

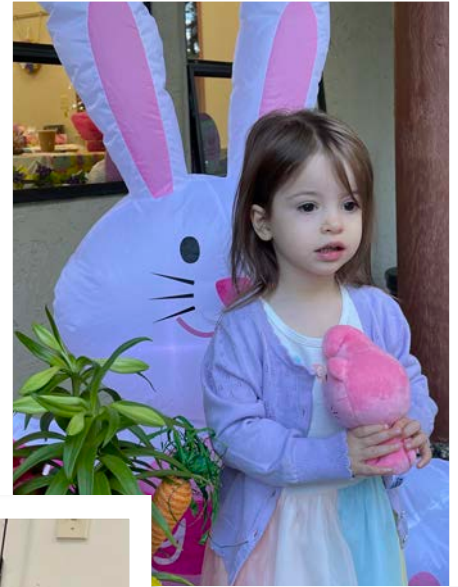


Belcarra Barnacle

April 2024

Belcarra's Community Newspaper

Volume 45 Issue 03





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 We do not publish in January and August.

VOLUNTEERS:

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Nora Boekhout

Bonni Marshall

Deborah Struk

Mayling Stubbs

[Belcarra Barnacle](http://BelcarraBarnacle.com)

WORDS FROM THE EDITOR:

Welcome to your community paper!

April 14 - 20 is Volunteer Appreciation Week, a time to recognize and celebrate our Village's many volunteers. Here at the Barnacle, we have a few folks to thank —

Our Barnacle contributors, both the occasional and our regulars! It's you who make our paper interesting and informative, and a reflection of our community, our spirit, and what is important to us.

Clive and Sandra for ensuring we have sufficient funds to continue publishing!

Our proofreaders: Michele, Nora, Bonni, and Mayling who find those misplaced commas, unnecessary capitals, and help improve the delivery of a message. Not much gets by this group!

Deneige for her ad design, and willingness to help with vexing layout and software concerns.

It really does take a Village!

Dayna Fitz, Editor

belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com

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SVFD (Jay Sharpe) jay.sharpe@anmore.com	604 765 2944
RCMP - Non-Emergency	604 945 1550
Village Roadways, Water & WARD Emergencies	604 917 0113
SVFD Recruitment: sasamatrecruitment@gmail.com	

IMPORTANT DATES IN APRIL

- 1 Easter Monday
- 1 April Fools' Day
- 2 Regular Council Meeting
- 8 OCP Public Hearing
- 8 Solar Eclipse
- 8 New Moon
- 10 Bright Comet close to Earth
- 14-20 Volunteer Appreciation Week
- 22 Regular Council Meeting
- 22 Earth Day
- 23 Full Moon

Our Cover and Centre Pages

The photos on our cover and centre pages were taken at the Village's Easter Pancake Breakfast and Egg Hunt.

Thank you to Tamryn Goodes and the Anmore Scouts for capturing so many happy faces.

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

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MAYOR'S REPORT

From Belcarra, and looking north up Indian Arm to the mountains beyond, is truly one of the most beautiful views.

The snowpack appears less this year and Metro Vancouver has prepared us for reduced spring runoff and potential water shortages. All of us will need to thoughtfully consider water use more closely.

Here are the Council highlights since my last update:

Council Meeting, March 11, 2024

Stewart Novak, Public Works and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, provided an update on the Village of Belcarra's residential water metering system. The Residential Water Metering System report was received for information.

Ken Bjorgaard, Financial Consultant, recommended that there be no extra water charges for properties with secondary suites that are connected to the water system. Council accepted this recommendation.

Belcarra 5-Year (2024 – 2028) Financial Plan Bylaw No. 623, 2023 and Belcarra Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 517, 2018 Amendment Bylaw No. 624, 2024; received first, second, and third reading.

Ken Bjorgaard presented The Village of Belcarra's Draft Road Map to Financial Sustainability. This included 15 recommendations:

- Implement automated solutions such as electronic bill payments and e-commerce services
- Review performance bonds, and refundable deposits
- Annually track financial indicators

- Annually review the Village's fees and charges
- Initiate Operating Spending Packages for new and expanded services
- Improve operating reserves for the Water and WARD utilities
- Initiate a utility bill for water and WARD
- Establish minimum and optimal reserve and surplus levels
- Integrate lifecycle costing into procurement decisions
- Integrate operating costs into capital project approval process
- Align long-term investment returns to cashflow
- Update Policy 195 (Financial Plan – Amendment, Monitoring and Control)
- Establish policies for Financial Plan Amendments and Investing
- Consider joining a cooperative purchasing group to obtain bulk pricing on goods and services
- Implement a formal project management policy and practice.

Council approved by motion Stewart Novak's recommendation to accept WSP's proposal for hydrological and environmental work at the 3600 block of Bedwell Bay Road at a cost of \$14,330.

Paula Richardson, CAO, provided a report regarding fines for water usage by residents during water restrictions. Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 520, 2018 Amendment Bylaw No. 626, 2024 received a first, second and third reading.

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

A public hearing for Village of Belcarra Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 621, 2024 will be held at the Village Hall on Monday, April 8, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Happy to chat,
Jamie Ross



CAO Verbal Report March 11, 2024 Road Ends



A waterfront road end that is 66ft wide cannot be subdivided. Section 75(1) of the *Land Title Act* requires all subdivisions to provide water access by highways 20 m (approximately 66ft) wide to the adjacent body of water. Therefore, a 66ft wide road end cannot be further subdivided since it would not comply with the mandatory water access provisions of the Land Title Act. The 66ft wide road ends were dedicated on subdivision to satisfy the requirement for access to the inlet as required under the *Land Title Act*.

For reference, section 75(1) provides [emphasis added]:

Requirements for subdivisions

75 (1)A subdivision must comply with the following, and all other, requirements in this Part:

- ...
- (c) if the land subdivided borders on
- (i) a body of water, the bed of which is owned by the Crown,
 - (ii) the boundary of a strip of land established as the boundary of a water reservoir, where the strip of land and reservoir are owned by the Crown, or
 - (iii) a strip of Crown land 20 m or less in width contiguous to a natural boundary as defined in the [Land Act](#),

access must be given by highways 20 m wide to the body of water and to the strips at distances not greater than 200 m between centre lines, or, in a rural area where the parcels into which the land is subdivided all exceed 0.5 ha, at distances not greater than 400 m between centre lines;

The absence of road ends policies in the OCP does not preclude the Village from creating a stand-alone road ends policy in the future. The legal effect of an OCP is that it requires all future bylaws and works undertaken by Council to be consistent with the plan: s. 478(2) of the [Local Government Act](#). It would be highly impractical for the OCP to have to contemplate every single policy area in order for Council to take action on an item. While bylaws and works must be consistent with the Plan, if the Plan is silent on an area (in this case the road ends) then there is no risk of inconsistency.



