



# Belcarra Barnacle

December 2025

Belcarra's Community Newspaper

Volume 46 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](mailto:belcarrabarnacle@gmail.com)

Paper submissions can be placed in the Barnacle box outside the Village Office or sent by mail to:

The Belcarra Barnacle,  
4084 Bedwell Bay Road,  
Belcarra, B.C. V3H 4P8.

Deadline for Submissions 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 We do not publish in January and August.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

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## FROM THE EDITOR

2025 has been a great year for our community paper. All of our volunteers have remained committed to our efforts, and a new member, Zara, has joined our team. We have had some new folks contribute to the paper with stories, artwork, opinions, and photos—we hope you will keep it up in 2026. Our regular contributors have continued to be both regular and engaging... and, occasionally, even controversial. Our printer, Westwood Printing, has given us quick service to help keep our paper on time. And, thanks to Sandra, Clive, and our advertisers, we've stayed financially sound for another year.

Thank you, everyone!

From the *Barnacle*, wishing you a very merry holiday season and all the best in the New Year.

Cheers,  
Dayna



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SVFD (Jay Sharpe) <a href="mailto:jay.sharpe@anmore.com">jay.sharpe@anmore.com</a>	604 765 2944
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On the cover is a photo from last year's "Santa in the Park" community event. [From Left: Liisa Wilder, Mila, and Santa (Neil McAskill)]. Santa will be cruising into Bedwell Bay again this year, on Saturday, December 13.

It's Dan Greenwood, with his cheerful group of holiday-loving volunteers, who bring us the beautiful, festive Santa ship parades to our local waters every year. Below is their weather-dependent schedule. Ships sail from Reed Point around 7 PM and return around 9 PM.

### **Santa Ships Tentative Schedule**

*(subject to weather conditions)*

**Dec 5** Fri Cates Park, Dollarton, **Belcarra Bay**

**Dec 6** Sat Deep Cove Christmas Ship Party

**Dec 12** Fri Woodlands, Brighton Beach

**Dec 13** Sat **Belcarra Bay**, Dollarton

**Dec 19** Fri To Be Determined

**Dec 20** Sat **Bedwell Bay, Farrer Cove**



A few words from Dan:

For those of you along the waterfront, the Skippers love it when you light up your docks. That will allow us to come in a bit closer to the shore for better viewing. Remember to flash your house lights; we can see and hear you, so make lots of noise. We will reply with horn blasts from our ships!

## Important Dates in DECEMBER

1	World Aids Day
1	Regular Council Meeting
2	Giving Tuesday
4	Full Cold Moon
6	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women
7	Anmore Light up the Season 4-8 PM
8	Bodhi Day
10	Human Rights Day
11	CRAB AGM & Holiday Social
13	Geminid meteor shower
13	Christmas Ships & Santa in the Park
14	Hanukkah begins
15	Special Council Meeting
19	New Moon
21	Winter Solstice
22	Hanukkah ends
25	Christmas
26	Boxing Day
31	New Year's Eve

## JANUARY

1	New Year's Day
3	Full Wolf Moon
6	Epiphany
7	Orthodox Christmas
12	Regular Council Meeting
18	New Moon
26	Regular Council Meeting
26	Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
27	International Holocaust Remembrance

### **Anmore Holiday Event: Light Up The Season**

Join the Village of Anmore's Light Up the Season event on Sunday, December 7, 2025, from 4-8 p.m. at the Community Hub and Dr. Hal Weinberg Spirit Park. Dr. Hal Weinberg Spirit Park is transformed into a Winter Wonderland with enchanting light up displays.

<https://anmore.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2025-11-14-Light-Up-the-Season-Flyer.pdf>

## November Council Meetings Editor's Notes

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

### November 3 Council Meeting

Mayor Ross requested an amendment to the October 20, 2025, regular Council meeting minutes. Attendance at an October 7 SVFD Trustees meeting will be struck from the Mayor's report, as no meeting was held.

Ken Bjorgaard, Financial Consultant, reviewed the upcoming audit process for the 2025 Financial Statements. KPMG consultants presented their audit plan.

Council approved the following property tax and user fee increases for the 2026-2030 Financial Bylaw and amended Fees & Charges Bylaw:

#### Property Taxes:

- 3% increase in 2026
- 4% increase in years 2027 to 2030

#### Water User Fees:

- 4% increase in 2026
- 4% increase in years 2027 to 2030

#### Waste & Recycle Depot (WARD) User Fees:

- 5% increase in 2026
- 4% increase in years 2027 to 2030

The first, second, and third readings of the bylaws are scheduled for the December 1 regular Council meeting. Adoption of the bylaws is scheduled for a special Council meeting on December 15, 2025.

The draft "Active Transportation Network Plan" (ATNP) was presented to Council. Despite community opposition to several of the "practical" and "context-specific" improvements proposed by Bunt & Associates, there was community support for "low-cost, minimal-impact solutions", including: "walkable shoulders" along roadways (widened shoulders and/or gravel walkways with vegetation trimmed back), maintaining existing trails, maintaining and upgrading foreshore trails, crosswalk safety improvements, new and upgraded transit shelters, and speed reduction measures.

In the capital plan for 2026, \$1.2 million is allocated to the Bedwell Bay upgrade project (BBUP) in the Kelly Road and Main Avenue area.

Stuart Novak reported on legislative changes regarding the Fire Safety Act. Council approved the appointment of Stuart Affleck, Fire Inspector, Verisk Canada, as a contracted Fire Inspector for the Village.

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) reported on the Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) Service Review process and its conclusion. Council approved a request that the Chair of the Service Review formally conclude the SVFD process and that the process and its outcomes be documented in a final report, per Provincial service review guidelines.

