

FEBRUARY 2026

DOWN BY THE BAY NEWSLETTER

Issued By The Union Bay Community Club



Welcome February

Christmas feels like a life time ago as we emerge from the million days of January. The mild temperatures have snow drop flowers blooming in sunny garden patches and alpine enthusiasts praying for snow. Valentine's day is a good excuse to enjoy fine chocolate while looking forward to the positive energy the Lunar New Year brings with the Fire Horse in 2026.



It's not all work and no play for the UBCC Volunteers!

The volunteers who keep the Hall maintained, events running smoothly, the boat launch monitored, activities scheduled, accounts up to date, and future projects afloat gathered for an evening of fun to celebrate another year of teamwork and community wins. Photos page 11

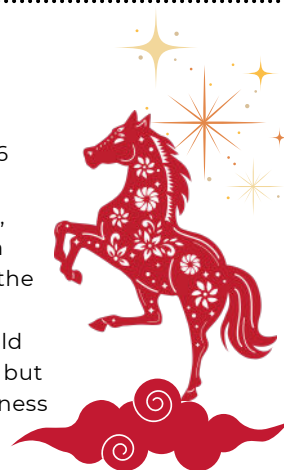


Local Lens

Bob Ell captures Tree Island engulfed in the January fog that settled in and felt like it may never leave.

Year of the Fire Horse

Lunar New Year February 17th 2026
In Chinese astrology, the Horse symbolizes vitality, independence, and the pursuit of freedom. When combined with the Fire element, the Horse brings intense, passionate energy. The Fire Horse inspires bold action, confidence, and creativity, but also calls for balance and mindfulness to keep from burning out.



There are 8 love note envelopes hidden in the newsletter.

WWW.UBCC.CA. BOX 335, UNION BAY BC, V0R 3B0 250-335-2500

Upcoming Events

In the Union Bay Community

Ground Hog Day	Monday, February 2nd All Day <i>Will our winter continue as mild and spring be on it's way...</i>
 Valentine's Day	Saturday, February 14th All Day <i>Chocolate ☒ Flowers ☒</i>
Family Day	Monday, February 16th All Day <i>Stat holiday</i>
UB Town Hall Meeting	Thursday, February 26th 7:00pm - 8:30pm <i>Join Daniel Arbour at the UB Community Hall (p.3)</i>
Lunar New Year	Tuesday, February 17th All Day
FB Concert	Saturday, March 14th 7:00pm <i>Big Little Lions (pg 12)</i>
Spring Craft Fair	Sunday, March 29th <i>Get inspired by local crafters, artisans and makers!</i>

Have an activity you'd like to start? Tuesday and Thursday evenings are available. Contact Cindy Daneliuk activities@ubcc.ca



Areobics

Mon/Wed/Fri
9:30am-10:30am
DROP IN WELCOME

Contact Lucie Fast
250-335-1607

Pickle Ball

Intermediate
Mon 6pm-8pm

Contact: Melina Shepherd
cleangreenspace@gmail.com

Pickle Ball

Advanced
Monday 4pm-6pm

Contact: Sue Twose
250-207-7164 suetwose0@gmail.com



Pickle Ball

Intermediate
Tues/Thur 12pm-3pm

Contact: Janice Foster
250-335-0686

Pickle Ball

Intermediate/Advanced
Wednesday 4pm-5:30pm

Contact: Michelle Borden
250-218-2153

** Please contact the Pickle Ball host to confirm availability **

Crib

Mondays 1:30pm

Contact: Mary Bowen
250-335-1748



Line Dancing

Wednesdays
1:30pm

Contact: Mary Bowen
250-335-1748



All hall activities require a club membership and a drop in fee. Activities cards available \$40 for a 10 pass card. Please see an activity contact to purchase.



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Don't recycle that used activity pass too fast! Hand the card in to your activity organizer for your chance to win a free pass, drawn throughout the year!

