APR 29
2017

Ma Murray
COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
Awards
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President’s Message

In our news offices we have passionate journalists, compelling sales associates, imaginative designers, and dedicated carriers and circulation teams. Training is a way we will ensure life and innovation within our pages and online.
Nationally there have been significant changes in our industry this year: the amalgamation of Newspapers Canada and our Canadian Community Newspapers Association into News Media Canada. This newly formed association will continue to represent our industry alongside the daily news organizations under one board of directors. I am a current director on the board and am confident that News Media Canada will continue to work to promote and support local Canadian content and newspapers coast to coast.

We know the strength and value of community newspapers, though occasionally we doubt ourselves. Look around tonight and consider this your reminder. Remember local newspapers continue to be a community’s most trusted source for local news. We reach millions. Whether they like us, or not. The trust the reader provides us is to be valued, protected and respected.

In return we must provide accurate, interesting, and local information that resonates and calls to action that same reader. In a world where anyone can be a citizen journalist, and fake news is a real thing, our readers expect the truth and quality that our reputation has built for hundreds of years.

It hasn’t been an easy year, and it likely won’t be easy ever again. We didn’t choose these jobs because they were easy. We thrive on the challenge and our staff, governments, neighbours, and business partners are the better for it.

Tonight we celebrate the best work of the previous year and recognize the talent within. Congratulations to the qualified. The Ma Murray Awards continue to be a strong competition and an awards ceremony unlike any in the country.

We have honoured guests among us this evening. If you are able please introduce yourself to our generous sponsors, because without their support this event would not happen.

Enjoy your evening.

Sincerely,
Sarah Holmes
BCYNA President, 2016-2017

BCLC congratulates all the winners in the Newspaper Excellence Awards Category!

When you play with BCLC, you #PlayItForward
**LAKE COWICHAN GAZETTE**

The Lake Cowichan Gazette covers a wide range of issues and is well written with a captivating presentation and engaging news stories. Really celebrates its community by featuring so many people-oriented articles. An impressive and well-rounded paper with a lot of personality.

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<th>Community News /10</th>
<th>Editorial &amp; Op-Ed /10</th>
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**2ND**

**HAIDA GWAI I OBSERVER**

The Haida Gwaii Observer was extremely informative and engages very well with the community each week. It offers a very good reflection of its community. Beautifully presented and easy to read. A great overall package.

**3RD**

**EAGLE VALLEY NEWS**

An inviting front page, great masthead, strong leads, and bright inviting photography all come together to pull readers inside to a clean and organized paper. The Eagle Valley News covers its issues really well and is clearly very much part of the fabric of its community.
Fruit growers looking at early bloom, harvest issues

OLIVER CHRONICLE

A strong community newspaper that does what a community paper should be doing. Tons of local stories and photos covering what is going on in the community. A clean, strong front page with an uncluttered masthead, and a well-placed top banner ad that doesn’t take away from masthead and page content. Great organization throughout, strong section headings, and interesting stories.
Changes underway at SD#83

Accused describes killing

CRUSHES IT

SCAPEGOAT?

SOCIAL PLANNING

rises funds for Pacific Region

Environmentalist turns 100

Moberg

SALMON ARM OBSERVER

The Salmon Arm Observer makes a good first impression with attention-grabbing front page content and photography. Strong reporting is evident throughout with great coverage of the community. A very good paper cover-to-cover, though two areas really stand out: no other paper comes close to the breadth the Observer serves up in its Sports coverage. Also, the photography is outstanding. Excellent work!

POWELL RIVER PEAK

An exceptional front page and good reporting in all sections, with stories ranging from serious issues to community events, arts and sports. The writing is strong, as is the editorial section. “Speak to the Peak” is a nice feature that gives community members a recognized voice. There’s a real warmth to the Powell River Peak, and it guides readers from the pleasing design and photography right into the thorough coverage of its news. An obviously high degree of reader engagement not surpassed anywhere else in the category.

THE SQUAMISH CHIEF

There is a lot to like in the pages of the Chief. Thought provoking editorial combined with superb local features and sports reporting, an aesthetically pleasing design, fantastic photography and superb production quality, all come together to make the Squamish Chief a unanimous choice for first place. Stories offer an excellent balance of pressing issues and lighter fare to keep the community abreast of goings-on. The Editorials and letters section are written well and bring a broader interest to a local experience. The paper clearly sets very high standards for itself, and then sets out to surpass them. A great read!

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PIQUE NEWSMAGAZINE
The Pique is a standout in this category. It’s refreshing to see a paper with such a pulse. As a newsmagazine with significant advertising content, the Pique does in many ways represent a magazine more than a newspaper, but there’s no doubt that it does everything a community paper should do. The local coverage is truly impressive and the presentation is innovative. It’s exactly what the industry needs right now: Well-designed with clean typography and page layouts, bolstered by well-written content and great photography, the Pique is a pleasure to read.
Caught in an avalanche

A backcountry skier describes being swept down Log Cabin Mountain in a river of snow. PAGE 3

Whitehorse, Yukon News

The Yukon News stands out for two things: its depth and variety of news stories and coverage, and its impressive range of photos showing action and movement. While the front page is challenging because it features a somewhat basic design without a traditional cover story, the quality of photos and the strong headlines make up for it and draw readers in anyway. Production quality is very high, and ads feel clean and purposeful. Impressive coverage of the multicultural community, clean, easy-to-read layout, great variety of stories, and large, healthy classified section to finish it off. Well done!

New Westminster Record

The Record features a clean design, strong photos, and an engaging front page. Stories are well-written with effective headlines and solid and creative leads. Good community coverage and local features, and wide-ranging entertainment coverage. Several different special sections provide unique opportunities to sell and showcase ads. A great paper!

Langley Advance

The Advance uses strong photos and headlines to build interest – really breaks away from traditional front page format. Local news stories are well-written. Photographers seem willing to try different angles and approaches to capture a scene – a welcome skill. The Advance is an attractive newspaper with a solid, wide-ranging mix of content that would appeal to varying age groups, the community, the province, and business.

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<tr>
<th>Newspaper</th>
<th>Front Page/15</th>
<th>Community News/15</th>
<th>Editorial Op-Ed/10</th>
<th>Local Features/15</th>
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1ST

**THE CHILLIWACK PROGRESS**

The Progress knows its community and covers it extremely well. A solid all-around paper with robust display and classified advertising, strong sections and consistent quality. Like other top contenders in the category, the Progress has maintained a good sized news hole. Strong community journalism with quality writing and community engagement, interesting local features and strong editorials and letters to the editor. It has also done better than most in toning down the amount of display advertising on the front page.

---

2ND

**PARKSVILLE/QUALICUM BEACH NEWS**

A great paper that knows its community and provides strong leadership on local issues. Its beautifully-designed front page and overall appearance, plus quality news and strong local features make this paper a good read every time.

---

3RD

**DELTA OPTIMIST**

A very strong front page begins to lend an idea of the overall commitment to presentation that the Optimist holds. The production quality is high and the photography very strong. Featuring in-depth community reporting, strong long-form features and great local features, arts and sports coverage.

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### Newspaper Excellence Award

**CATEGORY F**

**SPONSOR: BCLC**

**Newspaper Excellence Award**

**1ST**

**The Chilliwack Progress**

**2ND**

**Parksville/Qualicum Beach News**

**3RD**

**Delta Optimist**

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**THE CHILLIWACK PROGRESS**

**2017 MA MURRAY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER AWARDS**

**SPONSORED BY COAST CAPITAL SAVINGS**

**APRIL 29, 2017**

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**WV owners chop trees to beat bylaw**

Neighbour disappointed by lack of protection

*Last week's story*

Stuart Dufresne

A group of local kite boarders pitched in to clean up a ravine near the Sunshine Coast, one of the areas affected by the untold number of ATV crashes and fires.

Evacuated from the area by emergency services, a young man was taken to hospital after he was thrown from his ATV. He died from his injuries the next day.

The Sunshine Coast RCMP are investigating the crash and say they believe it was a single-vehicle accident.

**Pay parking debated for busiest parks**

**Vancouver Courier**

Photographers Dan Touloge and Rebecca Bliss are two shining examples of what a community paper can do to stay relevant and engaging when its competitors are four major daily newspapers and two popular commuter papers. Instead of chasing the same stories its bigger competitors have, the Courier looks for different perspectives and provides another angle for its readers.

And as newsrooms continue to downsize their photography departments, Courier photographers Dan Touloge and Rebecca Bliss are two shining examples of what photojournalism still matters.

**Vancouver Couri**


**Dirty Laundry campaign works to wash away racism**

**Geoff Farrell**

Dirty Laundry campaign is a way for the community to engage, raise awareness and support anti-racism initiatives. The campaign, launched in 2012 by the Williams Lake Tribune, has been running for several years and aims to empower individuals and organizations to take action against racism.

The Dirty Laundry campaign encourages people to participate in various activities, such as writing columns, creating public service announcements, and organizing events. It also promotes the use of language that is free from slurs and stereotypes.

The campaign has received positive feedback from the community, with many people participating in its initiatives. It has also been supported by local businesses and organizations, who have donated items or funds to help further its cause.

**Racism hurts.**

The campaign has helped to raise awareness about the impact of racism on individuals and communities, and has encouraged people to speak out against it. It has also helped to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment in Williams Lake and the surrounding areas.

Overall, the Dirty Laundry campaign has been successful in its efforts to promote anti-racism initiatives and has made a positive impact on the community.

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**Community Clean-Up picking up steam**

**James Blott**

A few years ago, the Comox Valley Community Clean-Up was a small, local initiative aimed at promoting environmental awareness and encouraging community members to take responsibility for the cleanliness of their town. Since then, it has grown into a larger event that has become a staple of the Comox Valley's annual calendar.

The clean-up takes place on the last Saturday of April, and it draws hundreds of volunteers who come together to pick up litter and debris from public spaces. The event is organized by the Comox Valley Community Clean-Up Committee, which is made up of volunteers from local organizations and businesses.

The Comox Valley Community Clean-Up is not only a way to promote environmental awareness, but it is also a chance for the community to come together and work as a team. It has become a way for people to get involved in their community and to make a positive impact on the environment.

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**Great turnout at Community Awareness Event**

The Comox Valley Community Awareness Event was held on Tuesday, June 28, at the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) offices. The event was a chance for the community to come together and learn about the services and programs offered by local organizations.

Several organizations were represented at the event, including the Williams Lake Tribune, the Comox Valley News, and the Comox Valley Library. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the services offered by these organizations and to ask questions about how they can get involved.

Overall, the event was well-received and there was a great turnout. It was a chance for the community to come together and learn about the resources available to them.

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**Congratulations to the Comox Valley Record**

Their hard work and commitment to a second year leading this clean-up initiative is wonderful community engagement.
Dear Reader,

As you may have noticed, this newsletter is intended to be read on paper, but like the stories we report on, it doesn’t need to be read in one sitting. It is designed to be a real breadcrumb that leads you to the full story, and once you reach the end, you can put it down and come back to it later, as you would for a well-written novel, or a well-told news story. You can read it with the lights on or off, in the quiet of your home or in the rush of your day. You can read it in the company of others or in the quiet of your own thoughts. It is a story that is told with a sense of purpose, a sense of urgency, a sense of duty. It is a story that is told with love and dedication, with a sense of duty to the community and to the world. It is a story that is told with a sense of responsibility, a sense of commitment to the truth, a sense of commitment to the journalism that we hold dear. It is a story that is told with a sense of commitment to the future, a sense of commitment to the present, a sense of commitment to the past. It is a story that is told with a sense of commitment to the people, a sense of commitment to the places, a sense of commitment to the stories. It is a story that is told with a sense of commitment to the world, a sense of commitment to the people, a sense of commitment to the future.

The Northern View
Shannon Lough

1ST

THE NORTHERN VIEW
Shannon Lough

This is a terrific example of the old adage that everyone has a story to tell - even those who are stepped over and forgotten. Reporter Shannon Lough shows dogged determination in uncovering this remarkable story. Footwork, cold calls and digging through old documents revealed a man who deserved much more. That he was ultimately honoured for his service shows the power of a well-written investigative piece. A delight to read.

2ND

THE PRINCE GEORGE CITIZEN
Samantha Wright Allen

This series was very strong. Through meticulous research, reporter Samantha Wright Allen covers each and every aspect of this public health issue without losing sight of the personal stories of those affected. Series like this one are crucial for journalists seeking to hold government to account and ultimately improve the world around them.

3RD

RICHMOND NEWS
Graeme Wood

Like a scene from a sitcom, Graeme Wood takes us into a bizarre world of illegal hotels and introduces us to a few of the unwelcome guests. The reporter was able to perfectly balance the serious nature of the story with humour, making the story entertaining, highly informative and hard to forget. It was great to see a bit of undercover work and it’s clear the reporter loved every minute of it.

continued on page 13

John Collison Memorial Award for Investigative Journalism

Presented by Coast Capital Savings • April 29, 2017 • 11

2017 MA Murray Community Newspaper Awards
October 20 - October 26, 2016

**Positive 4th Avenue: The rise and fall of Canada’s hippie mecca**

Hastings, who 92-year-old Grace Penzer knew as “Momma,” bought the house in 1920. It was a short-lived purchase. In 1923, the house was donated to the Anglican Church and the home had already changed hands. George’s practice was thriving and Grace was a time. George’s practice was thriving and Grace was seen as a good and caring doctor. In 1905, he married Grace and a year later their son was born. Dr. Tutill started a practice in the Nicola Valley in 1901 and, although some considered him a tad odd, for the most part he was respected. He helped many families, individuals, and businesses since 1911.

**Good vibrations**

The aftermath of Kitsilano’s counter-culture public art can still be felt to this day. The spirit of the sixties is still visible in the area. The man behind the letter ‘Q’ in street naming scheme.

**Calamity House: Fact, fiction, or rumour?**

A very well-researched article that shows evidence of original research with census records and other archival records. It brings attention to a local figure (Frank Quinn) who is not well known, but who served with distinction in a locally-raised 102nd Battalion in the First World War and was a driving force to establish a Legion Hall in the community. Well done!
Columnist Award

1ST

ABBOTSFORD NEWS
Andrew Holota
Andrew Holota uses strong, concise writing to look deeply at issues that usually evoke immediate, visceral responses. In doing so, he shows the underlying problems and raises questions for readers and for himself.

Columnist Award

Andrew Holota
On Point

This column, a遵循ent "painted camel," was featured in the Fraser Valley News.

Dinner: Home, or the land, applies for an injunction to stamp out the encroachment.

A judge eventually issued such an order. Not yesterday, the homeless camp re-emerged.

That whole scenario is wrong in so many ways, starting with the inherent ignominy of the camp in the first place.

A group of people decided they should set up that kind of a public property.

That belongs to a government agency, not public despite harms to the contrary by camp dwellers, advocates, agonists, or whatever you want to call them. Felger, long-time local politician. Essentially, all of these funds arise from among themselves. And while I have the same kind of column and the like, I have always been convinced that the water is the first thing that should be done.

