TIDE TABLES AND WEATHER PAGE 3 • CLASSIFIEDS PAGE 10



Wednesday, March 30, 2022



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Off-leash dogs irk resident

Council promises to tackle frequent issue

ANDREW BAILEY andrew.bailev@westerlvnews.ca

Summer hasn't quite arrived on Tofino's doorstep just yet, but the town's infamous dog days have already landed on council's desk.

Under Tofino's Animal Control Bylaw, all dogs are prohibited from being off-leash in any public spaces, including beaches, but district staff have historically struggled to enforce that bylaw. During their March 22 regular meeting, council reviewed two letters from residents, one clamouring against the havoc out of control pets are wreaking and another urging them to establish an off-leash dog park.

"We've seen growth in the number of people here (visitors and residents), and we've seen even higher increase in the number of dogs," wrote Todd MacAllen." Even in town, unleashed dogs wait outside businesses and run ahead of their humans on the MUP (Multi-Use Path).'

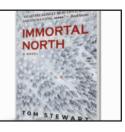
Continued on A3



PORPOISE-FUL EDUCATION: Aaron Purdy and Kayla Jones of Ocean Wise's B.C. Cetacean Sightings Network hold up a harbour porpoise skull at their educational booth set up during Surfrider Pacific Rim's Whale Festival beach cleanup at Chesterman Beach on Saturday. See more photos on Page 11. (Andrew Bailey photo)



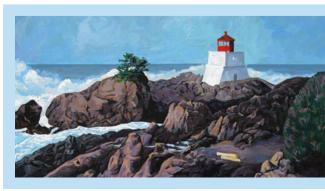
Lil Ronnie's scores nod



LOCAL AUTHOR'S SECOND NOVEL

8

Stewart pens'Immortal North'





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The District of Tofino is preparing to build an extension to its Multi-Use Path . (DoT file photo)

Tofino to extend Multi-Use Path

ANDREW BAILEY andrew.bailey@westerlynews.ca

Work on a new extension to Tofino's Multi-Use Path will soon be underway.

The district has awarded a \$775.418 contract to Hazelwood Construction Services to extend the MUP by roughly 430 metres from Olsen Road to Gibson Street.

"This area has had increased traffic and congestion in recent years and has been the subject of a number of complaints and safety concerns," the district's manager of public spaces, and cultural and visitor initiatives April Froment explained to the town's council during their March 22 regular meeting. "The existing infrastructure is in very poor condition. It was never a purpose built multi-use path and



She added the district has ramped up its efforts to upgrade the MUP as part of its ongoing efforts to get residents and tourists out of their

vehicles by facilitating access throughout the community on foot or by bike.

Dan Law

The new upgrade will include a transit stop to support the town's summer shuttle and the incoming BC Transit service as well as public amenities like benches and signage.

the lowest estimate at \$775,418, beating out a \$901,601 bid from Bowerman Construction Limited

"This price was higher than the construction cost estimate for the project, which is not inconsistent with what we have been seeing," she said. "The construction industry is experiencing quite a bit of inflationary pressures around raw materials, logistics and project pricing is becoming increasingly hard to predict."

The district has set aside \$968,000 to cover the project's construction costs, administration it's one of our best amenities.

"I love the MUP...I think it's one of our best amenities."

- Dan Law

and contingency funds with \$760,050 coming from a B.C. Tourism Dependent Communities Fund grant, \$163,093 from the Capital and Infrastructure Levy Reserve and \$44,858 from Resort Municipality Initiative funding.

This is great," said mayor Dan Law. "I love this.

Coun. Tom Stere agreed.

"This is wonderful. I'm really looking forward to this. This particular section, as we know, has been problematic for a long time."

Coun. Cathy Thicke said she "would never want to stand in the way of a further MUP improvement," but raised concerns around the project's cost.

"I understand it's post-COVID and the economy has changed, but it does seem quite a bit higher," she said.

Froment suggested construction costs have risen since previous MUP extensions.

"This is also a bit more of an urban project, so we're not out in the bush at the side of the highway if you will and there's a higher level of finish with some of the amenities," Froment said.

Thicke added that Tofino's Tonquin Trail is also in need of improvements.

"It has had no funding in the last few years, Froment said the district received two bids to so I would love to see some money from these build the project with Hazelwood submitting active transportation funds going into rejuvenating and upgrading the damage that has been done over the last few years there," she said. "Could we possibly trim off a little bit to go to that Tonquin Trail connector and improve those sorts of amenities that are very, very well used by residents and visitors and provide connection between Middle Beach and downtown as well?"

Council's vote to move ahead with the MUP extension contract was unanimous.

"I love the MUP," Law reiterated. "I think



FROM THE FRONT

Tofino council vows to pounce on infamous off-leash dog concerns

MacAllen suggested he and his wife are dog owners and their Chesterman Beach property gives them a front row seat to the number of dogs roaming freely, adding that

some wander onto their property. "All beaches have become de facto off-leash dog parks-and all within the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. I daily witness dogs chasing birds on the beach, which is unacceptable. Unleashed dogs harass me if I walk our leashed dog on the beach-also inappropriate,' he wrote.

He added the issue has made him hesitant to take his leashed dogs onto the beach.

"During the pandemic, I held off from making this complaint and in the bigger picture, this isn't the most criti-



Cathy Thicke

Reserve recognizes that off-leash dogs are unacceptable and manages enforcement. Tofino has a responsibility to do the same.

The second letter was from resident Alabama Chevrier who suggested the absence of a space for dogs to exercise and play is leading many residents to disobey the leash laws.

'Tofino dogs need a safe space where they are free to exercise and socialize without the restriction of a leash. These needs are close to impossible to fulfill while tethered to their owner," Chevrier wrote. "The only fenced areas in Tofino are the tennis court and basket-This leaves owners to use the sur-



Tofino is looking into strategies to deter dog owners from letting their pets run free in public spaces around town. (Westerly News photo)

the fact that we have some issues here in Tofino that we need to resolve."

- Cathy Thicke

rounding beaches, as well as the elementary school field, as their dog's playground.'

She suggested an area could be designated for dogs in the short term while a more permanent offleash facility is considered.

Coun. Cathy Thicke said she appreciated the letters and added that she herself feels vulnerable walking along the beach with a leashed dog.

"These letters point to the fact Tofino that we need to resolve.

I for one would really like to see council support bylaw in these matters and I would really like to see us address this in time for the shorebird migration, which starts at the end of April," she said. "I know that's an ambitious thing, but at some point we've got to think about this much more seriously. With the letters coming forward and the concerns raised by (the Coastal Animal Rescue and Education Network), we have an issue where we have a lot of animals and we have a lot of people in our area...I think we need to do some work here.

Coun. Duncan McMaster agreed.

