

SOAR



Inflight
Magazine for
Pacific Coastal
Airlines

Haida Gwaii

Go for your soul

Ride on!

A new bike project for
RED Mountain Resort

The tale of the tail

A KC Hall design is the
latest PCA tail art



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MILESTONES, TAIL ART AND BACK IN PRINT!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



First and foremost, I would like to express our deepest appreciation for our passengers' loyalty and infinite support during the summer season. Having each one of you on board serves as a catalyst for us to keep striving to do even better every single day. Whether you are a frequent flyer or a frequent-flyer-to-be, we are honoured to have served you at Pacific Coastal Airlines this summer, and we're looking forward to continuing to welcome you aboard this fall.

Moving forward, we are delighted to announce that *SOAR*, our in-flight magazine, is back in print! We've been waiting for its return since the COVID-19 pandemic, and we hope you missed it as much as we did. If you are currently reading the print version of our magazine, please take a moment to absorb the rustling of pages, the experience of texture and the smell of fresh ink, all while learning about many of the 18 communities we serve across the province.

Having a deep connection to our beautiful province and the communities we serve, we recently celebrated two significant milestones. First, September 12 marked our Nanaimo base's first-year anniversary! We are beyond grateful for all the support in making this achievement possible. We will remain steadfast in delivering top-notch service at all of our destinations to celebrate even more anniversaries together in the future.

On September 5, we unveiled new tail art on our new Saab 340B aircraft. The art is an important addition to our "Tales of the Tails" tradition, as it showcases our interrelation with the Heiltsuk Nation, both on land and in the air. Not only does this approach allow us to acknowledge the regions and people of British Columbia, but it facilitates an even more meaningful flight experience for our passengers, who get a better understanding of our airline. On that note, I would like to invite you to learn more about our new tail art, artist KC Hall and his artwork on page 18 of this edition of *SOAR*.

As always, we want to thank you for your unwavering support and for choosing Pacific Coastal Airlines as your preferred travel option. Your feedback is highly valuable to us as we continuously strive to improve our services, and we invite you to share your thoughts at feedback@pacificcoastal.com.

We appreciate you making us part of your fall journey, and we look forward to seeing you on our next flight, rain or shine! 🌧️

Warm regards,

Quentin Smith

Un-Ordinary Your Day

Āamatax™, Campbell River, is nestled within the territory of the Liq̓w̓l̓daʷ peoples; the WeWaiKai, WeiWaiKum, and Kwikwā 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.

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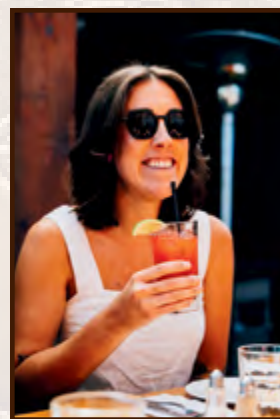
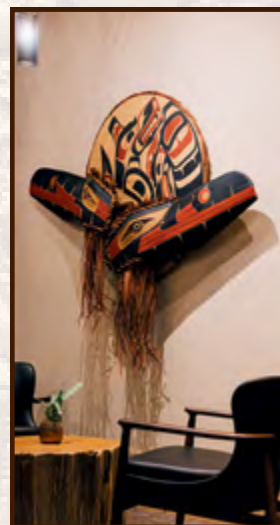
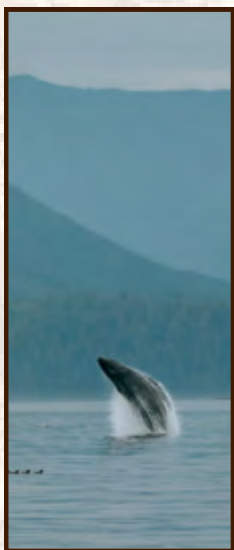


I enjoy shopping at the local stores and visiting the wharf in Steveston for fish and chips.

PCA announces new Kelowna-Prince George route

Education, culture and conservation at new Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Centre

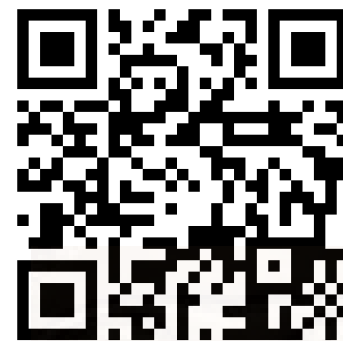
The Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Centre is anticipated to cost \$15 million, of which \$9.9 million has been secured to date through grants and philanthropic giving. CBT's capital campaign to complete the project continues. To learn more or to donate, visit clayoquotbiosphere.org/the-biosphere-centre/overview 



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HAIDA GWAI



Go for *your soul*

Reverence and magic
in Haida Gwaii

Words Susan Lundy

Photo courtesy Moresby Explorers



Old Masset. Photo by Susan Lundy

On the trail up Tow Hill, we stop at the first lookout to take in the scene: a sun-stroked expanse of sand, narrowing as it disappears into a soft mist.

This is Rose Spit, and it is the perfect place to pause on our first day in Haida Gwaii because, according to legend, this is the birthplace of the Haida people.

