

# *The FANNY BAY Flyer*

**A Complete Link To Your Community Services**

*FREE monthly distribution to 685 Fanny Bay homes from Mystery Beach to Mud Bay by the*  
Fanny Bay Community Association      A Registered Charitable Organization      MAY 2021



Perception vs Perspective



A segment of Carved and Damaged terrain on the trail



Damage from tire use

**The difference  
between a  
mountain and a  
molehill is your  
perspective.**

*~ Al Neuharth  
Please see  
Editor's story  
on back page*



Previous home of  
wild orchid



## WELCOME TO MAY

Did you know May is named for the Roman goddess Maia, who oversaw the growth of plants. The Birth flowers for May are Lily of the Valley and the Common Hawthorn. The birthstone is Emerald it is also the third of seven months to have a length of 31 days. There are plenty of reasons to love May It's the start of summer, flowers are blooming, and you can finally enjoy the outdoors again.

At the time of writing, PHO's currently limit social and sport gatherings to 10 people and gatherings can only be outside. This means unfortunately our Hall remains closed to all indoor activities. Pickleball outside has resumed in an altered fashion with a COVID Safety Plan in place. On a brighter note, the playground project is moving ahead nicely and the new design has been chosen. Thank you to those that participated in the design survey. The backstop and current playground are to be removed in the coming weeks, making room for the new and updated playground. Big thanks to Anne Trussler and Jamie Shepherd and their team for working on this project.

A big thank you to the CVRD for Grant monies that have allowed us to purchase some touchless upgrades to the inside of the hall including touchless soap and paper towel dispensers, sensor lighting, a new headset, and a few other touchless upgrades.

## Board Buzz

While the Hall remains closed, the Board has continued to meet monthly via Zoom to discuss and plan for a time when we can resume activities. Part of that planning process is looking for volunteers for the outdoor markets for this summer. As you may recall, we held two very successful outdoor markets last July & August and we are looking for a volunteer or volunteers to see this happen again. If you are interested in this position, please contact Debby McRae for more details.

Because of last month's Board Buzz we are happy to report we had a volunteer come forward to assist with the outdoor garbage. We are still looking for volunteers for key Board positions of *Vice-President, Secretary and Buildings & Grounds*. We will hold the FBCA Annual General Meeting **September 9, 2021, 5:00 p.m.** outdoors in the picnic area. We look forward to seeing you all there!

In conclusion, and once again a reminder that while vaccines are rolling out and more and more of us are getting our jab, we cannot let our guard down. We all need to use our layers of protection and continue to wash our hands, practice social distancing, wear a mask in public places. Our individual actions can make a difference. We need to support one another and come together as a team. Let's do our part today, tomorrow and next week.

Have a wonderful month of May!

## THE MANY BENEFITS OF OUR COMMUNITY HALL

The Fanny Bay Community Hall has been closed since March 2020, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Therefore, no activities or events have taken place there for over a year, other than individual and family use of the outdoor area, the Flu Clinic, and our summer Markets. The FBCA was recently required to reiterate all that goes on at the Hall, in response to a query from a provincial organization. The task reminded us all how important the Hall is to our community, and we would like to share with you portions of the lovely response written by Suzanne Murray and Erna Smith.

*Many events and activities take place on our property: concerts (from baroque and choirs, to jazz and solo performances); dances (celebratory, square dances, tango, and ceilidhs); fitness activities (yoga, aerobics, strength training); a reading series featuring visiting and local writers; free films for*

*families; community events at holidays (Halloween, Christmas, Easter, Family Day); sports activities (pickleball, basketball); local garden club plant sales; outdoor markets; car shows; annual flu clinics, and a family day in the summer (Fanny Bay Day). In addition, our grounds include a children's playground (currently being upgraded) and an off leash, completely fenced, dog park, both open to the public year-round.*

*Our Community Hall can be rented by the public for weddings, celebrations of life, birthday parties, or other private events. As the largest hall in our community, it is also used as a voting place for federal, provincial, and local elections, and is designated by the Comox Valley Emergency Program as a Reception Centre in case there is a community wide emergency (fire, earthquake).*

BENIFITS Cont'd on page 3



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There is no fee charged to use the property except when an area inside the Hall is rented (kitchen, dining room, main hall, or yoga studio). There is no fee charged to use the playground, dog park, picnic area, or the large playing field. The property outside is open to the public generally, and inside when an event or activity is going on. In addition, permission has been granted for other non-profit community groups, such as the Beaufort Watershed Stewards, to use the dining room for meetings.

The FBCA encourages community members to become members of the Association. The cost is \$10 for an individual and \$20 for a family. Paid up members do not receive benefits above and beyond what the members of the community would receive, other than the satisfaction of knowing they are supporting the Hall. The Association produces a monthly newsletter called the Fanny Bay Flyer, which is distributed free to everyone living in the VOR 1W0 postal area.

