

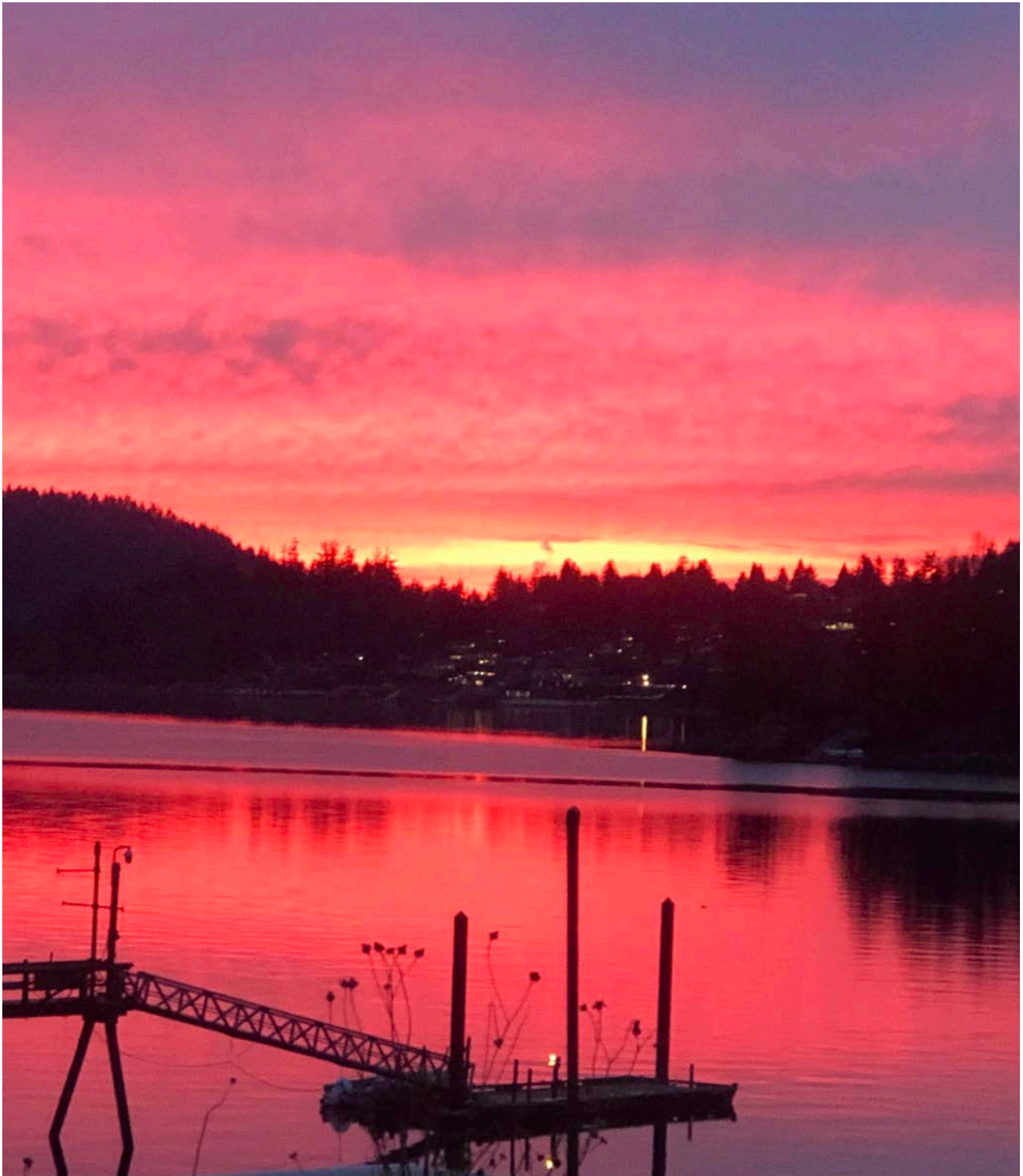


Belcarra Barnacle

February 2025

Belcarra's Community Newspaper

Volume 46 Issue 01





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 We do not publish in January and August.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
Assist. Editor: Deneige Davis
Advertising: Sandra Rietchel
Treasurer: Clive Evans
Members: Michele Babineau
Nora Boekhout
Bonni Marshall
Deborah Struk

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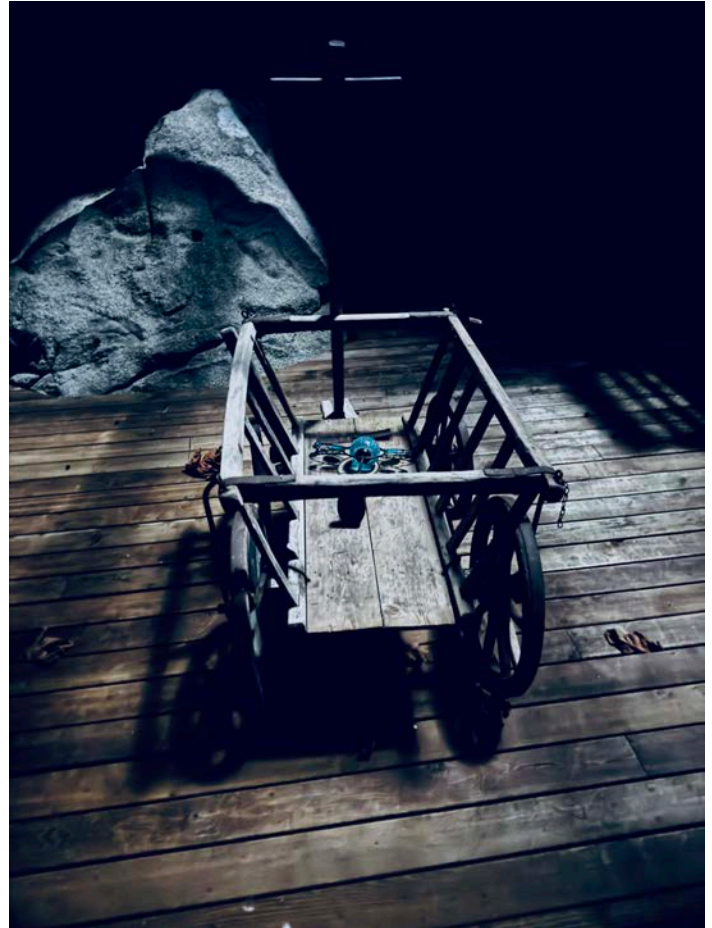
Unit 102 - 1030 Westwood Street
Coquitlam, BC V3C 4E4

The Belcarra Barnacle is available online:

[Belcarra Barnacle](#)

Please visit our online version to see all of the photo submissions in colour.

