

SOAR

In-flight
Magazine for
Pacific Coastal
Airlines

A mountain of fun

Fantastic things
to do in Cranbrook

Spirits of wine country

Exploring South Okanagan
craft distillers

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Photo courtesy Moon Jelly Bathhouse.

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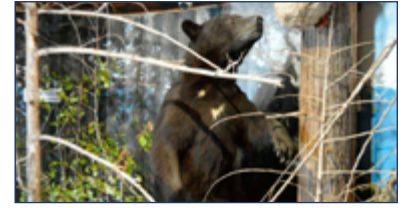


Photo by Michael Briones.

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TRAIL

WELCOME TO CRANBROOK!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we embrace the fall season, we welcome cooler temperatures and the return of rainfall across the province. With our winter schedule now in full swing, we remain ready to greet you on board and connect you to your destinations this season. Whether you're reading this edition of SOAR while flying with us or from the comfort of the ground, I want to thank you sincerely for your continued support of Pacific Coastal Airlines. It is truly a privilege to be part of your journeys.

This fall is especially meaningful for us as we celebrate the launch of new routes. On Monday, October 27, we proudly reintroduce Cranbrook to our network as our twentieth destination. This new service will operate daily with our 19-passenger Beechcraft 1900 aircraft from Kelowna, seamlessly linking Cranbrook with Kelowna and onward to Victoria, Nanaimo, and Comox.

Just a few days later, on October 30, we celebrate another milestone: our inaugural flight to Quesnel. This non-stop service between Vancouver and Quesnel will operate six days a week, from Sunday through Friday.

With these additions, Pacific Coastal Airlines will serve twenty destinations across British Columbia, more than any other airline. This achievement is only possible because of our dedicated staff and the trust and support of our passengers. Your confidence in us inspires us to keep flying further each time, and we are deeply thankful for that.

In November, we pause for an even deeper reflection. On November 11, Canada observes Remembrance Day, a time

to honour and remember those who served in the Canadian Armed Forces. This day holds a profound connection to aviation history, as we commemorate the thousands of Canadian pilots, navigators, and aircrew who bravely served in the First and Second World Wars. Their legacy continues to inspire us and is carried forward in the freedoms we enjoy today.

As we move through fall, I encourage you to stay warm, take care of your health, and cherish the season ahead. On behalf of all of us at Pacific Coastal Airlines, thank you for being part of our journey. We look forward to welcoming you on board and continuing to serve you with dedication, this season and beyond.

Sincerely,

Quentin Smith



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MEET A PACIFIC COASTAL EMPLOYEE: QUIN



Location: Nanaimo, B.C.

Time with PCA: Six years

Position: Base Supervisor

Job description:

My role is to lead the Nanaimo CSA team. I oversee operations, including staff schedules and monthly reports. I also maintain positive relations with the Nanaimo Airport Authority while assisting passengers at check-in, greeting inbound arriving flights and boarding and sending passengers off to their destinations.

Where were you born and raised?

I was born and raised in Prince George, B.C.

What path did you take to get to this job?

I was initially hired as a part-time on-call Customer Service Agent in Prince George (YXS) back in 2019, right after graduating high school. I immediately fell in love with the industry and knew working in aviation is where I was meant to be.

What do you like best about this job?

Definitely the people, and travel opportunities. You meet all kinds of interesting people with amazing stories. I've even got a couple of regulars that always brighten my day.

What are your hobbies outside of the job?

I love spending time outside whenever I can, whether it's climbing mountains or completing a coastal hike.

What is your favourite thing to do in your city?

Whether it's hiking, camping, exploring caves or just enjoying a day at the beach, there's so much to explore in Nanaimo. I highly recommend stopping by Red's Bakery for the best cheesecake, including a to-die-for Nanaimo bar cheesecake. 🍷



PCA ANNOUNCES NEW NON-STOP FLIGHTS BETWEEN KELOWNA AND CRANBROOK

Pacific Coastal Airlines has a well-earned and growing reputation as the amazing regional airline that connects people across British Columbia with reliable and timely travel options.

