

MARCH 2026

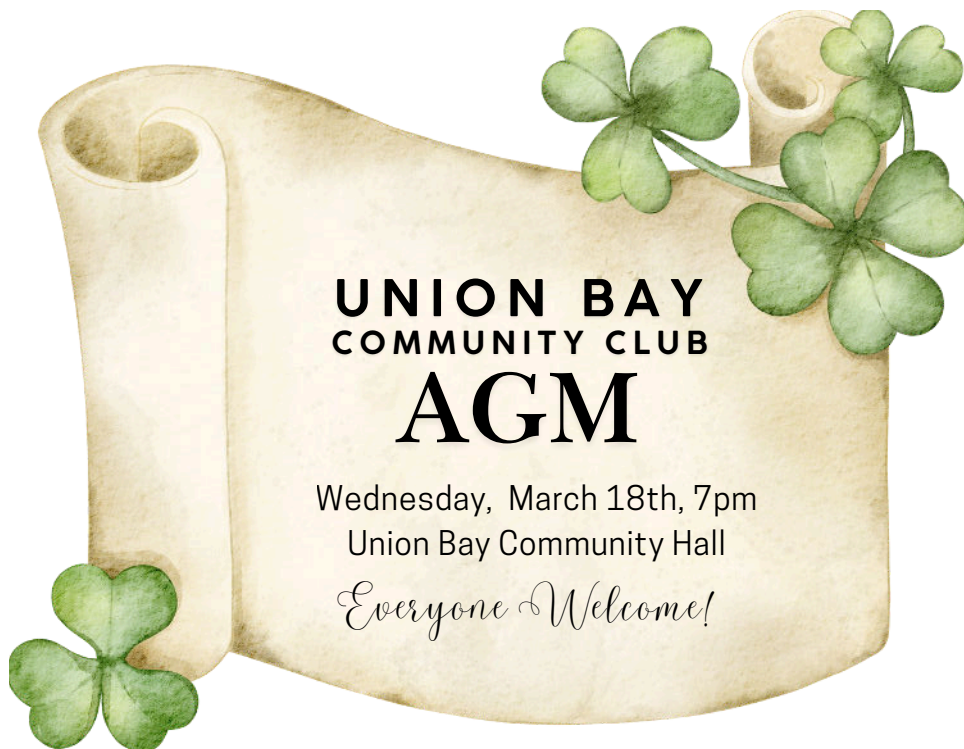
DOWN BY THE BAY NEWSLETTER

Issued By The Union Bay Community Club



Welcome March

Sunny days may stay crisp, but bright yellow daffodils remind us that spring is near. March begins with a full moon and a solar eclipse. As the days grow longer, we'll be drawn back into our gardens to clear old stems and greet new growth. Wishing you a pot o' gold and all the joy your heart can hold as many lean into any Irish roots they imagine they have.



UNION BAY
COMMUNITY CLUB

AGM

Wednesday, March 18th, 7pm
Union Bay Community Hall

Everyone Welcome!

White fog wraps the morning tight,
The ferry bellows, lost to sight.
While planes are stilled by heavy gray,
The sun burns through to claim the day.
With unseasoned heat, the garden glows,
As every early blossom blows—
A bright, gold trick of light and air,
Waking the spring that isn't there.

~ Hu Dung



Local Pens

You can enjoy Hu Dung's poetic weather descriptions and Dennis Lilgerts very detailed weather forecasts on the Union Bay Bulletin Facebook page.



Bring in

Spring

March 20th 7:46am



Find these St. Patrick's Day charms throughout the newsletter!

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

Upcoming Events

In the Union Bay Community

Spring Ahead	Sunday, March 8th 2:00am Set your clocks 1 hour ahead and enjoy more day light
FB Concert	Saturday, March 14th 7:00pm Big Little Lions (pg 6)
 St Patricks Day	Tuesday, March 17th Don't forget to wear some green!
UBCC AGM	Wednesday, March 18th Open to the community to attend
Spring Equinox	Friday, March 20th Spring begins in our hemisphere
Spring Craft Fair	Sunday, March 29th 10am-3pm Get inspired by local crafters, artisans and makers! (pg 3)
Kids Easter Egg Hunt	Sunday, April 5th 10:45am Rain or shine bring your baskets for the annual Easter egg hunt & gather

