

# SOAR

Inflight  
Magazine for  
Pacific Coastal  
Airlines

## Heads up!

Travels on the BC Bird Trail

### MOGULS, MULLIGANS AND MOUNTAIN BIKES

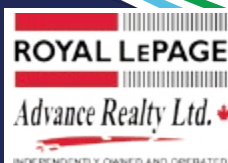
A winter getaway  
in Kamloops

### DIGGING FOR HISTORY

Mines and mine sites  
to visit in BC

*Pacific Coastal*  
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**Centre Island: 110 acre** private island in **Esperanza Inlet**, on the west coast of **Vancouver Island** near **Nootka Sound**. Two significant and protected bays provide access to a road network and a one room cabin plus workshop. Year-round water sources. Complement of equipment and materials on site. Protected location with quick access to the open **Pacific Ocean**.

**\$1,890,000**



**Cortes Island Oceanfront Residence: 2.1 acres** with **268ft** of walk-on oceanfront in **Gorge Harbour**. Welcoming modern **2256sqft** home with **3 bedrooms** and **3 bathrooms**, open concept kitchen and living space. Lots of appealing features. Expansive partially covered deck overlooking the gardens and ocean. **19x26ft** shop with power. A beautiful and well-kept oceanfront island home and property.

**\$1,200,000**



**West Coast Vancouver Island: 1920sqft** residence in Haggard Cove, part of a water access strata community at the entrance to **Alberni Inlet**. Easy access to **Barkley Sound**, **Broken Islands Group** and the open **Pacific** for fishing, boating, kayaking and wildlife viewing. Community has a substantial marina in a protected location. The home, which overlooks the marina, is a great layout for a large family/group.

**\$490,000**



**Discovery Islands Acreage: 1.7** oceanfront acres. The perfect retreat or off-grid home location in popular **Owen Bay** on **Sonora Island**! Nicely treed, with a relatively level and friendly topography. **283ft** primarily rocky low bank shoreline providing easy access to the tidal water between **Sonora** and **Busby Islands**. **Owen Bay** is a popular recreational development and historic location.

**\$133,000**



**Vancouver Island Opportunity: 14 room** motel with commercial kitchen, restaurant space, one bedroom owner/manager's suite and management office. Guest rooms each have a **3 piece bathroom** and come furnished. High demand for long-term and short-term rental accommodations in the area, or use for commercial crews. In the **Village of Zeballos** on the west coast of the island.

**\$629,000**



**Nootka Sound Shellfish Tenure: 3.7 acre** intertidal beachfront tenure actively farmed for over **20 years**. Good boat access location in **Nootka Sound**, off the west coast of **Vancouver Island**. Productive oyster and clam site, management plan in place and limited equipment required.

**\$99,000**

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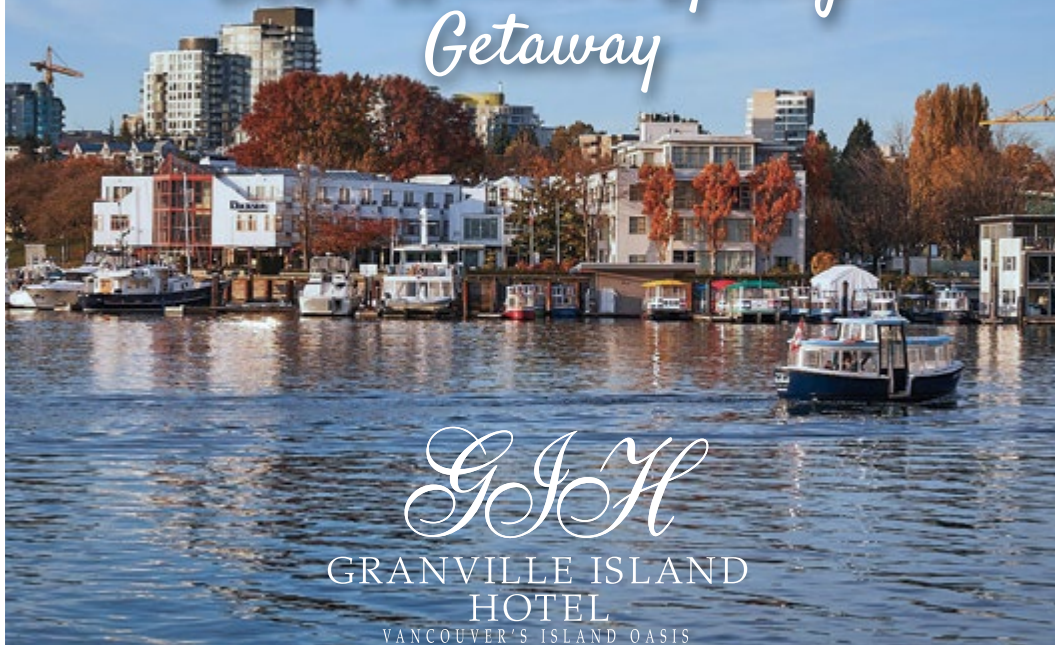
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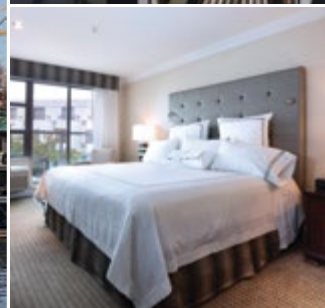


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# A NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGES BUT SAME COMMITMENT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As 2021 ended, I am sure we all believed that by this time, COVID-19 would be a distant memory and we would be transitioning back to “business as usual.”

Last spring, we began to emerge from the pandemic with a renewed level of optimism, seeing an increase in leisure travel again. However, as the year 2021 progressed, we suffered through the hottest summer, worst wildfire season and extreme storms. The devastating floods in British Columbia affected many communities and our teams worked quickly to help transport passengers and cargo safely, and to provide additional flights where we were able. It is during these tough times that we see our people and communities all come together to support each other when we need it the most.

As we enter 2022, the start to the year has been challenging as we face COVID-19 and the omicron variant. Not only were we forced to reduce our flight schedule, we also had to make the difficult, yet necessary decision to temporarily suspend all network operations on January 2 and 3, due to the rapid transmission of omicron that we experienced within our operating team.

To those impacted by our schedule disruption, I would like to sincerely apologize, as I know we let you down during this holiday season. As much as

our employees worked extremely hard to take care of you and to operate safely, we unquestionably fell short of the standard level of service on which all of us at Pacific Coastal take pride.

COVID-19 has been a challenge for the aviation and travel industry and we continue to work towards both short- and long-term solutions to ensure no further operational interruptions.

Through the entire period of the pandemic, Pacific Coastal Airlines has continued to provide a vital connection to communities for health, commerce and the uniting of friends and family. We remain committed to our customers and we will continue to offer a schedule that supports the communities that we serve. We are looking towards the future and excited to see new faces this year, as well as our returning customers onboard with us again.

