

**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**  
TO BE HELD THURSDAY MARCH 3 AT 5:00PM  
AT THE SEAVIEW ACTIVITY CENTER

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

*Committee of the Whole is a meeting to consider an issue, but not to decide upon any action.*

- *Motions may be made, but do not need to be seconded*
- *Voting is undertaken in the same manner as in a regular council meeting*
- *Members of Council may speak on an issue an unlimited number of times, but may not speak longer than ten minutes on any one issue*
- *A motion to adjourn is not required*

**MINUTES:**

**THAT** *the minutes of the February 3, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting be approved.*

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Rural Dividend Project: Interpretive Signs  
Proposed signage from Matthias Reinicke, Lime Designs
2. Aquaculture
  - a) February 23, 2022 email from AVICC re Aquaculture Information Session March 11, 2022
  - b) February 8, 2022 email from VIEA re Tsawout First Nation and Cascadia Seaweed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**VILLAGE OF PORT ALICE COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2022  
AT THE SEAVIEW ACTIVITY CENTER**



Present Mayor Kevin Cameron  
Councillor Holly Aldis  
Councillor Sean Watson  
Councillor Bruce Lloyd  
Councillor Angela Yunker

Staff Bonnie Danyk, CAO / CFO  
Ryan Nicholson EDO

**CALL TO ORDER: 4:40 pm**

COTW 01/22 Mayor Kevin Cameron called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

*It was duly moved that the agenda be adopted.*

CARRIED

**MINUTES:**

COTW 02/22 It was duly moved:

***THAT*** the minutes of the May 6, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting be approved.

CARRIED

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**1. Mural Project**

- a) October 29, 2021 Report from Bonnie Danyk, CAO / CFO
- b) January 4, 2022 Report from Ryan Nicholson EDO
- c) January 12, 2022 Discussion Paper from David Dick, Port Alice Gas
- d) RDMW 2022 Regional Tourism Action Grant Guide

COTW 03/22 It was duly moved:

***THAT*** the Village of Port provide five grants in the amount of \$1,000 each to any business who wanted to have a mural painted on their building / structure within the Village of Port Alice.

**2. Port Alice Economic Development Update**

- a) Report from Ryan Nicholson, EDO

**3. Release of Closed Meeting Minutes**

- a) Report from Bonnie Danyk CAO / CFO

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm

Certified Correct

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer



# Port Alice

Gateway to the Wild West Coast



Trailhead



2 km  
40 min

## Dike Walk

This hike leads you to the top of the dike protecting the village from mudslides.

Enjoy the view and tranquility of this path.



No smoking on the trails.



Be aware of wildlife.

# Holding Back the Hillside

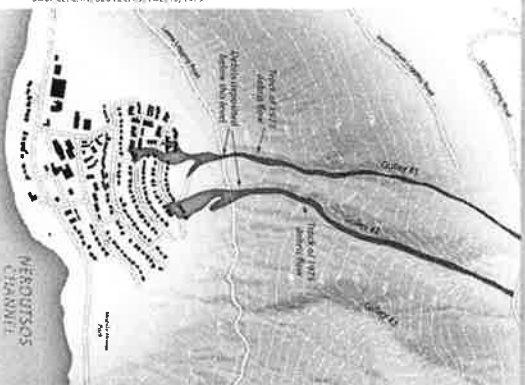
"All we saw was rock and mud ... people just opened their doors and let the water go through their houses."

Duagala Macmillan describing a Port Alice mudslide that occurred in November 1975.

Steep slopes combined with heavy rainfall makes Port Alice prone to landslides. The first struck the original townsite in 1927 when heavy rains caused a slope failure, narrowly missing the hospital and killing one man who was washed away in his small shack.

The townsite was eventually relocated away from the most slide-prone area, but slides and floods were still a reality for the residents and businesses, including the mill. After two devastating slides in the 1970s, including one which saw 10 families lose their homes, a series of dikes were built to protect the town from further debris flows.

SOURCE: CAN. GEOTECH. J., VOL. 16, 1979



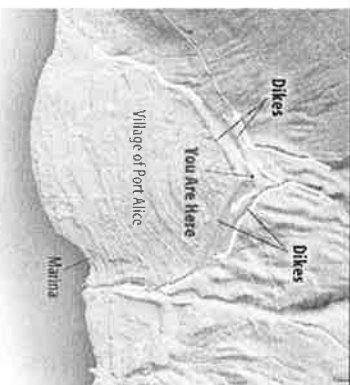
## The 1973 and 1975 slides

The slides started about 730 meters up the slope and hit the upper part of the village.



PHOTO: PORT ALICE COLLECTION

## Port Alice Mudslides

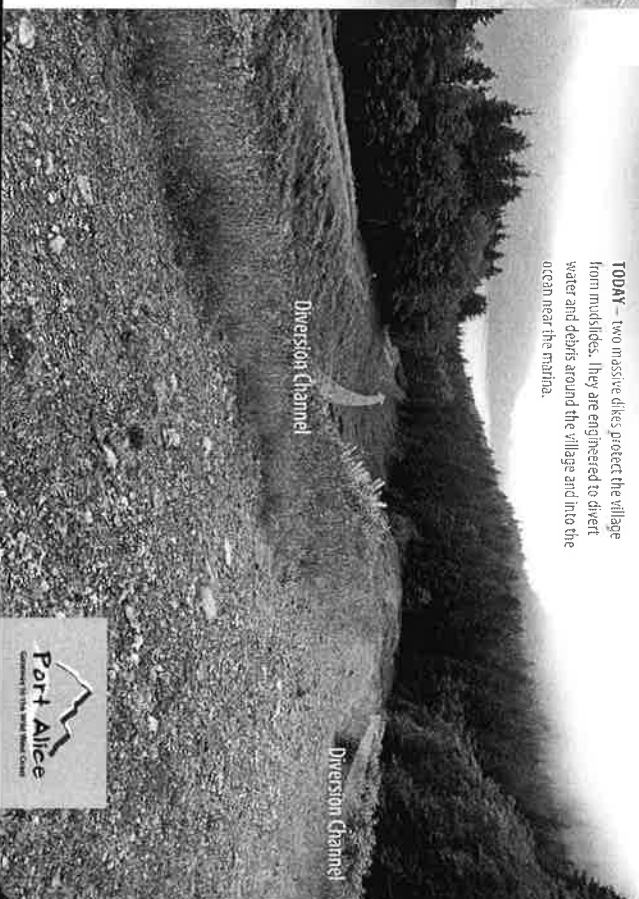


1935 — two slides destroyed the golf course and just missed the local bakery.



PHOTO:

**TODAY** — two massive dikes protect the village from mudslides. They are engineered to divert water and debris around the village and into the ocean near the marina.



Diversion Channel

Diversion Channel



# Stories in Stone

## Stones and Sediments

Rocks are so common they're easy to overlook, but each one has a story to tell. Take a look at the stones around you and see what you can learn from them.

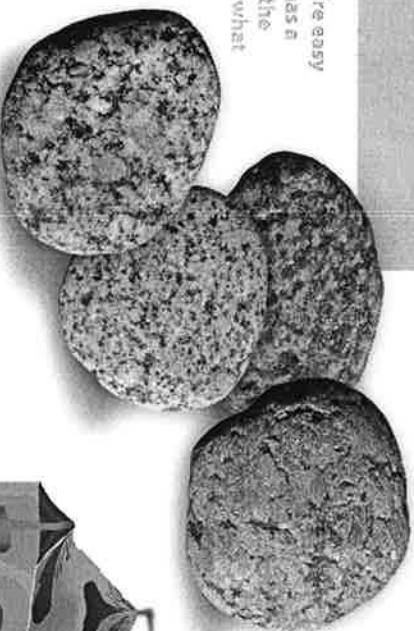


### Igneous Rocks

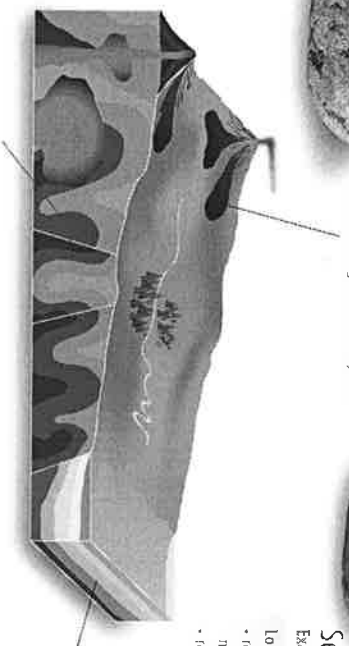
Examples: Granite / Basalt

Look for:

- speckled rocks (these are the crystals from different minerals)
- rocks that are hard and heavy



Igneous means "fiery," so it's no surprise that **igneous rocks** form when molten rock (magma) cools. If the magma is on the surface, such as a lava flow, it cools quickly. If it's pushed into cracks, it takes longer to cool. The longer magma takes to cool, the larger the rock's crystals.



**Metamorphic rocks** are formed when existing rocks are changed—metamorphosed—by heat and pressure deep in the Earth. These rocks have been cooked and crunched so are usually very hard.

### Metamorphic Rocks

Examples: Quartzite / Mica / Marble

Look for:

- layers of dark and light crystals, folding layers or
- bands of different colours, shiny surfaces



### Sedimentary Rocks

Examples: Limestone / Sandstone

Look for:

- rocks that have layers or a mixture of different grain sizes,
- rocks that have fossils



**Sedimentary rocks** are made of grains ground from other rocks: sand, mud, and gravel. They can also be made from ground-up seashells. Sedimentary rocks are often made in water—the grains settle out, form layers, and are cemented together into new rocks.

On the beach you often find round pebbles made of just one mineral. Look for white pebbles of quartz or red pebbles of jasper.

# When the Earth Moves

## Seismic Activity

You can't feel it, but the earth is always on move.

The earth's crust is made of large, interlocking plates that fit together like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. The intense heat of our planet's inner core creates currents that move these plates around. The ground you're standing on moves about 2 cm a year!

