

ISSUE 60 RECONCILIATION · AUTUMN 2026

Sharing the Direction of Vancouver Island Communities

COMPASS



**WE ARE ART
SUPER/NATURAL CREATURES
AT CAMPBELL RIVER ART GALLERY**

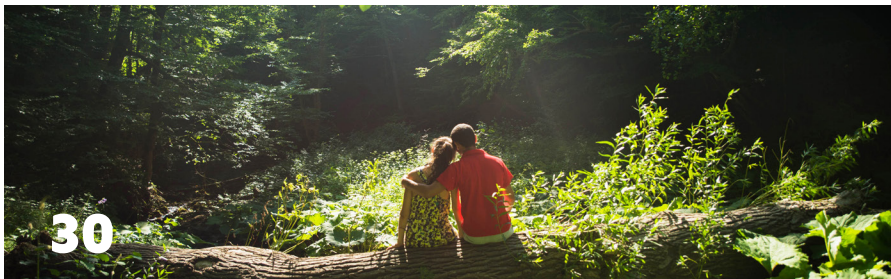
**SQUATCH WATCH 2026
A SASQUATCH CONFERENCE
FOR ALL THINGS SASQUATCH!**

**THE FOSSIL HUNTRESS
RACCOONS**

**ARTIST FEATURE
MASTER ARTISTS
AT K'OMOKS FUSION
ARTS FESTIVAL**



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COMPASS

MAGAZINE

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We Are Art

Two Super/Natural Exhibits
Campbell River Art Gallery

8

A Place to Stay in Campbell River

Just Like Home Lodge Opens
Strathcona Regional District

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The Fossil Huntress

Raccoons: Adorable Tiny Hands
and Questionable Intentions
The Fossil Huntress

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Island Chronicles

Proposing a New UNESCO
Global Geopark
David Durrant

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Artist Feature

Master Artists Come Together
for K'omoks Arts Fusion Festival
Kealy Donaldson

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Stay Well

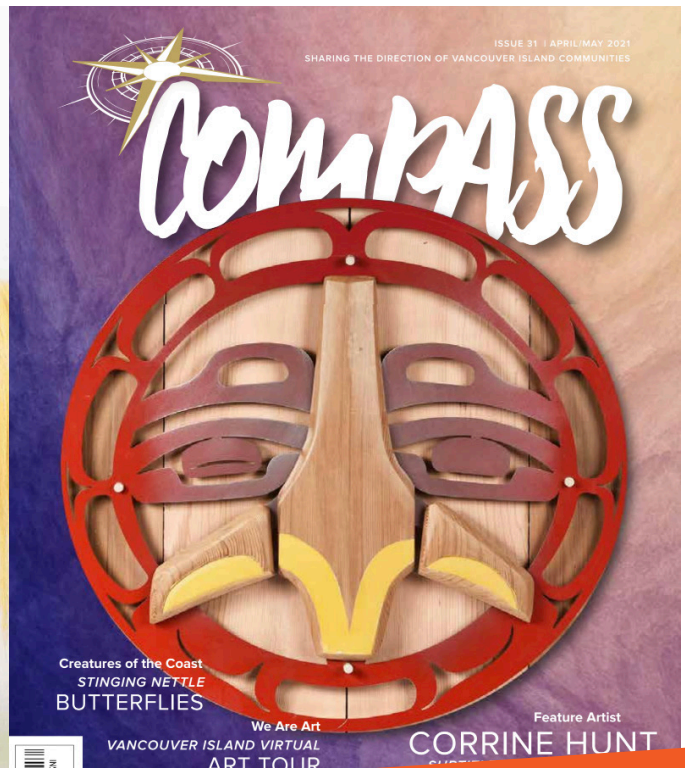
The Most Important Relationship
Dana Mahon

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION DAY is September 30th

Kiki's Communications and Compass Divisions recognizes and honours Residential School survivors and the children that did not make it home.

Every Child Matters is a critical point for Indigenous relations in Canada and beyond. Every Child Matters symbolizes the loss of culture, freedom, and self-esteem that many Indigenous children experienced and we, as Canadians, take accountability for the historic impacts and tolls that Residential Schools took on Indigenous communities, families and individuals.

Hiy Hiy ~ we honour you ~ hands up!



FEATURE ARTISTS



IT'S FESTIVAL TIME: MASTER ARTISTS COME TOGETHER FOR K'OMOKS FUSION ARTS FESTIVAL.

