



Belcarra Barnacle

April 2023

Belcarra's Community Newspaper

Volume 44 Issue 3





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.

VOLUNTEERS:

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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>
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Card (2" x 3")	\$24	\$90	\$144
1/4 Page	\$30	\$108	\$180
1/2 Page	\$60	\$240	\$360
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Classified 3 Lines	\$ 6		
<u>Colour</u>			
1 Page (Back Page)	\$270	\$1200	\$2280
1 Page (Centre)	\$240	\$1080	\$2100
1/2 Page (Centre)	\$180	\$840	\$1680

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

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

belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com

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

APRIL 2023

Apr 1	April Fools' Day
Apr 3	Garden Club Meeting
Apr 5-13	Passover
Apr 5	Full Moon
Apr 7	Good Friday
Apr 9	Easter Sunday
Apr 9	CRAB Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt
Apr 11	Regular Council Meeting
Apr 12	International Day of Pink
Apr 19	New Moon
Apr 21	Ramadan ends
Apr 22	Earth Day
Apr 24	Regular Council Day
Apr 27-28	Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)
Apr 28	National Day of Mourning
April is Sikh Heritage Month in Canada	



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COUNCIL MEETINGS 2023

Council meetings are in-person
at the Village Hall.

Livestream is available at:
[Village of Belcarra YouTube Channel](#)

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

COVER ART

Our front cover features a photograph
submitted by Amanda Bouchard of a
Western Tiger Swallowtail butterfly.
(*Papilio rutulus*)

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

It is a pleasure to share them.

belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com





Mayor's Report

On March 20 winter ended and spring began. There is now hope for warmer weather. In Belcarra what brings joy to all of us is our gardens with daffodils, snowdrops and many other spring flowers.

These are the Council highlights since my last update.

Council Meeting, March 6

Elizabeth Noble was recognized by Council for her recent success in gymnastics at the 2023 Canada Winter Games where she received BC's highest score and won a bronze medal. Elizabeth stands out for her kindness in recognizing individuals who helped her during the pandemic. Belcarra is proud of her achievements.

These Bylaws received third reading:

- Village of Belcarra 5-Year (2023-2027) Financial Bylaw No. 606
- Village of Belcarra Fees and Changes Amendment Bylaw No. 607
- Water Parcel Tax Amendment Bylaw No. 608

The motion passed on February 21 "That Council approve the quote submitted by ISL Engineering in the sum of \$19,515.00 plus applicable taxes for work relating to the 3700 block Marine Avenue Road rehabilitation" was reconsidered, and on reconsideration, was defeated.

More detail and a recording of this meeting is available on the Village website [www.belcarra.ca].

Councillors Carolina Clark, Janet Ruzyski and Liisa Wilder attended a celebration on March 8 recognizing International Women's Day.

Belcarra is preparing to receive \$759,000 from the BC Growing Communities Fund to assist in meeting our unique local priorities. Premier David Eby announced on March 3, that "One billion dollars in new grants will be going to local governments in BC to help build community infrastructure and amenities to meet the demands of unprecedented population growth. Cities and towns need support to build thriving communities. The new growing communities fund will help local municipalities improve roads, build more arenas and water facilities and improve recreation options for families".

Council met with MLA Rick Glumac to acknowledge his efforts in assisting our Village.

Happy to chat,
Jamie

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



A Thank You to Village Staff By Mayling Stubbs

I write to convey my deep appreciation for the assistance your public works staff provided to me on Friday last.

As I was driving to Port Moody, my car had a flat tire that prevented me from continuing so I turned back into the Village and parked at a driveway in order to inspect and deal with it. The drivers of the Belcarra Village snowplow (Brad Smith and Lance Fortier, I believe) were passing by and courteously stopped to lend a hand.

They promptly removed the flat tire and replaced it with the spare, and when it was clear that the latter required air, they retrieved their air inflator and made sure that the vehicle would be able to be driven safely.

I was so impressed with their capable, good-natured, and kind approach to the situation, which was of such valuable help to me. Please be aware that as a Belcarra resident I am generally thankful to live in this beautiful village, but even more grateful that your staff go above and beyond in circumstances like these.

