



# Belcarra Barnacle

May 2024

Belcarra's Community Newspaper

Volume 45 Issue 04





## 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](mailto: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 available at \$20.00 per year (mailing expenses). Email the Barnacle to arrange.

### PUBLICATION

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 We do not publish in January and August.

### VOLUNTEERS:

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### WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to your community paper!

My apologies, somehow our intrepid paper missed noting National Haiku day on April 17!

According to the Government of Japan's website, the most important haiku poet in the history of haiku is Matsuo Basho. In his lifetime, Basho wrote over 1,000 poems and in his later years was known as "Haisei" (Great Master of Haiku). The following poem is considered Basho's most famous work and the one that established his original style, called "shofu" (Basho style). Basho made this haiku on the subject of the frog (kawazu in old Japanese) in the spring of 1686:

An ancient pond  
A frog jumps in  
The splash of water

Dayna Fitz, Editor  
[belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com](mailto:belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com)

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CRAB (Penny Moen)	604-727-2510
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**IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY**

- 1 Stage 1 Lawn Watering in Effect
- 1 - 5 ERH Cookie Campaign
- 4 Spring Fling Pub Night
- 5 Hike for Hospice - Crossroads
- 6 Regular Council Meeting
- 7 New Moon
- 11 World Migratory Bird Day
- 12 Mother's Day
- 13 BGC Meeting
- 20 Victoria Day
- 21 Regular Council Meeting
- 23 Full Moon

**Our Cover Photo**

On our cover is a photo of a Pacific tree (or chorus) frog sent to us by Brenda Hogg. Brenda refers to him as her "backyard buddy".

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

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## April Council Meetings

### Highlights

This month, your summary of Council highlights is provided by the Editor. Please be sure to visit the Village website [www.belcarra.ca](http://www.belcarra.ca) for more details and recordings of these meetings.

#### Council Meeting of April 2, 2024

Council received The Village of Belcarra 2023 Audit Findings Report by KPMG LLP for information.

Ken Bjorgaard, Financial Consultant, provided the Village of Belcarra 2023 Financial Statements. He provided highlights of the Financial Statements including the draft audit opinion and reported that the Village of Belcarra is in a positive net asset position. This report was received by Council for information.

The SVFD Firefighter's Association was supported with financial contribution in the amount of \$500 for a catered dinner for the Fire Department members.

The Pooni Group presented on road ends in the Village. Council directed staff to determine the disposition potential for road ends numbered 2, 10, 13, 20, and 21.

Three bylaws were adopted:

- Village of Belcarra 5-Year (2024 – 2028) Financial Plan Bylaw No. 623, 2024 — A bylaw to establish the 5-Year Financial Plan for the years 2024 – 2028 inclusive
- Village of Belcarra Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 517, 2018 Amendment Bylaw No. 624, 2024 — A bylaw to amend fees and charges for services
- Village of Belcarra Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 520, 2018 Amendment Bylaw No. 626, 2024 — An amendment bylaw to add penalties for bylaw enforcement notices for water use during restrictions in conjunction with Village of Belcarra Bylaw Adjudication Registry.

#### Council Meeting of April 22, 2024

KPMG presented Village of Belcarra Emergency and Disaster Management Review and Recommendations.

Stewart Novak, Public Works and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, reported on Emergency Management Planning. Council approved the recommendation that staff explore opportunities of multi-jurisdictional emergency management planning and response with neighbouring municipalities.

Ken Bjorgaard reported 2024 Tax Rates Bylaw and provided a sample 2024 Tax Notice. The Village of Belcarra 2024 Tax Rates Bylaw No. 625, 2024 was read a first, second, and third time.

Paula Richardson, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), and Phil Chapman, Chapman Planning and Consultant, reported on the Village of Belcarra Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 621, 2024. Council deferred second and third reading to the June 3 Council Meeting and directed staff to provide a report on the options for Farrer Cove access

Ken Bjorgaard presented, and Council accepted for information, a report regarding the status of Strategic Priorities Work Plan Initiatives as at March 31, 2024

The CAO provided, and Council accepted for information, a quarterly update on administrative and public works operational priorities and progress for the quarter ending March 31, 2024



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## Metro Vancouver Water Restrictions Stage 1

**Start May 1, 2024**

### Stage 1 – Residential

#### Stage 1 Residential lawn watering allowed:

Even-numbered addresses on Saturdays

Odd-numbered addresses on Sundays

- Automatic watering: 5:00 am - 7:00 am
- Manual watering: 6:00 am - 9:00 am

#### Watering trees, shrubs, and flowers is

permitted any day from 5:00 am to 9:00 am if using a sprinkler, or any time if hand watering or using drip irrigation. All hoses must have an automatic shut-off device.

