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Office Hours –
M-F 0900-1700H
ICBC 1200-1600H

**SERVICE
 CONTACTS**

**Public Works &
 After-Hours Emergency**
 250-974-7091
Animal Control
 250-974-4188
Boat Harbour
 250-974-5727
Community Hall
 250-974-5448
Fire Hall
 250-974-5332
Visitor Centre
 Closed until May
Campground
 250-974-7028

EMERGENCY- 911

Did you know?

If you live in the Village, the Village of Alert Bay will pick up your Christmas tree for free after Christmas. Just put it outside by Sam January 15 and our elves will remove it! NO TINSEL, please.

The Echo



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 12

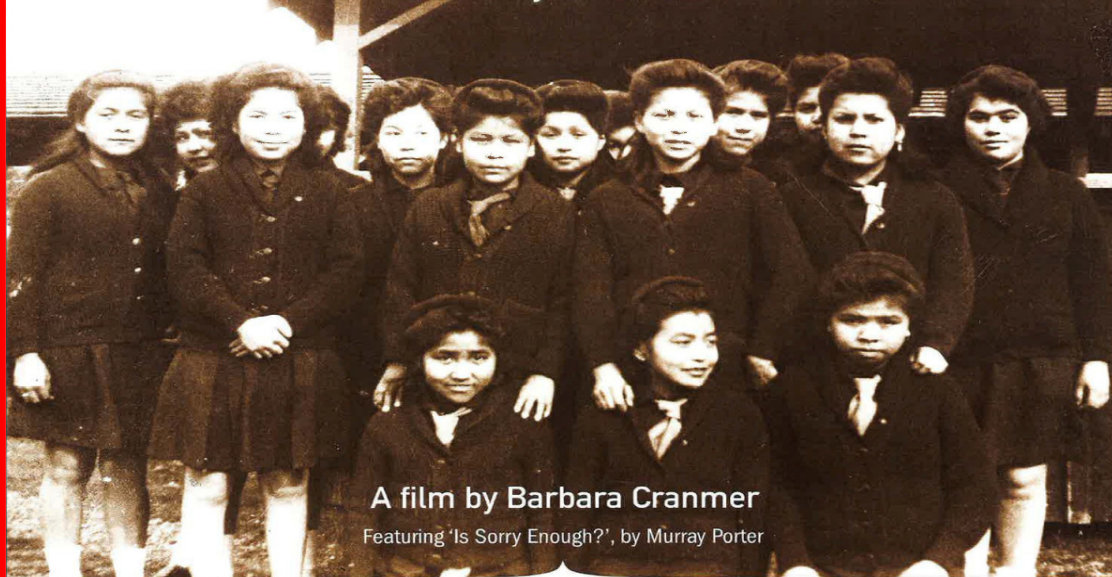
DECEMBER 2015



I'TUSTOGALIS: Rising Up Together

OUR VOICES, OUR STORIES

Demolition Ceremony of the St. Michael's Residential School
 February 18th, 2015



A film by Barbara Cranmer

Featuring 'Is Sorry Enough?', by Murray Porter

Our Voices, Our Stories, a new film from director Barbara Cranmer that exposes Canada's brutal residential school history, has garnered the award for Best Documentary Short at the 40th Annual American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco. Congratulations Barb, and thank you and everyone else involved for sharing this important history. *More at www.alertbay.ca.*

TREASURE MARKET

Our third biannual Treasure Market on Saturday, November 28 was a great success! Customers enjoyed enchiladas and hot dogs from the Christ Church concession, and vendors sold wares that ranged from local photographers' calendars to homemade soap, to knitted hats.

Proceeds of \$180 in table rentals go to the Christ Church roof fund. Thanks to all customers, vendors, and to the Anglican Church volunteers for their help!



Podium



Public Works doing a GREAT JOB!! Keep it up! The Village Office looks so good. The front of the building is clean and tidy, no weeds or moss.