Notice of Public Hearing April 8, 2024 OCP Bylaw No. 621, 2024



Take notice that the Council of the Village of Belcarra will hold a public hearing at the Village of Belcarra Municipal Hall, 4084 Bedwell Bay Road, Belcarra, BC at 6:00 pm on Monday, April 8, 2024 in accordance with the Local Government Act to consider the following bylaw:

Bylaw: Village of Belcarra Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 621, 2024

Purpose: To adopt the Official Community Plan

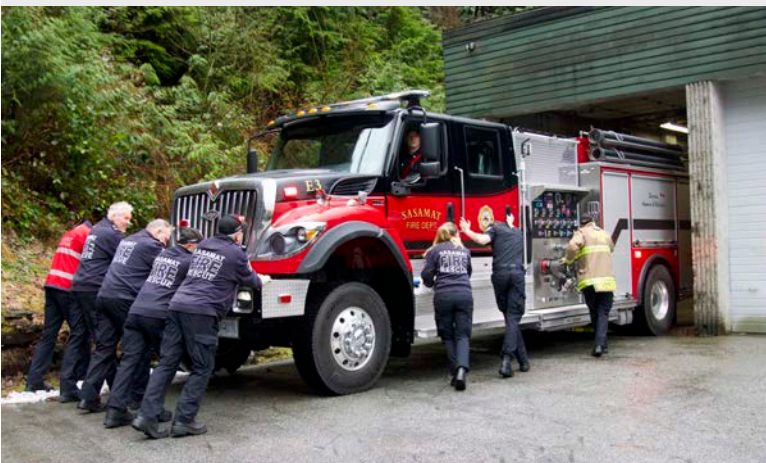
Please note that the April 8, 2024 Public Hearing is for a new bylaw and a revised Official Community Plan. Therefore, residents are encouraged to submit input on the revised plan. Correspondence received for the cancelled October 11, 2023 Public Hearing has been retained and will be part of the new Public Hearing package under a separate heading.

Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) The “Beast” is in Service! By Dayna Fitz

SVFD’s new fire truck is in service. The new Engine 3 was pushed into the Belcarra Fire Hall on March 10 and is now an operational responding vehicle of the SVFD. See our February issue for all of the details on this “Beast”.



L to R: Will Muxworthy , Miranda Venos, Britt Andersen, Rob Schofield, Nigel Terrett, Jason Sadler, Colin Richardson, and Jay Sharpe; Driver’s seat: Joe Nicholas



The “Push-In”

A “Push-In” is the time-honoured tradition of placing a new fire truck at the station. After a bit of internet research, we determined that our SVFD is in good company with other fire departments in North America. The “Push-In” tradition dates back to the late 1800s when fire departments used hand-drawn or horse-drawn equipment. Upon returning to the station after a fire call, the horses could not easily back the equipment into the station. The firefighters work as a team to push the engine into the storage bay by hand.

We are happy to report that no backs were strained while honouring the tradition. This is a ceremonial push!

Thank you to Miranda Venos for sending us photos and an update!

SVFD Call-Out Statistics

At the March SVFD Board of Trustees meeting, the SVFD call-out statistics for 2023 were presented:

Total Call-Outs 134 in 2023

Anmore 104 (78%) / Belcarra 30 (22%)

Details of the 134 call-outs:

18 Fire Calls

Anmore 7, Belcarra 11

68 Medical Emergencies

Anmore 57, Belcarra 11

3 Motor Vehicle Incidents

Anmore 3, Belcarra 0

7 Power Lines Incidents

Anmore 4, Belcarra 3

27 Alarms

Anmore 23, Belcarra 4

5 Burning Complaints

Anmore 5, Belcarra 0

3 Gas Leak Complaints

Anmore 3, Belcarra 0

3 Other (Misc.)

Anmore 2, Belcarra 1

Both the 2022 and 2023 call-out volumes represent an ongoing long-term trend of increased calls per year. The 2023 call volumes were significantly higher (23% higher) than the average of 109 call-outs per year over the past five years.

Cetacean Conservationists

By Dayna Fitz

On March 22, Whiskey Cove residents enjoyed five orcas fishing and swimming around their docks. This event was reported to the Ocean Wise Sighting Network (ocean.org).

BC is home to some twenty-five species of whales, dolphins, and porpoises (cetaceans). Six of these species are considered either endangered or threatened. Conservation efforts are improved when coastal observers report sightings. Our help in reporting is key to researchers year-round monitoring of the cetaceans in BC coastal waters.

The BC Cetacean Sightings Network (BCCSN) was established in 1999 to collect and compile sighting reports submitted by the public. These sightings have, over the years, helped researchers and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) better understand cetaceans and their abundance and distribution.

The DFO encourages us to join the hundreds of participants, from all over our coast, in helping with conservation. We can do this by increasing our awareness of our local cetaceans and reporting what we see.

If you see a whale, dolphin or porpoise — your neighbours are not the only ones who would like to know!

Sources:

[Govt of Canada -- Report a Cetacean](#)

[Govt of Canada - Cetaceans of BC Poster](#)

[Ocean Wise - Send a sighting. Save a whale](#)

Note:

In 2023, BCCSN became Ocean Wise Sighting Network (the DFO still refers to them as BCCSN on the DFO website).

To Report a Cetacean Sighting Whales, Dolphins, Porpoises (Non-emergency)

Phone: 1-866-I SAW ONE (472-9663)

Email: sightings@ocean.org

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Karen Hall

Mossom Creek Hatchery

By Ruth Foster

You've driven by it on Ioco Road, but chances are you've never checked out the Mossom Creek Hatchery. Few Belcarra residents have ever turned onto Mossom Creek Drive and gone up the one kilometre gravel road to the community hatchery and education centre. It's only open to the public on Sundays between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., but you can count on us being there every Sunday, even if it's Christmas Day.

Nestled beside a beautiful stream in a mature and mossy forest, our facility welcomes visitors and volunteers of all ages. There are young salmon to feed and refreshments and home baking to enjoy. Great conversations happen there over coffee. Our education centre has a fantastic reference library, many nature display items, and a delightful children's corner. Rebuilt after a devastating fire in 2013, our modern facility is 'state-of-the-science' and fully accessible for those with mobility, hearing, or vision challenges. It was built with sustainability front of mind and has a green roof, a permeable concrete apron and walkway, and feather-friendly glass treatment to avoid bird strikes.

The hatchery started out as a high school club project in 1976 led by two Centennial Secondary School biology teachers, Rod MacVicar and me. It originated as a chance to give students field experiences while attempting to restore salmon to historic numbers in a creek that had lost its run possibly due to locals overfishing its returning spawners. Chum, coho, and pink salmon now return to Mossom, but these populations continue to need support. There is just too much mortality in the ocean part of their life cycle to sustain the runs without ongoing assistance. Each fall we inventory the salmon that come back to Mossom Creek to spawn. We harvest and incubate fertilized eggs from a few of them, but also bring in eggs and milt from spawners in larger river systems.

