



Belcarra Barnacle

May 2023

Belcarra's Community Newspaper

Volume 44 Issue 4





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:

Editor:

Michelle Montico 604 528 0659

Assistant Editor:

Dayna Fitz 604 469 0408

Advertising:

Sandra Rietchel 604 786 5114

Treasurer and Distributor:

Clive Evans 604 931 7396

Members:

Nora Boekhout 604 937 1127

Deborah Struk

Bonni Marshall

Michele Babineau

Deneige Davis

ON-LINE: 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!

It has been a privilege to serve as Editor since 2012 & I am pleased to have the opportunity to welcome new editor Dayna Fitz.

Michelle Montico, Editor (Retired)

(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
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1/2 Page	\$60	\$240	\$360
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<u>Colour</u>			
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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

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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
 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

MAY 2023

May 1 Stage 1 Lawn Watering in Effect
 May 1 Garden Club Meeting
 May 4 International Firefighters Day
 May 5 Full Moon
 May 6 Spring Social & BBQ (CRAB)
 May 7 Hike for Hospice
 May 8 Regular Council Meeting
 May 13 Celebration of Life Walter Laube
 May 14 Mother's Day
 May 19 New Moon
 May 22 Victoria Day
 May 23 Regular Council Meeting

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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 Deborah Struk.
 Distracted from the egg hunt, Harper took a
 moment to enjoy the puddles forming on what
 turned out to be a VERY rainy day.

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

It is a pleasure to share them.

belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com



Mayor's Report

The weather is warming and we are outside again. Villagers are gardening, walking the trails, and exploring our beaches. It was my pleasure to cook pancakes for the folks who came out to the CRAB pancake breakfast and egg hunt on Easter Sunday. It was nice to see that the rain didn't keep folks away.

Here are Council highlights since my last update.

Council Meeting, March 27

Village of Belcarra Council Code of Conduct Bylaw 609 received first and second readings.

Stewart Novak provided updates on Belcarra and Metro Vancouver Parks emergency operating procedures for road closures, Public Work's flat-bed dump truck replacement, and safety issues regarding the Tatlow reservoir.

The Village of Belcarra Bylaws 606, 607, and 608 were adopted.

Council approved funding for a dinner for the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD).

Phil Chapman Consulting Services was appointed for the completion of the Belcarra Official Community Plan.

Council Meeting, April 11

Council accepted the KPMG Audit Findings Report for the year ended December 31, 2022.

Council accepted The Village of Belcarra's draft 2022 Financial Statements from Ken Bjorgaard.

WSP Canada presented the "Senkler Road Bridge Inspection Report" for information.

The Village of Belcarra Five year (2023 - 2027) Financial Plan Bylaw 606, Amendment Bylaw 611 was read a first and second time.

Village of Belcarra Code of Conduct Bylaw 609 was read a third time.

Council Meeting, April 24

Council recognized Bailey Hubbs for her achievement as a gold medal winner at the U13 Hockey BC Provincial Championships.

Council completed first, second, and third readings of 2023 Tax Rates Bylaw 610.

Council read The Village of Belcarra 5 Year (2023-2027) Financial Plan Bylaw 606, Amendment Bylaw 611 a third time.

Council Code of Conduct Bylaw 609 was adopted.

Council updated information from the Water Committee motions table of spring 2022. Further follow up is expected.

Councillor Elworthy moved, and it was unanimously carried, that Council declare April 28th as a Day of Mourning for workers killed and injured on the job.

More detail and a recording of this meeting is available on the Village website [\[www.belcarra.ca\]](http://www.belcarra.ca).

Councillors Wilder and Clark attended a meeting of the Tri-Cities Soroptimists, a global volunteer organization that improves the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

I attended a Tri-Cities Chamber lunch and I was impressed that those with very different political points of view were willing to work together.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

Council hosted a volunteer appreciation night on April 20th to thank our many volunteers. Our Village life is better because of the contributions of these dedicated and hard working folks.

Happy to chat, Jamie.



Village of Belcarra
TRANSLINK
Service Change



Please be advised that starting April 17, 2023, TransLink will be adding service to Belcarra on route 182 Moody Centre Station/Belcarra, shortening wait time by 30 minutes on weekends (Saturday and Sunday) and holidays.

Please find all updated information on the service change [here](#) or by searching 'TransLink service change'.



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

STAGE 1

Lawn Watering Regulations in Effect
May 1 until October 15

"Reducing lawn watering is the most effective way to lower demand for water and save treated drinking water for where it is needed most: for cooking, cleaning, and drinking," Chair of Metro Vancouver's Water Committee.