As the plates move, they can bump, slide, and collide causing earthquakes. Port Alice, and all of Vancouver Island and the Pacific Northwest, is an area of high earthquake activity because several plates converge here.

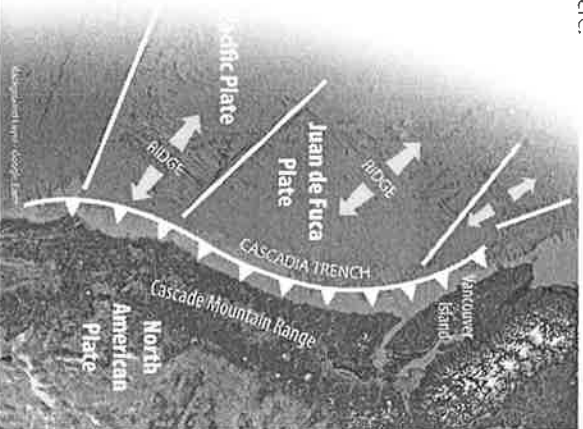


**The "Ring of Fire"**  
Earthquakes are more likely at the edge of continental plates. Vancouver Island is located just off the north east edge of the Pacific Plate. Active and dormant volcanoes are often located at these plate edges.

### On a Collision Course

You are standing on the North American Plate. Nearby is the Juan de Fuca Plate, which is moving eastward. As it collides with the North American Plate, the dense Juan de Fuca plate is forced under the coast. This friction melts the surrounding rock and molten rock is pushed to the surface through volcanoes.

South of the Juan de Fuca plate is the Pacific Plate. See how these two plates are moving in opposite directions? Sometimes they get snagged and when they slip loose, it causes an earthquake.



Courtesy Alberni Valley Museum, #P200933.

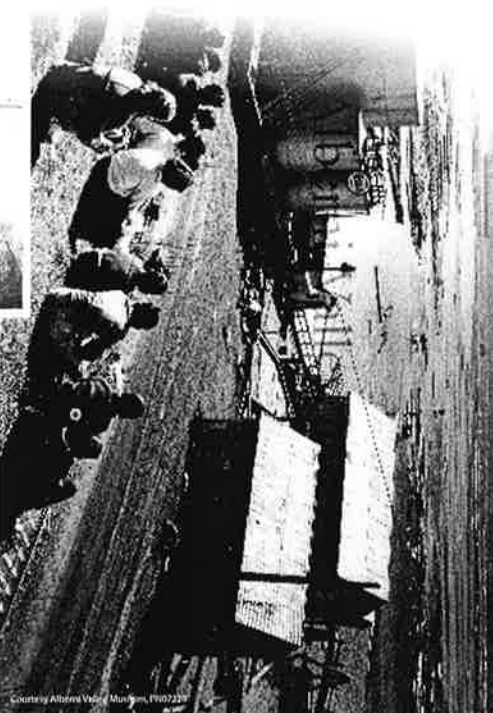


### Good Friday 1964 Tsunami

When plates in the ocean collide, one often "slips" generating a wave called a tsunami. The most memorable tsunami to hit British Columbia happened on Good Friday 1964 after a massive earthquake in Alaska. The wave was relatively small on the west coast of Vancouver Island, but people noticed. In Port Alice the airplane dock, mail wharf, and oil float were damaged by the surging water.



Port Alberni - Children and adults at Sea Cadet Park in Port Alberni look over the harbour filled with boom logs broken free by the tsunami.



Courtesy Alberni Valley Museum, #P207221.

**Port Alberni** - tsunami aftermath. A completely demolished GMC pickup truck is overturned in a lot opposite a house. The tsunami struck Alberni and Port Alberni on Good Friday, March 28, 1964.



# Forests, Wind, and Fire

## Everchanging Forests

### Forests are always changing.

Seeds fall and sprout in the soil or on fallen tree—a "nurse log." Add sunlight and rain and a forest grows. The coastal temperate rainforest of the Port Alice area is like an apartment with many storeys—from ferns and mosses that carpet the forest floor, to the tops of towering trees.

When you walk through the forest, look at the variety of trees and plants. A mix of species and plants of different ages—from tiny seedlings to the oldest trees—create different habitats for forest wildlife.

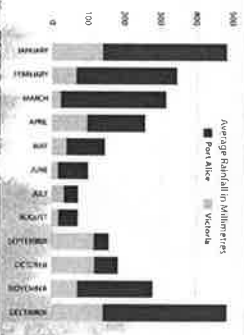
In this forest, wind is an agent of change. Storms can fell one or two trees, or maybe even a whole stand. But these patches let light reach the forest floor and new life begins in the open spaces. Fallen trees, stumps, and standing dead trees also provide homes for birds, mammals, and other wildlife.



**"Nurse Log"**

Many trees get their start on fallen logs. These "nurse logs" give the seedlings a boost—they're damp, full of nutrients, and raised above the shady forest floor.

**Rainforest**—it's no surprise the forest is classified as a rainforest—up to 3 metres of rain falls each year, sometimes more. Even though it's usually damp and cool, fires can happen, sparked by lightning or careless humans. Fire fighting crews specially trained to tackle wildfires are on standby in BC, ready to protect this precious resource.



To report a wildfire, call 1-800-663-5555 or \*5555.



# Forests for the Future

## Forest Management

The forest industry plays a big part of the Vancouver Island economy, particularly on the north island. But forestry is not just cutting trees. Forests are managed and harvested with the future in mind.

Before any trees are cut, a team of foresters, biologists, geologists, engineers, and other experts plan how best to harvest. Economics are part of the equation, but so is wildlife habitat, water quality, cultural resources, and other things that forests provide.

When plans are finalized and approved, logging can begin with road building, tree falling, log processing and hauling, and tree planting just some of the many steps in the process.



**Did You Know?**  
You can recognize Douglas fir by its highly distinctive cones. Besides being fire resistant, look! It's the bird's nest of a fir cone.



**Douglas fir** is an extremely strong wood, used for construction, including wharves, bridges, and marine pilings, but also for detailing such as window sashes, cabinets, and flooring.

### The Airplane Spruce

This archival image from the Port Hardy Archive came with a few handwritten notes that give insight into the size of trees from the early days of logging. One note says: "3rd cut from tree, 97' high x 24' long, 7 cuts, total 187,000 b.t. [board feet]. THE GLAIT SITKA, Camp 4 M.F.R.P. Co. (Quatsino, B.C.)"



Courtesy Port Hardy Archives



**Western hemlock**, the most plentiful tree in the coastal forest, is used for building construction, including decking, interior woodwork, and furniture. It can also be used for pulp and paper.



**Western red cedar** is naturally rot-resistant, making it highly desired for shingles, siding, decking and other outdoor uses, as well as for indoor paneling, window sashes, doors, and more.



# Trees of Tomorrow

Each spring across British Columbia, tree planters don rain gear, work gloves, and cork boots and hoist heavy bags of tree seedlings to spend long days replanting cutblocks. Every year they plant over 200 million seedlings in the province.

The seedlings got a strong start in tree nurseries, and were planted out when they had healthy roots. After planting, reforested areas are monitored for pests and invasive species, such as Scotch broom or Himalayan blackberry, which can overrun the seedlings.

Foresters use their expert knowledge of trees to decide which species to plant and where. And these new stands of trees are not just managed for wood. Silviculture experts consider wildlife habitat, water quality, and recreation, too.



Getting a good start — seedlings get a great start in optimal conditions in huge greenhouses

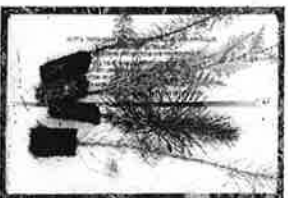
## Reforestation



All photos: Coquetry BC Community Forest Association

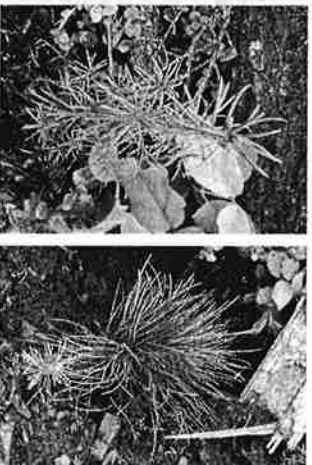
### Tree Planting

Each year, thousands of trees are planted in harvested areas and forests that have been devastated by wildfire.



### Did You Know?

The British Columbia Community Forest Association is working with communities to protect the wildlife habitat. The initiative aims to foster improved species recovery, social, cultural, and spiritual benefits to Indigenous and local, non-Indigenous communities.



Douglas fir seedling

Pine seedling



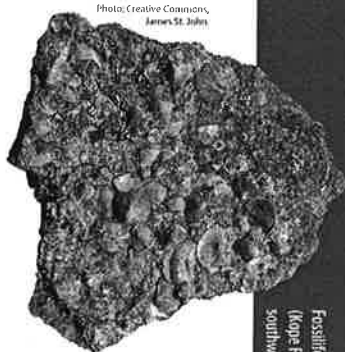
# A Landscape Shaped by Rain

## Karst

### Carved Landscape

The water of Atituck Creek has eroded the rock and created Little Husan Cave. It has taken thousand of years to shape these beautiful rock formations. A process that will carry on forever as long as the water continues to flow.

Photo: Creative Commons, James St. John



**Fossiliferous limestone**  
(Kope Formation, Upper Ordovician, southwestern Ohio, USA)

### "Fossil" Stone

Most limestone was created in shallow marine environments. It is a carbonate sedimentary rock which contains calcite and aragonite. Limestone often contains fossils that were embedded as sediment settled layer by layer.

Drop by drip, the rocks underneath much of the forests of northern Vancouver Island are being dissolved. As rain falls through the atmosphere it picks up carbon dioxide, and it snags more in the soil, too.

This weak acid seeps into the cracks and crevices of limestone rock and, over long periods, has chemically carved an elaborate underground system of caves, sinkholes, vertical shafts, and tunnels called karst.

