



COMOX VALLEY Record

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Photo by Erin Haluschak (top); Christie Beaudoin (bottom).

A helicopter examines the brush fire near the smoky forest Saturday near Point Holmes off Curtis Road; (bottom) a firefighter walks from the scene of the fire.

Valley fire departments assist in Comox brush fire

Erin Haluschak
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A brush fire off Curtis Road in Comox Saturday afternoon has burned more than 0.5HA near Point Holmes, said the Coastal Fire Centre.

Comox Fire Rescue assistant chief Jim Lariviere said the fire - which began around 1 p.m. - was under control around 4 p.m. A few flare-ups occurred Sunday morning, but crews from Comox were able to extinguish them.

Comox Fire Rescue, along with mutual aid from Courtenay, Cumberland, Oyster River, Campbell River and 19 Wing fire departments attacked the fire from the ground, while two helicopters from the Coast-

al Fire Centre dropped water from above.

While it was the largest fire so far this year, Lariviere noted no structures were damaged outside of a few cracked windows. The fire came within 10 feet of a home, he added.

"It only works when all the resources come together. It was a true test of our mutual aid memorandum of understanding."

"I came back from buying groceries," explained Garry Fizzell, whose house neighbours the burning brush. "Flames were, 20, 30 feet in the air coming off a pile of brush in the back. The first fire truck had just got there, pumper was coming. A firefighter yelled 'I'm outta water' and everything started to hap-



pen really quick."

"If the winds pick up, that fire could move a long way, real fast."

Originally from Fort McMurray, Fizzell moved to Comox a few years ago.

"We dealt with the fire

up there. It's different there then it is here, in terms of access and moving around. I have a healthy fear for fire - no doubt about it."

Leslie Yerex, who own a home on Curtis Road, said the area where the fire is burning is a popular spot on weekends.

"It's where a lot of kids go, and they'll pack their own firewood and beer and they party. I'm not sure if that's what started this, but it kind of makes sense where the location is."

Lariviere noted unless someone comes forward, they may not be able to determine the cause of the fire.

Smoke from the fire could be seen along Lazo Road from Goose Spit to the Comox Airport.

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MusicFest lineup one of top three: producer

Scott Stanfield
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If Sunday morning's lineup was any indication, there were many believers who made the annual pilgrimage to attend Vancouver Island MusicFest. By 9:30 a.m., the Comox Valley Exhibition Grounds were quickly filling for the gospel/spiritual set on the Concert Bowl Stage where 'Delta Lady' Rita Coolidge delivered a Cherokee version of Amazing Grace.

On Saturday, the captivating voice of Coolidge kicked off an eclectic evening of mainstage music that included DakhaBrakha of the Ukraine, the Haitian-born Wesli, iconic Canadian singer/songwriter Bruce Cockburn, and pedal steel guitarist Robert Randolph and The Family Band — whose set included Jimi Hendrix, ZZ Top and Black Sabbath.

Earlier Saturday, Cock-

burn gave a taste of what was to come as he shared the Grierson Stage with several musicians. One of those was Welshman Martyn Joseph, who sang the praises of Cockburn, and of Bruce Springsteen (he wasn't there, but Joseph sang a wonderful rendition of One Step Up).

It's the smaller venues of MusicFest where patrons feel as if they're sitting in a performer's living room. Sunday at the Woodland Stage, for instance, a few hundred people became better acquainted with Joseph, who doesn't mind poking fun at himself.

"A Melody Maker review once said that I make Leonard Cohen sound like Julie Andrews."

Like Cohen, Joseph is a man who sings from the heart and soul. One of his songs, Rose, was written for his 82-year-old mother and her devotion to her husband, who has Alzhei-



PHOTO BY ERIN HALUSCAK

Rita Coolidge was among the headliners at Vancouver Island MusicFest in Courtenay.

mer's.

Friday's headliner was country superstar Emmylou Harris, who performed at MusicFest 2012. Sun-

day it was the Barenaked Ladies, who still 'have it' — musicianship and stage presence — even without the vocals of former

frontman Steven Page. The 'ladies' have widespread appeal. Their set included a children's song called Raisins. For their encore, singer/guitarist Ed Robertson took over drums from Tyler Stewart, who belted out Led Zeppelin's Whole Lotta Love.

"I thought it was maybe in the 20 years of doing it, one of the top three lineups we've had," executive producer Doug Cox said. "Happy to hear how many people were pleasantly surprised. Lucia Micarelli, I thought was absolutely stunning on Friday night. It was the first time we presented a classical thing... It was a super satisfying year for us."

Besides the music, the annual gathering in Courtenay is about so many other things: volunteers, ethnic foods, glow sticks, parents carting face-painted children around in wheelbarrows, and standing crowds

that make room for the vertically challenged. It's all in keeping with what Cox calls an unwritten 'no jerk policy.'

"It was beautiful to see," he said, noting the number of children in attendance. "So many of the festivals are struggling with their demographics now. I heard from many younger people who thanked me for the lineup, and said they loved it. That fills me with hope, that we can continue to book what we think is high quality music without worrying too much about today's favour."

An accomplished musician, Cox has been inducted into the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame as a pioneer star.

"It's nice that some people put my name forward," he said. "It's kind of a shock. I guess I think I'm still 20. But it's very nice. It's a huge compliment."

See page 6 for more pics.

Man dies in trailer fire on Denman Island

Scott Stanfield
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A man died in a trailer fire Wednesday evening on Denman Island.

Shortly before 6 p.m. July 12, the volunteer fire department was notified of the blaze in the 5300 block of Denman Road.

A deceased man was located inside the residence, according to the Comox Valley RCMP. The cause of the fire and identity of the man is unconfirmed.

The flames and surrounding trees were



PHOTO SUPPLIED

A Wednesday trailer fire on Denman Island took the life of a man.

fully involved by the time firefighters arrived at the scene.

"I think the big aspect is the state of the province right now. Everything's getting pretty dry," Denman Fire Chief Don Lockett said. "For us, it was a pretty fast response. We had it knocked down in no time."

The fifth wheel was located in a dry, wooded area.

"We were fortunate that there wasn't a strong wind," Lockett said. "That was working to our benefit,

and we were able to knock down the fire in the bush."

He notes an "incredibly fast response" from the Coastal Fire Centre, which provided a three-man attack crew and helicopter.

"They were able to be my eyes in the sky. That was great. We really appreciate that. It just shows that they're ready, they're on heightened alert and quick response."

The Comox Valley RCMP General Investigation section and BC Coroner service continue to investigate the fire.

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Know Your Status — Get Tested for Hep C

Scott Stanfield
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Know Your Status — Get Tested. That's the message for those born between 1945 and 1975. Three out of four Canadians who have hepatitis C (HCV) fall within this age bracket. Del Grimstad is one of those, but has successfully treated the virus that mostly attacks the liver, but can also cross the brain barrier. "Which we've suspected for many years, but they finally got proof of it," said Grimstad, a harm reduction worker at AIDS Vancouver Island (AVI) who co-facilitates a local Hep C peer group. He also co-chairs HepCBC in Victoria, and is part of a steering committee for Action Hepatitis Canada.



Del Grimstad

a 'silent' disease because symptoms often don't appear until one's liver is severely damaged. "The virus itself is a very virulent virus," said Grimstad, noting HCV is contracted blood to blood.

"We think at least 25 per cent of people that have it don't know it. That's concerning because then they can unknowingly pass it on... One of the problems with the virus is that it mutates very readily."

Percentage wise, he said 25 to 30 per cent of people "spontaneously clear" their body of the virus. For the remainder, about 30 per cent develop cirrhosis.

"About 20 per cent of those eventually go on to cancer — if left untreated," Grimstad said.

As opposed to costly liver replacements, he treatments are now a pill a day with no side effects.

Friday, July 28 is World Hepatitis Day. FMI: hepcbc.ca or whdcanada.org

AVI is located at 355 Sixth St. in Courtenay.

Sharon Dixon

What another birthday?

81

How time flies when you are having fun!

Many people infected with hep C never feel sick and recover. Others get a brief illness with fatigue and loss of appetite, and their skin and eyes turn yellow. If one's body is not able to fend off the virus, a person may develop chronic hepatitis, which can lead to cirrhosis, liver failure or cancer. Like chronic hep B, chronic hep C is

Comox Valley group shares support, cure info about Hep C

Hepatitis C is a serious communicable disease that is spread through direct contact with the blood of a person living with the virus.

Symptoms can include fatigue, jaundice, abdominal pain and joint pain. In some people it can cause liver damage (cirrhosis) and liver cancer.

The good news is that this disease is curable, and newer treatment options have significantly reduced side effects.

In the Comox Valley a support group provides a safe space for people to get up-to-date information about the disease and treatment options. It is a place where people

can go with their questions and concerns and get support from others who have had similar experiences.

The group is sponsored by Positive Wellness North Island - North Island Liver Services.

"In a small town, knowing where to get confidential information can be hard,"

says group facilitator Cheryl Taylor, who is a psychiatric nurse with Positive Wellness. "Our program created this group after hearing from so many patients of our clinic that they just wanted to be able to speak to other people who 'get it.'"

Taylor says the Comox Valley support group has been well-received by participants, and is an important forum for people to talk about their experiences and get information about treatment options.

"The support group offers a place to come and be heard, to listen and not feel alone," wrote one participant.

The Canadian Society for International Health is promoting World Hepatitis Day on July 28, with the goal of promoting testing, prevention, treatment and linkage to care.

The Comox Valley Hep C Support Group meets the third Tuesday of the month at the Comox Valley Nursing Centre, 615- 10th St. from 5:30-7pm. The next meetings are on July 18 and Aug. 15. The group is open to any Comox Valley residents with Hepatitis C as well as their support people. Light refreshments are served. For more information contact Cheryl Taylor at 250-331-8524.