In the CAO's report, she describes the formal process for a service review and how the SVFD service review deviated from it (no working group, no established fact sheet, no facilitation). The following information was taken from her report:

- On June 19, 2024, Belcarra initiated a Service Review under the Local Government Act with the goal of updating the capital cost apportionment and recovery structures for the SVFD service.
- The existing 50/50 capital cost split resulted from a dispute-resolution process at the time of the 1989 agreement and was not representative of typical cost-sharing models based on property value or population size. [Note: In 1991, the population of Anmore was 741, and Belcarra was 586]
- Since 1989, Anmore's population has grown by 218%, while Belcarra's has grown by 17%.
- During the service review, Belcarra presented multiple cost allocation options for fire hall replacement, including:
  - Maintain current allocations for operating expenses and capital, except for fire hall replacement.
  - Each Village pays for its own fire hall.
  - Apply population-based contributions.
  - Apply a 50/50 cost share for the replacement of the existing halls, with facility expansion costs borne by Anmore.

*Council Notes continued from page 4*

- Belcarra was given the option to accept the existing terms or have the shared fire service dissolved.
- Anmore opposed changing or negotiating the terms of the current service arrangement. They indicated an intention to initiate a service withdrawal if facilitation was requested from the Province.
- On October 9, 2025, Mayor Ross issued a letter to Chair Mike Hurley regarding the conclusion of the service review.

[The CAO's full report is available on the Village website in the [SVFD Service Correspondence](#) folder].

Councillor Ruzycki has submitted an application to Hometown Takeover. She reported that our chances of success are low.

The CAO reported damage to the mixed recycle bin caused by a bear. The bin has been repaired, and staff are looking into a more robust replacement.



There have been two breaks in the potable water line in the last few weeks. The causes of the two failures were different: one a component failure, the other due to contractor activities. Inspections of the water service lines are ongoing.

## VILLAGE OF BELCARRA Holiday Closure

The Village Hall will close at noon on  
December 24 and reopen at 8:00 AM on  
Friday, January 2nd.



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## SVFD Board of Trustees Meeting Two New Fire Halls

The Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) Board of Trustees held a special meeting on November 5, 2025 to approve moving ahead with the replacement of the two fire halls.

The Trustees approved, by unanimous vote, a Design-Build method which will consolidate design and construction under a single contract.

The budget approved for the project is just under \$22 million, with approximately \$14 million for the new Anmore hall and \$8 million for the new Belcarra hall. The numbers were originally presented by Liberty to the Trustees at a November 2024 meeting. The Trustees are familiar with Liberty and have toured fire halls built by them.

The Trustees directed Metro Vancouver staff to prepare the required borrowing bylaws to secure funding for the two halls.

All going well, there might be shovels in the ground as early as next spring.

### **The following is Background Information from Metro Vancouver's October 27, 2025, report to the Trustees**

#### JD Report — The report that started it all

The fire halls were the subject of a 2019 report by Johnston Davidson Architecture (the "JD Report").

The JD Report found the following:

- The two fire halls, each originally built in 1977, are at the end of their useful life and do not meet current Building Code post-disaster requirements for emergency response facilities.
- The maintenance requirements for the fire halls are escalating, and they are energy inefficient.
- There are inadequate crew accommodations and insufficient operational space to support current and future Department operations. Among other issues noted: there is insufficient space for administration; the halls do not support proper decontamination processes (e.g., separation of gear from truck bays); the fire hall bays are too small for modern apparatus; and there is no extraction system for vehicle exhaust.

#### Could we manage with just one hall?

The Fire Underwriters Survey ("FUS") examines, among other things, a fire hall's location and the ability of a department to provide a timely response to incidents. "Given the overall geographic footprint of the two communities, and the maximum permitted travel distance under the FUS rating system— where commercial properties must be within five kilometers of a fire hall to be considered 'protected' and residential properties must be within eight kilometres — it would not be possible for the Department to operate from a single hall and protect the entire service area."

#### There are Health and Safety Issues

"Worksafe BC now recognizes 18 cancers as presumptively related to firefighting, in addition to heart disease and post-traumatic stress disorders. Worksafe requirements for fire service include proper contamination control, including diesel exhaust extraction systems, cleaning and proper storage of turnout equipment, and shower facilities for members to properly decontaminate after fire exposures. The current fire halls lack the space to support the necessary contamination control processes."

### **On November 28, 2025, the Metro Vancouver Regional District Board approved:**

"A capital project to replace the Sasamat Fire Halls and direct staff to prepare all required bylaws to fund the replacement of the two existing SVFD fire halls in the Village of Anmore and the Village of Belcarra, with the total cost of both fire halls shared by the Village of Anmore and the Village of Belcarra at 50% each, per Metro Vancouver Regional District Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department Service Bylaw No. 1402, 2024."



## **Senkler Fire Response**

### **By Jay Sharpe, Fire Chief, SVFD**

I am writing regarding the recent structure fire on Senkler Rd.

As the Fire Chief, I thought it would be useful for the public to have additional information about our response.

At 7:08 p.m., on November 6th, the Sasamat Fire Department was dispatched from the Surrey Fire Dispatch Centre to a “structural fire” at 3345 Senkler Rd. Twenty members from both Anmore and Belcarra responded to their respective fire halls.

The first truck on scene was Engine 3 from Belcarra Hall. This truck arrived at the fire scene at 7:17 p.m. Flames and smoke were showing from windows and doors on all four sides of the building. The first firefighters “on scene” immediately deployed hose and began fire protection of the neighbouring structures. Engine 1 and Ladder 7 arrived from Anmore at 7:25 p.m. The occupants of the home had evacuated prior to our arrival. As per standard protocol, the Police and ambulance were also dispatched to the scene. The fire presented challenges due to the high wood content of the structure, which meant there was a rapid rate of spread. Suppression efforts were assisted by the weather conditions (heavy rain and no wind) and the ease of access around the perimeter of the building. Throughout, crews strategically fought the fire from exterior and interior positions.