"The raven, one of the most powerful creatures in Haida mythology, was lonely. As he wandered down the beach, he heard noises coming from a clamshell. As he looked in the clamshell, he saw many tiny little creatures hiding within. The raven convinced people to emerge from under the shell to enjoy the New World, and they became the first Haida people."

Magic abounds in Haida Gwaii, often referred to as "the edge of the world." The landscapes are breathtaking, with old-growth forests, rocky coastlines, pristine lakes and beaches that go on forever. The cultural heritage of the Haida people imbues it all with a sense of spirituality and a connection to the land. And the very remoteness of these islands reveals a wilderness in its purest form. This is a place that demands reverence and respect: a place you go for your soul.

We land in Masset, at the north end of Graham Island, one day in mid-June, having flown from Vancouver via Pacific Coastal Airlines. A shuttle takes us to our car rental, and after a quick lunch, we head straight to Old Masset, jaws dropping as we witness the spectacular totems and art that reside around every corner.

Later, after our hike up Tow Hill—where, from the top, we can see Alaska—we drive the ocean-hugging main road south to Tlell and step into the stunning world of Haida Gwaii Glamping. So much care and thought have gone into creating this unique accommodation, where large canvas tents dot a brightly lit boardwalk above a short, forested



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The landscapes are breathtaking, with old-growth forests, rocky coastlines, pristine lakes and beaches that go on forever. The cultural heritage of the Haida people imbues it all with a sense of spirituality and a connection to the land.

path to the ocean. Here, you sleep under mosquito nets in cosy queen beds and spacious tents that have adjoining shower and toilet rooms on one side and balconies on the other. From our balcony we can see the ocean and we sit peacefully here for a period, listening to eagles calling overhead. Later, we stroll along the beach, absorbing the utter tranquility and calm of a wild and deserted stretch of rocks and sand.

A complimentary continental breakfast is served communally in a geodesic “social dome,” which has a long table, couches and lounging areas, toys for the kids, and all the plates, cutlery and cooking materials you need for either your breakfast here or a meal down at the “deck”—a beautifully designated eating and cooking area equipped with barbecues and oversized seafood cooking pots. During our stay, we have the honour of dining on the deck with Haida Gwaii-born Alana Husby, who, along with her sister, Nicole, created this luxury accommodation. Alana is a wonderful host and a spectacular storyteller—with some riveting tales to share.

Just up the road from Haida Gwaii Glamping sits Haida House at Tllaal, where we dine on our first night. The room is awash in beautiful Haida art, and the menu offers a selection of regional tide- and farm-to-table cuisine. I absolutely swoon over what must be the best tuna I’ve ever tasted.

Haida House—which also offers accommodation in rooms above the restaurant and in 12 two-bedroom, Haida-inspired oceanside cabins—sits alongside the Tlell River, and across the water is the Pesuta Shipwreck Trail that we hope



The social dome at Haida Gwaii Glamping.
Photo by Susan Lundy



Balance rock. Photo by Susan Lundy



to hike tomorrow. The five-kilometre trail leads to the wreck of the vessel *Pezuta* (misspelled these days as *Pesuta*), which ran aground in 1928. Despite being on the beach for nearly 100 years, the bow is still there, jutting out from the sand. That day, however, we decide there are too many other must-sees nearby to hike the three-hour trail, so we settle for a much shorter beach walk that takes us to the mouth of the Tlell River, where we can see the shipwreck looming just across the way.

And then we set out to explore, driving first to nearby Crystal Cabin—a little gem store with big works of art—where we bask in the collection of vibrant Haida paintings, and drool over the jewellery before purchasing a pair of beautifully carved silver rings.

After admiring the totems in Skidegate and wandering around Daajing Gid, we settle in for a tour of the the Haida Heritage Centre at Kay 'Llnagaay. Driving the main road south from Tlell, you can't miss this stunning 50,000-square-foot structure, designed in traditional long houses to resemble the oceanside Haida

village that once stood here. The centre houses a museum, performance area, carving shed and canoe house, a teaching centre, classrooms, gift shop and bistro. According to the mission statement, the Haida Heritage Centre celebrates the living culture of the Haida: "Through our language, art and stories we share our relationship with the land and sea which shapes, nourishes and sustains us.... Kay 'Llnagaay is a place for the Haida voice to be heard. This is our gift to the world."

Touring this centre, it really hits home that the Haida people have undergone a cultural genocide in the last century and are now reclaiming their glorious culture. You can't experience the present of Haida Gwaii without looking at its past, so making a visit to this centre should be an essential part of any travel here.

Our day continues with a hike on an easy trail that winds through a sun-dappled forest around the perimeter of Spirit Lakes. A sign at the trailhead—which, of course, features a beautiful carved archway—warns of bears, which probably makes us hike a little faster than normal. We also stop at the famous Balance

*THE TROUT ARE
READY FOR THEIR*
Close Up.

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**Freshwater Fisheries
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Rock—a massive boulder that appears to be balancing precariously on the beach.

