



# Belcarra Barnacle

January 2021

Belcarra's Community Newspaper

Volume 42 Issue 1





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

Members:

Treasurer and Distributor:

Clive Evans 604 931 7396

Nora Boekhout 604 937 1127

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)

	<u>Per Month</u> (In Advance)	<u>5 Issues</u> (In Advance)	<u>10 Issues</u> (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

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

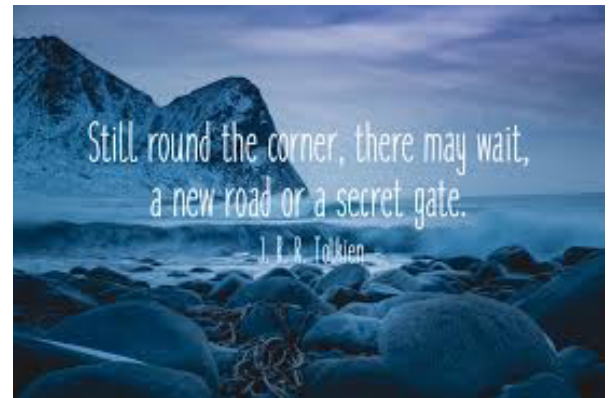


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## DATES FOR 2021

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 Deborah Struk.

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

"Between Forest and Sea"

4084 BEDWELL BAY ROAD, BELCARRA, B.C. V3H 4P8  
 TELEPHONE 604-937-4100 FAX 604-939-5034  
 belcarra@belcarra.ca • www.belcarra.ca



### NOTICE OF ELECTION BY VOTING

**PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY** given to the electors of the Village of Belcarra that an election by voting is necessary to elect one Mayor and that the persons nominated as candidates and for whom votes will be received are:

#### MAYOR – One (1) to be elected

Surname	Usual Names	Residential Address
COLE	Colm	Belcarra, BC
ROSS	Jamie	Belcarra, BC

#### COUNCILLOR – By Acclamation

Surname	Usual Names	Residential Address
SNELL	John	Belcarra, BC

#### VOTING DATES AND LOCATIONS

**GENERAL VOTING** will be open to qualified electors of the Village of Belcarra on **Saturday, January 23, 2021** between the hours of 8:00 am and 8:00 pm at the **Belcarra Municipal Hall** located at 4084 Bedwell Bay Road.

**AN ADVANCE VOTING opportunity** will be available to qualified electors on **Wednesday, January 13, 2021** between 8:00 am to 8:00 pm at the **Belcarra Municipal Hall** located at 4084 Bedwell Bay Road, Belcarra, BC.

**VOTING BY MAIL BALLOT** is also available. Details are provided below.

**If you are not on the list of electors**, you may register at the time of voting by completing the required application form available at the voting place. To register you must meet the following qualifications:

- 18 years of age or older on general voting day
- Canadian citizen
- resident of BC for at least 6 months immediately preceding the day of registration
- resident of OR registered owner of real property in the Village of Belcarra for at least 30 days immediately preceding the day of registration, and
- not disqualified by the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment from voting in an election or otherwise disqualified by law.

**To register, resident electors** must produce **2 pieces of identification** (at least one with a signature). Picture identification is not necessary. The identification must prove both residency and identity.

**To register, non-resident property electors** must produce **2 pieces of identification** (at least one with a signature) to prove identity, **proof** that they are entitled to register in relation to the property, and, if there is more than one owner of the property, **written consent** from the majority of the property owners.



**MAIL BALLOT VOTING**

**Pursuant to Ministerial Order M429-2020, all Electors within the Village may vote by mail. The Village is encouraging electors to use this opportunity to help carry out a “safer” by-election during these COVID times.**

In order to obtain a mail ballot, you must submit an application form with the information as listed below, by email at [elections@belcarra.ca](mailto:elections@belcarra.ca) by 4:00 pm on Thursday, January 21, 2021:

- (1) Full name
- (2) Residential address
- (3) Address of the property in relation to which you are voting (for non-resident property electors)
- (4) Method of delivery of your mail ballot package:
  - (a) pick up at the Belcarra Municipal Hall, OR
  - (b) pick up at the Belcarra Municipal Hall by a person authorized by you (identification required), OR
  - (c) regular letter mail through Canada Post to residential address, OR
  - (d) regular letter mail through Canada Post to an alternate address that you provide when requesting the ballot package
- (5) If you are not on the list of electors, to ensure you receive the correct registration application form in your package, you must indicate whether you are going to be registering as a resident or non-resident property elector.

