

## Belcarra Barnacle

March 2024

Belcarra's Community Newspaper

Volume 45 Issue 02





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

#### **SUBMISSIONS**

E-Mail: belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com

Paper submissions can be placed in the Barnacle Box outside the Village Office or sent by mail to:

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

Deadline for Submissions: 20th of the month

Out of Town Delivery of The Belcarra Barnacle is available by mail at \$20.00 per year to cover mailing expenses. Email the Barnacle to arrange.

#### **PUBLICATION**

We publish tent times yearly, at the beginning of the month. We do not publish in January and August.

#### **VOLUNTEERS:**

Editor: Dayna Fitz 604 469 0408

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Michele Babineau Nora Boekhout Bonni Marshall Deborah Struk Mayling Stubbs

Belcarra Barnacle

#### WORDS FROM THE EDITOR:

We have a hummingbird theme this month, thanks to the talented artists, writers, and photographers who live in our Village and share with our community paper.

According to CedarHillLongHouse.com —

"To the Indigenous cultures of the Pacific Coast, the hummingbird is a messenger of joy. It stands for intelligence, beauty, devotion, and love. These little birds are also respected as fierce fighters and defenders of their territory."

Hummingbirds are not the only feathered friends we are featuring this month. Be sure to read Colleen MacDonald's *Diving Ducks on the Inlet,* a follow-up to her article on goldeneyes.

Happy spring!

Dayna Fitz, Editor belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com

#### **ADVERTISING RATES:**

Classifieds (3-5 lines) are free for Belcarra Residents

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SVFD (Jay Sharpe ) jay.sharpe@anmore.com	604 765 2944		
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SVFD Recruitment: <a href="mailto:sasamatrecruitment@gmail.com">sasamatrecruitment@gmail.com</a>

## IMPORTANT DATES MARCH 2024

- 8 International Women's Day
- **10** Daylight Savings Time Starts
- 10 New Moon
- 11 Regular Council Meeting
- 13 Jupiter and the moon meet up
- **13-24** Spring Break SD43
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- **19** Spring Equinox
- **25** Full Moon
- **29** Good Friday
- **31** Easter Sunday
- **31** CRAB Pancake Breakfast and Egg Hunt

### ON OUR COVER

A female Rufous hummingbird feeding on a plant they love, crocosmia. The painting and accompanying article on pages 10 and 11 are by Adrienne Peacock.

Do keep sending us your favourite local photos and artwork. It is a pleasure to share them.

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### MAYOR'S REPORT

During the month of February, our Council was busy with the Belcarra Budget process. and Council attended the Council of Councils, a meeting organized by Metro Vancouver with the Honourable Ravi Kalon, Minister of Housing, in attendance to answer questions (February 3, 2024); and the Housing Summit - Local Vision/ Local Action - organized by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities to ensure the interests of local governments are considered.

Here are the Council highlights since my last update.

## Council Meeting, February 5, 2024

A letter from the Ministry of Housing was received confirming the allocation of \$153,143 from the Provincial Government for the implementation of the legislative changes to support housing initiatives.

The Village declared February 19-25, 2024 as Heritage Week.

Council received a report from Sartaj Grewal entitled The Fire Suppression System for Belcarra Municipal Hall.

Council received and supported a recommendation from Paula Richardson regarding the registration of the Village of Belcarra with CanadaHelps as a platform for public donations to the Village.

Council accepted for information from Paula Richardson the quarterly department reports for the quarter ending December 2023.

Three Bylaws were adopted by Council including Indemnification (Bylaw 620), Blasting and Rock Breaking (Bylaw 619), and Fees and Charges Amendment (Bylaw 622).

Council brought forward from the closed Council Meeting of January 22, 2024, a letter to the Village of Anmore pertaining to the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Service and next steps.

## Special Council Meeting and Public Consultation Session, February 5, 2024

Ken Bjorgaard, Village of Belcarra Financial Consultant, presented a draft 2024-2028 Financial Plan, including the 2024 budget and other financial information. Multiple residents provided comment to Council.

### Council Meeting, February 20, 2024

A reply from the Village of Anmore to our letter regarding the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department, was received.

Pooni Group reported on the new Provincial Housing Legislation.

For the 2024 taxation year, Ken Bjorgaard recommended to Council a 10% increase in property taxes, a 20% increase in water user rates, and a 20% increase in Waste and Recycle Depot (WARD) user rates. Council accepted and supported by motion these recommendations. The full Financial Plan is available on the Village website.

The Village of Belcarra Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 621. 2024 was read a first time. The Bylaw will be forwarded to Public Hearing.

