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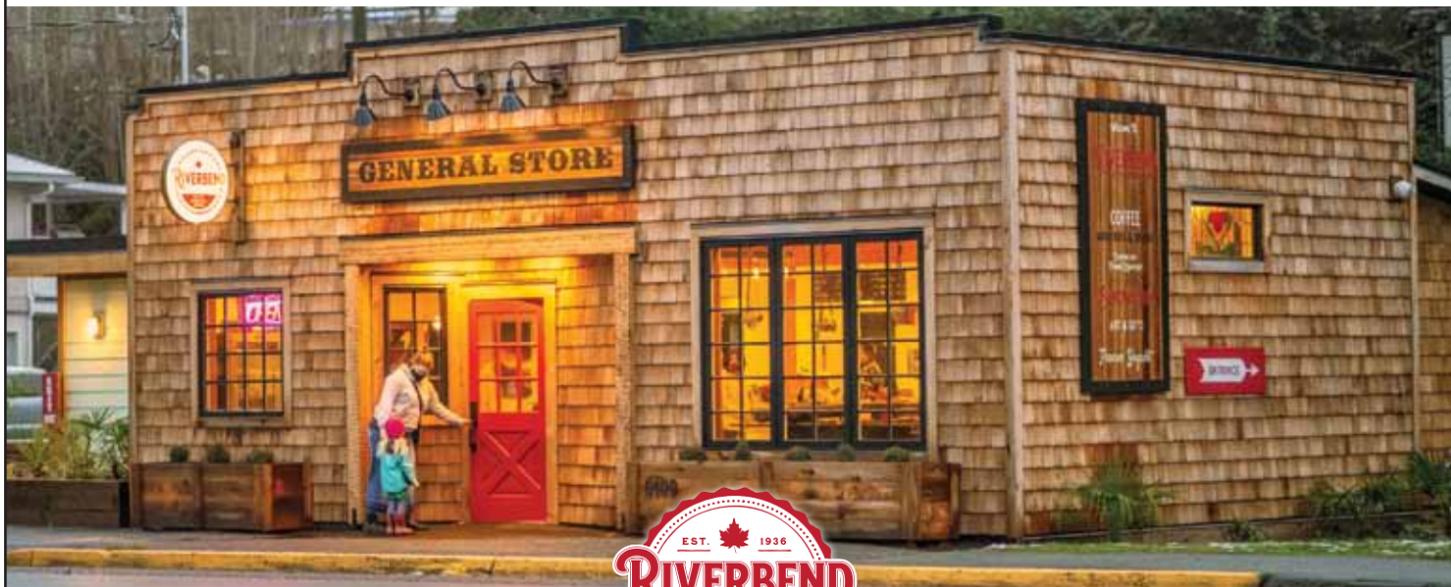
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Valley Vibe? Send us your favourite photos  
of Port Alberni and show us why you love  
this slice of paradise we call home.

Send your photos to  
[stephanie@vibemediagroup.ca](mailto:stephanie@vibemediagroup.ca)



1 Log Train Trail  
Photo Credit Ashley Van Vliet



2 Maquinna Trails  
Photo Credit Steph Grant

3 Saddle of Arrowsmith  
Photo Credit Tamiko Corlazzoli



4 Pumpkin Patch  
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## Interview with Gord Johns, MP

**Q: What are the great strengths in our community?**

A: Without question, our community's greatest strength is its heart. We know this during times of adversity or when people are struggling. Emergency housing and the essentials of life are quickly collected when there's a fire or a flood, searchers gather when someone has gone missing. Whether the Annual Toy Run or the Bread of Life, the Port Alberni Shelter Society, the Friendship Centre, Abbeyfield Lodge, Khalsa Aid or dozens of other volunteer societies and service clubs, Kiwanis, Kinsmen and Rotary, the people of Port Alberni are always ready to help. We are a community with a heart and this is our greatest strength.

**Q: What is the single most important issue you hear from your constituents?**

My constituents raise many issues with me including access to housing, health care, supports for seniors and people living with disabilities, Indigenous reconciliation, mental health care and affordable childcare. If I were to pick the single most important issue, it would be struggling to make ends meet. Rising costs of food and shelter, and having to choose between filling a medical prescription and paying for your child's dental visit or filling up your car so you can get to work are all concerns that I hear from constituents about regularly. The stresses of daily life caused by the affordability of the essentials of life can be devastating.

**Q: In response to your answer in question number, What is your action plan to address this issue?**

A: The decision of NDP Members of Parliament to use our power in parliament to compel the



Left to Right Stephanie Wakelin, Megan Warrender, Gord Johns MP

government to address affordability was made in response to the needs of seniors, families, single parents and young people communities like ours. Our plan is for real action on a better health care system including a new dental care program for low-income Canadians and a universal national pharmacare program and increased funding to the provinces for primary care doctors, mental health, mental health services and support for aging at home and long-term care. Also, a focus on making life more affordable with a top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit for low-income renters and ensuring protected funding for non-profit affordable child care.

**Q: Why have you chosen this community as your home?**

A: Where better to experience the benefits of an urban community while enjoying the natural wonders of forests, mountains and the water? Where better to experience the spiritual beauty of Indigenous cultures? What better place to make friends, to get an education, to do an honest day's work or to settle into retirement? Where else can you cast your line at the lake in the morning, enjoy a combo burger at J & L in the afternoon and cheer for the Bulldogs that evening? And, as the Chamber says, we don't own shovels except for a spade to dig in our veggie gardens! No better place than Port Alberni!

Gord Johns | Bureau de Gord Johns  
MP for Courtenay-Alberni | Député de Courtenay-Alberni

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Nuu-chah-nulth, Coast Salish, and K'omoks Territories



## Canada LARGEST Geocache ... is in Coombs!



**Made in Canada, eh!**

**Geocode:** GC8ZC20

**Placed:** 2020-09-02 by Coombs Wooden Shoe

**Last Found:** 2022-08-22

**Total Finds:** 10,547

**Difficulty:** 1/5

**Terrain:** 1/5

This is Canada's LARGEST Ammo Can Cache measuring 4 feet long by 3 feet high and can be found in front of the Dutch Store in Coombs, BC Monday through Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm. The original location for this cache was 4km up the road and placed in 2011, archived in 2020. A very unique find, this awesome ammo can was made by a metal shop class at KSS high school in Qualicum Beach and is filled with fun toys for all ages!

This cache is perfect for the whole family as the terrain is very accessible, stroller and wheelchair friendly and located just down the road from the famous Coombs Market. There are plenty of shops and food vendors in the area, so make a day trip out of this find and enjoy the charming town of Coombs, BC! Be sure to log your findings through the Geocaching App for other geocachers to see.

Photo provided by Dave Westhouse (GC Name: Londonwesty), follow his geocaching adventures on YouTube Cache Canada!