An application form is available on the website, [www.belcarra.ca](http://www.belcarra.ca), for your convenience or you may call the office (after Monday, January 4, 2021) at 604-937-4100 to have an application emailed to you. **Please note that once you request a mail ballot, you will not be issued another ballot for this election.**

To be counted for the election, your completed ballot must be received by the Chief Election Officer no later than 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 23, 2021. The completed ballot package may be mailed or dropped off at the Belcarra Municipal Hall. For those of you dropping off your completed ballot, you may leave your completed ballot with an election official at the entrance without entering the building.

Lisa Zwarn  
Chief Election Officer



“Councillor Bruce Drake and Public Works staff, Doug Bakker, working together in setting up Christmas decorations at the Belcarra entrance.



As your representative in Victoria  
**I'm here to help**



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

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



RickGlumacBC

## 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**

Business Development  
Bank of Canada (BDC)

**1-877-232-2269**

Employment Insurance

**1-833-381-2725**

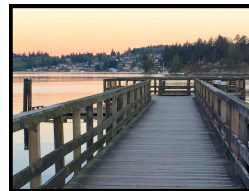
International Trade

**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.



Nelly.Shin@parl.gc.ca  
(604) 664-9229

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1116 Austin Ave • Coquitlam • BC • V3K 3P5 •  
Nelly.Shin@parl.gc.ca • (604) 664-9229

Due to the pandemic, our physical office will be closed until further notice.  
Please reach us by phone or email. Thank you for understanding.



Final Result

(See Page 14)





## VILLAGE OF BELCARRA

*"Between Forest and Sea"*

4084 BEDWELL BAY ROAD, BELCARRA, B.C. V3H 4P8

TELEPHONE 604-937-4100 FAX 604-939-5034

belcarra@belcarra.ca • www.belcarra.ca



January 11, 2021

On behalf of Council and Staff, I am pleased to offer our sincerest congratulations and welcome to Councillor John Snell who won his Council seat by Acclamation during the current Municipal By-Election.

We encourage everyone to come out and vote either by Mail Ballot; at the Advance Poll on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 (8 am - 8 pm) or on By-Election Day, Saturday, January 23, 2021 at the Village Hall (8 am - 8 pm).

Due to the By-Election, the Council meetings scheduled for January 11 and 25, 2021, have been cancelled. Following the Inaugural Council Meeting on Monday, February 8, 2021, on Zoom, we will resume full business at the next Regular Council meeting on Monday, February 22, 2021.

We wish everyone a safe and healthy 2021 and look forward to working with a full council come February.

Liisa Wilder  
Deputy Mayor

Article as of Jan 4 (1230 PM)

Submitted by Deputy Mayor Liisa Wilder, Councillors  
Carolina Clarke & Bruce Drake.

A by election will be occurring shortly in our Village. As a result there will be many opinions - some overly dramatized - about our current and future circumstances.

Those of us still serving on council feel our views might provide a more balanced perspective. None of these comments have been shared in draft or final form with any by election candidate.

Prior to its incorporation in 1979, about 450 people lived in what would become Belcarra. Our future village was a rural and unorganized part of an Electoral Area managed by Metro Vancouver's predecessor, the GVRD.

Unfortunately, GVRD was not our best choice for governance since it wanted all private properties expropriated in order to create a major new regional park. One GVRD representative responded to appeals for accommodation by simply observing:

"You can't live in paradise."

Affected residents agreed it was paradise but felt there was no reason a residential community and regional park could not coexist. The residents won.

Having succeeded in its struggle for municipal status, Belcarra became a member of the GVRD and, despite its size, assumed all the responsibilities of a municipality.

While we must always be conscious that we do not enjoy the significant tax base of neighbouring municipalities ( and never will ), we have consistently met this challenge, often by novel approaches. It goes without saying, however, that we simply cannot afford all the services that a larger tax base can underwrite.