As of Oct. 27, 2025, that reputation will be further enhanced with the addition of yet another regional location served by the airline.

Pacific Coastal Airlines has announced the launch of a new non-stop service between Kelowna (YLW) and Cranbrook (YXC) as part of their Winter 2025/2026 schedule.

This service will support business, leisure and medical travel, with morning departures from Cranbrook offering seamless one-stop connections via Kelowna to Victoria, Nanaimo, and Comox, and evening return connections from those Vancouver Island destinations back to Cranbrook.

The move raises the number of regional destinations in B.C. that are served by the airline to 20, more than any other airline, and a new milestone for Pacific Coastal Airlines.

"It's fantastic to once again offer non-stop service between Kelowna and Cranbrook, with our new schedule offering preferred morning and afternoon time of day flights," says Johnathan Richardson, VP of Commercial at Pacific Coastal Airlines. "This new service not only strengthens regional air access in the Okanagan but also



Photo by Katie Goldie, courtesy Cranbrook Tourism.

enables efficient one-stop travel between the Kootenays and Vancouver Island.”

Of course, anyone who has ever travelled to the Kootenay Rockies is fully aware of the multitude of recreational and cultural opportunities available in the region. Whether you’re an active sort who enjoys skiing, trail riding or cycling or even mountaineering, the region will exceed your expectations. For those folks who want to explore the history and culture of the region, the choices are equally fantastic with live performances, museums, crafters and boundless creativity waiting to be discovered and enjoyed.

“This additional daily service will offer visitors and residents a great linkage of air service from the Interior of B.C. to the Kootenay Rockies region,” said Kootenay Rockies Tourism Association CEO, Kathy Cooper.

“It will also provide connectivity options for those coming from further locations such as Comox, Nanaimo, and Victoria. Pacific Coastal is a strong partner in the tourism sector, and we congratulate them on reinstating this service this fall. More connection options such as this are vital to areas that have smaller regional airports that struggle to provide robust flight schedule services.”

Beyond the benefits that the improved flight availability will provide to both business and leisure visitors, the service will also provide residents of the region with critical connectivity. Take health care for example.

“Hope Air is proud to support Pacific Coastal Airline’s launch of this new flight route between Cranbrook and Kelowna. It will make it significantly easier for patients in the East Kootenays to access the healthcare they need with the reliable travel options that are so essential for equitable healthcare. This route brings us one step closer to closing the gap for rural British Columbians,” says Stephanie Aldridge, Vice President of Patient Experience at Hope Air.

For full details or to book, visit pacificcoastal.com, call 1-800-663-2872, or contact your local travel agent. 



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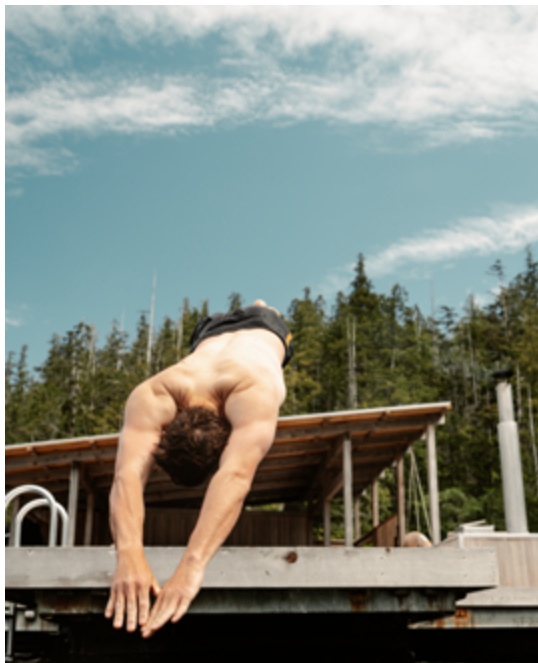
TOFINO

Blissful silence

Take a seaweed soak at Tofino's Moon Jelly Bathhouse

By Lauren Kramer
Photo courtesy Moon Jelly Bathhouse





The steam is rising from my seaweed bath, where silky fronds of bull kelp and macro kelp, floating in the hot water, caress my skin. I'm in the middle of a remote cove in Lemmens Inlet, 15 minutes by boat from Tofino and home to Moon Jelly, unquestionably the most unique hot-cold plunge in the Pacific Northwest.