Below: Moonlit Wagon by Brenda Hogg



ADVERTISING RATES

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

	Per Month	5 Issues	10 Issues
BLACK & WHITE			
Card (2" x 3")	\$24	\$90	\$144
1/4 Page	\$30	\$108	\$180
1/2 Page	\$60	\$240	\$360
1 Full Page	\$150	\$540	\$960
Classified 3 Lines	\$ 6		
COLOUR			
1 Page (Back Page)	\$270	\$1200	\$2500
1/2 Page (Centre)	\$180	\$840	\$1680

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

belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com

To Advertise Contact:
Sandra srietchel422@gmail.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 Road, Water, and WARD Emergencies	604 917 0113
SVFD Recruitment: sasamatrecruitment@gmail.com	

IMPORTANT DATES**FEBRUARY**

- 2 Groundhog Day
- 2 World Wetlands Day (see page 16)
- 10 Regular Council Meeting
- 12 Full Moon
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 National Flag of Canada Day
- 16 SVFD Home Fire Safety (see page 6)
- 17 Family Day
- 24 Regular Council Meeting
- 26 Pink Shirt Day
- 27 New Moon
- 28 (Expected) Start of Ramadan

ON THE COVER

Our front cover features a photograph by Deborah Struk — a beautiful Belcarra sunset.

Please do keep sending your favourite local photos and artwork to the Barnacle. It is a pleasure to share them.

belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com

**NATIONAL FLAG OF CANADA DAY**

On February 15, 1965, Canada's red and white maple leaf flag was raised for the first time on Parliament Hill.

"Our national flag is a symbol that unites Canadians and reflects the common values we take pride in — democracy, inclusion, and equity."

On February 15, we will be celebrating 60 years of our Canadian flag.



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Editor's Notes from December and January Council Meetings

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](#).

December 2 Council Meeting

RCMP Officer in Charge, Superintendent Darren Carr, of the Coquitlam RCMP presented a "Certificate of Appreciation for Bravery" to Belcarra resident Ryan Timm (see page 5).

Council received for information the "Interim Housing Needs Report". Staff will update the Zoning Bylaw and Official Community Plan to ensure policies allow for the projected number of new homes.

Stewart Novak, Manager, Municipal Services, provided an update on Belcarra's 'emergency management indigenous engagement requirement activities' as per the Emergency and Disaster Management Act.

A recent road outage requiring a detour of Belcarra residents through Anmore was discussed. Belcarra residents did not receive an Alertable notification about the road outage. The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) advised that discussions with Port Moody and Anmore are needed to improve notification for events that occur outside of our municipality but effect our access and safety.

Ken Bjorgaard, Financial Consultant, presented and Council approved, a grant application in the amount of \$10,000 under the Local Government Infrastructure Planning Grant Program to update the Village's storm water network data. The Village's share (\$5,000) of the project costs will come from the Village's Community Works Reserve Fund.

The CAO reported that the Port has installed three new buoys at the south-end of Bedwell Bay. The buoys mark a voluntary no anchor zone established for the protection of eel grass.

January 27 Council Meeting

The Village will receive a second payment of \$32,816 from the Canada Community-Building Fund.

Port of Vancouver forwarded documents related to the private residential dock program and their private residential dock licence process. For more information visit <https://www.portvancouver.com/permits-landingpage>. Councillor Clark confirmed that there is still a moratorium for dock builds on Bedwell Bay.

Council received and consented to the adoption of the "Metro Vancouver Regional District Sasamat Fire Service Conversion Bylaw No. 1402, 2024". The Conversion Bylaw replaces the existing letters patent. No significant alterations were made with the exception of the addition of a clause regarding maximum requisition (\$1.25 per \$1,000), which is required content for establishing bylaws per section 339(1)(e) of the Act. The bylaw will now be referred to the Inspector of Municipalities for approval.

Council approved a grant of \$353 to the Communities Embracing Restorative Action (CERA) Society for support of the Community Youth Justice Program for 2025.

Council approved that the Village's "2025 – 2029 Financial Plan Bylaw and 2025 Utility Rates Bylaw (Fees & Charges Bylaw Amendment)" be prepared on the following basis:

Property Taxes — 8% increase
Water User Fees — 7% increase
Waste & Recycle Depot (WARD) User Fees — 20% increase

The CAO presented and Council accepted for information two reports: "Status of Strategic Priorities Work Plan Initiatives and Key Infrastructure Projects" and "Quarterly Department Reports – For quarter ending December 31, 2024"

To address ongoing property non-compliance issues, Council approved a remedial action requirement for Lot A Section 31 Township 39 New Westminster District Plan EPP93027.

Notes continued on page 5

Notes continued from page 4

Council approved a grant application to the British Columbia Water Meter Pilot Project. Belcarra's total grant funding package is valued at \$350,425.63 with Belcarra responsible for \$6,753.63 (software fees).

Council did not approve the purchase of a portable field office, located at the Waste and Recycle Depot (WARD), for the Village's Bylaw Enforcement person.

Council approved the purchase of a used portable field office to replace the rented office currently being used as Belcarra's Building Department Office at a cost of \$25,910.00 plus applicable taxes.