Stewart Novak provided, and Council received for information, a current activities and status report on the Waste and Recycling Depot (WARD).

Amanda Seibert provided a status update on a comprehensive policy review.

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

Happy to chat, **Jamie Ross** 

#### 2024 BUDGFT

The following is available on the Village of Belcarra website:

- Village of Belcarra Long Term Financial Plan (Road Map to Financial Sustainability)
- 2024 2028 Financial Plan and Long-Term Financial Sustainability Summary (revised as at February 2, 2024)
- Report on the Draft Long-Term (2024 2038) Financial Plan and 2024 Budget
- Public Consultation Session Correspondence Submissions

https://belcarra.ca/municipal-hall/finance/

## 2024 DRAFT OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN (OCP)

The 2024 DRAFT OCP is now available for review on the Village of Belcarra website.

Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 621, 2024 received first reading at the regular Council meeting on February 20. The bylaw will next be forwarded to Public Hearing.

https://belcarra.ca/2023-official-community-plan/

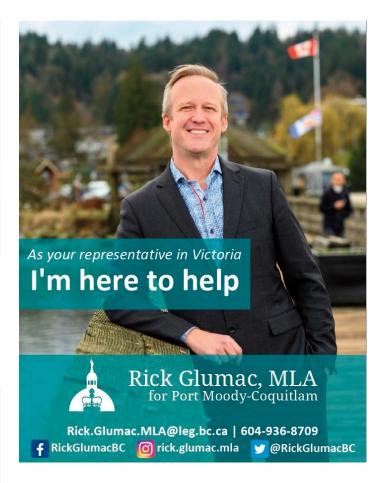
#### SVFD TRUSTEE MEETING

WHAT: Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

WHERE: Anmore Community Hub 2697 Sunnyside Road

WHEN: Thursday, March 14, 2024

7:00 PM-9:00 p.m.



## Night Sky on March 13

Look Up! Jupiter and the moon will be snuggling again on March 13! The bright planet Jupiter will appear three degrees to the lower left of the waxing crescent moon.

According to <u>quora.com</u> "When these two planets come together, they are believed to create a synergistic effect that brings about financial prosperity and stability."



# Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) Awards Night By Liisa Wilder

The SVFD has been protecting Anmore and Belcarra since 1978.

An Awards Night for the SVFD was held at the Anmore HUB Community Hall on February 21, 2024. Recipients of both Anmore and Belcarra were awarded for outstanding contributions to the volunteer fire department, length of service, and fire safety.

The Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal is awarded on behalf of the Governor General of Canada to firefighters who have shown exemplary service through good conduct, industry, and efficiency and have completed 20 years or more of service, ten years of which have been served in the performance of duties involving potential risk. We are very proud of all recipients and would like to recognize Belcarra's own Captain Jol Drake and Jeff Dillabough each for receiving their 20-year medal.

The BC Long Service Medal is awarded to those who have at least 25-years in a community/structure fire department as a structure firefighter, to recognize their dedication and long service. Again, we are proud of all recipients and would like to recognize Deputy Chief Colin Richardson in receiving his 25-year award, and to Fire Chief Jay Sharpe for his 35-year award.

Years-of-service pins were presented to the following: 15-year pin to Firefighter Brad Smith, 5-year pin to Fire Tech Doug Brain, and a first year badge to Will Muxworthy.

Many proud family members, friends and Fire Trustees were in attendance at the ceremony.



Roxanne, Jeff, Sage, and Jasmine Dillabough



J. Sharpe, Deputy Chief Colin Richardson, M. Bolam



C. Richardson, Chief Jay Sharpe, M. Bolam



Bruce, Owen, Captain Jol, Chelsea, and Jodi Drake





Perry, Will, and Carolyn Muxworthy

Chief Jay Sharpe, Firefighter Brad Smith, Deputy Chief Colin Richardson, and Deputy Chief Mike Bolam





From Left:

Chief Jay Sharpe, Firefighter Steve Chisholm, Firefighter Sarah Coombs, Fire Tech Doug Brain, Lieutenant Adon Albanese, Lieutenant Keiran Lancaster, Firefighter Miranda Venos, Firefighter Isaac Heisler, Deputy Chief Colin Richardson, and Deputy Chief Mike Bolam

Photo Credits: Liisa Wilder and Bruce Drake

#### **Stories From The Archives**

First Steel Rails Arrive At Port Moody

Researched By: Ralph Drew, Belcarra, BC, February 2024.

Source: Mainland Guardian, Thursday, March 8th, 1883, page 3.