Our few permanent staff are expected to multitask while we contract for selected services. We engage on an 'as needed' basis for: finances, building inspections, engineering, municipal planning and legal counsel. We spend consulting dollars where salary dollars might be used by larger municipalities. While all expenditures need to be carefully considered, this method has worked well for us for over 40 years.

We maintain our own roads and other infrastructure. We consider, pass and administer our own bylaws. We hold our own public hearings, welcoming resident input.

We periodically review and update our own Official Community Plan to help shape our future. We manage a recycling facility designed to coexist with our abundant wildlife. Less than a decade ago, after many years of discussions, we added a domestic water system available to a majority of our residents.

As well as the above, we ensure fire protection and safety services through support for the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD). SVFD is a Metro Vancouver function which has only two member municipalities, Belcarra and Anmore.

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Metro Vancouver appoints one member to the fire department's Board of Trustees. Belcarra and Anmore appoint three trustees each, producing an independent seven member governing body which then elects its own Chair. These trustees are expected to act in the best long term interest of a single fire department serving two communities. Anmore and Belcarra each appoint one representative to Metro Vancouver's Board of Directors and these two individuals formalize Fire Trustee decisions in that setting. SVFD does not 'belong' to either municipality and its Chief is appointed by and reports to the Board of Trustees and not to any politician in either village. This is a unique partnership that has, thanks to dedicated volunteers from both villages, served our communities effectively for over four decades.

While it is true that Belcarra residents don't always agree on everything, it is also true that we have, together, achieved a great deal for a community of only 643 residents. Lions Bay has twice our population (1,318); Anmore over three times (2,210) and Port Moody (a small city by Metro Vancouver standards), over fifty times as many residents (33,531) --- all figures per the 2016 census.

Many of us were attracted to Belcarra because of its forested rural setting; small village feel and character; its volunteerism, friendships and community events; the spectacular forest and ocean view scapes ... recognized in our motto:

"Between Forest & Sea."

Some feel changes are necessary, while others may feel those changes threaten the very characteristics that attracted them to Belcarra in the first place. Any proposed adjustments must, therefore, always be subject to open discussion and public communication since the likelihood that any one person has all the answers is vanishingly small. We have, nonetheless, found ways to manage a number of changes in a unique, Belcarra manner.

For example:

Our Waste and Recycling Depot (WARD) is a gated, centralized 'do-it-yourself' drop-off facility. This avoids both the challenges of our topography for curb side pickup and the risk that the wildlife, with whom we share the area, might consider such service an open smorgasbord. (We are all too well aware that when bears become comfortable near humans it seldom ends well.) While not everyone finds WARD ideal it has prevented wildlife problems and offers access six days per week ... something our neighbouring communities do not provide.

Recent efforts to open up public discussion during council meetings is another adaptation unique to Belcarra. It offers residents who attend council meetings the opportunity to ask questions or make comments during council's discussion of a topic prior to any vote taking place. While a public question period also occurs at the end of council meetings, restricting public comments to just that time slot would mean it would only happen after council had already voted.

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued from Page 9)

Any concerned resident might have to wait until the end of the entire meeting to speak. We feel that welcoming questions and comments throughout the meeting is an approach that should continue.

We are in no danger of running out of issues to address. To name just a few: reviewing our Official Community Plan; making an informed cost:benefit assessment of an appropriate fire flow standard for Belcarra; administrative investment in records management and manuals; deciding the future of Midden Road; advancing long term capital planning (including building the necessary reserves); considering recommendations from existing and future committees, to name only a few.

We believe that all such issues can be addressed in a calm, deliberative manner with residents working together.

With regard to issues that are not Belcarra's sole responsibility, such as SVFD's long term plans, we are confident that our three appointees to its Board of Trustees will effectively represent our community. We expect SVFD Trustees to ensure our fire halls meet seismic requirements and appropriate health & safety standards for our volunteers.

We anticipate this will involve a multiyear approach which will see plans refined. Initial commitments towards this work were made at SVFD's Trustees' meeting in August where it was agreed that approximately \$85,000 would be raised annually through Metro Vancouver from each village.