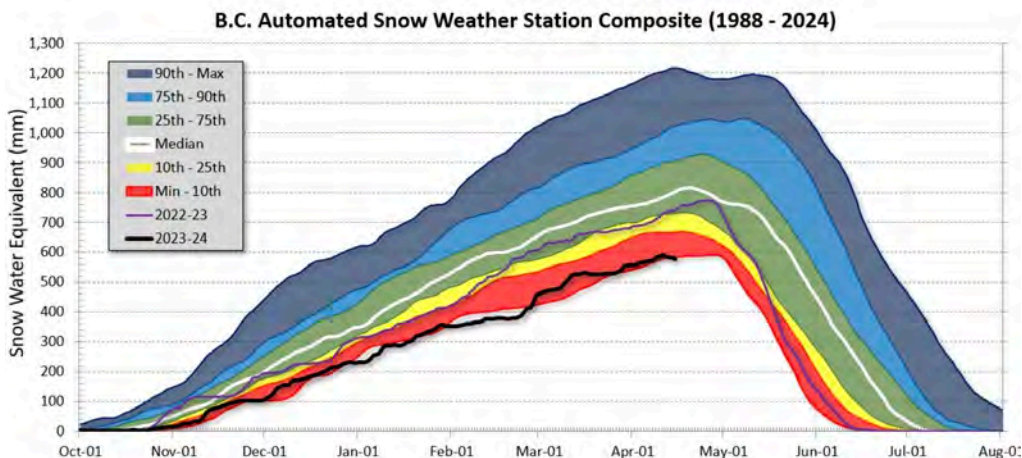
**Edible plants** are exempt from regulations.

“With a low snowpack this year and every expectation of a hot and dry summer, it’s important that all residents make water conservation a priority,” said George V. Harvie, Chair of Metro Vancouver's Board of Directors. “Our water use plans are carefully tuned to respond to climate change and public demand, and we rely in part on residents doing the right thing by not wasting treated drinking water on their lawns.”

Per a Metro Vancouver press release, reservoirs are on target to be full by mid-May with snowpack currently at 56 percent of the historical average. Weather forecasts for this spring and summer anticipate prolonged periods with little rain and above-average temperatures.

Water restrictions do not apply to the use of rain water, gray water, any forms of recycled water, or other sources of water outside the municipal water supply system.

Belcarra’s Bylaw enforcement regulations are in effect starting May 1, 2024. Residents will be notified when Stage 2 restrictions are implemented.



[Government of BC Snow Conditions Commentary April 15 2024](#)

A summary of Metro Vancouver’s water use activities during restrictions — the stages are listed along with the allowable activities during each stage:

<https://metrovancover.org/services/water/Documents/drinking-water-conservation-plan-summary.pdf>

The full Drinking Water Conservation Plan is available at this link:

<https://metrovancover.org/services/water/Documents/drinking-water-conservation-plan.pdf>



## OBITUARY

*Kenneth Halvdan Mikkelsen*

JUNE 4, 1950 – APRIL 1, 2024



It is with profound sadness that we announce the peaceful death of our dad and Grampy, Kenneth Halvdan Mikkelsen on April 1, 2024 at Royal Columbian Hospital after complications from a stroke. Born in Vancouver on June 4, 1950 to Jean and Halvdan Mikkelsen, Ken spent his formative years in Vancouver before moving to Toronto to attend the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College.

Being a chiropractor was fundamental to Ken's identity. He dedicated himself to his practice for the last 49 years in Langley, becoming an established member of the Brookwood community and growing his practice into a successful wellness clinic known as Liferforce Proactive. Not one to believe in retirement, Ken's patients and staff were like his family and he continued working until his recent hospitalization.

His love for sport took Ken around the world when he began working as a Chiropractor with the Canadian National Swimming team in 1986, attending seven summer Olympics Games starting with Seoul, Korea in 1988. Prior to his involvement with swimming he was a trainer with the BC Lions and was inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame in 2019 as a member of the 1968 New Westminster Salmonbellies Lacrosse team (trainer).