The crews accessed the Belcarra water system via the nearest hydrant, but also brought the Water Tender (tanker truck) as backup. The water from the Tender was not required. During the firefight, the water flowed almost continuously, but due to effective water management, the Tatlow reservoir never dipped below the 70% level. Approximately 103,000 litres of water were used to fight the fire. Firefighting efforts continued until the fire was declared extinguished at 9:42 p.m. Fire crews remained on scene to conduct overhaul and extinguish hot spots until 5 a.m. the next morning.

It is important to note that at the beginning of many emergency events, the public often has the perception that the first responders are taking too long to arrive. Many steps occur after someone dials 911. The 911 call taker determines the nature of the emergency, the location, and the appropriate first responders that will be required. Then the call must be redirected to the appropriate dispatch centre. In our case, it is the Surrey Fire Dispatch Centre where the fire dispatcher then takes more information from the caller to ensure that the appropriate details are collected, and the relevant information is communicated to the department. The foregoing process can take several minutes, but it often feels like hours to those who are initially involved in the emergency.

In closing, I would like to express our thanks to those members of the community who have contacted me with supportive comments of the work carried out by our members.



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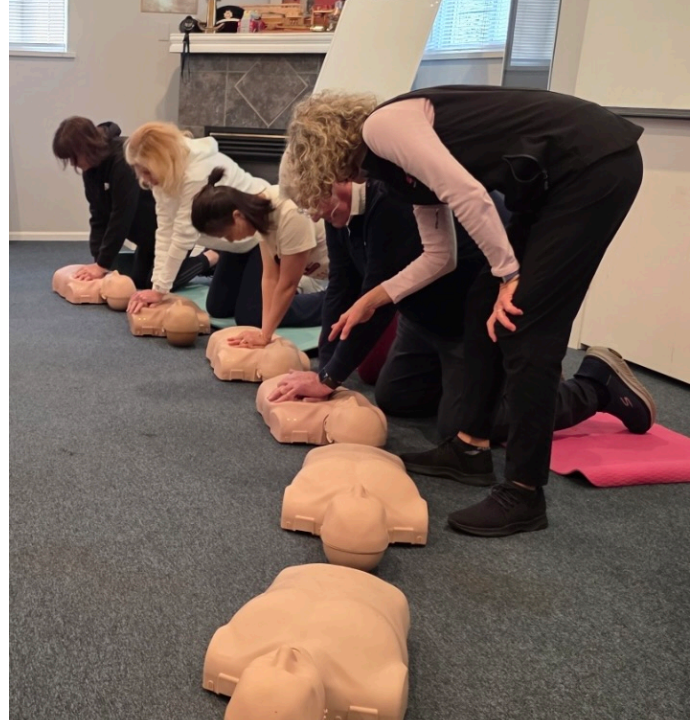




## SVFD Hosted CPR Awareness Class

The Sasamat Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) hosted a CPR Awareness training class in November. Suzanne Wilson, a Heart and Stroke Foundation instructor, provided a lively and informative course using a video of a real-time enacted CPR response. While the emergency unfolded and the actors attempted lifesaving measures onscreen, we answered questions, did CPR compressions, and learned about AED use. Doing two minutes of CPR compressions, while keeping the right rhythm and depth of compression, is not as easy as it looks! A valuable course that helps reduce the fear of using an AED and starting lifesaving measures for the first time.

Thank you, SVFD, for being there when we need you and for teaching us how we can help.



## A Tattoo Story

by Tess Browning

I am a professional ballet dancer, so I go back and forth between living in Belcarra with my parents and living in other places around the world. On my ballet journey, I met my best friend, who is also a dancer. Reed has come to visit Belcarra a number of times and says Belcarra feels like home (despite his actual home being all the way in New Jersey!). Recently, to recognize his adopted home, my friend Reed got a small tattoo of the outline of Belcarra. Although it almost looks like a little dinosaur (haha)... the top is meant to be Jug Island!



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# Book Reviews



## ***What we Can Know***

By Ian McEwen

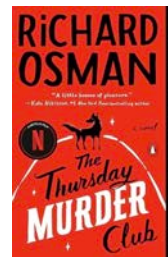
For this reader, McEwen's latest novel was a frustrating experience of trying to find out, indeed, what we can know about the story he has written. As reviewers have noted, it is, on the surface, a novel about climate change, love affairs and biography but there is nothing linear in the way the story is developed. This can be a challenge. We catch glimpses of what it would be like to live in a post climatic melt-down known as the "Derangement", a torrid love affair, scholarly research, and a physical search for an epic poem [A Corona for Vivien] in what are now the waterways of Snowdonia.

For fans of McEwen's writing [of which I am one], this is a disappointing book but I suspect this may be a minority view. Indeed, as one critic has put it, "what we can know is far more than what we do." JS

## ***The Thursday Murder Club***

by Richard Osman

Four residents in a peaceful retirement village in the fictitious seaside village of Fairhaven in Kent get together every Thursday to talk about unsolved crimes. In this group is Ron, a former socialist firebrand, Joyce, a widow who writes the diary/minutes of their activities, Ibrahim, a former therapist and Elizabeth who takes charge. As septuagenarians, they are cleverer than most. When a local developer is found dead, the Thursday Murder Club goes into action. Yes, they'll work with the police, but together they are one step ahead of them. You will enjoy their down to earth lives and their ingenuity to solve crimes. It reminded me a bit of the Louise Penny mysteries that take place in the fictitious village of Twin Pines in Quebec. If you like this book, you could go on to read the sequels: *The Man Who died Twice*, *The Bullet That Missed*, *The Last Devil To Die* and *The Impossible Fortune*. CG



