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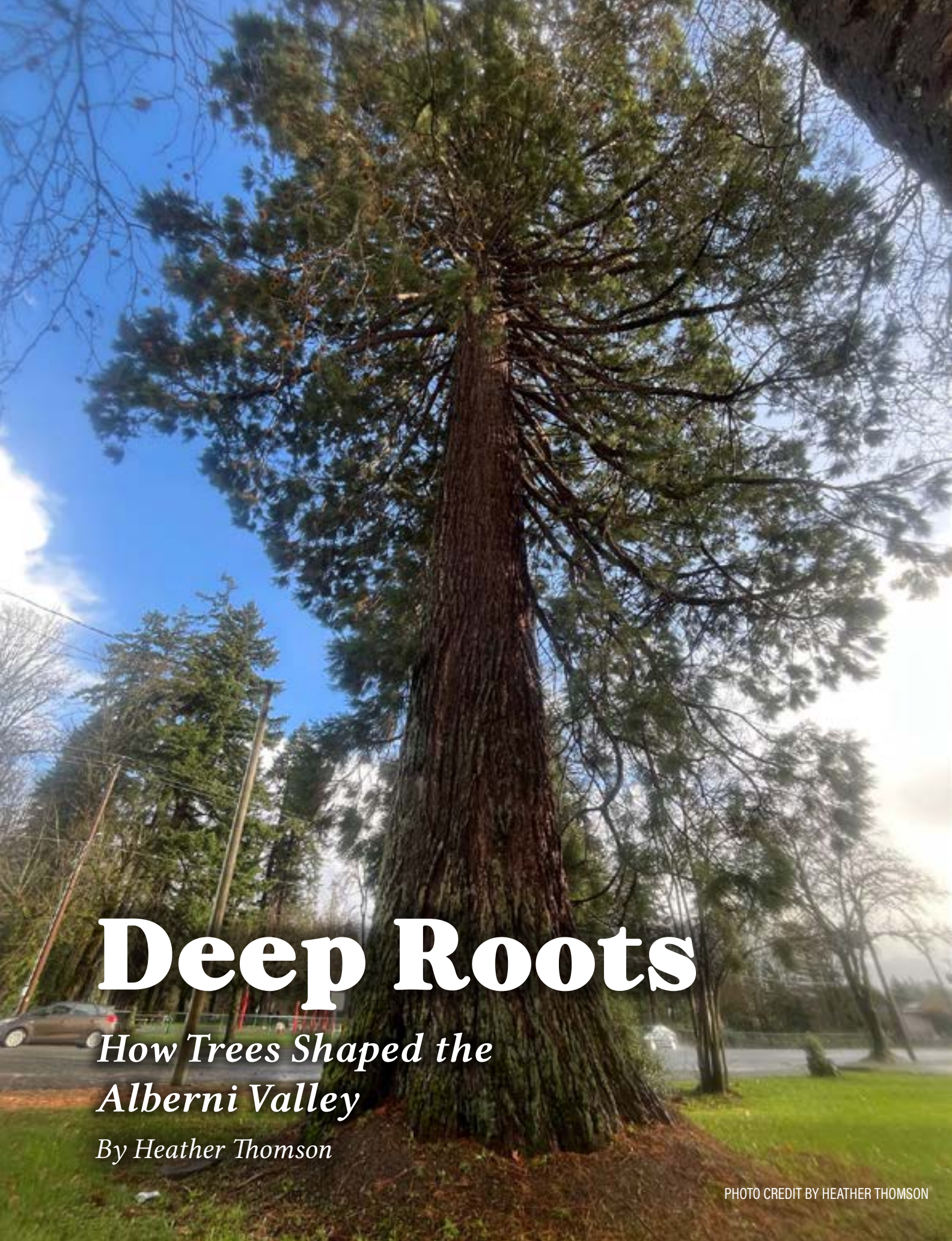
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Deep Roots

How Trees Shaped the Alberni Valley

By Heather Thomson

PHOTO CREDIT BY HEATHER THOMSON

As a logging community, the Alberni Valley has a close connection to its trees.

For more than 100 years, the trees surrounding the community have put food on our tables and clothes on our backs. The forestry industry helped build Alberni and Port Alberni, and it continues to do so long after the two towns amalgamated. The money from forestry supports local businesses, local families, which allows the community to continue to be strong.

Shortly after the BC Legislature was formed, in 1860 it passed a resolution to cut big timber at Barkley Sound. This included 15,000 acres of forestlands for the colony's first sawmill, set up on Alberni Inlet.

Looking back on images of the Alberni Valley then, you can see a lot of trees came down to make room for the settlement that is now Port Alberni.

In a community with strong roots to the trees around us, emotions often get involved when some are lost. Many believe the City of Port Alberni should be doing more to preserve the ancient trees that tell our story.

The topic caught a lot of people's attention recently; two trees had to be removed at Clutesi Haven Marina to make way for the new roundabout on River Road. This sparked discussion over whether steps should be taken to preserve some of the city's most notable trees. When asked on social media about their favourite tree, people responded with a long list.

The top three won't surprise many of you.

The first is the giant Sequoiadendron on Gertrude, also known as a giant sequoia or Sierra redwood. The origin of this tree is unclear. The first record of it seems to be from about 1920. It stood for many years beside the Tidebrook Property. It has been many years since it has cast a shadow on any business on that property, and its origin still remains a mystery. Some say it was gifted to the owner of the Tidebrook property a century ago. Other stories say it was a gift to the city and comes from a seed from one of the giants in California. The stands in California have made this type of tree famous and some are believed to be more than 2,000 years old.

Number two is the beautiful climbing tree in the parking lot on Second Avenue – a deodar cedar. It is believed that it's the last sign of an impressive garden that covered much of the block between Second and Third Avenues. The garden was part of the property owned by CN MacDonald, who owned MacDonald Drug Store on the corner of Third and Argyle. Barry Miller shared that he remembers visiting this garden as a youngster as his parents were friends with the MacDonalds. The tree has survived development and stands tall in the parking lot. Every year it drops a carpet of cones that look like roses and no child can walk past without climbing it.

The third is the giant oak tree that spreads its branches over much of 10th Avenue in North Port, just before Bruce. So many people made mention of this, but its origin is unknown.

The oak trees in Port Alberni are not believed to be native to the area. The ones in South Port are much larger and the only traceable history is of a giant oak on Seventh Avenue, just south of Argyle. According to the archives at the Alberni Valley Museum, this tree was planted from a seedling that originally came from the Victoria Golf Centre.