I want to thank all of our customers, partners and employees for your continued understanding, patience and support, and we look forward to welcoming you aboard in 2022.

Stay safe, stay healthy and thank you for choosing to fly with Pacific Coastal Airlines. ✈️



**Quentin Smith**





For the second straight year, Rossland is ranked the top ski town in Canada.  
(Jim Bailey photo)

## Rossland named top ski town in Canada

By Jim Bailey, *westcoastraveller.com*

➔ **ROSSLAND:** For the second straight year, the City of Rossland has been voted the top ski town in Canada.

*USA Today's* Top 10 Ski Towns poll ranks Rossland as Canada's number one ski town and places it among the top three in North America.

Rossland is home to RED Mountain, known for its amazing powder and CAT skiing. The popular destination has also undertaken a massive terrain expansion in the last decade.

Covering 3,850 acres of incredible and readily accessible runs, it puts RED in the top 10 ski hills, size-wise, in North America.

The area around Rossland is also renowned as one of North America's top spots for mountain biking and hiking in summer, and for its epic cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails in the winter. And the relaxed and friendly, small-yet-unique town has an abundance of amenities.

Rossland placed second in all of North America in last year's *USA Today* poll behind North Conway, New Hamp-

shire, but this year Red River in New Mexico earned the number one ski town honour across the continent, with North Conway taking second place.

The top ski towns are chosen by a panel of experts who partner with *USA Today's* 10 Best editors to pick the initial nominees. The top 10 winners are then determined by popular vote.

Nelson earned the third spot for Canadian ski towns and ninth best ski town overall, while Banff came in fifth overall and second in Canada.

## Exhibit celebrates Inuit art

➔ **KELOWNA:** A new exhibition at the Kelowna Art Gallery brings together three distinct but connected narratives, exploring the past and present of Inuit creative expression. Titled *A Story in Three Parts: Ashevak, Pootoogook, Isuma*, the exhibit runs until May 8.

"Okanagan audiences are in for a treat. This will be the first time we've shown work by these groundbreaking artists," says Nataley Nagy, executive director at the gallery. "The breathtaking prints, eerie and playful monochromatic drawings, along with the film and video works, will transport patrons thousands of miles away to the Canadian Arctic."

The exhibition features the work of Kenojuak Ashevak (1927–2013) and Sharni Pootoogook (1922–2003), early generation Kinngait (formerly Cape Dorset) artists who became two of the first to create drawings, prints and sculptures under the auspices of the West Baffin Eskimo Cooperative.

Both were instrumental in establishing the global importance of Canada's Inuit art movement. It was 50 years ago (in 1970) that Ashevak's *The Enchanted Owl* was reproduced by Canada Post on a six-



Kenojuak Ashevak in her studio.

# MEET A PACIFIC COASTAL EMPLOYEE: TRACY



**Position:** Technical Records Administrator

**Location:** Vancouver Maintenance

**Time with PASCO:** Over 24.5 years

**Job description:** Data entry of all work accomplished on our fleet aircraft; assisting with reliability reports for the quality assurance manager; and sending monthly reports to management.

## Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Birmingham, England and grew up in York, England. I moved to Canada in 1992.

## What do you like best about this job?

The people I work with make my job easier. I have made a lot of great friends here over the years.

## What are your hobbies outside of the job?

I enjoy spending time with my family, and travelling, usually to Hawaii.

## What is your favourite thing to do in your city?

My husband I enjoy walking along the pier and biking around the trails.



cent stamp commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Northwest Territories.

This marked the first time a female Inuit artist's work had ever been displayed on a Canadian stamp.

Flash forward to 1990 when Isuma—the third part of the story and Canada's inaugural Inuit-owned independent production company—was formed. Isuma received global recognition for its first feature-length drama *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*, when it won the *Caméra d'Or* at the Cannes Film Festival in 2001.

At the presentation in Kelowna, visitors will be able to watch *Ataguttaluk—A Life to Live For* (2020), a 37-minute experimental documentary created by filmmaker Carol Kunnuk. This powerful film set in the early 1900s tells the story of a woman who survived famine to become one of the most important residents of Igloolik.

Behind the exhibition is curator, educator and writer William Huffman. He divides his time between Kinngait, Nunavut and Toronto, working with the West Baffin Eskimo Cooperative, which provides him with a unique lens.

"Beautiful, vibrant, colourful, yet brooding, stark and sometimes haunting—these are the curious contradictions which are analogous to life in the Canadian Arctic," says Huffman.

The Kelowna Art Gallery is located in the heart of the city's cultural district at 1315 Water Street.

## Two new ale trails announced

➔ VANCOUVER: The BC Ale Trail has made it easier for beer lovers to explore the far reaches of the province with the launch of two new ale trails: Northeast BC and Northwest BC.

Previously known as the Northern BC Ale Trail, the new trails now split the large northern half of BC into two, making it easier for visitors to take in each region as they were meant to be explored: one region at a time.

"The Northern BC Ale Trail was the original trail," said Monica Frost, BC Ale Trail project leader. "Once Fort St. John and Dawson Creek joined, however, it was a real trek for beer lovers. By splitting them into the east and west corners of the province, we were able to create more engaging itineraries and allow visitors to truly take in the unique experiences that both regions have to offer."

The Northeast BC Ale Trail takes visitors on an adventure of a lifetime, with a touch of history. The trail includes Fort St. John's Beard's Brewing and Mighty Peace Brewing, Post & Row Taphouse in Dawson Creek, Barkerville Brewing in Quesnel, Fox Mountain Brewing in Williams Lake, and Three Ranges





# UN-ORDINARY YOUR DAY

CAMP  
BELL  
RIVER

Āmatax<sup>w</sup>, Campbell River, is nestled within the territory of the Liḡwildaḡ<sup>w</sup> peoples; the WeWaiKai, WeiWaiKum, and Kwikiah Nations; here there are no borders between city and nature. Āmatax<sup>w</sup>, Campbell River is located in the heart of the Discovery Passage, a small city nestled in nature, surrounded by the wild, with all the comforts of home. Explore your perfect itinerary and get inspired to plan your stay, from where to grab your morning coffee to the best places to explore the great outdoors and discover our community culture.