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Vancouver Island MusicFest 2017



PHOTOS BY ERIN HALUSCHAK

From Canada to Haiti and many places in between, Vancouver Island MusicFest at the Comox Valley Exhibition Grounds offered a global musical variety at six different stages Friday night to Sunday. Clockwise from top: a dancer displays her skills while listening to Rita Coolidge Saturday; Wesli performs at the Cross Roads stage Sunday afternoon; Kiev's DakhaBrakha quartet entertains audiences on the Concert Bowl stage Saturday; fellow musicians join in song Sunday; Ed Robertson of the Barenaked Ladies belts out a tune Sunday night on the Concert Bowl stage.



Controversial sewage pump station costs balloon

Debra Martin
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Cost estimates for the controversial No. 2 sewage pump station have ballooned.

And that has some Comox Valley Regional District directors worried about the project and whether it's the right choice.

Sewage commission directors heard Tuesday that the estimated cost for the proposed pump station on Beech Road has increased from \$12 million to \$22 million – or 70 per cent more than originally planned.

Kris La Rose, senior manager of water/wastewater for the district, said construction cost escalation and a number of technical issues are responsible for the increased budget estimate.

In his written report, he cited the level of redundancy required for a pump station of this type, the complexity of the foreshore tie-in to the existing forcemain, and the constraints imposed by the small size of the property and lack of construction lay-down area.

La Rose said the foreshore tie-in "is a risky and intensive piece of work". Further adding to the costs are commitments to reducing odour, noise and vibrations at the site.

'Think very seriously'

Area B director Rod Nichol, who has no vote on the issue even though the proposed pump station is in his area, urged the commission to "think very, very seriously before you go any further ahead."

"You've got a 70 per cent increase in costs because of extreme technical difficulty. The initial Courtenay pump station was a lot cheaper.

"The cost of fixing up the Willemar Bluffs will buy you time. Get this line totally out of the estuary. This is now



Resident David Battle at site of proposed No. 2 pump station just outside of Comox in Electoral Area B

“This is now becoming a very expensive band-aid. The cost estimates are going to continue to go up.”

ROD NICHOL, AREA B

becoming a very expensive band-aid. The cost estimates are going to continue to go up," he said.

Courtenay director Erik Eriksson wondered how building an entirely new system to service south areas, including Union Bay, would compare to the total costs of the new pump station, other pump station upgrades, and upgrades to the sewage treatment centre.

"If the costs are similar I'm thinking that's a better way to go," he said.

But LaRose said the \$48 million planned for the upgrades is considerably less than putting in a new system.

Well monitoring

The second update directors received was on hydrological work to assess existing wells in the Beech St. area to determine

type of construction, age, and whether they had intact seals. Some new monitoring wells have also been installed.

"The impact of a spill could be high. Our position is that the facility would be designed to a very high standard ... that translates into low or moderate risk to surrounding wells," he said.

But Nichol said he didn't think the risks to wells were low to moderate whatsoever.

"When you look at the big picture, our present system is not going to last that long. Wouldn't it be better now to go back to the table, fix up the Willemar Bluff situation, buy yourself some time to come up with a proper solution rather than a bandaid," he said.

"Why not fix the whole problem, rather than piecemeal. Seventy per cent more money now just for a new pump station. There is more and more risk to the environment, technical problems. There are more things that can go wrong ... Come up with a better plan for the Valley," Nichol added.

Foremain checks out

The only 'good news' report was one on the results of checking the foreshore forcemain for leaks.

La Rose said acoustic leak detection was done along the entire length of the pipe, and electro-magnetic testing was done up to the base of Beech Street.

"The good news on this front, the acoustic leak detection did not detect signs of any leaks along the entire section inspected, including Willemar," he said.

The electro-magnetic scanning didn't find any breaks either, or any broken reinforcing wires and bars.

"Given that no breaks were discovered, the condition likely can be considered good," La Rose added.

Further discussion is expected at next month's sewer commission meeting when more test results and information becomes available.

Removing red flags

"This work is technically complex and we want to take the time to get it right. We appreciate being

updated with these preliminary results and we look forward to the final report that will inform our decision about the next phase of the project," said Barbara Price, Chair of the Sewage Commission, in a press release issued by the regional district.

"The project will

move forward to the next phase only if the red flags have been removed and the commission is confident the facility makes financial sense and can be constructed without significant long term risk to ground water in the area," the press release stated.

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Editorial

Canadians rally for wildfire victims

Fire crews are battling more than 215 wildfires – some thousands of hectares in size. As of this week, 14,000 people have been evacuated, according to Emergency Management BC.

In the face of disaster, it's encouraging to see the province – and nation – come together for the thousands of people affected. Help from other provinces and the federal government has begun to pour in for firefighters and evacuees.

About 300 firefighters and support staff from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and New Brunswick started to arrive Monday to help relieve the pressure on roughly 1,000 B.C. crew members battling the blazes. The Canadian Armed Forces have also sent aircraft and personnel to support the emergency response.

Residents of Fort McMurray, Alta., who had to flee a massive wildfire last year, have also sprung into action by collecting donations of supplies, driving them to B.C. and offering support and advice on social media.

Four tonnes of supplies arrived from Fort McMurray, and volunteers were making sure the Kamloops food bank receives and distributes them, CP reported.

And in a similar vein, a Canada-wide social media network of donors and volunteers has truckloads of supplies headed for fire-stricken communities around the province.

Plus, all YMCAs are opening their doors to people impacted by the wildfires. WestJet is offering some relief, too, to those needing to get out of the area quickly. The airline put together a 25 per cent off promo code for those wishing to leave Kelowna, Penticton and Kamloops to any domestic location in Canada and the U.S.

Airbnb is also offering anyone affected or trying to help with the B.C. wildfires a place to stay. As part of their disaster response program, the company is waiving its service fees.

And while we may be far from the disaster unfolding, there are ways we can help.

The Canadian Red Cross has opened up its donations page at redcross.ca. Donations will help provide immediate relief in the way of cots, blankets, food, clothing and personal needs.

Beyond meeting immediate needs, donations may be used to help re-entry and go towards long term-recovery. You can also donate to the Red Cross while visiting BC Liquor Stores and Save-On Foods.

You can even donate with your phone. Simply text FIRES to 45678 to donate \$10 to the Canadian Red Cross BC Fires Appeal.

It's hard to imagine what our fellow British Columbians are going through right now. In the wink of an eye, many have lost everything. The least we could do is give a few dollars.



B.C. FOREST SERVICE

Firefighter sets a back-burn to contain the Meldrum Creek wildfire complex, spreading east towards Williams Lake, August 2010.

Hype doesn't help fire efforts

Tom Fletcher
Black Press

Coming off the coldest winter in recorded history for much of B.C. and a cold, wet spring, I've been waiting for someone to blame the latest round of forest fires on conditions created by human-caused global warming.

B.C. Greens leader Andrew Weaver didn't disappoint. Shortly after 100 Mile House was evacuated, he seized on a comment from an unnamed B.C. Red Cross official who opined that disasters are happening more frequently in B.C.

"Sadly, as the effects of climate change take hold, events like the wildfires displacing so many British Columbians are becoming increasingly common," Weaver announced from his leafy Oak Bay constituency.

It's understandable that the Red Cross is feeling stretched. After relentless cold this past winter, B.C. has barely finished coping with floods due to unusually high snowpack that continued to grow through May and still hasn't melted entirely.

And now fires, presented once again as a new, unprecedented threat. I've been chronicling provincial fire seasons for many years, and I'm no longer surprised by this sort of brazen political falsehood.

No worries, politicians say, we'll just ramp up that carbon tax and start di-

verting the revenue to subsidize pet projects like electric cars, and those forest fires will subside.

The first thing to remember about this year's fires is that they are clearly not a result of increasingly hot and dry conditions. It was only a few weeks ago that the usual jokes about "June-uary" were circulating as rain carried on into summer throughout the province.

Has there been an extraordinary stretch of hot weather in the first couple of weeks of July? No. Are conditions in the Southern Interior drier than usual? No. Is it unusual for these areas to dry quickly in summer? No. Take a walk through the sagebrush some time. Watch for rattlesnakes.

Here's some context you won't hear from grandstanding politicians and drama-seeking Vancouver media as communities in the fire-based forest ecosystems of the B.C. Interior face their biggest threat since 2003.

This season's crisis began when a dry lightning storm passing through the arid B.C. Interior on July 6, resulting in 56 reports of new fire starts. By the weekend, there were 140 starts reported in a day and a provincial state of emergency had been declared, due to the proximity of communities.

There were similar dry lightning events in 2015 and previous years, but fortunately they did not strike along the

populated Highway 97 corridor, and got little attention. To cite one of many examples, Williams Lake was almost evacuated in 2010, when the Meldrum Creek fire complex approached 500 square kilometres and looked ready to jump the Fraser River from the west. Smoke was drifting into Manitoba.

By last week, the total since April 1 passed 600 new fire starts, compared to just under 500 at the same time in 2016. But the area burned last year was almost twice as big, due to April grass fires that spread into boreal forest in the Peace region and into Alberta where the Fort McMurray fire was closing in. An average B.C. forest fire season is around 2,000 reported fires.

Foresters don't generally cite climate change, however one defines that slippery term, unless prompted by reporters. They talk about decades of fire suppression that artificially built up fuel loads across vast areas, and the huge costs facing communities trying to mitigate that situation. They talk about bark beetle infestations that add to the fuel load from decadent forests that must burn and always have burned to regenerate themselves.

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



Bob Castle

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. Please keep letters topical. We will not run letters advocating for or against individual businesses. Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are the sole opinion of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the paper.

Taking issue with Equal Access Committee

Dear editor,
I was hoping that someone with some authority in health care in the Comox Valley, or someone who worked so hard to get the funding of our magnificent hospice, would hurriedly answer the presumptuous arguments of the Equal Access Committee about putting MAiD under the same roof as hospice and in so doing, have hospice move to a new location.