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/burnaby-bc/kenneth-mikkelsen-11753386>

An enthusiastic collector of scientific instruments and cars, as well as a tinkerer extraordinaire, Ken always had a project on the go. He dabbled in architecture and design, constructing three homes in his beloved Belcarra (where he resided for almost 50 years) and the commercial building in which he ran Liferforce. He was a deeply caring and helpful individual who was always willing to provide guidance and advice to those who needed it. He loved sharing stories of his adventures and his kids' and grandkids' achievements.

Survived by his children Kaila (Malcolm), Kye (Kathleen) and Ryan (Lauryn), his nieces Sharon and Debbie, and his grandchildren Heath, Eily, Ryder, Erik and Jack, plus extended family in Vancouver and Norway. Ken was predeceased by his parents and siblings.

Respectfully the family asks that no flowers be sent. Donations can be made in Ken's name to CAN Fund (Canadian Athletes Now) or the Heart & Stroke Foundation.





Does price influence the taste of wine? Chances are that at least once in your life you've found yourself at a restaurant, sitting next to someone who claims to know everything about wine.

They usually hold their glass up toward the light to see the color of the wine, talk about tannins, grape variety, soil quality... Of course, the most expensive wine always seems to be the best one. But recently, several studies have shown that the price itself of a wine can actually influence its taste.

Two experiments were carried out at the University of Bordeaux. In one of them, the professor got 54 oenology students together and had them taste a glass of red wine and a glass of white wine. They described each wine with as many details as they could. What the professor did not tell them was that both glasses were actually the same wine. He had simply dyed the white wine red – which did not affect its taste. In the second experiment, he asked experts to assess the quality of two bottles of red wine. One was very expensive; the other one was cheap. Once again, he had tricked them, filling both bottles with the cheap wine. So, what were the results?

During the first experiment, with the dyed wine, the tasters described all sorts of berries, grapes and tannins in the red wine, just as if it was really red. None of the 54 students could tell the wine was actually white. In the second experiment, with the switched labels, the students gave lengthy descriptions of the cheap wine in the expensive bottle.

They used adjectives such as “complex and full-bodied,” whereas they described the same wine, in the cheap bottle, as “weak and flat.”

Wine in a can? A French startup company is marketing quality wine in a 187 ml (1/4 bottle) can at €2.50 a pop using only wine from AOC (Appellation d'Origine Contrôlée). It sounds like a picnicker's dream, not to say a chance for happy hour by the Seine.

Wine closures: there are all sorts of ways being used today to close your wine and an ever-increasing popular way is to use metal screw caps. Debate on the type of closure rages among the mighty as well as our local winemakers. One person who became upset over the cork effect on several bottles opened during a significant family celebration decided to do something about it. Nomaticord has spent a great deal of research in developing synthetic closures that allow oxygen entraining similar to cork and has developed the world's first zero carbon footprint closure. Their Select Bio product is made with plant-based polymers from sugar cane.

Sherry anyone? Tio Pepe En Rama is an unfiltered, unapologetic sherry in its most natural state. It is bottled straight from the cask unfiltered, and to ensure optimum freshness, it should be drunk within a three-month window. It is powerfully aromatic and has a distinctive “flor” character. Aromas of fresh bread and hints of almonds are accompanied by savoury flavours and a long clean citrus finish. 2013 was the fourth annual bottling in strictly limited quantities. Enjoy.

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## Stories From the Archives — Part 1: The 1874 Port Moody Survey

Researched By: Ralph Drew, Belcarra, BC, April 2024.  
Source: 'Royal B.C. Museum & Archives', RBCMA File GR-0868.1.8.13.

Port Moody  
May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1874.

The Honourable Robert Beaven  
Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works

Sir,

"I have the honour to inform you that I have completed surveying that portion of land situated to the East and West of the Government Reserve on the North Shore of Port Moody [Naval Reserve at loco] having found it available for agriculture and other purposes."

"The land on the West side of the Government Reserve, although broken and rocky in places, abounds with some very fine timber, but that portion to the East of the Government Reserve not only possess very fine timber but some good land fit for agricultural purposes although not extending any great distance to the East of the Reserve. I may here mention that to the North of the Reserve there exists a lake [Buntzen Lake], about a mile and a half [2.4 km] back."

"In the meantime, I have inspected that portion of land situated to the South and East of Lots 202, 201, 190 & 191 [today known as 'Port Moody'] and found that it was scarcely worth settling or agricultural purposes on account of its soil which is rocky and gravelly and its timber which is all burnt and dead, with many fallen logs and a very thick and dead underbrush, although in places you meet with small patches of Vine-Maple but only towards the southern portion and near the Pitt River Road."