We see these letters every year, but we're seeing them more often now. There's definitely a problem ball court in the Village Green. that we have some issues here in and it's definitely getting worse and it will get a lot worse as we get into

the summer," he said. "We have a problem that's getting worse all the time and I don't like to hear that we can't do anything about it. I would say we're choosing not to do anything about it and we need to do something about it before we have a serious accident."

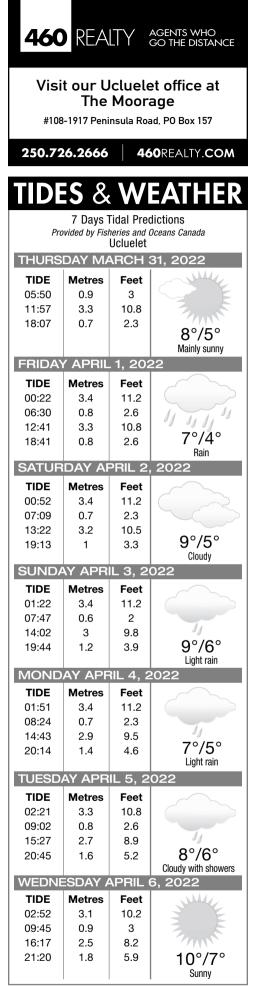
Council unanimously agreed to direct their staff to present a report on possible strategies around off-leash dogs at the town's next Committee of the Whole meeting on April 4.

'I appreciate the tenor of the conversation with council," said CAO Bob MacPherson. "In a little bit of defence of our bylaw department, this is the time of year when we have one bylaw officer on and we've got some casual help as well. So, with miles and miles of beaches, I think council understands that we can't have bylaw (staff) everywhere all at once, but let's talk about what the endpoint is that council wants to see and then our responsibility as staff is to tell you what resources are required to get there.'

During their Committee of the Whole meeting a week prior, on March 14, council had asked their manager of protective services Brent Baker about off-leash dogs and he likened the issue to illegal fireworks displays, explaining that perpetrators are often long gone by the time bylaw staff can respond.

"In order to manage off-leash dogs, you have to be there to see every off-leash dog. We get calls from people saying there's an off leash dog here or there but, if it takes us five minutes to get there, the dog is generally no longer there," he said.

"Unless we have the resources to be everywhere all the time, there are challenges. Being fully resourced to meet all those needs is probably our best chance at making a positive step.



Westerly up for three newspaper awards

WESTERLY STAFF office@westerlynews.ca

ACCOLADES

The Tofino-Ucluelet Westerly News has been named a finalist in three categories in the 2022 BC and Yukon Community Newspaper Association (BCYCNA) Ma Murray Awards

celebrate the work of community journalists across the province for advertising, photography, writing and overall newspaper excellence.

For the third time, the

The awards honour and class. In 2019 and 2020 it for his reporting on black received back-to-back Silvers. This year, it goes for Gold against east-central B.C.'s Rocky Mountain Goat and the Eagle Valley News out of Sicamous.

Westerly News editor Westerly is up for the Andrew Bailey is a final-

bears and the deadly season they had on the West Coast due to unnatural food attractants.

Community reporter and photojournalist Nora O'Malley is up for the Spot News Photo Award, Newspaper Excellence ist in the Environmental under 10,000 (circulation) Award in its circulation Writing Award category category, for her photo ti-

tled 'Trudeau's ill-timed Tofino vacation', which was taken on Canada's inaugural statutory day of Truth and Reconciliation.

The BCYCNA award winners will be announced May 14 at the Ma Murray Awards Gala at the River Rock Casino Resort in Richmond



change," he wrote. "The "These letters point to (Pacific Rim) National Park



Black Press Media

The Westerly News is published every Wednesday by Black Press Ltd. 102-1801 Bay St., Ucluelet Phone: 250-726-7029 www.westerlynews.ca

Scotch broom a scourge on Vancouver Island

No, it's not dangerously toxic like giant hogweed is. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't make more effort to get rid of it.

Scotch broom is a scourge across Vancouver Island.

Those who don't know any better might tell you it's pretty, with its bright yellow flowers standing out from roadsides, fields and anywhere else it has taken a pernicious hold – which is to say, anywhere that people haven't been vigilant in keeping it out.

keeping it out. The thing about broom is that it spreads like wildfire and can be a problem in encouraging wildfires. Each broom plant produces about 18,000 seeds, which explode from

Who We Are:

Teresa Bird - Publisher 250-720-7756 Teresa.Bird@blackpress.ca

Andrew Bailey - Editor 250-534-9213 Andrew.Bailey@WesterlyNews.ca

Nora O'Malley - 250-726-7029 Advertising / Multi-Media Journalist Nora.Omalley@WesterlyNews.ca

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their pods as they dry and spread far and wide.

The seeds can survive for years in the soil, and likely everyone reading

this has likely seen the inhospitable places where broom can take hold. Rocky mountainsides, bogs, the

gravel side of the road – nothing seems to deter them. These plants crowd out native spe-

These plants crowd out native species as they spread, threatening our natural biodiversity. They are also highly flammable

in summer, when the fire risk is highest.

It probably seems to many a futile endeavour to try to rid ourselves of broom. But not so, says the Broombusters Invasive Plant Society. It can be stopped and has been in some areas.

We can all help out. Even if you work to keep broom off your prop-

erty and away from your fence line, that's a big help – thousands of seeds that won't be spreading. The way to do it is to cut the broom off at the base when it starts

The way to do it is to cut the broom off at the base when it starts to flower in the next few months. And if you'd like to do a little more, you can tackle it in public places where it is spreading in your

community.

- Black Press



Cat Cowan captured this delightful shot of Boo the grizzly bear getting active after hibernation at the Grizzly Bear Refuge at Kicking Horse Mountain Resort. Do you have a photo of your local surroundings that you would like to share? Send it to us at Andrew.Bailey@WesterlyNews.ca. (Cat Cowan photo)

Question of the week

Do you think a replacement is needed for Ucluelet's rec. hall?

Vote at the Westerly News Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/WesterlyNews

or on our Twitter feed @WesterlyNews



Last week's question

Do you plan to continue wearing a mask in indoor public spaces?		
public spaces.	YES	

YES NO 56% 44%



COLUMN **Driving pet peeves**

PHILIP WOLF philip.wolf@blackpress.ca

I read with some fascination a recent story ('B.C. drivers struggle with roundabout in viral TikTok') detailing some driving misadventures.

Apparently, a new roundabout intersection in Willoughby has been going viral after footage of confused drivers going the wrong way made its way online to TikTok. Considering how simple the use of roundabouts seems to be, you might think I would find the story surprising.

Nope. It brought to mind my own recent roundabout experiences, as well as my favourite traffic-calming device story so far. A while back, I was exploring Qualicum Beach when I came up to a roundabout, expecting nothing out of the ordinary, with only one car in front of me and no others coming.

