

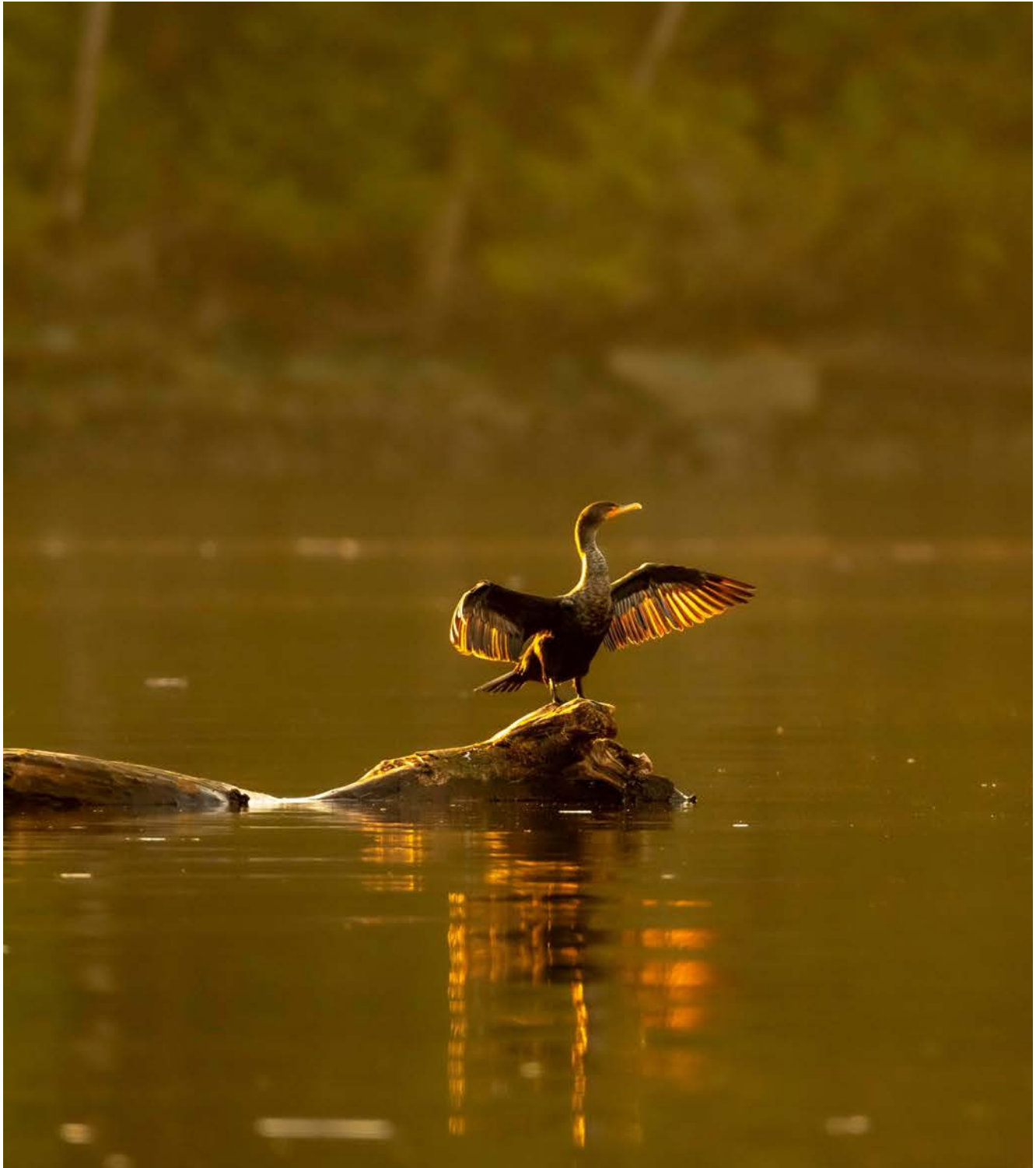


Belcarra Barnacle

October 2024

Belcarra's Community Newspaper

Volume 45 Issue 08





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 available at \$20.00 per year
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 We do not publish in January and August.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:

Editor: Dayna Fitz

Assistant Editor: Deneige Davis

Advertising: Sandra Rietchel

Treasurer and Distributor: Clive Evans

Members:

Michele Babineau

Nora Boekhout

Bonni Marshall

Deborah Struk

FROM THE EDITOR

We have lost a dear friend and a frequent contributor to the Barnacle. Mayling Stubbs died on September 14 after a brief illness.