## Geocaching is a global recreational activity that is like going on the ultimate treasure hunt!

*by Stephanie Wakelin*

Geocaches are containers, often with goodies and logbooks hidden around the world and tagged on the Geocaching App with coordinates on how to find the cache. Each cache ranges on a scale of 1-5 for difficulty and terrain, there are also clues and comments you can use on the Geocaching App to help locate your cache. Once you find each cache, you can log into the logbook on the app your experience and any details you want to include.

The first geocache ever hidden was on May 3, 2000 by Dave Ulmer of Beavercreek, Oregon at 45°17.460'N 122°24.800'W. The cache was a black bucket filled with software, videos, books, money, and a can of beans. Dave's cache was first found 3 days later, ultimately this cache was destroyed unintentionally by a lawnmower and a new cache named the Original Stash Tribute, and a plaque are now placed at this site. There are now over 6 million geocaches hidden worldwide, including 2066 in Port Alberni alone! Geocaches are hidden at all ends of the earth, including at the top of mountains, through glaciers and underwater.

Aside from the traditional geocache, there are several variants of caches which include, earth cache, multi-cache, mystery/puzzle cache, challenge cache, night cache, chirp cache, traveling cache, guestbook cache, locationless/reverse cache, webcam cache and virtual cache.

Geocaching is fun for the whole family and a great way to get outdoors and use your physical and brain power! We encourage you all to download the app and check out some of the many local geocaches around the Alberni Valley this fall!



## Karen Maika REALTOR



Karen has called the Alberni Valley home since 2004, "A gem with great growth potential made more enjoyable by the pride and enthusiasm of the hard-working and down-to-earth people who live here." Karen is an active member of the Alberni Valley Curling Club. She is the President of the Rainbow Gardens Care Home Auxiliary, and is the Treasurer of the West Coast General Hospital Foundation. As a former Private Wealth Advisor with the Coastal Community Private Wealth Group, Karen has extensive experience in helping people achieve their dreams; and plans to continue this rewarding work in the real estate industry. If you are looking to sell your cherished home, or are a first-time buyer, or looking to upgrade or downsize, or looking to make a real estate investment, Karen is dedicated to putting her clients interests first.



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# Take a HIKE 10 Geocaches AROUND PORT ALBERNI



Cache and logbook, credit Deb Swain



Behind NIC, credit Carla Bressan



Stoke Falls, credit Alyssa Spencer

## 1. Lone Tree Point

Alberni Inlet Trail

**Geocode:** GC39CDJ

**Placed:** 2011-12-18 by Whynot?

**Last Found:** 2022-07-18

**Total Finds:** 7672

**Difficulty:** 2/5

**Terrain:** 4.5/5

**Details:** This cache is located on the Alberni Inlet Trail about 1/2 way between China Creek and the trailhead at Ship Creek Road. Make sure you are prepared for the hike as it can be challenging!

## 2. Nahmint Lake Loup #42

Nahmint Lake

**Geocode:** GC8NHE9

**Placed:** 2020-03-31 by Port Eagleeye

**Last Found:** 2022-05-19

**Total Finds:** 15,223

**Difficulty:** 2.5/5

**Terrain:** 2.5/5

**Details:** This cache is in the form of a pop bottle and includes a water resistant log paper - bring your own pen! The logging road has beautiful scenery as you drive through, be sure to watch for cars and trucks on your caching travels!

## 3. Pyrite

**Geocode:** GC2B1V5

**Placed:** 2010-06-30 by efbrierly

**Last Found:** 2022-07-026

**Total Finds:** 259

**Difficulty:** 1.5/5

**Terrain:** 2/5

**Details:** Cache can be found under a pile of rocks under the first tree as the trail comes onto the logging road. A neat fact if you are looking for this cache on a sunny day, you will find pyrite (fools gold) rocks along the logging road!

## 4. The "Beary" Patch

Somass River

**Geocode:** GC53Y8X

**Placed:** 2014-05-01 by boneyK

**Last Found:** 2022-03-24

**Total Finds:** 6412

**Difficulty:** 2/5

**Terrain:** 2/5

**Details:** Tread cautiously looking for this cache as the name states, you could run into a furry friend or two! Cache is located under a rock, a 15 minute walk to a grassy area surrounded by alders.

## 5. Scorpa 1,000

Scorpa Trail

**Geocode:** GC97M52

**Placed:** 2012-03-15 by Tink O'Bell

**Last Found:** 2021-07-11

**Total Finds:** 2442

**Difficulty:** 1.5/5

**Terrain:** 4/5

**Details:** This cache is located on the Scorpa Trail in a small hanging container and includes a water resistant logbook. Beautiful views of the Valley along the way, watch for wildlife!



Credit Gail Swain



Nathan, Age 3,  
Burde St. geocache



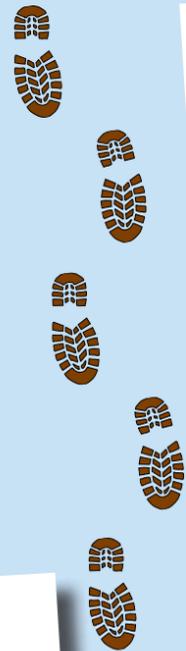
Cold Creek Falls,  
credit Steph Wakelin



Trails above Anderson,  
credit Deb Swain



Credit Ocean Johnson



### 7. Two Rivers Arm Wrestle

*Two Rivers, Sproat Lake*

**Geocode:** GC7WTF

**Placed:** 2018-08-18 by Trexer0

**Last Found:** 2022-07-16

**Total Finds:** 9733

**Difficulty:** 2/5

**Terrain:** 5/5

**Details:** You'll need a boat to get to this cache which is located along the shores of Sproat Lake. It's also noted that this area offers great beaches for camping and swimming!

### 8. Harbour Quay...

*Harbour Quay*

**Geocode:** GCV3MV

**Placed:** 2006-03-27 by Team Bushmaster  
adopted by Two Grands

**Last Found:** 2022-08-06

**Total Finds:** 5057

**Difficulty:** 2/5

**Terrain:** 1.5/5

**Details:** A very small magnetic micro-cache at the Harbour Quay containing a logbook. A very busy area with "muggles", so be quick as you re-hide.

### 6. Bingo Bay Triple Stump

*Bingo Bay, Sproat Lake*

**Geocode:** GC8840B

**Placed:** 2019-05-19 by Team Pawz

**Last Found:** 2020-10-30

**Total Finds:** 10,546

**Difficulty:** 1.5/5

**Terrain:** 2/5

**Details:** This cache is a small lock n lock and located on the trail that parallels the Bingo Bay section of Sproat Lake which closely resembles the Inlet Trail.

