

Kris Patterson steps up for BC Children's Hospital Foundation

He draws attention to "Jeans Day" with a \$1500 personal donation

Steve Kalugin, local spokesman for the BC Children's Hospital Foundation, gratefully accepts a sizable donation from Kris Patterson.

"I want to create awareness for Jeans Day in BC on April 30," Kris said on Tuesday. "I urge everyone in Port Alberni to purchase a \$5.00 "Jeans Day" button or a \$20.00 pin before April 30, then wear jeans that day.

Kris, who already has a Jeans Day pin, would also like local businesses to encourage all their employees to get involved and challenge other businesses to do the same.

For details on Jeans Day 2009, call Steve Kalugin at 250-723-1148. Remember BC Children's Hospital is the province's only pediatric facility that treats critically ill and injured children from birth to age 16. The care provided is tailored to the unique needs of children. Funds raised from Jeans Day benefit BC Children's Hospital to purchase urgently needed equipment, fund research of childhood illnesses and special projects for public education.



Children's Hospital Donation

Steve and Barb Kalugin are the Co-Chairs for the Port Alberni chapter of the Community for Kids program through BC Children's Hospital Foundation. The Community for Kids program participates in several initiatives throughout the year such as Jeans Day and the Festival of Trees. The Kalugins have brought their passion and knowledge to this position for more than twenty years.

This donation will be used to purchase a new ECG Heart Monitor. They are used to monitor the patient's heart continuously and records asymptomatic events. New monitors are needed because they were using a very old event monitor called the King of Hearts. They don't carry parts for these anymore and the ones we had were falling apart. They were also bigger and bulkier and not easy for families to use. These monitors provide the data we need to help the hospital provide the best care possible to our patients. Each monitor will benefit about fifty patients annually.

More than 165 children from Port Alberni went to Children's Hospital last year. With this donation and the donations collected during the Port Alberni Festival of Trees, BC Children's Hospital is able to purchase 3 new ECG monitors for the hospital. The hospital continues to have other equipment needs, as well as funding needs to help build the new hospital. Please feel free to contact Steve or Barb Kalugin, at 250-723-1148 or Debbie Preston Philanthropic Coordinator at BC Children's hospital at p: 250-382-1529 c: 250-896-9621 if you are interested in making a donation.



Kris Patterson presents a cheque for \$1800 to Jessica Bell, Philanthropy officer of the BC Children's Hospital Foundation Vancouver Island. Also in photo is Debbie Preston the philanthropic co-ordinator and Steve Kalugin.

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER FINLAYSON

AV Times staffer looks to future with hopes

KRISTI DOBSON ALBERNI VALLEY TIMES

Kris Patterson was born and raised in the Alberni Valley and is a familiar face in the community.

When his father, Ike Patterson, completed broadcasting school in Squamish, he arrived in Port Alberni to get his feet wet at CJAV. His intent was a temporary stay, but he met Linda, fell in love, and decided to stay to raise a family.

Kris has memories of those days, when he and his siblings, Aaron and Tara, often visited the studio.

"There was orange shag carpet," Kris said. "I enjoyed spending time there and we were sometimes able to voice commercials."

Although he enjoyed a well-rounded childhood with softball, soccer and building forts in the neighbourhood, he gained a strong work ethic at a young age. Since then, he has always enjoyed working hard and keeping busy.

His first job was delivering the *Times Colonist* and the *Courier* at age 10.

After graduating from ADSS in 1994, he started working as a fire fighter for the BC Forest Service for two summers.

From there, he started volunteering with the KUU-US Crisis Line Society, which turned into a paid position until 2000. While there in 1999, he participated in a youth work project under the direction of Kenn Whiteman. Based out of the former Alberni Mall, the group was responsible for the marketing and promotion of events.



Kris Patterson has been a familiar face in local newspapers since 2007. (CHRIS FINLAYSON, FOR THE TIMES)

In September 2000, just before leaving the crisis line society, Kris simultaneously worked at Dob City Bingo until 2007 and night shift at 7-11.

While juggling employment and a relationship, Kris had his first child, Ella in 2004. She unfortunately passed away at three days old from a bacterial infection she contracted while in the hospital.

The following year, twins, Connor and Michael entered his life. Shortly after, Kris was forced to overcome another challenge. He was involved in a car accident and underwent eight months of physiotherapy.

By 2007, Kris was required to take three weeks holiday from Dob City Bingo, but rather than taking time off, he joined the team at the former Pennyworth newspaper, where his mother was the publisher. That

decision sparked an interest in the field and opened up opportunities in sales.

"Working with family is not as easy as I thought it would be," Kris said. "It was tough when my mom got sick because she wanted to stay at home as long as she could."

"Fast forward seven months later, my dad died," he said. "It was the day before my 35th birthday."

He said the community showed a lot of support during this difficult time.

"When my parents passed away, the community pulled together and really helped out," Kris said.

From those tragedies came opportunities for Kris to further develop his passions for history, writing and community development. He dug through boxes of Ike's research

material and photos, many of which he immediately donated to the Alberni Valley Museum to keep for posterity. He then had the idea to finish the book his father always wanted.

"I thought, 'how hard could it be,'" he said. "But I almost quit many times."

After former museum director Jean McIntosh wrote the forward, he decided to finish what he started.

Shortly after long-time employee of the *AV Times*, Margaret Gard, retired, he met her replacement, Phil Littlewood. The two came up with a plan to put *This Was Then* Volume 1 to print.

"That was a turning point in my life and helped with the healing," he said.

Kris' next publication was a grief and loss book taken from his loss of his daughter. It was written from a father's perspective. That preceded volumes two and three of *This Was Then*.

In 2014, he wrote a self help book and a sales book, all while working as an advertising sales representative with the *AV Times*.

When not working, Kris is involved in volunteer positions. He joined the board of the Chamber of Commerce in 2013, was elected second vice-president in 2014 and is currently vice-president. He also sits on the Chamber of Commerce's membership and awards committees and represents the Chamber on the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District solid waste plan committee.

He is also currently a member of the Young Professional Port Alberni.

been a strong supporter of the Raise-a-Reader campaign since 2007.

"With the help of people like Pam Craig and Tom Weegar, we have raised about \$400,000 in local money," Kris said.

Along with events with the KUU-US Crisis Line Society and Chamber of Commerce, Kris volunteered with the Community Policing Office and spent 18 months of weekends upgrading homes for the Port Alberni Non-Profit Housing Association.

"My dad always taught me that if you love your community, you need to do things to help others," Kris said.

Looking to the future, Kris hopes to use his knowledge, experience and love of Port Alberni to benefit his hometown.

"This paper has been a large part of my identity, not just for work, but for myself," Kris said. "It is sad to see a paper with ties back to 1907 come to an end, but each end brings a new beginning, whatever form that takes."

Kris' immediate plan is to find out what opportunities await and discover what his next passion will be. He is sure to put his all into whatever comes his way.

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Ike Patterson lives on through son's book

'This Was Then' will be launched at Museum on Aug. 30

JULIE BERTRAND ALBERNI VALLEY TIMES

When Ike Patterson died in May 2011, he left his son Kris a collection of several thousands of pages of text and pictures that he used to write his popular *Pennyworth* column. Ike was well-known in the community through his work at the radio station, as a city councillor and as a columnist.

At the time of his death, he had been working on putting together a book version of the columns. After thinking about it for a time, Patterson decided to take over the project. The result is "This Was Then... With Old Ike," a 98-page compilation of Ike's most popular columns. The Alberni District Museum and Historical Society will hold a book launch for Patterson at the Alberni Valley Museum on

Aug. 30 at 7:30 p.m. The book will also be made available for the public to buy. Part of the book's proceeds will be donated to the historical society.

"The book wouldn't have happened without the ladies at the museum," Patterson said.

Patterson decided to do the book project as a way to honour his father's memory. He started working on the book last November with a view to have it ready in time for the centennial. He quickly realized how difficult it was to put together a book.