"Therefore, unless I receive orders to the contrary, I shall not cut the same into sections of 160 acres, but after having completed surveying John Hall's [Lot 229, today known as 'Belcarra'] and Robert Millman's claim on the North Arm [of Burrard Inlet], which I hope to have done by next Tuesday or Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> instant [May 1874], I shall proceed to Pitt River in order to survey John Shaw's and Alexander McLean's claim and where I hope to have the honour of receiving further instructions from you."

"I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your Obedient Servant  
William George Pinder"



**Robert Beaven**  
(RBCMA A-01990)

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## On The Belcarra Reading Table

By Klaus Bever

The Normans in this telling are folks from an area that in modern France is now called Normandy.

The Normans are also the collected personalities of the 20th century such as the American painter Norman Rockwell, the American writer Norman Mailer, the Canadian film director Norman Jewison, the Canadian comic Norman McDonald, the Canadian missionary doctor Norman Bethune, the American Facebook star Norman Freeman, the Australian retired golf pro Greg Norman or my boyhood friend from Thunder Bay, Ontario, Norman McDougal, who never spoke out of turn in class. We're not talking here about those folks, we're talking about the ones who come from a part of France, Normandy.

Normandy was not always a part of France. In Europe, during those years referred to as the Middle Ages, the Normans lived in that part of the continent that sticks out into the English Channel, just as they do today. As a group they came from the more pagan and fierce part of Europe that is now known better as the lands of the Vikings, of the Norsemen. After their local pillaging and burning was finished, they settled down into villages and were referred to by their anxious neighbours as the "nordmaniae" or men from the north (Normans). They were feared, respected, and for many years remained committed to Thor, the hammer-wielding protector of trees and humankind, god of the North.

When Edward the Confessor, King of England, died in January 1066 without an heir to the English throne, the many kings and dukes of Europe made it their goal to support the installation of a more friendly Christian monarch. William, the Duke of Normandy, laid a claim to the throne of England. William's Christian neighbours forgave him his pagan past, and at his swearing to remain a committed Christian, supported his claim.

With broad support from across middle Europe, William amassed an army from the Duchy of Normandy, built a naval fleet, took up the banner from the Pope, and sailed across the Channel. William won his Battle of Hastings in 1066, after which he became the legendary William the Conqueror and William I, King of England. He was crowned on Christmas Day 1066 at Westminster Abbey.

Twenty years later, in 1086, William needed what was reportedly a ceremonial table, from earlier English Roman times and the predecessor of the Belcarra Reading Table (introduced to readers in the last edition of the *Belcarra Barnacle*), to lay down the Domesday Book. This book outlined all holdings and dues owed to him, William I, King of England.

The Domesday book event of 1086 is now the annual spring outlining of all dues owed to the crown. In Canada we recognize this as the deadline for the filing of the personal income tax form. The Belcarra Reading Table seems central to all the celebratory activity.

In the next issue: the printing press and reading tables.



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## A Crow Funeral in Belcarra

By Rosemary Smetana

Feeding the birds returning with spring has been so rewarding for me. The little chickadees are so polite, waiting their turn at the feeder. Song sparrows, woodpeckers, and jays all shared the homemade treats. Then came the crows chasing everyone away and emptying the feeder in one morning what would have lasted a week for the small birds.

A friend gave me a fabric crow to hang up, saying the crows would internalize a dead crow as a danger clue and stay away. However, they may have a funeral first. Sure enough, I hung the fabric crow up on Friday and Saturday morning approximately 20 or 30 crows arrived. They settled in the tree and remained quiet, only to break into a chorus of shrill calls, and then quiet again. This routine lasted for 10 to 15 minutes and then as quietly as they had arrived, all at once they left.

One thought on the funerals is: it is a mass gathering to seek out clues for what killed the ill-fated bird. Whatever the purpose behind it, I for one am very glad to have witnessed a Crow Funeral in Belcarra.



Spring awakens me  
Time to feed the chickadees  
But crows scare them off

Photo and Haiku by Rosemary Smetana

A promotional poster for the Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign. It features a large chocolate chip cookie with a smiling face made of blue and pink icing. The text "Tim Hortons" is in red script, "smile cookie" is in large white letters, and "APRIL 29 - MAY 5" is below it. At the bottom, it says "100% OF PROCEEDS FROM EVERY SMILE COOKIE SOLD IN THE TRI-CITIES WILL BE DONATED TO" followed by the Eagle Ridge Hospital Foundation logo and name.