Thank you Pascal (pascaltestefurniture.com), Brad, Lance and Stewart for our lovely village entry.



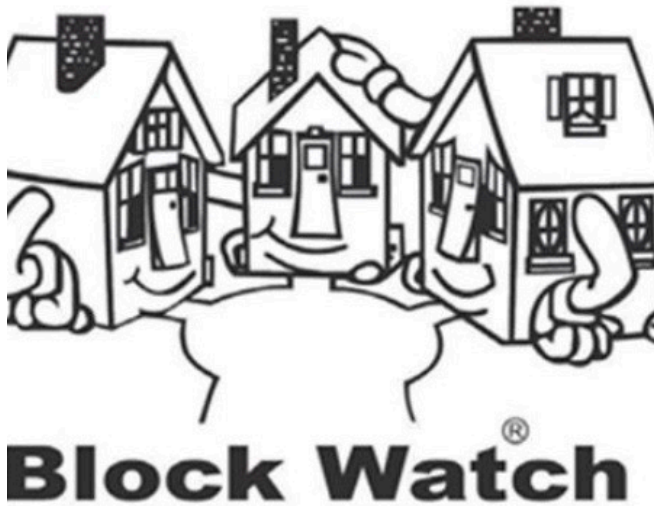
Earth Day

Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by EARTHDAY.ORG and in Canada by earthday.ca.

The official theme for 2023 is Invest In Our Planet.



COQUITLAM RCMP BLOCK WATCH PROGRAM



**MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES
SAFER, MORE INCLUSIVE,
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ONE BLOCK AT A TIME**

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coquitlam_blockwatch@rcmp-grc.gc.ca



Belcarra Block Watch VOLUNTEERS Needed

Coquitlam RCMP are looking for volunteers to coordinate Block Watch in Belcarra. If anyone is interested in volunteering, an application form is available on the Village of Belcarra website.

If you have any questions about the Block Watch program or the application process email:

Coquitlam_Blockwatch@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

What Is My Role?

Block watch is a free program operated by the Coquitlam RCMP Detachment to help prevent crime in your community.

Basically, your role is to be aware of what is going on in your area or neighbourhood.

You and your neighbours are committed to being watchful of each other's homes and look after one another.

Communicate with each other and be concerned about your neighbors' property as well as your own.

To immediately report any criminal or suspicious activity to the police and then to your Block Watch Captain

What Is Block Watch?

Block Watch is a **free** program operated by the Coquitlam RCMP Detachment to help prevent crime in your community.

How Does Block Watch Work?

Block Watch is a program of “neighbour helping neighbour”. Residents form a Block Watch group and create a communication network, through the use of a list of names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.

They make a commitment to watch out for each other’s homes and to immediately report all criminal and suspicious activities to the police and also to each other.

They keep each other informed about neighbourhood incidents or other problems occurring on their street by providing this information to their Block Watch Captain.

Who Can Join?

The Block Watch Program is not limited to residents of single family homes. Multi-family complexes can also form an effective and successful Block Watch by working together with their neighbours.



What Is Required?

Each Block Watch group must have a minimum of 25 registered houses on their street and requires one Block Captain and at least one Co-Captain.

Depending on the size of some multi-family complexes, some additional Captains/Co-Captains may be needed. Each complex requires one Area Coordinator in addition to their Captain and Co-Captain and must have more than 50% of the units registered.

All Area Coordinators, Captains and Co-Captains must successfully undergo a security clearance by completing a Block Watch application.

A group registration form must be submitted, listing all of the group participants, including their first and last names, address, phone number and email.

There must be an active Captain and Co-Captain and a current Block Watch group membership list on file in order to qualify for any insurance discounts which may be available to Block Watch members and to have the Block Watch street sign remain.

Revised: 20220127 v8

(Continued on Page 8)

What Does Block Watch Provide?