Looks like someone who cares is doing the job and it shows.

Well done, Public Works. A real pleasure to drive by or walk by and see the Village office looking so good.

Submitted by Anne Sennin



We are also congratulating the individuals who completed Community Futures' business training! See page 7 for more details.

Know someone from Alert Bay we should be proud of? Send us a picture and the details.

ALERT BAY
ART LOFT
GALLERY & GIFT SHOP
presents

West Coast Moods

Nov 20 - Dec 27

Support our 6th Annual
WINTER MARKET

support Local!

Gallery Hours: Friday-Sunday 11:30-3:30

...ASPIRE ... INSPIRE...

2015
HOSTED BY THE ALERT BAY ARTISTS SOCIETY

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SERVICE CANADA @ NHC

Service Canada will be in Alert Bay Thursday December 17 10am-4:30pm, and Friday, December 18 8:30am-11:30am at the 'Namgis Health Centre.

Service
Canada

ALERT BAY SCHOOL PAC FUNDRAISER

Shoprite has captured Mrs. Claus and some of the elves! Come in and help bail them out on Saturday, December 5. There will also be a mini Loonie Auction and 50/50 draw.



ARTISTS SOCIETY NEWS

The Alert Bay Artists Society Christmas raffle draw is DEC 20. Tickets \$2/each or 3/\$5

RAFFLE PRIZES INCLUDE:

- Cozy Comforts Main Prize! Lap Quilt by Linda Gilarski, \$40 movie rental card, hot cocoa & microwave popcorn •
 - Hand made Necklace by Christine O'Donnell •
 - Native Designed Hoodie (Courtesy Alert Bay Drug Store) •
- Proceeds to the ArtLoft Gallery Community Programs

AVAILABLE AT THE ARTLOFT GALLERY & SHOWROOM.

Just in time for Christmas!

PICKLEBALL TIME!

The Village of Alert Bay's Pickleball program begins this week in the Community Hall! Pickleball combines badminton, tennis, and table tennis. It was originally created in the 1960s as a children's backyard pastime, but quickly became popular among adult players of all levels.

Please join us for a free introduction to Pickleball hosted by Deborah and Roland Emery, adults only (19+) at 7PM:

Wednesday December 2nd
Friday December 4th
Monday December 7th

Beginner or experienced Pickleballers are invited to try this exciting racquet sport. Once enough adults are familiar with the rules, we hope to start a youth program.



ECHO DEADLINE

We love getting submissions from community members! Send your photos, stories, poems, drawings, events and ideas to aproton@alertbay.ca by Tuesday, December 22 for the January issue of the Echo.

A CHAT WITH A COUNCILLOR

PAGE 4

VILLAGE COUNCIL UPDATES FROM COUNCILLOR WENDY WHITE

Hello! This is my second term on Council and I am enjoying it even more than my first. My Council portfolios are Community Justice, Arts and Culture, Youth and Family Service, Community Health and now Tourism, which I enjoy very much. I am pleased to report that we are very well regarded in the field of tourism and there are many North Island tour operators who are interested in the possibilities of working with us to attract even more business. Areas for potential tourism expansion include First Nations culture, wildlife experience packages, fishing, and adventure tourism, to name a few.

On November 9, Community Justice hosted a wonderful roast beef dinner compliments of the Stauffer gang. Thank you Stauffers and Glendales! This dinner was held to welcome Hopeton Loudon, our new Band administrator, and Justin Beadle, our new Village administrator. We also enjoyed presentations from Dr. Dan Cutfeet on current pain management practices and Constable Dave Bandurak on what can our community do to help the RCMP to deal with drugs on the island.

I just have to say what a wonderful community this is. The services we have are pretty outstanding for a community this size and location. Three doctors, a hospital, dental clinic, mental health services, social services, recreation and an attitude that 'anything is possible if someone wants to give it a try'. If you have some ideas, please give us a call at the Village Office or at my office, 974-5356.