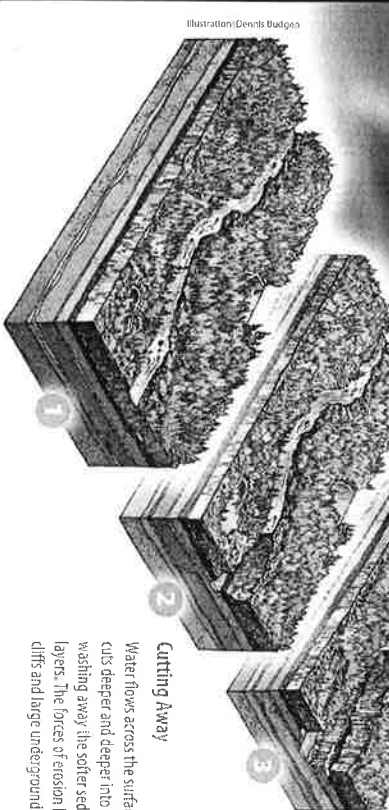
Coastal forests thrive above karst ecosystems and are often more productive than similar forests that are not growing on karst. The karst forests are boosted by well-drained soils and the micronutrients released into the soil as the bedrock dissolves.

Photo: Creative Commons, David Stanley



### The Eternel Fountain

A day use site located along the Alice Lake Loop, the Eternel Fountain is a stream resurgence waterfall that flows into a swallow (a stream sinking into a separate cave below the waterfall). There is a short trail within this site that winds its way through a second growth forest with areas to view karst features such as dolines, swallets, disappearing and reappearing streams. For your safety, please stay on the trails. Park at the Eternel Fountain sign and walk past the gate to the trail head.



### Cutting Away

Water flows across the surface layer and cuts deeper and deeper into the landscape washing away the softer sedimentary layers. The forces of erosion leads to steep cliffs and large underground caves.

Photo: Port Alice, Nickyphoto.com

Illustration: Dennis Budge

# Meet the Neighbors

We share the forests around Port Alice with wildlife, including bears and cougars. While seeing these animals can be a highlight of a trip, following these guidelines will keep you and wildlife safe.

## Going Backcountry Hiking?

Make noise as you walk, and carry a whistle and bear spray. Keep the bear spray where you can reach it quickly and know how to use it!



Black Bear

Cougar



Report sightings to the  
Conservation Officer Service  
reporting line: 1-877-952-7277

## Cougar and Bear Safety



### Be Bear Aware

- ☐ Secure food, garbage, compost, pet food, and other attractants indoors, in your vehicle, or in bear-proof containers.
- ☐ Watch for bear signs, such as scat (poop), as you hike and make noise to avoid surprising a bear.

#### If you see a bear:

- ☐ don't run
- ☐ back away slowly
- ☐ talk softly
- ☐ avoid direct eye contact
- ☐ leave the area or make a wide detour



### Travelling in Cougar Country

- ☐ Keep your pets and children close by.
- ☐ Feed your pets inside.

#### If you see a cougar:

- ☐ maintain eye contact
- ☐ speak to it in a loud, firm voice
- ☐ back out of the area
- ☐ seek help or shelter





# Port Alice

Gateway to the Wild West Coast



Trailhead



2 km  
40 min

## Dike Walk

This hike leads you to the top of the dike protecting the village from mudslides.

Enjoy the view and tranquility of this path.



No smoking on the trails.



Be aware of wildlife.



# Port Alice

Gateway to the Wild West Coast



Trailhead



1.5 km  
20 min

## Sea Walk

Hike along the coast to discover breathtaking views onto Neroutsos Channel.

Watch for eagles and ravens and perhaps you may spot sea otters or a whale.

At low tide, hike to Walkout Island at the south end of the trail and look for sea stars.



No smoking on the trails.



Be aware of wildlife.



# Life of the Land, Water, and Air

## Biodiversity

Port Alice is a meeting place of the ocean, freshwater, and forest, so it's no wonder there is a rich diversity of life in the region.

Long Neroutsos Inlet connects via Quatsino Sound to the open ocean, so marine mammals such as killer whales, sea otters, and humpback whales travel and feed nearby.

Some groups of killer whales feed on marine mammals (transient or Bigg's killer whales), while others (resident killer whales) feed on salmon. The prevalence of both foods makes northern Vancouver Island one of the best places in the world to see these stunning predators.



Watch for great blue herons feeding on the shoreline. These long-necked birds stand motionless waiting for prey, then strike with lightning speed, stabbing small fish, frogs, or sometimes even mice with their dagger-like bill. If you hear a "pendactyl" cry, it's probably a great blue heron!

Look in the treetops for bald eagles, regally scanning their Port Alice realm. From these perches they keep an "eagle eye" for fish. Their massive nests of sticks, lined with moss, grass, lichen, and even seaweed, can weigh more than a Smart Car!



Photos: Darrel McIntosh



Port Alice  
Gateway to the West Coast



# First Peoples

## Quatsino First Nations

"Ever since the white people first came to our lands, we have been known as the Kwakwaka'wakw by Indian Affairs or as the Kwakwaka'wakw by anthropologists. In fact, we are the Kwakwaka'wakw, people who speak the Kwakwaka'wakw language, but live in different places and have different names for our separate groups."

— U'mista Cultural Society

All photos: Courtesy Port Hardy Museum and Archives



The land and waters supported large populations of people with complex societies and vibrant economies. The people moved throughout their territories with the seasons, often traveling by canoes carved from large red cedars. Winter was a time for ceremonies and gatherings at main village sites. In spring, though, the people would fish and hunt, harvest shellfish, and gather plants for food, medicine, and practical uses.

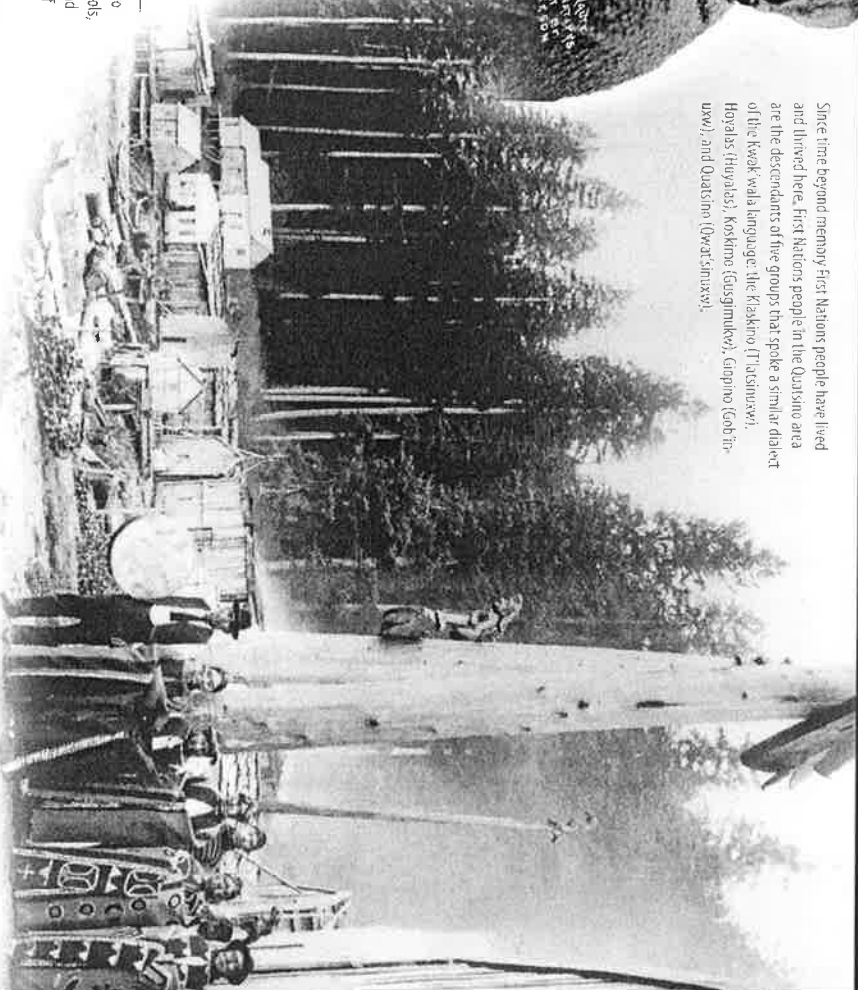


Since time beyond memory First Nations people have lived and thrived here. First Nations people in the Quatsino area are the descendants of five groups that spoke a similar dialect of the Kwakwaka'wakw language: the Kwakwaka'wakw, Haisla (Haisla), Kwikwaka'wakw (Kwakwaka'wakw), Gitksan (Gitksan), and Quatsino (Quatsino).



Contact with explorers, traders, and settlers devastated indigenous populations, bringing diseases—for which people had no immunity—and reducing populations in some areas by up to 90%. Colonial practices such as residential schools, and intensive resource extraction in the land and sea, further impacted the lives and territories of the region's First Peoples.

Today, First Nations people are asserting their rights over their territories, creating progressive land visions for generations into the future.



"Village dance party," Quatsino, c. 1900.

# At the Edge of the Map

## Quatsino Settler History

Fortunately for me we had a smooth journey to Winter Harbour, calling in all the out-of-the-way places to deliver mail and freight and sometimes passengers.

— E. May Leeson

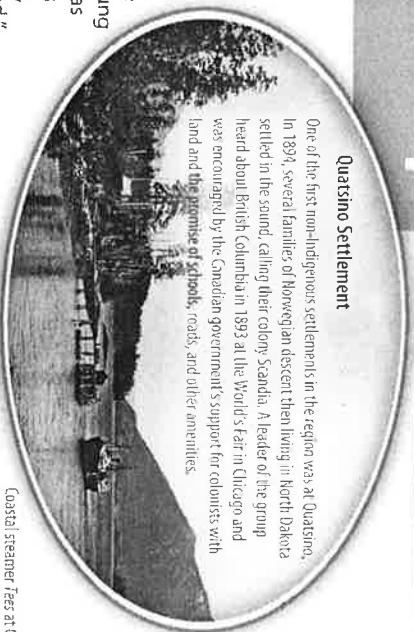
When May Leeson arrived in Winter Harbour, she was told she'd "come to the edge of the map." For the young bride-to-be from Liverpool it must have seemed that way. "Everything was strange to me," she later wrote, "but I gradually got accustomed."

