

# DOWN BY THE BAY

Union Bay Community Club Newsletter

Box 335, Union Bay BC, V0R 3B0    250-335-2500    WWW.UBCC.CA

DECEMBER 2022



## FRONT COVER

Pictures of some of our volunteers over the last few years. While the board of directors run the day-to-day business and fundraising for the hall, it takes many volunteers to make our special events successful. The Union Bay Community Club's events are entirely dependent on volunteers. Money raised by our events pays for the maintenance, heating, electricity, insurance, and many other things that it takes to maintain your community center. We are always in need of volunteers! You can volunteer as little or as much as you want. Call 250-335-2500 to be put on our call list.

Thank you to all who volunteer!



## Beaufort Watershed Stewards

Perspective is important. Sometimes it's good to take a step back and get a wider view. The view from our cozy cabin in Vik, Iceland isn't much different than from my Fanny Bay home at four on a rainy afternoon. Except it's noon here and the sun won't get any higher in the sky all day. And it will be dark by five.

The music festival that drew myself and a couple of friends to Iceland is finished now. Highlights were Francis of Delirium, the Daughters of Reykjavik, and the organist at Hallgrimskirkja playing Daft Punk on a magnificent pipe organ. Now we're seeing a bit of the country. Vik lies about 200 km southeast of Reykjavik. It's a village the size of Fanny Bay. Jon, our host, is happy to talk about local water sources. (Once you become a watershed steward you tend to have these conversations wherever you go!)

Jon has run this small farm in Vik for twenty years and grew up just down the road. He and his family have always used the water from a small reservoir fed by a local stream. The water is clean and pure and not filtered or treated in any way. However, when they opened their bed-and-breakfast, they decided it would be wise to have a deeper water source for folks whose gut flora might not be comfortable with the local micro-biota. A drilled well of 35 metres now serves the household. The water in the reservoir is dedicated to the sheep and ponies.

The source of Jon's water, both the reservoir and the well, is obvious: he lives in the shadow of the Myrdals Glacier. The connection between groundwater (the well) and surface water (the stream that feeds the reservoir) is clear and this source is rock-solid reliable. At least for the next few decades. On the other side of the world, in our little corner, there is no glacier to fill our Fanny Bay aquifers. We depend on rainwater and snow melt to replenish our wells. The connection between groundwater and surface water is more variable: sometimes water from a stream may seep out and replenish groundwater. Other times the flow may be reversed with groundwater helping to maintain stream volumes.

Long, dry summers are causing creeks and rivers to shrink. This summer much of B.C. was at the highest drought level classification – Level 5. This means “adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are almost certain” and that “conservation and local water restrictions and regulatory action (are) likely”. (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/drought-information>)

When I left for Iceland, salmon were swimming back and forth at the mouths of creeks waiting for fall rains to swell the streams to a spawnable level. Yet there were no restrictions placed on commercial water use. Commercial users were encouraged, but not required, to reduce consumption. There is no easy way to know whether the bottling plant on Berray Road or the commercial hatchery on White Duck reduced their consumption, or if they had, if it made a difference. This would seem to be an important area of research.

And this is one problem with stepping back for a wider perspective: you often end up adding to your project list!

By Mike Mesford



## FALL SUPPER

The Community Club's Fall Supper held on October 23<sup>rd</sup> was enjoyed by all who attended. Dinner was at 5:30 and guests were greeted at the door by our Union Bay Fire Rescue Chief Ian Ham. A full turkey dinner complete with huge variety of pies for dessert was served. The Triple Heat Dance School then performed for the delighted guests. Many door prizes were drawn and the Valley Septic raffle winner was Diane Owens. The discounted septic pump out was donated by Valley Septic Service. Congratulations Diane!



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## EARLY COMMERCE in UNION BAY Janette Glover-Geidt

George Howe sold the hotel and store to Jack Fraser and Charlie Bishop. Thus, the big store was called Fraser & Bishop. Mr. Howe retired in 1907 and moved to his Hornby Island ranch. When he died, his property south of the hotel was left to his three Harwood nephews. George Harwood lived in Union Bay, so he took charge of the property which consisted of land from the south side of McLeod Rd. It was put up for sale. The advertisement in 1919 read

"700 lots at rock bottom prices, many beach front and others with beautiful views looking out to Baynes Sound, Denman Island and the mainland mountains. Also mentioned was the rumour that a steel Mill was expected to be built at Union Bay. (The steel mill promise was re-awakened again in the 1960's when it was the talk of the town).