"I thought about quitting many, many times because it's more work than I thought," Patterson said.

First, he had to go through all Ike's columns to find the ones he thought had the most appeal for people. Then, since so many of the computer files had been cor-

rupted or wrecked, he had to reset the text and choose pictures.

"Putting everything together took a long time," Patterson said. "Every column was on average four pages long."

While the book should have been ready to be sold during centennial weekend, a printing delay meant the book's debut was pushed back a couple of weeks.

Still, more than 200 people put their names on a contact list to buy the book, some of them wanting multiple copies. Patterson had 500 books printed and he's already thinking he might have to do another print run. Moreover, he still has enough material to do a second volume if people are interested.

"I am waiting to see how the first one does," Patterson said.

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Kris Patterson will launch his compilation of his father Ike Patterson's columns at the Alberni Valley Museum on Aug. 30. (JULIE BERTRAND, TIMES)

This Is Then...

With Kris Patterson



I very pleased to be able to continue to talk about Port Alberni's history. I will be bringing you more stories in different formats as in addition to this magazine. With the closure of the AV Times I began working at Pacific Chevrolet. This experience has brought me a new appreciation of cars. Port Alberni has always been a car town and I wanted to delve into more of that history. Everybody remembers their first vehicle, mine was a 1992 Chrysler New Yorker. A lot of people's first vehicles in the Alberni Valley were Fords. I thought I would look back at a brief overview of the Ford brand in the Alberni Valley.

On March 1, 1934, Bill Ohs founded Ohs Bros. Motors Ltd. It was a small shop on Argyle Street, specializing in automotive battery and electrical maintenance. The following year, according to information in a 1961 newspaper advertisement, "Bill and his brother Ernie established themselves with an automobile franchise." There was a move up to Third Avenue North, followed by the business transformation to "Western Motors." In June 1969 Fourteen out of 400 Ford salesmen in B.C. won plaques for outstanding sales performance and leadership. Len Johnson of Meyer-Holland Motors was one of them. Bob Ohs, of Ohs Bros. Motors, was also presented with a similar award. I talked with Doug Ohs, who is the nephew of Bill and Ernie Ohs and he will hopefully be sharing some stories and photos in upcoming columns.

Western Motors operated from Two blocks north on 3rd Avenue, owned by Barry Meyers and Bob Ohs, called itself the largest automobile dealership in Port Alberni. On Wednesday, August 26, 1981 – The receivership sale started for all assets of Western Motors Ltd. at the main building on the top of 3rd Avenue Hill. Everything was liquidated, including more than 100 vehicles, at receivership sale prices. Were you there?

Harbortowne Ford opened in 1983 and was sold in 2010. Owner Larry Mallory has a long history in the car business. The staff of Harbortowne Ford showed off newly renovated facilities to the public on June 26 and 27, 1992. Larry Mallory, hired local architect Lyle Anaka to design a complete makeover and contracted Eric Pardey's construction firm to do the work. The result – an indoor showroom, redesigned parts & reception area, and a much larger, more efficient shop that was relocated to another part of the building. In other words, not much remained of the original facility, which was home to Ivan Hedman's Alberni Volkswagen for many years.

When Will Pulford took over the Ford franchise in May 2010, a name change to Van Isle Ford and a move to a brand new dealership building on Beaver Creek Road in August 2014 helped to reinvigorate the brand. No expense was spared on the construction of this new facility which has more than three times the square footage of the previous location. Now on 2.7 acres there is much more space to display vehicles and has doubled the size of the service department. This ensures that the Ford brand will be vibrant and vital in our community for many years to come.



A picture of Ohs Brothers car lot.



Owner Larry Mallory and some of the staff at Harbortowne Ford celebrate their 25th anniversary in 2008.



A photo of the grand opening of the new Van Isle Ford Location on Beaver Creek Road.

What do you remember about these businesses? Did you buy a car from one of these dealerships? What was your first vehicle? Please send me your car stories and photos to kris@krispatterson.com or call me at 250-731-6167. As always I love to hear your feedback on what you would like to see in future columns. Some of what I will also be working on is: The Drive in, The Kit Kat, The Tree of Lost Soles and more Great Central Lake history as well as others.

Father shares pain of loss in new book

Kris Patterson hopes his daughter's story will help others deal with their pain

SIOBHAN BURNS ALBERNI VALLEY TIMES

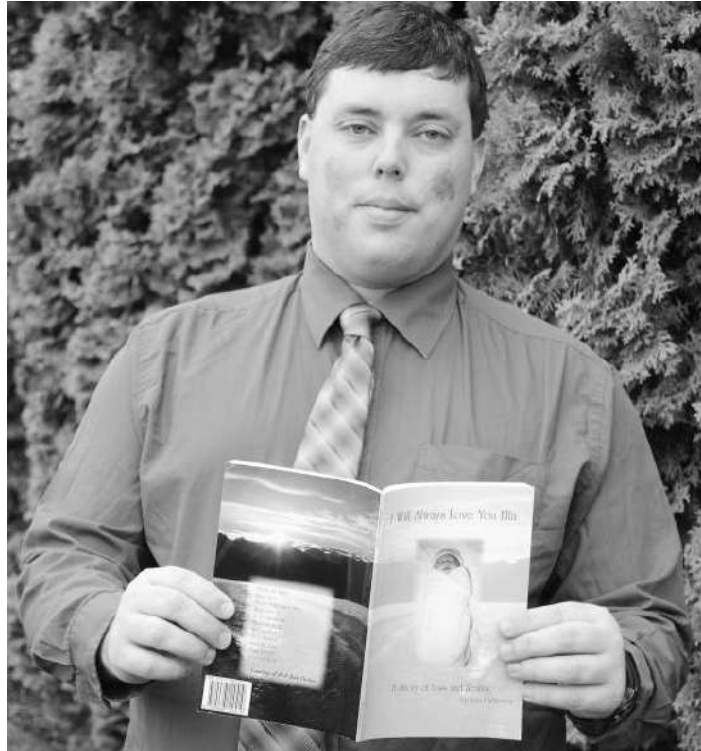
The proceeds from a Port Alberni father's recently-published book about loss and healing will be donated to the local chapter of The Compassionate Friends.

In 35 pages, author Kris Patterson shares his experience of losing his first child, Ella, almost nine years ago. She died at B.C. Children's Hospital from a bacteria infection when she was only three days old.

"I Will Always Love You Ella" has been a work in progress for several years now, beginning with Kris's idea to share his story, which he hopes will help someone else who is grieving. It was not until about six months ago that he dedicated more time to it with the goal of publishing it shortly after his first book, "This Was Then With Old Ike," was launched.

"The idea I've had for years, but I didn't think I could do it at that time," Kris said. "It has been emotionally draining. I'm hoping people can read the book and it will help them."

Shortly after his daughter's death, the late Colleen Deederly, who was a co-founder of the local Compassionate Friends group, approached Kris's father, Ike,



Kris Patterson's recently-published book, "I Will Always Love You Ella" is available for purchase at the Rollin Art Centre. The proceeds will be donated to the local chapter of The Compassionate Friends. (SIOBHAN BURNS, TIMES)

who was a columnist for *The Pennyworth* before his death last year. She was hoping he could write a story about the group,

which helps people grieve after the death of their child.

It was through that connection that Kris first met Deederly, who

had lost her son about seven years prior.

Deederly asked Kris to do a speech at one of their monthly meetings, but he declined as he felt it was too soon after his daughter's death.

In mid-August of this year, before Kris completed his book, he met with Deederly to discuss his idea of sharing the proceeds with the non-profit organization. Weeks later, Deederly died suddenly on Sept. 9.

"Colleen was right. She said it will drive you insane if you don't let it out," Kris said. "I just thought it was time to do it, and I had the support of some great people."

After her death, Kris believed it was appropriate to dedicate his book to her memory and spirit.

"Her unceasing efforts to help people with their grief and being there to listen were my inspiration for this book," Kris wrote in the book's dedication section.

