



Belcarra Barnacle

December 2024

Belcarra's Community Newspaper

Volume 45 Issue 10





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

Email: 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 is the 20th of the month.

Out of Town Delivery is 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 We do not publish in January and August.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: Clive Evans

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FROM THE EDITOR

Our last edition of 2024, a time to be reflective and grateful. We wouldn't have a community paper without the generous efforts of our volunteers and our contributors. Thank you!

In 2023, CRAB and the Village both gave us donations to keep us publishing when our funds ran short and we were dipping into Clive Evans' personal bank account. This year, we can report that we did not need assistance. Thanks to the support of our advertisers, we now have funds to publish well into 2025. We appreciate their support and hope you do too.

Thank you for reading the Barnacle!

Happy Holidays!

Dayna Fitz

belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com



ADVERTISING RATES

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

	Per Month	5 Issues	10 Issues
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Card (2" x 3")	\$24	\$90	\$144
1/4 Page	\$30	\$108	\$180
1/2 Page	\$60	\$240	\$360
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Classified 3 Lines	\$ 6		
COLOUR			
1 Page (Back Page)	\$270	\$1200	\$2280
1/2 Page (Centre)	\$180	\$840	\$1680

Please send ads in PDF, jpeg, or tif format to:

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To Advertise Contact:

Sandra srietchel422@gmail.com

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

BELCARRA DIRECTORY

Belcarra Village Hall www.belcarra.ca	604 937 4100
CRAB (Penny Moen) CRAB4084@gmail.com	604-727-2510
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	

ON THE COVER

On our cover is a photo from Dan Greenwood's Facebook page "Santa's Christmas Ships". Thank you Dan and the Santa Ship captains who sail our local waters providing festive cheer.



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**IMPORTANT DATES
DECEMBER 2024**

- 2 Public Budget Consultation — 6:00 PM
- 2 Regular Council Meeting — 7:00 PM
- 5 CRAB AGM and Holiday Social — 6:30 PM
- 13 Santa's Ships - Farrer Cove and Bedwell Bay
- 14 Santa in Belcarra Park — 7:15 PM
- 15 Anmore Youth Bingo — 6:30 PM at the Hub
- 15 Full Cold Moon
- 21 Winter Solstice
- 25 Christmas Day
- 25 Hanukkah Begins
- 26 Boxing Day
- 30 New Moon
- 31 New Year's Eve

JANUARY 2025

- 1 New Year's Day
- 2 Hanukkah Ends
- 13 Full Moon
- 14 Orthodox New Year
- 20 Inauguration Day in US
- 27 Regular Council Meeting
- 29 New Moon
- 29 Chinese New Year

Full Cold Moon

The full moon in December is called the "Cold Moon" because of the cold temperatures and long nights that occur around this time of year.

December is often the coldest month in the Northern Hemisphere, and the full moon in December is associated with the official start of winter.

Notes from the November Council Meetings Editor

For copies of the reports and detailed minutes, visit the Village website at www.belcarra.ca. Recordings of Council meetings are available on [the Village YouTube site](#).

November 4 Council Meeting

Council accepted for information the "Audit Planning Report for the year ending December 31, 2024", prepared by KPMG.

Council accepted for information the WSP Canada Inc. report titled, "The Village of Belcarra Water System Capital Works Plan". The report provides information on refining fire flow requirements using Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) calculations and identifies options that may improve water system capacity for fire flow events. Highlights: FUS requires higher fire flow than the 90L/s [outlined in the previous WSP analysis "Village of Belcarra Hydraulic Water Model Development Report" (2022)]. The fire flow required for the village hall is 117L/s and for the fire hall 100L/s. WSP's calculations applied a 50% reduction factor assuming the installation of automatic sprinkler systems in both buildings and the removal of trees from a 20 meter area surrounding the buildings. Options for improving fire flow included increasing water main size and increasing water reservoir capacity.

Council accepted for information the report titled "Strategic Plan Update" from Paula Richardson, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), and Ken Bjorgaard, Financial Consultant. Changes to the strategic plan included the delay of water metering and WARD improvements to 2025, and the addition of the construction of new fire halls and the potential development of road ends.

Council accepted for information the CAO's report titled "Quarterly Department Reports - for Quarter ending September 30, 2024".

The Village of Belcarra Council Indemnity Bylaw No. 631, 2024 was read a first, second, and third time. The proposed change for Mayor and Council is a 3% increase in line with data from Statistics Canada (Vancouver CPI increase for the 12-month period ending August 31, 2024, was 3%).

The CAO expressed appreciation of the work done by the members of the Official Community Plan Review Committee. The Committee's work is complete upon the adoption of the Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 631, 2024. Council approved the dissolution of the Committee.

Council accepted for information "Responses to Resident Questions re: Belcarra Water Distribution System" from Stewart Novak. This report was in response to Ian Devlin's letter (November issue of the "Barnacle").

The CAO reported that Belcarra Day (June 9, 2024) came in under budget and that \$775 was raised for the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department. She thanked CRAB for their work done in organizing the event. As a co-sponsor, CRAB provided 50% of the entertainment funding for the event.

November 18 Council Meeting

A decision to take next steps towards the installation of a sprinkler system at the village hall is deferred until February 2025.

The report titled "Draft Long-Term (2025 – 2029) Financial Plan and Projected 2024 Year-End Budget Variances" was presented by Ken Bjorgaard, Financial Consultant. Council approved two options for property tax and utility increases to be presented at the public consultation meeting scheduled for December 2.