**Tim Hortons**  
**smile cookie™**  
**APRIL 29 - MAY 5**

100% OF PROCEEDS FROM EVERY SMILE COOKIE SOLD IN THE TRI-CITIES WILL BE DONATED TO

**EAGLE RIDGE HOSPITAL FOUNDATION**

## Support Eagle Ridge Hospital

**April 29 - May 5**

All Tim Horton's locations in the Tri-Cities have teamed up to support Eagle Ridge Hospital Foundation (ERHF) for this year's Smile Cookie Campaign. Eagle Ridge (ERH) is our community's only hospital.

Between April 29 – May 5, 100% of proceeds from every Smile Cookie sold will be donated to ERH.

This is a fun, easy, and tasty way for residents of Belcarra to help support the delivery of healthcare here in our community.





### Volunteer Appreciation Night

Thank you to all of the Village's many volunteers!

There are so many ways to volunteer and support your Village.

Thank you to the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department, CRAB, Barnacle, Block Watch, Committees of Council, and the Board of Variance.





# BELCARRA DAY

JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> 10<sup>AM</sup> - 2<sup>PM</sup>

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## Village News

### Belcarra Garden Club

The May Belcarra Garden Club meeting is on Monday, May 13 at 2pm at the Belcarra Park picnic shelters.

In June the club is visiting a winery. The place, date, and details will be in the June edition of the Barnacle.

Happy Gardening!

### Pacific White-sided Dolphins in Bedwell Bay!

What an extraordinary event!

Pacific white-sided dolphins spent a few hours in Bedwell Bay. Likely they were eating herring. Definitely they entertained many onlookers! Ruth Foster reported the sighting on the Whale Report app. Please remember to use this app to report cetacean sightings. Thanks to everyone who shared their photos and videos on Facebook.



### Sea Lion in Whiskey Cove!

An amazing visitor to Whiskey Cove! A huge Stellar sea lion spent a day on the Kask's dock. We have never seen a sea lion in Indian Arm in the 48 years we've lived here!

Photo and sighting reported by Colleen and Ian MacDonald.



Photo by Hilary Maguire / shared by Ruth Foster.

## Prizes for a Belcarra Day Raffle



This Belcarra Day the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) will once again cook a delicious BBQ lunch. To thank them, we would like to host a Raffle.

If you would like to donate a prize and support the SVFD, please e-mail [CRAB4084@gmail.com](mailto:CRAB4084@gmail.com)





## CRAB Corner

By Penny Moen



Belcarra is such a beautiful place to get out and enjoy the fantastic weather we've been having!

CRAB wants to remind you that we are collecting our membership fees for this year. Your membership fees help CRAB provide Belcarra residents with events throughout the year. Our mission is to get our neighbours together in an environment of fun and fellowship. We want you to care about each other and Belcarra. I look forward to seeing you at our Spring Fling pub night.

Don't forget to put Belcarra Day, Sunday, June 9 in your calendars. Plan to come out and pet a pony and a lizard. Kids can ride the train and play games for prizes. Bring a little cash for prize draws, hotdogs hosted by our local fire department, and candy store. This event is hosted by our Village Municipal Hall and C.R.A.B. and is an event you won't want to miss!

We are working on a strategy that will work for our community for our Halloween event. Can we get some feedback on the idea of a block party? We could consider closing Midden Road to traffic at 6:00 pm and provide treats and games for the kids as well as a BBQ for everyone. How about a haunted forest and then fireworks at 8:00 pm to end the event? Those of you who would normally leave Belcarra to join friends for trick or treating, might instead invite your friends to join you in Belcarra. Your thoughts? We look forward to hearing from you. We are such a small and unique community your input is important!

CRAB wants to celebrate the closeness of Belcarra and encourage you to let us know your thoughts about the events that are offered. We are open to considering your requests and doing our best to make sure that everyone has an opportunity during the year to come together and get to know neighbours in a fun and relaxing environment.

Please send us your comments to [c.r.a.b.4084@gmail.com](mailto:c.r.a.b.4084@gmail.com).

## BOOK REVIEWS



### Lade Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See

Lady Tan Yunxian, a Chinese noblewoman, published a book in 1511 (Ming Dynasty) recounting her medical work treating women. Author Lisa See used this book as the basis for a fascinating glimpse into the lives of Chinese women in those times. Fiction based on fact and an engrossing read. (CB)



### The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

This story evolves around the community of "Chicken Hill" in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. It's a dilapidated neighbourhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans live side by side, sharing ambitions and sorrows. They struggle against the bigotry of a white Christian America. It starts as a mystery: a skeleton is found in the well. But as you read on, you feel the vitality of these people as a community and the care they have for each other. (CG)



### TRANSLINK — Belcarra Summer Hours

On weekends and holidays, **frequency of bus service to Belcarra is every 30 minutes** (from 60 minutes).