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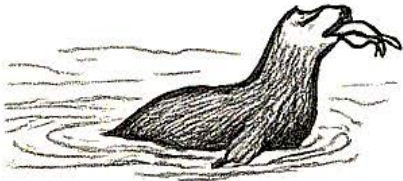
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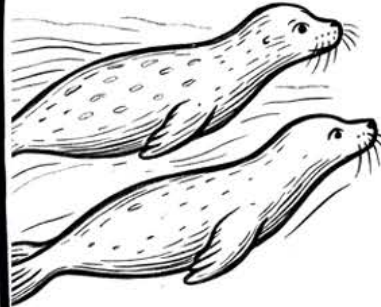


from my window  
I watch a sea lion  
toss a fish



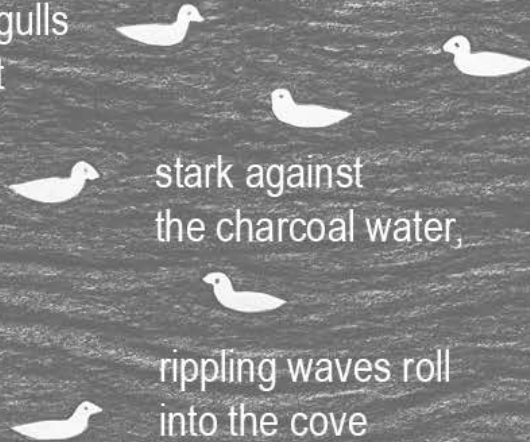
he slips  
under the water  
surfaces again  
and the fish is gone

in the clear green cove  
below my window  
two seals chase a salmon



they disappear  
under the dock

dots of white  
seagulls  
float



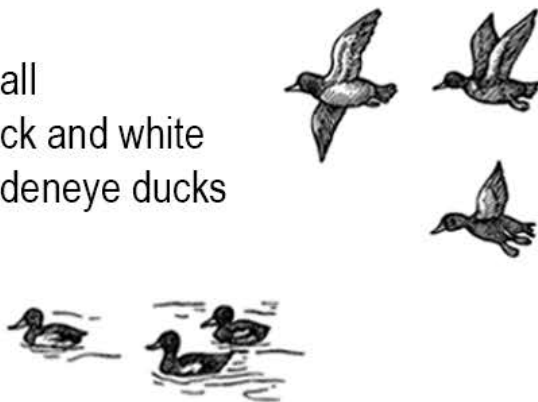
stark against  
the charcoal water,

rippling waves roll  
into the cove

A flurry of activity  
catches my eye

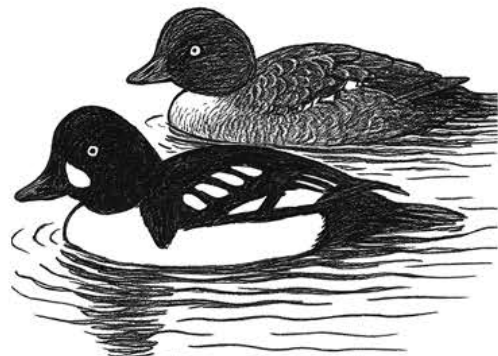


six  
small  
black and white  
goldeneye ducks



land  
just past the rock

They're back!  
— our winter ducks



November is here.

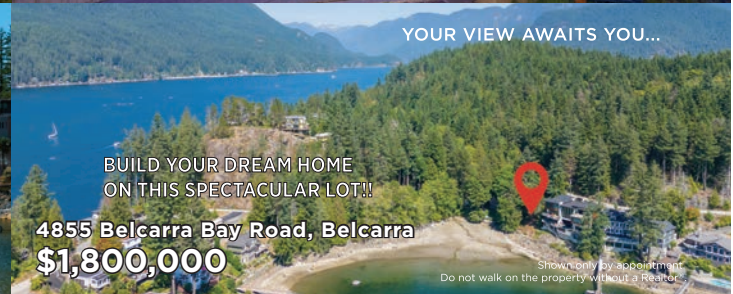




A reminder of the magic and beauty of the Santa Ships Fireworks (2024) by Corinna Goodman

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Lynda, Michelle W., Mandy, Melissa,

Caryss, and Michelle H.

Steve DeWitt

CRAB

Metro Parks

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gratitude.



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# Santa Ships Fireworks

SATURDAY      **13**  
DEC      7:30 PM

Santa Ships arrive 7:30 to 7:45 PM  
Santa onshore 7:45 to 8:00 PM  
Fireworks 8:15 PM

SS BELCARRA      SS BELCARRA

TƏMTƏMIX™TƏN/BELCARRA PARK



## CRAB Corner

By Penny Moen, CRAB President

### Reflecting on a Successful Year and Welcoming the Holiday Season

As we near the end of another successful year in Belcarra, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all residents who participated in and supported the Community Recreation Association of Belcarra (CRAB). Your involvement has contributed greatly to a year filled with strong community engagement and memorable events.

With the holiday season approaching, we are pleased to invite the community to two upcoming gatherings:



### CRAB's Annual General Meeting (AGM) & Holiday Social

**Thursday, December 11 — Village Hall**  
**Doors open at 6:30 PM**

The AGM provides an opportunity to review our accomplishments, share plans for the year ahead, and elect our new executive. This year, we are particularly hopeful that members of Belcarra's younger population will consider taking on leadership roles, bringing fresh perspectives and renewed energy to our organization.

### Santa, Santa Ships, and Fireworks at Belcarra Park

**Saturday, December 13**

We are also delighted to welcome Santa and his festive ships back to Belcarra Park. Residents are invited to join us for this cherished tradition, where CRAB will be serving hot chocolate as we gather to enjoy the holiday spirit and another brilliant fireworks display by Dan Greenwood. Santa's ships sail from Reed Point, so their arrival times are tentative. Fireworks are planned to start at 8:15 PM, and Dan is promising us a show twice as spectacular as the Hallowe'en display.

