

DOWN BY THE BAY



Union Bay Community Club Newsletter

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

FEBRUARY 2023

UNION BAY MARKET

AND

UNION BAY COMMUNITY CLUB

ARE HOLDING A FREE

COMMUNITY

DANCE PARTY

LIVE MUSIC

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18th

UNION BAY HALL

7:00 - 12:00

Doors open at 6:00

MORE INFO INSIDE COVER

SORRY SOLD OUT! YOU CAN PUT YOUR NAME ON A WAITING LIST AT THE UB MARKET



COVID SURVIVORS DANCE PARTY

During Covid the staff at Union Bay Market put out a Covid Relief Fund jar as a fun thing to do as the staff at the market were serving us through the covid crisis. They had planned to have a party with the funds when Covid was over or when it had at least slowed down. The community were grateful for their service and showed their appreciation by throwing money into the jar. The contributions exceeded all expectations, and because of this, The Union Bay Market decided to throw a party for everyone! The Community Club has donated the hall for this event, as well as setting up and cleaning afterwards, to help make this dance totally free for the community. To keep track of the amount of people, 200 free tickets will be given out at the Union Bay Market. **You must have a free ticket to get in!!** DD will be provided upon request!



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



LUKE BLU GUTHRIE & ANELA KAHIAMOE 7:00 – 9:00

GUEST APPEARANCE BY JACOB ELDRIDGE (THE BETTER BEIBER)

FROM FANNY BAY

THEN TO CLOSE THE NIGHT & ROCK TO THE REAL DEAL 9:00 - MIDNIGHT

ALSO FEATURING ANOTHER LOCAL RESIDENT!

BAR & DOORS OPEN AT 6:00

UNION BAY GARDENERS



We are a small group of volunteers who maintain the Boulevard Gardens along the Coastal Highway stretching from south of McLeod Road to the Old School and Church. For flexibility members have adopted their own beds and usually attend to their gardens monthly to suit their own work and time schedules. Gardening is normally needed from mid-March to mid-October with 2 to 3 hours each month. Last year we were able to mulch the beds. It had been postponed for two years due to Covid restrictions so hopefully will reduce our future weeding work. Mulch was again donated by Brian Moore Contracting who works locally. Steve Gray of Union Bay and owner of Monarch Irrigation has also offered to keep his eye on our sprinkler system when it operates in the summer.

We still need new volunteers to spread the workload of tending to the Gardens even if they can only spare an hour or two periodically. All you need is your own gardening tools and a bright shirt or reflective vest. We have a few vests on hand and have cones we can use when working close to the highway.

For more information or to join us in a worthwhile cause, please call:

Mike Robson, Coordinator

mrobson@telusplanet.net

250-335-0298



Fire Fighter Awards and Appreciation Banquet



Union Bay Fire Rescue held its annual Fire Fighter Awards and Community Appreciation banquet on Saturday Dec 3, 2022. The event was held at the Union Bay Community Centre. Included in the celebrations were retired honorary fire fighters, CVRD Manager of Community Services Doug DeMarzo, retired CVRD Fire Services Manager James Bast, and Oyster River Fire Rescue Chief Bruce Green. CVRD Area A Director Daniel Arbour sent his regrets
The banquet serves as an opportunity to recognize the department member's long-standing service and outstanding commitment.

This year's Fire Fighter of the Year was given to Lt. Mike Jager. Fire fighters nominated Year award to Mike for his commitment to training, and generous donation of time maintaining department equipment/vehicles.



From left to right: D'Arcy Rainey, Rick Jeffery, Travis Mepham, Austin Bitten, Rob Hollands, Rikk Buijs, Alexis Royer, Nick Webb, Ian Ham, Joey Tarnowski, Mike Jager, Susan Hargreaves, Alan Roberts, Jim Hargreaves, Sandy Pridmore, Peter Wharram, Martin McRae, Bob Jeffery – Missing from the photo Jeff Martin, Chris Preuss, Adam Moyle, Paul Hiebert, James Maxwell, Austin MacInnis, Glen Calderwood, Matthew Tirrell.



