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May/June | Volume 16 | Number 3



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Pacific Coastal



Natasha Griffiths, natasha.griffiths@northislandgazette.com - 250.902.8040 Published by Black Press www.blackpress.ca • 818 Broughton Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1E4



Pacific Coastal

### **CAREERS & CHARITY GOLF**



ith the anticipated resurgence of air travel and the expected summer demand, we are currently recruiting for many great opportunities. If you know of someone who is interested to join the aviation and travel industry, please have them view our current job listings on our website at: pacificcoastal.com/careers/.

We are excited to once again, be hosting our Charity Memorial Golf Tournament after two years of hiatus due to COVID-19. The tournament is taking place on May 26 at Mayfair Lakes Golf and Country Club. The spirit of giving has always been a priority at Pacific Coastal Airlines, and it's deeply rooted in our corporate culture.

This year we are raising financial support for three BC-based charities: The Source Club Society, which supports work opportunities for those with mental illness; Power to Be, a non-profit organization that creates access to nature for youth, families and adults living with cognitive, physical, financial, and social barriers; and the The Heiltsuk Community, who have led the way in land and marine

use planning, which is integral for the Nation in asserting their rights and community values on developments within the ancestral territory.

Our golf committee has been working extremely hard on the planning for this event and it will include our first online silent auction that will be open to the public. You can view the online silent auction, which has many amazing donations and additional information on the event, at:

pacificcoastal.com/golf/.

We continue to experience challenges as the aviation industry is always changing, but we also continue to see exciting opportunities as we move forward, and we're happy to see events returning as well.

As always, thank you to our wonderful customers, staff and partners for your continued dedication and support.





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# FISHING BC

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Discover Nisga'a redefines tourism in northwest BC

isga'a Lisims Government and the four Nisga'a Village Governments, together with Discover Nisga'a tourism partners, have announced the launch of Discover Nisga'a—a new consumer-facing brand for Tourism Nisga'a.

And with the brand launch comes a new website and social media platforms inviting potential visitors to virtually discover Nisga'a Lands and plan their travel to northwest British Columbia.

The Nisga'a have lived in the Nass Valley for thousands of years. The name "Nass Valley," however, does not evoke the people who have always made it home. With the Nisga'a Treaty in 2000, "Nisga'a Lands" were formally recognized. Now, with the Discover Nisga'a website and social media channels, the Nisga'a are welcoming the world to Nisga'a Lands and setting a new standard for sustainable Indigenous tourism. The Discover Nisga'a website invites

visitors to discover the richness of Nisga'a Lands and culture.

The destination showcases a primeval landscape of vast lava beds, pristine alpine meadows, lush temperate rainforests, natural hot springs, rich salmon

#### **AROUND BC**

rivers, and Hli Goothl Wilp-Adokshl Nisga'a / the Nisga'a Museum—a worldrenowned collection of Northwest Coast Indigenous art and artifacts.

"We Nisga'a are known for our hospitality, and we are proud to invite the world," says Nisga'a President Eva Clavton.

Domestic and international travellers have shown a growing appetite for authentic travel experiences and Indigenous culture. A recent labour market research report found that between 2003 and the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Indigenous tourism businesses in British Columbia grew 170 per cent. Northern BC has the province's highest number of Indigenous-owned tourism businesses (29 per cent). Discover Nisga'a aims to jumpstart sustainable travel to Nisga'a Lands as the pandemic subsides.

The Discover Nisga'a website offers people around the world a vivid introduction to Nisga'a Lands and culture and is a valuable resource for planning a visit in 2022 and beyond.

To see the new website, visit: discovernisgaa.com.

#### **MEET A PACIFIC COASTAL EMPLOYEE:** THEA



**Position:** Customer Service + Cargo Agent Location: Bella Bella Time with PASCO: 5 months Job description: Checking-in passengers, providing a safe, friendly, stress-free experience for our customers, and making sure all service disruptions are resolved.

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

I was born in Vancouver and raised in Bella Bella.

#### What path did you take to get to this iob?

I took a tourism and hospitality course on Vancouver Island, and I saw this as a stepping stone towards my career goal, which has always been to work for an airline.

#### What do you like best about this job?

I love this job because I get to meet new people daily, and the people that I work with all have a close bond. They were all very welcoming when I joined the team.

#### What are your hobbies outside of the iob?

I spend a lot of time with my family and close friends, and I like to travel during my time off.

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

I like spending time out on the boat exploring parts of the territory that I haven't seen vet.

