



# Belcarra Barnacle

November/December 2020

Belcarra's Community Newspaper

Volume 41 Issue 9





Published ten times yearly by

## THE BELCARRA BARNACLE.

Our purpose is to inform and involve.

The Barnacle welcomes all contributions about our local community.

If you would like to submit an article to the Editor, please be advised that your name will be listed as the author.

We also reserve the right to edit for brevity, accuracy, clarity or taste.

Photos and original art will be returned if requested.

### HOW TO REACH US:

Put submissions in the Barnacle Box outside the Village Office.

Mail: The Belcarra Barnacle, 4084 Bedwell Bay Road, Belcarra, B.C. V3H 4P8.

E-Mail: [belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com](mailto:belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com)

### For Out of Town Delivery:

The Belcarra Barnacle is available for mail, for \$20.00 per year to cover mailing expenses. Please send cheque and mailing information.

DEADLINE: The 20th of each month.

### VOLUNTEERS:

Editor:

Michelle Montico 604 528 0659

Advertising:

Sandra Rietchel 604 931 4262

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Treasurer and Distributor:

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Deborah Struk

Bonni Marshall

Isabel Wilson

Michele Babineau

ON-LINE: [www.belcarra.ca](http://www.belcarra.ca)

## Words from the Editor:

Welcome to your Community Newspaper!

Thank you all for your continuing support of your local newspaper by sending us photographs and articles.

Please remember that the deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month!

Thanks to the residents who contribute, to the residents who proofread & to all residents who read the Barnacle!

Michelle Montico, Editor  
(604 528 0659)

[belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com](mailto:belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com)

## ADVERTISING RATES: (Ads must be copy ready)

	Per Month (In Advance)	5 Issues (In Advance)	10 Issues (In Advance)
<u>Black and White</u>			
Card (2" x 3")	\$20	\$75	\$120
1/4 Page	\$25	\$90	\$150
1/2 Page	\$50	\$200	\$300
<u>Colour</u>			
1 Page (Back Page)	\$225	\$1000	\$1900
1 Page (Centre)	\$200	\$900	\$1750
1/2 Page (Centre)	\$150	\$700	\$1400

Classified ads are free for Belcarra Residents.  
Please send ads by e-mail in PDF, jpeg, or tif format to

[belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com](mailto:belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com)

Sandra at 604 931 4262 or [srietchel@shaw.ca](mailto:srietchel@shaw.ca)



## BELCARRA DIRECTORY

Belcarra Village Hall	604 937 4100
Belcarra Website	<a href="http://www.belcarra.ca">www.belcarra.ca</a>
Block Watch	Carol Drew 604 937 0143 Diana Drake 604 939 4946
CRAB	Dave Warren 604 939 3010
Vol. Fire Dept.	Jay Sharpe 604 765 2944 <a href="mailto:jay.sharpe@anmore.com">jay.sharpe@anmore.com</a>
SVFD Recruitment:	<a href="mailto:sasamatrecruitment@gmail.com">sasamatrecruitment@gmail.com</a>
RCMP - Non-Emergency	604 945 1550 or 604 469 1599

## IMPORTANT DATES

Dec 7th	Council Meeting
Dec 14th	New Moon
Dec 30th	Full Moon
Dec 24th	Christmas Eve
Dec 25th	Christmas Day
Dec 26th	Boxing Day
Dec 31st	New Years Eve
Jan 1st	News Years Day
Jan 11th	Council Meeting
Jan 13th	New Moon
Jan 23rd	Voting Day
Jan 25th	Council Meeting
Jan 28th	Full Moon



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[www.westwoodprinting.com](http://www.westwoodprinting.com)

The Belcarra Barnacle does not  
publish a January issue.  
Seasons Greetings & see you in  
February 2021

Unfortunately, we are unable to include Tide  
Tables this month as the website was  
unavailable.

## DATES FOR 2020

All public meetings will be cancelled until  
further notice...

Please check Village website for more  
information.