UNION BAY TOWN HALL

Thursday February 26th, 7pm-8:30pm
Union Bay Community Hall



Please join Daniel Arbour for the annual town hall on Union Bay issues and initiatives. Daniel will present for 20 minutes, and then field questions on any topics of interest to you. Much has happened over the past year! Topics that will be covered include:

- Union Bay Firehall build update
- Union Bay Water system update
- Opening of Union Bay Playground, and towards a Master Plan for the Union Bay Nature Park
- Possible creation of a new Parks Service specific to Royston-Fanny Bay area
- Related efforts to enhance Recreation funding in the Royston-Fanny Bay area
- Update on the South Sewer project and Union Bay Estates
- Update on efforts to enhance safety and active transportation around Highway 19A
- K'omoks First Nation Treaty – what lies ahead
- Shipbreaking property status
- Regional Solid Waste Management plan
- Awarded small grants to Union Bay non-profits

Looking forward to see many of you there, as usual it will be an event open to everyone and the goal is to provide you with good information, and to hear your feedback on what is important to you.

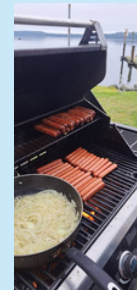
See you there!



Union Bay Polar Bear Swim Drew a Great Crowd!

The Baynes Sound Lions never disappoint in creating a welcoming community event

On January 1st, right at noon, a crowd of brave souls headed fearlessly into the frigid ocean water at the Union Bay boat launch. Some ran in and out quickly to warm up by the "lawn mower fire" while others lingered to enjoy the full tingling effect. Many supported from the shore and enjoyed the tent offering hot dogs, chili and hot chocolate. Thank you to the Baynes Sound Lions for making this a memorable event to kick off 2026!



Local Paws



Want to see your pet featured here? Submit a photo and a small write up to: ub.dbtb@gmail.com



CC

CC is a proud Union Bay resident who believes the neighbourhood revolves around her schedule—especially mealtime. She excels at napping in sunbeams, supervising from windows, and reminding her humans that she's definitely never been fed enough.

CC takes her role as neighbourhood watch very seriously, alerting everyone to birds, squirrels, and other highly suspicious activity. She may act unimpressed, but rest assured—Union Bay is under her watchful eye.



February Birthdays

Trevor Lafountain Feb 2
Susan Lafountain Feb 6
Keith McKay Feb 14
Laurie Pratt Feb 14
Caleb Overbye Feb 14
Leanne Lindstrom Feb 15
Barb Flawse Feb 17
Gail Buchanan Feb 21
Wyatt Meiers Feb 27
Dave Godfrey Feb 27
Craig Lafountain Feb 28



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Recipe

I have been making this recipe for my whole cooking career. It's easy and delicious. Take the time to make the raspberry coulis to accompany. You can drizzle it on the plate. Lay the pate on top, garnish with fresh raspberries and a little whip cream and sprig of mint! Serves 8 ppl or more . It's very rich so a little goes a long way! Happy Valentines Day.

Note: using quality chocolate will make your pate rich and delicious. I use dark Bernard Callebaut which u can find at bulk barn.

Chocolate Pate Dessert

Ingredients: Pate

- 500 ml Whipping cream
- 500 grams Fine chopped chocolate
- 1 tsp Vanilla

Method: Pate

1. Line your loaf pan or two small loaf pans (heart shape forms are nice) with plastic wrap.
2. Place small pot with an inch or two of water and bring to simmer.
3. Chop chocolate, place in a bowl large enough to add whip cream later.
4. Place bowl over a light simmering pot of water. Make sure bowl can sit on top of pot without touching the water. Leave for chocolate to melt.
5. In meantime whip cream to firm but not stiff.
6. Add vanilla to cream
7. Take off bowl of melted chocolate. Use rubber spatula to stir and make sure all is melted.
8. Add one third whip cream and fold into chocolate. Add remainder and gently fold until cream is mixed into chocolate.

