

SOAR

Inflight
Magazine for
Pacific Coastal
Airlines

Meet & Greet

Visit a wildlife
conservation centre in BC

Mastering the craft of fly-tying

Blending art, science and
the great outdoors

Columbia Basin Culture Tour

Where arts, culture and
heritage meet

Pacific Coastal
AIRLINES



SHELLEY MCKAY & ED HANDJA

Personal Real Estate Corporation & Personal Real Estate Corporation

Your BC Oceanfront Real Estate Team

Specializing in Unique Coastal Real Estate in British Columbia

Shelley 250.830.4435 • Ed 250.287.0011

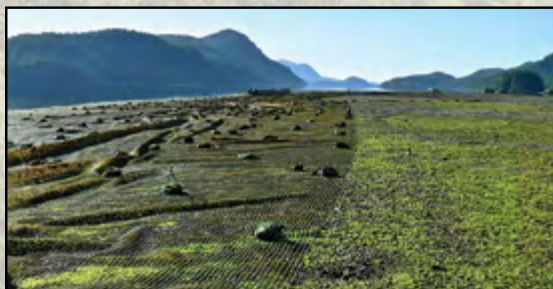
Office 250.286.3293 Toll Free 1.888.286.1932

shelleymckay@bcoceanfront.com

edhandja@bcoceanfront.com



Quadra Island Oceanfront: Enjoy expansive views over **Granite Bay** from this attractive oceanfront acreage! **3.96** acres, partially forested, with approx. **1200ft** of shoreline on the **NW** side of **Quadra Island**. Two titles, power to the lot, domestic water license. Road access from **Quathiaski Cove** ferry terminal. Old A-frame cabin on site not usable. **\$1,120,000**



Active Shellfish Company: Run your own shellfish business on the west coast of **Vancouver Island! Nootka Sound Shellfish Ltd** currently operates three oyster and clam tenures in the **Nootka Sound** region. This offering is a share sale for the purchase of the company. The assets include the three shellfish tenures, all stock, and a **29ft** skiff for transport. **\$199,900**



Oceanfront Home, Porcher Island: Turn-key property! **6.38** acres with approx. **108ft** of walk-on oceanfront as well as a private dock. Family-friendly move-in ready home, **3** bedrooms, **1** bathroom. Off grid power and water systems. Includes most furnishings, equipment, two kayaks, fish cleaning table. Near the mouth of the **Skeena River**, approximately **16** nautical miles from **Prince Rupert**. **\$349,900**



Oceanfront Island Lot: Enjoy expansive ocean views and walk-on beachfront from this residential building lot on picturesque **Gillies Bay**, on the west side of **Texada Island**. There is ferry access from **Powell River**, and paved road to the property. The lot features western exposure, large trees and both hydro electric service and water service are at the road. **0.17** acre lot. **\$319,900**



Campbell River Office for Lease: Centrally located unit offering **2** offices, reception area, lunchroom, **2** piece bathroom and **2** secure underground parking spaces. Common building entrance is locked on weekends and after hours. This is an attractive, popular strata building with good management and long-term tenants. **Base lease rate is \$12.00/sqft**



Campbell River Commercial Lease: Versatile **700sqft** unit centrally located in the downtown core, with good street parking and easy access. Large front space and smaller back office/storage space with **2-piece** bathroom. Vacant and ready for a new tenant! **\$1000/month**

www.bcoceanfront.com

CONTENTS



Features

8 ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE
Columbia Basin Culture Tour

12 GRAZING DAYS
Shopping, eating, sharing time

14 TOUR. TASTE. PLAY.
The new Tasting Passport app



17 MEET & GREET
Visit a wildlife centre in BC

**21 MASTERING THE CRAFT
OF FLY-TYING**
Blending art, science and the
great outdoors



Departments

4 UP FRONT
President's Message

6 MEET A PCA EMPLOYEE

6 PCA NEWS

Associate Group Publisher Janet Gairdner, janet.gairdner@blackpress.ca - 250.480.3251

Managing Editor Susan Lundy, susan.lundy@blvdmag.ca

Creative Director Lily Chan | **Graphic Design** Crea Zhang

Advertising Lauren Bertuzzi, lauren.bertuzzi@blackpress.ca - 250.480.3246

Published by Black Press | blackpress.ca • 818 Broughton Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1E4



SOAR magazine is published six times per year and is distributed on all Pacific Coastal Airlines flights. The points of view or opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher or Pacific Coastal Airlines. The contents of SOAR magazine are protected by copyright, including the designed advertising. Reproduction is prohibited without written consent of the publisher.



trail.ca/tourism
1.250.364.0821

Tourism
Trail, BC

HONOUR, SERVICE AND CHARITY GOLF!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we embrace the hot and sunny days of summer, I am delighted to welcome you aboard your Pacific Coastal Airlines flight and thank you for choosing to include us in your travel plans. Whether you are a frequent flyer or embarking on your first journey with us, we are thrilled to have you on board and appreciate your business.