4084 Bedwell Bay Road  
[www.belcarra.ca](http://www.belcarra.ca)

## COVER ART

Our front cover features a photograph  
submitted by Juve, Margie, Zara and  
Max Maglanque-Naing. Please see  
article on Page 18.

Do send your favourite local photos and  
artwork to the Barnacle.

It is a pleasure to share them.

[belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com](mailto:belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com)

**VILLAGE OF BELCARRA****Notice of By-Election  
Saturday, January 23, 2021**

November 9, 2020

**Please be advised that Belcarra will be conducting a By-Election for the positions of Mayor & One Council Member.**

**Chief Election Officer, Lisa Zwarn, has been appointed by Council.**

**The Nomination Period will be  
Tuesday, December 8, 2020 to Friday, December 18, 2020.**

**The By-Election is scheduled for Saturday, January 23, 2021.**

**More Information will be available shortly, as a Provincial Ministerial Order has been requested.**

**Please be patient as work on preparations for the By-Election take place.**

**The Belcarra Website will be updated with By-Election information  
<https://belcarra.ca/>**

**Contact:****Lisa Zwarn****Email: [election@belcarra.ca](mailto:election@belcarra.ca)****Phone: 778-294-4120****Lorna Dysart****Chief Administrative Officer**





## VILLAGE OF BELCARRA

### 2021 BY-ELECTION - NOTICE OF NOMINATION

Public Notice is given to the electors of the Village of Belcarra that  
nominations for the offices of:  
Mayor – one to be elected  
Councillor – one to be elected

will be received by the Chief Election Officer or a designated person, as follows:

**VILLAGE OF BELCARRA**, 4084 Bedwell Bay Road, Belcarra, BC V3H 4P8

From **9:00 a.m. December 8, 2020 to 4:00 p.m. December 18, 2020.**

(Excluding statutory holidays and weekends)

Nomination forms are available at the Village of Belcarra Municipal Hall, 4084 Bedwell Bay Road, Belcarra, BC from November 20, 2020 to December 18, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Excluding weekends and statutory holidays.

#### QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE

A person is qualified to be nominated, elected, and to hold office as a member of local government if they meet the following criteria:

- Canadian citizen;
- 18 years of age or older on general voting day – January 23, 2021;
- resident of British Columbia for at least 6 months immediately before the day nomination papers are filed;
- a person or the commander of an armed forces unit who has been granted freedom of the municipality, if that person is a Canadian citizen; and
- not disqualified under the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from being nominated for, being elected to or holding the office, or be otherwise disqualified by law.

#### CAMPAIGN PERIOD EXPENSE LIMITS

In accordance with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, for the 2021 by-election, the following expense limits for candidates during the campaign period apply:

Mayor	\$10,000
Councillor	\$ 5,000

#### THIRD PARTY ADVERTISING LIMITS

In accordance with the *Local Elections Campaign Financing Act*, for the 2021 by-election, the following third-party advertising limits apply:

Directed Advertising Expense Limit:

Mayor	\$750
Councillor	\$750

For further information on **campaign period expense limits and third-party advertising limits**, please contact Elections BC:

Toll-free phone: 1-855-952-0280

Email: [lecf@elections.bc.ca](mailto:lecf@elections.bc.ca)

Website: [www.elections.bc.ca/lecf](http://www.elections.bc.ca/lecf)

For further information on the **nomination process**, please contact:

Lisa M. Zwarn, Chief Election Officer 778-294-4120

Connie Esposito, Deputy Chief Election Officer 604-937-4100

Paula Richardson, Deputy Chief Election Officer 604-937-4100



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**Rick Glumac, MLA**  
 for Port Moody-Coquitlam

Rick.Glumac.MLA@leg.bc.ca | 604.417.0490



RickGlumacBC



### SANTA SHIPS

Dec. 4: Port Moody, Dollarton  
 Dec. 5: Harbor Cruz to Deep Cove  
 Dec. 11: Rocky Point Pier, Ioco  
 Dec. 12: Belcarra Bay, Boulder Island  
 Dec. 18: Bedwell Bay, Farrer Cove  
 Dec. 19: Woodlands, Brighton Beach

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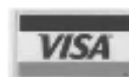
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## Belcarra Blockwatch

Submitted by Diana Drake and  
Carol Drew

### Online Shopping Safety Tips

Incredibly, it's that time of year again. Time to wish the very best of the season to all and time to begin (or, if you are an early bird, to complete) the great gift hunt.

