

Valley Vibe

Port Alberni

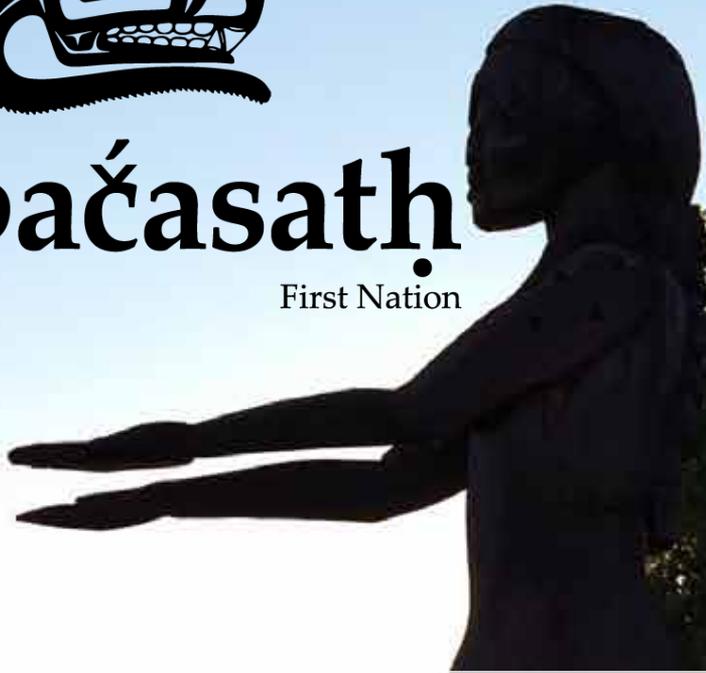
Winter 2019





hupačasath

First Nation



The Hupacasath First Nation people are a living history of the Alberni Valley. For thousands of years our people have instilled the importance of community here. We are comprised of three distinct tribes,

Muh-uulth-aht,
Klee khoot aht and
Cuu-ma-as-aht (Ahahswinis).

Respecting the gifts the creator has provided for us, we practice our aboriginal right to: hunt throughout the mountains of the Beaufort Range, Klitsa, Nahmint and Arrowsmith; gather fish from the Somass (Tsuma-as) River, Great Central Lake (Muuhoalth) and Sproat Lake (Kleekhoot) and gather from all areas within and surrounding the Alberni Valley.

 Hupacasath First Nation

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When talking to Dave Potter who grew up in the Alberni Valley about what its like to be operating a family owned business in his very own town, he responded; "I love working here, supporting local guys and families. It is truly the friendliest most beautiful, hidden gem of a city and we are blessed to live and work here!"

He went on to say, "it's important to us that we give fair prices, senior discounts and do what we can to help people in emergency situations, safety is always our number one priority" They literally worked right through Christmas after that crazy wind storm, pulling trees off houses and freeing up the highway so people could get to their families.

You can feel his love for the Valley, when he talks about praying for the safety of his team of guys and praying over the houses of the valley when he is high up in a tree or in the bucket truck . . . he mentions he works with other local tree experts, how awesome they are and how they refer business to each other.

When talking to Dave you get the sense it is his mission to help where he can, he is proud to have his son Kai Potter working full time with him and his wife and daughter helping pull branches once in awhile too.

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Welcome
to
Port Alberni
A SLICE OF ISLAND PARADISE



CITY OF

PORT ALBERNI

In the heart of Vancouver Island, connected by sea, wrapped in a blanket of emerald moss and cloaked in ancient culture, sits a valley. A valley steeped in history and rich with adventure. A valley we call home.

As the community fortunate enough to be surrounded by the towering peaks of the Beaufort Mountain Range, lush canopies of the west coast rainforest and salty waters of the Alberni Inlet, we have the opportunity to show each other and the world just how lucky we are.

So, to the residents looking to rekindle their sense of adventure, those thinking of making this magical place home, visitors seeking a thrill, the young and the young at heart, we invite you to lace up your hiking boots, dust off your kayaks, polish your golf clubs, grab your fishing rods and pack your cameras - it's time to shake off the stress of this chaotic world and explore Port Alberni.

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Letter From the Editor



THE
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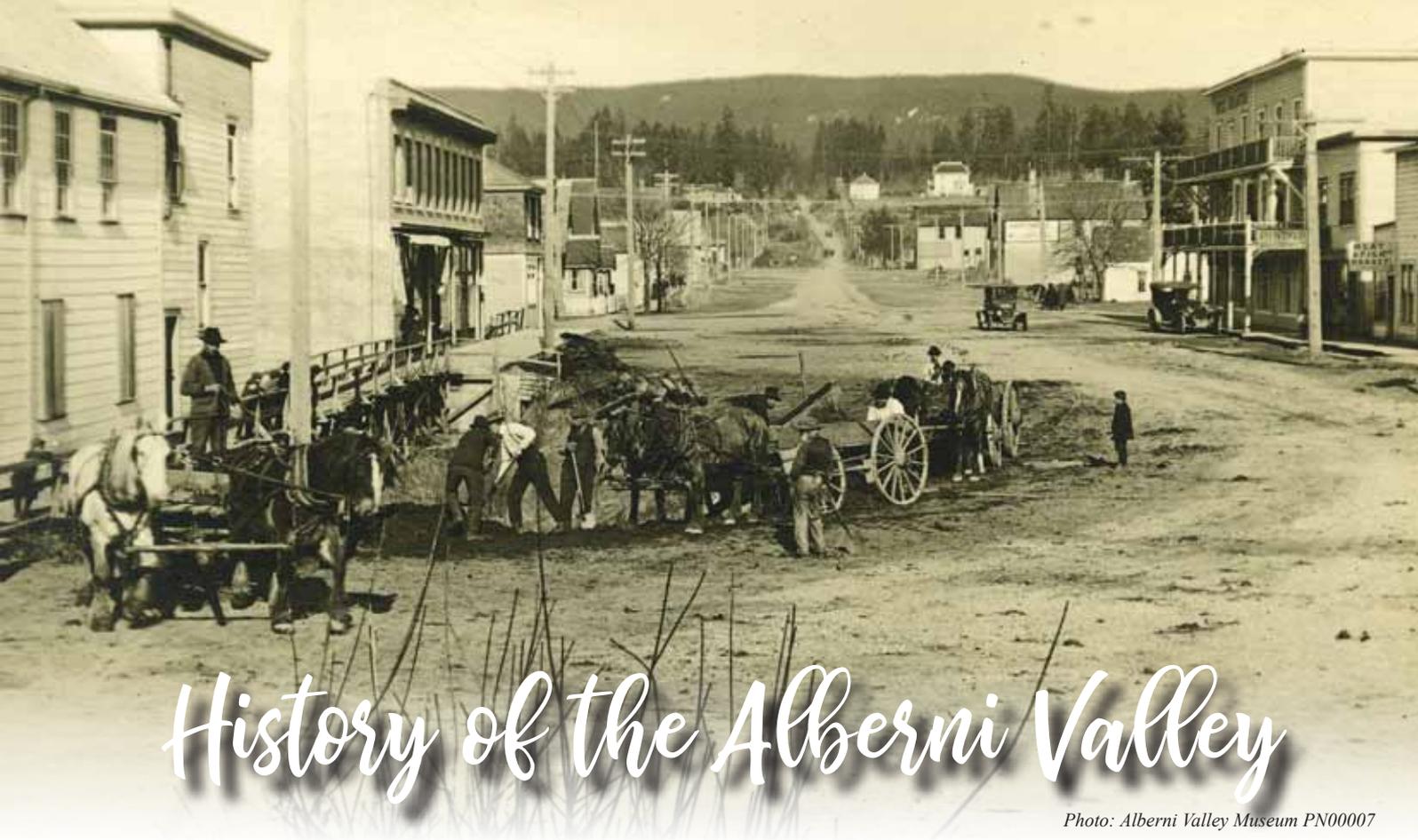


