

APRIL 2026

DOWN BY THE BAY NEWSLETTER

Issued By The Union Bay Community Club



Welcome
April

Spring has officially sprung — the early serenading of the birds has begun. I've already heard the whirring sounds of lawnmowers and breathed in the smell of fresh-cut grass. Buds, leaves, and weeds race to greet the sun's rays. Fawn lilies should begin unfurling to grace the forest floor, especially along Washer Creek. The saying "April showers bring May flowers" reminds us to patiently embrace the damp so the blossoms can follow.



Newsletter Easter egg hunt. Explore the pages to find the 8 egg illustrations below ~ have fun!

THE UBCC & UB FIRE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL
**EASTER
EGG HUNT**

KIDS BRING YOUR OWN EGG GATHERING BASKET TO HUNT AND
GATHER EASTER TREATS WITH SPECIAL EGG PRIZES TO BE FOUND.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH AT 10:45AM

THE EASTER BUNNY ARRIVES BY
FIRE TRUCK AT 11:00AM

AT THE UNION BAY COMMUNITY HALL
OUTSIDE IN THE FIELD IF THE
WEATHER PERMITS OTHERWISE
INSIDE THE HALL



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

Upcoming Events

In the Union Bay Community

Kids Easter Egg Hunt	Sunday, April 5th 10:45am <i>Rain or shine bring your baskets for the annual Easter egg hunt & gather</i>
Time Together Club	Fridays, April 10th 10 - 11:30am <i>Drop in group for seniors, caregivers & children to play together (p. 4)</i>
UBHS Event	Friday, April 10th 5:30pm - 8:00pm Opening date <i>Spring Art Show (p.10)</i>
Concert	Sunday, April 12th 2:00pm <i>Spring Fling 3 at the FB Hall (p. 12)</i>
Slo Pitch	Sunday, April 19th 1:00pm start <i>Slo Pitch League field clean up UB Hall</i>
UBHS Event	Saturday, April 25th 1:00pm start <i>Book Talk By Kim Bannerman at UB Church (p. 10)</i>
Presentation FBH	Saturday, April 25th 2-4:00pm <i>Local Aquifers Presentation ~ Beaufort Watershed Stewards (p. 6)</i>
Slo Pitch	Sunday, April 26th 1:00pm start <i>Slo Pitch League season begins (full schedule in May newsletter)</i>
UBHS Event	Tuesday, April 28th 5-8:00pm <i>Burger + Beer Fundraiser at Match Eatery (p. 10)</i>



Aerobics

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

Pickle Ball

Intermediate/Advanced
Tues/Thurs 6pm-8pm

Contact: Dylan Harris
250-703-6760

Crib

Mondays 1:30pm

Contact: Mary Bowen
250-335-1748



Line Dancing

Wednesdays
1:30pm

Contact: Mary Bowen
250-335-1748



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



The Union Bay Community Club would like to acknowledge the leadership and insight of the previous board members. Their dedication and passion helped complete important projects, address future needs and introduced systems that will continue to support smoother productivity and accessibility to and for the club. We are grateful for their time and extend our sincere appreciation for their service to the community.



Have an activity you'd like to start? Check out our activity calendar for availability or email activities@ubcc.ca



Recipe

Fesenjan (Persian Pomegranate Chicken) ~ Laura Agnew

10 minutes prep, 2 hours cooking ~ A great Easy Easter Dinner! Enjoy

Ingredients:

- 1 to 2 large yellow onions, chopped, (3 cups)
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter • 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 5 tablespoons pomegranate molasses (see note)
- 8 ounces walnut halves (about 2 cups)
- 2 pounds boneless skinless chicken thighs and/or breasts, trimmed of excess fat, cut into medium size pieces, patted dry
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 2 tablespoons plus 2 teaspoons of sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon turmeric
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup fresh pomegranate arils for garnish

Notes:

- Make your own pomegranate molasses by simmering 1 cup of pomegranate juice until it reduces to 5 tablespoons of syrup.
- Or purchase at local grocery store

Method:

