

THE NEW BAMFIELDER

School's Out Summer's Here!

1 July 2026

www.bamfielder.ca

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Thank you Bamily

It's hard to find the words to thank everyone who helped make our wedding so unforgettable. From hauling supplies, cleaning the beach, digging, building, gathering flowers, harvesting seafood, raising a lamb, preparing incredible food, setting up, tearing down, and even cleaning up after dancing into the wee hours. You gave your time, energy, and hearts so generously.



More than anything, **Photo: Madeline Nachbar** you reminded us what community truly means: people showing up for one another, often without being asked, simply because they care. That kind of kindness is rare, and we feel incredibly lucky to be surrounded by it. To everyone who lent a hand, shared a laugh, danced the night away, and especially to Low-Tide for keeping the beach rocking! Thank you everyone for giving us a day we'll cherish forever and for supporting us as we begin this next chapter together. Our hearts are full.— xoxo **Your Bamfield Newlyweds.**

Drawing a line..

Sheryl Mass and Jodie Ann Thompson took advantage of the low tide and sunny weather on May 24th as they painted a slightly, wandering white line down the middle of the Port Desire Boat Launch. A wandering, white line that might impose order on the impending chaos that is the boat launch when the summer season hits. Dylan Richards, at the Bamfield Boat Centre, specially requested this white line. I asked Dylan about this, and he told me a shocking story about a thoughtless launch user that left his trailer and truck in the middle of the ramp as he took his boat out of Grappler Inlet. Surprisingly, the absent minded man had also left his keys in the truck, enabling Dylan to rectify the situation. But it is thoughtless launch users like this that emphasize the need of a white line of order.

Why is it that reversing a trailer down an inclined ramp into the water brings out the basest behaviours? Why do boaters tend to feel the need to use both lanes? The white line hopes to help. "Just stay in your lane," it says quietly, but firmly. Leave room for the other boater. There is indeed room for two! I saw Sheryl measure it.— **Stella Wenstob**

Indigenous People's Day Celebration

On June 21st, community members gathered in the sunshine at the Pachena Bay Campground for a celebration of Indigenous People's Day, hosted by the Huu-ay-aht First Nation. There



was a delicious **Photo: Ben Holland** barbeque lunch and lots of activities: a fierce tug-of-war competition, scavenger hunt, prize draw, and more.

This year was also the 6th annual fundraiser swim for the KUU-US Crisis Line - a BC-wide Indigenous crisis and support service. Twelve swimmers and one paddleboarder made the journey across Pachena Bay and up the Pachena River, to be welcomed ashore by the Huu-ay-aht Beachkeepers. Over the past six years, the team has raised around \$11,000 for KUU-US! The fundraiser for this year is still open until July 3rd - donations can be made through CanadaHelps online or by contacting Kelly Clement.

Caitlin Bergman

Passing of Eileen Scott



Eileen Scott and Marie Nookemus at a community potluck at the House of Huu-ay-aht, February 18, 2024

Photo: Amaya Black

where her family will send Eileen off in Bamfield fashion at 11:30 AM. This will be followed by a Celebration of Life at the House of Huu-ay-aht from 2-5 PM.

The flag was at half-mast at the Eileen Scott Centennial Park to mark the passing of a community matriarch. Eileen Scott passed peacefully in her sleep at her home on Sunday, June 14th at the age of 104.

On August 2nd at 11 AM Eileen's family invites the community to join them in a flotilla off of Eileen's wharf in Port Desire

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to the Community Hall.

Stella Wenstob

Bamfield Loses Pottery Champion

Hedy Demontigny's life focus was pottery and the arts. She initiated and organized the Bamfield Christmas Crafts Fair for over 30 years. Her pottery was imaginative, creative (she frequently attended courses) and hefty (handles did not fall off her mugs). Her studio and advice was available for youths to explore potting. Hedy, I'll think of you whenever I have a cuppa. RIP!

Louis Druehl

Community Forest Update

We had a good turn-out for the Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Forest Society at the annual general meeting on May 28th, 2026 at the Eastside Firehall. Thanks to all the folks who showed up! :) Pizza and rhubarb cake, with rhubarb from Amy's garden, was enjoyed by all.