The following years of service were also acknowledged during the banquet: 5 years: Mike Jager, James Maxwell 10 years: Alexis Royer, Mike Jager (including service from Kimberly Fire Service) 20 years: Nick Webb, Adam Moyle (including service from Alberta) 25 years: Ian Ham (retro award for service milestone achieved in 2021), Sandy Pridmore (including service from Courtenay and Comox Fire Service) 30 years: Martin McRae (including service from North Kawartha Fire Service) The evening ended with the special acknowledgement of several community members for their support. Awards of appreciation were given to Union Bay Community Club President- Brenda Bitten, Union Bay Market – Anna Hay, & U. B. First Credit Union – Nik Jovicic Who sent regrets.



Rick Jeffery was nominated by the membership for Rookie of the Year for 2022. This award is given to outstanding recruits for their performance.





EARLY COMMERCE in UNION BAY.

Janette Glover-Geidt

BANKING: Originally, all money used in business transactions at Union Wharf came from the Cumberland Bank of Canada. The men were paid in cash brought down from the office at Cumberland every payday. By 1905 there was a Royal Bank branch in Cumberland. The coal Company used this bank, and money was brought down on payday in a wagon to Union Bay. As the town grew and business demanded, in 1905, the Royal Bank built a small building erected beside the beach, opposite the Gaol house. This sub-branch of Cumberland opened for business every Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Excitement struck the Comox Valley on July 4th when two "highwaymen" held up and robbed the pay-wagon of \$2,500, in a style of the Grey Fox. The robbers terrorized the community for a week then made their way to Puget Sound. The lawmakers believed the loot was hidden on Orcas Island. One of the thieves returned there, and a gun battle ensued but the robbers escaped. They were never apprehended nor the money ever recovered. After the robbery, it was deemed foolish to carry the payroll every week to Union Bay, so plans were made to build a new \$1,200 bank building, next to Fraser and Bishop's store. In the summer of 1914 the impressive building was opened. The old bank was sold, and re-opened as the town's Barber Shop with a red and white pole at the door. Downstairs, the new bank boasted a large vault and brass grated cages. Upstairs was a beautiful apartment provided for the manager and his family. Morton Thomas, manager through the twenties, along with his wife were well remembered for the parties at which they entertained adults and young people. The women particularly cherished invitation to the Morton's. Over the years, many of the local boys who showed an aptitude for numbers became clerks to learn the banking business. With the title of "ledger clerk", their job was bookkeeping and general "joe-boy" around the office. They worked at the Union Bay office for a couple of years, then moved on to the Courtenay or Vancouver branch. It was a community bank open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; where there were no long line-ups at the teller cage and where wives could sign for their husbands. Twice a month the men were paid. The Coal Company office paymaster brought a list of the employees with the amount each received. The two men at the bank had to calculate and request from the Cumberland bank the exact number of dollars, quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies needed to put the right amount of cash into each pay envelope. Each worker had to sign for his wages. All the employees except the Chinese picked up their pay at the bank. The Chinese received their pay envelopes from Mah Fat who was Charlie Mah June's, the Boss Chinese, bookkeeper. Mah June submitted the men's hours to the office paymaster who, in turn, gave the total wages to the bank manager. Mah Fat collected that amount and made up his own pay envelopes. The Chinese then went to the bank and faithfully bought drafts and money orders in Hong Kong dollars to send to their families in China. The last permanent Manager left in 1932. The apartment upstairs was rented out to the Watt family. Then, because no money was left at Union Bay, the vault door was taken off and put onto a vault in the basement at the Courtenay bank. Then, primarily as a service to the Coal Company, an accountant and teller from Courtenay came every Friday to open the branch. The bank finally closed in 1957, and the Bay residents had to go to Courtenay to bank. In the meantime, in 1944, the Union Bay charter #114 of Credit Unions was incorporated. Business transactions were carried on in the Secretary-Treasurer's home until 1955, when Harry Tappin took over. Then a small building (nick-named the doll house) on the Searle property was converted into an office. The Credit Union has never looked back, constructing a large brick building next to Hudson's store then, improving even further with the present building on Mcleod Road which is still serving the banking needs of the town.