"Port Moody — The first of the fleet of ships with steel rails, arrived in English Bay on Thursday [March 1st], and is probably at the wharf [CPR wharf in Port Moody] by this time [March 8th]. The steamship 'Victoria' leaves San Francisco for Port Moody, with locomotives, on 6th inst. [March 6th]."

"Quite a number of land speculators are now at the terminus [Port Moody], 'Spying out the land', and the early approach of the boom is looked for. A large number of buildings are under contract, and construction will be commenced as soon as the [sidewheel steamer] 'Maude' gets around with material [from New Westminster]. Grading is progressing very favourably, but, of course, will advance more rapidly when the rails are laid on the portion [of the railway bed] completed. The choppers [land clearing crew] have crossed the Coquitlam [River]."



Sailing Ship 'Duke of Abercorn' in 'Port Moody Arm', March 1883 — the first shipment of 'Railroad Iron' from Great Britain into Burrard Inlet for the 'Canadian Pacific Railway'.

Hand-coloured print from a wood engraving (18.4 x 14.2 inches) after a painting by Canadian landscape artist Lucius Richard O'Brien (1832-1899).



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Savignin was originally a French grape used for making yellow wine, like sherry. This vine was imported into Australia as a Spanish Albarino and used to make a dry white. Eventually it was properly identified and now there are 53 producers of the grape in Australia and while the style and quality vary, there is an underlying varietal character and flavour. It has been described as a bit like Riesling but with greater texture. Sales in Australia are going well and Savignin is being touted as the next wine to become the "in wine" of China since it goes well with their spicier cuisine.

Beware winemakers! A New York artist has started a fad of painting portraits with red wine as well as drinking it.

Fortunately, our in-house studio has a sign warning "don't drink and draw" but watch your private reserves if you have an artist in the house.

Northwest Cellars 2008 Intrigue from Columbia Valley is a winner of many medals and sells for \$38.00. A reviewer notes that this wine is a beautiful beefy blend of Merlot, Syrah, and Cab Franc – just the thing for beef. The Syrah adds smoke, game, and spice, the Cab Franc adds delicious verdant aromas, and the Merlot is smooth, silky, and elegant. Grill a steak, open a bottle and be "intrigued". I think I will start blending to satisfy my own intrigue.

A local wine that blew me away when first experiencing it was "Bacchus" by Domain de Chaberton in Langley. While it was slightly sweeter than our normal preference, it was a very tasty drop. Later they started to produce a "Bacchus Dry" which really hit the spot and convinced me for many years to buy cases of the stuff as Christmas gifts for clients. I see from their website that "Bacchus Dry" was sold out pending release of the 2012 vintage, so it wasn't just my take on it.

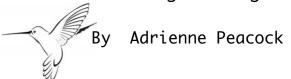


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## Our Amazing Hummingbirds



It is an incredible sight to see a tiny Anna's hummingbird flying furiously in minus double digit weather. Why are they called Anna's? They are named after Anna Massena, the beautiful young wife of an amateur French ornithologist who had collected some 12,500 bird specimens during a journey to the Americas. Francois Massena, the Duke of Rivoli, was then visited in France by several ornithologists, including John James Audubon. Among the many specimens collected was an unidentified hummingbird, which was named Anna's, after the lovely Duchess of Rivoli.

There are four species of hummingbirds that can be found in the Lower Mainland: Rufous, Anna's, Calliope, and Black-chinned, but only two are commonly found in this area, Rufous and Anna's. Only Anna's stays here all year, and in the cold winter weather, feeders are crucial.

#### Feeders in Winter

In the cold weather that we have just experienced, it was very difficult and important to keep the feeder from freezing. Even a light bulb underneath the feeder wasn't quite enough in the coldest weather. Two feeders were needed to keep one inside thawing while the other was outside, and switch them when the outside feeder started to freeze. To make the solution, add one part white sugar to four parts water. It has been suggested that during cold weather, you could increase the ratio to 1:3, but no more, or it will cause problems for the birds. Do not add red food colouring. A recent CBC birder recommended boiling the water first before adding the sugar to avoid mold, and it does seem to work. However, if feeders are refreshed once per week and more in hot weather, mold and bacteria aren't a problem.

### How do hummingbirds survive the cold nights?

Hummingbirds are one of the few groups of birds that are known to go into torpor. Torpor is a very deep, sleep-like state in which metabolic functions are reduced by anywhere from 75 to 95 percent. If torpor lasted for long periods we would call it hibernation but hummingbirds can go into torpor any night of the year when temperature and food conditions require it. Hummingbird feathers offer poor insulation and they have incredibly high metabolic demands. Torpor allows them to check-out physiologically when they cannot maintain their normal 401 degree Celsius (105 Fahrenheit) body So, during cold nights, temperature. hummingbirds shelter in thick shrubs or hedges and enter the torpor state where their heartbeat, respiration and metabolic rate drop At dawn, they're awake and dramatically. hungry, which is why it's important to have feeders out early, if you take them in at night to avoid the sugar/water freezing.