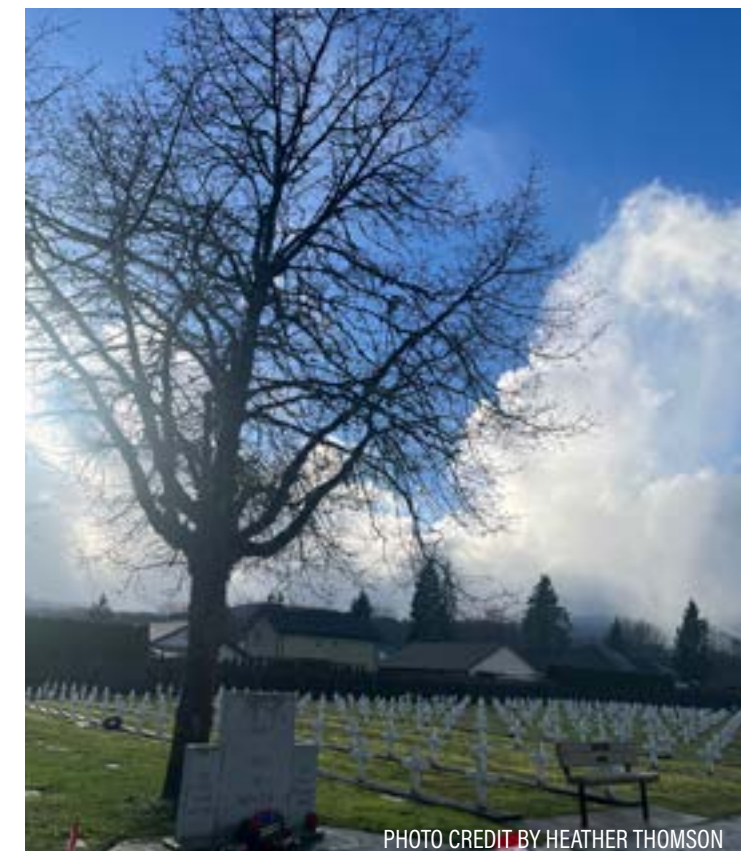


PHOTO CREDIT BY HEATHER THOMSON



PHOTO CREDIT BY ROMAIN VERDY

The oak trees in North Port could come from Europe originally after the Second World War, between 1939 and 1947. Acorns were brought back from the battlefields of Vimy Ridge, France, to many places across Canada. The only recorded occurrence of this in Port Alberni was much more recent. Robert McVie's brother received two acorns in 1978 from a friend who visited Vimy Ridge. McVie served overseas, and his family has a rich history in the Canadian Military. He planted the acorn in his yard in Port Alberni. In an effort to preserve a piece of history, McVie explored ways to protect the tree should his property change hands in the future. And so, after 15 years, he made a deal with the Royal Canadian Legion in Port Alberni that gave it a permanent home in the Greenwood Cemetery. In 1993, the City of Port Alberni was replacing the crosses in the Field of Honour, so the tree was a welcomed addition. The one that stands in the Field of Honour in Glenwood Cemetery was the very tree that once stood in McVie's garden. Now every year, the tree stands tall above the cenotaph and people gather for Remembrance Day services.

In addition to these most popular trees, people had a lot of lesser-known trees to add to the list. Although the museum has a list of trees and their histories, sadly most are no longer standing.

One woman said her favourite is a beautiful edible chestnut tree in the old trailer park site on Falls Road. The acacia trees on the corner of Seventh and Melrose are also popular, despite their large thorns.

People also highlighted the many maple trees that stand around the Alberni Valley, especially the ones in Fossli Park, Roger Creek Park, and along the Maplehurst trail.

Also along Maplehurst, just off the Bank Trail, if you time it right, you can check out a giant bitter cherry tree – many believe it to be the biggest in British Columbia. If you miss it in the spring when it's blooming, it may be hard to spot!

Another popular one was the large tree on 10th Avenue, just past the fire hall. Apparently it is a tulip tree (liriodendron tulipifera), which is a fast-growing hardwood that has tulip shaped leaves, although they are usually more common on the east coast of Canada. Most of the comments drew attention to its spectacular fall colours.

In addition to the large sequoia on Gertrude, people also highlighted their love of the ones recently removed from Clutesi Haven Marina. There are also ones in the garden of the Rollin Arts Centre and others on Bruce Street. The only history available is that the one at the marina was apparently planted in honour of the late George Clutesi.

People also mentioned the amazing and prolific lilacs that grow around the community. According to the records at the museum, many of the lilacs were transplanted around the Valley from Captain Fox's garden.

Many of our streets are lined with trees planted for beautification purposes. They include dogwoods, maples, and cherry trees. Hands down the most spectacular ones are the pink cherry trees that line Lathom Street. They start out with huge puffy blossoms in early spring, and the show continues until the last petal falls, creating the illusion of pink snow along the end of the road. They are not alone. A number of people also mentioned the cherry trees by the Petro Can on River Road.

Finally, in a newspaper article in 1999, Valentine Urie tells the story of a green beech that towers over the neighbourhood in North Port, just below Fifth. At one time a Danish couple owned Dana Lodge on the property. Mrs Christiansen often told guests from all around the world about the green beech trees back in Finland. One time, Urie was staying at Dana Lodge and decided to ask their mother to send some green beech seedlings from Ireland. Several tiny sprouts arrived, wrapped in wet cotton batten and the silver paper from cigarette packages of the time. Close to 75 years

ago, a few of these four-inch seedlings were given to the Christiansen family to plant on their property on North Park Drive. Although the property has changed hands through the years, the beech tree remains, now towering over the neighbourhood – a constant reminder of the Christiansen family and their part in the history of Port Alberni.

This list could keep going, just like the trees, but little history is known of these beauties so their stories remain a mystery.

What's your favourite tree? Let me know if we missed something that was particularly close to your heart. Best of all, share the tree history you know!



PHOTO By CASEY HORNER ON UNSPLASH

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History of passion for trees

– Cathedral Grove

PHOTO BY DAWN AUFFREY

Although the reliance on forestry is not what it was in the past, it still helps boost our economy and our lives.

As times change, so does our connection to the trees around us. People are passionate about the trees that surround us both in the woods around our community and those within Port Alberni.

Given our history and the natural wonders we see every day, it makes sense that we are known for our trees. Before you even arrive in the Alberni Valley, you drive through one of the most impressive sights on Vancouver Island – Cathedral Grove.

Although the Alberni Valley was home to the first saw mill, it is also well known that preserving the beautiful stand of old-growth near Cameron Lake was a priority that dates back close to 150 years.

Knowing a road was coming, in 1885 citizens made the first step to protect a grove that extended from Mount Arrowsmith to Mount Horne Lake, including Cameron Lake and the valley surrounding it.

In 1886, a wagon road was built from Port Alberni to Nanaimo on the northern side of Cameron Lake. Shortly after, the BC government transferred 23 per cent of the land on Vancouver island to Robert Dunsmuir in exchange for the construction of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo (E&N) Railway between Victoria and Nanaimo. This deal included what is now known as Cathedral Grove. When Dunsmuir died in 1889, he

passed the company to his son who sold the section that included Cathedral Grove to the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Company.

In 1910, the wagon road shifted to the southern side of Cameron Lake, leaving the other side free for rail travel. As trees began to fall to build a road to Port Alberni, fears for the ancient trees in Cathedral Grove grew.

It was almost a decade before a true push came to save the Grove. In 1919, JR Anderson, vice president of the Natural History Society of BC, made a formal request to protect the giant trees of Cathedral Grove. This movement continued to grow.

In 1923, the Victoria Lumber Company made plans to clearcut Cathedral Grove, but luckily nothing came of it. Later that year, lumberman Frank JD Barnjum saved the trees of Cathedral Grove, but he died the following year and the area was sold to logging companies.

By 1929, the Associated Boards of Trade of Vancouver Island endorsed a resolution to preserve “for the public benefit, the well-known stand of timber at Cameron Lake,” named that year Cathedral Grove.

In 1936, government officials and naturalists began to speak openly about the need to preserve the Grove. Talks broke down until the end of World War II.

In 1944, HR MacMillian made a deal with the Victoria Lumber Company to consolidate his timber holdings on Vancouver Island. This marked a turning point in the fight

to save the old-growth stand of firs. It is reported that in April of that year, At a meeting of the Vancouver Island Tourist Association in Port Alberni, H.R. MacMillan is pressured to donate Cathedral Grove to the public. After a contentious public fight the timber baron stormed out of the meeting shouting “All right! You can have the God-damned Grove,” slamming the door as he left.

Finally, in 1947, the BC Government officially declared Cathedral Grove as MacMillian Park. The park has changed through the years and sees more visitors every year, but one thing remains – the huge stands of Douglas Fir and Cedar that made it what it is – a gem of Vancouver Island. Discussion about the future of the park will never end. Whether it is about building a parking lot in 2004, the barriers that went up a few years ago for safety purposes, or recent concerns over safety and how to improve while continuing to protect this spectacular stand of trees, the people of Vancouver Island and the Alberni Valley, continue to show their passion for Cathedral Grove. [W](#)

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PHOTO BY MEGAN WARRENDER

BIRDS AND ANIMALS YOU CAN SPOT THIS SPRING

Spring in the Alberni Valley is a season of movement, colour, and renewal. As the forests brighten, the river levels rise, and the days stretch longer, wildlife across the region becomes more active. From the soaring wings of bald eagles to the brilliant flashes of returning hummingbirds, Port Alberni is one of Vancouver Island’s best places to witness spring wildlife in its natural habitat.