Have an activity you'd like to start? Check out our activity calendar for availability or contact Cindy at 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

Pickle Ball

Intermediate/Advanced
Tues/Thurs 6pm-8pm

Contact: Dylan Harris
250-703-6760

Crib

Mondays 1:30pm

Contact: Mary Bowen
250-335-1748



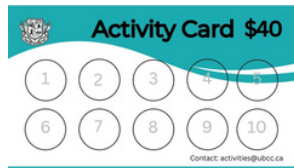
Line Dancing

Wednesdays
1:30pm

Contact: Mary Bowen
250-335-1748



* Please contact the Pickle Ball host to confirm availability *



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 COMMUNITY CLUB

Spring
CRAFT FAIR
AND SOUPER LUNCHEON

MARCH
SUNDAY | **29** | 10AM-3PM
2026

40 ARTISANS, CRAFTERS &
MAKERS

See you there!

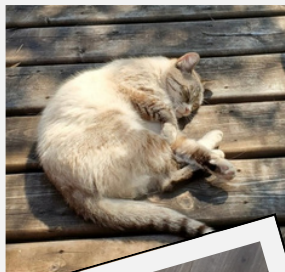
5401 ISLAND HWY S UNION BAY

FOR MORE INFO GO TO THE UBCC.CA WEBSITE

Local Paws



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



Boo

This sweet senior cat has made it her personal mission to visit every neighbour and has perfected the art of stealing hearts. In true diva fashion, Boo maintains a standing appointment next door for her regular "spa treatments." She doesn't bother with bookings, of course, she simply arrives and expects immediate grooming service.

Boo believes strongly in community connection, especially when it involves sunshine, a cozy step to lounge on, or the possibility of a treat. If you see her stretched out dramatically in a warm patch of sun, she's living her best life.

At home Boo takes her role as official household greeter very seriously. Every guest is welcomed, inspected, and evaluated for petting skills. No one slips by unnoticed.

And should attention levels dip even slightly, Boo deploys her signature move, "the trap." She rolls onto her back, looking irresistibly adorable, as if inviting a gentle belly rub. It is, however, a highly strategic maneuver designed to draw you back into giving her the admiration she clearly deserves.

Thank you to the neighbours who offer Boo a kind hello and a little pet. In a world that moves a little too fast, she reminds us all to slow down, soak up the sunshine, visit a neighbour, and always say yes to treats!



March Birthdays

Rick Weaver March 3
James Barth March 6
Barbara Murphy March 6
Rus Chapman March 8
Glenn Carroll March 8
Laura Elgie March 10
Nick Webb March 11
Trina Gable March 15
Mike Jager March 17
Karen MacGregor March 19
Liam Osenenko March 20
Cathy Poje March 21
Isla Osenenko March 23
Linda Friel March 25
Austin Bitten March 27



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Treeislandventures@gmail.com



Recipe



If you let our well worn The Fannie Farmer Cook Book fall open there is a 95% chance you will find the baking powder biscuit recipe. These are as described - light-gold and crusty outside, moist and fine textured inside. These are a delight for brunch with jams and cheese or served along side soups and stews. We have enjoyed these as a family for three generations and hooked many a friend along the way.
~ Simone

Baking Powder Biscuits

Ingredients:

yields: 10-16 biscuits (depending on thickness)

- 2 cups flour (280 g)
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- ½ cup cold butter
(or ½ cup vegetable shortening)
- ⅔ cup milk

Notes:

- If dough remains too crumbly after milk - add a tablespoon more. Dough shouldn't be too wet
- Pea sized butter lumps creates the flaky biscuit magic
- ** Check biscuits at 12 minutes to assess all ovens are different - you want golden brown bottom and top and edges/middle becoming golden
- You know you've made it when the cooked biscuit separates into layers
- Next day reheat in toaster/oven - if there are any left over!