## **Hummingbird Flowers**

Besides the sugar water in a feeder, hummingbirds feed on flower nectar and insects. Hummingbirds are known to love orange and red flowers, especially those that are tubular in shape, provide a large amount of nectar, and often hang down or point downward, but they'll visit many different kinds of flowers of every colour and shape. Some good hummingbird plants include bee balm, cardinal flower, trumpet vine, honeysuckle, hardy fuchsia shrubs, and columbine. Hummingbirds feed about 5-10 times per hour for 30-60 seconds each time.

## **Hummingbird Issues**

Both Anna's hummingbirds and Rufous hummingbirds can be seen in Belcarra, but Rufus populations are in steep decline. Christine Bishop (Environment and Climate Change Canada) has been researching why, collecting urine and feces to measure pesticides, specifically imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid insecticide thought to have negative effects on bees.

Bishop found the concentration in the urine of Rufous hummingbirds in the Fraser Valley is relatively high, at three parts per billion. While avoiding the use of such pesticides, such as neonicotinoids, could be helpful to Rufous hummingbirds, it isn't clear what the reason is for decline of the tiny, feisty, orange-red-throated Rufous, as Anna's hummingbirds are increasing. The decline of the Rufous birds could be habitat loss, or seasonal plants blooming at the wrong time of year, or competition with the larger Anna's hummingbirds, perhaps in addition to pesticide problems. Rufous hummingbirds go on one of the longest of bird migrations, from Mexico to Alaska, so they are never here in the winter.

#### Anna's Like Belcarra

In Anna's hummingbirds, the male head and throat is a deep rose red and even the females may have a patch of metallic red colour on their throat. They have been overwintering here for several decades as their range and populations have been expanding.

Some authors suggest that the many feeders put out for them in the winter may be a critical part of the reason why.

Anna's live about eight years and can begin nesting as early as January. They feed on nectar and eat more insects than any other North American hummingbird. According to entomologist Doug Tallamy "hummingbirds like and need nectar but 80 percent of their diet is insects and spiders." The menu includes ants, aphids and mites as well as many small flying insects, even plucking insects and spiders from spider webs. Like all hummingbirds, Anna's is an important pollinator. So many reasons to love hummingbirds!

What does it mean when a hummingbird hovers near you? A widespread belief says that encountering a hummingbird is a sign of good luck coming your way, or a message from a loving person who is sending you positive feelings and good thoughts.



## -- About our Centre Colour Pages --

#### **Photo Credits:**

Page 12 Rufous Hummingbirds — Brenda Hogg (Top L & R) / Adrienne Peacock (Bottom L & R)

Page 13 Anna's Hummingbirds — John Reynolds

Woodhaven Swamp — Sharmaine Vanstaalduinen

## Haiku anyone?

Sharmaine Vanstaalduinen has written a haiku to accompany her haunting photo of Woodhaven Swamp. She challenges all Belcarrians to send the Barnacle a photo with a haiku!

> Praise water earth sky Mystery beyond all measure Feed my soul with love









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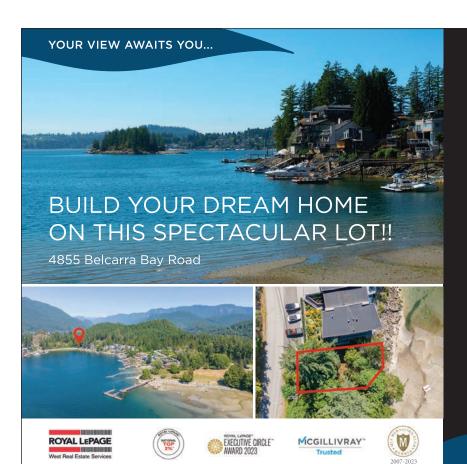
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## Village News

### Please Donate your Refundable Containers to CRAB

In 2023, 60% of CRAB's revenue came from refundable containers donated at the WARD.

Thank you Belcarra!

We use this revenue to host fun-filled community events throughout the year.

Please keep donating and supporting your community!



Juice boxes, containers and pouches of all sizes are worth money. So are wine boxes!