However, since I have been a spiritual guide for more than 20 years in different hospices in America, I am horrified by the intent of the Equal Access Committee to act so forcefully in getting hospice to move with them out of the St. Joseph's Hospital ground. Perhaps they don't know or care that all hospices in the world are mandated to manage the pain of their clients by supporting them so they will die in their own time and not before their time?

And wouldn't that become a huge burden for families who trust that the hospice mission is to provide medical and spiritual services to their loved ones so they will die in peace and security, allowing the natural and spiritual process that dying in awareness can provide?

Moreover, EAC does not seem to know that most patients who enter 'hospice care' prefer to stay at home with their families and that those few beds at The Views are for those who do not have a caregiver. On the contrary, wouldn't the patients who choose to end their life early because of agonizing pain, prefer to do it in the privacy of their homes, since it is such a private and difficult decision?

I understand and applaud the Canadian law that legalized medically assisted death for those suffering from unremitting pain but, at the same time, I see clearly that hospice has a different mandate even if, at times, they have to offer palliative sedations like high doses of morphine, that can result in a peaceful but slow death.

I am sorry that there is not yet a place for MAiD to happen outside patients' homes in the Comox Valley. Unfortunately, all I can offer these patients is that they will seek spiritual care because they all need to be listened to, and they all need someone to cradle their soul and support their families.

**Marie A. Dufour-Brose, retired chaplain
Courtenay**

Larger discussion needed

Dear editor,
While I agree with several of the points made by Joyce Holmes in her letter of July 11, there needs to be a larger discussion of over-population of the Earth, not merely the Middle East. The refugee problems there are just a harbinger of what this century will bring to many regions of the world.

UN demographers have estimated that, by mid-century, there could be as many as 250 million climate refugees, a desperate flood almost beyond comprehension.

By that time, population projections suggest that humanity will number close to 10 billion and the carrying capacity of our planet will be severely tested. Alas there is no Planet B, yet we, as a collective, keep breeding away like crazed rabbits. We behave as though our

finite world can accommodate our infinite wishes.

We even elect or allow regressive governments that deny or seek to limit women's reproductive choices. Trump's Republicans are just one example; when it came to foreign aid for women's needs—read that as humanity's need for birth control—Stephen Harper's Conservatives were no better.

As for our eco-weight in the biosphere, are we such a short-sighted, dim-witted species that, through deliberate tribal mentality and over-population, we want to run a demolition derby against all the other life forms of the planet? That is exactly what we are doing.

The externalities of land and seascapes seem not to matter to most of us as long as we can strip mine the resources needed by our burgeoning numbers.

Ecologists have calculated that humankind could comfortably live on this pale blue marble if our population were no more than two billion.

There would be room for vast wildlife reserves and the resiliency of nature systems would produce the essential elements of comfortable, continued existence of this great human experiment.

Unfortunately, our species' self-interest ego-inflated to its medieval max, we follow our profligate ways towards the unfolding disaster of this bottleneck century wherein, given the choice between intelligence and catastrophe, we are daily choosing the latter. It is as if we enjoy the prospect of becoming refugees ourselves.

**Richard Youds,
Comox**

Waterpipe carnage for animals

Dear editor,
I am doing security work on the water pipeline alongside Puntledge River. I am not sure who is in charge of this pipeline (regional district water?) but it is surely a travesty how they built this large pipe with zero concern over the many animals whose natural range involves having access to this river. The pipeline creates a big, insurmountable wall that prohibits all animals except the smallest rodents from accessing the vital river. It destroys their range and forces them to seek water elsewhere, maybe far away

from their normal habitats. This large waterpipe to serve humans (with their chlorinated water) is carnage for the animals there. How long has this issue been ignored? Where are the fish and wildlife folks? The obvious need is to construct earth overpasses for animals every kilometre or so. This is so obvious or am I wrong? Such a simple, basic thing to show concern for all the larger wildlife in this watershed.

**Robaire Godbout
Courtenay**



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The Filberg Heritage Lodge & Park is not the place to bring your dog, any time of year, especially when there are large crowds of people there at the same time.

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It may also seem obvious that plenty of water and shade are essential for pets throughout the year, but in warm weather these are lifesaving. You should always ensure that fresh water placed out of direct sunlight, is available to your animals at all times, and that they have sufficient cool shelter from the heat.

A dog's normal body temperature is about 38°C. They can withstand a body temperature of 41°C for only a very short time before suffering irreparable brain damage or death. The confines of a car interfere with a dog's normal cooling process, which is evaporation through panting, and they suffer massive stress very quickly under these conditions.

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BUSINESS

New patio for fifth year of service at Yiamas

Erin Haluschak
erin.haluschak@comoxvalleyrecord.com

Yiamas Greek Taverna has established quite a reputation for customer service and delicious food.

Located in Downtown Courtenay on 8th Street, the restaurant has broken the curse that took hold of other aspiring entrepreneurs at the venue it now calls home, preceded by three other establishments in almost as many years.

Having just reveled in their fifth year of preparing and

servicing authentic Greek cuisine, what better way to celebrate than by expanding their summer seating to include an additional twenty patrons on a brand new patio?

The downtown oasis is dominated by pristine white features and is accented with various shades of blue in hopes of brightening up the vintage colours of the old Arbutus hotel and restaurant.

The newly inviting set up receives copious amounts of daylight sunshine pro-

viding the perfect setting for a quick work lunch or meeting with friends. And, in the evening, the setting is shaded over to make sure that beer stays cool after a long, hard day of work or soaking up the sun.

Hristos Zmeis and his team of hardworking employees have long awaited the seasonal feature. They look forward to seeing familiar and friendly faces outside, enjoying a tasty appetizer, a glass of Greek wine, and each other's company.



The downtown oasis is dominated by pristine white features and is accented with various shades of blue in hopes of brightening up the vintage colours of the old Arbutus hotel and restaurant.

Downtown Courtenay gets a new Vibe

There's a whole new Vibe on Fifth Street.

A popular downtown Courtenay restaurant has a new name, new look, new menu and new – lower – prices. Vibe, the new restaurant formerly known as the Mad Chef Café, opened its doors July 10 and is already winning over customers new and old with its fresh take on casual dining.

"It's all very exciting," says executive chef, and food and beverage manager Ryan Gark, who brings 25 years of kitchen experience to the Vibe team, and even notched an episode win during season two of Chopped

Canada. "We've put a lot of work into the transformation, and it really paid off with the reception we've received so far. People seem to really like what we're doing with Vibe."

That transformation, he says, was sparked in part by comments from customers.

"Essentially, people kept saying there was too much food. Everyone kept going home with leftovers. And then others were saying that it's hard to go out very often as a family because it just isn't affordable. So, we decided to address both those issues while also giving the place a re-energizing facelift."

While the Vibe menu



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Ryan Gark, whom you may recognize from season two of Chopped Canada, is the new executive chef and food/beverage manager of Vibe – Vancouver Island's Best Eats.

still features burger and pizza options, the new selections allow for prices to come down and serving sizes to become more reasonable.

"We've come up with menu items that are priced around \$10 or less, so that you can come in and have a meal and a drink with that single \$20 bill you have in your pocket. The portions are still a size that satisfies, of course, and if people want to boost the serving size that can happen too."

Gark is quick to point out that Vibe's food is still house-made with quality, locally sourced ingredients. Take-out and gluten-free options, and their ability to deal with other dietary sensitivities, remain.

The new name, says Gark, is indicative of

the new energy that's been injected into the eatery and a nod to V.I. (Vancouver Island). Other changes include an increase from four to eight taps featuring favourite local ales, and other "surprise" upgrades are in the works.

"If early response is any indication, I think people are going to love the new menu and prices," says Gark. "The dishes are temptingly different, but you can still count on the same great quality and friendly faces serving it up. It's still a fun, relaxed place to share a great meal with great friends."

Vibe is open for lunch and dinner Monday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at 444 Fifth St. in Courtenay. FMI: VIBE – Vancouver Island's Best Eats on Facebook.



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informative and interesting, and he enjoys the relaxed approach. "It's really a nice gathering of individuals and businesses. As a home inspector, I would like to see more construction-based businesses take advantage of being part of the network."

Favorite weekend activity: Boating

Biggest pet peeve: Cell phone distraction

Ideal referral: Anyone buying a new property, although he particularly likes working with first-time homeowners

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Housing inventory running low in the Comox Valley

The Comox Valley's running out of houses.

Local realtors are selling 100 houses a month right now, and there are only 218 houses for sale.

"If no more product is added to the supply, then by September we will have no houses or townhouses to sell and just a smattering of apartment condos," said Marty Douglas, Managing Broker, RE/MAX Ocean Pacific Realty, in his monthly report.

As a result there is no buyer relief in sight - competing offers and homes being sold above the asking price will continue.

"Great for sellers. Buyers from Vancouver and Victoria will overpower local buyers with their equity advantage.

"Tenants too will be affected as local landlords recognize the opportunity to cash in their investment," Douglas said.

The 12-month average sale price of a Val-



ley home is \$458,393, up 18 per cent from last year.

And here's a shocking statistic: If you bought an average home in Cumberland in 2007 you paid \$264,572. Today's price is \$512,698.

The Vancouver Island Real Estate Board reports that in June, 621 single-family properties sold, compared to 712 last June, a decrease of 13 per cent.

Inventory of homes for sale decreased, too, by 20 per cent.

"Demand continues to exceed supply, with well-priced properties quickly selling once they hit the market," said Janice Stomar, VIREB President in the June report.

"We've been in a sellers' market for months now, and buyers are snapping up available properties.

"Multiple offers are commonplace, which

is frustrating for buyers and their agents," she said.

In June, the benchmark price of a single-family home in the VIREB area (north of the Malahat) rose to \$444,500, up 18 per cent from one year ago.