Norwegians have long touted the benefits of a cold plunge, but here in North America we're just starting to catch on. Research suggests the alternate immersion in hot and cold water offers both a physical and mental boost. You might feel it in accelerated muscle recovery, pain relief and improved skin tone, as well as reduced stress, a better mood and improved sleep, focus and resilience. The calmness that settles over you after braving the cold and then sinking into the warmth makes the whole experience irresistible.

At Moon Jelly, the adventure begins the moment you leave the Tofino dock, weaving by boat between forested islets and passing remote offshore homes perched on the cusp of forested, steep rocky cliffs. At an oyster farm, seals sunbathe lazily on barrels, beneath which the oysters grow. The water is an exquisite emerald, and in the background, B.C.'s iconic snowcapped mountains look straight out of a postcard.

A floating structure, Moon Jelly is equipped with two hot baths, a shower, change room, lounging furniture, composting toilets and hot tea. There are paddleboards for exploring the cove, books on seaweed, a gas fireplace to reduce any chill in the air, and blissful silence but for birdsong and the breeze. "Just last week we saw a wolf in the cove," says Kaeli Robinsong, who built Moon Jelly with her partner, Mike Mavis. The tubs, heated by wood, are filled with fresh salt water and sustainably harvested seaweed for each visit.

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I step gingerly into the seaweed bath the first time, comforted to know that each batch of seaweed has been carefully rinsed to remove any bugs or seasnails. At first it feels a bit peculiar, but in no time at all, the combination of hot water and nourishing nutrients sends me into a deep state of relaxation. When guests immerse in the tubs, they absorb the seaweed's antioxidants and healing minerals. Then they dip in the emerald water surrounding the protected cove, and dry off in the sunshine on the float house's comfortable sofas and hammock. The recipe for perfect relaxation? Soak, plunge, rest and repeat.

"This seaweed is the raw material they put into all those expensive serums," Robinsong said. "It's moisturizing and wildly detoxifying, so after an immersion like this, you'll probably have one of the best sleeps of your life!"

Robinsong first tried a seaweed bath in Ireland eight years ago and recalled how different her body felt afterwards. "I could feel calmness settling in because of the high dose of magnesium and iodine in the seaweed," she said. "I knew we had to have one in Tofino!"

Mavis already had a floating house in the inlet, and the two collaborated to build an adjoining structure for Moon Jelly. They called on the design expertise of Vancouver architect Shiloh Sukkau, and sourced the wood-fired hot tubs from GOODLAND in Bowen Island.





Then they spent their date nights sanding the old-growth salvaged cedar that would form Moon Jelly's decks. "This is our passion project, our opportunity to share something really special with others," Robinsong said.

I rub Turkish towel, a bright pink seaweed, over my skin, its rough texture a natural exfoliant. Weatherwise, I've won the Tofino lottery with a magnificent day — sunshine, blue skies and a breeze that gently kisses my skin. Clambering out of the hot bath, I descend a stepladder into the inlet's cool, clear water and swim around the bathhouse. The day passes as if in a dream, my senses quickened by the beauty of the inlet, the exquisite privacy of the experience and the complete and utter stillness.

Moon Jelly offers private bookings for up to 10 guests at a time May through September, as well as a community day, when 10 random people get to spend the day soaking and plunging. Some community days include massages, acupuncture or facials by therapists who join the group. In both options, Robinsong and Mavis motor guests over to the float house, check the tubs' temperature, explain how things work and wave as they drive the boat back to the Tofino dock. Guests are completely alone in the cove until pickup time, free to soak, swim, relax and enjoy the serenity.

For bookings, visit moonjelly.com. 🌊

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vancouverislandnorth.ca

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UCLUELET

Tucked between the rainforest and the ocean, find a community shaped by the sea, where storytellers, artisans, and ocean lovers invite you to slow down and explore.