Councillor Wendy White



VILLAGE OFFICE UPDATES

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Village is accepting nominations for Citizen and Youth of the Year until January 4 at noon. Do you know someone who showed their love for Alert Bay in 2015? Stop by the Village Office to pick up a nomination form!

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Check out our handy calendar on the back page of the newsletter for our holiday closures and changes in the garbage and recycling pickup. Don't forget to check your insurance expiry date so you aren't stuck on a stat holiday!

BOAT HARBOUR REDECKING

Small Craft Harbour is replacing the decking and the majority of the floatation on the Alert Bay Boat Harbour floats in November and December. To reduce inconvenience to boaters, and maintain moorage capacity, work will mainly be limited to one finger at a time.



Photos by Kane Gordon



A CONVERSATION WITH A CONSTABLE

The Alert Bay RCMP is happy to introduce Constable Ryan Blood. Cst Blood joined the Alert Bay team this summer after being posted in Iqaluit, Nunavut. In his 10 years of service with the RCMP, Cst Blood has a wide variety of policing experiences. These range from the challenges of the north to the pace of larger jurisdictions working in the Vancouver area.

Cst Blood occupies the First Nations policing role for our detachment and will be actively involved in the schools through the delivery of the DARE program in the new year. In Cst Blood's time here he has had the opportunity to arrest some prominent citizens for a Seafest fundraiser at Shop Rite, spend some time in the dunk tank at Seafest, and participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Cst Blood grew up in Sidney BC and after being away from the Vancouver Island area for 11 years he is happy to be back in the area, serving in Alert Bay.





Join for good and a chance to win.

If we reach 500 Cormorant Island branch members by December 31, 2015, local Vancity members will be entered to win a \$500 Vancity Visa* Gift Card.

We love serving Cormorant Island, and we're eager to put down roots and stay 'for good'. We believe you deserve banking services right here at home, and the opportunity to bank face-to-face.

You also deserve a financial institution that supports and invests in this community. As a member-owned co-operative, Vancity gives back to our members and our communities; we directly support local businesses and neighbourhood organizations, including the Alert Bay Summer Market, and the 'Namgis Christmas Hamper Fund. At Vancity, the moment you become a member, good things start to happen – right here.

Putting down roots depends on serving more members. You can help us create something greater by joining Vancity today – we have a target of 500 members by the end of this year. Working together, we know we can do it - we're only 65 members away! When we achieve this goal by December 31, 2015, we'll enter all local Vancity members for a chance to win a \$500 Vancity Visa Gift Card**. If you've already joined: thank you. Please encourage your family, friends and neighbours to join so we can provide you with all the good stuff we have planned.

**Join Vancity, keep your money here, and get a chance to win.
You can help us stay for good.**

Cormorant Island community branch
PO Box 348, 30 Maple Road, Alert Bay, BC, V0N 1A0
cormorantisland@vancity.com
250.974.3165

Vancity
Make Good Money.™

*Trademark of Visa Int., used under license.

**Winner will be announced on or before January 31, 2016.

Make Good Money(TM) is a trademark of Vancouver City Savings Credit Union.



CORMORANT ISLAND

Tides of Change



INNOVATION AWARD FOR ECONOMIC STRATEGY

We are excited to announce that our island economic development strategy, 'Tides of Change,' was presented with an 'Innovation Award' at the November 20th 'Recognition of Excellence Gala 2015' hosted by the Port McNeill & District Chamber of Commerce.

Kane and Sharon Gordon of the joint 'Namgis-Alert Bay Economic Development Steering Committee' graciously accepted the award on behalf of the community. Twelve awards were presented, including the first ever 'Innovation Award.' David Mitchell, General Manager of Community Futures and Gaby Wickstrom, President of Port McNeill & District Chamber of Commerce explained to the guests that the Village of Alert Bay and the 'Namgis First Nation have a long standing tradition of partnering to improve the quality of life in Alert Bay. The Tides of Change Strategy addresses the following key areas: Harbour Development, Business Support and Entrepreneurship, Quality of Life, Downtown Revitalization, and Tourism.