Whether you’re a casual observer, an avid birder, or simply someone who enjoys connecting with nature, spring offers countless opportunities to spot birds and animals throughout the valley. With its protected forests, thriving waterways, and the long, sheltered stretch of the Alberni Inlet, the region becomes a vibrant wildlife corridor from March through June.

This guide highlights some of the valley’s most exciting species to watch for in spring, where you’re likely to spot them, and how to do so safely and respectfully.

BALD EAGLES: THE VALLEY’S MAJESTIC ICONS

Few sights stir the spirit quite like a bald eagle gliding above the river or perched high in a cottonwood tree. Eagles are year-round residents in the Alberni Valley, but spring offers especially good viewing as pairs return to their nests and begin feeding their young.

Where to See Eagles

- Somass River & Dry Creek areas
- Victoria Quay (a local favourite for eagle-spotting)
- Stamp Falls
- Along Sproat Lake’s shoreline

Eagles often gather near the river in early spring when fish activity increases, and they can be seen carrying nesting materials or food back to their nests.

What to Watch For

- Sky dances and aerial calls
- Adults teaching their young to fly
- Pairs bringing sticks to reinforce large nests

For photography enthusiasts, spring offers some of the most dramatic shots: eagles soaring against snow-tipped mountains or perched during golden morning light.

OSPREY: SPRING’S RETURNING FISHERMEN

While eagles remain year-round, osprey are seasonal migrants that return to Port Alberni in spring—usually around late March to early April. These striking birds are skilled hunters, diving talons-first into the water to catch fish.

Look for Them:

- Around Sproat Lake
- Near the Somass River
- Along the Alberni Inlet
- At known nesting platforms

Osprey nests are large, unmistakable structures often built on poles, treetops, or purpose-built platforms. Watching them return to the same nest year after year is a spring highlight for many.



PHOTO BY ROBERT SACHOWSKI



PHOTO BY SCOTT CARROLL ON UNSPLASH



PHOTO BY MEGAN WARRENDER

HUMMINGBIRDS: SMALL BIRDS, BIG PERSONALITIES

Spring in Port Alberni brings a very special arrival: the return of the rufous hummingbird, one of the most energetic and vibrant migrants in the Pacific Northwest. These tiny travellers journey thousands of kilometres from Central America and arrive in the Alberni Valley as early as late February.

Attracting Hummingbirds

Backyard feeders are a popular way to support hummingbirds during their migration, but proper maintenance is essential:

- Use a simple sugar-water solution (4 parts water to 1 part sugar)
- Never use red dye
- Clean feeders every 2–3 days in cool weather, daily in warm spells

In the wild, you can spot hummingbirds along forest edges, in backyards, and near flowering salmonberry bushes, which bloom early each spring.

Their bold behaviour, aerial acrobatics, and vibrant colours make them irresistible to watch.



PHOTO BY LISA DUNNE

WATERFOWL & SHOREBIRDS: A SPRING SYMPHONY ON LOCAL WATERS

The Alberni Valley’s rivers, marshes, and lakes support an impressive variety of waterfowl. Spring is a fantastic time to see them as migratory species stop in the region and resident birds begin nesting season.

Common Species Seen in Spring:

- Mergansers
- Mallards
- Buffleheads
- Wigeons
- Canada geese
- Great blue herons
- Sandpipers and other small shorebirds

Best Viewing Locations:

- Harbour Quay
- Somass Estuary
- Clutesi Haven Marina
- Sproat Lake’s quieter bays
- Kitsuksis Creek estuary

Early mornings are especially active, with geese honking, herons slowly stalking their prey, and ducks creating ripples on still water.

SEA LIONS & HARBOUR SEALS: THE INLET’S NOISY NEIGHBOURS

During spring, sea lions often gather near Harbour Quay, floating docks, and fish-processing facilities along the waterfront. Their distinctive barking calls echo across the Inlet, creating a lively soundtrack to the season.

Where to Spot Them:

- Harbour Quay
- Fishermen’s Wharf area
- Mouth of the Somass River
- Occasionally along the wider Inlet

Harbour seals are shyer but can be spotted popping their heads above the surface for a curious glance before diving again.

These marine mammals are fascinating to watch—especially for families—but it’s important to keep a safe distance. Sea lions can appear friendly but are powerful and unpredictable, especially during feeding.



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The Inlet
Submitted by K.A.Dewey

No watery horizon
here, across the way
bushy pines cling to
Arbutus Mountain,
surround
toothpick trees and
brown
bald patches, remnants
of past wildfires

Atop the apex
tall cedars form a
woody silhouette against
the horizon, stand on
guard
for kin and country
Oh! Canada!

Down below, boats zoom
south towards Barkley
Sound
and unsuspecting fish,
disturbed white water
in their wake

Distant seagulls form
white vees against green
hillside, black vees against
cerulean sky

At my feet, water dimples
like cellulite, sparkles
when sun hits

Tidal waters swirl
and spin, on repeat

The Inlet looks alive



BLACK BEARS: ADMIRE FROM A DISTANCE

Black bears become more active in spring as they emerge from their dens, hungry after months of limited food. While seeing one is extraordinary, safety must always come first—for both humans and bears.

Where Bears Are Common in Spring:

- Forest edges and riverbanks
- Stamp Falls and surrounding trail systems
- Rural roads and quiet residential areas
- Sproat Lake’s wooded regions

Spring Bear Behaviour:

Bears often forage for fresh vegetation, insects, and leftover salmon remnants along rivers. Mothers with cubs are especially protective.



Bear Safety Tips:

- Never approach a bear (even from a distance, even for photos)
- Keep dogs leashed
- Make noise when hiking in quieter areas
- Carry bear spray on longer trails
- Store garbage and food responsibly at home and campgrounds
- Avoid hiking at dawn or dusk when bears are most active

Responsible bear viewing helps keep wildlife wild and prevents dangerous encounters.

DEER, OTTERS & OTHER SMALL MAMMALS

Spring reveals many of the valley’s quieter creatures. Black-tailed deer are common along forest edges and sometimes wander through neighbourhoods. In spring, you may spot does with newborn fawns—adorable but vulnerable. If you encounter a fawn alone, never move or touch it; the mother is almost always nearby.

River otters can be seen near the riverbanks, slipping in and out of the water with playful curiosity. Raccoons, mink, squirrels, and rabbits are also active during spring, taking advantage of warmer days and increased food availability.

RESPONSIBLE WILDLIFE VIEWING: KEEPING YOU (AND ANIMALS) SAFE

The Alberni Valley’s wildlife is one of its greatest treasures. To enjoy it responsibly, keep these simple principles in mind:

1. Respect Distance

Use binoculars or a camera zoom. If an animal changes its behaviour because of you, you’re too close.

2. Avoid Feeding Wildlife

It disrupts natural behaviour and can create dangerous situations.

3. Stay on Trails

Protect nesting areas, plants, and sensitive ecosystems.

4. Control Pets

Dogs—even friendly ones—can easily startle wildlife.

5. Leave No Trace

Pack out garbage, fishing line, food scraps, and anything else you brought in.

6. Move Slowly & Quietly


You’ll see more wildlife, and the animals will feel less stressed.

7. Follow Posted Signs and Local Regulations

Areas with sensitive wildlife activity may have seasonal closures or restrictions.