Chum and pink salmon are raised to the fry stage and released at the estuary to begin their ocean migration, while coho stay with us into their second year of life, as they cannot enter salt water until they are smolts. Caring for these fish is labour-intensive and scientific, and requires attention every day. We are assisted by experts from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and we are strictly licensed. Our work is not just on Mossom Creek. Over the years, we have released salmon fry into the other streams in Port Moody Arm as well – Noons Creek, Suterbrook Creek, Schoolhouse Creek South, and Schoolhouse Creek North.

Managed by the Burrard Inlet Marine Enhancement Society, a registered charitable organization, Mossom hosts professionally guided school field trips and is rented out for meetings and celebrations. With its full kitchen and modern projection system it works well for all sorts of gatherings. Occasionally, groups sleep overnight and have a two-day program. We have just completed two weeks of spring break forest day camps for K-3 kids and will offer forest day camps this summer.

A typical Sunday is both a volunteer work party and an open house. When you arrive, you sign in and check out the task list for the day. There is often something you can help with, but we are happy to have folks just wander around and explore the education centre upstairs, the salmon hatchery on the lower level, and the trails and viewing spots nearby. Often there is someone eager to give you a tour.

We are involved in several research projects in cooperation with DFO, SFU and UBC. There is the five-year road salt and salmon study for which the relatively pristine Mossom Creek is the baseline waterway. There is the juvenile coho tagging project which will help us assess the effectiveness of different release strategies. There is also water quality testing performed by a skilled team every Sunday. Our information on the pH, temperature, conductivity, turbidity etc of Mossom Creek and Schoolhouse Creek North is entered into a national database.

Mossom continued page 9

Mossom continued from page 8

Salmon are regarded as keystone species because they support so many other forms of life. Over the years we've anecdotally seen increased biodiversity in both the plants and animals of the watershed. To help get a better sense of changes over time, we've done two bio-blitzes six years apart. These are events where specialists help us to catalogue all forms of life that can be identified within a 24-hour period. Our most recent bio-blitz, which occurred in June 2023, included bat, bird, snail, amphibian, moss, beetle, aquatic insect, and intertidal species experts. Belcarra's own multi-talented and internationally recognized biologists, Dr. John Reynolds and Dr. Isabelle Côté, have been a great help with these events.

When the wildlife of the watershed passes by one of our many trail cameras, we get a glimpse of what goes on in the forest when we're not there. We've snagged vignettes of bobcats, cougars, coyotes, bears, deer, skunk, flying squirrels, snowshoe hares, river otters, herons, vultures, ravens, and eagles. These trail cam clips are posted to our Facebook group about once a week. Sadly, there are two species that we no longer spot in the watershed. We haven't seen a red fox since the 70's and it's been a very long time since a ruffed grouse startled us.

We never know who will show up on a Sunday and this is part of the magic. Sometimes it's a former student volunteer who is returning with their kids in tow. We keep in touch with many former students from as far back as the 70's. Our Facebook page, Mossom Creek Group, is one way that we stay connected.

If you want to find out more about the Mossom Creek Hatchery, you can explore our YouTube channel. There you will find a video documenting the reconstruction of the hatchery after the fire, a process that could not have happened without enormous community generosity. The film is called "The Phoenix of Mossom Creek". You will also find quite a few of our wildlife trail cam clips. Some of them have been gathered into a video called "Mossom Critters the Movie." We've worked with David Suzuki on three "Nature of Things" episodes and excerpts from the first one, "Salmon on the Line," are included in another YouTube video on our channel.

When we began the project so long ago, we truly had no idea that we would still be at it 48 years later! The watershed continues to be a fascinating wild place and the wonderful comradeship of great volunteers who become good friends keeps us all coming back for more.

Here's hoping that we will see you at Mossom sometime soon.

<https://mossomcreek.org/>
[The Phoenix of Mossom Creek](#)
[Mossom Creek YouTube Channel](#)



WINE



BY CLIVE EVANS

We keep getting teased by the weather, thinking that summer is near only for the cool wet stuff to reappear. The BBQs are at the ready, and maybe have been used a few times, but then blah!

Food for thought could be drawing up a list of wine pairings to go with your various choice grills. I have tried a few different restaurants where wine pairings have been offered and usually am surprised at some of the selections, but never disappointed. In researching information for this month's article, I came across the following suggestions in the "Great Wine News" biweekly bulletins and intend to put them to the test this summer.

- Pair fancy wine with fancy food and simple wine with simple food.

- Try moderate spicy and light seasoned foods paired with fairly low tannin and low alcohol wines.
- Smokey food needs wines like Grenache, Syrah, and Zinfandel.
- Wine and food should complement, not dominate each other, especially when grilling.
- Wine is like a condiment. If chilled shellfish with lemon juice is your dish, then try a crispy, acidic wine, say Sauvignon Blanc. If your grilled lobster is enhanced with butter, then a buttery Chardonnay might be your choice.
- Marinated, grilled beef will be suited with a Malbec's ripe fruit, spice, and dry herb flavours.
- Brats, dogs, and sausages go well with Riesling.
- Hamburgers should be paired with a medium body Cabernet Sauvignon.
- BBQ ribs will be enjoyed with Lambrusco.
- Pulled pork's sauce tends to be sweet and tangy, therefore a refreshing sparkling wine or champagne might be the complement.

When testing wine for the nose, do you take a deep breath with your nose well in the glass or do you take short sniffs? An expert suggests that you let the wine come to you. It works just fine, especially if you have a larger nose.



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On The Belcarra Reading Table

By Klaus Bever

It's not big or fancy, just four legs and a spare flat top. But there is room for a book and a cup of tea or coffee. It's intended to give the Belcarra reader a little certainty in the morning. Certainty that the day can always begin with a few quiet moments and a warm drink.

As was written by some, the little table may have had its first use in the Belcarra area by Sir Francis Drake in June 1579. Sir Francis was then on a secret discovery mission for Queen Elizabeth I for the fabled Northwest passage between England and China. See Samuel Bawlf 's great read: "The Secret Journey of Sir Francis Drake" (2003).

The vocal local historians dispute this. They claim instead that Captain Sir George Vancouver in 1792 was the first user of this little jewel of a table; amongst the then unceded territories of the Coast Salish Nations. The local indigenous folks were so put out by the spare nature of the table top that they reportedly took their large freshly caught Coho Salmon and shared it with Sir George on a more considerable feasting table. The little Belcarra table was sufficient for documents from his Royal Majesty, the King of England, but not large enough for both the documents and the salmon. To this day, those documents remain unsigned and the lands unceded.