It is with great pride that we say 'Thank You' to our friends across the water for recognizing and acknowledging our joint economic development initiative on this special evening.



GREAT TURNOUT AT BUSINESS WORKSHOPS


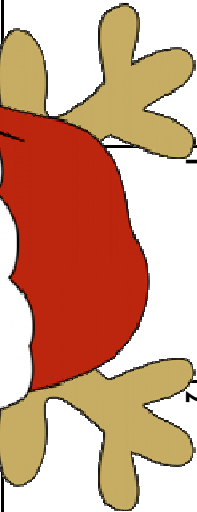
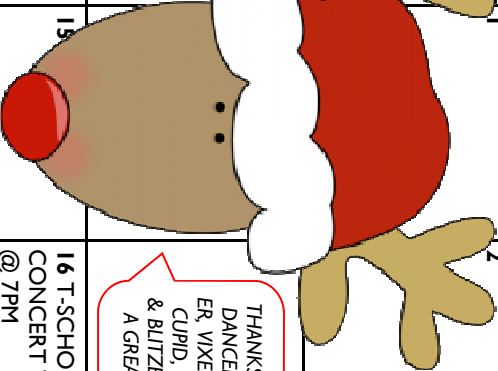






Congratulations to the 15 people who completed the Community Futures business training workshops at the Learning Centre in October and November!

The sessions, designed by Community Futures to meet the needs of small business, covered four main topics: *Getting Started*, a guide to thinking through your business idea, and putting it down on paper; *Business Plan*, laying out the details on how you are going to do it; *Financials*, being money-smart and how to make the business survive; and *Making it all happen*, on how to manage a business and attract customers at local, regional and international levels.

We hope the community will support these and all local businesses to help them grow and contribute to our island. In return, these businesses will further shape Cormorant Island's identity as not only a place to visit, but also a good place to do business.

Coming Events

Write to a friend. Month!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 6 ST. NICHOLAS DAY HAPPY HANUKKAH! HANUKKAH BEGINS	 7 OVER 55 XMAS DINNER 5:30 PM @ THE LEGION	 1	2 THANKS DASHER, DANCER, PRANCER, VIXEN, COMET, CUPID, DONNER, & BLITZEN. WE'RE A GREAT TEAM!	3  10 CO-WORKER APPRECIATION DAY!	4 SANTA'S LIST DAY GENERAL REGISTRATION NOW OPEN AT SANTA'S WORKSHOP	5
13 ALERT BAY CHORUS CONCERT @ ANGLICAN CHURCH	14 COUNCIL MEETING 7PM HANUKKAH ENDS 	15	16 T-SCHOOL XMAS CONCERT TONIGHT @ 7PM	17 SERVICE CANADA @ NHC 10AM-4:30PM AB SCHOOL XMAS CONCERT TONIGHT!	18 SHOPRITE CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY SERVICE CANADA @ NHC 8:30AM-11:30AM 	19
20 HOT COCOA DAY! 	21 HUMBUG DAY BAH	22	23 SHOPRITE SENIORS DAY! ALL ISLAND RECYCLING TODAY  FESTIVUS!	24 CHRISTMAS EVE! VILLAGE OFFICE & ICBC CLOSE AT 12:30PM MELI KISMIS!	25 CHRISTMAS DAY! VILLAGE OFFICE & ICBC CLOSED	26 BOXING DAY! JOYOUS KWANZAA! KWANZAA BEGINS
27	28 VILLAGE OFFICE & ICBC CLOSED IN LIEU OF BOXING DAY	29 COMMERCIAL GARGAGE TODAY	30 ALL ISLAND RECYCLING TODAY	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE! VILLAGE OFFICE & ICBC CLOSE AT 12:30PM COMMERCIAL GARBAGE TODAY		

Call 974-5448 for Bowling !