Prices increased in every zone, ranging from 15 per cent in Parksville-Qualicum to 21 per cent in the Comox Valley.

The benchmark price

of an apartment condo in June rose 28 per cent board-wide from the previous year, with Comox Valley posting an increase of 42 per cent. Townhouses also registered big price increases, from 24 per cent board-wide, to 40 per cent in the Valley.

Cheapest place to buy a home north of the Malahat? Port Alberni, with a benchmark home price of \$241,600, which is still up 20 per cent from a year ago.

Here are other com-

munities' prices:

- * Duncan, \$403,400
- * Nanaimo, \$479,300
- * Parksville-Qualicum, \$497,600
- * Campbell River, \$348,500

Economist Brendan Ogmundson of the British Columbia Real Estate Association affirms that strong economic fundamentals continue to fuel housing demand in the province.

"A healthy provincial job market, low interest rates, and consumer confidence are

all contributing to robust housing demand throughout most of British Columbia," he said. "BCREA expects the provincial economy to grow by 3.3 per cent this year, which will likely be the highest in Canada."

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Courtenay Fire sends resources to Williams Lake

In response to a request from the Province of British Columbia, the Courtenay Fire Department has sent equipment and four firefighters to Williams Lake, B.C. in the province's Central Interior.

The crew from Courtenay departed on

Wednesday morning with a pumper truck and a small pickup truck, and will assist in the fight against wildfires burning in the region.

The Province of B.C. declared a state of emergency last Friday evening. The state of emergency grants the

province special authority to request assistance for emergency response efforts.

Acting Courtenay Fire Chief Kurt MacDonald said the province had made earlier inquiries with the Courtenay Fire Department about potential available resources.

"We had been anticipating a formal request at some point," said MacDonald.

"Once we were asked for assistance, we worked as quickly as possible to send the requested equipment and crews to Williams Lake to support the emergency response effort," said MacDonald.

Of primary concern is the need to maintain adequate fire protection for the City of Courtenay and its Fire



Courtenay Fire Department has sent a pumper truck, second from left, to Williams Lake to help with fire protection efforts there

Protection Districts.

"The safety of our community is of course our top priority," noted MacDonald.

"We'll be working

very carefully to manage our own equipment and crew levels to ensure we have enough boots on the ground here in Courtenay to ensure we can continue

providing the level of service our community needs."

Declarations of provincial states of emergency are issued by the minister responsible

under the Emergency Program Act.

The last provincial declaration of state of emergency was issued in August 2003 to deal with wildfires.

Small campground okay for Forbidden Plateau Road

Debra Martin
debra.martin@comoxvalleyrecord.com

The regional district is on board with plans for a small campground on Forbidden Plateau Road.



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Area outlined in red is where the proposed campground will go

William Lyle was seeking a Commercial Development Permit to allow construction on the two hectare property which is zoned Tourist Commercial Two.

The lot is at a bend on the Forbidden Plateau Road, just below the Wood Mountain Ski Park.

The property was cleared last year and the owner is preparing the land for development, scheduled to be done in three phases.

The first phase is a campground consisting of eight stalls suitable for RVs or tent camping. The second phase is to develop an accessory building for storage, while the third phase would see construction of an office-store building for the campground, and a tourist accommodation cabin.

The owner also has the intention of building a house in which to live while operating the campground.

The Electoral Areas Services Committee of the regional district was happy with the proposal last week.

"I think it's great you're taking this on," said Area C director Edwin Grieve to the owner.

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Meat

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Christie Cookies 460-500gr **3 \$99**
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Arizona Beverage 680ml **99c**
Hawkins Cheezies Corn Snack 210gr **2 \$4** for
Twizzlers Twists, Nibs or Goodies 300-454gr **2 \$4** for
Ritter Sport Chocolate Bar 100gr **2 \$5** for



Dad's Cookies 500-550gr **3 \$99**
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6 pack

3 99



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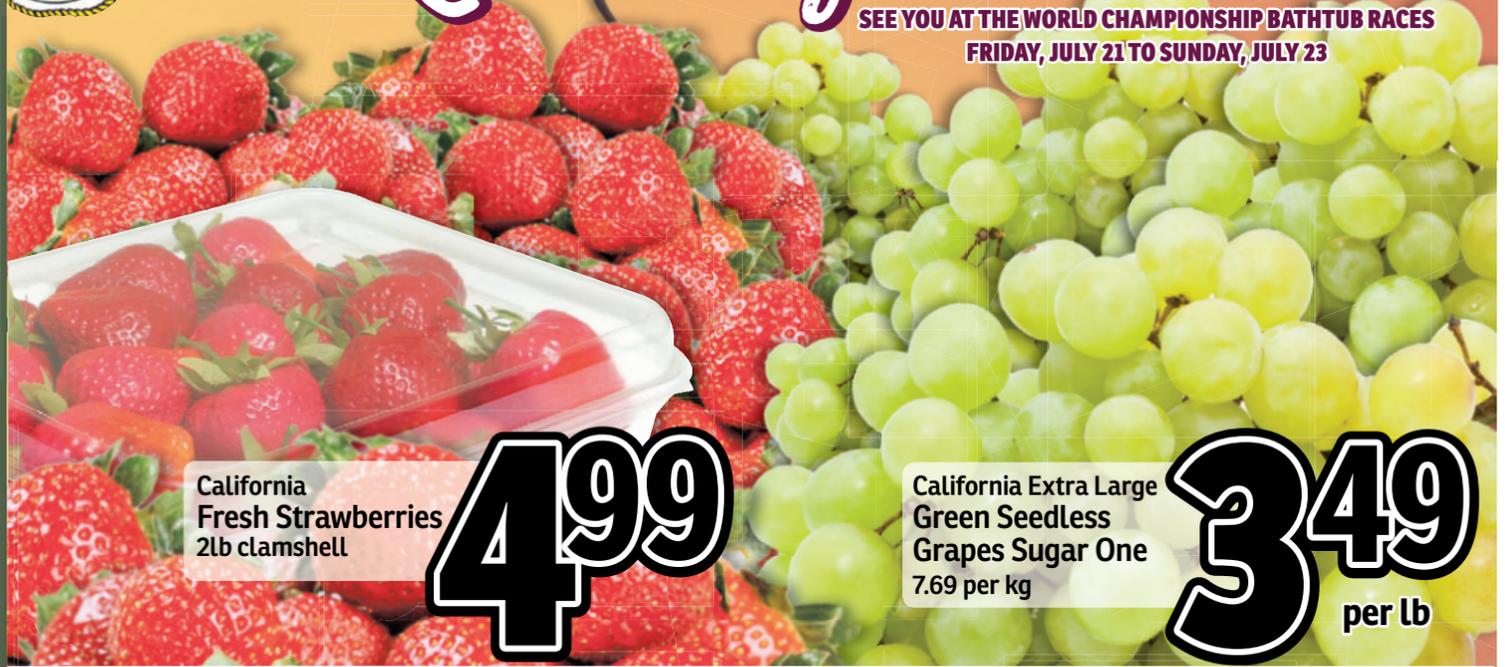
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Floral



5 Stem Gladiolus

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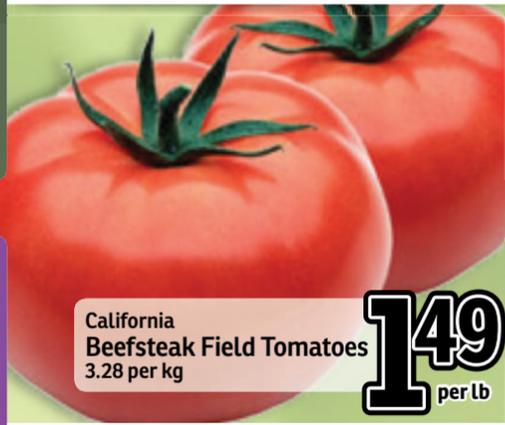
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MON. 17 TUES. 18 WED. 19 THUR. 20 FRI. 21 SAT. 22 SUN. 23

Skatepark opens in Cumberland

Scott Stanfield
scott.stanfield@comoxvalleyrecord.com

The Village of Cumberland invites the community to join council at a ribbon cutting ceremony Wednesday, July 19 at 5 p.m. to celebrate the completion of the highly anticipated Village Park Skatepark.

The park has been under construction since March and opened to skaters early-July. The professionally designed and constructed skatepark includes over 5,500 square feet of hand sculpted, butter-smooth concrete, expertly shaped into street, bowl, flow, and mini-ramp features.

"The Cumberland skatepark has been years in the making, and I'm so excited to see construction completed and it enjoyed by our local

youth," said Mayor Leslie Baird. "This skatepark makes Cumberland an even better place to live and visit."

The skatepark is part of a significant capital improvement project to the southern area of Village Park, which also includes the construction of bicycle dirt jumps and a pump track. The overall value of the project is \$460,000. The jump park is slated for completion in July.

The majority of project funding was contributed by the Village, with additional money from the Cumberland Community School Society and the United Riders of Cumberland via fundraising events, grants, and in-kind donations.



A new outreach centre operated by L'Arche Comox Valley has opened at 1465 Grieve Ave. in Courtenay. A grand opening is slated for Sept. 12.

Village to explore process of altering street names

Scott Stanfield
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At its July 10 meeting, Cumberland council directed staff to look into the process of rededicating or changing a street name, and the potential effects on residents and businesses.

Though he has no particular street in mind, Coun. Roger Kishi notes that 2018 will mark the centenary of the death of Ginger Goodwin — a prominent labor figure in B.C. and a key component of Miner's Memorial weekend in Cumberland.

He suggests the event could be recognized through a rededication/street name change.

"I think the Village should do something," Kishi said.

Mayor Leslie Baird has no problem with the idea but harbours concern about the location of a re-named street because it could distress residents.

She suggests Minto Road heading towards the cemetery could be an appropriate candidate for a name change. Coun. Sean Sullivan likes the idea.