These restrictions apply only to properties on the Village potable water system:

Even-numbered addresses: Saturdays — automatic watering between 5:00 am and 7:00 am, and manual watering between 6:00 am and 9:00 am

Odd-numbered addresses: Sundays — automatic watering between 5:00 am and 7:00 am, and manual watering between 6:00 am and 9:00 am

Trees, shrubs, and flowers can be watered with a sprinkler any day between 5:00 am and 9:00 am, or any time by hand or using drip irrigation.

Visit www.belcarra.ca for full details [here](#)

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Volunteer-run community newspaper gets funding boost in Belcarra

BY MARISSA TIEL

TRI-CITIES DISPATCH • APRIL 11, 2023

A little girl plays in the water beneath Belcarra Pier, her bucket hat pulled low over her face. That illustration of the last fleeting days of summer greets readers from the cover of the Belcarra Barnacle, a volunteer-run community newspaper.

The issue, printed for September 2022, features the mayor's report; letters to the editor about road ends and the official community plan; a burning ban notice from the fire chief; Block Watch and Garden Club updates; an archival story; pictures of local fauna; local tide tables; a story about a visiting hedgehog; a memorial; an invitation to municipal candidates to submit promotional materials; and finally, a note from the treasurer that there isn't enough money to continue printing the Barnacle.

"Keep this copy," he wrote, "it could be your last one."

The Barnacle has been an institution in Belcarra for decades. It's a community newsletter made for residents, by residents.

Due in part to a funding disagreement with the municipality, the paper was on the verge of shuttering.

The 44-year-old village publication had run out of money.

"Last year we got to a point where printing costs went sky-high and some major advertisers were a little slow at paying," said Clive Evans, the Barnacle's distributor and treasurer.

"So we found ourselves in a situation one month where we didn't have enough funds."

His typed plea on page 21 was answered ahead of the next issue and the newspaper was back in business.

The quest for funding didn't stop there. A group of volunteers also submitted a request to the village for \$1,500, an amount the Barnacle had received from the municipality annually since the 1990s.

Council was not entirely happy.

Discussion around the request ranged from questions about the amount requested and concerns about what the Barnacle prints, to how the paper is cutting costs. The Barnacle was asked to justify its funding request.

"Our expenses are mainly due to printing," Evans wrote back. "The number of pages has also dropped although printing costs have increased over the years."

Ultimately, the funding decision was deferred until the next year. The Barnacle did not receive any funds from the municipality in 2021.

Their grant got dropped to \$500 for 2022.

Continued on Page 7



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Continued from Page 6

This year, they asked for the \$1,000. Council voted 3-2 in favour of their request.

Being a barnacle

The Barnacle began in 1979 as a village newsletter. When Nicholas Booth was asked to edit the first edition, he also had to come up with a name. A neighbour suggested the Barnacle.

"I liked the sound of it right away," he said. "A barnacle is small but hardy, tiny but tenacious, just like Belcarra."

Many have sat in the editor's chair over the years. These days, the title belongs to Michelle Montico.

While past editors have often included a note in each edition, Montico opts to remain anonymous.

You won't find her picture in the paper, nor will you read her words. A resident of Buntzen Bay, Montico prefers to run the paper this way. It allows her to stay unbiased with a clear birds-eye view of the publication.

Printing controversies

The Belcarra Barnacle's mission is to "inform and involve" and features content submitted by the community. There are letters to the editors about various community issues, archival stories about the village's history, a column from the garden club, a kid's section and local advertisements. The submissions are all reviewed by Montico, and more recently by assistant editor Dayna Fitz, who helps the paper meet its monthly print deadlines.

Montico never knows how an issue is going to look until all the submissions are in.

When she first started as editor, the Barnacle didn't accept letters to the editor. Volunteers didn't want anyone to find offence in its pages. That changed with Montico.

"My stance was: If you have an opinion, share it," she said. "So letters to the editor became quite popular."

The Barnacle is distributed by mail to those who pay for it and is available for free at the community's bus stops.

Digital copies, going back to 2018, are available on the municipality's website.

While there has been debate over cutting the printed issue completely in favour of a digital PDF, Evans and Montico both say people prefer print.

For the community's 687 residents, the Barnacle remains the best way to reach them. The publication by the community, for the community, keeps everyone apprised of Belcarra business.

As the cherry blossoms start to bloom this spring, another issue of the Barnacle, small, but hardy, is set to hit the stands.

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This Belcarra woman will be at sea for weeks in a rowing race across the Atlantic.

Here's why

By Diane Strandberg

March, 29 2023, TRICITY NEWS

On a sunny day driving through the village of Belcarra, you might see Isabelle Côté rowing across the placid waters of Bedwell Bay.

But don't get the wrong idea.

The SFU professor of marine ecology isn't just out for a casual jaunt in one of B.C.'s most beautiful harbours.

She's preparing for the journey of a lifetime — a 5,000 km row across the Atlantic Ocean with a team of marine scientists.