1. Toast and grind the walnuts, leaving a few lightly chopped for garnish. Once cool, pulse in a food processor or blender until finely ground.
2. In a large pan, heat 1 tablespoon of butter and 2 tablespoons of olive oil over medium-high heat. Sear off the chicken pieces in the pan, working in batches if necessary to not crowd the pan, and cook until golden brown on all sides. Season chicken with salt and pepper while they are cooking.
3. Remove the chicken from the pan, set aside.
4. Add chopped onions to the pan and sauté until translucent, stirring on occasion to release the browned bits from the bottom of the pan.
5. Add a tablespoon of butter and a tablespoon of oil to the pan. Lower the heat to medium low.
6. Pour 2 cups of chicken stock over the onions. Stir in the ground walnuts, pomegranate molasses, sugar, and spices. Bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer, cover and simmer gently for 20 minutes, or until starting to thicken.
7. Return chicken to the pan. Cover and cook on very low heat for 15-20 minutes. Ten to 15 min for breast. Stirring often to prevent the walnuts from sticking to the bottom of the pan.
8. Remove from heat and adjust sugar/salt to taste
9. Garnish with pomegranate seeds. Serve over favorite rice. Steamed fresh local asparagus

Egg-cellent
Humour

Why shouldn't
you tell an Easter
egg a joke?

It might crack up!

How do you get
the Easter Bunny
to put in more
hours?

Increase their
celery!



you
AS LIKE IT

PRODUCTS & CATERING

Laura Agnew

As You Like It Products and Catering

laura@unionbaycatering.ca

W.250-335-2625

C. 250-703-3828



TIME TOGETHER CLUB
FOR AGES 0-99+
SHARING WISDOM & WONDER

No charge, drop in play group
for seniors, caregivers and
kids. Come for crafts, games,
coffee and conversation

Every Friday 10:00 - 11:30
Starting March 20th 2026

Fanny Bay Little Hall
418 Ships Point Road
Fanny Bay





UNION BAY CAR SHOW

SUN JUNE 14th



FAMILY FUN DAY! **NO EARLY BIRDS**

10:00am - 2:00pm
Gate opens at 9:00am
NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED
ENTRY BY DONATION

FMI: Email Rod Bitten at
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250-218-3310
Brenda Bitten at 250-702-1457



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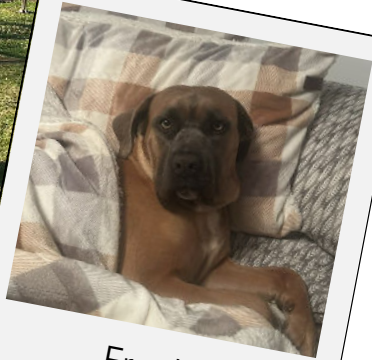
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Local Paws



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



Frankie

Frankie came to Union Bay looking for a family just a short few weeks after we relocated here from Thunder Bay! I'll forever be grateful she chose us. Thanks Allison!!

Since day one she has loved watching the ferry and cars pass by and alerting us all to wind, leaves and rain as the seasons passed! High security here on Island Highway!

She's met a lot folks on the Joe Walker trail and is getting far more use to saying hello in a friendly way. She loves all the love she gets back! She is grateful to the community for their patience with her as she barks through this life and lives to show off her crazy excitement at the sight of anyone new!

If you see her watching traffic give her a honk - she will definitely enjoy the attention and opportunity to "honk" back.

Thank you Union Bay for the warm welcome of us and our Frankie!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April Birthdays

Donna Chapman April 3

Karen Skinner April 4

Rod Bitten April 6

Colleen McKay Hogg April 6

Linda Spencer April 11

Diane Etherington April 16

David Hymers April 17

Margaret Anderson April 23

Melissa Minelli April 29

Trish Miller April 29



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RECORD CRATES

Doug Tottenham

250 Argyle Rd.

Union Bay, BC

250.335.3003



Treeislandventures@gmail.com





UNION BAY BOAT RAMP

FEES:

- \$7 PER USE
- \$45 YEARLY PASS
- \$40 SENIORS (65+)
- \$175 COMMERCIAL

**Yearly permits
available at the Union
Bay Market or online
at ubcc.ca**

Please display your
yearly pass on your boat
trailer or vehicle dash
so volunteers know you
have paid your fee. Per
use fees are cash only
paid on site.