## The Belcarra Garden Club By Les Bramley

The April Belcarra Garden Club (BCG) meeting is on Monday, April 29, at 2 p.m. It will be held at the Belcarra Park picnic shelters.

We have *Les Verts Living* coming to give us a course on indoor gardening and hydroponic growing for your home. A talk we are looking forward to.

Our garden club is very fortunate to have Nora Boekhout taking pictures on our various trips and placing them and our knowledge gained on our club's website.

The articles we put in the Barnacle are condensed to reduce space. So please take a look at our website for further information if our topics interest you.

The BGC webpage link is located on Nora's website: www.teacherwebshelf.com.

We have three trips lined up this year and are hoping to have all of the details for the April issue of our trusty Barnacle. Stay tuned.

Happy Gardening!



To become a BGC member, please contact us at:

604-937-7103

or

email: <a href="mailto:lesbramley@shaw.ca">lesbramley@shaw.ca</a>.

BGC membership is free.





## CRAB Corner By Penny Moen



We are looking forward to spring and to kick off CRAB events, we will be holding our annual Easter Pancake Breakfast on Easter Sunday, March 31. Please join us at the Village Hall where between 9 and 10:30 a.m. we will serve pancakes and sausages for \$5.00 (kids under 10 eat free). The kid's egg hunt in the park will start at 11 a.m. — bring your Easter baskets!

We will be collecting annual membership fees this spring and at the Easter breakfast. Your \$30.00 membership includes updates to the community phonebook (it will be updated digitally this year as there are not too many changes and we want to be responsible to our environment). You will also receive one free dinner per membership for our Spring Fling Pub Night. The money we collect from membership fees and refundable containers allows us to continue to host your favourite events like Easter, Pub Nights, Halloween, Santa Ships, and Belcarra Day fun! So please, buy a membership and support Community Fun!

We need to hear from you if you are willing to volunteer! We would our volunteers! You are the reason that our events are great! Email CRAB4084@gmail.com or give Dayna or me a call. We have an immediate need for volunteers for Easter pancake breakfast and the egg hunt on March 31. We will be in touch for volunteers for the Spring Fling Pub Night (Saturday, May 4), Belcarra Day (Sunday, June 9), and Potluck in the Park (Sunday, September 8). Watch the Barnacle and CRAB emails for updates.

Our Halloween events are currently being discussed. It is important that we hear from our community. Please reach out and let us know if you are interested in an old-fashioned community Halloween where we all celebrate together in our own community. Please feel free to invite your friends to join us.

If we get enough response, we want to create a community event that your kids will remember for the rest of their lives. If you don't have kids, or they are grown, you can celebrate with us and help us make some magic. Please see the advertisement in this Barnacle for our planned itinerary. I am going to ask you again to please reach out and let us know if this is an event that you are interested in. If we do not get enough response, we will not continue with this plan.

Don't make me come to your door 😈



### **Samuel Craddock Series** by Terry Shames

If you enjoy reading mysteries, check out the books by author Terry Shames. She has a ten



book series featuring a small town semi-retired sheriff in Texas. His warmth, humanity, and quiet humour make these books a very good read. No wonder the series has won so many awards! Cbap.

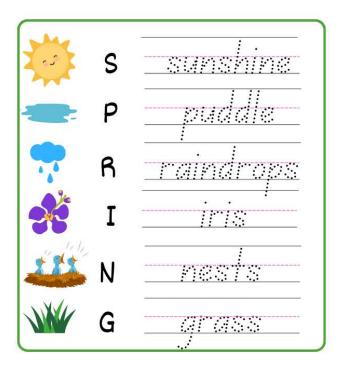
## Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano

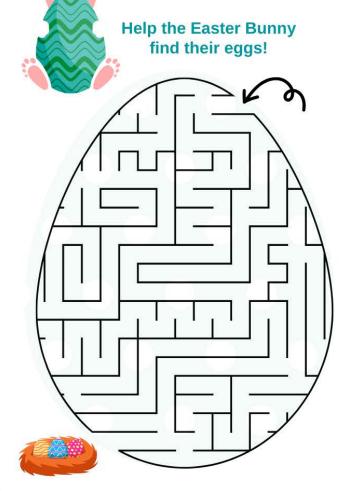
William's parents disowned him early in life after the sudden death of his sister. He met and married spirited, ambitious Julie Padavano who



comes with three inseparable sisters: Sylvie, the family dreamer, Cecelia, the free-spirited artist, and Emeline, who takes care of them all. The turn of their lives together makes for a moving story of love, disappointment, and adventure. A real page-turner! CG









YCU MUST BE YCLKING!

WHAT DO RABBITS SAY BEFORE THEY EAT?