### 9. Anderson Incline

*Ship Creek*

**Geocode:** GC1QB14

**Placed:** 2009-05-01 by Team Pawz

**Last Found:** 2021-10-31

**Total Finds:** 10,546

**Difficulty:** 2/5

**Terrain:** 2.5/5

**Details:** This cache is purposely partially exposed but you still need a good eye to see it. You only need to look for this cache with your eyes and not hands to not disturb the vegetation. Located on a newer trail up a hill.

### 10. Buck's Run

*Cherry Creek*

**Geocode:** GC427QP

**Placed:** 2012-11-30 by team\_gee

**Last Found:** 2021-09-05

**Total Finds:** 6090

**Difficulty:** 2/5

**Terrain:** 1.5/5

**Details:** This cache is a small lock and lock container located on the Log Train Trail with a beautiful view of Platzer Creek. Coordinates may be jumpy so just keep looking!

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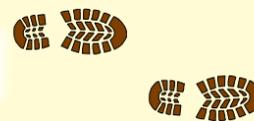
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# 6 Unique & Difficult Geocaches From Around The World



"Gallery at Triplex" – found  
 at the borders of Hungary,  
 Austria and Slovakia. Credit:  
 IG: m\_gc\_nl



"Woman Lebbe" -  
 Netherlands.  
 Credit: IG: m\_gc\_nl



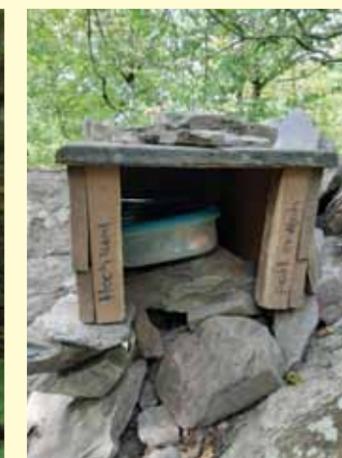
"Vuur Avontuur Lommel Final"  
 – Belgium.  
 Credit IG: geocaching\_  
 jeorg75



Clear Cache – Las Vegas.  
 Credit: Tayler Muskett



Setz Dich erstmal - zu Hause  
 – Germany  
 Credit: IG: geocaching\_  
 jeorg75 \*\*Also owner of this  
 cache



"Medieval View" – Germany  
 \*\*Oldest Cache in Germany.  
 Credit: IG: m\_gc\_nl

## 1. Zugspitze - Timberline Cache - Germany

**Geocode:** GC1C21  
**Placed:** 2001-09-09 by RhineKnight  
**Total Finds:** 3  
**Details:** Rubbermaid type box under  
 boulders with 3.5+ hours of difficult  
 terrain to reach. This cache should  
 only be attempted by someone who  
 is familiar with rock climbing, brings  
 proper gear and does not have a fear of  
 heights.

## 2. Remnants of Our Glacial Past - Alaska

**Geocode:** GC1JRAH  
**Placed:** 2008-12-08 by pedalpushin  
**Total Finds:** 1556  
**Details:** Planning for this cache is essential  
 as you need to take a watercraft to  
 reach it (kayak or boat), over extreme  
 cold water for a several day trip. This  
 cache should only be attempted by  
 people who are very experienced with  
 the unforgiving terrain, wildlife and  
 environment of Alaska.

## 3. Illa Wrong - Australia

**Geocode:** GC2C57  
**Placed:** 2001-12-12 by Blackbeards Pirates  
**Total Finds:** 152  
**Details:** This cache is a treasure chest full  
 of goodies and you must hit several  
 waypoints to get the final coordinates  
 for the cache. Bring a paper and pen as  
 each waypoint gives you a puzzle to get  
 to the next set of coordinates.

## 4. Ojamon Helmi/The Pearl of Ojamo - Finland

**Geocode:** GC4Q81K  
**Placed:** 2013-10-14 by famsten  
**Total Finds:** 57  
**Details:** This cache is located in an abandon  
 flood mine and requires diving and  
 problem solving. The cache is hidden  
 inside "the Pearls" which is a long  
 tunnel that connects to several narrow  
 passageways.

## 5. Mario's Tower - Ohio

**Geocode:** GC5JQJX  
**Placed:** 2015-01-03 by Landondena  
**Total Finds:** 9123  
**Details:** This cache is a 13-part multi-cache  
 which is known to be the most difficult  
 geocache in the world. This cache plays  
 into the Nintendo era and you will need  
 to use both caching skills and brain  
 power through each waypoint until your  
 final destination in the Kingdom, Mario's  
 Tower.

## 6. Deception Island - Antarctica

**Geocode:** GC115ZX  
**Placed:** 2007-02-27 by Dutzig  
**Total Finds:** 10,178  
**Details:** this cache is technically the entire  
 area of Deception Island, which you  
 can reach by a journey through 3 bays:  
 Telefon Bay, Pendulum Cove and Whalers  
 Bay. To log this Earthcache, you will need  
 to log 3 photos of each waypoint (make  
 sure to check the app as the photos are  
 specific), and send an email to the owner  
 answering a few questions found on the  
 geocache app.



# The Royal Canadian Legion Celebrates 95 Years In The Valley

by Nicole Brazzale with information provided by Graham Fox



From left to right: Rick Primeau, Captain Michael Ramsay, Willem Groeneveld, Tim Murphy, Ron Simpson, Roy Buchanan, Megan Warrender, Graham Fox, Al Mooney

Remembrance Day is a memorial day observed since the end of the First World War to honour armed forces members who lost their lives in the line of duty. Observed on November 11th each year, Remembrance Day recalls the end of the First World War hostilities, which formally ended

“at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month” of 1918. As such, on November 11th at 11am, we observe a moment of silence for those fallen armed forces in not only the First World War, but the subsequent wars that have taken place since then.

On July 28, 1914 the First World War began after the assassinat of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria launching much of Europe into conflict. Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire formed the Central Powers which fought against Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Romania, Canada, Japan and the United States, known as the Allied Powers. Fighting also expanded to the Middle East, Africa, and parts of Asia. Known as the Great War with an estimated 9 million people killed in combat and another 5 million civilians died from military occupation, starvation, bombardment, and disease.

After the First World War ended Veterans created numerous support groups representing and supporting Veterans in Canada. Although the groups had similar goals, it wasn't until 1925 when an appeal for unity by the Dominion Veterans Alliance founded The Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League. In 1926 the Legion was incorporated by a special Act of Parliament

and the Charter was issued. The name was later shortened to The Royal Canadian Legion, after Queen Elizabeth II gave her consent to use the prefix “Royal” in 1960.

Created by Veterans, for Veterans, the Royal Canadian Legion's initial objective was to provide a strong voice for the First World War Veterans. After the Second World War the Legion expanded to provide more dedicated support for Veterans, as well as those serving abroad. The present day Legion continues to improve the lives of Veterans and their families. The Legion takes an active role in promoting Remembrance in our communities through annual Poppy sales, community Remembrance Day services, building and maintaining centophas and memorials honouring the fallen, as well as providing educational resources to the community.