Council approved an extension of the agreement for financial consulting services with Ken Bjorgaard (K&E Business Services Inc.) for a further two-year term.

The CAO reported that the province has launched a mandatory registration program for short-term rentals. The deadline for registration is May 1, 2025. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/housing-tenancy/short-term-rentals/registry>

Ryan Timm, A Selfless Act of Bravery

At a recent Council meeting, Belcarra resident, Ryan Timm, was presented with a "Certificate of Appreciation for Bravery" by RCMP Superintendent Darren Carr and Mayor Jamie Ross. The Certificate is given in recognition of Tim's "extraordinary act of heroism and selflessness in helping a stranger in distress."

From Superintendent Carr —

On July 9, 2024, while Ryan was driving in the area of Pitt River Road and Langdon Avenue, in Port Coquitlam, he came across a house fire. No emergency crews were on scene. Ryan parked his vehicle and approached the residence to offer assistance. He was advised by the homeowner that there was an elderly female in the basement of what was then a fully engulfed residence. Ryan ran into the basement to locate the elderly female who had mobility challenges. Ryan was able to bring her to safety. He then ran back inside the basement to ensure that no one else was trapped inside. As he heard the floor above his head starting to give-way, he quickly got himself to safety.

Superintendent Carr observed, "Ryan's quick and selfless actions undoubtedly saved the life of the elderly female resident."

Thank you, Ryan!



From Left to Right: Tracy and Axel, Cash, Mila, Ryan Timm, Mayor Ross, and Superintendent Carr



Sasamat Fire Department Presents



Home Fire Safety

Scan With Your Phone to Register

Or go to

<https://www.svfd.ca/event/home-fire-safety/>

Come and join us for a coffee and learn about how to protect your home, yourself and your loved ones from the dangers of fire.

Presented by Fire Chief Jay Sharpe

Sunday February 16th, 2025. 1pm – 2pm

Venue: Anmore Fire Hall

Admission: Free

(Limited to 30 seats)

Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Promotions!

As the Fire Department progresses, it is important that we maintain strong leadership in our operational activities. With that said, Sasamat Fire would like to announce some exciting new promotions!

Firefighter Miranda Venos has been promoted to Lieutenant. Miranda has been with the department since 2016. As a strong contributor to our department both in operations and in the Association, Miranda has consistently demonstrated the requisite leadership skills for her role as Lieutenant.

Lieutenant Adon Albanese has been promoted to Captain. Adon has been with the department since 2016. As a member of the Training Division, Adon has proven himself as an effective Training Officer and team leader.

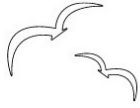
Lieutenant Keiran Lancaster has been promoted to Captain. Keiran has been with the department since 2017. Also part of the Training Division, Keiran too has proven himself as an effective Training Officer and team leader.

Firefighter Will Crocker has been given the title of Equipment Officer. Will has been with the department since 2013. His firefighting experience combined with his experience in Facilities Management makes him a valuable contributor to the maintenance aspect of our department.

Congratulations to these members on their recent promotions!



From Left to Right: Lieutenant Miranda Venos, Captain Adon Albanese, Captain Keiran Lancaster



Down by the Bay

by Clive Evans



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

The excitement of seeing my Hellebores starting to flower in December and learning from neighbours of Fuchsias, the odd shrub blooming, and some herbs showing signs of life, it is a quiet time right now. Well, I did pick my last few Raspberries in December and the Geraniums are back in the sunroom.



An article in the newspaper notes that it is good to let the fallen leaves stay on your garden as this provides food for insects and birds. That is one job off my list.

We enjoy watching our feathered friends feeding on the seed spread on the sundeck railing and looking back on previous reports, it is interesting to note the difference in numbers and species now showing up. By far the most numerous this year is the Juncos with 37 showing during one count. Of course, the Steller's Jays are always an early show and slowly the Spotted Towhees are increasing in number and the list is rounded out by Blackcap Chickadees, Crows, Gulls, Song Sparrows, and Bald Eagles. It is always a delight to see the Anna's Hummingbird show up, but I hear from neighbours that they see far more Hummers than the odd one or two that I get. Other sightings include clouds of Pine Siskins with the odd few landing nearby; as well as a sighting of a Ruby-Crowned Kinglet.



Hey proud parents, neighbours, and friends –

The Barnacle loves to celebrate our community! Let's recognize and share the significant events in our local neighbourhood.

If someone has reached a milestone, or is celebrating an anniversary, or is just doing something really cool, come share the news.

Send us an email

BelcarraBarnacle@gmail.com ... and we will do the rest.

Send pictures!

The Barnacle is published in both hard copy and online. If you are limiting your online presence, just let us know. We are happy to try and accommodate, including using only first names.

Stories from the Archives —
Magnus Johnson: Bedwell Bay Pioneer
Researched By: Ralph Drew,
Belcarra, BC, January 2025

‘Old Man Johnson’, an old Icelandic hermit, was a squatter who used to live in a small cedar-shake cabin located at the head of Bedwell Bay, most likely close to Ray Creek for easy access to a supply of fresh water. Based on information from the 1931 Canada Census, ⁽¹⁾ the individual was Magnus Johnson (1861–1935) who immigrated to Canada from Iceland in 1888. According to a ‘Vancouver Sun’ newspaper article at the time of his death, ⁽²⁾ Magnus had been living at Bedwell Bay for 40 years.

In 1926, twelve-year-old John Grohn and his family camped in a big army tent beside his cabin. John remembers: ⁽³⁾

“I got friendly with the hermit and used to go and talk to him. He was quite old, and had an Icelandic accent. He told me all kinds of stories. He was squatting in a small cedar shake house. It had a shed and a lean-to piled full of newspapers and old magazines he’d been saving over the years. He had an old rowboat and he brought us a salmon for a buck. One night there was a thunderstorm and our tent lit-up with white flashes. All of a sudden, we could hear singing going on outside. The old guy was shouting Icelandic verses. I guess the god Thor was up there banging, so he was out there chanting!”