The other driver entered, and moved slowly to the right, then began to circle around. I followed. Then it happened. The other vehicle came to a full stop (reminder, no other cars in sight) and sat, the driver seemingly brainlocked.

Another car approached behind me and we all sat there. Then another car came from the other direction and waited to enter, correctly yielding to the one already in the roundabout. Except it was still stopped and didn't move. I honked (lightly and politely, at least that's what I told myself) and this seemed to shake the other driver's brainlock and they finally moved around and then exited.

I'd never seen that before. Stopping in a roundabout. Then about a week later, same roundie, same result. Car came to a complete stop after making it most of the way around. Bizarre.

I shared this tale with colleagues, one of whom easily topped it with their own Qualicum Beach roundabout story.

He told tale of approaching the traffic circle, only to watch a vehicle ahead never lose speed and simply proceed straight through, gaining some decent

air, Dukes of Hazzard style, and landing on the other side. Oh, for some dash cam footage of that. The discussion led to talk of driving pet peeves. We all have them.

As a younger Richard Petty wannabe, my ability to be irritated by my fellow drivers (and the NSFW words that flowed freely when encountering these situations) was much greater.

Now, no longer piloting sports cars and with many years of driving around safely so as to protect the kids in the back, I'm a little more mellow. But there will always be things that rile me up.

Here's some, in no particular order:

Drivers on their phones. Despite all the safety campaigns, not a day goes by that I don't see someone texting away, oblivious to the green light in front of them, or wandering into my lane on the highway

Drivers with dogs on their lap. The tiny little pooches are bad enough. The mid-sized ones? Însanity. First, it's distracting. Second, it's unsafe for the animals. Don't do this.

Not signalling. Don't make a lane change right in front of me without signalling your intentions. I'd include the 'driving with your signal on' under this umbrella, but I have a soft right turn on the way to my own home, and sometimes make it a full block or two before noticing my signal is still on. My apologies to the confused paparazzi following me home each day.

Tailgaters. You're not getting anywhere any faster by weaving in and out of traffic and riding someone's bumper to force them over. In the old days, you might have gotten a nasty brake check from the less-mellow me. Just back off.

Driving with loose gravel in the back of your truck, or other items precariously tied down. Too many rock chips to count over the years have hit my window.

Phillip Wolf is the editor of the Parksville-Qualicum News.

Letters to the Editor Deadline: Sundays 2:00pm Andrew.Bailey@WesterlyNews.ca



Re: 'Canadian men's soccer team beats Jamaica 4-0 to qualify for World Cup in Qatar' (www.westerlynews.ca, March 27)

They will cause a shock to the World Cup in Qatar. Add to that once Alphonso Davies is healthy and back on the team and with the master Herdman at the helm as a family Yoda-like coach with a big heart for true teamwork

Pacific Rim Chiropractic

Re: 'B.C. to provide \$110 one-time rebate to relieve high gas prices' (www.westerlynews.ca, March 25)

Tax payer money is not free money.

Debbie Shaughnessy

This may offset the cost for drivers, but what about the rest of us who are paying fuel surcharges for anything delivered.

Wes Belland

Re: 'Tofino CAO announces retirement' www.westerlynews.ca, March 21)

Happy retirement Bob.

Tony Edward Bennett

Re: '5 of the 10 jobs with highest vacancy rates in Canada pay less than \$20/hour' (www.westerlynews.ca, March 24)

Well the starting wage is at \$15.20, that's the first and easiest problem to spot here

Bunny Layne

KEL ROBERTS, Director ACRD, Area C, Long Beach 250-927-3367 kroberts@acrd bc ca

SANDRA LESLIE. Trustee School District 70 250.726.4635

Rules to write by

All LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must be signed and include your full name, hometown and daytime contact phone number.

State a fact, state a source. Letters without these requirements will not be published. Letters must be 300 words or less and are subject to editing. The WESTERLY NEWS retains the right not to publish submissions.

Send them to:

Email:

editor@westerlynews.ca





AWARD 2019

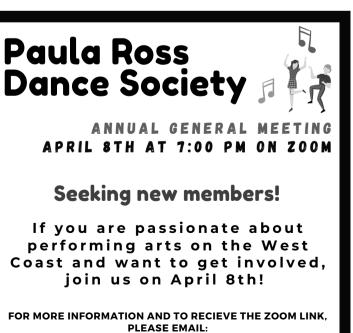
BCYCNA

The Westerly News encourages feedback from its readers

Do you have something to say? Send a letter to the editor.

> Andrew.Bailey@WesterlyNews.ca 250-726-7029 Deadline Sundays at 2pm.

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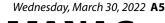
UCLUELET:



Dan Law, Mayor District of Tofino 250-725-3229 dlaw@tofino ca

MAYCO NOEL, Mayor District of Ucluelet 250-726-7744 mnoel@ucluelet.ca





BUSINESS

Tofino restaurant cracks SBBC Awards Top 5

NORA O'MALLEY

nora.omalley@westerlynews.ca

Lil Ronnie's Beachside BBQ is on a roll

Earlier in March, the Small Business BC (SBBC) Awards named the popular Tofino BBQ joint one of five finalists for the Business Impact Award. SBBC received 636 nominations for the accolade, representing 442 businesses across the province.

The nod comes a couple months after Lil Ronnie's was bestowed the title of Business of the Year by the Tofino-Long Beach Chamber of Commerce.

"I want to express my thanks to the community. It really does mean a lot. As a small business owner, you go through a lot of ups and downs and you know, winning the Tofino Business of the Year through the chamber really brought a tear to my eve. It was an awesome experience. It showed that we really do make an impact in the community," said restaurant owner Ron Lee.

"And then to come into the Top 5 for the Small Business BC Impact Award it really just nails it home that we do have a place in this community, and that was my ultimate goal a part of these towns on the West when we first started out here, was to really plant our feet and become



Ronnie Lee, left, and the hardworking team at Lil Ronnie's Beachside BBQ pulled off a tremendous feat on Dec. 22, 2021, serving about 1,350 people takeout Christmas supper in one evening. (Westerly file photo)

Coast '

years ago from the Maritimes and Ronnie's is now well recognized for built his Tofino business "from providing food for community din-Lee moved to Tofino about six basically nothing" as he says. Lil ners and supporting local charities \$1,500 for third.

whenever needed. Most recently for Christmas 2021, the Lil Ronnie's crew served about 1,350 people takeout turkey dinner in one evening.

"I'm really proud of the decisions that I've made along the way and the roads that we've navigated. Coming through that power outage that was prior to the pandemic and being able to navigate that. Our business is always adapting and growing. This year, one of the best feelings is we opened back up and we have a full kitchen team. Everybody just came back. You must have a good work environment if people are just coming back. It's pretty awesome. I'm just living on a high right now," he said.