The board had the pleasure to welcome two new directors, Christine Gruman and Strider Ashmore. We are excited to have their insights and experience join the BHCFS board. The executive board members are now Amy McConnell, secretary/treasurer, Anne Stewart, vice-president and Birgit Gagne, president.

We recently received some funding for a wildfire risk analysis and our upcoming summer break will be a time to plan for that and to get ready for our first fall meeting on September 17th, at 6:30PM via Zoom.

We encourage anyone interested in joining the zoom meetings to contact us by email under bhcfcontact@gmail.com and we will be happy to send you a link to participate.

Happy trails!
Birgit Gagne

Baby Announcement

Alex Niese and Jake Wenstob welcomed Mildred (Millie) Adina to the world early one morning in June. All are healthy and happy.

Stella Wenstob

62nd Anniversary of Road Access

Did you know the 62nd anniversary of road access to Bamfield was at the end of last month? On May 31st, 1964, Roald Ostrom (acting as Chamber of Commerce president) cut the ceremonial ribbon at the freshly constructed Pachena Bridge officially connecting vehicle access between Bamfield and Port Alberni. "The population of this once-isolated hamlet of 250 souls was almost doubled by guests at the long-awaited ceremony," according to the June 2nd, 1964 Daily Colonist article.

After speeches and the presentation of a commemorative plaque (which is still held in the Bamfield Historical Society's collection), in true Bamfield-style the news crews and government officials were treated to a salmon barbecue at Brady's Beach to celebrate.

The 2021 Census states that Bamfield only has a full-time population of 201, it would be interesting to see if this has changed on our most recent Census with the road paving. Any guesses?

Stella Wenstob

A Message from the Coast Guard

The Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) would like to remind boaters to be prepared, slow down, and be aware of their surroundings and other marine traffic. In the event of a marine emergency, contact the CCG on VHF radio Ch. 16, the local Joint Rescue Coordination Centre at 1-800-267-7270, or 911 and ask for the CCG.

Ensure your vessel is in good working order, all navigation lights and radios are working, and everyone onboard is wearing a life jacket or personal floatation device. Use official nautical charts. Be aware of tides, currents and upcoming weather changes.

If you see another vessel in danger or distress, contact the CCG immediately on Ch. 16 or call 911.

Do not mix speed, alcohol, or other substances with boating. Impaired driving laws are the same for operating a boat as they are for a vehicle.

Dane Dentoom

Community Events

July 1: Canada Day
July 4: BVFD Intertidal Golf
July 5: Bamfield Pride!
July 12: Art in the Park
July 17-19: Pachena Bay Music Fest
July 29: Full Moon

The Weathered Verse

Labour Pains

The wind blows the pollen in the night through ruins of fields and homes.

Earth shivers with love,
with the pain of giving birth,
but the conqueror wants us to believe stories of submission and surrender.
O Arab Aurora!

Tell the usurper of our land
that childbirth is a force unknown to him,

the pain of a mother's body,
that the scarred land
inaugurates life

at the moment of dawn
when the rose of blood
blooms on the wound.

Fadwa Tuqan, 1973.

Community Affairs Update

Zoom was abandoned for tea and cake as the Community Affairs Directors met for the first time in person in nearly three years. New directors Abigail Andiel and Reid Yochim were welcomed to the Board. Executive roles were continued from last year: with Jamie Willock, Chair; Tom Jensen, Vice Chair; Jan Teversham, Secretary; and Susan Derasp, Treasurer.

Three new Grants in Aid were awarded. Morgan Ursel received \$121.25 to brush cut and pressure wash the West Side Burlington Avenue stairs. Mandy Ross received \$2000 for the Bear Aware resident cost sharing programme to help locals purchase bear-proof electric fences and composters. Lastly, Jamie Willock received \$2,335 for the installation of a new Frances Barkley spotter webcam and supporting streaming feed from the Bamfield Mercantile and Marine's roof.

Interested in applying for a GIA or learning about previous projects? Check out the HUB.

Stella Wenstob

Submissions are welcome. Please send them with the author's name to thenewbamfielder@gmail.com. *The New Bamfielder* is funded by donations and community support. We appreciate anything you can contribute.

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