New home helps tenants connect

Scott Stanfield
scott.stanfield@comoxvalleyrecord.com

L'Arche Comox Valley has opened its new outreach centre/residence near Courtenay Elementary, housing six developmentally disabled adults and a live-in support worker. The upstairs contains six suites and office space, while the ground floor contains a large activity space, kitchen, crafts studio, welcoming area and further office space.

The living arrangement has changed the lives of the six individuals who live at the site, says L'Arche CV executive director Christine Monier.

"They are semi-independent with some supports for shopping and banking," she said. "They're living in a safe, beautiful environment. Very functional. They can

make connections and have meaningful lives... We want this centre to be a community hub for our neighbourhood."

A fundraising campaign dubbed I Belong generated about \$1.1 million towards construction — \$290,000 from government and the rest from donors, mostly local.

"We are full of gratitude for the way which the whole Comox Valley has come together and help us raise the funds to build this project," Monier said. "We wouldn't have been able to do it without the contribution of many, many individuals."

Within L'Arche Canada, the centre is a first-of-its-

kind model. Locally, the demand is such that another residence could be filled in a snap.

"We're going to learn lots over the next number of years," said Frank van Gisbergen, chair of the L'Arche Comox Valley board.

Friday drop-in coffee sessions are helping staff and residents to slowly make connections in the community.

"We have a saying at L'Arche: It's not just about doing things for but doing things with," Monier said.

A grand opening of the centre/residence will be held Sept. 12.

It's located at 1465 Grieve Ave.

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Merville one step closer to improved fire protection

Debra Martin
debra.martin@comoxvalleyrecord.com

The Merville area has passed another hurdle on the road to having its own fire protection service.

The Comox Valley Regional District's electoral areas services committee has reviewed and approved a service establishment bylaw.

This bylaw resulted from a conversion of the Merville Fire Protection District to a regional district ser-

vice on June 15, via a provincial government Order in Council.

Residents shouldn't start counting their fire insurance savings just yet, though, as a lot of work still remains to be done.

Research began a year ago into fire services for the large rural area between Courtenay and Campbell River.

Fred Banham and Associates and Dave Mitchell and Associates were hired to review fire service requirements and governance models.

The Fire Underwriters

Survey position is that a single family residence should be no more than eight kilometres by road network from a fire hall in order to be considered as protected.

The FUS estimates a community that has fully protected status can see their insurance rates go down by 60 per cent.

The consultants found that both the Courtenay and Oyster River fire departments were more than eight kilometres from the Merville fire protection area.

The consultants recommended that a new satellite



The Courtenay Fire Department currently serves the Merville district

fire hall be built in a location to provide eight kilometre protection in both directions.

The new hall could be established as a new department, or be made an auxiliary fire hall to be operated by Oyster River Fire Rescue or Courtenay Fire Department.

The search is on now for a suitable property, and work continues on what the maximum tax rate will be.

Electoral Area C di-

rector Edwin Grieve said fire insurance rates could see "huge savings" if an accredited water shuttle service is also established.

"I just would like to strike while the fire's hot ... or the embers are burning," he said.

Courtenay Fire Dept. continues to provide services to the Merville area under contract with the regional district.

Bylaw would prohibit land-clearing fires

Scott Stanfield
scott.stanfield@comoxvalleyrecord.com

Cumberland council has given second reading to a bylaw amendment to prohibit land-clearing fires that are not forestry-related and on private managed forest land.

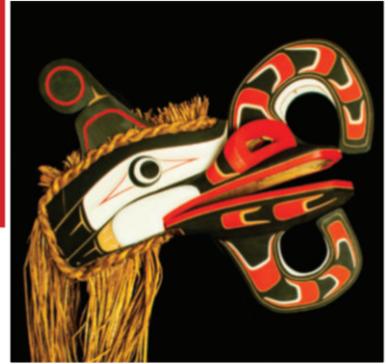
Air quality studies indicate the village is a hotspot for wood smoke. Implementing the above ban is expected to improve air quality.

Village staff propose that following three weeks of public consultation via survey, council could consider third reading Aug. 14 and adoption Sept. 5.

Coun. Jesse Ketler feels a survey is not needed because the village doesn't need to be told its behind other municipalities on this issue.

Village staff notes that prohibiting non-forestry land-clearing fires might make it difficult for residents to dispose of yard waste — which could increase the likelihood of illegal dumping and, in turn, increase the fire hazard in Cumberland.





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ARTS



PHOTO BY VAROL OZKANER

The evening will feature sufi whirling, poetry and Persian dance performances by special visiting guest Farima Berenji and her Simorgh Dance Collective.

Persian and sacred dance performances in Cumberland

The Huma bird is a legendary mythical creature both from ancient Persian and Sufi fables - it is said to never land and live its entire life during flight.

It flies invisibly high above the earth, impossible to spot through the human eyes. Also referred to as the bird of fortune, the Huma bird is a compassionate creature and symbolizes happiness.

According to the Sufi lore, once you catch a glimpse of Huma or its shadow even, happiness will ensue for the rest of your life.

The premiere performance

of 'Huma Wings of Light' is happening on July 22 in Cumberland. The evening will feature sufi whirling, poetry and Persian dance performances by special visiting guest Farima Berenji and her Simorgh Dance Collective.

Berenji is an award-winning Dance Ethnologist and internationally acclaimed dance artist, choreographer, instructor, and an archeologist specializing in ancient, sacred, classical and folkloric dances of Persia, Ionia and the Silk Road. Recognized as one of a few world scholarly experts of ancient and mystical Iranian

dance ethnology by UNESCO, she travels worldwide to record, research, lecture, perform, educate, and to inspire dynamic creativity and rejuvenation through dance and movement.

Berenji has been coming to teach weekend dance intensives and retreats in the Comox Valley since 2013.

The Comox Valley Simorgh Collective formed out of these weekend training sessions. The group is committed to furthering studies in Persian dance and dances of the Silk Road under the guidance of Berenji as part of her larger collective project Simorgh.

Collective members meet for regular practices at the Abbey Studio in Cumberland, facilitated by Cathy Stoyko.

Plan to join Berenji and her Simorgh Dance Collective for an inspiring evening of dance at the United Church in Cumberland, located at 2688 Penrith Ave. (at First Street). Tickets are available for \$15 at the door, \$10 youth, under six free. The doors open at 7:30 p.m. The performance runs from 8 to 9:30 p.m.

All ages are welcome.

For more information about this event contact Stoyko at (250) 218-0704.

Local artist chosen for public art display in Nanaimo

Local artist, Trish Smith has the honour of being selected for Nanaimo's public art exhibition.

Her sculpture has been selected to beautify the waterfront area of Nanaimo and was recently installed in Mafeo Park to be part of a year-long exhibition.

Carved from a logged Douglas Fir in the Comox Valley which grew into a burl, the artwork has historical significance as evidence of the transitions occurring in British Columbia's natural environment.

Paleo dentriticus grew from a stump of an ancient tree long gone, but still alive, on Vancouver Island.

Not only is it a part of Vancouver Island's natural heritage, but also an

historic representation of our regional landscape as evidence of the logging era.

The Douglas fir was named for the Scottish botanist David Douglas who was sent by the Royal Horticultural Society to British Columbia to study the tree in the late-1700s.

"I recognize the value of our natural history which connects us not only with the past but also with the present through an affinity we can experience in this region's natural environment," said Smith.

"Figurative in nature, it's natural form was left unaltered during the discovery of what lay beneath its outer layers as evidence of its transition from stump to a work of art."



FILE PHOTO

Comox's Trish Smith's sculpture has been selected to be displayed in Nanaimo's waterfront.



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PHOTO SUBMITTED

Oak Bay Bath by David Ballantyne.

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Tri-Focals coming to Pearl Ellis Gallery

From July 25 to Aug. 12, the Pearl Ellis Gallery will be hosting Tri-Focals Art Exhibition.

The exhibition will feature paintings by David Ballantyne and Sharon Lalonde as well as sculptural work by Ingrid Mayer. All three of the artists are recent arrivals to the Comox Valley.

Lalonde earned her fine arts degree from the University of Saskatchewan and began her education career teaching art. It is since moving to the Comox Valley, five years ago, that she has been able to immerse herself in the pursuit of creating art. The medium she chooses to work in is acrylic on canvas and she loves the challenge of representing the

energy of the light through trees, the movement of the leaves or the life of the images she is painting.

Ballantyne found making visual art to be his primary interest from an early age. While largely self-taught, he has taken many college-level courses and workshops at various locations, including the Alberta College of Art and Design, the University of Calgary, the Friends of Photography and New School - the Parsons School of Design. He has won awards and exhibited his work in Canada, the U.S. and Europe.

Mayer describes herself as a "late bloomer" in most aspects of her life. Her passion for macro photography,

particularly flowers and the insects they beckon, is what her metal work has taken root in. It has been five years since she asked her husband to show her how to weld, use the forge, the plasma cutter and all the other tools that were in his shop. Funny, how since then, it has all become hers. Ingrid sees the potential work of art in every metal scrap and discarded horseshoe. Each piece is uniquely different.

The opening reception is set for July 29 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The gallery, which is located at 1729 Comox Ave., is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Four great evenings of jazz coming to the Valley

On July 19, the Island Jazz Faculty will perform at the Stan Hagen Theatre at 7:30

p.m. Dan Craven - sax, Kelby Macnair - drums, Brooke Maxwell - piano, Dave Stewart - trumpet, Blaine Dunaway - violin, Jeff Drummond - guitar, John Capon - trombone, Jen Hodge - bass and

Ben Henriques - sax will be joined by Greg Bush, professor of Jazz Studies at VIU, on trumpet.

It is guaranteed to be a fabulous concert as always.

Growing the program, our faculty de-

cidied to add a night of swing dance on July 20. Claudia Nobauer of Vancouver will teach a one-hour beginner's workshop in Lindy Hop starting at 7:30 p.m.