The benefits to the community because of all the events and activities that happen at the Hall are many. It is a place where people gather to exercise, chat, share stories, enjoy a concert or a reading series, celebrate a wedding or the life of a friend who has passed away, or attend a dinner, often to raise funds for the Hall or to support a family in need. Should

there be an emergency in Fanny Bay, residents know they can come to the Hall and be safe. It is an integral part of our community, supported and appreciated by the residents who live here, and drawing people from communities to the south and north of us to participate in the events we host.

If you feel, as we do, that the Hall is worthy of community support, you may renew your annual membership by contacting our new Membership Director, Sherry Harrill, at [memberships@fannybaycommunity.com](mailto:memberships@fannybaycommunity.com).



## BAYNES SOUND GARDEN CLUB

May not be meeting just yet, but we are all busy in our gardens. That wonderful stretch of warm sunshine in the middle of April gave a jump start to the growing season. While the 20 degree highs had us eager to plant, the frosty overnights told us to be cautious about what we put out. But now we can



be reasonably certain that the frost is behind us, and can begin to plant our vegetable seeds in the warming soil. Soon carrots, beets, peas, beans and so many more

will be poking up through the ground.

In the greenhouse, tomato and pepper starters are doing well, along with lovage, parsley, marigolds and many more. I hesitate to put many outside until I can find them safe homes away from deer and rabbits. The mason bees are emerging, hopefully to pollinate the orchard blooms. As the flowers bloom, the hummingbirds are busy pollinating too, when they aren't fighting over the feeders.

We are especially looking forward to the annual Plant Sale, Covid edition, starting May 8<sup>th</sup>. Many of us have been busy for the last couple of months starting, potting up and splitting plants to contribute. As always, there will be a fantastic variety at very reasonable prices.

Although, due to the pandemic, the Garden Club has not met in person in over a year, we are staying in contact. Every month we collaborate on a newsletter, full of stories, hints, ideas and gorgeous photos, which is then emailed to all members. Membership also allows us a discount at some of our favourite garden shops.

We welcome anyone who wants to join us [baynessound-gardenclub.info@gmail.com](mailto:baynessound-gardenclub.info@gmail.com) for information or to receive our newsletter.

by Janet Haigh

Baynes Sound Garden Club

# "Spring in Fanny Bay"

## PLANT SALE

**Saturday and Sunday, May 8 & 9\***  
**10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Multiple driveway locations:**  
Cougar Smith Road (both days)  
Bates Drive (both days)  
Walker Road (May 8 only)  
**WATCH FOR SIGNS!**

Locally grown perennials, annuals, shrubs, veggie starts, and more!

**NOTE: cash sales and exact change only!**

**COVID RULES APPLY**

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\*Remaining plants will continue to be sold at the Bates Drive location for the following week until gone.

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**Special General Meeting – save the date!**

Saturday, May 15, find out the results of our vote on the proposed merger with First Credit Union. A Special General Meeting to announce the outcome will be held at 2:00 pm; meeting location is dependent on Provincial Health Orders and may take place online. Contact your branch to RSVP.

<b>Union Bay</b> 250.335.2122	<b>Lighthouse</b> 250.757.8146	<b>Hornby Island</b> 250.335.2326
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**Ships Point Spring Chipping Weekend**  
**Date of Chipping CHANGED to MAY 29th & 30th**  
**IF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS ALLOW**

Clean brush only, foliage OK, No raked material, NO BLACKBERRIES (rocks). Stack branches at the roadside, butt ends together for easy feeding into chipper.

**If you want us to HAUL the chips, you MUST register**  
 at: [spvfirefightersassociation@gmail.com](mailto:spvfirefightersassociation@gmail.com) Include:  
 Your name, address and if chips are to be **HAULED** away or if **KEEPING** chips. New volunteers are welcome. Please email to sign up. For insurance reasons, volunteers must be officially signed in. Residents **CANNOT** help at the roadside.

**WATER CONSERVATION STAGE 2 BEGINS MAY 1st**

SPID's Drought Response Plan calls for us to move to Water Conservation Stage 2 annually on **May 1<sup>st</sup>**. Stage 2 recommends that Ships Point residents sprinkle lawns and trees between the hours of 10:00 pm through 10:00 am ONLY. During warm or windy weather, the majority of water from a sprinkler evaporates before it has a chance to reach your plants' roots which wastes water and does the garden no good. To get the most from every drop, please plan to get yard and garden sprinkling done before 10:00 am. Hand watering, drip and micro irrigation may be done at any time. And this is a great time of year to check your sprinkler/irrigation system for broken sprinkler heads and leaks. Please see [spid.ca](http://spid.ca) for more information regarding the SPID Drought Response Plan and Water Conservation guidelines. And don't forget to monitor the Ships Point entrance board for changes to both the Water Conservation Stage and the Fire Danger Rating. It's that time of year!

#### **AGM and SPID TRUSTEE ELECTIONS**

Due to the ongoing increase in cases of COVID-19 on Vancouver Island, plans for our Annual General Meeting and trustee elections are on hold. Planning will resume once it is safe to gather again. Please stay tuned.