We agree that widespread engagement and communications outreach is important if Council decisions are to be well informed and widely understood. We believe that this should include periodic articles prepared for the Belcarra Barnacle as well as ensuring that easily accessed recordings of all public council meetings continue to be available on the Village's website.

Finally, we are pleased to welcome John Snell now acclaimed as a new councillor and urge everyone to vote for their choice of mayor so that we will once again have a full council.

Wishing everyone the Very Best in 2021!

### Stories From The Archives —

#### Clearing Port Moody and its Streets

Researched By: Ralph Drew, Belcarra, BC, February 2020.

Source: The Port Moody Gazette, Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 1884.

EDITORIAL: One of the characteristics of Port Moody least agreeable to the stranger and intending settler — indeed, the only natural characteristic which is likely to produce in him anything like a feeling of discouragement — is the immense mass of growing timber, and timber usually of immense size, with which the ground is found to be originally covered.

To a man who has lived in a prairie country, or who is familiar only with the more lightly timbered forests of the Eastern Provinces, these British Columbian woods seem, at the first, quite appalling.

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But, after all, they are not nearly so bad as they look; and the plucky axeman and grubber, who attacks a tract of this forest land in good earnest will soon make short work of the timber on it. Still, it must be admitted that the clearing-off, grubbing, and grading of town lots and streets, after the standing timber has already been slashed and burnt-over, is an expensive and troublesome operation.

But especially in-town buildings, there is another view of the matter. In this almost frostless country, nobody ever thinks of excavating in order to lay deeply the foundations of a building, or to provide a frost-proof cellar beneath it; so there we dispense with one large outlay found quite indispensable in all building operations, among all of our fellow subjects east of this Province; and a very large item of expence is thus saved; for these excavations not unfrequently cost as much as the whole superstructure raised above them. It would be well then for distant strangers to be given to understand that for this elsewhere formidable outlay, there is no necessity whatever in any building operations here in Port Moody.

There is another class of outlays ostensibly to be increased in building-up this town, and which are already being incurred, to some extent, which we nevertheless think might be largely ameliorated if not entirely avoided. The private and enterprising individual who have taken to open-up streets adjacent to their own property, have, we see, commenced grubbing and grading such streets, from the soil itself.

Provision is being made for plank sidewalks. This cannot but prove a very expensive, and — we cannot but think — a needlessly expensive process. Not only the sidewalks, but the whole roadway, should be planked. If ever there was a country in the world where planked highways should be the rule, Port Moody is such a place. The soil itself is not good for street making. Where it is not clayey, it is quick-sandy, and it is nearly everywhere springy.

There is scarcely any dry gravel at all. Hence the necessity of planked streets.

Again, timber suitable for street planking abounds here — so much so, indeed, that, at the present time, it is a nuisance. The time will soon come, however, we shall regret not having such supplies to fall back upon. As it is, it is a shame to waste this fine timber; and we should turn it to a useful account whenever we can. Hence, we should use-up large quantities of it planking our streets. These planked streets can be made very much cheaper, very much more expeditiously, and very much better, than ever any can be made by excavating and grading the soil. A little, portable, steam saw-mill, run up to the edge of the woods almost anywhere here about could make planks enough to plank the streets of Port Moody. When these streets wear-out, let our successors — the future citizens of this then large and wealthy city — pave the streets if they feel so disposed. It is certain that no good and satisfactory highways can ever be made through this Port Moody soil.



For more information visit:

**[WWW.COLEFORMAYOR.CA](http://WWW.COLEFORMAYOR.CA)**

## DR. COLE FOR MAYOR

STREAMLINE, SIMPLIFY, SAVE.

For twenty-five years, my home in Belcarra has been a happy place of refuge. When I first arrived in 1995, I knew I would retire here. It is a very special place that deserves to be respected and managed properly.

I have always achieved big results on a shoestring budget. My resume and lifestyle are proof of this. I encourage you to visit my website [www.coleformayor.ca](http://www.coleformayor.ca) to learn more about my background.