WHY SHOULDN'T YOU TELL AN EASTER EGG A JOKE?

WHAT IS AN EASTER EGG'S LEAST FAVOURITE DAY?

WHERE DOES THE EASTER BUNNY SKI?

How do you know eating carrots are good for your eyes?

Lettuce pray have you ever seen a bunny wearing glasses?! Have you ever seen a bunny wearing glasses?!

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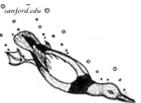
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## Diving Ducks on the Inlet

by Colleen MacDonald

We see many diving ducks on Indian Arm, including Common Goldeneyes, Barrows Goldeneyes, Common Mergansers, Hooded Mergansers, Buffleheads, Loons and Cormorants.



Diving ducks dive deep underwater to eat mussels, barnacles, fish, insects, and some aquatic plants. They use their strong feet to propel themselves. They can hold their breath for up to 30 seconds and can travel up to 20 feet. Mergansers have long, serrated bills for catching fish.

### Why don't ducks get wet?

Ducks have an oil gland near their tail. Called preening, they stroke the gland and smear oil over their feathers, thus the water rolls off the oily feathers.



Have you seen a cormorant drying its wings? Cormorant feathers are not waterproof. This allows them to dive deeper by preventing air bubbles getting trapped underneath their feathers.

**More ducks?** Spotted other diving ducks on the inlet? Please send photos to colleenmacd@gmail.com

Thanks to Dennis Paulson for photos of goldeneyes, mergansers, buffleheads and loon. Other photos CCbyNC: SanfordEdu, Sebastian Kennerknecht, Linda Tanner.



Goldeneye males: Barrows, Common



**Common Merganser female/male** 



Hooded Mergansers - male/female



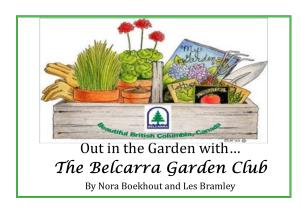
Buffleheads - female/male



Loon - male



Cormorant



How to Grow a Cherry Tree from Seed!

Les got his lips smacking this month, thinking about cherry pies! No... he was thinking about the fun of planting cherries with our grandchildren!





Here are some fun facts about cherries: they are classified as "drupes" (hey, what?), which are fleshy fruits with a thick skin and a seed pit at the centre; they have been around since prehistoric times but came to America in the 17th century; there are a thousand varieties but just over 40 that we eat; cherry pits are toxic; a single cherry tree can produce over 7,000 cherries; the world record for spitting a cherry pit is 93 feet. Popular types of cherries are Lapins Cherry (considered number one in the world), Rainier Cherry (from Washington and the most expensive), Bing Cherry (originally developed in Oregon in 1875), and Red Sonnet (developed in Summerland BC).

**Warning**: Patience is required! Growing cherry trees from pits can take up to ten years to get a full crop. Before the end, however, you may have a beautiful blossoming tree and a delicious harvest.

**Big Tip**: Check our webpage to get some "kid friendly recipes" to promote the enthusiasm!

**Let's get started!** Remove the pits from your cherries, wash them clean, (parents) cut open the pit shells, and then gently remove the seeds. Soak the seeds in a bowl of warm water for two hours.

**New learning**: In order to sprout, the seeds should go through "stratification". Place the seeds on a damp paper towel and sprinkle some cinnamon powder on them. Cinnamon has antifungal properties and helps prevent mold and fungi developing on the seed. Fold the damp paper towel around the seeds and place them in a plastic zip lock bag.

**Stratification** requires ten weeks in the fridge (not the freezer). Mark the bag with the start and finish dates plus the type of cherry seeds you are using.

After stratification, plant your seeds in a small pot. Seeds thrive in a soil that drains well.

Once planted, place the seeds in a south facing window or greenhouse to "keep them warm".

Water 1 - 2 times per week, but not excessively.

**Outside**: Once your seedlings are 8 - 12 inches tall and all frost has passed, harden them off for a week and then transplant them outside. Cherry trees grow best in well-drained soil with eight hours of sun for fruit production. After planting, water two times a week. As the tree matures, its water requirements will decrease.

Hope you try this and have fun with the kids! Les and Nora

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





Belcarra Blessings
Deborah Struk

May blessings abound upon you, your family, neighbours, and friends this Easter season and month of April. What is Easter? It is the holiday celebrating the Resurrection, coming back to life, of Jesus Christ, three days after his crucifixion. The Resurrection represents Christ's ultimate victory over death and separation from God. I like to call Easter, Resurrection Sunday.