#### **WATER MAIN FLUSHING**

From **May 12-14** you may notice our Water Operator flushing the main water lines and fire hydrants. Water main flushing is performed regularly to ensure continued safe, clean drinking water. The line flushing may cause some cloudiness in the water. If this occurs, please run an outside tap until it clears.

#### **BURN PERMITS**

A reminder that as of **April 15**, burning permits are required for open air fires AND non commercial or homemade fire pits. Burning permits can be found on the SPID website at [www.spid.ca](http://www.spid.ca) along with up to date information on the Venting Index. Please note that beach fires are NOT allowed anywhere or at anytime on Ships Point. The following information may be helpful in clarifying the SPID by-laws regarding burning: **Open Air Fires** - defined as an outdoor fire not contained in a fire pit or authorized outdoor fireplace (a campfire or backyard burning). A person igniting, permitting, or maintaining an Open Air Fire shall take following precautions:

- No burning during windy periods.
- Light material that could fly away while on fire must be covered by heavier material or held down by a wire mesh while being burned.
- No burning within 5 meters (16 ft) of any flammable material.
- Fire must be attended and safeguarded at all times by at least one adult.
- Charged hose and shovel are to be on fire site and available for immediate use.
- Maximum fire size is 1.5 meters by 1.5 meters by 1 meter high (4.5' by 4.5' by 3' high).
- Responsible to immediately contact Fire Department thru 911 should fire escape.
- Shall ensure fire is fully extinguished before leaving the area.

- A person may ignite and maintain a fire outside of Fire Season (15 Apr – 15 Oct) without a Burning Permit, but must do so in accordance with the above requirements.

- No person shall permit any Open Air Fire to be ignited during Fire Season (15 Apr – 15 Oct) unless they have first obtained a signed Burning Permit.
- No Burning Permits will be issued when the Fire Danger Rating is High or where there is a total burning ban.

#### **COMMERCIALLY AVAILABLE WOOD-BURNING FIRE PITS:**

Fires are allowed in commercially available fire pits without a burning permit as long as the non-combustible spark arrestor has openings not greater than 1/4 inch by 3/8 inch in size. In the case of 'bowl type' com-



mercially available fire pits, the hemispheric spark arrestor shall be placed over the fire at all times, except when



burnable material is being added to the fire. The person igniting, permitting, or maintaining a fire pit fire shall take following precautions: • No burning to be done during windy periods. • No burning to be done within 3 meters (10 ft) of any flammable material. • Fire must be attended and safeguarded at all times by at least one adult person. • Charged hose and shovel are to be immediately available. • Fires in commercial fire pits are not allowed when the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme, or where there is a total burning ban.

#### NON-COMMERCIAL OR HOMEMADE FIRE PITS:

The same restrictions and cautions noted above for commercial fire pits apply to non-commercial units as well.

In addition, the unit must be inspected and authorized by the Fire Chief each season, and a burning permit obtained prior to use. Depending on type of construction and safety features, a burning permit may be issued for the entire fire season. Fires in non-commercial fire pits are not allowed when the Fire Danger Rating is High or Extreme, or when there is a total burning ban.



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## APRIL SHOWERS! RAIN TO GROW THE FLOWERS

April has come and gone leaving memories of sunny days and fresh mown grass. Our hall is still closed due to COVID-19 but a few of us did gather with masks and gloves on to prepare our Easter Dinner on Wheels. Wow, what a busy day Saturday April 3rd was for our Fanny Bay Seniors!

Since we still can't get together to socialize we made an Easter Dinner on Wheels to take to members. We prepared baked ham, scalloped potatoes, glazed carrots, green peas with onion, and dinner rolls for 60 people. This was topped off with a yummy lemon dessert. A huge thanks goes out to **Thrifty Foods** who very generously donated the groceries for this delicious meal. We can't thank them enough for their thoughtfulness!



Our Easter Bunny kitchen workers are Sylvia Radford, Prue Robson, Joan Johnsen, Betty Haddon, Fran and Bruce Mills. Our scalloped potatoes home cooks were Mary Bowen,

Prue Robson, Finn Keim and Ann Trussler.

Our Easter Bunny delivery people were Norma Shelley, Roy Shields, Mike and Prue Robson, Sylvia Radford, Bruce Mills, Ann Trussler, and Walt and Joan Johnsen. We had loads of fun planning, preparing and delivering a little cheer for our second COVID-19 Easter.

We also wish to express our gratitude to all of our members and non-members who gave our drivers donations to the OAP when their dinners were delivered. Maxine Gibson & George Boothby, Mike & Prue Robson, Mary & Barry Bowen, Roy Shields & Norma Shelley, Edith & Dick Walters, Betty Haddon, Maureen Patterson and Steve & Trish Sweeney. We very much appreciate your support!



Another Thank-you goes out to Ray from the Fanny Bay Fix-it Shop. To help raise funds he has very generously done maintenance on a variety of small engines and equipment that others have donated to make them saleable. He has also donated to the OAP, a variety of hedge trimmers, chain saws, lawn mowers, weed eaters, a tool box on wheels and leaf blowers. Thanks Ray!