Boat Ramp Fees
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Improvements



BEAUFORT WATERSHED STEWARDS

Local Aquifers: What Our Data Reveal



Presentations:

- Aquifer model demo by Mike Wei, P. Eng., Physical hydrogeologist and adjunct at UVIC
- Beaufort Watershed Stewards' Aquifer Mapping Program: Mark Lake, retired Geophysicist
- Results of the Aquifer 419 (Fanny Bay) Study: Kate MacMillan, Honours student UVic
- What it all means and where do we go from here: Mike Mesford, BWS President

25
April 2026

2:00 - 4:00 pm, doors open 1:30 pm
FANNY BAY COMMUNITY HALL
7793 Island Hwy (19A)
More details: www.beaufortwater.org



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Fawn lilies are named for their dappled leaves, reminiscent of the spots on a baby deer. The pink fawn lily is a lover of damp forests, especially the rich soils of river floodplains — flourishing in the coastal rainforests of the west coast. By contrast, the white fawn lily is found in drier, well-drained spots on the east side of Vancouver Island, in Garry oak meadows and sunny glades in forests of Douglas-fir. They being blooming early April.

Image and info above shared from: <https://ancientforestalliance.org/fawn-lily/>



Fish On!

By: Pete Bourgeois



When the day is forecast to be "Blue Bird," you go fishing. And that's exactly what we did. I didn't have a charter lined up so my wife and I decided to make a day of it. We arrived at the boat ramp about a half hour before sun rise, the air crisp and the ground crunchy with frost. We launched the boat, and with our coffees still warm enough to steam up the cabin, we set out toward Nash Bank.

On days like this, you really appreciate where we live. The water was glassy on the run out and as the sun broke over Chrome Island the snow-capped mountains around us began to glow pink. We stopped and floating in neutral we took photos to soak it in. But itchy to get lines in the water I convinced my better half to come back inside the cabin so we can get a move on. She'd stay and watch the sun warm up the landscape all morning if I let her.

Albeit chilly in the pre-dawn, without a breath of wind, the rising sun was warming up the boat nicely. As we rounded Chrome heading toward Hornby, it felt as if spring had arrived a few weeks early. Once at Nash Bank, I readied the trolling motor and downriggers while Sylvia set up the rods. For the last few weeks, the bait has been getting steadily bigger. The schools of large herring have been thick in places, so I've been using tackle that is a little bigger than usual. On the starboard side, we started with a 5" Irish Cream spoon behind a black and gold dummy flasher. I don't use plugs very often, but playing a hunch, I lowered a 5" Herring Aid plug with a green glow dummy flasher and moved back into the cabin. My intent was to have a lazy day on the water, sipping coffee, chatting with Sylvia, and letting winter finally slide by. Well, that was the intent anyway.

The first fish smashed the plug within 5 minutes. The second and third followed in the next 15. The fourth was in the boat before my second coffee emptied. For those of you who don't fish plugs very often, you should dig them out of the bottom of your tackle box. In the time it took to run the tack twice we had limited out.

At least on this day, the 5" Herring Aid plug was stellar.



Island Tide Sportfishing 604-908-0753
www.islandtidesportfishing.ca



PLAYGROUND *vandalism*



The play structure at our community hall was significantly damaged by fire on Friday, February 20th at about 10:29pm, according to video footage from hall cameras. A fire erupted inside the taller structure — three individuals were on site and filming the fire. No one has yet come forward with information about this vandalism.

UBCC board member Rick Weaver has spent many hours assessing and fixing the damage to the structure and the platform where the fire started. His work has saved the UBCC from having to fully replace a piece that was not even a year old. The playground will likely be ready for use before this newsletter reaches your mailboxes, but if you have any information about the vandalism, please reach out. This playground means a lot to the community and to the team that made it happen.