#### **AROUND BC** Vancouver Island tourism awards presented

- With files from Oak Bay News and westcoasttraveller.com

Five winners have walked away with accolades from the 2022 Vancouver Island Tourism Conference Industry Awards at the Delta Victoria Ocean Pointe Resort in Victoria.

- Oak Bay Beach Hotel was named employer of the year, an award that recognizes businesses that exemplify best practices in gender equity, diversity, skills training and benefits. The hotel focused on retention and development in the last year, identifying the need to focus on the mental health and wellness of team members, as well as their growth, according to a news release. The hotel addressed cost-ofliving realities while creating a culture of balance and growth with employees, and achieved the highest employee engagement scores it has ever recorded.
- Malahat SkyWalk was named people's choice winner, as voted by conference attendees. Participants described the new Malahat SkyWalk as thoughtful, well-designed and accessible. Its partnership with Malahat Nation, mindful travel aspects and forest history and education set the SkyWalk above others.
- Victoria Airport Authority earned the social responsibility award, for businesses that contribute to a vibrant community and demonstrate a belief in giving back. This award highlights the teams that make an impact on

community, environment, the local culture and on business. In January 2021, Victoria International Airport (YYJ) received the Rick Hansen Foundation's Accessibility Certified Gold rating, the second airport in BC and fourth in Canada to achieve the status. In addition, YYJ implemented a curbside assistance program, wherein its passenger engagement and safety officers help people with disabilities move through the terminal.

- Josh Brown of Black Rock Oceanfront Resort in Ucluelet was named employee of the year. The award recognizes a frontline tourism employee who has demonstrated exemplary work performance, is valued for outstanding service and seen as a key contributor to team success. Brown has worked at the resort for more than 10 years, starting as a houseperson and moving his way up to duty manager. Dubbed a "Josh of all trades," he's the champion of the Green Team, working hard to implement an improved recycling process. He truly wants guests to have a memorable experience at the resort and is someone the team knows they can count on.
- Kaatza Station Museum in Lake Cowichan was named resilient business of the year, which celebrates industry members who participated in the Vancouver Island Coastal Tourism Resiliency Program and demonstrated a keen ability to innovate, adapt and build during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Oak Bay Beach Hotel, which was recently honoured as Employer of the Year at the 2022 Vancouver Island Tourism Conference Industry Awards.

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#### Work

Pursue your business dreams or embrace remote working. Williams Lake has a great mix of career options such as major industry, government, and health and education services. We have a thriving small business sector and are uniquely positioned for access to global markets. Our good wireless connectivity makes Williams Lake an excellent place for remote working, as well. Skilled workers and professional services are in demand in the Cariboo.

#### Live

Williams Lake offers affordable housing in a variety of rural and urban settings, all within minutes of our vibrant and bustling downtown. There you will find shopping, dining and services. Access to a full range of health services, post secondary education and an engaged school district will help make the transition to our welcoming community easy. Our world-class recreation complex has something for everyone, as well as a rich arts and culture community with festivals and activities throughout the year.

#### Recreate

With the largest mountain bike trail network in BC, the 300plus kilometres of trails outside your door will keep you busy in our four-season playground. Whether it is golfing, fishing, hiking, indoor or outdoor sports, cross-country or downhill skiing, there is no better place than Williams Lake to recreate. Within city limits, our nature reserve is a birdwatching paradise with annual migrations that attract visitors from around the world.

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After having to cancel the "world famous" Williams Lake Stampede the last two years, organizers are thrilled to forge ahead with the 2022 event.

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And what a way to spend Canada Day it will be! Every year, over the July 1 long weekend, Williams Lake rolls out the welcome mat!

Visitors come from far and wide to enjoy several days of action at the stampede, which is proud to host top international cowboys and competitors from Canada and the United States.

The 2022 Williams Lake Stampede runs Thursday, June 30 to Sunday, July 3. The first three performances will see the best competitors from the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association, the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and the Women's Professional Rodeo Association chasing the prize money in seven major rodeo events (bareback, steer wrestling,



As well, there will be the minor events—novice saddle bronc and junior steer riding—and new this year is a second ladies event, breakaway roping.

Other highlights include the Bronc Buster Trade Fair, unique "branded" merchandise and the always-popular Let'r Buck Saloon.

Williams Lake is located in the heart of British Columbia's interior. It is the centre of a large service and trading area for a population of more than 50,000 people. It is the shopping and business centre for many in the ranching industry whose land and holdings spread in all directions from Williams Lake.

The rodeo is held on the same site as the first annual production back in 1920 (the rodeo took a several-year hiatus during the First and Second World Wars, as well as during the last two years due to the pandemic).