Option A

6% increase in property taxes, 7% increase in water user rates, and 20% increase in WARD user rates (for 2025)

Option B

8% increase in property taxes, 7% increase in water user rates, and 20% increase in WARD user rates (for 2025)

Notes continued on page 5

Notes continued from page 4

Council approved the purchase of a 2024 New Holland Power Star 90 Tractor and a Tiger RBM Three Point Hitch Boom Mower attachment. The total cost is \$225,000.

Council approved the 2025 Regular Council Meeting and Acting Mayor schedules.

Council approved the reappointment, for 2025, of Mayor Ross, Councillor Clark, and Councillor Wilder as trustees to the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) Board .

The Village of Belcarra Council Indemnity Bylaw No. 631, 2024 was adopted.



VILLAGE OF BELCARRA
Holiday Office Closure



The Village office will be closed as of noon on December 24, and reopening on Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 8:00 am.



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Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) Board of Trustees Meeting Editor

A meeting of the SVFD Board of Trustees was held on November 20, at the Anmore Community Hub. Agendas, minutes, and meeting recordings are available on the Anmore Village website <https://anmore.com/community/safety/police-and-fire-services/>.

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

The board amended the September 5 minutes to include the individual trustee votes related to the motion carried to assign the costs of the service review to Belcarra.

New Fire Halls - Conceptual Design and Budget

Liberty Construction provided an update on their conceptual designs and budget estimates for two new fire halls.

The concept for the Belcarra fire hall: a 5500 to 6000 square feet (SF) building. A simple structure to blend into the existing hillside. There is a new retaining wall, parallel to the hillside and running the length of the fire hall and parking area. The building has three back-in apparatus bays to accommodate up to three vehicles; a training room; three dorm/sleeping accommodations; and common living space including a kitchen, lounge, and health and fitness area.

The concept for the Anmore fire hall: a 11,000 to 12,500 SF building. The design includes three double drive through apparatus bays to accommodate up to six vehicles; a training room; three dorm/sleeping accommodations; and common living space including a kitchen, lounge, and health and fitness area.

The new halls have larger footprints than the existing buildings. Common spaces are located on the second floors of both halls.

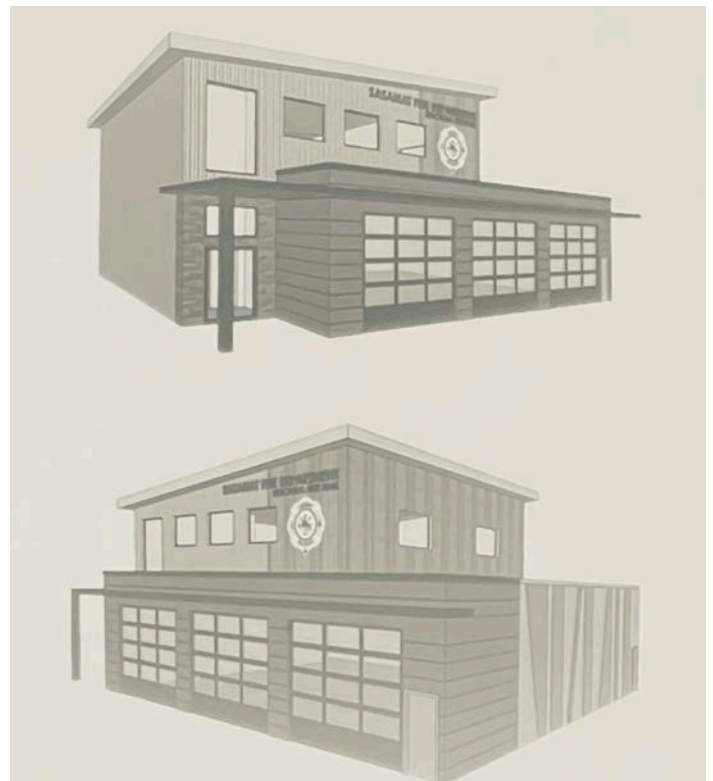
The total estimated cost for the Belcarra fire hall is just under \$7,700,000.

The total estimated cost for the Anmore fire hall is \$13,500,000.

These numbers include items like demolition, ground preparation, construction, an energy model, engineering, septic, and finishings. The goal was to try and estimate costs for a complete project.

Liberty provided estimates for optional items like emergency generators, solar power, and rain collection.

Liberty did not provide estimates for the temporary fire facilities that will be required during construction (the existing buildings will be demolished to make room for the new halls).



3D By Liberty Construction Group

What the new Belcarra fire hall could look like

SVFD Service Review

Metro staff provided a verbal update.

The preliminary meeting for the service review was held on September 27. Anmore Mayor John McEwan, Belcarra Mayor Jamie Ross, and Metro Vancouver Board (MVRD) Chair Mike Hurley attended.

Fire Trustee continued on page 7

Fire Trustee continued from page 6

The Village of Belcarra’s request for a service review will consider the following three options for the allocation of capital costs:

1. Apportionment based on the net taxable value of land and improvements for each municipality
2. Apportionment based on the size of the geographical area of each municipality
3. Apportionment based on the population size of each municipality

To date, Metro has gathered the following information:

1. Net taxable value of land and improvements (property assessments) pending
2. Geographical area — 72% Anmore / 28% Belcarra
3. Population size — 77% Anmore / 23% Belcarra

November 26, 2024, is the 60 day deadline for the start of the service review negotiations.