As we look ahead to 2026, CRAB remains committed to offering social events that reflect the interests of our community and continue to strengthen the connections that make Belcarra such a special place to live.

## Camping at təmtə́míxʷtən/Belcarra?

In a November 10, 2025 *Tri-Cities Dispatch* article: "Metro mulls new campsites at Widgeon, təmtə́míxʷtən/Belcarra" Jeremy Shepherd reports:

"With more Canadians looking to do their camping closer to home, Metro Vancouver is considering new regional park campsites, including a site in the newly opened Widgeon Marsh.

While further study is required, Metro Vancouver is set to consider allowing camping in a meadow which is near services from former homes located nearby.

The regional government is also considering allowing camping 'within walkable distance to Sasamat Lake.'

However, the small size and odd shape of the site 'may limit its development potential,' according to a Metro Vancouver report.

Another possibility is the Admiralty Point area at təmtə́míxʷtən/Belcarra.

However, before anyone sets up a tent, Metro Vancouver is set to evaluate its business plan and camping demand. The sensitivity of the ecosystem, the steepness of the slope, proximity to industrial noise, and general safety would also be considered.

'Climate change is also increasing the frequency and intensity of wildfires in the region as demonstrated by the recent fire in Minnekhada Regional Park,' the report stated, noting the need for risk analysis.

Metro is considering a total of 19 new campsites in Aldergrove, South Langley, Burnaby, Campbell Valley and Lynn Headwaters.

While Canadians used to travel farther afield to camp, a 2023 survey found most stay within 100 miles of home.

The survey also noted a dip in tent camping and a massive increase in the number of households 'glamping,' staying in RVs, or cabins."

The full report can be found in the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Committee Agenda for November 5, 2025.

<https://metrovancover.org/boards/Parks/PAR-2025-11-05-AGE.pdf>



### Belcarra Blessings By Deborah Struk

December is here, and we have a special *Barnacle* blessing. Harper did not want to recite; instead, she wrote her own submission.

It reads:

Canada's Barnacle

I am Harper 51/2

I am thankful for my dad my mom my nana my Hunter and my friends

I am really excited for my birthday.

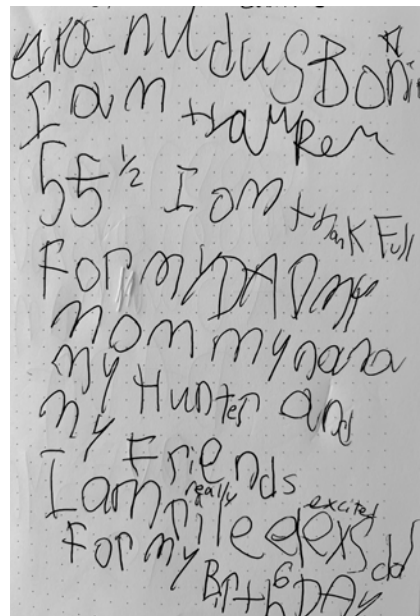
Yes, her birthday is in December and falls a week before Christmas.

She actually spent a very long time writing pages and pages on a variety of topics. She seems to have the heart of a writer, like her Nana, great-uncle, and Great-Great-Grandparents. Goodness, when I was her age, I was being taught 'a' says ä like apple, and how to print the letter.

One of my most special blessings of December is visiting Barbara Shelly and admiring her amazing handmade Advent calendar. It is an exquisite and elaborate Handel's Messiah Advent. In gorgeous deep red and green, hanging with a circumference of about 24", it is a beautiful piece of art. If you get a chance to see it, you will not be disappointed. Although it is not audibly musical, it definitely sets one to singing Handel's Messiah: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Having heard this favourite classical piece many times over my life and not being a choralist, I did not know that it is movement 12 of a total of 52. Wow! Astounding.

Now, about Belcarra artists, I also once had the privilege of hearing Daphne Douglas sing "The Messiah" in a choir presentation. I am sure there are a few choralists within Belcarra who have performed this and others. The Nutcracker is a favourite of our family, and Harper was very happy to meet and see Belcarra's own Tess Browning as The Sugar Plum Fairy. How many other artists are there in Belcarra who share their gifts during the Christmas season? I think Belcarra could be known as the Village of the Arts Between the Forest and the Sea. Many also share their talents unrelated to Christmas.



A smile is the biggest blessing any of us can share. May your heart be full, and may you receive many blessings that are intangible and fill your soul.

You are loved.  
Merry Christmas!

### CRAB AGM and Holiday Social

Thursday, December 11

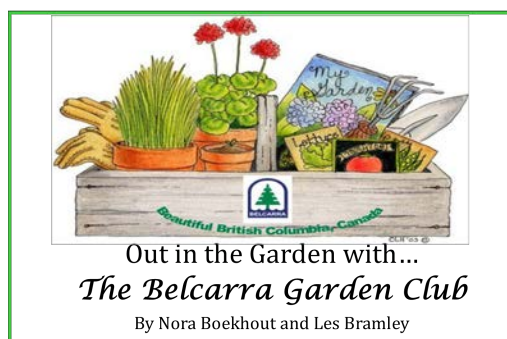
Village Hall

Doors open at 6:30 PM

Please RSVP to

CRAB4084@gmail.com





## Ginger at Christmas by Nora Boekhout

Gingerbread houses, cookies, and jelly candies—these delicious treats are a sure sign that Christmas is near! Ginger, whether fresh, powdered, or candied, is a versatile ingredient. It's often used in baking and is essential in many noodle dishes, stir-fries, and herbal teas. But ginger is more than just a tasty spice; it's been valued for centuries for its medicinal properties, especially in soothing digestive troubles. With anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antimicrobial, heart health, and blood sugar benefits, ginger is a true kitchen hero.