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**7AM**



**START YOUR DAY  
IN COMFORT**

**10AM**



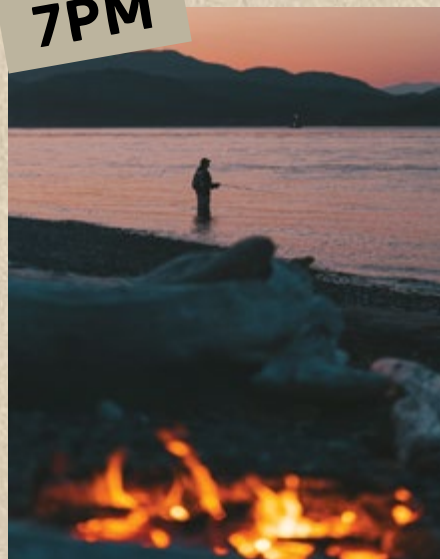
**EXPLORE THE GREAT  
OUTDOORS**

**3PM**



**DISCOVER THE  
COMMUNITY CULTURE**

**7PM**



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"Victoria Ridge" in *Relief: A Transformative Journey Through the Rockies* at Bateman Gallery.

Brewing in Valemount.

The Northwest BC Ale Trail promises four seasons of adventure and craft beer, starting with Wheelhouse Brewing in Prince Rupert, Sherwood Mountain Brewhouse in nearby Terrace, Bulkley Valley Brewery and Smithers Brewing in Smithers, Ursa Minor Brewing in Burns Lake, and finally, CrossRoads Brewing & Distillery as well as Trench Brewing & Distilling, both in Prince George.

The launch of the two ale trails marks the 24th and 25th ale trails in the BC Ale Trail network and brings the total craft breweries participating in the BC Ale Trail to more than 180. Plan your Northeast and Northwest BC Ale Trail visits today with the BC Ale Trail app, or visit [bcal-etraill.com](http://bcal-etraill.com) for more information.

## Iconic Canadian landscapes

➔ **VICTORIA:** In 2017, Calgary native Robert Lemermeyer started hiking in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. His drive to conquer these peaks was soon replaced by a deepening relationship with his son, Yuri, and a growing passion for nature photography. Lemermeyer discovered that time spent in nature was directly correlated with a positive boost to his mental health and wellbeing. With each scramble, the transformative power of nature was unlocked.

*Relief: A Transformative Journey Through the Rockies* is a new in-house exhibit at the Bateman Gallery. It explores the magic of nature through a spectacular collection of images. Each photograph captures a

special moment spent among the untameable majesty of the Rocky Mountains, accompanied by journal entries that offer a window into the artist's physical and mental journey. Viewers are invited to slow down, take a breath and enjoy an immersive experience.

"This is the most meaningful and passionate work of my career and it is an absolute honour and privilege to be exhibited by the Bateman Gallery," Lemermeyer said. "I am so grateful for this incredible opportunity. It is my heartfelt wish to inspire people to get out into nature and let the healing, learning and transformation begin in their lives. It quite literally 'saved' me for which I am so grateful."

*Relief* will be on display at the Bateman Gallery in Victoria's Inner Harbour until January 29. Photographs from the exhibit will be available for purchase with the proceeds supporting the artist and the ongoing work of the Bateman Foundation to build relationships with nature. The Bateman Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm. Admission is by donation.

## Scholarships for Indigenous artists

➔ **VANCOUVER:** Applications for two scholarship programs for Indigenous artists are due at the end of January.

In the Emerging Artist Scholarship Program, the YVR Art Foundation provides \$5,000 art scholarships annually for emerging BC and Yukon Indigenous

visual artists (age 17-29) to work with a mentor artist or attend a school of art.

Eligibility includes being of BC or Yukon First Nations ancestry, residing in BC or the Yukon, being between the ages of 17 and 29, creating visual art that reflects BC or Yukon First Nations culture, having the goal of becoming a professional artist, and having been accepted to study/work with an artist.

For the Mid-Career Artist Scholarship Program, the YVR Art Foundation provides \$5,000 art scholarships annually for BC and Yukon Indigenous mid-career visual artists (age 30+) to work with a master artist, attend a school of art or work on a special project of cultural significance to the artist's community.

To be eligible for a YVR Art Foundation Mid-Career Artist Scholarship applicants must: be of BC or Yukon First Nations ancestry; reside in BC or Yukon; be age 30-plus; create visual art that reflects BC or Yukon First Nations culture; wish to further their visual art career and/or extend their work into a new scale or area; have completed art training; worked with an artist mentor or have a combination of similar experience; have achieved local and/or provincial recognition through public presentation of their artwork; be able to submit a portfolio of artwork that demonstrates commitment; and be accepted to study/work with a master artist, attend a school of art or work on a special project that is of cultural significance to the artist's community.

Applications for both are due on or before January 27 at 4 pm and can be found at [yvraf.com/programs](http://yvraf.com/programs). Questions may be directed to: [programs@yvraf.com](mailto:programs@yvraf.com) or by phone at 604.276.6261 📞





Tobiano is one of BC's top-ranked golf courses.  
Photo by New Parallel Productions.

# Moguls, mulligans and mountain bikes

## Kamloops is the perfect spot for a winter holiday

**K**amloops is the BC interior's ultimate four-season destination, where real places and rough edges are the norm. Home to two ski hills within a 45-minute drive and eight diverse golf courses that begin to open in early March, this serendipitous overlap creates a rare opportunity for hitting the slopes and slaying the links in the same day.

Grab the clubs and the skis,

and make your way to Kamloops this spring to tick a moguls-and-mulligans holiday off the bucket list.

### Manifest a morning of moguls

At Kamloops' two ski resorts, first-chair breakfast laps are a real thing, and the challenge is to see how many runs you can ski before noon.

Located just 20 minutes from Kamloops, Harper Mountain has been a family-owned-and-operated ski resort

for over 40 years, offering 1,400 vertical feet of elevation on over 400 acres of skiable terrain.

If travelling light is your gig, the staff here can gear you up with equipment rentals if needed.

Après-ski occurs in the rustic lodge with a full hot food menu, hot chocolate and a renowned mulled wine—best enjoyed cosied up by a large, wood-burning fireplace.

If exploring like a local is your jam,





Harper Mountain in Kamloops offers 1,400 vertical feet of elevation on over 400 acres of skiable terrain. Photo by Dylan Sherrard.

If a ski in the morning and a round of golf in the afternoon somehow isn't enough, head for the hills (the dirt hills, that is) and mountain bike Kamloops' classic single track.

stay in Kamloops and ski at Sun Peaks Resort, Canada's second largest ski area.

Located 45 minutes north of Kamloops, carve into the BC Interior's light, dry snow via 13 lifts and 137 trails, including 19 gladed areas.

Grab lunch and tour the resort's European-style, ski-through village before warming up for your afternoon round. Sun Peaks' quaint village is filled with shops, cafes and restaurants perfect for après-ski.

### **From ski to tee early this year**

Are your legs burning from big laps of cord turns? It's time to give your arms a workout swinging for birdies on the golf course.

While our neighbours to the east in Alberta won't be hitting the greens until mid-May, Kamloops typically sees low elevation courses such as The Dunes and Rivershore Golf Links opening early March. These openings are followed closely behind by Eagle Point Golf Club, The Kamloops Golf & Country Club, Bighorn Golf & Country Club, and BC's top-ranked Tobiano Golf Course and Talking Rock Golf Course.