- ✓ Crime prevention and home security information, decals, engravers, street signs and possibly an insurance discount
- ✓ Block Watch Fan Outs for crimes such as residential break and enters, including suspect descriptions.
- ✓ Crime Alerts providing information on crime trends/hot spots, personal safety, home security and crime prevention tips.
- ✓ How to properly recognize and report crime and suspicious activity to the police.
- ✓ Liaison between you and the police and other agencies and organizations.
- ✓ A greater sense of safety, enhanced awareness and community spirit.
- ✓ Making our communities safer, more inclusive, connected and stronger, one block at a time



Block Watch Does Not Include

- ✗ **Patrolling Neighbourhoods**
You are not required to, nor do we recommend you patrol your neighbourhood and potentially put yourself in danger.
- ✗ **Chasing Burglars**
This is the responsibility of the Police. All we ask is that you report suspicious persons and activities.
- ✗ **Attending Several Meetings**
You are simply required to attend one small informal gathering or block party.
- ✗ **Reduced Privacy**
Block Watch is about neighbours “watching out” for one another, not “watching” one another.
- ✗ **Block Parents**
Block Watch is not the same as Block Parents. These are two separate programs.

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Stories From The Archives —

Port Moody As An Arsenal

Researched By: Ralph Drew, Belcarra, BC, March 2023.

Source: Port Moody Gazette, Sat., January 19th, 1884.

"We pointed-out the great future importance of Port Moody as the terminus of the greatest railway system on the continent, and its great value as the center of commerce on the Pacific frontiers of the Dominion; we now come to another great feature in its future progress, in its guise as an arsenal, where all the munitions of war, naval and military, will be stored — where the warships will be repaired and refitted and where troops and supplies will arrive from England for distribution on the Pacific."

"It would be difficult to find a more splendid site for a graving dock, large enough to receive the greatest iron-clad afloat, than the small cove on the North Arm [Indian Arm] known as Bedwell Bay. The whole outline of a graving dock has been formed by nature, and so far from excavation being required, the bottom of the dock would become a receptacle for debris from the sides which will be removed in placing the stone, in order to reduce the depth. An unlimited quantity of the finest granite is on the spot, so the cost of constructing a first-class dock would be less, probably, than any other place in the world."

"The Arm itself would contain an entire fleet, so that every branch of refitting, victualling and arming a squadron, could be carried-on at the same time. The entrance to the Arm is open at all seasons of the year, and at all times of the tide; it is undisturbed by any wind that blows, and could be defended against any possible attack.

Wood and water of the best quality are plentiful; splendid spars can be obtained when required. As a place for a naval depot, it has no superior, and we are much mistaken if this fact has not been duly chronicled at the Admiralty."

"The site chosen by Colonel Chambers for fortifications includes the bluff [Burnaby Mountain] at the mouth of the North Arm, which dominates the whole of the inlet, including Port Moody. Thus, from the ramparts at the fort, the whole of the Inlet and the North Arm can be overlooked, and every operation carefully noted. A site will be selected, no doubt, for the erection of extensive barracks, where troops arriving from Europe may be lodged before transfer to the troop ships or transports; as, also, for the reception of troops on their way home. As a sanitorium for soldiers from the East Indies, nothing could be better; the fine mild climate, with its pure bracing air, would be an excellent preparation for the homeward journey.

But in the case of precautionary measures for eventualities, where troops could be placed on ship-board in a few hours, it is without equal."

"The surroundings of Port Moody would have many attractions for military men; the fishing and shooting being both excellent.

For yachting or boat racing it is the very beau ideal, and the level plateau between the head of Port Moody and the Coquitlam [River] offers many splendid cricket fields or racecourses.

The presence of large numbers of commercial, naval and military gentlemen will, of course, create a gay city; theatres and opera houses will soon raise their stately heads as the rendezvous of beauty and fashion. The drives in every direction will throw Victoria into the shade, because the level country in the immediate vicinity of the mountains, will produce a coup d'œil [means a glance that takes in a comprehensive view] of surprising grandeur."