“By Honouring and remembering Canada's Veterans, The Legion acknowledges the end of



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conflicts and does not commemorate the start of conflicts. The most sacred day of Remembrance is Remembrance Day. Every year, on November 11, the Legion recognizes all of Canada's Veterans, serving and retired, and commemorates our Fallen, including the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP, Peace Officers, Merchant Navy, and Reserves. On that day, we also honour the families and their losses." -The Royal Canadian Legion <https://www.legion.ca/remembrance/history-of-service>

The Royal Canadian Legion has had a presence in Port Alberni for 95 years. Prior 2010 Port Alberni was home to two Legions branches; branch 55 and 169. Branch 55 was originally located in the same building as Little Bavaria, on 4th Ave; while branch 169 is the current home to the amalgamated branches, known as Branch 293 Alberni Valley located at 4680 Victoria Quay. Like all Legions, the Port Alberni branch is a grassroots organization that's greatest impact is through volunteer, community-based activities. Legionnaires make up one of the largest volunteer bases in the country, and any money raised goes directly back into the community.

We had the honour of speaking to a couple of Port Alberni's Legion members. Tim Murphy, an active member of the Port Alberni Legion, and who served in three UN Peace Keep Tours in Cypress, Egypt, and Golan Heights, **NATO Exercises** in Norway, and **HMCS Calgary** in the Persian Gulf. He let us know that the "majority of what we raise goes back into the community into various charitable organizations", and "our meat draw gaming money goes toward the Navy Cadets and the Navy Leagues in Port Alberni".

Roy Buchanan, another active member of the Alberni Valley Legion, who served in the **Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry** with postings in Calgary and Esquimalt, but he also served all over Canada, including the Arctic, two tours in **UN Cyprus**, Norway, the US, and Australia. Roy let us know that "the Legion is open to everyone, it's not a closed club and you don't have to be a member to come in for a drink. Any day the Legion is open,



*Photo above taken at Remembrance Day Ceremony, year unknown*



*Photo below taken at Canada Day Parade, year unknown*



anyone is welcome". The Legion runs a model where "everything we raise is based on need, and we try to help where we can." This year alone, "the Poppy Fund run by the Legion has donated \$20,000 to charities in the community." Roy says, "more activities will be starting this Fall with the Legion, we're always looking for members and people with new ideas".

The Legion plays a major role in Canada's Remembrance Day services, especially with our younger generations. The Legion works closely with schools and youth organizations, often sending in a representative to promote Remembrance and keep the memories of our Fallen Veterans alive. While Port Alberni's Remembrance Day service has changed in recent years, with online and modified services, the importance of the day remains the same. In the past, the Remembrance Day service consists of a service at the Glenwood Centre which includes a wreath laying ceremony and minute of silence, a contingency at the Greenwood Cemetery, followed by food and drinks at the Legion. The service beautifully recognizes and remembers both fallen Veterans and those Veterans who are still with us.

A prominent feature of Remembrance Day is observing a minute or two of silence. This moment of silence is a sign of respect and a time of reflection, as we remember those who fought and lost their lives for our country. The idea for the two minute silence is said to have originated with Edward George Honey, an Australian journalist and First World War Veteran who was living in London in 1919.

You can support our local Legion through their annual Poppy sales, on-going meat draws, bingo, becoming a Legion member yourself, or just dropping in to say hi. The Legion serves as a gathering place in the community where people of all walks of life can come together and feel connected to their neighbours. The Alberni Valley Legion is a cornerstone of our community, giving back selflessly throughout the year. We are incredibly grateful for its presence in our community.

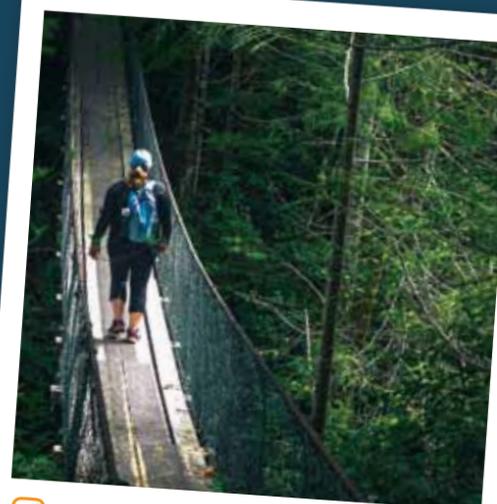


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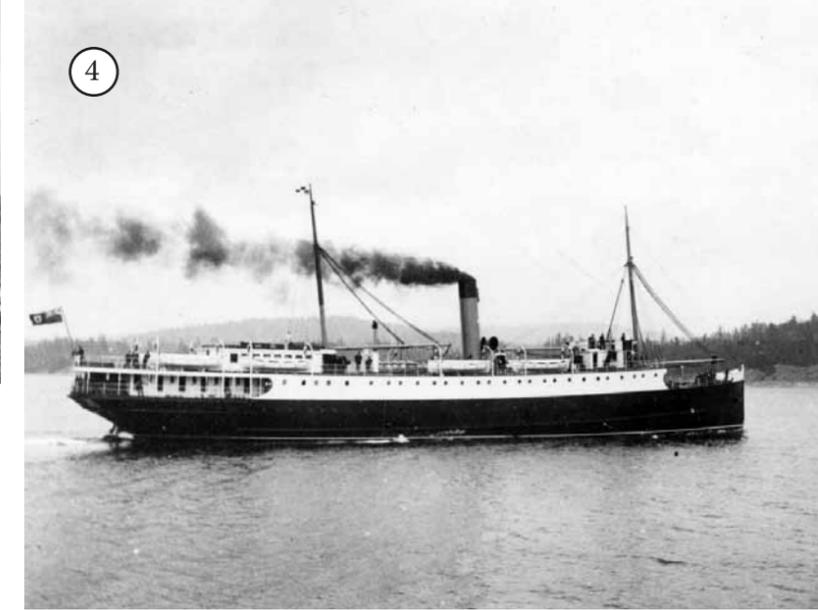
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# HISTORICAL SHIPS AND OUR INLETS



*Written by Nicole Brazzale*

Like most of Vancouver Island, Port Alberni has a long-standing nautical history. The Port Alberni Inlet has been used and travelled for time immemorial, beginning with the Nuu-Chah-Nulth peoples, who often sailed to the ocean hunting whales. European settlement brought a number of ships up and down the Inlet, turning Port Alberni into the city that it is today. From the **Meg Merrillies** which brought the first Europeans to the Alberni Valley, to present-day cruise ships showing tourists our beautiful home, the Inlet continues to be a major benefit to our community.