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026

Kealy Donaldson

Four incredible local Master Artists join Queneesh Indigenous Community Society to come together for K'omoks Fusion Indigenous Arts Festival, September 25-26-27 at Filberg Park, Comox! Each of these Artists have graced the cover the Artist Feature of Compass Magazine over the past years and the Festival will be hosting Master Artist Workshops with each of these acclaimed specialists! Here are excerpts from the original articles along with the Master Artists' workshop details! More festival information and workshop registration can be found at www.queneeshsociety.ca

Join Queneesh Society and these very talented Artists for the K'omoks Fusion Indigenous Arts Festival! Gate admission is by donation and there is a full lineup of activities for all ages, live music, salmon bbq and traditional foods, vendor market, wellness circle, cultural and youth zones, ALL in an inclusive environment. For more festival information, head to www.queneeshsociety.ca and to read the entire articles from Compass Magazine and the Artist Features, www.compassmagazine.ca

See you at K'omoks Festival!

WINADZI JAMES

Come explore the Art of Traditional Storytelling with Winadzi James, the legendary Master Artist behind the famous Raven Tales books and videos. James is known for his multi-medium disciplinaries but comes prepared to lend his knowledge to storytelling and reaching different demographics. Come just to listen or prepare yourself to learn some of the tricks in storytelling engagement. **Workshop times:** Friday September 25, 4pm and Saturday September 26, 4pm. **Cost:** \$25 + taxes/fees

Issue 26 | Winadzi James

Winadzi is from the Kwakwaka'wakw nation, from the Kwicksutenuk clan from Gilford Island on his mother's side and from the Gwa'sala 'Nakwaxda'xw from Blunden Harbour on his father's side. He spent his childhood growing up in Campbell River. At the age of 15 he decided to start carving and trained under his father, Simon James Sr. —a renowned artist in his own style. After leaving Campbell River, Winadzi attended The Vancouver Film School, where he finished both 2D classical and 3D computer animation and created a short student film called "Dawn of Creation," which was the inspiration for Raven Tales "How Raven Stole the Sun."

Now living on Bowen Island with his wife Naomi James and family, Winadzi has completed 26 episode of 'Raven Tales' and since 2004 he has become the proud owner of Raven Tales Production Corp. He has collaborated on public art projects with artists on Bowen Island including a sculpture called "Embracing the Spirit of the Flame." This project started on the day that the Olympic Flame came to Bowen Island on its way to the Opening Ceremonies for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics.

CORRINE HUNT

Join Corrine Hunt, Kwakwaka'wakw / Tlingit Artist, in an introduction to First Nation Form Line and Design Artist Talk + Workshop. Hunt is known for her incredible design work, including the 2010 Winter Games Medals and the redesign of the BC Lions logo. Please bring your Eventbrite Receipt to gain access to the workshop. **Workshop times:** Saturday September 26th at 1pm and Sunday September 27 at 1 pm. **Cost:** \$25 + fees /taxes

Issue 32 | Corrine Hunt

It's no secret; the Hunt name is synonymous with the Indigenous Art World. I remember growing up in the 1970s and '80s knowing that the Hunts from northern Vancouver Island were some of the best First Nation Artists in the world. Here is another great artist from the long line of Hunts: Corrine Hunt, Contemporary First Nations Artist. While growing up in Alert Bay, she was taught that culture stems from family; everything she knows she learned from her childhood. "Being in Alert Bay and surrounded by family, as children, we absorbed so much about our culture without really knowing what we were being taught," she says. "Potlatch played such an important role in our lives and still does. It's in my blood."

Hunt's Great Great paternal Grandmother A'neesla'ga' was a noble woman from the Tlingit Clan in Alaska. She married Robert Hunt and they settled in Fort Rupert. While A'neesla'ga' passed away in 1919, this Hunt still wears A'neesla'ga's Tlingit robes in ceremony today. Because her Great Great Grandma was such a powerful woman, her songs and dances have been passed down and they are still danced today.

FESTIVAL OVERVIEW

HANDS-ON
LOCAL
CREATIVE
FUN.

SEPTEMBER
25-26-27
2026

Sponsorships, Partnerships + Friends! We raise our hands to you!

K'OMOKS FUSION ARTS FESTIVAL
WWW.QUENEESHOCIETY.CA



01. WHO WE ARE!

Queeneesh Society is an inclusive nonprofit society serving the Island region!