Design

The table design is almost certainly olde English. It has a fundamental shape, useful in keeping books off the boggy/marshy ground found so generously throughout the British Isles. Reportedly, this rather plain design was used, many times, by Sir William Shakespeare. Olde Tudor sources suggest that its design was likely adjusted by Shakespeare during some performances of Julius Caesar at the Olde Globe Theatre where it would have found usefulness as a prop on which to keep the dagger that Brutus would later wield to cement his place in history.

The debates surrounding the origin of this little table's design will likely not be easily concluded, despite the immense interest. Many, many members of academia have opined and are likely to opine further. There was suggestion that the design is so simple, yet so elegant, that it may have originated in ancient Sumeria, on lands between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers. From there it gradually moved westward to Egypt, then Greece, before finding a welcome acceptance by carpenters employed in the armies of Rome during their conquest of Celtic England. And so the spare, somewhat square top supported on four near identical bolt upright legs with modest taper, remained a fixture in the British Isles after they were vacated by Rome around 380 AD. The Empire that was Rome, as it retreated eastward, left the little table behind, awaiting its future to journey westward, to Belcarra.

In the next issue: Hastings in 1066 and the influence on the little table's design by the French speaking Normans.

Stories From The Archives — An Old Road To New Westminster

Source: British Colonist, Tuesday, August 23rd, 1881, page 2.

Researched By: Ralph Drew, Belcarra, B.C., March 2024.

Burrard Inlet — "From the harbour of Port Moody an old road [North Road] leads to New Westminster, or, rather, would lead there if it were not choked with underbrush and fallen timber. This road was cut 22 years ago [1859] by the sappers [Royal Engineers] and miners in the early days, when the Fraser River was closed with ice, and [the road] was used for the transportation of supplies and passengers between the Inlet and the Royal City. The government are now being 'agitated' to reopen this road."

Belcarra Haiku Challenge

In our March issue, Belcarra resident Sharmaine Vanstaalduinen challenged residents to submit a photo with an accompanying haiku to the Barnacle.

In case you are in need of a haiku refresher, here is what [grammarly.com](https://www.grammarly.com) has to say:

A haiku is a type of Japanese poem that always uses the same number of syllables in a three-line format:

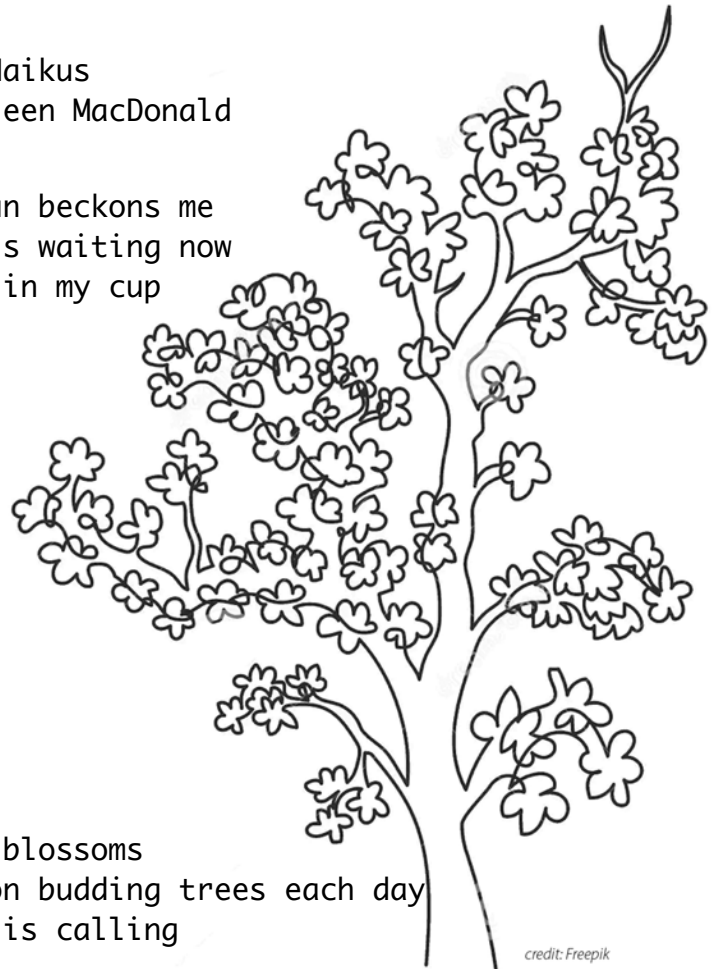
the first line is five syllables
the second line is seven syllables
the third line is five syllables

Please send us your poems, art, and photos!

belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com

April Haikus
by Colleen MacDonald

Warm sun beckons me
patio is waiting now
coffee in my cup



sakura blossoms
bloom on budding trees each day
garden is calling

credit: Freepik

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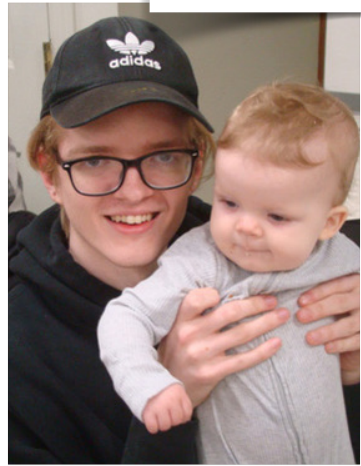
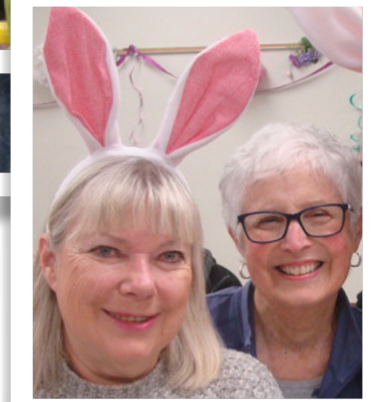
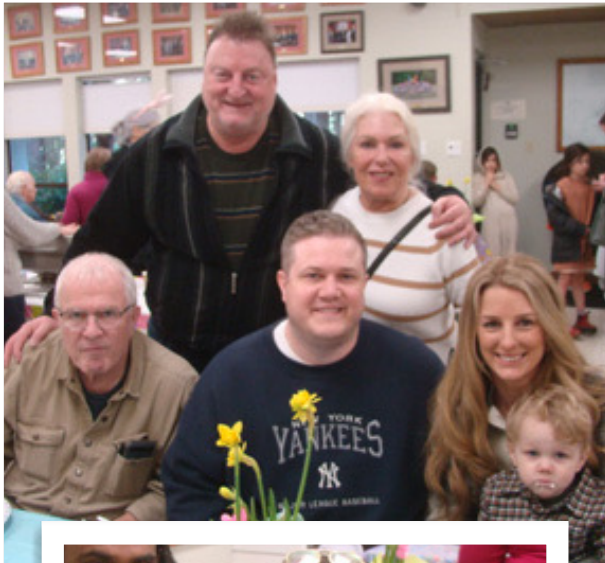
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Village News

The “Serpent Slayer”

We’ve recently discovered the name of the welcome pole at t̓əmt̓əmíxwt̓ən/Belcarra Regional Park — the “Serpent Slayer”.