The first ship to sail up the Alberni Inlet with white settlers was a tall-masted schooner named the **Meg Merrillies** in 1860. Merrillies brought men and supplies up the inlet to build a sawmill for Captain Edward Stamp. This sawmill was the first sawmill to be built in what became British Columbia and was located in what we now refer to as Harbour Quay.

Built in 1893 in Stockton-on-Tees, England, the **Tees** was a steamship in service of the Hudson's Bay Co, arriving in Port Alberni in 1896. From

1900-1927 **Tees** was run by Captain John Irving before earning her titles as "The Salvage Queen" after being scrapped in 1937.

The **Princess of Maquinna**, named after the great chief of the Nuu-chah-nulth people of Nootka Sound and built in 1913 to replace the veteran steamer **Tess**. The **Princess of Maquinna** was under construction by the BC Marine Railway Co in their Esquimalt yard when the firm was purchased by Sir Alfred Yarrow of the great Glasgow shipbuilding firm, it was the first vessel launched by Yarrows after the sale. The ship was christened by W. Fitzherbert Bullen, a granddaughter of Sir James Douglas, founder of Victoria and father of British Columbia, and wife of the head of the B.C. Marine Railway. Dubbed "the good ship **Princess Maquinna**" was well loved by Vancouver Island residents during her 4 decades of service to logging camps and canneries along the west coast of Vancouver Island route. She had accommodations for 400 day passengers and stateroom facilities for 100, and travelled at a speed of 13 knots. After a forty-year service she was dismantled in Vancouver and her hull was

converted into a towed cargo barge named **Taku**.

Built in 1917 as a result of the "ship emergency" during World War I, the **Malahat** was constructed in Victoria and owned by the Canadian Steamships Company of Montreal. The **Malahat** was a large 5-masted lumber schooner that was put into service before the engine was installed, reportedly performing "reasonably well under sail" during her first voyage. This ship was built for long voyages, travelling between Canada and Australia transporting a cargo of 1,300,000 board feet of lumber. While the **Malahat** was designed for transporting lumber and other cargo, it is more famously known as the Queen of Rum Row for its success at delivering "more contraband liquor than any other ship." (The Vancouver Maritime Museum) during the United States prohibition between 1920-1933. Through the Riefel family's involvement in Vancouver's local brewing industry, Captain Stone's sister-in-law, who lived near Jericho Beach in Vancouver, receiving and relaying information regarding the Coast Guards whereabouts, and the crew's evasive tactics onboard, the **Malahat** successfully transported

alcohol for 13 years. The **Malahat** eventually foundered in 1944 in the Barkley Sound before being towed to Powell River, where the wreck still remains.

In 1921 a fleet of mailships run by the Stone Bros called the "Victory" travelled the Inlet delivering mail and transporting passengers. The **Victory I** was the first to travel the inlet, followed by the **Victory V** which was built specifically to accommodate 85 passengers from Port Alberni to the Barkley Sound, and lastly the **HMCS Curlew**.

The **Maureen R** was built in 1932 before being purchased by Port Alberni's **Reece Riley** in 1935. **Reece** named it after his wife, **Maureen Riley**, and used it as a Barkley Sound pilot boat. In November 1950, **Reece** took the **Maureen R** out, and was lost; the wreckage was found on **Rafael Point**, **Flores Island** in **Clayoquot Sound**. Unfortunately **Reece Riley** was never found and the cause of the wreck is still unknown.

In 1937 **The Lady Rose** was built in Glasgow as a custom order for the Union Steamship Company of



5



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7



8

BC. This was one of the smallest vessels ordered for them, intended to be sailed on the Barkley Sound and designed specifically for the sheltered coastal waters of BC. Was the first diesel powered vessel driven with a single propeller to travel across the Atlantic, and was christened Lady Sylvia. The Lady Rose quickly became a vital link to Bamfield, transporting passengers primarily, until the early 21st century. Over the years ownership has changed, in 1951 The Lady Rose was bought by the Harbour Navigation Company, and was later owned by the Lady Rose Marine Services, before being moored in Tofino in 2012. The Lady Rose is currently owned by the Clayton family, awaiting restorations at the MacKenzie Marina in Sechart.

The **HMCS Alberni** was constructed in 1941 as a Flower-class corvette by Yarrows Ltd in Esquimalt during World War II, serving the Royal Canadian Navy. The flower-class corvette was a warship that served as anti-submarine convoy escorts during the Battle of the Atlantic. Once construction was completed the ship sailed east through the Panama Canal to join the RCN's fleet

in the Atlantic, and immediately began escorting trans-atlantic convoys upon arrival. The HMCS Alberni took part in numerous key battles including the Convoy SC 42, Operation Torch in the Mediterranean Sea, and was a part of Operation Neptune, the naval component of the invasion of Normandy and escorted support ships to and from the United Kingdom on D-day; receiving the battle honours for the "Atlantic 1941-44", "Normandy 1944" and "North Sea 1944". Unfortunately while performing anti-submarine patrols east of the D-day landing site, the vessel was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine *U-480*. 59 sailors were killed as the vessel quickly sank, and the remaining crew was rescued by the Royal Navy motor torpedo boats.

While The Princess of Alberni was built in 1945, it didn't arrive in British Columbia until 1953 as a replacement to the Princess Mequinna. The CPR brought it to the Island for service to the British Columbia SteamShip Company on Vancouver Island's west coast. The vessel turned out to be ill suited for Vancouver Island's west coast and was returned a year later. The Princess of Alberni went

on to become a United States Army deep sea tug built by the Marinolich Steamship Company, until it was sold out of service and transferred to the Caribbean.

The well known **Frances Barkley**, which is still in service today through The Lady Rose Marine Services, was built in 1958 in Norway. Originally named M.S Hidle, it served as a ferry in Stavanger, before being purchased in 1990 by Lady Rose Marine Services company. Named after Frances Barkley, the first woman to sail around the world without deception, and considered the first European woman to have ever visited Canada's west coast, she travelled with her husband Captain Charles William Barkley. Since being purchased and renamed, the Frances Barkley has been used as a passenger and cargo transport between Port Alberni and Bamfield. The journey from Port Alberni to Bamfield takes anywhere from 3-4.5 hours one way and is beautiful in any weather. Stepping onto the Frances Barkley is like stepping into the past; the interior hasn't changed since it was built, featuring blue and red covered benches on the top deck with breathtaking views of the Inlet and surrounding tree covered forests. Down a steep set of stairs are the bathrooms and cafeteria, with benches and tables to sit at. Benches are set up on the outer deck, perfect for taking in your surroundings. The captain and crew are wonderful; they keep an eye out and let passengers know of any wildlife sightings. If you haven't had a chance to venture down the Alberni Inlet on the Frances Barkley, we highly recommend checking it out!