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The "Down By The Bay" Newsletter

Is available on the website 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 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
The order form with instructions, cost and payment options is on the Community Club website at 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!

ABC Printing	250-338-6364	Black Water Plumbing	250-897-8153
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The Fix It Shop	250-702-2191	As You Like It Catering	250-335-2625

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. 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

Hall activities contact Jen Balcke at activities@ubcc.ca

Membership January to December

\$15 per person \$35 per family

REMINDER MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW DUE!

For membership payment or info contact Carly at membership@ubcc.ca



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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 with your well wishes by the 15th of each month.

Happy February

Birthdays

<i>Trevor Lafountain</i>	<i>Feb 2</i>
<i>Keith McKay</i>	<i>Feb 14</i>
<i>Laurie Pratt</i>	<i>Feb 14</i>
<i>Caleb Overbye</i>	<i>Feb 14</i>
<i>Leanne Lindstrom</i>	<i>Feb 15</i>
<i>Barb Flawse</i>	<i>Feb 17</i>
<i>Gail Buchanan</i>	<i>Feb 21</i>
<i>Dave Godfrey</i>	<i>Feb 27</i>
&	
<i>Craig Lafountain</i>	<i>Feb 28</i>



Happy Birthday
Susan Lafountain
February 6th



Happy 100th
To
Anna Stady!
5 children
15 grandchildren
16 great grandchildren
9 great great grandchildren
Plus 1 arriving in May
5 generations going strong!



Union Bay Community Church
Winter Hours
11:00am

Everyone Welcome!



The Baynes Sound Lions Club

Meat draw every Sunday
At the FBI
5:00 - 8:00



Union Bay Winter Storytimes

Drop-in, no registration required

Thu, Feb. 16

Thu, Mar. 9

10:30-11am

Geared for 3-5 yr olds, but siblings, family members, and younger kids always welcome too!

Union Bay Library



A new year and a new term at the CVRD

First I would like to thank all who took the time to vote in the last local government election, and express how much of an honor it is to represent Area A at the regional table and beyond. Thank you for your support, and everyday I strive to work on behalf of our communities.

It is gearing up to be another busy term, and as we start on our first budget there are some very real challenges on the horizon. While we have fairly standard wage increase for CVRD employees (2-3% per year), capital and operational costs are up and my goal is to try to minimize the damage that inflation is causing across our services. Local governments in North America are currently seeing increases of 5-15% in their projected budgets, and in the months ahead as we do our CVRD budgets I will emphasize a conservative fiscal approach.

This said, for Union Bay there are some “musts” that are important to address. While the big flush of the water system in December should help with the brown water issue, we will continue on the water mains pipe replacement program. I have also committed to prioritize the building of the new firehall this term, as the current one is well passed its life expectancy. These projects are very important to the community, and I am confident that we will manage them to completion.

As we embark on a new term, I want to thank a number of local community volunteers who are stepping up and offering their times and skills to key CVRD committees, namely the Advisory Planning Commission and the South Sewer Extension LWMP advisory committee. With the expected growth around Union Bay, thinking through all the elements of what will make the area a sustainable and livable community takes more than wishful thinking. So many people are putting time on the planning component, and I am always amazed by the great minds and contributions of residents who step into these spaces and help our communities with a long-term view.