The rain is coming sideways the next morning as we leave Haida Gwaii Glamping (flush with items from the gift shop) and head to an early morning ferry from Skidegate to Alliford Bay on Moresby Island. Today we'll be on the water with Moresby Explorers, and we're met by our guides, who load us into a van for an informative, hour-long backroads drive to the launch site. Moresby Explorers offers numerous tours and private boat charters, but we're here for a day trip that will circumnavigate Louise Island and visit the ancient Haida village of K'uuna Llnagaay (Skedans).

Once on the Zodiac, wearing rain gear and bright orange flotation suits, we see a Minke whale before even leaving the bay. During the excursion, we also stop to watch sea lions braying on a rock, spot a bear on the shoreline and witness the beauty of this breathtaking wilderness. But it is the stop at Skedans that touches our souls. Usually, the tour's lunch takes place on the beach, but with the driving rain, the Skedans "watchmen"—Haida people who live at significant sites over the summer and share their knowledge—invite us into the welcome warmth of their home. We enjoy a delicious meal provided by our tour guides and an enlightening conversation with our watchmen hosts. After lunch, we tour the ancient village site, where buildings once stood and ancient poles are still visible.



Photo courtesy Moresby Explorers



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Clubhouse Restaurant at Hekate's Retreat. Photo by Susan Lundy

This is a day we'll never forget.

Back at our car, we drive to the tip of Sandspit and find our cosy accommodation for the next two nights—a brand-new fairway cabin, located on the edge of The Willows Golf Course at Hekate's Retreat. The rain has stopped and from the deck of our fully self-contained cabin, we can see the ocean across the fairway, and it feels as though we truly are at the edge of the world. In addition to the cabins, Hekate's Retreat rents out the Homestead House (accommodating eight people), the Beach House (for six) and RVs, as well as sites for camping.

The links-style golf course, with 18 tee boxes on nine greens, is a visual highlight of this wild and remote setting, and the newly renovated Clubhouse Restaurant offers thoughtfully curated, upscale meals. The chef puts his own creative touch on the food—and it works. The two meals we enjoy here are divine. Hekate's Retreat is located just minutes from the K'il Kun Xidgwangs Daanaay airport, and we spend several hours on our last day walking a trail that leads from Hekate's through a wildflower-strewn field, winding along a windswept beach all the way around the airport.

Like our other activities on Haida Gwaii it fosters a deep quiet within us, a sense of stillness and oneness with the land. It's a huge exhale. It's more moments of magic in a place that touches your soul. 🌿

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

All types of watercraft must stop for inspection.



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Ride on!



Photo by Ashley Voykin

RED Mountain Resort announces major expansion with new bike park project

RED Mountain Resort has taken another step in its commitment to becoming a year-round destination, with construction on the RED Mountain Bike Park.

With a focus on projects that showcase the region's natural assets, the new bike park program will help create a destination where visitors will enjoy world-class outdoor experiences year-round. The multi-year, multimillion-dollar lift-accessed bike park will be the centrepiece in transforming RED into a premier four-season hub for adventure.

Located in Rossland, BC, RED Mountain is a 17-minute drive from the Pacific Coastal Airlines destination of Trail, BC.

"We are thrilled to announce the development of the RED Mountain Bike Park, marking not just a pivotal moment in our commitment to offering year-round adventure, but building upon and supporting the already deep culture of biking here in the region," said Howard Katkov, CEO and owner of RED Mountain Resort. "Acting as a true cornerstone to the growth of recreational opportunities

year-round, it will put the spotlight on RED and Rossland as a true base camp for all seasons of adventure."

Partnering with Gravity Logic, an expert in bike park design and development, RED Mountain plans to implement a phased approach over the next four years. This four-year plan introduces a variety of single track, jump and flow trails around the Silverlode chair.

The goal is to create a bike park for all skill levels: RED's vision is to create a destination where "beginners feel like experts and seasoned riders can still be humbled: a place where progression is celebrated, and every rider is challenged at their level." The park is committed to developing riding skills for all ages, styles, and abilities through a high-quality, expanding trail network that emphasizes variety and progression.

"We are incredibly excited to partner with Gravity Logic," said Andrew Lunt, general manager at RED Mountain Resort. "Their unparalleled experience, including iconic projects like Whistler's bike park and involvement in over 70 other bike parks across the globe, ensures that each phase of development will deliver world-class trails for all levels of riders."


Construction for the first phase of the bike park began on July 2 and will continue through October. The official opening of the first phase is scheduled for next summer and will feature a mix of new and

refurbished trails of all experience levels.

The bike park project is a progression of the rich history of mountain biking in Rossland and the Kootenays. This legacy started with the early, grassroots trail-building days in Rossland that spanned several decades. As a result, an extensive trail network has elevated the prominence of the West Kootenays in the mountain-bike industry and produced countless pro athletes. The development of the RED Mountain Bike Park over the next few years will build on this foundation while continuing to look toward the future.

And as part of the future vision of the bike park, RED is committed to continued community trail support in Rossland and the greater area, with extensive plans to continue its strategic partnership with the Kootenay Columbia Trails Society directly through several bike park initiatives.

