

SOAR

Inflight
Magazine for
Pacific Coastal
Airlines

FARM *to* FORK

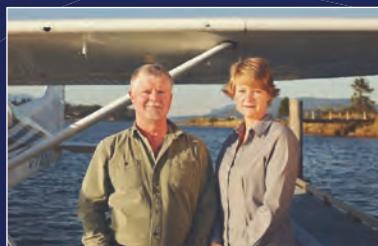
Agriculture booms
in Comox Valley

GOING STRONG

Campbell River
resilient in
face of layoffs

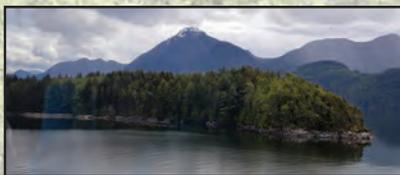
TEE TIME
in Cranbrook

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Sheep Island: 7 acre private island, a short distance from Saanich on Southern Vancouver Island within the southern Gulf Islands, old growth forest. Protected deep water moorage with 120ft dock, oceanside rock salt-water pool. 1200sqft main residence on 4 levels. Outbuildings including a classic netloft, established orchard, dug well and ponds, generator.

\$1,800,000



Shewell Island: 164 acre private island in Knight Inlet, BC Central Coast. Fully forested in mixed species, mostly mature growth. Diverse shoreline including little bays, varied topography. Centralized location close to Vancouver Island and Broughton Archipelago, providing quick easy access to numerous waterways, mainland inlets and islands.

New Price! \$765,000



Campbell River Acreage: 5 acres semi-oceanfront with great views across the Strait of Georgia. The pan-handle style lot has 98.4 feet of view frontage with 450 feet of depth then opens up to four acres of level, nicely treed acreage - a unique property that offers a variety of development and lifestyle opportunities. Near Oyster Bay Shoreline Regional Park.

\$224,000



Phillips Arm Oceanfront: 151.73 acres in four titles. Located on the west side of the entrance to Phillips Arm, with approx. 1500ft of frontage facing the ocean and approx. 1200ft directly adjacent to the ocean. Steep topography, old mining claims in the area. Boat access only properties in an excellent seafood gathering region on the BC Central Coast!

\$89,500



Quatsino Sound: Well-known NW Vancouver Island region providing excellent fishing and recreation.

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- * 28.99 acres, 490ft oceanfront. **\$199,999**
- * 14 oceanfront acres, **\$199,900**
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- * 5 acres, creek, walk-on beachfront. **\$109,500**



Cortes Island Acreage: Rarely does one find a more spectacular island acreage than this! 44.65 acres with 1700ft of lowbank oceanfront, gentle diverse topography, fully forested in mature and old growth forest. South and west exposure. Phenomenal views. Very well protected for deep water moorage. A great island gem property. Conservation covenants in place.

\$585,000



Yakoun River Inn: This popular, local pub is situated on the oceanfront in Port Clements on Graham Island in Haida Gwaii. 3,300sqft building on a corner location, adjacent to government dock facilities, licensed for 100 patrons. Permitted uses also include lodging and adjacent properties can be available for anyone interested in expanding the business.

\$375,000



Cortes Island: This amazing, fully self-sufficient island retreat needs to be seen to fully appreciate what it offers. 99.6 acres with approx. 4500ft of oceanfront. SW exposure. Diverse topographical features. Fully forested in mature and old growth. 6 substantial structures, full complement of infrastructure, amazing gardens, conservation covenants.

\$1,450,000

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Rick Jeffery, President and CEO, Coast Forest Products Association

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Photo: AgrifoodComoxValley.com

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Alyn Edwards has been a career journalist and, more recently, a public relations consultant, freelance writer, and, since 2003, a partner at Peak Communicators.



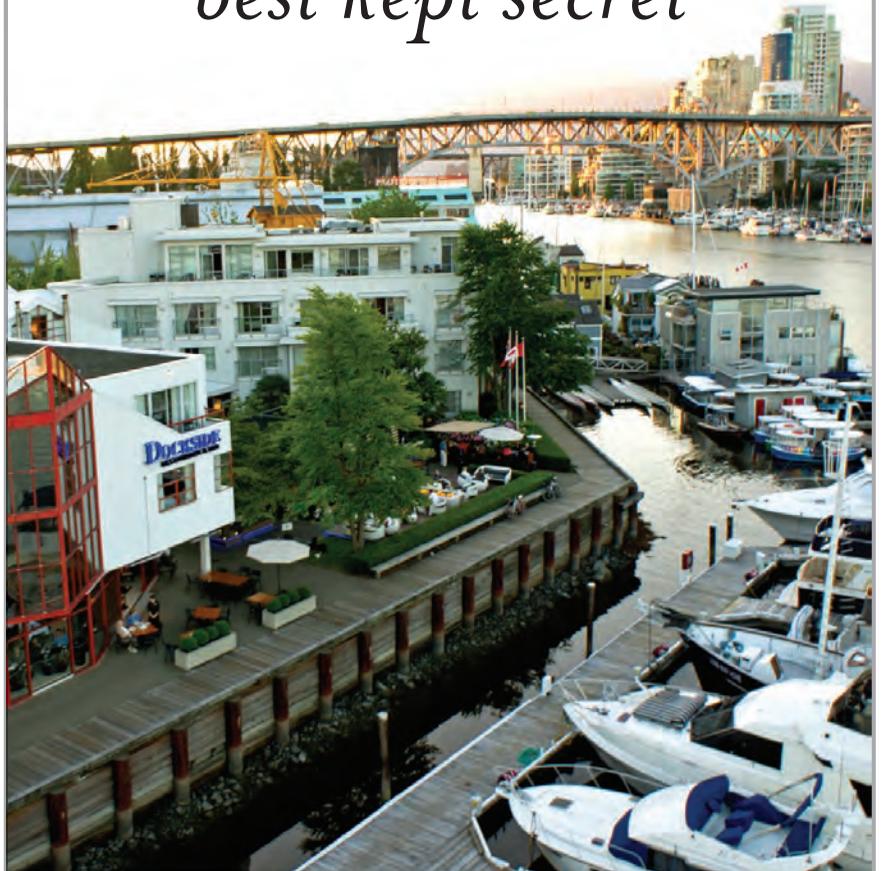
Montreal-born **Brian Kieran** has worked for several BC newspapers, taking him from England to Qatar.