Yet, there is still a lack of sufficient information to raise questions for readers and for himself.

Andrew Holota
On Point

VANCOUVER COURIER
Allen Garr

Allen Garr demonstrates his research and depth of knowledge to call into question local government’s inaction on major issues. His writing is clear and provides information that is thoroughly explained and placed in a broader concept.

Columnist Award

2ND

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3RD

ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS
Aleisha Hendry

Aleisha Hendry looks at two distinctly different gender issues to take issue with a culture that encourages shame by objecting to a play or humiliating a victim of rape. She deftly presents both situations to give readers pause for thought.

Columnist Award

3RD

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Wedding night turns tragic; Adkin dies of OD
Grieving Kamloops family calls for action after 27-year-old son dies from taking fentanyl-laced cocaine

Paul Adkin huddled in his room and left the dance floor, his knees down in the mud. He was ill, he later said, but wanted to be there for his family. He was 27. The police officer had just stepped away from his partner and her children.

The 27-year-old Kamloops man and his friends left the reception and went upstairs to a room at the Kelowna hotel to de-cocaine—a final decision that silenced Paul’s contiguous laugh forever, wiping his infectious smile off the face of the earth.

Paul Adkin’s family, friends and colleagues despaired as they mourned his death. The family described Paul Adkin as a hard-working, talented and well-liked young man who had struggled with addiction.

There were no immediate indications of foul play, according to Insp. Brian Globerman, Kamloops RCMP spokesman. The investigation is ongoing.

POLLOCK, a medical health officer with Interior Health, said people are encouraged to seek professional help and to use harm-reduction services to combat the opioid crisis.

Cocaine, fentanyl a deadly combo
In March, British Columbia became the first Canadian jurisdiction to issue a public health emergency after a dramatic increase in opioid overdose deaths.

Almost half of all deaths from opioid overdose in B.C. involve fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid that is significantly more potent than morphine or heroin.

“Some days I still feel like it’s a dream, the way it happened,” said Aaron, who has been a friend of Paul Adkin for years. “I never thought it would happen to him. It would happen to someone else.”

During the ceremony, Tom Adkin, Paul’s father, said the family was so moved by the support they received during their time of need that they decided to give back.

The family is planning to set up a scholarship fund in Paul Adkin’s name to help other students pursue their education.

SURREY LEADER

1ST

KAMLOOPS THIS WEEK
Marty Hastings

This feature stood out in its category. The contrast between celebration and grief is highlighted and the senselessness of it all is overwhelming. It is a story so powerful I have shared with my own adult children.

2ND

THE PRINCE GEORGE CITIZEN
Frank Peebles

This feature struck home for its ability to give the reader a true sense of actually being in the woods with the hunting party. It would not be out of place in a collection of Jack London tales except that it is true.

3RD

SURREY LEADER
Kevin Diakow, Rick Kupchuk, Sheila Reynolds, Evan Seal & Paula Carlson

Congratulations to the editorial team for the commitment they demonstrated to showcasing this community issue. Very clearly demonstrated the needs and effectively worked to undo stereotypes of the homeless.
Helping the Helpers

A 30-year-old couple's off-grid adventure

Necessity is the Mother of Invention for this new generation of Kings of the Road. Interesting interviews, supported by great photos, that shine a light on a whole new way of living.

Van Life: Why the Trend?

Well, it's been rather untraditional how we've been living in the province. First responders are the key to this new trend. Living in a vehicle is not a new trend. However, the demand for van life is increasing in recent years. The trend of living in a vehicle is often uniquely adapted to make life on the West Coast more appealing. We can see the growth of van life, with a rise in the number of people living in vehicles.

The Boons: Van Life in the Peace River Valley

The Boons, a couple who chose to live in a van, have been living in the Peace River valley for several years. They have been able to find a new way of living and have been experimenting with different ways to live.

A Solar-Powered Journey

The Boons have installed solar panels on their van, which has drawn the attention of many people. They have been experimenting with different ways to live, and their van life has been a unique way to experience the outdoors.

A Look Inside a Van

The interior of the van is a work of art. The van is equipped with a fold-down bed, a fold-down table, and storage underneath. The couple has created a space that is comfortable and functional.

A Unique Adventure

The Boons are an inspiration to many people. They have lived in a van for several years, and their journey has been a unique adventure. They have been able to experience the outdoors in a different way, and their van life has been a unique way to experience the outdoors.

The Future of Van Life

Van life is gaining popularity, and it is likely to continue in the future. The trend of living in a vehicle is increasing, and it is likely to continue in the future. The Boons are an inspiration to many people and have been able to experience the outdoors in a different way.
No plan to test at the taps of B.C. homeowners, province says

Chlorus water pervasive on north coast, but a lack of communication about potential effects

by Braden Dupuis

BRADEN DUPUIS NEWSMAGAZINE

The province won’t test water taps in areas where water is sourced from chlorus, which is a natural phenomenon that can affect water quality. It is a potential health concern, but the province says there is no indication of health risks.

The province is aware of the phenomenon and is working to improve communication with affected homeowners.

The province is also looking into the possibility of testing water taps in areas where water is sourced from chlorus, but it is a complex process and there are challenges.

If you have concerns about your tap water, you can contact the provincial government or your local water utility.

PQIE NEWSMAGAZINE

Braden Dupuis & Clare Oglvie

The sheen tenacity of this series made it the outstanding winner. The series didn’t have a natural protagonist, yet the stories were compelling, informative and kept up a sense of urgency and drama. High praise for this very skilled reporting team who turned politics and procedures into compelling narrative.

3RD

VANCOUVER COURIER

Christopher Cheung

Sometimes it’s the connection between a reporter and their subject that makes a story sing. Christopher Cheung’s story on urban farmers on Vancouver’s Eastside is both elegant and masterfully written. Cheung takes readers on a journey through a series of cultural issues with a delicacy worth heaps of praise. As you are gliding along through the story you are both informed and enlightened about an aging Asian community and its sexy squash. We should look forward to more of this reporter’s work.

If only this kind of story showed up in text books - well researched, colourful and fascinating. You get the sense that reporter Maura Forrest is playing a crucial role in documenting the history of our planet in her story on the disappearance of the Slims River. She explains it’s called “River Piracy” and guides her readers through a series of explanations. She is also mindful of her community and looks to explain the local impact. This is great journalism in action.

1ST

PIQUE NEWSMAGAZINE

Maura Forrest

The curious case of the vanishing river

Photo: Maura Forrest

YUKON NEWS

Maura Forrest

The curious case of the vanishing river

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

The curious case of the vanishing river

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SPONSOR: THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY - JOURNALISM, COMMUNICATION & NEW MEDIA

Environmental Writing Award
Environmentalist turns 100

Community celebrates recycling and anti-pollution pioneer Ruby Roscovich

JASON SCHREURS
jasper@jasperphoto.com

A typical week for Ruby Roscovich involved gardening, doing the recycling, cycling to and from town, making her own soap and candles and spending countless hours working with other local environmentalists on green initiatives within the community.

Did you mention that you were taking place in the late 1960s? Ruby, a trailblazer in early environmentalist efforts in the Powell River region, turns 100 years old on Friday, April 8. Described as a dedicated, concerned resident by her loved ones and those who have crossed her path since she moved with her family to Powell River in 1951, Ruby’s centennial birthday has deep meaning to the community.

The outpouring of gratitude and respect for Ruby will culminate with a celebration of friends and family the day after her birthday at Powell River Reformed Church. Ruby, who has lived with her family at her Munson Avenue home since the early 1950s, remained humble about her impact on the community. “Oh, I’m very honoured about the things people are saying,” she said. “I’ve only just been myself, I guess, but it’s very encouraging to be appreciated like that.”

Just being herself has involved an immense amount of work in the community over the past several decades, tackling environmental issues and practices such as recycling before very few other people knew what she was talking about, even city council.

“At that time no one thought recycling was just a way to attract cats,” laughed Ruby. “They thought if you’re doing anything, that’s just going to hate cats, but that was the wrong picture of what we were doing. They didn’t know any better.”

It’s inspiring to read about Ruby Roscovich, a Powell River environmentalist whose decades of work have influenced countless people in her community. Jason Schreurs’ story captures the heart of this dedicated and humble woman.

2ND

PIQUE NEWSMAGAZINE
Braden Dupuis & Clare Ogilvie

Living in Whistler means learning to co-exist with bears. Braden Dupuis examines how local residents are working with the Conservation Officer Service to teach people about bears and how to minimize human-bear conflicts.

3RD

NORTH SHORE NEWS
Erin McPhee & Mike Wakefield

This story shows how a North Vancouver man used grief for his son to create a beautiful local garden out of an “eyesore.” The formerly weed-choked space has become a neighbourhood gathering place and an inspiration to others.
SURREY NOW

Beau Simpson

A whimsically-written story about sisters who caught the attention and admiration of their entire neighborhood. Well done!

NORTH SHORE NEWS

Andy Prest

Such a wonderful story of commitment, courage, and triumph. Great storytelling about two good-natured young men who found each other at the perfect time.
Editorial Award

When hospitals interfere with rights

A local doctor has made national headlines for his stance on doctor-assisted death.

Dr. Jonathan Reggler is an outspoken advocate of the controversial issue. Reggler believes—and the Supreme Court of Canada agrees—that doctor-assisted death is a basic right for Canadians.

Thirteen months ago (Feb. 6, 2015) the Supreme Court of Canada ruled unanimously—that the “sanctity of life” must also include the “passage into death” and effectively gave the government 12 months to put the ruling into law.

The government was given a four-month grace period, due to the election, but the heat is on now, and the interest in the impending legislation is more palpable here in the Comox Valley than in most communities, based on the fact that we have a hospital owned by the Catholic church.

Whether or not doctor-assisted death should be legal in Canada is an issue in itself, and one of which we can appreciate both sides of the debate.

And while we may sit on the fence in that regard, one thing we cannot accept is when the agenda of a religion comes ahead of the best interest of the patient in a publicly funded health care facility.

Privately funded? A different matter altogether. But when we, the taxpayers, are paying all the salaries/wages, and for all the equipment used in a hospital, we should not be told, “I’m sorry, but your legal rights contradict the policies of our owner.”

It’s not like Comox Valley residents have a choice in the matter. There’s one hospital. And while it may be “owned” by the Catholic church, it is funded by everyone; Catholics, atheists, Jews and Muslims alike.

Meanwhile, Island Health—the publicly funded entity which oversees the health care industry on Vancouver Island—has said it supports the hospital’s stance.

We cannot share that stance. Just as operations should never take place in confessionals, Catholicism—or any other religion, for that matter—should never override medical care in a publicly funded medical facility.

—Terry Farrell

Unintended victims

No living victims have been hurt more than Charlie and Saskia by this year’s drug overdose epidemic in B.C.

They don’t live on the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver. They live in a rural area outside Parksville, known as Errington.

They aren’t part of the drug culture. They are 11 and nine years old, respectively, and both of their parents are close.

It was Aug. 14 when 27-year-old Britney O’Leary and 26-year-old Danny Byun died in their Errington home after a drug overdose. Word is Charlie and Saskia discovered their bodies that morning. “Tubby” does not begin to describe that scenario.

No amount of government warnings and education efforts will erase that memory from these dear children, nor will it bring their parents back.

By all accounts, O’Leary and Byun were in love and were loving parents. We are told they were not everyday, hardcore users. Such is the Russian roulette nature of even casual illicit drug use these days, when a small amount of fentanyl unknowingly ingested can kill, destroying families and leaving behind young, innocent orphans.

The B.C. Centre’s office has not finished its investigation of this tragedy, so we don’t know officially what killed O’Leary and Byun. That hardly matters to Charlie and Saskia.

“Losing a daughter, a son, a niece, a brother or a parent is hard, but for these kids they lose both parents on the same day,” says the preamble on the children’s page set up to help the children. The goal was to raise $5,000 and it was at $5,000 late last week.

Here is where we are supposed to say something good can come of this tragedy, some lessons or strategy that may help others avoid a similar fate. Can’t find those words, can’t muster any optimism or helpful tips.

There were 4,022 apparent illicit drug overdose deaths from January through October in B.C., a 57 per cent increase over the same period last year. There were seven on Vancouver Island alone in the one week period ending Thursday. Island Health issued an “urgent warning.”

Members of small voluntary fire departments in places like Errington and Dufutul are being trained in the use of the overdose-reversing drug naloxone.

This overdose epidemic is not a big city issue. It’s not about unemployed, down-and-out drug addicts who rob our stores and homes to get their next fix. This is about avoiding tragedy, putting a stop to the pain left behind.

This is about never hearing another story like the one of Charlie and Saskia.

— Editorial by John Faheang

Chainsaw massacre

I think that I shall never see a bylaw
lovely as a tree.

Blows to West Vancouver council for passing the first regulations to protect their trees in a century.

It’s unfortunate the regulations were greeted not with applause but with the buzzing saws of homeowners playing Beat the Clock with municipal law.

We are aware certain developers would prefer the free market determine how many trees are left standing. They have made their views clear both with their words and with their actions on the ground. But lack of regulations can have dire consequences for the community as a whole, particularly when large sums of money are involved.

We would argue that high housing prices in West Vancouver are not solely due to lot size. They are also owed to that less tangible asset, “quality of life,” and the verdant cedar and Douglas firs that arch over the community and are a valued part of that.

But not everyone agrees, and there will always be those homeowners who move into a forest and are aghast to see so many trees. There are the people who will wield axes and happily chop.

Paul Bayun and his neighbor appealed to save the “two trees” adjacent to their homes. Their appeal failed.

But even now, the district needs a bylaw that will identify the true cost of removing or disturbing a tree.

We call on the province to allow West Vancouver to charge fees that are lofty enough to keep trees from turning into stumps.

Please move quickly. We may not have another century to get this right.
Outdoor Recreation Writing Award

First Place

VANCOUVER COURIER
John Kurucz

Interesting choice of subject mainstream recreation. A well-written piece and good exposure for the activity and for the community to access opportunities.

Second Place

YUKON NEWS
Ashley Jeannou

Well-presented theme of multi-level community recreational opportunities with multi-level impact.

Third Place

CAMPBELL RIVER MIRROR
Mike Davies

Well-structured narrative of the process for obtaining approval and access for the community to recreational offroading.
It should come as no surprise that Whistler is a risk-taker’s paradise. And while the first dangers that immediately spring to mind are corporal in nature, there are plenty of other forms of peril here to navigate beyond the adrenaline-fuelled. Even making the decision to leave everything behind for a life in the mountains is fraught with risk. We all know Whistler isn’t exactly the most affordable place to live, nor is it brimming with many worthwhile opportunities for career growth. It’s a sacrifice most are willing to make in order to achieve that ever-elusive work-life balance, with the scales usually tipping in favour of the latter.

But the hard realities of this mountain mecca have managed to attract — and in many cases develop — the kind of DIY, pull-yourself-up-by-the-bootstraps-type individual whose penchant for risk-taking applies just as easily to that double-black diamond run as it does the boardroom.