Service Conversion Bylaw

Metro staff have now completed the service conversion bylaw which replaces the Letters Patent. The conversion bylaw will be presented to the MVRD for three readings on November 29, 2024.

Provided the bylaw receives the three readings, it will be forwarded to the Village of Anmore and the Village of Belcarra for their approval by Council resolution (participating area consent).

It is unknown at this point how long it will take for participating area consent to be granted. After participating area consent is obtained, the bylaw will be forwarded to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval.

MVRD has been responsible for the work and cost to develop the service conversion bylaw. The work has been completed using Metro staff and internal legal services. To date, there have been no extra costs to the SVFD.

Service Review Costs

Metro staff provided the following clarification: the cost of a service review is subject to [Section 356 \(1\)\(c\) of the Local Government Act](#);

“(c) in the case of costs incurred by the board, the costs are deemed to be costs of the service and must be apportioned and recovered from the service area on the same basis as other costs of the service.”

Further, any changes to the budget of the service must be approved by Anmore and Belcarra directors at an MVRD Board meeting.

Update to Household Impact Estimates

Metro staff presented updated household impact information which shows an increase (see table below) for Belcarra residences. Their calculations are now based on 332 taxable parcels (revised from 448) in Belcarra. In previous calculations, Metro staff had counted the ocean property fronting a regular lot, like those along Marine Avenue, as a taxable parcel.

Annual Incremental Household Impact Over Life of the Loan

Loan Amount	\$10 Million	\$14 Million	\$20 Million	\$10 Million	\$14 Million	\$20 Million
Term	20 Years	20 Years	20 Years	30 Years	30 Years	30 Years
Anmore	\$ 465	\$ 650	\$ 925	\$ 365	\$ 510	\$ 730
Belcarra	\$ 1,110	\$ 1,555	\$ 2,220	\$ 870	\$ 1,215	\$ 1,735

Figures in the table are based on the current capital apportionment of 50/50 (Letters Patent/Service Conversion Bylaw). A 4% long-term debt rate is assumed.

Remembrance Day Ceremony November 11 Belcarra Park

Thank you to the Port Moody Power Squadron (PMPS) and Dan Greenwood for providing a moving Remembrance Day Ceremony. People lining the pier and on the beach at Belcarra park listened to recordings of remembrances of war, readings by Anmore Scouts and PMPS members, an original poem, and then witnessed the laying of wreaths on the water.



The Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Honour Guard and members of the North Vancouver Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue team provided a salute during the last post and two minutes of silence.

After the ceremony, folks gathered at the park picnic shelters where Shelley Herron provided a delicious lunch. With help from PMPS and CRAB, she fed 180 people.



Photos submitted by Dan Greenwood (Facebook Belcarra Together)

**‘Stories from the Archives —
Advances Plan For Indian Arm Crossing
Researched By:
Ralph Drew, Belcarra, BC, November 2024.
Source: Vancouver Province, Tuesday, January
20th, 1931, page 17**

Adequate rail and general traffic connections between the North Shore and the mainland, without necessity of a bridge on the main harbour, is embraced in a plan suggested by Mr. B. W. Greer, prominent shipping man of the port and former president of the Vancouver Merchants' Exchange.

Mr. Greer recommends a bridge across North Arm, just beyond Dollarton Island [sic. Boulder Island], for rail connections and a tunnel from Coal Harbour under the inside entrance of First Narrows. He amplifies these suggestions by drawing attention to the possibility of tremendous increase in Vancouver's scenic highways, reclamation of large areas of industrial lands, and reduction of present traffic congestion on streets and rail lines in the city.

"A bridge, and two links, crossing at Boulder Island, 2000 feet [610 m] and 1900 feet [579 m] in length, respectively would span the water," explains Mr. Greer. "There is already railway connection from the main lines to loco, so the only thing necessary would be to add the short distance to the bridge crossing. The Harbour Board Terminal Railway on North Shore could be extended to meet the railway at the bridge."

"The Canadian Pacific Railway already has a connection to loco, the Canadian National Railway could switch to C.P.R. tracks at Mission or New Westminster and have entrance direct to North Vancouver, unless they wish to build a connection spur of their own. The P.G.E., if finally completed to North Vancouver, would have a direct outlet eastward."

"All along the railway line of the Harbour Board would be created almost an unlimited number of sites for industries," he continues.

"These sites would be made by reclamation with material recovered in dredging out the First and Second Narrows to ultimate capacity, thereby reducing tidal currents and making the harbour more attractive than ever to shipping."

"Natural locations for elevators and many other industries are on the North Shore," Mr. McGeer contends. "With rail connections adequately taken care of by a bridge at North Arm [Indian Arm], other traffic requirements between north and south shore of the Inlet would be looked after by ferries for foot passengers and a suitable tunnel, the latter built from Coal Harbour northward under First Narrows."

"The Provincial Government already has an attractive scenic highway on the North Shore, and the railway bridge at North Arm could carry and auto highway extension, the same as Second Narrows bridge," he suggests. "In fact, the steel at Second Narrows bridge could be used on the railway bridge, thus effecting a considerable saving."

"Developments such as suggested would mean employment for a large number of men. The various government administrations, railways and business interests, are all directly involved in seeing that the harbour is developed properly."

"With industries concentrated on the North Shore, and direct rail connections from the east, there would be a great reduction in present traffic conditions, costly switching and trucking charges, and expensive shifting of shipping from berth to berth to load or discharge."