You can swing without crowds; the dress code is relaxed and the vibe is friendly. Golf in Kamloops is just pure fun! With plenty of spring sunshine, amazing conditions and an eight-month golf season, Kamloops offers an unparalleled golf and ski getaway this spring.

### **Make it a hat-trick**

If a ski in the morning and a round of golf in the afternoon somehow isn't enough, head for the hills (the dirt hills, that is) and mountain bike Kamloops' classic single track.

Kamloops is world renowned as the birthplace of freeriding and recognized





Talking Rock Golf Course.

for its diverse trails. So, take advantage of early spring riding in BC's interior at Lac du Bois Grasslands—the first riding area to open for the season.

Whether your goal is conquering this outdoor trifecta, or a double or solo sports adventure, March in Kamloops is fantastic. So, board a plane, start the car,

or hop on the bus and make your way to Kamloops for an epic spring adventure. Learn more: [tourismkamloops.com](https://tourismkamloops.com) 🏔️



**Minutes from Sun Peaks Resort – Canada's 2nd Largest Ski Area**





# powder at sunrise

Spring in Kamloops delivers the anticipated time of year where outdoor enthusiasts get the best of both worlds in one day. Strap on skis or a board for a morning of groomers and deep carves then swing your way to the first tee for 18-holes of golf in the afternoon.



par-tee at sunset

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

[golfkamloops.com](http://golfkamloops.com)

# Hooked on ice-fishing

## Five spots to fish and camp in BC this winter

By Black Press staff, [westcoasttraveller.com](http://westcoasttraveller.com)

Ice-fishing is often overlooked as a winter activity, especially for those living in southern BC. But fishing doesn't stop when the temperatures drop—it only gets more exciting.

Ice-fishing is an activity that requires limited gear and experience. When solidly frozen, an entire lake becomes accessible without use of a boat, and if you're ice-fishing, you don't need any complicated casting techniques. It's as simple as drilling a hole and dropping a line.

It is important to exercise caution, however. Always make sure the ice is thick enough: it needs to be at least 10 centimetres (four inches) thick if you're fishing alone, and at least 38 centimetres (15 inches) thick before you can drive a truck onto it. Remember that a freshwater fishing licence is still required for ice-fishing, and that you should check regulations for any closures or restrictions.

With these points in mind, along with some basic gear, prepare for fun times on the ice this winter. And with many parks open year-round and located close to great hard-water lakes, you can make a wintertime camping trip out of it.

Here are five BC spots with recreational vehicle or camping spots close by:

### 1. Ness Lake (Prince George)

Ness Lake is stocked with both Kokanee and rainbow trout. There's also brook char. Ice-fishing gear and an auger can be borrowed for free for up to a week from the Prince George Visitor Centre. Hartway RV Park is a 20-minute drive from Ness Lake.

### 2. Alleyne Lake (near Merritt)

Kokanee offer an exciting winter fishing option in this lake. (Neighbouring lake, Kentucky SE Pothole, located 50 metres east of Kentucky Lake, is closed



With many BC parks open year-round that are close to great hard-water lakes, it's easy to plan a wintertime fishing and camping trip.

to ice-fishing, however.) The Alleyne campground in Kentucky-Alleyne Provincial Park remains open during the winter with no services or fees.

### 3. Swan Lake (near Vernon)

This is a great spot to fish in the winter, although you should exercise extreme caution to ensure the lake is entirely frozen before venturing out. Swan Lake is located just minutes away from Vernon's downtown centre. Swan Lake RV Resort, Swan Lake RV Park & Campground, and Cedar Falls Campground RV Park all remain open during the winter.

### 4. Edith Lake (Kamloops)

Target both brook char and rainbow trout in Edith Lake. A BC recreation site is located at Edith Lake, but services may be limited during winter months. Alternatively, drive 25 minutes into Kamloops, where options include Kamloops River-view RV Park and Sunnyside Heights RV & MH Park.

### 5. Whiteswan Lake (Cranbrook)

If the Lussier Hot Springs aren't reason enough to try ice-fishing at Whiteswan Lake, the quality of the rainbow trout in this lake is. Since the East Kootenays can be very cold, make sure you pack along appropriate warm clothing. Winter camping is permitted at the Inlet Creek and White River campgrounds in Whiteswan Provincial Park. Nearby, Fairmont Hot Springs RV Park is another option.

To see a complete list of camping and recreational vehicle parks open year-round, visit: [campingrvbc.com/winter](http://campingrvbc.com/winter). 🏕️

*Special thanks to Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC. Learn more at: [gofishbc.com](http://gofishbc.com)*



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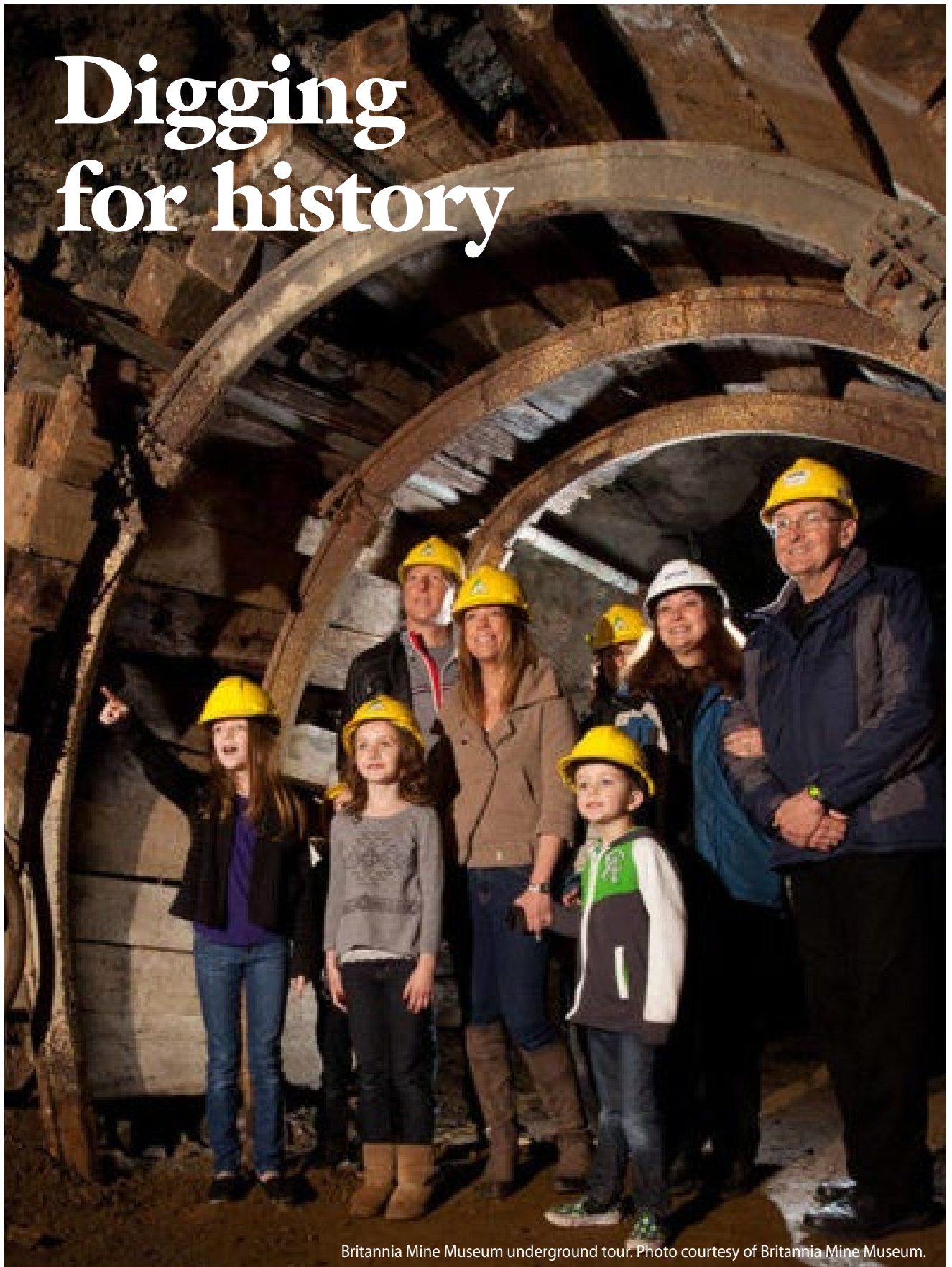
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# Digging for history