Lastly, in the next couple months I will approach key Union Bay non-profits, such as the Community Club; the Historical Society, and Seaview Village, to discuss how the CVRD can best support their goals and ambitions for the next four years. It truly takes a village, and when we rally around common goals and dedicate ourselves to the journey, there is so much that we can achieve together. I very much look forward to the work, and of course never hesitate to reach out on any topics ~

Daniel Arbour

Director, Electoral Area A, Baynes Sound / Denman & Hornby Islands
Comox Valley Regional District



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Daniel Arbour, Director

Comox Valley Regional District
Baynes Sound/Denman/Hornby

*Always willing to answer your questions,
assist with concerns, and support community
initiatives in Area A*

Email: reachme@danielarbour.ca / Cell 250.650.8480
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Live at
Fanny Bay Hall
7793 Island Hwy South, Fanny Bay, BC

Saturday, 25 February 2023 7pm

Janelle Nadeau



Classical Celtic Contemporary

Janelle has earned fans across the country with her magnetic solo performances with her harp and voice. Warm and funny, Janelle is just as engaging between songs as she is performing them.

TICKETS AVAILABLE:

In Person Advance: \$25 Cash

Weinberg's Good Food, Buckley Bay
Laughing Oyster Books, Courtenay
Salish Sea Market, Bowser

Online & At Door: \$27.50

fannybayhall.ticket.ca

Presented by Fanny Bay Community Association



Supported by the Province of British Columbia



Series Sponsor



Live at the Fanny Bay Hall

Janelle Nadeau

Our February 25 concert features the incomparable harpist Janelle Nadeau. Entwining her repertoire of classical, Celtic, original, and contemporary tunes with velvety vocals and storytelling; she is a top artist that should not be missed.

We would love to see more Union Bay folks at our concerts. Our concert program goes back to 2013 and has always been very well received. People in our area don't have to go into town to see a top level concert. Take the short drive to Fanny Bay! We pride ourselves on the quality and variety of our program.'

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**We need a Designated Driver for our dance on February 18th.
Please call 250-335-2500 and leave a message if you can help.**

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 2nd 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

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U.B. FIRE RESCUE FOOD DRIVE



&

COMMUNITY CLUB TOY DRIVE AND LUNCH WITH SANTA

On December 10th, the Union Bay Fire Rescue took Santa on an exciting ride through the Union Bay & Buckley Bay communities. You could hear him over the loud speaker wishing everyone a Merry Christmas as Santa's elves gave out candy canes and collected nonperishable items for the food bank. Santa and his elves then arrived at the hall by firetruck to have lunch with the children. Complimentary hot dogs, snacks and juice were served, and pictures taken with jolly old St. Nick. The Fire Rescue and the Community Club would like to express their gratitude for everyone's contributions of food and toys.



CVRD Budgets 101
Online Session: February 7

BUDGET 2023

Understanding the CVRD Budgeting Process

Join us for a free online information session to learn the basics of the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) budgeting process. Learn how the CVRD's budgets are created and how to read a budget. Provide feedback and be involved in the upcoming electoral area financial planning cycle.

Online Information Session

Date: **Tuesday, February 7, 2023**

Time: **12:15 to 1:15 pm**

RSVP: www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/currentbudget

There are several ways to get involved: watch CVRD meetings live, submit questions or feedback, or provide a presentation to the Board or one of its committees.

We look forward to having you involved in this community conversation.

For more information, call: **250-334-6000** or visit:

