



Belcarra Barnacle

March 2023

Belcarra's Community Newspaper

Volume 44 Issue 2





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

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.

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Michele Babineau

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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

ADVERTISING RATES: (Ads must be copy ready)

	<u>Per Month</u> (In Advance)	<u>5 Issues</u> (In Advance)	<u>10 Issues</u>
<u>Black and White</u>			
Card (2" x 3")	\$24	\$90	\$144
1/4 Page	\$30	\$108	\$180
1/2 Page	\$60	\$240	\$360
1 Full Page	\$150	\$540	\$960
Classified 3 Lines	\$ 6		
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1 Page (Back Page)	\$270	\$1200	\$2280
1 Page (Centre)	\$240	\$1080	\$2100
1/2 Page (Centre)	\$180	\$840	\$1680
1/4 Page (Centre)	\$60	\$240	\$480

Classified ads (3 to 5 lines) are free for Belcarra Residents.

Please send ads by e-mail in PDF, jpeg, or tif format to

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Sandra at 604 931 4262 or srietchel@shaw.ca


BELCARRA DIRECTORY

Belcarra Village Hall	604 937 4100
Belcarra Website	www.belcarra.ca
Block Watch	
CRAB	Penny Moen 604-727-2510 c.r.a.b.4084@gmail.com
Vol. Fire Dept.	Jay Sharpe 604 765 2944 jay.sharpe@anmore.com
SVFD Recruitment:	sasamatrecruitment@gmail.com
RCMP - Non-Emergency	604 945 1550 or 604 469 1599
Village Roadways, Water & WARD Emergencies	604 917 0113

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH 2023

Mar 6	Regular Council Mtg
Mar 7	Full Moon
Mar 9	CRAB Volunteer Info Night
Mar 12	Daylight Savings Starts
Mar 13	Commonwealth Day
Mar 13 - 24	Spring Break
Mar 17	St Patrick's Day
Mar 20	Vernal or Spring Equinox
Mar 21	New Moon
Mar 22	Start of Ramadan
Mar 25	Earth Hour (830 to 930 PM)



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COUNCIL MEETINGS 2023

Council meetings are in-person
at the Village Hall.

Livestream is available on the Village of Belcarra Channel on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@villageofbelcarra9617/streams>

Please check the Village website for more information www.belcarra.ca.

COVER ART

Our front cover features a photograph submitted by Liisa Wilder. Do send your favourite local photos and artwork to the Barnacle.

It is a pleasure to share them.

belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com



Mayor's Report

Here are the Council highlights since my last update.

Council Meeting, January 23, 2023

Harriet Chang and students from School District 43 presented on Real Acts of Caring Week (February 12-18).

Ken Bjorgaard, Financial Consultant, and Paula Richardson presented a Draft 2023-2027 Financial Plan.

Paula Richardson reported on Mayor and Council salaries (Indemnification).

Stewart Novak gave an update on procedures at the Waste and Recycle Depot (WARD). Glass is again accepted in recyclables and soft plastics (recycling code #4) are not.

Council Meeting, February 6, 2023

A presentation on The Wildfire Development Permit Area Policy Development was provided by BA Blackwell and Associates. The presentation provided methods of reducing the risk of property damage in the event of wildfire.

Ken Bjorgaard recommended the Village of Belcarra's - 2027 Financial Plan Draft Bylaw be adjusted as follows:

- 3% increase in property taxes in 2023
- 3% increase in property taxes in each year from 2024 to 2027
- 10% increase in water user rates in 2023
- 10% increase in water user rates in each year from 2023 to 2027

- 12% increase in WARD user rates in 2023
- 12% increase in WARD user rates in each year from 2023 to 2027

Grants-In-Aid were provided to Belcarra Barnacle \$1000, Community Youth Justice Program \$350, and the 2023 Heritage Woods Secondary Dry Grad \$150.

Paula Richardson read a statement of events regarding a tree fall across Bedwell Bay Road on November 27, 2022.

The Village of Belcarra West Road Renaming Bylaw No. 603, 2023 was adopted. West Road is now Marine Ave.

Other topics, included: the disposition of a 20 foot travel trailer previously sited at WARD and meeting space at the Municipal Hall for the Belcarra Garden Club.

Council Meeting, February 21, 2023

Ken Bjorgaard, recommended and council supported a first and second reading of: Village of Belcarra 5-Year (2023 - 2027) Financial Plan Bylaw No. 606, 2023; Village of Belcarra Fees and Charges Bylaw no. 517, 2018 Amendment Bylaw No. 607, 2023; and Village of Belcarra Water Supply and Distribution Local Area Service No. 1 Parcel Tax Bylaw No. 452, 2012 Amendment Bylaw No. 608, 2023.

Council approved that staff be directed to enroll those members of Council who wish to participate, in the Union of British Columbia Municipalities Group Benefits Plan for Elected Officials.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Council approved the quote submitted by ISL Engineering relating to the 3700 block Marine Avenue Road rehabilitation.