To complement the biking experience, RED Mountain has partnered with Rocky Mountain Bikes to provide a dedicated rental bike fleet at the mountain base. In addition to the bike park, RED Mountain also has plans to explore more summer enhancements on Granite Mountain with additional sightseeing trail loops for unparalleled views.

To stay up-to-date on further information on the RED Mountain Bike Park and other developments, please visit redresort.com/bikepark 

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The *tale* of the *tail*

Indigenous art by KC Hall unveiled on new Saab 340B aircraft

By Lauren Kramer

Aircraft tail art adds a special and unique signature to an airline, and, years ago, when the subject of tail art for Pacific Coastal Airlines planes came up, the company “found it difficult to sum all that is BC in a single image.” Now, each of the airline’s tails feature different icons.

The art follows a theme titled “Tales of the Tails.”

“Each of our aircraft has unique tail art that represents parts of British

Columbia,” said Johnathan Richardson, vice-president of customer and commercial.

Recently, the airline partnered with East Vancouver Indigenous artist KC Hall to create tail art for its new Saab 340B aircraft. The tail art, unveiled September 5, depicts an eagle and wolf on one side, and a raven and whale on the other side.

Hall, 38, was born in Bella Bella and is a member of the Heiltsuk First Nation.

“I was hoping a project of this nature would come up for our people, because we use these aircraft so much,” he said.

He selected the wolf, raven, whale and eagle because they represent the four crests of the Heiltsuk Nation.

“Now, our four crests get to fly over our territory every day, and for me that holds very high importance. The lands in and around Bella Bella are very sacred and powerful from a ceremonial perspective,” he explained.

“Now, our four crests get to fly over our territory every day, and for me that holds very high importance. The lands in and around Bella Bella are very sacred and powerful from a ceremonial perspective.”

Hall said this art installation will be his most widely travelled project to date. His portfolio includes a blanket he designed and presented to Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge during their 2016 visit to British Columbia, an art exhibition at the Lattimer Gallery in Vancouver, and a 2020 commission by Foot Locker to create a lightbox installation titled House of Hoops.

“It has been a great experience working with KC on this special tail art project. We are honoured to have this Indigenous artwork on our aircraft and are proud to fly it to destinations throughout the province of British Columbia,” Richardson said. 🇺🇸





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The power of the Games

A chance to celebrate the unconquerable human spirit

"Spectacular, empowering and affordable." That's how organizers are describing the opening and closing ceremonies planned for the Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler 2025 set to run this February.

One of Canada's premier ceremonies production teams, Patrick Roberge Productions (PRP), will be creating the marquee events hosted in two of the country's most iconic event venues—BC Place and Rogers Arena—with an invitation to support and experience the unconquerable human spirit and the power of the Invictus Games.

"Inspired by the courageous spirit of the Invictus family—wounded, injured and sick service members and veterans and their family and friends—we want to touch the heart of everyone in the ceremony venues and watching via broadcast," said Scott Moore, CEO of the Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler 2025. "With our world-class production team

of PRP and venue partners—BC Pavilion Corporation and Canucks Sports and Entertainment—onboard, and we're set on delivering the best Invictus Games start and finish ever. So, mark your calendar for these not-to-be-missed events."

Vancouver-based PRP was selected to kick off and wrap up the nine days of sports competition, based on its proven track record of creating engaging, emotive events. Its impressive ceremonies and events portfolio includes the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games at BC Place, seven Canada Games, 13 Grey Cup games, 2023 North American Indigenous Games, FIFA Women's World Cup 2015 and the Invictus Games Toronto 2017.

"We are incredibly honoured to bring the Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler 2025 to life in two spectacular ceremonies," said Patrick Roberge, ceremony producer, president and creative director at PRP. "An enthusiastic cast of performers, Indigenous artists, celebrities, dignitaries, headline music stars and special guests

will fill BC Place and Rogers Arena as we come together in a journey of healing through sport."

The Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler 2025, presented by ATCO and Boeing, will be the seventh annual international adaptive sporting competition for wounded, injured and sick service members and veterans. Taking place from February 8 to 16, 2025, the Invictus Games will bring together up to 550 competitors from some 25 nations. Through the power of sport, the Games will inspire recovery, support rehabilitation, and generate a wider understanding and respect for those who have served their country.

As the first-ever hybrid winter event in Invictus Games history, Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler 2025 will see competitors participate in both winter and core adaptive sports. These Games will feature new winter adaptive sports—including alpine skiing and snowboarding, biathlon, nordic skiing, skeleton and

wheelchair curling—in addition to the core adaptive sports of indoor rowing, sitting volleyball, swimming, wheelchair basketball and wheelchair rugby.

“It’s hard to describe the feeling of coming into a stadium of cheering spectators, family and friends,” recalled Alaina Mundy, Team Canada co-captain, Dusseldorf 2023, and board member, Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler 2025. “It was one of the greatest honours of my life to co-captain Team Canada at the 2023 Invictus Games and to represent Canada in that stadium and on the field of play with my teammates. For Team Canada and all the teams competing at the Invictus Games in 2025, walking into and being celebrated in BC Place and Rogers Arena will be an absolutely unforgettable experience to kick off and close the Games.”