This year, because of Covid-19, more shopping will be done online than ever. And, unfortunately, it is riskier than ever. More and more scammers are around trying to cheat shoppers out of their money or gain access to private financial information. However, if you follow these internet shopping safety tips, most hazards related to purchasing items online can be avoided.

1. Research the website and seller. See if there is any negative feedback/reviews. Use the Better Business Bureau online directory and scam tracker.

Look for a definite location and telephone number on the homepage. Even 'phone to check.

2. Make sure website is secure. There should be a padlock symbol in the address bar next to the website address.

The website address should start with <https://>

3. Check delivery date and return policy information.

4. Ensure software and anti virus protection is up to date. Change passwords frequently.

5. Use a credit card, not a debit card. First a credit card does not allow direct access to your accounts. Second, there are more consumer protections with a credit card if something goes awry.

6. Be alert to the type and amount of data the retailer is asking for to complete the transaction. If you do not feel comfortable with the information requests, cancel before purchasing. No retailer needs, for example, your social insurance number.

7. Check your accounts frequently for signs of any unauthorized activity.

8. Don't make purchases using public Wi-Fi.

9. Keep your transaction information in a safe place. (i.e order confirmation number). Track your purchase, to make sure it is on its way.

10. Remember the old adage: If the offer looks too good to be true, it probably is. A really low price can be a red flag that you are on a fake site.

11. Finally, report any cyber crime to the RCMP. Call their non emergency/information number: 604-945-1550.

Wishing Everyone a Very Happy  
Christmas and  
a Happy Covid free New Year!





**Nelly Shin, MP**

Port Moody—Coquitlam,  
Anmore and Belcarra

**Coronavirus Hotline****1-833-784-4397**

24/7 emergency watch and response  
number (and Global Affairs)

**1-613-996-8885**

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Bank of Canada (BDC)

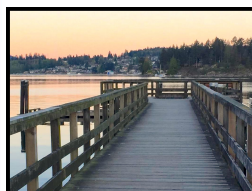
**1-877-232-2269****Employment Insurance****1-833-381-2725****International Trade****1-888-220-0047**

Please stay safe and healthy.  
Together we'll get through this.

These are unprecedented times.  
Please reach out to my office by  
email or phone for assistance. My  
staff and I are ready to help you  
through the challenges of the  
COVID-19 pandemic.

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## Letter to the Editor

Dr Bonnie Henry says we are all in this together.

Covid-19 has made an enormous impact on how we spend our time. As I write this opinion piece, the daily number of infected individuals in Canada is rising. The numbers are also rising in BC and in the Fraser Health Authority. The way forward is still uncertain. The time frame to easing of this pandemic is some way off. Once most of us have had a reliable vaccination, we will feel better about travelling. Until then, most of us will stay closer to home and put increasing pressure on local resources.

It seems that the local parks, waterways and trail-ways will be under continuing, if not increased, pressure this coming year. Local parking will be as difficult in the year ahead as it was this past summer. This may not be the best time to make permanent decisions regarding local parking.

There are many opportunities for more and safer parking in our Village. Moving forward with those ideas may be more appropriate if they also reflect the broader thoughts that may come with input from our neighbours. Blending our ideas with those from Anmore, Port Moody, GVRD Parks, Translink, and BC Hydro Parks seems appropriate and timely.

We can also make some adjustments that will increase road safety and traffic flow within the Village. There are opportunities for traffic calming such as speed bumps, cross-walk lights, improved sight lines and additional stop/yield signs.