Council adopted Village of Belcarra Council Indemnity Bylaw No. 604, 2023.

Council approved financial assistance in the amount of \$150 to the Port Moody Secondary School Class of 2023 AfterGrad event.

I reported to Council that the Provincial Government has announced a \$1 billion funding initiative to support new infrastructure and amenities for municipalities.

More detail and a recording of these meetings are available on the Village website [www.belcarra.ca].

On your behalf, I attended multiple meetings over the past month. These included a meeting between members of Council and the board of Directors of the Sasamat Outdoor Centre regarding the Sasamat Lake/Imperial Oil Dam and the HUB 2023 Bike Awards, a celebration of organizations and individuals that make biking better across Metro Vancouver.



Belcarra Block Watch

After a decade of service, Diana Drake is stepping away from her responsibilities to Block Watch.

We at the Barnacle want to thank Diana for her regular Block Watch updates and contributions. We hope she continues her writing and devotes herself to the much anticipated follow up to Ren's Treasure.

We look forward to working with the next volunteer who fills this much needed and valued position.



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Belcarra gymnast wins Tri-Cities' first Medal at
2023 Canada Winter Games

By Kyle Balzer, Tri-City News February 2023

Elizabeth Noble has added a sixth national medal to her collection following a strong start at the 2023 Canada Winter Games.

The 17-year-old Belcarra gymnast vaulted Team B.C. to a bronze in the female team event on Tuesday (Feb. 21), becoming the first Tri-Cities athlete to win some hardware on Prince Edward Island.

Noble, a member of TAG Gymnastics in Port Coquitlam, recorded the highest score for B.C. in three of the event's four difficulties — floor exercise (9.362), vault (9.2) and uneven bars (9.025).

The Dr. Charles Best Secondary student's efforts led to a total score of 143.787 for B.C., resulting in a third-place finish behind Ontario (148.395) and Québec (147.262).



It is notable that the provincial roster was even short-handed as they had five competitors to the other teams' six.

Noble told the Tri-City News her teammates were ecstatic to see their dedication and hard work pay off, even through the down times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am so happy to have contributed to this medal with all four of my scores counting. I have been in the sport for 14 years and would not have imagined myself here three years ago," she said.

"During COVID-19, we had months off and many set backs that were not expected.

With that being said, I am so grateful to my family and coaches who helped me push through and overcome different types of mental blocks and anxieties over the years."

In 2022, Noble won the gold on floor and silver on vault at the Canadian national artistic gymnastics championship, which have been two of her highest accomplishments to date.

Noble is one of 17 athletes from the Tri-Cities competing across six sports at the national event.

Belcarra's Elizabeth Noble (right) smiles with her B.C. teammates at the 2023 Canada Winter Games on Prince Edward Island. Elizabeth Noble/Instagram



One of Our Own By Teresa Moon

As many of you may have heard, on February 6 there were two earthquakes which affected Turkey and Syria. They caused devastating destruction and mass casualties. Our very own Belcarra resident, Ryan Moon, was one of the ten volunteers from the Burnaby USAR team who went to aid with search and rescue. Ryan and his team were sent into Adiyaman, Turkey where they searched tirelessly for any signs of life. Amazingly they were able to help rescue a woman who had been trapped for 5 days under rubble!

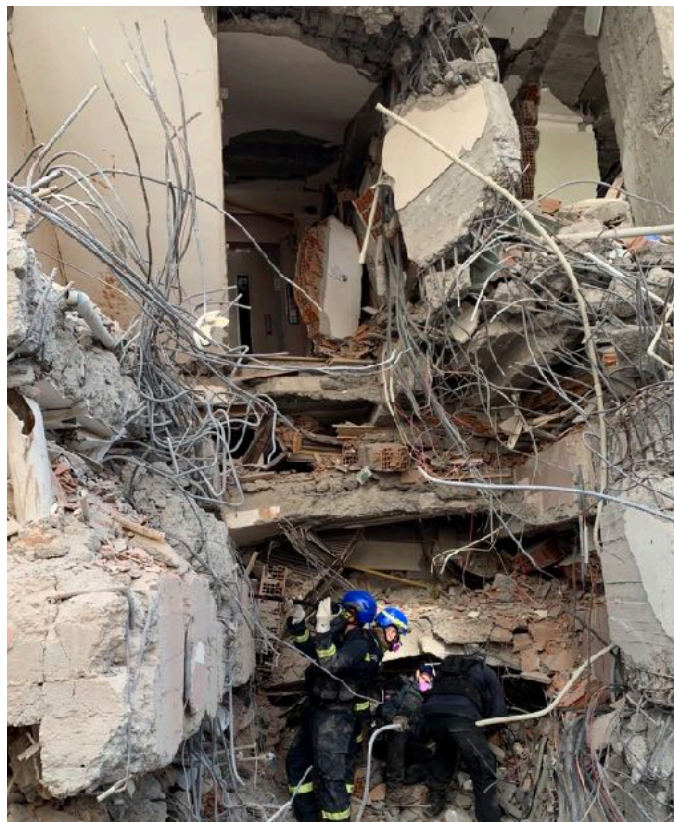
Now that he has returned home safe and sound, we would like to commend Ryan and the Burnaby USAR team for their incredible effort. We are proud to have our very own local hero.