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 425 F
2. Line a baking sheet with parchment or lightly grease
3. Put the flour, salt, baking powder, cream of tartar and sugar in a bowl. Mix to combine
4. Cut the cold butter into large cubes and add to the dry mixture bowl
5. Cut the butter into the flour with a pastry cutter, until the mixture resembles coarse meal (green pea size pieces of butter in the flour mixture)
6. Add the milk and stir until the dough starts to form - it will be sticky at first
7. Use your hands to help incorporate any dry ingredients not stirred in. Don't over mix
8. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead 14 times (the book says so)
9. Pat the dough down into a round shape approx ½ inch thick.
10. Cut into rounds with a 2 inch round cookie cutter
11. Place dough rounds onto baking sheet close but not touching
12. Bake for 15-20 minutes - middle of oven is best **

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laura@unionbaycatering.ca
W.250-335-2625
C. 250-703-3828





Beaufort Watershed Stewards

We're all about the future here at BWS. We gather data today so we won't be at a loss in the future. In the same way, please mark your calendar today so you don't forget to come to our next Town Hall in the future. (April 25, 2026 7pm at the Fanny Bay Community Hall). This will be our third Town Hall and in terms of Aquifer 419, the Fanny Bay aquifer, it promises to be the most significant. Kate McMillan, the undergrad student from the University of Victoria who was in Fanny Bay to measure well levels last September, will be presenting her results. Kate's advisor, Mike Wei, a hydrogeologist and adjunct professor at the University will also be there. He's bringing an interactive physical groundwater display. We're not sure what that is exactly. All he's told us is that it weighs as much as the Stanley Cup. In addition, BWS' own Mark Lake, a retired geophysicist, will be presenting a summary of what he and two previous UVic students have learned about the geology of our aquifer.

But that's all in the future. Let's talk about the present. We are presently integrating four new sensors into our groundwater monitoring network. These new sensors are all located in the Bowser area, primarily in Aquifer 416, and were installed at the end of last year. The installation represents an expanded collaboration with the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN). The RDN has been providing water quality monitoring equipment for our Bowser team. Now, as the result of a grant from RDN's Stewardship Seed Funding program, they have provided the sensors which BWS will manage. The sensors will become part of the existing RDN Volunteer Observation Well Network. This is also an expansion of what we already do in Fanny Bay. Like Fanny Bay, Bowser is not on "city water". Private wells supply homes and two Improvement Districts, Deep Bay Waterworks and Bowser Waterworks, operate community wells. There is no city or regional department dedicated to monitoring the water supply. So, it is left to groups like ours to fill in the gaps. On April 25, 2026, we plan to present information that will broaden and deepen our knowledge of the primary Fanny Bay aquifer. Hopefully, in the future we will be able to do the same for Bowser!

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



Comox Valley Spring Recreation Guide registration starting March 9.

The guide will be available to review online on March 4.

7pm Saturday, 14 March 2026



Live at Fanny Bay Hall

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TICKETS

In Person Advance: \$35 Cash

• Weinberg's Good Food, Buckley Bay

• Laughing Oyster Books, Courtenay

• Salish Sea Market, Bowser

Online & At Door: \$38

• fannybayhall.ticketit.ca

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Fish On!

By: Pete Bourgeois

The forecast was for light winds, low cloud and that teeny-tiny rain that soaks everything, basically 100 percent humidity. The day started off gloomy but ended with a bang.

I was on a solo trip in mid February, cycling through new tackle, to see what might be working. As is the norm for the winter, I was fishing deep, within 15 feet of the bottom. I began the tack following a 190-foot contour with lines running at 180 and 190 feet deep. On the port side, I had a green splatter back hoochie, behind a Bon Chovy flasher. Since the bait had been on the larger side, I ran a 5" Nasty Lady spoon, paired with a green glow daisy chain dummy flasher on the starboard side.

I ran those combinations for about an hour with no success, so I swapped out the hoochie for a 5" Big E Spoon in Herring Aid I had just purchased. Moving out, I followed a 210-foot contour, dropping lines to 190 and 210 feet, respectively. I didn't see much in the way of bait on the sounder, but within 10 minutes of moving deeper, the Big E spoon pulled up a small 'shaker' chinook. Continuing at these depths for then next few hours proved that deeper is better, both spoons producing several, albeit not quite legal, springs.

As the day pressed on, I did one more change. I moved out to the 240-foot contour, and on a hunch, I changed out the Nasty Lady for a smaller 4" Trailhead spoon. I've been using this spoon off and on since September, and although I was testing out new, bigger stuff, I couldn't resist giving it a go. I dropped this rig to 230 feet, moving the other down to 220.