– John Grohn

Years later in 1933, when the Colwill family moved to the LePage house next to Sasamat Creek, the old hermit was still living at the head of Bedwell Bay. The Colwill children recall that he had fruit trees near his small shack. Don Colwill used to visit the hermit but his sister, thirteen-year-old Audrey, was scared: ⁽⁴⁾

“Whenever anyone went near his house he called from inside: ‘I’ve got a gun, I’ve got a gun.’ When he died, the police boat came-up and took him away. They had to burn the old place down because it smelled so bad.”

– Audrey Williams (née Colwill)

Magnus Johnson was found dead in January 1935 aged 74 years. ⁽⁵⁾ His body was removed by the Provincial Police ⁽⁶⁾ and the provincial coroner ascertained that he had died of pneumonia. ⁽²⁾

References:

(1) Magnus Johnson, 1931 Canada Census, Fraser Valley Electoral District 229, Sub-District 63, Dewdney (Unorganized), page 9.

(2) “Pioneer Found Dead”, Vancouver Sun, Thursday, January 10th, 1935, page 13.

(3) John Grohn, interview by Michael Cotton, March 1996.

(4) Audrey Williams (née Colwill), interview by John Doerksen, January 1997.

(5) “Found Dead”, Vancouver News-Herald, Wednesday, January 9th, 1935, page 1.

(6) “Aged Man Found Dead”, Vancouver Sun, Tuesday, January 8th, 1935, page 2.

Metro Vancouver Information and Online Links

Metro Vancouver is a federation of 21 municipalities (including Belcarra), one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation.

Here are some links and information about Metro Vancouver:

Metro Vancouver Board of Directors: <https://metrovancover.org/boards/board-members>

Mayor Ross is a Director on the Board. Councillor Clark is his alternate. Mayor John McEwen of Anmore is the Vice Chair.

Metro Vancouver Committee Members for 2025: <https://metrovancover.org/boards/committee-members>

Mayor Ross is a member of the these Metro committees: Air Quality and Climate, Mayors, and Regional Parks. He is the Vice Chair for the Electoral Area and Small Communities Committee.

Remuneration information for Board and committee work: <https://metrovancover.org/boards/remuneration>

Metro Vancouver Statement of Financial Information For the Year Ended December 31, 2023 (June 2024) <https://metrovancover.org/about-us/Documents/statement-financial-information-2023.pdf> Mayor Ross received remuneration in the amount of \$26,250 for his work on the Board and on committees.

Village News

CRAB REFUNDABLE COLLECTION: The Shed has been moved... Thank you!

Village staff have moved the CRAB refundable collection shed next to Bin A (Recycling) for easier sorting.



Thank you for your continued support of CRAB. Please keep donating your refundable containers!

Village of Belcarra RESIDENT DIRECTORY 2025

This spring CRAB will be publishing an updated Resident Directory.

We need your help —

Our last edition was in 2023 and we know that a lot can change in two years. Bring us up to date!

We want to know if

- Your email or phone number has changed
- You are new to the neighbourhood and would like to be added to the directory

Please let us know if there are new folks on your street. We'd like to introduce ourselves.

Liisa Wilder will once again be compiling the directory and likes to brighten the pages with photographs of Belcarra. Please send us your best :-)

We would like to receive your updates and photos by February 20.

Email CRAB4084@gmail.com

The directory is a printed booklet and is not available online. We distribute the directories only to current CRAB members.

CRAB 2025 EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MARCH 15

ST PATRICK'S DAY
PUB NIGHT



MARCH 30

BEARS AND SPIRIT TALK
WITH SUSAN TURNER

APRIL 20

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
AND EASTER EGG HUNT

JUNE 1

BELCARRA DAY

SEPTEMBER 14

POTLUCK PICNIC IN THE
PARK

OCTOBER 26

KIDS' HALLOWE'EN PARTY

OCTOBER 31

FIREWORKS IN THE PARK

DECEMBER 11

AGM
AND HOLIDAY SOCIAL

TBA

SANTA IN THE PARK

GREENWOOD
YACHT
SERVICES

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Dan Greenwood
Boat Broker / Pirate

604 838 4540

www.greenwoodyachts.com
dan@greenwoodyachts.com



In December, we had a great turnout at our AGM and Holiday Social. Our guest speaker, Isabelle Côté, helped us understand the dedication and teamwork it takes to row across the Atlantic in a wee boat. Her talk was funny, full of adventure, and the perfect start to a year-end celebration. The talk was followed by our AGM which included a review of CRAB's activities in 2024. We hosted or co-sponsored eight events. They were well attended and our volunteer participation was fantastic, we always had enough helping hands. Liisa Wilder provided a financial update. Typically our expenses are equal to what we raise. In 2024, our bank savings declined by \$1259. This was due partly to a 25% decrease in our income from refundable containers. CRAB paid memberships declined from 79 in 2023 to 65 in 2024.

Our current directors have agreed to continue their roles into 2025: Penny Moen as President; Dayna Fitz as Secretary; Liisa Wilder as Treasurer; and Sue Brain, Jim Chisholm, Andrea Jauck, and Deborah Struk as directors at large.

In December we hosted the much-loved Santa ships and Santa-in-the-Park event. Thank you to Dan Greenwood and Greenwood Yacht Services, Shelley Herron, and the Santa ship captains for organizing this fun event.

In 2025, CRAB plans to host our usual community events along with a couple of additions. See the Bears and Spirit talk announcement on page 15 of this issue.

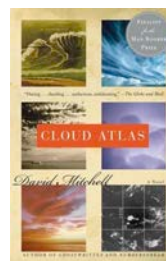
We hope to attract new members to our community group and encourage folks to take on leadership roles. If you are interested, come out and help at our events. Use it as an opportunity to learn more about CRAB, your community and neighbours.



Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell

Interesting, frustrating, amazing, strange...the list of adjectives describing this book is endless.

Short listed for The Booker Prize in 2004... "His novel defies literary conventions and erases the boundaries of language, genre, and time to offer a meditation on humanity's dangerous will to power, and where it might lead us." (bookerprize.com).



A stunning read...I was entranced by the writing as the author creates six separate, but intertwined stories across a couple of centuries. It's a wow! CB

At a Loss for Words by Carol Off

Does the daily news report confuse you? Do you wonder where truth lies? Can you understand conspiracy theories? Can you talk to people with opposing views? As a co-host of "As it Happens" on CBC radio, from the vantage point of 25,000 interviews, Carol Off gives us a powerful explanation of six controversial topics: freedom, democracy, truth, woke, choice, and taxes. She takes these themes from their beginnings and follows them into our current political climate.

Written in a factual and easy-to-read style, you will both quietly understand and loudly want to protest. But, above all, you will be better able to understand and converse with people with varying views about the important issues of today. CG



CRAB Membership Renewals

CRAB membership renewals will start in late February. Watch for an email from CRAB with more information... This would be a good time to ensure CRAB has your current email :-)



Santa Ships



PHOTO CREDIT: FACEBOOK SANTA SHIPS

Thank you...

Dan Greenwood and Shelley Herron -- The fireworks were amazing! The evening was magical.

Neil Mcaskil -- You are the perfect Santa!

Dave and Julie Bruce -- Everyone stays safe, when you lead the way on the MV Minstrel.

Captains -- Your ships were beautiful. Thank you for brightening our December.

Hesp Auto

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- ✓ Advantage Tire Group Dealer
- ✓ Fair and honest pricing
- ✓ Brand name OEM parts
- ✓ Quick turnaround times
- ✓ Loaner vehicles
- ✓ Full tire service center



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Photo Submitted by Klaus Bever: CRAB Annual General Meeting, December 2024



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\$5,888,000

NEW EXCITING PRICE!

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BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME ON THIS SPECTACULAR LOT!!
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\$1,998,000

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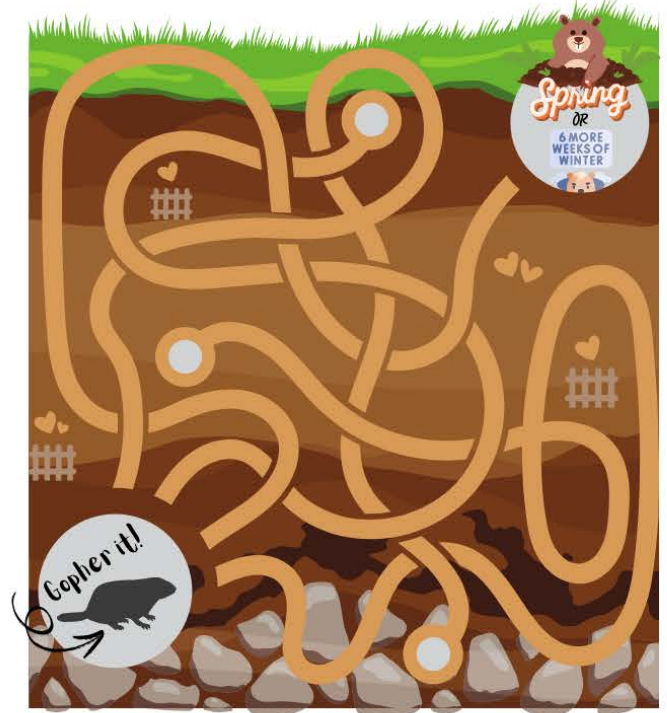
Kidz Zone



H	S	E	S	S	I	K	O	N	U	F
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LOVE HEART SWEET VALENTINES KIND FEBRUARY CUPID KISSES HUGS SMILE LETTER FLOWERS

HELP THE GROUNDHOG FIND HIS WAY TO THE GRASS by GROUNDHOG'S DAY!



The groundhog can be found in much of Canada. Do you know another common name for a groundhog? Is it...

BROWN RATROCK, BADGER, WOODCHUCK OR SQUIRREL

HOW DOES A WOODCHUCK GREET LOVED ONES?

WHO ALWAYS HAS A DATE ON VALENTINE'S DAY?

WHAT DO YOU SAY TO A GROUNDHOG TO LOOK FOR HIS SHADOW?

woodchuck!
With a great big HOG!
A calendar!
"Gopher it!"

**DID YOU HEAR?
THERE'S A GREAT VET IN TOWN**



**PORT MOODY
ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

Dr. Carolyn Buxton
portmoodyanimalhospital.com
604.469.5589



Your Other Family Doctor

New Clients Welcome!

Upcoming CRAB Events:

March 15 Pub Night — Watch your emails for more details

March 30 A talk with Susan Turner — ‘Walking with Bears and Spirit’
Register early! Use the QR code or email CRAB4084@gmail.com



WALKING WITH BEARS & SPIRIT

MY SACRED JOURNEY TO JOY

**SUNDAY
MARCH 30TH**

1:00 - 3:00 PM

AN AFTERNOON TALK WITH SUSAN

Featuring an array of Zuzana's culinary creations with her signature plant-based charcuterie boards.

\$35 PER PERSON

**THE VILLAGE OF BELCARRA
4084 Bedwell Bay Rd., Belcarra BC**

SCAN HERE



PUB NIGHT!

March 15th

Dinner, Drinks and Dancing! Come in search of the (toonie toss) pot of gold or just to give an Irish cheers to your neighbours!

More details to come, but be sure to save the date!

HOSTED BY CRAB 

Belcarra Synchro Skater Competes at the Canadian National Skating Competition

By Jim Hancock

Belcarra resident, Destiny Cassels, as a member of the Lower Mainland Synchro Skating Team, competed at the Canadian National Skating Competition last week in Laval Quebec.