In the early days the main reason for building a hotel was to obtain a liquor license, hence the Nelson Hotel. It was built by Howe in a clearing by the beach, at the south corner of the Island Highway and McLeod Road, quite close to the beach. When built in 1893, the two-story building had nine guest rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. On the first floor was the Lobby, Beer Parlour and large dining room with kitchen. Just 25 cents for a meal, with Room and Board \$5.00 a week. The Nelson House was a popular place for tourists arriving on the CPR Charmer, so in 1900 dormers were added to the attic, creating six more rooms. It was extended by almost twice its size in 1908, bringing the room total to thirty.

This was a first-class resort hotel, with a wide veranda wrapped around the second floor. The grounds were landscaped with a beautiful garden planted across the highway beside the beach. Behind the building were lawns and a tennis court. The interior was immaculate, with the décor and furnishings designed for gracious living. Miss Fraser, Jack's sister, ruled over the establishment. Many of the young girls, as they came of age, got their first job as chambermaid or waitress. They learned the art of setting a beautiful table, arranging flowers, and conversing with strangers. As well, two Chinese fellows cooked the western style meals. Hungo, with his huge garden and barn, supplied the kitchen with vegetables, fruit, all the dairy products and meats. Guests at the Nelson House truly dined in style, on tables covered with snowey white linen, set with flowers from the garden, silver cutlery and fine china.

The early Bar was not huge, as bars of that era did not have chairs. The patrons of the day stood at the long bar resting one foot on the brass rail. The swinging doors welcomed the thirsty labourers, loggers, farmers, sailors to step up to the bar and order a beer, whiskey, rum, rye, gin, scotch, or sarsaparilla.

For many years Mr. Fraser employed Harvey Leithead as bartender. He was a quick-witted man with twinkling eyes. The bowler hat he wore was left over from his days as a circus barker. His non-stop patter kept everyone roaring with laughter. At night he doubled as the desk clerk, and Harvey claimed there were "hot and cold running chambermaids in every room".

The Hotel catered to all types of people: from the coal company, salesmen, waiting to catch the next train or boat, pilots who brought the freighters up the inside channel, captain's wives visiting while their husband's ship was loading, loggers when the woods were closed because of snow. Everyone received kind, friendly service from the Frasers.



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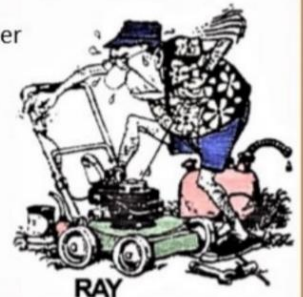
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Photo courtesy of Daniel Arbour

## REMEMBRANCE DAY



The Remembrance Day service had a wonderful and heartfelt turnout at the Union Bay Community Hall. Darcy Rainey emceed, and Padre Bob Brinn read the message, prayer, and benediction. Peter Jacques recited the poem "In Flanders Fields," and remarks were given by Capt. (ret.) Ron Wilzewski. The Union Bay Historical Society then served up bowls of chili after the service. Thanks go to the UB Historical Society, and the Community Club for putting on this day of remembrance. A special thanks to Dave Davidson and Bette Hopwood.

## FLU SHOTS

The UB Market, UB Community Club, and Courtenay Pharmacy held a successful flu shot clinic on November 6<sup>th</sup> at the UB Hall. The pharmacist/owner, Chris Sutton, and fellow pharmacists Ellen Sutton and Shelly Waldstein vaccinated many of our local residents.



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## The "Down By The Bay" Newsletter

Is available on the website [www.ubcc.ca](http://www.ubcc.ca)  
Previous issues can also be found there.