Lee also became a new dad about a month and a half ago when his partner Morgan Coyle gave birth to their baby boy Lucas on March 11, adding gravy to the success roll.

"Lucas has been sitting here in the office with dad doing all the work. He's my good luck charm,' beamed Lee.

The winner of the SBBC Business Impact Award will be announced at a virtual awards presentation on April 28. A cash prize of \$8,000 goes to first place, \$4,000 to second, and





Expression of Interest Board Remuneration Review Committee

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) invites interested individuals from the Alberni-Clayoquot Region to volunteer to sit on the 2022 ACRD Board Remuneration **Review** Committee

Every four years, on general election year, the ACRD Board of Directors establishes an independent committee to review remuneration, expenses and benefits provided to Regional District Directors.

The ACRD is looking for an individual with a good understanding of local government in the Alberni-Clayoquot Region to sit on the Review Committee.

As a Committee member, you will:

- Review all existing indemnities and expenses;
- Review comparative rates and formats for other Regional District Boards;
- Consider the workload required, expected and undertaken by members of the Board, including attendance at meetings, community consultation and participation in conferences and workshops:
- Consider the different roles, members and appointments and how they should be resourced:
- Interview all current Directors to identify issues/ideas;
- Consider any other information the Committee considers relevant to remuneration;
- Prepare recommendations for the Board's consideration on or before July 31st in the year of a general election including recommendations for remuneration rates, expenses, and policy.

A copy of the Policy for the Board Remuneration Review Committee and the current Board Remuneration and Expenses Bylaw is available on the Regional District website at www.acrd.bc.ca

Interested individuals are asked to submit a letter outlining their related experience no later than Friday, April 8th, 2022, at 4:00 pm to the attention of Wendy Thomson, General Manager of Administrative Services, ACRD, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC V9Y 2E3 or email wthomson@acrd.bc.ca

Wednesday, March 30, 2022 A7

ROFILE

Do you have something to say? Andrew Bailev, Editor 250-726-7029 • and rew.bailey@westerlynews.ca



Jens and Nelly Heyduck, owners and designers at AHOY Bags, wave special edition sailcloth bags created to show solidarity with Ukraine. (Submitted photo)

West Coast businesses step up for Ukraine

NORA O'MALLEY nora.omalley@westerlynews.ca

Owners of Ucluelet-based Ahoy Bags Jens and Nelly Heyduck have created eight, limited edition bags to show solidarity with Ukraine. The special bags are made from upcycled blue Dacron sailcloth and yellow marine grade umbrella fabric - to reflect unity with the national flag of Ukraine.

All of the proceeds will go directly to the humanitarian relief efforts in Ukraine.

"It's rare that we get our hands on a coloured piece of fabric. It's the second time that we get a coloured Dacron sail. We held this bag for a special occasion and then this happened so it was just the perfect match, the natural thing to do," said Jens, noting that the linen white handles are coloured coated for peace.

"On a personal level, it's just a huge inspiration how brave the people of Ukraine are and how they stand up for their country and Europe again.

"On a personal level, it's just a huge inspiration how brave the people of Ukraine are and how they stand up for their country and each other."

- Jens Heyduck

each other. I think in (President) Zelensky they have found an absolute role model of a politician as a leader. This is how a leader of a free country should be, putting his people first and his personal interested second," he said.

The Heyduck's, who are originally from Germany and immigrated to Canada in 2009, say it's really upsetting to see war happening in

ly mind-boggling how this still can happen," said Jens. "Russia invaded Ukraine on complete illegitimate grounds and it is an absolute tragedy that something like this is happening in Europe. It is a war also against Europe as well as it is a war against the democracy that Ukraine worked for really hard and suffered a lot to gain this independence from Russia. It to the Canadian Red Cross. The federal governis absolutely tragic to see something like this happening," Jens told the Westerly.

Nelly talked about the millions of Ukrainians that have been displaced as a direct result of Russia's invasion.

"How does it feel to be running away from your own country? To become homeless? They left everything back there. Sometimes people are not aware how it feels. You have to flee your own country because you are not safe anymore. People are traumatized. The ones who do another run."

"After the civil war in Bosnia in the 1990's, I flee already who are in Poland or Germany; thought we were done with this. It's absolute- It's amazing to see people coming together in Europe and driving to the borders and trying to help however they can," she said.

Founders of Ucluelet-based Mint Cleaning Monika Scott and Robyn Pook also stepped up in a big way to show their solidarity for Ukraine. On Feb. 26, Mint Cleaning donated 100 per cent of proceeds from one day of sales ment matched their donation of \$5,522.86, so the final total amounted to \$11,045.72.

The Heyduck's went on to say that their blue and yellow bags are just a tiny token of appreciation for the struggles Ukrainians are facing and that this war should not be tolerated.

'Our hearts go out to the Ukrainian people and their suffering," they said. "We only got a small piece of sail. If someone else has a blue Dacron sail out there we are happy to



LITERATURE

Tom Stewart discusses new adventure novel

NORA O'MALLEY nora.omalley@westerlynews.ca

Tofino writer Tom Stewart has penned and self-published his second novel.

Immortal North was released to the world on March 7, just two years after Stewart's memoir Under Big-Hearted Skies: A Young Man's Memoir of Adventure, Wilderness, & Love hit Amazon's Best Seller charts.

Although it's still early days, Stewart said the novel has been really well-received and that some of the reviews are beyond what he could have hoped for.

WN: Tell us why you chose to set your novel in the isolation of the North.

TS: I worked in the North for years as a bush pilot, fishing and hunting guide, oil rig roughneck. My memory bank of its beauty is full. Makes it easier to write the scenes

WN: How was the transition from Non-fiction to Fiction?

TS: The transition felt really smooth. I'm trying to write the stuff about life that matters: beauty, joy, suffering, love and love lost, laughter and death. Those types of things. So whether the medium is a fictional novel or a true memoir, they share big commonalities. But y'know, it's nice that fiction isn't constrained by the truth.



Tofino author Tom Stewart takes a cappuccino and talks shop at Driftwood Café. (Nora O'Malley photo)

WN: What was the most challenging part about writing this second novel?

TS: Through one and a half years I've rewritten this novel at least two hundred times trying to make it something worthy of people's time. Scrapped whole chapters, rewrote sentences



Thank you. You're only one person but your donation strengthened thousands within Central & Northern Vancouver Island.



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BN/Registration Number: 108160185 RR 0001

over and over for hours and sometimes still be challenging.

WN: What aspects of your own life helped backlist of titles. inspire this book?

TS: Well, in one way or another, its pages are soaked with my tears and wrinkled with my laughter.

WN: What is your favourite passage in the book and why?

TS: On page 301 it starts out, "When he returned to the sleigh his quarry was unmoving and there was no need to check for a pulse as he saw mist rising from the man's gagged mouth." It's too much of a spoiler to say more, but from there until the end of that chapter, it's an example of what I'm striving for: write beautiful prose about things that matter and ership. with high-stakes scenes.