The skaters on this team were selected this past year to represent BC / Yukon. They were up against stiff competition from the world champions from Quebec, but they performed well and the experience was invaluable. They hope to continue to improve their skills and compete again next year.

For Destiny, it all started approximately one year ago. After competing at the novice level of synchronized skating the previous year, she was invited to try out for the junior synchro team. It was a rigorous selection process. All the skaters were previously singles skaters who were very skilled. Destiny was one of 16 selected for the team.

At the introductory meeting with skaters and parents it was emphasized that a total commitment was required from both skaters and parents — no exceptions.

The following year was an intense five nights per week immersion into learning to perfect two routines, a short program and a long program, each to be choreographed to separate sets of music.

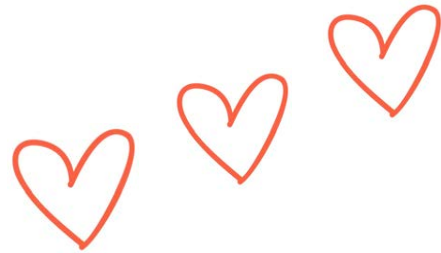
As the only junior synchro team in the lower mainland, they had no competition here, but they did enter into one event in the fall of last year, finishing first.

The first real competition was in December in Woodstock Ontario, where they faced veteran teams from Ontario, and Quebec. They finished last, but ever optimistic they proceeded to the National Championships in Laval, and the rest is history.


Congratulations to the entire team!



Destiny Cassels (Front row, third from the right)



As your representative in Victoria
I'm here to help



RICK GLUMAC, MLA
 Port Moody-Burquitlam

2708 St. Johns Street
 Port Moody, V3H 2B7
 Rick.Glumac@leg.bc.ca
 604 936-8709



Belcarra Blessings By Deborah Struk

Home, Belcarra, between the forest and the sea. How precious to live in a beautiful paradise, rich in the natural beauty of creation and full of wonderful people in every part of our quaint village.

My heart swells when neighbours share their joys and special memories: graduations, births, nature sightings, delicious recipes, garden successes, artistic endeavours, the list goes on. The peace and beauty of walking on our forest trails is such a gift, right out our front, or back doors. It is a delight to walk, meeting neighbours with a smile and wave, or to catch up on the latest life blessings. I especially love going for walks with my girls and hearing my granddaughter joyfully greet those we see. Belcarra is a beautiful place to call home. It is a blessing to be able to connect and touch each other's lives.

Over the last several years I have been able to share my 'unacceptable' views and remain accepted by those with differing views. Thank you. It is refreshing to meet many neighbours or their relatives with the same or different 'unacceptable' views. We live in a strange world where influential people are preemptively pardoned! Oh my grace abounds, and may truth and justice always triumph. Regardless of what goes on 'out there', we are all neighbours, and it's beautiful to see neighbours caring for each other despite differences. Please keep on being thoughtful, kind, and caring neighbours, and embrace the differences.

My heart is grieved when I hear of neighbours' sorrows or trials. It is beautiful to be able to share our burdens. It is one of many characteristics that separates humans from the rest of creation. But, it is also an incredible gift, knowing there are safe people to be honest and vulnerable with. It is comforting to know we are there for each other and need not crawl under a rock and cocoon, as can happen in some neighbourhoods.

If you need to, reach out to those you know in the Village, through CRAB or even myself. Reach out to those who can offer a prayer, a hug, a listening ear, a cup of tea, a glass of wine, or a walk on the trails.

In February we celebrate Valentine's Day.



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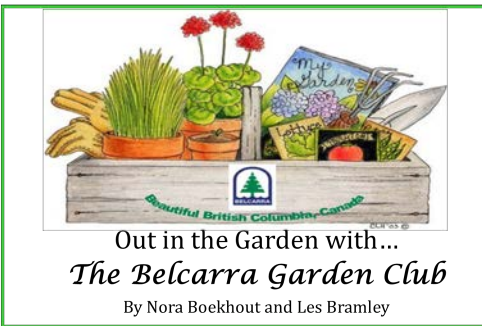
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Yes, it has become way too commercialized, but we can still celebrate by showing compassion every day of the year. Even the smallest act of kindness, like the tiniest light, always pushes back the darkness. This month and every month, I pray you too are blessed with an abundance of smiles and kindness.

Always know, you are of value within the Village and the world.





“ For Peat’s Sake” by Nora B

What might a gardener write about in February, (minus “Valentine’s Day”)? Checking out seed catalogues? How about the easy-peasy use of “peat pellets” for starting seeds? Here’s a surprising / alarming catch phrase: “For peat’s sake, don’t use peat!”

February 2nd marks “World Wetlands Day”. The “Convention on Wetlands”, supported by 172 countries, was adopted in 1971. Our BC Council of Garden Clubs recently reviewed a new book, “The Gardener’s Guide to Saving the Planet”, published/available from the Peatlands Protection Society (affiliated with the West Coast Climate Network).



What are Peatlands? The International Peatland Society defines them as terrestrial wetland ecosystems. When waterlogged plant matter is unable to fully decompose, the resulting material is peat.

Sphagnum mosses and shrubs are the predominant vegetation in cool climates, and graminoids (mostly grasses) and woody vegetation are in warmer climates. Eliza Olson (Peatland Protection Society) states that some peatlands are up to 50,000 years old. Dr. Maria Strack, University of Waterloo, estimates it takes 1,000 years to get a damaged/extracted peatland back to its original state and at least 100 years to get it fully functioning.

Peatlands (almost half of the world’s wetlands) store twice as much carbon as all the world’s forests and yet cover only 3% of the planet’s land, according to the UN Environmental Program.

When drained or burned, they go from being carbon sinks to carbon sources. They take centuries to redevelop, and they also are a unique ecosystem supporting numerous wildlife. UN Environment Peatlands experts claim that since 1970, we have lost 35 percent of them.