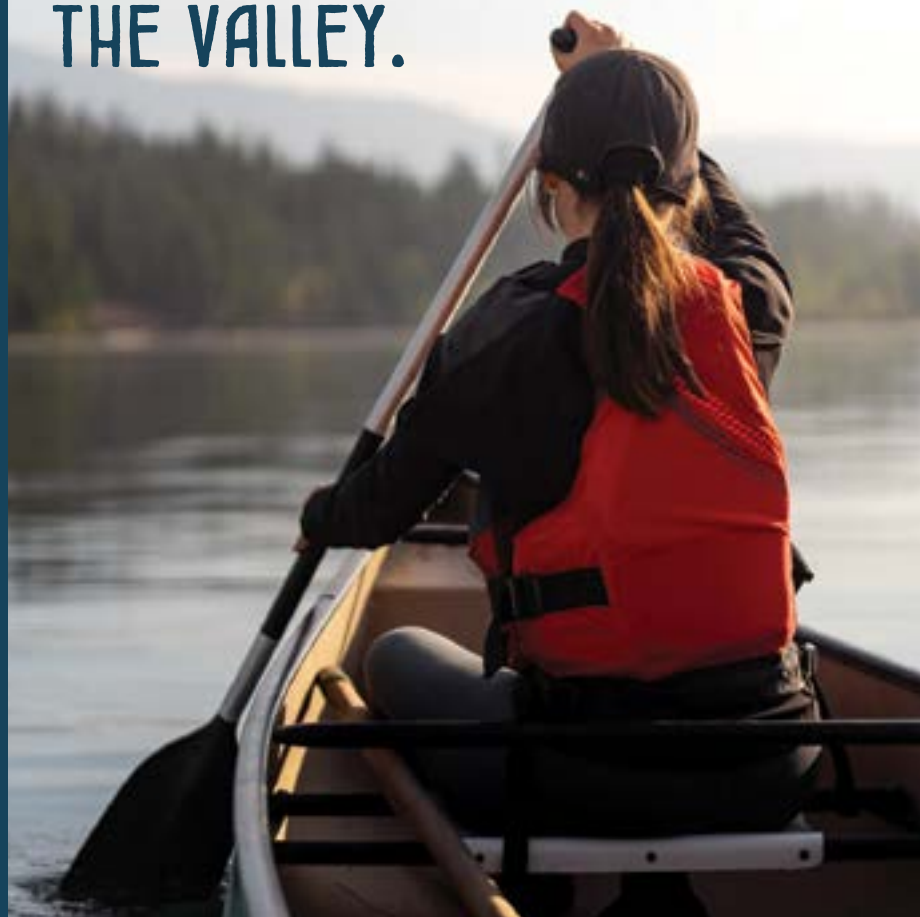
A VALLEY ALIVE WITH LIFE

Spring is a magical time in the Alberni Valley. Every shoreline, every forest edge, every trail holds the possibility of a memorable wildlife encounter. Whether it’s watching eagles soar above the river, hearing sea lions call from the harbour, or catching a glimpse of a hummingbird zipping between blossoms, the season offers endless opportunities to connect with nature.

By observing respectfully and safely, we help preserve these experiences for future generations—ensuring that the valley remains a place where both wildlife and people can thrive. 



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Connect with other local business owners at networking events and get personalized insights from our team through one-on-one sessions. Discover how we can collaborate to enhance tourism throughout the valley.



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Access valuable marketing tools to improve your digital presence. Learn how partnering with Alberni Valley Tourism (AVTA) can help amplify your business offerings through expert content development and digital marketing strategies.



DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT & STEWARDSHIP

Play a vital role in shaping the future of sustainable tourism and strengthening our region's tourism economy. Together, we can deliver meaningful experiences for every visitor.

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Spring Forward

Tourism Trends Shaping the Alberni Valley



Experiential, Place-Based Travel

Visitors are increasingly seeking meaningful experiences that connect them to the places they visit. In the Alberni Valley, this includes guided outdoor adventures, farm and food experiences, creative workshops, cultural programming, and opportunities to learn directly from local hosts. Rather than rushing from one stop to the next, visitors are choosing depth, spending more time engaging with the region's people, landscapes, and stories.

Nature with Intention

The Valley's forests, rivers, lakes, and coastal environments remain a major draw, but visitors are becoming more mindful of how they interact with these spaces. There is growing interest in low-impact recreation, shoulder-season travel, and experiences that balance access with stewardship, supported by education around responsible travel and environmental awareness.

As spring arrives in the Alberni Valley, so too does renewed momentum. Longer days, warming weather, and the return of seasonal activities signal the start of another tourism season, one shaped by changing visitor expectations, a focus on sustainability, and a growing emphasis on collaboration across the community.

This spring offers a moment to look ahead: what trends are shaping tourism in the Alberni Valley, where destination development is focused, and what experiences visitors should keep on their radar in the months ahead.

Local Food and Seasonal Flavour

Food tourism continues to play an important role in shaping a visitor's experience. Farm stands, markets, cafés, breweries, and small-batch producers offer a taste of the Alberni Valley while supporting local agriculture and food businesses. Seasonal menus and collaborations between growers and hospitality providers are increasingly popular.



Destination Development Through Collaboration

As tourism grows, thoughtful destination development remains essential, ensuring tourism supports local businesses, enhances community well-being, and protects the natural and cultural assets that make the Alberni Valley unique.

A key focus area is strengthening collaboration across the tourism sector, particularly between experience providers and accommodation operators. Accommodation providers are often a visitor's first point of contact with the Valley, making them essential partners in helping guests discover local experiences, events, and seasonal activities.

Strong business-to-business relationships allow experiences to be shared more effectively, encourage longer stays, and help visitors explore beyond a single stop. Whether it's a farm experience paired with an overnight stay, an outdoor adventure recommended at check-in, or an arts event promoted through lodging partners, collaboration elevates the visitor journey while supporting the local economy.

AVTA's networking events and the support of the Tourism Development Specialist help foster these partnerships by creating opportunities for businesses to connect, align offerings, and access guidance as needed.

Marketing with Purpose

Tourism marketing in the Alberni Valley continues to shift toward storytelling and education, focusing not just on where to go, but how to visit responsibly and meaningfully. By featuring local voices, real experiences, and community values, marketing efforts help attract visitors who are a good fit for the destination and support sustainable tourism growth over time.

PORT DAY

Saturday June 13th, 2026
Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Location: Water St. Docks

Connect with your community, and create some fun memories with family and friends!

- Family Activities
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- Food + Drinks

Celebrate the Port Alberni waterfront!

WWW.PORTDAY.CA

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PORT ALBERNI

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Twin City Cycles

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Sat. 10-4.