May and her husband Ben settled in Quatsino, where Ben had a number of jobs including policeman, postman, and mining recorder. Like many settlers, the couple had a small garden and harvested salmonberries, huckleberries, clams, and fish.

During the settlement era of the early 1900s, the coast bustled with activity and settlers such as the Leesons, logging camps, mines, fish canneries, whaling stations, lighthouses, and tiny settlements—including Winter Harbour, Quatsino, Coal Harbour, Port Alice, and more—sprung up along the west coast.

### Quatsino Settlement

One of the first non-Indigenous settlements in the region was at Quatsino. In 1894, several families of Norwegian descent then living in North Dakota settled in the sound, calling their colony Scandia. A leader of the group heard about British Columbia in 1893 at the World's Fair in Chicago and was encouraged by the Canadian government's support for colonists with land and the promise of schools, roads, and other amenities.



Coastal steamship Tses at Quatsino wharf government dock.

### Mail Day

It was an exciting day when the coastal steamships such as the Tses or Maquina called. Mail, groceries, and even friends and family would arrive. Settlers quickly replied to letters they'd received since it could be weeks, or longer, before the next ship. If a ship happened to dock overnight, the community might hold a dance or other event, providing a welcome change to day-to-day life.



Old Port Hardy on the east side of Hardy Bay with the Lyon's store and hotel circa 1907. BC Archives A 05413.



The Peterson family with help C. Nelson first lighthouse keeper at Kam's Island



Ben and May Leeson 1912.

# Otters of the Sea

## Port Alice — Sea Otter Capital of Canada

Sea otters are the smallest marine mammal and the only one without blubber.

Their dense fur keeps them cozy in the frigid ocean. They also eat a lot to stay warm, and can consume about one third of their body weight each day.



Sea otter mom with sleeping pup

Smart Photos: Daniel McIntosh



### Ecosystem Engineers

Sea otters are a keystone species. This means that their actions can dramatically change the environment. One of a sea otter's favourite foods is sea urchin, an animal that grazes on kelp and other seaweeds. When sea otters are present, kelp flourishes since the sea urchins are kept in check. Kelp forests are a rich marine habitat for fish, marine mammals, clams, snails, crabs, and other invertebrates.



### Fluff that Fur

Adult sea otters can spend up to a third of their day grooming their fur. They fluff, rub, and blow air into their rich coats. The air fluffs up a fine layer of down near their skin, trapping air between the hairs. This layer of insulation works just like the down coat you might wear on a cold day.

### Soft Gold

Sea otters were harvested by Indigenous people to protect their clam beds and other resources. The furs were highly prized and used for clothing and in trade. The arrival of Europeans launched a commercial trade that decimated the sea

otter population, and by the early 1900s they were extinct in the region. A reintroduction program in the 1970s, saw the return of these mammals and they are expanding their range along Vancouver Island's west coast.

# Stars of the Sea

## Sea Stars

**As you explore the intertidal zone or boat in shallow waters keep an eye out for sea stars.**

These animals crawl on hundreds of tube feet and use tiny pincers on their backs for defence. Most sea stars have five arms, but some species have more. The sunflower star can have up to 24 arms and 15,000 tube feet!



Sunflower Star

### On the Prowl

Sea stars eat a variety of food, including clams, mussels, urchins, snails, and sea cucumbers. They are known for their unusual dining habits. To eat, a sea star extrudes its stomach out of its mouth and envelops its prey. Once the food is digested, it sucks its stomach back inside.

### Undersea Zombies

Sometimes a sea star will drop an arm to get away from a predator. As long as part of the sea star's "central disk" remains, it can regenerate a new arm. And if the amputated arm is tightly pinned, it can regenerate limbs as well!



### Slim and Bright Red

With its bright red-orange colour and thin arms, the blood star is easy to spot.

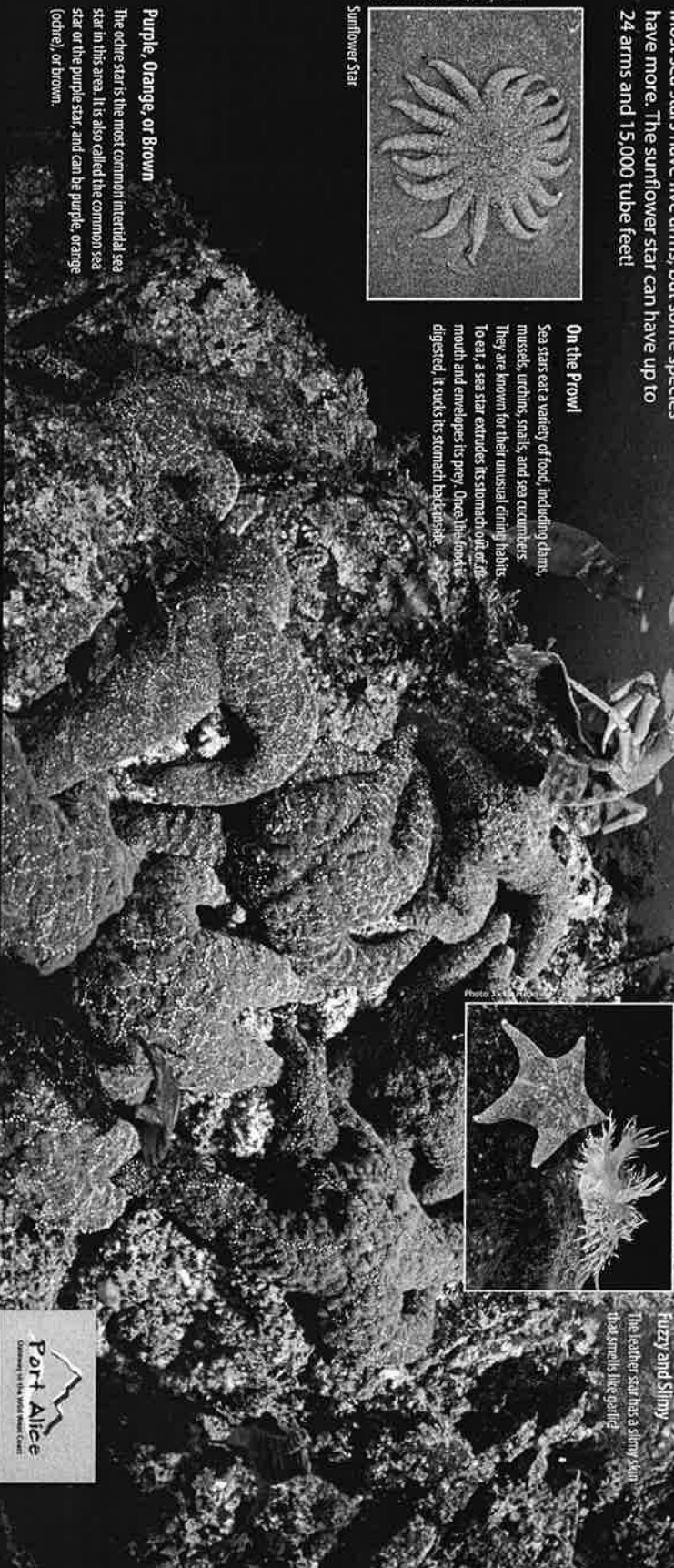


### Fuzzy and Slimy

The leather star has a slimy skin that smells like garlic.

### Purple, Orange, or Brown

The echine star is the most common intertidal sea star in this area. It is also called the common sea star or the purple star, and can be purple, orange (ochre), or brown.





# The Skipper

## Captain Cyril Demetrius Neroutsos



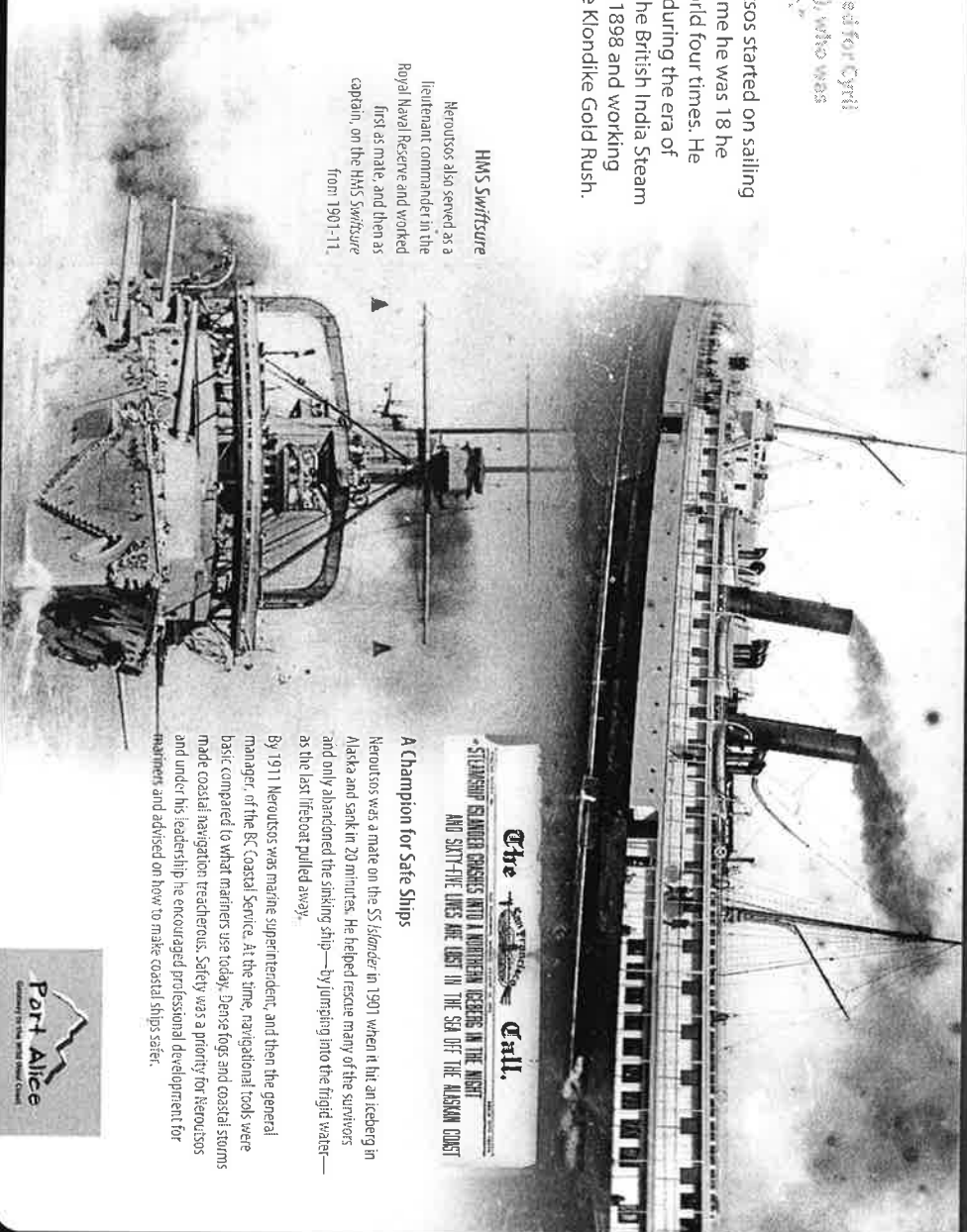
Neroutsos later is named for Cyril Neroutsos (1868-1954), who was known as the "Skipper."