Bring your gym shoes and be pre-

pared to stay and dance till 10 p.m. to the live music of our Island Jazz Faculty band.

The event is set for Mark Isfeld Senior Secondary, 7:30 p.m. with \$20 tickets at the door.

Friday night, July 21 our students get to shine at Games and Grounds in Courtenay. It is their chance to jam in public. They start at 7 p.m. and it's free to the public.

The Student Big Band and Combo Concert completes the week on July 22 at Simms Millennium Park, starting at 7:30 p.m.

There is no charge for admission but donations are always appreciated.

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ISLAND JAZZ FACULTY CONCERT
 with guest artist Greg Bush - trumpet
 Wed. July 19, 7:30 pm Stan Hagen Theatre \$20

ISLAND JAZZ STUDENT BIG BAND & COMBOS
 Sat. July 22, 7:30 pm by donation Simms Millenium Park

SWING DANCE WORKSHOP
 Dance lesson 7:30 - 8:30, then dance 'til 10!
 Lindy Hop with dance instructor Claudia Nobauer
 Thurs. July 20, 7:30 pm
 Mark Isfeld School \$20

Tickets: Laughing Oyster Books, Blue Heron Books, online at www.cymc.ca, & at the door

SPORTS

Two Comox Valley triathletes qualify for worlds

Two local triathletes have qualified for the premiere event in off-road triathlon – the XTERRA World Championships in Maui.

Derek Vinge and Ryan Parton, both members of the Comox Valley Triathlon Club, won their respective age divisions at XTERRA Victoria on July 9, earning a spot to compete

goal always being to compete at a higher and higher level. Personally, I've got my PACE Multisport coach to thank, plus my family for putting up with my zany training schedule – and of course the guys at Trail Bicycles, who always get my bike running in top shape before a race.”

Vinge expressed similar sentiments following the race.

“I know how much both of us put into this sport, with the goal always being to compete at a higher and higher level”

RYAN PARTON

against the best off-road triathletes in the world in October.

In an ultra-competitive field that included 18 professional triathletes, Vinge finished an impressive eighth overall – the third non-pro to cross the line – and won his M35-39 division with a time of 2:22:03. Parton finished 26th overall with a time of 2:43:31, winning the M40-44 division.

“It's an incredible honour,” said Parton. “I know how much both of us put into this sport, with the

broader level, the Comox Valley Triathlon Club and Comox Valley Road Runners have been huge in terms of providing support for my training.”

Also competing at XTERRA Victoria was Tyler McCallan of Cumberland, who finished 11th overall, second in the M30-34 division, with a fast



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Ryan Parton, left, Derek Vinge and Tyler McCallan (and fans) show off their hardware from XTERRA Victoria July 9. Parton and Vinge qualified for the XTERRA World Championships in Maui this October.

time of 2:29:24.

Off-road triathlon, formally known as cross-triathlon, consists of a 1.5-kilometre open water swim, an approximate 30km mountain bike and about a 10km trail run. XTERRA Victoria is widely considered to be the toughest course on the XTERRA

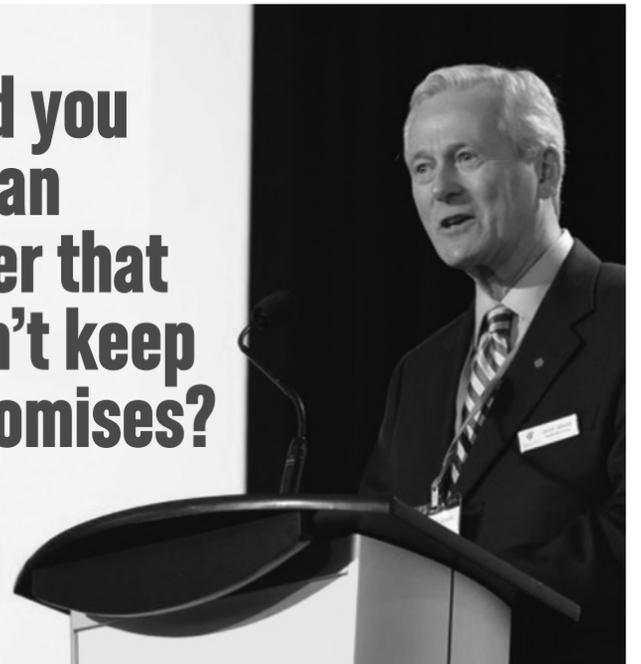
World Tour, which comprises 42 races in 33 countries.

As an added bonus, XTERRA Victoria also served as the B.C. Cross Triathlon Championship — which means Vinge and Parton were each crowned provincial champions in their respective divisions.



Local players Ethan Pellat, front row left, and Sky Smyrichinsky, beside him, were part of the North Island Tsunami U16 boys rugby team that won their division at the Provincial Regional Rugby Championships early July in Burnaby. (Photo supplied)

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Comox Valley's Geoff Kabush, left, and American rider Stephen Ettinger are pictured on Dunsmuir Avenue at the start of the seven-stage BC Bike Race, which kicked off July 7 in Cumberland and finished July 13 in Whistler. Kabush, a three-time Olympian, was the overall winner with a time of 15:05:49, winning five stages. Ettinger won the other two and was second overall in 15:10:40. Katerina Nash of the Czech Republic was the fastest woman (16th overall), clocking in at 17:39:58.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT STANFIELD

GOLF REPORT

Two golfers from the Comox Valley walked into Port Alberni and swept the low gross championship last month at the West Coast Amateur golf tourney. Tyler van Anrooy of Comox golfed a two-day total of 70-77-147 to win the low gross title. Lawry Willis, also from the Comox Valley, was three shots behind to win runner-up low gross honours.

•Sunnydale Thursday Night Ladies July 13: Crystal Friesen had the longest drive on #1; Louise Bustard was closest to the tree on the right on #2;

Jean Wheaton was closest to the pin second shot on #3; Jenny Lavery was in the sandtrap on #4; Caroline Urquhart was closest to the pin third shot on #5; Fran Wright had the longest putt on #7; Mary Lynn Doubinin had the lowest putts; and most honest golfer was Leslie Bird.

•Glacier Green ladies July 11: pin winner for Tuesday was Marie Isreal with 63, low net as well as low gross winner of 90. Next low net was Amber Dufour (67) on a count back against Beth Broomfield. Longest putt on #9 was Michelle Bertrand, KP#4 was Linda Martin and KP#15 was Connie Alexa.

•Linda Stickney won the Crown Isle ladies Stableford July 4 with 48 points. Judy Constantino was second with 43;

Judy Pouliot, Iris Peterson and Joanne Meyer shot 41. KPs on hole 12 by Linda Foreman, and Ev Shaw and Elizabeth Folk on #4. July 11 format was match vs par. Kathy Thompson won the first points and Sheila Van Gisbergen second points. Third point winners were Raelene Robertson and Charlene Foster. KP winners by flight were Katy Macaulay and Marsha MacKinnon on 16, and Rosemary Smith and Marlene Horvath on #7.

Aug. 2 is the next "9 & Wine" evening with a penguin theme of black and white. Shotgun start 5:30 for the nine-hole team event, followed by a glass of wine, appetizer and prizes. Call the pro shop to sign up as a single or four-person team.



PHOTO SUPPLIED

The junior B Ravens lacrosse team lost to the Saanich Tigers in the playoffs on the weekend at Strathcona Gardens in Campbell River.

Climate change training under Al Gore

Courtenay resident Will Cole-Hamilton was among 35 Canadians trained on climate change solutions by former U.S. vice-president/Nobel Laureate Al Gore, June 27-29 in Bellevue, Wash. near Seattle.

Gore founded the Climate Reality Project, a global network of citizens committed to implementing solutions to climate change.

“Climate change isn’t just about polar bears”, says Cole-Hamilton. “It has a real effect on us here in the Comox Valley. Ocean acidification threatens our prized local oysters, storms and flooding cause damage to homes and businesses. Even the majestic Comox Glacier is threatened – it has en-



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Al Gore conducted a climate change leadership training session in Bellevue, Wash.

dured for more than 10,000 years, but scientists say that it will be gone in 20. This valley is my home, it’s where I raise my children, I want to do what I can to protect it.”

As part of the leadership training,

Cole-Hamilton participated in sessions on climate science, explored the practical tools and solutions that already exist, and learned how to present this information to his fellow British Columbians.

He has committed to delivering free presentations on climate change to groups in the Comox Valley and around Vancouver Island.

“I’m looking forward to sharing what I have learned - climate

change is a problem we can solve,” says Cole-Hamilton.

Contact him at will-colehamilton@gmail.com if interested in a presentation.

The Climate Reality Project Canada is the Canadian branch

of a non-profit organization dedicated to mobilizing action around the issue of climate change. So far, Gore has trained over 13,000 Climate Reality Leaders around the world. Their role is to promote educa-

tion and action with regards to the climate crisis. There are over 600 active Climate Reality Leaders across Canada.

FMI: www.climate-reality.ca, or follow Twitter at @Reality_Canada.



PHOTO SUPPLIED

Pam Moughton, chair and researcher for the Comox Archives and Museum Society, met with British Red Cross Society archivist Karim Hussain in London, England, to donate a WWI diary.

Diary penned by friend of Tolkien

Comox Archives and Museum has donated a British Red Cross Society First World War autograph book to the society’s museum in London, England.

The diary was written at the BRCS No. 2 Hospital in Rouan, France, 1915-1916. It had belonged to British literary scholar, author and academic, professor Raymond Wilson Chambers

of the University College London. He was a close friend of Lord of the Rings author J.R.R. Tolkien.

The autograph book came to the Valley by chance, but the museum board decided it belongs in London because it is part of their history. It will be readily available to academia.