In the early days, the cowboys were mostly local boys and girls who wanted a place to show off their cowboy talents. But today's rodeo is a big professional show with cowboys coming from all over to compete. The original concept is maintained by a locals-only competition called the Ranch Challenge, where cowboys from area ranches compete against each other for the year's bragging rights as "the best cowboys."





#### **AROUND BC**



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# West coast wild

### Tour like a local in beautiful **Campbell River**

By Kaylee Wallis Photos by Tyler Cave Productions/ Destination Campbell River

elcome to Campbell River, your gateway to nature. Here, there are no borders between city and nature. 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.

Pacific Coastal Airline's destination of Campbell River, or Wiwek'am, is located on the east coast of Vancouver Island within the ancestral territory of the We Wai Kai and Wei Wai Kum First Nations, in the northern Salish Sea. Sitting on the 50th parallel, it's a city nestled in nature, surrounded by five provincial parks (including BC's first, Strathcona) and front-row access to the Discovery Passage.

This region is full of diverse outdoor experiences for all interests and abilities. If you're a budding marine biologist, a lover of forests, a curious explorer of heritage and culture, an artist looking for inspiration or someone who simply wants to visit one of the most beautiful, uncrowded places on Vancouver Island, Campbell River is the destination of choice.

Local operators care about their products, experiences and their hometown, offering world-class tourism, delivered in an authentically Campbell River way. Here are some of the top experiences you don't want to miss:



#### CAMPBELL RIVER

Photo by Tyler Cave Productions

Local operators care about their products, experiences and their hometown, offering world-class tourism, delivered in an authentically Campbell River way.

#### **EXPLORE THE WATER**

There's no shortage of access to the bodies of water in Campbell River. Whether it's exploring the coastal waters of the Discovery Passage, the powerful namesake river, the many lakes or even local waterfalls, you can pick and choose the type of water adventure you seek.

For the marine lover, Campbell River and the surrounding Discovery Islands offer a hub of opportunities for whale-watching, bear-viewing and diving enthusiasts. There is a wide selection of tours available from the sea to the sky. View everything from whales, dolphins and sea lions to bears, elk and eagles through the safe guidance of an experienced and knowledgeable tour operator.





Marine tours are available year-round, and grizzly-bear viewing is best between mid-August and mid-October. To avoid the disappointment of missing out on bear tours, it's highly recommended to book your tour well in advance (bookings are available now).

Campbell River is the starting point to explore the spectacular Discovery Islands archipelago. Quadra Island, Cortes Island and the outer Discovery Islands offer a mix of beaches, coves, rocky headlands and countless areas that are best experienced from the seat of a kayak or canoe.

If you're a seasoned kayaker or canoe enthusiast there are plenty of areas in

which you can self-guide with ease or if you're a beginner there are several kayaking outfitters in the area that make it easy for you to explore and get out on the water with a professional and experienced guide.

#### **MUST-DO HIKES**

Hiking in the Campbell River region is sure to delight hikers of all ages and skill levels. Explore old growth forests in the Elk Falls Provincial Park, take a peaceful walk along the ocean, traverse the rugged beaches of Quadra and Cortes Island and take in panoramic mountain views in Strathcona Provincial Park.



Photo by Bluetree Photography



Campbell River is passionate about preserving these amazing natural places, so hikers are asked to practice leave-no-trace principles, pack out what you pack in and for your own safety and the preservation of the trails, obey posted signs and keep to designated trails.

Here are some top hikes in the region:

- Elk Falls: Lose yourself in nature and the overwhelming power of the Elk Falls from a suspension bridge above (a two-kilometre hike, return). After the waterfall, wander the Old Growth Loop trail to observe massive Douglas fir and cedar trees, or the Riverside Loop trail (four kilometres return) to view Moose Falls, Deer Falls and the Dolphin Pool.
- Ripple Rock: This popular hiking trail overlooks the site of the famous 1958 Ripple Rock blast, which was the largest non-nuclear explosion in the world at the time. While the detonation was dangerous, the trail is the opposite. At about four kilometres long in each direction, this moderate hiking trail provides scenic viewpoints overlooking Menzies Bay and the Seymour Narrows.
- Strathcona Park: Strathcona Provincial Park is the oldest provincial park in British Columbia and the largest provincial park on Vancouver Island. Founded in 1911, this awe-inspiring 250,000-hectare park stretches from the glaciers of Forbidden Plateau up to the northern peaks beyond Buttle Lake, offering up recreational activities for all tastes and

abilities. This majestic wilderness can challenge the most extreme outdoor enthusiast, or delight a senior with their grandchildren, exploring nature as they discover the park together.