Please show your support by visiting their GoFundMe page at www.burnabyusar.ca

Instagram: @burnaby_usar

Facebook: Burnaby USAR

Photos by Burnaby USAR



Adult Continuing Education By Mayling Stubbs

One of the upsides of the recent Covid years, for those of us in retirement and sheltering at home, has been the opportunity to continue to keep one's brain engaged and also connect with others through learning online. As adult education pioneer Eduard Lindeman, reminds us: "The whole of life is learning; therefore, education can have no ending."

There are a whole range of options at institutions across the Lower Mainland to do this with part-time or short-term courses. Closer to home, some examples include Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Continuing & Professional Studies (<https://www.kpu.ca/cps>). Their Wilson School of Design has an introduction to sewing as well as courses on textiles and making tote bags (<https://www.kpu.ca/cps/design>). Colleges like Douglas (with its Coquitlam campus), Langara and Vancouver also offer enticing subjects for the lifelong learner.

And at Coquitlam Continuing Education (<https://ce43.augusoft.net/>) you can upgrade with courses in literacy, high school credit and career/job skills.

Further afield, there's UBC with its Extended Learning department (<https://extendedlearning.ubc.ca/>) for those who want to pursue professional and personal interests.

My own experience over the past few years has been with SFU's Continuing Education.

Its 55+ Program within the Liberal Arts section (<https://www.sfu.ca/continuing-studies/programs/liberal-arts-and-55plus-program.html>) offers non-credit courses year-round to adult learners of all ages, with a tuition discount for students age 55 or older. The topics are broad-ranging and include art, literature, history, science and philosophy. They run for 4-6 weeks across the university's three terms (Jan-Apr, May-Jun, Sep-Dec).

This term, for example, I've enrolled in a course on Dreaming: A Night Sea Journey. The virtual classes are each an hour and a half long. Here's the outline of what we expect to cover: "Humans have been fascinated by dreams for thousands of years, dating back to the ancient Greeks, Mesopotamians and Egyptians, and likely as far back as the first emergence of symbolic thought. What's in a dream? Are dreams meaningful or are they merely detritus, the repressed or rejected by-products of consciousness? What purposes do these nightly thespian productions serve?"

(Continued on page 9)



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(Continued from page 8)

Using Jungian framework we'll explore the language, structure and purpose of our nocturnal dramas and offer some strategies to work with them."

Now if only they could teach me how to remember those dream events five minutes after waking!

Some of the other current courses include:

- China's Age of Reform 1978 to Now
- 'Sensual Ecstasy': The Short Fiction of Alice Munro
- Democracy Beneath the Surface
- Rewire Your Brain: Linking Mindfulness, Happiness and Neuroplasticity
- Writing in Flow: Tapping into Our Creative Energy (Yoga)
- Ramsey Theory: Complete Chaos Is Impossible (Mathematics)

At the moment some of these are offered online and others on-site at SFU's Harbour Centre campus on Hastings Street across from the SkyTrain Waterfront Station. It's also possible to complete 10 or more courses (writing an essay for each) towards a Certificate. The bonus for casual or busy learners: no time limit!

International Women's Day March 8

The Government of Canada's theme for International Women's Day 2023 is Every Woman Counts.

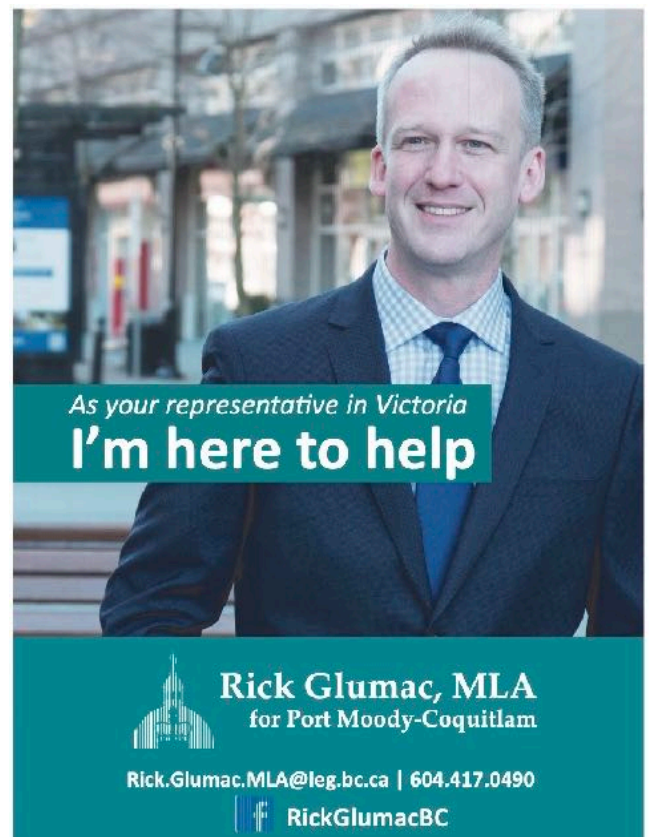
It's a reminder that all women, from all ages and walks of life, have a place in every aspect of Canadian society, including in the economic, social and democratic spheres.