The **Vanlene** set off from Japan to Vancouver on March 14, 1972 with 300 Dodge Colts, Captain Lo Chung Hung and his 38 man crew. Prior to departure, a standard issue equipment inspection was conducted of the vessel, which showed numerous issues including Vanlene's radar, radio direction finder, echo sounder, deep sea leader, taffrail log and mechanical log. Captain Lo Chung Hung requested the ship's owner repair all the damage found in the inspection, but the request was denied. The ship departed with only two magnetic compasses, one gyro compass and

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four repeaters (relays radio signals over wide areas), and the Captain and crew managed to navigate across the Pacific, along the coast of California, and up to Vancouver Island with no issues. Trouble began when they approached the heavily fogged west coast of Vancouver Island, mistaking the Barkley Sound for the Juan de Fuca Strait. They were more than 60km off course when the water gradually became shallower as the Vanlene approached Austin Island; the bottom of the vessel gently rubbed against the rocks below, as they eventually washed up on the rocks and the engines shut off. There was confusion when the first SOS call was sent out, as responders worried they were too late because they couldn't see a ship in the Juan de Fuca Strait, until calls began coming through to Bamfield of a ship washed up on the rocks near Austin Island. The Bamfield lifeboat and Neva Strait tugboat from Vancouver were dispatched and all 38 crew members, including the Captain were rescued. 131 Dodge Colts were recovered from the wreck, the other 169 were left due to being unreachable or already flooded and lost to the waves. Each recovered Colt was individually airlifted out with a helicopter through an open cargo hatch on the ship's deck. As with any ship sinking, there is a concern of oil spillage in the ocean. The Vanlene had upwards of 400 tons of fuel and oil onboard when it crashed and sank, which could have caused a massive problem in the Barkley Sound. Luckily, the oil that was spilled wasn't massive and The Marine Sciences Branch in Nanaimo quickly issued a research vessel, the C.S.S. Vector, which was able to clean up the mess and ensure the wildlife remained protected. The ship remained wrecked on the rocks off Austin Island for years. Residents combed through the abandoned ship collecting cutlery and other interesting artefacts, along with stripping the vehicles of steering wheels, engine parts, and dashboard pieces before the ship finally sank below the water. It has since been used as a popular diving site to this day.

Four vessels crossed into Canadian seas in 1999, carrying a combined total of approximately 600 **Chinese immigrants** being transported by a Chinese gang called The Snakeheads, known for trafficking illegal immigrants into foreign

countries. Conditions on these ships were horrible, people had been confined to the lower decks for over a month, living in feces with little food or water, when Canadian Coast Guards discovered them. The Blue carried 123 immigrants and had been travelling for 39 days to reach Gold River. The Rusty carried 130 immigrants and arrived in Winter Bay. The Black Dragon, a Korean freezer ship, carried 147 on its journey to the Queen Charlottes. The final ship carried 200 immigrants to an unknown location. None of the ships were claimed after Canadian Coastguards took possession of them, and they became the Canadian Federal Government's property. The government eventually sold the entire fleet to the Port Alberni Reef Society, who set out to develop a public awareness project highlighting how poorly the people onboard these vessels were treated. Three of the ships were set to be sunk. Two were sunk at China Creek Campground and the third at Barclay Sound. The fourth ship was in good working condition, so it wasn't sunk. The vessels were cleaned, decontaminated, and prepared for sinking. Since sinking, they are now popular diving sites, with the dive site at China Creek Campground being the only artificial reef accessible by land in North America.

**Cruise ships** from Three Holland America Line have travelled down the Inlet to Port Alberni since 2013, and after a six year hiatus, they were back in 2019. These specific cruise ships catered to a younger demographic that was capable and interested in outdoor activities. Port Alberni was the second to last stop on the 21-day trips hosted by Three Holland America Line cruise ships. Port Alberni hosted the Cruise Ship Festival, which kicked off with the ships being escorted by the Tseshat Canoe Family, among other First Nations that were invited to participate, before docking for three days. Harbour Quay hosted a craft and farmers market with over 45 vendors and live entertainment was found all around Port Alberni: Harbour Quay, Spirit Square, the Maritime Heritage Centre and the Thunderbird Building. Entertainment included music performances including songs and welcomes from Tseshaht, Hupacasath, Uchucklesaht, Tlaoquiaht and Huu-ay-aht First Nations. Cruise ships coming into

Port Alberni are exciting for the entire community; seeing a ship that large on our seemingly small inlet is a memorable experience, and we hope to see them back soon.

The Alberni Inlet has been travelled by countless ships and boats throughout the centuries, bringing goods and people into Port Alberni. If you're interested in learning more, check out the Maritime Heritage Society and The Docks for more information!

**Historical Ships Photo Descriptions:**

- #1 - **PN01361:** *Lady Rose in Uchucklesit harbour.*
- #2 - **PN06404:** *circa 1921. Side view of the Stone Bros. small power boat called "Victory" I, motoring up the Alberni Inlet. A man is visible through the wheelhouse door.*
- #3 - **PN15904:** *HMCS Alberni.*
- #4 - **PN03682:** *SS Princess Maquinna*
- #5 - **PN00392:** *Photograph is in Canadian Postcard format and shows men and dogs on docks, with a boat approaching the harbour. In front of the postcard is written: C. P. RY., S.S. TEES, NEW ALBERNI, B. C. This postcard was reproduced as an Alberni Valley Museum greeting card in 1997.*
- #6 - **PN06418:** *circa 1926, August. Side view of the "Victory V" with its distinctly tiny wheelhouse jutting up near the bow, motors by a large warship anchored in the Port Alberni harbour. Written on back: "[...] Our mail boat / H.M.S. "Curlew" in distance / Aug '26 [...]. The warship identification is very dubious. It is definitely not H.M.C.S. "Curlew", nor is it the "Rainbow" as penned elsewhere in the album. It may be the H.M.C.S. "Vancouver" which served this coast 1928-1936.*
- #7 - **PN06773:** *The five masted schooner, "Malahat", the name written on the stern, with the sails furled, site in the harbour loaded with logs. Three men can be seen in the stern of the boat.*
- #8 - **PN18134:** *1935 - 1950. The Motor Vessel, "MV MAUREEN R", is seen leaving the Alberni Harbour; a second ship can be seen in the distance. Reese Riley served on this vessel.*

All photo credits: Alberni Valley Museum

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## Take A Glimpse into the Nautical History of the Hupacasath First Nations

Port Alberni's nautical history dates back to time immemorial with the Hupacasath First Nations, who travelled by canoe year round, using the water as their highway. The Hupacasath peoples travelled the Inlet, rivers, and lakes in the Alberni Valley to hunt, gather, or visit friends and family. Paddling was taught at a young age; there were different styles and shapes of canoes that had different uses. A canoe intended for the ocean was fit with a carved wolf's head to break through the choppy waters and keep it out of the canoe. They would also use the wolf's head at the front of the canoe as a reference, like a needle on a compass, which they combined with landmarks, to help navigate.