BC Pavilion Corporation and Canucks Sports and Entertainment have partnered with Games organizers on venue usage, offering state-of-the-art production opportunities, easy access, major-event spectator capacity and elevated spectator services. The opening ceremony at BC Place is planned with a family-friendly start time of 1 pm on Saturday, February 8, and the closing ceremony at Rogers Arena is planned to start at 7 pm PST on Sunday, February 16.

“We are thrilled to be hosting Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler 2025 and look forward to welcoming participants, friends, family and spectators at our iconic BC Place Stadium for the opening ceremony,” said the Honourable Lana Popham, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport. “Visitors and the community will come together to witness the power of sport. The ceremony promises to be moving and inspiring and showcase the resilience of the human spirit.”

The Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler 2025 will be held on the traditional territories of the Lilwat7úl (Lilwat), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and the organizing committee is committed to collaborating with the Four Host First Nations, addressing Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, and respecting Indigenous protocols in all aspects of the Games.

“In Indigenous cultures, someone invited into our home is made to feel welcome, warm, comfortable and at ease,” said Chief Dean Nelson and Chief Jennifer Thomas. “Indigenous communities break bread with guests so that no one goes hungry and that their minds are clear. We cherish and maintain new friendships. In this tradition, we’ll start with the warmest welcome and end with a celebration that shows how the Games is a step on the journey of shared recovery and relationships built within the Invictus community and with the four host First Nations.”

True Patriot Love Foundation, the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia are the founding partners of the Invictus Games Vancouver Whistler 2025.

The ceremonies are being planned to ensure affordability through family-friendly event timing, ticket pricing and availability. More details including ticketing information, talent lineup and broadcast information will be released in the coming months at invictusgames2025.ca. 



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QUAILS' GATE
Okanagan Valley



An Okanagan oasis

Discover the “finer things” at Quails’ Gate Winery

In the heart of British Columbia’s wine country, Quails’ Gate Winery offers an unparalleled blend of stunning views, award-winning cuisine and world-class wines, making it a must-visit destination.

Founded in 1989, Quails’ Gate has become one of BC’s premier wineries, earning recognition for its exceptional wines and top-tier dining. In addition to the winery, the estate is also home to one of OpenTable’s Top 100 restaurants in Canada and offers luxurious lakeside accommodations.

“We’ve been farming this valley for over 60 years, and 2024 marks our 35th anniversary,” says Tony Stewart, proprietor and CEO of Quails’ Gate. “To celebrate, we’re hosting a series of immersive experiences, including wine tastings, vineyard tours and long-table dinners. We hope to welcome you to our estate this year, but until then, let our wines transport you to the beauty of the Okanagan Valley.”

More than just a winery, Quails’ Gate is a family legacy. The Stewart family has farmed these lands for four generations, infusing their passion into every bottle. Today, the winery continues to capture the essence of the Okanagan, offering a compelling reason to visit this picturesque region.



Sip: a legacy of award-winning wines

Quails’ Gate is one of the Okanagan’s pioneering wineries, with vines that have thrived for over 30 years. The winery has made a lasting impact, earning 10 gold medals at the 2023 WineAlign National Wine Awards of Canada. This achievement underscores Quails’ Gate’s commitment to quality and its reputation for crafting sought-after wines.

The winery strives to create more than just a tasting experience. From vineyard tours to expertly paired food and wine tastings, every visit is thoughtfully curated to immerse guests in the unique terroir of the Okanagan Valley.

Dine: a culinary journey

At Old Vines Restaurant, dining is an experience where each dish is crafted to complement Quails’ Gate’s wines. The menu features fresh, seasonal ingredients from local farms and suppliers, reflecting the region’s rich culinary heritage.

Guests can savour dishes like venison striploin, 48-hour short rib, Salt Spring Island mussels and artisanal cheeses, all thoughtfully paired with the estate’s wines for a dining experience that delights the senses.

Stay: luxurious lakefront retreat

With so much to offer, Quails’ Gate invites you to extend your visit. The estate’s Lake House provides elegant accommodations on the shores of Okanagan Lake. This serene retreat offers stunning views and easy access to the winery, making it the perfect base for your wine-country getaway.

The Lake House features a 140-foot dock, hot tub, fire pit, chef’s kitchen and concierge services. With four bedrooms and three bathrooms, it comfortably accommodates up to 10 guests, making it ideal for family gatherings, corporate retreats or weddings.

Plan your visit or book your stay at quailsgate.com.



Inside Prince George

A quick look at this vibrant northern BC city

By Chloe Sjoberg

Pacific Coastal Airlines recently announced a new direct route between Kelowna and Prince George. If you happen to find yourself transported from the Okanagan to this bustling northern BC city, here are some answers to your most burning questions.

WHERE DOES THE NAME OF THE CITY COME FROM?

The city was named after Prince George Edward Alexander Edmund, who was King George VI's youngest brother, the future Duke of Kent, and uncle to Queen Elizabeth II.

WHAT IS THE CITY BEST KNOWN FOR?

Prince George is known as the "Basecamp to the North," the starting

point for visitors' northern adventures. With an abundance of outdoor activities like camping, fishing and hiking, it also has strong urban offerings, such as an innovative craft beer scene, a selection of good restaurants, indoor activities and live events.