“There are so many natural entrepreneurs in Whistler,” says Nicolette Richer, co-founder of organic juice bar The Green Moustache. “You can huck yourself off a cliff here, and it’s really the same concept that applies anytime you’re starting a business. It’s sort of like you’re skiing off a cliff and you hope for the best that there’s going to be a soft landing.”

There’s a personality type that comes to Whistler that’s really conducive to being a successful entrepreneur. Richer should know. She’s just the latest in a recent flurry of local entrepreneurs who have walked into the pressure cooker that is the Dragons’ Den, the long-running CBC reality series that sees emerging businesspeople sell their dream to a panel of multimillionaire investors. Landing a deal on Dragons’ Den has become something of an annual tradition for the resort’s business community — a local company has secured investment in each of the past three seasons of the hit show. And with Richer and her family pitching to the Dragons April 28 for the show’s upcoming 11th season, she hopes to soon join that exclusive club.

It’s more proof that Whistler has no problem punching above its weight. But there’s got to be more to the community’s seemingly disproportionate success in front of some of the country’s biggest and most powerful titans of industry than the appetite for adventure imbued in our DNA. Something in that fresh, glacial water perhaps?

“Maybe it’s something in the juice, not the water,” laughs Richer, a tongue-in-cheek plug for her company’s cold-pressed juice. (Never miss a marketing opportunity, right?)
Feature Series Award

SPONSOR: TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF BC

1ST

SURREY NOW
Amy Reid

The intent, gravity and community value of this polished series are apparent throughout its pages, and the writing grabs the reader and refuses to let go. The initial lead, with its race against death, is excellent, and subsequent sub-leads ("People are dropping like crazy") continue to land punches. Reporter Amy Reid wraps the series by revisiting the incident in which she witnessed the near-death of one of her sources. This further drives home the insights she delivers in the series. Excellent work.

2ND

PIQUE NEWS MAGAZINE
Braden Dupuis & Clare Ogilvie

This series gets it right, establishing its intent, setting the scene up front and taking on Whistler’s housing shortage precipitated by the rental market’s shift to Airbnb accommodations and short-term rentals. Braden Dupuis supports his crisp narrative with good research and examines the perspectives of renters, bureaucrats, employers and developers, establishing the broader implications the emerging resident-accommodation problem has for the community.

3RD

ABBOTSFORD NEWS
Vikki Hopes & Kelvin Gawley

In this series, Vikki Hopes and Kelvin Gawley steadfastly take on the thorny topic of reintroducing freed sex-offenders into the community. With an even hand, the reporters examine the community’s resistance, and take a close look at correction services’ approach to reintegration. As well, they provide readers with a contrasting look at the consequences of the pinball effect of pushing offenders from one community to the next.


Art and the Indian Act

MDA reflects on 30 years of Laurent Perreault Mscensation

Art and the Indian Act is an important article because it educates non-indigenous people about the experience of Indigenous people in Canada - a history that has long been ignored and disbelieved.

The writing is artistic, precise and informative. I can only hope that the reader learned something.

The subject material of this article is crucial and the reporting is strong and insightful. Considering the fragility of our physical existence on earth, we should pay attention. This is a strong call to action!

UVic cave art expert named 2016 National Geographic Emerging Explorer

Every time I stand in front of this incredible oil painting or engraving made by someone who is just like me, but separated so much time, it's actually hard to conceive.

3RD

WESTENDER

Sabrina Forminger

The subject material of this article is crucial and the reporting is strong and insightful. Considering the fragility of our physical existence on earth, we should pay attention. This is a strong call to action!
Feature Photo Award, Colour

1ST

PARKSVILLE/QUALICUM BEACH NEWS
Jeff Westnedge
This was an immediately arresting image - beautifully portrayed but also simple in its composition - there was no wasted space or cluttered detail. There was just the brilliant colours, a very well-timed moment and the added subtlety of the reflection in the waters below.

VANCOUVER COURIER
Dan Toulgoet
This was a close contender for first place. An impromptu moment showed something noteworthy on both sides of the lens -- on the subject’s side, a beguiling candid feel and an unposed look, showing a subject in their environment with grace and dignity; on the photographer’s side, a sensitive and empathetic eye and the skill to recognize a moment and have the quick reflexes to capture a fleeting moment before it disappeared.

3RD

VICTORIA NEWS
Arnold Lin
This picture was almost poetic in its balanced composition, perfect timing and brilliant colour. Beyond being a great feature photo, it’s just a great photo, period. Kudos to the photographer for looking beyond what the crowd was focused on and seeing this beautiful scene as a result.
**1ST**

**OAK BAY NEWS**
Christine van Reeuwyk

Having the interaction between the two girls takes this photo above the sorts of photos that usually come from this common event. The sensitivity to human interaction made all the difference for this picture placing as high as it did; it was a unique quality that set it apart and I think that trait in a photographer is most noteworthy. If they have that ability, they can do a good job on almost anything.

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**2ND**

**SALMON ARM OBSERVER**
Evan Buhler

The cutline says it well - the beauty of this moment vaulted the picture to second place. But it was the technical ability of the photographer that assured that placing - without the ability to competently record this phenomenon, this would not have won. And thankfully the editors recognized this picture’s qualities and ran it front page.

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**3RD**

**SHUSWAP MARKET NEWS**
Evan Buhler

A simple and graphic image that catches one’s attention and holds it. Thank goodness this picture got good play and ran in colour.
Feature Photo Award, Black & White

1st
Yukon News
Joel Krahn
Excellent use of light and dark to add depth and emotion to the image. Silhouetting the subject within the background creates an interesting insight into the subject and situation. Great image that really deserves its first place position. Well done.

2nd
Nanaimo News Bulletin
Chris Bush
Strong composition, contrast and focus work together to create an engaging image that draws the viewer in. Good exposure and use of light. Great work.

3rd
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows News
Michael Hall
A poignant portrait, excellent use of converging lines to draw the eye to the subject. The image makes the viewer want to know more about the subject, what a good portrait should do. Great shot.
1ST
YUKON NEWS
Joel Krahn
First place is a different artistic style portrait which uses composition, light and creativity to convey a strong mood. Kudos to the layout editor for the great “photo play!”

2ND
VANCOUVER COURIER
Dan Toulgoet
A powerful portrait with visual contradictions. His eyes convey his personal journey and history and an aspect of his personality. Excellent photographic technique!

3RD
MAPLE RIDGE-PIT MEADOWS NEWS
Phil Melnychuk & Colleen Flanagan
Great impact, a powerful and compelling image which draws you in wanting to know the story. Great use of camera angle and perspective. Strong layout.
Sports Photo Award

SPONSOR: HUB INTERNATIONAL

OVER 25,000

1ST
NORTH SHORE NEWS
Paul McGrath
The viewer is drawn into the intensity and focus of the moment through the image. The composition has the key elements in it with good depth of field. Great shot. It deserves the top spot in the field.

2ND
LANGLEY ADVANCE
Troy Landreville
A nice tight frame on the athlete, sharp focus and intense facial expression relay the emotion of the moment to the viewer. It is open to interpretation and draws the viewer into the story. Solid work.

3RD
VANCOUVER COURIER
Dan Toulgoet
The grit and struggle of the athletes is conveyed perfectly through the image. There is an intensity that is captured through sharp focus and good depth of field. It makes the viewer curious to see who won. Great shot.
Sports Photo Award

SPONSOR: ASSOCIATION OF BC FOREST PROFESSIONALS
UNDER 25,000

1ST
HOPE STANDARD
Barry Stewart
Great capture - a unique angle, great composition and added technical effort to shoot underwater helped separate this image from the field. Well done.

2ND
100 MILE HOUSE FREE PRESS
Ken Alexander
Good action, tight focus and technical aptitude worked to create a strong image. The emotion and action of the image engages the viewer. Great shot.

3RD
SALMON ARM OBSERVER
Evan Buhler
Split second timing and sharp focus captured the action and emotion of the image. The focus and intensity of the players is conveyed to the viewer. Excellent photograph.
Spot News Photo Award

OVER 25,000

1ST
GOLDSTREAM NEWS GAZETTE
Joel Tansey
This was a dramatic key moment, created under duress or difficult circumstances. The perspective is good and the timing key to the whole story.

2ND
VERNON MORNING STAR
Lisa VanderVelde
This is another example of a photograph made under less than ideal circumstances. There’s no do-over with such an event and there undoubtedly was just a split second to make only a frame or two - what sharp reflexes to catch a moment coming eye to eye with this convict.

3RD
LANGLEY TIMES
Dan Ferguson
The framing and composition here are key to this entry placing as high as it did. Uncluttered, free of distracting elements, it portrays a dramatic event simply and effectively.
**Spot News Photo Award**

**SPONSOR: TELUS**

**UNDER 25,000**

**1ST**

**LADYSMITH-CHEMAINUS CHRONICLE**
Craig Spence
This is a dramatic and unusual spot news photograph, in that it’s rare to see bystanders rescue a person in distress. The photographer obviously was quick to arrive and as a result came away with a record of an unusual but compassionate moment.

**2ND**

**ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS**
Matt Preprost
This is a good definition of a spot news photograph, in that a person arrested at gunpoint is quite unplanned. To have one person arrested and another in the process of being arrested adds an interesting element of storytelling to the image.

**3RD**

**SOOKE NEWS MIRROR**
Octavian Lacatusu
This shot quite clearly meets the criteria of spot news but also adds a bit of humour or uniqueness to the category.
**1ST**

**OAK BAY NEWS**
Christine van Reeuwyk, Arnold Lim, Don Descoteau, Carlie Connolly
A treasured community souvenir showcase that provides full event coverage, great camera angles and perspectives and captures delightful intimate moments of the special Royal visit!

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**2ND**

**YUKON NEWS**
Peter Mather
Curious to see these images in colour. The photographer spent time and stuck with the theme to show different locations providing a great variety of storytelling images.

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**3RD**

**SALMON ARM OBSERVER**
Evan Buhler
Wow; eye candy in a catchy layout! Creative camera techniques and lighting capture performers, fans and the energy of the the event. A great visual presentation.
Nominated by The Nanaimo News Bulletin, Maurice Donn is the paper’s former publisher and had been at the News Bulletin for 10 years until his retirement in December 2016.

Under Donn’s leadership, the Nanaimo-area community newspaper thrived. Revenue, market share and flyer volumes all increased, and the paper also earned recognition for its editorial content, winning the BC and Yukon Community Newspapers Association Ma Murray Award for Newspaper Excellence in 2007 and 2011, in addition to provincial and national awards for writing, photography and overall excellence.

Donn began his career on the editorial side before turning his attention to sales. Prior to taking over the News Bulletin as only its second publisher in history, he was head of National Sales for Black Press, capturing clients such as Sears, Canadian Tire and Wal-Mart. Donn was also involved in creating the Flyer Distribution Standards Association, which maintains standards in distribution, terminology and usage as well as an audit process for print distribution.

He allowed his editorial department to pursue their creative freedom, often resulting in in-depth and controversial stories. He worked closely with the Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce and Nanaimo Economic Development Corporation to create specialty publications to promote business and lifestyle in Nanaimo. Sponsorship agreements also supported non-profit organizations and helped to promote giving to charitable groups through advertising and editorial support.

Donn was also a member of the board at the BC and Yukon Community Newspapers Association, serving as president in 2010-11. During that time, he was a strong advocate for community newspapers in BC and across the country.

Donn gave more than 30 years of his career to the newspaper industry, demonstrating leadership and dedication to the industry, as well as the community his newspaper served. The BCYCNA is proud to honour Maurice Donn’s decades of work, with the Eric Dunning Award for Dedication and Service to the Community Newspaper Industry.
Cartoonist Award

1ST

GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD
Dennis Parker
Simple lines and a nice balance between black and white. Immediate impact and funny! A great cartoon, and a well-earned first place.

2ND

YUKON NEWS
Wyatt Tremblay
Wonderful stylish cartoon. Though it has multiple panels, it is easy to read and has a strong impact - and the gag is hilarious! Very creative use of symbols to create sound. Well done.

3RD

POWELL RIVER PEAK
Wendy Brown
Beautiful penmanship with an inventive cartoon strip style. Great use of colour - very funny and true! Congratulations!
**Online Innovation Award**

**1ST**

**ABBOTSFORD NEWS**  
Cristine MacDonald & Andrew Franklin  
A fantastic online publication which highlights the Abbotsford Airshow through a variety of online platforms.

**2ND**

**SURREY NOW**  
Amy Reid & Beau Simpson  
A great story paired with solid use of multimedia to provide a closer look at what life is like in the community when living with Tourette's.

**3RD**

**ALBERNI VALLEY NEWS**  
Susan Quinn  
A fantastic demonstration of immediacy as this piece was online before the game even ended. Great community connection as well.
Newspaper Promotion Award

1ST

TRI-CITY NEWS
Matt Blair
Beautiful, colourful and big impact. Direct message, engaging and has a fresh and millennial feel. Well done, keeping it relevant to all the community.

2ND

MISSION RECORD
Kevin Plastow
Clean, elegant and very much community focused. Clear design and messaging.

3RD

WESTENDER
Tara Rafiq, Gail Nugent, Lucy-kate Armstrong & Westender Staff
Naturally, a great campaign. Good design and photography. Polished and well executed.
In Memoriam

Maryella Rose Clark — Larson
1932 — 2008

I put you on a pedestal, so high I could hardly reach, for you embodied the fruit of the spirit that God wanted us to live and teach.
— Galatians 5:22-23
Loving you forever,
your sister Debbey

Rosalie Bohn

I was privileged to know Rosalie Bohn. She was a kind, gentle soul who always had a smile on her face and a kind word for everyone. She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, and her love and kindness were a light to all who knew her.

Rosalie was born in Rhein, Alberta, on July 18, 1930, to Olaf and Marjorie Larson. She graduated from the University of Alberta with a degree in education. She worked as a nurse for 35 years, including a 23-year stint at Kelowna General Hospital. She was also a dedicated volunteer, serving as a member of several organizations.

Rosalie is survived by her three children, Patricia Flegler, Marjorie (Karl) Fulop, and Lindsay (Bob) Korchinski; her four grandchildren; her three great-grandchildren; and her former husband, Don Bohn.

A family service will be held on Thursday, June 30, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Andrew's United Church, Kelowna. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Kelowna General Hospital Foundation or the Kelowna General Hospital Foundation's Cancer Program.


Rest in Peace dear husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. We still miss you.

Maryella Rose Clark

I put you on a pedestal, so high I could hardly reach, for you embodied the fruit of the spirit that God wanted us to live and teach.
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Remembering Our Lived Ones

Maryella Rose Clark

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— Galatians 5:22-23
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1ST
CAPITAL NEWS
Michelle Trudeau
A clear, concise, well-organized classified section. Great bold headings and clean type make for an easy and enjoyable read.

PIQUE NEWSMAGAZINE
Karl Partington & Claire Ryan
A close second. Again, great, clear section headings with easy-to-read type. Nice to see a healthy classified section with lots of local content.