The Simon's Cycles YANA Ride is a fun, challenging and unique bicycle ride through the beautiful Comox Valley. Whatever your ability we have a ride you'll enjoy – routes include a 25km, 50km, 100km or a shorter family ride. All proceeds from this event will benefit You Are Not Alone (YANA).

For more information or to register visit www.yanacomoxvalley.com

An event made possible by a peloton of sponsors led by Dr. Andreas Conradi

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Raise \$100 in pledges to be entered to win two return airfare tickets valued at \$2,800

Register by July 21 to receive a FREE YANA Ride t-shirt





Ronald Garth Trarback
 June 11, 2010
 It has been seven years since you have passed, you will always remain in our hearts.

Kenneth Cecil Bedell



Passed away peacefully at St. Joseph's Hospital, Hospice at the Views, Sunday July 9, 2017 after a courageous battle with cancer. Born January 22, 1936. Ken is survived by his loving wife of over 52 years Carol, children Ken (Karin), Kevin, Raida (Lyle), Cecil. All his much loved grandchildren will miss Grampa & Papa deeply. Leanna, Dougie, Crystal, Griffin, Sage, Curtis, Nick, Hannah, will always remember many a walk, a story, a game, and a laugh. Special extended family Julie (Dale), Bill, nephew Gary, and furry friend Kirby will also feel the loss of Ken's presence. A special thank you to the nurses, care aides, and volunteers, at Hospice at the Views. They do their work with care, compassion, professionalism, and always present smiles. Thank you also to Dr's Johnson and Fehlau. A private family celebration of Ken will be held at a later date. Donations can be made on Ken's behalf to Comox Valley Hospice Society.

"The only thing that could make Grampa Ken angry is letting his passing away hurt us for one second, one hour, one day, of our lives. So we will not mourn our Gramps but instead we will celebrate his life"



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Marcia Montgomery Murphy
 February 19, 1958 ~ July 10, 2017



Marcia passed away July 10th, 2017 in Comox B.C. after a courageous battle with cancer. She was at home in the presence of her loving family. Predeceased by her father John Allen Montgomery, she is survived by her mother Diane Montgomery, daughter Julia House (Brian), grandsons Tyler and Isaac Ryan, stepson Nathan Murphy, brother Gregory Montgomery (Laura), brother Garry Montgomery, sister outlaw Kim Jonsson, Sister in-laws Leslie, Leane, Janine, Stacey, Louise and their families along with the Tuft family. Most importantly her loving and devoted husband John Murphy who gave her the best care possible. Marcia will be remembered for her wit and sense of humor. She had a passion for gardening and always had her hands in the dirt. She loved her curling family along with her Westerly Girls. Marcia worked very hard all her life ending her career with Quality Foods. She loved her fur babies Simba and Sonny. Marcia had a soft spot for animals. She was filled with life and love for all. Marcia will be dearly missed. A funeral service will be held at Comox Baptist Church on Saturday, July 22nd at 2pm. Marcia for many years was devoted to Operation Christmas Child filling shoe boxes for needy children worldwide. Donations can be made to a charity of your choice.



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Ruth Marie March
 (Lapp)

Passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 11, 2017. She was the daughter of the late George and Alice Lapp (Smith) Predeceased by her siblings: George William (Bob), Richard Henry (Dick), Philip Douglas, John Raymond, Pearl, Eleanor Faye, Elsie Marion, Ernest Russell, Alice Rose Caroline Isobel (Rose), David Henry, Beverly Joan, Elizabeth Adelaide (Betty). Survived by her siblings: Muriel Edith, Doreen Anne, and Horace Allen (Allen). Ruth also leaves behind her children: Robert Thomas George Vye (Majel), Elizabeth Alice May Toniello (Jori) Bonnie Lynn Hemphill, Shari Joy Marie Pederson (Matt). She also leaves behind her step-children: Brian March (Bridget), Glen March (Julie), Paul March (Monica) and Kevin March. Ruth will be fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great grandchildren and as well as her brothers-in-law Bill Shewfelt, Don Lanyon and Evaldo Filippini. For eleven years Ruth was proud to serve as a Counsel Member representing her constituents for the town of Sayward, B.C. Ruth's family would like to thank her many friends for their friendship and help during her illness. We are also grateful to the Nurses and Doctors at the St. Joseph's Hospital and the Nursing staff at Hospice as well as the care she received from the Comox Health Care staff. A celebration of Life will take place on Friday, July 21, 2017 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 17, Courtenay Legion. Ruth loved her bling so in her honor ladies, please wear your best bling. In lieu of flowers a donation to Hospice or a charity of your choice would be appreciated.




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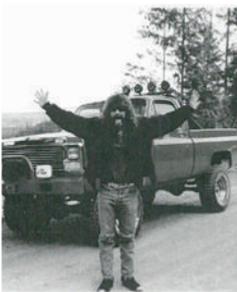


MARSDEN - Thomas Graham
 August 16, 1935 - July 8, 2017



Tom passed away after a short illness, in Chemainus, BC. He will be deeply missed by his wife Marilyn, of 61 years, daughter Sandra (Edward Jagusiak), granddaughter Chelsey and grandson "TJ" Thomas, along with brother-in-law Stephen (Wendy) Mould, sisters-in-law Kathleen (Oliver) Bouchard and Dora Mould as well as numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. Tom was a descendant of Marsden Road in Courtenay, BC and was predeceased by his parents John and Violet (nee Graham) Marsden, stepmother Violet Marsden, sister Jean and brothers William (Pat) and John (Catherine), nephew John Marsden, fathers-in-law George Mould and Joe Larsen, mother-in-law Florence Larsen and brother-in-law James Mould. Tom worked over 38 years in the Logging Industry, mostly in the Gold River/ Tahsis region, while living in the Comox Valley and retiring at the age of 56. Tom was a member of the Sunnydale Golf Course in Courtenay longer than he was a logger. He was also a member of the Gold River Golf Club. Later, Tom joined the Courtenay Seniors Group. Tom and Marilyn enjoyed the Cumberland Empire Days Parade and Courtenay's Canada Day Parade as a family tradition, sharing in it with the grandchildren. Tom loved the outdoors, golfing, baseball, bowling, logging, delivering newspapers, picnics, driving, swimming and ice skating. When Sandra was 1 year old, Tom taught her to ice skate at Woodward's farm in Comox and then taught Sandra to swim at Kye Bay in Comox. When Sandra had her learners licence, he was limited on days available to teach her but he made the best of it. For a month on Sundays, Sandra drove from Comox to Port Alice, then Comox to Gold River, Comox to Port McNeil and finally Comox to Zeballos. That summer, Sandra and Dad drove to Saskatchewan and back, taking Mom along for the ride. In 2013, Tom and Marilyn moved to Ladysmith to be closer to the grandchildren. Tom was a strong supporter of his wife Marilyn, his community and his family. We would like to thank Doctors Archdekin and Britton-Foster, the Ladysmith/ Chemainus Island Health Senior outreach teams and the Chemainus Health Care Centre staff for their support and care. A Celebration of Tom's life will be held at a later date. In memory of Thomas Marsden, memorial donations would be appreciated by the family to the MS Society, BC Cancer Foundation, Chronic Pain Society or the Alzheimers Society. Condolences may be sent to www.firstmemorial.ca. Funeral arrangements entrusted to First Memorial Funeral Services 250-748-2134

Macdonald, Rob "Mac"



You knew him as Rob Macdonald or Mac, we knew him as our inspiration. He was a living legend and his mark will be forever etched in this Valley he called home. An incredible miracle of a man defying all odds. Eternally youthful, like a modern day Peter Pan, he refused to grow up. He was a charismatic fast talker who craved the wind in his hair. He held his family in the highest regard and helped anyone who asked-even at his own expense. He was a giver, gentle yet strong. His children were his life, his grandchildren his heart, anything with wheels his passion. He loved music and wasn't afraid to show his emotions. He was wild and crazy-never a dull moment was the theme of his life. "Giver till you quiver" and "all the fun all the time" his mottos. He loved adventure, he was spontaneous. His essence was sheer magic, he lit up a room with his very presence-such a bright light. He was always unapologetically himself with his long hair and purposely ripped jeans-a shining example to us all! He never followed the rules, he made his own. So to honor his memory we stray outside the obituary template. His memory will live on in the whisper of the wind and the rumble of an old muscle car. Forever in our hearts and infinitely our guiding light. The Celebration of Life for Rob will be held at Kin Beach on Thursday, August 31, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. (potluck).




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Ruberta (Ruby) Audrey Mitchell



Ruberta (Ruby) Audrey Mitchell passed away peacefully on July 12, 2017 in Nanaimo, BC at age 92. Ruby was born in Cumberland on July 4, 1925 and grew up in Courtenay, also spending many years in White Rock and lived the last several years of her life in Nanaimo. Ruby was predeceased by her husband, James Hughes Mitchell, son, Bruce Robert James Mitchell, and sister Diana Louise McQuinn. She will be lovingly remembered by her daughters, Julie (Bob) McArthur, Vicki Lynn Mitchell (Jim Graf), Judy (Bruce) Mitchell, six grandchildren: James (Heather), Craig, Jamie (Gescina), Amy, Michael (Melanie) & Rosalie (Kyle), granddaughter in-law Carin, seven great grandchildren: Paxton, Paige, Bobby, Brayden, Scarlett, Hudson, Bentley, and dog R.J. Ruby was blessed with and will be lovingly remembered by an exceptional extended family and a wonderful community of friends. A memorial is scheduled for 1pm on Thursday July 20th, 2017 at First Memorial Funeral Services at 1720 Bowen Rd in Nanaimo, with a reception to follow. All are welcome to attend to celebrate Ruby's life. No flowers please, if you would like to make a donation, Ruby supported the BC Children's Hospital. The family would like to express special appreciation to Gladys Murphy and Dover House Care Facility for the love and care given and the difference they made in Ruby's final months. First Memorial Funeral Services 250-754-8333

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In Loving Memory Wilkinson, Robert Selbourne (Bud) December 21, 1931 ~ July 18, 2009 The memories linger on. Bud loved his egg business early on near Mt. Lehman.

