful engine, vastly bigger interior and a \$30,000 AWD starting price.

Drive

FCA didn't just have the Renegade to drive in frozen weather, rather a selection of the seventeen vehicles they offer with AWD or 4X4 capability. They were clear to point out that nine of the twenty-six models have AWD available even on the base trim. The Renegade's base AWD system is a lighter weight active powertrain that can disconnect the rear wheels to save fuel but reconnect them in a fraction of a second if the temperature drops of the windshield wipers are turned on. On dry pavement, the system only needs to detect the slightest wheel slippage to engage the AWD capability. In addition there is a terrain select knob in each model that lets the driver choose between auto, snow, sand, mud and rocks to alert the Renegades' traction control, stability control and engine/transmission electronics to keep the Jeep moving in different situations.

Verdict

The Jeep Renegade follows on the heels of some other stylish compact crossover vehicles like the Kia Soul and Nissan Juke that provide a bit more flair, rather than just practicality. This new Renegade also has the advantage of

being equipped with two sophisticated AWD systems to keep it ahead of the pack. The base engine is a 1.4L turbo 4-cylinder with 160hp but this model is only available with a 6-speed manual transmission; if the buyer wants and automatic, the larger 180hp 2.4L 4-cylinder is fitted with a class leading 9-speed automatic. There is a whopping \$2,990 premium to get the larger engine and automatic on the Sport trim and just \$1,495 on the North, excluding the price premium to get AWD. At the end of the day this Jeep has a very attractive exterior and interior and is something fresh in one of the hottest segments in the market. The price can jump very, very quickly if the buyer wants AWD and automatic.

The Lowdown

Power: 1.4L turbo with 160hp or 2.4L with 180hp
 Fill-up: N/A
 Sticker price: \$19,995-\$31,995

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BEAUMONT ACADIAN

Five cool Canadian classics

Canada has an automotive heritage every bit as rich as that of the United States. Some extraordinarily interesting collectible cars have been produced here over the years. These are five favourites:

- 1. 1965 Acadian Beaumont Sport Deluxe-** Similar to the American Chevrolet Chevelle, the Beaumont Sport Deluxe followed the original muscle car formula of the Pontiac GTO by stuffing the most powerful engine readily available into the smallest body. Only twenty-three were built with the potent L79 327 cubic inch, 350 hp engine option. All were built in GM's Oshawa, ON plant.
- 2. 1974-75 Bricklin SV-1-** The Bricklin was a gullwing door sports car that was built in what was then a relatively under-employed part of New Brunswick. Generous tax-incentives were paid out of the provincial coffers to get Malcolm Bricklin to locate his factory there. If it all sounds familiar, it should, this was essentially the DeLorean story played out seven years earlier in Canada rather than Northern Ireland. Sadly, it ended much the same way with not even two years of production of the Bricklin "safety sports car" before the whole operation folded up owing the government of New Brunswick over \$20 million. Power came from either Ford or AMC V8s.
- 3. 1956 Studebaker Flight Hawk-** The Hawk was a particularly fine-looking coupe that was a derivative of the 1953 Robert Bourke/Raymond Loewy Starliner coupe.



“Chevrolet certainly had an interesting way of celebrating the Camaro's birthday—they killed it at age thirty-five.”

Rob Sass

Oddly, only the 1956 model year base six-cylinder Flight Hawk coupes were built in Canada in Studebaker's Hamilton, ON plant where the last Studebakers rolled off the line just ten years later in 1966.

- 4. 2002 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am WS6-** Most Americans are blissfully unaware that William Shatner and Michael J. Fox are actually Canadian. They'd likely be equally surprised to find out that one of the most quintessentially American muscle cars was actually Canadian. The last (and some argue the best) Pontiac Trans Am with the WS6 package was assembled alongside its F-body cousin the Chevrolet Camaro in Sainte-Thérèse, Quebec where production had shifted in 1993.
- 5. 2002 Chevrolet Camaro SS 35th Anniversary-** Chevrolet certainly had an interesting way of celebrating the Camaro's

birthday—they killed it at age thirty-five. The SS shared the Corvette-derived LS6 powerplant with the above-mentioned Trans Am WS6. In its convertible form, it is quite collectible. After F-body production ended in 2002, GM closed the plant, which was the last GM plant operating outside of Ontario.