This summer, Pacific Coastal Airlines is offering flights to 18 remarkable destinations throughout the province of British Columbia—this is more than any other airline. From as far north as Masset on Haida Gwaii to Tofino on the west coast of Vancouver Island or Kelowna in the Okanagan, we offer a comprehensive network of destinations for you to explore.

We recently celebrated the launch of our new non-stop flights between Kelowna and Comox. As we continue to grow our flight services at the Kelowna International Airport (YLW), Comox becomes the third destination we serve from Kelowna, in addition to Nanaimo and Victoria. Learn more about our new route and what to explore in Comox and Kelowna on page 8.

On May 30, we hosted our 30th Memorial Charity Golf Tournament in Richmond, BC. I'm pleased to share with you that thanks to the generous contributions of our sponsors, golfers, title sponsor Canadian Western Bank, and dedication from our many volunteers who organized the event, we raised \$110,000. The proceeds have been shared with The Source Club, based in Powell River and Power To Be, based in Victoria and Vancouver, and funded three \$10,000 scholarships for Indigenous youth and BC students pursuing careers in aviation.

As we continue to grow and improve our services, we invite you to share your feedback with us. Pacific Coastal Airlines is always striving to improve and we greatly value your feedback on our services. Share your thoughts with us at feedback@pacificcoastal.com

Once again, thank you for choosing to make us part of your summer travel plans. Enjoy the flight! ✈️

Warm regards,

Quentin Smith

Un-Ordinary Your Day

Āamatax™, Campbell River, is nestled within the territory of the Liq̓w̓l̓daʷ peoples; the WeWaik̓ai, WeWaik̓um, and Kwik̓l̓ah Nations; here there are no borders between city and nature. Āamatax™, 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.

Find your perfect itinerary and get inspired to plan your stay, from where to grab your morning coffee to the best places to embrace the outdoors and experience our community culture.

7AM



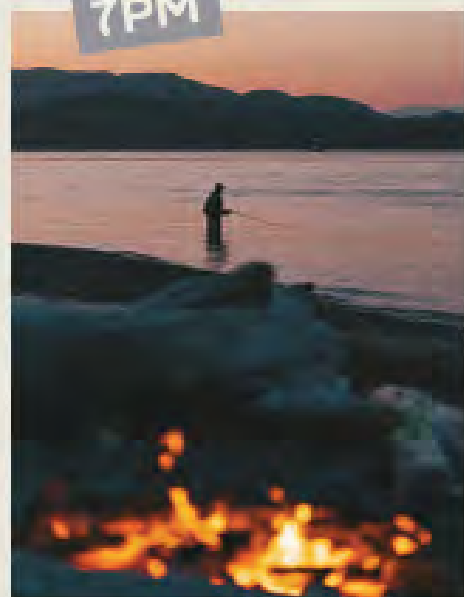
**Start your day
in comfort**

10AM



Embrace the outdoors

7PM



**Share your stories
of the wild**

3PM



Indulge in local cuisine

**CAMPBELL
RIVER**

VISIT: [CAMPBELLRIVER.TRAVEL](https://campbellriver.travel)
Or call 1.877.286.5705



FOLLOW US FOR TRAVEL INSPIRATION
[@discovercampbellriver](https://www.instagram.com/discovercampbellriver) #TheRealCampbellRiver

MEET A PACIFIC COASTAL EMPLOYEE: ARJET



Position: Base Supervisor

Location: Vancouver, BC

Time with PASCO: 5 years

Job description: This is a leadership position responsible for providing supervision, direction, training and support to all customer service agents.

Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Albania, where I spent my childhood and teenage years. I moved to Canada 10 years ago.

What path did you take to get to this job?

My first job was with Princess Cruises as a meet-and-greet agent, while pursuing a bachelor's degree in tourism management, which led to more leadership roles within the cruise industry. I spent a few years at the YVR Authority before joining Pacific Coastal, where I found a role that aligns perfectly with my passion for travel and community.

What do you like best about this job?

Working alongside such a dedicated and supportive team makes every day enjoyable. I take great pride in being part of an airline that plays a vital role in connecting and enriching our communities.

What are your hobbies outside of the job?

I love long walks, running, hiking and travelling to explore new places and cultures.

What do you like to do in your city?

Explore its vibrant coffee culture, meet friends and enjoy the diverse culinary offerings at various restaurants.