Born in England, Neroutsos started on sailing ships at age 13. By the time he was 18 he had sailed about the world four times. He came to North America during the era of steam, signing on with the British India Steam Navigation Company in 1898 and working out of Seattle during the Klondike Gold Rush.



### HMS *Swiftsure*

Neroutsos also served as a lieutenant commander in the Royal Naval Reserve and worked first as mate, and then as captain, on the HMS *Swiftsure* from 1901-11.



### A Champion for Safe Ships

Neroutsos was a mate on the SS *Islander* in 1901 when it hit an iceberg in Alaska and sank in 20 minutes. He helped rescue many of the survivors and only abandoned the sinking ship—by jumping into the frigid water—as the last lifeboat pulled away.

By 1911 Neroutsos was marine superintendent, and then the general manager, of the BC Coastal Service. At the time, navigational tools were basic compared to what mariners use today. Dense fogs and coastal storms made coastal navigation treacherous. Safety was a priority for Neroutsos and under his leadership he encouraged professional development for mariners and advised on how to make coastal ships safer.

### Coastal Service of the CPR

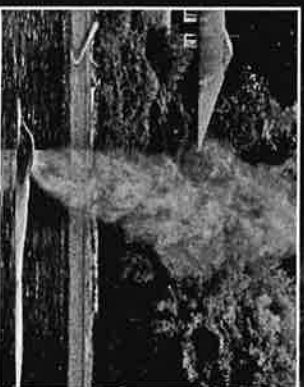
In 1901, Neroutsos joined the Canadian Pacific Navigation Company (later the BC Coastal Service of the Canadian Pacific Railway). The CPR's fleet of coastal steamers operated between Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster, and many locations along the west coast. They sailed from a terminal in Victoria's inner harbour.

# Return of the Giants

## Humpback Whales

Humpback whales come to northern Vancouver Island and elsewhere in British Columbia each summer to feed in the cool, food-rich waters. In winter, they migrate to warmer waters, such as Hawaii, where they mate and have their young.

Insert Photos: Daniel McInnis



### Humpback ID

Humpbacks are huge—about as long as three mini vans—with long flippers up to one-third the length of their body. When they dive, they often flash their large, black and white tail flukes. Researchers identify individual whales by the shape and markings on their tails. Photos of the whales' tails help researchers track which whales visit the area, where they travel, and other details about humpback life history.

### See a Blow, Go Slow

When a whale's surface to take a breath, they do a powerful exhale first. This "blow" is a great way to spot whales. If you are lucky enough to see a whale, watch safely from a distance. Vessel strikes are dangerous to all whales, so researchers encourage people to go slow if they "see a blow."



Humpback whales and other large whales once thrived in the waters of the northeast Pacific feeding on the bounty of the sea. But an intensive period of commercial whaling—including the operation of a whaling station in nearby Coal Harbour from 1947 to 1967—saw them disappear from the area. In the early 1980s they began to slowly return to the waters of British Columbia and Alaska.

Port Alice  
Learning to be the Wild West Coast



# Forests in Flux

## How Forests Grow

As you walk through the coastal forest, look for the variety of shapes and patterns: types of bark, the shape of leaves, the shades of green.

These forests are complex and always changing—through the seasons, the years, and even from morning to night. And the plants in a forest vary from place to place, depending on the availability of water, nutrients, light, and space.



Photo: Darrel McInish

Most trees in the coastal forest are conifers—trees with needles (a type of modified leaf) and cones. Conifers are the perfect type of tree for this region, with its mild climate and lack of harsh winters. Conifers don't drop their needles in the fall like deciduous trees do, so are able to grow year-round. This results in trees that can be very old and very large.

While Vancouver Island is known for its large trees and old growth forests, much of the island is poorly drained and boggy. Myriad mosses and trees such as shore pine and yellow cedar grow well in acidic soils.

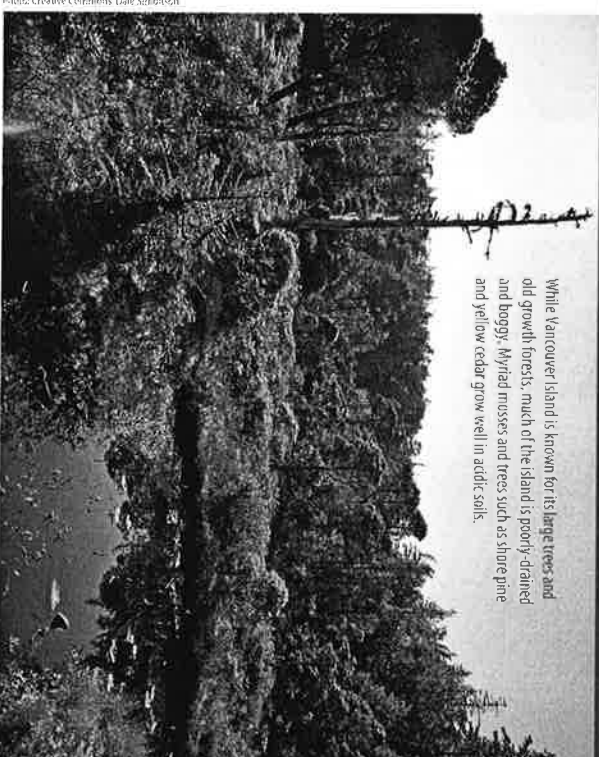


Photo: Creative Commons: Gale Simonsen

Red alders are the most common deciduous trees in the region. They need more sunlight than conifers, so you'll often see them where there is lots of light—alongside a road or a stream, or where trees have fallen or been cut. Alders help heal the forest since they can take nitrogen from the air and "fix" it in the soil.



Photo: Creative Commons: polkadot



# Port Alice

Gateway to the Wild West Coast



Trailhead



1.5 km  
20 min

## Sea Walk

Hike along the coast to discover breathtaking views onto Neroutsos Channel.

Watch for eagles and ravens and perhaps you may spot sea otters or a whale.

At low tide, hike to Walkout Island at the south end of the trail and look for sea stars.

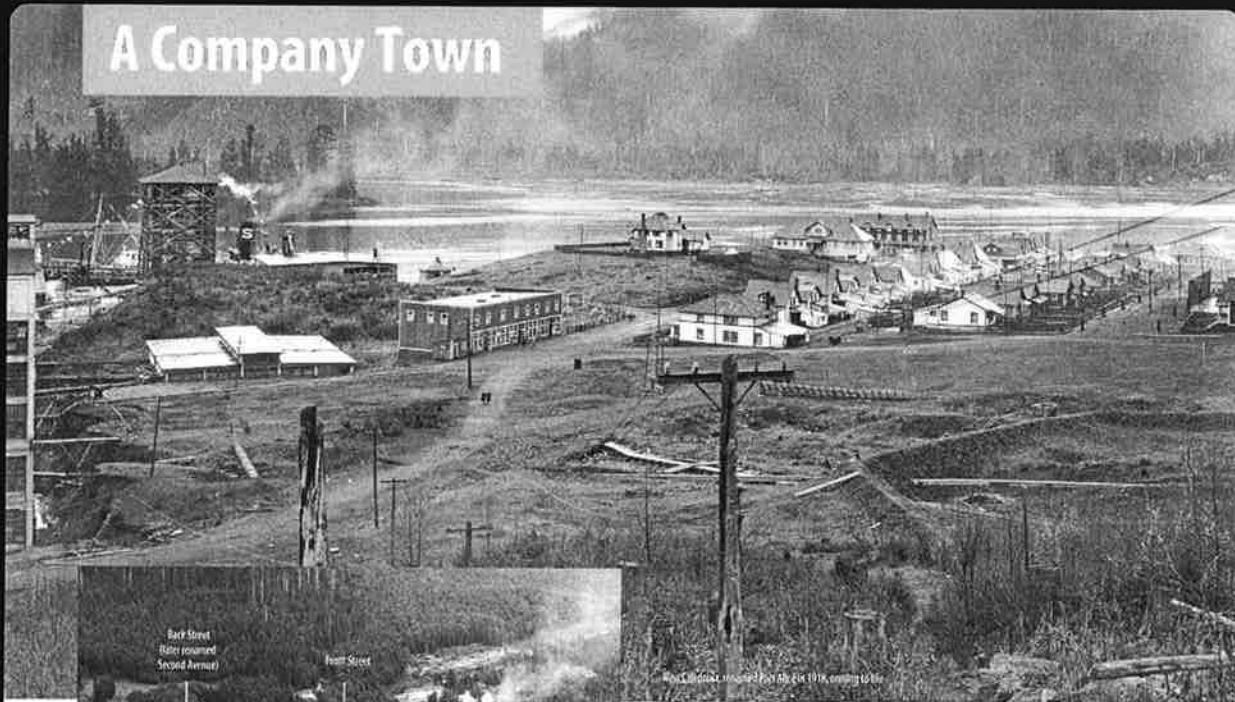


No smoking on the trails.