In the book, Kris shares some of Ike's columns on Compassionate Friends, which were published in *The Pennyworth* in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

"I Will Always Love You Ella" is available for purchase at Rollin Art Centre.

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Volume 2 of 'This Was Then' hits the streets

Second edition of book containing popular columns by the late Ike Patterson will be launched Thursday at Echo Centre

SIOBHAN BURNS ALBERNI VALLEY TIMES

The second edition of "This Was Then... With Old Ike" will be available on Thursday.

The 140-page compilation of the late Ike Patterson's popular columns was edited and compiled by his son, Kris Patterson.

When Ike died two years ago, he left his son with a collection of thousands of pages of text and pictures that he used to write his loved *Pennyworth* column.

From 2003 to 2011, Ike filled an average of six pages in the newspaper each week with his columns.

Thursday will mark the book launch of volume 2. The event will take place at Echo Centre at 7 p.m.

Kris had a lot of help with the second edition as he received about 1,100 e-mails from local residents who provided feedback and input.

"There isn't a day that goes by where I don't hear someone say, 'Hey, I love this book,'" Kris said.

The book's launch comes out on the heels of Jean McIntosh's retirement. McIntosh was the director of the Alberni Valley Museum and helped Kris a great deal with the books.

"The museum staff have been excellent," he said.

With 500 copies hot off the press, books will be sold at the launch and later at Quality Foods, the Rollin Art Centre and the Alberni Valley Museum.

The proceeds from book sales will be donated to the Alberni Valley Museum and the Alberni District Historical Society Archives.

While the second edition is filled with different material than the first, volume 2 will offer something new.

The front page of the book has been Layared and includes an

introduction to the book through the self-service web application that activates print pages with digital content.

Kris hopes to Layer more pages throughout the book and use original audio files of interviews with Ike and local residents, as well as include more pictures and text.

"In the future, I will be Layering other pages," he said.

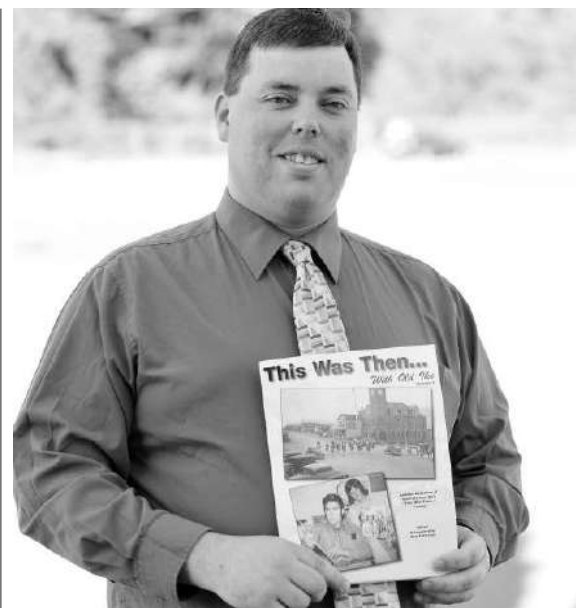
To see the layared front page, download the Layer app and scan the page.

In 2002, Ike joined the Port Alberni city council where he remained a councillor until his death.

The book projects are a way for Kris to honour his father's memory. He believes the second edition has achieved that.

"I think my dad would be happy now," he said.

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Kris Patterson, son of the late Ike Patterson, is ready to launch the second edition of 'This Was Then... With Old Ike'. (CHRISTOPHER FINLAYSON, TIMES)

Heroes in heritage recognized for hard work

HEATHER THOMSON ALBERNI VALLEY TIMES

The Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission handed out its annual awards on Wednesday night, and among them were a few surprises.

Mike McDowall represented the commission as its new chairman and announced this year's winners. First he thanked everyone who works so hard in the Alberni Valley to preserve the history here.

"There are a lot of critical things going on in our community, and one of them is its heritage," he said.

He stressed the importance of continuing to work hard to preserve the history of the community and find ways to expose residents to their heritage.

The first people recognized for the evening were Darlene Coulson and Marta Williamson.

Coulson served on the commission from 2007 to 2013, but will now step down. She was instrumental in the Centennial celebrations as well as many other projects.

Williamson will remain on the commission, but she has stepped down as chair after serving for 2013.

The Ike Patterson Award went to Frank Holm this year.

Holm played a key role in producing the Centennial book "Then and Now," as well as other publications and research through the years. He is an active member of the Alberni Valley Historical Society and has been part of almost every project the society has taken on since joining.

Ike's son Kris Patterson presented the award. He said Holm has been a true friend of the museum and his profound knowledge of local history and his pas-



(Above) From left, Les Stevens receives his award from Mike McDowall, while Mayor John Douglas presents Vic Laughlin with his photo on Wednesday night at the annual Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission awards night at the Alberni Valley Museum. (Bottom left) From left, Douglas presents Todd and Art Thompson with their award. (Bottom right) Kris Patterson gives the Ike Patterson Award to Frank Holm. [HEATHER THOMSON, TIMES]



sion for fostering local heritage "makes him an invaluable part of the heritage community in the Alberni Valley."

On a personal note, Kris said Holm has helped him tremendously during the time he was working on publishing two books based on his father's work.

Mike Carter received the first community award for his "long service as an advocate of the heritage community."

In recognition of his support for the museum and heritage, David Cox received an award. This was also to thank him for the work he did "with the

development and construction of the Lady Rose and Uchucks exhibit in the Hutcheson Gallery."

On the receiving end this time, Kris Patterson was given an award "in recognition of his dedication to documenting community heritage, preserving

his father's legacy and consistently acting as a friend of the Alberni Valley Museum and local heritage."

The Thompson family, represented by Todd Thompson and his father Art Thompson, were recognized with an award for their "generous donation of a replacement spar tree to McLean Mill National Historic Site, making possible the ongoing old-time logging demonstrations." Art, a former McLean Mill employee, donated the tree, and his son Todd fell it.

Les Stevens was recognized for his work "on restoring and operating the Farquhar steam tractor from the mill's collection" as well as his work with the Industrial Heritage Society.

IHS member Vic Laughlin was also honoured for his work on the steam engine.

The final presentation of the evening was to Jean McIntosh in "recognition of her long-term service to the Alberni Valley Museum and the City of Port Alberni as curator and director of the museum."

McIntosh was awarded the title of Director Emeritus of the museum, and a plaque will hang in her honour at the museum.

The presentation came as a surprise to McIntosh. She said it was a privilege working with the dedicated people at the museum and the volunteers who dedicate so much time to preserving local history.

"Everything in this place is truly a team effort," she said. "This is a real honour."

She said she missed working with people who made her look good by the work they did to support her.

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Alberni author releases new book

ALBERNI VALLEY TIMES

A Port Alberni author is releasing his newest book next week.

"Action: The Catalyst to Achieve All Your Dreams & More" will be available at Quality Foods, Curious Coho Books and Rollin Art Centre, beginning Friday.

The 82-page book reinforces the importance of action in your life, with personal examples, as well as strategies for several major life areas, including time management, productivity, discipline, fears and worries, communication, grief and loss, gratitude and goal setting, among others.

"This book definitely came from the inspiration of my own personal life," Patterson said.

He credits the support of the great people in Port Alberni for

his book project's success so far.

"The community of Port Alberni has been very supportive. Every day someone comes up to me to tell me how much they've enjoyed one of my books."

To date, Patterson has compiled and published "This was Then with Old Ike," volumes 1 and 2, as well as "I Will Always Love You Ella" and "Sales Success."

Patterson invites everybody to come out and check out his book.

The book launch for "Action" will take place Thursday, May 22, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at A Step Above at Quality Foods.

E-books are available through Amazon.com or Patterson's website, krispatterson.com.

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Kris Patterson will launch his new book at Quality Foods, A Step Above, on Thursday, May 22. [CHRIS FINLAYSON, TIMES]



PATTERSON



CARMICHAEL

Alberni Valley Times appoints ad manager

ALBERNI VALLEY TIMES

Kris Patterson has been appointed advertising manager for the *Alberni Valley Times* and *The Westerly*.