Rob Sass is the vice-president of content for Hagerty Insurance. Hagerty is the world's leading specialist provider of classic car and boat insurance. Learn more at hagerty.ca.



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Wise customers read the fine print: * , , > , > , > , > , > , > . ** The First Big Deal Sales Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating dealers on or after February 3, 2015. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. All pricing includes freight (\$1,695) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees, other dealer charges and other applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealer may sell for less. **Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on select new 2014/2015 vehicles and are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. **3.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on the new 2015 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package/2015 Dodge Grand Caravan models through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Examples: 2015 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package/2015 Dodge Grand Caravan with a Purchase Price of \$55,555 with a cost of borrowing of \$2,928/\$2,928 and a total obligation of \$22,926/\$22,926. >3.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on the new 2015 Dodge Dart SE (25A) model through RBC, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. The equivalent of \$7/day for the 2015 Dodge Dart SE (25A) is equal to a Purchase Price of \$17,498 financed at 3.49% over 96 months with \$0 down payment, equals 416 weekly payments of \$48 with a cost of borrowing of \$2,557 and a total obligation of \$20,055. \$Starting from prices for vehicles shown include Consumer Cash Discounts and do not include upgrades (e.g. paint). Upgrades available for additional cost. **Sub-prime financing available on approved credit. Finance example: 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan CVP with a purchase price of \$19,998 financed at 6.99% over 60 months, equals 260 weekly payments of \$91 for a total obligation of \$23,709. Some conditions apply. Down payment is required. See your dealer for complete details. **Based on 2014 Ward's upper small sedan costing under \$25,000. ^Based on IHS Automotive: Pick Canadian Vehicles in Operation data available as of July, 2014 for Crossover Segments as defined by Chrysler Canada Inc. ^The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Radio Inc. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC.

THE
FIRST
BIG DEAL
EVENT



GET UP TO \$8,100 IN TOTAL DISCOUNTS*



Starting from price for 2015 Dodge Journey R/T shown: \$34,790.⁵

CANADA'S FAVOURITE CROSSOVER[^]
2015 DODGE JOURNEY CANADA VALUE PACKAGE

\$19,998 PURCHASE PRICE INCLUDES \$2,000 CONSUMER CASH[†] AND FREIGHT.

FINANCE FOR

\$55 @ 3.49%
WEEKLY[‡] FOR 96 MONTHS WITH \$0 DOWN

**THE MOST TECHNOLOGICALLY
ADVANCED VEHICLE IN ITS CLASS****
2015 DODGE DART SE

THE EQUIVALENT OF
\$7/DAY[>]
@ 3.49%
FOR 96 MONTHS WITH \$0 DOWN
BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF
\$17,498 WITH WEEKLY PAYMENTS OF \$48



Starting from price for 2015 Dodge Dart GT shown: \$23,690.⁵



Starting from price for 2015 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew Plus shown: \$34,490.⁵

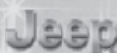
**CANADA'S #1-SELLING MINIVAN
FOR OVER 31 YEARS**
2015 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN
CANADA VALUE PACKAGE

\$19,998 PURCHASE PRICE INCLUDES \$8,100 CONSUMER CASH[†] AND FREIGHT.

FINANCE FOR

\$55 @ 3.49%
WEEKLY[‡] FOR 96 MONTHS WITH \$0 DOWN

REBUILDING YOUR CREDIT? SUB-PRIME RATES FROM ONLY 6.99% OAC[≈]





A Winter to Remember & Unforgettable Deals!

Another **EARN REWARDS**
3X
FASTER
Triple Q-Points!
Wednesday
March 4



2\$10
FOR
Reser's Salad
1.25kg



BUY 1 GET 1 FREE*

Fresh Pork Side Ribs
Family Pack
*Of equal or lesser value free



7.77
Tribal Java
Organic Whole Bean Coffee
454gr



Dairyland Whipping Cream
473ml

2\$5
FOR

4.99
6 PACK
Strawberry Tarts



2\$4
FOR
Olson
Dessert Cups
6's



4.99
California "Dole"
Fresh Strawberries
2lb clamshell



Danone
Activia Probiotic Yogurt
650gr

2\$5
FOR