WN: Is Immortal North part of a series?

TS: Well, if you're asking me if I'm currently plugging away at a manuscript with 90,000 words—10,000 more than Immortal North itself-and if its scenes are also set in the wild north with a storied family...

WN: How are sales going so far online since it was released and what does a literary success look like for you?

TS: It's early days, the book has sold about threw them away. That repetitive process can 80 copies. My first book, Under Big-Hearted Skies, has sold over 1000—but advertising costs money and being a profitable writer takes a

Unbiased reviews on Goodreads have been truly positive and beyond what I could have hoped for-that means I'm moving readers, people I've never met—and that really matters to me. It's very motivating.

That itself is a meaningful achievement. But that does not pay the bills, and of course I want my efforts to scale. I'm working at it. I tell myself: earn it. Write several beautiful books. Crack your heart open like an egg for the pan. Sweat over every sentence. Write for hours every day and then rip most of it up and do it better. Work with professional editors. My focus is long term.

I aspire to be deserved of a widening read-

WN: Why should locals give this a try?

TS: It's set in the isolated wilderness amongst raw beauty-that's not so unlike our beloved little peninsula. One fateful day that woodland life is violently broken. And it's written by your homeboy at the end of the road. Give him a shot.

Immortal North is available locally at Mermaid Tales Book Shop in Tofino and online as an eBook or audiobook.



Pacific Rim Better at Home Program ... coming soon.

The Pacific Rim Hospice Society will soon be offering the Pacific Rim Better at Home Program to all older adults and elders (55 years and older) in all ten west coast communities. This program is funded by the United Way British Columbia. Program consists of offering non-medical home supports to elders/older adults in order to keep them living in their homes more comfortably and may include the following:

- Friendly Visiting Program older adults paired with a weekly volunteer visitor Light house cleaning
- Transportation to medical and health appointments locally
- Light yard work • Help with groceries/pharmacy orders
- And more...

Some programs cost nothing, some will have a fee based on one's income. There is an application to join which is a written form - this can also be done over the phone with our staff. Once the application is complete a meeting is scheduled with elder and the PRBH Coordinator to find out what one's needs are and how the program may help meet those needs.

We are also seeking Advisory Committee members (55 years plus) to help guide this program with the first meeting set in early April. Honorariums provided for each meeting attended.

Also, we are seeking individuals/companies in each of the communities to clean homes, provide light maintenance - requirements include: commercial liability insurance, full covid vaccinations and RCMP Criminal Record checks for all individuals entering elders' homes. Connect with us for more information.

To apply, phone or email the PRHS office at **250.725.1240** or email: betterathome@pacificrimhospice.ca More information: www.pacificrimhospice.ca

RECONCILIATION



Members of the Nuchatlaht First Nation and supporters rally outside the B.C. Supreme Court before the start of an Indigenous land title case in Vancouver on Monday, March 21. The lawsuit brought by the First Nation against the provincial government seeks to reclaim part of its territory on Nootka Island. (Darryl Dyck, Canadian Press, photo)

Province disputes Nuchatlaht claim

BRENNA OWEN The Canadian Press

A lawyer for the British Columbia government says it admits members of the Nuchatlaht First Nation are descended from a historical Indigenous collective, but the lineage through a family of chiefs doesn't establish Aboriginal title to an area its claiming.

Jeff Echols told a B.C. Supreme Court trial on Tuesday that the government disputes the First Nation's claim to 230 square kilometres of land on Nootka Island, off Vancouver Island's west coast.

Echols said the "modern-day" Nuchatlaht draws its membership from a broader base of Indigenous Peoples, and the province plans to present evidence showing the First Nation wasn't alone in using the island when the Crown asserted sovereignty over what's now B.C.

He told the court that case law has established that Aboriginal title is not transferable.

The legal test would not allow the modern Nuchatlaht to take on the title of other historical Indigenous groups whose members joined or merged with them, he said.

The Nuchatlaht Nation, which has about 160 members, claims the B.C. and federal governments have denied their rights by "effectively dispossessing" them of the land.

The lawsuit asks for a declaration that recognizes their title and puts a stop to logging. Jack Woodward, a lawyer for the nation,

told the court on Monday that expert evidence shows the Nuchatlaht were organized into a confederacy of sorts, with a number of groups who shared a summertime gathering place in the claim area.

The claim meets the test for Aboriginal title set out in the Supreme Court of Canada's landmark Tsilhqot'in decision in 2014, he said.

That case recognized Tsilhqot'in rights and title over a large section of their traditional territory in B.C.'s Interior.

A lawyer for Western Forest Products, which is named as a defendant in the lawsuit, told the court on Tuesday that the logging company takes no position on whether the Nuchatlaht have Aboriginal title on Nootka Island.

But Geoff Plant urged the court to consider how a declaration recognizing the nation's ights and title would affect third parties.

Western Forest Products has provincially approved logging tenures in the claim area. Plant said the lawsuit, as it's structured, is 'incapable of fully addressing the rights of third parties and the public interest.

If Nuchatlaht rights and title over the area are proven, Plant said the best way to achieve reconciliation would be for the court to suspend making any declaration to allow time for his client's interests to be taken into account.

A lawyer for the federal government said Tuesday it intends to "maintain a minimal role, given that there is no relief sought against the federal Crown."

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COVID-19 IN BC

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Register your kids for vaccination today gov.bc.ca/vaccineforkids



Tofino-Ucluelet Westerly News



Bernard Christopher Jack Jensen

August 9, 1964 – March 4, 2022

You may have known him as Boo, Bandido, Bernie, or Bernard, but there was no mistaking his warm smile or easy laugh especially when he connected all the dots and shared whatever his muse was with you. Family, friend, fixer, fisher... his life was a fusion of all these parts set to the music he loved. He was kind, thoughtful, hardworking, and generous. He always cheered for the underdog and he brought out the muse in all of us.

Where to begin? The year was 1964 in a small fishing village on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. It was there that a particularly special crop of young lads was born to families busy with the day to day ebb and flow of town life. They were also ignored by older siblings and it was in this blind spot that they thrived. Tofino was the ultimate playground with one road in and out, surrounded by the sea.

It was also in the days when cats, dogs and kids roamed free: free to build forts, ride bikes, raid blackberry patches, and fish from docks until the sun went down. These special early friendships and stories would last a lifetime with many, many more being added along the way.

It was into this setting that Boo first arrived, having gotten the name because when we siblings called to him in his crib he only knew how to make the sound "boo" so Boo it was from then on.

Shortly after he turned three our family would begin lengthy driving trips each fall to sunny Mexico, returning in April in time for father Alf to prepare for the West Coast salmon fishing season. Our mother Phoebe, a nurse, was quite the trooper, gamely agreeing to what would become half a lifetime of Mexican camping trips.