"Our readers but can dimly imagine the appearance of Port Moody in a few years hence; its port thronged with large steamers; its wharves covered with merchandise from every clime; its streets lined with magnificent stores, thronged with a gay and fashionable crowd; carriages rolling through the streets of the city, and in the business portion, crowds of great wagons carrying the merchandise from warehouse to wharf and wharf to warehouse. Amongst the residences, the spires and towers of churches, and in the center of the city, the great hotels and public institutions. It will be the center of commerce, from being the center of the telegraph system of the Dominion, on the Pacific; connection with every part of the world will be made from this city, because the Asiatic system will be united to the Dominion telegraph now stretching from the Eastern Provinces to the Rocky Mountains, and soon to be joined by the wires now being stretched from this city."

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MAY 6

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\$18  BBQ Dinner

\$4  Beer/Wine/Coolers

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BAR & GRILL

DINNER STARTS AT 6:30PM

CATERED BY HENRY'S OUTDOOR BBQ

*Vegetarian option by prior request

Pre-event reservation required

Paid CRAB members can reserve one complimentary dinner ticket per family! (\$18 Value!)

All tickets are first come first served
Please email your RSVP early to...

crab4084@gmail.com

Reserve early! Limited Tickets!



HOSTED BY C.R.A.B.

VILLAGE NEWS

Quips and Quotes

By Barbara Shelly

"... a work of art is not separate from or in opposition to or a mere 'metaphor' for life. It is life, as rightfully in existence as any other object, person, event."

"Writers on Writing, p. 1658

Joyce Carol Oates



The Belcarra Garden Club

By Les Bramley

Hi everybody!

The next Belcarra Garden Club meeting is on Monday, May 1st at 2pm, at the Belcarra Park picnic shelters.

On Monday, May 8th, the BGC is traveling to Langley for a course with Josh Thompson, owner of PlanBee Native Plants (info@planbeenativeplants.com).

Josh will introduce us to native plants that attract bees, birds, butterflies, wildlife and insects to our gardens; capture carbon and reduce water usage.

Everyone is welcome to join us and meet at the village hall car park at 9:45am. We will be car pooling as usual to help the environment. Please phone or email me if you wish to join us.

Save this date: Organic Week 2023,

September 18th to the 24th. Organic Week celebrates all things Organic.

Check it out

www.organicweek.ca.

HAPPY GARDENING !

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

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CRAB CORNER

Pancake Breakfast and Egg Hunt

Don't forget to come and join us on Sunday, April 9 for pancakes and an egg hunt!

Look for our poster and colouring contest details on the Kidz Page (p. 16).

Spring Social and BBQ

The Spring Social is on Saturday, May 6. A chicken dinner, a glass of wine and a chance to relax with neighbours and friends. For details, see our poster on the centre page.

We are looking for volunteers to help with this fun event. Our volunteer planning night is on Thursday, April 13th at 7 PM.

Please email us at crab4084@gmail.com if you can help.

2023 Belcarra Directory Available

Thank you Liisa Wilder for another great edition! Handy resident contact information is displayed alongside photographs taken by talented resident photographers. Directories are available to all CRAB members. Purchase a membership at the pancake breakfast or spring social (\$30 per household).

Thank you Judy and Keith Evans

Your donation of catering equipment (chafing pans, dishes, utensils, tablecloths) will ensure we are well equipped for future events.

Thank you Gayle and Paul Droulis

Your donation of a new Cuisinart four burner griddle is sure to make our pancake breakfast a success! We will have lots of space to cook and flip.

Coquitlam Canadian Tire Store

#608, 1200 Seguin Drive,
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Coquitlam Party City Store #871,

103-1361 Lougheed Hwy.,
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Village of Belcarra

EASTER Egg Hunt



& PANCAKE BREAKFAST

8:30 - 10:30 BREAKFAST @ VILLAGE HALL
11:00 EGG HUNT @ BELCARRA PARK

9

APRIL

Sponsored By
C.R.A.B.

crab4084@gmail.com

\$5 Pancake Breakfast

Pancakes, sausage
fruit salad & whipped cream
juice, tea, coffee & hot chocolate

Kids under 10 eat free!

COLOURING CONTEST

This month, inside your Barnacle, there are two pictures CRAB has chosen for a colouring contest.