I am not a politician, but I have the skill set, experience, and compassion to lead. I want to ensure that we have services that are managed properly, respecting the taxpayer. It's your money. I never waste mine and I'd never waste yours. Let's build a better Belcarra, together.

### ACCESSIBILITY

- LISTEN to every community member EQUALLY.
- Audit and streamline town hall systems.
- Re-evaluate parking restrictions.
- Foster a friendly and collaborative community.
- Approve dock construction in Bedwell Bay.

### TRANSPARENCY

- Consistently open and clear communication.
- Every expense detailed on an easy to read website.
- A return to honesty and trust in government.
- Open, fact-based discussion on optimizing our water system.

### FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Fight to LOWER your property taxes.
- Lower Belcarra's high debt levels - our debt is 4X annual property tax income!
- Hire **within** the community before contracting out.
- Eliminate expensive unnecessary consultant fees.

### 3 REASONS TO VOTE FOR DR. COLE:

1. INVESTED IN & PASSIONATE ABOUT BELCARRA.
2. WELL EDUCATED, WITH A FAIR AND BALANCED APPROACH.
3. EXPERTISE TO HELP MOVE BELCARRA FORWARD IN A COVID WORLD

CHAT WITH DR. COLE ON ZOOM

EMAIL DR. COLE TO SCHEDULE  
A 1-ON-1 ZOOM CHAT

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## Jamie Ross - Candidate for Mayor

It's a New Year and a by-election. It is an opportunity to look forward with optimism and to make a fresh start. It is a chance for a new mayor and a new councillor, John Snell, to join Liisa Wilder, Carolina Clark and Bruce Drake, to build a new team. I extend a sincere thank you for their commitment and service to our Village.

I believe a mayor's responsibility is to reduce conflict and work collaboratively, despite difficulties, to achieve positive outcomes. I will listen. I will gather ideas. I will give feedback. I will represent all of us in the wider community.

I have served our Village for a while now. Some of you may view this as "just more of the same". This can be a good thing. I am conscious of the special responsibilities of the mayor to provide assistance on procedures and appropriate process, chair fairly and to ensure council is positive, open, and effective. Council benefits from the knowledge and the skilful guidance of a mayor who can draw from experience and move forward on often difficult work.

I would like to bring my ideas forward on improving roadway safety, walking path improvements, and fire protection. As your mayor, I commit to healthy exchanges. All of council will listen carefully and engage in passionate, respectful debate. We may not always agree, but I believe that the best decisions often begin from differing points of view.

In this New Year, I offer you my full commitment, to lead this beautiful and unique village with care, skilful leadership and a positive, collaborative, community spirit.

I ask for your support and your vote on [January 23, 2021](#).



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## Carol Ship

Submitted by Nora Boekhout  
(Left)



## FINAL RESULT

(Above)

Councillor Bruce Drake and Public Works staff, Doug Bakker, working together in setting up Christmas decorations at the Belcarra entrance.

(See Page 6)

**LISA**  
**BAKX**



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Submitted by Deborah Struk



## VILLAGE NEWS

### Quíps and Quotes

Submitted by Barbara Shelly

“Why should one expect to feel the same every day in a world that is rearranging itself by the hour?”

Everyone Brave is Forgiven by Chris Cleave



**604-290-2750 or 604-464-5844**  
**[abledrain@shaw.ca](mailto:abledrain@shaw.ca)**

## BELCARRA GARDEN CLUB

Submitted by Les Bramley

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)

## 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!



• H A P P Y • N E W • Y E A R •





## CRAB CORNER

Submitted by Liisa Wilder

## 2021 Resident Directory

Calling all Belcarra photographers, artists, cartoonists, Crayola colouring cuteness! We are looking for contributions for the Cover and inside pages of the coveted Resident Directory.

Please submit your photos, artwork, etc on or before January 31, 2021 either by email or they can be dropped off at the village hall, attn: 2021 DIRECTORY.

By submitting your work you are giving CRAB your permission to publish. All winners will be notified in advance. Directories will be available by mid-February.

Please advise if there are any changes to your current information (phone, email, etc). If you are new to the village, please contact us and we would be pleased to include you in the Directory.