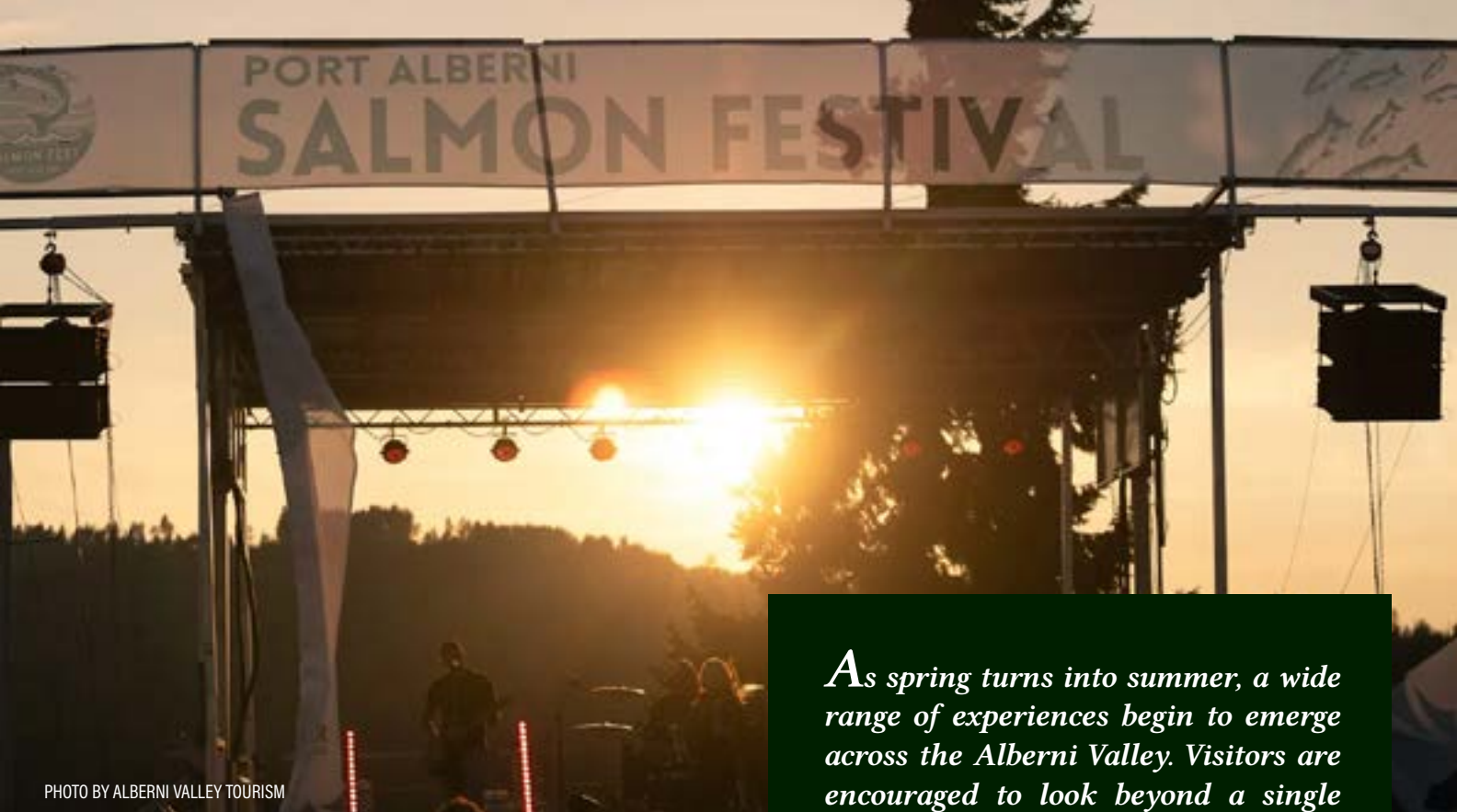


PHOTO BY ALBERNI VALLEY TOURISM

Keep Your Eyes Out This Season

Agritourism and Food Experiences:

The Alberni Valley continues to grow its agritourism and food tourism offerings, with farms, producers, and food businesses increasingly exploring visitor-ready experiences. From seasonal farm visits and on-site tastings to markets and culinary collaborations, these experiences allow visitors to connect directly with the Valley’s agricultural roots while supporting local food systems.

Outdoor Adventure Providers:

Guided outdoor experiences remain a cornerstone of the Alberni Valley’s tourism offering. Paddling, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, and nature-based tours continue to evolve, with an increasing focus on safety, stewardship, and interpretation. Ongoing operator training and experience development help ensure visitors can enjoy the region’s landscapes responsibly and confidently.



PHOTO BY ALBERNI VALLEY TOURISM

As spring turns into summer, a wide range of experiences begin to emerge across the Alberni Valley. Visitors are encouraged to look beyond a single attraction and explore the diverse sectors and businesses that collectively shape the region’s tourism offering

Arts, Culture, and Creative Spaces:

Creative and cultural experiences play an important role in adding depth to a visit. Galleries, studios, workshops, museums, and community events highlight local artists, makers, and storytellers, offering visitors meaningful opportunities to engage with the Valley’s history and contemporary culture.

Downtown Retail, Thrifting, Cafés, and Food Businesses:

Locally owned retail, dining, and gathering spaces contribute to a vibrant downtown experience, encouraging visitors to spend time exploring, shopping, and connecting with the community. These businesses often play a key role in shaping a visitor’s overall impression of the Valley.



PHOTO BY ALBERNI VALLEY TOURISM

Accommodation Providers as Experience Connectors:

Accommodation providers continue to serve as important connectors between visitors and local experiences. Increasingly, lodging operators are working alongside experience providers to share information, recommend activities, and support seamless visitor journeys. Training, networking, and shared resources help accommodations stay informed about what’s happening across the Valley.

Across all sectors, ongoing industry training, networking, and experience development are helping businesses strengthen their offerings, align with visitor expectations, and collaborate more effectively. These efforts support not only individual operators, but the overall quality and sustainability of tourism in the Alberni Valley.

Through collaboration and connection, supported by local networking opportunities and destination development efforts, the Alberni Valley’s tourism sector is well positioned for a season of shared success. For more information about current industry training, networking, and workshops, please email: jaimiey@alberni-valley-tourism.com and sign up for our stakeholder newsletter:

<https://alberni-valley-tourism.us21.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=beef9056321d84a180c610d82&id=d230ba8f0f>

Looking Ahead

Tourism in the Alberni Valley is increasingly defined by connection, to place, to people, and to one another. As the season unfolds, collaboration across the community will continue to shape how visitors experience the Valley and how tourism supports those who call it home.


This spring, the invitation is simple: explore with curiosity, support local, and experience the Alberni Valley through the partnerships and stories that make it unique. 



PHOTO BY ALBERNI VALLEY TOURISM



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Eat ALBERNI

PHOTO BY LALA AZIZLI ON UNSPLASH

ALBERNI BREWING CO.

Nestled in the valley below beautiful Mount Arrowsmith, Alberni Brewing Company is committed to producing & serving craft beer at its finest. Enjoy 16 taps of amazing craft beer, ciders, cocktails, mocktails and delicious food. With a variety of seating, you will be spoilt for choice, so sit back, relax and enjoy the atmosphere!

4630 Adelaide St • Port Alberni
778.744.8010 • albernibrewingcompany.ca
Sun 11:30 – 8:00 | Mon – Tues 11:30 – 9:00 | Wed – Thurs 11:30 – 10:00 | Fri – Sat 11:30 – 11:00



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Enjoy weekly specials and check out our tempting menu on the Club website! For reservations please call 778-421-8794. Now Booking functions for groups up to 100 people!

6449 Cherry Creek Road • Port Alberni
778.421.8794 • albernigolf.com
Mon – Thurs/Sat/Sun 11:00am – 4:00pm | Fri 11:00am – 7:00pm



ALL MEX'D UP

All Mex'd Up in Port Alberni, BC, offers a vibrant and flavourful Mexican dining experience. Known for its fresh, made-to-order dishes, the restaurant serves a variety of tacos, burritos, and other traditional favorites with bold, authentic flavours. Friendly service and a cozy atmosphere make it a local favourite! We also offer catering and private party bookings.

5440 Argyle St. • Port Alberni
250.723.8226 • allmexdup.ca
Open Tues – Sat 12:00pm – 7:00pm



BARE BONES FISHHOUSE & SMOKERY

We celebrate the old in new ways at Bare Bones Fish House & Smokery. A contemporary restaurant offering an innovative seafood and smoked meat driven menu. 100% Gluten Free Kitchen. Now with a heated patio year round.

4824 Johnston Rd. • Port Alberni
250.720.0900 • barebonesfishhouse.ca
Open Daily 11:00am – 8:00pm



BOMBERS CAFE & CREPERIE

Bombers Cafe and Creperie is a local restaurant just off the Harbour Quay, offering both sweet and savoury crepes to tantalize your taste buds. Open 7 days a week, we're always happy to have you, whether it's for a big family brunch, or a cup of coffee and a good book.

5262 Argyle St. • Port Alberni
+1888.736.7431 • bombers-cafe.com
Open 7 days a week from 8 – 8



BOOMERANGS

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250.724.5794 • boomerangscafe.com



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3030 3rd Ave. • Port Alberni
250.724.4472 • Facebook: Double R Meats
Open 7 days a weeks Mon – Sun 9:00am – 5:30pm



HOMESTEAD COOKHOUSE

Come hungry! We serve up specialty poutines, beef brisket, pulled pork, hearty chili, flavour-packed rice bowls, deluxe ciabatta sandwiches, juicy burgers, and famous Nathan's all-beef hot dogs. Join us for breakfast and our signature Scotch eggs too. A unique take on classic comfort food.

10-5440 Argyle St. • Port Alberni
778.419.3313 • Facebook: Homestead Cookhouse (#1)
Wed – Fri 9:30 – 4:00 | Sat 9:00 – 4:00pm | Sun 10:30 – 4:00 | Mon/Tue Closed



JUS JUICE

Rooted in the bold flavours of Brazil and infused with the relaxed spirit of island life, Jus Juice serves up fresh-pressed juices, handcrafted smoothies, and nourishing açai bowls made to fuel your day. Now brewing rich espresso-based drinks for cozy moments, and soon offering fresh, satisfying salad bowls.

Unit 14, 5440 Argyle St. • Harbour Quay • Port Alberni
Facebook: Jus Juice Inc • Instagram: @jusjuice.alberni
Follow us on social media for our spring reopening dates and seasonal specials.



