

# THE NEW BAMFIELDER

*Dear Bamfielders, wishing you a wildfire & drought free 2024, TNB.*

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www.bamfielder.ca

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**Anacla/Bamfield Christmas Potluck** an overwhelming success! For 8 years, this event has brought the two communities together... an enjoyable way to advance Reconciliation. Thank you **Stella Peters** and all the volunteers and donators that make this event possible. *Louis Druehl*



**Stella's Comments:** "All I can say is "Wow what an amazing turn out at our Anacla/Bamfield Community Potluck Dinner." ☆ I am grateful my good friend "**Toolie**" **Rosanne Young** & I started doing these Community Potlucks in September 2015 to bring our communities together I sure do miss her & I will still carry on cause she would've done the same... ☆ I am grateful **James Nookemus** & I decided to do more for all the kids, when we were young we had **Mary Scholey** she did a lot for us, we were glad that we managed to get "Santa" to bring gifts for all the kids... ☆ I am grateful for the help I get especially for the Christmas Potluck this year we had 8 turkeys & 6 hams with all the fixings, lots of desserts and I'm sure we sent people home with a little extra, I know I got to take turkey & stuffing home "I love to have a turkey & stuffing sandwich" ☆ I am grateful for all the help to make this dinner a success, everyone of you I appreciate you for that, we couldn't do it without all of you every little thing matters, & makes a difference for me, for one another, for all those kids you saw the look on their faces tonight.. ☆ I am grateful for all who helped make it happen...by donating. *Stella Peters*, Bamfield Corkboard . Photo by *Gail Hogarth*

**Promised Atmospheric River (old name: Pineapple Express) fizzles.**

The recently established Grappler Weather Station (photo) recorded 89 mm (3.5") over a 24 hour period (4 Dec. 8 am – 5 Dec. 8 am), with 53 mm (2.12") falling in the first 6 hours. *L. Druehl*, photo *R. Hopkins*.



**Druehl/Hopkins**, Grappler residents decide to spend Holidays home following flatbed experience at ferry terminal..



**Grand Bamfield family** celebrate Holidays, reminiscing their Grappler and Coast Guard Station homes. Grand parents **Cliff & Rose Charles**, daughter **Connie**, & grandson **Myles**. Photo *R. Hopkins*

Submissions are welcome. They may be edited for clarity and taste, and should be brief. All submissions must have the author's name. Submit to [ldruehl@island.net](mailto:ldruehl@island.net). *The New Bamfielder* is free but we encourage readers to contribute to Bamfield Community School Assoc. youth programs. *Louis Druehl*

**An exotic soul moves on.** With much sadness, I bring you the news that **Al Benton** made his final journey to become stardust on November 16th. Al arrived in Bamfield in the mid-1970s, on his motorcycle, appropriately encased in Bamfield Road mud, to start his summer job in the kitchen at the Marine Station. Bamfield was the perfect fit for Al, and he stayed in the community for nearly 20 years, working as the Marine Station chef, and also operating a successful bakery and restaurant. In the political arena, he served his community for many years as its Regional Director. At the Bamfield Marine Station, he increased the collective girth of the hungry student population and visiting scientists with legendary homemade breads and pastries, and many wonderful meals. He was known, on occasion, to terrorize vegetarians and took particular umbrage to any students who dared incite a food fight. He had a special place in his heart for the local feral cats, especially his favourite, the old tomcat **Rattenbury**, and chef Al ensured they were spoiled with regular treats at the back door of the kitchen. Al had 4 cats of his own, but 3 of them were dispatched by a cougar, leaving **Nika** queen of the roost, until the arrival of that pesky border collie, **Seamus**. Always a great storyteller, Al kept us in stitches with his colourful humour. One of his more memorable outings was



attending a dance at the Community Hall dressed as my sister (we were about the same height). He shaved off the goat-ee, donned a dress, nylons, heels, the whole works. At the dance, **Mr. Carl Ostrom** was looking quite intrigued by this new woman in town, and leaned over to whisper in my ear, "Who's the ugly chick?". At Al's request, there will not be a ser-

vice, but I think he would certainly approve of you raising a glass in his honour, preferably beneath the night sky overlooking the ocean. Many a night, you could hear Al singing "The stars at night, are big and bright, deep in the heart of Bamfield". Fair winds and following seas ...*Kathy Durante*



**Second Bamfield novel launch underwhelming.** *Bamfield Posh*, by **Louis Druehl**, was released on 10 December at Breakers Marine (Thank you **Gordie Hawkins & Breakers crew**). Vancouver Island wines (red and white, alcoholic and non-alcoholic), Pete's Mountain Meat's snacks, **Vera Lynn** crooned WW II tunes (*We'll meet again, As time goes by*), and hosted by **Hopkins and Druehls (Jennifer, Eric, Kristen)**. (Later, the author thought zooming might have been the better option). Louis introduced the story emphasizing **Eileen Scott's** contribution to this tale of this English War Bride's Bamfield ventures, and **Rae Hopkins** read spellbinding book segments. *Bamfield Posh* and its companion, *Cedar, Salmon and Weed* are available in local stores. Thank all of you who participated and those who will read the book. *L. Druehl*



**Bamfield Posh correction.** The Acknowledgements in the limited Bamfield edition of *Bamfield Posh* wrongly implied that the Bamfield Historical Society and the British Columbia Maritime Museum authenticated the text. I enjoyed access to these institutions but they were in no way responsible for the 'facts' in this tale. *L. Druehl*



**Holiday shopping with music and lunch!** This year's Christmas Craft Fair was bigger (two rooms in the Marine Station's Rix Centre) of all the 32nd-ish annual gatherings. Thanks to organizers, vendors and spenders. Photo. Right, Main Hall, Left, **Phil Lavoie** and **Malcolm Richards**.

**BC's Provincial bird**, the Steller jay, status challenged. The rufous hummingbird is suggested as the better BC representative. Also, the bird's namesake, **George Wilhelm Steller** (1709-1746) naturalist, physician and explorer may have a tainted past. Other critters so named: Steller's sea eagle, Steller's eider duck, Steller sea lion, and Steller's sea cow. The sea cow is extinct, and, from George's notes, he and his crew probably contributed to the loss of this docile vegetarian. *L. Druehl, photo Rae Hopkins*