- Hall email: info@ubcc.ca
- Police (reference file #CX26-2902)

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Daniel Arbour, Director
Comox Valley Regional District
Baynes Sound/Denman/Hornby

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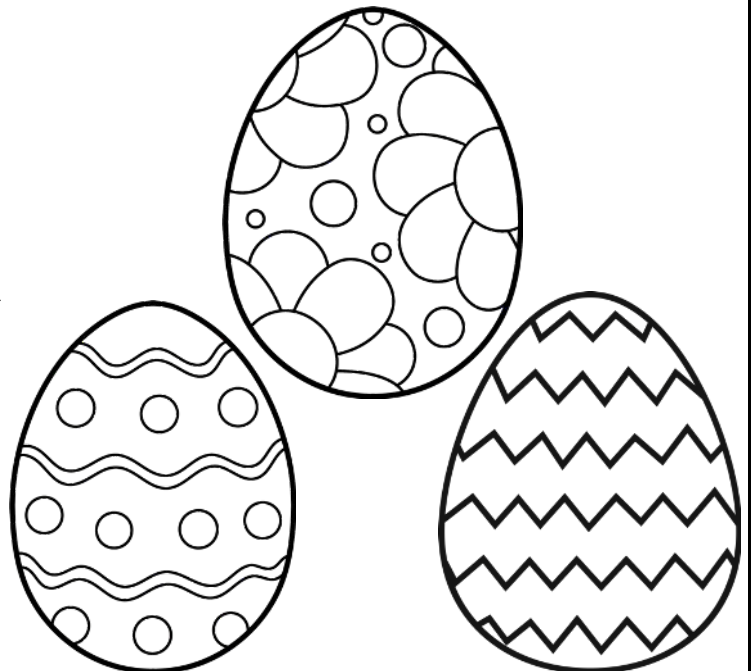
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Colour Me!





Union Bay is full of talented community members, and getting to know them can foster some meaningful connections. If you have just welcomed a new baby into your family, then Pamela Tessmann is someone to get to know. Pamela is a board-certified lactation consultant (IBCLC) with decades of experience working with families as a doula and early childhood educator. She founded Brim to assist families through feeding and parenting with nurtured and inclusive support. Pamela was happy to share some insights into what the early days of parenthood can look like and how to navigate them.



Three Things No One Tells You About Breastfeeding

When many parents picture breastfeeding, they imagine a peaceful moment: baby cuddled close, everything working naturally. Sometimes it looks like that. But the early days can also feel confusing, exhausting, and a little overwhelming.

1. Babies are born with reflexes, but feeding is still something you learn together.

Newborns have instincts that help them feed, but breastfeeding is still a skill that both parent and baby figure out over time. Understanding feeding cues, positioning, latch, milk supply, and finding your rhythm all develop together in the early weeks.

2. Newborns feed a lot.

In the early weeks, most babies feed 8–12 times in 24 hours, that's every 2–3 hours around the clock. This frequent feeding helps establish milk supply and supports your baby's rapid growth. It can feel constant at first, but it's a normal part of how breastfeeding gets established. Understanding what is normal infant feeding behaviour can help you adapt.

3. You're not meant to figure it out alone.

For most of human history, new parents learned breastfeeding surrounded by experienced family and community members. Today, many families are doing this without that built-in support. Lactation consultants are trained to help assess feeding, answer questions about milk supply, and help guide both parent and baby through those early weeks.

— If feeding feels harder than you expected, you're not doing anything wrong! And help is available. —

brim

Lactation & Family Care

Gentle infant feeding support based in Union Bay!