PCA NEWS



New Kelowna-Comox flight enhances BC connectivity

Pacific Coastal Airlines has announced the successful launch of its new non-stop service between Kelowna International Airport (YLW) and Comox Valley Airport (YQQ). The first flights took off June 25, marking a significant enhancement in travel options for passengers between these two vibrant regions.

Key stakeholders, including executives, politicians, airport authorities, tourism organizations and Indigenous representatives, gathered to celebrate this new route, which is set to provide greater connectivity and convenience for travellers.

Both Kelowna International and Comox Valley airports hosted special events, featuring speeches, a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the distribution of branded gifts to passengers. Additionally, a business partner event was held in Kelowna following the first flight's welcome, underscoring the importance of the route in fostering business relationships and economic growth.


"Our team is ecstatic following the successful route launch between Kelowna and Comox, offering our third non-stop flight option from Kelowna to Vancouver Island. This non-stop flight offers enhanced travel convenience and will foster stronger ties between

these two amazing regions," said Johnathan Richardson, vice president of customer and commercial.

Representatives from the Kelowna and Comox airport authorities expressed their enthusiasm for the new route.

"We are so excited to add Comox as the third non-stop connection from Kelowna to Vancouver Island," said Sam Samaddar, YLW CEO. "Thank you to Pacific Coastal Airlines for continuing to add these regional routes, connecting our communities and providing more travel options for Okanagan residents."

"We've been looking forward to this week since announcing this new direct route connecting the Comox Valley and the Okanagan in April," said YQQ CEO Mike Atkins. "Our community is excited and is already embracing this new option to visit the Okanagan. Pacific Coastal Airlines has been a strong partner of ours for over 20 years and we're looking forward to their new non-stop connection to the Kelowna International Airport."

Tickets for the Kelowna-Comox route are available for purchase. Passengers can book their flights by visiting the Pacific Coastal Airlines website, contacting the call centre at 1-800-663-2872, or through their preferred travel agent. 



Welcome to the amazing world of insects, arachnids, and their many-legged relatives!

A visit to this must-see mini zoo offers visitors an excellent opportunity to view and experience live tropical bugs from around the world.

Discover over 50 fascinating species including giant walking sticks, beautiful praying mantis, glow-in-the-dark scorpions, hairy tarantulas, and an amazing leaf-cutter ant colony! Don't miss this hands-on adventure while in Victoria, BC!



**Visit our website for
our seasonal hours**

**Find us in downtown Victoria at 631 Courtney St
250-384-2847 • victoriabugzoo.ca**



Where arts, culture and heritage meet

Fascinating venues open their doors during the Columbia Basin Culture Tour

By Galadriel Watson

Mountain biking. Hiking. Boating. Taking in gorgeous vistas and strolling in quaint and historic communities. When visiting the Kootenays, there are so many fun and intriguing activities to experience. Let's add one more to the list: soaking in a weekend full of arts, culture and heritage during the Columbia Basin Culture Tour.

Each summer, the entire Columbia Basin region in southeastern British Columbia—encompassing the West Kootenays, the East Kootenays and additional areas like Valemount—celebrates arts, culture and heritage over the course of a weekend via the Columbia Basin Culture Tour.

This summer, the 16th annual tour takes place on Saturday and Sunday, August 10 and 11, from 10 am to 5 pm. During this time, nearly 100 artists, museums, art galleries, heritage sites and more open their doors to the public—for free.

Take a Pacific Coastal Airlines flight to the Trail Regional Airport that weekend and you'll already be in the heart of the action, with several venues in the city and surrounding area.

A project of the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance, the culture tour is supported by Columbia Basin Trust, with additional support provided by Nelson and Kootenay Lake Tourism and the Province of British Columbia.

"The people in this region are immensely creative,



Centre Star Studio.

and it's always a thrill to see the fruits of their amazing talents," says co-organizer Kallee Lins. "Through the culture tour, the public gets to interact with individual artists and others involved in arts, culture and heritage in ways that may not normally be available, enjoy special events, discover impressive artistic pieces, and maybe head home with a cherished item or two."

In Trail, check out Bea&Glad Studio's one-woman, small-batch clothing shop, featuring items patterned with foliage, feathers and the like. VISAC Gallery is also pleased to present wearable art through "The Art of Adornment."

Executive director Sharon Roberts says, "The Art of Adornment is a juried competition, fashion show and exhibition of wearable fashion/art featuring Kootenay artists and creators. Organized by the Rossland Council for the Arts and Culture, this exhibition features intricately crafted accessories to avant-garde ensembles with one-of-a-kind pieces that patrons won't get a chance to see anywhere else. Don't miss this opportunity!"

At Centre Star Studio, potter Sarah

Barr's work boasts simple designs and joyous colours. Ceramic-lovers can also visit Pottery by Fran.

"When visiting my venue, you will be able to tour my studio, see wheel-throwing demonstrations and view the large variety of my pottery, which will also be available for purchase," says Fran Moll.