Patterson started with the *Pennyworth* in April 2007, and then came over to the *Alberni Valley Times* in January of 2009. He has worked as a sales rep selling both the *Pennyworth* and the *Alberni Valley Times*.

"I am confident that his experience and reputation in Port Alberni will be a huge advantage as he mentors and goes out on sales calls with our reps," said Hugh Nicholson, publisher of the *Alberni Valley Times*.

Patterson grew up in the Alberni Valley and has called it home his whole life. He said he has always been proud to be part of the *Alberni Valley Times*.

He is looking forward to the challenges this new position will offer him and the chance it presents to better serve the community he loves.

"I take pride in being part of the paper of record in my home town," he said. "The *Alberni Valley Times* has ties to the community going back to 1907. We are dedicated to providing the most enjoyable reader experience through print and online."

He said he looks forward to serving the paper's readers and advertisers.

The *Westerly News* has a new managing editor.

Jackie Larson Carmichael comes to the West Coast from the *Edmonton Sun*, where she covered provincial government for *Edmonton's* daily paper.

A Port Alberni native, Carmichael has two decades of experience in journalism, much of that spent in the United States.

Her work has appeared in the *Dallas Morning News*, *Entrepre-*

neur Magazine and numerous daily newspapers and magazines.

She is the recipient of numerous awards including the Texas Association Press Managing Editors first place for feature series writing.

Over her career, she has edited newspapers and magazines, and she welcomes the return to community journalism.

"I'm so pleased to be close to my Island roots and family for the first time in my career," she said. "I believe in the vital importance of the community newspaper, and I know Glacier Media is committed to doing a really good job in Ucluelet and Tofino."

"There's a wealth of good and important stories here. I have visited family on the West Coast many times, and I look forward to meeting new friends and learning more about this amazingly beautiful place," Carmichael said.

Carmichael is the author of a career guide for *FabJob Publishing*. She and her husband Gerry have five grown children between them. The Carmichaels will live in Ucluelet.

Another recent addition to the *Westerly* crew is advertising representative Paul Schroeder.

Originally from Port Alberni, Schroeder lived in Quesnel for two years before moving to Victoria in 1999 where he spent eight years working for a local publishing company.

Schroeder then returned to Port Alberni to work for the *Alberni Valley Times* in 2012. In 2013, Schroeder was offered a position at the *Westerly News* and moved to Ucluelet. An Island boy at heart, some of his favourite activities include playing hockey, mountain biking, and playing guitar.

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TESTIMONIAL



"Kris Patterson and the AV Times have done an excellent job to turn out our new client folder. I am thrilled to bits with it. All aspects of it are great, the picture, the artwork and the support from our local advertisers is amazing. Thanks again to our champion, Kris Patterson."

Carl Scott, Owner, RE/MAX MID-ISLAND REALTY

This Is Then...

With Kris Patterson



I recently completed a large project that was long overdue. When I was completing my executor duties in 2011 and 2012, I was cleaning out my dad's office and found a box that was marked "Save at all Costs". It contained audio cassettes with interviews my dad had done with people in Port Alberni for his column as well as interviews he had done when he was at the radio station. I

had the idea of adding this extra content to "This Was Then Volume Three". I began the process of converting them to a more useable format. It took a tremendous amount of time. The cassettes had to be converted in real time and then edited and burnt to discs. I spent more than 500 hours on this project, but I am pleased that they are now in the hands of the museum. I spoke with Jamie

Morton, Manager of Museum, Heritage & Culture for the City of Port Alberni and he said "The AV Museum is delighted to receive this invaluable audio resource. The tapes and disks represent many hours of historical interviews done by Ike Patterson, and many hours of effort by Kris Patterson in converting them to an accessible format, and indexing the materials contained on them."

The Museum will work on developing ways to make these materials easily accessible to researchers. We are very grateful to Kris Patterson for his generosity in donating these unique historical materials to share with the community."

I thought I knew a lot about our community's heritage but these tapes really taught me a lot. There is more than 167 hours of edited content. There are a lot of interviews with early residents of Alberni, Cougar Brown, automotive stories, business interviews (both past and present), and amalgamation of Port Alberni and Alberni interviews. I originally approached Jamie Morton at the Museum to discuss what I was working on and he was quite excited and was looking at how they can be incorporated into the museum collection and be accessible to the public. This project took a lot of work daily for the last couple of months but I believe it provides an important record of our community history and belongs to everyone. The museum will announce the procedure of how to listen to the audio as soon as they set up a procedure for it. I hope you will check it out, maybe your relatives are on there. If you would like more information please email me at kpatterson@avtimes.net



This photo taken by my co-worker Christopher Finlayson shows Jamie Morton receiving the tapes and the converted discs along with an index of the interviews. The Alberni Valley Museum will work on finding a way to make it accessible to the public.

When I ran this photo of the Luckies hockey team it was just to discuss the inspiration for beginning this column, however quite a few people have asked me if I was going to run the photo again with the rest of the names and a little more info. Here is a little more info to the story. The picture was taken during the 1960-61 season. Prior to that the team was called the 'Port Alberni Flyers'. They won the 'Suburban League Championship' in 1959-60. All games were played in Nanaimo because Port didn't have a rink.

We have identified the following people in the picture

Back Row - (left to right): Fred Kutchura, Dale Newberry, unknown, Roy Beaumont, Larry Rewakowsky, Merv Ganie, Joe Hawksworth, unknown, Bill Saunders, Roland Stickle and Del Deliasaia.

Front Row - (left to right): Bud Forman,

Don Whyte, Dick Murdock, unknown,

Gordie Moore and Bert Yesowick.

I have not been able to identify #6 and the player in between numbers 14 and 9. If you know who these players are please email me at kpatterson@avtimes.net

Do you remember the "Luckies" what other sports memories would you like to see more of in this column. Please email your requests and story ideas to kpatterson@avtimes.net



Feed Back

It was great to see the history of the Port Alberni newspapers in the AV Times Feb 18, 2015. The Alberni District Historical Society Archives are pleased to have microfilm of all local newspapers back to 1907, over 250 rolls of film. Volunteers are now in the process of digitizing them so that there will be a searchable database. The public is welcome at the archives on Tuesdays and Thursdays to access, for a small fee, our extensive newspaper clipping files and microfilm for local history or genealogical research. The archives, in operation for over 45 years, is the Keeper of the Community History, with a huge variety of historical documents, letters, scrapbooks, family records and obituaries, local publications and maps. We also welcome donations of paper documents of local interest that will enhance our collec-

tions. Thank you, Kris, for your contributions to the heritage of our Valley.

Marlene Dietrich, volunteer archivist

Hi Kris,

Thought I would e-mail you the names of almost all of the staff, I can't remember the last name of one woman but everyone else is listed.

Back row: Ron Atterbury, John Richardson, Dave Jarrett, Bill Arnst, Denis Houle, Peter Lapins, Mike Lyle, Sandy Stewart and Val Maher In front of Peter. Patrick Jones is sitting in the forklift.

Second row: Olga Kanigan, Julie Snow, Pat Harley, Pam Craig, Diane Morrison, Linda Whiteman, Joyce Unger, Nigel Hanford, Rob Dittie, Jean Illman, Carol Boxrud and Knox Coupland.

Front row: Angela Wirtz-Junker, Cindy

Reynolds, Carl Vesterback, Karen Boden, Kelly -----, Wolf Suhr and Des Howland.

Hard to believe the staff was so large in those days and we all fit in that office. I still

remember the great roar as the press started up every day around 1pm and the news rolled off the press, those were the days when a story that happened in the morning was in that day's paper, not two days later. We had about 180 paper carriers spread across the Valley from Cameron Heights to the end of Sproat Lake delivering the paper by 5pm and collecting every month.