"I feel sure," Mr. McGeer concludes, "railways and all others interested in proper development of the port will see the advantages of a bridge over North Arm, instead of anywhere across the main harbour."



Village News

Waterfront Residents and Dock Owners:

The Santa Ship Volunteers are asking for your help!

Would you please add lights to make your dock and float more visible to Santa's cruising helpers? Temporary or permanent, festive or plain, strings or single, tree shaped or spotlight — any would be appreciated! The more guiding light we provide, the safer we keep Santa's helpers. It's a good way for us to both help and thank those volunteers who are spreading holiday cheer.

The ships are beautiful and festive. The captains cruise slowly to give you lots of time to enjoy the lights. Get outside to hear the holiday music. Be sure to flash some house lights, provide your own carolling, or just shout out a greeting to let Santa's helpers know that you are enjoying the show.

Dec. 13, 7 to 9 p.m. Farrer Cove, Bedwell Bay

The ships should reach Jug Island by 7:30 pm, will cruise to Farrer Cove for fireworks, and then, on their way home, cruise around Bedwell Bay.

Dec. 14, 7 to 9 p.m. Belcarra

Come and meet Santa in the park. The first Santa ships will arrive at Belcarra park pier at about 7:15 pm. Expect Santa to arrive closer to 7:30 pm. Stay and enjoy the fireworks and a cup of hot chocolate.



Alertable and

The Village's 24 Hour Emergency Number (604) 917 0113

Around 9:30 PM on November 19, Belcarra had a power failure. It was our second in as many weeks. The cause was a line and/or tree down across Bedwell Bay Road, near Crystal Creek.

As the main road to the Village of Belcarra was closed, traffic was rerouted up Crystal Creek Drive to Fern Avenue through Anmore. For vehicles leaving Belcarra, the detour was obvious. Vehicles returning to Belcarra needed advance warning to detour through Anmore rather than continue through loco Road and 1st Avenue.

Villagers did not receive an 'Alertable' notice about the closure. Village staff reported that they were unaware of the closure on Bedwell Bay Road as the event happened after hours on Anmore and Port Moody property.

If there is ever a similar event in future, we hope that Villagers will be notified. It is critical information. We need to know what access and exit routes are available. Further, a couple of residents noted that detour signs would have been useful at key points in Anmore as not all Belcarra residents are familiar with Anmore's roads!

Thank you to the kind folks who posted on Facebook. Please consider calling the Village's 24 hour emergency number to report road closures or other incidents that may affect access to the Village.



CRAB Corner



By Penny Moen



It is that time of year again. CRAB will hold our AGM on December 5th at the Village Hall. A special treat, Isabelle Côté will tell us about her adventure with Salty Science crossing the Atlantic. Everyone is welcome to join us for a glass of wine and some festive treats. You will have an opportunity to talk about what you want your Community Association to accomplish in the next year. Don't forget to mark your calendars, December 14th Santa will be coming to Belcarra Park and CRAB will provide the candy canes and hot chocolate.

Please try to come to the events that CRAB sponsors or co-sponsors as it is an excellent opportunity for you to connect with your neighbours and have a little fun .

Happy Holidays!



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The funds we collect from your donations are used for fun events throughout the year.

Please — we only accept Refundable Beverage Containers in the CRAB collection area.

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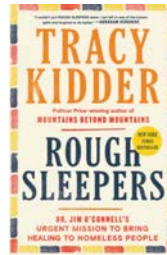
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BOOK REVIEWS



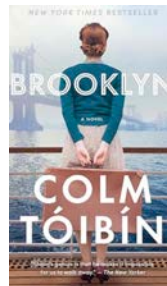
Rough Sleepers by Tracy Kidder

Dr. Jim O'Connell is a remarkable man. An extremely talented physician, he decided to devote his time and care to street people in Boston. The author traces his history as he worked to create a 'community of care' that many cities have emulated. Reading the book, you come to understand and empathize with the difficulties of dealing with this situation, while also gaining hope for possible solutions. Well written, interesting, and current! CB



Brooklyn by Colm Tóibín

Eilis Lacey lived in a small town in Ireland in the years following WWII. She has prepared herself for bookkeeping, but there were few jobs in the miserable Irish economy. With the luck of the Irish, she met an Irish priest who sponsored her to NY City: found her a job, a rooming house, and looked after her in Brooklyn. This is a warm story of her family, her love, and her ability to adjust to the new world. I loved it! CG



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Santa Ships Fireworks

SATURDAY

14
DEC

7:15 PM

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2023



Kidz Zone



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WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU CROSS A SNOWMAN WITH A VAMPIRE?

WHAT DID ONE SNOWMAN SAY TO THE OTHER SNOWMAN?

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DID YOU HEAR?
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Around My Garden By Les Bramley

Last August we found a frog in the top of our compost bin. After a bit of internet searching, I discovered it was a Pacific treefrog. It turns out that they are quite abundant in BC. Here are some other things I found on the Government of BC website <https://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/pacifictreefrog.pdf>



Photo - Pacific Treefrog by Brenda Hogg

They are quite small and come in a variety of colours ...

The largest are only 5 cm long. Colours range from pale grey or tan, to bronze or bright emerald green. In Brenda Hogg's photo, the frog is a brightly-coloured green. The one I found in my compost, was a duller green. Their legs are long and slender. Their toes have round pads, which help them grip and climb. They have distinctive markings, a dark band running through the eye towards the front limb and a white underbelly.