#### UNIQUE ACCOMMODATIONS

Looking for a place to rest, relax and rejuvenate? Accommodations in Campbell River and region provide something unique for everyone.

The central north island has a treasure trove of resorts, cottages, hotels, B&Bs and vacation rental homes that offer stunning views and easy access to the craggy shorelines and sandy beaches that dominate the landscape. From high-end luxury to low-key and relaxing accommodations, there's something for everyone.

For those looking for a truly coastal experience, there are several seaside accommodations to choose from. On the southern side, in between Campbell River and Comox, are the cosy A-frame



cabins of Oyster Bay Resorts. It's a charming property that offers privacy, comfort and spectacular ocean views. Dolphins Resort features 13 west-coast-style cabins, many with personal hot tubs and wood-burning fireplaces, and an upscale Pacific Northwest-inspired restaurant.

#### **FIND THE HIDDEN GEMS**

Despite its growth and change, Campbell River remains a small town at heart. Dining options are plentiful in Campbell River. Whether it's fish and chips served dockside in a marina or surf and turf platters in a comfortable pub or restaurant, the local food scene offers visitors a chance to hang out with locals and savour the tastes of the region. Trendy eateries provide a great atmosphere for social interaction, while fine dining spots offer the best in west coast cuisine.

A must-visit when exploring the food scene is Beach Fire Brewing for local brews and local eats! The menu here features local seasonal ingredients for a truly authentic and local experience. When it's time to take a break from the day's adventure, Campbell River's café scene offers a variety of options to suit everyone. Choose from a cosy coastal cafe like FoggDukkers, where you can enjoy your cup of coffee right on the ocean, or a charming in-town cafe like Island Grind, conveniently located by the popular walking trails of the Beaver Lodge Lands.

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λəmatax<sup>w</sup>, Campbell River, is nestled within the territory of the Liğwiłdaxw peoples; the WeWaiKai, WeiWaiKum, and Kwikiah Nations; here there are no borders between city and nature. Xəmatax<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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Water Sky Garden by Janet Echelman at Richmond Olympic Oval. Photos courtesy Tourism Richmond.

# **Outdoor art**

#### **Public art** abounds in this coastal city

By Lauren Kramer

f you love art, don't think you need to visit a gallery to enjoy it next time you're in Richmond. The city's deep appreciation for art is reflected in the many different pieces of artwork scattered throughout its neighbourhoods and public spaces.

The artwork exists not just to beautify and enrich those spaces, but to tell the story of Richmond through metaphors of steel, bronze and other mediums, to address relevant themes and to provoke thoughtful conversation.

Some pieces are entirely un-missable while others can be forgotten in the rush and bustle of daily life. Here are a few worth visiting, and the stories they tell about the environment they beautify.

#### RICHMOND



#### **Richmond Olympic Oval**

When the Richmond Olympic Oval was built for the 2010 Winter Olympics, art was a key component of its beauty and you don't have to look far to see it.

The entrance to the Oval is marked by a series of massive red, netted "sky lanterns" that extend over a small pond traversed by pedestrian pathways. This is the Water Sky Garden by Janet Echelman, a piece of art inspired by the city's mix of cultures. The netted lanterns hearken back to the fishing nets used by the native Musqueam Indian Band,

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which fishes this bend in the river to this day.

The wooden boardwalk over the pond follows a curving path reflective of the Dragon Dance at Chinese festivals, paying tribute to Richmond's many Asian immigrants. And the structure as a whole, illu-

minated at night,

situates art in the



Hupakwanum: The Chief's Treasure Box by Nuu-chah-nulth artists.

sky, creating a visual experience that combines water, sky, light and air.

The city's First Nations heritage is also reflected in Hupakwanum: The Chief's Treasure Box, a 2009 installation of wood, glass and LED lights made by Nuu-chah-nulth artists. The obelisk represents bentwood boxes (traditionally used to store food, clothing and household and ceremonial items), their glass etched with creatures of the sea, land and sky. In the Chief's Treasure Box, the artists hoped to share their stories and demonstrate the foundations of their culture.

A more recent addition to the Oval is Water Off a Duck's Back by renowned Canadian novelist, designer and visual artist Douglas Coupland. This artwork was added in 2020 to celebrate the many species of birdlife that visit the city. The piece includes a fountain of aluminum panels and stainless steel, featuring a fun, eye-catching guartet of waterfowl drakes.



Water Off A Duck's Back

The artwork exists not just to beautify and enrich those spaces, but to tell the story of Richmond through metaphors of steel, bronze and other mediums, to address relevant themes and to provoke thoughtful conversation.