Easter always falls on a Sunday. Many local churches have Good Friday services as well as Easter Sunday services. Easter Sunday marks the end of the 46-day preparatory season of Lent, which is significant in cultures around the world. The exact date of Easter varies from year to year, but it typically falls during the month of April or sometimes late March. This gives the holiday its associations with springtime and rebirth in the natural world. Easter icons such as eggs, baby chicks, bunnies, and tulips symbolize new life and renewed hope. These are powerful ideas to embrace whether you celebrate Easter for religious reasons or simply because you enjoy the vibrant traditions that go along with the holiday.

#### Some Easter Cultures from around the world

The Resurrection Sunday church service is at the heart of African American church traditions. All dress up in their best—new suits, shined shoes, bright dresses, hats, gloves. Worship services feature prayer, singing, Easter pageants, parades, and speeches or recitations. This is followed by family dinners and egg hunts for the kids. Hiding a special empty golden egg that represents Jesus' empty tomb is a time honored Easter tradition for many African-American families. In fact these traditions are followed in many cultures.

#### Orthodox/Eastern European

"Pascha" is the term for Easter used in the Eastern Orthodox Church (also known as the Greek Orthodox Church). The date of Orthodox Easter follows a different calendar, so it usually falls a few weeks later than Easter in Western Christian traditions. The word "Pascha" is familiar both within and beyond the Orthodox Church because of the traditional "Paschal Greeting" (also called the Easter Acclamation). In this celebratory exchange, one believer proclaims "He is risen!" and a fellow believer responds with either "Truly He is risen!" or "He is risen indeed!"

#### Latinx/Hispanic

Easter is a very important religious holiday for Latinx people. This weeklong celebration begins with Palm Sunday "Día de Ramos" and ends with the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection. During the Holy Week "Semana Santa" masses and prayer services are held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. It is common to see processions through towns and cities with people carrying crucifixes or statues of Jesus. Most of those events involve the entire family because they explore the biblical ideas of sacrifice, giving, and forgiveness.

My favourite Easter activity has been watching a live dramatization, or once at a youth camp, participating in a dramatization of the ultimate passion of Christ in His death and resurrection. At Oberammergau in Germany (every 18 to 20 years) or Drumheller, Alberta (in July) are two very powerful and famous reenactments of history's most powerful moment: The Passion Play.

As for Belcarra tradition: Easter Sunday is celebrated with a delicious pancake breakfast shared with up to 75 Belcarrians. Children are provided with colouring sheets and crayons to share at the breakfast. This is followed by an Easter Egg hunt at the park.

Some years I am sad to miss church but it is a delight to see many Belcarra neighbours smiling and sharing a wonderful meaningful day together.

A blessed and meaningful Easter to you all.



# Letter to the Editor Justifiable Taxation? By Klaus Bever

On February 5, Ken Bjorgaard, Belcarra's Financial Consultant, presented a cogent picture of where the Village's finances were. He demonstrated that we remain as financially sound as a family with a house mortgage and with solid, predictable income going forward. The debts are being paid down, the surplus is growing, and we have reasonable control over our spending. Most importantly, we also have the ability to consider and then to increase our income through taxes.

Council was listening on February 5. Bjorgaard was also listening and on February 20, he recommended to Council that increasing the property taxes by 10% was a sound and reasonable approach to our financial future. By motion, Council accepted that position.

However, not every financial activity affecting our Village is without worry. There are two very concerning areas.

The first is the realistic fear surrounding the provision of fire protection services. This is a huge worry and not limited to the building of fire halls. It's also finding volunteers in an aging community while working with the demands of our younger and neighbouring community, Anmore. Anmore is growing and modernizing and will need to rethink the whole idea of how to provide appropriate fire protection services for rapid and expensive expansion. It seems likely that the idea of a volunteer approach needs review.

The second is whether Belcarra's Council has the will, the capacity, and the Village staff to work within the plans and funds that it has available. In 2023, this Council put forward a draft plan and budget of \$1,613,263, to which the Provincial Government added another \$759,000 for infrastructure improvements. General capital expenses for 2023 were budgeted at \$557,100.

At the end of the 2023 fiscal year, the Village was unable to spend \$259,189 of the available budgeted funds for capital expenses and none of the infrastructure grant dollars. The 2023 unspent dollars are now being brought forward for spending in 2024. There is, as yet, no explanation as to why these dollars were not spent according to plan. Of note, the bulk of these unspent dollars were ear-marked for various projects that were to provide additional Village safety.