Let's celebrate the successful women around us, reminding today's youth and girls that their dream is within reach.




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Stories from The Archives -

The Siege of Port Moody

Source: The Port Moody Gazette,

Saturday September 20th, 1884, pg. 3.

Researched By: Ralph Drew, Belcarra, BC

"The long-continued siege of Port Moody (vide Admiral 'Columbian') [newspaper] has hitherto and is yet regarded with calmness and some degree of amusement by the citizens, who have the assurance that it [Port Moody] is fortified by the hand of Nature against the strongest enemy. However, this last editorial of the 13th inst. [September 13th, 1884] seems to be the 'straw that breaks the camel's back'; not that there is any probability of it doing any injury to Port Moody, but of the estimate he (editor, Columbian) puts on the public intelligence. He insists that Mr. Van Horne and Mr. Onderdonk both said the [railway] terminus would go to Coal Harbour, and then says: 'The perfect agreement of these two gentlemen with respect to the extension should satisfy everybody on that point.'"

"He has quit arguments, and now implores the incredulous people to believe. Well, let us consider what he says. Two gentlemen assert the same thing. What a remarkable coincidence this is, especially when one of these gentlemen has no more authority for making such assertions than the editor of the 'Columbian', and the other (Mr. Van Horne) could not have said so, even if it was extremely probable, till it was first past at a meeting of the Directorate of the C.P.R. Syndicate; then afterwards profiles of the said extensions, with maps of surrounding country, would require to be deposited with the Dominion Government [of Canada] and sanction given by that Government."

Again, we are told that the Dominion Government surrendered the lands West of Port Moody to the local Government [of British Columbia] a few months ago; also, that the 'syndicate had thought long ago of extending the railway to Coal Harbour', and that the only trouble now was to provide lands for terminal works at the last-named place. Now these are three extraordinary statements to come together in the same column."

"What weak imbecile statesmen these Federal ministers are, and what short-sighted forgetful fellows are President Stephen and his associates. Their memory has become very morbid; they never thought of reminding the Dominion Government that they were going to extend the [rail] road to Coal Harbour till the land was given away; for, recollect, there is provision in the contract between the Government and Syndicate, where the latter can get all the land they require for railway purposes at the termini of the mail line, and likewise for branch lines and branch line termini, provided such land is vested in the Government. But they have to let all this slip; they have forgotten the liberal provision in their contract, and are now obliged to apply to the local Government for land for terminal purposes."

(Continued on page 11)



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abledrain@shaw.ca

(Continued from page 10)

"Now let us consider the natural advantages of both places in one or two respects: Any person taking the trouble to look at the map, or of going there and inspecting for himself, will find that the little peninsula (which is from 300 to 350 yards wide at Granville [Townsite]) between Coal Harbour and False Creek is hardly large enough for the C.P.R. yards, (including yards for side-tracks and stock-yards) and the other terminal works.

Therefore, in the event of the terminus being there, the greater part of the city would be unavoidably south of False Creek. Just imagine the citizens navigating False Creek (which is from one to one and a half miles [1.6 to 2.4 km] wide) with rafts to and from the railway station, and getting their consignment of goods by this perilous method of navigation. This one condition is enough in itself to prove that a city of any importance cannot be situated there."

"It is a well-known fact that a city at any other place on Burrard Inlet than Port Moody, cannot be well fortified. The only mound that could be utilized being in the vicinity of Moodyville [North Vancouver] which is from three to four miles [4.8 to 6.4 km] distant from where 'Vancouver' would be situated; and that would be of no use, for the enemy would throw their shell in across the narrow point of land from English Bay without coming through the first narrows at all. So helpless 'Vancouver' (which would be the key to the Pacific Province) could be laid desolate in a few hours, before our war ships could steam out of the North Arm [Indian Arm] (naval station) to the rescue."

"The adaptability of Port Moody in these respects is unquestionable. The North Arm of the inlet has no rival as a future naval station on the Pacific Coast; there is no other suitable place on the mainland; and just immediately East, or on the Port Moody side of the North Arm, the inlet narrows to less than one mile [1.6 km], at which point there are two Government reserves, one at the point of land [Admiralty Point] lying between the North Arm and Port Moody, and the other nearly opposite on the other side of the inlet [on the slope of Burnaby Mountain adjacent to North Road]; both of which are admirably situated and elevated, and most perfect sites for fortresses."