Baking with ginger dates back to ancient Greece and Rome. By the 11th century, Asian ginger was a prized import in Europe, arriving via trade routes. Monks refined ginger

recipes, and by the 1200s, shaped cookies began to appear. Queen Elizabeth I famously popularized the "Gingerbread Man," presenting these whimsical cookies to guests at royal banquets. The beloved fairy tale "Hansel and Gretel" (1812) enthused the creation of gingerbread houses, which were already a cherished part of German Christmas celebrations. (In the 1600s, Nuremberg was declared the gingerbread capital of the world!) Fast forward to 2013, when Texas built the largest gingerbread house ever recorded—measuring an impressive 60 feet by 42 feet and standing 20 feet tall!

Gingerbread cookies come in wide cultural varieties: German lebkuchen, Dutch speculaas, Scandinavian pepparkakor, Polish pierniczki, Croatian licitars, Czech perník, and Russian pryaniki. Some regions even have gingerbread baking guilds (with strict regulations in the past), preserving unique recipes and traditions.

Did you know you can grow ginger at home, even in the Lower Mainland? Ginger root (*Zingiber officinale*) thrives if sheltered from harsh winter weather. There's also a milder, nutty-flavored variety called Fingerroot or Chinese ginger (*Boesenbergia rotunda*), popular in Southeast Asia and southern China.

### Growing Tips:

- Please check the links on our website for full directions!
- Choose healthy, organic store-bought ginger rhizomes with visible "eyes." Soak them overnight before planting.
- Make sure each piece you plant has at least one "eye."
- Ginger loves warmth and humidity. Plant when temperatures are above 10°C (50°F) or start indoors.
- Slightly acidic soil is best. Feed regularly with fertilizer, compost, or worm tea.
- Place your ginger in a bright spot—some sources recommend full sun, others partial shade to prevent leaf burn.
- You can also grow ginger indoors under lights or on a bright window.
- The growing period is 10 to 12 months, so protect your plants from cold weather in the fall.



With a little care, you can enjoy home-grown ginger for cooking, baking, and even herbal remedies—bringing an extra touch of flavour to your kitchen!

Full article, sources, & links are on our webpage:

<http://tinyurl.com/rwcf9b85>



Again, this recipe is new to me, but what enticed me to try another “not-my-favourite” was seeing a version online that added a “citrus” twist! My recipe is a blend of Mum’s 1948 (1971 update) cookbook, and some online searching! Happy news, the family (me too!) liked them!

#### Ingredients

¾ cup butter  
 ½ cup molasses  
 ½ to 1 cup brown sugar  
 zest from 1 orange  
 juice from 1 lemon  
 1 large egg  
 4+ cups flour  
 ½ tsp salt  
 1 tsp baking soda  
 1 Tbsp ground ginger  
 1 Tbsp ground cinnamon  
 ½ tsp cloves  
 ½ tsp ground allspice

1. Cream the butter and add the sugar.
2. Mix in other wet ingredients, beat until fluffy.
3. Mix dry ingredients in a separate bowl.
4. Gradually add dry ingredients into wet. If dough is sticky, add about ½ cup more flour.
5. Place dough between two sheets of parchment or wax paper.
6. Roll to about 1/4 inch thick. Chill for at least one hour.  
(Mine had to sit in the fridge overnight! Oops!)
7. Cut out your cookie cutter shapes. (Re-squish scraps and roll again!) Some recipes say to chill again, but I put one tray in the oven right away!
8. Cookies take 7 to 9 minutes in 350°. (I did 9 minutes).
9. Leave on the tray for 10 minutes and then move to a cooling rack.

#### **Royal Icing**

Thank you, Rosemary, for informing me last year that butter icing is NOT the way to decorate cookies! Hahaha! This year’s hilarious start resulted in pancake shaped eyeballs because my icing was too thick! I have now taken another friend’s suggestion to head to the Dollar Store for some “proper” icing tools instead of snipped off Ziploc bags! I highly recommend the Dollar Store up Johnston street... a whole wall of equipment including candy eyes! Yes!

#### Ingredients

2 cups (250 grams) powdered sugar  
 2 ½ Tbsp meringue powder  
 (which I could only find via Amazon! Lol!)  
 6 Tbsp water  
 1 tsp vanilla extract or other non-oil flavouring

1. Recipes stress that all bowls and equipment must be squeaky clean!
2. Combine ingredients slowly and then whip (5 minutes) until icing has soft peaks.
3. Divide it up for the various colours. (I hear that gel food colouring is preferred.)
4. Haven’t tried this yet... but use a stiff icing for outlines and thin it out for “flooding” insides. Toothpicks are useful for smoothing and scribing. Hmmm... maybe next time!







## Letter to the Editor

### Village Sign

By Deborah Struk

The *Barnacle* has always been a source of information and stories from the community, free from government oversight, as all print publications should be.

About ten years ago, there were rumblings in the Village, people saying they would not contribute to the paper because they thought the then-mayor ran it. I have learned firsthand over the decades that this is not true. Having submitted a variety of stories and such, my voice has never been altered for the pages. Albeit, a few times, when I named people, the kind editor at the time asked me to remove the name so as not to be libellous. I was thankful for that copy editor oversight, as my intent was never to libel.

My intent has been to cheer; dare I say bless, and at times spurn deeper thought, but never to promote hate. I truly care for all my neighbours, regardless of their religion, race, orientation, or otherwise.

Peter and I have been privileged to run the marquee sign for the last couple of years. However, in October, without any discussion, I was asked (told) to pass along the letters to a councillor. Apparently, one person wrote to staff and council that they were offended that the sign read:

Beautiful  
Blessed  
Belcarra

I asked to see the complaint, but was told, "If there was such a letter", I could not see it. The word "Blessed" on the sign was the problem. I tried asking more questions to the entire CRAB board, but there was no discussion, no response. Instead, the CRAB executive told me to pass along the letters, removing me from that responsibility, even though Peter immediately removed the word Blessed.