3RD
HOPE STANDARD
Janice McDonald
Nice mix of colour. Great use of white space and design of display ads. Well done!
Ad Design Award

OVER 25,000

1ST

SAANICH NEWS
Rod Fraser, Leslie Eaton, Oliver Sommer
Nice personal tie-in to the product offered! Simple layout, but it works!

2ND

WESTENDER
Tara Rafiq & Westender Staff
Nice placement of the ad - clearly LGBTQ friendly store that speaks to its market!

3RD

WESTENDER
Gail Nugent, Tara Rafiq, Stephen Smyrnuik
Clever writing helped this ad score well.
Ad Design Award

UNDER 25,000

1ST
PIQUE NEWSMAGAZINE
Claire Ryan
Solid work!
Clean, strong, and attention-grabbing.

2ND
PIQUE NEWSMAGAZINE
Lindsey Ataya
Simple, yet so effective - easy-to-read price offer.

3RD
SQUAMISH CHIEF
Julie Gamache
Great photos and use of colour make this ad pop.
Ad Design Award, Collaborative

S P O N S O R : U R B A N F A R E

O V E R 2 5 , 0 0 0

1ST

WESTENDER
Matty Lambert, Tara Rafiq & Westender Staff
Simple and very effective. The pizza image is tantalizing yet fits with the rustic feel. Overall composition is strong.

2ND

THE CHILLIWACK PROGRESS
Lisa Clarke & Maureen Tempel
Excellent use of colour! The image works well (the clothes and cake match). This ad’s strength is its simplicity.

3RD

VANCOUVER COURIER
Marina Rockey & Justin Chen
The images grab the viewer’s attention. The message is clear and the layout for all the content is successful.
PIQUE NEWSMAGAZINE
Claire Ryan
Love how the viewer is “in” the photo. Excellent colours. Skier could be either male or female which gives it a lot of appeal - it speaks to everyone.

MISSION RECORD
Kevin Plastow & Karen Murtagh
Jewelry done differently! The word “Stunning” matches the feel of the image. Excellent images and colour choice.

The viewer is the skier! Strong composition. Message is clear and though it overlays much of the image, the image is very much part of the success.

PIQUE NEWSMAGAZINE
Jon Parris

PIQUE NEWSMAGAZINE
Claire Ryan

PIQUE NEWSMAGAZINE
Jon Parris

30% OFF WEDDING/ENGAGEMENT RINGS
ONE WEEK ONLY
February 26-March 5

A RING AS STUNNING AS YOU ARE!

A RING AS STUNNING AS YOU ARE!
Ad Campaign Award

1ST

CAMPBELL RIVER MIRROR
Tammy Robinson

The Club Fitness ads work on many levels. The clean modern design suggests that the club will be offering a clean and modern facility. The great photo of healthy looking, energetic individuals draws in the reader who also wants to achieve this look and energy. And to top it all off, the great offer of no enrolment fees will get people in the door at a time of year when it’s needed (after New Year’s Resolutions have died off). These ads contain all the elements for a great campaign. Well done.

2ND

THE INTERIOR NEWS
Nick Briere

A great restaurant campaign needs to show the reader how good the food is and this is precisely what the West Coast Grill ads do. The featured dishes are perfectly plated and well photographed, and the staff quotes are a nice touch that personalize the ads. This campaign can be summed up in one word: yum!

3RD

TRI-CITY NEWS
Matt Blair

Who doesn’t like a puppy! In the sea of ads selling floor coverings, the use of a puppy will get these ones noticed. The use of colours from the Nufloors colour palette ties all of the ad elements together nicely. Nice design work!
MAPLE RIDGE-PITT MEADOWS NEWS
Maryn Gom, Lisa Prophet, Cheryl Arikan
I like how this ad is segmented and easy to understand with a FREE coupon. Good thinking!

PIQUE NEWSMAGAZINE
Karl Partington
Clean and professional looking ad. Well organized.

COAST REPORTER
Eric Pinfold
This ad was interesting and caught my eye. The composition and layout is clean. Well done!
**Special Section Award**

SPONSOR: BC CARE PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION

**OVER 25,000**

1ST **WESTENDER**
Gail Nugent, Robert Mangelsdorf, Kristyn Anthony & Westender Staff

A bright, fun section. Thorough and full of useful information, it engages readers and gives pride-goers everything they need to make the most of the event, including maps, event listings, and interesting features about the people involved, along with bold, eye-catching ads that would certainly have kept advertisers happy.

2ND **LANGLEY TIMES**
Langley Times Staff

This is a fresh, clean package, which is fitting considering its subject matter. Organized and unified, and full of interesting features and relevant, attractive ads. Nice graphic elements tie it all together.

3RD **THE CHILLIWACK PROGRESS**
Chilliwack Creative/Sales/Editorial Team

With a great mix of original 100+ year-old articles and photos, as well as plenty of current-day features, this nicely-designed section gives a wonderful sense of what Chilliwack was like a century ago. Lots of incentive and opportunity for advertisers to come on board. I bet readers loved this.
**Special Section Award**

**UNDER 25,000**

1st
**NORTH ISLAND GAZETTE**
Gazette Staff

This section is well presented; nice continuity with the retro type in banners, imagery, solid advertising support and interesting editorial.

2nd
**POWELL RIVER PEAK**
Jason Schreurs, Kelli Keil, Alicia Newman & Team

This solid section has a good balance of editorial and ads, and is nicely laid out with effective use of photography.

3rd
**PIQUE NEWSMAGAZINE**
Clare Ogilvie, Claire Ryan, Lynn Mitges & Team

A compelling twist on a newspaper standard. Interesting use of photography and graphics, fun questions supported by a nice mix of ads.
Special Publications Award
OVER 25,000

1ST
WESTENDER
Gail Nugent, Tara Rafie, Fiona Morrow
A complete winner in every way, cover to cover. Drop the mike.

2ND
NORTH SHORE NEWS
Peter Kvarnstrom, Robert Read, Vicki Magnison, Shelley Ackerman
Interesting, caressed and a great piece overall. Exceptional work.

3RD
PENINSULA NEWS REVIEW
Penny Sakamoto
Diverse with an organic feel and top-quality design and photography. Interesting and engaging with the right balance of editorial to advertising.
Special Publications Award
UNDER 25,000

1ST
SQUAMISH CHIEF
Darren Roberts & Michaela Garstin
Interesting, thoroughly engaging, well-written and beautifully presented. Attention to detail is very impressive and design, layout, balance, production quality and composition are top class. Congratulations!

2ND
WHISTLER QUESTION
Louise Stevens, Alyssa Noel, Sarah Strother & Team
Completely on point with editorial and advertising content, and visually pleasing with extraordinary photography and eye-catching design throughout.

3RD
PIQUE NEWSMAGAZINE
Alison Taylor, Claire Ryan & Team
Top-quality piece that does everything right. Great photography, editorial and advertising content.
Art and the Indian Act

KELSEY KLASSEN
Westender

Ask Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun about his art, and he’ll tell you about the Indian Act. Ask him again, and he’ll tell you about land claims, logging moratoriums, water rights, oil spills, residential school abuses, and Canada’s missing and murdered women. Ask him for his feelings on that subject, and he’ll tell you about his daughters, and how he feared for their lives under Stephen Harper’s rule.

In conversation and, most notably, on canvas, the acclaimed First Nations painter lays bare the challenges facing indigenous people today. Quite tellingly, they are also similar; if not identical, to the issues his community was grappling with when he first started his career, more than 30 years ago. Meanwhile, the ideas he puts forward reflect conversations Canadians are just now starting to have, from the country’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission findings to the spectre of climate change, as a whole about their shared environment and history.

Recognizing his place as one of Canada’s most significant contemporary artists, curators Karen Duffek, of the Museum of Anthropology, and Secwepemc artist Tania Willard, have brought together 60 of Yuxweluptun’s most confrontational and prescient works under the banner of Unceded Territories, a politically-charged yet playful overview of his oeuvre, running May 10-Oct. 16 at MOA.

On the cusp of this, his largest Canadian solo show in 20 years, Yuxweluptun remains as polemic as ever. Seated in his studio in a paint-splattered leather chair, with his shaggy dog, Rez, happily chewing a paintbrush at his feet, Yuxweluptun launches into a list, complete with dates and names, of the most egregious colonial injustices of the past 200 years, while taking every on-the-record opportunity to tell the politicians of British Columbia to fuck off.

Behind him, the newest piece for his show sits almost finished. It isn’t until the end of the wide-ranging, hour-long interview, however, that he even acknowledges it – a richly-hued, 18x1-foot rendering of a spirit dancer transforming into a wolf in a longhouse, surrounded by fire, smoke, drummers and spirit guardians. Through the doors of the wooden structure, one can just make out the rolling lines of one of Yuxweluptun’s iconic landscapes in miniature, drawing his connection with nature into the sacred space.

Joining this piece in the contemporary gallery at MOA are thought-provoking works like his 1990 Daliesque ozone-crisis exposé, Red Man Watching White Man Trying to Fix Hole in the Sky; an excerpt from his 1997 installation, An Indian Shooting the Indian Act; and his recent boardroom- and back room-skewering Super-Predator series, as well as brand new works yet to be seen publicly.

“Sometimes I consider myself a history painter,” Yuxweluptun says, of his ground-breaking subject matter: “I have to go back and record history, backtracking history, because if you only allow the colonialists to write history, what is really true?”

As he says this, and bears witness to countless examples of colonial suppression from his childhood to now, his resentment hangs as palpably in the air as it does on the gallery wall. Yuxweluptun is a master at raising eyebrows, however – this time by calmly dismissing the idea that he might, in fact, be angry.

“It’s not anger. It’s a natural part of an Indian being in this country,” he explains, before launching into a soliloquy on why Canada’s long-standing Indian Act should be renamed the White Supremacy Act. “I accept that Canadians treated us like shit. I accept the attitude of Canadians that are racist. They had to shut down the CBC comments because of all the racism that was written there. That’s basically […] par for the course of this country.

“Harper said that native women were not on his radar; for all the missing and murdered women,” he continues, as an example, “and we had to sit through that government. That’s like saying, ‘Let’s put a target on every native woman in this country’. Because he [didn’t] – and Canadians don’t – give a flying fuck. They elected him,” he adds, heat creeping into his voice, “‘and it’s okay to go out and kill native women. I had to wake up to that every day, because I have six daughters, and I’m going,’Wow, you guys are a bunch of really fucking assholes.[…] I’m supposed to have truth and reconciliation after this?”

Yet he largely paints for a non-Aboriginal audience – using modernist art, he says, to subvert what an “Indian” is allowed to talk about.

Born in Douglas Island in 1957, Yuxweluptun (a Salish name meaning “man of many masks”) found his way to social activism at the side of his Coast Salish father and Okanagan mother. Both highly involved within native organizations, his father was a founder of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs and his mother was executive director of BC’s Indian Homemakers Association. Yuxweluptun remembers travelling with his father to meetings from Chilliwack to Williams Lake, listening to his elders debate issues such as land claims.

Continued on next page
Art and the Indian Act (cont.)

fishing rights, and human rights.

Having attended the Kamloops Indian Residential School before being granted the right to attend public school, Yuxweluptun also saw firsthand the devastation wrought by the residential school system, which he immortalized in his 2005 acrylic, Portrait of a Residential School Child.

“The difference between public school and residential school is really clear. You know what that is?” he asks, brashly. “There’s a graveyard in the playground outside. There was graveyards at the residential schools and they buried you there.”

One might wonder then, why Yuxweluptun would agree to the hosting of this show at an anthropology museum — a collection house (he calls them “morgues”) like many others, with its own degree of colonial legacy. In response, Yuxweluptun, whose work has sparked conversation from the boardrooms of oil companies to the walls of the National Gallery of Canada, half-jokingly implies that MOA was the only institution that would have him.

Kidding aside, though, the museum is one of the few places where his work can sit in dialogue with belongings from the Pacific Northwest. And the Emily Carr graduate adds that, as an aboriginal modernist, doors like this weren’t always open to him when he first began.

“I didn’t get an offer to an artist-run centre until after I was at the National Gallery of Canada,” he states, matter-of-factly. “The art world is very much standard. It has its 72-percent male, white, Caucasian art, Canadiana policy, and the rest, ‘We’ll give it to the minorities’. But you’ve got to be good at it,” he allows. “The world of art is a gladiator’s arena of talent, and if you want to play in the world of art, there’s no rules. There’s no rules that say just because you think you’re good, you’re going to get there. It’s not true. You have to work twice as hard and be very good at it.”

City, NDIT clash over hotel funds

SAMANTHA WRIGHT ALLEN
The Prince George Citizen

Despite serious concerns raised about financial risk, the City of Prince George pried the majority of its downtown revitalization dollars into one hotel — and petitioned for even more economic development money for the project, documents obtained by The Citizen show.

The material, released by Northern Development Initiative Trust after a Freedom of Information request, show the city’s efforts to offer more to the Marriott Courtyard hotel than was available in a $5 million fund the trust created to give up-front cash in the form of a repayable grant over 10 years.

After four revised funding requests, NDIT’s board unanimously declined the city’s call for extra funding into the program — the Revitalization Tax Exemption Early Benefit — which currently has about $3.4 million remaining. On Wednesday, Mayor Lyn Hall said Marriott developers have been offered $3.2 million and the city is seeking tax exemptions on the remaining value it had hoped to offer:

That calculation won’t be finalized until the project is complete, but estimates show the value is more than $5 million, leaving the Marriott in a $1.8 million shortfall.

While NDIT has no control over how the city hands out revitalization funds, that didn’t stop the trust from communicating its displeasure with the deal.

“Staff is concerned with the lack of diversity among the city’s proposed RTE investments as well as the magnitude of funding being invested in a hotel project that already has a track record of failure and is the subject of media attention and public scrutiny,” said a February backgrounder to the NDIT board.

The rest of the funds have been used on five local projects over the last four years, ranging from $71,190 to $700,000 for the Royal Bank building facade renovations. The Marriott represents the bulk, taking 64 per cent of the revitalization fund.

“Staff are also concerned about the ability for the trust to recoup the funds from the hotel project should it fail financially a second time,” the backgrounder said.

Until this year, the construction site was vacant and unfinished with concrete and rebar exposed to the elements. The plan for the site shifted over the years. In 2012, developer Rod McLeod said a 150-room full-service hotel would be completed by late 2013, but by October 2013, the goal had shifted to a $35-million four-star hotel under the Delta brand. In January 2015, Maryland-based Marriott International Inc. signed an agreement to buy the properties.

Later, PEG Development and Blue Diamond Capital, both based in Utah, were brought in as partners on the project.

McLeod and the city officially unveiled the Marriott project in July.

Hall, city manager Kathleen Solits and city planning and development general manager Ian Wells all said the money will be repaid.

“NDIT will be made whole,” said Solits.

“There’s no concern on the city’s end about that.”