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**Aaron Minicola**  
President & Owner



info@specializedtreecare.ca | www.specializedtreecare.ca 778-847-0658

## At the Edge of the Year

Posted on December 31, 2020

by Esther Híza

I stand  
at the edge of a virgin year,  
hallowed with a light dusting of snow.  
Skates in hand,  
I hope  
the ice is thick enough  
the surface smooth enough  
my ankles strong enough  
to do something beautiful.  
But I'm not a skater.  
I'm a writer  
and sitting on my couch  
in the silence and spaciousness of morning,  
I can write myself  
into any metaphor I choose.  
But this is the one that came,  
even though  
I don't own a pair of skates  
and the lakes rarely freeze.  
I stand on the frosty edge of a still perfect  
year  
with a gut load of I-can'ts  
don't-haves  
and should-have-started-sooners.  
My aging body isn't tricked so easily  
into believing that  
a fresh start  
is all I need to stay upright,  
never mind move with grace.  
I can write myself across any frozen lake  
with ease and confidence  
and take my readers with me.  
I know how to do that.

But I don't know how to do this—  
to be the me that's being formed  
minute by minute,  
hour by hour.

I haven't met her yet.  
Sometimes I get glimpses  
of what I think she'll look like,  
and when I do,  
I trip and fall.  
As Teilhard de Chardin said,  
"Only God could say what this new spirit  
gradually forming within you will be."  
So with my skates laced tight,  
I put on my mittens  
and give You my hand.

Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you; your ideas mature gradually—let them grow; let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time (that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will) will make of you tomorrow. Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that His hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

— Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ

With Permission - Esther Híza

<https://estherhiza.com/>





## Belcarra Blockwatch

Submitted by Diana Drake and  
Carol Drew

Early January has seen monsoon weather, but snow may still come in the months ahead. Here are a few pointers from the RCMP to help ensure safer winter driving:

- Drive in accordance with the weather. The posted speed limit is the maximum speed under ideal conditions. If it's raining, snowy or icy, drop your speed.
- Make sure all four car tires are in good condition with deep treads (as a minimum).
- Clean all snow/ice from windshields and windows. Do not drive with 'peep hole' vision.
- Give yourself extra time to arrive at your destination.
- Keep extra gloves, winter boots, flashlight in trunk.
- Avoid using overdrive and cruise control on slippery roads.
- Check weather reports frequently.
- Keep your distance from the vehicle ahead. It takes extra time to stop on snowy roads.
- Accelerate and stop slowly to avoid spinning of wheels and sliding.
- Two hands on the wheel at all times and definitely no texting while driving.

It's important to note that AWD is not necessarily better than front or back wheel drive, when driving in snow. Vehicle is heavier and harder to stop, plus:

"While many people think that all-wheel drive is enough to take on dangerous ice and snow, there is almost no difference between AWD equipped vehicles and common front-wheel drive cars when it comes to cornering, braking and handling in winter weather."

Slow down, stay alert, stay safe!



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## George Glaucous

Submitted by Diana Drake



The arrival of George was a surprise. He landed, nonchalantly, one morning on the flat cover of a street light in the crows', (aka Laurel and Hardy's) parking lot, just across from our car.

The Corvids were already there, front and centre, waiting for cheese. They had outdone themselves that day, one of the last soccer game Sundays permitted, finding our Volt among 150 other parked cars. A personal best for the intrepid duo.

Hardy, having mastered Dachshund very early on in our acquaintance, had announced his arrival with a series of barks. Along with Laurel, he was now waiting patiently for brunch to be served from their very own drive thru window.

Above us, George's skinny legs glistened bright pink in December's cold sun. They sported pronounced knobby knees, comically at odds with his portly frame. His beady eyes peered down at the antics of the Corvids over the rim of a thick yellow beak. Their expression seemed to suggest both undisguised interest and mild distaste.

His under feathers, brilliantly white against the blue of the sky, complemented his pearl-grey wings and back. Winter had added a slight dusky tone to his head and neck and turned the subterminal spot on the end of his bill from red to black.

George is a Glaucous (from the ancient Greek word glaukos, or grey) winged gull. He is one of the largest, bulkiest shorebirds (ranging from two to almost four pounds) in the Pacific Northwest. Many can be seen around Belcarra on the docks and beaches, often mixing in with flocks of other seabird species.