Photo: Alberni Valley Museum PN00007

The following is a very abbreviated summary of the history of the Alberni Valley. It should be taken, not as a comprehensive history, but as a brief glimpse at a fascinating story of the development of a community. Certain themes and eras have been selected as key to a board overview. Further information on any of these topics, plus others which are not mentioned, may be found through research at the Alberni Valley Museum or the Alberni District Historical Society Archives.

Like British Columbia, the city of Port Alberni has been shaped by 150 years of development that started with the 1858 Fraser River gold rush. Since then, three major periods of growth and prosperity, one roughly every fifty years, have inspired the dreams of residents and newcomers. Their dreams are reflected in today's city.

In 1908 Alberni enjoyed the economic benefits of the "Second Industrial Revolution," when consumer demand, new technology, and mass production meant growing markets for raw materials including base metals, forest products, and food products. The Prairie wheat boom drove Canada's economy, and BC lumber built Prairie cities and farms. This brought a new wave of Canadian and British immigrants, often attracted by the promotions of local "boosters." Alberni had its share of these boosters, selling the region with dreams of prosperity. They emphasized the surrounding forest, mineral, and marine resources, and Alberni's geographical location as a "gateway to the Pacific," now with rail and road connections as well.

Two settlements competed for regional dominance; with Old Alberni, as the service centre for the agricultural settlement in the region. Which was behind "New" or Port Alberni, with its industry and transportation links. Both cities incorporated in 1912-1913. Some infrastructure, like telephone and electrical services, as well as many new commercial and residential buildings appeared in this period.

Although affected by the Great Depression, the Albernis soon recovered due to the strength of the forest industry. In 1935 Bloedel, Stewart & Welch built the Somass Mill. And the following year the H.R. MacMillan Export Company bought the Alberni Pacific Lumber Company. The industry expanded during WW2. H.R. MacMillan Export, by now the dominant regional forest company, built the Alberni Plywood Division in 1942, followed by opening the Alberni Pulp & Paper Mill in 1947. During this time the Albernis depended strongly on the forest industry.

In 1958 Alberni and Port Alberni flourished. Pent-up demand following the Depression and WW2, and the postwar "baby boom," meant that consumer spending took off, led by suburban development and the automobile industry. The forest industry expanded to provide the materials to build the suburbs. Dreaming of prosperity, a new wave of immigrants, from Canada or Europe was attracted to the Albernis. In the 1960s Port Alberni vied with the auto-building cities of Ontario for the highest per-capita income in Canada.



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Photo: Alberni Valley Museum PN22848

In the Albernis the transportation changed, as the last passenger train ran in 1957, and logging trucks replaced trains in the forest industry. Road development resulted in the opening of the West Coast Highway in 1959, connecting Alberni to the transcontinental system. Services and amenities improved, leaving us with facilities like Echo Centre and the Port Alberni City Hall. Many choose to raise families in Port Alberni during the baby boom, and their needs were met by new hospitals and schools. A strong economy made the dream of home ownership possible. New residential districts developed, with features like wide streets distinct to the city. Acknowledging the economic power in the community, the Woodward's chain opened a department store in 1948, followed by many other retailers.

The two cities were jealous rivals for many years. Alberni retained a rural image, well Port Alberni developed into a major industrial centre. The 1964 tsunami disaster forced both towns to work together in a common cause. It was also widely accepted that the two municipalities duplicated many services and costs. In 1967 the twin cities were amalgamated in the City of Port Alberni.

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Murray & Val



Photo: Alberni Valley Museum PN02438

M.V. Vanlene

On March 14th 1972, the 21 year-old M.V. Vanlene freighter vessel carrying 300 Dodge Colts from Japan blindly entered the Barkley Sound; believing they were in the Juan de Fuca Strait. The Vanlene ended up running aground on the rocks off of Austin Island, largely due to the vessel having no more than a compass to navigate its way across the Pacific Ocean. This fact, as well as a thick spring fog coating the whole West Coast made sailing the freighter into the Juan de Fuca Strait nearly impossible. Following the wreck, a large rescue took place. Nearby tugboats and boom boats transported all 38 of the Chinese crew members to safety, helicopters airlifted nearly half of the cars off the vessel, and ecologists assessed and treated the surrounding marine life and beaches of the Vanlene's oil leakage. Despite sinking over 40 years ago, the Vanlene remains to be an entertaining salvage story and a popular diving spot to this day.

Before Captain Lo Chung Hung and his crew embarked on the Vanlene from Nagoya, Japan to Vancouver, Hung had a standard-issue equipment inspection done. The inspection determined that the Vanlene's radar, radio direction finder, echo sounder, deep sea leader, taffrail log and mechanical log were all damaged and in need of repair or replacement. Captain Hung requested that the ship's owner repair the broken equipment before they left Japan, however, the owner never obliged, and the Vanlene was forced to embark with only two magnetic compasses, one gyro compass and four repeaters (relays radio signals over wide areas) to navigate their way.

The thick fog surrounding Vancouver Island that day made sailing the Vanlene without equipment almost impossible, which is made evident when Hung unknowingly steered the vessel into the Barkley Sound rather than the Juan de Fuca Strait; more than 60km off-course. As the vessel neared Austin Island, the water gradually got more shallow until the Vanlene crept onto the sea floor and grounded gently onto the rocks below; so gently that the chief engineer on the ship



Photo: Alberni Valley Museum PN02498

didn't even realize they had run aground until the engines shut down.