I miss Mayling. Her bright and independent spirit, her enthusiasm for learning, her love of Belcarra, and her passion for the written word. Besides her keen eye for catching spelling, grammar, and the other niggling mistakes that frequent the pages of our paper, she gave our readership encouragement to take up Mahjong, sign up for an adult learning class, or just read a book (possibly one she recommended). This fall we were planning a trip to Italy. With Mayling's usual enthusiasm for something new, she decided, using an app, to learn Italian.

Last fall, at 81, she was hiking mountains with us in Jasper.

Mayling is a constant reminder to me, that age is only a number and we should hold our loved-ones close ❤️

Dayna Fitz

belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com



John and Mayling Stubbs - Little Fort, Jasper

A colour copy of the Belcarra Barnacle is available online: [Belcarra Barnacle](http://BelcarraBarnacle.com)

BELCARRA DIRECTORY

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SVFD Recruitment: sasamatrecruitment@gmail.com	

OCTOBER DATES

- 2 New Moon
- 3 CRAB Halloween Planning Meeting
- 7 Regular Council Meeting
- 7 Belcarra Garden Club
- 12 Regular Council Meeting
- 14 Happy Thanksgiving
- 17 Full (and Super!) Moon
- 26 Kids Halloween Party
- 31 Halloween
- 31 Fireworks in the Park

ON THE COVER

On our cover is a photo by Guilherme Carvalho (instagram mr.gphotographer). Guilherme, his partner, and his cat, have left our lovely village for photographic opportunities in Chilliwack. His photo is of a double-crested cormorant in Bedwell Bay.

From allaboutbirds.org:

Double-crested cormorants float low on the surface of water and dive to catch small fish. After fishing, they stand on docks, rocks, and tree limbs with wings spread open to dry. In flight, they often travel in V-shaped flocks that shift and reform as the birds alternate bursts of choppy flapping with short glides.

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

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Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) Communication System Upgrades

Jay Sharpe

One of the key factors to effective Emergency Scene Management is solid communications. Over the past several years, the Sasamat Fire Department noticed a decline in our inter-radio operability (trucks, portables, and base stations). This decline also affected our ability to communicate effectively with our Dispatch.

Supported by the Board of Trustees, we hired BC Communications Ltd. to conduct a comprehensive assessment of our radio system. Their assessment found that much of our equipment is reaching, or has reached, the end of its service life. In particular, they found that there was significant degradation of the antennas at both fire halls. Based on their recommendations, both antennas were replaced earlier this year. That part of the project came in under budget and we have noticed an improvement in radio performance.

The assessment identified other components, related to our dispatch system, that will need replacement over the next two years. For our dispatch service, we use the services of the Surrey Fire Department Regional Dispatch. Due to the distance between us and Surrey Dispatch, we were required to utilize a ROIP (radio over internet protocol) system. The hardware components required for this system, as with many other systems, are aging out of service.

In regards to our dispatch, Surrey provides dispatching services to over 50 fire departments in BC and Alberta and is extremely cost effective when compared to other regional dispatch systems (e.g. E-Comm).



Notes from the September Council Meetings Editor

Please be sure to visit the Village website www.belcarra.ca for copies of the reports and detailed minutes. Recordings of Council meetings are available on the Village YouTube site.

September 9 Council Meeting

The agenda for the regular Council meeting was amended with the release of two items from the September 9 closed Council meeting:

1. Letter dated September 6, 2024 from John McEwen, Mayor, Village of Anmore, regarding the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Service Review
2. Letter dated July 31, 2024 from Anne Kang, Minister of Municipal Affairs, regarding the Village of Belcarra's request for a service review for the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department; and further

Copies of these letters and other SVFD service correspondence can be found at <https://belcarra.ca/municipal-hall/svfd-service-correspondence/>

The West Road recreational site (tennis courts) was discussed. Staff requested approval to proceed with engaging a project manager. Council directed staff to request quotes from three organizations experienced with this type of rehabilitation work. Following receipt of such information, Council will reconsider the request to engage a project manager. Related to this topic, in the question and answer period, the gallery was assured that public input will be sought should the item move ahead.