They live in a variety of habitats, until they need a mate...

Outside of breeding season, tree frogs can be found quite far from water: in woodlands, meadows, pastures, and even urban areas. In spring the males make their way to breeding ponds.

The male frogs call in unison, in a chorus, to attract females. This might be why they are also known as Pacific chorus frogs! When calling females, the male makes a two-syllable *krek-ek* sound. It can be startlingly loud given the size of the frog. The rest of the year it's a one-syllable *c-r-r-ick*.

An egg, to a tadpole, to a frog...

The females lay small clusters of eggs in quiet, shallow water. These egg clusters are irregular in shape and may contain 10 to 70 eggs. The embryos develop quickly and hatch into tadpoles about two or three weeks after the eggs are laid. It takes about two months for a tadpole to metamorphose into a young frog.

Food ...

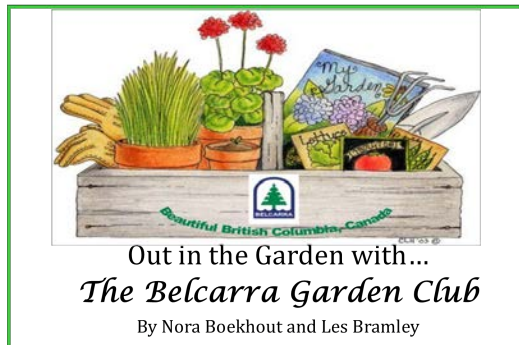
Adult frogs eat spiders and a wide variety of insects, which they hunt while climbing about on plants. The tadpoles eat algae, bits of plant matter, and other detritus found in ponds.

They are also food to others. Snakes, bullfrogs and many birds and mammals find frogs to be a satisfying meal. Larger frogs and fish are known to eat tadpoles.

Conservation...

In BC the Pacific treefrog is found in southern parts of the mainland and on Vancouver Island. As they are quite abundant and can live in a variety of habitats, they are not considered a conservation concern. If we continue to lose wetlands, this could change and Pacific treefrog populations could decline. Pacific treefrogs are protected under the British Columbia Wildlife Act.





Christmas Trees by Nora B

Ahh, the scent of fresh evergreens is the hallmark of Christmas! The first recorded decorated tree was in Latvia in 1510! I remember many a class field trip in the old days to cut down a “Mrs. B. sized tree” at a local tree farm, as well as the time the chopped tree fell right on our son! Then there was the time my colleague and I virtuously bought “living trees”, only to find they required huge waterproof pots for the root balls! Yes, it wouldn’t be Christmas at our house without a fresh tree waiting at the garage door.

The tree lots will soon be full of selections, from expensive giants to little Charlie Browns. Personally, we always buy from “Aunt Leah’s Trees” (behind Gleneagle school), because our purchase goes towards housing and programs for vulnerable foster youth and young moms and babies. If looking for a tree farm, check out <https://ca.christmastreefarms.net/farms/vancouver-bc/>

Choosing a tree will test your personal preferences: shape, density, scent, needle retention, needle touch, and whether it will hold those bigger ornaments. Run your hands over the branches and needles to check for freshness and hydration. Look for vibrant colour.

Here are some tips on the most popular choices:

Douglas Fir: The No.1 choice in PNW since the 1920’s! budget-friendly (natural) tree is dense with soft, shiny needles, branches are rather floppy, important to buy a freshly cut one as needles can drop, cultured, sculptured trees (more expensive), have repeated shearing

Noble Fir: very popular, dark green needles that turn upwards and have excellent retention. A full base with a pyramidal peak, sturdy symmetrical branches for heavy ornaments, a mild woody fragrance, branches held at 45 degree angle

Fraser Fir: (rivals the Noble): bright green, soft 1-inch needles and strong, open-spaced branches for those heavy ornaments, a triangle shape, good scent, great needle retention, branches held at 45-degree angle

Balsam Fir: (very aromatic): soft dark green needles, flat needles and boughs are good for wreaths and garlands, good needle retention unless near a heat source

Grand Fir: (very aromatic): glossy, green 1- to 2-inch needles with two white lines underneath, bushy branches are too soft for large ornaments, heavily scented and citrusy so it’s often used for boughs, important to buy a freshly cut one as needles can drop

Scotch Pine: bright green 1-inch needles that don’t fall out even as branches dry out, strong curved branches

Nordmann Fir: deep green rounded needles with excellent retention, dense sturdy branches for heavy ornaments, not much scent

Colorado Blue Spruce: a pyramid shape, thin, sharp blue/silvery needles with strong limbs, retains needles

White (Concolor) Fir: inch long whitish-blue-green needles curve upwards, has a conical shape and a lemony scent, is hardy and can take irregular watering

Norway Spruce: bright green needles and sturdy branches but it can be difficult to keep alive! (Used in NYC at Rockefeller Centre)

Leyland Cypress: excellent for those with allergies as it doesn’t produce pollen and has little aroma, good needle retention, dark green-grey

White Pine: unique, longish blue-green 3- to 5-inch needles, good retention but little aroma, not recommended for heavy ornaments

Korean Fir: soft, dark green needles with silvery undersides, a leafy aroma, some have good symmetry

Turkish Fir: similar to the Nordmann fir but the needles are somewhat flatter on the stem, dark green needles with a silvery underside, excellent retention, fragrant, strong branches, conical shape

Full article, sources, & links are on our BGC webpage: <http://tinyurl.com/rwcf9b85>






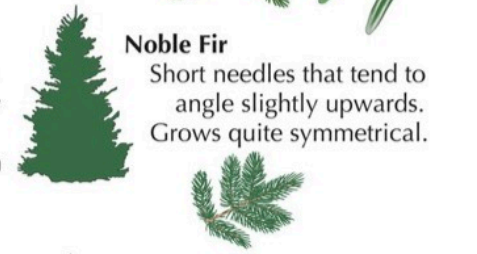

Know Your Christmas Trees

Most trees used in holiday decor are either pine, fir, or spruce. These can be separated by how their needles attach to the branch.