Minoru Horse by Sergei Traschenko. Photo by Andrea Sirois.

#### **Richmond city centre**

At the city's centre, look out for Minoru Horse, a striking, life-size bronze sculpture located just outside Richmond Public Library. This is a monument to a thoroughbred named Minoru, a horse owned by King Edward VII and after which Richmond's 1907 Minoru horse-racing track was named (now the site of Minoru Park).

The word "minoru" means "the enlightened one" and symbolizes the spirit of Richmond's early pioneers who helped establish the thoroughbred racing industry in the early 1900s. Today the site of the old horse-racing track is a well-used running track, but Sergei Traschenko's bronze sculpture invites a pause to reflect on Richmond's history.

Nearby, the Fraser Giant is a 20-foot-long, stainless steel sturgeon that reflects the region's maritime heritage on the Fraser River. Located outside City Hall, it symbolizes longevity, resilience and hope.



Fraser Giant May/June 2022 19 pacificcoastal.com



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Together by David Jacob Harder

Together is another un-missable artwork—just by virtue of its 18-foot height. The coated steel structure of an adult and a child, hand in hand, was created by David Jacob Harder and erected in 2019. From afar, the two figures are easily discernible, but as you get closer, other figures become apparent: a group of walkers, a heron, a dancer.

Harder hoped his 300-plus silhouettes would reflect the active, vibrant lifestyle of Richmond's residents, and serve as a symbol of the community. The two figures face Richmond's newest aquatic and senior centre, the Minoru Centre for Active Living.



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#### **Steveston Village**

In Steveston Village, the Fishermen's Memorial in Garry Point Park is a sobering reminder of the many local fishermen who lost their lives at sea. This artwork is comprised of a giant fisherman's needle at the centre of a stone compass rose engraved with the names of fishermen who never made it home.

Stare out at the ocean, just steps away, and you get a glimpse of the anguish suffered by many Richmond families who waited in vain for their men to return from fishing expeditions that turned tragic.



Fishermen's Memorial by George Juhasz & Georg Schmerholz. Photo by Andrea Sirois.

Artists George Juhasz and Georg Schmerholz hoped their design would reflect the magnitude of the oceans, the interdependence of all life forms and the fluid, continuous cycle of nature.

Another tribute to the city's maritime heritage is Steveston's Legacy, three bronze figures located at the entrance to the Gulf of Georgia Cannery. Created by Norm Williams,

the sculptures

represent a typical 1930s Steveston scene, where a fisherman, a Japanese cannery worker and a young dock worker stop for a chat.

Legacy by Norm Williams. Photo Colleen Smith.



The realistic, life-size nature of the bronze sculptures invites visitors to interact and to consider the story of Richmond's fishing industry in the days when it still flourished.



**KAMLOOPS** 



McConnell Lake. Photo by Peter Olsen

### Kamloops is a must-fish destination

ith 100-plus freshwater lakes within a one-hour drive, Kamloops is your next must-fish destination...and its craft beer, cocktail and spirits scene is the ideal way to wind down afterward. Kamloops has it all—hook, line and sinker!

The semi-arid climate in Kamloops means the spring and fall are the best bet for open-water fishing, but the fish will also be biting during the summer months at the higher-elevation lakes.

An added bonus? Winter in Kamloops presents some of the best ice-fishing conditions around, so you can bring the auger along and fish year-round.

With numerous affordable accommodation options and nearby lakes galore, Kamloops is the perfect home base for a fishing adventure.

Edith Lake, Monte Lake, Tunkwa Lake, Roche Lake and Jacko Lake are all world-class destinations for angling and they are within 50 kilometres of Kamloops.

These can't-miss spots in the Kamloops region are the perfect places to reel in a variety of rainbow trout, brook trout and other freshwater fish.

Of course, few things pair better with fishing than an ice-cold beverage. Relax after a fishing adventure at one or more of Kamloops' five micro-breweries or visit a tap house and experience craft beer creations from places near and far.

Not into beer? Go for a more refined taste and try one of Kamloops' four local distilleries or two cideries. After a day of casting a line, these refreshing options are just the après adventurers crave!

With world-class fishing holes and the brews, ciders and cocktails, Kamloops is the ultimate place for relaxing and reeling in the rainbows.

Cast a line and experience some of BC's best stillwater fly fishing.Learn more at tourismkamloops.com/fishing.

#### **GET REEL**

Fishing in Kamloops is available year-round with spring and fall months offering the most consistent open water fishing options. Come cast a line on trophy stillwater and experience some of the BC Interior's best fishing.