BEST FAMILY ACTIVITIES?

Prince George is a very family-oriented community with so many activities!

📍 **LHEIDLI T'ENNEH MEMORIAL PARK** is a great family destination, with a spray park and playground, botanical gardens, mini steam train, ice cream parlour with souvenir shop and The Exploration Place Museum.

📍 **THE ANCIENT FOREST/CHUN T'OH WHUDJUT PROVINCIAL PARK**

Take a scenic drive an hour from town where you'll find yourself in the

company 2,000-year-old trees. Stroll through the accessible 450-metre boardwalk and continue on to a 2.3-kilometre elevated path. Near the peak of the trail, you'll be rewarded with a cascading waterfall.

📍 **GAME CHANGERZ VR:** Got a gamer on your hands? This VR facility is geared for ages seven-plus and offers multiple virtual-reality games and escape rooms.

📍 **THE PARK DRIVE-IN MINI GOLF:** This family-favourite attraction offers mini-golf in a beautiful park, go-kart tracks and a drive-in movie theatre where you can finish your day with popcorn and a show.

📍 **HUBLE HOMESTEAD:** Turn back time at Huble Homestead, just a short 35-minute drive northeast of the city centre. Learn, explore and play at this interactive family attraction!

With an abundance of outdoor activities like camping, fishing and hiking, Prince George also has strong urban offerings, such as an innovative craft beer scene, a selection of good restaurants, indoor activities and live events.

BEST SPOT FOR A FANTASTIC DINNER?

If you love ramen, head to Ramen Ya Sendo. Also, Betulla Burning is a local favourite for innovative pizzas and a well-rounded, delicious menu, while Northern Lights Estate Winery offers stunning views and gourmet dishes with expert wine pairings. For a hearty breakfast, Grama's Kitchen, located inside Grama's Inn, is the place to go. Another great destination is Aubree's Breakfast.

BEST LOCALLY OWNED GETAWAY?

Woodhouse Cottages and Ranch is a unique accommodation with three different types of rooms: the Old Log-barn (max four adults), Corral Cottage (max two adults), Cowboy Cottage (max five adults) or the Bubble House (max two guests). The latter is a completely clear-dome structure where you can get a truly unobstructed view of the nights sky, and if you're lucky, the Aurora Borealis. 🇨🇦



Tofino Fish Guides

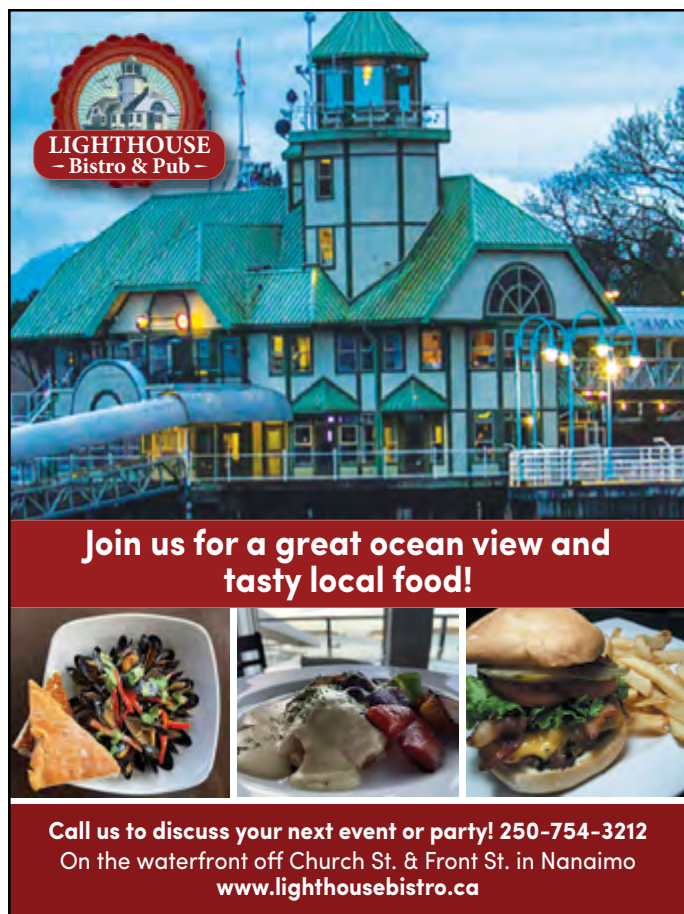
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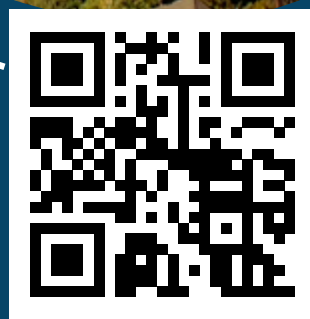
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EXPLORE WILLIAMS LAKE ON AN EPIC FALL ROAD TRIP

SIX UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

Williams Lake, a burgeoning gem on the Northeast E Ale Trail, is rapidly emerging as a must-visit destination for adventurers. This vibrant city offers an exciting mix of outdoor activities and rich cultural experiences, making it an unforgettable fall road trip spot. Don't miss stopping at the area's only craft brewery, Fox Mountain Brewing Co., for lunch or a takeaway growler for your mountain biking, hunting or fishing getaway. Here are the top six must-see attractions in Williams Lake

WILLIAMS LAKE VISITOR'S CENTRE

Head to the Visitor Centre and admire its impressive log construction, a testament to the craftsmanship of the Cariboo Region. Inside, the Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin offers a deep dive into local history, featuring the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame and a collection of Indigenous artifacts. The Centre is also home to a café and gift shop.