We hope you all had a healthy, safe, kind and Happy Easter. As more of us receive our Covid-19 vaccinations we're hopeful that we can have a few activities during the summer. Until that time it will be pretty quiet at the OAP Hall.

(OAP Report cont'd on page 10)

## IT'S FUN TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS

They offer new perspectives and provide new information. They also present challenges and opportunity. Of course, new friends don't replace old friends. We at Beaufort Watershed Stewards (BWS) have no plans to abandon our old friends, Wilfred, Cowie, Mud Bay, Hart, and Waterloo but we are very excited to get to know some new friends: Trent, Spence, Hindoo, Emily, Tsable, and Apple-Cherry.

Last year, we made the decision to purchase an additional set of sampling equipment to outfit a "northern pod" of volunteers. There were many things driving the decision. First and foremost is that no one else is doing it and it needs to be done. The hydrology of our region is complicated, and no single watershed gives all the answers; all the watersheds have something to tell us.

So, who are these new friends, these new creeks? Let me introduce you.

You may be familiar with the first one, t

the Trent, which has been rolling along for a long time, carving its way through an ancient sea floor, the 80-million-year-old Haslam Formation, exposing Elasmosaurus bones and other fossils on its journey through time. Access to the Trent is already well established and the paths are nicely worn. The hardest part, at least in the warmer months, will be getting far enough upstream of sunbathers and nature splashers to get a clean sample.

Spence, on the other hand, doesn't cross the upper highway and isn't as accessible to the general public. Its waters rise in a large shallow depression between the Trent and Hart Creek and its drainage is fully contained below the upper highway. We've chosen a sampling site just off the old rail bed where it gathers itself into a huge, green bowl of conifers and sword ferns, a shady gem. Its volume is low right now and it may fade away in the dryness

of summer. Or, like little Mud Bay Creek, it may prove to have deeper sources and shine all summer. This is why we get to know these various bits of hydrology that others call streams.

As we clamber about on our newly cleared trails, some of us are more interested in the rocks than the water. Hindoo, for example, appears to run along a clear fault line. The geology nerds among us are already planning an expedition to the upper reaches to see what this fault looks like. And why does Hindoo have such a large culvert, far bigger than what we would expect? And why is there such a beefy web of steel girders erected just upstream from the culvert? It's as if the highway engineers were anticipating giant masses of flotsam rushing downstream during the winter storms. But why Hindoo and not the others?

Emily doesn't have this kind of engineered structure which hints at dramatic mood swings. Instead, she seems to be a sweet little stream that apparently has some human friends on Mystery Beach Road.

A carved wooden sign makes Emily easy to locate. A handmade wooden bench allows for quiet contemplation of the beauty of nature and Emily in particular.

Our sampling site for Emily is above the upper highway and in that setting she loses a bit of her charm. She becomes just another stream going through just another culvert. But we have no doubt there is more to learn about Emily.



The Tsable is a real challenge. It's one of the largest of our local watersheds and arguably one of the more important. But it's not easy to get there from the upper highway. Right now, we might be comfortable scrambling down its steeply cut banks, but for how long? In the winter rains, when the ground turns to slippery mud, we won't be comfortable asking our volunteers to take the risk. Yes, we have insurance, but our goal is to never have to use it. We're determined to find a solution - and we will - but there's no rush. Spring is a good time for further explorations.

Our final new stream is one that folks in Fanny Bay cross often though they might not know it. Apple-Cherry is its current name though at one time it was simply called Cherry Creek. It's easy to miss - there is no bridge. It runs down the hill just south of the Fanny Bay Trading Post and empties directly into the band of wetland between the road and the bay.

And now that the introductions are complete, we can begin to ask questions of our new friends. What animals might we see in their environs? What birds? Are they home to fish? What kind, how many? What mushrooms will pop up on their to mark the seasons? But most importantly, what insights will they provide for understanding our aquifers and our hydrology?

Time will tell.

You too can get to know our new friends. Contact us to volunteer [info@beaufortwater.org](mailto:info@beaufortwater.org) or call Mike at 250.702.5900

*by Mike Mesford*



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## NOW THAT MAY IS HERE, FANNY BAY

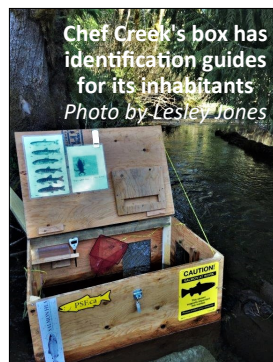
Salmonid Enhancement Society is turning to the duties that spring brings us. Some chores get done and solve more than one problem. That would include the infamous mink. With the release of this year's brood stock to Rosewall Creek, dinner just got a lot harder to catch. One of our pests did himself in with his greed, finding it impossible to get out of the raceway he was dining in, but others have taken his place, only to find sushi is off the menu. FBSES had 65,806 fin-clipped Coho smolts weighing an average 14 grams ready for release and they went out in seven evening releases in April into Rosewall from our tanks and raceways. They won't have to worry about mink anymore. Otters, Seals, Orcas, Herons, Eagles, yes, to name a few. Boys named Sue have nothing on the challenges of salmon.