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I'm pleased to announce that we have added a new aircraft to our fleet – a Saab 340B. The new addition brings us to a total of 22 aircraft and its presence has a lot to do with recent growth in our charter business.

In the fall of last year we signed a Joint Venture agreement with the Tahltan Nation Development Corp. This JV positions us well to be a primary air charter provider for the Tahltan Nation and, by extension, those proponents in current partnership and others seeking to develop future projects with the Tahltan. As a result of our relationship with the nation, in early May, we began providing five day a week charter service into the Dease Lake airport, located just several hundred kilometres south of the Alaskan border.

This increase in charter work, along with additional growth in our regular schedule network,

like our new non-stop service between Victoria and Prince George, has created the need for us to add additional carriage.

We will be adding an additional Saab 340B to our fleet this summer, along with the Beechcraft 1900D which we introduced in mid-May. With the acquisition of these additional aircraft, we are taking this opportunity to refresh our livery, so keep your eyes peeled for our new brand in the sky or at an airport near you. If you happen to see one of our new aircraft during your travels in B.C., please take a snapshot and share it with us using the hashtag #pacificcoastalair.

Thank you for choosing to fly with Pacific Coastal Airlines and enjoy your travels – your support is greatly appreciated.



MEET A PACIFIC COASTAL EMPLOYEE

Name:
Karryn Thornton

Position: Customer Service Agent

Time with Pacific Coastal: 10 years

Based in: Vancouver

What is the mission or vision of your department? To earn and retain customer loyalty by delivering top quality service and an exceptional travel experience.

What do you love most about this job?: I really enjoy my co-workers and the airline industry. I also enjoy the shift work so I can spend lots of time with my family.

Where did you grow up and where is home now? I was born in the Queen Charlotte Islands (now Haida Gwaii), then moved to Richmond, and then South Surrey. Today, Cloverdale is home.

Do you have family? I am married with two wonderful children, age 7 and 21 months.



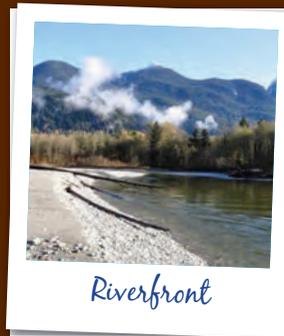
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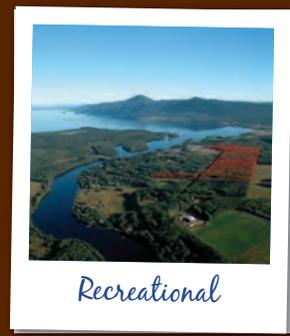
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Rudy Nielsen, President

BC's rich mining history

When the subject of tail art for Pacific Coastal Airline planes came up, the company "found it difficult to sum all that is BC in a single image." Now, each of the airline's tails features different icons. Here is the story of the miner.

By SUSIE QUINN

Mining has shaped British Columbia's history for well over 150 years — from the gold rush of the late 1800s to the opening in 2014 of two major natural resource mines.

Red Chris, a \$500-million copper and gold mine located south of Dease Lake, and Roman, a \$340-million coal mine at Tumbler Ridge, both opened in 2014.

Another 32 are in various phases of environmental assessment or permission.

The image of a miner swinging a pick adorns the side of one of Pacific Coastal Airlines' Saab-340 aircraft, acquired in 2007. The artwork pays homage to the province's rich mining history.

"As one of BC's largest and oldest industries, mining plays a huge role in the daily lives of British Columbians, helping to

make BC the great place that it is to live, work and play," said Minister of Energy and Mines Bill Bennett as he marked the beginning of Mining Week in BC on May 5.

"Those who work in the sector make an important contribution to the economy and to families across the province," he said.

Mining in BC was worth \$8.3 billion in 2012 with a further \$680 million invested in exploration, according to the energy and mines ministry. That same year, more than 30,000 people were employed in the mining and mineral exploration industries and related sectors — about twice as many as there were in 2001.

Mining products can be found everywhere, from the components in mountain bikes to smartphones. Every British Columbian uses about 23,000 kilograms (50,000 pounds) of

mined products every year.

A phase of BC's mining history will be on exhibit at the Royal BC Museum until Oct. 31, 2015. Gold Rush! El Dorado in British Columbia opened on May 13 and tells of the adventure, heartbreak and upheaval that occurred during the gold rushes of the 1800s in BC. Royal BC Museum's curators and exhibition designers have brought the gold rush to life through rare artifacts, archival photographs and original historical documents. ■

TAIL ART: Miner
AIRCRAFT: Saab-340A
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FARM *to* FORK

VALLEY BOOMS AS A HUB FOR AGRICULTURE



agrifoodcomoxvalley.com photos

Ample agricultural land and a thriving shellfish industry are two strong drivers of the Comox Valley's agriculture sector.

BY JENNIFER BLYTH

If you grow it — or raise it, harvest it or catch it — they will come. Or so it seems for Vancouver Island's bountiful Comox Valley, where for more than a decade, regional governments have prioritized agrifood and beverage processing as one of the region's top economic growth priorities.

"The Comox Valley's rich soils, clean air, abundant water and long growing season enable a wide range of niche quality products to be produced. Increased marketing and awareness of the region around its competitive land prices, when compared to other BC growing regions, coupled with its culinary and agrifood attractions and businesses, has established the Comox Valley's reputation as a hub for agriculture, aquaculture and farm-to-fork experiences," says John Watson, Executive Director, Comox Valley Economic Development (CVED).