I enjoy your new version of 'Old' Ike's column keep it up.
John Richardson



56 kilometres means \$560 for B.C. Children's Hospital

The recent "Great Lake Walk" from Youbou to Lake Cowichan was the first time Kris Patterson has ever taken a 56-kilometre stroll. He started out at 5am in the dark along with hundreds of others and finished in the dark 15 hours, 2 minutes and 9 seconds later. That "walk" around Cowichan Lake earned Kris some blisters, along with the satisfaction of doing it on his first attempt, plus it meant \$560 (\$10 for every kilometre) for B.C. Children's Hospital, the charity of Kris's choice.

"I'll be doing it again next year," Kris vowed. "I urge everyone to support Children's Hospital in their own way."

Donations, however they are raised, can be made by contacting Steve or Barb Kalugin at 250-723-1148.

See "Island on the Edge" this Tuesday

The Port Alberni Transition Towns Committee presents a new documentary about Vancouver Island food production on Tuesday, October 13 at 7pm in the downstairs meeting room at Abbeyfield on 8th Avenue. With the rise in popularity of the so-called '100-Mile Diet' this is your perfect opportunity to learn about the issues around local food production. Admission is free or by donation. For further information on Island on the Edge, call 250-723-2638.



Kris Patterson presents his "hard-walked for" \$560 to Steve Kalugin, the Port Alberni representative for B.C. Children's Hospital. [LINDA PATTERSON PHOTO]

This Is Then...

With Kris Patterson



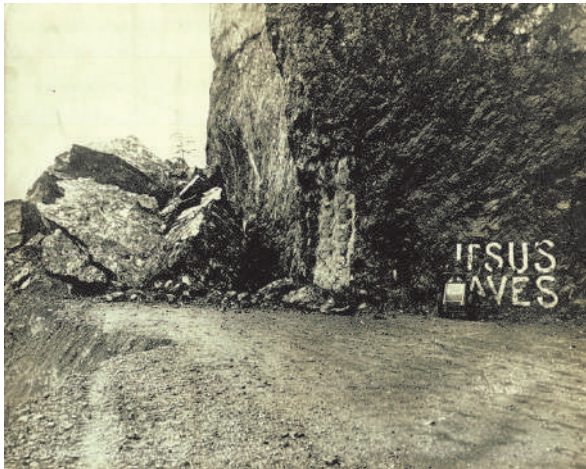
Many residents have wondered about Angel Rock and have expressed interest in learning more and since we have more and more people coming to the Alberni Valley every day I thought it might be a good time to explore some of the history of this iconic feature that is seen as people pass Cameron Lake and enter Port Alberni.

Angel Rock was a quite a memorable sight for a long time before it fell in the early morning hours of Sunday, November 14, 1948. The collapse was believed to be caused

by winter ice freezing in the fissures above the overhang. I believe the original overhang went right down to the roadway and the department of Highways blasted out an unsupported tunnel early in the 1940's. It is believed that this blasting is unconnected to the rock crashing down in 1948. This landmark would let people know that they were at about the half-way point between Parksville and Port Alberni. The road was not always as nice as it is today. It used to be a blind corner with an unguarded roadway

which was too narrow for two vehicles to pass each other. I heard that a Port Alberni band that played a Remembrance Day dance in Parksville were likely the last group to go under the rock before it came down. Were you part of that band? The road was closed for a few days. The fall also renewed interest in an alternative road out of the Valley which was started at the annual convention of the Associated Boards of Trade of Vancouver Island held in Courtenay in 1924. In 1977, the Highways Department shaved the edges

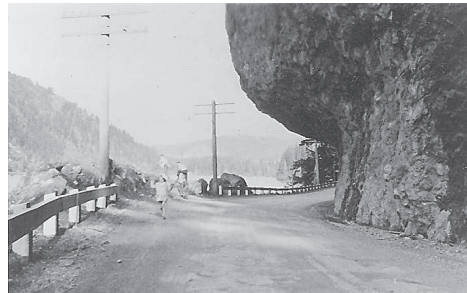
off which allowed bigger trucks an easier and safer trip around Cameron Lake. I wanted to include some photos to show how impressive it was, compared to how it looks today. No one was killed when the rock face fell down, making many people think it was a miracle. Are there any original photos before the blasting took place? Do you have any Angel Rock stories. Please share your memories and photos email me at kpatterson@avtimes.net



The painted sign on the rock explains the reason for it being known as Angel Rock.



Carl Gislason paused on the east side of Angel Rock for what was probably one of the last pictures taken before mother nature brought the intimidating overhang down on the roadway 63 years ago.



This is a pre-crash photo taken from another angle.



On-lookers look at the large slabs of rock that fell to the roadway in this photo taken after the crash.

Feed Back

Here are a couple of emails that I received in response to the Port Alberni Song. As always I appreciate your feedback. Please let me know what you would like to see in a future column. I am working on preparing a story on "The Duke" a dishwasher from Franklin River. What do you remember about "The Duke" and do you have any photos? Please also share your Franklin memories. Please email me at kpatterson@avtimes.net

Song Titled "Alberni Valley"

The song you referred to in Wed. Jan 28, 2015 edition of the Alberni Valley Times is a valued part of Folk Song Circle's collection of tunes. It was written by Bill Denett and Chuck Rudd who were from the local radio Station C. J. A. V.

It was written sometime in the 1940's. A former member of our group, Stan Titford, had it recorded on a cassette tape and his daughter Arlene Moen, passed on his collection to our singing group upon his death. We perform the song when the occasion arises for a historical reference. The last time I remember playing it publicly was at the dedication for the mosaic project at North Island College.

Kind regards,
Diane Dvurak
Leader of Folk Song Circle

This song was called "The Alberni Valley" and was written by Chuck Rudd and Bill Denett in the late 40's. It was the theme song for Bill Dennets Choir. I believe the Museum here has some information on it. I was part of that choir and I know there are still a lot of members still here in town. Tom and Anne.



Angel Rock as it appears today. Photo Chris Finlayson.

This Is Then...

With Kris Patterson



I was reluctant to start this idea at first as I thought my dad's work had been completed. However, since his passing both, myself and the paper have received feedback from many people who were missing that community history. There are people that come to me with ideas every day and I felt like they deserved to be part of our local heritage. I realized how important and rich this community's history and that it continues to play a vital role in Port Alberni. It's important to know where you come from, in order to know where you're going

and to measure your progress.

I recently received a phone call from Todd Jenkins, a man in San Bernardino, California who was hoping to talk to my dad. I explained how he had passed away and offered to help him. It was in regards to someone who became quite well known in the United States and played hockey in Port Alberni for the "Luckies". He let me know that there was very little surviving information about this man and he was interested in learning more as they were naming an arena after him. Through

some research, he came across Ike's name. This was the catalyst for the reinvention of the column. My dad always said to me everything is connected. I am starting to see those connections more and more. I believe it is these connections that make a community.

I decided to change the name of the column to This is Then. I did this because it was important to acknowledge the change in the column but also to let the reader know that it will keep to the spirit of the original. This is Then is fitting because our past

most definitely affects our present and our future.

In this column I hope to discuss businesses both past and present, historical events, places and your memories of them. I believe the success of my dad's column was directly attributed to the feedback and support he gained from the community. I hope you will enjoy these columns and I want to hear what you would like to see in future editions of this column. Please email me at kpatterson@avtimes.net with your thoughts and suggestions.

What follows is the first of this new column. I have changed the name symbolize that it is different from Ike's, but kept part of the title because I wanted to honor what my dad had started and the spirit of his work. I was doing some research for This Was Then Volume Three and found some reference to a fire on Third Avenue and when I discussed the fire with some of the merchants uptown a lot of them didn't remember it or came to town afterwards. It changed the landscape of the uptown and I thought it was good to acknowledge some of the past businesses of the area and provide some history on the uptown.