Britannia Mine Museum underground tour. Photo courtesy of Britannia Mine Museum.

## Mines and mine sites to visit in BC

By Joanne Hill, [westcoastraveller.com](http://westcoastraveller.com)



**A**s soon as humans realized they could extract stuff from the ground and put it to use or turn it into beautiful things, they've been digging.

Many civilizations have used the spoils recovered to fashion items of value and practicality.

It's hard to ignore the allure of gold, and there was plenty of that about years ago, and a fever to find it! BC's population exploded with the gold rush, bringing in thousands of hopefuls, here to strike it rich.

While many of them didn't find monetary riches, they did stick around, contributing to the growth of the province both above and below ground.

Gold fever aside, BC is rich in many other minerals, and industries need all sorts of things from the belly of the earth to make them tick. From early steam engines to modern-day computers and electric cars, many of the necessary ingredients to make things run are found underground right here in BC.

Interested in digging up some history? Read on for sites to visit in BC.

### **The pride of the Commonwealth**

If you have a yearning to actually go down a mine, then Squamish's Britannia Mine Museum, once the largest copper mine in the British Commonwealth, is a great place to start. Over the 70 years it was operational, it produced more than 50 million tons of ore that yielded copper, zinc, lead, cadmium, silver and gold.

Among the many informative exhibits is a mine train that takes visitors into the chilly depths of the mine just like it carried miners in 1914. If you prefer to stay above ground, check out the other exhibits, including 17 original buildings and the immersive new *Boom!* exhibit which brings the mine to life with seat-rumbling special effects.

One more level of cachet—the

**Gold fever aside, BC is rich in many other minerals, and industries need all sorts of things from the belly of the earth to make them tick. From early steam engines to modern-day computers and electric cars, many of the necessary ingredients to make things run are found underground right here in BC.**

---

mine has been used in both *The X-Files* and *Supernatural* TV shows.

### **Industrial history and après-ski**

The Rossland Museum presents the history and heritage of the Rossland area. It has exhibits that explore the town's main industry of mining, as well as its social, cultural and sports history.

It's located on the site of the Le Roi Gold Mine, a mine that began with the gold rush in Rossland and was open from 1890 to 1934. Here, you can learn about the geological history of the area and understand the importance of industrial mineral extraction in Canada's history, all while getting a first-hand look at the culture that sprang up around the town.

### **Mining on a massive scale**

The Bullion Pit differs a bit from the other types of mines and mine museums. Located just three miles from Likely, BC, the astonishing man-made gorge, Bullion Pit, measures over three kilometres in length and nearly a quarter of a kilometre wide.

It was once the largest hydraulic placer mine in world, operating from 1892 to 1942.

The trail to access it is relatively easy, although steep in one section; it winds through the site of the Bullion Pit hydraulic mine, offering a view of the man-made canyon from the days of the gold rush.

Some of the mining equipment is available to view, and with a little bit of imagination, it helps show what it might have been like in its heyday.

### **Morden Colliery Historic Provincial Park**

The Friends of Morden Mine advocated for the funding to preserve the historical structures for future generations and in 2019, the provincial government committed \$1.4 million to restore the Morden Mine head frame and tippie structure in Nanaimo's Morden Colliery Historic Provincial Park.

The structure, built in 1912, was in danger of collapse and since it is a rare surviving example of a Vancouver Island coal mine, it was deemed worthy of preservation.


Coal mining and resource extraction dominated life in the region for nearly a century, and drove non-native settlement too. Here, you'll find the most complete remaining complex of coal-mining surface structures on Vancouver Island. It's well worth a look.

### **Another island mine**

Cumberland was an early coal-mining town. Today, the Cumberland Museum tells the story of the people of Cumberland, displaying a diverse collection that explores the history of the miners who came to work here, and the community that grew up around them.

Find out about the history of labour disputes in the mining world, the history of the railway that ran between Union Bay and Cumberland, and the many businesses that served workers and settlers.

### **Royal BC Museum**

For those looking for an indoor-and-definitely-not-underground adventure, the Royal BC Museum offers a comprehensive look at the history of the province, including great mining exhibits that bring the past to life in an indoor setting! 



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# Heads up!



Eagles outside of Rowena's Inn, Harrison River. Photo courtesy Tourism Harrison.

## Travels on the BC Bird Trail

By Lin Stranberg

**W**e wanted to get outside, get out of our comfort zone and try something new. When the BC Bird Trail launched last year, it sounded like just what we were looking for. And the more we found out, the more we realized we didn't have to be dedicated birdwatchers to get out in glorious nature and have some fun looking at birds. It's something everyone can do, regardless of experience, fitness or skill.

We didn't even have to drive too far to get started. Of the four trails on the BC Bird Trail—located on Central Vancouver Island, in the Fraser Valley,

on the South Fraser and in the Columbia Valley—we choose to drive to the city of Richmond to explore part of the South Fraser Trail. Richmond is the heart of BC's Pacific Flyway, a major stop for migratory birds flying from the far north to Patagonia, and home of some of the best birding in North America.