The Hupacasath peoples utilised sails and paddles. The sails were made from woven cedar, and in the afternoon as the wind shifted, they sailed back up the Inlet. Paddles were often made from vine maple or yew wood, and came in different shapes and sizes. Paddles used for transport were constructed to move lots of water with a wide blade, whereas whaling paddlers were narrow so they would move through the water quietly, and war paddles had a pointy end that doubled as a weapon.

Victoria Quay offers a glimpse into the nautical history of the Hupacasath First Nations with the phenomenal Nuu-Chah-Nulth Whaling Canoe Sculpture. The sculpture was originally housed in the Royal BC Museum in Victoria, before being transferred to Port Alberni's Victoria Quay. Tim Paul, who is from the Esperanze Inlet, north of Tofino, carved this sculpture under the direction of Ben Andrews in 1975. Carved from yellow cedar, this life size sculpture serves as a tribute to the seafaring culture of local First Nations. This powerful monument depicts the strength and ferocity of the whalers who ventured into open waters with spears and a wooden canoe to hunt a grey whale. Whale hunting was a dangerous job; it is said that whalers would prepare for 9-12 months, often going up into mountain caves and fasting in preparation. The Whalers Canoe exhibit depicts 8 men on the canoe with a steersman in the back directing and the hereditary chief at the front with a harpoon ready. After the whale was speared and killed, someone would jump into the water to sew up the mouth of the whale, preventing it from sinking, before towing it back to shore. Sometimes they would take the stomach of a seal, blow it up, and use that to help keep the whale afloat. The grey whale was seen as a gift from the Creators, and the entire animal was used. The whale meat was smoked, dried, and preserved to be eaten and traded, bones were used to create weapons and tools, and the blubber was smoked or dried.

Be sure to check out the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Whaling Canoe Sculpture and the Welcome Totem Poles next time you're at Victoria Quay. It's a beautiful representation of local First Nations history and culture for the community to enjoy.



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# Take a Journey Through Uptown Alberni



Port Alberni's Uptown, located on the South side of town, has gone through tremendous transformations over the years. Few things have remained the same in this area since development began in 1913; local businesses, community, and wide roads in particular.

Development began in 1913 with wide dirt roads, looking south at Third Avenue and Argyle St, few businesses line the dirt roads, including Bill Denshaw's store featuring a pool room and bowling alley, Fred G. Cox's store, Mrs. M Bay's beauty parlour, and of course the Beaufort Hotel. The now Mar Street houses Mertz Shoe Repair and Dr. C.T Hiltons home and office. Dr. Hilton's house and gardens were eventually torn down in 1946 to make room for the Woodward's store which opened in 1948.

Woodward's became a staple in Port Alberni's Uptown. The 1950's saw continued business growth along this section of Third Avenue with Russell's Jewellers, Holloway's Music Store, Fletchers Furniture Store, the Band of Commerce and the Royal Bank. The Woodward's building was occupied by Zellers before closing in 2013 and the Band of Commerce relocated to the Pacific Rim Mall. Fletchers Furniture was replaced by Merit Furniture and remains there today, while Russell's Jeweller was replaced by a Remax real estate office. Today, the eastern section of Third Avenue features Alberni Lifeline, Forever New, KJ Riggins Clothing, Steampunk Cafe, The Smoke Shack, Central Park, Treadsetters Shoes, Santosha Wellness & Beauty, and RBC Royal Bank.

Looking north from Third Avenue and Mar St in 1913, the west side of Third Avenue housed the first schoolhouse in Port Alberni on the

corner of Agnes Street, which was replaced by a Post Office in 1914. Businesses along the west side of Third Avenue featured A.D.McIntyre's hardware store, the Paul Chaney building, and a newly constructed Quinn, Rawleigh Block. Businesses including Lavers Fabric Centre, Jean Burns Ladies Wear store, F.W. Woolworth's, Vogue Beauty Salon, Dick's Market, the Comfort Shoe store, S. Imperial Laundry, McGarrigle's Meat Market, Toronto Dominion Bank, and MacDonald's Drug Store lined this side of the street during the mid 1900's. Today the west side of Third Ave features Mobius Books (just down Argyle St), The Power of Three, Argyle Pharmacy, Cloud City Apparel, Flandangles/Gibson's Fine Linens, Double R Meats, TD Canada Trust Bank, Animal Ark pet store, Healthy Habits, Flooring Depot, and Mini Price Store.

The corner of Third Avenue and Agnes Street has changed drastically over the years. The site began as Port Alberni's first schoolhouse in 1904; prior to that, students attended school in the basement of the Watson building on Argyle Street. A new school was eventually built in 1912 on the corner of Eighth Avenue and China Creek Road, and the first schoolhouse was abandoned. In 1914, the new "Dominion Government Building" was built on the site of the first schoolhouse. Port Alberni residents weren't thrilled about this new building, which cost \$25,000 and featured a clocktower. It housed the post office, telegraph, Fisheries, and Custom offices. After the earthquake of 1946, the tower was severely cracked and the clock stopped working. The building was eventually torn down in 1961 and replaced by a new building to house Zellers, which was later replaced by the Salvation Army Thrift Store, and now houses the Mini Price Store.

Kitty Corner, on the other side of Third Avenue and Agnes Street, was the Beaufort Hotel. Built in 1913, this four-storey building featured 50 guest rooms, verandahs overlooking the harbour, a roof garden, private baths, modern heating and lighting, "sanitary devices", a dining room, and a lobby. It is said that there was a tunnel that reached from the waterfront up Third Avenue and the Beaufort



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Hotel between 1911-1919. The Beaufort served as a boarding hotel for mill workers during the hard times of the 1930's and a convention centre was added in the 1980's. Unfortunately, the hotel's reputation diminished over the following decades and was turned into low-cost accommodations, before finally being torn down in 2009. The site is now home to a community park, Central Park.

Presently, Uptown has become a tourist destination, drawing people in with unique local businesses as they explore the Harbour Quay. The Uptown businesses have come together to rebuild the area and create a strong sense of community.



Dodi Clark from Alberni Lifeline says "Alberni Lifeline is new to the Uptown area, but we have been in business in the Alberni Valley for over 35 years. When looking to expand our office space we chose the Uptown area as it provided us an opportunity to be part of the positive growth and sense of community that the Uptown area is known for in Port Alberni."

As we've seen, the Uptown area has gone through numerous changes since its beginnings in 1912, but it remains a staple to the Port Alberni community. Ryan Toso from Mobius Books speaks to the vibrancy of the Uptown businesses, "We



have been serving the Port Alberni area for a year and a half. We love being one of the independent uptown merchants. The area is full of vibrant shops and people and you can find nearly everything you need".