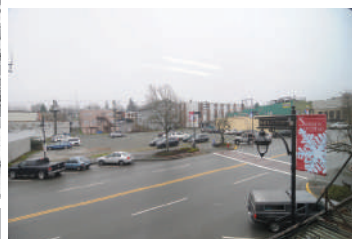
The fire took place overnight approximately 2:30am on September 4, 1985 and destroyed two buildings and severely damaged a third. The businesses affected were Taylors Flowers, Sawyer Sewing, Grannies Yarn and others. Five firefighters received minor injuries battling the blaze. What do you remember of the fire? Please email me at kpatterson@avtimes.net to let me know your memories.



Here is the photo that triggered a call from San Bernardino, California. What do you remember about the Luckies? What other hockey teams?



The late Roy Snickers took this shot of downtown Port Alberni on July 18, 1983. The new courthouse was nearing completion in the top left hand part of the picture. If you were to take the exact photo again today there would be no Beaufort Hotel. Also of interest, two buildings on the east side of 3rd Avenue, up from the old Russell's Jewellers were destroyed by a fire. The large building next to the vacant lot was heavily damaged in that fire and was later torn down. One smaller building was constructed after the fire (Former Investors Group Financial Services building)



Watch for more
This Is Then
in the
AV Times

This photo was taken in December 2014 by my co-worker Chris Finlayson from the window upstairs at the Alberni Community and Woman's Services Society. It shows the void left by the fire. You can see the edge of Steampunk Café and in the background you can see the old Papa John's building.



It is your feedback and participation that makes these columns what they are. It is your memories that should be preserved. To start jogging your memory what can you tell me about the photo to the right of a well-known hairstylist and gift shop which is on Victoria Quay Road today and about to celebrate 35 years in business.. Some of the stories I will be covering in the future are the Arlington and Somass Hotels, the upcoming 60th

anniversary of Wynans furniture, the story behind the song of Port Alberni, Barlow's, and an automotive history of the Alberni Valley along with many others. I will be delving into the history of as many businesses as I can, including the three sisters café. I look forward to your feedback and letting me know what you would like to see in future columns. Please email me at kpatterson@avtimes.net and bring in your photos to the AV times office. Thanks for your help.



Awards night highlights centennial volunteers

HEATHER THOMSON ALBERNI VALLEY TIMES

Port Alberni's centennial year is almost one for the history books, but first the Alberni Valley Heritage Commission took the time to acknowledge many of the people who made it a success at their annual Community Heritage Awards on Wednesday.

Commission chairman Bill Lekich said everyone has their favourite memory from the year-long celebration, but few would argue the fact that it was an amazing centennial year.

"It is important that we gather to reflect and look back on the year – and it was quite a year," he said. "It's been a lot of fun, and it was a great year to be chair."

He said it is with sadness that he is stepping aside and handing the position over to Marta Williamson. Lekich added that it is important to recognize the people who made the celebration possible and all of the people who keep heritage alive in the Alberni Valley.

Lekich said one person he knows would have enjoyed the festivities of the centennial year was the late Ike Patterson, and so it was a fitting place to start the awards presentations.

Founded last year, the Ike Patterson Community Heritage Award is presented annually



The Centennial Belles receive an award from Mayor John Douglas at the Community Heritage Awards on Wednesday night at the Alberni Valley Museum for their commitment during Port Alberni's centennial celebrations. [HEATHER THOMSON, TIMES]

in memory of Ike and his commitment to local heritage. This year, Kris Patterson, Ike's son, presented the award to Carrie Smith.

Smith was given the honour as a way to recognize her 15 years of service to the museum's education department as a docent with school and public programs.

"She is introducing a new generation to the importance of keeping our history alive," Kris said. "It's a good fit that she was

chosen because this is something my dad was passionate about."

The 2012 Centennial Committee, under the leadership of Ken Rutherford, was recognized for their outstanding contribution to local heritage and the community. The members include Penny Coté, Darlene Coulson, Pam Craig, Pat Dahlquist, Gareth Flostrand, Ann Hopkins, Lee Omilusik, Jim Sawyer, Gillian Trumper and Linda Whiteman.

Present at all of the celebra-

tions in their period clothing, the Centennial Belles and Tricia Knight were honoured for their enthusiasm and dedication throughout the year.

Meg Scofield has dedicated many years of service to the community as an advocate for heritage and culture. She was recognized for her commitment and work in the archives and the Alberni District Historical Society.

The Alberni Valley Times

received an award for their "outstanding contributions in commemorating Port Alberni's Centennial." While working with the commission and museum staff, the *Times* produced a number of special sections focusing on the centennial and offered ongoing coverage of the year's events. In addition, the *Times* and *Pennyworth* ran excerpts from the book "TSE-WEES-TAH: One Man and a Boat," by George Bird.

The commission also recognized the contributions by Luke George, Shirley Steven and Lekich, who are not seeking another term on the commission.

Mayor John Douglas said that as the demographics of the Alberni Valley change, arts and culture are becoming more important to the economy. For that reason it is essential that they are recognized.

"It is important to recognize history, but also to acknowledge the link it has to arts and culture," Douglas said. "There is not only value in learning from the past, but it can lead us into the future."

Lekich said the celebration is not over yet. The final centennial event will take place on Jan. 20, when the first Alberni council meeting took place in 1913.

HThomson@avtimes.net

Valley walkers take on Cowichan

FLORENTIA SCOTT FOR THE TIMES

Shelley Harding walked 55.9 kilometres on a rainy day without stopping to rest to challenge herself and to raise money for the Alberni Valley Museum.

It took her 14 hours and 25 minutes. Kris Patterson did the walk in 14 hours and 23 minutes to raise money for the B.C. Children's Hospital, where his infant daughter died five years ago.

Both were among 351 people walking around Lake Cowichan on Sept. 19 as participants in the Great Lake Walk. Both were among the 304 who actually made it all the way from Youbou through Caycuse, Honeymoon Moon Bay to the rec centre in the town of Cowichan Lake.

The Great Lake Walk is billed as an ultramarathon. It happens every year the third weekend in September. Organizers do it to promote the Cowichan Valley and encourage walkers and runners to raise money for the charity of their choice. Support drivers, medics, and 12 rest stations along the way support the brave souls slogging around the lake.

This was Harding's fourth year in the Great Lake Walk and the second year that she finished. The first year she completed 30 km and the second year 43 km. In year three, she walked into her mother's arms at the finish line.

"It was absolutely amazing," she said. "My mom is my biggest fan and cheerleader all the way." This year she entered knowing that she could finish,

however, frequent rain showers made the road a little trickier, preventing her from bettering her time.

Patterson said that Harding's example is what inspired him to join the Great Lake Walk.

"I watched her year after year and thought that would be a good way for me to make another contribution to Children's Hospital," Patterson said. "She worked really hard to get where she is."

Patterson didn't train for the ultramarathon and paid for it with a blister that came up around the 20th kilometre. But he persevered, stopping at rest stations to have his wounded foot wrapped.

While Harding was his inspiration, the loss of his little daughter was his motivation. She was only three days old when she died at Children's Hospital in Vancouver, apparently from a bacteria contracted at the West Coast General Hospital.

"The thing was that they didn't know. They thought it was jaundice. By the time we got to Vancouver, it was too late," Patterson said. While he now has four-year old twin boys to console him, he never misses a chance to raise money for Children's Hospital. "I take part in every fundraising initiative they do," he said.

It was Patterson's first walk but it won't be the last. He plans to do the Shawnigan Lake Walk next year and possibly the walk from Gold River to Tahsis.



Jan Jansma, centre, receives The Ike Patterson Award at the annual Heritage Awards on Wednesday night at the Alberni Valley Museum. Presenting the award are Port Alberni Mayor Mike Ruttan, right, and Ike's son, Kris Patterson. The award was established in 2011 to recognize a volunteer who contributes to community heritage in the spirit of Ike's love for community history and his many contributions to local heritage. [CHRISTOPHER FINLAYSON, TIMES]

Museum hosts heritage awards

MARTIN WISSMATH ALBERNI VALLEY TIMES

Eight Albernians and a local business were recognized Wednesday for their volunteer service to the community's history at the annual Heritage Commission Awards.