Growing up big and strong on land is the chore trees face, and we give hundreds of Grand Firs, Douglas Firs, Spruce and Cedar a nice home in our nursery. We provide a good start for them and a great place for you to send all your **one-gallon** plant pots. Whatever you do with the rest of your plastic, set those aside for us. For a safe pickup, call us at 250-335-1575 or email us at [pres@fbSES.ca](mailto:pres@fbSES.ca)

In April and May of each year Fanny Bay volunteers visit our four little stream installations called smolt fences to catalog their aquatic life. The fences channel the stream's creatures into a collection box to allow an inventory and release. Four of our members who visit these boxes wrote these notes to give you a glimpse into them.

**Lesley Jones:** We (Lesley and Barry) have been checking the newly placed smolt box designed and maintained by Randy Lousier at Chef Creek. The box is accessed by a pleasant 200-meter trail down from the highway near the Cook Creek bridge. This is the time in the Coho life cycle when the smolts from the 2019 spawning are heading out to the ocean and we want to count them and get a better understanding of the production of the creek. We check the overall area and clean any debris that has accumulated. We record general observations, weather, air and water temperature and water level in the creek. We count, measure, and release the Coho smolts. We also record and identify any other species or critters that have been trapped. Sometimes a little salamander or trout; there is a surprising variety of aquatic life! We release them all so that they can continue their respective journeys. The accumulated data is eventually compiled and assessed to give a real time picture of the creek's health and salmon production.

**Janet Haigh:** We are doing Cook Creek this year and have now checked it twice. Best catch so far is a rough-skinned newt (which I thought was an orange-bellied salamander), and now they tell us not to touch it because of poison on its skin. Luckily, we used the net to move it from the box back to the wetland, so no harm came to any of the three of us. Biggest problem so far is that the creek is too high for my gumboots, or perhaps my boots are too short for the creek. I'd say never mind,



Chef Creek's box has identification guides for its inhabitants  
Photo by Lesley Jones

but when the water temp is only 4C, there is frost on the grass, I really don't want creek water in my boots. So instead, I sent Doug into the creek (bigger boots) and I perched above on a wobbly rock to write down the pertinent details. The other mystery we

found on our first day (tiny, really silver fish with big back fin) was later identified as a three-spine stickleback-- much easier to identify later in the season when they actually do have three spines. Very few Coho so far, but I am sure they will be along soon. Coolest thing is the frog raft! It floats in the box so the amphibians can rest till we release them.

**Lorraine Gardener:** Once a week, Randy and I walk two creeks, Chef and Cook, to check the smolt trap boxes. These traps are checked daily by hatchery volunteers, who are usually from the same household ...so we are being Covid-smart! The numbers of each species are recorded on a data sheet, along with the creek and box temperatures, water level and weather conditions. These sheets are returned to the hatchery for data input and the information is used by DFO and university students. This is an excellent way to see what is happening in our local creeks. Walking along the trails, we say 'hello' to the trillium that bloom each spring. Seeing the growing pine, cedars, hemlock and various firs planted by past and present volunteers is like greeting old friends! By observing small things, we can make more sense of the Big Picture!

**Alaine and Bill French:** One of the spring activities we enjoy is our day to check the smolt box at Wilfred Creek. The location of the box alone is a delight. The creek singing its song over the rocks, the fresh green spring buds emerging, and skunk cabbages showing their yellow heads. Opening the box has an element of suspense--how many will there be today? Our first visit this year was a disappointing zero. When the creek is warmer there can be many, even over a hundred. Tallying and identifying the fish in the dip net can be a challenge as they are flipping around anxious to be back in the creek. Often the last one or two in the box are very good in their evasion tactics to avoid the net. Tenacity on our part ends with "Gotcha!"

by Dave Sands



FBSES REPORT

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## LIVING WILD

Let's have a little fun this month! While we are still under restrictions, the sun is shining and it's always refreshing to try something new. I always attempt to tackle a complex subject in an entertaining way, but for May I am switching things up and testing your knowledge as gardening season is exploding with the onset of spring.

Do you know what makes the distinction between a fruit and a vegetable? We all know that tomatoes are actually fruit, but why? Did you know that pumpkins, cucumbers and avocados are fruits and not vegetables? Foods that bear the plant's seeds are fruits, and the ones that don't are vegetables. Which makes it interesting as Rhubarb is actually a vegetable! This rule excludes legumes however, as peas are still veggies. Confused yet? Strawberries are the only fruit that has seeds on the outside, and an average of 200 per berry! Rosaceae, the Rose family has much more to offer than the beautiful flowers we adore especially on Valentine's Day. Pears, apricots, apples, blackberries, hawthorn, quinces, plums, cherries, raspberries and peaches are all in the same family! In fact, even almonds are a variety of Rosaceae! Only a medium sized plant family, Rosaceae has 4,828 known species in 91 genera according to Wikipedia. All roses are edible, so when you take a moment to smell a rose, keep in mind all of the foods that share the same family, and maybe try a fresh petal or two!