Pine needles are attached in **joined groups** of two, three, or five.

Fir needles are attached to the branch **individually** and directly. The needles are **flat** and will not roll between your fingers.

Spruce needles also grow **individually** from the branch, but are attached by small woody projections. These projections remain after the needles drop, making the bark feel bumpy. Spruce needles are also **square** and will roll between your fingers.

Pine	Fir	Spruce
<p>Eastern White Pine Long flexible needles in groups of five. Weak scent.</p> 	<p>Balsam Fir Short, uncrowded needles. Bark may have blisters of a sticky resin. Classic "Christmas tree" scent.</p> 	<p>Black Hills Spruce Short, soft needles. Needles grow densely packed. May have a weak musky scent.</p> 
<p>Scots/Scotch Pine Short-to-medium needles in groups of two. Classic pine scent.</p> 	<p>Fraser Fir Short needles with two white bands underneath. Branches angle slightly upward.</p> 	<p>Colorado Blue Spruce Sharp short-to-medium needles. Needles may smell unpleasant when crushed.</p> 
<p>Douglas Fir* Short-to-medium needles. Needles are soft and grow out in all directions. *Not a true fir. After much debate, it has been classified in its own genus (<i>Pseudotsuga</i>)</p> 	<p>Grand Fir Glossy short-to-medium needles with two white bands underneath. Needles grow densely but neatly.</p> 	<p>Norway Spruce Short needles. Branches often droop gently. Readily drops needles if even slightly dry.</p> 
<p>Noble Fir Short needles that tend to angle slightly upwards. Grows quite symmetrical.</p> 	<p>White/Concolor Fir Neat short-to-medium needles. Citrus-like scent.</p> 	<p>White Spruce Very short, blunt needles. Notably unpleasant smell when needles are crushed.</p> 
		<p>Alithographica</p> <p>References: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ https://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2005/nov/061401.htm http://www.realchristmastrees.org/dnn/Education/Tree-Varieties/ https://www.thoughtco.com/best-selling-christmas-trees-1341582 http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/selecting_the_perfect_christmas_tree_part_1_tree_types</p>



Belcarra Blessings
By Deborah Struk

A very blessed December, Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to you and yours. Perhaps, you celebrate a different holiday; may peace, grace, love, and joy be upon you all.

By now many of us have started watching beloved old Christmas movies and are checking out new releases. Peter and I do not often watch TV but we do love to snuggle and watch Christmas movies. There are so many that warm our hearts. It's fun to watch the Hallmark ones and recognize homes and buildings. I still remember driving past a film shoot for Danielle Panabaker's Christmas movie filmed one July in Pitt Meadows. It was the dump truck load of snow that caught my eye.

Certainly an all-time favourite is "It's a Wonderful Life". Apparently, when it first came out, it didn't do too well, but it wasn't copyrighted so it was able to play on TV and that's how it became highly recognized! It is so full of life lessons.

One lesson that stands out is how valuable one's life is. George certainly was hard on himself. There is a twilight zone-ish peek into what life would have been like without George. His brother would have died, Potter would have taken over Bedford Falls, and Mary remains single her entire life. George, seeing this, realizes even though he feels worthless and meaningless, his life does matter. He discovers his worth because he has made a positive impact on those around him. The angel Clarence says, "Each man's life touches so many other lives, and when he isn't around he leaves an awful hole".

My guess is none of us will experience glimpses of what lives would have been like without us. Nonetheless, my hope and prayer is each and everyone realizes they have value and have impacted lives in a positive way. 2024 and your life may not have been what you hoped, but take heart. As the angel said that first Christmas Day, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people". Then a host of angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest and peace and good will to all." Or as in that famous Christmas Carol, "Gloria, Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo".

May the abundant joy and peace of the Christmas season be upon you and yours. May you know you have value. Harper sends a hearty, "Happy Christmas! I hope you have a lot of presents."

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Merry Christmas

On The Belcarra Reading Table

By Klaus Bever

In May 2016, a wildfire in the forests near the city of Fort McMurray, Alberta, became one of this century's most expensive and worrisome disasters. That fire is estimated as having caused damage in excess of \$9.9 billion. Although the geologically recent background changes to our global environment may be largely responsible for the immensity of this forest fire, many of the recommendations that have since been repeated many times in the news, are part of a long standing approach to forest fire mitigation in Canada.

Fires burn when they have enough fuel and diminish in size and intensity when they do not. The fire in Fort McMurray was stoked by unusual weather conditions and the exceptional dryness of the forests in the spring of 2016. There was plenty of water around and there was adequate manpower and equipment for a regular forest fire to have been fought and controlled early. There just wasn't enough time to effectively deploy men and machines because the amount of fire fuel was so abundant it permitted no pause in the progress of the burning.