Called Salty Science, the team is made up of Côté, Chantale Bégin, Noelle Helder, and Lauren Shae; they will be living and rowing together on a 28-foot boat for 40 to 60 days, rowing 24-hours a day in two-hour shifts, with two hours to rest.

'It's starting to get real'

Their goal is to cross the ocean from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to Antigua in the Caribbean in the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge — the world's toughest rowing race.

Alone at sea, without a support boat, the women will be at the mercy of the weather, high seas, hunger, and exhaustion.

"It's starting to get real," said Côté, who admits she signed on to the trip without giving it a lot of thought.

However, she's extremely serious about the fundraising aspect of the challenge, which is to raise funds for charities focused on marine conservation education.

Côté said training future marine conservationists is important to save the ocean from over fishing, coastal development, pollution, and climate change.

"We have many solutions but what we need is more people to implement them — and more people to come up with solutions," Côté said.

Training mind and body

Now, with just nine months to go before the Dec. 12 start of the race, Côté is training her body, as well as her mind, to be prepared for the gruelling endeavour.

She's learning navigation, and ocean survival, a requirement to participate, while also honing her lean body for the endurance test.

At 60 years old, Côté acknowledged she's looking forward to the challenge and proving that she can accomplish this feat.

"This is my way of battling age and preconceptions of women and aging," she said. "I believe I can do it."

A long-distance swimmer and trail runner, who has competed in Ultra races, Côté is no stranger to physical challenge.

But even Côté admits the December race will be demanding, both physically and mentally.

She must be able to work as part of a team, in a stressful and potentially dangerous situation: communication will be important, said Côté.



Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

But fortunately, the women have worked with each other before. Bégín was Coté's PhD student, for example, and all are passionate about marine conservation, working or studying to save marine life, including kelp and coral beds.

'At one with the ocean'

All are trained divers and two are experienced sailors, said Coté, while the boat, "Emma," has made the crossing three times.

To prepare, the women will be working together for two months this summer, taking long rowing excursions on their boat, which is moored in Florida, including overnight for several days.

"In January, we did a 24-hour, overnight row, not super far from shore; we could still see the lights but it was pitch black. "It was beautiful," she recalled, "We saw shooting stars."

When a pod of dolphins trailed the boat, Coté called it a magical experience and she hopes to see more marine life during the Atlantic Challenge.

In fact, Coté said the entire team agreed that if they saw dolphins they would ditch the race for awhile to be able to swim with the curious creatures.

"We are going to be at one with the ocean," said Coté.



Photos from :

saltyscience.org

Visit the team's website for more information or to donate.

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Stories From The Archives —
The Burrard Inlet Fish Oil Factory

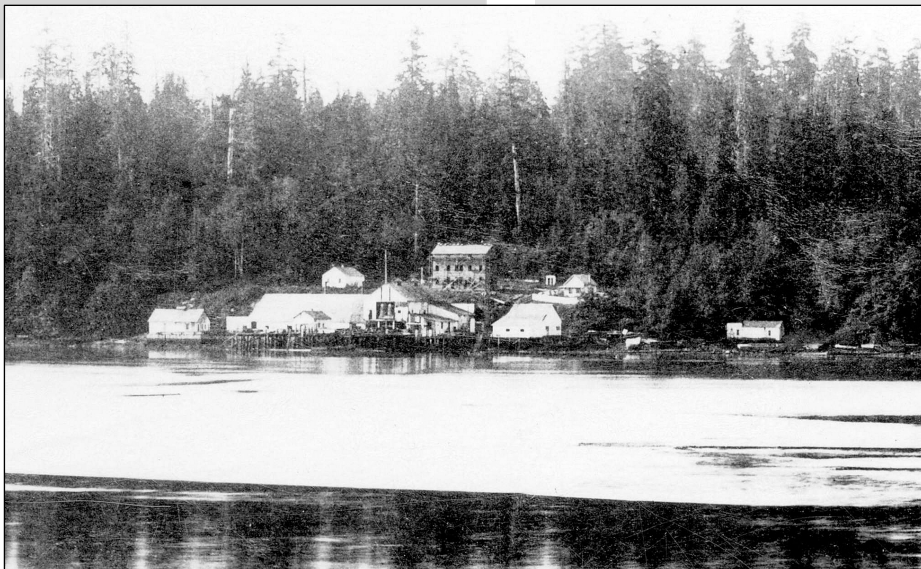
Researched By: Ralph Drew, Belcarra, BC, April 2023.