Approximately 60 people attended the event at the Alberni Valley Museum in the Echo Centre.

Jan Jansma won the Ike Patterson Award for his contributions over the years, including documentation of the 1964 Tsunami. Mike McDowall was honoured by the Heritage Commission after he stepped down as chair this year. Six other residents and a commercial entity were recognized with community awards for work in First Nations, architecture, art, maritime and industry heritage.

The awards are intended to recognize community volunteers and economic enterprises that support the idea of heritage, said Alberni Valley Museum manager Jamie Morton.

"It supports local identity and educational purposes and... cultural tourism resources," Morton said.

The recipients received a framed historical photograph to reflect their focus of interest, with a small engraved plaque.

The Ike Patterson award was established in 2011 to recognize the accumulated work of creative volunteers in community history. Ike Patterson, a regular at the museum and member of the Centennial Committee, was well known in Port Alberni for his "Our Town" and "This was Then" history features in the old Pennyworth newspaper. He passed away in 2011.

Jansma has undertaken several projects for local heritage over the years, such as at the McLean Mill. This year, he contributed images and documentation to remember the devastating Tsunami that struck Port Alberni 50 years ago in 1964.

McDowall served as chairman of the Heritage Commission from 2012 to 2014. He stepped down this year after accepting a teaching position in Prince Rupert. In thanks for his years of service, including his large contributions to the Port Alberni Maritime Heritage Society, McDowall was given the Heritage Commission award.

Community awards

The Blue Marlin Inn was recognized for their business model that preserves Alberni's heritage architecture. They have revitalized the old Arlington Hotel on Johnston Road, which shut down in 2011.

The late Dave Tranfield, who

passed away earlier this year, was honoured in memoriam for his years of dedicated service to the Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Society and the Alberni Valley Museum.

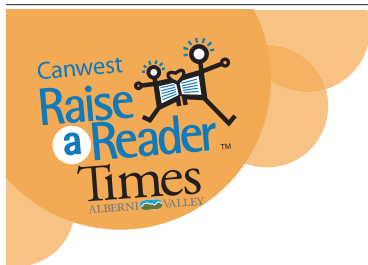
Ralph Tieleman received recognition this year for making one of the most significant single contributions in the museum's history by donating an Emily Carr oil painting of Sproat Lake to the museum in September. The painting is scheduled to be back on display next week.

Ken McKinnon was a founding member of the PA Maritime Heritage Society, serving as a director and secretary. He was honoured for his loyal advocacy of local heritage.

Darrell Ross recently planned and implemented the "Hishok – Tseshah Whaling" exhibit in cooperation with the PAMHS. He is recognized for his ongoing support of Tseshah heritage.

Rod Sayer and Emily Luce curated the "Nelson Joseph: Hupacasath Artist" exhibit at the Alberni Valley Museum and received community awards for their efforts. Nelson Joseph was a well-known Hupacasath artist and carver who passed away in 1997.

MWissmath@avtimes.net



Thank You Canada!

\$2 MILLION for literacy

Congratulations to the thousands of volunteers in 27 cities from coast-to-coast who help make Canwest Raise-a-Reader such a huge success! The \$2 million in fundraising announced after last week's Raise-a-Reader Day has pushed the overall national total to \$15 million! Special thanks to the volunteers and citizens in our community – together we raised \$50,333.68 for family literacy programs in Port Alberni.



www.raiseareader.com

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Patterson launches third volume of popular book

ALBERNI VALLEY TIMES

“This Was Then...With Old Ike” Volume Three will be available on Thursday.

The 167-page compilation of the late Ike Patterson’s popular columns was edited and compiled by his son, Kris Patterson.

When Ike died four years ago, he left his son with a collection of thousands of pages of text and pictures that he used to write his loved Pennyworth column. From 2003 to 2011, Ike filled an average of six pages in the newspaper each week with his columns.

Thursday will mark the book launch of volume 3. The event will take place at Echo Centre at 7 p.m.

The previous two editions have generated a lot of feedback and input. “There isn’t a day that goes by where I don’t hear someone say, ‘Hey, I love this book,’” Kris said.

With copies hot off the press, books will be sold at the launch and later at Quality Foods, the Rollin Art Centre, Bluefish Gallery and the Alberni Valley Museum. The proceeds from book sales will be donated to the Alberni Valley Museum and the Alberni District Historical Society Archives.

The third edition is filled with different material than the first two volumes, and will offer something new.

Kris has audio files converted and available on his youtube page. This includes original audio files



Kris Patterson will be at the museum on Thursday for the launch of his latest compilation of columns by his late father, Ike Patterson.

of interviews with Ike and local residents. Kris recently completed the digitization of his dad’s audio interviews and donated those finished recordings to the museum.

“I felt the time was right to complete this final volume of my dad’s work and combined with the now finished audio recordings, I think I have honored my dad’s legacy

and his love of Port Alberni.” Kris said.

In 2002, Ike joined the Port Alberni city council where he remained a councillor until his death.

Kris hopes that everyone will come out and enjoy the new volume as much as they have the previous two and celebrate the completion of this trilogy of books.

This Is Then...

With Kris Patterson



WITH the unusually hot dry summer which has led to fires all over the province including Dog Mountain, I thought now would be an excellent time to look back at some of the history of the Martin Mars water bombers.

Design work for the Martin "Mars", the largest active-duty flying boat, started in 1935. After contracts were signed in 1939 the keel was laid on August 22, 1940 with the aircraft leaving the hangar Sept. 27, 1941. This first plane was nicknamed "the old lady." Several improvements and models took place over the years with five more planes christened: Philippine Mars, Marianas Mars, Marshall Mars, Hawaii Mars, and Caroline Mars.

I have also included a picture of a story that ran in *Mechanix Illustrated*. Who could have predicted that a 1949 story about Glenn L. Martin, the man affectionately known as "the father of the Martin Mars" would one day have a direct connection to us in the Alberni Valley?

Even after the Caroline Mars, the first "flying boat" to be converted into a water bomber – arrived at Sproat Lake in September of 1959, no one could have guessed the impact that Mr. Martin's creations would have here in the following decades.

As history has recorded, the Caroline Mars was one of the fleet of four purchased to fight forest fires in B.C. by the then Forest Industries Flying Tankers (FIFT) of which MacMillan Bloedel was a major player. The Caroline Mars had not been converted when it first arrived at Sproat Lake and was used as a training tool for the ground and flight crews until late autumn.

The Marianas Mars was the first to be



This is one of the most sought after Mars photos. This dramatic picture was taken on June 20, 1973, during the Hunter's Store blaze on Highway 4 and it was the first time the Martin Mars was ever used to put out a residential fire. It was indeed one of the most memorable moments for everyone there.

Thanks to Pete Aspinall at the Port Alberni Fire Department for providing this great moment in time.



Here are a couple of more recent photos of the bomber in action.



converted to its water bomber role by Fairley Aviation of Victoria and took up duty at Sproat Lake in the spring of 1960. It was a short-lived tour though, because on June 23, 1960, the Marianas crashed, killing all four crew members. The tragic accident was chalked up to a bad decision by a less experienced captain.

The Caroline's conversion was put on fast forward and she proved that the world's largest sea planes could effectively extinguish forest fires when she took on a pair of blazes within three days in 1962. The Mars and FIFT were hailed as "overnight sensations."

The fame was put on pause, however, when the Caroline Mars, which was at Pat Bay that winter and was destroyed by Hurricane Freida. The remaining two Mars aircraft, the Philippine and Hawaii, were converted and arrived on station when the 1963 fire season started. Coulson forest products purchased

the two remaining water bombers in 2007. In addition to their firefighting capabilities the bombers were on display at the Martin Mars fire base. There has been a lot of discussion about the fate of these planes.