More information soon...



The Belcarra Garden Club

By Les Bramley



Just a reminder: The April Belcarra Garden Club meeting is on Monday, April 29, at 2pm at the Belcarra Park picnic shelters.

Andrew Vickerson, CEO of *Les Verts Living*, is giving us a course on indoor gardening and hydroponic growing for your home.

Our first trip of the year is to the Harrison Tulip Festival! The date for this trip will be determined in April, due to the farm not yet knowing the peak flowering time of the tulips. This is caused by our climate variations. What you will see are seven million tulips, complimented by the delightful fragrances of double daffodils and hyacinths. Plus for the 2024 season, a new 2 1/2 acre show garden has been added, showcasing an impressive variety of tulips, hyacinths, mini grapes, double daffodils, and fritillaria.

For those intending to go, please contact me and we will add you to the list. As soon as we know the best viewing day, we will contact you. All are welcome. This information will include the admission price and departure time from the Village Hall. As always, we will carpool.

Happy Gardening!

To become a BGC member, please contact us at: 604-937-7103 or email: lesbramley@shaw.ca

“Green Gas Cans” Juniper-Cedar-Fir-Pine-Spruce

by Colleen MacDonald

What you plant and where you plant, it matters when it comes to protecting your house from wildfire.

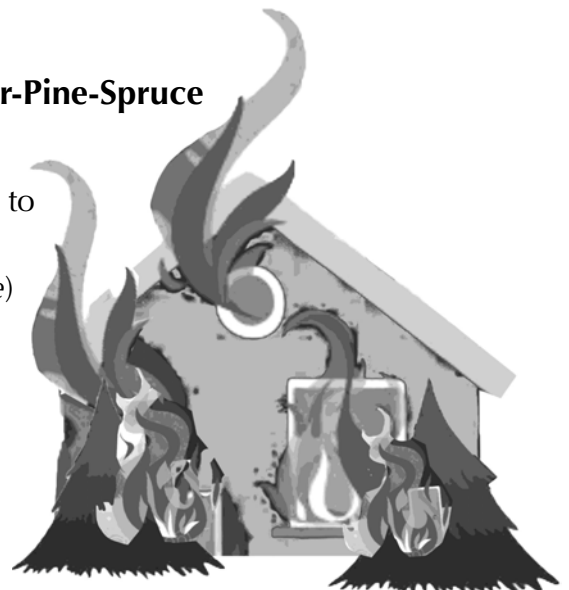
You might enjoy these three creative Firesmart videos (*YouTube*) about knowing what and what not to plant:

[FireSmart Plants Program: Firework Flowers](#)

[FireSmart Plants Program: Gas Garden](#)

[FireSmart Plants Program: Propane Planters](#)

The FireSmart website has more information: <https://firesmartbc.ca>





CRAB Corner

By Penny Moen



How lucky we were that the weather cooperated and Easter was a sunny, happy event. The pancake breakfast was delicious and fun. It was so nice to see you all! Thank you to everyone who came out to eat and spend time with neighbours.

The egg hunt in the park was well attended and we think that the little ones had a great time. The park was really busy this year. We appreciate your patience and cheer.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped at Easter: Sue and Doug Brain, Liisa Wilder, Lyn Jagger, Early Masse, Michael and Alyson Wall, Patty and Richard Lawson, Ashley Lawson, Kendra Lawson, Dayna Fitz, Klaus Bever, Michael Glassco, Lyle Mills, Cathy and Fraser MacDonald, Lisa Bakx, Judy Evans, Jamie Ross, Dave Warren, Tamryn Goodes, Makenna Farkas, Brian Hirsch, Maureen Jamieson, Jim Chisholm, and Anmore Scouts: Devon, Stephen, Rikka, and Yumi.

We are happy to announce that May 4 is Spring Fling (Pub Night). Please come out to get together with your friends and neighbours and enjoy a BBQ dinner and drinks at the Village Hall. Tickets are on sale now. Due to Village Hall space, we have a limited number of tickets available; reserve early! This event always sells out. Tickets, which include your dinner, are \$20.00. If you have paid for your CRAB membership, one ticket will be complimentary. Wine, beer, and ciders will be sold separately.

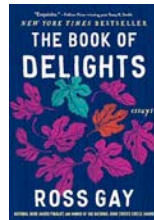
Sorry kiddos, Spring Fling is in an adult event. We will have lots of activities just for you at Belcarra Day. Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 9!

BOOK REVIEWS



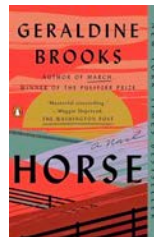
The Book of Delights by Ross Gay

Every so often, I discover absolute treasures by chance, and this is definitely one of those. The author spent a year noting a 'delight' each day and it is a pure joy to read. Superbly written. He gives the reader the gift of smiles and recognition, and perhaps a new habit of finding daily delights in our everyday lives. (CB)



Horse by Geraldine Brooks

This wonderful book was carried in my pack during a hike in the Torres del Paine National Park in southern Chile. Basically *Horse* delves into the enduring prejudice against black people at the edge of freeing the slaves. It beautifully portrays the profound connection between the horse "Lexington" and his groom, Jarret. You will experience here a rough and loving ride through history! (CG)



EARTH DAY

The theme this year is **Planet vs Plastics**. The goal is to work towards a plastic-free future by advocating for widespread awareness on the health risk of plastics, phasing out all single use plastics, pushing for a strong UN Treaty on Plastic Pollution, and calling for the end of fast fashion. Join your neighbours and community in building a plastic-free planet for generations to come! [EARTHDAY.ORG](https://www.earthday.org)



WORD LIST



1. WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN TWO FLOWERS KISS?
2. WHAT FALLS FROM THE SKY BUT DOESN'T GET HURT?
3. WHEN DO DUCKS WAKE UP?
4. WHAT DO YOU CALL A BEAR WITH NO TEETH?

1. Tulips
2. Rain!
3. The quack of dawn!
4. A gummy bear!

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Goldeneye Ducks - on the move!

by Colleen MacDonald

The goldeneyes winter along the Pacific west coast in sheltered bays and inlets from California to Alaska. They arrive in November, spend the winter feeding on mussels and barnacles, and leave in March or April.

Studies show that the goldeneyes are adaptable to cues from the weather, arriving or leaving earlier or later depending on the weather. It is thought that this will be an asset as the climate changes.