Head uphill from Trail to Lower Warfield, where Linda Parson and Jacki Bruce are joining forces at one unique venue. Here, you'll discover Parson's handsewn lampshades created with vintage fabrics dyed just the right hues, plus Bruce's meticulously woven pine-needle baskets.

"We are both very excited to invite you to an enlightened experience," Parson says.

History buffs are also welcome, with the Trail Historical Society inviting people to the Trail Museum in the Riverfront Centre to connect to the area's rich industrial and sports heritage. Also, the Rossland Museum & Discovery Centre in nearby Rossland is enabling folks to explore the commu-



Bea&Glad Studio

nity's mining, geology, skiing and social history, complete with family-friendly crafts, workshops and artist demos.

And the options don't stop there. In fact, there are about 90 more venues throughout the Columbia Basin to explore.

Simply by heading from Trail to Nelson, you'll be able to get your fill, with venues strung along the route in places like Castlegar, Bonnington Falls, Taghum

BRINGING A WATERCRAFT TO BC?

To avoid accidentally introducing invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussels to British Columbia, or moving other aquatic invasive species such as invasive clams from one waterbody to another, **you must:**



Clean. Drain. Dry.

Clean ALL watercraft, trailers and equipment including waders and fishing gear.

Drain all compartments and items holding water (such as bilge, wells and buckets) onto dry land.

Dry all items completely before launching into another body of water.



STOP at Watercraft Inspection Stations as you pass them in your travels.

All types of watercraft must stop for inspection.



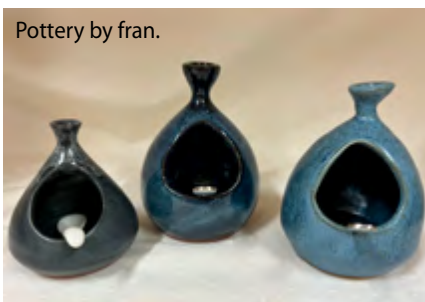
SHUSWAP
watershed council

#DONTMOVEAMUSSEL

TRAIL



VISAC Gallery.



Pottery by fran.



Linda Parson.



Rossland Council.

Suites Available

“

**THIS IS LIVING,
ENRICHED.**

*They're just
like family
here!*



Come see what life could look like for you.

HOMES *with Heart!*

- The Camelot, Victoria
- Hawthorne Place, Qualicum
- Stevenson Place, Comox
- Wedgwood House, Duncan

NovaPacific.ca

**Book Your
Tour Today!**

250.384.3336

Boutique Independent
Retirement Living
with Supportive Services

NADIA L CARRIERE

250-986-5911

nadia.carriere@century21.ca

3179 Barons Rd #1, Nanaimo, BC V9T 5W5

www.nadialcarriere.com

The Gold Standard in Real Estate







Jacki Bruce.



Trail Historical Society.



Barbara Brown.

and Blewett. The city of Nelson itself bursts with possibilities, from paintings and jewellery to hats and murals.

To learn more about the tour, visit cbculture-tour.com or pick up a printed copy of the Columbia Basin Culture Tour directory, available around the region in locations like visitors' centres, hotels, cafés, galleries and chambers of commerce. Also follow: @wkartscouncil on Facebook or Instagram.

Painter, writer and filmmaker Barbara Brown—who will be featured at Kootenay Gallery in Castlegar during the tour—speaks for all venues when she says, "I would so love to see you there!" 🏠

Dr. Joshua Wiesenthal
Urologic Surgeon, KGH

Elevating health care to new heights

Raising \$40 million
to support the **change**
we need, right here
at **home**.

Closer to **home** than you think.

[LEARN MORE](#)

kghfoundation.com

KGHFOUNDATION



Grazing days

Shopping, eating and sharing time

By Sharon Styve

Illustration by Sierra Lundy

I have a button that says, "I want it all!" And I do! And that definitely applies to eating good food.

My love of food, which I share with my daughter, Laura, is at the root of our tradition of the "grazing day."

When Laura arrives from Ontario for a visit with me in Nanaimo, we dedicate one day to go downtown for our traditional "grazing day," abiding by our essential rules.

RULE #1: GRAZING REQUIRES THE WHOLE DAY.

RULE #2: FINDING CLOTHING SALES IS A PRIME OBJECTIVE.

RULE #3: CHOOSE A GOOD STREET WITH INTERESTING SHOPS AND CAFES.

RULE #4: IT'S ALL ABOUT SHARING.

The taxi drops us off at the north end of Commercial Street in Nanaimo. Just around the corner, Fig Love Clothing is our first stop—and it has a SALE! The owner is smiling and helpful. We find several possibilities, and Laura tries them on. Some are “okay,” some are definite “nos.”