All 38 members of the crew, including Captain Hung, were safely rescued from the Vanlene wreck and transported to Port Alberni. After the crew was rescued, salvage efforts for the stranded cargo began. Since the vehicles were stowed below deck, they had to be individually airlifted out with a helicopter through the open cargo hatch on the ship's deck. Despite this setback, 131 cars were safely taken off the Vanlene and brought to the shores of Bamfield; leaving 169 vehicles that were either unreachable from the cargo hatch or already flooded and lost beneath the waves. For the next several years that the Vanlene was still above the water, many people from Bamfield and Ucluelet would venture out to salvage anything of value off the doomed vessel. According to the Underwater Archaeological Society of BC, nearly every resident of Bamfield and Ucluelet either displays or even uses something from the Vanlene.

Although the navigational failures of the Vanlene highlight her journey to Vancouver Island, the cargo of 300 Dodge Colts she was carrying gave her the legacy she still has to this day. The Vanlene remained wrecked on the rocks off Austin Island for several years until storms slowly slipped her into the sea.

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Delegating to Your Team: 3 Top Tips

You run a successful business and you're really busy. You've reached the point where you've hired staff to help ensure continual growth while keeping your current clients happy.

But, here's an important question: are you using your team to their full potential? In other words, are you delegating tasks and projects to your employees in order to both lighten your workload and make your team members feel like an essential part of the business?

The toughest part of delegation is learning to let go, particularly if it's something you've been responsible for over a long period of time. You've hired people based on their skillsets, so now you have to trust in their skills and abilities to get the work completed effectively. There is bound to be a learning curve, but the endgame is to free you up to generate more business.

#1 BE CLEAR

The best way to help ensure the success of delegated tasks is to offer clear instructions. Make sure your staff is well advised on the steps you've taken to complete these tasks in the past as well as the end result you expect to see and when.

#2 TEACH NEW SKILLS

The best team players are well versed in a wide variety of tasks. Don't be afraid to teach new skills as part of the delegation process. Employees who feel entrusted with new and important challenges are often the most loyal because they feel valued. If you trust them to take on something new, this is also a confidence-building exercise that helps them step out of their comfort zones.

#3 PROVIDE FEEDBACK

Walking your team through a recap of what you believe went well and what could be improved upon in future – as well as inviting them to offer input on the same – will help ensure delegation runs even more smoothly as time progresses. If your staff has done well with a task you assigned, let them know by publicly thanking them and offering genuine praise. If they've fallen short, don't be afraid to give them some constructive criticism, always offering ways to improve in the future as opposed to simply pointing out shortcomings.

Delegating isn't always easy, but it can certainly save you time and help your team members grow their skillsets, all of which will benefit your business for years to come.

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Conversations with Cheryl

Investment Advisor & Insurance Broker
cherylmaclean7@shaw.ca
250.723.3224

Cheryl, What made you decide to get into the financial services industry?

I have been in the industry now for 23 years. Growing up I was interested in finances, and I have a heart to make a difference in peoples lives. My appreciation for the financial services industry has grown over the years. When I see the difference of being properly covered makes in a families' life, my passion grows a little more. Early in my career I experienced first hand in the lives of my family how insurance impacted them in a positive way when faced with an unpredicted crisis. Life happens, and seeing how life, critical illness, or disability insurance can impact people is why I continue in this industry.

When you first meet with clients do you find most people are properly covered?

Unfortunately, this is seldom the reality. It continues to surprise me that eight out of 10 families have no coverage or are seriously under insured putting their asset holdings and dependents at risk. When I first meet new clients I find out what they have currently and then what they need in the

event that an unexpected life event arises. Whether that is premature death, a critical illness or a disabling accident. I ask tough questions , preparing for the unexpected.

Cheryl, what are the benefits of working with an investment advisor/ insurance broker to build a proper plan?

Because I am not tied to one company, much like a mortgage broker, I have more options and multi-carriers I can use which permits me to take the time to find the best solution and coverage for clients. Often people have health issues and have been unable to get coverage, or are faced with expensive premiums. As a broker I have the flexibility to find the best coverage to suit each persons needs at an affordable price. For investments higher rate of returns/ lower fees.



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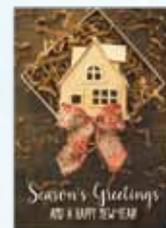
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Pedro de Alberni written by M. Van Vliet

Port Alberni is a small town with a rich history. Situated at the tip of the Alberni Inlet within the Alberni Valley, the city of Port Alberni has morphed over the years from a logging boomtown into the diverse tourist destination it is today. Port Alberni, the canal and valley are all named after one individual; Pedro de Alberni.

Alberni was born in 1747 in the city of Tortosa in the Catalonian province of Tarragona, commencing his military career at the young age of fifteen. It was summer when Alberni received the order that would lead him to foreign waters, where he would ultimately secure his reputation as a practical and resourceful leader. When Alberni was ordered to mobilize his troops for what is now known as Nootka Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island, his mission was to establish defences by developing a strategy to protect the Spanish claim to the port of Santa Cruz de Nutca.

Although the troops were reckoned to march immediately, Alberni conducted a thorough review and found that his company did not have enough men or equipment to make the journey, and felt the need to hold off until they could make better arrangements.

Pedro de Alberni began proving himself a good captain before his company even set sail for Nootka; ensuring his crew was being taken care of, provided for, and paid appropriately. To get more men, Alberni submitted a report to his superiors showing his lack of resources, and requested power to recruit the troops he needed.

It was February of the subsequent year before Alberni felt prepared enough to begin marching troops. The Free Company of Volunteers of Catalonia finally began their march through Nayarit, making their way through Guadalajara and Tepic, traveling from their barracks to the port of San Blas. Once in San Blas, the troops boarded a convoy of three ships, commanded by naval lieutenant Francisco de Eliza, finally setting sail for Nootka.

While in Nootka, the company made quick work of clearing



Photo: Alberni Valley Museum PN17869

land and building a wooden barracks that stood in contrast to the surrounding rugged terrain. Not only did Alberni cultivate a garden for food, but he also made notes of which plants grew best on Nootka and determined the best planting season for each crop by planting seeds at weekly intervals. Alberni made it a priority to improve camp life and help sustain his company through the harsh winters of the Pacific Northwest. Today, historians ascribed Alberni for his substantial contribution to the collection of Nootkan-Spanish vocabulary. Francisco de Eliza, the naval lieutenant accompanying Alberni must have thought highly of him, as he named a canal he discovered in 1789 after him, the Canale de Alberni. After two years and ten months in Nootka Alberni's command was relieved. He left Nootka on July 1, 1792, and was promoted the same day to lieutenant-colonel. Alberni's military career did not end there, and he continued his career until his death in Monterey in 1802.

The naming of the Alberni Canal stuck, first appearing on the maps produced by the HMCS Hecate after they traversed the inlet in 1861. As time passed, the name Alberni came to be used for both towns – Port Alberni and Alberni – and cover the name for the entire valley.