Increased service is in effect:

Saturday between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Sunday/Holiday between 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.



My mom's name is

\_\_\_\_\_

She is \_\_\_\_\_ years old

My best memory  
with her is

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

She is really good at

\_\_\_\_\_

Her favorite color is \_\_\_\_\_

She likes

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

She's the best mom because

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

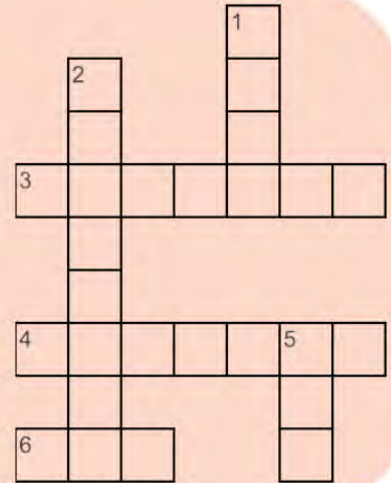
## MOTHER'S DAY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### Across

- 3 Blooms  
4 Your mom's mom to you  
6 Mom's special month

### Down

- 1 I \_\_\_\_\_ my mom  
2 Our village  
5 It's her special day in May



**MOTHER'S DAY  
SUNDAY, MAY 12!**

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**New Clients Welcome!**





The Belcarra Beachkeeper volunteers are back starting June 29 and looking for new volunteers to join the team! Beachkeepers promote awareness, conservation, and stewardship of the marine ecosystem at təmtəx̱w̱tən/Belcarra Regional Park. The program has two focuses — data collection and public outreach. During the season, volunteers learn about marine life, the intertidal ecosystem, and fishing regulations. They also grow valuable communication and teamwork skills all while making new friends and participating in a scientific study!

Last year the volunteer Beachkeepers studied nearly 2,200 crabs over 23 days! Volunteers participated in approximately 2,800 interactions with park visitors over the course of the summer. The Beachkeeper team observed numerous species of jellyfish and comb jellies, watched as thousands of crab megalopa (juvenile crabs) swam past the wharf, explored the beach at low tide, and had an entire day with a playful seal pup and its mother as company.

Beachkeepers is open to anyone 16 and over. Volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum of six shifts on weekends or holidays between June 29 and September 2. Shifts are typically from 10:45 – 4:00 and include a half hour lunch break. No previous knowledge of marine life or fishing regulations is necessary. There is a training session on June 22.

metrovanancouver | REGIONAL PARKS

# Beachkeepers

**VOLUNTEER!**  
**Be a Beachkeeper**

REGIONAL  
təmtəx̱w̱tən  
BELCARRA PARK

Looking to have fun and make a difference this summer?  
Volunteer as a Beachkeeper and gain experience in  
stewardship, public education, and scientific data collection.

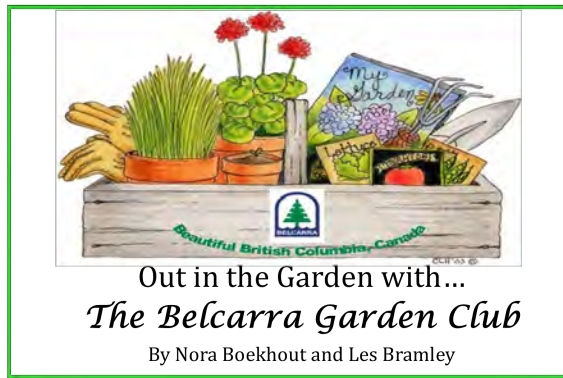
Weekends, June – Labour Day **Ages 16+**

təmtəx̱w̱tən/BELCARRA REGIONAL PARK  
Belcarra/Anmore/Port Moody

**For information or to apply:**  
beachkeepers@metrovanancouver.org  
Applications due by May 24, 2024

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

For application forms and more information, please email the Beachkeepers Coordinator at [rachel.green@metrovanancouver.org](mailto:rachel.green@metrovanancouver.org).



## Tulip Time!



Our first 2024 BGC field trip was the Harrison Tulip Festival, hence the topic of this article.