The hotel is a cornerstone for the downtown, Hall said, where the city has long been focused on redevelopment and revitalization. And it would not have been developed without help from the incentive program, Solits said.

“The hotel brings with it significant opportunities for other business in the community; another top-rated hotel in town is certainly a plus, provided us the opportunity to provide more rooms for larger conventions that were out there that perhaps in the past we couldn’t because we didn’t have the rooms we needed so it’s just the overall development,” said Hall, who also pointed to $125 million worth of building permits issued this year — the most since 2007.

The project is expected to create 200,000 hours of construction work and employ 40 people once completed.

The documents obtained by The Citizen show back-and-forth negotiations as the city argued the fund should be replenished and tried to offer alternatives so it could get the additional funding. The Citizen made the same request to the city for documents related to Marriott negotiations. The deadline for their release is next week.

At first, the city promised it wouldn’t ask for any further funds for five years, then doubled the offer to 10 years, a time frame that covers more than two future city council mandates.

Solits said that’s business as usual for both city administration and council.

“Council is an ongoing body and council is always making promises,” she said. “They commit to various capital projects and such that take place over 10 years, 15 years, 20 years. We take on 20-year debt.”

“Council makes decisions day in and day out and if future councils choose to change that, then it will but that’s their call,” said Hall, who later stressed that would only impact city requests and not other organizations or nonprofits in Prince George.

NDIT saw the offer in a different light.

A February briefing note cautioned the 10-year promise would affect on average more than $200,000 in annual grants requested by the city as well as other grant-writing and business facade programs.

ould not apply to the trust for funding to support any of its infrastructures, buildings or economic development initiatives for a decade, impacting the ability of a future city council to access

Continued on next page
City, NDIT clash over hotel funds (cont.)

funds from the trust for new priorities,” the document said.

Other councils have not put forward this approach, said NDIT’s new chief executive officer.

“We have never seen anything like that before in terms of that offering and certainly one of our questions around that would be … how does that impact other potential projects that could qualify for funding either from the municipality or non-profits and First Nations communities?” asked Joel McKay, who said the fund was a “one-time, one-off program” to revitalize downtown.

When it became clear the city wouldn’t get extra funds, Solts wrote McLeod of River City Hotel Inc. and Cameron Gunter of PEG Development to say the city would grant a 10-year tax exemption on the remaining portion.

Save for that one letter, the documents from NDIT don’t show communication between the city and the developer.

By July, when NDIT saw the April offer, former CEO Janine North sent a sharp note to the city to stress the terms of the agreement that specifically forbade offering the two perks at once.

She also told her staff that they should not attend the July Marriott unveiling because it had yet to hear back from the city whether it had spoken to the developers and had not yet resolved “the issue.”

“We remain concerned that the developer is investing in construction under a mistaken impression that NDIT can facilitate a Revitalization Tax Exemption early benefit, while the city provides a tax exemption over the same property,” wrote North in her letter to the city.

A week later, Hall confirmed he’d spoken with the developers about the rules preventing tax exemption on top of the cash grant and Hall repeated Wednesday developers weren’t investing under that mistaken impression.

But the city is still requesting a rule change. It’s working on a proposal that will first go before city council and then the NDIT board for consideration.

Wells said the developer still has the option to decline the early benefit and go forward with a 10-year tax exemption.

The way the RTE early benefit program is set up is the money from the trust goes to the city, which passes it on to the developer.

The developer starts repaying that loan back through the city, which sends a portion of the cash to the trust from taxes collected each year, which wouldn’t be collected in whole if a project had some form of a 10-year tax exemption.

“The reason why that piece in the contract is in there specifically is to help ensure the trust is paid back by the developer’s taxes,” explained McKay.

It’s a different approach that adds value, McKay said, because the trust could offer payment up front, whereas the tax exemption offers that break over a decade.

“The goal being that that lump sum payment then incentivizes the developer to invest in downtown versus another part of the city because they’re getting those funds up front.”

Despite the disagreement over disbursement, today both the city and NDIT say they have a strong working relationship.

“NDIT have a role to play just as we do,” said Hall.

“Really at the end of the day we want them to be a partner with us, just like every other organization in the community we do business with. I think this relationship is strong and we’ve got a long history with NDIT.”

COLUMNIST

On Point: A camp full of contradictions

ANDREW HOLOTA
Abbotsford News

This summer, a homeless “protest camp” was established on the former hospital grounds in Abbotsford.

Fraser Health, owner of the land, applied for a court injunction to compel the occupants to move off.

A judge eventually issued such an order.

As of yesterday, the homeless camp remained.

That whole scenario is wrong in so many ways, starting with the establishment of the camp in the first place.

A group of people decided they would set up their tents on private property.

Land that belongs to a government agency is not “public,” despite claims to the contrary by camp advisor; advocate, agitator; or whatever else you want to call Tim Felger; long-time pot activist. He certainly has a lot of labels for anyone opposing him, including “stupid.” I expect this column will land me among those thusly dubbed.

He tried the “we have the right to stay wherever we wish” argument on B.C. Supreme Court Justice Christopher Hinkson – who didn’t buy it.

And by the way, that’s the same judge who ruled that the homeless can overnight in most public parks if they have no other options.

In this case, Hinkson issued the injunction to decamp.

Applying cutting intellectual thrust and parry, Felger called the judge “out to lunch.” Pull up a chair, Tim.

However, as correct as the court was in its decision, the process quickly went sideways.

Failing to sit in a growing trash heap, do you suppose some solutions would have been offered to them? I think so. Might options be available now? I suspect so.

Contrary to the belief of some people, there are agencies actively working to house the homeless in this city, and in many cases, are successful.

More time, more money, more pointless argument that will (must) ultimately end in the protest camp being evacuated. And then, another wrong will occur when it is set up somewhere else.

It seems, along with all of the other wrongs associated with homelessness, such as a shortage of mental health and addiction treatment services, and an inadequate supply of affordable housing, there are people out there bound and determined to keep street people on the street, to maintain the “in your face” pressure, despite efforts by many others to actually address the chronic issue.

Under the circumstances, I’m finding it difficult to keep my face from turning away.

And that’s wrong, too.

§
When hospitals interfere with rights

TERRY FARRELL
Comox Valley Record

A local doctor has made national headlines for his stance on doctor-assisted death.

Dr. Jonathan Reggler is an outspoken advocate of the controversial issue. Reggler believes – and the Supreme Court of Canada agrees – that doctor-assisted death is a basic right for Canadians.

Thirteen months ago (Feb. 6, 2015) the Supreme Court of Canada ruled – unanimously – that the “sanctity of life” must also include the “passage into death” and effectively gave the government 12 months to put the ruling into law.

The government was given a four-month grace period, due to the election, but the heat is on now, and the interest in the impending legislation is more piqued here in the Comox Valley than in most communities, based on the fact that we have a hospital owned by the Catholic church.

Whether or not doctor-assisted death should be legal in Canada is an issue in itself, and one of which we can appreciate both sides of the debate.

And while we may sit on the fence in that regard, one thing we cannot accept is when the agenda of a religion comes ahead of the best interest of the patient in a publicly-funded health care facility.

Privately funded? A different matter altogether. But when we, the taxpayers, are paying all the salaries/wages, and for the equipment used in a hospital, we should not be told, “I’m sorry, but your legal rights contradict the policies of our owner.”

It’s not like Comox Valley residents have a choice in the matter. There’s one hospital. And while it may be “owned” by the Catholic church, it is funded by everyone; Catholics, atheists, Jews and Muslims alike.

Meanwhile, Island Health – the publicly-funded entity which oversees the health care industry on Vancouver Island – has said it supports the hospital’s stance.

We cannot share that stance. Just as operations should never take place in confessional, Catholicism – or any other religion, for that matter – should never overrule medical care in a publicly-funded medical facility.

Environmental Initiative

Environmentalist turns 100

JASON SCHREUERS
Powell River Peak

A typical week for Ruby Roscovich involved gardening, doing the recycling, cycling to and from town, making her own soap and candles and spending countless hours working with other local environmentalists on green initiatives within the community.

Did we mention this was taking place in the late 1960s?

Ruby, a trailblazer in early environmentalist efforts in the Powell River region, turns 100 years old on Friday, April 8.

Described as a dedicated, concerned resident by her loved ones and those who have crossed her path since she moved with her family to Powell River in 1951, Ruby’s centennial birthday has deep meaning to the community.

The outpouring of gratitude and respect for Ruby will culminate with a celebration of friends and family the day after her birthday at Powell River Reformed Church.

Ruby, who has lived with her family at her Marson Avenue home since the early 1950s, remained humble about her impact on the community.

“Oh, I’m very honoured about the things people are saying,” she said. “I’ve only just been myself, I guess, but it’s very encouraging to be supported like that.”

Just being herself has involved an immense amount of work in the community over the past several decades, tackling environmental issues and practices such as recycling before very few other people knew what she was talking about, even city council.

“At that time council thought recycling was just a way to attract rats,” laughed Ruby.

“They thought if you’re storing anything, you’re just going to have rats, but that was the wrong picture of what we were doing. They didn’t know anything about recycling, everything was garbage back then.”

Inspired by the late Bob Hunter’s Vancouver Sun columns on pollution, Ruby took a keen interest in local environmental issues.

In 1970, Ruby became an important part of the Powell River Anti Pollution Association (PRAA), spearheaded by long-time municipal politician and current Powell River Regional District Electoral Area C director Colin Palmer. Palmer formed the association after becoming concerned about pollution coming from the mill at that time.

Ruby worked closely throughout the years with other local environmentalists such as Martin Rossander and Mary Olsen.

Palmer said he remembers Ruby always being “quietly effective and very, very concerned.”

When Ruby convinced her son Dale to spearhead Powell River’s first commercial recycling program in 1972, it made perfect sense to Palmer.

“It was encouraging because she lived it,” said Palmer. “It was fascinating to be around her and not to hear her just talk about these things, but actually do them.”

Dale, a registered massage therapist who recently returned to Powell River after a 40-year absence to be closer to his mom, said Ruby was a force when he and his older brother Glen, a local satellite installer, were growing up.

“We felt her tsunami coming in the mid-’60s with her health food. The meat and potatoes routine was being disrupted with things like brown rice and health food that started to come in. She was against three guys in the house, but she wasn’t to be deterred,” he laughed.

“We were a little resistant to some of her ideas at first, but that wasn’t going to stop her.”

Dale said his father Frank, who died in 1992 at the age of 85, was supportive of Ruby’s efforts. Frank accompanied Ruby on a trip to Vancouver in the early 1970s, along with the family’s recyclable materials, while they were researching recycling options for Powell River.

“She and Frank were really forerunners, along with other committed Powell River people, in anti-pollution efforts and keeping peace with the land,” said Teedie Kagume, collections manager at Powell River Historical Museum and Archives.

However, it wasn’t just her political activism and concern of the environment that made Ruby such a light in the community. She was also a generous person who quickly made many friends, which she established lifelong relationships with.

Local author and historian Barbara Lambert said it was as a result of meeting Ruby that she ended up staying in Powell River for the past 45 years. Ruby and Lambert were both teachers at the time and Ruby introduced Lambert to her future husband.

“Her friendship means a great deal to me. It’s a connection for both of us for our life here in Powell River for the past half-century,” said Lambert. “Ruby is a very caring person. She cares about her family and she will do anything she can to help people. She’s one of those people on this earth that really gives back to the community.”

Local organic poultry and produce farmer Catherine Kleinsteuber said she contacted Greenpeace Vancouver when she heard about Ruby’s upcoming 100th birthday celebration.

The environmental organization will be sending Ruby a recognition card in honour of her commitment to the environment, said Kleinsteuber.

“I always held her in awe and respect,” she said. “She reached a lot of people with messages about the environment with the way she lived her life. She lived what she believed in.”

Steadfast in her dedication to the environment all of these years, Palmer said he was always fascinated by Ruby’s devotion to the local transit system.

“Every time my wife and I saw her in town we’d say, ‘Do you want a lift home?’ and she’d say, ‘No, I’m going on the bus,’ and she absolutely refused to get into a cab,” he laughed. “It was incredible.”

Even at 100 years old, Ruby still makes her weeklyday treks to Town Centre Mall to visit the local organic poultry and produce seller, where he said they have had conversations about the environment for years.

“I have been working with them for 45 years,” said Ruby. “We have a great connection.”

The event will be held at Powell River Reformed Church at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 8.

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Lead-contaminated water series

BRADEN DUPUIS & CLARE OGILvie
Pique NewsMagazine

Concerned Pemberton residents crowded into the Village of Pemberton’s regular council meeting March 15 to demand answers about lead-contaminated water; in some cases going so far as to call for resignations.

"Why was the one thing that everybody in this community needs to survive put down the ladder?" asked Garth Parhe, president of the Pemberton and District Chamber of Commerce, referring to the Village’s perceived failure to address water concerns that have been on the table for over a decade.

"Somebody has to be responsible, to step up and take it on the chin. I’m sorry. That’s just the way it works." The Village of Pemberton (VOP) has known of its corrosive, low-pH water for more than a decade — its own consultant in 2006, EarthTech, pointed it out in a memo dated Oct. 19 of that year.

On March 9, 2016 the VOP discovered lead in the drinking water of some peoples’ homes, caused by the corrosive water reacting with certain plumbing fixtures.

Resident Cindy Filipenko is also calling for the resignations of senior staff.

“I feel the public trust has been broken,” Filipenko said at the meeting.

"Can anyone at that table explain why we went through nine years of inaction that has led to thousands of dollars in plumbing repairs for the people of this community, and now a potential health issue?" Mayor Mike Richman, first elected to council in 2011, responded by saying the VOP is also looking for some answers.

"Staff is currently going through reports and council resolutions. We’re looking back into the history to understand what didn’t get followed up on," Richman said.

"I know there was lots of discussion at the time that with the implementation of the new well and the chlorination process, that might take care of the problem. Should it have been followed up on? Could this have been taken care of nine years ago? Absolutely. And I agree."

But the important thing right now is ensuring people have all the information they need and fixing the root of the problem, Richman said.

"I would prefer focusing our limited resources on how to communicate, how to deal with the problem, how to get our water at a higher quality level and to supply people with the water that they deserve as fast as we can," he said.

At the same time, the VOP’s water is tested routinely at the source and the supply falls within the acceptable guidelines for drinking water, Richman noted.

It was in trying to fix the low-pH problem that the VOP discovered the lead in the first place.

To determine the best system for fixing the corrosion issue, the VOP tested the drinking water of 20 homes — 17 in the VOP and three in Pemberton North — 12 of them came back with elevated lead levels.

In some cases, lead concentrations were as high as six times the Maximum Acceptable Concentration prescribed in the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality.

Lead in drinking water can cause a number of adverse health effects, particularly for children, infants and unborn children.

Now MLA for West Vancouver-Sea to Sky, Pemberton resident Jordan Sturdy was mayor of the town when the issue first arose in 2006.

Reached by phone on March 12, he said it was the first he’s ever heard of lead in the water of some homes and buildings.