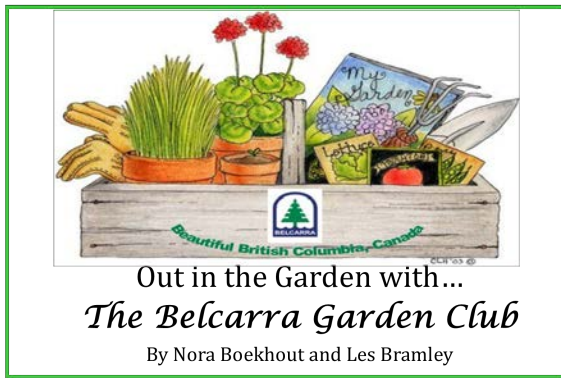
Over the past decade, goldeneye ducks were fitted with transmitters at various wintering and breeding sites, including Indian Arm. The transmitter doesn't interfere with flying or diving and sends signals for about two years. Biologists studied the data from this satellite telemetry to determine migration patterns. The ducks travel fast, some birds covered 1000 km in two days!

Breeding sites are found on lakes in the BC interior and the Rocky Mountains. Many of 'our' wintering goldeneyes were tagged in 2017 at Riske Creek, near Williams Lake. The female lays 6-12 eggs in a tree cavity or nest box and stays with the brood.

After breeding, male ducks go to molting grounds. The birds are flightless for 30 days as they molt (*grow new feathers*). Three known sites are Cardinal Lake Alberta, Great Bear Lake and Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories.

For more information and links to the studies, visit **The Sea Duck Joint Venture** <https://seaduckjv.org>





BC Cherry Trees continued!

More about cherry trees! It seems that not many of the people who Les has been chatting with were aware that BC plays a prominent part in the world's evolution of cherries. BC grows 95% of the cherries in Canada! It seems there are over five thousand acres of cherries here and we produce 16,000 tons of cherries annually! It's another feather in our BC caps, says Les, and so he pursued the topic for this month's article.

Cherries arrived in BC in 1892 when 500 trees were planted by Lord and Lady Aberdeen at Vernon's Coldstream Ranch. It was the construction of the Grey Canal that allowed water-loving plants like cherry trees to thrive in the Okanagan Valley.

BC has three regions which are blessed with ideal conditions: the Okanagan Valley, the Creston Valley and the Similkameen Valley.

Links and sources available on our webpage: <http://tinyurl.com/rwcf9b85>

The Summerland Research Station was established in 1914. Eighty percent of all commercial cherry varieties worldwide have their origins from our Summerland Research Station. No wonder Les says, "That's pretty impressive!" Some of their varieties are Stella, Sweetheart, Stacato, Sentennial and Lapins. Apparently it takes 20 years to develop a new cherry! The latest success, Staccato, has helped grow the industry by five times in just 13 years!

In the 1930s little cherry disease struck cherry trees across BC and quarantine measures were put in place. This disease results in small bitter fruit. In 1969 an orchard in Penticton was infected and by 1977, fourteen hundred cherry trees throughout the Okanagan had to be removed. The Provincial Government continues to monitor for Little Cherry Disease.

In 2014 a trade agreement was made with China and the fruit has become a boom crop. Now orchards are popping up all the time to satisfy local and international demand.

We can only hope that changes in climate, which have decimated our wine crops this past winter, will not have too drastic an effect on our beloved BC cherries. For now, enjoy those cherry pies!

This information has been collected from a number of websites which you can view online.



Beautiful Types of Cherry Trees



Belcarra Blessings

Deborah Struk

What a glorious thing it is to live in the most beautiful Village in Southwestern BC. We are truly blessed. Not only are the natural surroundings outstanding, but there are so many wonderful people throughout the Village. It is almost like the Cheers bar, "where everybody knows your name". Most everyone is very friendly and loves meeting new neighbours. Most everyone cares about their neighbours far and wide in our 'paradise this side of paradise'. It is rather funny how all are so curious when a home sells...'who is moving in?'. Then we are eager to welcome them in.

That being said, a huge welcome to anyone that is new to the Village. I still remember when Judy Evans was the Welcome Wagon (and a firefighter).

This month I was looking through some old Belcarra Barnacles (we have some very old ones, black and white pages stapled together). All of the issues are so interesting to read and show just how connected and wonderful our Village is. I especially enjoyed the March 2020 issue with a copy of one of Joyce Evans' stunning prints on the cover; such an amazing talent. I used to love seeing Joyce sketch at the park, or better yet, listen to her animated story-time at Belcarra Days. I can still hear her voice. Opening the cover I saw a reminder of what was perhaps the best change Belcarra experienced, for a time: Town Hall monthly meetings, where the Mayor was open to sit down and respond to any and all concerns of residents! That was a breath of fresh air. Sadly, with a new Mayor, that stopped.

Then I happened across the article about Heidi Hass Gable and her family. What an amazing woman she is. Sadly, they have moved but her amazing eldest is now one of our very own SVFD volunteers and bylaw officer.

Then on page nine was an invite to celebrate Jamie Cruthers' (what would have been) 40th birthday. He was another of Belcarra's finest. Jamie was a young lad who touched so many of our lives. Turn a few pages; there is 105 year old Mary Anne Cooper. Yes, this old issue tugged at my heart in so many ways. These old Barnacle issue are so full of meaningful treasures. This is one reason I tend to hang onto them.

Thank you Dayna, for all the hard (volunteer) work you put in to compiling the Barnacle. The previous editors all did amazing work as well. It is no easy feat. Thank you!

Have a blessed April everyone in 'paradise this side of paradise'.



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Letter to the Editor
Keep Canada Clean
By Clive Evans

During my time in elementary school there was a national slogan, "Keep Britain Tidy," that resonated with us small kids to the point that we would chastise our friends if they so much as dropped a candy wrapper on the ground. Visitors to Canada more than twenty years ago would remark how clean Canada was.

We appear to be in an era now where there are many people with little regard for our countryside and are quite happy to throw drink cans, all sorts of paper items, coffee cups, boxes, plastic, etc., to the side of the road. Is this the new age of entitlement?

You have no doubt seen the road signs recognizing individuals and families who take responsibility to clean up other people's garbage on particular streets. I am aware of Rotary Clubs that do designate street cleanups and I am sure that other organizations do likewise.

Thankfully the Village streets appear relatively free of such wanton behaviour, apart from those who leave their cans and other rubbish in the Barnacle boxes at bus stops. Just take a look as you drive along the road to Port Moody and see the sorry state of rubbish left by ignorant individuals.

Maybe it is time to start educating our children so that they can be the future wardens of our environment.



Letter to the Editor
Road End Policy
By Irene Vanderspek

Are you aware of the impact municipal tax and fee increases are going to have on your wallet? What is the problem?

· Council has uncovered a \$5.3 million funding gap to replace existing infrastructure. (Note: In the 2024-28 Financial Plan [p52], the replacement value of the fire hall and the village hall is pegged at only \$1,400,000 combined.)

What is the solution?