The following Bylaws were adopted:

- Fire Prevention and Regulation Bylaw No. 627, 2024
- Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 517, 2018, Amendment Bylaw No. 629, 2024
- Notice Enforcement Bylaw No. 520, 2018, Amendment Bylaw No. 630, 2024

Council Notes continued on page 5

Council Notes continued from page 4

The Chief Administration Officer (CAO) provided an update on the Active Transportation Network Plan Request for Proposal (RFP). The successful contractor is Bunt & Associates Engineering Ltd., a company with experience in developing active transportation plans for smaller and lower density communities.

The CAO reported that Metro Vancouver is encouraging public engagement pertaining to their 2025 Budget & Five Year Financial Plan and that a link has been posted on the Village's website to allow residents to participate in the process.

The CAO confirmed that the Village of Belcarra's Regional Context Statement (Official Community Plan) will be moved forward to a meeting of the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors on September 27.

September 23 Council Meeting

School Trustee Kerri Palmer Isaak, provided an update for School District No. 43.

The Village of Belcarra proclaimed October 2, 2024, as "Wrongful Conviction Day". The Hall will be illuminated in yellow on that date.

The CAO and Sohi Consulting & Code Solutions provided a report for information titled "Amendments to and extension of Temporary Use Permit, TUP #2019-01 for 8 Corners Canada Inc." 8 Corners is a subsidiary of the Evangelical Laymen's Church (ELC) located on the old "Camp Howdy" site in Farrer Cove. The CAO and Sohi recommended that the TUP be extended for one term not to exceed three years. Council directed staff to prepare the amendments to the TUP for consideration at the next Council meeting. The amendments are to accommodate additional commercial activities (festivals).

A contract for the Marine Avenue Road Rehabilitation Project, will be awarded to Save on Blacktop in the amount of \$294,246.33 including taxes.

Council has approved a 10% contingency of \$30,000 for potential variations in field conditions and approved additional funding for ISL Engineering of \$13,300 to provide for full-time inspection and monitoring throughout the construction phase.

Stewart Novak and ISL presented for information, a report on the "Bedwell Bay and Kelly Road Upgrade Project Update – Class D Cost Estimate and Concept Design". The Bedwell Bay Road and Kelly Road Upgrade Project (BBUP) is intended to improve safety for vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic. The project includes a replacement gabion wall, road adjustments, pedestrian walkways, and catch basins. Project funding is through TransLink and the Growing Communities Fund. Completion date is December 2027. ISL Engineering provided a cost estimate of \$1,724,310 which includes a 40% contingency. More detailed information will be brought forward.

The "New Tatlow Reservoir Chlorination System Design Brief" prepared by WSP was received for information. The cost estimate for the construction phase of the chlorination system is \$173,900. The plan will be submitted to Fraser Health for approval. Staff have begun training for their new responsibilities.

A letter from Mayor Ross and Council, regarding the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Service Review, was sent to the Village of Anmore on September 20. A copy of the letter is available here <https://belcarra.ca/assets/media/2024/09/2024-09-20-Sasamat-Volunteer-Fire-Department-Service-Review.pdf>.



Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) Board of Trustees Meeting

Editor

A meeting of the SVFD Board of Trustees was held on September 5 at the Anmore Community Hub. The agenda link for the meeting is at <https://anmore.com/community/safety/police-and-fire-services/>.

The following is from my notes. All errors and omissions are my own.

New Fire Hall Design and Construction

Liberty Construction Group (<https://libertycontractmanagement.com>) presented on the design and construction of two new fire halls, one in Anmore and one in Belcarra. Liberty included the following features for a new fire hall in Belcarra: 5,500 to 6,000 square feet (SF), three back-in equipment bays, a training room, kitchen and lounge area, health and fitness area, and a dorm area for 2-3 people. Their proposal for a new fire hall in Anmore includes 11,000 to 12,500 SF and six equipment bays. Next steps for Liberty include completing the 3D renderings and finalizing budgets. From the questions that followed: Liberty has capacity to take on the construction of both halls in the next year. They provided an estimated time line of 14 months, from start to finish, for the hall in Belcarra, and 16-17 months for the hall in Anmore. Trustees indicated that they would prefer residences, to dorm areas, in the design. The new halls will be located on current hall properties. Temporary facilities are required during demolition and construction. The Liberty presentation will be given to Council.

