

THE NEW BAMFIELDER

A.I. pairs kiwi fruit with oysters. TNB pairs tequila with oysters...in moderation!

1 June 2024

www.bamfielder.ca

No. 156/75



It's been a hard time for Bamfielders. Rest in Peace passed friends.

Photo: Stella Peters

Our New Hall is Launched



Photos: Cement, Suz Jennings; Milling & wood, Rae Hopkins

The initial cement is poured. 43,000 board feet of red cedar are donated by the **Community Forest**. 420 post and beams are milled at the **HFN Airport** by **Richard Lloyd** (Timber King). This massive pile of pick-up-sticks will be erected by 50 volunteers recruited from all over North America, 1–14 June. They will be camping in **Eileen Scott Centennial Park**. Bamfielders, welcome these fine folks. This **Bamfield Community Hall Society** project is overseen by **Torrance Gilmour**.

Purple Martins' Champion Passes. **Mark Laws** (October 27, 1950 - April 30, 2024). Mark Laws, a Bamfield resident since 1999, died suddenly while driving to Port Alberni to play golf. A keen sports fisher, Mark had come up here several times from Seattle in his Bartender, a beautiful self-bailing, shallow draft, double-ender, designed to survive capsizing on the notorious bar at the mouth of the Columbia River. When **Donnie Noade** asked him to take over his water taxi business for a month or two, it turned into 20 years. Mark retired in 2019. He had endless patience with his feathered friends, (with his own species, not so much). According to his friend **Mike Rose**, Mark had been a falconer. He successfully re-introduced purple martins here by building nest boxes on pilings. Fellow animal lover, **Mandy Ross**, tells of helping Mark keep starving nestlings alive, a 24/7 job, when there was a shortage of insects. His landlady, **Ann Lindwall**, says he could fix almost anything, and she will miss him. His Stabyhoun, **Biff**, was a delight to his neighbours and his devoted companion. **John** and **Siobhan** have given him a Grappler home. A farewell celebration of Mark's life will be held this summer. *Judith Phillips*. Photo Marc Phillips



A Bamfield Emergency. Scenario: A cigarette butt (Players, Marlboro?) flit from a car window on Bamfield Main. A little fire is spotted and called in. The responding water-bomber had no idea of where Bamfield was and assumed it was Bamberton. The fanned flames advance on Bamfield. A Zoom meeting. Suggestions 1. "Go to the beach" (Pachena, Bradys) suggested Hound Dog who's in Vancouver. "And bury your head in the sand," adds another. 2. "Take to the boats" contributes a squeaky voice representing by a pic of a dog sleeping. "Hell yes, we can go to Tzartus, Tofino, hell, lets go to Hawaii." 3. "Let's shelter at the Firehall or the Airport or Marine Station," chorsed two voices of reason, sitting on a couch, possible in Bamfield. "Hell, yes, the Pub" interrupted squeak voice. 4. "Friends," said a soothing voice, "we are unincorporated. (5.) They will take care of us." *L. Druehl*

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. *The New Bamfielder* is free but we encourage readers to contribute to Bamfield Community School Assoc. youth programs. Louis Druehl

Bamfield libraries then and now.

Today, libraries are expanding to accommodate modern social needs. Bamfield record is more checkered. Our first library was at the Pacific Cable Station, part of the All Red Route that connected countries of the British Empire (shown as red on old maps). When the Bachelor Quarters, a grand old Rattenbury building, was dismantled, its library was moved to the school on the west side. When queried, **Geoff Lindsay** stated, "Yes, we did rescue the old Bamfield library from the old school. It was stored in Packers on the old store shelves, for many years. It was picked over through these years by our [Canadian Benthic] employees. Z [**Spino Pakula**] was a big fan. As my time at Packers came to an end I let select people have a go. I do still have quite a few of these books. Many were circa 1900 some even earlier." The Bamfield Marine Station entered the library business, focusing on the marine sciences. Many scientists contributed valuable old volumes to the station, most notably **Norman Wilimovsky** who gave his entire fishery library. My understanding is that Norm's donation was assessed at \$250 K. Subsequently, many of the books have been disposed of, some distributed elsewhere and an astonishing number to a burn pile to make room for study/lounge space. Today, the BMSC library is open to the public, It's holdings can be seen online. The BCSA Community Library, housed in the school offers lending services, computer and WiFi, and study space. They no longer participate in the VIRL rotation of 'new releases' but do receive older VIRL books (prior to COVID, 200 VIRL books were 'lost'). DVDs are no longer available. The present 6 hour-access may be expanded in the summer. Of course, VIRL's Books-by-mail is a great resource. *L. Druehl*, with thanks to **Renee Gaudet**, BCSA.

Its barbeque Season in Bamfield



Bamfield Chamber of Commerce burgers in West Park



Bamfield Community Pig Roast on Brady's Beach...a fund raiser in support of a Bamfield Health and Wellness.

Photos by M.Phillips



A historical moment. The ribbon cutting opening Bamfield's Centennial Park, 1 July 1967 at the site of the new Bamfield Community Hall. **Ebba Jennings** on the stump, and **Dave Christney**, **Frank Stewart**, and **Bruce Scott** in front. Photo provided by the **Jennings** family.

The visit that changed Bamfield.

John M. Green, whose 1964 visit to Bamfield in search of a site for his tidepool fishes study, led the establishment of the **Bamfield Marine Station**. John was impressed with the diversity of marine habitats near Bamfield and suggested this could be a good spot for a marine station. At this time, I chaired the site selection committee for the five western universities. Each university had laid claim to a site, but none had selected Bamfield. After the committee visited each site by floatplane, we were flying across Barkley Sound and I remembered John's comments. We landed in Bamfield on spec and the rest is history. John made a single collection at a site near Pachena Point in 1966, completing his comparison study with Port Renfrew. With the BMS initiation of a fish course, Dr. John had a regular opportunity to further study the Pachena Point fishes. Since then, John and his crew have visited the local tidepools 17-times, with the intended last 2022 collection showing severely reduced species diversity. Thus a 2024 collection was added to see if the population had rebounded (results coming soon). This study, spanning 58-years is unique and provides today's investigators a rare baseline to measure the impact of climate change. *A graduate student seeking a study site leads to the establishment of the Bamfield Marine Station and the resulting Station provides for the extension of one-visit collection to an epic environmental study.* Hopefully, **Parks Canada** and the **Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre** will perpetuate this study for the benefit of marine biodiversity science. *Louis Druehl*. Photo **John & Jane** celebrating 58-years of studies on little fishes at a Grappler dinner. While John was fishing Jane's genetic research has led to a new understanding of certain diseases, notably vision loss and hereditary cancers, and to the development of new screening methods. For her contributions she has been honoured as a recipient of the **Order of Canada**. **Moral, never underestimate the fate a visitor may bring to our village.** *L. Druehl*