- Pick one!
- Colour it in using crayons, markers, paint... you choose!
- Write your age, name and phone number on your artwork.
- Drop it off at the Village Hall or bring it along to the Pancake Breakfast.

Your artwork will be on display at the Pancake Breakfast. We will have a colouring area and crayons available for any last minute entries.

Everyone who enters will get a prize.

A special prize will be awarded in each of these age categories:

Under 6, 7 to 10, and 11 and up.



1st Anmore Scouts

Serving Anmore and Belcarra Youth!

Save your BOTTLES and help 1st Anmore Scouts!



Our next bottle drive is Saturday, April 29 2023.

Please put your bottles at the curb by 10 am.

If you are unable to put your bottles out on Saturday, April 29 you can also place refundable bottles, cans and tetras in a large clear plastic bag. Drop at the Coquitlam Return-It Depot with 1st Anmore Code: 604-111-1111. The funds will be deposited to our account directly.
104-2560 Barnet Hwy, Coquitlam

We appreciate your help and kind donation! Thank you!

Interested in learning more about the 1st Anmore Scouts program?

This program is a great opportunity for youth to get outdoors and have adventures with their friends. It is a great way for parents to make like-minded friends in the community while exploring the great outdoors together.

Contact us at anmorescouts@gmail.com



1st Anmore Scouts serves youth in our community 4 and up:

Beavers: 4-7

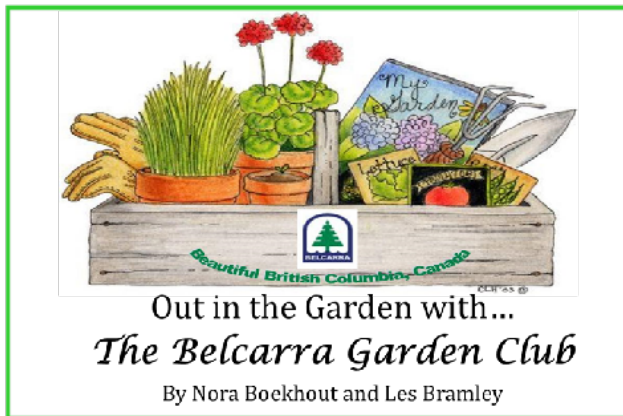
Cubs: 7-10

Scouts: 10-14

Venturers: 14-18

Rovers: 18+





Newspaper in Your Garden

Newspaper has been used widely in vegetable gardens as mulch, as a natural weed killer, and even as potting cups. Newspaper is a biodegradable substance. The Nuffield Foundation, which focuses on science and social science, conducted an experiment with students which demonstrated how microbes in the soil break down materials. In short, soil microbes contain enzymes that easily break down and digest the cellulose in paper. During this process, carbon is released into the soil. Read more at:

<https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/practical-biology/microbes-ate-my-homework>

Luckily, one of Les B.'s friends (Eric Herd) has over fifty years in the ink making industry, so they had a long chat on the subject. Although newspaper ink used to have toxic heavy metals such as lead and cadmium, since 1986 Canada switched to using canola oil and soybean oil. It seems that soy ink is not only environmentally friendly but makes great colours! The paper pulp is then whitened by hydrogen peroxide, which is more benign on the environment than chlorine.

ATTRA (Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas) guidelines for organic farmers include newspaper and cardboard as useful compost additives for suppressing weeds, retaining moisture, and adding organic matter to your soil. [compost-1.pdf \(ncat.org\)](https://compost-1.pdf(ncat.org))

BTW, did you know that a "good compost" has a balance of "brown" and "green" materials? Brown materials add bulk, which helps with aeration. Brown includes: newspaper, wood chips, dry leaves, straw, sawdust, corn stalks. Green (may not always be green in colour) includes: grass clippings, coffee grounds, food scraps, weeds, manure.

Here are some questions about the possible environmental threats from the use of newspaper.

*Are the inks toxic? Inks, both black and colour, used on today's newspapers are 100% non-toxic.

*Are those glossy pages okay? No, not good.

*Is corrugated cardboard glue okay? No, again.

Can newspaper be put into the compost? Yes, but must be shredded.