COWICHAN REGION

Cycle past vineyards, paddle quiet waters, and wander local farmers' markets. We invite you to go with the slow and experience the generous spirit of Cowichan.

YOUR TICKET TO COASTAL ADVENTURES AND COZY RETREATS

FALL on Vancouver Island is a season of renewal — where ocean mist meets lush forests, and every path leads to discovery. From the vineyard-lined valleys of **COWICHAN** to the rugged shores of **UCLUELET**, the adventure-ready landscapes of **COMOX VALLEY**, and the pristine beauty of **VANCOUVER ISLAND NORTH**, each region offers something distinct.

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SPIRITS

of Wine Country

**Wet your
whistle at these
South Okanagan
craft distilleries**

By William R. Duff

The South Okanagan is renowned for its wine, craft beer, and cider—and rightly so. It also boasts craft distilleries that produce whiskey, gin, brandy, and liqueurs locally, offering some of British Columbia's finest spirits. However, making premium liquor requires more than luck, as master distillers put in great effort to develop and perfect their flavour profiles.

So, a road trip to these family-owned craft distilleries will definitely inspire you to try exceptional spirits, and what better time to buy Canadian? Because it is said, “a good story never starts with a salad.”

MAPLE LEAF SPIRITS – NARAMATA BENCH

We started our tasting journey just north of Penticton on the Naramata Bench at Maple Leaf Spirits. As pioneers in craft distilling since 2005, founders Jorg and Anette Engel rely solely on fresh, sun-ripened Okanagan cherries, apricots, peaches, and pears to produce their award-winning spirits, distilled using traditional European methods.

Awarded “Best in Class” at the Canadian Artisan Spirit Competition in 2024, their double-gold winning Lady of the Cask brandy is among Canada's first cognac-style spirits.

“When visitors come to the tasting room and try the Lady of the Cask, they are so impressed with this brandy,” says Anette Engel. “It is wonderful to see guests coming here from all over the world and discovering the quality of brandies and liqueurs made in the Okanagan.”

Lady of the Cask is handcrafted in small batches, made from grapes, and aged for six years in premium French barrels. It offers a rich butterscotch aroma, a golden amber colour, and an exceptionally smooth taste on the palate. I can picture myself enjoying a brandy snifter this winter in front of a fireplace after a day on the slopes.

In their collection, you'll also find many fruit-based spirits, including my favourite—their Maple Liqueur made from cherry Kirsch and real Canadian maple syrup, making it a genuinely Canadian product. Enjoy it neat or drizzled over ice cream, which is my preferred way to have it.

More info: www.mapleleafspirits.ca



ALCHEMIST DISTILLER - SUMMERLAND

Later in the day, we headed north on Highway 97, which runs along the west side of the stunning Okanagan Lake, to Alchemist Distiller.

Armed with a degree in Chemical Engineering, Simon Buttet, a French-born Master Distiller, opened his distillery in December 2018 and has been producing award-winning spirits from local apples ever since.

All of Alchemist's products begin with a base made from the juice of a blend of Okanagan apple varieties, mainly Gala, Ambrosia, and Spartan, sourced from local orchards. "I make a cider and then distill it, which results in a cleaner base or higher alcohol content and a distinct apple flavour," Buttet said.

I really enjoy the Alchemist Distiller's apple-based spirits, crafted with a very unique still designed by Buttet. Their signature Grand Duke is an Apple Brandy, barrel-aged for five years in Bourbon barrels. "It's like having an apple pie in a glass."

Alchemist's Libellule Gin is a modern-style gin created by infusing a distilled base with juniper, lemon, orange, coriander, lemongrass, black pepper, and seven other botanicals. It is aromatic, citrusy, silky, and well-balanced, ending with a long, lingering aftertaste. If you want to add flair to your bar cart, Alchemist offers the perfect solution. Their authentic French-style absinthe features flavours of licorice and star anise, enhanced by herbal notes from wormwood and fennel seeds, which are the main botanicals.