"'Oh,' but some people say, 'what has the Federal Government to do with it; it is all to be decided by the Syndicate.' Yes, the Federal Government has all to do with the locating of the future metropolis of the western part of the Dominion of Canada, and wise administration of this matter is the greatest boon the Syndicate could receive. It is a question which involves national interests. With regard to this question, the Federal Government is not only responsible to the people of this country, but to the [British] Imperial Government."

"Yours truly,
'A Veteran Stayer',
Port Moody, Sept. 16, 1884."



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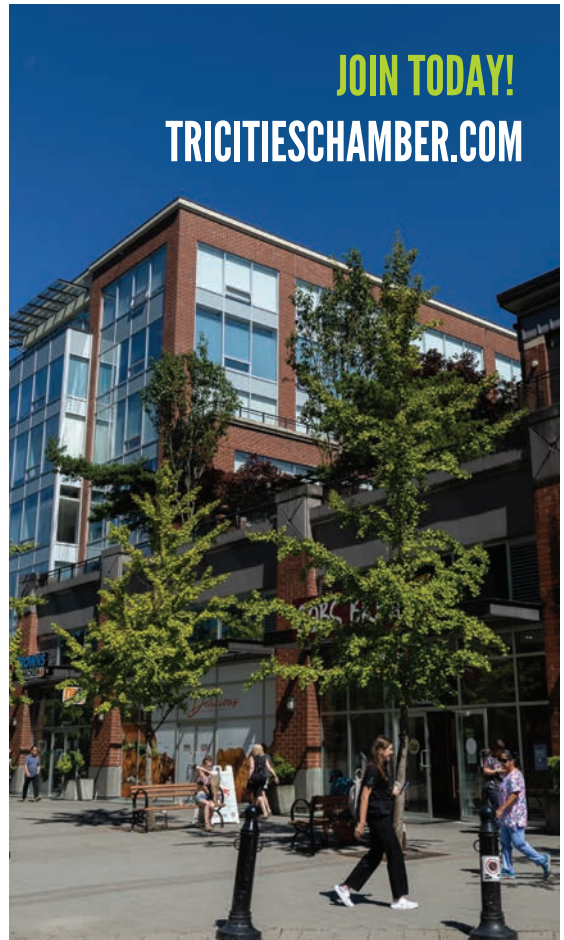
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Village of Belcarra

EASTER

Egg Hunt



& PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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11:00 EGG HUNT @ BELCARRA PARK

9

APRIL

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\$5 Pancake Breakfast

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VILLAGE NEWS



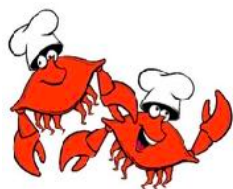
CRAB CORNER

You are invited to join us
at an Events Planning Meeting:
at 7 PM on Thursday, March 9th.

Jim & Sherry are hosting
at 4505 Belcarra Bay Road

We will discuss the Pancake Breakfast, Easter
Egg Hunt, and Pub Night as well as other
upcoming events.

Please help us make our events a Success!



Please RSVP to crab4084@gmail.com

Let us know if you are not able to attend the
planning meeting but would like to help!

2023 BELCARRA DIRECTORY

Printed copies of the 2023 Belcarra Directory
are now available to all current CRAB members.
The membership fee is \$30 per household.

Payment is accepted by e-transfer (to
crabpayments@gmail.com), cheque or cash.

Earth Hour March 25

Earth Hour is observed annually on the last
Saturday of March. On March 25th, from
8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., people are
encouraged to turn their lights and non-
essential appliances off in an effort to raise
awareness about the issues of climate
change and encourage people to do
something to protect the planet.



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References are available
upon request.

The Belcarra Garden Club

By Les Bramley

Hi everybody! We are resuming our garden club meetings at the Village Hall on Monday, April 3rd at 2pm.

Come join us! We exchange plants and seeds at most meetings and someone always has ideas of interest to share!

We always have a specific gardening topic to cover at each meeting. This meeting we will be working out our trip (or trips!) for 2023.

So if you want to join us, there is no membership cost; it is all free.

Added bonus: we now have a 10% discount at six garden centres with our membership card.

HAPPY GARDENING!

If you have any gardening questions or wish to become a member, please contact us at 604-937-7103 or email: lesbramley@shaw.ca



Out in the Garden with...
The Belcarra Garden Club

By Nora Boekhout and Les Bramley

Pre-Spring Garden Chores

This month's Garden Club article is currently emerging from the late Winter Blast!

Please check it out at our webpage instead.

<http://tinyurl.com/rwcf9b85>

If you look the right way,
you can see that the whole
world is a garden.