Forest fires are largely fought far enough away from the fire front, where there is safety for the firefighters and for their equipment.

The men and equipment are used at these safe distances to make spaces, large spaces. These spaces are placed strategically where they will interrupt fires' forward progress or speed of advancement. These are "fire breaks". Making firebreaks removes fire's fuel. And removing fuel from a fire's path is the single most effective way to diminish the damage caused by fires.

Although there wasn't enough time at Fort McMurray in May 2016 to build effective fire breaks, Canadian northern communities have since decided to put fire breaks in place before a fire ignites the forests near their communities. There are many examples to view on-line. Google: "fire breaks in northern Canada".

We live within a forest. Moving the forest back some 20 metres from structures such as houses, offices, and halls reduces the risk of a forest fire becoming a structure fire. Now is a good and safe time for our Village staff to begin creating fire breaks in Belcarra by removing trees, brush, and branches from municipal properties.

On the Belcarra Reading Table:
"Fire Weather" by John Valliant
 Penguin Random House, Knopf Canada
 2023.

So many books, so little time



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Letter to the Editor Water System - Capital Works Plan

By Ian Devlin and Ralph Drew

The purpose of this letter is to provide some perspective regarding Item #10.1 (Belcarra Water System Capital Works Plan) which was on the [November 4 Council meeting agenda](#).

The report dated October 16, 2024, written by WSP Canada Inc. titled "[Village of Belcarra Water System Capital Works Plan](#)", is a comprehensive analysis by competent engineers that contains a considerable number of calculations and a large amount of data. However, such an analysis can be quite overwhelming for the general public and, as a consequence, the following summary assessment is offered for your consideration:

First, as noted in the report, "the Village only requires a 60L/s residential fire flow" and "a majority of the nodes [fire hydrants] that require 60L/s of fire flow are satisfied and can provide fire flows between 60L/s to 231L/s." The one fire hydrant that was identified as having a fire flow of 57L/s should be considered a minor variance (5%) and, given that FUS guidelines are not mandatory requirements, this minor variance does not warrant a large expenditure to address. (Note: On October 10, 2023, Council received [a letter from Ian Devlin](#) that provided clarification regarding fire flow calculations and the volume of water that can be provided for firefighting by Belcarra's current water system.)

Second, it should be remembered that the official fire flow for Belcarra is currently 30L/s as per Schedule 'A' of the [Subdivision and Development Bylaw No.492, 2015](#). Based on the report dated October 16, 2024, written by WSP Canada Inc., the official fire flow for Belcarra now can be increased to 60L/s via amendment of Bylaw No.492, 2015.

Third, regarding the most practical means to provide the maximum flow of water for firefighting: the above noted letter from Ian Devlin concluded that installation of a chlorination system at the Tatlow Reservoir would maintain the reservoir level near the maximum capacity of 270,000 litres.

This objective should be a Council priority.

Fourth, regarding installation of a chlorination system at the Tatlow Reservoir: on September 11, 2023, WSP presented a "[Costing Exercise for New Chlorination System at Tatlow Reservoir](#)" and "It was the consensus of Council that staff and WSP provide a more detailed cost estimate for a chlorination system..." On September 23, 2024, Council received a report titled: "[New Tatlow Reservoir Chlorination System Design Brief](#)" dated June 14, 2024, prepared by WSP Canada Inc. A follow-up report regarding installation of the chlorination system is pending.

Fifth, regarding the fire flow shortfall for public buildings: this deficiency is primarily due to the 90L/s FUS benchmark fire flow (guideline) for the municipal hall. This shortfall can be mitigated by installing a fire suppression system in the Village Hall. (Note: On February 5, 2024, Council received a staff report [Item 10.1] titled "[Fire Suppression System for Belcarra Municipal Hall](#)" and discussed the potential cost of a fire suppression system and next steps in the process. A follow-up report from staff is pending.

Sixth, regarding the fire low requirement identified for the fire station: this can be mitigated by including fire sprinklers or other fire suppression system in the design specifications for the new fire hall that is currently in the planning stage.

In conclusion, the WSP report dated October 16, 2024, contains very useful information for future water system modifications. However, the report should not be considered as necessitating priority expenditures within the next ten (10) years, other than a chlorination system at the Tatlow Reservoir and a fire suppression system for the Village Hall.

Council may want to request an updated report that details the impact of Council's approved projects once fully implemented; namely, a chlorination system for the Tatlow Reservoir and fire suppression system for the Village Hall.





Letter to the Editor Land Disposition

By Irene Vanderspek, John Snell,
Brian Hirsch, and Jim Chisholm

Corporate Policy No. 232 has now been adopted. This Land Disposition Policy represents a significant step towards mitigating the impossible financial burden our villagers are facing.

There is the \$5.3 million funding gap that was 'uncovered' this year, combined with the cost of a new fire hall that our Fire Trustees approved. We have very little in reserve to close this \$5.3 million funding gap, and there is no money saved (\$7 to \$10 million plus interest when borrowed and paid-off over 20-30 years) to pay for the new fire hall. Both costs amount to a bill of \$15.6 million to \$22.65 million. Of course, this is in addition to the \$2.8 million we still need to pay off on our water project. Stacking debt upon debt upon debt causes an impossible burden for us villagers when we only have 262 Belcarra households to pay these debts, and with many of us on fixed budgets or with big mortgages.