More Info: www.alchemistdistiller.ca



DUBH GLAS DISTILLERY - OLIVER

Travelling south on Highway 97 just north of Oliver, we stopped at Dubh Glas Distillery—where they consistently win medals at the Canadian Whisky Awards—looking for "a wee dram."

Dubh Glas in Gaelic means "from the dark water," referring to a well on the property where they source pure water. From Canadian barley and select botanicals to the cooperage that crafts their whisky barrels, every step of the process has been thoroughly researched before being used in the creation of their spirits, explained Head Distiller and owner Grant Stevely.

Their single malt whisky, Walk The Plank, features a golden hue, with an aroma that hints at caramel, vanilla, cotton candy, and lush tropical fruit. On the palate, the finish is smooth, sophisticated, and flavourful, with a gentle warmth from the 46% ABV.

Their Peatnik whisky release blends two fully matured whiskies aged in an Ardbeg barrel, combined with a quarter cask from Laphroaig. Peatnik has a flavour profile similar to Walk The Plank, but has a smoky taste from the peat used during the roasting of the malted barley.

Dubh Glas's multiple award-winning Noteworthy Gin is renowned for its lively, pleasant lime peel aroma, featuring eight botanicals that lend it a distinctive flavour.

Noteworthy is crafted from 100% British Columbian-grown barley and distilled three times in their German copper pot still, offering a soft, easy finish that is ideal for a Gin & Tonic.

More Info: www.thedubhglasdistillery.com



TUMBLEWEED SPIRITS - OSOYOOS

During American Prohibition in the 1920s, some clever Canadians used Lake Osoyoos at night to evade authorities, employing boats to smuggle spirits across the border. Inspired by the area's moon-shining history, Tumbleweed Spirits continues that tradition today with its legal small craft distillery.

As Master Distiller Lokesh Khismatrao explains, "We take B.C. grains harvested at their peak, along with the best Okanagan fruit and botanicals, and distill them in a custom-designed still from Kentucky, named Big Al and Ginger. After that, we proof them with artisanal spring water from our very own Anarchist Mountain."

Tumbleweed offers fruit-flavoured vodka, rye whisky, single malt whisky, and Los Compadre pre-mixed cocktails (ideal Christmas gifts) ready to serve.

By far my favourite, Tumbleweed's Anarchist Mtn — Bourbon-Style Canadian Whisky, crafted from the finest BC corn, rye, and barley, locally grown in the Okanagan. It's barrel-aged for five years and distilled by "Big Al."

The extra time in the barrel is immediately noticeable. Rich oak pairs with a hint of leather, sweet vanilla, and marshmallow, along with a touch of white pepper. It's refined, complex, and above all, delicious. For me, it was love at first sip.

More Info: tumbleweedsprits.com 



CRANBROOK

A *mountain* of fun that delivers

By Tim Collins

Photo by Chris Istace, courtesy
Cranbrook Tourism.



Cranbrook, British Columbia is a hidden jewel nestled in the Kootenay Region of the Rocky Mountains and it's one of those special places that belongs on everyone's must-see list.

It's also one of those places whose attractions can't easily be summed up. This small city is packed with beautiful sights and loads of fun activities, rich history and unexpected treasures, just waiting to be discovered.

Let's take a look at some of the highlights.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Cranbrook has so many fantastic opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts that listing them all is impossible. For example, Cranbrook features a world class mix of cycling opportunities for every kind of rider. It's an ideal mountain bike destination with a host of trails that range from quiet single-track trails to black-diamond descents. There are also paved ebike trails that are ideal for the more sedate cycling enthusiast.

Trails are also available for hikers of all abilities – from a leisurely stroll to invigorating (and more challenging) hikes, including the 9-kilometre return hike to the summit of Mount Fisher, where the mesmerizing views of the Rocky Mountains will leave you breathless.

You can top off that hike by chasing the waterfalls of the region. There are so many of these natural wonders that there's actually a guidebook to help folks locate them all.

Make a stop at the Jimsmith Lake Provincial Park or St. Mary's Lake, where a day of relaxing swims, picnics and watching the local wildlife is sure to refresh the spirit.