Through its Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan, CVED has focused on continued business expansion among existing producers, while also supporting new and innovative entrepreneurs and investors.

In partnership with the agriculture sector and progressive producers, the CVED has undertaken a number of retention, expansion and investment programs in recent years.

Initiatives include developing extensive research, statistics, Producer Tool

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Kits and related materials to support both potential investors and existing producers looking to expand, Watson explains.

In addition, extensive national and international marketing has raised awareness of agri-investment opportunities, and Export Development Workshops have offered valuable resources for producers wishing to start or expand their exports.

On the consumer side, CVED has developed culinary events that celebrate the farm-to-fork experience, and raised awareness among agriculture and culinary tourism media about the many innovative producers and tasty opportunities in the Comox Valley.

The ninth annual BC Shellfish and Seafood Festival, held in the Comox Valley June 12 to 21, is the perfect example, expanded this year to 10 full days of events and activities — the largest festival of its kind in BC.

Participants and visitors will savour culinary events, shellfish and seafood producer tours, celebrity chef demonstrations, winery dinners celebrating the bounty of the sea, aquaculture industry workshops, networking events and a tradeshow at the new BC Seafood Expo and Workshop Series.

The festival's growth was a natural, with more than 50 per cent of all of BC's shellfish — 10 million pounds annually — produced in the waters surrounding the Comox Valley.

CVED recently launched a new AgrifoodComoxValley.com website, in partnership with the Comox Valley Farmers Institute, boasting new videos that showcase and highlight some of the region's producers, coupled with investor profiles which define agri-investment opportunities within the sector.

This focus on agriculture, agritourism and agri-investment seems to be paying off.

"The region now boasts one of the few locations in Canada that has tracked a surge in agri-investment activities, with increasing amounts of land being activated into production and higher gross farm receipts being reported," Watson says. "Today, numerous grape and fruit wineries, award-winning producers of beef, yogurt and cheese, and renowned shellfish growers strive to meet the demands of not only international markets, but also the increasing culinary tourism reputation the Comox Valley has established."

Gross farm receipts in the region increased by 7.8 per cent between 2005 and 2010 despite the loss of about 50 per cent of dairy farms in the same time. The number of dairy farms has been declining for more than 20 years, mainly because of the cost of feed.

However, many of these dairy farms have

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been converted to horticulture and, in the last two years, there has been a significant increase in grass-fed beef production.

Innovations are occurring across the industry. Blue Moon Estate Winery, for example, recently expanded with cider production and a cider press business. Beginning from a modest organic blueberry farm, Blue Moon converted it into a winery, producing an exceptional, award-winning finished product. Using sustainable, organic farming methods, the business now boasts a cidery, apple press business, and a culinary and agritourism events kitchen.

At Coastal Black Estate Winery, a four-generations-old dairy farm, the family converted to cultivated blackberries, and today, it boasts the largest crop in Canada, in addition to blueberries and raspberries, producing 10,000 cases of wine annually.

"International and national awards continue to line up since opening, and the business has expanded to host major culinary and agritourism events, while exporting into international markets," Watson says.

Where does CVED see further opportunities?

The region's shellfish industry is poised for growth, given the extensive national and international demand. Investment and job opportunities in shellfish growing as well as marine biology, distribution, logistics and research are available, CVED notes.

Beef production also shows potential. The Comox Valley currently produces just 20.7 per cent of local beef consumption, and Vancouver Island production is only 7.25 per cent of the beef consumed on the island. With more than 13,500 acres of unfarmed land waiting to be converted, and increasing demand, a significant opportunity exists to supply Vancouver Island and lower mainland consumers with specialty meat products. ■

To Get There

Pacific Coastal Airlines runs several flights daily between Vancouver Airport's South Terminal and Comox Airport. Visit www.pacificcoastal.com for more details.

Discover a little slice of island paradise

BY KRISTYL CLARK
www.valleymom.ca

Tigh-Na-Mara is a slice of Vancouver Island paradise that will recharge your batteries, help you connect with nature and ignite the fire in your relationship. Having enjoyed both a family holiday and a second honeymoon at this all-season oceanfront resort in beautiful Parksville, I've had the pleasure of two unique and unforgettable experiences.

While I could go on forever about what makes me adore this hot spot, here are 6 reasons why you should put Tigh-Na-Mara on your travel bucket list.

1. The Accommodations - Situated in a three-story log-style condominium, our Deluxe Studio Suite featured an incredible ocean-view from our private patio. There was also a Jacuzzi tub with jets in the room, high ceilings, a full kitchen and a gas fireplace – oh -so-romantic!

During our family trip, we stayed in an authentic log cottage with the kiddies, which featured a traditional wood burning fire place, comfortable rustic furnishings, bathroom and a full kitchen.

2. The Grotto Spa - This oasis is like no other spa we've ever been to. Treatments focus on West Coast natural ingredients and the natural stone grotto – a 2,500 square-foot warm mineral pool infused with minerals and trace elements to detoxify your body.

3. The Dining - With fresh local seafood, spa-inspired anti-oxidant cuisine and delectable desserts, the Treetop Tapas & Grill is a unique dining experience reserved for robed guests.

There's also Cedars Restaurant & Lounge that seamlessly blends a modern upscale environment with that cozy, rustic signature style that puts Tigh-Na-Mara on the map, while the menu offers plenty of new twists on your old favourites.