9. Gently fill pans, fold plastic over top and pop in the fridge. This can be done 1-3 days ahead.
10. Unwrap loaf upside down on cutting board. Slice 1" thick. You can cut slice on a diagonal for a smaller piece or to overlap on plate.

Ingredients: Raspberry Coulis

- One bag frozen raspberries
- 1/4-1/2 cup sugar

Method: Raspberry Coulis

1. Cook over medium heat until raspberries are broken down and flesh is separating from seeds.
2. Pour into fine sieve. Use rubber spatula to push fruit through leaving seeds in sieve. This takes time to get all the meat off the seeds.
3. Scrape bottom of sieve. Stir coulis to mix
4. You can use a spoon to smear across plate under pate, spoon ovetop or put in squeeze bottle and zig zag on plate. Freeze extra for another time!.


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Beaufort Watershed Stewards

BWS doesn't have an office. We do our indoor stuff, like meetings and such, at each other's houses. Our monthly meetings, thanks to the kind support of SPID (Ships Point Improvement District) are at the firefighters training hall. Many meetings are on Zoom and we sometimes meet at the FBI. But if we DID have an office, it would have a big sign out front, for all to see, saying, "Stream Samplers Wanted. Apply within".

For those who have followed our adventures over the years, this request for samplers may seem odd. We have occasionally put out a call for volunteers to help with things like data management or grant writing. Finding folks who want to play in the creeks has never been a problem. Though having said that, I should note that the Royston Pod might disagree.

A 'pod' by the way, is our whimsical term for a team. As we expanded from our original three creeks, we separated the territory we now cover (Bowser to Royston) into three areas so we could be finished before dark! We sample on Tuesdays to align with the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Community Watershed Monitoring protocols. And even though we refer to it as 'sampling' we don't bring samples back for analysis. We measure the Dissolved Oxygen, pH, Specific Conductivity, Temperature, and Turbidity of each creek right alongside the babbling brook itself (or crashing torrent, depending on the time of year) and record the data in a logbook.

The Royston Pod has been doing more streams, spread over a wider territory, with fewer people than the rest of us for a long time. Mostly due to the heroic commitment of Marie Purcell and Mark Lake, we have gathered unbroken reams of data from our northern realms with a skeleton crew. But things are looking up in Royston. There are now a few new bodies to share the load.

The Bowser Pod, the new kids on the block, who relied heavily on the Winter family, have recently attracted a few new folks as well. It's here in the center, in the Fanny Bay area, where we're getting thin. This is not to say we can't still get the job done. But, jeez, it seems unfair for just a few of us to hog all the fun!

So, this is your big opportunity. You may have seen our sign on the roads on most Tuesdays when the sun is shining and the birds are singing (or when it's pouring rain and the birds are home reading books by the fire). You've probably wondered what kind of fun we're having out there and how you could join in on it. Now's your chance to find out. You too can learn to wield a YSI probe and measure the Nephelometric Turbidity Units of local creeks. And learn where the Dippers do their dance and where delicate lady ferns grace exposed shale banks dripping with spring water year-round.

It really is beautiful out there!

Mike Mesford | Director.tech@beaufortwater.org | 250.702.5900



Get Involved in the CVRD Budget Process

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) is gearing up for its annual budget process and we want to hear from you. Engagement and feedback is open until 4:30 pm on Monday, February 23.

Ways to Get Involved

- Ask questions and share feedback at: engagecomoxvalley.ca/budget
- Request a presentation as a formal delegation
- Contact a member of the CVRD Board

For more information, visit:
comoxvalleyrd.ca/budget





Awards Banquet 2025

Union Bay/Fanny Bay Fire Rescue was proud to host our Annual Awards Banquet on November 29, 2025, at the Union Bay Community Hall. This special evening brought together our members, families, partners, and community supporters to celebrate dedication, service, and the outstanding achievements of the past year. We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Laura Agnew and the team at As You Like It for the wonderful catering, to Brent and Jody McKay for providing beverage service, and to the Union Bay Community Hall for graciously hosting our banquet.