Bandido loved Mexico and all his new amigos. They loved him too and took great pride in teaching him the worst of the worst Mexican swear words which he would gleefully repeat to anyone who would happen by.

We all remember the grey station wagon, the trailer, and finally the big green bus we travelled in across the thousands of miles. As we got older the Mexican trips to Chimulco, a mineral hot springs, and Barra-de-Navidad, a small fishing town, would pause, and we integrated back into Tofino life. It was also in this time that there would be a trip to Denmark with brother Leonard where they went to meet all the Danish relatives and sight see Europe. But mostly life was about high school. We all knew that Ucluelet Secondary School for Bernard was about taking shop to keep his car running so he could escape to concerts and a place to plan parties for the weekend. High school was also the place he would meet his future wife Janet Strom.

They, like many young couples who grew up on the west coast, were restless wanting other experiences. They opted to move to Victoria where Janet worked in Government offices, then to Langford and finally to Shawnigan Lake. The small, quiet community on the Malahat had everything one could ever need: a hockey rink, a big lake for fishing, and a city with occasional concerts just down the hill. Bernie, as he now called himself occasionally, started to work less on the ocean and more on land in various jobs.

He and Janet settled into the small, community and family life with the arrival of sons Dylan in 1992 and Jaimie in 1995. Bernard loved being a dad. Dylan and Jaime were the center of his world and he set out to outfit them with every yard sale toy you could ever imagine much to Janet's dismay. Those early Shawnigan years were busy young family years for them.

Later there were trips to Cuba and a new hobby of fixing anything with an engine for he had time to fill as a single dad. He also enjoyed his work of twelve years running an excavator at Lake Wood Estates and never, ever mentioned retiring.

Bernard loved the water but fishing was his passion which he



shared with lots of ocean going pals. He didn't love the kind of fishing that put food on the table as in dragging, gill netting or deck handing. No, it was the one-on-one thrill of the chase from small boats like Derf or Fred that would fill his days. He enjoyed paddles across Shawnigan Lake, the derbies with Doug, and the days spent salmon fishing with buddy Mark filling up soul brother Darcy's canner and freezer for the winter. All this set to favorite tunes curated with pal Jack. These were the things that would float his boat.

Now we all know there are secrets in the world of fishers: the time, the place, the speed, the lure, and the luck, but the edited stories were shared freely with friends and with gusto over steaks and plenty of beers.

So Boo, maybe you're out there somewhere.....laughing, listening to your favourite tunes and wearing your favourite fishing hat in your favourite fishing spot. We hope so, because we all know that if the fish are biting you won't be far away....

The family: Phoebe, Leonard, Leah (John)

Sons: Dylan, Jaime and their mom Janet.

Godfathers: Scott Gibson, Jack Tieleman, the Hansens

Special thanks: Tammy-Lynn and Dave Donaldson

You, his friends: Too many to count and too many to mention. If you wish, please make a donation to the Tofino Salmon Enhancement Society.

Please join us for a Celebration of Life: Tofino and Ucluelet friends

Saturday, May 14, 2022, 1:00 – 4:00, with guest speaker at 2:00 followed by open mic.

Tofino Royal Canadian Legion, 331 Main Street

No need to RSVP for the Tofino event, just drop by.

Please join us for a Celebration of Life: South, Mid-Island and Mainland friends

Saturday, April 23, 2022, 1:00 – 4:00, with guest speaker at 2:00 followed by open mic.

Ramada Duncan Hotel, 140 Trans-Canada Highway, Duncan

RSVP Required for the Duncan event by April 8 to the event page.

An invitation event page will be sent out to Bernard's Facebook friends soon.

If you are not on Facebook please ask a friend who is to submit your name for you.

We don't want to miss anyone.

For those who can not attend we will try to post pictures post event to Facebook.

<u>Mask wearing appreciated.</u> Due to the uncertainty of Covid we will post any changes to the Westerly News `events' section and on Facebook.



3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, B.C. CANADA V9Y 2E3 Telephone (250) 720-2700 FAX: (250) 723-1327

REGIONAL DISTRICT

Request for Proposal

Electoral Area E (Beaver Creek), Tseshaht First Nation and Hupacasath First Nation Residential Curbside Collection Services CCS01-22

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) has issued this Request for Proposals to solicit proposals from qualified and experienced Contractors to provide curbside waste collection services. The services include, but are not limited to, the following.

• Bi-Weekly Recyclables collection from 1551 single-family and equivalent homes, duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes and delivery of collected recyclables to the Recycle BC contracted depot located at: WCC Springhill RF – 1429 Springhill Rd., Parksville, BC V9P 2T2

o The ACRD may allow materials to be deposited at the Alberni Valley Landfill in the future – 7080 McCoy Lake Rd., Port Alberni, BC V9Y 9G1.

The contract is expected to commence July 1, 2022.

RFP Closing: April 29, 2022 at 2:00 pm

Closing of Questions: April 6, 2022

For further information please go to :

https://www.bcbid.gov.bc.ca/ Or https://www.acrd.bc.ca/bidopportunities



IN FOCUS



Beachcleaners sort through microplastics collected during a cleanup of Tofino's Chesterman Beach hosted by Surfrider Pacific Rim on Saturday as part of the Pacific Rim Whale Festival.

WHALE FEST BEACH CLEAN

The Pacific Rim Whale Festival wrapped up over the weekend with marine mammal lovers spending the final day of their festival experience boosting their karma points by cleaning up Chesterman Beach. Surfrider Pacific Rim hosted the beachclean, which included educational booths explaining the devastating impacts beach trash can have on grey whales, which largely munch on food at the bottom of the ocean where debris tends to accumulates.

For more photos of community events, check out our Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/WesterlyNews.



Mara McLaughlin of the Redd Fish Restoration Society happilly handed out information on the society's habitat restoration efforts.

ANDREW BAILEY PHOTOS



Tofino resident J.K. Patterson was all smiles as he combed the beach filling his bucket with harmfully discarded trash.



A gloved beachcleaner peels a disposable beverage sleeve off the sand preventing it from winding up in the ocean.

Pacific Rim 🛞 Arts Society

Pacific Rim Arts Society is looking for a **Summer Festival Coordinator**

The Pacific Rim Arts Society is looking for an energetic individual to help plan and deliver the 2022 Pacific Rim Summer Festival. The festival coordinator, under the direction of a Board committee and Executive Director, will work with a set budget, execute the events, and adhere to goals and objectives set by the Society. The successful candidate will have experience with organizing and managing comparable events, be competent and able to multi-task and deliver projects on time.