Come Winter, Cranbrook is the ideal home base for both alpine and cross-country ski outings. It sits on the Powder Highway and there are no less than seven ski resorts within a two-hour drive. The city is also home to excellent winter hiking, snowshoe trails, frozen waterfalls, mountain views, downhill and cross-country skiing and family-friendly activities like ice skating, tobogganing and outdoor play.



Photo by Jeremy Koreski,
courtesy Cranbrook Tourism.

HISTORY AND CULTURE

For the less athletically inclined, Cranbrook offers a wealth of opportunities to explore its tapestry of art, culture and history.

Visit the Cranbrook History Centre and marvel at the largest collection of trains in North America, including the executive Strathcona car; a prestige train car whose guests have included Queen Elizabeth II and Sir Winston Churchill. Just down the road you'll find Fort Steel Heritage Town, a living museum that immerses visitors in the charm of a 19th century gold and silver rush boomtown with a collection of restored buildings, costumed interpreters and even the chance to engage in activities like gold panning and stagecoach rides.

The city also offers a diverse array of art and cultural experiences. Stroll through downtown Cranbrook, and you'll find a lively collection of public art, including murals that tell stories of the town's heritage and cultural diversity. Sculptures and installations are scattered throughout, offering unexpected moments of beauty and reflection.

The Cranbrook Arts 1401 Gallery & Artspace is a cornerstone of the local art scene, showcasing rotating exhibits from local and regional artists. Located in a charming heritage building, the gallery also features a gift shop filled with handmade treasures, including pottery, paintings, and textiles.

There's more art on display at the Key City Theatre with its regularly rotating art displays. At the same location, the 600-seat theatre is home to fabulous live performances.

DINING

Cranbrook has a fabulous array of places to share a meal with options that range from ethnic choices that include Thai, Mexican, Japanese, and, well, you get the picture.

There are also some pretty unique dining options, including the Fire Hall Kitchen and Tap. This is a craft beer tap and

gastropub inside a downtown heritage building that dates back to 1929 and which, you guessed it, still has the iconic firepole in place. (By the way, the Fire Hall is also purported to be haunted.)

Another great place to eat in town is The Heid Out & Fisher Peak Brewing Company, a long-time Cranbrook fixture where the menu is an inspired blend of traditional dishes and locally sourced ingredients.

A LITTLE QUIRKY

As one might expect, Cranbrook offers visitors a wide range of accommodation, including four-star luxury accommodation at one of its resorts. But for folks who are searching for something a little different, Cranbrook delivers.

Perhaps you'd like to spend the night in a restored rail car that dates back to the 1920s. In a nod to the city's long rail history, the old train car has been transformed into two suites: the Sante Fe, which is like something out of the Wild West, and the glammed-out Crystal suite, complete with dazzling chandeliers.

The car is parked right outside the Prestige Rocky Mountain Resort and guests still have access to all on-site amenities including the pool and hot tub.

Or maybe you'd like to return to the 1800s by booking a room at the Windsor Hotel, right in the heart of Fort Steele Heritage Town. Six rooms are available to book, ranging from single rooms to family suites complete with a bathroom with a clawfoot tub.

Then there are the 25 log cabins at the Three Bars Ranch. There you can combine your stay with activities that range from trail rides to cattle sorting and fly fishing.

Whether you come to Cranbrook for the natural beauty, the long list of activities or just to soak up the history of this amazing little city, it's sure to exceed your expectations and leave you planning your return trip 🏡



Photo courtesy
Cranbrook
History Centre

THE Bear Pavilion

**VANCOUVER ISLAND WILDLIFE
RECOVERY CENTRE OFFICIALLY
OPENS BEAR PAVILION**

By Black Press Media Staff, westcoasttraveller.com

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to mark the opening of the new building, which cost approximately \$200,000. The honour was given to Peter Karsten, who has dedicated his life to conservation work and artistic endeavours.

The pavilion was envisioned by centre founder Robin Campbell in 2021 when he was walking the property with board of directors president Del Kristalovich, to assess things and see where changes could be made. They came across a wooded lot, Kristalovich says, and days later, Campbell

told her about a "vision" he had for the place.