Be aware of wildlife.

# A Company Town



The original townsite of Port Alice was right next to the mill.

**In the early 1900s, British Columbia was open for business and industries sprang up all along the coast.**

A successful pulp mill needed lots of fresh water, a level building site, and a port with access to markets via the ocean. Here, at the head of Neroutsos Inlet, was the perfect spot. The Whalen Pulp and Paper Products constructed the mill in 1917, and by 1918 the mill was up and running with a small company town nearby. The four Whalen brothers named the town after their mother, Alice.

Port Alice was small in size, but large in community spirit. For a time the town had a movie theatre, bowling alley, and opportunities for "fine dining," and residents enjoyed a garden club, masquerade balls, holiday parties, live music, and sports.

## Instant Municipality

Over time, people wanted to own their homes and get some distance from the mill's smokestacks, so a new town was built near Rumble Beach, about four kilometres from the company townsite. In 1965, this "new" Port Alice was incorporated, becoming the province's first "instant municipality."



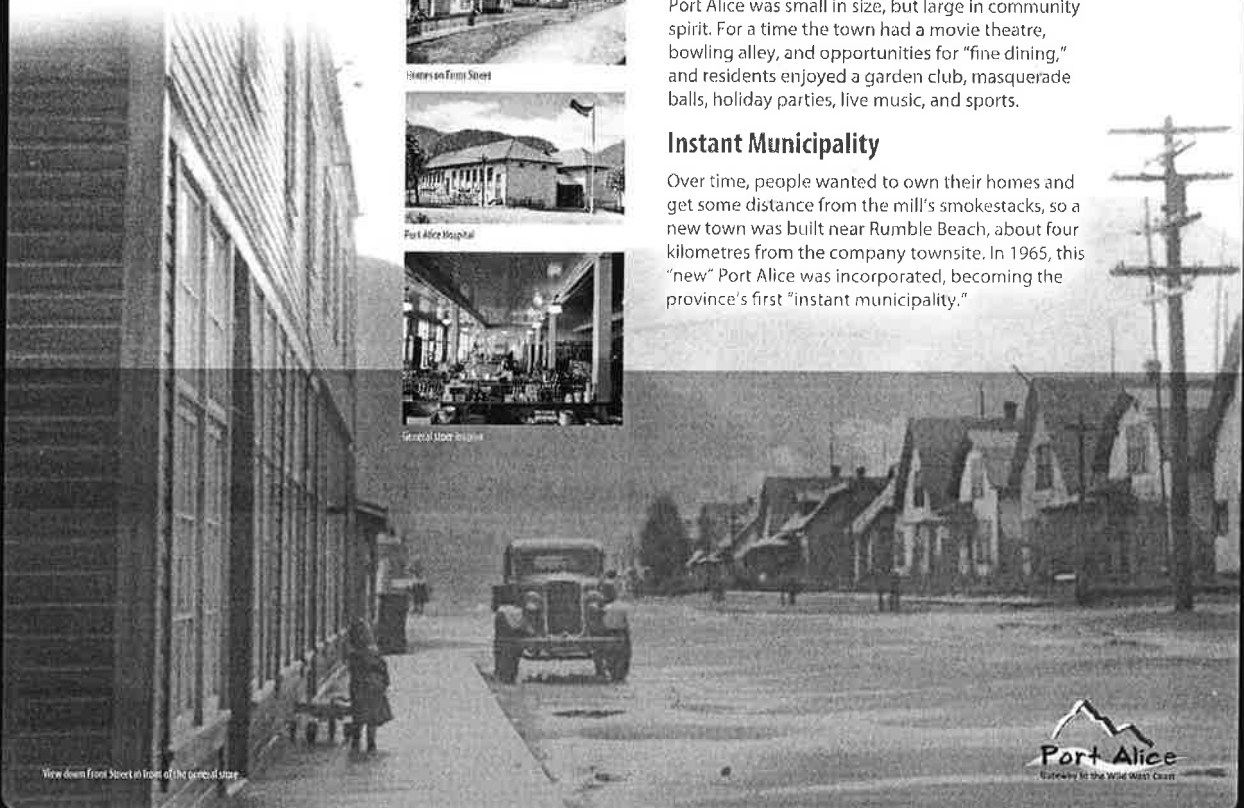
Houses on Front Street



Port Alice Hospital



General Store Interior

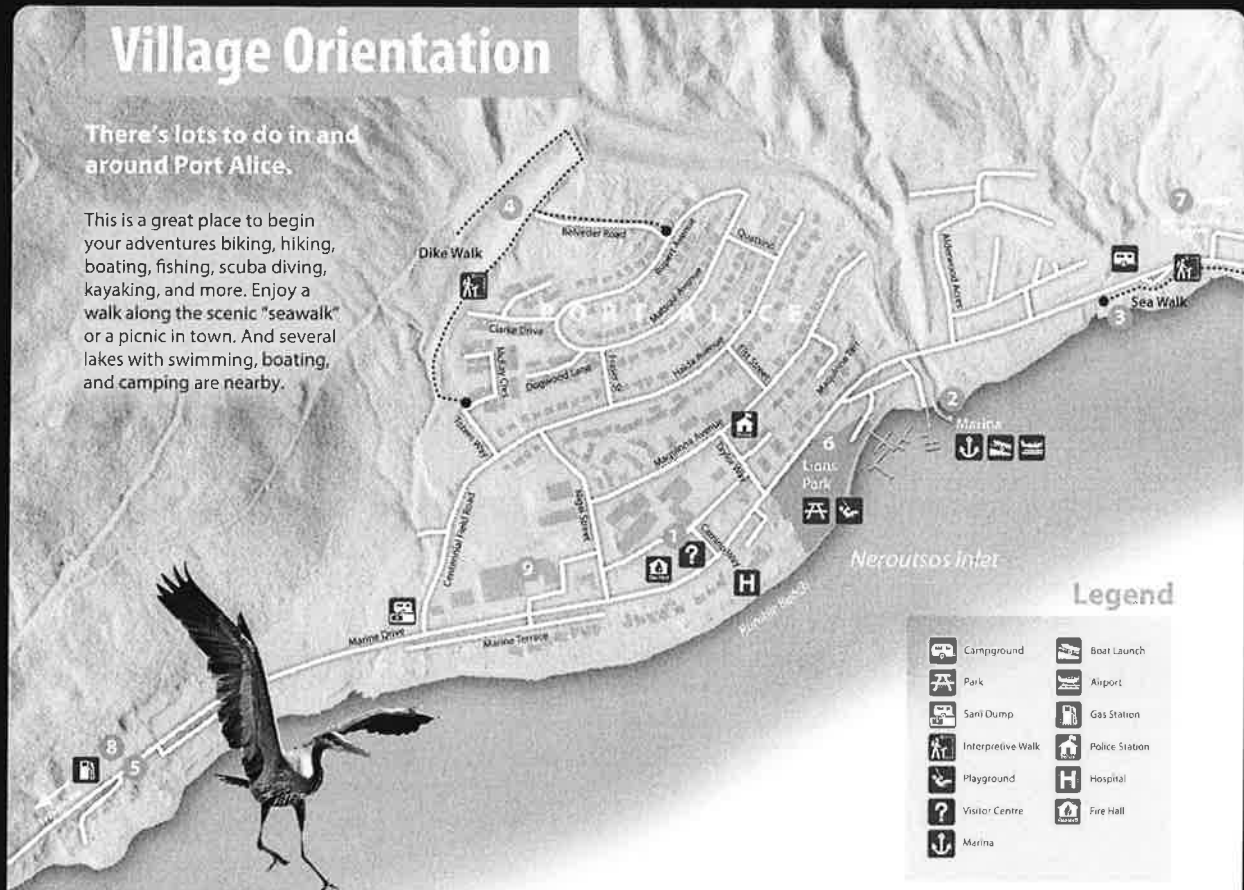


View down Front Street in front of the cement store

# Village Orientation

There's lots to do in and around Port Alice.

This is a great place to begin your adventures biking, hiking, boating, fishing, scuba diving, kayaking, and more. Enjoy a walk along the scenic "seawalk" or a picnic in town. And several lakes with swimming, boating, and camping are nearby.



**1** Visitor Centre

Port Alice's visitor centre provides information for tourists, displays on local history, and a small gift shop.



**2** Marina

Remble Beach Marina has moorage, potable water, a fish-cleaning station, garbage disposal, showers, and a public washroom.



**3** Town Walks

Enjoy a stroll around town or the three kilometre scenic "seawalk," which is also wheelchair accessible. Several benches and picnic tables along the way provide places to rest. At low tide, follow the trail to Walbran Island.



**4** The Dike

The dike protects the town, but is also a great place for a walk. Signs provide information on the dike and its surroundings.



**5** Interpretive Signs

Look for the interpretive signs around town that tell the stories of our natural and cultural history.



**6** Playgrounds and Picnicking

You can find playground and picnic spots in several places, including the Rotary Park, the [where] and the [where].



**7** Golf Course

The beautiful Port Alice Golf and Country Club includes a nine-hole public course and clubhouse. It's operated by a dedicated community of volunteers.



**8** Camping

There are several opportunities for camping in the area—in town, near the ocean, or on one of the nearby lakes, including the Link River campsite on Alice Lake.



**9** Recreation Facilities

The community centre and arena provide recreational opportunities for locals and visitors. The Burnside Short, a monthly newsletter, describes upcoming activities.



# The Pulp Mill

## 2015 - 2019 Final years

Until it closed in 2015, the mill was the town's main employer at times employing up to 400 people who lived in Port Alice or commuted from elsewhere on the North Island. When the town was "booming" as many as 2,500 people called Port Alice home.

Over a century ago, with a pulp mill and purpose-built town, Port Alice got its start.