A gull of great resourcefulness, his relatives are found, in steadily increasing numbers, all along the coast from Alaska to Washington. Like many other creatures, they have adapted well to the presence of people, adding refuse from picnic tables, trash cans, land fills and, as it turns out, handouts in parking lots, to their scavenging. In the wild they eat fish, crabs, mussels and clams, small mammals and birds (rabbits/pigeons) as well as eggs. (I once saw one regurgitate a large part of a starfish.)

Juveniles are a mottled brown and will not acquire adult plumage for four years.

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Their life span is surprising. Several banded Glaucous winged gulls have been tracked for 21/22 years, and one in BC for 37!

George's gradual insinuation into the parking lot brunch, after that first day, revealed his opportunistic nature. He never arrives first, always leaving the work of finding us to the considerable skills of Laurel and Hardy.

He stays on the fringe- in the wings as it were - and plays the heavy whenever he gets the chance.

With his appearance on the scene, the Corvids changed tactics. Now, instead of taking a few bits of bread and cheese and caching them under the trees before returning for more, they stuffed their beaks to a point where flight itself was compromised. There is no Regan 'trickle down' in nature apparently. Laurel and Hardy did not want George to have so much as a single crumb.

Until the Leviathan kicked in and intervened, George paced the periphery, often with yellow beak open wide, raucously shrieking his demands. Unpleasant skirmishes occurred, resulting in ruffled feathers on both sides. Things got better only after 'the adults in the room' (yours truly) remembered to bring extra bread and improved their aim. A relative balance has now been achieved in parking lot politics. Good government, good leadership was all that was necessary to keep the peace. Here's to that in 2021!

Happy New Year to all!



Residents of Belcarra re the moving of the 2021 Door-to-Door Campaign for the Heart & Stroke Foundation to ONLINE ONLY during the month of February.

I received a letter from the Heart & Stroke Foundation in December notifying canvassers of the change for canvassing for 2021. Here is an excerpt from this letter. "...we wanted to share that the traditional door-to-door campaign will be moving to an online only, virtual, canvassing program for Heart Month 2021 (February) and we will not have Canvassers go door to door as they have in the past this Winter..."

Belcarra residents can still donate individually to this worthwhile cause through the heart and stroke website:

[WWW.HEARTANDSTROKE.CA](http://WWW.HEARTANDSTROKE.CA)

Thank you.

Koko Carlson

Captain/Canvasser



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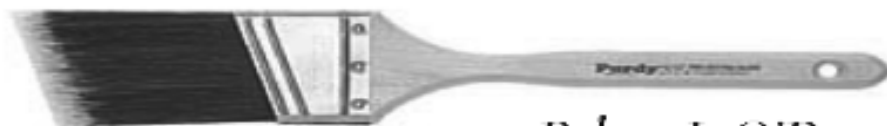


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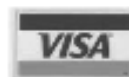
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## Letter To The Editor

Submitted by Michele Babineau

Undecided?

Friends, we have a wonderful opportunity available to us!

We are reaching out to share our collective perspective on the opportunity to elect Dr. Colm Cole as our new Mayor in Belcarra.

Colm is a well-educated professional with proven success working with cross functional medical teams in very high stress situations. He is collaborative and a team builder which is desperately needed in Belcarra. He is unencumbered by involvement in the past issues that have divided our community; so Colm represents a fresh start!

What He "WILL" Do:

- Work hard to reduce your property taxes.
- Leverage his intellect, credibility, and credentials to build professional and respectful relationships with ALL stakeholders which is key to our collective future success.
- Under his leadership, allow ALL members of our community to share their ideas at council meetings, town halls, and through various types of surveys.
- Use his proven skill set, mental capacity, and track record to quickly and accurately assess the facts and determine the best path forward.
- Focus on outcomes and delivering results.
- Inject fresh, creative ideas and approaches to old problems.
- Seek government grants, and partner with other jurisdictions to our mutual benefit.
- Make sense of key issues like our water system which has been a source of confusion for over ten years! We believe Colm will get the facts so residents and council can make informed decisions.
- Consider using referendums at times regarding major decisions.
- Consult with residents for their wise input and participation; Belcarra is home to many highly educated and successful Financial, Engineering, and Business individuals.