SVFD Service Review

Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) provided a verbal update on the SVFD service review process. The review was requested by Belcarra to discuss the apportionment of capital costs and recovery structure for the SVFD service. The authority for MVRD to operate the SVFD comes from a series of Supplementary Letters Patent (SLP) granted in the 1980s.

Legislation has since changed and service agreements are now documented in bylaws.

The MVRD will author a bylaw based on the existing SLP. The bylaw will be used for the service review. One representative each from Anmore, Belcarra, and the MVRD will provide the service review. A preliminary meeting must be held by October 17, 2024. The SVFD, not the MVRD, is responsible for the costs of the service review. The possible outcomes to a review are: an amended bylaw, an unamended bylaw, or parties withdrawing from the service agreement. During the discussion, Anmore Trustees indicated that they are unlikely to want amendments to the service, and Belcarra Trustees indicated that they would like to proceed with a discussion/review.

MVRD stated that the service review is separate from the fire hall design and construction schedule. MVRD is moving forward with the design and cost estimate.

The Board carried a motion that bylaw development costs are to be paid by the SVFD service budget and that costs for the service review are to Belcarra's account. Belcarra's Trustees voted against.

Fire Hall Borrowing Process and Budget Impact

MVRD presented a report titled "Borrowing Process and Budget Impact for the Construction of New Fire Halls" (the full report is available in the agenda of meeting). The construction costs are projected in the range of \$14 million (M) to \$20M. MVRD provided four scenarios to capture the low end and high end of the projected costs over a 20-year, and then a 30-year loan period. For all scenarios, the debt service costs were assumed as shared 50/50 between the two communities. The projected incremental per household impact ranges from \$510 to \$925 for Anmore and \$905 to \$1,655 for Belcarra [*chart "Annual Incremental Household Impact Over Life of the Loan on page 7*]

Although not available at the time of printing, a recording of the meeting and the minutes will be available at the agenda link.

Trustees Meeting continued page 7

Trustees Meeting continued from page 6

Annual Incremental Household Impact Over Life of the Loan

Loan Amount	14M	20M	14M	20M	
Loan Term	20 years	20 years	30 years	30 years	
Anmore	\$650.00	\$925.00	\$510.00	\$730.00	
Belcarra	\$1155.00	\$1655.00	\$905.00	\$1295.00	

Long-term borrowing rate: 4%



SVFD IS SEEKING FIRE FIGHTERS!



Would you like to contribute to the safety of our community in a meaningful way?

The Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department is looking for residents who would be interested in becoming volunteer firefighters.

This challenging opportunity isn't for everyone but, for those who follow through, there is no greater reward than helping a neighbour in their time of need.

Our members are required to fulfil the role of first responder to a variety of emergencies which include, but are not limited to, these events:

- Fires - structural, forest, vehicle
- House alarms
- Medical emergencies
- Motor vehicle accidents
- Wires down
- Gas leaks

On average, our department responds to 120 - 130 calls per year. We will train you so that you're prepared to work in all those emergency situations.

As a member, you will be expected to train once per week. Once you receive your pager, you will be expected to respond to calls when you are available to do so.

Our basic criteria include:

- Resident of Belcarra or Anmore
- Between 18 to 55 years of age
- Fit and in good health
- Clean driving record
- No criminal record

If you're up for a challenge and want to participate in the safety of your community, this may be the opportunity you're looking for.

If interested, submit your application online at svfd.ca



Down by the Bay

by Clive Evans

Where the birds all sing and the flowers bloom.
What have you seen in your garden lately?

No notice of seeing a bear in its underwear lately but this is surely the time that they start to fatten up for the big sleep. More exciting though is the various sightings of dolphins in the bay, which is almost historic.

The conical hydrangeas have changed from light green to pink and the last blooms of the weigelia and Madame Alfred, our white climbing rose, may be the end of flowering this season.

Oh, and one last flower of our standard pink rose is to be adored. The flowering quince leaves are changing from yellow to pink so apart from the pink Autumn Joy all that is left is our greens of all shades. Raspberries are still producing some good size fruit, the apples are just about finished, arugula is still going strong as is the lemon balm, and the runner beans that did survive have been prolific.

Doing a bird count each day provides some amusement watching the many varieties with the new feathers on the towhees and Stellar's jays noticeable, and the occasional sighting of a pileated woodpecker, but no shows of our bald-headed eagles yet. It is the time of year for mass migration of birds, so I will be keeping a close eye on any new showings.