With the ability to dump vast amounts of water and fire retardant, the bomber is a unique tool in the firefighting arsenal as well as a piece of Port Alberni history. There is also an excellent book available called Martin Mars Flying Boats by Steve Ginter which goes into even more detail with the previous models and what happened to them. I hope you enjoy this look back at the history of these great planes and I would love to hear your memories and see your photos of the "bombers" over the years and perhaps turn this into a series of features.

Future stories

I recently received some great information about George Trotter, who was the manager of Overwaitea foods, including some great photos back as far as 1931. Do you remember shopping there?

I am also working on a car feature with some of the unique cars and trucks that Port Alberni has seen over the years. Another story idea is on the old Alberni Mall. Please email me at kris.patterson@avtimes.net or call me at 250-723-8171 extension 228.



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

November 27, 2007

The Honorable Ken McRae
Mayor of Port Alberni
City Hall
4350 Argyle Street
Port Alberni, British Columbia V9Y 1V8
Canada

Dear Mayor McRae,

On behalf of this great state's elected leaders, firefighters, law enforcement professionals, charitable organizations and hundreds of thousands of my fellow Californians, I am writing to offer my gratitude and admiration. Thank you for your assistance and well wishes as we make it through last month's devastating wildfires.

As difficult and heartbreaking as the past few weeks have been, they would have been even more so without your kindness. For people who lost, or stood to lose, nearly all else, it's difficult to overestimate what it meant to know that they were in the thoughts and prayers of people around the world.

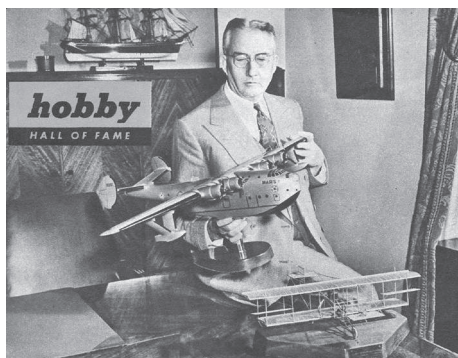
Clearly, there is still much work to be done as the people of Southern California pick up the pieces. Thankfully, we have no doubt that we can do it – especially with the support and encouragement of our friends around the globe. We're proud to name the people of the Port Alberni among that group. Thank you again.

With warm regards,

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Arnold Schwarzenegger

its

The bomber was extremely helpful fighting fires in 2007 as well which led to a very positive letter from then California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.



GLENN L. MARTIN-AIR CRAFTSMAN

Mr. Martin takes a craftsman's pride in his models as he contrasts his giant Mars to his first pioneer "motor kite."

NEVER can tell how a lad will turn out. Now look at Glenn L. (for Luther) Martin, biggest plane builder in America. At three years of age he dismantled a cultivator all by himself—or so the family story claims. But then, instead of sticking to farm problems and figuring out better ways to till the good earth, he went and flew a kite—and decided to make aviation his career.

One of the first kites he built was a tail-

less box that soared almost vertically and stood the kids on their heads with envy. Young Glenn turned his living room into a factory and produced three a day at 25 cents each—payable on the installment plan.

The first of the long line of Martin planes was a motorized version of this toy. In 1909 he took it aloft, becoming the third man in the U.S. to fly a self-made plane.

A master craftsman of the air, Mr. Martin makes a lot finer and faster "motor kites" now—such as the 200-foot seaplane Mars, the six-jet bomber XB-48 and Gorgon IV, a new pilotless ramjet aircraft. But he gets his greatest thrill out of showing visitors some of the 100 model planes he's made himself or collected—especially his favorite handwork, the miniature of the big box kite that first flew him into his fabulous career as aviation's No. 1 air-craftsman. *



Mrs. Minnie Martin, at 85, is still keen on her son's collection. She helped build—and fly—his first plane.

Mechanix Illustrated

Jan Jansma found this article in the February 1949 issue of *Mechanix Illustrated*, a magazine he has had for over 50 years. "I got it back in the mid '50s when I first got to Canada," Jan recalled. "I spent a bit of time working in Taber, Alberta, before coming to Port Alberni on February 7th, 1956."



This Is Then...

With Kris Patterson



THIS COLUMN is different than the usual format in a number of ways.

My column has deliberately run in Wednesday's *AV Times* since the beginning in January; however, with an anniversary event like this one, I thought I would try a new format.

In the spirit of looking back I have also used the *AV Times* logo from when it became a daily paper in 1970. I have always received info for story ideas from a variety of sources. Sherry Jasken came in when she heard I was working on a story on the 100th anniversary of Overwaitea and presented me with a treasure trove of information including old photos, newspaper clippings and magazines. This information required more than I could easily fit in one page so I came up with a different set up for this column. Sherry's dad was George Trotter, who was the manager of the Third Avenue Overwaitea in Port Alberni from 1934-1960 after first working in Abbotsford.

I approached Zack Jones, manager of the Port Alberni Save-On-Foods store with the idea of presenting some of the history of this shopping store, which continues to serve Port Alberni to this day. Save-On-Foods is a chain of supermarkets located across western Canada. Founded in 1982 it is a subsidiary of the Overwaitea Food Group, which, in turn, is owned by the Vancouver-based Jim Pattison Group. A number of stores concurrently running as Save-On-Foods formerly operated under the Overwaitea brand, founded in 1915 and purchased by Pattison in 1968. Most Overwaitea stores were gradually converted to Save-On-Foods stores during the expansion and renovation of the overall chain in the 1990s and 2000s.

The first Save-On-Foods store in Alberta opened in 1990, at Mayfield Common in Edmonton. The store's loyalty card, originally called the Save-On-More card but recently re-branded as More Rewards, was launched in May 1992.

Through a little more research I learned that at one time there were two Overwaitea stores, with one starting on First Avenue before moving to Third Avenue (this location was later home to Fields). This area of Third Avenue has seen many different businesses over the years including Sweet Sixteen, which was located between Isobel's and Overwaitea. There was a second store on Johnston where *Gone Fishin'* used to be, before they moved to their current location. This area was also home to several notable businesses over the years, such as A.W. Fast Printers and Lithographers, which opened on Jan. 3, 1962 at 19 Johnston St., between Overwaitea and Comfort Shoes. A little more than two years later, on Feb. 15, 1964, Fred Luecke bought the business and



This photo shows the first avenue Overwaitea location in 1934.

"Lucky Printers" was born.

JUNE 5, 1947 OVERWAITEA OPENS IN ALBERNI!!

"Displaying unbounded faith in the growth and development of Alberni District, Overwaitea Ltd., this morning opened its new Alberni City branch store at 8:30."

That was the lead line in the story on page 5 of the *West Coast Advocate* on June 5, 1947. The article went on to say:

"Situating in the modern new Harris Block on Johnston Street the store will have a frontage of 20 feet, with a depth of 75."

Clarence "Mac" McKellar transferred in from the Mission store to manage the staff of five at the new Alberni outlet, which was the 34th branch store owned and operated by Overwaitea Ltd., a purely British Columbia company.

"Another feature of the Alberni store is the connecting archway leading to the adjoining store, which will shortly be opened up by Begg's Meat market," read the article.

IHOPE YOU ENJOYED this look back at some of Overwaitea's history and its connection to Port Alberni. Please look at some of the information and photos in the inside pages and come out and celebrate



This photo shows customers at the checkout. Do you know who the little girl in the checkout is? Please email me at kris.patterson@avtimes.net or call me at 250-723-8171 ext. 228 and you could win tickets to the Chemainus Dinner Theater.

the 100th anniversary with the great team at Save-On-Foods and take advantage of some of the great deals on today between 12-4.

If you have more memories and pho-

tos of shopping at Overwaitea or of George Trotter I would love to hear from you either by email at kris.patterson@avtimes.net or by phone at 250-723-8171 ext. 228.



This photo, taken by Keith Rodgers during a May Day Parade in 1957, shows the Overwaitea Store on the corner, almost 10 years - to the day - after opening. If you have any memories or photos of the Alberni Overwaitea, please e-mail me at kris.patterson@avtimes.net.



A picture from 1957 that shows the interior of the newly remodelled store.