Midden Road opening, at least in a one-way counter clockwise path, would permit a safer and more practical routing for trailers, safety vehicles, public transportation and some Villagers.

The position Belcarra took this year with respect to parking was indeed helpful. The parking demand far exceeded the availability and Council acted with prudence and good judgement in calming the many issues that followed. We don't yet know whether the interim changes that were made will need to become permanent changes. Let us defer making those positions permanent at this time. Let's talk to one another. Let's talk to others who may be affected by our parking decisions and let us plan together. We have time.

As with Covid-19, we will get through this, stronger and together.

Klaus Bever

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## CRAB CORNER

Submitted by Dave Warren

This year 2020 CRAB has had to improvise to maintain children's programs. Although the traditional Kids' Halloween party was cancelled to prevent possible spread of the Covid virus, 29 young witches and ghosts received treats from the coven at the village hall. Most received packaged candies distributed at the hall to individuals who separately arrived in costume at the coven. A few of the treats were delivered to homes of the young Belcarrians. A similar project involving driveway chalk art was implemented at Easter to also offer the community offspring some sense of normality during the pandemic. At that time candied Easter eggs and rabbits were delivered to participating households.

We are only a few weeks away from a Christmas that may be more restricted than any prior year, preventing the community's traditional social events. The power squadron will again navigate Christmas lit vessels into Belcarra Bay and Bedwell Bay, but due to the epidemic Santa will not be coming ashore as in previous years. CRAB is seeking input from young and old for ideas about offering a Noel seasonal reminder while maintaining social distancing.

Please folks submit your concepts of a safe Christmas event to any CRAB director.

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## Stories From The Archives —

'S.S. Defiance' on the Rocks near  
Bedwell Bay

Researched and written by: Ralph Drew, Belcarra,  
BC, November 2020.

Source: Vancouver Daily Province, Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>,  
1912, page 20.

"A resident of the North Arm [Indian Arm] reported that the steamer 'Defiance' went on the rocks about noon yesterday, near one of the islands opposite Bedwell Bay [most likely the rocks adjacent 'Racoon Island'], and was calling for assistance. A later report stated that with the rise of the tide the steamer was floated from her dangerous position and steamed to the city."

In 1899, Captain John Andrew ('Jack') Cates (1866–1942) started the 'Terminal Steamship Company Limited' when he purchased the 'S.S. Defiance'. In 1900, Captain Cates purchased the 320-acre Mannion estate, also known as the 'Mannion Ranch', on Bowen Island's Deep Bay. In 1902, Captain Cates launched the 'Terminal Steamship Company' ferry fleet, the new name for his Howe Sound ferry service. Prior to 1907, the 'Terminal Steamship Company' primarily provided ferry service to Bowen Island and Howe Sound, although the 'S.S. Defiance' began service on the North Arm (Indian Arm) run in 1902 following the launch of the 'S.S. Britannia'. Step-by-step the 'Terminal Steamship Company' fleet grew to include the 'Belcarra', the 'Bowena' and the 'Ballena'.

These were smaller passenger/cargo vessels offering a basic ferry service that brought countless church, club and company picnickers to destinations such as Bowen Island and Belcarra Park on Indian Arm. (Both the 'Bowena' and 'Ballena' were used exclusively on the Howe Sound runs.) In 1908, when the Burrard Inlet travelling post office (T.P.O.) was established, it was the 'Terminal Steam Navigation Co. Ltd.' that provided ferry service to Indian Arm, and the 'S.S. Belcarra' was designated as the first T.P.O. and Captain Cates was the first postmaster for the Burrard Inlet T.P.O. from 1908 until 1910. Both the 'Belcarra' and 'Defiance' carried mail to and from locations on Indian Arm.



North Vancouver Museum and Archives (NVMA 10167).

'S.S. Defiance' at the Summerfield house, North Woodlands, Indian Arm, c.1912 —  
the steamer was built at Tacoma, WA in 1897 and was 62 ft. long and 16 ft. wide.