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9 – 5440 Argyle Street, at the Harbour Quay • Port Alberni
www.Munch.Best • Instagram: @munch.best



ORESTES GREEK

A Marvelous Piece of Greece in Port Alberni! An authentic Greek restaurant located in the heart of Port Alberni. Everything on the menu is prepared fresh. Pairing your meal with a wine is easy with a generous wine selection along with Greek Beer (domestic also available. Full menu available on our Facebook page.

4505 Gertrude St. • Port Alberni
778.421.3010 • Facebook: Orestes Kouzina
Open Tues – Sat 4pm – 8pm



PITA PIT

Fresh taste, healthier choices, and friendly service — that's the Pita Pit promise. We serve freshly crafted pitas loaded with your favorite ingredients, prepared fast without compromising quality. From classic flavors to vegetarian delights and gluten-free options, there's something for everyone. Discover the joy of eating fresh and flavorful at Pita Pit today — and enjoy 10% off on catering for all occasions!

#311, 3555 Johnston Rd. • Port Alberni
778.419.1013 • pita.ca • pitapitalberni@gmail.com
We're open Fri – Sat 10:00am – 9:00pm | Sundays 11:00am to 9:00pm



SPICE HUT PORT ALBERNI

Eat with us to experience the flavours of India that you have never known. Each dish is curated to showcase authentic flavours and cooking methods. We prepare each dish with freshly ground herbs and spices to suit your taste. Spice Hut is delighted to invite you to our Saturday Buffet, available every Saturday from 4:30 to 8:30 PM. Come try the taste of India at Spice Hut.

5328 Argyle St. • Port Alberni
778.421.2222 • spicehutportalberni.ca • spicehutindia941@gmail.com
Open Mon – Fri 11am – 10pm | Sat 12pm – 10pm | Sun 12pm – 10pm



THE BROKEN BOW

Breakfast and brunch all day. Locally and globally inspired eats for everyone! The Broken Bow is located down at the Harbour Quay. Our menu is 100% Gluten free, we make almost everything from scratch in house. We use some really amazing local suppliers. Check our social media for upcoming evening events. Vegan menu available.

5405 Argyle St. • Port Alberni
778.419.7542 • Facebook: The Broken Bow
Open 7 days a week! 8:00am – 2:00pm



THE STATION TAPHOUSE

The Station Taphouse, located in Port Alberni's historic train station is now open. With 24 taps of craft beer, signature cocktails, and a kitchen focused on bold house made comfort food like Birria Short Rib Mac & Cheese, flights of freshly shucked local oysters, the signature crispy brussel caesar salad, plus a whole lot more. Don't miss your next stop at The Station Taphouse.

3100 Kingsway Ave. • Port Alberni • stationtaphouse.pub
778.421.2739 • FB: The Station Taphouse • Insta: @station.taphouse
Open Wed – Thurs 12 – 9 | Fri – Sat 12 – 10 | Sun 12 – 8 | Mon/Tue Closed



TIFFIN THAI

Ready for a tasty adventure? Swing by Tiffin Thai Restaurant for a flavour-filled meal! We're the newly opened food spot in town, serving up traditional Thai dishes, and refreshing beverages with a smile. There's loads of parking, easy online ordering, and an all-day delivery service.

3981 10th Ave • Port Alberni
778.419.2799 • tiffinthairestaurant.com
Open 7 days a week! 11:30am – 3:00pm, 4:00pm – 9:00pm



BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY THROUGH SPORT

PORT ALBERNI FUNTASTIC SOCIETY

July Long weekend 2025
 The PA Funtastic Sports
 Society hosted The 35th
 Annual Okee Dokee
 Slo-Pitch Tournament &
 Funtastic Music Festival!



In late October 2025 we held our annual Charity Event and donated the profits from 2025. \$50,400.00 went to various groups around town to help them keep doing what they do best. Helping those in need, keeping kids/youth active, engaged, and so much more! The benefits of these groups receiving funds spreads right through the community. We would personally like to thank all the leaders, coaches, teachers, roll models who work week in, and week out throughout the year! You inspire us to keep on “BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY THROUGH SPORT.”

The PAFSS was founded in 2013 and since then we have donated \$315,000 right here in Port Alberni. The economic spinoff over the past 35 years of Okee Dokee Slo-Pitch is in the millions. Donations went to the following groups. — CMHA PA, Alberni Hospice, Community Response 1st Aid Trailer, Read & Feed Breakfast Program, PA Backpack Program Society, Zattzoo Project, ADSS Band, Teens Can Rock, PA Scouts, Navy League, Rain Basketball Academy, Alberni Valley U19B Girls Softball, ADSS Athletics, PA Special Olympics, AV Junior Baseball, PA Picklers Association, John Howitt School, West Coast Learning Hub, ADSS Land Based Learning Program, Elite Dance Academy PAC, Portal Players Society, ADSS Bursary.

OWNERS CLUB SPONSORS — Tyler's No Frills, Alberni Co-op, Van Isle Ford, Pacific Chevrolet, The Valley Vibe, Alberni Septic, & 93 3 The Peak. **PRINCIPAL SPONSOR** — R. Anderson & Associates.

MAJOR SPONSORS — Tseshaht First Nation, Black Dog Fencing, Tim Hortons, Best Western Barclay, Bakers Dozen Catering, B&C Food Distribution, Jal Design, Arbutus RV & Marine Sales, Modu-Loc, Double D Sportswear & Pilon Tool Rentals.

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FRIENDS OF FUNTASTIC — PA Kinsmen, Alberni District Fall Fair, LA Marine, Cloverdale Paints, PA Toy Run, Chris & Natasha Mayes, Les Smith (Limo Driver) Lyndon Cassell (Photographer)Community Response Trailer, ADSS Athletics, AV Junior Baseball, PA Picklers Association, Dale & Darrol Nigel, & Claude Lavertu (Umpire in Chief) and too many volunteers to mention! THE WAYNE DEMOSKOFF VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR went to SUE STODDARD.

The 36th Annual Okee Dokee Slo-Pitch Tournament & Funtastic/Alberni Music Festival is set for June 27th-29th/2026! 80 teams will be in town for the 3-day tourney, and Bob Dailey Stadium will be the venue for the two night FUNTASTIC Music Festival (June 27-28).t

For more information check out our website at www.funtasticalberni.com



ALBERNI VALLEY'S EARLY DAYS... A LOOK BACK

By Diane Dobson, Dir., ADHS
Research and pictures courtesy of the Archives (ADHS)

PAPER MILL DAM

PAPER MILL DAM HAS BEEN A PART OF OUR STORY FOR OVER 140 YEARS AND MORE THAN JUST A SWIMMING HOLE. I AM ABOUT TO SHARE SOME TRUTH AND A LITTLE FANTASY....

Sunshine Photos

1. HISTORY

Early in the 1890's, Herbert Carmichael arrived in Alberni from England, where he had studied and received honours in Chemistry. Soon after his arrival, Herbert set up the British Columbia Paper Manufacturing Company, of which he was the secretary and primary shareholder. On April 27, 1891, he bought Lot 7 on the Somass River from John Mollet and John C. Mollet, who had preempted it a few years earlier. (Preemption was a method of acquiring land from the government back then.)

Herbert Carmichael and the Company Directors hoped to have the mill running by the end of that year. William Hewartson was hired as manager, and began bringing materials over from England. Hewartson was a retired

English papermaker who lived in Victoria. Three months later, in July of 1891, a contractor was hired to build a dam on the Somass River at what is today Papermill Dam Park. The location provided lots of fresh, clear water for the paper making process and was surrounded by timber. However, the contractors were unfamiliar with the river, and after several days of rain all their work was washed away. Most employees lost a good deal of their wages. But... they tried again.

In 1892, Robert H. Wood was hired to build the dam, a paper mill, a small sawmill, and the flume that would connect the waterwheels beneath to the two mills. In the spring of 1892, a used and dismantled paper machine (bought by William Hewartson) arrived from Scotland.