"Lead had never been something, certainly in the municipal water supply, that had ever been raised as an issue at all," Sturdy said.

He added that there was a plan to treat the low pH with soda ash, but when Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) required the VOP to add chlorine to the system, it was believed that would raise the pH.

Current councillor Jennie Helmer was also on council at that time, and at the March 15 meeting this week said she remembered it coming up, but couldn’t say why the problem remained unfixed.

"A second well came on and the water got chlorinated, which is what we were advised to do, and that’s what we did. I think that wasn’t good enough," Helmer said.

"And in terms of taking it on the chin... I was here. I’d be happy to take it on the chin," she added.

“I didn’t live up to what I said maybe I would do, and if you choose to do that, I encourage you to. Or just trust that we’re going to work through this and make it happen.”

Flush your water until cold before drinking

VCH isn’t recommending people stop using the water, but rather to flush their pipes before consuming it.

Dr. Paul Martiquet, chief medical officer for VCH’s rural regions, said he recommends letting the water run for two minutes.

Once the water runs cold the lead content drops to close to zero, Martiquet said.

The water should not be boiled without flushing it first, as that increases the lead content, but it is safe to shower, bathe or wash dishes, Martiquet said.

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MARTY HASTINGS
Kamloops This Week

Paul Adkin kissed his mom and left the dance floor; his groomsmen duties for the night fulfilled, nothing on his mind but having a good time.

The 27-year-old Kamloops man and a few friends left the reception and went upstairs to a room at the Kelowna hotel to do cocaine — a fatal decision that silenced Paul’s contagious laugh forever, wiping his infectious smile off the face of the earth.

Toxicology reports have not been returned to the family, but all signs point toward fentanyl causing Paul’s death. He was one of five who overdosed on Sept. 24 at the wedding, a joyous occasion that ended in panic, mayhem and tragedy.

Paul’s father and mother, Tom and Paula, and uncle Rob sat down with KTIV in a small room, fighting through anguish, tears, numbness and anger, compelled to share their story, to hammer home the dangers of so-called recreational drug use.

“You’re even considering doing any kind of drug, you better damn well make out a will,” said Paula, still trapped in the anger stage of grief.

“Some days I still feel like it’s a dream, the way everything happened and being there and finding him was just something you can’t get out of your head. It’s hard to talk about him in the past tense. You feel like you can just give him a call.”

Paramedics arrived about 10 to 15 minutes later and administered naloxone, a medication that can be used to temporarily reverse a narcotic overdose.

Four recovered and were released from hospital, but Paul was placed on life support. Two days later, brain activity had ceased.

He looked so peaceful, as though he was sleeping, and I was able to lie in bed with him and hold his hand,” Paula said.

“He’s a faithful woman and I was praying for a miracle.”

Divine intervention never came. Paul died at 2:55 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 28.

“Talk to your kids,” Tom said, weeping.

“Sit down and have a real heart to heart. Say, ‘I don’t want to have to make a decision to pull you off life support. This is how to stop this bad shit from continuing to kill customers — how could they be so callous? — and talked about the importance of creating more stringent laws to punish dealers.”

“We can sit here and say it’s stupid and they shouldn’t do it, but the fact is they are,” Rob said.

“We have to figure out how to stop this bad shit from being out there. There was something like 20 overdoses that weekend in Kelowna.”

“Whoever this person was kept on selling his or her drugs, knowing they had a potent batch.”

Many of Paul’s friends approached Tom and Rob at the celebration of life to privately admit they had used cocaine, but won’t anymore.

“People say it’s like Russian roulette,” Tom said. “It’s worse than that. It’s like putting a gun in your mouth with bullets in all chambers and hoping you’ll get a misfire. That’s basically what’s going on out there. You just don’t know.”

Tom shared a story about the time Paul carried his friend around all night, a fellow lacrosse player who had broken a bone in his back, unable to walk and worried about missing out on fun with teammates.

Paul took care of it. Paula reminisced about her son welcoming a recent Canadian immigrant into his circle of friends in elementary school, an early sign of the loyalty and friendliness that endeared him to so many.

Paul wasn’t going to the Halloween party unless his new buddy was, too.

“That was the type of guy he was,” Tom said. “It’s a testament that 40 or 50 of his friends drove to Kelowna to see him on life support.”

On YouTube, there is a slideshow entitled Paul, posted by Jordan Nicholson, and a song called A Poem for Paul, written by his friend Spencer Tomlinson, who performed it at the celebration of life.

It’s all too much for Paula to process. Her son had a girlfriend. He was a young professional who worked at Investors Group Financial, with a bright career in front of him.

Now he’s gone.

“I’ve been accused of having my head buried in the sand my whole adult life,” Paula said.

“They were right. I thought he smoked a bit of pot. I would never have dreamt… These are five nice kids. Where did they even find cocaine?”

Edited for length
Lead-contaminated water series (cont.)

Asked what the message is for concerned citizens and parents in Pemberton, Martiqtet said it’s important to put it into perspective. “Simply put, the exposure isn’t at a high enough risk to have caused any health concerns, but it’s still something we’ve got to pay attention to,” Martiqtet said.

“The concern would be chronic exposure, and we’re not dealing with any incidents of chronic exposure, nor have there been physicians — and I’ve been at it for 25 years — that have called me concerned with any lead toxicity (or) lead poisoning.”

Finding a Solution

A second round of water testing was underway as Pique went to press.

The VOP expects the results back “either late this week or early next week,” said Richman.

From there, the village will move ahead with finding a long-term fix to the low-pH problem.

The village has budgeted $25,000 this year for the engineering costs, but it’s unclear what the total price tag of the project will be.

“That’s something that we put in motion in 2015, and that’s how we got here in the first place,” Richman said.

“And so we’re carrying on with full speed ahead in that, and we’ll have a timeline pretty soon in terms of when we’ll be able to implement the new system.”

Corrosion Issues Nothing New

Mark Mendonca, president of Tourism Pemberton and owner of Grimm’s Gourmet and Deli, said complaints about the water have fallen on deaf ears for years.

“I’ve been complaining about it for quite some time now and nobody’s been listening, I’ve got a little commercial business and I don’t know how many elbow (pipe fittings) I’ve changed,” Mendonca said in a March 12 phone call.

From a tourism standpoint, it’s too early to say if the problem will affect visitor numbers, but “I would imagine it’s going to have some sort of impact on us,” Mendonca said.

In an email he said from now on he would be throwing out the first thermos of coffee from his direct line installed machines.

Over at the Pemberton Valley Lodge, owner David MacKenzie said he has spent over $200,000 in the past 10 years due to Pemberton’s aggressive water.

“It’s been a nightmare,” MacKenzie said on March 12.

“When I first opened the lodge in 2004, I had no idea about the aggressiveness of the water, and I learned that the hard way because two years into the operation I was replacing a hot water tank.”

MacKenzie has looked at several treatment solutions for the lodge, but said he hasn’t been able to nail one down yet, “because we were kind of always promised that something was happening with the village. They had acquired a new well, there was going to be some treatment going on or some way of addressing the pH levels,” he said.

“I pointed it out to the health department on several occasions and they kind of assured me that well, you know, the village is working on it.”

At RONA Pemberton Valley Hardware — which Phare co-owns — things like hot water tanks, plumbing supplies and drywall have been flying off the shelves for years.

Even though Phare benefits from those sales, he wants to see the problem corrected.

“In some cases it’s been life altering, because people have had to go out and re-mortgage and find ways to cover some of the expenses that weren’t covered by insurance,” Phare said, in a phone call following the March 15 meeting.

“And that to me, it’s always been alarming. You’ve got to look at it in all ways, not just from the profitable end. There’s a part of us that has to regard our conscience and how our community members are having to deal with this.

“And if we find out that it’s not a very expensive fix, (that’s) all the more salt in the wound.”

Questions of Accountability Remain

In an open letter to mayor and council dated March 13, Pemberton resident and public engagement strategist Maureen Douglas equated the failure to address the corrosive nature of the water as “negligence, plain and simple.”

“Simply put, the exposure occurred over $200,000 in the past 10 years. It’s going to have some sort of impact on the village, the public’s priorities, the health department on several occasions and the community.”

Douglas also takes issue with how the VOP handled communication of the difficult issue to the public.

“The accountability has been a challenge for quite some time, and this is the ultimate motherhood issue: Water.”

Douglas said in a March 14 phone call.

“If we can’t get accountability on water then we’re really screwed.”

More information on Pemberton’s water can be found at www.pemberton.ca/residents/health-and-environment/pemberton-water.

Questions can be directed to 604-894-6135 or admin@pemberton.ca.

FEATURE ARTICLE: UNDER 25,000

Helping the helpers

DAN FALLOON
Pique Newsmagazine

In February 2010, all eyes were on British Columbia. Specifically, Vancouver and Whistler.

With over $7 billion spent to bring the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games to the West Coast, and more than $81 million pledged to Canadian athletes to give them every possible shot at a gold-medal rush in front of the world, the two-week sporting extravaganza was set to be the nation’s moment of glory.

But instead of roaring cheers, the Games began with a pall, a moment of silence.

On the morning of Feb. 12, the day of the opening ceremonies, tragedy struck at the Whistler Sliding Centre.

Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili, just 21, shot out of the track at 144 km/h and crashed into a pole.

Kumaritashvili, just 21, shot out of the backcountry, flipping a tractor tire in memory of Kumaritashvili, his earlier years.

His single thing that I had endured in my life for 10, 15 years in the streets I’m living today again,” he says. “I’d forgotten about it, I’d moved on. I became a first responder. I healed. I parked it somewhere.

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Then this accident triggered my entire life of trauma. "That accident, as horrific as it was, it triggered things that were 1,000 times worse in my past that I had parked somewhere. I still hadn’t dealt with or healed that box of injuries, but I didn’t know I had those injuries to deal with."

After an extended drug binge in the fall of 2014, Kosikar says he found himself standing on the Lions Gate Bridge, preparing to jump. But he couldn’t do it. After resting and making his way up to his cabin near Seton Portage, he says he felt some rejuvenation being back in nature. Still, he found himself depressed after spending the Christmas season alone.

"On New Year’s, still, nobody had called for the whole holidays," he says. "I put the rifle down my throat, in my tonsils. I put my thumb on the trigger and thought ‘Fuck, if this doesn’t kill me, I’m going to lay here and suffer.’"

"So I put it underneath the side of my jaw behind my ear and thought ‘Maybe this is the trajectory that will kill me.’ I stuffed the barrel into my eye socket and thought ‘Is this the way?’"

"I was afraid to kill myself." On New Year’s Day 2015, he decided to turn over a new leaf, eventually starting the Breaking Chains B.C. campaign (www.breakingthechainsbc.com) with a tire he discovered with a yellow rope tied to the rim in the Kitimat river. "Yea, I'm on my own behalf or even being looked to find ways to face the issue."

"We want to recognize that an injury is an injury, whether it’s physical or mental," Playfair says. "You deal with the problem and recover, hopefully."

The Paramedic Association of Canada released results of a nationwide survey last August, along with a plea for more support for first responders. The survey showed the results down by the province, and Ambulance Paramedics of B.C. president Bronwyn Barter notes the numbers for British Columbia are staggering — 97 per cent of paramedics and dispatchers polled need support for the cumulative impact of multiple traumatic calls, and 94 per cent said the same group needs more support to treat mental-health disorders such as depression and anxiety. Three in 10 said they’d contemplated suicide and two-thirds knew of a fellow paramedic who had contemplated suicide.

Since the findings were announced, Barter says there has been a much more open discussion about mental health both within and outside the profession. "There is a stigma around PTSD and mental-health injuries and we’re happy that the conversations are happening," she says. "As a paramedic, in the last 20 years, there’s been a bit of a shift. When I started, there was a stigma where if you had a bad call and you told somebody about it and you were struggling with what happened on that call or with what you witnessed, you didn’t tell anybody. You keep it to yourself. There was the attitude out there that you never should have signed up for this job. People have been suppressing a lot of these things because of the stigma of weakness."

One significant issue is that physical injuries can be less difficult to prove in order to claim workers’ compensation. That broken leg, for example, will show up on an X-ray scan and the employee will just have to prove it occurred on the job. Though scientists are working diligently to find physical evidence of the PTSD — a team of researchers from Minnesota believes it found a "fingerprint" for it using brain scans in a report detailed in the Journal of Neural Engineering in 2010. For now, at least, proving the condition exists in addition to being work-related is the responsibility of the sufferer. "But even without a scientific breakthrough, that may all be about to change."

Proposed Amendment Welcomed On Feb. 23, B.C. NDP labour critic Shane Simpson (Vancouver-Hastings) introduced a private member’s bill into the legislature that would amend the Workers Compensation Act to insert a presumptive clause for first responders. Essentially, any first responder filing a PTSD claim would no longer have to provide proof that it was work-related — that would be the assumption unless evidence to the contrary was discovered. Simpson has said the purpose of the bill is to reduce wait times, hassle and stress for those who are suffering and in need of help.

"We know today that first responders — including police officers, firefighters, paramedics, 911 dispatchers, sheriffs and corrections officers — suffer PTSD at more than double the rate of the general population," Simpson said when tabling the bill. "This serious mental health challenge first responders face is directly related to their service. We know that, every day, first responders treat those with health emergencies, ensure public safety and protect the citizens of British Columbia. In doing that work on our behalf, they too often face extreme and traumatic situations that most of us could not comprehend."

Alberta and Manitoba have already enacted similar legislation while Ontario and New Brunswick are also considering similar action.

Simpson explains that the bill, which passed unanimously on first reading, would only be for those suffering specifically from PTSD. He hopes to expand the presumptive clause for first responders to other mental-health issues as well.

Due to the inherent natures of the afflictions, even beyond the challenges of providing physical evidence of a mental disorder, people suffering from PTSD and other similar syndromes may have difficulty making a case. Barter explains that with all the potential collateral damage a mental illness can cause, filing a claim can be overwhelming for those who are already struggling to hold their lives together.

"Right now, the onus is on the paramedic or the first responder to say, ‘These are my issues’ and you’ve got to prove it to them. You’re sitting there with a case worker who says ‘Nope, that doesn’t sound that bad. This is what you signed up for’," she says. "These people are, sometimes, by the time they’re coming forward thinking, ‘I need help,’ they’re at their weakest because they’re lost. (They have) broken marriages, relationships have fallen through with their families and they’re at their lowest low. They’re having a tough time making a case on their own behalf or even being their own best advocate. There’s not much left of them to give."
AMY REID
Surrey Now

“Gotten used to it.”
“Brain dead.”

Brain death.

But my hands got all shaky,” said Jean, a police officer.

He was kicked out for using drugs.

“I told (the manager) how many times I actually used in the house because I was proud of myself,” said Jeff, pictured. “He told me I had to go to rehab.”

“Half an hour after I came down here after I got kicked out of the recovery house I picked up some down, and I got a friend of mine to shoot it in my neck.”

Then all went blank, Jeff said, and he woke up five hours later in hospital to a doctor asking if he’d shot fentanyl.