Without Francisco de Eliza, we may never have recognized Pedro de Alberni and his astounding contributions to Nootka and the West Coast of Vancouver Island.

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May 28, 1979

Carolyn Fehr, left and Louise Wayie are full of smiles, and for good reason. The ladies are owner-operators of Finishing Touches, a new cosmetic and wig shop opening in the Alberni Mall Wednesday.

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Local Women in Business



Many women dream of the day where they can work from home and create their own income doing what they love and what they are passionate about. We have many women in the Port Alberni Valley doing just that!

Here are a few women who are inspiring and empowering thousands of other women to live more balanced lives and rocking their own entrepreneurial style!

“The opportunities are endless... you have to be committed and willing to go the distance but it is so worth it!”

“I love how I get extra time and flexibility with my family but also I have something of my own, it is exciting setting an example for our kids on creating a future with vision and abundance.”

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Sondra Austin - Life Quality Facilitator with Isagenix

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Tamasin Hannaford - All That Glitters

"I have been making jewelry since 2006. I love what I do. It started off making jewelry for friends and family. Suddenly I was getting huge orders for 200 + pairs of earrings. I show my handmade jewelry at markets and events all over Canada, but mostly here in Port Alberni."

F: www.facebook.com/pg/ATG2006/posts/ **E:** mcllell250@gmail.com **C:** 250-731-7275



Madison Jones-Watson - Mad About Wood

"I specialize in unique furniture, home decor and art using salvaged wood. We recently began repurposing unwanted wood furniture into more useful modern items. I love being able to express my creativity using our natural resources. As a busy mom I love being able to teach them the value of what hard work and determination can do as an entrepreneur."

F: [@madaboutwoodfamily](https://www.facebook.com/madaboutwoodfamily) **E:** madisonjoneswatson@gmail.com **C:** 250-731-6604



Roxanne Kakuschke - Independent Epicure Consultant

"Some of the best moments in life revolve around food; whether its conversations with friends or family. Bring this experience into your home by hosting a cooking class, led by your Epicure consultant, and enjoy the benefits of great healthy food."

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Rebecka Morgan - Nails at She Maison

"I am a certified nail tech and certified master pedicurist. I specialize in gel nail enhancements and soak off gel on the natural nail. Foot care is a passion of mine; to be able to enrich someones life and give them back some mobility that may prevent them from doing basic tasks brings me great joy. My clientele is like my family! Starting this month you can find me at Trends Salon."

F: Nails at She Maison **E:** rebeckamorgan@gmail.com **C:** 250-918-8812



Naomi Nicholson - Secluded Wellness Centre / Chims Guest House

"Attitudes and perceptions are challenged by Cannabis Legalization. There's a growing need for education regarding safety and multiple ways cannabis can be used. Modern Medicine Woman, Naomi Nicholson of Secluded Wellness, was Colorado trained in Cannabis Topicals and combines her years of holistic health knowledge is now offering cannabis consulting."

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Jennie Potter

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Shaila Somaia - Akira 'Age-Friendly Port Alberni'

"Through this business I am committed to promote our community to become an age-friendly community which promotes healthy aging and wellness for seniors. I have been working with a committee on conducting an Age-Friendly Assessment to learn how Port Alberni can be more livable for older adults. To promote healthy aging and wellness to enable seniors to live in secure, healthy environments where they can contribute fully in society."

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hupačasath First Nation

For thousands of years the Hupacasath people have owned, used, and occupied their Traditional Territory on Central Vancouver Island. The Hupacasath are comprised of three distinct tribes, the Muh-hult-aht, Klee-koot-aht and Cuu-ma-as-aht (Ahahswinis). The HFN territory is approximately 229,000 hectares, which engulfs the Alberni Valley. The boundaries for this territory are basically the mountain peaks from the Alberni Valley, which start from the north at Mt. Chief Frank, from the south at 5040 Peak and Hannah Mountain, from the east at Mt. Arrowsmith and Mt. Spencer, and from the west from Big Interior Mountain.



Yellow Cedar on Mount Arrowsmith

Back in time when all things were in human form, there was a very handsome young man named Kitlanuus who married Ath-mapt, a very beautiful woman. Ath-mapt was hardworking and highly respected. Kitlanuus however, was very flirtatious and was continuously out with other women. Finally, Ath-mapt got tired of his ways and said, "I'm leaving, and never coming back." And so she left, walking up the mountain of Arrowsmith and not looking back.

One day Kitlanuus came home and asked everyone, "Where's my wife?" Kwii kwiistupsap, the transformer walked up and said "I know where your wife is but I'm not telling you where she is. You mistreated her. You never paid any attention to her and always fooled around with other women. She got tired of that so she has left you for good." Upon hearing this, Kitlanuus began to cry. Kwii kwiistupsap took some water and threw it at him, turning Kitlanuus into a fur seal. This is why the bark of a fur seal sounds like a cry.

By this time, Ath-mapt was way up Arrowsmith and was turned into a yellow cedar. This is why yellow cedar has beautiful, aromatic, sweeping branches and is only found high up in the mountains.

Welcome Figures at the Victoria Quay

Hupacasath has never made Totem Poles like most of the west coast First Nations.

Our long houses were decorated with carvings and paintings.

We did have Welcome figures usually placed along trails and waterways to mark your entering. Our two large carved beings stand tall at Victoria Quay with arms stretched out to Welcome people into our territory.

The Male was carved first and faces the highway into the valley, the female faces the water (historically our highway) to our other neighbors from nearby Barclay Sound.



Petroglyphs at Sproat Lake

Ka ka win – carved into the rock face at the beginning of the lake depicts the history of the Tsunami in the 1500's. Many ocean fish were driven up into the lake that were unknown to the Kleh-koot people of the time.

A killer whale lived for months in Sproat Lake and when it finally died our people cut open its belly and recognized many of the foods it ate to survive.