SCOUT ISLAND NATURE CENTRE

A haven for nature lovers and families alike, this nature sanctuary offers a network of dog-friendly trails through a unique landscape, perfect for leisurely walks. As the fall migration unfolds, the island becomes a paradise for bird watchers, with numerous migratory species passing through.

STATION HOUSE GALLERY

A vibrant cultural hub located in the heart of Downtown Williams Lake, this gallery showcases a rich collection of artisan goods, reflecting the creativity and talent of local artists. It's a wonderful place to find unique gifts and souvenirs.



DOWNTOWN WILLIAMS LAKE

While in Downtown Williams Lake, take advantage of the self-guided walking tour app to explore and learn about over 26 murals on display throughout the city streets. There is something for everyone with the variety of small shops, restaurants and business services.

FOX MOUNTAIN BREWING CO.

Inspired by the renowned Fox Mountain Bike Trail System, Fox Mountain Brewing Co. opened its doors in 2019. The adjacent trails provide 360 km of connected single-track paths perfect for walking and biking. After a day of exploring, unwind with a spread of brewery favourites!

CALLING ALL DISC GOLF ENTHUSIASTS

If you're visiting in late October, don't miss the annual Huck Fest on October 27, where you can see serious Disc Golf players compete for top honours. Want to play? Discs are available for rent at the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex.

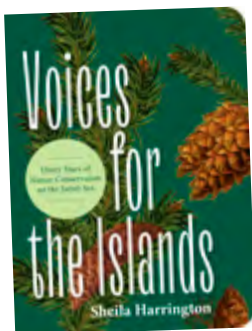
These six experiences in Williams Lake provide a perfect blend of adventure, culture, and relaxation. Plan your fall road trip to discover everything this city has to offer. ♦

Saving the Mill Farm



Salt Spring Island Conservancy group on the top of Mount Erskine in celebration of its protection. From left: hiker, Margaret Spencer, Ashley Hilliard, Wendy Hilliard, three hikers, Peter Lamb, and Jean Gelwicks. Credit: Salt Spring Island Conservancy

Conservation on Salt Spring Island



The following excerpt is from Chapter 3: SALT SPRING ISLAND—Protests, Fundraising, and Generous Donations, excerpted from Voices for the Islands: Thirty Years of Nature Conservation on the Salish Sea by Sheila Harrington.

I awoke to the sound of a motor. Peeking out my portlight window, I saw Sauv going by in a powerboat. I sold Sauv my previous wooden sailboat when I left Salt Spring Island years ago. Opening the hatch, I was greeted by the familiar sight of Mount Maxwell and Burgoyne Bay. My senses were in rapture as I heard the *awk-awk-awk* of a great blue heron as it flew over and landed at the head of the bay, joining another five herons seeking food in the tidal waters of the estuary, now a provincial park.

After 12 years living on Lasqueti Island, further north, what a joy it was to be here again, in the calmer waters of the Southern Gulf Islands....

Some of the biggest changes on the islands in the Salish Sea in the last 50 years have occurred on Salt Spring. With its three ferries, the island draws a transient working population and more tourists than other islands. It has a hospital and several doctors. It has the largest population of any island—the 2021 census counted 11,635 residents, a 10.2 per cent increase from 2016. Many wealthy

people have moved to Salt Spring as the burgeoning Vancouver and Victoria populations have spilled over to the next island “paradise.” The artist community has exploded, and with it a different type of community from the back-to-the land island I and many others sought when I first moved here in the ‘80s.

Maureen Milburn is one of the island’s local heroes for her work in conservation. With six other women, she started the Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) in 1994, motivated to do something about the lands on the island that were being cleared and developed.

Maureen told me that the Conservancy’s formation came out of several streams. To their horror, MacMillan Bloedel sold 1,214 hectares (3,000 acres) of the island, very cheaply, to a local of disrepute who came in and logged it. Islanders lost that area, but it motivated these women to come up with ideas to stop it ever happening again.

The second stream came from a landowner, Martin Williams, who offered some of his land as a donation, and the rest at

a reduced price in order to conserve it. Maureen and Fiona Flook, another of the founding women, went to the Saturday market, raising money so they could purchase the property in partnership with the Islands Trust. However, Martin wasn't satisfied with the option of the land going to the regional government because they could not promise to protect it in perpetuity. He wanted to have a local organization protect his land, forever.