This year's Recipients:

Capt Al Roberts – Fire Fighter of the year
FF Kyle Humphrey – Rookie of the Year
AC Steve Strachan – Chief's Award
FF Mark Schiml – First Responder Award

Years of Service Awards:

AC Sandy Pridmore – 30 Years of Fire Service
Capt Al Roberts – 30 Years of Fire Service
AC Max Mielke – 10 Years of Fire Service

Department Support:

CVRD Area A Director – Daniel Arbour
CVRD Manager of Com. Services – Doug DeMarzo
CVRD Rural Regional Fire Chief – Bruce Green
UB/FBFR Financial Services – Janice Swanson

Community Support:

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Fish On!

By: Pete Bourgeois



As we launched the boat, the sky was just beginning to lighten, the air moist but unseasonably warm for this time of year. The forecast was for thick fog, but none was evident at the boat launch. Just in case, I made sure the radar was working, then punched the throttle, getting the boat up on plane.

As we rounded the point, we could see the low fog bank hanging over Chrome Island. The run out to Tribune Bay was smooth as glass and the thick fog held back. Although still foggy, visibility was at least 1 mile. All things considered, it was proved to be a comfortable day on the water. We started our troll south of Tribune, both lines tight to the bottom. With coffee still steaming up the windows in the cabin, we settled in for the hunt. This time of year, you need to search for the bait. Find the bait and you'll find the fish.

On the port side, we started with a 3-1/2" Cookies 'n Cream spoon and a lemon-lime dummy flasher. The other side offering a Blue Meanie hoochie behind a green in-line flasher. We let both combos soak for about an hour with no takers. Even the sounder was void of any action. We expanded our search, moving the tack to slightly deeper water and changing out the gear. A Herring Aid plug on the starboard, and a No Bananas Skinny G on the port.

Again, after another hour, there was no action. Still searching for bait or moving fish, we moved the tack to new water, a little shallower. Slack tide was approaching. Playing a hunch, we changed out the plug for a 5" Cop Car spoon. My thought was that the spoon was too big to imitate the current bait, but two things happened at the same time. We found the bait and almost immediately we had a hit. The Cop Car wasn't down 30 seconds, and we had a keeper winter spring in the box.

For the next hour and a half, we circled back and thru three enormous bait balls. In this time the large Cop Car spoon picked up two undersize springs and a few shakers. But after cycling thru various other smaller options, the port side was complexly in-active. It was getting late in the day, and as is the case with winter fishing, you need to pull the gear in mid afternoon to get back to the dock before dark. We had about another 1/2 hour to fish. Finally seeing the forest thru the trees, we switched out the port side with a 5-1/2" Irish Cream spoon. The bait isn't this big but sometimes presenting a 'stand out' alternative can be the right way to go. The large Irish Cream landed a keeper just as we were about to pull up.

The lesson for this day is two-fold. Firstly: Stick, stay and make it pay. Keep searching till you find the bait. Secondly: keep cycling thru the gear. If something doesn't work in 30 minutes, swap it out. Playing hunches and doing something different can make the difference.

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What did one piece of toast say to the other?



"You're my butter half!"



Family
Corner



Conversation (candy)
Hearts were first made
as medicinal lozenges



Approximately 1 billion
cards are sent world wide
during Valentine's Day



N	L	I	B	E	M	I	N	E	O	R	X	A	D
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kindness that you saw or
did that had a lasting
impact?





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History & Community Appeal

By: Janette Glover-Geidt and the Union Bay Historical Society



The Historical Society Beginnings

The Post Office building and Gaolhouse Museum are landmarks that have been preserved to share the history that built Union Bay and serve as a community hub.