During the summer, the workmen scraped off the rust and polished the machine pieces, which would then be hauled to the Mill site by Andrew Service's oxen.

In the meantime, Albert Carmichael, Herbert's cousin, had arrived from England to help with the construction. In a letter home to his mother in 1892, Albert wrote:

"Oxen are used here instead of horses. They are awfully slow in their movements but nevertheless are most useful as they can work where a horse cannot. We will use a fine pair (Tom and Dick) for logging." (March 13th, 1892)

In 1893, William Hewartson was asked to resign, for his failure to get the mill operating as planned. But they did complete the Mill, and started running it in 1894. And finally, in 1895-96, paper was produced. Mostly, wrapping paper was produced---not to be confused with coloured gift wrap, but plain paper used to wrap different products.

Employees worked long hours, 12 hour shifts Monday to Friday, and 6 hour shifts on the weekend. Albert Carmichael remembered working a sixty-hour week in the mill in twelve and six-hour shifts, switching weekly from day to night shifts, with Sundays off once every two weeks. He made \$30 a month, and out of that he paid \$23 to board with the Thomsons, who ran the general store at River Bend.

However, the productivity of the B.C. Paper Manufacturing Company was severely limited by the fact that most of their machinery and their labourers were brought over from the British Isles, and neither were well-suited to deal with Vancouver Island's climate and resources.

The machines had been designed to make paper from cloth. In England there would be a steady supply of worn clothing and rags from which to make paper, but in colonial British Columbia that wasn't the case. The small sawmill attached to the mill began operating in 1893, but attempts to produce wood pulp were largely unsuccessful. As a result, the company, despite the rich forests surrounding it, was short on materials and experimented with making paper out of old sails, rope, other used linens, and even wild ferns when faced with insufficient quantities of imported rags that were shipped sporadically at great expense from England.

Although the Carmichael cousins made another attempt with a new investor to keep their mill going, they did so without success. The last run of paper was made in autumn of 1896. So, BC's first papermill had a very short history. The Carmichaels went on to other projects. Albert Carmichael eventually formed the real estate firm Carmichael and Moorhead, which Herbert later joined. Their building is today a prominent heritage building in town – the Carmoor block, across from the train station.

In 1948, Bloedel, Stewart & Welch Ltd. made a monument out of six of the original mill stones from Aberdeen, Scotland. They stood on display for many years at the pulp mill on Stamp Avenue in Port Alberni. In 2016, the monument was moved to its current location at Victoria Quay. Meanwhile, the site of British Columbia's first paper mill, now known as Paper Mill Dam Park, has long been a popular swimming hole and picnic spot.

2. A WILD RIDE

While researching this subject you can imagine my surprise when uncovering a familiar name, that of my uncle, Max Deforest. How I've never heard of this piece of family lore, I will never know. Uncle Scot, as we referred to him, was a young man and, apparently, full of beans.

3. A GHOST STORY ... THE LADY WHO WALKS ON WATER

This story is decades old and claimed as true by many. Through the years, she has been seen walking on the water at Paper Mill Dam Park. She is rumored to be a young Indigenous woman whose baby fell out of a canoe and drowned. The mother's body was found in the river a month later.

According to the book, 'Hauntings of Vancouver Island' by Shanon Sinn, 'The pads of her bare feet press against the surface of the water. She is shrouded in white, adorned with light and methodical in her motion. Her beautiful cheeks are tear-streaked. 'Have you seen my baby,' she moans.

Fact or fantasy ... you decide. 

Spring Cleaning the Valley:

Local Sustainability & Waste-Reduction Efforts

Spring in the Alberni Valley has a way of energizing people. The days grow longer, windows open a little wider, and homes start to feel lighter as we shake off the winter months. For many residents, this season signals the annual ritual of spring cleaning—a chance to refresh, reorganize, and reclaim space. But as environmental awareness grows and landfill pressure increases, more people in Port Alberni are looking for ways to spring clean responsibly.

Sustainability doesn't have to be complicated. Often, it's a matter of making small, intentional decisions—choosing where items go, how they're reused, or how we shop in the future. Across the valley, individuals, organizations, and businesses are embracing waste-reduction efforts that help renew both our homes and our community. This article explores how Port Alberni is working together to reduce waste, support reuse, and protect the natural beauty that surrounds us.

PHOTO BY DAWN AUFFRAY

The Rise of Community Clean-Up Culture

One of the most visible signs of local sustainability efforts each spring is the increase in community-driven clean-ups. These events, often hosted by neighbourhood groups, local clubs, families, and environmentally minded volunteers, provide a hands-on way to make a direct impact.

Participants gather gloves, garbage bags, pickers, and enthusiasm, then head out to remove litter from parks, trails, beaches, and roadways. Whether it's a small group along the Kitsuksis walkway or dozens of residents transforming a stretch of forest near the river, these clean-ups are incredibly effective.

Not only do they beautify shared spaces, but they also reduce harm to wildlife and waterways. Every piece of plastic removed prevents future contamination. Every abandoned item collected improves community safety.

These events often spark conversations among neighbours and encourage ongoing stewardship. Many residents report that once they participate once, they become more conscious of litter on their daily walks, often picking up small pieces along the way.

Donating with Purpose: Giving Items a Second Life

A major part of spring cleaning involves clearing out belongings—clothing, furniture, tools, décor, books, and household goods that no longer serve their purpose. Instead of tossing these items, Port Alberni residents have a variety of local options where goods can be donated and reused.

Thrift stores, charity shops, and nonprofit organizations throughout the valley accept gently used items that can be resold or distributed to families. When residents donate to local groups, they're doing more than decluttering—they're supporting programs that provide food, shelter, employment training, emergency support, and community resources.

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From clothing in good condition to small appliances, furniture, children’s items, and books, thoughtful donations keep usable goods in circulation. This not only reduces landfill waste, but also helps individuals and families access affordable necessities. It’s a powerful cycle of giving, and one that strengthens the valley’s sense of community.

For items that can’t be resold—like broken pieces of furniture or electronics—proper disposal is still important. Many donation centers offer guidance or alternative drop-off suggestions so items don’t end up where they shouldn’t.

Sorting and Recycling: A Small Habit with Big Impact

Spring is also an ideal time to revisit recycling practices at home. The Alberni Valley has multiple facilities and programs that make responsible sorting easier than ever. Taking the time to separate recyclables properly ensures that materials can be reused as intended, rather than ending up in the landfill due to contamination.

- Local recycling options include:
- Plastics, paper, and cardboard collection
 - Glass drop-off points
 - E-waste and electronics recycling
 - Bottle depots for refundable containers
 - Metal, scrap, and appliance recycling
 - Small-quantity hazardous waste disposal during designated events

Recycling may seem like a simple action, but when an entire community participates collectively, the impact is significant. Every bottle recycled saves energy. Every piece of cardboard processed reduces the need for new resources. Every correctly sorted load ensures more materials stay in the economic cycle rather than the landfill.

And while recycling is important, it’s only one part of the broader sustainability picture.

Reduce First, Then Reuse, Then Recycle

One of the most meaningful shifts that spring cleaning encourages is a deeper look at our habits. Spring often reveals forgotten purchases, duplicates, or rarely used items tucked away in cupboards and closets. This is the ideal opportunity to rethink future consumption.

Small mindset shifts can dramatically reduce waste:

Buy Less, Choose Better

Investing in durable, long-lasting items reduces the frequency of replacements. Quality over quantity is a powerful sustainability tool.

Repair Instead of Replace

Port Alberni is home to local repair services—shoe repair, appliance repair, clothing alterations, small engine shops, and tool repair services. Choosing repair extends the life of items and reduces waste.

Opt for Reusable Solutions

Switching to reusable containers, water bottles, coffee cups, shopping bags, and cleaning cloths cuts down on single-use plastics.

Donate Quickly Rather than Storing Excess

If an item isn’t being used, passing it along promptly keeps it in active circulation where it’s needed.

These shifts not only benefit the environment but often save households money over the long term.