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# **VANCOUVER ISLAND** Soaring with the eagles

#### A \$5M dream to create eagle sanctuary at French Creek Estuary

With files from Parksville Qualicum Beach News and westcoasttraveller.com

he combined efforts of environmental groups, individuals and local governments have successfully raised the funds needed to purchase the French Creek Estuary, to be preserved as an eagle sanctuary.

"This is a fantastic story," said Andy Day, CEO of the BC Parks Foundation. "There has been an incredible outpouring of goodwill in the community, making the longstanding dream of an eagle sanctuary come true. A lot of people feel like they are soaring with the eagles right now."

With the assistance of BC Parks Foundation, more than \$5.1 million in donations were raised to purchase 18 acres of estuary land and join it to the five acres of existing protected area, for a 23-acre nature reserve. It also is a realization of a dream of creating a protected eagle reserve within the forested property. The land hosts bald eagles who come by the thousands from as far away as Alaska to join resident and nesting eagles, and feast on the teeming abundance of the Salish Sea. Beyond eagles, the French Creek

Estuary is a diverse and rich ecological system supporting 180 species of birds, 60 species of waterfowl, salmon, river otters and beaver. Nineteen of the species in the estuary are considered at risk. It will remain private and off limits to visitors for the coming months as the deal closes and restoration and planning begin.

Once the purchase is finalized, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) will be a co-owner with the BC Parks Foundation, and will manage the lands as a nature preserve under the Electoral Area G Community Park Service through a 99-year renewable lease agreement with the foundation.

Donations flowed in from all sides, with the biggest coming from the landowners, French Creek House Ltd., which agreed to gift \$3,280,000 of land value. That was followed by a \$1 million donation from British Columbian Dax Dasilva and his non-profit Age of Union Alliance. The RDN then agreed to provide \$400,000. The remaining amount of more than \$500,000 came from people from every walk of life.



"It was thousands of people like you and me," said Day.

He credits the success with the efforts of volunteers, in particular the Save Estuary Land Society and Friends of French Creek Conservation Society, who spearheaded local efforts and have worked for years to protect the estuary.

"It's been so inspiring to see people come up with such creative ways to raise awareness and donations for the French Creek Estuary eagle sanctuary," said Denise Foster, chair of the Save Estuary Land Society.

"When we come together in our local neighbourhoods to help protect nature, it's an amazing feeling. It unites us as a community."

Supporters ranged from youth to elders in the community. Students from Ballenas and Kwalikum secondary schools planted hundreds of native trees along the lower corridor of French Creek's riparian zone during the campaign. The Parksville Golden Oldies Sports Association held a cycling event for the eagles.

# Fresh. Local. Diverse.



Laughing Crow Organics in Pemberton.

The BC Farmers' Market Trail makes local shopping easy and accessible, connecting shoppers to farm-fresh food and preserving food traditions while providing a launching pad for small businesses in BC

#### By Krystal Wiggins

ummer is almost here, and the farmers' market season in BC looks to be more impactful than ever. Locals and travellers can find buzzworthy up-and-coming food businesses, farm-fresh food and artisan goods across every region of the province through the BC Farmers' Market Trail.

This free, comprehensive mobile-friendly website provides access to more than 145 authentic farmers' markets across 10 regions, from Northern BC to the Kootenay Rockies, Vancouver Island, Gulf Islands and beyond.

"BC farmers' markets have always been known for supporting local food and food lands, but people may not realize that farmers' markets are where thousands of BC's most beloved businesses get their start, including local favourites like The Juice Truck and Spread 'Em Kitchen," says Heather O'Hara, executive director of the BC Association of Farmers' Markets.

Each year, farmers' markets across British Columbia contribute more than \$150 million in economic benefits to the provincial economy. By supporting vendors at farmers' markets this summer, British Columbians will be directly supporting local businesses, while also contributing to the preservation and sustainability of BC's food lands for future generations.



Kamloops is ideally located in the heart of British Columbia's sunny Southern Interior

"In the wake of ongoing supplychain issues faced by many in our province, people have become more committed to shopping for food and dining out in ways that reflect their values," explains Wylie Bystedt, board chair of the BC Association of Farmers' Markets. "Each and every one of us plays an important role in preserving our local food systems and supporting our communities through the thoughtful, sustainable food choices we make. The BC Farmers' Market Trail tool makes it easy and fun for people to shop and dine with their values top of mind—while supporting local businesses, too!"

The farmers' market summer season begins in mid-May and runs until early September, with specific opening dates and times varying by location and region.

The unprecedented events of the last two years have amplified the importance of supporting local businesses and the role everyone plays in preserving our local food systems and food preservation traditions.