Peat is still used for heat and power in some countries but environmental concerns have now been raised. Even Ireland has now put in restrictions preventing the burning of peat and curtailed some of its extracting.

It may seem that our little gardens don’t make much of a difference, but, for example, the UK has recently ended the sale of peat for gardening and Kew Gardens are 98% peat free! The International Peatlands Society states that Canada and Germany account for about half of the world’s horticultural peat extraction. Most of the peat moss used in the USA comes from Canada’s sphagnum bogs! (Ouch!) SunGro Horticulture, a leading exporter of Canadian peatmoss, claims to only harvest from bogs which are suitable for restoration. Research on restoration (restoring the sphagnum moss plant cover) is being done to allow the long-term peat accumulation function to be re-established”. Hmm... but after this plant cover grows, doesn’t creating the peat layer (which actually absorbs the carbon) still take hundreds of years?

There are peat-free compost alternatives, but you must check carefully. “Organic” does not mean peat-free. Farmers’ Almanac suggests 7 alternatives: Coconut Coir, Wood-based materials, Compost, Pine Needles, Rice Hulls, Leaf Mold, Composted Manure. Other websites additionally list: Sand, Bentonite Clay, Expanded Clay, Perlite, Xylit.

The World Wetlands Day 2025 theme is “Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future”. It seems we are losing wetlands three times faster than forests. On February 2nd, check the labels on your own supplies and see if your next purchases can be peat-free.

For full articles, sources, links and information on how to purchase “The Gardners Guide to Saving the Planet” see our BGC webpage: <http://tinyurl.com/rwcf9b85>



Letter to the Editor The "Simon Fraser Formula"

By Ralph Drew

Regarding Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) Cost Sharing — It's Time to re-instate the "Simon Fraser Formula"

In the early years of the SVFD, cost sharing was based on what was called the "Simon Fraser Formula" which was the pro rata average of both population and assessment base:

Today, about sixty percent (60%) of the annual SVFD callouts are due to medical emergencies (including motor vehicle accidents) which are directly related to population and demographics.

The balance of annual SVFD callouts is mostly due to protection of buildings and other capital assets which are measured as the taxable assessment base of each municipality.

At the time SVFD was formed 47 years ago, the communities of Anmore and Belcarra endeavoured to find a "magic formula" for cost sharing. Although not perfect, the "Simon Fraser Formula" worked in the beginning and warrants re-examination at this important juncture.



Letter to the Editor Road End

By John Willms

The recent passing of the Village of Belcarra Corporate Policy #232 in my opinion is just Smoke and Mirrors for the residents of our Village. It was set up by council when the news of the need for two fire halls was required and pressure from the residents came when they realized that the Village of Belcarra had not had the fortitude to establish a financial fund to pay for these fire halls. Many villagers have wanted to sell some of the road ends that would bring in monies to pay for some of these much needed projects, to no avail. The private use of public properties in this Village has run rampant and those enabled residents who use these properties do not want their privileges sold. Even if the odd road end was chosen to be sold, the old guard would oppose this move and it will be years before any road end will come up for sale.

The main reason why the selling of road ends has not taken place is that the Village has turned a blind eye to the private use of public property and enabled some residents, who have permission to use some of these properties, to not pay fees or taxes on their usage. This now makes it difficult for these multimillion dollar plus properties to be sold.

There are bylaws for these uses but they are ignored by the Village. These uses should be surveyed, and sold or leased to the resident at market value based on a square foot basis. Everyone should be treated equally.

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Letter to the Editor Road Closures

By Colin Richardson
Deputy Fire Chief, SVFD

As Deputy Fire Chief for the Sasamat Fire Department, I am submitting this article to share my observations and recommendations concerning a recent weather event that significantly affected the residents of Belcarra.

On Saturday, December 14th, the Sasamat Fire Department was dispatched to three “wires down” calls at various locations in Anmore, Belcarra and Port Moody. These three calls were paged out within minutes of each other. In response, both fire halls deployed trucks and personnel to each call. At the first call, a tree brought down wires on Bedwell Bay Rd. alongside Sasamat Lake in Port Moody. At the second call, another tree brought down wires on Strong Rd. in Anmore. A third tree landed on wires and blocked the road at Bedwell Bay Rd. & Crystal Creek Drive (Anmore). Due to this particular road blockage, Port Moody Fire could not attend their call on Bedwell Bay Rd. As the situation evolved, it became clear that our Fire Department (with assistance from Anmore & Belcarra Public Works) would have the responsibility of maintaining control and safety of these scenes until the arrival of BC Hydro and tree removal services.

Unfortunately, during this significant event, some residents and other members of the public became increasingly frustrated that they were unable to leave or enter the area. Their frustration led to some displays of hostile and aggressive behaviour towards our members. I would like to remind all residents that this behaviour is not acceptable. As First Responders, we have a responsibility to maintain safety around any emergency scene. We are not stopping traffic, cyclists, and pedestrians on a whim, we are doing so because it’s necessary. Also, I would like to let everyone know that our members are unpaid volunteers and as such, we are doing this work, solely, to contribute to community safety, not for pay, pensions or benefits.

Looking ahead, these road closures will inevitably happen again, so I recommend that all residents enhance their level of preparedness for events that may restrict their ability to leave the village. This means that you should have sufficient food, medication and supplies for at least 72 hours. Additionally, residents should become familiar with the park access road that, in some cases, will be opened by parks staff (or Public Works) when an emergency requires the closure of Bedwell Bay Rd. in or around the village. However, residents should also be aware that in some circumstances the park road may not be accessible due to hazards identified by parks staff.

During a road closure, or other emergency events, residents may be able to find information on the **Alertable** App, or by contacting the Belcarra emergency phone number. Please take the time to download the App.

In closing, I would like to extend our thanks to Rick Pynn, the owner of A1 Tri Craft Tree Services. Rick assisted our department by using his truck (equipped with emergency lights) to block Bedwell Bay Rd. until we could take over the post.