I constantly hear, from many Villagers, how blessed they feel to live here. I don't know anyone who does not feel blessed to live in Belcarra.

It seems some find it offensive to be publicly blessed on the sign? It seems rather sad and strange, because surely people would not rather be cursed? That is ridiculous.

So, my thoughts in my October *Barnacle* submission on truth ring all the more important. We need to use our eyes and ears and ask real questions. Real discussions are valuable.

My concern about the changes I see started in the spring when five members of the CRAB board decided we are no longer allowed to say Merry Christmas on our Belcarra sign. I asked if there had been any complaints, "No. It is just not inclusive." No more Merry Christmas on our Belcarra sign. There have been no complaints, and I have only heard very positive comments over the years about how people are very thankful they can drive home to Belcarra and see Merry Christmas. Sadly, that is no longer.

A few months ago, the CRAB president reminded me about the "separation of church and state". Historically, the actual separation of church and state was intended to prevent the state from having a say in the "church". It seems the state wants to meddle.

My fellow Belcarrians, I thought to share the truth about some of what has happened in Belcarra. It makes me sad and concerned. I think many of you would be concerned about the implications of having a single complaint changing things. Do we want staff and council to have more power over us? No, I do not want to stir up strife. But this is a very slippery slope. I trust the Lord and also know that shining light on darkness must be done. May truth prevail.

Despite Peter and me no longer doing the sign, the blessings won't stop. Each of us is a blessing to others with a smile, a kind word, or a gesture. I believe everyone here feels blessed to live in Belcarra, which feels like paradise this side of paradise.

Truth be told, it is a blessing not to have to do the sign in the cooler weather. So there is a positive. Plus, Councillor Wilder is doing a great job running the sign. Let's just keep it CRAB run.

Blessings of peace and grace.



**Letter to the Editor**  
**Fire Hall Location**  
**By Sherry Chisholm**

I am writing this letter to share my thoughts on the location of the new fire hall in Belcarra.

The present location is on a very steep property and is rather small for any larger building and drive-through roadway, as is required by the new building plans. I believe that it will cost considerably more to develop the new fire hall and safe drive-through roadway in the present location. A possible new location for the hall is a narrow lane (probably 22 feet wide) near what was called parking lot B and is now the start of the Jug Island trail. Another possible site is the tennis court property, which would provide flat land for easier building and a safe roadway to a straight stretch of main road.

The old parking lot B has a 66-foot-wide road allowance on the North side and a 22-foot lane allowance on the South side, which is, or was, the responsibility of the Village. It may be possible if Belcarra still has the 66-foot-wide road right-of-way; it may be enough land under the Village's control to put the new hall in without negotiating with Parks.

During the construction of the new fire hall, the current equipment could be stored in the existing hall and be ready for transfer to the new hall upon completion.

The GVRD has enjoyed the generosity of a good neighbour: our Belcarra Community, water supply, and fire and medical response from our Volunteer Department, at no cost to them. Many years ago, we traded Block 48 (approximately 100 acres) so Parks could build Tumtamaton Road to accommodate park visitors and keep them off the residential roads of Belcarra. Visitors continue to use the residential roads, and in summer, as parking is so limited in the park, many visitors park illegally on the Village residential roads. The Village tickets and tows for safety access reasons for fire trucks and medical ambulance calls, so as you can see, we try to deal with the problem Parks has created with a lack of adequate parking.

For all these reasons, I feel Parks should be responsible for helping us provide a property for the Sasamat Fire Department to meet the emergency needs of Villagers and park visitors.

Parks could donate the tennis court property, as it has never been an active area of park development, and would fulfill a good neighbour need and serve as a payback for the transfer of Block 48.

I do think the Park board folks would see the need to be a fair partner to the fire department for all the services they provide to the park.



**Note to the Editor**  
**Rights-of-Way**  
**By Ralph Drew**

Typically, when subdivided properties are "cancelled" at the land registry, the adjacent road rights-of-way, which are part of the subdivision plan, are also "cancelled". It is therefore my understanding that the 66-foot and 22-foot road rights-of-way referenced in the letter "Fire Hall Location" no longer exist as they were "cancelled" when the adjacent subdivided properties were "cancelled", and all was consolidated as 'Lot B'. At the time, the property (Lot B) was owned by 'Belcarra Park Resort Ltd.' and was sold in 1971 to the GVRD for inclusion in 'Belcarra Regional Park'.



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## Letter to Santa

By Klaus Bever



Dear Santa,

I write to you for a little help. The list of things that my Village needs from you for Christmas is short, and my editor has encouraged me to be brief.

It's the neighbours, Santa, it's the neighbours. For 40 years or more, the folks in Belcarra have lived cooperatively with our friends in Anmore. We share a volunteer fire department that was chiselled together way back in 1977, and we still respond to each other's calamities with thoughtfulness and urgency. And now our fire halls are falling apart. The regional bosses have told us we have to have new ones. We have been talking about that, but the talking has not gone well.

The three guys who talk for our friends in Anmore told us that talk is a waste of time. They seem to have their fire boots stuck in cement. They tell their Belcarra friends that some old agreement is the only agreement. The old agreement came with help from our big brothers in Victoria. Most of those old guys are gone now and can't help us understand what they were thinking when they put our fire departments together way back in 1977 or 1978.

The three dudes, who speak for Anmore at the Trustees meetings, smile a lot because they plan to have their Belcarra neighbours pay a big part of what Anmore wants in a fire hall. The two dudettes and one dude, who speak for Belcarra at these meetings, smile a lot less because they're really worried about having to work with the dudes from Anmore who won't talk about anything new on how to get along. The three dudes from Anmore told the three from Belcarra that they had better talk their kind of talk, or they were going to take their fire trucks and go home.