The BC Farmers' Market Trail gives locals and visitors alike a user-friendly website to find markets by name, region, community, season or other key features—such as dog friendly or wheelchair accessible—making it an essential resource to use all season long.



Salmon Arm Farmers Market. Johann Vincent Photography



Powell River Farmers Market. Johann Vincent Photography

To use the trail, go to the website at bcfarmersmarkettrail.com. From here, filter by region and season to find the best local food and businesses that BC has to offer.

Visitors to this year's markets can expect a diverse variety of food, artisan goods, and delicious eat-at-themarket options. Some of the many newsworthy vendors include:

 Nina's Pierogi: offering handmade pierogies in gluten-free or organic unbleached dough in the Vancouver region.

• The Banana Bike: serving small batch chocolate dipped frozen bananas, also in the Vancouver region.

• Hiveology: featuring organic, cruelty-free raw honey in the Thompson Okanagan region.

 Sica Moo Jerky: offering AA+ specialty beef jerky made daily in the Thompson Okanagan region.

• Van Isle Kefir Co.: featuring brewers and distributors of the novel "apple kefir drink," a delicious, kombucha-like fermented soda made from 100 per cent apple juice in the Vancouver Island & Gulf Islands region.

 Nechako Microgreens: offering locally grown microgreens in the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast region.

The BC Association of Farmers' Markets (BCAFM) is a non-profit organization committed to supporting, developing and strengthening farmers' markets in all regions of British Columbia. BCAFM is passionate about local food and helping markets, farmers and small businesses grow so local food continues to thrive. To learn more about BC farmers' markets, visit: bcfarmersmarket.org.



White Rock Farmers Market. Johann Vincent Photography



Revisit the treasures of the South Okanagan. Home to beaches, trails, vineyards, orchards, fruit stands, Indigenous culture and outdoor pursuits. Culinary adventures await you, with a thriving wine, craft beer, cider and spirits scene.



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**Immersive**, action-packed experiences offered at **Britannia Mine Museum** 

C's population exploded starting in the mid-1800s with the first gold rush that brought thousands of people here, hoping to strike it rich. While many of them didn, Äôt 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 mining is a huge part of the princess history, with a number of museums and sites to prove it.

One such site is located just 75 minutes from the Coastal Mountain Air destination at Vancouver International Airport. Located in Squamish, Britannia Mine Museum is a great place to dig up some history.

Once the largest copper mine in the British Commonwealth, the Britannia Mine produced more than 50 million tons of ore that yielded copper, zinc, lead, cadmium, silver and gold in the 70 years it was operational.

Today, the Britannia Mine Museum offers an immersive experience of an iconic National Historic Site. Through a range of

#### **SOUAMISH**

exhibits, tours and a multi-sensory, live-action show, guests experience what it was like to be working and living in a remote, tight-knit community, and consider their own personal connection with the materials mined.

Passionate, friendly historic interpreters bring history to life, sharing real miners stories of challenges and accomplishments. Highlights include a ride through The Underground on a mine train, early mining demonstrations in the haulage tunnel, panning for gemstones (you can keep what you find!), and the live-action, multisensory experience of BOOM! in the landmark Mill No.3 building. Learn about minerals, the copper extraction process and what life was like back in the day as the mill building is brought back to life.

BOOM! offers a thrilling, 15-minute multi-sensory, live-action experience that utilizes special effects, state-ofthe-art technology, multiple screens, and over 30 speakers, bringing one of the world, Äôs most striking industrial buildings roaring back to life.

A tactile exploration of Canadian industrial heritage and mining, modern relevance, the museum offers an immersive and authentic learning experience. History constantly evolves at the museum, connecting the past, present and future of Canadian mining. Presenting historical and current information in fun, interactive and relatable formats allows quests to reflect on what mining means to them today, and what it means for future generations.

As a charitable organization, the museum is self-supporting in its ability to earn revenues to maintain operations, research, exhibits and programs. Each admission, gift shop purchase, site rental, membership and donation helps preserve Canadi an heritage and presents mining, Äôs relevance today.

The museum is open daily (except Christmas). Check britanniaminemuseum.ca for daily hours and tour times; entry time reservations are required.

# Good as gold

### Updated bestselling book chronicles the **Cariboo Gold** Rush

agon Road North: The Saga of the Cariboo Gold Rush is considered the quintessential popular history book chronicling gold-rush-era BC, and this newly updated, expanded and re-designed edition, released in 2021, has been carefully edited by author and historian Ken Mather. This now-classic pictorial account of the Cariboo Gold Rush Trail was first published in 1960 by Art Downs, the year after Barkerville Historic Park was established. The book was an instant success and was reissued five times, becoming one of the bestselling books of its time. Its success prompted Art and his wife, Doris, to start their own book publishing company in 1969 named Heritage House.