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Businesses Supporting Sustainability

Local businesses in Port Alberni play a key role in the community's waste-reduction efforts. Many have adopted eco-conscious practices such as:

- Offering refills for cleaning supplies, soaps, and household products
- Carrying locally made, low-waste goods
- Reducing packaging where possible
- Donating unsold items to charities
- Providing recycling for batteries or electronics
- Hosting community clean-ups or sustainability workshops

Supporting these businesses amplifies the impact. When residents choose shops that prioritize environmental responsibility, it encourages more businesses to adopt similar practices.

Disposal Done Right: Handling the Hard Stuff

Some items simply can't be reused or donated. Spring is often the time when people uncover old paint cans, broken electronics, expired chemicals, or bulky items that require special handling.

Proper disposal is essential to protect soil, water, and wildlife.

The Alberni Valley offers options for:

- Hazardous materials
- Paints and chemicals
- Batteries
- Large metal items
- Electronics
- Tires
- Mattresses
- Construction waste

Taking these items to the correct facility ensures they're processed safely and responsibly, reducing risks for both the community and the environment.

A Community-Wide Commitment to Sustainability

Spring cleaning may feel like a personal activity, but its effects ripple outward. When individuals choose sustainable options, the whole valley benefits. Cleaner streets, healthier ecosystems, and reduced waste all contribute to a stronger, more vibrant community.

Port Alberni's commitment to environmental responsibility is evident in the growing number of clean-ups, donation drives, recycling initiatives, and eco-friendly businesses. The community is moving toward a future where sustainability isn't a trend—it's a shared value.


This spring, as you open your windows, declutter your spaces, and enjoy the renewal happening outdoors, consider how your seasonal cleaning habits can help protect the valley we all call home. With thoughtful choices and community collaboration, we can ensure the Alberni Valley remains beautiful, healthy, and sustainable for generations to come. 



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The Hupacasath First Nations people are a living history of the Alberni Valley. For thousand of years, our ancestors have instilled the importance of community on central Vancouver Island. Our traditional territory includes the town of Port Alberni, Great Central Lake, Sproat Lake, Mount Arrowsmith, Thunder Mountain and Mount Klista. The Hupacasath First Nation is one of the 14 Nuu Chat Nulth First Nations. The collective term, 'Nuu Chat Nulth' means "all along the mountains and sea."

Mountain Arrowsmith (shown in the background of Loon Lake) Cal-ka-cath means 'jagged points facing upward' - is the traditional name for Mount Arrowsmith. The mountain which stands before you, is one of the eastern most boundaries of the Hupacasath territory. A Nuu Shah Nulth story about Mount Arrowsmith describes a Thunderbird who was hunting over the ocean when it caught two whales. Carrying one in each of its talons, on the way back to its nest, Thunderbird dropped one of the whales on the top of Kal-ka-cath.

In recent times, an anthropologist and archeologist found the skeletal remains of a grey whale at the top of Mount Arrowsmith. They deduced that it was left behind after a historical flood, but the Hupacasath Elders told them that Thunderbird had left it there eons ago.

The Thunderbird pole (located at Loon Lake) honours the supernatural creature whose main source of food is the grey whale. When Thunderbird flaps its wings, we hear thunder roll. It carries Lightning Snakes under its wings for hunting and when it blinks, snakes shoot down and stun its prey. Then Thunderbird swoops in and carries its catch to its nest on Thunder Mountain, where it still lives today.



www.hupacasath.ca

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HEADWATERS: BRINGING HOPE AND HEALING TO INDIVIDUALS IN RECOVERY

PHOTO BY GEORGE KONING

In Port Alberni and the West Coast, a promising new initiative is emerging as a beacon of renewal and support. Headwaters, a newly formed society, is dedicated to transforming lives through faith-based principles, compassion, and strong community connections. It offers a Christ-centered approach to sustained sobriety for men battling addiction, emphasizing dignity, redemption, and holistic healing.

At the heart of this effort is a residential recovery home serving as second-stage housing. This facility will be exclusively for men who have maintained at least three months of sobriety. In this safe and structured environment, participants will complete a comprehensive 9- to 18-month program. The curriculum blends the proven frameworks of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous with biblical teachings, fostering restoration in spiritual, emotional, and physical dimensions.

The program includes personalized counselling sessions, in-depth Bible studies, practical life skills workshops, and opportunities for authentic fellowship among residents. This multifaceted approach equips men with the tools needed for lasting stability, personal growth, and resilience.

What distinguishes Headwaters is its deep roots in the local community. Every board member, staff member,

and volunteer is from the Alberni Valley, bringing firsthand understanding of regional challenges and a heartfelt commitment to local solutions. Community generosity has already provided crucial support, advancing the project significantly. However, substantial additional funding is still needed to open the doors and sustain operations.

Behind the scenes, thousands of volunteer hours have been devoted to building the foundation: forming the society, obtaining approvals, renovating the space, refining the program, and preparing for daily operations. Some local businesses have already stepped up and donated valuable items to the home, helping to create an atmosphere that is warm and welcoming.

The origins of Headwaters stem from one person's profound resolve to prevent further lives lost to addiction on the streets. Having personally intervened in the overdose crisis, this individual transformed firsthand experiences into a vision for preventive, compassionate care. That initial spark grew into a grassroots movement, as the idea spread person-to-person and more locals joined to contribute.


With each new participant, the vision has evolved, incorporating fresh perspectives and ideas to strengthen the initiative. This organic growth highlights the power of shared purpose in a tight-knit community like the Alberni Valley.

Guided by the belief that every person is created in God's image, Headwaters extends grace and promotes renewal. The dedicated team channels passion and expertise into a program that not only supports recovery but empowers long-term thriving.

Men transformed through the program will have opportunities to give back, serving as role models for newcomers and demonstrating what determination and willingness can achieve in overcoming addiction and living free.

Excitement is building for the opening of the recovery home, which will mark the start of services, welcome the first residents, and begin a new era of intentional healing in the valley. Preparations continue to ensure the facility provides optimal safety, comfort, and therapeutic benefits while complying with all local and provincial regulations.

Headwaters warmly invites broader community involvement in this essential work. Residents of Port Alberni can contribute through prayers, volunteering their skills, or donating financially. Such partnerships are vital for the program's success and for addressing addiction's far-reaching effects with kindness and spiritual foundation. Local churches, businesses, and individuals are encouraged to explore ways to partner with us.

By coming together, the Alberni Valley can more effectively guide those affected toward healthier, substance-free futures. 

For more information or to get involved, visit www.headwatersalberni.ca, call 778-421-8023, or emailinfo@headwatersalberni.ca.



PHOTO BY GEORGE KONING

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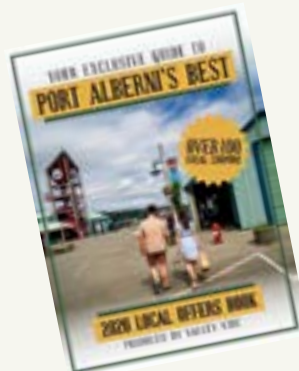
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INITIATIVES TO DIVERSIFY OUR ECONOMY IN 2026 *City of Port Alberni*



1. Business plans for the development of City-owned properties and possibly a more direct role in leasing of those properties.

2. Participation in the Ship Recycling Leadership Group with follow up as needed.

3. Participation in the Forest Industry Coalition with follow up as needed.

4. Reviewing/Implementing the creative arts and circular economy blueprint recommendations.

5. Supporting bio-innovation hub business case recommendations that get made.

6. Attraction of remote workers.

7. Supporting recommendations from the Economic Development Master Plan and (Re) Branding work

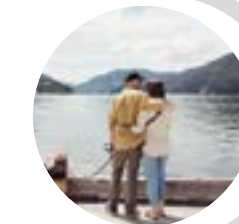
8. Participation in the bi-annual Medical Staff Association's Healthcare Summits which have the goal of attracting more physicians and other health care personnel.

9. A business case for an arms-length economic development corporation that would ensure highest and best use of municipally owned assets.

10. Support of diversification initiatives being introduced by Tseshaht, Hupacasath and other Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations in Port Alberni

11. Attraction of a post-secondary institute dedicated to bio-innovation or the creative arts

12. Ensuring that new small businesses whose work would diversify the economy are supported.



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