We booked some time with guide Liron Gertsman, who led us on a fine walk at Terra Nova Rural Park, pointing out various species as we went. We saw dozens of white snow geese, whose breeding ground is on Wrangel Island off northern Russia; they were

just chilling around a stretch of grass across from a residential area. Tens of thousands of these birds pass through the area every fall to rest and dig for rhizomes in the marsh plants.

After a couple of fascinating hours of birding, we went for dim sum and ate some of the best Shanghai dumplings in existence, we're sure, at Fisherman's Terrace Seafood Restaurant, upstairs in the Aberdeen Centre. The egg custards (dan tat) were superb. We finished it off with a little holiday shopping downstairs, and felt we had been on a mini-holiday, although we were back home in Vancouver in 20 minutes.



Dozens and dozens of splendid bald eagles perched high in the trees around us, their distinctive white heads bright in the autumn sunshine.

---

Spurred on by the fun we had in Richmond, and having heard of the thousands of bald eagles that flock to BC every November and December to feed on spawned-out salmon, we decided to head to Harrison Mills, the epicentre of the Fraser Valley Trail, to check it out. Nearly extinct not too long ago, the iconic raptors have bounced back and are now easy to find in this part of BC. The valley hosts over 250 pairs of nesting bald eagles, and thousands more migrate here over the winter. November to January is the best time to see them.

We arrived in beautiful Harrison Hot Springs, had a bite at Muddy Waters Café, and walked along the promenade to the main wharf, where we hopped aboard a Harrison Eco Tours jet boat to see the bald eagles from the Harrison River. We heard their high-pitched calls before we spotted them. Our first look at these majestic birds was thrilling. There seemed to be a big concentration near the shoreline of Rowena's Inn, so we were happy we had booked a cabin there. Their website has a section titled "Eagles," so we figured we would be in the right place. And we were.

Harrison Mills is home to the largest concentrated wintering bald eagle gathering in the world. That's right—the world. The eagles come to dine on some of the millions of spawning salmon that travel up the Fraser River to tributaries such as the Harrison River, which hosts all five species of salmon plus a size-



Eagle in Harrison Mills. Photo by Lin Stranberg.

able population of sea-run cutthroat trout. Harrison River was designated an International Salmon Stronghold in 2010. It's one of the most ecologically significant Pacific salmon rivers in North America and one of the most productive salmon ecosystems in the Pacific.

A short walk behind our cabin led us to a clearly marked path winding through the woods, across the golf course and down to a covered lookout over the water. It could not have been more convenient—or more jaw-dropping. Dozens and dozens of splendid bald eagles perched high in the trees around us, their distinctive white heads bright in the autumn sunshine. The eagles are there from November to January, following the salmon run in late October.

Seeing the eagles was so soul-satisfying, we wanted more. We had heard of the abundance of eagles in Brackendale, north of Squamish. It is not on the BC Bird Trail officially yet, but we

think it deserves to be, especially in December and January.

Squamish is a wildly beautiful place and Brackendale was loaded with bald eagles. Even the bridge near our cabin at Sunwolf offered a captivating spot to watch the eagles soaring overhead and sitting in the trees along the banks. It was unforgettable and we were dazzled by it all.

Our most vivid memory, though, was a half-day eagle float down the Cheakamus with the Squamish Rafting Company. Bald eagles were everywhere—in the sky, in the trees and along the shoreline. Our two excellent guides helped us spot them up close as we drank in the clean air, the peace and the rugged mountain scenery. We returned to our dreamy little cabin, which felt like the book-lined mountain cabin we had always yearned for, and made a pact to go birdwatching every year.

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## See.

See the sights at Harrison Hot Springs, where the mountains ring the clear waters of Harrison Lake. This is Sasquatch country, so you'll see wooden sasquatch sculptures along the beachside walkway and around the village. Sasquatch, known as Bigfoot in the western US, was revered by the Sts'ailes First Nation, who believed it lived in both the physical and spiritual realms. Visit the tiny Sasquatch Museum if you can. And see the clay masks on the trees along the Spirit Trail, a short walk through a cedar forest just off McCombs Drive, heading south from the lake.

## Do.

Do take advantage of local knowledge by booking tours to heighten your experience and connect with the community. These are the three tours we took, and they were the highlights of our birding adventures: in Richmond, Bird-watching 101 with Liron Gertsman ([vancouverbirdingtours.co](http://vancouverbirdingtours.co)); in Harrison, eagle tours with Harrison Ec tours ([harrisonecotours.com](http://harrisonecotours.com));



Sun Wolf cabins. Photo by Taylor Burk.

in Squamish, wilderness float tours with Squamish Rafting Company ([squamish-rafting.com](http://squamish-rafting.com)). Also, do some local research before you go. These websites should help: The BC Bird Trail, [bcbirdtrail.ca](http://bcbirdtrail.ca); Richmond Tourism, [visitrichmondbc.com](http://visitrichmondbc.com); Harrison Tourism, [tourismharrison.com](http://tourismharrison.com); Squamish Tourism, [exploresquamish.com](http://exploresquamish.com).

## Eat.

The food and eateries we visited varied wildly, yet the quality was high everywhere. From the excellent Chinese flavours at Fisherman's Terrace Sea Food Restaurant in Richmond to the casual west coast menu at The

Clubhouse at Rowena's Inn in Harrison Mills and the healthy fare at Muddy Waters Café in Harrison Hot Springs, we ate well on the BC Bird Trail. In Brackendale, we

enjoyed breakfasts at Fergie's and onsite at Sunwolf Riveerside Resort, and dinner at one of our favourite places, the WaterShed Grill, overlooking the Squamish River. (The outside appears as Jack's Bar in the Netflix series "Virgin River.")

## Sleep.

Rowena's Inn is a prime bald eagle viewing destination. It's part of the Sandpiper Golf Resort, a well-groomed, 160-acre estate on the Harrison River with a scenic 18-hole golf course, historic colonial-style inn, four classic cabins, four luxury cabins, a restaurant, live eagle cameras, sweeping river views and its own private airstrip. Sunwolf Riverside Resort, on five acres of woodland near the convergence of the Cheekye and Cheakamus rivers in Brackendale, offers up-mountain, open-hearted hospitality, where you're likely to strike up easy conversations with the Sunwolf team or your fellow guests as you disconnect from technology. Both are wonderful. 🏡



Fergie's.  
Photo by Darby Magill



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Von Rywaczuk laughs as he cradles Halo the swan in his arms after rescuing her from Elliot Lake. (Photo submitted)

# Elliot Lake swan gets a second chance at life

*By Patrick Davies, westcoasttraveller.com*

**"Halo"  
transported  
to Burnaby  
Wildlife  
Centre by  
Pacific Coastal  
Airlines**

**W**hen a swan began breaking through a thin film of ice on Elliot Lake last November, Jamie Hughes-Rywaczuk knew something was wrong.