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**[www.givergy.ca/GiveWhereYouLive](http://www.givergy.ca/GiveWhereYouLive)**

475 Guildford Way, Port Moody | [www.erhf.ca](http://www.erhf.ca)







## VILLAGE NEWS

### Quips and Quotes

Submitted by Barbara Shelly

"If patience wasn't easily tested,  
then it would hardly be a virtue."

Amor Towles, "A Gentleman in Moscow"

### BARNACLE TRAVELS!

The Belcarra Barnacle invites you to take your local newspaper with you when you travel, send us a photograph of yourself holding a copy of The Belcarra Barnacle and we'll publish your photograph!

Merry Christmas &  
A Happy New Year!

In Danish = Glædelig jul og godt nytår

In Dutch = Prettige kerstdagen en een Gelukkig Nieuwjaar!

In French = Joyeux Noël et bonne année

In German = Fröhliche Weihnacht und ein gutes neues Jahr

In Hawaiian = Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hauoli Makahiki Hou

In Italian = Buon Natale e felice anno nuovo

In Scots = A Blythe Yule an a Guid Hogmanay

In Spanish = ¡Feliz Navidad y próspero año Nuevo.

In Welsh = Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda



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## BELCARRA GARDEN CLUB

Submitted by Les Bramley

Belcarra Garden Club member Betty Lewenden has some colourful pictures of her beautiful Dahlias to brighten up our winter, that she has grown in the past.

Betty definitely has a green thumb.

If you have any gardening questions or wish to become a member please contact us at. 604-937-7103. e mail

[lesbramley@shaw.ca](mailto:lesbramley@shaw.ca)



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## Belcarra Blessings

Deborah Struk

'Enjoy living in Belcarra; paradise this side of paradise'

Glorious December!

Happy Hannukah! Merry Christmas!

and how about Cancel Crappy Covid?

This disease has got to go. I think the effects on the lack of healthy socialization have been devastating. My heart goes out to all of those who are feeling more blue and alone. I am ever thankful for any and all connections in passing, on Zoom, Belcarra Together or otherwise. "Happy Day" across the fence does bring such JOY! Thank you neighbour.

I am one who needs alone time to recharge, but feel so much more alive when I can smile, help out, and share life with others, even if it is a short conversation. Life is GOOD!

The command from of old, "Be fruitful and multiply" was hardly meant to be so we can isolate. We need each other. One thing I am thankful for while wearing masks is that people are learning to smile with their eyes more. Smiling eyes are beautiful!

Ever so thankful for our paradise in Belcarra, where almost everyone knows your name! Thankful for the eagles in the sky and kingfishers along the water. This November the birds are plentiful! Such a delight to watch and listen to their delightful songs. Boy are they hungry, I have to fill the feeder every day. We have Stellars Jays, Junco Jays, Northern Flickers, Blacked-capped Chickadees, Spotted Towhees, and a few others.

Very thankful everyone was safe last windstorm. Horrifically, a resident's new vehicle was crushed by a large fallen tree. Thankfully, no one was hurt.

I hope every one of you gets to enjoy the Carol Ships/Santa Ships in some way. Keep your eyes and ears open to the announcements. Dan Greenwood has posted info. on the Belcarra Together Facebook Page.

We should keep our eyes open for the lovely fabric, flower arrangements, and wood crafts of talented local residents who are now severely limited in the ability to share their creative gifts. #SupportLocalBelcarra. Please post those on Belcarra Together.

Just know you are all loved and you are special. May JOY permeate your home.

Merry Christmas everyone!





Our local author Colleen MacDonald has written two cycling guidebooks and now has a cozy new neckwarmer for sale.