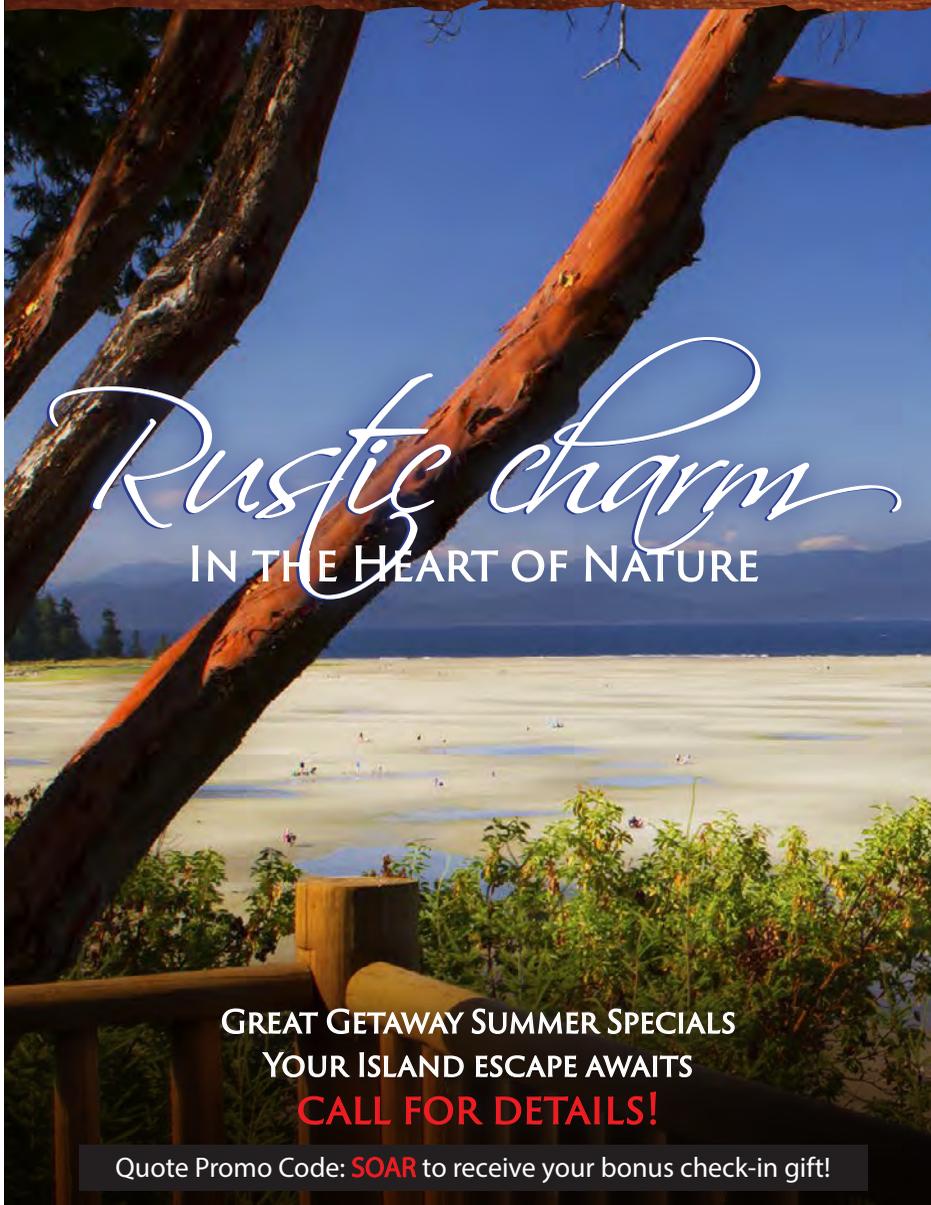
4. Beaches & Parks -The Parksville-Qualicum Beach area enjoys the mildest year-round climate in Canada. Enjoy golfing nearly every day of the year as well as hiking, wildlife viewing, beachcombing and taking in the view of the Strait of Georgia and Coast Mountains.

5. The Amenities - There's plenty of things to do for your whole clan, including a playground, indoor pool and hot tub, fitness room, tennis court, ping pong table and more.

6. Kid-Friendly Programs - Available during summer holidays, Spring Break and the Christmas holidays, there are so many fun and educational activities offered during the seasonal resort recreation program.

And there you have it 6 reasons to make Tigh-Na-Mara your next getaway. Doesn't this island oasis sound amazing? You'll have to experience it yourself and see if I've missed anything on our little list.

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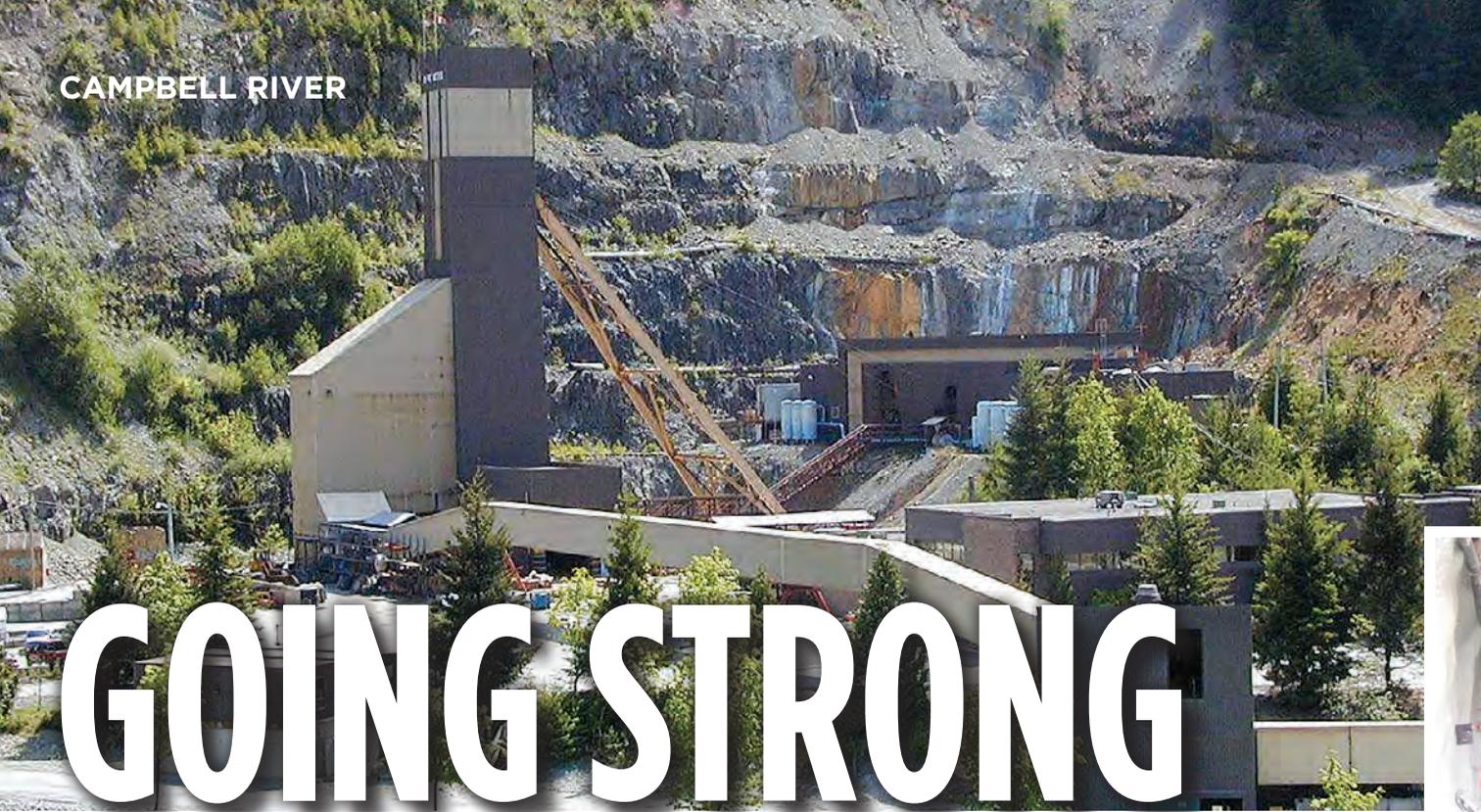
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GOING STRONG