Coordinator's duties:

- Execute events following the committee basic plan for the festival
- Brainstorm with Summer Festival Committee
- · Liaison with venues and partners.
- Ensure posters / marketing material are distributed in communities.
- Work with Executive Director (Artistic Director) with details to be included on website and social media.
- Coordinate exhibitors / performers and hospitality including welcome package
- Other duties as required
- Final written report

This contract is based on hours for prep leading up to the Summer Festival as well as festival hours. Hours will vary, coordinator will be expected to work all events throughout the festival. Events do not have to take place consecutively, as long as a reasonable number of events are planned and executed based on available performers and activities. Festival Dates: July 1 -17, 2022.

Coordinator position starts as soon as possible.

Travel is required between the communities of Ucluelet and Tofino and surrounding indigenous communities, a vehicle is a must have – no exceptions.

> Please send cover letter and resume to **pacificrimarts@gmail.ca**, by April 20, 2022-03-23 Attention: Executive Director

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Career Opportunities

More than 1.5 million Canadian families are in need of affordable housing. Your contributions provides Habitat with the resources it needs to help families.



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Dental Care for Seniors

Canadians of all ages can enjoy good oral health and benefit from regular professional dental care. Provided you look after them, your teeth and gums will look good and stay healthy for life.

As you age, however, you may need to make a few changes in the way you care for your teeth and gums.

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SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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!

	З	S	٢	4	9	8	L	6	G
	Ζ	4	G	2	F	6	8	З	9
	6	9	8	G	ε	Z	Ъ	→	4
	8	6	9	Z	2	4	ŀ	G	З
	4	G	З	6	8	٢	9	2	Z
	ł	L	2	ω	G	9	4	8	6
	S	8	6	9	4	G	3	Z	ŀ
	9	т	Z	8	6	З	G	4	2
l	G	3	4	→	Z	2	6	9	8

ISLAND

Westshore Motorsports hosts Island Cup

High-octane action returned to the Westshore Motorsports Park on Saturday as it hosted the Island Cup extreme 4×4 competition for the first time.

More than 50 highly modified buggies, Jeeps and trucks driven by fearless drivers tested both their mettle and their metal by attempting to drive over massive obstacles made just for the event.

Track general manager Daryl Crocker said heavy machinery spent three days moving everything from heavy concrete blocks, massive logs and even several busses into place to form the course.

"(Island Cup) has never really had a legitimate location to do it, so this year we were able to figure it out to do it here with a man-made course. The support has just been incredible," said Crocker. "We have lots of people in the grandstands, and everyone is just having a really great time."

While the event is spread over the entire weekend, Saturday saw vehicles organized into different classes tackle rocks a metre tall, drive over the top of a bus and much more. With sporadic rain throughout the day, the toughest obstacle was clearly the giant wooden teeter-totter.

Vehicle after vehicle lined up to attempt it, but only the very best were able to climb high enough up the slippery wooden platform and gently tip it over to the other side without sliding off.

Roll-overs and mechanical failures were common and expected, with a heavy-duty crane or excavator always on hand to help a competitor get back in the action.

With hundreds in the stands, Crocker said the response to this brand new event for the track has been a great source of motivation for the organizers as they gear up for the official start of what will be their final racing season next month.

"Having a brand-new event like this and the support we are seeing for it just goes to show how import-



A competitor navigates an obstacle with the help of a spotter during Saturday's Island Cup extreme 4x4 competition at the Westshore Motorsports Park. (Justin Samanski-Lagille photo)

ISLAND IN BRIEF

Black Press Media

ant venues like this are to the West Shore," he said. "Last weekend we had a junkyard rally cross and it was very well attended as well.

"It's really neat the mesh we have here this weekend with the 4×4 community and our typical racing community all coming together for this. It just goes to show you the strength of the communities."

The track's official oval track racing season opening is set for April 9, and many special racing events are scheduled throughout the season... — www.goldstreamgazette.com

Sudden death of Victoria child under investigation

The Vancouver Island Integrated Major Crime Unit has launched an investigation into the sudden death of a child on Thursday (March 24). B.C. Emergency Health Services

paramedics responded to a call on Thursday just after 7 p.m. where the child and a parent were then transported to Victoria General Hospital. The child died later that night, a

release from VicPD said. Just before 9 p.m., officers were called to Victoria General Hospital regarding the death where it was realized the child was involved in a well-being check the previous evening. Officers had responded to a well-being check on March 23 involving the parent and child in the 900-block of Johnson Street.

VicPD notified the Independent Investigations Office of B.C. and an investigation was commenced to determine what role, if any, police actions or inactions may have played in the death.

This investigation is active and ongoing, said communications coordinator for VicPD, Bowen Osoko. More information will be released when possible.

Anyone with information about the incident are encouraged to call the VicPD Report Desk at 250-995-7654, extension 1.

— www.vicnews.com

RCMP make arrest following abduction attempt in Nanaimo

A man suspected of attempted abduction was arrested less than 24 hours after the alleged incident near a north Nanaimo park.

Nanaimo RCMP, in a press release Saturday, March 26, reported that

Bradley Dylan Boscariol has been arrested and charged with assault with a weapon and attempt to kidnap. A woman had been walking near May Richards Bennett Pioneer Park on Thursday, March 24, when a stranger asked for directions, then allegedly attacked her with a blunt object. The woman was able to escape the attack and was able to provide an "excellent" description of the suspect vehicle, said police, which helped them focus their investigation.

Boscariol was arrested at about 6 p.m. Friday, March 25, with the co-operation of Ladysmith RCMP, the press release noted.

"Having an individual arrested for this incident and in police custody within 24 hours must be reassuring to the citizens of Nanaimo," said reserve Const. Gary O'Brien, Nanaimo RCMP spokesman, in the release. "Our investigators would also like to extend their sincerest appreciation to the general public for their co-operation and assistance with this file, and to the very courageous and tough young lady who stood strong when faced with real adversity. In our books, she's a rock star."

RCMP continued their investigation Saturday, March 26, with searches of the suspect's residence and vehicle. Boscariol remains in police custody and has a court appearance Monday, March 28.

"This incident outraged the community and our officers as well. The investigators were highly motivated to ensure justice was promptly carried out and that the person responsible was found and held accountable," said O'Brien.

Police are asking for the public's help with two aspects of the investigation. The woman reported seeing a black SUV with three male occupants drive slowly past her mmediately before she was attacked. She also lost a brown leather backpack during the incident.

— www.nanaimobulletin.com

DRUGS GET PASSED AROUND. How can my teen feel free to say No when he's with other kids?



TRANSPORTATION



Provincial government staff host public engagement session over Cathedral Grove safety at the Port Alberni Friendship Center in 2019. (Mike Youds photo)

B.C. resumes engagement for Cathedral Grove safety

Special to the Alberni Valley News

Provincial government ministries are preparing for more public engagement on safety improvements in Cathedral Grove.

Visitor safety and traffic congestion through the busy park have been a serious concern for decades.