Darkness hits fast in the winter so I gave myself until 3:30 "sharp" before I'd clear lines and start running back to the boat ramp. With an hour more to fish, I ran this tack twice more, but all too soon time was up. I glanced down at my phone and saw it read 3:27. My day over, I moved to the back of the boat to clear the lines, just as the deeper rod went off. Trailhead worked once more, and just in time!

Last Chance Charlie ended up as a twelve-pound spring - a terrific way to end off a gloomy, wet winter session.



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Why should you never
iron a four-leaf clover?

You don't want to press
your luck.



Family routines are probably starting to feel a bit stale as we shake off the grey of West Coast winter and look ahead to spring rainbows and spring break. Maybe your family has a trip planned or you're simply hoping to enjoy time together and shake up your usual routine. Having extra time together is a great chance for meaningful conversation. Still, getting most kids to talk about their day or share things about themselves often leads to one-word answers and very short chats. Here are some questions that might coax thoughtful, silly, or unexpected answers from your kids — and maybe spark a good laugh for everyone!

~S

- Trifolium repens (3 leaf, White Clover)
- 1 in 10,000 white clover will have 4 leaves.
- Each leaf represents faith, hope, love, and luck



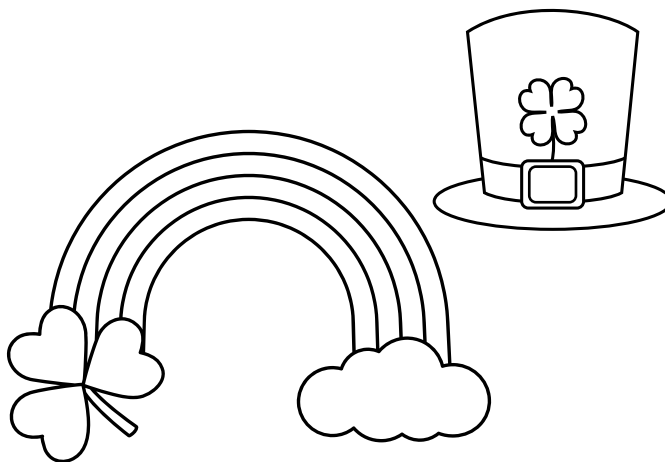
Questions



1. If stuffed animals could talk, what would they say?
2. What food would you want to eat for the rest of your life?
3. If you could turn mud into any flavour, what would it taste like?
4. What food would you ban in our house if you were in charge of the kitchen?
5. What superpowers do you want to have?
6. What would you sell if you had a store?
7. Would you choose to talk with animals or speak every human language?
8. What is the hardest thing about being a kid?
9. What is your favourite smell?
10. Who in the family makes you laugh the most?
11. What do you think makes someone a good friend?
12. Would you rather have legs like a kangaroo or the neck of a giraffe?
13. What would you wish for with three wishes?
14. Would you rather be as small as an ant or as big as a giant & why?
15. Would you rather own a pet dinosaur or a pet dragon?
16. What do you like to do with me?

Irish Saying:

May all your troubles be
little ones and all your little
ones be trouble free.



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Staying Healthy: Dental

By: Janette Glover-Geidt



Going to the dentist is never a pleasant experience but years ago it was often a terrifying ordeal. Many children had to be dragged screaming into the office. Upon entering the door and encountering the antiseptic smell and the sound of the drill, adults would turn pale and feel faint. In the very early days, the first settlers had to travel to Nanaimo or Victoria when they had a tooth ache. By the late 1880's, dentists were coming up from the two cities and setting up in the local hotel. One of the first was G.W.Hunt who travelled by canoe to the different settlements. He advertised silver, platinum or bone fillings for \$1 to \$2.50, gold fillings \$3 each. By the 1890's Doctor West boasted that he could make artificial dentures as natural looking as your own. Dr. Curry claimed a new method of painless extraction without the use of ether or chloroform.

Dentistry became more competitive as more dentists visited the area and prices came down after the turn of the century.

- Teeth extracted \$.50 Sale price \$.25
- Excellent set of teeth 6.50 \$ 5.00
- Silver filling \$.75 \$.50
- Gold filling 1.00 and up.

Oral hygiene was not stressed. A six-month check-up was unheard of. The only reason to visit a dentist was a toothache. Often people suffered for months with a toothache doctoring themselves with oil of cloves to stop the pain.