The synthetic opioid is said to be 40 to 50 times more potent than pure heroin. It’s being cut into street drugs and it’s killing people.

In 2015, a third of the 465 drug overdose deaths in B.C. involved fentanyl. That was up from 25 per cent in 2014, 15 per cent in 2013 and five per cent in 2012. It killed 471 people in Canada in 2015 and 132 in the first two months of 2016.

Last week, a drug bust in Burnaby, Richmond and Surrey uncovered a large fentanyl lab believed to be “one of the largest fentanyl labs seen to date in B.C. in terms of drug production,” according to Delta Police Sgt. Sarah Swallow.

But Jeff doesn’t think fentanyl was the culprit in his case, though he admitted he got his heroin from a new dealer that day.

Jeff overdosed again six days later. He was saved with Narcan.

“If they want to be clean, they have yet to come across Narcan,” said a shaken Kutrina Blake.

She has been clean for 11 months.

“It’s a daily occurrence at the Whalley emergency shelter she manages on 135A Street.

She had to use three hits this time.

“I’m a calm person anyway and I don’t panic under stress. But my hands got all shaky,” said Blake. “They go very blue and they’re not breathing. I had a client helping me, she was giving him breaths because you want to keep oxygen going to their brain. Don’t want them to go brain dead.”

While she was scared the first time, Blake said she’s “gotten used to it.”

This was her seventh time.

“You go into tunnel vision.”

The Gateway emergency shelter and drop-in centre, operated by Lookout Emergency Aid Society, was the first non-profit organization to offer naloxone intervention in early 2014. By April 2015, 200 overdose reversals were credited to the organization.

Narcan kits contain the drug naloxone. Commonly referred to as an “overdose antidote,” it blocks opiate receptors in the nervous system.

The injectable medication is easily administered with minimal training. It’s believed to be safe.

A healthy person given a dose of the drug won’t show any negative side affects, according to Fraser Health.

Through B.C.’s Take Home Naloxone Program, 488 overdoses have been reversed since 2012.

It’s saving lives, but many are still being lost.

Illicit drug overdose deaths have doubled in B.C. – and in Surrey – over the last decade. From 2006 to 2015, the death toll in Surrey rose from 34 to 67 and from 22 to 465 provincially.

In the first two months of 2016, 76 people died in Surrey after overdosing. Across B.C., 76 people lost their lives to drugs in January alone. That’s the largest number of drug deaths in one month in the past decade.

I met Jeff three weeks to the day before his latest overdose. He sat nervously in the back of the Whalley shelter and revealed that by then, he’d already been hit with naloxone on three separate occasions.

The first time was half an hour after being kicked out of a recovery home.

Jeff spent two court-mandated months in a local zero-tolerance recovery house after being given the choice between that or jail time, he explained.

“Society’s been brainwashed to believe we’re bad people down here. Far from it.”

Though Jeff doesn’t want help now, shelter supervisor Blake holds out hope he’ll change his mind. As a former addict, she knows miracles can happen.

Blake said she grew up doing crystal meth with her mom, who was also an addict.

By the age of 23, she’d spent a few years as a crack addict on the streets of the Downtown East Side.

Until one day, like Jeff, she was given a choice from the courts – either do nine months in jail or 18 months in a women’s recovery house. Blake chose the latter.

“It saved my life.”

Blake has been clean for 11 years and dedicates her life to helping others in the darkness of addiction.

Jeff’s recent stint in a recovery home helped him, Blake stressed. A daily addict only using 14 times in two months is “huge progress,” she remarked.

“But I may not have helped in the way that society wanted it, but before Jeff’s face was sunken in, he was really haggard. You look a lot healthier now,” she said.

And he’s alive today because of naloxone, she said firmly.

“You build relationships with these people. You get to know their stories. You love them,” remarked Blake.

“If they want to be clean, that’s fine, but if they don’t, we can love and respect them and give them everything they need to have a better quality of life.”

While 67 people died in Surrey last year of illicit drug overdose, the number of those who suffered overdoses is shocking higher.

Surrey fire service responds to 1,200 incidents of overdose per annum. This January alone, they were called to 232.

As of Feb. 3, Surrey Fire Fighters are now equipped with Narcan. Given that they arrive first to 92 per cent of calls, Fire Chief Len Garis said the decision made sense.

Though the move wasn’t taken lightly, he stressed.

All active firefighters in Surrey are now trained to administer the drug.

Garis acknowledged the numbers of overdoses are “disturbing.”

Most of the firefighters welcome the move.

“They haven’t had the tools and were there waiting. Now they do.”

While still struggling to combat fentanyl, health officials and first responders are now bracing for a powerful painkiller W-18 to inevitably hit the streets. It is up to 100 times stronger than fentanyl and has been found in Alberta.

Though the BC Coroner’s Service and Surrey RCMP say they have yet to come across it, many on the frontline think it’s here.

“If it’s not already here, it’s going to get here,” said Ron Moloughney of the Surrey Area Network of Substance Users, currently 200 members strong.

“And when it does, I’m not sure the naloxone kits are going to be enough. By the time it’s in your system, it’s too late. It kills you instantly.”
“King of the Hippies” – that’s what the caption read under the photo of a young David Wisdom, snapped on West 4th Avenue in the summer of 1967. It was the Summer of Love, which blossomed in Vancouver more than just about anywhere else in the world outside of San Francisco. You’ve likely heard about Kitsilano’s hippie heyday, but let it not be understated: for a few short years, Vancouver, and most especially West 4th Avenue between Burrard and MacDonald streets, was indeed the hippie capital of Canada. The movement rocked this formally conservative logging town to its roots, and changed our city forever.

The photo of David Wisdom (who went on to a 30-year-career at CBC Radio) was part of a larger story on Vancouver’s counterculture, which appeared in Japan’s equivalent to Life magazine. Wisdom was in a local band called the French Hand Laundry and the writer’s tour guide. The only problem was, David Wisdom never considered himself a hippie.

“I was a rocker,” proclaims Wisdom, who currently resides on Salt Spring Island, itself a garden of retired original hippies. “I liked the Jefferson Airplane from San Francisco. I saw them at the Kitsilano Theatre in 1966,” referring to what is often considered the city’s first “rock” concert. Locally, Wisdom dug bands like the Painted Ship, the Tom Northcott Trio, and the Seeds of Time. “I lived at a pretty notorious place in Kits called ‘the Peace House,’ at 3148 Point Grey Road. The Grateful Dead stayed there when they came to town and would walk around the house naked. Ginger Baker, the drummer from Cream, slept over when he was in town too. I guess the Japanese magazine thought I was a hippie because I was the guy with the fourth-longest hair in Vancouver.”

The longest-hair-on-a-dude-award went to Doug Hawthorne, a West 4th legend. Now deceased, Hawthorne came up again and again in conversation about Kitsilano’s hippie past.

“Doug was a thin, cool guy with a big belt buckle and hair down to his waist,” remembers Wisdom. “It was Doug who was really the king of the West 4th scene.” Hawthorne ran the Psychadelic Shop, Vancouver’s first-ever hippie emporium, and one of several hippie-friendly joints that began to pop up on or near West 4th Avenue in the 1960s: the Village Bistro (a coffee house that doubled as a venue), the Black Swan, Rohan’s Records (which eventually became a live music venue called Rohan’s Rockpile), the Blind Owl, the Last Chance, Positively 4th Street, and the Naam, among others.

Longtime Vancouver journalist Lynne McNamara was freshly graduated from UBC in the mid-60s and working as a teacher in the Fraser Valley when flower power hit full bloom on West 4th.

“I was a weekend hippie,” says McNamara. “I remember beautiful hot summers, the smell of pot in the air, lots of long hair, women swirling and twirling in long Afghan dresses, and everybody being stoned out of their minds. People were swarming here, especially from the States, and it made it all so exciting. From my experience, it was an open and accepting place for women.”

Conveniently located in the centre of the scene was CFUN, Vancouver’s number one radio station, right at the corner of West 4th and Cypress. “Jolly” John Tanner landed a gig at the station in 1964 at age 21, and would literally call the play-by-play of Vancouver’s love revolution.

“What was really incredible was that it happened so fast. Suddenly by the early spring of 1967, hippies, flower power and free love was everywhere,” says Tanner. “Vancouver had much more in common with the West Coast USA than with Toronto or Montreal at that time. California was a huge influence.”

By 1967, Tanner was not only working on West 4th, but was becoming fully immersed in the culture. “I lived in a house with a bunch of people at Maple and 3rd. One night we smoked some herb in the bathroom and headed out to a show at the Russian Hall, probably to see the Collectors. We got in my ’53 Chevy to drive to the gig – which was only a couple of blocks away – and ‘A Day In The Life’ by the Beatles came on. I started tripping out to it so much that I thought my car was flying through the air. I pulled over and said ‘I have to walk the rest of the way.’” Tanner went on to many more radio gigs and a near-50-year career at the Vancouver Planetarium.

The Russian Hall, at 2114 West 4th (still there to this day), is cited by many as a true hippie’s spine: Sgt. Abe Snidanko, who was later famously lampooned by Cheech and Chong. “He was ruthless,” says Tanner. “The mayor believed I was corrupting the youth of Vancouver, and so he sent Snidanko after me;” states Kruz. Snidanko busted Kruz twice for pot possession. The second time, the court sentenced Kruz to eight months in prison for “a couple of baggies, nothing really, but they wanted to make an example out of me.” Kruz’s incarceration still infuriates him, and marked the end of the Afterthought concerts, but not the Kitsilano hippies.

Renowned broadcaster Terry David Mulligan returned to his hometown right in the middle of the Summer of Love. He accepted a DJ gig at CFUN alongside Tanner. He was immediately shunned by the hippies.

“You have to imagine: I was barely two years out of the RCMP Academy, which I quit soon after graduation, because of my burning love for rock’n’roll radio.”

After a series of DJ gigs around the prairies, TDM arrived onto West 4th Avenue just as the Afterthought was shutting down. Everyone was convinced I was a narc. Entire rooms would clear when I would walk in. People wanted nothing to do with me!”

Like Wisdom, TDM never considered himself a hippie. “I lived right on 4th, a block away from the Russian Hall,” reminisces Mulligan. “A parade of hippies went by my front door: day in, day out, and they were as stoned as I was straight. I found it very depressing, it’s never a period of time I take pleasure from, simply because so many minds were lost as the decade progressed and the drugs got harder. It became some ugly shit.”

Many who lived through the West 4th scene agree that harder drugs were one of the reasons the scene fell apart, but there were other factors. “We really were connected to the California scene,” says Tanner. “So when things like Altamont and Charles Manson happened, it threw a pall over everything. Free love was over, the trust was gone, and the drugs really did get bad. Acid, heroin, people OD’ing all over the place, and then Jim Morrison, Jim Hendrix, and Janie Joplin all died within a year of each other: That felt like the end.”

Rent in Kits was also on the rise. “It was very exciting for a few years, but by the early ‘70s it was pretty much over,” says Wisdom. “The true hippies moved to the country; the Sunshine Coast, the Kootenays, or the Gulf Islands. Lots of Americans just went home.” 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love.
The Last Post

SHANNON LOUGH
The Northern View

Near the end of his life, he lived in a cardboard box in the pit of an old burnt down hotel. On rainy nights, he would cause a disturbance forcing the RCMP to deal with the unruly man who often played this game to rest his head in the warmth of a jail cell.

For those who knew him before his wife passed in 1979, they remember him differently, as an outdoorsman and a veteran in his seventies who had been living in a cardboard box. Wendel Ottmann later learned that this man, who caused trouble to escape the cold and rain, was in fact once a decorated soldier.

Despite only being stationed in Prince Rupert for a short time during the early ’80s, the encounters stayed with Ottmann — he couldn’t shake the memory of that WWII veteran in his seventies who had been living in a cardboard box.

“It had always bothered me that he was going to die and at no time was it known whether or not the man had received the proper honour he deserved in death, the dignity he may not have had in life.”

The homeless man Ottmann was searching for was Earl Corliss.

The search begins

After no response from the funeral home, Ottmann contacted The Northern View publisher and editor Todd Hamilton about Earl Corliss, the homeless man he knew from the ’80s.

“It is my sincere intent that Earl (as I knew him) receive a proper headstone if he does not already have one,” Ottmann wrote in January. If he didn’t, he mentioned that there is a federal government program — the Last Post Fund — that provides veterans with a military grave marker.

Hamilton, knowing my attachments to the military, as my childhood friend had served in Afghanistan multiple times, forwarded the email to me. He asked me to look into what happened to Earl, and if Corliss was indeed a veteran of World War II.

With few details to start with, I called Ferguson Funeral Home to see if they had any records of an Earl Corliss. They didn’t.

After, we put out an advertisement in The Northern View to find out if anyone in the community knew the man — we were surprised, people began to call in to share their memories of him.

One of the first callers was Dorothy Bagshaw. It was Bagshaw who offered the first real breadcrumb that led me to the full story of Earl Corliss.

He had a wife — Salome.

The first breadcrumbs

Earl Corliss had lived on 317 9th Avenue West in a cute little house with his wife Salome, Bagshaw recalled. “Salome could cook up a storm. She used to make shortbread, it was outstanding,” she said.

Marlene Diletta, a former care aid from the hospital and Acropolis Manor, a residential care facility called in to say she had worked with Earl for five years.

She remembered that the harsh winter weather had got the best of him. He was found with frostbite on his toes and fingers, Diletta said, his condition was crippling and he could no longer live on the streets.

“There would have been nobody going to the funeral,” Diletta said, but she recommended I call the funeral home to see if he was there. I had already tried that, and still no leads as to where he might have been buried or the exact year of his death.

The next call was from someone who had been equally curious as to what happened to Earl. Diana Jackson, a member of the Prince Rupert Genealogy Club, and a former nurse, who would often see Earl at the hospital in the ’80s where he would spend the night when he had nowhere else to go.

“I may have a lead,” she told me. The club has photographed every gravestone, including Salome’s, but they have never been able to find Earl.

She knew that he was cremated in Terrace, and that the ashes had been shipped back to Prince Rupert where they remained at the funeral home until someone claimed them. I called Ferguson’s again, they didn’t know who had taken the ashes.

Jackson decided to reopen her investigation on Earl and a week later I received an email from her full of breadcrumbs.

The Story of Earl Corliss

Earl Danford Corliss was born in Medina, North Dakota in 1909. In 1920, his parents, along with eight children, immigrated to Canada and ended up at Uncha Lake, Burns Lake district. According to the Canada Voters List, Earl registered in 1949 as a carpenter living in Prince Rupert, and in 1972, he registered as a labourer in Burns Lake.

Continued on next page
Earl’s brother, Clarence Mitchell, lived in the Burns Lake area, and his son George still lives there with his wife, Rhoda — now the closest living relatives to Earl.

The genealogy club gave me a glimmer of hope — George and Rhoda’s contact details.

Before I called George and Rhoda, I reached out to the Last Post Fund to find out if they would actually do something for Earl, should we ever find out where he was buried.