02. SPONSORS

Hiy Hiy to First Credit Union, Experience CV, K'omoks First Nation, YQQ Comox + CVRD!

03. PARTNERS

ISPARC, CV Arts, Cumberland Forest Society, Waychiay, Comox BIA + Filberg Society

04. FRIENDS

All the Artists, Artisans, Makers, Volunteers who make events possible!

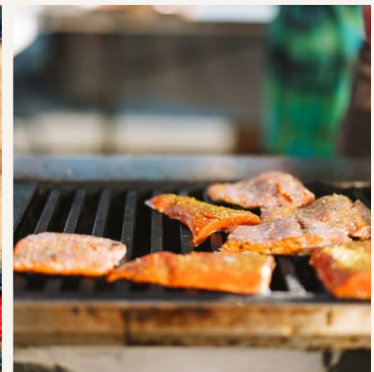
ACTIVITIES LINEUP

HANDS-ON
LOCAL
CREATIVE
FUN.

SEPTEMBER
25-26-27
2026

Inclusive Activities fill ALL 3 Days of this Fusion Arts Festival

K'OMOKS FUSION ARTS FESTIVAL
WWW.QUENEESHOCIETY.CA



01. ARTISAN MARKET

X ux aum Market is filled w Artists, Artisans, Makers + Producers! Come + explore!

02. YOUTH ZONE

č y qayumx ɔ ɪ w Storytelling, Make N Take Art Stations, Mini Workshops ALL FREE!

03. WELLNESS CIRCLE

Explore opł (to heal) for a better understanding of healthy living + wellness

04. HULQ'UMI'NUM'

Traditional foods, Salmon BBQ, bannock + food security workshops

MADE INDIGENOUS
MADE BY TRADITION

GATE ADMISSION BY DONATION
WWW.QUENEESHOCIETY.CA

So many activities
to participate in ~
shop, make + learn!

FRI SEPT 25
SAT SEPT 26
SUN SEPT 27 12-6
10-6
10-3

FILBERG PARK
COMOX BC
61 FILBERG ROAD

MUSIC STAGE LINEUP



**SEPTEMBER
25-26-27
2026**

AN ALL INDIGENOUS STAGE LINEUP OF INCREDIBLE PERFORMERS

K'OMOKS FUSION ARTS FESTIVAL
WWW.QUENEESHOCIETY.CA



01. TARA WILLIAMSON

The sultry acoustic sounds of Williamson + Guest | Friday 5 pm



02. JAMES VICKERS BAND

Get ready to for this high energy Blues band to rock the stage | Sat 4 pm



03. WELLS // HANSON

Enjoy the folk-rock-blues: Greg Wells of Weiwaikum + DJ Hanson of Klahoose FN



04. CULTURAL DANCING

Traditional Cultural Drumming, Singing + Dancing 2X Day Fri-Sun

WORKSHOP LINEUP

HANDS-ON
LOCAL
CREATIVE
FUN.

Explore hands-on Fine Arts workshops with Master Artists

**SEPTEMBER
25-26-27
2026**

K'OMOKS FUSION ARTS FESTIVAL
WWW.QUENEESHOCIETY.CA



01. CORRINE HUNT

Traditional Formline and Shapes fused with Contemporary Design



02. BRUCE ALFRED

Bentwood Box Making and historic info on Traditional First Nation Arts



03. WINADZI JAMES

Founder of Raven Tales shares Traditional Storytelling + Digital Art



04. LEONARD WILLIAMS

Cedar Weaving Specialist featuring Bracelets + Hats

**MADE INDIGENOUS.
MADE BY TRADITION**

**GATE ADMISSION BY DONATION
WWW.QUENEESHOCIETY.CA**

Workshop
Registration
[Eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca)



**FRI SEPT 25
SAT SEPT 26
SUN SEPT 27**



**12-6
10-6
10-3**



**FILBERG PARK
COMOX BC
61 FILBERG ROAD**

Hunt designed the 2010 Winter Games Medals for VANOC. At the time, her first Noguchi table was exhibited at a gallery in Yaletown. The exhibit and the table caught the attention of a VANOC staff and they loved it. She was sought after to submit an RFP for the Olympic medals and she was awarded the honour. "The entire experience at VANOC was amazing" shares Hunt. She is still producing cultural museum exhibits; last year she was in New York and has been asked worldwide to share her talents including her hometown Alert Bay for the U'mista Cultural Centre. Hunt feels very blessed to be able to do what she does!