We all know that microbes contribute to soil health, but did you know that there are more microorganisms in one spoonful of soil than there are number of people present on Earth? Bacteria, archaea, protozoa, algae and fungus are all parts of the 50 billion microbes in one tablespoon of soil, and they work together as the 'stomachs' of plants cycling nutrients and water. The plant roots help the microbes digest the nutrients, and in turn the plant is provided with essentials of life such as nitrogen and phosphorus.



The Incas brought Sunflowers to their temples in worship of the Sun God. Each sunflower head is composed of thousands of tiny flowers on one stem. Amazing, but did you know there are sunflowers in space? Don Pettit, a US Astronaut brought some of his sunflower seeds to the International Space Station in 2012 and grew a sunflower in space! NASA has been developing growing technology in the ISS to provide future astronauts with sustainable food supplements.

While we are on the topic of flowers, I would like to mention that the Vanilla Bean actually comes from an orchid! The pod shaped fruit of the Vanilla Planifolia gives us that wonderful vanilla flavor, and although they resemble a bean, they are more closely related to the corn family than beans. There is a Sherry Baby orchid variety that smells like chocolate, the Phalaenopsis Violacea orchid smells like cinnamon and the Golden Elf variety smells of fresh lemon.

A little news that may be disappointing for some, if you pick up those slugs and toss them thinking you have won, I am sorry to say they will be back! Slugs and snails have a homing instinct, so you need to get them over 20m away which means you would need a pretty good arm! They remember exactly where your garden plot is, so the best remedy is to make a beer trap or borrow some ducks.

A little more on the wild side, do you know what are the longest living organisms on the Earth? Trees! Did you know that Ginkgo Biloba is one of the oldest living tree species dating back over 250 million years? Another long living species is the Dawn Redwood at over 150 million years. What is most profound is that both of these species were actually discovered in fossils before they had ever been found alive!

Now for the real wild side! No article of amazing fun gardening facts would be complete without telling you about the "Bare Bum Test" which is docu -

(Living Wild cont'd on page 9)



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## FANNY BAY NATURALLY

For a change of scenery, I recently loaded my dogs into the car and drove up Hastings Road for a walk under the power lines. We were about halfway around our loop when I suddenly recalled a post on Fanny Bay's community Facebook page about the windshield wipers and window seals of cars being vandalized by ravens in the area. Oh no! There was no rushing my elderly dogs so I crossed my fingers as we plodded back to the car. It must have been too early in the day for Mr. Raven because luckily there was no damage done and no raven in sight. Phew!

No one really knows the reasons behind this odd behaviour but there are plenty of theories, which range from attacking reflections in the window and attempted break-ins, to boredom and "juvenile delinquency." There's also a theory that when exposed to heat or UV radiation, rubber and vinyl release a chemical that is appealing to birds.

The most common theory from the experts is play; ravens are apparently amused by the stretchy, flexible rubber of wipers and window seals. Indeed juvenile ravens are among the most playful of all bird species. They slide down snowbanks just for fun and I've seen them repeatedly sliding down the metal roof of a shed in our yard! They engage in catch-me-if-you-can games with other species - wolves, otters, and dogs - and use twigs as "toys" in games with other young ravens.

There's obviously a lot more going on in the shiny black head of a raven than we generally give birds credit for. The term "bird brain" really applies only to size. Studies published last year found that large corvids (birds from the family *Corvidae*, such as ravens, crows, magpies, and jays) have the same or greater forebrain neuron counts as monkeys with much larger brains, and therefore have greater cognitive power per unit mass than mammals. The common raven has the largest brain of any bird species and its intelligence is thought to be on par with primates and dolphins when it comes to logic, memory, and performing complex steps. While all birds come genetically wired to perform intricate tasks such as building nests, research has shown that a raven can work out and test a complex set of actions in its mind prior to performing a newly presented task. This capacity is not apparent, or present only to a limited extent, in most other animals. Ravens can even be taught to talk, although there is debate as to whether they actually understand the words or if it's just mimicry.

Ravens are found over most of the northern hemisphere and in almost all types of habitat - forests, beaches, mountains, desert - but they generally prefer rural environments to urban settings. They also eat just about anything - small animals, eggs, insects, fish, grain, buds, berries, human food and garbage, and carrion - and store surplus food in caches. Common ravens are omnivorous, opportunistic, and highly adaptable. They are not social birds like their crow cousins. Juvenile ravens tend to group together, but mature ravens are usually seen alone or in pairs, except at bountiful food sources such as landfills.

But back to cars - what to do? Well, you might consider some PVC pipe to slide over the wipers when you park. You can use a car cover or tarp. Do your best imitation of Edgar Allan Poe's raven and tell the offender "Nevermore?" Whatever you do, don't be mean to the raven or make him angry - ravens recognize faces and have long memories!