You're Invited

WALKING WITH BEARS & SPIRIT My Sacred Journey to Joy

We invite you to an uplifting afternoon talk centred on finding joy, healing, and fulfillment in life, lead by wildlife documentary filmmaker, author, and intuitive energy healer, Susan Turner. Enjoy a selection of afternoon refreshments and snacks, including an array of delicious plant-based culinary creations!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17th
Belcarra Village Hall

\$35
*per ticket

*All proceeds benefiting the Wild Heart Spirit Foundation.

Register online at:

<https://wildheartspiritheart.com/walking-with-bears-and-spirit-my-sacred-journey-to-joy/>

Or email CRAB4084@gmail.com, to reserve your spot!



HOSTED BY C.R.A.B.

POTLUCK PICNIC IN THE PARK

Thank you Sue Brain and Andrea Jauck for hosting CRAB's 6th Potluck in the Park!

The food was fantastic, the weather was sunny, and it was fun to catch-up with our neighbours.



We'd love to have more folks participate. Let us know if you have some suggestions.



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Ruby-crowned Kinglet
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Blue Heron - Photo by Corinna Goodman



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Funky Funghi
Photos by CBap



Blue-eyed Darner Dragonfly
Photo by Les Bramley
See BGC article page 17

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Village News



THE BELCARRA GARDEN CLUB

Our last meeting for 2024 will be held on Monday, October 7 at 2 pm at the Belcarra Picnic Shelters.

We will do our annual plant and seed exchange.

Our three trips this year worked out well. We had beautiful weather for each of them.

We will take the winter off and resume our BGC meetings in May.

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

Happy Gardening!



Village of Belcarra Resident Directory



CRAB is updating the Resident Directory for publication in early 2025

The directory is a super-handly, old-fashioned (paper!) listing of resident names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails.

A boat has broken loose and all you know is that it belongs to 'John on Main'... you receive a neighbour's delivery and want to let them know... you are looking for a local babysitter... Not a problem, IF you have a copy of the directory!

Please email crab4084@gmail.com to update your listing, add yourself to the directory, or let us know if folks have joined or left our Village.



CRAB CORNER

By Penny Moen



I hope everyone had a great summer.

Thanks to everyone who gathered with their neighbours in Belcarra Park for our potluck lunch.

We are now in cooler weather and looking forward to our Halloween party for the little ones on Saturday, October 26 at 2:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. Put on your costumes! There will be treats and fun so make sure you mark the date in your calendar. We are looking for volunteers and ideas for the party and are hosting a planning meeting on Thursday, October 3 at 7 p.m. at the Village Hall. Please come out and help us plan this fun event.

Finally, the month will end with a bang! We are again hosting Halloween fireworks in the park. Start time at 8 p.m. Don't forget your flashlights! It's dark on the roads and paths of Belcarra.

The full moon on October 17 will be the closest supermoon of the year... which means that this moon will be bigger and brighter than ever!



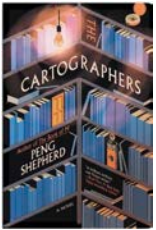
H is For Hawk by Helen MacDonal

A unique memoir - the author details her experiences training a falcon as she deals with the loss of her beloved father. That is much too simple a description for how great this book truly is. It deserves all its awards — a beautifully written description of a piece of nature, intertwined with musings, both historical and personal. CB



The Cartographers by Peng Sheperd

Early mapmakers often put fake cities in their maps to detect whether their maps have been copied. Is it a miracle when one of these cities becomes real? After the death of her father, Nell Young discovers a seemingly worthless gas station map. She soon finds out that the map is extremely valuable and rare. Why? Nell can't resist investigating. One of the books I listened to a long time ago, but always remember it as a page turner and very exciting! CG