Frances Hodgson Burnett

TIDE TABLES ONLINE

<https://www.tide-forecast.com/locations/Port-Moody-British-Columbia/tides/latest>

<https://www.tideschart.com/Canada/British-Columbia/Belcarra-Bay/Fishing/>

<https://tides4fishing.com/ca/british-columbia/port-moody>



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Kid's Space



St. Patrick's Day Jokes

Question: What do you get when you combine
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Answer: A rash of good luck!

Question: Why do leprechauns enjoy recycling?

Answer: Because they like to go green!



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Pi Day π

A Day for Lovers of Math...

Not to be confused with Pie Day ...

A Day for Lovers of Pie!

Pi Day is observed every year on March 14 to commemorate the mathematical constant of Pi. 3.14 are the first three digits of Pi. If you celebrate Pi at exactly 1:59 a.m or p.m, you are celebrating a more accurate approximation of Pi 3.14159.

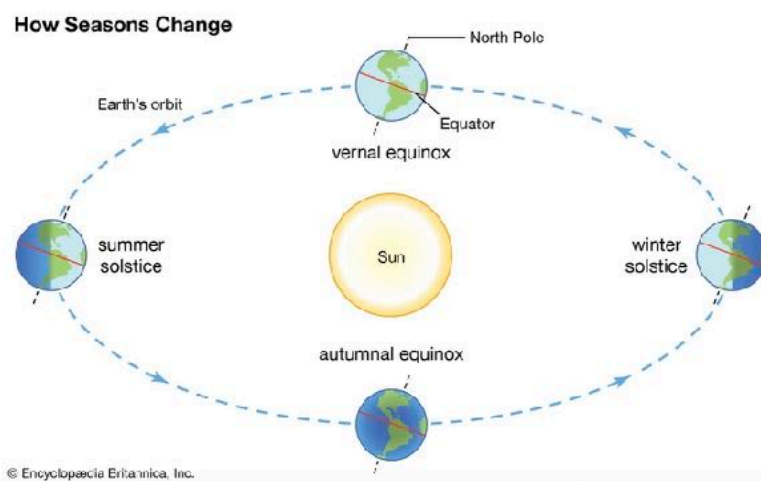
Pi or π is a mathematical constant that is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. It is approximately equal to 3.14159. The number π appears in many formulas across mathematics and physics.

Spring Equinox

Source Britannica Kids

As **Earth** revolves around the **Sun**, the planet is tilted in relation to the Sun. Earth's North Pole always points to the same direction in space. As a result, different parts of Earth receive different amounts of sunlight throughout the year. This causes the **seasons** to change.

An equinox occurs when the position of the Sun is exactly over the **Equator**.



When this happens, the hours of daylight and the hours of darkness are about equal almost everywhere on Earth. Equinoxes take place twice a year. The vernal equinox marks the beginning of spring.

After the vernal equinox, the days become longer and the nights become shorter. The vernal equinox occurs around March 21 in the

N o r t h e r n
H e m i s p h e r e
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a r o u n d
S e p t e m b e r 23
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t h e
S o u t h e r n
H e m i s p h e r e.

Plant Canada Purple

Source Facebook: Live the Garden Life

Thousands of "Plant Red" Gardens were designated during the Year of the Garden in 2022.

We're excited to share that Purple was named Communities in Bloom's colour of the Year for 2023. Live the Garden Life whole-heartedly supports this campaign during 2023.

Plant Canada Purple!

Purple has a variety of effects on the mind and body, including uplifting spirits, calming the mind, enhanced feelings of spirituality and encouraging imagination and creativity.



Live the garden life
Vivre la vie de jardin

From lilacs to coneflowers, from coast to coast, let's Live the Garden Life and plant Canada purple in 2023!

If you wish to further explore this topic investigate <https://www.petalrepublic.com/purple-flower-meaning/>.

A variety of purple plants is also listed.



Belcarra Blessings

Deborah Struk

Are you ready for a glorious month of March? It is amazing how the sight of bulbs peeking through the ground brings so much joy every year. On the coldest and dreariest days, as I'm bundled and cozy to keep the elements from nipping at my hands and feet, I spot the deep and bright green tops pushing forth from the dirt and between the weeds. Such fortitude! They bring forth the promise of life and colour. They are a picture of hope. It is amazing how my heart is filled with every new bud poking through. Hope is glorious. My hope for each of you is that HOPE arises in new ways for you, wherever it is needed.

Spring forth crisp white magnolias, colourful and varied shaped tulips, pure white snowdrops, colourful, humble crocuses and brightly coloured daffodils! May your season be long.

Do you enjoy cutting your blooms and bringing them indoors or gifting to a friend? Perhaps you prefer to let them flourish in the ground. Whichever you chose, just delight in the blossoms and may your heart be full.

I was thinking on last year's Commonwealth Day (this year it is March 13) and was moved to come across this excerpt from the final speech to our nations by Queen Elizabeth II.