Sign up and you can get "Down By The Bay" emailed to you. Send an email to [ub.dbtb@gmail.com](mailto:ub.dbtb@gmail.com) with the subject line "sign me up"

### Advertising and articles in Down By The Bay

Submissions may be mailed to Box 335, Union Bay, BC, V0R 3B0 or email to [ub.dbtb@gmail.com](mailto:ub.dbtb@gmail.com)  
The order form with instructions, cost and payment options is on the Community Club website at [www.ubcc.ca](http://www.ubcc.ca) Click on newsletter and then on advertising in the newsletter. Ads must be prepaid.

**Thank you to the following advertisers for supporting this month's Newsletter!**

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**WE NEED MORE ADVERTISERS!**

### Current Events

The hall is home of many activities and meetings. For information about renting space, contact Trina Gable at [rentals@ubcc.ca](mailto:rentals@ubcc.ca). Outdoor space, concession stand, meeting rooms, dining room, kitchen facilities, and large hall, with stage are available.

Craft Fairs contact is Starr McFadyen at [craftfairs@ubcc.ca](mailto:craftfairs@ubcc.ca)

Hall activities contact Jen Balcke at [activities@ubcc.ca](mailto:activities@ubcc.ca)

Membership January to December  
\$15 per person      \$35 per family

**REMINDER MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE IN JANUARY**

For membership payment or info contact Carly at [membership@ubcc.ca](mailto:membership@ubcc.ca)



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# Halloween Party

The Halloween fun began at 4:00 in the Union Bay Hall  
80 hot dogs and juices were served up by our volunteers.  
By 5:30 they were off to trick or treat!



## FIREWORKS SHOW

The fireworks were held on November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Union Bay boat launch. The Union Bay Fire Rescue set them off and gave us a spectacular 30 minute show. The Fire Rescue also did traffic control in the parking lot to ensure everyone arrived and left safely. This was definitely needed as the boat launch and roadsides were full with excited onlookers. Thank you to the Union Bay Fire Rescue, Union Bay Market, the Union Bay Community Club and you for your generous donations!

What a great community!



## ATTENTION TREASURER NEEDED

Our treasurer Anne Carroll will be stepping down in about 6 months. We will be looking for a new treasurer to fill this volunteer position. What we need:

Someone who has a good understanding of basic bookkeeping, and ideally someone who has a working knowledge of SAGE accounting system. We have an accountant who does our year end books and tax return. We need to find someone who is willing to be a replacement and spend a few months learning the ropes so we can have a smooth transition. Training would begin in the new year. If you are interested in this position or have any questions regarding the treasurer's position please contact...

**treasurer@ubcc.ca**



Daniel Arbour, Director

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# UNION BAY FIRE RESCUE

PRESENTS

**SANTA CLAUS IS COMING  
TO UNION BAY**



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10,<sup>th</sup> STARTING ON SPINDRIFT ROAD AT 9:30 am**

Working their way south, through each neighborhood, all the way down to  
Tsable River bridge.

Donations to the Comox Valley food bank will be gratefully accepted.



## **UNION BAY COMMUNITY CLUB TOY DRIVE LUNCH WITH SANTA**

We will be holding a toy drive and lunch with Santa the same day.  
Santa will come by firetruck around noon to the community hall. Bring an  
unwrapped toy for Santa's Workshop. The kids will meet Santa and have a  
complimentary hotdog and juice.

# Happy Holidays!

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# The Bays Bouquets

Do you have a loved one's Anniversary, Birthday or just want to say a big Thank You to someone? Our newsletter will post it free. Please email [bmbitten@gmail.com](mailto:bmbitten@gmail.com) with your well wishes by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.



## HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

TO

Anna Hay	Dec 10
Sue Elgie	Dec 2
Dianne Jager	Dec 8
Brenda Mann	Dec 4
Jan Weaver	Dec 8
Steph Buijs	Dec 10
Simmy Pahl	Dec 15
Joost Buijs	Dec 9
Liam Flawse	Dec 22
Sally Granger	Dec 16
Cherie Martin	Dec 28
Renate Kolzig	Dec 22
Trish Campbell	Dec 15
Scott Paterson	Dec 20
Debora McMahon	Dec 31



**Happy Birthday**  
**Stacey Royer Giguere**  
**Dec 16th**



You can always send me a scanned picture to make your greeting more personal. I will post it depending on room availability.