The South Cariboo resident had been watching the swan, dubbed "Halo" by her daughters, for a couple of weeks. While other swans would come and go, Halo never joined them, continuing to swim around the lake, located 55 minutes south of the Pacific Coastal Airlines destination of Williams Lake.

"There would be days where she would just touch her head on her back and coast on the waves. Other swans

would fly in, she'd honk at them, they'd leave, but she would stay," Jamie said. "Then the pond froze and we started getting really worried about her because she still wasn't leaving."

While letting her dogs out of the house one day in November, Jamie heard a crashing sound coming from the water. When she investigated, she found Halo trying to break the ice so she could move.

Jamie, who has rescued a wide range of birds, including barn owls, ducks and robins in the past, immediately called the Second Chance

While letting her dogs out of the house one day in November, Jamie heard a crashing sound coming from the water. When she investigated, she found Halo trying to break the ice so she could move.

Animal Rescue Society, a non-profit registered charity based in Alberta with volunteers across western Canada. She was put in touch with Williams Lake-based volunteer Sue Burton, who arrived at noon to help her catch the swan.

However, Halo proved spirited. When Jamie took her kayak out on the lake—breaking the thin film of ice as she went—Halo couldn't be caught.

"We realized then we weren't going to get her unless we used a fishing boat," Jamie said. "Chad Paterson and my husband Von went out around 4:30 Monday afternoon and caught up with her. Halo was really trying to get away from them and was only flapping one wing."

Using a net, Von pulled Halo towards the boat so he could grab her by the neck and bring her aboard. By that point, Jamie said, the bird was exhausted and didn't even fight. The swan was placed in a crate and spent the night with Jamie.

On Tuesday, Jamie took Halo to Burton in Williams Lake, who had her checked out at the local animal care hospital. The hospital staff determined her wing was sprained and strained but treatable. Burton said the swan was then flown via Pacific Coastal Airlines to the Burnaby Wildlife Centre for treatment and rehabilitation.

"If the wing had been broken or if she had been too sick or emaciated, she may not have gotten the opportunity to be rehabilitated. But because it's just sprained, Halo is getting a second chance at life," Jamie said.

Jamie added the rescue was an amazing experience, noting she had never fully appreciated just how big swans were until they brought Halo ashore. She joked that given how much Halo hissed at them, they should have called her Hades.

"The guys rescued her in front of eight kids and this will stick with them, I think. They'll hopefully carry it forward in their lives and be the helpers in the world," Jamie said. "A life is a life and you have to at least try. Seeing that Halo had the energy and spunk to try to get away meant I couldn't live with myself if she ended up freezing to the pond or starving."

Sue Burton said it's moments like these that keep her volunteering. There are too many people who would have left Halo to her fate, she added, noting it's "really refreshing" to meet someone like Jamie.

Jamie said she would like to get proper wildlife rescue training so she can do more locally for animals in distress. She also encourages the community to consider



Chad Paterson (left) holds a crate steady with Alan Hughes as Von Rywaczuk prepares to load Halo the swan into the crate, while Melissa Cadsand watches. (Photo submitted)

donating to groups like the Second Chance Animal Rescue Society. 



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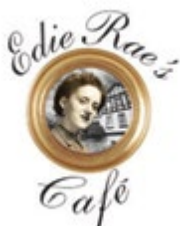


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The author and her daughters "back in the day."

# On the road

## His-and-hers driving souvenirs

*Tales of parenthood and slice-of-life situations abound in this new humour book by Susan J. Lundy (editor of *Soar* and several other Black Press Media publications). In the following excerpt from **Home on the Strange: Chronicles of Motherhood, Mayhem and Matters of the Heart** (Heritage House Publishing, 2021), the author describes a road trip that took place near the Pacific Coastal Airlines destination of Powell River on the Sunshine Coast.*

**T**hese days, I periodically have the opportunity to sit in the passenger seat of the car while my adult daughter Danica takes the wheel.

This can be an adrenaline-pumping roller coaster of a ride, in which I covertly grip the door handle (similar to the way in which my mother held it years ago when I drove her around) and remind myself to breathe.

Danica isn't a bad driver. She's "destination-oriented." And, in fact, now that I think about it, I believe the neighbours in the area where I grew up referred to me as "Little Hell on Wheels." So perhaps she comes by it honestly.

Aggressive driving is certainly not something she inherited from her father. My grandmother drove faster than Derrick. At times, he would drive so slowly, I'd have to reach over with my own foot to press his foot down on the gas pedal. My younger daughter Sierra drives at a similar "leisurely" pace.

Back in the days when people in BC who drove a little over the speed limit often received a souvenir in the mail, I was sent a photo radar ticket, which Derrick gleefully posted on the bulletin board for all to admire. He'd often remind us that he'd never received a speeding ticket in his entire life (I wonder why). So I confess I was quite thrilled the summer day when the girls were little and we were driving from Powell River to Lund, and a police officer pulled us over.

"Were you speeding?" I asked Derrick innocently.

"Of course not," he said a bit peevishly as we waited for Mr. Policeman to arrive at the car window.

It turns out that Mr. Virgin Speeding Ticket was driving 60 kilometres in a 30-kilometre zone!

While I gleefully pictured a copy of his speeding ticket posted alongside my photo radar ticket, Derrick attempt-



At one point, a car full of youths drove by and someone called out, "Give the cop a donut!" I eyed the Tim Hortons bag on the dash and quickly stowed it under my seat—nothing would get Derrick out of this one.

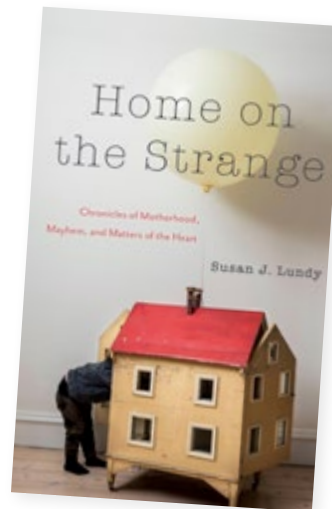
ed to sweet-talk his way out of it. This involved hopping out of the van, checking the cop's radar for accuracy, telling the officer he was a "virgin," and chatting with him for about 15 minutes.

At one point, a car full of youths drove by and someone called out, "Give the cop a donut!"

I eyed the Tim Hortons bag on the dash and quickly stowed it under my seat—nothing would get Derrick out of this one. The girls sat quietly in the back of the van, apparently cowed by Daddy's slip into the underworld of traffic crime.