"I hope we can deepen our resolve to support and serve one another, and endeavour to ensure the Commonwealth remains an influential force for good in our world for many generations to come."

I am ever thankful for those who serve in and from our community. Thank you to our many volunteers with Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department, CRAB (community group), those that watch out for neighbours, Les and Kathy for the Garden Club, Barnacle volunteer staff and all those that submit articles, Mike and Alyson Wall who faithfully look after our Village Hall and entrance sign gardens. Those willing to care and serve are much appreciated.

Take heart. There is hope. Have a glorious March.

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Please send in photos of the glorious blossoms you see. Be blessed this March.

Village Sign Repairs

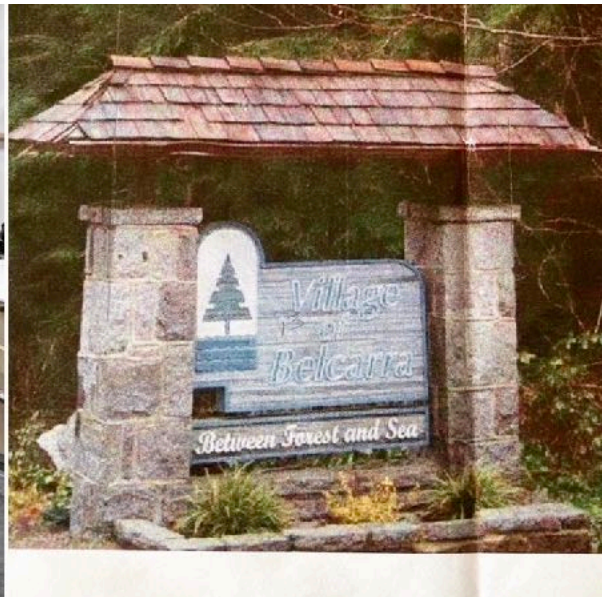


Who is that working on our Village entrance sign? Pascal Teste, a resident carpenter and furniture maker. Pascal is building and installing a new roof. He first must remove the old roof and what's left of the old 4x4 posts imbedded in the stone pillars. He plans to reproduce, as best he can, the original design using old photos as a reference. Luckily, Pascal is able to build most of the structure in his new shop.

Pascal owns and operates a "one person furniture making shop" in the Village. His furniture pieces are built to order and one at a time. Pascal has a gallery of his work on his website www.pascaltestefurniture.com. He also offers classes in woodworking and furniture making.

Pascal and Anna moved to Belcarra in 2014. Like many of us, it was access to forest trails, nature and the ocean that brought them here.

Thank you Pascal! We look forward to seeing our charming Village entrance back in shape.



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Letter to the Editor

Three-Legged Milking Stool
(missing third leg)

By John Snell

Several presentations from Ken Bjorgaard, the village's financial consultant, both verbally and written, made it abundantly clear that without a strategic plan or a "blueprint" to work with, it is impossible to prepare a five year, (or even a one year) financial plan upon which to base this and successive years property tax needs and levels.

Instead we have repeatedly been told both verbally and in print that without a "blueprint" all we can do is cover the increased cost of doing business and build reserves while council figures out what to do.

There are three documents that guide council, just as there are three legs to a milking stool. If one leg is broken, the stool is of little use!

An asset management plan identifies village property such as roads, drainage, and infrastructure, and gives guidance towards repair, maintenance, upgrade or replacement, needed now and in future years.

An OCP or "Official Community Plan" is how a panel of villagers, with considerable input from other villagers, figure out how the community sees itself now, and how it wants and envisions itself to be a decade into the future.

The final component is a "Strategic Plan". This plan can only be put together when you have an adopted OCP and a clear idea of asset management needs.

The components of this plan logically would be graded from "least to most important" and from "least to most urgent". From this, it becomes straightforward to build out timelines for expenditure and for a financial consultant to tell us definitively how much we need to raise in taxes to accomplish what is needed both now and in successive years.

Clearly, the most important component is the OCP, being all about the Village and those that have chosen to live here. The OCP is our third leg of the stool!

Since June 2022 our Mayor has had nothing to do with the OCP and physically leaves the room when the subject comes up. The topic is conspicuous by its absence on Council Meeting Agendas. The Mayor has publicly stated he will "recuse" himself from all discussion on the subject. How can we move forward?

Consider that our current mayor in October 2018 stated "there must always be an absolute commitment to a plan to provide an orderly and predictable spending plan for the short to long term". In October 2022 election promises included Marine Avenue maintenance/improvements, Kelly Avenue drainage, villager roadside safety, invasive species control. Most people would have expected these items to appear as a line entry in any proposed budget. What we did see however was an increase in the number of village vehicles including a new truck and a new backhoe tractor.

I urge you to visit the Village of Belcarra YouTube channel and watch recent and historic council meetings. Visit the Village's own website and follow agendas and minutes.