## Mill Town

The machinery at the Whalen brothers' pulp mill started whirring in 1918 and the new town had about 50 houses, a boarding house, and a hotel. Whalen Pulp and Paper Products also had pulp mills at Woodfibre and Swanson Bay on the mainland, but their company was short-lived. By 1923 it was in receivership.

The Port Alice mill and townsite, circa 1918.

The Whalen Building



In 1918, Port Alice was the only mill on the west coast. The mill closed down in 1923 due to receivership.

## Changing Ownership

BC Pulp and Paper formed in 1925 to take over and expand the Whalen Pulp and Paper Products mills. Over the years the Port Alice mill had a succession of owners and at times experienced temporary shutdowns.

# Communities in the Wilderness

Route along the Discovery Coast connecting Port Hardy, at the northeastern part of Vancouver Island, with Bella Coola, at the head of the North Bentick Arm, BC. (iStockphoto)

Feeling adventurous?  
There are many other  
communities near  
Port Alice to explore.

## 1 Winter Harbour

The sheltered waters of Winter Harbour have provided protection for mariners for centuries. This quaint fishing village with its historic boardwalk is a jumping off point for fishing and wilderness exploration.

## 2 Coal Harbour and Quatsino

Coal Harbour has had many past incarnations: mining town, military base, and whaling station. Today, it's a perfect place to launch your kayaking, fishing, or camping adventure, and also to explore the region's history at the community museum. Quatsino, a quick water-taxi ride from Coal Harbour, was one of the earliest settler communities on the North Island. Visit its historic church, built in 1897, or learn about the community's history at the museum.

## 3 Holberg

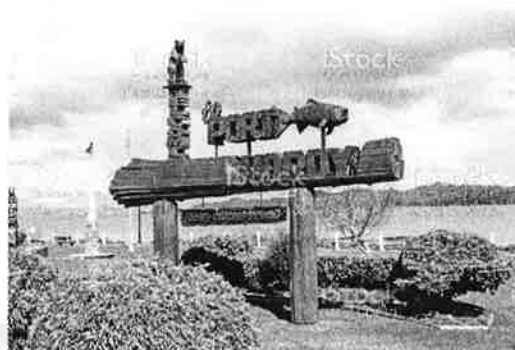
Danish settlers landed here in the early 1900s after trying to homestead at Cape Scott on the northern tip of Vancouver Island. Holberg was a logging town and a Canadian Air Force radar station. Today, it provides services for hikers, wildlife watchers, fishers, and other outdoor adventurers. Nearby Ronning Gardens, first established by a Norwegian settler more than a century ago, is a unique experience for keen botanists and gardeners.

## 4 Alice Lake Loop Tour

If you're not shy of gravel roads, consider driving part of the Alice Lake Loop Tour back to Highway 19. The southern part of the loop takes you past several lakes and karst geology features, including the Eternal Fountain and the Devil's Bath.

## 5 Port Hardy

Port Hardy serves as the hub for the North Island, providing a range of services and the centre for air, road, and ferry travel. It provides a variety of recreational and cultural experiences, including charters, wildlife viewing, galleries, and First Nations' tourism.



There's a lot to be seen and done in the area during a summer holiday near Holberg. (iStockphoto)

Port Alice  
British Columbia



# Northern Vancouver Island

An unspoiled, breathtaking, largely undiscovered area of the Pacific North West.

## Living at the Edge

Northern Vancouver Island is a wilderness enthusiast's paradise, with opportunities for endless outdoor activities, from camping and caving to biking and boating.



## Did You Know?

Vancouver Island is about 460 kilometres long, 100 kilometres wide, and has about 3,400 kilometres of coastline—that's almost the same distance between Vancouver and Toronto.



## The Sea

The undulating coastline, long fjords, and many islets and beaches, make for a complex and fascinating marine environment to explore.

## The Mountains

Vancouver Island is home to the Insular Mountains, a rugged chain that formed when several volcanic islands collided against North America over 66 million years ago. The highest peak in this range on Vancouver Island is Golden Hinde, at 2,195 metres.

## The Parks

Northern Vancouver Island has dozens of parks and wilderness activity sites, from provincial or regional parks to forestry recreation sites. Cape Scott Provincial Park, on the island's northern tip, offers hikers access to a rugged wilderness area with over 30 kilometres of remote beaches.

# All-Year Recreation

With forests, caves, lakes, and the endless expanse of the open ocean, there are no end of recreational activities for you to take part in. Choose your own adventure!

Kayaking just outside the Port Alice marina.



## Salmon Spawning

See salmon. In the fall, look for spawning salmon on the Marble River.



## Scuba Diving

Dive deep. The cool, clear, food-rich waters of the North Island makes this area a diver's paradise. The region provides some of the world's best opportunities for temperate water diving.



## Caving

Explore underground. There are several opportunities to safely explore the karst geology, even some caves, in the region.



## Mountain Biking

Gravel roads and some trails, including trails on Rumble Mountain and in Marble River Provincial Park near Port Alice, are great for mountain biking.



## Boating and Boat Tours

You can launch your own boat at the marina, or check at the visitor centre for charters.



## Culture

Experience history. Local museums, and the world-class U'mista Cultural Centre in Alert Bay, provide ways to learn the stories of the North Island.



## Fishing

Throw a cast. Access to the open ocean, and well as the region's many lakes and rivers, provide ample fishing opportunities.



## Hiking

Take a hike. From scenic strolls to multi-day backpacking trips, trails on the North Island can meet what you're looking for in a walk!



## Kayaking

Paddle a kayak. Protected waters, and access to the open ocean, provide endless opportunities for kayak trips of any length, from a few hours to a few weeks. If you are a novice, look for a guided experience.



## Flight-seeing

Go flight-seeing. A chartered seaplane tour gives you a view of the North Island like no other and can quickly get you to remote areas of the coast.



## Golfing

Tee up. Golf amidst spectacular wilderness settings in Port Alice, Port McNeill, or Port Hardy.



## Whale watching

Watch the whales (and sea otters, sea lions, seals, and more). When you're near the water, scan for marine mammals. A guided tour gives you access to places the animal frequent, and to guides with expert knowledge.



## Wildlife Viewing

Watch wildlife. Keep your eyes peeled for the many animals that make the land, water, or air home. But watch at a distance to keep you and wildlife safe.



## Camping and RVing

Go camping. A variety of campgrounds, from full-service to off-grid, provide multiple opportunities for camping (or "glamping" if you've brought your home on wheels).



## Swimming

Take a swim. The area's many lakes provide great places for a dip on a hot day. And adventurous "wild swimmers" who don't mind the chill can wade into the ocean safely from the region's beaches.

Photos: Durrell McIsaac

Beaver Lake

Port Alice  
Gateway to the Wild West Coast

# To the Open Water



Side Bay Beach

Photo: David Maltzsch

Long, protected Neroutsos Inlet leads into Quatsino Sound and out to the open Pacific Ocean.

It's no wonder that Port Alice is also called the "Gateway to the West Coast." Remote beaches, isolated inlets, and coves, offer endless exploration.

## West Coast Wildlife

The outer coast is home to many marine mammals, including sea otters and migrating whales. Transient, or Bigg's, killer whales cruise the coast looking for prey, such as seals. On the way to the coast, watch for eagles, bears, herons, and other wildlife.



Great Blue Heron

## Fish Finders

It's a beautiful boat ride to the fishing grounds off the end of Quatsino Sound, where fishers jig or troll for red snapper, ling cod, salmon, and other fish. If you plan to fish, you'll need a fishing license, and make sure to check regulations for information and quotas and openings. You can launch your boat at the Rumble Beach Marina.



Sea Otters



The protected waters around Port Alice provide ample opportunities for self-proclaimed oceanographers and geologists, stand-up paddleboarders, and canoeists. In good weather, you can see a pod of whales or a group of seals, and those with a little boat can take more remote beaches on the outer coast.



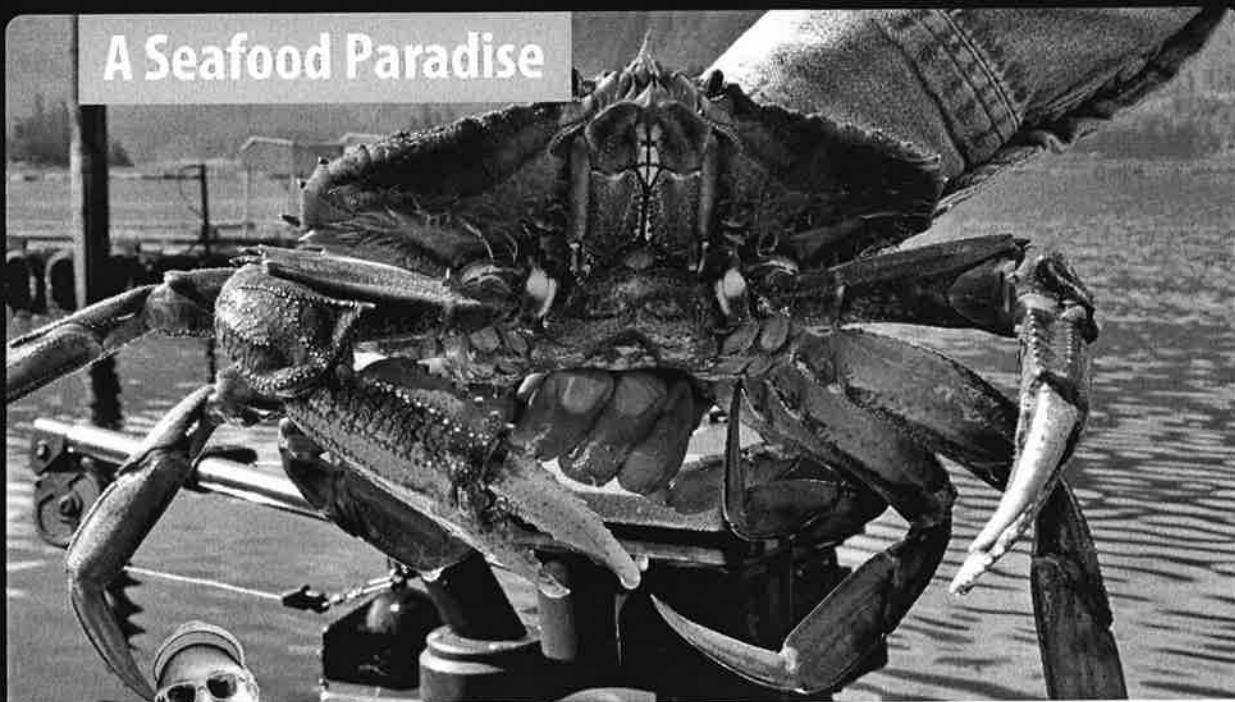
### Did You Know?