The mighty finally acknowledged he had fallen, and Derrick hopped back in the driver's seat, continuing on the journey in surly silence. We turned around after a brief stop in Lund and headed back. As we passed the scene of the crime on our return, we couldn't see the 30-kilometre speed sign anywhere on the opposite side of the road.

With a righteous whoop from the driver's seat, Derrick swung the van around and retraced his route of woe. There it was . . . the 30-kilometre sign was lying flat on the ground. The newly avenged driver (who was also a photographer) leapt onto the road and immediately took 21 photographs entitled Sign Lying On Ground. As he tried the shot from different angles, a BC Highways fellow drove up and began to re-erect the



sign. So Derrick photographed him, too.

"The police will probably think you kicked it down," I mumbled as we drove to the RCMP detachment, where Derrick presented his case. A few hours later, an officer attended our campsite in

Powell River and drew the word VOID through the ticket. Once back home, I was forced to view the his-and-hers souvenirs: my photo radar ticket sitting grumpily next to his voided ticket.

To this day, Danica's driving record also remains untarnished . . . but I can't say the same for the adrenal glands of anyone riding with her. 🚗

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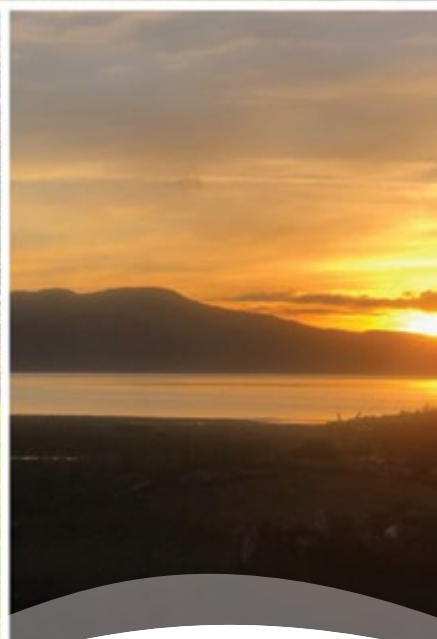
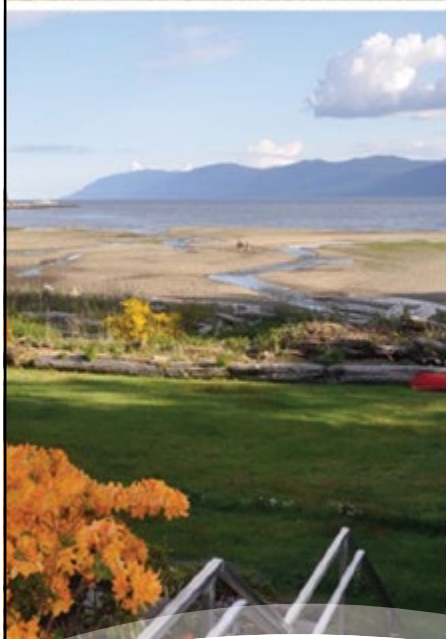
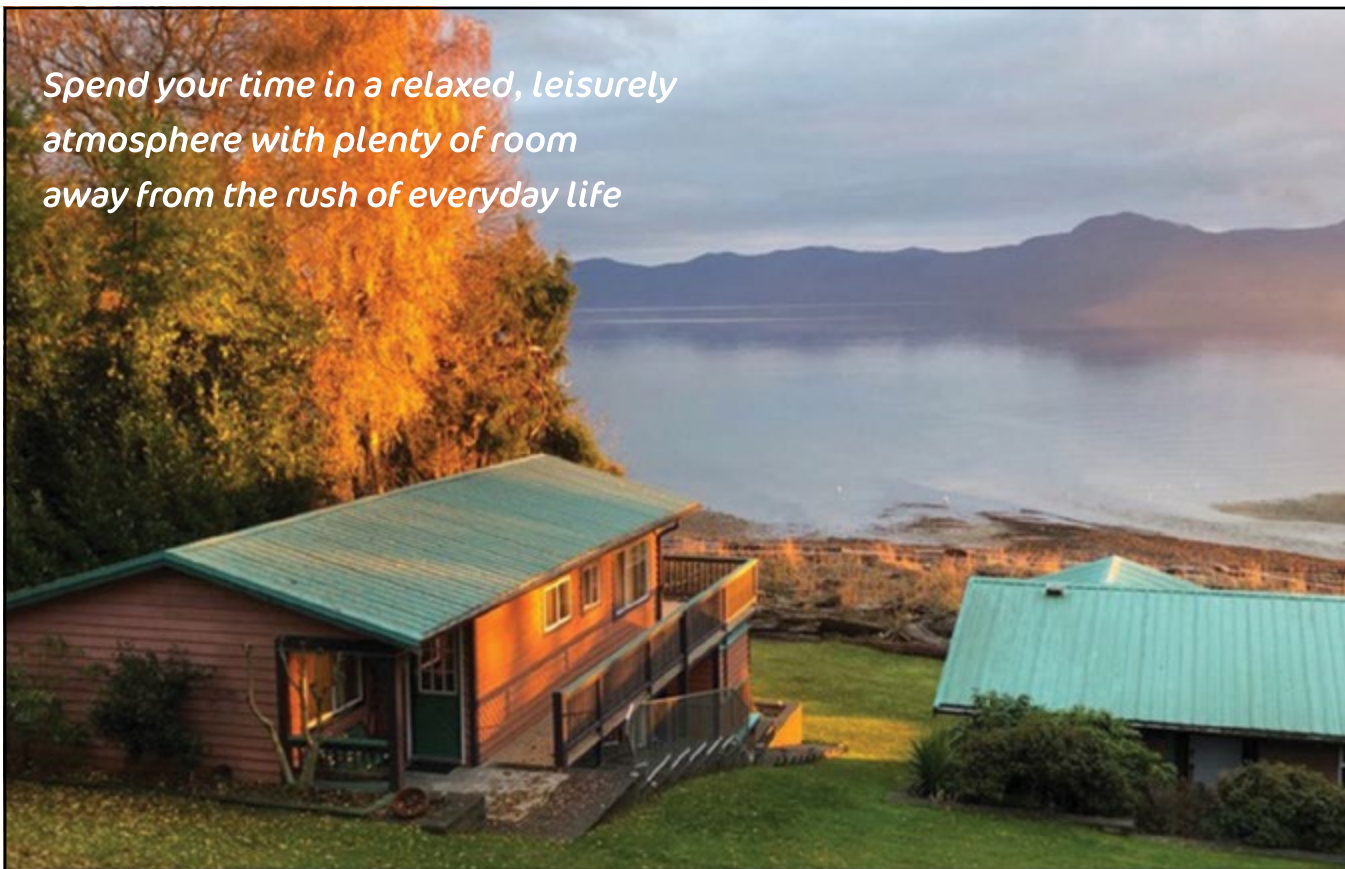
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