Cory Russell 1992 ~ 2017 It is with great shock and sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Cory Russell at the age of 25 on July 11, 2017 in Comox, BC.

Walter Agar Our beloved Walter Agar passed July 7th 2017 peacefully at home with his wife and children by his side. Walter was one of eleven children of Emma and Wilfred, born in Eastend Saskatchewan in 1929.

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INFORMATION

Roger Lefebvre Roger Lefebvre; son of Rose-Helene Lefebvre; Please call Lucie Powell at 604-487-0132 concerning mother's estate.

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School District 72 is seeking applications for the following positions:

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For details on applying for these postings, please check the School District's web site at:

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EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION	EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION	EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES	CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Comox Valley Record
EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION
HELP WANTED

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Under the direction of the Manager **the Maintenance Supervisor** is responsible for all types of predictive, preventive and repair maintenance to mechanical equipment, systems and controls throughout the laundry and for the safe operation and maintenance of the facilities boilers, machinery, refrigeration and heating systems in the steam plant.

QUALIFICATIONS:

A. Education, Training and Experience:

- Grade 12 and 3rd Class Power Engineer Certificate plus Trade Qualification (Certificate of Apprenticeship or Qualification) in an appropriate mechanical trade.
- Five (5) years related experience in the maintenance of institutional or industrial equipment, building systems and controls OR
- An equivalent combination of education, training and experience including two (2) years in a supervisory capacity.

B. Skills and Abilities:

- Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing
- Ability to deal with others effectively
- Physical ability to carry out the duties of the position
- Ability to read and interpret specifications and drawings
- Ability to organize work
- Ability to operate related equipment
- Must be self-motivated and willing to work as both part of a team and independently
- Leadership experience in a unionized setting
- The Maintenance Supervisor directly supervises ALL Maintenance staff.

Please send resumes to: Sheri.Featherstone@viha.ca

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Blue Jay Pl &
Woodland Estates

RTE # 491
Majestic Dr, Kent &
York Pl

RTE # 550
Strathcona, April Pl
& Aitken St

COMOX

RTE # 620
Robb, Stewart,
Centennial E, Georgia,
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RTE # 645
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More Information:
<https://jeanderson.com/2017/05/survey-crew-chief/>
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Colin Burridge, cburridge@jeanderson.com

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PHOTO INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL OF BC

The nasty giant

Comox Valley governments join forces to bust invasive plants

Local governments in the Comox Valley have once again joined forces to bust invasive knotweed and Giant hogweed. Both plants are considered alien invasive species in BC and if left unchecked can wreak havoc on our local ecosystems and diminish property values.

And in the case of giant hogweed, can lead to third degree burns when in contact with skin, due to its clear phototoxic sap.

This successful regional “Knot On My Property” program, first launched in 2013, includes all four local governments, the Town of Comox, City of Courtenay, Village of Cumberland and the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD), and in partnership with the Coastal Invasive Species Committee (Coastal ISC).

The goals of the program are to verify all knotweed and giant hogweed reports within these jurisdictions to provide to professionals where to conduct treatments on select sites.

The 2016 program targeted 74 knotweed sites and 15 giant hogweed sites eradicating 10 completely and significantly reduced infested areas. These sites are now recorded in the provincial invasive alien plant program database for tracking and follow-up monitoring and treatment. Effective control usually takes three to five years.

Knotweed

Knotweed is considered one of the world’s worst invaders. It is a hollow stem shrub, native to Asia that resembles bamboo. It can grow up to four centimetres a day and causes serious damage to foundations, driveways, and septic system, as well as natural habitats.

In the UK, Japanese knotweed has spread rampantly and now homeowners cannot secure mortgages or insurance on properties with knotweed. Cutting, mowing, and pulling can stimulate shoot growth and may cause roots to spread further, resulting in new infestations up to 20 metres away. As well, knotweed has the ability to regenerate from a very small root or stem fragment and can remain dormant for many years.

Giant Hogweed

Warning: Stem hairs and leaves contain a clear, highly toxic sap that, when in contact with the skin, can cause burns, blisters and scarring. Giant hogweed is an herbaceous perennial. Stems are hollow, ridged, and green with purple spots and may have stiff hairs present. When

in flower, plants can grow to six metres tall. Flowers are small, white and clustered in large umbrella shaped heads and leaves are green and deeply incised (almost to leaf vein) and have three segments. Leaves can exceed 2.5 metres in length.

Local residents in CVRD’s electoral areas can benefit from subsidized treatments by select spot application this summer, while treatments in Comox, Courtenay and Cumberland previously focused only on public lands, they now offer treatments on both public and private lands as of 2017.

The Coastal Invasive Species Committee is asking the public to report sightings of knotweed and Giant Hogweed until the end of July by email info@coastalisc.com or calling 250-871-5117 in the Comox Valley toll free on Vancouver Island 1-844-298-2532.

“Knotweed is known for causing a huge headache across British Columbia, but with the public’s help we can prevent it from taking over our coastal communities.

“It’s an invasive and aggressive plant that spreads easily and can impact property values, the environment, and can cause safety issues on roadways. This regional program will save considerable taxpayer dollars.

“The spread of knotweed has negative ecological and economic impacts and Giant Hogweed has serious health impacts. We are pleased to work with our local government’s region wide to combat invasive species in our area,” said Edwin Grieve, chair of the Comox Valley Regional District electoral area services committee.

“Once again we’re very pleased to be working in partnership with other local governments and our residents to help fight invasive species in our community. It’s truly a collective effort. Taking these steps now is vital to protecting our natural ecosystems for future generations,” added the mayor of Courtenay, Larry Jangula.

A knotweed and giant hogweed alert sheet, providing information on identification, proper disposal, and reporting options has been developed and is available on the CVRD website at comoxvalleyrd.ca/invasiveplants.

For more information visit the Coastal ISC website at coastalisc.com and click on the “Invasive Species” tab.

THE COMOX VALLEY’S LARGEST LOCAL SHOPPING SPREE OF THE CENTURY!



One very lucky person will be REWARDED FOR SHOPPING LOCALLY and WIN a \$2,017 shopping spree

where they will have a total of 2017 seconds (34.01 minutes) to spend \$2,017 at any or all participating merchants.

PROMOTION RUNS FOR 8 WEEKS: JUNE 20 - AUGUST 15, 2017
SHOPPING SPREE IS ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 26 @ 10:30 AM

RULES

- Contest closes August 15th at Noon
- All entries will be collected from participating merchants and winner chosen
- Draw will take place 4 pm August 18th
- To win you must answer your phone when the Record calls
- Call backs are not allowed
- Entry forms will be drawn and calls made until there is a winner
- Shopping spree will be held on Saturday, August 26th at 10:30 AM
- A maximum of \$200 can be spent at any given participating merchant
- Winner will be driven from Record office to participating merchants of the winner’s choice by ambassador shuttle
- As the winner has only 2017 seconds (34.01 Minutes) to spend \$2017 it is recommended you visit participating merchants prior to shopping spree to pre-plan
- Winner must be at least 19 years of age.

PARTICIPATING MERCHANTS

<p>DESIGN THERAPY</p> <p>291 5th St, Courtenay • 250-338-0211 designtherapyhome.ca</p>	<p> CANADIAN TIRE</p> <p>250-338-0101 278 N. Island Hwy., Courtenay</p>	<p> WOOFY'S Pet Foods</p> <p>2400 Cliffe Ave, Courtenay 795 Ryan Road, Courtenay 46-1760 Comox Ave. Comox</p>
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<p> L A Z BOY</p> <p><small>Just Life Comfortably.</small> Courtenay: 2937 Kilpatrick Ave. www.la-z-boyvi.com</p>	<p> Superstore</p> <p>757 Ryan Road, Courtenay 250-334-6927</p>	<p> BEST BUY</p> <p>3245 Cliffe Ave., Courtenay 250-338-2890 www.bestbuy.ca</p>

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LIMIT 2

5⁹⁸ EA
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ALCAN 100' 100'

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20030018/20149806

LIMIT 2

5⁹⁸ EA
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CLUB SIZE

PKG OF 21
Farmer's Market™
cookies
selected varieties,
798 g
20720085

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10⁰⁰ EA
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3.88/kg

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Giuseppe pizza or pizza minis
selected varieties, frozen,
480-900 g
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Pampers or Huggies
super big pack
diapers
N-7, selected varieties
20708929/20952488

LIMIT 4

19⁹⁷ EA
OVER LIMIT PAY 29.97 EA

CLUB SIZE

Produce of U.S.A. • Produit des E.-U.
6 Romaine Hearts • 6 coeurs de

PKG OF 6
Romaine Hearts
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4⁹⁴ EA

wild caught cod fillets
1.36 kg or
cooked
peeled
shrimp
.41-.60 count
per lb., 1kg frozen
20910449/20910464

28⁹⁸ EA

CLUB SIZE

Tre Stelle
feta cheese
1 kg
20606685

14⁰⁰ EA

CRACKER BARREL
TEX MEX

Cracker Barrel
cheese bar 400-460 g or
shredded cheese
300-320 g
selected varieties
20769735004/20866813002

LIMIT 4

4⁹⁷ EA
OVER LIMIT PAY 7.97 EA

PC® roasted
peanuts
selected varieties,
700 g
20057990003

LIMIT 4

3⁹⁸ EA
OVER LIMIT PAY 5.48 EA

Chapman's
frozen yogurt
selected varieties, 2 L
20314434001

LIMIT 4

3⁹⁸ EA
OVER LIMIT PAY 5.98 EA

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Canadian
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round steak
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Canada grade beef,
self-serve tray
20820662

CLUB SIZE

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20039603

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