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On The Belcarra Reading Table

By Klaus Bever

Mark Carney wrote in his book *Value(s)* that where process affecting others becomes mysterious and secretive; it raises suspicions and loses support. Carney goes on to say that once confidence in leadership is diminished, it becomes difficult, lengthy, if not impossible, to restore.

Mark Carney is a Canadian, born in the Northwest Territories and trained in economics at Harvard and Oxford Universities. He was the Governor of the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England.

His observation is reminiscent of how much of the world's hopeful looked to Barack Obama as he described his "red line" in dealing with Syria's dictatorship's use of chemical weapons on their own countrymen. Obama did not respond when chemical weapons were used. The red line was not discussed again. Confidence in Obama was diminished then, never to be fully restored. And despite the Obamas' continued high profile and political charm, they were unable to convince the American voters in 2024 to have enough confidence in their choice for president. Confidence, once lost, is near impossible to regain.

Our Council is now more than half way through their term in office.

In the first month of this Council's term of office, they received a report from the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) outlining the risks to safety on Bedwell Bay Road, especially for pedestrians. Five recommendations for improvement to safety were made by the engineers at ICBC. One of these has been put in place. This Council has not made any clear plan to complete the rest of the engineering recommendations. And despite broadening support from residents for traffic calming along Bedwell Bay Road and despite comments from Village staff about the risks from speed to pedestrians along our roadways, this Council has yet to propose clear plans to make villagers' security and safety of the highest importance. My confidence in this Council is ebbing.

Mark Carney describes with much detail how process and policy, both economic and social, is beneficial when it is open and available for comment and criticism. Retreating into secrecy on decisions affecting nearly everyone cannot instil confidence in those decisions to those who choose to be governed democratically.

Mark Carney's book is not any easy read but it should be read by those who govern us.

On the Belcarra Reading Table:
Value(s) by Mark Carney
Penguin Random House Canada
2021

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Pink Shirt Day — February 26

The purpose of the day is to create a more kind, inclusive world and raise awareness of anti-bullying initiatives. Pink Shirt Day started in Canada!





This past week, John (Stubbs), Klaus and I had the delightful experience of attending a lunch at our friends, Andrew and Judith, in Vancouver. All of us are retired and can afford the time to meet midweek and stay for hours to talk and eat.

Andrew and Judith hosted the lunch in memory of Mayling Stubbs and as a reminder to John that he has friends who love and support him. The twelve of us gathered around a large dining table that Judith had set with china, crystal, and (actual) silverware. The tablecloth was lace, the flowers were fresh, and the candles were lit. It was cold out and Andrew had a roaring fire to warm us. Judith is an amazing cook and as Andrew tells us, she kept him busy on 'quality control' for days in preparation of the gathering.

Everything was delicious but clearly the fresh Irish brown bread stood out. Klaus and I, separately and unknowingly, each asked Judith for the recipe; me, so that I could bake it, and Klaus, so that I could bake it.

My copy of the recipe describes the bread as 'a healthy, brown bread for a meal. Easy to make.' Klaus and I both think that it's really tasty the first day, served warm with butter. We also agree that it's delicious the next day, toasted with butter.

Recipe for Irish Brown Bread From Judith

All purpose flour	2 cups
Whole wheat flour	1 1/2 cups
Natural bran	1/2 cup
Granulated sugar	1/4 cup
Baking soda	1 1/2 tsp.
Kosher Salt	1 tsp.
Buttermilk	2 cups
Neutral-flavoured oil	1/4 cup

In a large bowl measure flours, bran, sugar, baking soda, and salt. Mix together and make a well in the centre. Pour in the buttermilk and oil. Stir just to moisten. Scrape into a greased loaf pan (9x5x3 inches). Bake in 350°F pre-heated oven for one hour. Remove from pan and let cool.

Final thoughts:

Who knows when breads and cakes are done? After years of checking for 'spring back' and clean cake testers while achieving soggy bottoms and dense centres, I decided to invest in a temperature probe. For this loaf, a 200°F centre seemed to work.

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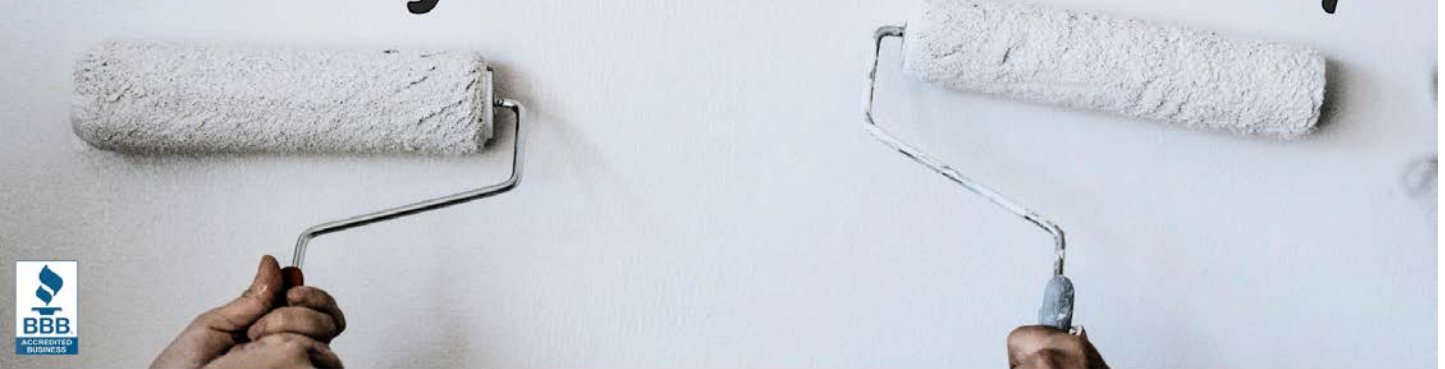
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- Provide government documents and other web-based forms if you don't have internet access



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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