*by Jackie Dunham*



(*Living Wild* cont'd from page 8)

mentioned in many old gardening texts and books, and was a common method used to measure if the soil temperatures were warm enough to sow seeds. One would simply pull down their pants and if the soil was warm enough to sit on, it was declared warm enough for planting. Although it is very important to not plant too early, please spare your neighbours and use a meat thermometer! Soil temperature should be between 15-20C (60-70F) for most seeds to be safe!

Hope you learned a little and maybe had a laugh or two!

*by Angela Hicke - Van Isle Wild*



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Your Comox Valley Regional District Director

**Daniel Arbour**

Electoral Area A

Baynes Sound - Denman/Hornby Islands

Tel: 250-650-8480  
[reachme@danielarbour.ca](mailto:reachme@danielarbour.ca)



(OAP Report cont'd from page 5)

We wish a very Happy May Birthday to: Gary Hargreaves; Ann Mansbridge; Joan Johnsen; Rob Payne; Dick Walters; Gayle Livingstone; Aileen Beasley.

Also a very Happy Mother's Day to all our lovely ladies.

*by Linda Tournemille*

## COUGAR ENCOUNTERS

Keep your pets indoors, especially at night. Cats and dogs that are left to free-range can become easy prey targets. Feed your pets indoors. Uneaten bird or pet food can attract cougars and other cougar prey species such as rodents (rats, squirrels) and raccoons.

Visit <https://wildsafebc.com/species/cougar/>, especially the tabs on Safety and Conflict Resolution, to protect children

## FRIENDLY REMINDER IT'S HONEYBEE SWARM SEASON!

Swarming is the honey bee's natural process of reproduction, where a colony splits in two or more distinct colonies; one of which will appear as thousands of bees grouping together in a tree, on a branch, or in an unusual area. If you see a swarm, please contact one of our experienced Beekeepers in Fanny Bay who are available to assist:

Harrison Walker 250-218-6438  
 Bonnie Zand 250-898-9841  
 Sandy Gray 250-335-0584  
 Max Mielke 250-713-4026  
 Rebecca Kayfet 250-218-7514



## SHIPS POINT LAUNCH

It's May!

**The month of new growth, rabid gardeners and plant sales!**

Stanley wanted to help and he had a valuable asset. He could dig. His first selection was in a glorious garden on Little Way. Someone had just planted a stick with a ribbon on it and the ground was still soft. He decided this must be a very good plant and quickly unearthed the lilac. *Syringa Pinnatifolia*, to be exact. A rare and exotic variety, very difficult to locate and would certainly be the only one of its kind on Ships Point.

Just as he yanked the plant out of the dirt there was a flash and he knew he'd been caught on camera. Busted! When it's necessary for Stanley to be seen in public he wears his Zorro mask. He put a wet nose on the camera lens and then gave it a doggy lick thus making his own image unrecognizable. Still, he felt it was time to move on and find another kind of plant to add to the collection.

A nature buff at heart, Stanley felt an indigenous plant would be a good addition. In a marshy spot, something caught his eye. He was stunned and in awe of this unusual plant. It was the brilliant yellow leaves of *Lysichiton americanus*, skunk cabbage. He broke off as much as he could take in one mouthful, rolled in it, (ah heaven!) and carried off his prize to the drop spot.

The next garden was on Baynes and again he was drawn by the smell of newly turned dirt. Raspberries! *Rubus idaeus* L. The brown canes were long and prickly so he chewed that part off, saving the bottom half. He grabbed the stump and with dirt trailing from the roots he carried them to the place where he would be offering plants. Free. A gift to the community. He imagined how thrilled everyone would be and vowed to stay humble.

He needed one more big score. Across from the fire hall there is a place that has a large collection of roses. Everyone loves roses! He managed to dig out Zephirine Drouhin, a prized historic rose. Dragging an 8' plant with thorns proved to be, well, prickly and Stanley had had enough by then.

The collection site was at the Welcome sign. He laid his plant sale grabs by the bicycle, dug all the daffodils in the wheelbarrow and laid them on top of the heap. This was a desirable spot for two reasons. It was a place people drive or walk by and a good place for him to see how the plant sale went. Early the next morning Stanley donned a coat and safari hat and sat on the bench across the street. He pretended to be looking at the shoreline. In truth, he had his cell phone ready to take a selfie with all the delighted people.

And it happened! People pulled their cars over hard and there was a lot of talk and laughter. And some real concern too. Who is robbing people's gardens?

So, folks, a little warning. custodiet te petunias prize... protect your prize petunias!