"Now, I've learned long ago, when Robin has an idea, we should run with it," Kristalovich says. "They should not be ignored because he always produces something wonderful for this area here."

The pavilion project received backing from generous donors and supporters and was completed this year in time for the the 40th anniversary celebration of the Errington wildlife recovery and education centre.

Campbell, who founded the centre with wife Sylvia, felt emo-

tional upon seeing his vision become a reality.

"It's something that I had a dream of and it's nice to see it completed and it's nice to see everyone here," Campbell says. "And most of all, it's going to be here long after I'm not here. And that's a good thing."

Campbell says he had two powerful goals he wanted to share with the public through the pavilion: "the vital role of black bears and the irreplaceable value of old-growth trees in our wild rainforests."

"These two are woven together in a remarkable relationship that sustains the forest's heartbeat. Black bears rely on old-growth trees for survival in the rainforest's wet, rugged winters. They seek shelter beneath the roots and in tree hollows, finding refuge from the rain. These ancient trees provide safe, warm dens for mother bears to give birth to fragile cubs, offering protection and warmth their young need cubs need to survive."

Beyond shelter, the trees nurture a thriving ecosystems, supporting insects, mushrooms and plants that form the



The new bear pavilion at the North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre in Errington, outside Parksville, B.C., highlights the value of bears and old growth forests. Michael Briones photo

core of a bear's diet.

The pavilion features lifelike displays of bears, information about the black bears and also old-growth forests, including First Nations art works. It aims to provide an educational experience to many visitors to the centre.

Seeing the centre grow from its

humble beginnings 40 years ago to what is now has been a dream come true for Campbell.

"I hoped it would be like this," he says. "I didn't know if it's be like this in my life, but I hoped it. When I get to see some of it now, it brings joy to me. It's pretty special for me." 🇨🇦



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Cultural *tides*

Japanese-Canadian history of Vancouver Island's West Coast

Black Press Media Staff

A new exhibit at the Tofino Clayoquot Heritage Museum explores Japanese Canadians' contributions to Vancouver Island's west coast.

Cultural Tides: Nikkei Journey in Clayoquot Sound highlights Japanese Canadians who lived in the area during the early 20th century. The term "Nikkei" refers to Canadians who are of Japanese descent.

"The exhibition tells the story of Japanese Canadians and how they came here, the lives they built, the challenges they faced and the ways they contributed to the community," says museum manager Chris Reitze.

During the Second World War, most of the Nikkei community were forced to leave the Island and were taken to internment camps. Once the war ended, the Government of Canada made it mandatory that Japanese Canadians must relocate to Japan or eastern Canada, making the already small Japanese community in Tofino almost obsolete.

This exhibit is meant to raise awareness around the injustices and discrimination Japanese Canadians faced at this time.

"The exhibition includes personal accounts from those who lived through the internment period. We are showing the deep impact on families and livelihoods during and after (the Second World War)," Reitze says.

Like many Japanese Canadians at the time, life drastically changed after the bombing of Pearl Harbour on Dec. 7, 1941.

By 1942, Japanese Canadians were forced to give up their

livelihood: their homes and fishing boats were confiscated and they were sent to internment camps or later deported to Japan.

"(The Second World War) was a challenging phase. We do not shy away from these difficult chapters," Reitze says.

"The exhibition includes personal accounts from those who lived through the internment period. We are showing the deep impact on families and livelihoods during and after WWII."

Most of the Japanese Canadians did not return to Clayoquot Sound after the war.


"It is a small community out here. A couple families came back, but not the whole community," Reitze says, noting that many looked for community elsewhere.