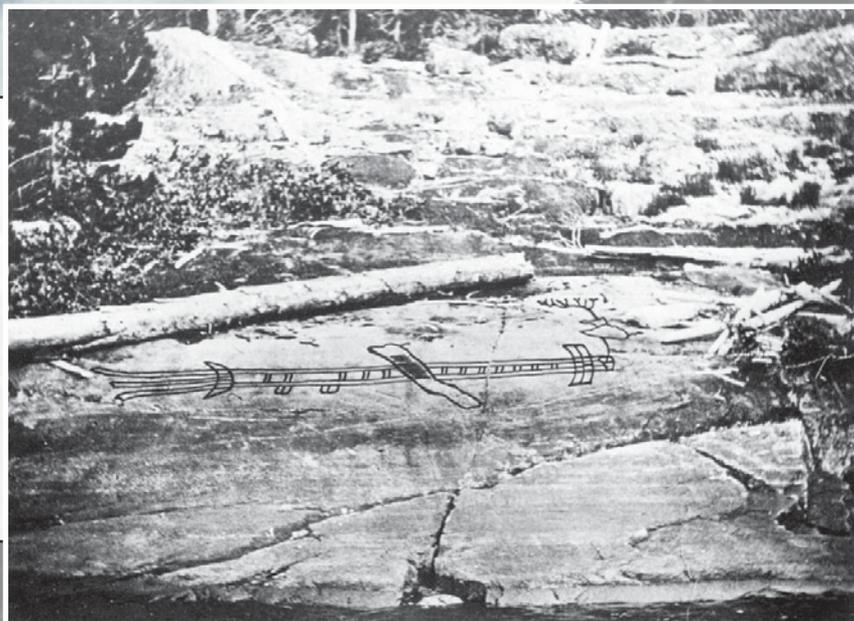


Thunder Mountain at Great Central Lake

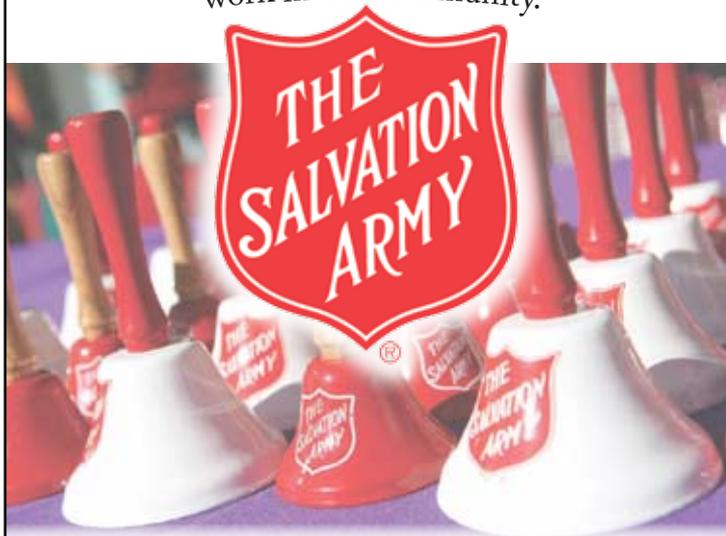
One day the Thunderbird was out on the ocean hunting whales, which is its important food. The Thunderbird caught two whales and was carrying one in each of its talons. On its way back to its nest, it flew over Mount Arrowsmith and dropped one of the whales there. The Thunderbird flew back to Thunder Mountain and ate the other whale at its nest. So to this day, the Thunderbird still has its nest on Thunder Mountain.

Petroglyphs at Great Central Lake

The Devil fish, is carved into a rock face on the back end of the lake. When the Dam was built on Great Central Lake the Petroglyph was covered by the raising of the lake level. As the story goes there was a devil fish that lived at that area of the lake, it would knock over your canoe if you made too much noise. It is still custom to lift your paddles when passing by this area so that you don't wake the fish.



For more than 100 years The Salvation Army has counted on volunteers to support its work in our community.



Whether it is by getting linked into our local church, or by serving a meal, standing beside a Christmas kettle or stocking shelves at a food bank, you can be part of the meaningful work that continues to help change lives.

Alberni Valley Corps

4835 Argyle St.
Port Alberni BC V9Y 1V9

Tel: (250)723-6913
albernivalleysa.ca



A large collection of historical industrial artifacts, many of which were used by the McLean Mill, are preserved and restored at the Industrial Heritage Centre.

Current restoration projects:

- 1882 "Strathcona" 1st class passenger coach and the 1929 "Baldwin" "No.7" steam locomotive.

The historic collection includes:

antique Hayes logging trucks
1913 McLaughlin-Buick car
1944 International 6x6 army truck
1963 Mercury truck
1912 "Shay" steam locomotive
antique bulldozers
steam machinery
model logging machines

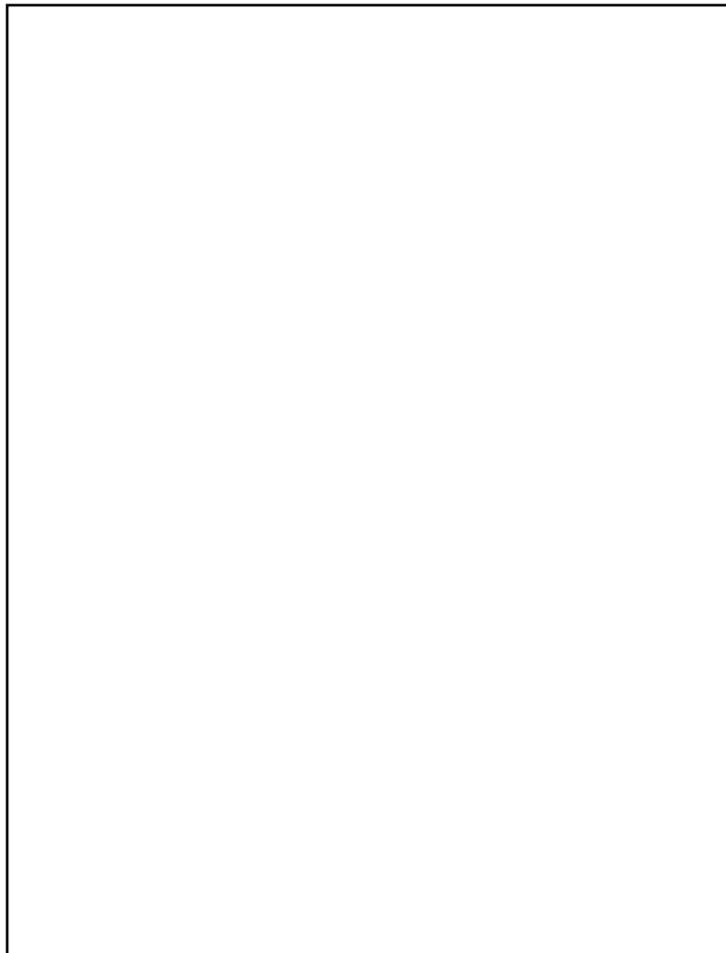


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PAACL & THE COMMUNITY LIVING MOVEMENT



Beaufort School 1962 .

October is traditionally proclaimed “Community Living Month” across British Columbia. This is a time to reflect where we have come from as a society in our views, perception and knowledge of people with developmental disabilities and an opportunity to celebrate the achievements and successes of this movement.

The Port Alberni Association for Community Living’s history is similar to many community living organizations across B.C.; having grown from the desire of parents to have services for their children with developmental disabilities provided in their home community. Shaped by a number of events over its past sixty years, PAACL’S vision is the same now as it was when it was first formed by a group of courageous and forward-thinking parents in June of 1957. Today, PAACL employs over one hundred staff providing support to over three hundred adults, children, youth and their families.