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Pamela Tessmann, IBCLC
Brim Lactation & Family Care
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Find support and resources:
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Teresa Knight

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& Gallery

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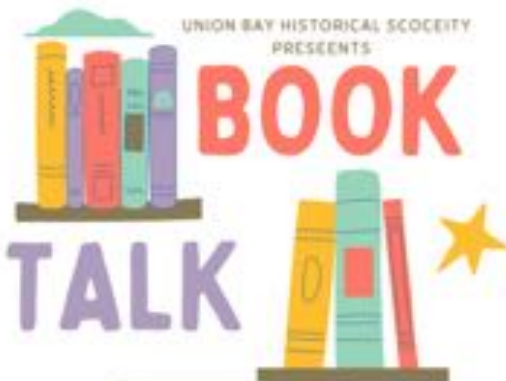




Upcoming Events



There are many ways to engage with and or support the Union Bay Historical Society in the month of April. Art, history and food - something for everyone.



UNION BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS

BOOK TALK

By Kim Bannerman:
Historical Perspective of Union Bay
Come learn the history and development of Union Bay



APRIL 25, 2026
START AT 1PM

UNION BAY CHURCH HALL
5527 Island Hwy
Union Bay BC

BURGER + BEER OR WINE

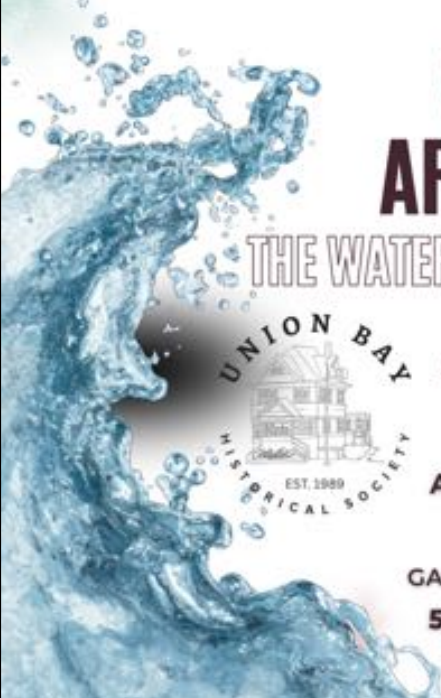
**DROP BY
TUES, APRIL 28**
ANYTIME BETWEEN
5-8 PM AT
MATCH EATERY,
COURTENAY

**\$30 BURGER + CHIPS +
BUD OR HOUSE WINE
+ \$5 SLOT PLAY
& MUSIC TRIVIA!**



**YOUR BURGER & BEER
SUPPORTS THE
UNION BAY
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**TICKETS CALL
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SPRING ART SHOW

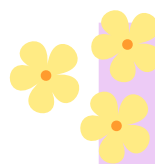
THE WATER AROUND US



**OPENING DATE
APRIL 10TH, 2026
5:30-8:00PM**

**SHOW OPEN
APRIL 11,12,16,17,18
1:00-4:00PM**

**GAOL HOUSE MUSEUM
5527 ISLAND HWY
UNION BAY, BC**



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COAL PILE *remediation*

There has been a lot of movement at the Coal Pile remediation site and not a lot of updates to local residents as the land is reshaped. A community member reached out to Keystone Environmental Ltd to see if they could offer any insights to how the project is going. Below is a response from an engineer working on the project.

Keystone Environmental Ltd and Quantum Murray (QM LP) are currently working on behalf of West Fraser Mills (in cooperation with the Province), to remediate the Coal Pile Site. Remediation works include, but is not limited to the following activities:

- Installation of a membrane to prevent water infiltration into the pile
- Ground stabilization
- Stormwater management infrastructure
- Shoreline protection measures
- Habitat offsetting features
- Placement of growth medium to support vegetation re-growth.

Following construction activities, site access will be restricted to promote the re-growth of vegetation along the shorelines and on the coal pile. The regrowth of vegetation is critical to the protection of the membrane and to the success of the remediation project. Vegetation at the site will include shallow-rooting grasses and small plants across the surface of the coal pile with larger vegetation and trees closer to the shorelines. Once remediated, the green space site will remain as undeveloped Crown land.

Construction of the coal pile remediation project will continue next year with completion scheduled at the end of 2026. We would like to reiterate the utmost importance for the community to refrain from walking in and around the site while construction is ongoing. The equipment operators cannot predict if a person or their pets get too close to their equipment, and this can cause serious harm. Once construction is completed, a site maintenance program will be initiated to address invasive vegetation concerns.