BRUCE ALFRED

The incredibly talented Master Traditional Artist Bruce Alfred heads the lineup of talent and will be demonstrating building Bentwood Boxes and discussing the history behind Bentwood Boxes and the cultural meaning. **Demonstration times:** Friday September 25 at 3pm, Sunday September 27 at 12pm. **Cost:** \$25 + fees/taxes

Issue 50 | Bruce Alfred

Bruce Alfred does not see himself as an artist with a reputation, yet he has been chosen to participate in some very unique ventures and to contribute to fascinating projects. Perhaps, he has mused, his reputation as an imminent carver in wood is not in his home village of Alert Bay, BC but is outside of it.

Bruce is a member of the 'Namgis First Nations whose work today is known both in Canada and internationally. He received an award from the BC Achievement Foundation in 2008 for artistic excellence. Certainly, his meticulous workmanship is recognizable and that, combined with outstanding designs and vibrant colour makes his work highly sought after. His specialty is bentwood boxes, rattles, totem poles and traditional masks.

Bruce said that from the time he was very young, he always wanted to be a carver. He was raised by his grandmother Axu from the age of three. His grandmother did not speak English, and Bruce heard the Kwak'waka language being spoken from a young age.

Bruce's own growing reputation garnered opportunities to visit other countries and participate in international projects, and he has been to England, New York, Australia and Mexico. In 2010, he travelled to Manchester, England with Doug Cranmer's two nephews Kevin and Edgar to assess the repair of a totem pole originally created by Doug in 1967 in honour of Canada's Centennial year, then visited again a few years later with Bill Cranmer, a 'Namgis chief. This project led to a new commission in Blackpool this year, where Bruce created a stunning light screen showcasing First Nations' designs.

LEONARD TIGER WILLIAMS

Join Master Artisan Leonard Tiger Williams in a beautiful offering of traditional Cedar Weaving! Expect to spend a full hour + getting your bracelet underway and help to finish it over the weekend on the festival site. Workshops will take place next to the Master Artists Circle. **Workshop Times:** Friday Sept 25 at 2pm, Saturday Sept 26 at 11am, Sunday Sept 27 at 11am. **Cost:** \$30 + fees/taxes

Issue 51 | Leonard Williams

Leonard 'TIGER' Williams, a member of the Quatsino First Nation, is an accomplished, self-taught Cedar Bark artist of 25 years. He was born in Alert Bay in 1960 and is of the Quatsino and Tlowitsi ancestry. Williams was raised by both his grandmother and great grandmother, who encouraged him to pursue his interests for studying the natural world. His parents were survivors from St. Michael's Residential School in Alert Bay; in separate incidents both of Williams' parents drowned. Williams hasn't had the chance to visit Turnour Island but he notes there are some residential houses still standing on the island. "My family lived close to the centre of the village in the 9th house; I hope I can return one day while the buildings still stand," he says.

Throughout the years, he has watched addiction take over his family members. He is now the oldest member of his family. Williams battled his own issues with alcohol and was able to overcome it, with his health as his priority. He will be ten years sober as of this August and it has brought many things to light including his dedication to the art of weaving.

With a background in Culturally Modified Trees and Traditional Use Studies, Williams' opportunity to learn about the ecological growing conditions of various cedar species would eventually evolve into a harmonious relationship from start to finish of every piece of work he does.

Williams shares how his rich cultural knowledge started. "An Archeologist knocked on my door in 1994 and asked me if I wanted to work. I thought 'why not' and asked when would we be starting. The Archeologist responded 'in an hour'. Williams laughs a bit, and notes it must have been meant to be. Williams has visited and documented thousands of First Nations historic sites through this work and attributes his cultural knowledge to this opportunity. His artistry with cedar bark weaving is a result of the many different perspectives from which he studies his subject.

His work is informed by his study of Quatsino ethnographic objects held in museums around the world. In learning their forms, styles and weaving patterns, he repatriates lost knowledge for return to his people. From gathering and harvesting his cedar, visualization and implementing skill and technique, every piece clearly has a song deep in traditional values and process.

FESTIVAL TIMETABLE

HANDS-ON
LOCAL
CREATIVE FUN.

**SEPTEMBER
25-26-27
2026**

K'OMOKS FUSION ARTS FESTIVAL
WWW.QUEENEESHOCIETY.CA

Three days of music, makers, wellness + wild salmon at Filberg Park

Filberg Park · 61 Filberg Road, Comox BC · K'omoks Traditional Territory · Gate admission by donation

Masters Circle workshops: pre-register on Eventbrite or pay on site (limited availability). Master Artists host art displays in their own tents plus workshops in the Workshop Area.