Dr. Christie opened an office in the old bank building, then moved to Cumberland. In 1923 Dr. Bruce Gordon moved to Cumberland from Toronto where he had specialized in restructuring the jaws and faces of shot up veterans. In the Comox Valley he specialized in bridge work and a new method of freezing. His first drill was powered by a kick wheel. He advertised a new method of freezing. He drove his "Model T" loaded with dentistry tools even to the Logging camps. The loggers all sat around watching the patient suffer , and offering comments and encouragement.

Probably because the early settlers and their children ate simple diets, high in starch but low in sugar, tooth decay was not as common as in the 1920's and 30's when sweets were more available. Brushing was not emphasized, and most families could not afford visits to the dentist or transportation to get there. Many children had a mouth full of rotten, black, broken and decaying teeth. It was quite common to let the teeth rot, visiting the dentist only for extractions. Then, at about the age of fifteen, the teeth were all removed and dentures put in. Finally, in the 1940's, the Canadian Dental Hygiene Council started to promote good mouth health with newspaper and magazine articles, essay contests, and lectures to parent groups. Teachers encouraged brushing in their health classes.



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

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CONCRETE *upgrade*

A job well done by Nik Wiesselmann, the successful bidder for concrete upgrades to the south side of the hall. It should be open for parking by March 5. Concrete barriers still need to be put back. Nik included a catch basin to make sure all water flowed to the ditch. The project came in on budget as the base was in better shape than expected. There was crush gravel left over, Nik is taking it and his machine to the market to fix the parking pot hole mess across from the store. Any left over will be dumped on the concrete pad at the boat launch for later use. All included with the original bid. A big thank you to Nik and his team.

~ Rick Weaver



WE ARE HIRING!



Union Bay Community Club CLEANING SERVICES

We're looking for a reliable and detail-oriented individual to provide cleaning services for our facility. This is a paid position, requiring approximately 20-30 hours of cleaning per month, *starting June 1, 2026.*

If you're interested in this opportunity, or know someone who might be a good fit, please contact info@ubcc.ca for more details.



Senior Support North Vancouver Island (SSNVI) is opening a Time Together Club (TTC) in Fanny Bay and is looking for a Coordinator for this **intergenerational play group**. Duties include planning activities, set up and cleanup, and promoting the program in the community.

Four hours a week up to 40 weeks at \$30 an hour, Criminal Record Check required which will be administered through SSNVI.

More information and application instructions at <https://ssnvi.ca/job/time-together-club-coordinator/>

Questions? Email Ann Brown, Intergenerational Connector at intergen@SSNVI.ca

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



Contacts

Hall Activities: Cindy Daneliuk
activities@ubcc.ca

Rentals: Raquel Clarke
rentals@ubcc.ca

Craft Fairs: Starr McFadyen
craftfairs@ubcc.ca

Membership: Dianne Jager
membership@ubcc.ca

Boat Launch: Rick Weaver
604-309-1571

Volunteer Rentals Coordinator Opening!

The Union Bay Community Hall is looking for a friendly, organized volunteer to help coordinate hall rentals and support the gatherings, celebrations, and community events that make our town special.

What you'll be doing:

- Responding to rental inquiries and managing emails
- Coordinating bookings and maintaining the hall schedule
- Helping renters understand and follow hall policies and procedures
- Being a welcoming point of contact for community members and guests

We're hoping to find someone who is:

- Strong in written and verbal communication
- Well-organized and detail-oriented
- Comfortable coordinating schedules and email communication
- Experienced in customer service and or property management
- Friendly, dependable, and community-minded

If you love being part of a close-knit community and helping bring people together, we'd love to hear from you. **Please email: rentals@ubcc.ca for more information.**

Around the Bay



Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter egg hunt will be held at the Union Bay community hall field or will be inside the hall if it's raining. Bring your own egg gathering basket. This event is organized by the UBCC and UB Fire Department

Sunday, April 5th 10:45am

Easter bunny arrives at 11:00am



Meat Draw at the FBI

hosted by
The Baynes Sound Lions

Every Saturday 4:30pm

7480 Island Hwy S,
Fanny Bay



Making A Splash!

Some brave Baynes Sound Lions crew, dressed for success and attended the Royston Family Day Polar Plunge.

Not surprising, they also inducted three new Lions!

Welcome:

Kathi, Melissa and Darlene