## Happy Anniversary

61<sup>st</sup>

**Gary & Susan**  
**Hargreaves**  
**December 1<sup>st</sup>**



## Happy Anniversary

52<sup>nd</sup>

**Steve & Leona**  
**Katovic**  
**December 10<sup>th</sup>**





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# BAYNES SOUND LIONS WHEELBARROW PUSH



Laura Babcock of Union Bay has been manning the phones for many years.

Thanks Laura!

**\$11,161.00 Raised!**

The Baynes Sound Lions Club members and volunteers took part in Wheelbarrow Walk Sunday, Nov. 6, a long-time tradition coinciding with the Comox Valley Child Development Association's (CVCDA) 47th annual Children's Telethon broadcasted from the Sid Williams Theatre. The Lions started their walk at 8:30 a.m., and set off on a 32-kilometre trek, pushing a wheelbarrow from Fanny Bay, northbound up Highway 19A and ending up on the telethon stage around 5 p.m. There, a few members of the Baynes Sound Lions Club presented the CVCDA live on stage the \$11,161.00 they raised, contributing to the telethon's totals for the day. The Club's donation included the Wheelbarrow Walk total and funds from additional initiatives leading up to the telethon, including a bottle drive and various community donations. Great Job Lions!



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**The Baynes Sound Lions hold a meat draw every Sunday at the FBI.**

**Starting at 5:00 pm**



# HALL ACTIVITIES



## CORN HOLE

Contact James Ford 250-650-1659  
Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm  
Hall membership and \$3.00 drop in fee



## FLOOR HOCKEY

Contact Wild Bill at 250-898-7246  
Thursday nights at 7:00 pm  
Hall membership and \$3.00 drop in fee



## FRIENDLY PORT CRIBBAGE

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 1:00 pm Kovar Room  
For more info contact Susan Hargreaves at 250-335-3124  
Hall membership and \$3.00 drop in fee



## PICKLE BALL

Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:00 – 4:00  
Contact Janice Foster at 250-335-0686  
Hall membership and \$3.00 drop in fee



## AEROBICS

Monday, Wednesday & Fridays 9am - 10:30am  
Contact Mary Cochran at 250-335-2128  
Hall membership and \$3.00 drop in fee

If anyone has interest in running an activity at the UBCC please contact Jen Balcke at [activities@ubcc.ca](mailto:activities@ubcc.ca)

Frozen Dinners for two made with local ingredients available for pick up or delivery.

Or from Comox Valley Farmers Market Saturdays 9 – 1

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# CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR



## Updated Fees

January 1, 2023

## Tipping Fee Changes

Starting January 1st, 2023, solid waste tipping fees at the Comox Valley and Campbell River Waste Management Centres will be increasing to keep up with operational requirements and improved enforcement for contaminated loads. These updates also hope to create positive change in diverting unneeded waste from landfills.

### Did you know?

Food and yard waste currently make up about 30% of the total waste in Comox Valley and Campbell River landfills.

For more information, visit: [www.cswm.ca/fees](http://www.cswm.ca/fees)

**Comox Strathcona  
Waste Management**

The Christmas Craft Fair went very well with 49 tables of talented crafters. The popular soup & sandwich special was served, as well as hot dogs, cookies and muffins. Santa & Mrs. Claus arrived at 10 a.m. to meet the children, give them a bag of treats, and to put everyone in the holiday spirit. We appreciate & thank all the volunteers who worked this event! Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Claus!

Thank you to all the local businesses for donating to our Fall Supper.

### PRIZES

Fanny Bay Inn  
Lunar Reflections  
Roy's Towne Pub  
Valley Septic Service  
True View Tree Service  
Bayside Home Inspection  
Ernie & Margret Anderson  
EMS Consulting and Solutions

### FOOD

First Credit Union (turkeys)  
Quality Foods (buns)  
Seifert's Farm (veggies)  
Bob Bell (squash)  
As You Like It Catering

Thank you to our cooks, set up, decorating and bar volunteers!