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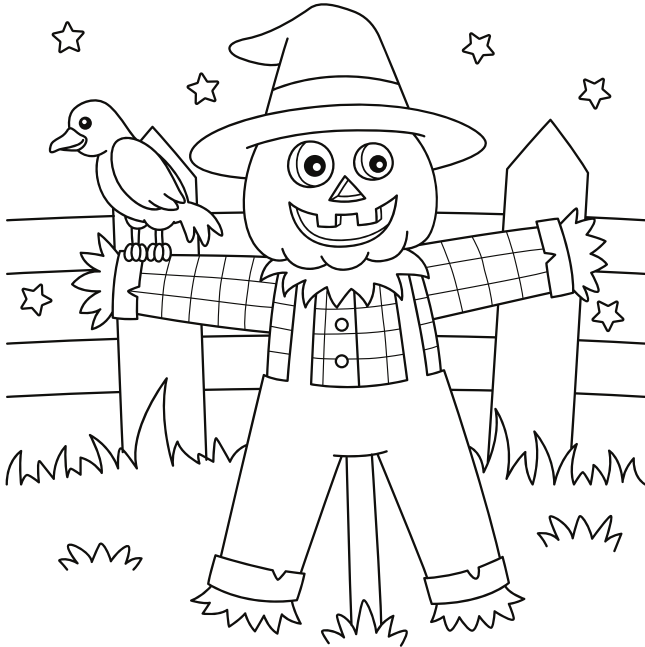
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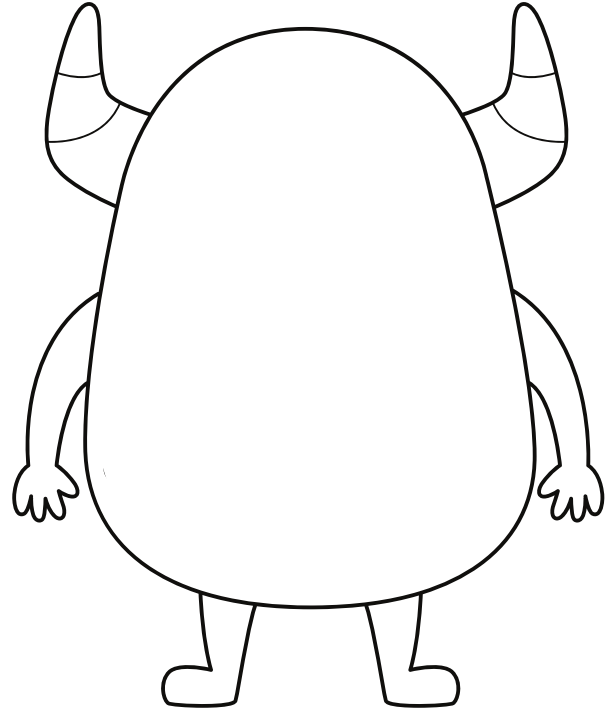


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Draw and colour in your own monster's face!



COSTUME PARTY!
 SATURDAY 2:00- VILLAGE
 OCT 26TH 4:00^{PM} HALL

A QUICK QUIZ TO *Fall* IN LOVE WITH

WHICH OF THESE ANIMALS COLLECTS FOOD DURING FALL AND STORES TO EAT IN WINTER?

a) Bear b) Squirrel c) Cougar

2. WHAT IS ANOTHER NAME FOR FALL?

Bonus: Can you spell it?


3. WHICH OF THESE FRUITS IS READY TO EAT IN FALL?

a) Apples b) Strawberries c) Nectarines

4. IS A PUMPKIN A FRUIT OR A VEGETABLE?

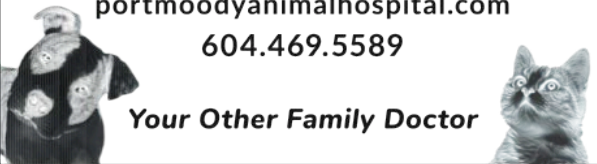
1. B Squirrels!
 2. Autumn
 3. Apples! (strawberries in Spring, Nectarines in summer)
 4. A fruit! Because it grows from a flower, it is botanically a fruit!

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Village Hall



HALLOWEEN costume party

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HAPPY 
Thanksgiving





Belcarra Blessings By Deborah Struk

A glorious welcome to autumn. It is kind of funny how the words, 'land of the silver birch, home of the beaver, where still the mighty moose'... always evoke an autumn scene in my mind, not spring, winter or summer. I love the fall, especially when we are blessed with beautiful summer-like days.

We are very blessed to have family here with us. I invited Harper to tell me a story of her Belcarra Blessings. Here is her 'mostly' unedited voice.