What else can you do with your newspapers? "The Spruce" lists 9 great ideas from kid-friendly seed starter pots from pulp to storing your frost-tender bulbs (Nora does this!).

Happy Gardening!

More links and article available on our webpage: <http://tinyurl.com/rwcf9b85>.

Communities in Bloom – Plant PURPLE!

CiB2023: Nora is again collecting photos!

"Belcarra PURPLE flowers, plants, garden deco"! Send to norab604@gmail.com



Belcarra Blessings

Deborah Struk

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart.

Where? Down in my heart. Where?

Down in my heart.

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,

down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

Ah, those childhood songs that pop into one's head make you stop and ponder. Yes, having JOY is so critical to the human soul. Rejoicing brings life. Children are so delightful in expressing JOY. I love to watch my granddaughter twirl and sing, or throw her hands to her face and squeal with JOY. Do we as adults, allow ourselves to express joy, unabashed joy? We can often look silly but yes, it does feel good to let JOY overflow. I encourage you to sing, shout, dance or use whatever means (well almost whatever) to express your joy.

Springtime continues to surprise me with joy. I hope it does for you. To see the miracle of life coming forth in animals, birds and plants, brings joy. The sight of a bald eagle soaring overhead with a branch in its beak, lets me know it is preparing to mate and nest. Wow! Life and hope! We have so much life around us in Belcarra.

Many of us await the Orcas swimming up Indian Arm, even better, into Bedwell Bay as they did 50 years ago. What do you feel when you experience the glories of creation?

Easter represents the greatest joy with Jesus conquering death (separation from God) once and for all. It was (and still is) pure horror for those wanting to keep Him underground. His resurrection is victory! Because of Jesus's resurrection, in the flesh, there is hope and joy for all who accept His truth.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!

1Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice always!

Because He lives I know I can rejoice. In these crazy times where: "2 weeks to flatten the curve" has become "we will never go back to normal", we can still have joy. He alone causes my heart to soar and give me joy. My hope is the same for you.

Easter Sunday is our CRAB pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt. However, if you would rather attend an Easter Service, there is a great church that meets at Inlet Theatre. Rail City Church is pastored by Cam Dailly who is married to Jessica (Weibe), who grew up in Belcarra. Cam's summer job, as a teenager was working at Takaya Rentals.

Easter Sunday they have two services: 9 and 11 am. There is also a kids Easter Egg Hunt April 1 at Pioneer Park. The website below has details.

<https://cachurch.ca/about/services-and-locations/rail-city/>

Happy Easter!

May you and yours be surprised by JOY!



Letter to the Editor

Apathy and Governance

By John Snell

While the village gets used to life after Covid, it appears to be coming down with another equally alarming disorder.

There is no clinical diagnosis, but apathy, nonetheless is becoming widespread.

Fortunately there is a cure, but first one needs to understand the condition.

It is best described as a total lack of interest or concern, and being indifferent to what is going on (in the village). The urge to do something about it just isn't there. It's not a self-inflicted condition, but more a reaction to what most perceive as a total waste of time in getting involved and voicing an opinion. The exception to this is a core of caring long time residents.

Literally dozens of villagers have given their time as committee members on issues of importance; the Tree Committee, the Revenue Generation Committee and the Water Committee, to name just a few. The OCP committee is stalled by political antics.

Villagers have given up...what's the use...nothing is going to change...nothing gets done.

To say that many folks have become disenchanted with the governance of this village would be an understatement.

Governance can be defined as "The system by which entities, (VoB in this instance), are directed and controlled.

It is concerned with structure and processes for decision making, accountability, control and behaviour at the top of an entity".

Almost a year ago, villagers engaged in a "question and answer" fact finding initiative to aid in the preparation of an updated OCP.

Questions included, "What would you change?", "What should priorities be?", and "What detracts from the community?"

The answers highlighted the villager's widespread dissatisfaction, concern and condemnation with regard to "infrastructure and service", "emergency preparedness", "governance and policy" and "financial sustainability". Council and Works were given a failing grade and a pointer as to where improvements were needed and should be made.