But when she emerges from the dressing room wearing the last dress, the owner blurts out, “It’s PERFECT!” I agree—it’s exactly “Laura.” She has a huge smile on her face and says, “I love it!”

With the dress in its bag, we walk the few steps to Artzi Stuff—a local artists’ showcase. We examine everything in the store. Laura hopes to find an anniversary gift for her partner, and suddenly she exclaims, “That’s it!” and runs across the store to the display of Ted Jolda’s incredible blown glassware, picking up a stunning green piece. She and her partner were given a set of Ted’s glasses in various colours, which they use every day. But not a green one. As green is her partner’s favourite colour, this is perfect.

Across the street is Modern Café, our first grazing stop.

I should explain what a “grazing day” entails. We walk along our chosen street, poking in shops, galleries and museums and stopping at restaurants as we go. At each restaurant, we order one dish and share it. If we can’t decide, we ask the server, “What’s the best dish?” and we’ll share one of those.

Arriving at the Modern, we’re seated at our outdoor table. We study the menu—usually a challenge as Laura is vegan and has allergies. We’re excited to see many vegan options listed. (No need to quiz the server about ingredients or explain Laura’s list of allergies!) Not accustomed to so many choices, we have trouble deciding, but both agree on the Funghi, sautéed foraged mushrooms, caramelized onions, chard,

arugula and mushroom gravy on focaccia.

I set my newly created homemade wasp repellent containers on our table.

“It’s working!” I announce, surprised as I see wasps approach and immediately veer away from our table. Laura had laughed at my concoction, but now she must admit that it really does work.

Having enjoyed the Funghi, we cross the street to Flying Fish, a kitchenware shop. We wander through the store, looking at socks (a passion of Laura’s), the kitchen gadgets (a passion of mine) and all the other cool stuff. Nothing grabs our attention (or our wallets) and we move on to our next grazing stop: a relatively new crêperie. In my research, I discovered it has vegan crepes! Laura goes inside to order and returns to our sidewalk table. Eventually the crepe arrives, we share it, and on we go.

Other stops include the art gallery, which is featuring a comics exhibit; Craft Fare, where Laura enjoys a glass of pale ale; and a miscellany of shops along the street. We notice shopkeepers bringing their signs inside, and we’re astounded to realize that things are starting to close at 4 pm! On a Saturday!

As downtown Nanaimo is quickly turning into a ghost town, we choose our final stop: Nana Sushi. Since rice is too carb-heavy for me, I have tempura, and Laura orders a custom sushi with cucumber and salmon, but no mayo. The server returns with our food, placing two sets of sushi in front of Laura—not just one. The server explains that the chef thought it would taste better separately, so he did one “salmon” and one “cucumber” (but only charged for one!). So thoughtful and generous. And delicious! (I had a taste.)

The taxi arrives and we return home for a dinner of delectable miso sablefish that’s been marinating all day.

What a perfect, gentle, delicious day shared with my amazing daughter.

We absolutely love grazing days. They offer a great way to explore a neighbourhood, and it’s perfect when we travel and want to “have it all,” tasting as many things as possible in each city. We’ve “grazed” in Montreal, Toronto and Halifax, and throughout Europe.

And closer to home, there are some great grazing opportunities.

Downtown Duncan is ideal for a grazing day, with interesting shops and a great bookstore, as well an array of ethnic options: we’ve slurped Vietnamese pho, checked out sushi and discovered the perfect burger with all the trimmings at Arbutus Café—an old-fashioned yummy diner. And we always go on a Saturday to catch the farmers’ market.

A trip to Victoria inevitably takes us to Fort Street with its wealth of Asian eateries, great bakeries and antique shops to browse between all the eating. Russell Books is a “must-stop” for us, and we allow at least two hours there. Chinatown is also a “must-see” as we poke through the shops and collect amazing ingredients to cook at home, and then sample the incredible dishes from the abundance of Chinese restaurants. Some of our Chinatown essentials are Pure Lovin’ Chocolate in Fan Tan Alley (my mouth is watering just thinking about it), Fan Tan Café (yummy Chinese food at good prices) and Silk Road Tea. Make sure to visit at least one of the butchers and get some barbecue pork and duck.

Here is my “it-works!” wasp repellent.

Using a bottle or jar, fill half with water and the second half with witch hazel. Then add essential oils: peppermint, clove bud and lemongrass.

Be careful with essential oils as they can irritate skin. Once mixed, put some solution in a spray bottle, and put some in a leak-proof container with a piece of kitchen sponge. Put the container on your table and spray the area to keep wasps away. You can spray your clothing to repel them from you. Be careful not to get spray near your eyes. 🐝



Tour. Taste. Play.