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Whatever you do, get informed and express an opinion. " I BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL TO COMPLETE THE OCP FIRST AND TO TREAT IT AS A MATTER OF SOME URGENCY".

Perhaps a deputy mayor should lead the whole financial and planning process from this point forward.

Attend Council meetings, write to the Village and write to the Barnacle.

Recently the 'Belcarra Together' Facebook page has become a valuable media in which to exchange views and ideas. With over 250 followers, it can be effective in giving council an idea of the true 'vibes' from a number of Village residents.

Would you want to sit on a two-legged stool ?
I don't think so !

Respectfully submitted.



Letter to the Editor

Active Transportation

By Colleen MacDonald

Everywhere in BC, cities and towns are making roads safer for pedestrians and cyclists. It is a prudent and forward thinking decision to improve pedestrian access for economic, health and lifestyle benefits. A recent round of provincial grants included funding for four projects in the Tri-Cities.

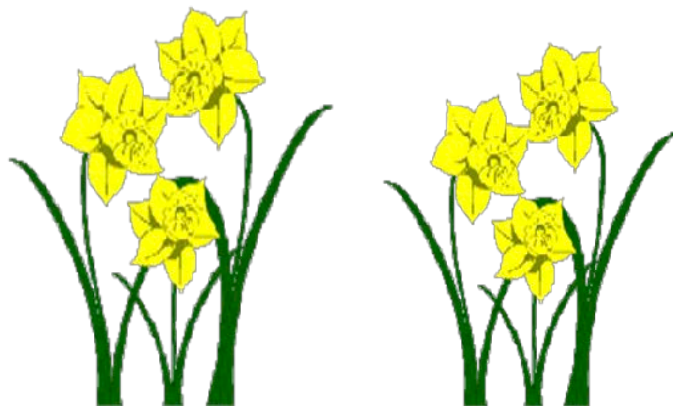
Anmore: \$500,000 for the Sunnyside Road multi-use path.

Coquitlam: \$500,000 toward the multi-use Guildford Greenway.

Port Moody: \$500,000 for the St. Johns Street multi-use path connecting Albert and Moody streets.

Port Coquitlam: \$450,000 for the Kingsway Avenue multi-use path.

There are many opportunities to improve safety on our Village roads, from ideas as simple as cleaning up shoulders and trimming branches, to creating new safe infrastructure. It's time to move forward on these ideas and to look forward to working with other community members and our council to make safety on our roads a priority this year.





Letter to the Editor
Pedestrian Safety
By Dayna Fitz

A recent round of provincial grants gave Anmore, Coquitlam and Port Moody each a half million dollars to continue their work on pathways and active transportation access. Colleen MacDonald sent this great news to Council along with a simple question... what is Council planning for safety improvements in 2023.

To this question, Councillor Clark responded: "To answer your question: Council will review its strategic plan in the next month, for now the existing strategic plan is still in place which prioritizes the following:

1. Asset Management
2. Consolidated Enhanced Fire Protection (lots to do here)
3. Parking (completed)
4. Review of the OCP (taking place to be completed in 2023)
5. Group Wharfages
6. Community Pathways & Trails"

Councillor Clark's response points out that the 2021 Strategic Plan put pedestrian safety in a lower priority than either parking or wharfage.

There has been effort, with some progress. In 2022, Mayor Ross secured TransLink funding to proceed with an engineering study for drainage and safe pathways along Bedwell Bay Road. Staff worked to secure funding to start sidewalk building on a portion of Bedwell Bay Road. Councillors Drake and Wilder spent a rainy afternoon walking Bedwell Bay Road listening to community input.

For all of these efforts, we received a failed split vote, we declined to accept any provincial and TransLink funding for pathways and we made no improvements to pedestrian safety.

Residents of our Village use Bedwell Bay Road every day. They use it to access bus stops, mailboxes, and the Village Hall. They use it to connect with each other. They use it coming home from work or going to school or to walk their dog. They use it at night and in the morning when lighting is poor. We are on Bedwell Bay Road because we need to be, because we want to be. We just want it to be safer.

The question for Council remains: what are you planning for safety improvements in Belcarra for 2023 and for the years forward? It's our future.

For now, I wish for pedestrian safety to be escalated in importance; that it appear in a strategic plan with the urgency it requires. I hope that Council will secure us our half million dollars and get started on a safer pedestrian community, today.

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My constituency office is here to address the needs of the community and I encourage you to reach out if you require assistance.

BONITA ZARRILLO

Member of Parliament | Députée
Port Moody-Coquitlam, Anmore, Belcarra

What my Community Office can help you with:

- Address issues you may be having with federal ministries or agencies
- Provide information on locating government services and contact information
- Assist in understanding government policies and services
- Receive information to attend community events
- Advocate on behalf of the community to government
- Provide congratulatory and greeting messages
- Provide government documents and other web-based forms if you don't have internet access

Contact

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