My last thought — how does a Council that failed to spend 46% of its 2023 budgeted capital expenses justify to the taxpayer a further increase of 10% in property taxes? How will this performance in revenue mismanagement support moving forward to a five year financial plan?







# Letter to the Editor Get Involved! By Sherry Chisholm

At a recent meeting for a Public Budget Consultation Session and at a regular Council meeting, both on February 5, 2024, I was very disappointed at the limited amount of time each speaker was allowed. The two minute buzzer is unfair as most of the time is used up in answering or at least the response to the questions. Most folks were told that Council would listen but not answer their questions at this time.

I find the buzzer for the two minute timer juvenile and offensive. We have such a small population in our community and so few villagers attend meetings that it does not seem we need this much control.

Too much limitation and control! The buzzer must go! Or perhaps the Villagers could limit the Mayor and Council to two minutes and then they might better understand the taxpayers' limited time.

There were some Villagers who wished to ask a third question and there was still time left in the meeting. Why were no more questions allowed? Why was the meeting shut down before the time was up?

I think that a more town hall like approach — more open, relaxed talk allows Villagers to not feel so intimidated by the official and very controlled procedures that are now in place. Does Belcarra really need this much meeting control with our small population?

When I asked about Council taking the subject of the new fire halls discussion to an in-camera meeting, which is limited by law to only land, legal, and labour, I was not answered. I do not think this is procedurally allowed. I was only told that Council decided to take the fire hall discussion to an in-camera meeting. Villagers must question and not allow the Mayor and Council to limit and stop Villagers' input on the important matter and many other items of discussion that they wish to keep quiet (secret).

The gallery (Villagers) were not allowed to whisper to each other and were threatened with eviction from the meeting room if they spoke (whispered) to each other again.

When the gallery asked questions about the sale of road-ends they were immediately told that it is not possible. Where there is a will... there is a way... and there is definitely a way. The road ends are 66 feet wide and 16 feet could be left for a trail, driveway or water lines and would still leave a 50 foot lot for sale. There are 31 road ends and five or six could be chosen for sale that would not greatly affect negatively on the neighbours. Why is our Mayor and Council so against the sale of road ends that could provide the payment for the fire hall builds so no big tax increase or long term debt?

There is also the question of how much more long-term debt we are legally allowed. I believe there is a limit to municipalities as to how much they can borrow according to the total land tax amount the municipality receives each year.

I hope this letter informs and encourages Villagers to get involved before it is too late. I am concerned about losing our fire and medical responders. We should support the few who speak up and ask questions, attend meetings, and write letters.

This is our small Village and we must not allow the Mayor and Council to make decisions on our behalf for what is possibly their own personal wants. They must be pushed to do things for the good of the Villagers that will let us remain independent into the long term future.





Are you interested in an old-fashioned community Halloween Party?

Are you able to participate or help out this year?

## PROPOSED HALLOWEEN EVENING EVENTS:

## TRUNK OR TREAT IN THE PARK

WELCOMING EVERYONE TO OPEN THEIR TRUNKS, DECORATED (OR NOT) AND HAND OUT TREATS TO BELCARRA KIDS OF ALL AGES!

## HAUNTED FOREST

IN THE AREA OF THE PARK THAT WE HAVE OUR EASTER EGG HUNT, WE WILL CREATE A HAUNTED FOREST. WE WILL NEED LOTS OF RESIDENT PARTICIPATION TO MAKE IT GREAT.

## FIREWORKS IN THE PARK

WE KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU HAVE ANNUAL PLANS WITH FRIENDS OUTSIDE OF BELCARRA.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER INVITING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO JOIN YOU IN THIS COMMUNITY EVENT?

WE ALSO WANT TO ENCOURAGE OUR TEENS TO DRESS UP, PARTICIPATE, GET CREATIVE, GET CANDY, GET TOGETHER.

HOW MANY OF YOU WILL OPEN YOUR TRUNKS TO HAND OUT CANDY? WHO CAN HELP WITH THE HAUNTED FOREST? WE NEED YOUR SPIDER WEBS, SKULLS AND SKELETONS, GRAVE STONES, BLACK BIRDS....ETC...

WE WILL NEED AN OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF SUPPORT FOR THIS TO BE A SUCCESS.



PLEASE CONTACT CRAB IF YOU CAN SINK YOUR VAMPIRE
TEETH INTO THIS EVENT!

Sincerely, Penny Moen

CRAB4084@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

PHONE: 604-664-9229

WEBSITE: BonitaZarrillo.ndp.ca

EMAIL: Bonita.Zarrillo@parl.gc.ca

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE ADDRESS: 1116 Austin Avenue Coquitlam, BC V3K 3P5