Flandangles/Gibson's Fine Linens owner Chris Washington has been a staple in the Uptown community for 32 years, and lets us know that "the business owners work together to try to create a different type of experience here". Uptown Port Alberni is a unique and integral part of the community.

There is a beautiful sense of comradery in the Uptown district, as Lisa Harrison, the owner of Blue Fish Gallery tells us, "the uptown area has such a rich and vibrant history. This is what drew Cheryl Iwanowsky to the area when she opened the gallery doors in 2013. As I approach my first year as the new owner I am thrilled to be a part of the positive energy and revitalization that is happening here. Everyday someone new is directed our way via word of mouth or from a neighbouring businesses referral. It's these long lasting relationships that are being built within this community with heart and I'm so proud to say I'm a small business owner in the Uptown core."



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#### #1 - PN02453 - c. 1915

View of Third Ave. looking north with the Beaufort Hotel in the foreground.

#### #2 - PN00729 - c. 1950-1960

Old Post Office in Port Alberni on the corner of Third Avenue and Angus Street. Two cars are driving east on Third Avenue.

#### #3 - PN05905: c. 1959

Woodward's Auto Service Centre on Third Avenue. Signs hanging from the canopy read "ELECTRONIC WHEEL BALANCING \$1.50 PER WHEEL..... INCLUDING ALL WEIGHTS" and "COMPLETE LUBRICATION WHILE YOU WAIT \$1.75". Woodward's department store can be seen on the left.

#### #4 - PN05512

Argyle Street from Third Avenue looking west, with the Alberni Inlet and mountains are in the background.

#### #5 - PN02844 - c. 1976

Looking south on Third Avenue from Argyle Street.

#### #6 - PN06729 - circa late 1960s

A view of Third Ave. shopping area with "Laver's Fabric Centre, Jean Burns, F.W. Woolworth Co. in centre and middle left of image." The stacks of the ALPULP are visible at the far right with the Beaufort Range on the horizon.

All photo credits to Alberni Valley Museum & Archives.

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**www.cardcorner.ca 778-421-0141**



### Treadsetters

Located at 2945 3rd Ave  
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### Beaufort Barbershop

Located at 3027 4th Ave  
 More than 35 years ago in this very neighborhood, Beaufort Barbershop owner Trish Pavan, took her training. With appreciation for a characteristic feel Beaufort Barbershop makes home in the nostalgic Uptown neighborhood. This little shop is your vintage-vibe old school barbershop offering it all from classical clipper cuts, traditional tapers and hot towel shaves. Book your cut or shave with your preferred barber, and of course, walk ins are always welcome!

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Located at 2907 2nd Ave  
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**Phone: 778 419 3474**

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### This 'N' That

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### Flandangles Kitchen & Gifts

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### Steampunk Cafe

Located at 3025 3rd Ave  
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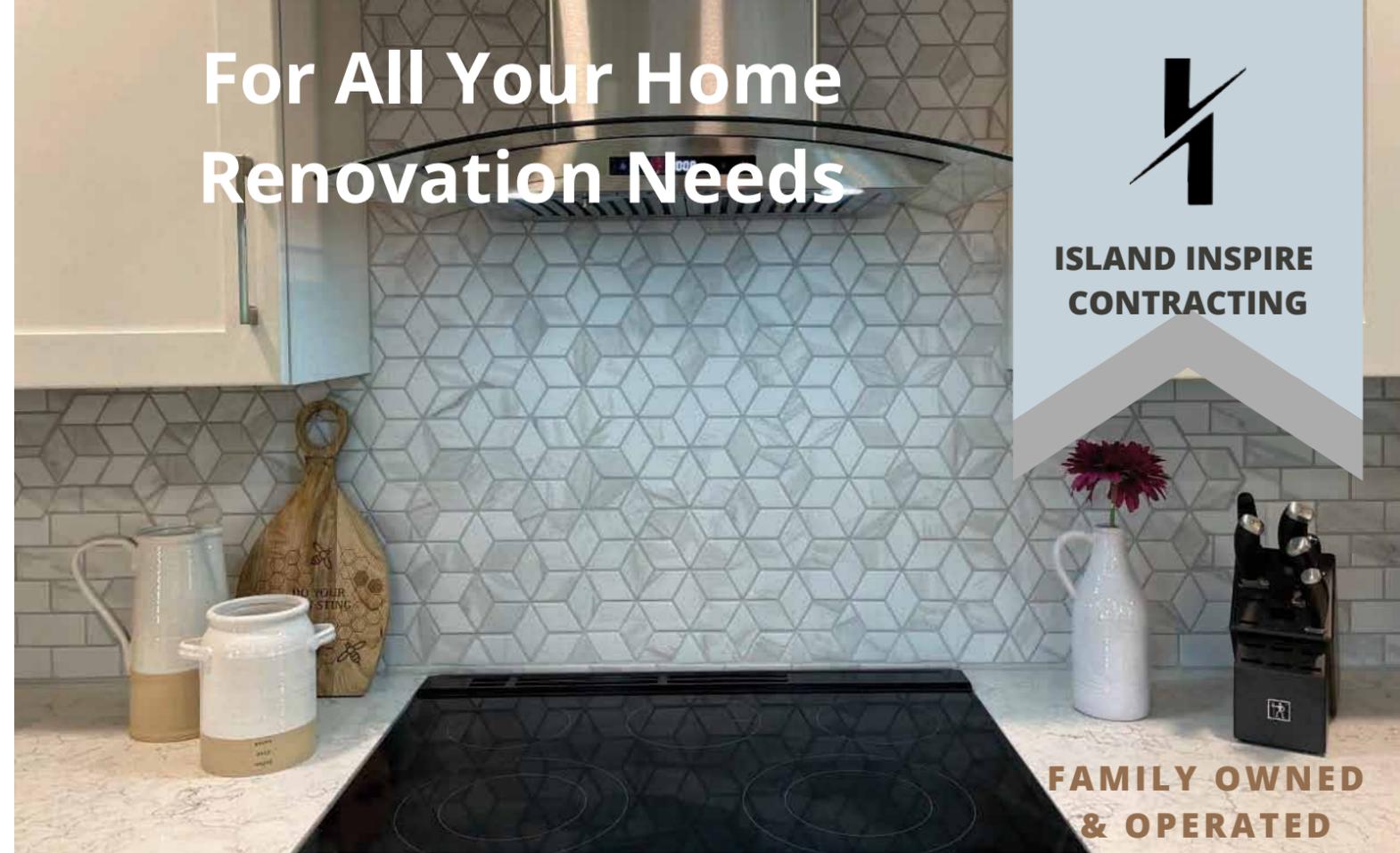
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