I love being in Belcarra because I can swim in Nana's and Jean's grandma's pool. I really love the faerie Nana does with her fingers. At the park, I love to go down the big slide, the fire pole, and the tiny ladder. I love pumping on the swings, I wish we had big swings at the park. It's so sad. I like to draw with a stick in the sand at the beaches. I love to go to Maple Beach and the Energy Trail. I did that today. I love to watch for birds and bears in the forest. I love picnics at the beach with my Nana. I love finding cool rocks at the beach and finding polypores and mushrooms of all kinds. I got to see whales spouting water and otters on the dock. I stayed in the tent with Nana and we saw Starlink. I loved sleeping in the tent by the ocean, I'm serious. I love looking for Easter Eggs. I love when Uncle picks me up and gives me a big hug. My favourite thing in Belcarra is my snuggles with Nana.

In closing, from our house to yours, may abundant blessing flow to you during this month of Thanksgiving. We do have much to be thankful for.

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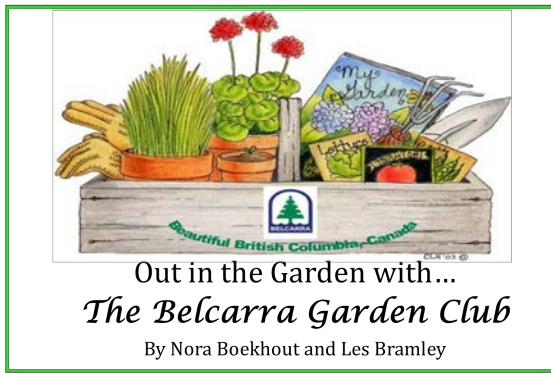


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"Just a GREAT job"



This monthly meeting focused on the little critters sharing our gardens with us... particularly bugs! Les started us off with impressive photos of a large blue-eyed damner dragonfly, an important predator of mosquitos! We all noticed a sad decline in visiting butterflies this year but there were mixed views on the number of bees present. As always, we all had many unwanted insect pests to deal with, and Les focused on the brown marmorated stink bug. So... "good bugs, bad bugs" is a great topic for any gardener! Marilyn Holt, from Buckerfields, notes that beneficial critters should consist of predators, parasitoids, and pollinators. Lacewings, ladybugs, bees, butterflies, spiders, ground beetles and bombardier beetles, centipedes, damselflies, hoverflies, and earthworms are all in this list of "beneficial critters".

Sometimes identification or sorting apart can be tricky. Brown marmorated stink bugs (bad!) look like spined soldier bugs (good!) Check for rounded shoulders and white banded antennae (bad!) Ladybugs with 26 or 28 spots are actually "bad" because they eat plants! Sowbugs (pillbugs) may also feed on young plants.

While ants are a nuisance, they also act as nature's garbage collectors. Earthworms are of great benefit in home gardens but they are having disastrous effects on our native forests.

The real "Baddies" are numerous: aphids, apple worms, black vine beetles and chafer beetles, cabbage moths, carrot flies, cut worms, earwigs, fruit flies, fungus gnats, grasshoppers, hornworm caterpillars, Japanese beetles, leaf miners, mealy bugs, mosquitoes, slugs and snails, whiteflies, wireworms, and so much more! What to do? Oh my! Les confided that he has a secret ally in his garden... garter snakes! Not all of us are so lucky (hmm?), but we do our best to attract the predators and not use harmful chemicals. Better yet, is the concept of companion planting. You can also make homemade garlic sprays.

Please check our website for lots of good ideas!
<http://tinyurl.com/rwcf9b85>





This recipe is adapted from Marian Burros' "Original Plum Torte" published in the New York Times. It's a simple cake for an afternoon coffee or tea.

For our test run, we used Italian prune plums and a 9 inch springform pan. It took about 35 minutes to bake in a counter-top oven.

Ingredients

3/4 c sugar
 1/2 c unsalted butter (softened)
 1 c all-purpose flour (sifted)
 1 tsp baking powder
 Pinch of salt (optional)
 2 eggs
 1 tsp vanilla
 12 or so pitted plums, cut in half
 Sugar and cinnamon to sprinkle on top

1. Heat oven to 350
2. Cream sugar and butter together. Add flour, baking powder, salt, vanilla, and eggs and beat well (*hand-whisk works*).
3. Spoon the batter into a prepared springform pan. Place the plum halves skin side up on top of the batter. *Use lots of plums but leave a bit of space around each one.* Sprinkle lightly with sugar depending on the sweetness of the fruit. Sprinkle with a 1/2 to 1 tsp of cinnamon (*personal cinnamon choice*).
4. Bake.

Note:

Plant-based margarine instead of butter worked fine in this recipe. Just don't add the optional salt.