City resilient in face of layoffs

My “left turn meter” is off the dial these days in Campbell River — a tough little city on the 50th parallel.

Five years ago, when I moved here, I could make a left turn onto the Old Island Highway from an uncontrolled intersection with my eyes closed after a rolling stop.

This year I’m spinning my wheels for two or three minutes looking for a hole in the traffic. By Campbell River standards,

this is damn near gridlock. Is this because folks are driving around with nothing to do? I don’t think so. These days folks are going places ... mostly to and from work and job sites.

So, when the Nyrstar Mine at Myra Falls, 90

clicks to the west, announced the layoff of more than 200 workers I resisted the urge to panic. I have the luxury of being a newbie who has not been indelibly imprinted by the resource sector disasters of the last decade.

In 2008, a deepening forestry crisis gripped this community. TimberWest

permanently shut down its Elk Falls sawmill, throwing 250 people out of work. Two years later, the Catalyst Paper Elk Falls pulp mill folded, sending another 440 people out on the street.

It was a devastating one/two punch. The “River” descended into an economic funk that sent skilled and able-bodied workers scurrying for the riches of Alberta.

Glenn Smith, Nyrstar’s acting vice-president (North America), says the company decided to temporarily suspend regular mining and milling operations following a comprehensive review of economics and operations at the Myra Falls zinc and copper mine.

“Deficiencies in site infrastructure, planning, operating, and maintenance practices, and inadequate mine development for future mining areas were all identified as topics that needed to be addressed,” he says.

Campbell River Mayor Andy Adams says Nyrstar is “one of the best quality producing mines in North America, but they need to get their house in order.”

Adams says having workers laid off is never a good position to be in, but right now his city is “more resilient” than ever.

“If this had happened three or four years ago it would have been really hard on Campbell River. However, with the capital infrastructure projects we have going and



Campbell River Mayor Andy Adams. At top, Nystar Mine at Myra Falls; above right, New Hart Dam tunnel.

the (development) boom, the community is better able to absorb this. The community is mentally better able to cope.”

Those projects add up to a \$1.8 billion investment: \$1 billion for the Hart Dam generating station rebuild, \$300 million for a new hospital and another \$400 million in area dam upgrades that will start after the generation station project is completed in 2018.

As well, there has been another \$1.5 million in private development in the city core, including an award-winning headquarters for Seymour Pacific Developments, a seniors’ independent and assisted living complex and a five-star Comfort Inn.

These three projects have created more than 150 jobs and the new hospital will contribute that again.

The city has also been very aggressive creating a pro-development climate



THE KIERAN REPORT

with BRIAN KIERAN

“With the capital infrastructure projects we have going and the (development) boom, the community is better able to absorb this.”



downtown with a five-year tax exemption on improvements, density bonuses, design incentives and a storefront improvement program.

Campbell River Chamber of Commerce CEO Colleen Evans sees the business community’s “resilience” from another perspective. She sees a new generation of entrepreneurs and young professionals turning Campbell River into a “hotbed of innovation.”

“One of the bright spots is the Young Professionals of Campbell River. This is one of the strongest organizations on Vancouver Island. These young professionals have been taking a leadership role in the community, hosting events to learn more about business opportunities. They are actively growing and buying businesses; they are the professional lawyers and accountants,” she says.

Evans also says the Campbell River Creative Industries Council is having great success “bringing together the First Nations, business, education, technology and creative sectors and growing a hub here in Campbell River.”

The chamber CEO says: “It is the right time for Campbell River. I believe Nyrstar wants to invest in Campbell River and stay here. The fact that they have to suspend production to catch up tells me they believe in the ore (supply); they believe in the opportunities and I see this as a short-term transition.”

Evans says challenges, like the Nyrstar layoffs, have routinely shown us that “the community always comes back stronger.”

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The Tong House

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BACK ON THE TRAIL OF HAL QUINN'S PACIFIC COASTAL GOLF TOUR

BY HAL QUINN

The journey from Vancouver's airport across the Coast Mountains and into the otherworldly realm of the Purcells and Selkirks and Rockies seems far too short on the Pacific Coastal flight.

With so much to see and savour, 90 minutes is hardly enough. The spectacular valleys and monumental mountain peaks embody British Columbia's slogan: Super, Natural.