Proceeds from the neckwarmer are donated to the GrandmotherstoGrandmothers [www.victoriagrandmothersforafrica.ca/](http://www.victoriagrandmothersforafrica.ca/) and book proceeds donated to local trail advocacy groups including Trails BC and HUB Cycling. More information at [letsgobiking.net](http://letsgobiking.net) or email [colleen@letsgobiking.net](mailto:colleen@letsgobiking.net)

## Let's Go Biking

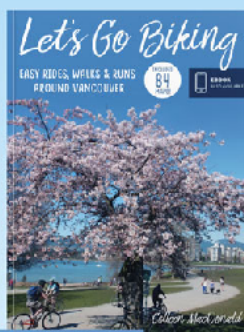
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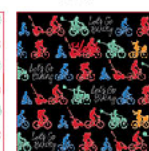
Order more for volume discounts!

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Grandmothers to Grandmothers [www.victoriagrandmothersforafrica.ca/](http://www.victoriagrandmothersforafrica.ca/)  
and BC Trails advocacy groups  
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\*NOT A MASK - neckwarmer is not a replacement  
for medical grade protective equipment and  
does not protect against viruses including COVID-19

White

Black



## Kid'z Space

### Sarajevo, Bosnia

Submitted by ZARA NAING

Many people may know Sarajevo, Bosnia as a war zone. But the mysterious city holds more than you may realize!

One of their famous destinations in Sarajevo is their bobsleigh track made for the 1984 Olympics. The track is mostly abandoned with graffiti drawings and overgrown trees around. But there are many nature hikes and view points around the track. Along with modern cafes, hotels, and playgrounds. The track is located just outside the busy Sarajevo.

Just a few blocks up a steep hill from the main street in Sarajevo, is the War Childhood Museum! It holds most of the precious things kids had during the Bosnia and Herzegovina War. They hold stories of why the items in the museum were special to the kids during the war, right beside each item. This is one of my favourite museums in the whole world!

The Old Town in Sarajevo holds many pedestrian streets and food markets. If you wander around and pay close attention to the stores you may see lots of candy shops. These Candy Shops usually have tasty Turkish Delights sitting on windows to catch your eye. Many shops sell old toys or kitchen supplies, while other stores sell modern phones and coffee machines. The Old Town is a "Must Go" when visiting Sarajevo.

If you come to Sarajevo by plane and rent a car, get the smallest one you can get. The tiniest, smallest car possible. For other than the main roads, Sarajevo roads are tiny, especially the ones going up to the bobsleigh track. Small, squished and tiny, tiny, tiny!!! My family had a hard time getting YOLO (our van we live in,) through their roads. When you or your family drive through their roads to get to a specific destination, ask locals. You may have a GPS, but in Sarajevo, it's best to ask people who live nearby on the roads. For Sarajevo roads can be very very (VERY) tricky to get by. Better yet, don't drive in Sarajevo. It's best to relax in buses and taxis, than waste your time navigating.

Sarajevo is really one of my favourite cities in the whole trip. The War Childhood Museum was unique, the people are kind, and I will miss it all. I hope people will appreciate that there is more in Sarajevo, Bosnia than many may realise.

-Zara @ YOLO Family Vanlife







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## Letter To The Editor

Dear Belcarrans:

I've written this letter to ask that you might consider organ donation. As you may be aware, many lives have been saved and many more have been greatly improved by a gift of life from people like yourselves who have decided to help others through registering to donate tissue or organs to those who desperately need them.

My 46-year-old daughter is one of those people. She was born with a congenital defect in her urinary tract that severely damaged her kidneys and has now been on the waiting list for a kidney transplant for more than 15 years, (this is longer than anyone else in B.C.). She is currently on every wait list in B.C. and across Canada, and while there are just over one million B.C. residents who are registered organ and tissue donors, many people still don't know that registration is required to ensure vital time is not wasted determining if a deceased person wishes to donate. There is no longer a sticker on your driver's license and it is advisable to let your family members know of your wish to donate.

Many people are unaware of the advances in kidney transplantation that have greatly increased the success rates in recent years, but although the outcomes are far better than they were when Jana was a child - majority of transplants done then were almost always from a deceased donor - the lack of available organs is a major impediment to saving and improving the lives of those who need your help.