Source: British Columbian, Wednesday, July 19th, 1882. p3

"This extensive and very complete manufactory stands on Coal harbour, Burrard Inlet, where it has been erected by the enterprising proprietors at very great cost. The principal buildings are: main building, 75 x 35 feet [22.9 x 10.7 meters], two stories; drying sheds, 60 x 100 feet [18.3 x 30.5 meters]; offices, quarters for manager and men, &c., &c., and a wharf 50 x 200 feet [15.2 x 61.0 meters]. There is at the wharf, a powerful crane worked by steam, with a cage capable of scooping out a ton [907 Kg] of fish each lift, and dumping them into great vats in which they are boiled and run off into a second class of vats from which they go into powerful iron cage presses, the oil finding its way into purifiers below and the scrap into driers from which it emerges in the form of a fish guano [fish meal] and is shipped as an article of commerce. The driers have a capacity for ten tons [9,072 Kg] a day. The establishment is now being put in order for the fall herring fishery."

After Notes:

In 1882, Joseph Spratt of Victoria decided to start a floating cannery and fish oil plant at 'Coal Harbour', tucked round the corner from 'Brockton Point'. At that time, Burrard Inlet was still rich in fish, and its shores were lined with magnificent forests. Joseph Spratt planned to use herring as his major source of fish oil for his cannery. The herring run into Burrard Inlet was a large one on which the indigenous people had relied for hundreds of years. Like most newcomers to the West Coast, Spratt was motivated by dreams of unlimited wealth and Spratt discovered a cost-effective way of fishing. He would dynamite the fish. The indigenous people were very upset with his method of fishing and warned him that something bad would happen. He didn't listen to them. In 1885, Spratt had to close down his floating cannery and fish oil plant because the herring stopped coming to Burrard Inlet, and they never returned. Spratt didn't seem to understand that he was responsible for their disappearance. His greed destroyed his enterprise, and it also destroyed an important fishery in Burrard Inlet for indigenous people.



Source: City of Vancouver Archives (CVA Bu P20).

**Spratt's Oilery in
Coal Harbour,
1884.**



Bears in Belcarra
By Carter Elder
Conservation Officer
Fraser North Zone - South

With the quick arrival of Spring, the Conservation Officer Service has been receiving reports of bears becoming more active in and around the Lower Mainland.

To help keep both wildlife and humans safe, the Conservation Officer Service would like to remind residents to ensure all attractants are kept secure and inaccessible to wildlife. Attractants include garbage, compost, bird feeders, pet food, fruit trees, dirty barbeques, and more. This includes removing all attractants from vehicles and keeping car doors locked. As well as securing your home by keeping windows, doors, and garages secured and locked when not in use.

Advice on how to prevent conflicts, and living near wildlife, can be found at www.wildsafebc.com.

It is important to report bear conflicts to the Conservation Officer Service before things escalate to a level where bears are breaking into homes and vehicles or causing a risk of public safety.

Conservation Officers work closely with municipalities to identify and mitigate problem areas where attractants are being left unsecured so that bears can continue to thrive in our communities without getting into conflict. Early reporting of these issues, and good attractant management, is the key to keeping bears and people safe in Belcarra.

Please report wildlife conflicts to the Conservation Officer Service at 1-877-952-7277. A sighting of a Bear is not a conflict and does not require reporting.

Photo submitted by Brenda Hogg



Celebration of Life

In Loving Memory of
Walter Laube

July 8, 1931 - May 12, 2022

Saturday, May 13 at 2 PM
Belcarra Village Hall

We look forward to sharing our
fondest memories of Walter

Volunteer Appreciation Night

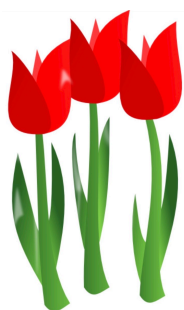
On April 20th, during Canada's National Volunteer Week, an appreciation night was held for Belcarra's many volunteers.

The theme for Volunteer Week is Volunteering Weaves Us Together.

The theme "reveals the importance of volunteering to the strength and vibrancy of our communities through the interconnected actions we take to support one another."

Source volunteer.ca

Our Belcarra ❤️

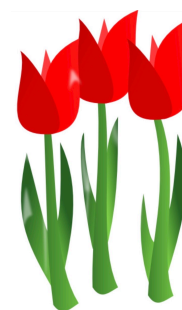


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BELCARRA DAY 2023!

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BELCARRA REGIONAL PARK PICNIC AREA

PLANNING HAS BEGUN AND THERE ARE MANY WAYS
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CRAB4084@GMAIL.COM FOR INFORMATION OR TO SIGN UP!

Sunday, June 11th
10:00AM-2:00PM

Calling Volunteers!



CRAB4084@GMAIL.COM

International Firefighters Day (May 4)

Take a moment to recognize and thank the members of our
Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department.

We have peace of mind, thanks to the brave and dedicated men and women who
volunteer to respond when we need help most.

Thank you!



Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce

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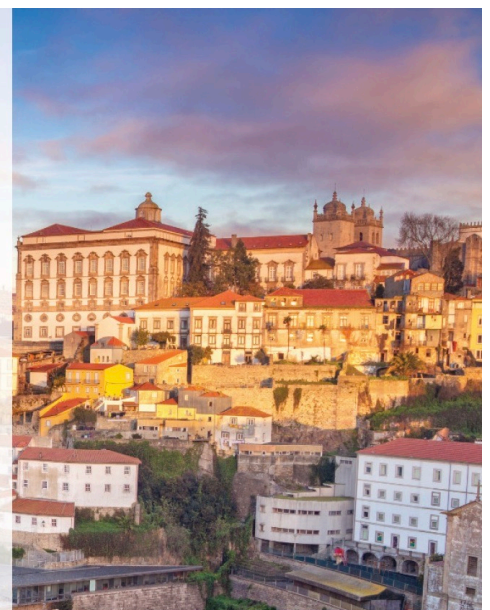
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VILLAGE NEWS

The Belcarra Garden Club

By Les Bramley

Hey Everybody!

The next Belcarra Garden Club meeting is on Monday, June 5th at 2pm at the Belcarra Park picnic shelters. June 5th happens to be World Environment Day, a truly worthy cause.

Just a reminder on Monday, May 8th, the BGC is traveling to Langley for our course at PlanBee Native Plants.

We have room for anybody who wishes to join us, please let me know if you do.

We are leaving the village hall car park at 9:45am.

HAPPY GARDENING!

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

"Pitch-in Belcarra!"

By Colleen MacDonald

It was great to see Tri-City neighbours recently cleaning up road shoulders and ditches in their neighbourhoods during April Pitch-In Week. Working together to keep trails, walkways, and shoulders free of debris and downed branches makes it easier to walk on road shoulders and neighbourhood trails. Kudos to the many people who look after the walkable shoulders in Belcarra. Let's keep the ball rolling, Belcarrians! If you spot debris, downed branches or a shoulder that could use a quick rake, then let's "Pitch-in Belcarra!"



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CRAB Corner

Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy the Pancake Breakfast and Egg Hunt.

Our volunteers - Dave & Maureen, Penny & Lyle, Liisa, Deneige & Marcus, Sue & Doug, Betty, Cathy, Patty, Alyson & Michael, Cathy & Fraser, Jim, Lyn, Klaus, and Jamie made sure everyone had lots of fun while the rain tried (and failed!) to dampen our spirits.

CRAB so appreciates our volunteers. Not a single event would take place without your help.

Equipment update... Thank you to Paul Kallio for his donation of a griddle. Along with the one from Paul & Gayle, we now have two griddles and are well equipped to feed pancakes to a crowd!

Pancakes are over but there is no time to rest! The Spring Social & BBQ is on May 6th and we are sold out! For those with a ticket, please bring cash. You will want cash for the bar and for the 50/50 draw that we will hold on behalf of the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD).

We hope you saw the posters for Belcarra Day, below, and on pages 12 and 20. We need volunteers, musicians, and artists to make the day special.

Email crab4084@gmail.com if you can help!

Our last Belcarra Day was in 2019. It's been too long since we had a group photo in the park 🤔



Calling Musicians!

We are looking for musicians & singers to share their sounds in the park with our community on Belcarra Day, June 11!

If interested email
CRAB4084@GMAIL.COM

Kid'z Space

Mother's Day Word Search

o	m	s	d	g	y	i	e	m	a	l
v	e	c	a	r	d	s	p	f	g	o
h	f	e	l	j	a	w	q	a	r	t
s	p	r	i	n	g	b	o	m	i	n
u	s	r	v	a	n	r	v	i	o	p
n	f	k	l	o	v	e	d	l	s	m
d	e	w	a	u	c	k	l	y	u	h
a	v	q	f	l	o	w	e	r	s	f
y	i	m	l	g	e	n	u	c	a	e
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Volunteer! Be a Beachkeeper

Beachkeepers is a fun stewardship program that will run June 24th to September 4th on weekends and holidays. Beachkeepers promote awareness, conservation, and stewardship of the marine ecosystem at təmtəx̱w̱tən/Belcarra Regional Park and in the community. We meet at the Belcarra Regional Park picnic area. Volunteers collect data on crabs at Belcarra beach and engage with the public.

We have a lot of student volunteers in this program but it is open to all ages over 16! Anyone who wants to spend some time on the beach and learn a bit about the ocean is sure to have an enjoyable time!

This volunteer position involves four main activities:

1. Scientific crab study measuring and sexing crabs and recording any injuries (data collection)
2. Answering questions and educating park visitors about intertidal creatures such as crabs and sea stars (education and interpretation)
3. Explaining fishing regulations and beach etiquette to park visitors on the dock or on the beach (communication)
4. Caring for live ocean animals (animal handling)

An average weekend shift is from 10:45 am to 4 pm and would involve a combination of all four activities and a half an hour lunch break.