- 1989 - The Union Bay Historical Society was formed to save the Post Office building (not the Postal Service)
- 1991 - Gaolhouse given, moved by Volunteers \$ 25.0
- 1993 - Bought from Public works Canada for \$ 50,000
- 1993 - signed a 5 year lease with Canada Post & V. I. Library
- 1994 - Feasibility Study on both buildings for \$ 5, 000
- 1995 - P.O. completely restored \$165,000
(Grants B.C. Heritage Trust \$ 49,000 B.C. 21 \$ 8, 500)
- 2,000 - Gaolhouse completely restored \$ 60,000
(Included Grants B.C. Trust & Millenia Canada)
- 2000 - Gaolhouse, Harry Westaway garden constructed
- 2001 - Mortgage paid off
- 2002 - Wheelchair ramp constructed
- 2003 - P.O. and Gaolhouse Declared Heritage Buildings by Comox Regional Board
- 2003- Lobby oak counters and furnishings refinished.

If not for this group of very dedicated volunteers that devoted many hours to the cause of restoration and to fund raising Union Bay would not be home to Canada's only wooden post office still in active service.



Community Appeal

For more than a century, the 1913 Union Bay Post Office and the 1903 Gaolhouse Museum have stood at the heart of our community. The Post Office continues to serve residents daily, while the museum welcomes visitors year-round with exhibits that tell the story of Union Bay's people, land, and heritage.

Now, we need your help to ensure these buildings remain strong, safe, and welcoming for generations to come. By supporting the Union Bay Historical Society, you are not only preserving bricks and mortar — you are sustaining living heritage spaces where stories are shared, youth and elders learn together, and our community identity thrives.

Together, we can protect Union Bay's past while building a resilient future. Every donation, membership, and volunteer hour makes a difference. Join us in keeping our heritage alive.

Our membership is \$20/family a year and \$15/individual for the year. You can etransfer your membership at ubhs@shaw.ca and note membership or you can mail a cheque to:

Union Bay Historical Society
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Daniel Arbour, Director
Comox Valley Regional District
Baynes Sound/Denman/Hornby

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Volunteer party!



Volunteer guests arrived to the party in tacky tourist attire of all kinds.

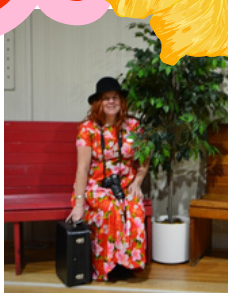
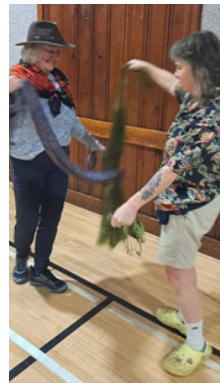


Photo evidence that Mr. Rick doesn't work all of the time.



Silly games brought out the team work and competitive edge of our volunteers.

A big THANK YOU to all the UBCC volunteers! We look forward to another year of fun & successful annual events that bring our community together.

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All artwork or photos need to be high resolution Jpeg attachments and editorial submissions in a Word document or copied to the body of an email.

All Down By The Bay inquiries should be sent to ub.dbtb@gmail.com



Contacts

Hall Activities: Cindy Daneliuk
activities@ubcc.ca

Rentals: Raquel Clarke
rentals@ubcc.ca

Craft Fairs: Starr McFadyen
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Membership: Dianne Jager
membership@ubcc.ca

Boat Launch: Rick Weaver
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• fannybayhall.tickit.ca

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Around the Bay



Union Bay Library Hours

Our tiny library is a perfect spot on a rainy day. There may even be a kids scavenger hunt waiting to be done!

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 2:30-7 p.m.

Thursday: 2:30-7 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Sunday: Closed



Meat Draw at the FBI

hosted by
The Baynes Sound Lions

Every Saturday 4:30pm

7480 Island Hwy S,
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