Yes, they could. But I had to provide his death certificate.

As Earl had passed more than 20 years ago, the bureaucratic hurdles were many but incredibly the death certificate came through the mail a week after my request.

Earl was 85 years old when he died in Prince Rupert on Feb. 5, 1995. Concrete evidence made Earl seem more real than the memories I was jotting down on a notepad.

I sent the certificate to the Last Post Fund and they opened a file on Earl. Then another piece of the puzzle fell into place, they sent his service details — he was indeed a veteran.

From March 31, 1943 until Oct. 24, 1944 he was a private in the Canadian Army. Yet, decades later he ended up living on the streets in Prince Rupert. Many people in the community who called in remembered him as a heavy drinker. But how he fell through the cracks remains hazy.

The Last Post needed to know where Earl was buried to arrange his military grave marker:

It was time to call his closest relatives in Burns Lake.

Earl’s family

Rhoda picked up the phone. Her voice lifted when I mentioned Earl’s name. Connecting with his family was another minor victory. She told me about his outdoorsy nature, his complicated upbringing of looking after his siblings when his father was away for long periods, and his love for Salome. They used to visit Earl quite a bit, and at one point the couple stayed in Burns Lake with them until Salome got homesick and wanted to go back to the coast.

“Toward the end of his life, when he was alone, Rhoda said they’d go visit him and they found him living under a sidewalk. I asked her where Earl was buried.

“We drove down together and picked up the little he had, which wasn’t much,” she said.

They never received any paperwork regarding his ashes, only the few belongings he had. Rhoda and George were unsure what to do with his ashes.

“We just figured we would try to get back down to Prince Rupert, because we knew Aunty was buried down there, and since that was where he was when he died and they had been together so long it just seemed like that was where he should be.”

But then health problems arose in their own home and the complication of getting the right paperwork has kept Earl above ground.

“During these days Rhoda, 79, makes frequent trips to the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia in Prince George for her 82-year-old husband whose health is deteriorating.

I put Rhoda in touch with the Last Post Fund, which agreed to pay for the opening and closing of the grave to place him next to Salome in Fairview Cemetery. He will also have a military grave marker, and his wife’s name would be included on the stone — her own marker is worn and barely legible.

After months of searching for Earl, finding his relatives, who have agreed to bury him next to his wife, and receiving approval from the Last Post Fund to give him the military marker that Ottmann thought he deserved, there remains one last problem — he needs to be buried.

The Last Post postponed

But you can’t just bury a body or ashes without the proper paperwork.

Rhoda contacted the cemetery and they said she needed a couple certificates before they could open the grave.

“I have so much going on here at home I never pursued anything further,” she said. “I had no idea where to get a certificate of cremation.”

At this point, Private Earl Corliss, a World War II veteran, has still not been laid to rest.

The City of Prince Rupert is responsible for the cemetery and said it would work with the family to help them with the bureaucratic details.

Nearly a month later, Rhoda said she hadn’t heard anything from the City of Prince Rupert but she appreciated all I had done to try. Regrettfully, the story of Earl Corliss seems to have no end.

The natural, seemingly logical and deserved conclusion would have been when the ashes were brought back to Prince Rupert, where Earl could be buried with his wife Salome, and a new headstone would have been erected that honoured his service in the Canadian military.

Instead, paperwork and bureaucracy have put a halt to the process and a veteran of World War II may end up just as homeless in death as he did in life.

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Disc golf world championship soars in Vancouver

JOHN KURUCZ

Vancouver Courier

First things first: it’s not a Frisbee, it’s a disc.

Secondly, participants aren’t a bunch of weekend warriors content with a simple jaunt around the park while downing a couple of cold ones.

On the contrary, they practise daily, have personal trainers and play for money in tournaments across North America.

There are even organizing bodies worldwide and player rankings are maintained on the regular.

Such are the intricacies surrounding disc golf, a sport similar to traditional golf that’s seemingly exploding in popularity across the world.

Organizers of this week’s inaugural Team Disc Golf World Championship are hoping to capitalize on that momentum, as teams and spectators from all corners descend upon Vancouver to crown the kings and queens of all things disc.

“It’s something that anybody can play and that’s the coolest part about it,” said Vancouver’s Leanne Fulton, a member of Team Canada’s eight-player contingent. “My dad can play, my niece and nephews can play and they’re all under 10 years old. It doesn’t matter if you’re fit, if you’re super competitive. There’s a place for anybody’s interest or ability in the sport.”

Running Aug. 18 to 21 at Queen Elizabeth Park and on Grouse Mountain, the showcase event features teams from Japan, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, the U.S. and Canada.

The tournament format will include team, individual and doubles matches and more than $5,000 is up for grabs in prize money.

Yes, money will awarded for essentially throwing some plastic in to a basket, but that’s the norm on planet disc.

Take Fulton’s latest competitive foray for example: when reached by the Courier; she was in Emporia, Kan. playing in the 2016 Disc Golf World Championships. The town of just over 20,000 is a hotbed for disc golf, hosts multiple tournaments annually and sees a tangible boost in the local economy from the sport alone.

The games are even live streamed on YouTube in most of the town’s watering holes.

“It’s so fascinating — it’s a little town in the middle of nowhere, but they are disc golf crazy here,” Fulton said. “The whole town has gotten behind it and it’s a big source of industry for them because they hold major events every year. For a town this size, it’s a really big deal.”

According to tournament director Dan Laitsch, the sport first became a big deal in the mid-1970s: that’s when rules were formalized and facilities began springing up across North America.

The courses are a no-brainer for municipalities, according to Laitsch, due to the low costs involved (about $9,000) and the spin-off benefits of offering recreational facilities on public lands.

Lait sch took up disc golf in the mid-90s while camping in Virginia and he’s now involved with the British Columbia Disc Sports Society, serving as past president.

Yes, there’s a provincial society devoted to disc sports. And it boats more than 500 members.

“We have a member who... Continued on next page
dropped between 50 and 75 pounds just by playing disc golf,” said Latich. “I get you out of the house; it gets you walking around and it gets your heart rate up. Some people just want to walk through the park and throw a Frisbee around, then you have people like the competitors in our upcoming event who appreciate the perfection of a well-thrown disc and the opportunity to test themselves against their fellow competitors.”

The rules in disc golf mirror those in traditional golf: the goal is to get the disc in to a basket in the fewest shots possible. The discs are made from varying types of plastic to accommodate specific shots: drivers have sharper edges to cut through the wind, while putters have duller edges and tend to go straighter.

Games typically last 15 to 20 minutes on a smaller course, three hours on longer courses and a starter set of discs runs you about $30.

Along with Latich and Fulton, Vancouver’s Steve Crichton is helping to organize this week’s tournament. A Team Canada member with 20 years of experience under his belt, Crichton says his team has an ace in the hole leading up to this week’s tee off.

“We know these courses — Queen Elizabeth and Grouse are pretty much our home courses, so well I have a distinct advantage with the familiarity with the courses that we’ll be playing,” said Crichton. “Most of us who are on this team from B.C. have played together, so we all work really well together. There’s a continuity within the players that are on this team that will definitely benefit us.”

To follow the disc drama that will play out this weekend, go online to pdga.com/teamworlds.

BEAU SIMPSON
Surrey Now

We didn’t know who they were or where they lived in the neighbourhood, but we knew one thing – these girls could run.

For years, my neighbours and I have watched them, amazed by their stamina and synchronization.

As we watched them run – and run, and run, and run – we talked about how these girls were going to be big one day. “We’ll be watching them on TV soon,” we all agreed.

I always wanted to write about these girls but never got a chance to meet them – until now.

I have good friends who live a few units down from us. Their front yard faces the baseball diamond at Hillcrest Elementary school in Cloverdale. It offers an excellent right-field view of ball games (if someone hit a home run over the right-field fence, it would bounce into their yard).

During the past several years, many summer days have been spent there sipping beer and eating snacks while watching a ball game or two.

That’s how we came to know about the twins.

“The twins are out again,” someone would say. “Let’s see how long they run for today.”

And run they would. While we lounged lazily in the sun, we watched the pair effortlessly run countless laps.

No matter how many songs blared from our stereo or how many beers were cracked or innings we watched, the twins would still be running. It seemed like they would never stop. And the way they ran! Every movement they made was in unison, perfectly in sync with one another. Even their ponytails seemed to bounce in perfect time.

“I should write a story about those girls,” I said one day, “before they become Olympic champions.”

A few weeks ago, I was playing catch with my son on the diamond at Hillcrest when out of the corner of my eye, I saw the twins.

I ran over to them (not an easy task, you know) and told them who I was and that I had been wanting to write a story about them for some time now. They looked at each other and smiled. One of the girls said, “Sure.”

It turns out their names are Julie and Christina Sevsek. They are 17 and attend Clayton Heights Secondary school. Christina is the younger sister by two minutes. She says it’s no surprise I have seen them running before – they run more than one hour a day, six times a week.

They’ve been running since Grade 3.

“We signed up for cross country and we thought it would be interesting,” Christina said. “We found out we were really good at it and we just continued on because we really enjoyed it.”

Nine years later, the twins are still running, happy to make sacrifices for the sport they love.

“We’re always training, 24/7, so we don’t have many friends because we’re always running,” Christina says. “But running is my passion.”

Julie agrees.

“I love running to push myself, and training hard to reach my goals,” Julie says.

In case you were wondering, Julie wears a headband while running, and it’s pretty much the only way you can tell them apart. Julie says my neighbours and I aren’t the only ones who have noticed her and her sister in our neighbourhood.

“A lot of people ask us, ‘How many laps are you doing?’ and always wondering why we are running.”

And Julie says people regularly make comments about their synchronized running style.

“They say we look like one person, saying we move our arms at the same time!”

The Sevsek twins’ passion and dedication for their sport translates into success – a lot of it.

The day before our interview, Christina earned first place at the Fraser Valley Cross Country Championships and Julie took second.

“One sister takes gold and the other silver? How does that work?” I asked Christina, knowing firsthand how sibling rivalry works.

“Yeah, we are really competitive,” she admits. “But that’s why it’s really fun to train with each other, because we push each other!”

“But,” I asked her, “you always get along, right?”

“Yeah,” she replied, with a nervous chuckle.

More recently, both sisters earned spots on the team that will represent B.C. at the Canadian Cross Country Championships, after Christina placed second and Julie placed fourth at provincials.

How did they celebrate?

“We went for a run,” Julie said. “Of course they did.

The Canadian Cross Country Championships are set for Nov. 25 in Kingston, Ont. If the twins run well there, they will represent Canada at the World Cross Country Championships in Uganda in March.

Christina knows what it takes to win at nationals. She earned a spot on Team Canada last year and competed at the world cross country championships in Venezuela. She says running at worlds against older girls was an experience she will never forget.

“I’ve got the highlight of your running career!” I asked.

“Definitely,” their success comes as no surprise to coach Scott Kent.

“I’ve coached a lot of kids over the last 14 years or so,” said the founder and head coach at Coastal Track Club in South Surrey.

“I’ve never met two more focused individuals. They are extremely dedicated and regimented. They are just so focused on wanting to do everything right to get to where they want to go.”

Kent has been working with the twins since March. That’s when they came to him looking to improve their stride, which they were told was too long.

“Running is not just about how hard you can train, you have to be smart about it too,” he said.

“In Julie and Christina’s case, their stride was unchecked for four years. They thought they wanted to get faster, they just had to get a longer stride.”

According to Kent, their form is now where it needs to be.

“We’ve been very, very tough on them but their form has completely changed now. It’s a lot more efficient and it’s engaging their core. They’re now using their hips,” Kent said.

“There isn’t any limitations on their form now. Now their stride is giving them a chance to really compete at that level they want to compete at.”

Edited for length

Disc golf world championship soars in Vancouver (cont.)

Sports Writing

Surrey sisters in sync

BEAU SIMPSON
Surrey Now

Until recently, the Surrey twins were racing against younger girls. Now their experience has completely changed.

Yesterday the Canadian Cross Country Championships was held in Ontario – with the Surrey twins placing first and second.

Christina, 17, ran a personal best of 23:35, while her sister (aged 15) placed second.

“We know these courses — Queen Elizabeth and Grouse are pretty much our home courses, so well I have a distinct advantage with the familiarity with the courses that we’ll be playing,” said Crichton. “Most of us who are on this team from B.C. have played together, so we all work really well together. There’s a continuity within the players that are on this team that will definitely benefit us.”

To follow the disc drama that will play out this weekend, go online to pdga.com/teamworlds.

§
BCYDNA Community Journalism Scholarship Winners

**Kwantlen Polytechnic University - Journalism**

**MELISSA POMERLEAU**
Melissa is in her final year of the Bachelor of Journalism at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Her passion for multimedia journalism has enabled her to excel in her schoolwork and contribute regularly to Kwantlen's student-run newspaper The Runner. In the future she plans to use her experience with multimedia storytelling to report on events, arts, culture and local news in a community setting.

**Thompson Rivers University - Journalism**

**WADE TOMKO**
Originally from Surrey, BC, Wade enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts program at Thompson Rivers University in 2012. At TRU, he discovered that journalism is his true passion and has written for the campus newspaper for the past two years. Wade is now in his fourth year of journalism studies at TRU. He hopes that once he graduates he can pursue a career in journalism looking at issues here in BC.

**Langara College - Journalism**

**EMELIE PEACOCK**
A reporter who believes in the power of journalism to inform and hold those in power to account, Emelie Peacock is a recent graduate of the Langara journalism certificate program. Emelie enjoys multimedia storytelling, with a particular interest in video journalism. A background in international relations keeps her looking to the outside world and its connections to local issues. With a keen interest in community news and social issues facing B.C. residents, Emelie aspires to bring her newfound skills to a role in one of the many beautiful communities in the province.

**Quill Recognition Awards**

**SILVER QUILL AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**RANDY BLAIR**
Black Press

**BRENT BRAATEN**
The Prince George Citizen

**DOUG FOOT**
Glacier Media

**PETER KVARNSTROM**
Glacier Media

**NELDA MCINNES**
The Prince George Citizen

**KEITH MCNEILL**
North Thompson Times

**AMBER OGILVIE**
Gulf Islands Driftwood

**JIM PARKER**
Peninsula News Review

**MARYANN RUITER**
Houston Today

**PEGGY SIDBECK**
Parksville/Qualicum Beach News

**COLLEEN SPARROW**
The Prince George Citizen

**STEVE WELDON**
Parksville/Qualicum Beach News

**TOM ZYTARUK**
Surrey Now

**BRONZE QUILL AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**LAURA BLACKWELL**
Lakes District News

**MAVIS CANN**
Revelstoke Review

**ANNAMARIE DOUGLAS**
Lakes District News

**CAROLYN GRANT**
Kimberley Bulletin

**BONNY MCLARDY**
Fernie Free Press
THE WORD IS OUT.

And this time it’s our turn to deliver the good news. Congratulations to all member newspapers on your achievements this year!

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Congratulations to all of tonight’s winners.

There’s rare, medium, and Well Done!