*by Dianne Volrich*





## *Community Contacts*

### **Aerobics (FB Hall)**

Suzanne Murray ..... 335-2533

### **Baynes Sound Lions Club (OAP Hall)**

Cliff Helps ..... 335-1112

### **Baynes Sound Garden Club (OAP Hall)**

Juanita Purin..... [juanitamoa@shaw.ca](mailto:juanitamoa@shaw.ca)

### **Beachcombers Academy Little Oysters Preschool**

Principal - Ms. Cathy Bertram..... 778-427-4007

### **Beaufort Watershed Stewards**

Mike Mesford ..... 250-702-5900

### **CVRD Area A Director [reachme@danielarbour.ca](mailto:reachme@danielarbour.ca)**

Daniel Arbour ..... 250-650-8480

### **Fanny Bay Hall RENTAL**

Judy Starr ..... 335-0241

### **Facebook Page ..... [fannybayhall](https://www.facebook.com/fannybayhall)**

### **FBCA Website ..... [fannybaycommunity.com](http://fannybaycommunity.com)**

### **Fanny Bay Parents & Tots, Evelyn Bally...335-9022**

### **Fanny Bay Quilt Group**

Noreen Sterling ..... 335-3010

Joan Johnsen ..... 335-2333

### **Fanny Bay Salmonid Enhancement Society**

Judy Ackinclose ..... 335-0010

### **Fanny Bay Volunteer Fire Department**

Chief - Mike Smith ..... 250-702-3346

### **Fanny Bay Waterworks District Office**

Patricia McLean ..... 250-927-2770

### **Men's Caregiver Support Group**

Wayne Wheeler ..... 250-927-1474

### **Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program**

Steve Strachan ..... [sstrachanfbfd@gmail.com](mailto:sstrachanfbfd@gmail.com)

### **OAP #127 Hall 418 Ships Point Road**

Bruce Mills .... Hall RENTAL ..... 335-1337

### **Pickleball (FB Hall) Cher Kuss ..... 778-427-4137**

### **Ships Point Volunteer Fire Department**

Chief - Terry Hoffart ..... 335-0680

### **Ships Point Improvement District**

Office - Nina LeBlanc ..... 335-0551

### **Yoga (FB Hall) Josey Slater ..... 250-650-4535**

### **Youth Group Evelyn Bally ..... 335-9022**

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Opinions expressed in the Flyer are not necessarily those of the FBCA or the editor. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the Flyer's content, neither the Association nor the Editor assume responsibility for any misprints or errors, which may appear in the information given and printed within. Submit camera ready artwork - jpg, gif, tiff - or inquires to [flyer@fannybaycommunity.com](mailto:flyer@fannybaycommunity.com)

The FBCA Board of Directors will promote activities that enhance the quality of life for Fanny Bay residents.

The Board seeks community input, invites participation, encourages the use of the Fanny Bay Hall as a place to gather, share, foster and deepen the sense of community while maintaining the existing structure in good condition.

The FBCA gratefully acknowledges the support of the Province of BC through a Community Gaming Grant which enables the delivery of low cost programs & activities.

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### PERCEPTION vs PERSPECTIVE

I walk many trails and logging roads around Fanny Bay with my dog. We discovered a truly magical, deep forest trail some months ago. My dog does leaps and bounds of joy there. It was gently cleared some years ago and is full of ferns, moss and fungi. It is appreciated by several (dog) walkers. A living, breathing, evolving forest.

The entrance was always a little difficult to find. I made note of a large stump after my second visit. I even marked the imperceptible opening with a large rock.

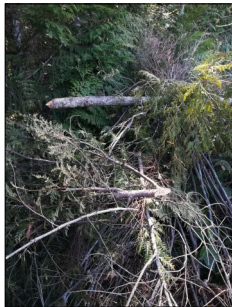
Weeks ago, I noticed a couple of trees had been scared by a blaze. This past week several of us walkers were shocked to see someone

had hacked down trees and laid the secret trail entrance wide open. Dirt ramps have been carved out on this trail. One blaze on a tree marks a spot which had logs and sticks to protect a rare forest orchid. The logs have been tossed and the area is trampled.

If you recognize this growth management area because you helped chop, clear and desecrate it for your own usage, you should be aware that the managers of the land: Ministry of Forests & Land and K'omoks First Nation, have been notified of the illegal trail. This is a protected-sensitive ecosystem, and one walking-trail use path is more than enough to minimize damage to the site. They will be fining anyone found riding (motor bikes). They recommend taking dirt bikes and quads to

other areas. Please do not drive ATVs through creeks.

by Wendy Keating



## Celebrating co-operative movements in action

### Merger vote symbolic of credit unions' democratic process

On Saturday, May 15, Union Bay Credit Union is holding a Special General Meeting to announce the results of our vote to merge with First Credit Union.

Regardless of the outcome, it truly will be a special day because it is symbolic of the democratic structure that is the basis for all co-operatives.

When organizations operate as co-operatives, they work for the best interests of their members and the communities they serve, not third-party investors. Credit unions are financial co-operatives guided by some basic principles, not least of which is being directed by democratic member control. Because when you do business with a credit union, you are more than a customer – you are an owner.

As a member owner, you get to have your say by voting on which other members make up the Board of Directors or other things such as, for instance, a proposed merger with another like-minded co-operative. This democratic process ensures we always operate with our members' objectives and needs in mind.

As independent, autonomous entities, credit unions exist to serve members and support local communities. And we are grateful for all our members' continued support of us! To show our appreciation for everyone who took the time to vote, we are donating \$5 to our local volunteer fire departments for every single ballot cast.

Your votes always count – and in this case, they count just a little bit more.