Solutions might come from discussions stemming from a few simple questions, such as:

"Is it because council is prompted in council meeting agendas to receive reports and shelve them without necessarily moving to an action plan?"

"Is it because the Village lacks the engineering capability or resources to manage its infrastructure?"

"Is it because of the time consuming, costly and extensive use of outside consultants to advise and give guidance on even the simplest of projects?"

"Is it because the head of the municipality is being hampered in managing the administration of the village?"

Getting through to council is a challenge. Public correspondence is now subject to a censorship bylaw to the point that villagers are discouraged from going this route.

Zoom, which started out with an active "chat sidebar" and with "real time" public engagement has been phased out. There is no live engagement with council, other than by the physical attendance at council meetings. The attendees can be counted on one hand. Most questions are respectfully received and forwarded to staff. If you are one of a dozen or so villagers who watch council live on YouTube and have a question, send an email!

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The Village of Belcarra can only benefit from greater resident involvement.

The Mayor and CAO between them decide both the language and what items are to be on any council agenda. The four councillors are your street level conduit, and are well positioned to express and individually convey your opinions and wishes to council as a whole.

You voted these councillors into office, and they are eager to serve.

Are my opinions harsh? Perhaps. Controversial and thought provoking - I hope so!

If you have concerns, opinions or suggestions, express them. Send your thoughts to the Barnacle, or share them on the Belcarra Together Facebook page.



Letter to the Editor

Pedestrian Safety

By Klaus Bever

"Pedestrian crash survivability rises from 20% at 50 km/h to 90% at 30 km/h". This is a quote from a DriveSmartBC publication from February 2020 entitled: "Imposing a 30 km/h Speed Limit in Residential Areas". This is an achievable goal for Belcarra.

Before the driving/racing enthusiasts in Belcarra get their "knickers in a knot" over this modest proposal from our provincial government agency, let us explore some other obvious benefits to motorists. A lower speed within the village means improved gas consumption and prolonged battery life and less frequent charging. This is a painless reduction in carbon emissions and a clear benefit to the environment.

A lower speed on our roadways may reduce the need for some of the traffic calming measures now being considered following our recent ICBC road safety audit. This may reduce some taxes.

A lower speed on our roads would be a kind and respectful recognition of the many villagers that use them to get their mail, take the bus, walk their dogs, cycle for exercise or visit their neighbours. These roadways are, in many places, the only pathways available to pedestrians.

In British Columbia in 2019, on roadways shared by pedestrians and vehicles, 2,400 pedestrians were injured and 49 were killed (<https://www.drivesmartbc.ca/pedestrians/pedestrians-highway>).

A speed reduction to 30 km/h for now, can be accomplished relatively easily, quickly, and inexpensively. This could be done while we continue to explore and develop a sidewalk or shoulder pathway system that completely separates pedestrians from vehicles. A pathway dedicated to the safe movement of all pedestrians of all ages and all abilities, is the goal.





Letter to the Editor
Three-Legged Stool
By Brenda Hogg

After reading the letter by John Snell in the March issue, I must concur with several of the points and ideas set forth within the letter. As a 30+plus year resident, I must admit, that village politics and comings and goings “seemed fine” in my books and I took not much interest. That all changed during the new building bylaws of several years ago when interest in village business piqued a shadow of interest. During Mr. Belenkic’s mayorship I attended town hall meetings and followed village happenings a little more closely.

I was delighted when John Snell was a councilman as I know he is very much involved in village concerns and well-versed in the ins and outs of proceedings. It does seem to me, admittedly from an arm’s length away, that progress is a slow beast within our community. I have tried to follow the OCP plans and totally agree with Mr. Snell that forward motion, of any kind, needs leadership and a clear vision. If our current mayor is not fully engaged in the process, then I believe and trust that a deputy mayor would serve the role in aiding our tiny village to take the steps needed to “move ahead.”



Please join us for a

Celebration of Life

In Loving Memory of
Walter Laube

July 8, 1931–May 12, 2022



Saturday, May 13, 2023, 2 p.m.
Belcarra Village Hall
4084 Bedwell Bay Road
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We look forward to sharing our
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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

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