The time commitment required is a minimum of thirty hours (6 five hour shifts). Volunteers sign up for the shifts using an online calendar.

After the completion of thirty hours, volunteers will receive a reference letter.

No previous knowledge of marine life or fishing regulations is required, as training is provided at a training session which will be held on Saturday, June 10th.

To apply for this position, you will be asked to fill out an application, provide references, and complete a criminal record check.

Interested applicants can sign up at this link.

For application forms or further questions about the program please feel free to e-mail me.

Rachel Green, Park Interpreter

rachel.Green@metrovanancouver.org



VOLUNTEER! Be a Beachkeeper

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təmtəx̱w̱tən
BELCARRA
PARK

Looking to have fun and make a difference this summer?

Volunteer as a beachkeeper and gain experience in stewardship, public education and scientific data collection.

Weekends and holidays
June – Labour Day, 2023

Participants must be 16 years or older

For information or to apply:
beachkeepers@metrovanancouver.org

Applications due by May 26



Canada
Fisheries and Oceans
Pêches et Océans
Canada

Beachkeepers is a partnership between Metro Vancouver and Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Five Guys on A String - By Bill and Sue Belich

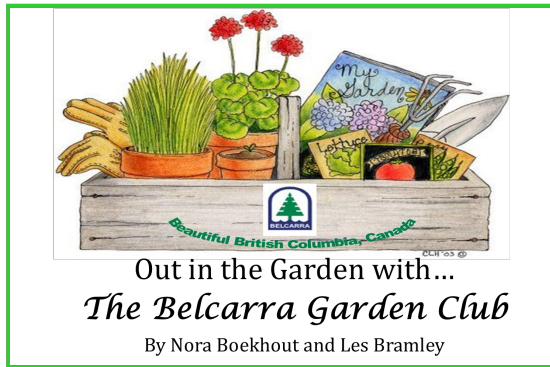
Just wanted to give our banjo playing neighbour and Belcarra resident, Gord Sadler a big congratulations. Gord and his bluegrass band 5 on a String just celebrated their 34 years together, not too many bands last that long. On March 8th, The Anza club in Vancouver, honoured the long time bluegrass band that has been entertaining audiences all over B.C. They've played at concerts, shows, festivals, and, of course, our Belcarra Days. If you want to find out a lot more, visit <https://5onastring.com/>. Congratulations, Gordie! Here is to 34 more years of bluegrass songs and stories.



Calling Artists!

We are looking for artists, artisans, authors and more to share their work with our community on Belcarra Day, June 11!

To reserve space email CRAB at
CRAB4084@GMAIL.COM



Alexander Beetles!

"I found a little beetle; so that Beetle was his name, And I called him Alexander and he answered just the same. I put him in a match-box, and I kept him all the day ... And Nanny let my beetle out - Yes, Nanny let my beetle out - She went and let my beetle out - And beetle ran away." from "Forgiven" by A.A. Milne

Les got interested in a favourite topic of mine... Beetles and Bugs! There are 40,000 species of ground beetles in the world and we have around 2,000 species in North America.

This diverse group of predators is among the top 10 beneficial garden insects. Carabids eat other invertebrates such as insects, worms, snails, slugs, caterpillars, and cutworms! This is one of the few species of ground beetle that have not completely lost their ability to fly. They are nocturnal animals, generally remaining on the ground and hiding under rocks and wood debris by day. They were introduced from Europe and have spread across North America, living in fields, prairies, forests, gardens... "most everywhere" we guess!

The Carabus is small (length between 14 and 20 mm). The antennae and legs are black; the upper part of the animal is shiny and predominantly black with metallic colours of greenish bronze or green.

The elytra (hardened upper wings) are often grooved. The females lay about forty eggs near the soil surface. They undergo complete metamorphosis (egg, larva, pupa, and adult) which usually takes a full year. Some species breed in the spring and overwinter as adults, gathered in tree stumps. Others breed in the summer and overwinter as larvae. Many ground beetles will produce pungent odours if handled or threatened.

Between the different species, they eat more than fifty types of pests, plus some even eat the seeds of weeds! (So that can't be bad!) So appreciate those little ground beetles in your garden! Nature's ways are better than pesticides!

On the subject of "good and bad" mini visitors in your garden, here is some information from "The Good, the Bad, and the Bugly (or How to Hire an Assassin)". Good "Bennies" are the beneficial visitors: Ants (can be bad too!), Assassin Bugs, Bats, Bees, Beetles, Birds, Butterflies, Centipedes, Dobsonflies, Dragonflies and Damselflies, Frogs, Hoverflies, Lacewings, Ladybugs (not the 6 or 28 spot varieties), Lizards, Robber Flies, Praying Mantises, Snakes, Spiders, Wasps, and Mini wasps.