The number of British Columbians waiting for a kidney transplant is more than 650 people and the list continues to grow. Living donation is mostly now the norm. With a living donor the transplant is planned in advance and critical time is not wasted while the kidney is transported, transplant team is assembled, and an available operating room is located, etc.

Living kidney donor transplant operations can generally be performed with only a few small incisions (laparoscopically) and the recovery time for donors is typically very short. The kidney itself is only out of the donor's body for a few minutes before it is received by the person who so badly needs it. It's easy to see that transplants from live donors have a much higher success rate than deceased kidney donations. To be a living donor you must be a minimum age of 23 years old, but apart from that there is no age limit.

So please consider giving the gift you hold inside you. The process of being a registered living kidney donor involves only some preliminary questions and physical testing to ensure you are in good health. There are no costs to the donor and financial aid is available should you have to miss work or incur costs associated with your donation. Your privacy and personal information is secure within the B.C. transplant system.

I understand this is an extremely personal decision and there is a lot to think about. If you would like to gather more information and explore living kidney donation further, go to the BC Transplant website ([www.transplant.bc.ca](http://www.transplant.bc.ca)). You can also register to be an organ donor here as well. Or if you want to find out if you could be a donor for my daughter, please contact the donor nurse coordinator at St. Paul's Hospital at (604 806 9027/1-877-922-9822).

When exploring the possibilities of kidney donation I want to assure you that, should you decide to become a living donor, you can make the choice to back away from the process at any time. You may also wish to explore donation anonymously or I'd be happy to chat with you about it as well.

Gordon Sadler  
gordonsadler@shaw.ca

"Maybe Christmas,"  
he thought, "doesn't come from a  
store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps...  
means a little bit more."

~ Dr. Seuss (1904-1991), 'How The Grinch Stole  
Christmas'



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## Suddenly, Skunks

Submitted by Diana Drake

"To everything there is a season..."

August, September and October are skunk months apparently. So, if you are just seeing them around Belcarra - and many residents are - it's not surprising. Fall is the most likely time for close encounters with these generally solitary residents.

Creatures of the twilight (crepuscular), skunks leave the security of their dens to explore, just as the sun rises or sets. In the pre dawn glow and in the last light of evening, there are far fewer predators to worry about. Ideal "skunk conditions" for a mammal which is, by its very nature, non-aggressive and secretive.

Natural social distancers, skunks move about our shared world from Spring through early summer, largely invisible. It is only when preparing for their weeks of winter torpor - digging burrows and stuffing themselves on whatever insects, grubs, berries and human refuse are available - that they are more likely to risk interactions with humans. October's sunflower seeds and the re-appearance of bird feeders are added incentives.

Then, too, the skunks that we meet now are, in all probability, juveniles. Newly launched and just four months old, they are inexperienced but inevitably curious about the world. Very far from the cautious, human averse adults they will one day become.

Several weeks ago, for example, one such inquisitive juvenile managed to find his way into a U.S. Walmart. He was first seen in the shoe, then the automotive department.

Notably he stayed clear of anything perfumed - the soap and/or detergent aisles, and the cosmetic section. This because, ironically, skunks find the scents humans prefer, abhorrent. (See below)

Eventually he was humanely trapped and removed - one of fifteen such removals undertaken successfully in that particular town that week.

But his selective explorations brought to mind - in one of those thumb twiddling Covid moments - the weighty question: Do skunks object to the smell of their own spray?

Internet conclusion: probably not as much as we do.....

Which in this political "silly season" might offer perspective: Suggesting that it behooves all sides in any confrontation to recognize and avoid the reciprocal 'stench' of extremes.

### Internet Tips:

To remove unwanted skunk lodgers place several bars of Irish Spring deodorant soap close to wherever they are squatting.

To remove the ambient (not direct hit) smell - dishes of vinegar and bowls of coffee grounds.

And, no, tomato juice/sauce is not the answer to a 'direct hit'. The odour is only masked.

To break down the components that create the smell - baking soda and grease breaking dish soap/ detergent.



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