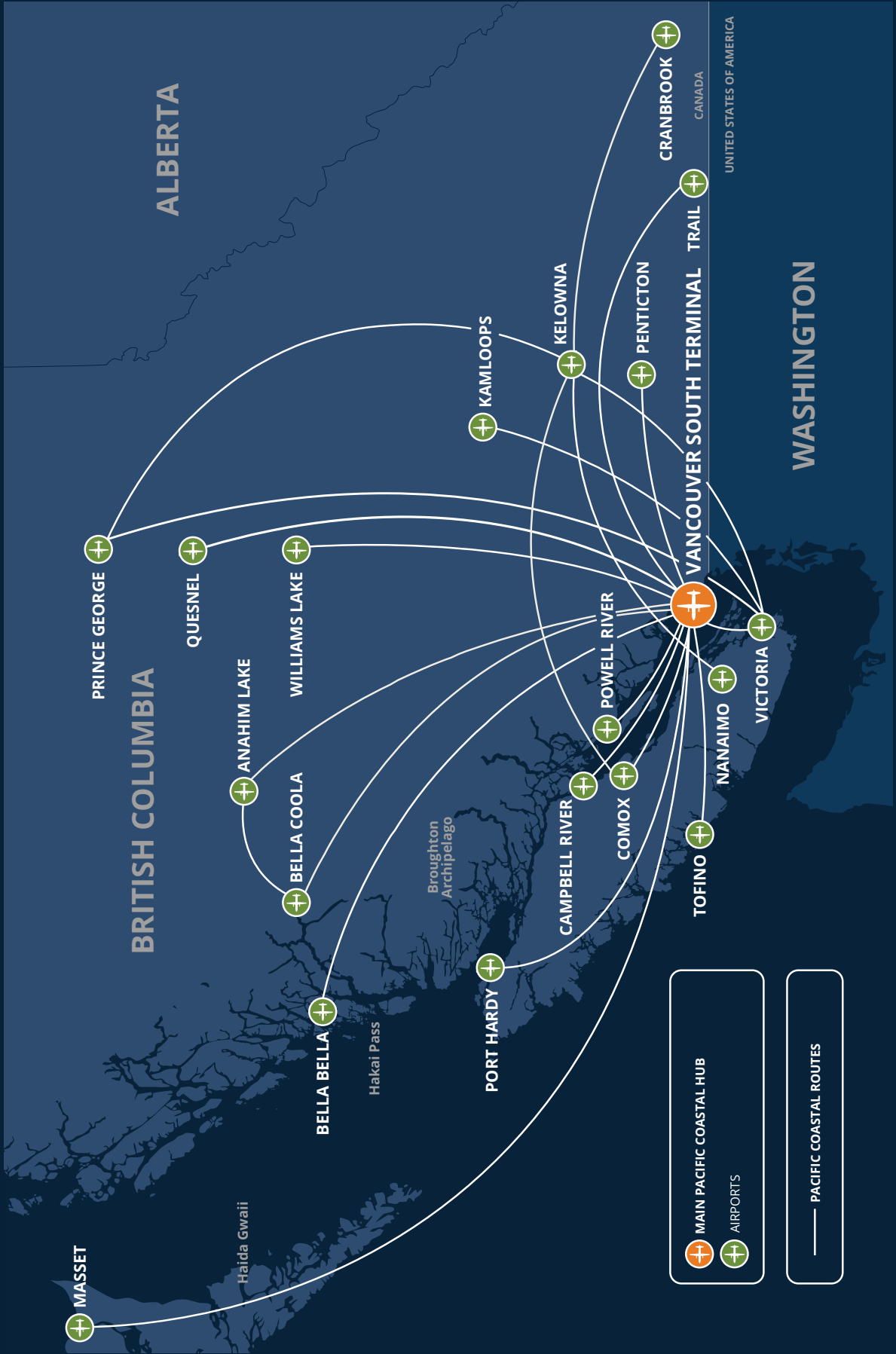
In 1998, the Government of Canada issued an apology to Japanese Canadians and an agreement was settled.

As we mark the 80th anniversary to the end of the Second World War, Reitze believes these issues of discrimination are still relevant today.

"This particular story of the Nikkei reminds us of the dangers of exclusion ... and the strength that comes from diversity and community support," he says.

Reitze also shared how the exhibit explores their life working in the fishing industry and building a community on the Island.

Visit the Tofino Clayoquot Heritage Museum at 331 Main St. (in the blue building), open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, with guided tours offered on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 



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