· To close that gap, Council is going to double the municipal tax rate from \$1.25 to \$2.52 per \$1,000 value of your home. The biggest increases (10% approved by Council) will come in the first years, and 4% will be added on each year thereafter to 2038 (if Council sticks to the base case model of the Financial Plan for 2026-28). For example: On a \$2.5 million home, the municipal tax portion will go up from \$3,125 to \$6,300 (water parcel tax not included). On a \$5 million home, the municipal tax goes up from \$6,300 to \$12,600.

· Your water fee will increase from \$1,082 to \$3,083, and the recycling fee will increase from \$467 to \$1,086, another increase of \$2,620 per household per year (\$3,706 if you have a suite or carriage home).

But there is an additional problem.

The Fire Trustees have approved the construction of new fire halls. Belcarra and Anmore each need to pay an initial estimated ±\$7,400,000 for this project. This cost is not reflected in our current 2024-28 Financial Plan, but we all know a replacement is coming...

How to deal with that?

· We are not in a position to borrow because we still need to pay off \$3 million on our water debt.

Road End continued on page 23

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Road End continued from page 22

With only 262 Belcarra households (Census 2021) to pay off this debt, we are not deemed a good risk to take on another multi-million dollar loan.

- Metro could borrow the money for us, and we would pay back the principal and interest directly to them. Paying back \$7.4 million at a very favourable 4% rate over 25 years comes to a total cost of \$11,840,000 (principal + interest) for the new fire hall. This adds another minimum of \$45,000 extra debt to every household. Of course, this number is before inevitable inflation and cost overruns. (We can all remember the outcome of the water project...)

Are there other options than continuing to increase debt, taxes, and fees to our households? Yes...

- The OCP identifies Crown land within our Village's boundaries that could be subdivided and sold. But we do not own this land, and it is not yet certain how changes to the Land Act, where First Nations would get joint decision-making authority over Crown land, will play out. So, can we count on that Crown land as a source of new income?

- The OCP identifies potential subdivisions in Farrer Cove, but it will be a long game.

- We do own road ends within our municipality and they can be a source of new income. The Revenue Generating Committee has done exhaustive research on how to generate substantial income from the sale of some of them. Of course, existing community trails and paths on road ends should be preserved, no one should lose access to their property, and existing driveways on road ends should be preserved. But some road ends do not have such encumbrances and can be sold and that would help offset the many millions in new debt awaiting us in the near future.

In two years 41% of us (Census 2021) will be retired and on a fixed budget. Our younger people are likely holding high mortgage debt.

These big tax and fee increases and this new debt for the fire hall will be unwelcome news for most of us.

Every municipality around us is selling land to offset debt; why not us?

How much more debt should Council pile onto our shoulders when we have an alternative available to us in selling a few lots for a few single family homes?

But curiously, our Chief Administrative Officer, Paula Richardson, told the OCP committee that they could not discuss road ends and that road ends were to be taken out of the OCP altogether. "To be discussed in a separate document at a later date" is the official line. At the Council meeting on Feb. 27, our Mayor made a clear statement: "If it is not in the OCP, we don't discuss it." Is a later date then never?

At the heart of any OCP are land use, zoning, and plans for asset management and financial sustainability. Any initiatives in these areas need to be consistent with the policies contained within the OCP.

For the financial sustainability of our citizens, we should sell a few road ends so Council can stop piling all these tax increases and debt onto our shoulders.

A Road End policy should go back into the OCP. It is a strategic objective to achieve financial sustainability. Criteria for disposal of unused road ends need to be developed, and encroachment guidelines need to be established to manage the use of road ends by private individuals.

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Letter to the Editor

Farrer Cove Road Access

By **Brian Ashford, Sy Rodgers, and Lynda Spence**

Why Does Farrer Cove Need Legal Road Access?

In the 2024 Draft OCP, there is express support for “Legal Road Access” to Farrer Cove and a strategic goal “to be a community where residents feel engaged, informed, and heard”. It therefore seems timely to provide some general information on this part of our Community so that people have a better understanding of the context, why “Legal Road Access” is so important to Farrer Cove and, more importantly, to the Village as a whole for future sustainability. Farrer Cove residents are seeking a “Legal Easement” along a portion of the existing Power Line Road. We are not asking Belcarra to build a road.

Why do we need “Legal Access” you may ask? The City boundary line of Port Moody begins at the north end of Senkler Road and then extends to the shoreline of Indian Arm. A legal easement across this strip, which is approximately 565 metres in length, is required to provide road access to Farrer Cove. The proposed easement would follow the existing Power Line Road.

On the Village side, Farrer Cove is entirely bordered by Port Moody. The eastern end of Farrer Cove is bordered by Anmore. In short, Farrer Cove does not share any land boundary with Belcarra. Our Community is completely landlocked.

Together, Farrer Cove South, the Evangelical Layman’s Church (ELC), and Farrer Cove North consist of approximately 200 acres currently occupied by 20 houses in total. Some Farrer Cove North residents access their properties through White Pine Beach Park and transfer to boats to reach their properties.

Farrer Cove South consists of approximately 35 acres, which includes 15 of the 20 houses. Residents have been living here full-time, most for 30-40 years.

These residents access their properties through White Pine Beach Road and private properties.

Farrer Cove residents have been driving to their properties since 1972, 14 years before the Park was incorporated and 21 years before Farrer Cove joined Belcarra, yet we still have no legal road access to our Community.

In 1984, Farrer Cove residents and the YMCA built and paid for the BC Hydro Power Line Road which runs from Farrer Cove, ending near Bowser. The existing road is used regularly by BC Hydro for line maintenance and repair.

In 2005, the Village and Metro Vancouver Parks supported the YMCA’s plans to develop a part of their land into housing, which would also have included a legal road to their property being constructed along the existing Power Line Road.

Unfortunately, at that time, Port Moody did not agree to the proposed YMCA road crossing their City and the YMCA decided to sell their property to the ELC.

In 2019, Belcarra Council appointed a Farrer Cove Committee with the task of reopening discussions regarding legal road access to Farrer Cove. Although the Committee was dissolved by Council in 2020, three of the original Committee members continued on to support the residents and the ELC in their quest for legal access. Following numerous meetings between the Committee and Port Moody Council, Port Moody Council voted in 2021 to allow the proposed Power Line Road Easement to cross their City, subject to Belcarra entering into an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Port Moody.

Following Port Moody’s Council vote, Belcarra requested an Engineering Report be undertaken prior to entering into any discussions with Port Moody. Residents and the ELC hired the same Engineering firm that had completed a full road evaluation for the YMCA in 2006. The Geotechnical Report took some months to produce and confirmed that the Power Line road would be a very suitable route for a public road connecting Farrer Cove to the Village.