Did you know that tulips originated as a wildflower in Kazakhstan? Their name comes from the Persian word "Tulipan", which means turban. They were imported to Istanbul in the 16th century and at one point, it was a crime in Turkey to sell tulips outside of the capital! It wasn't until 1593 that Carolus Clusius, a botanist, brought them to the Netherlands. Tulips became the rage and were wildly expensive for years.



Links and sources available on our webpage:

<http://tinyurl.com/rwcf9b85>

Holland is now the most prolific cultivator of tulips. An interesting fact is that the tulip bulb and flowers are edible, a fact discovered by the Dutch during the famine at the end of World War II (Warning: the bitter yellow core of the bulb is poisonous.)

The Harrison Tulip Festival is 28 acres of delight for the eyes! It is their 18th year of production, but their first year in this new location in Agassiz. The 30+ varieties of 10 million tulip plantings were huge bands of brilliant colours. The backdrop of mountains really made the vista spectacular. There were also smaller fields of specialty double daffodils and hyacinths. Old-fashioned machinery, quaint bicycles, a decorative windmill, swings, and giant wooden shoes were dotted along the "Tulip Path". We enjoyed a leisurely food-truck lunch at the picnic area. Afterwards we checked out the "Secret Garden", a charming two acre show garden amongst fruit trees and flowering shrubs, with fritillaria punctuating the mixture of lovely daffodils, hyacinths, muscari, and varieties of tulips. The "Farm Shop" had small packs of "stroop waffles", but the focus was more on "Dutch" souvenir items and bulbs.

The entry fee (\$12 seniors) was reasonable, although if you purchase online the day before it is only \$9! It does take two hours to get there, whether the freeway or the Mission route. Nonetheless, thanks to Les, it was a very enjoyable day indeed!





## The Allure of Mah Jongg

By Mayling Stubbs

It began in a Hong Kong restaurant many years ago. The waitress explained that the great racket and bursts of laughter emanating from the mezzanine came from mah jongg players, whose shuffling of tiles at the end of each round created that clacking noise.

My immediate thought was that I'd look into learning the game if the option arose. And a decade or so later it did, when Port Moody offered an introduction at their Kyle Centre. Picking up the basics seemed relatively easy, although it took a while to master and speed up game play. Starting with a dealt 'hand' of colourful mixed tiles in numbered suits (distinguished by dots, bamboo icons, or Chinese characters ['craks']), as well as winds, dragons, and flowers, along with (hopefully) a joker or two, you try to match up your hand with one or two of winning options listed on the annual National Mah Jongg League card. You then wend your way through a wave of trading and picking up and then either keeping or discarding new tiles. The first person to match up all their tiles with one of the card's hands gets to call "mah jongg" and score a point or points for that round.

Now in my eighties, I still enjoy mah jongg, but I thought I'd get another 'voice' on reasons to play. So I asked my teenage grandson to call up ChatGPT and get its view on good reasons to learn mah jongg. Here's what it suggests, along with my own experiences.

- "Social interaction .... providing an opportunity for bonding and connection" is perhaps the most compelling reason to play mah jongg. The camaraderie and snacks provide a great morale boost as well as a good source of updates on friends, the neighbourhood, and the Village.
- "Mental stimulation: Mahjong requires strategic thinking, memory, and calculation skills, which can help keep your mind sharp and engaged." Both strategy and luck are involved. Having practice in making rapid decisions based on new circumstances is an entertaining way to protect against cognitive decline.
- "Relaxation and stress relief": Any of those pesky cares that can crop up during the week tend to recede during the temporary concentration required by the game.
- "Competitive challenging environment where players can test their skills against others, striving to improve and achieve victory." For those of us who enjoy a bit of competition in our lives, the reward of being able to declare a mah jongg victory makes it all worthwhile.
- "Cultural appreciation": The game dates back to 18th century China and probably earlier in various forms. It was popularized in the US during the 1920s and, as of 2010, is said to be Japan's most popular table game. You may have seen it being played in the film *Crazy Rich Asians*.

There are lots of good reasons to play mah jongg, perhaps the best being simply that it's a lot of fun!





## Letter to the Editor

### For Our Health

By Klaus Bever

In her recent book *Health for All* the former federal minister of health, Jane Philpot, reminds us that politics is a lot like medicine and that politicians are guided largely by the same inspirations and goals that guide physicians. Quoting Rudolf Virchow, Philpot goes on to conclude that politics is medicine on a larger scale. Whereas the physician's responsibility is the health of the individual patient, the politician's responsibility is the health of the community and the broader society that they serve.