But once back on earth at Cranbrook's International Airport, with some of the game's most beautiful and challenging golf courses just minutes away, travelling golfers can be forgiven for asking: "what took so long?"

The mountain scenery truly does make the Kootenay region seem supernatural. The unmatched alpine settings are combined with excellent accommodations, superb cuisine, and a cluster of fine golf courses, making this one of the most naturally beautiful and best places on the planet for golfers.

Scattered though the mountains, along glacial lakes and tumbling rivers, in tranquil meadows and along heart-stopping ridges, the Kootenay golf courses around Cranbrook range from friendly, town-owned tracks to award-winning resort courses designed by the game's best architects.

Right on the edge of the city is the venerable Cranbrook Golf Club, celebrating its centennial this year. This traditional parklands course winds its way through stately pines and is an absolute delight to play and walk. Since 1915, it has hosted many prestigious provincial championships, underlining the quality of the design that is as playable as it is challenging.

The vistas are pure Kootenay Rockies at what amounts to a "Les Furber Trail" between

Kimberley and Cranbrook. Just outside Kimberley, on the edge of one of BC's best ski resorts, the Trickle Creek Golf Resort is one of Furber's most dramatic. Bootleg Gap in Kimberley is one of his best, and 20 minutes south, St. Eugene Golf Resort is one of his most intriguing.

At Trickle Creek, golfers get the full Kootenay Rockies experience. The first tee is at 3,800 feet above sea level, and the par 4 plays uphill. Carved through the forest, with spectacular mountain reveals, Trickle has been a "must play" since 1993. The par 3 11th hole — with the panorama of the Rockies behind the green that perches 75 feet below the tee — is one of the most exciting short holes in BC.

Furber's two other area designs are now in the "must play" category as well. Both St. Eugene and Bootleg Gap (so named for the distinctive and dramatic gap in the mountains) trace the St. Mary River. But at St. Eugene you can reach out and touch it; at Bootleg it rambles in the canyon far below.

At St. Eugene Mission Resort & Casino (the old Mission school house has been converted to an outstanding boutique hotel), the river defines many of the holes, such as the 9th, which traces its rapids in a dogleg left. St. Eugene is now on all golfers' lists.

While Trickle is in the mountains and St. Eugene is in the River Valley surrounded by mountains, Bootleg Gap has a nice combination of both. Opening links-style holes with great views of Pinnacle Peak and the Rockies give way to holes set in pine forests, plus spectacular elevated tee shots that offer views of The Gap. There's also stunning, "edge of the cliff" looks from the 13th tee. The 9-hole Gap course is ideal for families and a great test for better players.

Just on the eastern edge of Cranbrook, the



Photo by Bob Huxtable

Above, Wildstone Golf Course, hole #1; at top of page, Shadow Mountain, hole #15 (Courtesy Shadow Mountain Golf Course).

dramatic Wildstone Golf Course commands wonderful Rocky Mountain views — particularly Fisher Peak — yet the course is routed on gently rolling land. A rarity among courses in this type of terrain, Wildstone is walkable, with no exhausting hikes from greens to tee boxes. It plays to about 7,150 yards, but at 3,000 feet the ball goes forever and the fairways are wide and forgiving. The holes average five tee boxes and Wildstone is also unique in having five par 5s, and five par 3s.

Located just a couple miles to the north, Shadow Mountain, designed by Canadian Wayne Carlton, also boasts jaw-dropping views. The holes on this remarkable layout are named for their characteristics and character, as in "Nature's Dream," "Risk and Reward," and the equalling evocative, "The Monster." Under new ownership, Shadow Mountain joins the "must play" list.

Kootenay's offerings around Cranbrook alone are enough to make the beautiful journey via Pacific Coastal just slightly more than half the fun. 

To Get There

Pacific Coastal Airlines runs several flights daily between Cranbrook and Vancouver Airport's South Terminal, as well as between Cranbrook and Kelowna. Visit www.pacificcoastal.com for more details.

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The Nature Trust is now actively raising funds to add the last piece to complete the Antelope-brush Conservation Area.

CRUCIAL CONSERVATION

SAVING A MAGICAL PROPERTY IN THE SOUTH OKANAGAN

By Alyn Edwards

If magical places are on your bucket list, plan to visit very special land that is home to some of Canada's most endangered species.



Pete McIntyre Homestead in 1886. Above, Pete McIntyre with great niece Mickey and great nephew Jack. At top, McIntyre Bluff.

Located along the arid valley bottom beside Highway 97 between Okanagan Falls and Oliver, an ecologically significant Antelope-brush property has been owned by the same family for 129 years.

The Nature Trust of British Columbia, a non-profit land conservation organization, is gradually acquiring the eastern section of this land for preservation.

In 1886, Pete McIntyre chose 500 acres beside a landmark cliff running from the Okanagan River to fast-flowing Vaseux Creek in a canyon on the eastern boundary. There, he built a sawmill powered by a large waterwheel.

Five generations of Pete's ancestors have cared deeply about protecting the property in the midst of many development pressures in the South Okanagan. This includes threats of vineyard expansion since land on which Antelope-brush thrives is also excellent for grape growing.

"While all the choice land in the valley bottom is getting snatched up by developers as quickly as dry grass burns in a desert fire, it becomes increasingly important to conserve the few remaining natural and endangered spaces that remain on the property," says 22-year-old Geordie Kennedy, a descendant of the land's original settler.

The Antelope-brush property supports more than half the Canadian population of at risk Behr's Hairstreak butterflies. These seldom-seen small orange and yellow butterflies need the Antelope-brush plant for food during their larval stage. Adult Behr's Hairstreak butterflies travel less than one



Behr's Hairstreak butterflies.

kilometre during their lifespan.

They live alongside other endangered species including bighorn sheep, the pallid bat, desert night snake, Lewis's woodpecker and the great basin spadefoot toad — an amphibian living in an arid climate that uses a spade on each foot to dig burrows to avoid cold or long dry periods.