Keep Nature in mind when attending to your gardens this year! As Joni Mitchell sang, "Hey farmer farmer, Put away that DDT now, Give me spots on my apples, But leave me the birds and the bees! Please!"

Happy Gardening!

More links and article available on our webpage:

<http://tinyurl.com/rwcf9b85>





Belcarra Blessings

Deborah Struk

Despite the 'wintery' April, May flowers are springing up. Get ready to be amazed. When Nora Boekhout put out the request for residents to submit photos of their purple flowers, I thought I would have a few. Already there have been six different species bloom. I'm waiting in anticipation to see what May and June bring. In my yard are 3 clumps of multi coloured anemones including purple, that have bloomed ALL winter and continue to thrive. Surprisingly a purple broccoli stalk bore 'fruit' in March! That stalk was one that had been pulled up last fall but rerooted itself. Ah, the joy of gardening. The miracle of life.

Have you had a chance to pop into the Belcarra Garden Club? It is open to new members in Belcarra and it's free. It is great making community connections and learning from each other. From seed sharing, plant ideas, and Belcarra Blue (you have to come to find out just what that is) joining the Garden Club has been such a blessing. May 1, 2:00 pm at the park shelter, we hope to see you there.

Is there anyone wishing to host a book club in the Village? The long running book club has been full for many years, but it is likely there are enough avid readers to start another club. Also, keep in mind our Little Library at the entrance to Belcarra is usually overflowing with books.

We are a thriving community and people are meant to be together. A Belcarra walking club might be nice. There appears to be some informal groups off of Main Ave, another on Marine. Perhaps you might want to start one in your area? Also, a children's play group may be something of interest for young families. So many possibilities in our little Village. Start to talk to neighbours, post on Belcarra Together or email crab4084@gmail.com and let's start connecting our community.

A blessed Mother's Day to everyone. None of us would be here if it weren't for a mother. Those who are moms or grandmothers or caregivers in any way, be blessed. May this month have many rays of sunshine in your soul. You deserve it.

Many of us have lost our moms but they are forever in our hearts. Some have had hurtful relationships; may you receive healing to the depths of your souls.

Here are two poems that really touched my heart.

Her Hands by Maggie Pitman

<https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/her-hands>

Happy Heavenly Mother's Day by Jac Judy A Campbell

<https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/happy-heavenly-mothers-day>

I trust the poems touch your heart as they did mine. They were too lengthy to post here.

Honour your father and your mother is stated in God's word in more than one place. This month we honour the Mothers.

Have a delightful May, be a blessing to those around you, and be blessed.

You are valued, always know that.



Letter to the Editor
Emergency Preparedness
By John Snell

Emergency Preparedness was recently identified by respondents to a village wide survey as an area felt to be lacking in substance and in need of attention.

Many Councils back in time took seismic studies seriously and reports on both the Village Hall and Fire Hall identified just how vulnerable the two structures were then, just as they are now. Both buildings are critical lifelines for villagers, yet if we got a good shake up, they would be the first to collapse. Some might remember an initiative of Councillor Bruce Drake's in May 2016, when he introduced "Belcarra Emergency Information Forms" including "Functional Needs Identification", and a "Community Emergency Capacity Inventory".

More recently wildfires have been added to earthquakes as something we need to plan for. Villages and towns near and far have been incinerated with lives lost and ever increasing property damage resulting from the number of major fire events.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/preparedbc>

The link is to a provincial website that would seem to contain all the guidance needed when it comes to Emergency Preparedness. If you are reading this letter in a physical Barnacle, just "google" BC Gov Emergency Preparedness.

Numerous downloads are available covering every conceivable emergency.

Those relating to Fire and Earthquake are particularly relevant to Belcarra. The sections relating to evacuation are a must read for anybody living in a vulnerable area. While we are trapped "Between Forest and Sea" there are still several evacuation options available to residents. Perhaps they should be identified, just as Tsunami Routes are now in coastal communities, and a village wide evacuation drill be organized. It would need a bit of planning and some thought toward safe muster points and access to them, but the results learned from the exercise could be of great value in the event of a real emergency. This drill could conceivably get some emergency service involvement as well. Block Watch comes to mind as a valuable community resource. While Bruce's initiative seemingly fell by the wayside 7 years ago, perhaps now is the time to take Emergency Preparedness seriously and continue where he left off. Just imagine the consequences if we do nothing!

Villager comments are welcome especially as many indicated that the apparent lack of emergency preparedness in this village was a cause of some real concern.



604-290-2750 or 604-464-5844
abledrain@shaw.ca




Letter to the Editor
Safer Walking for Everyone
By Klaus Bever

Opinions expressing recognition for the need for improved safety along Bedwell Bay Road are increasing. These ideas are not new.