As tourist traffic and park visitors increase at this time of year, risk of an accident goes up as well. Alberni Valley residents and RCMP have long called for more safety measures.

Parks staff from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy together with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure staff started consultations in fall 2018 and held a second round in summer 2019. About 500 people submitted ideas.

A preliminary safety study was used to develop design options that would address pedestrian and traffic issues while protecting the integrity of the park.

Four years after the planning process began, there has been no visible sign of progress, leading Port Alberni city council to speculate about an apparent delay in safety improvements.

As it turns out, there is no delay, not officially at least.

"The ministry hasn't yet finalized safety improvements, as we're still in the engagement process and expect the next public engagement to take place soon," a spokesperson for the environment ministry explained, responding to a query from Alberni Valley News. The ministry continues to moni-

The ministry continues to monitor speed limits through the area to determine if additional changes are "I find it interesting that so much has been spent improving the 'end of the road' at Kennedy Lake yet virtually nothing at the beginning of the road"

– Bill Collette

warranted: "Traffic slowing mechanisms have been put in place, and we are working to increase awareness of drivers and visitors to the safety issues."

Others had spoken out before Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce called for greater safety measures seven years ago, said executive director Bill Collette.

"We first brought this up back in the summer of 2015," Collette noted. "We produced a video that can be found online — 'Cathedral Chaos' — that clearly depicted the problem."

In his estimation, it has been seven years of very little action.

"There has been public engagement, so I'm not sure why more is needed. I find it interesting that so much has been spent improving the 'end of the road' at Kennedy Lake yet virtually nothing at the beginning of the road (Cathedral Grove)."

The province has taken some steps over the years, installing speed reader boards, overhead flashing pedestrian signs, warning lights and no-left-turn signs.

By most accounts, those have not resolved the problem.

During the last phase of public engagement, the transportation ministry said a more costly, long-term option to ease the hazardous bottleneck through the park — a highway bypass widely favoured by area residents — would not solve the main problem.

No dates have been announced for the next phase of public engagement.

CATHEDRAL CHAOS TIMELINE

2003: Province announces plans for parking lot relocation to improve access and safety in MacMillan Provincial Park, Cathedral Grove.

2011: Province abandons plans for parking lot after public backlash. Traffic calming devices installed instead.

2015: Chamber of commerce releases video, calls for improvements.

2018: Province begins public engagement, conducts safety study.

2019: Public engagement continues; options include a pedestrian overpass, new parking areas and a centre barrier to prevent U-turns; province starts engineering work for safety improvements.

2020: Cathedral Grove design work listed on Premier John Horgan's constituency blog site.

2021: Chamber calls Cathedral Grove parking lot "a gong show" and an accident waiting to happen.

2022: Province to resume public engagement.

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COMMUNITY



EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT: Parks Canada's outreach team creatively dished out a flurry of marine mammal information to a fascinated pod of Pacific Rim Whale Festival goers on Thursday, March 24, including special kids programming along the Wild Pacific Trail by the Amphitrite Lighthouse. (Andrew Bailey photo)

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Call **250.726.7029** or email **nora.omalley@westerlynews.ca**



CO-OP Tofino

UPCOMING MEMBER SHOPPING UPDATES

TOFINO CO-OP

All through 2022 Seniors (65 and older) will receive 10% off at Food Store every Wednesday.

- April 5th Scratch & Save Tuesday
- April 8th Member Friday 10 % Discount
- April 22nd Member Friday 10 % Discount

Contact the Westerly newsroom at 250-726-7029 and rew.bai



andrew.bailey@westerlynews.ca

Mike Tomilin

THANK YOU for sharing the last 12 years with us, showing your great Leadership and being there for us from Start to Finish.

We wish you, and Barb all the best on this next chapter of your life.

We will miss you.

Thank you!!

From your Tofino Co-op Family

Tofino

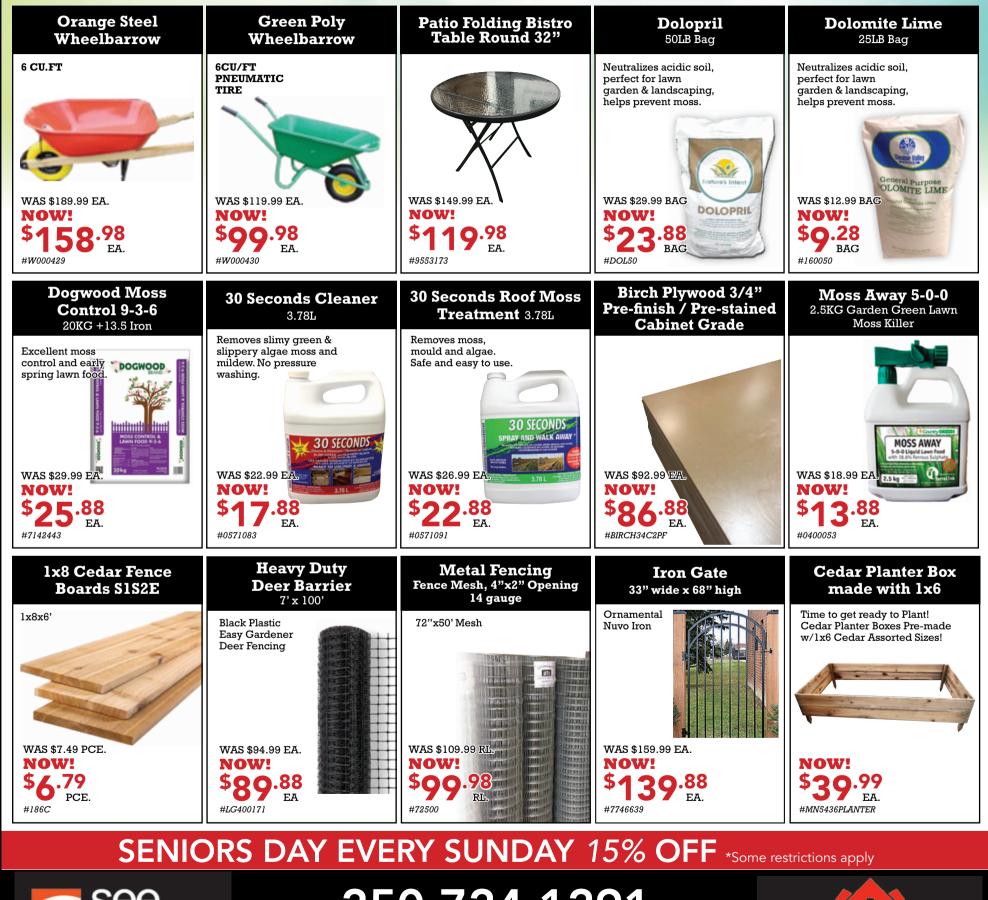
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A16 Wednesday, March 30, 2022

www.westerlynews.ca



SALE MAR 30 - APR 6, 2022





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