Ladner Farmer's Market, BC Farmers' Market Trail,
Johann Vincent Photography

New Tasting Passport app leads foodies through vibrant “taste and do” experiences

Calling all superfoodies! The BC Association of Farmers' Markets (BCAFM) invites locals and tourists alike to tour, taste and play at farmers' market destinations across the province this summer via a brand-new Tasting Passport mobile app.

The BCAFM Tasting Passport lets travellers and locals share their foodie experiences and local adventures and get rewarded for exploring communities across BC.

The Tasting Passport app is a great companion for farmers' market visits. It offers self-guided itineraries featuring go-to neighbourhood spots, including places like the best local farm-to-table restaurants, popular local values-based businesses, and free and accessible cultural attractions and activities. Content for each taste-and-tour itinerary has been thoughtfully curated with support from local tourism partners and Destination BC's Co-operative Marketing Partnership Program.

“Enjoying local food and drink enriches the experience that travellers have when visiting BC,” said Alison McKay, vice president of destination management at Destination BC. “Hav-

ing awe-inspiring local food and drink content to power up this innovative passport app is a great way to expand the opportunities for residents and visitors to explore and engage with the diverse food offerings in BC.”

Featured Tasting Passport tours can be found in numerous Pacific Coastal Airlines destinations, such as Prince George and communities in the Comox Valley and Cariboo Chilcotin Coast, as well as towns near PCA destinations like Cowichan and Parksville (fly to Nanaimo), Vernon near Kelowna, and cities in the Lower Mainland (fly to YVR), like Burnaby and Delta, Vancouver's North Shore and nearby Squamish. Listings of 145-plus farmers' markets can be found on the BC Farmers' Market Trail and in the Tasting Passport App, filtered by distance and including market information like hours and available amenities.

Superfoodie fans who check in at BC farmers' market destinations will reach new tier levels within the app, unlock bonus badges and redeem prizes for hitting milestones. App users are invited to share their adventures, challenge friends and top the leaderboard.

“BC is a fantastic destination for foodies, and our farmers' markets are a shin-

ing example of the culinary abundance of the province,” said Heather O'Hara, executive director of the BCAFM. “Food brings people together and our new Tasting Passport app aims to unite fellow foodies through vibrant ‘taste and do’ experiences. Assemble your tasting team and prepare to embark on a culinary quest, where you can earn rewards, challenge fellow foodies, and share your adventures!”

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

➔ **MAAN FARMS:** a family-run farm based in Abbotsford offering the freshest greenhouse strawberries all year round. Find them at Abbotsford, Fort Langley, Trout Lake, Riley Park, Kitsilano, Coquitlam and White Rock Farmers' Market.

➔ **BUNS OUT:** serving authentic Taiwanese street food at Whistler Farmers' Market.

➔ **MASALA FACTORY** offering high-quality, authentic Indian spice blends using family recipes at Kitsilano, Riley Park, Trout Lake, Burnaby, Ambleside and Coquitlam Farmers' Market.

• **Hearty Vegan:** serving nutritious soups and sauces at Haney and Pitt Meadows Farmers' Market.

➔ **PELE'S KITCHEN:** offering a




Prince George Farmer's Market, BC Farmers' Market Trail, Darrin Rigo.

variety of vegan and gluten-free baked goods at Sooke Country Market.

Farmers' markets are a huge draw for both visitors to the province and BC locals. Almost one million tourists visit farmers' markets every year in BC, and according to a recent provincial economic impact study, BC farmers' markets contributed \$233 million to the local economy. It's not just tourists who are passionate about farmers' markets; businesses love

them too, because farmers' markets have an economic ripple effect for local market-adjacent businesses, with 87 per cent of business owners reporting that farmers' markets have a positive impact on their sales and operations.

The BCAFM is calling all farmers' market superfans to put their superfoodie status to the test this summer. Download the free app today through the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and begin your tasting adventure! 

You'll be Landing Shortly

Make this journey one to remember with Sagebrush Tours.



Flying to the Okanagan? Let us show you the region's finest wines.

Indulge in the finest vintages amid breathtaking landscapes and elevate your wine journey with us—*where every sip tells a story*. Secure your spot today and let us guide you through award-winning wineries and picturesque views.

Visit sagebrushtours.ca/wine-tours to explore our exclusive wine tours available throughout the Okanagan Valley.



Public & Private Wine Tours • Tel: (250) 859-5982 • info@sagebrushtours.ca






BOOK ONLINE!