This is one of the reasons for working with a local conservancy or land trust. Maureen and Fiona, together with another five women—Ann Richardson, Nancy Braithwaite, Heather Martin, Ailsa Pearse and Mallory Pred—could see the threats and challenges that were coming and decided to do something that had rarely been done before—form a land trust to acquire and protect lands forever. Maureen told me, “Sometimes you just have luck. We got lucky. The group of people just worked. People can do so much when they come together.”

The new Conservancy quickly became involved in a very dramatic campaign to conserve a piece of land that was owned collectively by 10 partners. Like a bad marriage, over time things were not turning out as planned for this group of landowners. The Mill Farm is an area on the southwest side of the island with rare stands of old growth trees. The two aggrieved most-recent purchasers went to court, because they had no way to sell, use or enjoy their shares. All owners would be compelled to sell through the Partition Act. This is similar to a legal settlement for people co-owning a home when they can no longer live together. Bob suggested that the Salt Spring Conservancy bid to buy the lands.

Maureen explained how the drama unfolded: “We had a snap decision by the court that it would be heard on Wednesday. They phoned me on the Friday before and said ‘you have to turn up in court on Wednesday and your money has to be in the provincial government coffers by Monday.’ We were sitting with hundreds of pledges, from \$50 to \$500, but we couldn't get them in time. So I thought, ‘oh my god, what are we going to do?’ Okay, we need to put in \$100,000 by Monday.



The founding directors of the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, known as the Founding Mothers, celebrate the organization's 10th anniversary. From left: Fiona Flook, Ailsa Pearse, Nancy Braithwaite, Heather Martin, Maureen Milburn, Ann Richardson and Mallory Pred. Photo courtesy Salt Spring Island Conservancy

All we need is 10 people with \$10,000, and call them and ask them to lend it to us. I got the list, and the first person I called was Gary Holman. He said don't worry, I'll lend you the money. I thought, this is fantastic. The next person I called had a ton of money, I told the story to them and explained this is just a loan. This person turned me down. I thought, ‘Oh, no, this is going to be hard.’ Then the phone rang, and a local woman, Gay Alkoff, said, ‘Maureen, I understand you need \$100,000. Come over this afternoon, and we'll lend it to you.’ And we went over, and she and her husband said, ‘We just want to give you the money,’ and that was it! We had the money for court. Before Monday, someone else gave us an extra \$50,000, ‘in case you need it.’”

A second bidder was a Washington State logging company. They had the capacity to increase their offer to win title to the land, but the new Conservancy didn't. But a surprising turn of events transpired. The owners all stood up in court and said they would take the lower bid. And the judge? Justice Allan McEachern said, “This isn't a democracy, but I'm inclined to accept the slightly lower offer.” That was wonderful. Maureen said that

the heroes on that day were the landowners, who accepted the lower offer.

The Conservancy worked with a number of other partners on the campaign to protect the Mill Farm, including the Capital Regional District (CRD). Through diligent research, they learned that the CRD had a Parks & Recreation Reserve and realized that it had significant conservation provisions. They approached the chair and their local representative and joined forces. In the end, the CRD took title to the land because the young Conservancy was concerned about long-term management.

The Mill Farm campaign had high media profile and it served to educate and energize the community toward land preservation. The money they had raised went to the Mill Farm purchase. Maureen finished her story by saying, “The outpouring of support was exceptional, and the success of the campaign was an antidote to the unfortunate loss of MacMillan Bloedel lands. As an island we came to understand that we could work together to achieve great things in land conservation, and this set an example for future conservation successes on the island.”

Pacific Coastal

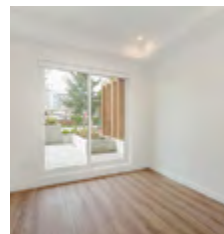
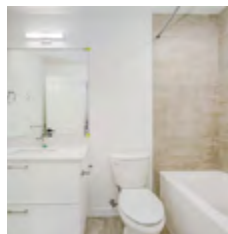
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The Fickle Fig Farm to Flight at YYJ has been serving Victoria International Airport since 2020 and continues to highlight local seasonal, sustainable, farm fresh produce in an ever-rotating daily menu. More than 10 local farms continue to supply this year-round location open at 5am daily on ground-side during the week, and 6am on weekends. Additionally, you will find other local retailers, from locally roasted 2% Jazz drip coffee, and crafted hot and cold espresso drinks with retail beans to go, local Silk Road blended hot and cold tea beverages, local honey Kombucha, and craft sodas.

The Fickle Fig Farm to Flight at YYJ continues to indulge you in fresh baked goods, including 6 different croissants baked from scratch each morning, as well as many other treats and baked goods all made from scratch, with only the best ingredients.

Our Menu:

Breakfast Sandwiches with two local fried eggs, with cheese on a rosemary crack pepper scone, or buttery croissant (meat or vegetarian options available).

Our sandwiches are always made from 100% locally raised meats, every time. The availability changes daily, but you will find them on our baguettes, focaccia, or brioche buns, and toasted to order. We serve chicken, pork, and lamb options (seasonally). Our vegetarian sandwiches focus on seasonal produce from either our own, or other local farm growers.

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Conveniently located ground-side allows for the meeting place with friends or family prior to departing, or on arrival. Food items can be taken through security, or enjoyed after arriving at YYJ for dine-in or take-away.

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