As the project aims to finish up the end of 2026, hopes to reacquaint with a beloved walking loop will be longer still, if at all to ensure vegetation growth is established and undisturbed. In a Comox Valley Record Article (2018) in preliminary discussions of the site Duncan Williams (the executive director of crown land opportunities for the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development) stated "Our long-term goal is to keep it vacant Crown land," added Williams. "Make sure there are no trees on it, and minimal use from the public on it. We don't want motorbikes riding over the top of it."

More info will be shared as it becomes available or please reach out if you have other information to offer.



NATIVE SEED GRASS MIXTURE

SPECIES	% SEED COUNT
ROEMERS FESCUE	30
IDAHO FESCUE	30
CALIFORNIA GATGRASS	10
PERENNIAL RYEGRASS	10
BLUE WILD RYE	7
YARROW	6
GLOVE (NATIVE)	5
CAMAS	2

LEGEND

- SITE
- COVER EXTENT
- BENCH ROAD (SEED)
- CONTOUR LINES
- GEOCELL
- RIPRAP (SLOPE EROSION PROTECTION)
- COBBLE
- SAND
- ANCHORED LOGS
- BENCH DRAINAGE CHANNEL
- OUTFALL PIPE
- FRENCH DRAIN (NO SEED)
- TOE DRAIN (NO SEED)
- MECHANICAL SEEDING (101,081 m²)
- HYDROSEED (10,700 m²)



Drone photos courtesy of Bob Eli



UBCC ~ Down By The Bay Newsletter

Check out the Newsletter page of our website www.ubcc.ca for:

- Current and previous newsletters
- Advertising information including rates and how to submit an ad
- **Sign up to receive the newsletter directly to your email inbox**
 - Alternatively you can email ~ ub.dbtb@gmail.com with the subject line "sign me up" to receive the newsletter via email.

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.

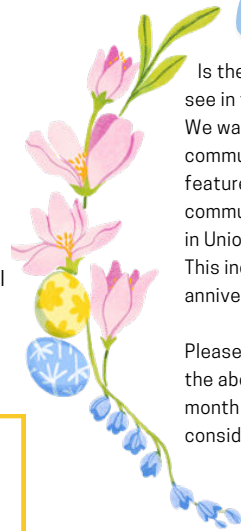
All Down By The Bay inquiries should be sent to ub.dbtb@gmail.com

If you are looking to gather more information regarding hall rentals, annual events, activities or purchase memberships please visit our ubcc.ca website

Contribute

Is there a special feature you would like to see in the Down By The Bay Newsletter? We want to know what kind of content the community is interested in. If you have a feature that positively promotes a community member, activity, business or life in Union Bay please let us know! This includes announcements like special anniversaries, birthday and mentions.

Please email ub.dbtb@gmail.com with any of the above information by the 20th of the month to have the announcement or feature considered for the following month.



Around the Bay



Easter Seals Upgrades

Baynes Sound Lions Leanne and Shellie visited the Shawinigan Lake Easter Seal Camp. The camp is breaking ground on renovations to improve accessibility for year round use while investing in the legacy the camp provides families seeking inclusive recreation, respite support and community to individuals and families. The Lions have been donating to Easter Seals since 1974 and will continue. Any support of fundraising efforts for the Lions is always appreciated.



Changes on McLeod Rd

Lots of work and changes visually unfolding to the First Credit Union site in Union Bay. Curious residents are eager to know what and when they can expect some news...



Live at Fanny Bay Hall

7793 Island Highway South, Fanny Bay, BC

Spring Fling 3

In the Mood

...to sing together!



THE VILLAGE VOICES
OF QUALICUM BEACH



Directed by Patricia Plumley

2:00 pm Sunday, April 12, 2026

Tickets:

Youth & Adult \$25, children under 12 Free
Available ONLINE at fannybayhall.tickit.ca
or CASH At Door



Presented by Fanny Bay Community Association

Series Sponsor