WWW.TOFINOELECTRICBIKES.COM
250-522-0203

TOFINO'S 1ST EBIKE COMPANY - TWO LOCATIONS
LARGE FLEET - CHILD & PET CHARIOTS - LONG TERM RATES



bring us this
5% OFF
ad for



Discover

your

next

adventure



All Inclusive
Tour Packages + Weddings



FIRVALE WILDERNESS CAMP.COM



Meet & greet

Visit a wildlife conservation centre in BC

Story contributed

Kootenay Trout Hatchery and Visitor Centre | Kari Medig

BC is home to tens of thousands of plant and animal species living in a rich diversity of habitats and ecosystems—and over 1,800 of them are endangered. Thankfully, conservation centres across the province are actively engaged in species preservation and research while educating visitors about the importance of protecting these animals and their habitats.

Here are some of those centres and how you can get there via Pacific Coastal Airlines (PCA).

➔ OSOYOOS DESERT CENTRE, OSOYOOS

Fly PCA to Penticton and drive for just under one hour through the beautiful Okanagan to Osoyoos. Or fly PCA into Kelowna and drive one hour and 45 minutes to reach the destination.

This interpretive centre is situated on the southern edge of the Okanagan Valley in a habitat referred to as “Canada’s pocket desert”—one of the country’s most rare, fragile and endangered ecosystems, and home to one of the highest concentrations of rare and

at-risk species.

The centre works to conserve locally threatened habitats, including 27 hectares (67 acres) of antelope-brush, one of the four most endangered ecosystems in the country. Nearby, the Nk’Mip Desert Cultural Centre oversees a rattlesnake research program that tags and tracks the movements of reptiles such as the Great Basin Gopher Snake, a threatened species. Guests can see the snakes up-close in the centre’s “Critter Corner” or learn about desert ecology and wildlife at the “Living Land” display.

➔ GRIZZLY BEAR INTERPRETIVE CENTRE, GOLDEN

Fly PCA into either Kamloops or Kelowna and drive for a scenic four hours to reach Golden. For a slightly longer drive, taking in BC’s Kootenays, fly to the PCA destination at Trail, and drive for five hours.

Eager to see a grizzly bear (blue-listed, or of special concern)? Stop by the grizzly bear refuge on Kicking Horse

Mountain Resort, where Boo—the resident orphaned grizzly bear—roams his eight-hectare (20-acre) habitat, foraging and playing as he pleases.

The refuge offers daily interpretive tours in the summer, as well as a “ranger assist program” that grants guests behind-the-scenes access to Boo as they learn about refuge operations.

➔ GROUSE MOUNTAIN, VANCOUVER

PCA offers numerous flights into its hub at YVR’s South Terminal. From there, it’s about a 50-minute drive to Grouse Mountain.

Grouse Mountain Resort houses a refuge for endangered wildlife, including resident grizzly bears Grinder and Coola. A live camera broadcasts them snoozing in their den during winter, and guests can see them roaming their habitat when they wake up in the spring.

There are also owl “ambassadors” who help to educate visitors about nocturnal birds; in the summer, Owl Talks are hosted daily by a wildlife specialist. Grouse Mountain is also an



Grouse Mountain Birds of Prey | Destination Vancouver

active participant in the North American Hummingbird Monitoring Network, maintaining feeding stations and carrying out hummingbird monitoring sessions every two weeks in the spring and summer.

➔ KOOTENAY TROUT HATCHERY, FORT STEEL

Fort Steele is located just under three hours from the PCA destination at Trail, BC.

The Kootenay Trout Hatchery, operated by the Freshwater Fisheries Society of British Columbia, rears up to three million rainbow, cutthroat, brook char and kokanee baby trout each year to enhance local recreational fishing opportunities.

It also raises the red-listed (endangered) white sturgeon for conservation purposes. Guests can drop in year-round and take a self-guided tour, while guided tours are available daily from May through August. Highlights include nature walks providing educa-

tion about native plants, birds and animals, a catch-and-release fishing program in the children's fishing pond, and an interpretive area with aquaria, educational models and displays.

➔ NORTH ISLAND WILDLIFE RECOVERY CENTRE, PARKSVILLE QUALICUM BEACH

The wildlife recovery centre is a 45-minute drive from PCA's destination at Nanaimo Airport.

Operated by the non-profit North Island Wildlife Recovery Association (NIWRA), this rehabilitation facility cares for animals with all types of needs, including birds with broken wings, orphaned black bears and electrocuted eagles.

Its main goals are to reintroduce as many animals back into the wild as possible and educate the public about wildlife and environmental issues. Visitors can see the largest eagle flight enclosure of its kind in Canada; the Museum of Nature, which showcases the

animals of Vancouver Island; an interactive learning centre; and enclosures allowing close access to more than 60 resident, non-releasable animals.

➔ THE RAPTORS, DUNCAN

Find The Raptors in Duncan after a 30-minute drive from Nanaimo Airport.

Cosy up to birds of prey and learn the real story of these silent predators, such as the alarming rate of decline of raptors, with nearly 30 per cent of the global population considered threatened, vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered.