'Stories from the Archives — Old Jack Staves Off Civilization'

by Moira Farrow

Source: Vancouver Sun, Saturday, March 3rd, 1973,
 page 1. Researched by: Ralph Drew, Belcarra, BC,
 May 2024.

Trapper Jack David is fighting a losing battle with civilization. Logging has killed-off the animals that used to be his livelihood. Road construction has muddied the river where he used to catch salmon. And B.C. Hydro spraying has wiped-out his potato patch.

"It's a dog-eat-dog life, I guess," said 73-year-old David in an interview Friday [March 2, 1973] at his log cabin home on the Indian River. "But I'm not moving."

The big bearded trapper first came into the country at the head of Indian Arm in 1920. He liked the look of the rugged land immediately, but had an urge to see the world.

"I wanted to try the deep water," said David who was born on Vancouver Island. "So, I went away to sea — sail, steam and motor ships — for 10 years and then I came back here."

Since 1930 he has led a double life, spending the winters in the bush trapping and the summers in the city as a painter and decorator. "I had a family to raise, you see, so I got a place in town, but I like the freedom out here and I spend most of my time here," said David. He has three married sons, 12 grandchildren and one great grandchild. His wife lives at his house in Burnaby, but all members of the family are frequent visitors to the cabins in the bush.

"Four of us shared the trapline in here originally." Said David. "We had 90-square-miles [233 km²] of country, the timber was thick and the trapping was very good. We got mink, martin, weasel and wolverine. There were quite a few wolves and cougars around in those days and they kept the animals in balance. A cougar enjoys eating a wolf pup and vice versa."

But things have changed for David and his way of life in the 43 years he has lived in the forest beside the Indian River.

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Weldwood of Canada Ltd. began logging there about 13 years ago [1960] and B.C. Hydro slashed a right-of-way for its transmission lines that run only 100 yards [100 m] or so from the cabin door.

"The trapping's very poor now because of the logging," he said. "When the timber's cleared, there's no place left for the animals to live. When they burn the slash, the small animals take shelter in the rock slides and get cooked. And when the mice, squirrels and rabbits are all burned-up, there is nothing for the big animals to live on."

David used to be able to take a fish out of the Indian River whenever he felt like it in the old days. "But all this road building for the loggers muddied-up the river and now there's very few fish of any species in there except for the odd steelhead," he said.

He had just about learned to live with the loggers when the next blow came — B.C. Hydro sprayed the right-of-way near his cabin. "I had a quarter-acre of potatoes and the spray cleaned them right out," he said.

"And it also killed off all my strawberries. Sure, I complained to Hydro and they said they'd give me a sack or two of spuds, but that was the last I ever heard from them. I never got no spuds. That potato patch would have kept me all winter and I was going to give a lot of them away."

Even though the hydro lines run almost over the top of David's cabin, it has no power. He uses a coal oil lamp for light and a wood stove for heat. To get fuel, he floats a log down the river and then packs it into his camp.

To keep up with the civilization that was crowding in on him, David bought a snowmobile and a trail bike and now rides along the logging roads that were once his trapping trails.

"They were originally animal trails, but I used them for trapping and then the logging company came along, widened them, gravelled them, and said they were their roads," he said.

He used to have a network of trails through the mountains and valleys and a string of 14 cabins for overnight shelter.

"But now there's only four or five left in the mountains — some fell down and some went with the logging." David still uses two cabins in the Indian River Valley, one in the woods by the transmission lines and the other on the bank of the river near the Weldwood camp.

"They are very good to me at the camp cookhouse, they tell me to come on in, I'm welcome there any time," he said. "But they imported a dog into the camp and it chased off some of my pet raccoons that live under my other cabin." David said the raccoons will now only appear when he's home because they know his footsteps. "I call all them coons Joe," he said. "Last night I was down there and hollered 'Come on out Joe' and three of them came running."

Animals mean far more to David than the skins to be sold at the fur auction. He's surrounded by them all the time. He has two dogs and two cats, and an evergreen by his cabin door is festooned like a Christmas tree with pieces of fat for the birds. "The cats have to work for a living keeping the mice down," he joked. "Animals are cannibalistic. They eat each other all the time. A rat even ate the tail off my Davy Crockett hat."

David is the only person living in the area apart from the loggers and he is not going to budge now.



Trail Bike - Useful for trapper Jack David



BONITA ZARRILLO

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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.

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