www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/currentbudget



comoxvalleyrd.ca



A Valentines Special



George & Irene James
September 26th 1964
Union Bay



Rick & Jan Weaver
February 1st 1974
New Westminster



Dave & Shirley McKay
July 23rd 1955
Duncan



Donna & Joe McKay
July 24th 1959
Courtenay



Ken & June Eccleston
September 6th 1952
Union Bay



George & Audrey Cooper
June 19th 1948
Union Bay



Gordy & Lillian Murdock
August 6th 1946
Comox



Gary & Susan Hargreaves
December 1st 1961
New Westminster



Jake & Margaret Campbell
February 8th 1936
Union Bay

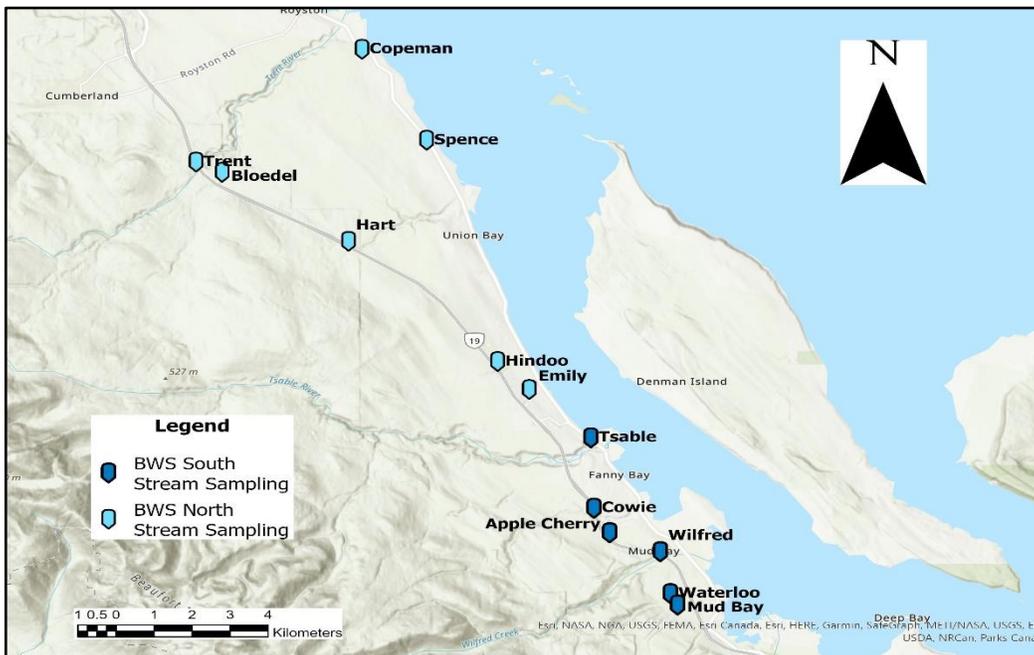


Beaufort Watershed Stewards (BWS)

Hello Union Bay! We'd like to update you on our activities in the Union Bay area. As you might know, Beaufort Watershed Stewards started by sampling the water in three streams in the heart of Fanny Bay. Wilfred, Cowie, and Mud Bay. That was five years ago. Since then, we have added three more streams: In partnership with the University of Victoria, BWS has been looking below the creeks as well, probing the geology beneath our feet using a technique called Vertical Electric Sounding. In the last two years, we have taken seven soundings in the Union Bay/Royston area. The primary goal is to determine depth to bedrock. This kind of data gives us an idea of the size of the aquifers that may be present. If bedrock is the bottom of an aquifer we can think of it as the bottom of a glass. The groundwater level shows how full the glass is.

The next step is to begin to measure the level of groundwater over time. In the Fanny Bay area we are already monitoring groundwater with level loggers installed in five different wells. These sensors record the water level every fifteen minutes giving us a detailed picture of how groundwater responds to rainfall and periods of drought. We hope to install level sensors like these in the Union Bay area this year. If you have a well on your property, especially an unused well, we'd love to have a chat. You can send an email to info@beaufortwater.org, or call Mike at 250.702.5900.

Slowly but surely, we are teasing out the hydrological facts of our area to get baseline data. However, the baseline is shifting rapidly these days, adding to our sense of urgency. The dedication of our amazing volunteers and the support of the community keeps us moving forward.



J.L.G.
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Office: 250-331-5347
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Excavation and Landscaping in the Comox Valley

The Union Bay Community Club is seeking an individual with experience in audio, video, and sound systems. We need help to set up the new system in the hall. It would be necessary for this person to be able to put up a professional audio/visual system, digital projectors, speakers, and amp. Please leave a message if you can help at 250-335-2500.

Thank you.