Farrer Cove continued on page 25

Farrer Cove continued from page 24

In 2021, an independently sourced “Belcarra Wildfire Resiliency Report,” completed by B.A. Blackwell and Associates, reported “the number one priority in developing a safety plan for the Village of Belcarra and the surrounding area is to secure public road access to Farrer Cove.” In addition, the top emerging priority as identified in the 2024 Draft OCP by both the Belcarra Community and the OCP Committee through a community wide survey, a public open house, and a visioning workshop with the OCP Committee, is “Emergency Preparedness”. The second priority is “Infrastructure and Servicing” as it relates to Emergency Preparedness (Page 20).

Many stakeholders have already stated their support for a legal road to Farrer Cove, including Port Moody Council, BC Hydro, all Farrer Cove South residents, and the ELC.

Legal road access would provide numerous benefits to the residents of Farrer Cove, including improved access to fire and ambulance services, a second evacuation route for Farrer Cove residents and a third evacuation route for Village residents, and enable some carefully planned development in keeping with the character of the Village of Belcarra. Such development would also be consistent with the Province’s push for new housing and improve the finances of the Village.

The benefits to the Village as a whole include greatly increased wildfire protection, a physical and community connection between the Village and Farrer Cove (Community Building), and the real possibility of an increased tax base for the Village.

We want to thank Council and Belcarra residents for their continued support in assisting Farrer Cove residents to secure legal road access.

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Letter to the Editor

Fire Halls

By Sherry Chisholm

Regarding the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD), I am concerned that we have put the Villagers' fire and health response team services at risk. The SVFG trustees have been asked to address the need for a new fire hall in both communities which share a financial agreement. There is one department (SVFD) for both Anmore and Belcarra. The present agreement, of long standing, has been a 50/50 cost share for equipment and fire halls. Labor is at a different ratio.

Anmore has a fast growing population and a great deal of expansion land and Belcarra has no expansion land. We are at a fixed population and so at some time there will be a need to renegotiate the 50/50 formula for the equipment and fire halls. As we in Belcarra cannot operate without the Anmore volunteers (we have too few volunteers, possibly five) it is very important that we keep the entire SVFD agreement fair and satisfying to all concerned, as we cannot afford to lose this very necessary service to Belcarra. Now is not the time to renegotiate!

The SVFD with the entire board of trustees agreed to the shared costs of the planning in preparation for the building of the two new fire halls the SVFD needs. We are in the middle of an agreed to 50/50 project and it is not the time to change the costing agreement until this planned project is completed.

We are at risk of losing the SVFD services. Belcarra cannot operate without the Anmore volunteers. I am sure some do not like these facts and that the Village and Anmore must pay 50/50 for the new fire halls. However, this is the truth and the harsh facts. Some Villagers have been misled into believing that Metro is paying; this is incorrect.



Letter to the Editor

Municipal Water Metering

By Ralph Drew

The purpose of this letter is to provide some background information regarding municipal water metering.

People seem to have forgotten the prerequisite principles to which the Village of Belcarra had to agree as a condition of joining the Greater Vancouver Water District. Those principles are embodied in the "Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD) and Village of Belcarra Entry Agreement" and adopted by Belcarra Council as the "Greater Vancouver Water District Entry Agreement Bylaw No. 412, 2008". As part of the "GVWD Entry Agreement", the Village of Belcarra had to agree "to comply with the plans, policies and regulations of the GVWD including the goals, strategies, actions, and performance measures of the GVWD's Drinking Water Management Plan."

For the past 12 years, Belcarra Councils have postponed the implementation of water metering until such time as it was mandated by Metro Vancouver. This was primarily due to the administrative overhead associated with establishing a water system data management and billing system. However, the status quo has now changed. The current drought conditions being experienced across British Columbia are pushing Metro Vancouver and the Provincial Government to respond to climate change, very likely by mandating universal water metering.

It is not a question of "If?" water metering will be mandated; rather, it is only a question of "When?". It is therefore essential that Belcarra Council plan now for the inevitable introduction of municipal water metering.

April's Night Sky

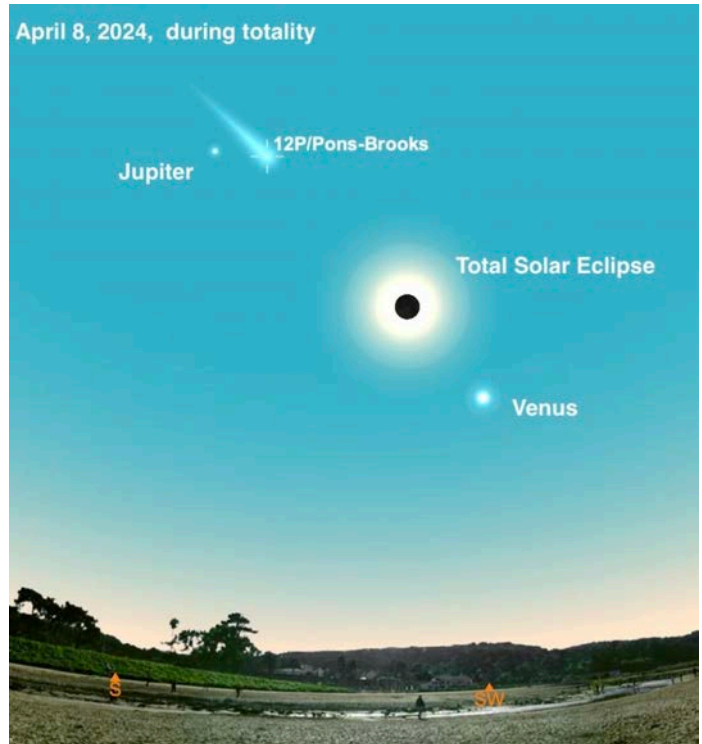
By Dayna Fitz

There are two “big” night sky events to watch for in April. The Canadian Space Agency (CSA) reports “On April 8, 2024, a spectacular and rare celestial event is set to unfold over Canada, the United States and Mexico – a total solar eclipse. As the Moon aligns perfectly between Earth and the Sun, temporary darkness will sweep across parts of the country.”

In Canada, the solar eclipse's path of totality will pass through areas in eastern Canada. Here in BC, we will observe only a partial solar eclipse.

For more information, including safety tips for viewing an eclipse, visit <https://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/eng/astronomy/eclipses/total-solar-eclipse.asp>. To pinpoint the best time to watch, and to see a graphic of our expected view of the eclipse, visit <https://eclipse2024.org>.

The other big viewing news in April, is the presence in our skies of a giant comet named 12P/Pons-Brooks. On April 8, the comet will appear in the sky near the solar eclipse. A double treat if you are lucky enough to be in the “path of totality”. On the west coast, we should have two opportunities for viewing the comet — on April 12, when it will appear to swing by brilliant Jupiter, and then again on April 21, when it reaches its closest point to the sun. The comet is reported to be three times the size of Mount Everest and is made up mostly of ice, dust, and gas (www.nationalgeographic.com).



Graphic by Andrew Fazekas
www.nationalgeographic.com



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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

Contact

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- 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