Here is an excerpt from Wagon Road North: The Saga of the Cariboo Gold Rush, Revised and Updated Edition by Art Downs, edited by Ken Mather (Heritage House, 2021).

As the changing leaves of autumn herald the approach of a new season, so the hesitant progress of miners up the rocky gorge of the Fraser River led the way to a new era. It was 1859, and of the stampede of over 30,000 to the river, only about one in 10 remained. The dabblers and the weak had perished or retreated; only the strong and the bold remained.

In the vanguard was a party of Americans named Peter Dunlevy, Jim Sellers, Ira Crow, Tom Moffit and Tom Manifee. At the junction of the Chilcotin and Fraser Rivers, they



On June 3, 1868, Julia Picot bought a piece of land ... occupied by her house. It was destroyed by fire in 1868, but despite this setback, she purchased the rebuilt Hotel de France from A. Lecuyer and Jacques Le Brun in October 1869. Heritage House Archives.

encountered a large man from the Secwépemc (Shuswap) Nation who introduced himself as Tomaah. He wondered what the miners were doing, and they showed him the flakes and nuggets from the bars. Tomaah scoffed and said he could show them a river where gold lay like beans in a pan. He introduced them to another Secwépemc man, Long Baptiste, who led the miners through the wilderness to a river now called the Horsefly. Here they found the nuggets like beans in a pan. And although the excited men weren't aware or concerned of the fact, they also became the first Europeans to pan gold in a region that would become famous—the Cariboo, a name derived from the woodland caribou that were found there.

Williams Creek is born on the

slopes of Bald Mountain and wanders in a northwesterly direction for about nine miles. At the midway point, it flows through a canyon and broadens to a valley before joining the Willow River on its journey to the Fraser River. In 1861, all activity was above the canyon, with miners completely ignoring the area below the canyon.

Among the first to arrive on Williams Creek was a miner named Billy Barker. After trying unsuccessfully to find gold along the upper part of the creek, he decided to try below the canyon. Barker was actually an experienced miner who had mined in California. Despite his experience, the other miners believed that there was no gold below the canyon; everyone knew that. If there was, the ground would have been staked long before.

But Barker and his companions ignored the jibes and taunts. They continued digging, gradually inching through the debris of centuries. On August 19, at 52 feet, the men struck an incredibly rich seam of placer gold; the claim was destined to yield \$600,000. The miners who had laughed at Barker now stopped only long enough to grab their tools and pound claim stakes into the area below the canyon. Among the other claims staked was the Cameron, and on a creek that was to create many legends, this claim became the foremost.

Early in the gold rush there was no set route to the creeks; each party entered the wilderness and trudged along the route they felt was best. But as more and more gold seekers pressed northward, trails were gradually beaten through the wilds. Around the Cameron and Barker claims grew a collection of rough buildings, one

The miners who had laughed at Barker now stopped only long enough to grab their tools and pound claim stakes into the area below the canyon.

group called Camerontown, the other Barkerville. The latter was slated to survive. Its collection of log buildings, saloons, shanties, breweries and shops of all kinds grew until, in the full glow of its development, it became the largest city in British Columbia.

When Barkerville became the heart of the Cariboo goldfields, many enterprising people from all over the lower half of the Colony of British Columbia came to take advantage of the opportunities for income. Some Indigenous men worked for mining companies during the summer but, for most of the people, the potential for supplying much needed food supplies was more attractive. Their centuries of experience in the area meant that they knew where food of every sort could be obtained. Boarding houses, laundries, hotels and, most of all, saloons were all businesses where women could succeed. Many were operated by married women whose husbands were busy mining, but an increasing number were owned by independent women who welcomed the opportunity to run their own establishments. Chinese miners were also guick to arrive on the scene,



Archives.



and the larger mining companies, always looking for more labour, began hiring them. Soon, with the construction of a wagon road

The Colonial Hotel at Soda Creek in 1868. The man leaning against the post in front of the doorway on the left is Peter Dunlevy, who led the first party of miners up the Fraser in 1859. They found the first gold of Cariboo on the Horsefly River. Although they were Americans, most of them settled in the Cariboo and raised families. Dunleyy is buried at San Jose Mission cemetery near Williams Lake. Heritage House



An early street scene in Barkerville with cattle. Heritage House Archives.

from Quesnel, Barkerville would become a booming new town full of possibility.

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