Title: West Coast Advocate Building, Port Alberni

Some historical PAACL timelines:

- 1957:** *Port Alberni Association incorporated as a Society
- 1960’s:** *Arrowsmith Services Sheltered Workshop opens to provide daytime activities
*Segregated pre-school operates for children with developmental disabilities
- 1970’s:** *Arrowsmith House opens for nine adults with developmental disabilities
*The Learning Place integrated pre-school opens in Port Alberni
*Infant Development Programme opens
- 1980’s:** *Arrowsmith Services Workshop, supporting over forty individuals, moves to new location
*The Learning Place moves to Hilton Centre; successful lobbying for additional speech services
*Supported Training and Employment Program (STEP) starts through the Association
*Four Residential group homes open and operate for individuals moving from closed institutions.
- 1990’s:** *Two additional Residential Homes open
*Options Day Program opens; moving away from the concept of sheltered workshops

- *Self-help skills program is developed and offered
- *Supported Child Development Program begins; integrating children into daycares of family’s choice
- 2000’s:** *Community Employment Program established
*Five-bed Residential Home opens (Closure of two homes)
*Connections Day Program opens; amalgamating three programs into one to offer more opportunities
*Pathways Program is developed and Self-Advocacy group is formed
*Personalized Supports Initiative program implemented; supporting adults with Autism and FASD
*PAACL opens a three-bed Residential Home in Parksville
*Services for Community Living programs move into newly renovated building
*Time-limited pilot program for a Youth Transition Program for youth leaving high school is developed
*PAACL implements Children/Youth with Special Needs & Family Support Program

The founding philosophy of providing support for individuals and their families in their home community continues to be a driving force of our agency today.

PAACL is proud to offer the following programs & services to our valued citizens and their families:

- *Infant Development
- *Supported Child Development
- *Children/Youth with Special Needs
- *Connections
- *Services for Community Living
- *Community Employment
- *Community Access
- *Personalized Supports
- *Pathways & Self-Advocacy
- *Community Inclusion
- *Residential Living & Supports
- *Home Share



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Inclusive Communities = Stronger Communities



Historic Hotels of Port Alberni

By Glen A. Mofford
Bestselling Author of *'Along the E&N'*

Port Alberni has a long and interesting social history, especially when it comes to the hotels that were built in Alberni and New Alberni through the years. I invite you to go back in time with me to discover these old hostelries for yourself. Come along as we visit the Alberni Hotel, the Arlington Hotel (known as the Blue Marlin Inn since 2012) in Old Alberni then head south to the Beaufort, King Edward and Somass Hotels that once flourished in New Alberni. We will end our journey at the Kingsway Hotel, the newer of the old hotels, which has recently been remodelled by new owners that appreciate its history and take pride in their hotel.

The first hotel of any significance in the Alberni Valley opened in 1891 across from Kitsuksis Creek, very near to where the Royal Canadian Legion sits today. Just a few blocks to the south from the Alberni Hotel (which was closed in 1918) was its cross-town rival, the Arlington Hotel located on the Alberni Highway. It is the only pioneer hotel to survive 126 years of countless expansions and renovations over time, now under the name The Blue Marlin Inn, changed by new owners in 2012.

Mr. Mathew A. Ward built the Arlington Hotel on southwest corner of Johnson Road and Margaret Street during the Alberni mining boom. "The three-story building boasted a

large veranda on the front and four dormers on each side of the top floor. It included a dining room that seated 90 people and a modern saloon." The Arlington, like the Alberni Hotel that preceded it, were social centres for the community and on Saturday nights the community was invited to square dances on the newly finished dance floor at the Arlington where people circled and whirled in two-steps and waltzes to music provided by Mrs. Ward on the piano.

Meanwhile, to the south of Alberni, New Alberni had three major hotels worth noting. The bottom of Argyle and Kingsway in Port Alberni has a long and interesting history for it was there that the first hotel on the new Alberni side opened in 1896 called the Armour Hotel opened by Chalmer & Armour from Victoria. The lumber for the new hotel arrived on the ship Mischief from Victoria. The new hotel became stopping off place for mostly miners waiting for the mail steamship. It was from those meagre beginnings that the largest and most commodious hotel opened in that part of town in 1902. The Somass Hotel was a beauty and the owners made a good profit when the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway (E&N), finally made it to Port Alberni in December 1911. The train station was a beer-bottle cap toss away from the hotel.

Renowned historian and former resident of Port Alberni




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Jan Peterson wrote, “The Somass formally opened on 20th of July, 1908, and was lit by gas with heat registers in each room. An electric bell was installed in every room to allow guest to contact the office.”

Just up and across Argyle Street from the Somass was the King Edward Hotel. By 1907 the demand for more first-class accommodation was satisfied when James S. Rollin (Rolling Art Centre fame), built the 38-room King Edward Hotel with lumber sold by Mr. Bird. The hotel was a three-storey building with 26 rooms, 125 foot frontage on Argyle Street with 66 feet of frontage on First Avenue, a block away from the Kingsway Hotel. On November 18 1947, a terrible fire destroyed the original hotel and killed Thomas “Casey” Jones, a watchman at the Bloedel, Stewart and Welsh sawmill. Five other guests sustained serious injuries. The Rosenbaum family replaced the burnt out King Edward with a new building that stands to this day and since 2004 called the Port Hotel.

Further up the hill on Argyle we make a right turn onto Third Avenue and a few blocks south to Angus is where the Beaufort Hotel was located (1913–2009). Construction on the four-story structure began in May 1913 and when completed it had verandas that afforded a view of the harbour and there was a roof garden. The hotel had private baths, modern heating, lighting, and ‘sanitary devices’. There were fifty guest rooms, a dining room, and a lobby. It was also granted a liquor license as soon as construction was completed.

Like many of Port Alberni’s hotels, renovations and expansions through the years changed the look of the hotel but the Beaufort was once a popular social hub on the growing community. The cafe and the beer parlour did a booming business when Port Alberni’s economy was fuelled by lumber, mining, fishing and logging. But all things do not last and in the 1980s “The Filipchuk family who owned the [original] Beaufort Hotel, purchased the building at 4th & Angus and built the new Beaufort Convention Centre.” The original historic Beaufort Hotel was demolished in September 2009 and today a park marks the spot where it operated for all those years.

The last Port Alberni hotel profiled in our quick journey through the hotels of the past is the Kingsway Hotel operating successfully today on the corner of Kingsway and First Avenue. The three-storey Kingsway Hotel was built in 1925 by Mr. Theodore Gattman, businessman and at one-time elected alderman in 1927, who owned three lots that included his Arrowview Hotel build on the same block in 1928. Gattman was granted a beer parlour license for the Kingsway Hotel shortly after it opened in 1925. But Gattman didn’t stick around very long before he sold his hotel and built his new one, the Arrowview, just a stone’s throw away. He applied for a beer parlour license in 1928 for his newest hotel but was denied as the Licensing Board felt that it was too close to another licensed premises. Meanwhile the Kingsway Hotel enjoyed a steady business from sawmill workers, fishers, and loggers.