Santa, this is not the way my mom taught me how to solve problems. Especially at Christmas. Santa, could you give big bags of understanding, kindness, and thoughtfulness to everyone?

Christmas is, after all, the time of giving, of sitting round the fire and talking about our differences and finding solutions that give everyone some peace.

Thanks, Santa,  
Your elf in the woodshop



## Letter to the Editor Camping in Belcarra Park

By Jim Chisholm

Metro Parks is discussing overnight camping (tent and trailer) sites at Belcarra Park.

Possible locations are Sasamat Camp and South of Belcarra Picnic area, where the cottages were until recently.

Night-time use of the roadway, washrooms, campfires, general noise, and parking will certainly cause disturbance to the residential neighbourhood. The main concern is campfires and possibly all summer tent campers.

This will mean the park is open to all visitors day and night.

There is no caretaker or security at this time, so there are already plenty of visitors to the picnic grounds at night.

I hope that Council and the Mayor, when they discuss this plan, will be adamantly opposed for all these reasons.

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### Stories from the Archives —

#### “Beautiful Waterfall Close To Vancouver”

Researched By: Ralph Drew, Belcarra, BC, Nov. 2025.

Source: [Vancouver Province, Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1911, page 26.](#)

#### Water Leaps 200 Feet from the Mountain Side into Canyon.

“Comparatively few people are aware that one of the most beautiful water falls in British Columbia is situated only nineteen miles [30 km] from Vancouver and within five minutes’ walk of the ‘Wigwam Inn’ at ‘Indian River Park’. This cascade, called the ‘Spray of Pearls’, descends in a series of leaps from ledge to ledge and finally thundering down 200 feet [60 m] into a natural amphitheatre or basin hollowed-out of the solid granite.”

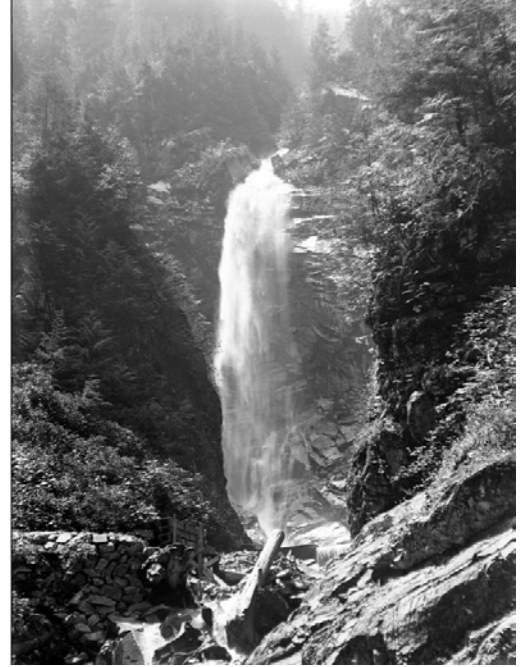
“The place is reached through ‘Cathedral Canyon’ whose narrowing moss-grown walls towers many hundreds of feet above the well-constructed trail which leads from the ‘Wigwam Inn’ into what seems to be the heart of the mountain.”

“That such a spot of awe-inspiring grandeur can be so easily reached, even by ladies and children, has been a great surprise to many people who have visited ‘Indian River Park’.

There is no reason why ‘Cathedral Canyon’ and the ‘Spray of Pearls’ should not become as famous as

‘Capilano Canyon’ within a short time, especially since the large passenger launch ‘Roche Point’ has been placed on the run between ‘Evans-Coleman Wharf’ and the ‘Wigwam Inn’.”

“Information about this trip and about ‘Wigwam Inn’ may be obtained from ‘Alvo von Alvensleben Ltd.’ [owner/operator of ‘Wigwam Inn’], Phone 2481.”



Source: City of Vancouver Archives ([CVA 260-73](#)).

#### ‘Spray of Pearls’ Waterfall— Wigwam Inn— circa 1928’.



Submitted by Brian Hirsch





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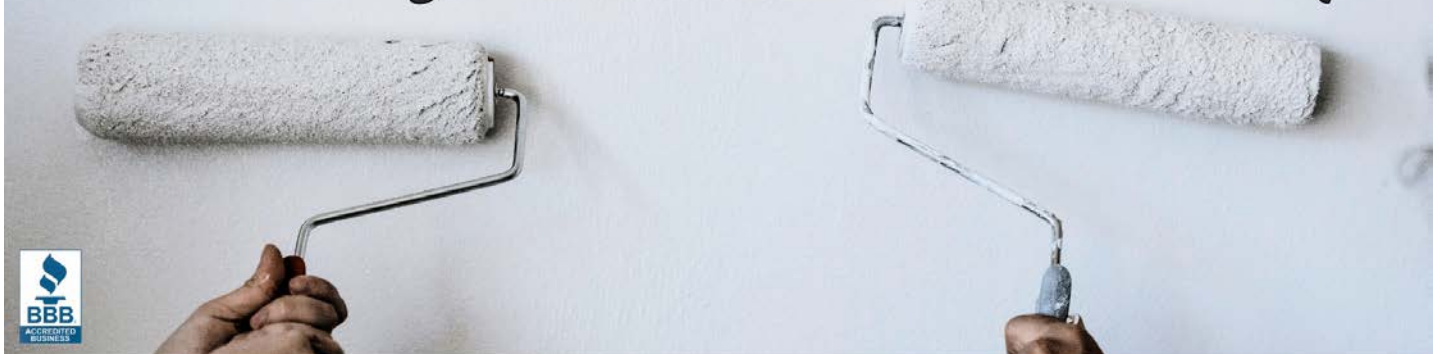
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