For many years and reasons, these opinions were given publicly, discussed briefly, and then put aside for more urgent matters. Before 2012, some Belcarra households took their drinking water from wells that dried up or produced undrinkable water during long hot summers. Predictable access to safe drinking water was a very urgent matter for some residents. The solution for those residents would become a municipal potable water supply that would benefit almost everyone. And, as everyone in Belcarra has not taken advantage of their opportunity to connect, perhaps not everyone in Belcarra is likely to get out walking, cycling or pushing a stroller along Bedwell Bay Road when it becomes safer. But given the opportunity, many will.

Last spring Council considered an engineering study that would have provided the basis for moving forward towards greater pedestrian safety. This was the motion at Council to apply for Translink funding to review the engineering for both a drainage and an active transportation plan along Bedwell Bay Road. Much opposition to this motion was centered around costs. Our financial consultant reported to Council that the money was already there, held for just such a purpose. The motion was defeated by a single vote.




In the fall of 2022, the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia reported that there are problems with pedestrian safety and vehicular speeds along Bedwell Bay Road. Our current Council moved cautiously towards recognition of this independent opinion and some improvements are planned. Translink, which Belcarra funds through taxes, continues to support clear remedies to the problems identified by the ICBC audit. It seems reasonable for villagers to once again bring to Council these matters of pedestrian safety. It seems reasonable to ask Council for safer pathways for everyone, of all ages and of all abilities.



As your representative in Victoria
I'm here to help

Rick Glumac, MLA
for Port Moody-Coquitlam

Rick.Glumac.MLA@leg.bc.ca | 604-936-8709

 RickGlumacBC  rick.glumac.mla  @RickGlumacBC

When a Bad thing Can be Good

By Deborah Struk

All these years I thought that Japanese Knotweed was just an aggressive, noxious weed. I remember Ruth Foster working with neighbourhood kids and some of us adults teaching us about invasive plants.

Japanese knotweed can grow 1 m every month, sending its roots very far. Some say the roots travel 3 m, others say up to a mile. I wouldn't want to have to be the scientist to verify that.

However, this plant isn't all bad because some parts are edible.

The stems of Japanese knotweed have a tart, citrusy flavor, similar to rhubarb. It boasts a rich source of minerals, including potassium, phosphorus, zinc, and manganese as well as vitamins A and C. Before gathering Japanese knotweed; however, it's important to know that only certain parts are safe to eat, and only during certain parts of the year. On March 26 I went on a hike with friends and learned it is best to gather shoots when they're tender in early spring and generally under about 25 cm or less. As in the photo accompanying.

The tips of these were just poking up from the ground on public land in Port Coquitlam. If you wait too long, the stems will be hard and woody.

You may be able to use these later shoots, but you'll need to peel them first to remove the tough outer layer.

Note of EXTREME caution:

Since it is considered a noxious weed, Japanese knotweed is often sprayed with toxic chemicals. Throughout our village, spraying was done.

Before you harvest, be sure the plant hasn't been treated with herbicides. Also, avoid eating the plant raw, as it can cause skin irritation in certain people. Harvest the plant carefully. Remember, it's highly invasive. Do not drop pieces randomly.

How to eat Japanese knotweed? Basically, you can use Japanese knotweed any way you would use rhubarb and the shoots are interchangeable in recipes for rhubarb. If you have a favoured recipe for rhubarb pie or sauce, try substituting Japanese knotweed. You can also incorporate Japanese knotweed into jams, purees, wines, soups, and ice cream to name just a few. You can also combine Japanese knotweed with other fruit such as apples or strawberries, which complements the tart flavour.

Source: [gardeningknowhow.com-japanese-knotweed-edible](https://www.gardeningknowhow.com-japanese-knotweed-edible)





Bailey & her Dog Luna
Photo by Barb Davis

GOLD at the BC Hockey Provincial Championships

Congratulations to Belcarra's Bailey Hubbs and her team the Tri-Cities Predators (U13A1 team) for a great season! League Champions, Playoff Champions, and now Provincial Champions. Bailey, the team's goalie, posted a shutout in the gold medal game!

Bailey has been playing hockey for 9 years. Next year she will be moving up to the U15 division. Bailey doesn't limit her sporting enthusiasm to ice, she also takes to the water. Bailey won a bronze in Towed Water Sports (ages 10 - 13) at the 2022 BC Summer Games.

We hope to see more from this talented Belcarra athlete!



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Communities in Bloom

Plant PURPLE!

March photos are now posted!

<http://tinyurl.com/rwcf9b85>

Send in your April Belcarra PURPLE
photos (flowers, plants, garden deco)

to norab604@gmail.com



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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604-664-9229

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