I hope you enjoyed this brief journey into the past visiting the historic hotels of the Alberni Valley. There is so much interesting history here that can be discovered by visiting your local archives, museum and archives.



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10 Bacon Mac and Cheese	20 Chef’s Salad

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Why Port Alberni is the Best Place to Live

“What isn’t to love about Port Alberni? The mountains hugging our little town, to the way the clouds settle in to create a hauntingly, magical vibe and having the inlet bring in the ocean. It’s the perfect harmony for any place to live.

We are in the middle of everything here on the island, and if we need something we can’t get here, well then, we take one of the most stunning highways through to Nanaimo. A commute through paradise with Cameron Lake, Cathedral Grove and Coombs on the way.

It’s big enough that we have all the amenities we could possibly need, and it’s small enough to feel like a tight knit community. I actually know my neighbours, and we stop and chat when we are both outside. They even bring in our garbage bin if we were out of town. We have unique and local shops, restaurants and breweries. We have stunning hikes and walks along the Dyke. There is something for everyone here. We feel that it’s a privilege to be new residents here and will make it our home forever.”

- **Nadia Davis, Vancouver**

“My love for Port Alberni starts on the drive in; around the lake, through the grove, and over the hump, then you’re home. My heart is in the mountains, surrounded by trees, with water constantly flowing. Being surrounded by nature brings me so much joy, I love waking up in the morning and looking into the trees. The people are amazing; I love chatting to the person behind me in line for groceries, waving to other drivers, saying hello on the dike, and recognizing faces everywhere I go. I love the small business that support one another, the sense of community wherever you go. It’s been 6 months since we moved here and it definitely feels like home.”

- **Nicole Brazzale, Burnaby
moved here 6 months ago**

I grew up dreaming of living in Downtown Vancouver and one day moving to an even larger metropolis like Toronto or New York. Though I loved my summers growing up on Bowen Island, I believed I was a city girl at heart. Much has changed since I outgrew that younger version of myself and the last six years of dealing with a debilitating chronic disease has led to reevaluating the kind of life I want. When I moved to Port Alberni last year, it was like going back in time. Back to a simpler, slower-paced, quintessential way of living where instead of being surrounded by Vancouver’s constant chaos of congestion and never-ending construction noise, I was surrounded by sweet calmness. In Port Alberni, I never feel far away from the healing presence of nature. To be so close to mountains of trees and the beautiful water is a blessing. It would take almost thirty minutes of stress-filled driving through heavy traffic to get near the water in Vancouver; here, it only takes three. This may sound strange but one of my favourite things about Port Alberni that continues to amaze me is its incredibly wide streets throughout its neighbourhoods. It feels refreshingly expansive compared to the narrow, car-lined streets that I’m accustomed to squeezing through. Now, when I cross over that Hump and head back into the Valley, a sigh of relief spreads through my body. Here, I can breathe. This is home sweet home.

- **Christina Wiehe, Vancouver
moved to Port Alberni in 2018
Mrs. Vancouver Island 2019-2020**

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Tsunami of 1964

On Easter weekend 1964, three tsunamis, triggered by an earthquake, in Alaska struck the west coast of Vancouver Island and as far south as California. The “Twin Cities” Port Alberni and Alberni, were hit especially hard because the waves gained momentum as they traveled up the Alberni Inlet. The cities had no casualties as a result of the tsunami and the communities joined forces to help repair the damage.

The first wave hit shortly before midnight, as most people slept. It was Good Friday of 1964 when the earthquake off the coast of Anchorage, Alaska which triggered a tsunami in the Pacific Ocean. Measuring 8.5 on the Richter scale, it was the largest quake recorded in the 20th century.



Photo: Alberni Valley Museum PN06847

considered them obsolete and with no immediate threats of nuclear war in the post-Cuban Missile Crisis world. It was only due to the heroism and quick thinking of many of our Valley’s citizens that the people were alerted and evacuated to higher ground before the onset of the much larger second wave, preventing any casualties. Many residents were caught trying to flee their homes between the first and second waves. The higher, second wave suddenly

The water funneled down the narrow Alberni inlet, gaining momentum and speed as it drew nearer to land. At that time, Port Alberni had no emergency services in place. They had

overtaken many in their run for safer ground.

Many of the homes in low-laying regions of the Valley suffered severe water damage, and many homes and vehicles were moved due to the force of the wave.

The industries located along the waterfront were particularly hit hard. Electricity shorted out and many pieces of machinery were damaged or destroyed by the high salt water. At MacMillan & Bloedel (M&B), and Somass Division lumber was scattered and damaged the buildings. The most extensive damage was to the pipeline that supplied M&B with water from Sproat Lake. Water and logs tore apart more than 500 feet of the 54” steel pipeline.

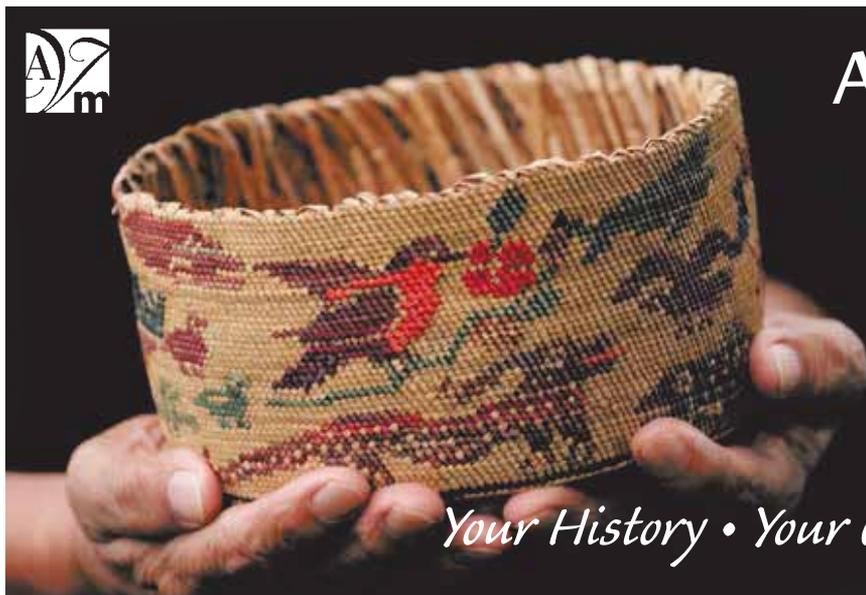
After the second wave hit, lower 3rd Ave was completely covered by muddy water, and the water blanketed the city from Pleasant Road or River Road and through to Dunbar and Redford as far up as 5th Ave. Boats that were tied up in the harbour were washed inland and houses were swept off their foundations and up the Somass River. The raging waters damaged 69 homes in addition to cars and boats.