A special thank you to our MLA Rick Glumac, who got the Ministry of Municipal Affairs involved in providing clear answers. The Ministry takes leadership in supporting local government and residents to build financially stable and healthy communities. The Ministry was able to confirm that our few waterfront lots are not lots where the public can enter the water, that they can be sold (wholly or partially) as single-family building lots, and that the proceeds can be used to pay for our fire hall.

And just to make it clear: there is an existing policy in place that will ensure that no one will lose access to their property because their driveway is on public land or that public trails will be lost. Council can apply this new policy sensitively while at the same time serving the greater public good.



Congratulations, Joe Nicholas The RCMP's Newest Constable

By Dayna Fitz (Aunt, Editor)
and Klaus Bever (Uncle)



We take great pride and satisfaction in announcing that Joe Nicholas has graduated from the RCMP training program at Regina depot and is now Constable Nicholas in Smithers BC.

Joe, in his time in Belcarra and Anmore, was a dedicated volunteer on the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD). In just three years he attained the rank of lieutenant; a testament to his determination, skill, and his enthusiasm for the work of a volunteer firefighter. 'Jobert' will be a great addition to the RCMP force. He will bring the same enthusiasm and dedication to his chosen career as he tirelessly gave to our Village and to the SVFD.

The last word is from Joe:

"Thanks to Dan Homes, Brielle Reaume, Mike Bolam and the Bolam family, Colin Richardson, Jay Sharpe, Scott Donaldson, Joe Keno, and the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department.

I want to take this chance to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of these people who have supported me in achieving this goal. Your unwavering encouragement, understanding, and belief in me have been invaluable throughout my journey. Whether it was your words of wisdom, during tough times or teaching me to celebrate the small victories, you were always there. Each gesture inspired me to keep pushing forward. Thank you for being my pillars of strength; I truly couldn't have done it without you and I am forever grateful for all of you."



Whenever I make this recipe, everyone loves it!
(Serves 8)

Ingredients:

- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 (10 ounce) packages frozen chopped spinach — thawed, drained and squeezed dry
- 1/2 (14 ounce) can artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 (8 ounce) package sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1-1/2 green onions, finely chopped
- 1/2 (8 ounce) pkg. cream cheese
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 (8 ounce) can water chestnuts, drained and chopped
- 1/4 cup & 2 Tbsps. grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup & 2 Tbsps. real mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1-1/2 teaspoons lemon juice

Optional: 1/2 cup French fried onion rings

NOTE: Add some cut up roasted red pepper (for a more festive look)

Directions:

The recipe ingredients are scaled to yield 8 servings. The directions below still refer to the original recipe yield (16).

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Place the spinach in a large mixing bowl, and stir in the artichoke hearts.
3. Melt butter in a skillet over medium heat, and cook and stir the mushrooms until softened, about 10 minutes.
4. Mix in the green onion, and cook and stir until onions are soft, about 5 more minutes.
5. Transfer the mushrooms, green onions, and butter from the skillet into the bowl with spinach mixture.
6. Remove cream cheese from wrapping, place into a microwave-safe bowl, and cook in the microwave until warm and very soft, about 1 minute or so.
7. Stir the softened cream cheese into the spinach mixture, and add the sour cream, water chestnuts, Parmesan cheese, mayonnaise, garlic salt, and lemon juice.
8. Spoon the casserole into a baking dish. (Note: I greased my baking dish lightly with butter.)
9. Bake in preheated oven at 350 degrees until the casserole is hot and bubbly, about 30 minutes.

Optional: Spread French-fried onion rings over the top, return to the oven, and bake until the onion rings are lightly browned, 5 to 10 more minutes.

Wishing you a Happy Holiday season!





From the publication "*Canadian House and Home*"

A recipe for a really good Christmas bake!

Salted Chocolate Caramel Bars

Ingredients

Crust

- 1 cup all purpose flour
 - ¼ cup granulated sugar
 - ½ cup unsalted butter, cold, diced
- Caramel and chocolate
- ½ cup sweetened condensed milk
 - ½ cup light brown sugar, packed
 - ½ cup unsalted butter, softened
 - 2 tbsp corn syrup
 - 1 cup semi sweet chocolate chips.
 - Coarse sea salt, to taste

Directions

1. Lightly grease a 9" x 9" baking pan. Line with parchment paper.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
3. For crust, combine all ingredients in medium bowl. Mix with pastry blender until it resembles coarse crumbs. Press evenly into pan. Bake until lightly brown at edges, 15 to 18 min. Remove from oven.
4. To make caramel, combine condensed milk, sugar, butter and syrup in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring. When it comes to a boil stir, cook and stir for 3 minutes. Pour over crust. Cool completely.
5. Melt chocolate in heatproof bowl over a pan of gently simmering water until smooth. Pour melted chocolate over caramel. Spread evenly.
6. Sprinkle with sea salt. Cool completely. Cut into 2" squares and store in airtight container in cool spot.

<https://houseandhome.com/recipe/salted-chocolate-caramel-bars/>

CRAB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND HOLIDAY SOCIAL

DECEMBER 5

WINE & CHEESE 6:30 PM

ISABELLE CÔTÉ 7:00 PM

AGM 8:00 PM

JOIN US! FAMILIES WELCOME!

Guest Speaker -- Isabelle Côté

Hear about Salty Science and a daring journey across the Atlantic

Meet your CRAB directors and Help us plan for next year

Please RSVP to
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Village Hall,
doors open at 6:30 PM



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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



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

Contact

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604-664-9229

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