01. FRIDAY SEPT 25 Gates 12–6 · Market 12–6 · BBQ 12–5:30

TIME	MUSIC STAGE First Credit Union	MASTERS CIRCLE Compass Magazine V.I.	WELLNESS CIRCLE	YOUTH ZONE
12 NOON	12.30 Welcoming + Opening Prayer	Master Artists' displays open		Art + Play Zone & Face Painting
1 PM	Cultural Performance	Local Edibles w Dianne MacLean	Brushing / Smudging session	
2 PM	Greg Wells — acoustic set	Cedar Bracelets w Leonard Williams, \$30		Raven Tales Storytelling w Winadzi
3 PM		Bentwood Boxes + History w Bruce Alfred, \$25	Drum Circle — bring your drum or shaker!	Make N Take Art w Lyndsay Dumont
4 PM	Cultural Performance	Art of Storytelling w Winadzi James, \$25		Storytelling w Métis Elder Flora Smigel
5 PM	Tara Williamson + guest			
6 PM	GATE CLOSES · SECURITY ON SITE			

02. SATURDAY SEPT 26 Gates 10–6 · Market 10–6 · BBQ 11–5:30

TIME	MUSIC STAGE First Credit Union	MASTERS CIRCLE Compass Magazine V.I.	WELLNESS CIRCLE	YOUTH ZONE
10 AM	10.15 Welcoming + Opening Prayer	Master Artists' displays open	10.45 Rise + Shine Stretch w Alisha	Art + Play Zone & Face Painting
11 AM	Cultural Performance	Cedar Bracelets w Leonard Williams, \$30	Local Edibles w Dianne MacLean	Raven Tales Storytelling w Winadzi
12 NOON			12.30 Sacred Circle w Bruce Dumont in tipi	Make N Take Art w Lyndsay Dumont
1 PM	DJ Hanson — acoustic	Traditional Formline + Design w Corrine Hunt, \$25		Storytelling w Frank Assu — Wewaikai
2 PM	Cultural Performance		2.15 Tea Party in Workshop Tent w June Johnson	
3 PM		3.15 Art of Storytelling w Winadzi James, \$25	3.30 Sound + Ground w Cam	Make N Take Art w Lyndsay Dumont
4 PM	James Vickers Band (Blues/RnB)			Storytelling w Flora Smigel — Métis Elder
6 PM	GATE CLOSES · SECURITY ON SITE			

03. SUNDAY SEPT 27 Gates 10–3 · Market 10–3 · BBQ 11–2:30

TIME	MUSIC STAGE First Credit Union	MASTERS CIRCLE Compass Magazine V.I.	WELLNESS CIRCLE	YOUTH ZONE
10 AM	10.15 Welcoming + Opening Prayer	Master Artists' displays open	10.45 Rise + Shine Stretch w Alisha	Art + Play Zone & Face Painting
11 AM	Cultural Performance	Cedar Bracelets w Leonard Williams, \$30		Raven Tales Storytelling w Winadzi
12 NOON		Bentwood Boxes + History w Bruce Alfred, \$25	12.30 Sacred Circle w Bruce Dumont in tipi	Make N Take Art w Lyndsay Dumont
1 PM	Greg Wells — acoustic	Traditional Formline + Design w Corrine Hunt, \$25		Storytelling w Frank Assu — Wewaikai
2 PM	Cultural Performance		Tea Party in Workshop Tent w June Johnson	Make N Take Art w Lyndsay Dumont
3 PM	2.45 CLOSING CEREMONY · GATE CLOSES – END OF FESTIVAL			

VENDOR MARKET

Orange sign = Indigenous Vendor · Red sign = Friend of Queneesh (QICS) Vendor

SALMON BBQ+

\$16 Wild Plate: sockeye + salad · \$20 incl bannock · \$6 bannock only · \$3 beverages · Fin + Feather Hot Dog Cart daily

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MADE BY TRADITION**

GATE ADMISSION BY DONATION · WWW.QUEENEESHOCIETY.CA

**FRI SEPT 25 12-6
SAT SEPT 26 10-6
SUN SEPT 27 10-3**

SCHEDULING AND TIMES MAY BE MODIFIED SLIGHTLY;
CHECK WWW.QUEENEESHOCIETY.CA FOR UPDATES!