This low-elevation desert grassland is among Canada's most endangered ecosystems. Less than nine per cent of this habitat remains undisturbed.

"Our family roots run deep in this valley. We consider ourselves to be of this land, therefore it is our duty to protect and care for it," says Geordie.

Since 1971, The Nature Trust and partners have invested more than \$80 million to secure over 70,000 hectares (173,000 acres) to protect the diversity of plants and animals across British Columbia.

Geordie's father, George Kennedy, is a professor emeritus in the University of British Columbia's faculty of land and food systems

(agriculture). Pete McIntyre was his great, great uncle.

“Over the years, our property has been repeatedly transected by transportation corridors — the railway, the highway, power lines, gas line, the construction of a dam and an irrigation channel to carry water south to Oliver and Osoyoos in the 1920s,” he says.

His family’s vision was to use only its McIntyre Bluff Ranch land, situated alongside the Okanagan River, for agriculture and to preserve the Antelope-brush property to the east.

Ten years ago, the family was able to sell two big lots to The Nature Trust, including land encompassing the canyon and the creek.

“We have been working with The Nature Trust for many years to find a way to preserve this natural desert landscape,” George Kennedy says. “It means a tremendous amount to our family to protect the land for the broader societal goals of biodiversity, and to protect endangered species for future generations.”

The Nature Trust is now working to acquire the last 34.6 hectare (85 acre) piece of the land. It is being helped by a gift from the Kennedy family through the Federal Ecological Gifts Program.

“We have raised 30 per cent of the cost with a commitment to complete the purchase in 2016,” says Nature Trust CEO Jasper Lament.

This acquisition, when added to the other conservation lands, will create the largest private holding of rare Antelope-brush habitat in the South Okanagan. It will have taken 17 years to assemble the full 152 hectares (375 acres).

Many individuals and organizations have provided support for this important land acquisition, including foundations, naturalist clubs and local, provincial and national groups.

The Nature Trust is now actively raising funds to add the last piece to complete the Antelope-brush Conservation Area. On Saturday, June 20, the 7th annual Earth Wind Fire 2015 Gala will be held at the Delta Grand Okanagan Resort in Kelowna.

Fine wines and food stations manned by some of BC’s leading chefs will make for an evening of extraordinary tastes for up to 350 guests who will be supporting a good cause. More information is available at www.naturetrustbc.bc.ca 

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

YVR EARNS SIXTH NOD AS BEST AIRPORT IN NORTH AMERICA

Vancouver International Airport (YVR) has been named No. 1 Airport in North America for the sixth year in a row by Skytrax World Airport Awards.

Known informally in the travel industry as the Passenger Choice Awards, this is the first time in Skytrax award history that an airport has maintained a No. 1 ranking for six consecutive years.

More than 13 million passenger surveys were independently conducted across 550 airports in 112 countries. The survey measures 39 dimensions of the airport experience including check-in to border clearance efficiency, transportation availability, design and layout, as well as shopping, service and dining options.

YVR was also named the best airport in the 10- to 20-million passenger category.

NEW TRADES SEATS TIED TO IN-DEMAND JOBS

The BC government is providing \$6.1 million for 1,429 additional critical-trades seats in 14 public post-secondary institutions throughout the province to reduce waitlists by an average of 44 per cent for students entering trades that are in demand by a range of industries.

The money includes funding for Northern Lights College to develop trades-training seats that support the skilled-labour requirements for the construction of the Site C Clean dam. The seats include 783 foundation seats and 646 apprenticeship seats in critical trades such as electricians, plumbers, heavy duty mechanics, pipefitters and power engineers. Foundation training programs provide students with the basic knowledge and skills needed for entry into a particular occupation. Students receive credit for the first level of apprenticeship training in a specific field by the Industry Training Authority (ITA) upon successful completion.

DATEBOOK

ALERT BAY

Alert Bay Seafest & Musicfest July 31 to Aug. 2

Summer community festival.
FMI: www.alertbayseafest.com

BELLA COOLA

Bella Coola Valley Rodeo June 27 & 28

30th annual rodeo, one of the largest in Western Canada. FMI: bellacoola.ca

CAMPBELL RIVER

Daybreak Rotary Wine & Blues Festival June 13

Fundraiser at the Maritime Heritage Centre.
FMI: Mark, 250-287-0373.

COMOX VALLEY

BC Shellfish & Seafood Festival June 12 to 21

Ninth annual celebration of local seafood.
FMI: bcshellfishfestival.com

Homecoming Week June 26 to July 5

Come celebrate Courtenay's centennial year! FMI: www.courtenay.ca

CRANBROOK

Sam Steele Days June 18 to 21

One of the Kootenays' favourite community festivals. FMI: www.samsteeledays.org

HAIDA GWAI

Skidegate Days July 16 to 19

Annual celebration in Skidegate.
FMI: www.skidegate.ca

Totem to Totem Marathon July 18

Annual marathon starts at the newly developed Haida Heritage Centre at Kaay Llnagaay, at Second Beach, in Skidegate.
FMI: www.totemtototem.com

POWELL RIVER

Powell River Sea Fair July 24 to 26

Willingdon Beach FMI: owellriverseafair.ca

VANCOUVER

FIFA Women's World Cup Soccer June 8 to July 5

Vancouver hosts nine matches, including the final. FMI: vancouver.fwwc2015.ca

VICTORIA

Aboriginal Cultural Festival June 19 to 21

Three-day celebration of Aboriginal peoples, arts and culture at the Royal BC Museum. FMI: aboriginalbc.com

WILLIAMS LAKE

Williams Lake Stampede June 26 to 29

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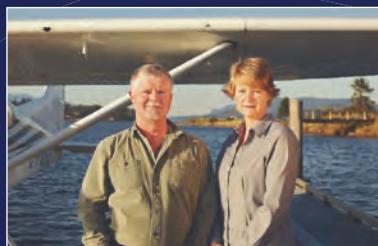
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Quartz Bay, Cortes Island: 88 acres with 5,645ft of diverse oceanfront in a sheltered, private location. Internal road network; four substantial, licensed dock systems; a newly constructed 2500sqft shop and studio accommodation; natural source ponds for domestic water and power generation. 3 oceanfront accommodations and one additional cabin.
\$1,990,000