What He "WON'T" Do:

- Won't take us back in time to an era that significantly contributed to the division in our community and executed key initiatives poorly resulting in exorbitant consultants' fees and a weak financial position.
  - Won't vote in favour of a parcel tax.
- Let's do this!!

Colm will open new doors and opportunities for Belcarra through his connections with government officials, agencies, and partners. His education, experience, and credibility will result in a stronger, united Belcarra!

We ENCOURAGE you to get to know Colm, and if you do, we are confident you too will support him.

[drcolmcole@gmail.com](mailto:drcolmcole@gmail.com) (email) or [www.coleformayor.ca](http://www.coleformayor.ca) (website)

A Friendly Reminder...

Colm represents a fresh, positive new beginning for our village. We really want to stay positive but feel you need to remember... Jamie was a seasoned councillor on all of these initiatives:

1. The water system; which is a wonderful asset for this village, but it was years late, ran way over budget, and it did not deliver adequate flow for firefighting capabilities. Ten years later we are still paying for this water system and they have yet to sort out what we truly need for firefighting... really?!!
2. The use of consultants; which has cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years.
3. The rezoning bylaw; which cost us over \$300,000 and divided this community. Council's initial proposal would have resulted in a significant depreciation in the property values for a great many of our residents. As part of their strategy to rectify the outrage from the residents, they struck a committee of 19 people and saddled them with an expensive consultant.

(Continued on Page 25)



(Continued from Page 24)

This letter was written by residents of Belcarra who truly care and want the best for our beautiful village. We want to move forward and not backwards; which is what we fear may happen if Dr. Cole is not elected. When he is elected as Mayor, he will have a chance to prove himself over the next 20 months as the next municipal election is on October 15, 2022.

Please vote! January 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Village Hall.

Thank you for your consideration – take care and stay safe!



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## Letter To The Editor

Submitted by Klaus Bever

### A Simple Choice

Belcarra is having a by-election on January 23, 2021.

We are being asked to choose our next mayor. There are two candidates, so only one choice. And that choice seems simple.

One could argue that Jamie Ross has far more experience with 28 years as a member of Council. One could also argue that Jamie Ross has been a member of the Council that brought our Village its water system, a huge accomplishment in itself. Or that Jamie Ross was on Council for the last Official Community Plan. Or that Jamie Ross was the Council lead for the most recent Zoning Advisory Committee. Or that Jamie Ross enjoys community events.

Or that Jamie Ross has long demonstrated the abilities to learn from and listen to others. Or that Jamie Ross has conducted himself with kindness and generosity of spirit. One could argue all those, for I know them to be true. That, however, is not what makes the choice for Mayor so simple this time round.

Jamie Ross chooses to live in the same Village that I choose to live in. Jamie chooses to walk his dog, like we walk ours, on Village paths. Jamie chooses to watch the same grey clouds, and the same often seemingly endless rains blow across the bays of Belcarra. Jamie chooses, after the sun sets, to sleep amongst the same trees that stand guard for us all.

This time round, the choice is simple. Belcarra can choose the candidate who has chosen Belcarra.



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Seasoned Crackers:

Submitted by Carol Drew

1 box (2 sleeves) of Stone Wheat Thins or White Saltine Crackers.

Line them up in rows in a 9X13" Tupperware or Rubbermaid container.

Whisk together: 1 pkg of Hidden Valley Ranch Salad Dressing mix

1 1/2 c Canola Oil

2 tsp garlic powder

1-2 tsp cayenne pepper

2 tbsp dried red pepper flakes

Pour evenly over crackers.

Cover tightly and flip.

Flip again after 5 minutes. Do this for 1/2 an hour, flipping every 5 minutes.

Open and serve immediately or store in the same container for up to a week (I have had mine for more than a week and they are fine). NO, they do not get soggy.

They are magically dry and yummy. Serve with cheese, cream cheese, dip, soups or even Brie or just enjoy them on their own.

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