There are five islands off the west coast of Vancouver Island. Quatsino Sound is the southernmost of these with a rich marine harvesting system, tows, and islands. Drake Island and where Quatsino Sound meets Neroutsos Inlet two up on the left.





## A Seafood Paradise



If you like seafood, you've come to the right place. The cold, nutrient-rich waters around Port Alice provide a seafood bounty.

### Drop a Line

Access to the open ocean, and the many rivers and lakes of the region, provide ample opportunities for jigging, trolling, and fly-fishing. Some favourite quarry includes rock fish, ling cod, halibut, and several species of salmon.

### Drop a Trap

There's nothing better than fresh Dungeness crab and prawns (especially with butter!). They can be caught with specially designed traps.

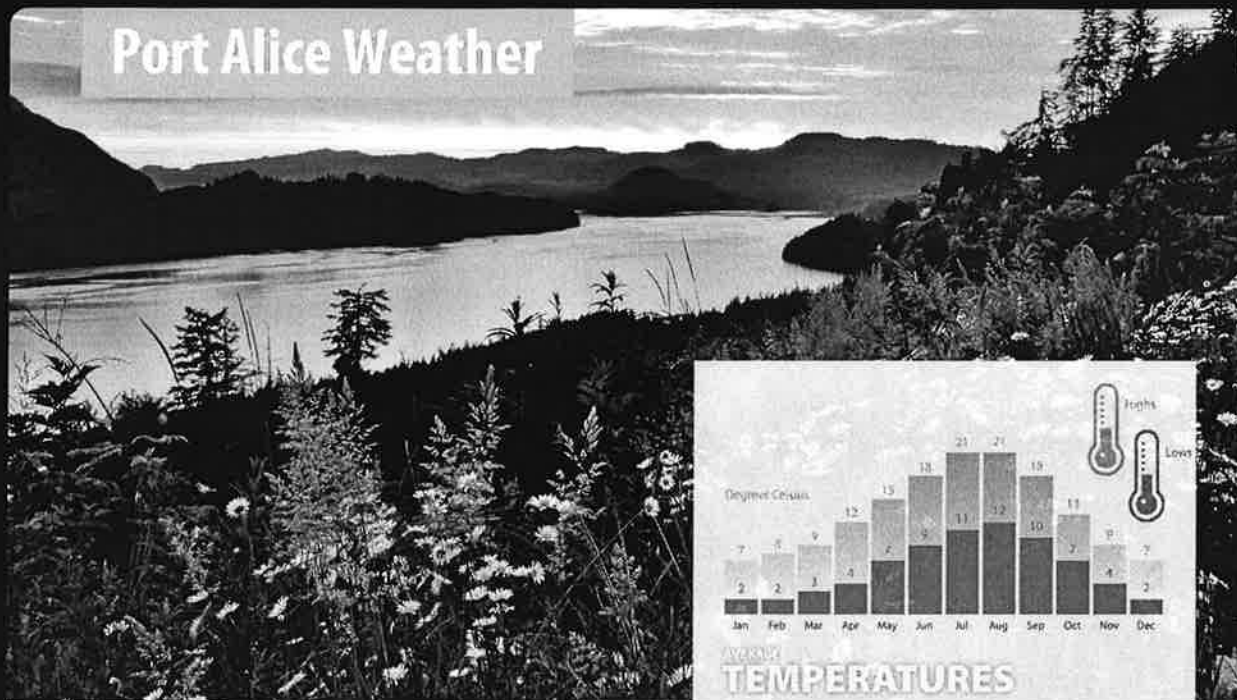
### Take a Seat

Chefs throughout the North Island region would be happy to serve you fresh, local seafood!



Port Alice  
A Seafood Paradise

# Port Alice Weather



## Did you bring your umbrella or raincoat?

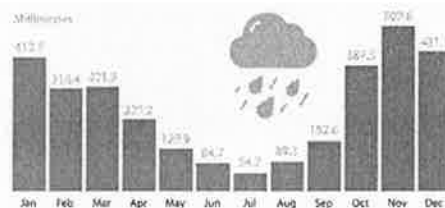
It's no secret that Port Alice, like much of the west coast of Vancouver Island, can be wet. The influence of the ocean makes this one of the wettest places in Canada, but it's also one of the mildest. Snow boots and sleds won't see much action here since it rarely snows or gets below zero.



Photos: Daniel McInnes

## A Maritime Climate

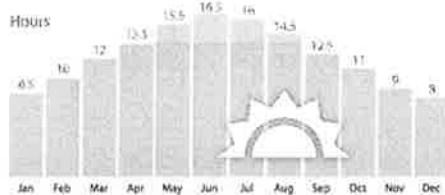
Winds blowing across the Pacific Ocean towards the shore pick up moisture from the ocean's surface. When that water-laden air hits land and is pushed up by mountains, it releases the moisture as rain. (Or snow, at higher elevations.)



## RAINFALL



## SNOWFALL



## DAYLIGHT



Since the Pacific is so large, it doesn't heat or cool quickly as the season's change. This results in a moderate climate, with mild winters and cool summers.

**From:** AVICC <avicc@ubcm.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2022 6:41 PM  
**To:** AVICC  
**Subject:** DFO Aquaculture Information Session – March 11, 2022

*Please distribute to all AVICC elected officials, the Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Officer and their support staff.*

**TO:** AVICC Members

**RE:** **Aquaculture Information Session – March 11, 2022**

UBCM and AVICC jointly met with representatives from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to share local government interests with respect to BC's aquaculture sector. In response to our discussion, DFO's Aquaculture Management Division is hosting a virtual information session on aquaculture management in BC. At this session, DFO staff will provide updates on a number of aquaculture initiatives and highlight ongoing opportunities for local government engagement. There will be a 45-minute presentation followed by a question-and-answer period.

**Date/Time:** Friday, March 11, 2022; 1:30-3:00pm (Pacific)

***Who can attend?*** BC local government elected officials and staff

*Please note this session is ONLY for AVICC and UBCM members -- do not share the log in information with others outside of local government.*

***To Register:*** The event is free. Click on the following link to submit your registration information to receive a confirmation email and log-in information for the virtual information session: [DFO Virtual Information Session on Aquaculture in BC for Local Governments Tickets, Fri, 11 Mar 2022 at 1:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

***Note:*** There is a maximum of 250 participants allowed in the meeting on a first-come-first-serve basis.

***DFO Contact:*** If you have any further questions or if you would prefer to register by email, please contact: [AreaBasedAquacultureManagement@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:AreaBasedAquacultureManagement@dfo-mpo.gc.ca).

***AVICC/UBCM Contact:***

Liz Cookson, AVICC, [lcCookson@ubcm.ca](mailto:lcCookson@ubcm.ca)

Marie Crawford, UBCM, [mcrawford@ubcm.ca](mailto:mcrawford@ubcm.ca)



**treasurer@portalice.ca**

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**From:** Vancouver Island Economic Alliance <info@viea.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 8, 2022 6:51 PM  
**To:** Bonnie Danyk  
**Subject:** SṪÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation – An Historical Moment



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Tsawout Farm Sunrise - photo credit [Cascadia Seaweed](#)

## SṪÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation – An Historical Moment

## **Tsawout First Nation has issued license to Cascadia Seaweed for 20 km of production line – now the largest provider of ocean cultivated seaweed in North America.**

In 2018, the [Vancouver Island Economic Alliance](#) (VIEA) using its new designation as FTZVI, Canada's 12th Foreign Trade Zone, developed [four business cases](#) to attract Foreign Direct Investment. The business case for Seaweed Aquaculture rose to the top of this list and was quickly pursued by a team of experts and investors to form Cascadia Seaweed Corporation, partnering with Nuuchahnulth Seafood LP, to bring Vancouver Island seaweed to rapidly expanding global markets.

On June 16, 2021, the elected leadership of the [Tsawout First Nation](#) exercised their right to self-govern and enacted a Marine Use Law. As defined and clarified under the Douglas Treaty, the Constitution, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Tsawout First Nation has jurisdiction and authority over Tsawout lands, waters, resources and interests through unextinguished Aboriginal title. In October, under provisions of this new Law, Tsawout issued a license to [Cascadia Seaweed](#) to engage in commercial seaweed farming activities within their territorial waters and on Tsawout's behalf. In November, Cascadia Seaweed installed and seeded one of its largest farms to date, with over 20 km of production line in the water.

The typical process to secure a license from the Province of BC to install a seaweed farm can take anywhere between 8 months to 3 years. Tsawout First Nation recognized the economic and environmental benefit of farming seaweed in their territory and were able to grant a license in under 5 months to what is now the largest provider of ocean cultivated seaweed in North America – Cascadia Seaweed.

Cascadia Seaweed was chosen because they offered the 'greenest of the green projects' said Chrissy Chen, Fisheries Manager for Tsawout. "We are Indigenous people. We are here to conserve and protect the environment while we produce food and create opportunity for our people. Cascadia Seaweed is supporting all of these objectives." Chairman of Cascadia Seaweed, Bill Collins, adds that this is "True reconciliation in action."

*On February 25th, Tsawout First Nation will hold a ceremony recognizing the Nation's sovereign rights.*

*For more information about the seaweed industry, visit [seaweedindustry.ca](https://seaweedindustry.ca).*

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**Our mailing address:** Vancouver Island Economic Alliance, P.O. Box 76, Station A, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5K4 Canada

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