Campbell River Riverfront Estate: 1.26 acres with 180ft of riverfront. A spectacular custom built 6300sqft home near completion, beautiful open concept design and covered riverside patio. There is a 587sqft one bedroom cottage as well as a shop and outbuildings. One of only 2 acreages on the Campbell River.
\$1,224,900



Quatsino Oceanfront: 5.85 acres with walk-on beachfront and southern exposure in the Village of Quatsino, NW Vancouver Island. 3200sqft main residence and two cottages all with extensive decks and views across Quatsino Sound. Large shop. Domestic water, septic system, 200 amp electrical service in place. Lots of value in this boat access property!
\$270,000



Quatsino Sound Oceanfront Acreage: 106 acres in two separate titles. 1300+ft of low-bank easy access south-facing oceanfront, nicely protected, with a small creek running through the property. There is forest service road access and zoning permits subdivision. Well known NW Vancouver Island region that provides excellent fishing and recreation.
\$259,000



Quadra Island Oceanfront Home: 1.01 acres with 139ft low bank beachfront. 3000sqft custom built west coast style home with hardwood floors, custom cabinetry, floor to ceiling windows, heat pump. Native timber used for framing, flooring and detailing. Garage with office plus guest suite above. Beautiful views across Sutil Channel to Cortes Island.
\$840,000



West Coast Vancouver Island: Seven oceanfront acreages in Plumper Harbour on Nootka Island. 9.88 - 11 acres with 300-500ft of ocean frontage. These undeveloped properties offer diverse shoreline, protected waters and spectacular views. Excellent access to Nootka Sound west coast fishing. Water access only, 14 miles from Tahsis. Starting at \$89,000



Malcolm Island: One acre residential property with SW exposure across the road from walk-on oceanfront in picturesque Mitchell Bay. Three structures: a 24x20 shop plus a newer 24x52 3 level structure at lock up stage for residential use and an older residence of little value. Project with opportunity! In the Broughton Archipelago.
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Bute Inlet Oceanfront: One of a kind location, 17.3 acres with over 2500ft of shoreline in spectacular Bute Inlet, one of BC's largest and most spectacular inlets/fjords. This historic homestead acreage has due south exposure and 2 small streams / creeks. Incredible views and world class fishing and hunting right off the property!
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Quadra Island Oceanfront: Forested 31.42 acre property on the SW side of the island. Gently sloped topography to the west, with 243ft of oceanfront along the shores of protected Gowlland Harbour. Large complement of huge old growth fir and cedar. The property is an old homestead, and minutes from ferry and amenities. Property is in the ALR. **\$599,000**



Large Acreage, Haida Gwaii: 102 rural acres just east of Masset on Graham Island. Road access, nice level acreage. Only remaining substantial private property in the area, this is actually in Naikoon Provincial Park across the road from North Beach's sandy dunes that stretch for miles. Amazing natural outdoor region.
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Q&A Rick Jeffery President & CEO Coast Forest Products Association

Rick Jeffery has 30 years' experience in the coast forestry sector of British Columbia. President & CEO of Coast Forest Products Association since 2004, Jeffery represents the interests of forestry companies up and down the BC coast, ensuring they have fair access to the global marketplace and are supported by government policy. With a focus on strategy, negotiation, policy and stakeholder relations, Jeffery, a professional forester with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from the University of Alberta, works with elected officials, senior bureaucrats, First Nations peoples, environmental groups, communities and others.

Q: TELL US ABOUT THE COAST FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION AND YOUR ROLE AS PRESIDENT AND CEO?

A: Coast Forest represents British Columbia's coastal forest industry. We're a trade association of 20 member companies producing a wide array of carbon-friendly, high-performing forest products including logs, lumber, pulp and paper. As President and CEO, I work with a board of directors and professionals from our member companies. Together, we provide leadership to industry, build market access for coastal forest products and collaborate with governments, stakeholders and partners to ensure the industry remains world-class, competitive and is recognized as an innovative, sustainable and key economic driver.

Q: WHAT DREW YOU TO THIS INDUSTRY, AND TO THIS ROLE?

A: I grew up on Vancouver Island. When I was younger, camping and hiking were passions and I developed a deep respect for our forests and an appreciation for the importance of the forest industry. I chose to become a professional forester because I wanted to make sure that if we were going to harvest our trees, that we do it right. From there, the rest is history.

Q: WHAT HAS BEEN THE ASSOCIATION'S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT IN RECENT YEARS?

A: The association has re-defined itself to better support the forest sector in coastal BC — and matched this with a re-brand. Coastal forestry has modernized in leaps and bounds in recent years and we've made sure our research and analysis, communications with governments and the public, and partnerships with stakeholders enhance the industry. Also

important is the humanitarian work by the industry. Japan is a long-time friend and partner of the forest sector. After towns were devastated in the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, the forest industry partnered with the federal and provincial governments to rebuild several key community buildings in Japan to help restore their communities and lives. We did a similar thing in China after the Schezuan earthquake.

Q: WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING YOUR GROUP?

A: Bar none, it's ensuring that the coast forest sector remains competitive. The global marketplace is dynamic —and our companies are right in the thick of it. Coastal forestry contributes almost \$400 million to the BC economy. The Business Council of BC just noted that forest products remain the largest economic driver so relentlessly pursuing competitiveness is very important. If we want to continue to have a vibrant, healthy forest industry, we need to ensure a stable supply of wood and conditions that attract ongoing investment so our products are cost-competitive and sustainable.

Q: WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES?

A: We're proud to be recognized as a world leader in sustainable forest management. We plant over 17 million seedlings every year and we're known for advanced building systems and environmentally superior products. And as a high-tech industry, we are constantly innovating. ■



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