The Raptors endeavours to educate people about birds of prey to inspire a sense of responsibility for protecting these majestic avians and their habitats. Activities include daily flying demonstrations by eagles, hawks, owls and vultures; opportunities to hold a falcon or meet an owl face-to-beak; and other interactions with raptors while learning about their behaviour, diet, habitat, and conservation needs. 🦅



LUX·FINO
LUXURY PICNICS



LUX.FINO
REMOTE

-Pop-Up Beach Picnics for Every Occasion
-Remote Luxury Glamping Hideaway

-In-House Chef Dining Experience
-Crab Cookout

Rediscover - Reconnect - Relax

✉ hello@luxfino.ca

🌐 www.luxfino.ca

@LuxFino

☎ 1-866-LUX FINO



WAIVIN FLAGS

**Reliable Taxi
Services for All Your
Travel Needs.**



**From solo
travelers to large
groups, we've got
you covered.**

**Enjoy dependable services
at the best prices.**

**Book
Your Ride
Now.**

250-230-8294 (TAXI)

SERVICING THE TRI-PORT AREA

250-287-8294 (TAXI)

SERVICING THE CENTRAL ISLAND

Mastering the craft of fly-



A blend of art, science and the great outdoors

By Paul Bucci

If you're looking for something that combines creativity, artistry, a deeper knowledge of the natural world—and fishing!—fly-tying is just the pursuit for you.

Yes, there is an art and science to fly-tying, but it's also a profoundly personal connection to the fish you crave to catch. Each fly you make reflects what you know about fish habits, how they feed and ultimately your own creative expression.

First, what is fly-tying? Fly-tying is a manual process done by an individual using hand tools and a variety of natural and man-made materials to create a fly, which is then attached to a hook with the purpose of luring a fish.

There are many ways to get into the craft, including learning from dozens of videos produced by the BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF). But nothing really beats a hands-on course by a master fly-tyer, like the ones hosted by Kalamalka Fly Fishers Society in Vernon,

Yes, there is an art and science to fly-tying, but it's also a profoundly personal connection to the fish you crave to catch. Each fly you make reflects what you know about fish habits, how they feed and ultimately your own creative expression.

explain club members Ron Reitsma and Bill Kirkland.

After running through the basic equipment—vise, scissors, bobbin and threader, hackle pliers, whip finisher, dubbing needle and glue—instructors teach the basics of their first fly.

Typically, they start with The Carey Special, a simple pattern that helps cement in the basics of fly-tying yet can produce instant results.

The second fly taught is typically a chironomid, which has a slim body, can be tied in dozens of different colours, often has little copper ribbing, and usually has a beaded head—all

of which solidify some of the basic techniques.

The next fly is a personal favourite of mine—not only for the name, Woolly Bugger—but also for its appearance, looking a little like a hairy insect after a hard night on the town. The Woolly Bugger imitates a large variety of food sources, such as leeches and drowned terrestrial insects.

While there are a variety of courses taught at various fish and game clubs around the province, you may be interested in a series of video tutorials produced for the BCWF's Learn to Fish Program.

More than 3,000 people have participated in the online version of the federation's program, and, for those who are interested in fly-tying, the organization has a bank of videos from Brandon Molzahn, known for his "Tying is my Vise" seminars.

"You can spend hours with these videos, perfecting your technique," says Steve Hamilton, Conservation, Hunting, Angling and Firearms Policy & Engagement Coordinator with the BC Wildlife Federation.

"Brandon, for example, gives you a tackle breakdown: 'This is how you're going to tie a bloodworm. This is what you need. Here are the tools. Here's where you get them. It's really, really in-depth.'"

The ultimate goal for fly-tyers—in some sort of perfect universe—is to arrive at a fishing hole, observe an unexpected hatch, and whip out a portable fly-tying kit to imitate what mother nature is doing.

While some anglers are capable of that feat, really, the art of fly-tying has more to do with tradition, knowledge and craftsmanship—not to mention the amazing thrill that happens when you feel a fish strike on a fly that you've tied, and the age-old contest between fisher and fish begins anew. 🏆





John RUSTAD

MLA, Nechako Lakes

Leader of the BC Conservative Party

**CONSERVATIVE**
PARTY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

250-387-3507 • conservative.caucus@leg.bc.ca
f @johnrustadbc X @JohnRustad4BC
BC Conservative Caucus Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4

PRINCE of WHALES

WHALE & MARINE WILDLIFE ADVENTURES

BOOK HERE



YOUR ADVENTURE
STARTS IN

Telegraph Cove

NORTH ISLAND KAYAK

1.888.383.4884 | KAYAKBC.CA

Pacific Coastal

AIRLINES