While this idea is not new, there seems merit in re-applying this concept to our own village. The health and safety of villagers guides the decisions of our elected leaders. And, although the long term financial health of our community is a very important part of overall village health, we should remember the more immediate concerns.

Our elected politicians and their staff need our support to reduce the identified immediate risks for the coming wild-fire season. The hedges, brush, and trees that are fire fuel behind Main Avenue, along the major roadways, and around the Village perimeter need to be cut back, removed or thinned. The storage of the Tatlow water tank for the purposes of fire fighting capacity needs to be increased. Both of these projects need attention to completion, now.

Council and Village staff will welcome reminders from us that getting through this fire season gives us the time to fine-tune our thoughts on our future financial health. We can discuss potential future municipal property sales, later. We will argue later and long into the night, over more than just one bottle of wine, over who and how does one pay for fire halls. But today, we have to work on the coming fire season. For our health.

Reference: Philpot, Jane (2024) *Health for All*. Signal/McClelland & Stewart.

## New Ontario Court Justice with Belcarra Roots

Arun and Lori Garg are proud to share the following press release for the appointment of their son Davin to the Ontario Court Justice. Arun tells us that Davin is very proud of his Belcarra heritage and often talks about his growing up in Belcarra .



From [news.Ontario.ca](https://news.ontario.ca):

Justice Davin Michael Kumar Garg was called to the Ontario bar in 2013. Until 2016, Justice Garg was an assistant Crown attorney with the Crown attorney's office in Etobicoke. For the past eight years, Justice Garg was Crown counsel with the Crown Law Office – Criminal, conducting trials and appeals in both official languages and developing expertise in Charter litigation, commercial crime, and driving cases.

Between 2016 and 2021, Justice Garg volunteered with the Ontario Justice Education Network (OJEN) to help vulnerable youth who may have had negative experiences in the justice system. Justice Garg also helped with OJEN's "Défi de la Charte," a program that allows French-speaking high school students to explore Charter issues. Since 2021, Justice Garg has been a director on the board of the South Asian Bar Association of Toronto, supporting new and immigrant lawyers in their rise through the profession.

Justice Garg has been assigned to Hamilton.

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/bulletin/1004381/new-judges-appointed-to-the-ontario-court-of-justice>





## Letter to the Editor

### Anmore's Cale Hooker

By Karen Hall

Cale Hooker lives in Anmore and is a good friend of my son, Jackson Hall. Cale Hooker was at my house Thursday night, he flew to Mexico Friday morning, and now he is in hospital in Mexico.

A [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-cale-hooker-recover-from-critical-injuries-in-mexico?utm_campaign=p_cp+fundraiser-sidebar&utm_medium=sms&utm_source=customer) link, with the story of his assault, surgery, and recovery is below. His family is asking for help in covering Cale's medical expenses and facilitating his safe return to Canada.

Please do this for our community as my heart breaks for the Hooker family: Joe, Pam, Cabe, and Cale.

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-cale-hooker-recover-from-critical-injuries-in-mexico?utm\\_campaign=p\\_cp+fundraiser-sidebar&utm\\_medium=sms&utm\\_source=customer](https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-cale-hooker-recover-from-critical-injuries-in-mexico?utm_campaign=p_cp+fundraiser-sidebar&utm_medium=sms&utm_source=customer)



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Shearwater Manufacturing Ltd. Maple Ridge, British Columbia



Photo by John Willms — Solar Eclipse, Mazatlan (8 April, 2024)

## Hike for Crossroads Hospice

**Sunday, May 5**

Hike for Hospice is taking place on Sunday, May 5, 2024 from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm at the Port Moody Inlet Theatre. This event is to help promote the importance of hospice care and raise much needed funds for end-of-life care and grief support for our community.

Join thousands of others across Canada, hiking in support of hospice care and services. Hikers of all ages and abilities, along with their beloved four-legged friends, are invited to this fun community event!

Crossroads Hospice would like to raise \$50,000 with your help.

Sign up or Donate at:

<https://crossroadshospice.org/pages/hike-for-hospice>



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Tracey - 604-868-6494

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

# BONITA ZARRILLO

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

What my Community Office can help you with:

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

## Contact

PHONE:  
604-664-9229

WEBSITE:  
[BonitaZarrillo.ndp.ca](http://BonitaZarrillo.ndp.ca)

EMAIL:  
[Bonita.Zarrillo@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Bonita.Zarrillo@parl.gc.ca)

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ADDRESS:  
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Coquitlam, BC  
V3K 3P5