The damage was estimated at \$2.5-3 million. The clean up effort was aided by military personnel and the RCMP.

The Great Alberni Valley Tsunami remains a pivotal event in the history of the Alberni Valley, not to be soon forgotten.



Photo: Alberni Valley Museum PN09510



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Dr. Golemba performs a one hour low vision evaluation which is not the same as a normal eye exam. "Our job is to figure out everything and anything possible to keep a patient

functioning visually. Whether it's reading, driving, or watching television, we work with whatever is on their wish list" says Dr. Golemba.

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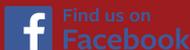
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- 1 3/4 cup Boiling Water
- 1 cup Sugar
- 1 tbsp Butter

Measure first 8 ingredients into medium bowl. Stir until just moistened. Turn into greased 1.5L casserole.

Combine boiling water and second amounts of sugar and butter in small bowl. Stir until sugar is dissolved. Pour over batter. Do not stir. Bake uncovered, in 400F oven for about 30 minutes until top is golden and firm to touch. Let stand for 15 minutes before serving. Serves 4



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3 “Three things you didn’t learn in driving school”

If you had to go back to driving school today, would you pass the parallel parking portion? What if the instructor tested your knowledge of car maintenance?

Learning how to drive and taking care of your vehicle are integral parts of growing up. But the learning doesn't have to stop there. In fact, it shouldn't!

To keep drivers up to speed on vehicle maintenance basics, here are three things you may not have learned in driving school, but should have:

Buckle up ... and check your tires. Everyone knows when it comes to driving, it's important to put safety first. But driving safety goes beyond just buckling up. Good car maintenance can lead to a safer drive, so start by kicking the tires before you even get into the car. Do you know how to change a tire? Check tire tread? Or properly fill up tires with air?

Let's face it: parking can be tricky. There's a plethora of distractions and frustrations and a

limited number of parking spots, particularly near popular locations.

Don't rely on technology alone. You may not have learned to use a backup camera in driving school, but nowadays, new cars often come equipped with this helpful technology and more! The thing is, it's easy to become too reliant on nifty gadgets and new technology. Some people rely solely on their backup cameras when backing up their vehicle. So don't let

lane-keeping assist or GPS navigators keep you from the basics (like turning your head to check your blind spot). Remember that these are tools meant to assist you and not to be your primary go-to.

We should encourage drivers to continue learning about

best practices and the rules of the road - whether that be a refresher on what you learned back in driving school or something completely new, like changing a tire! When it comes to the real-life test of maintenance and parking, here's hoping you get a passing grade!



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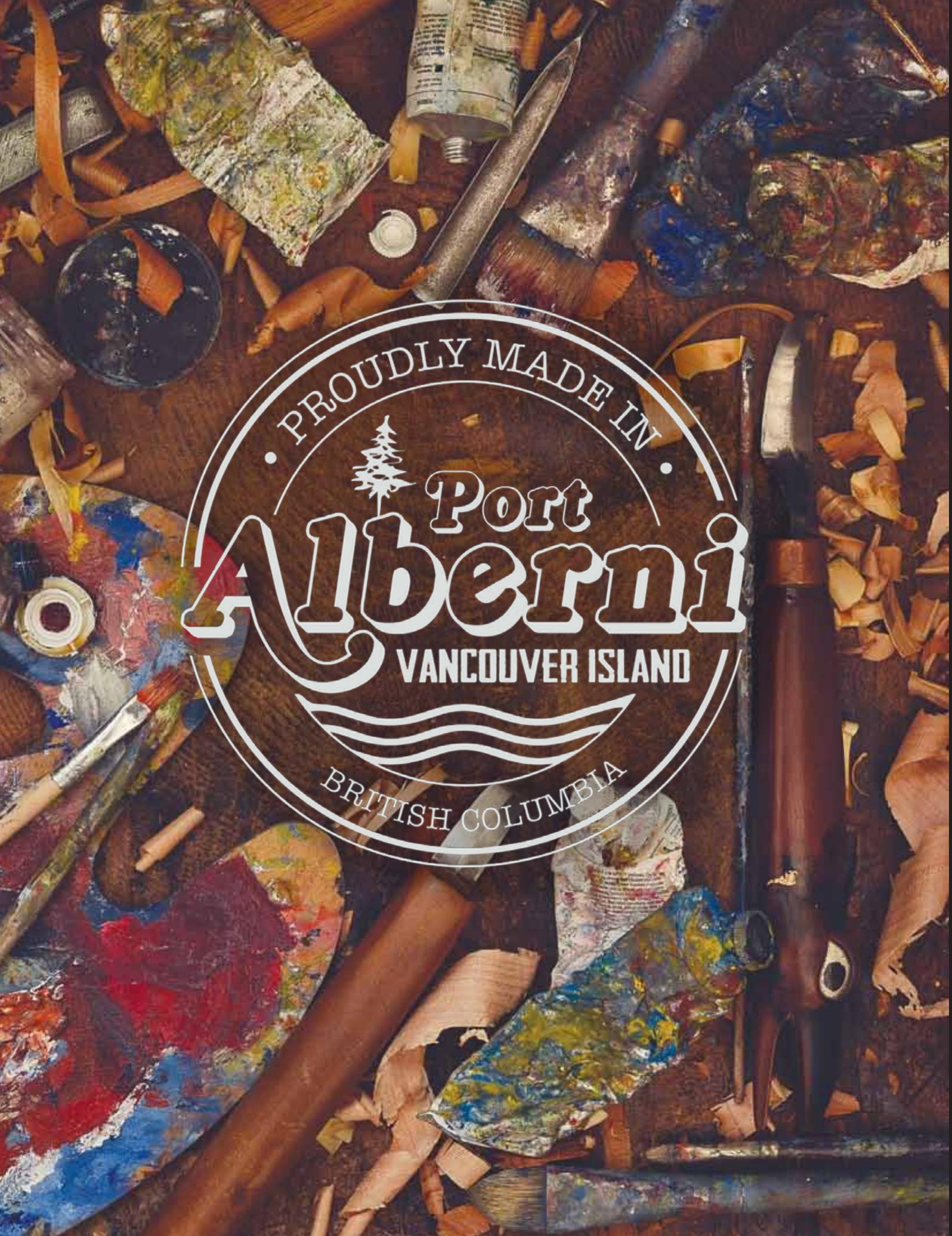
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6am - 9pm
Marked Fuel Available

3820 10th Ave
778-421-1707
7 DAYS A WEEK
5am - 11pm