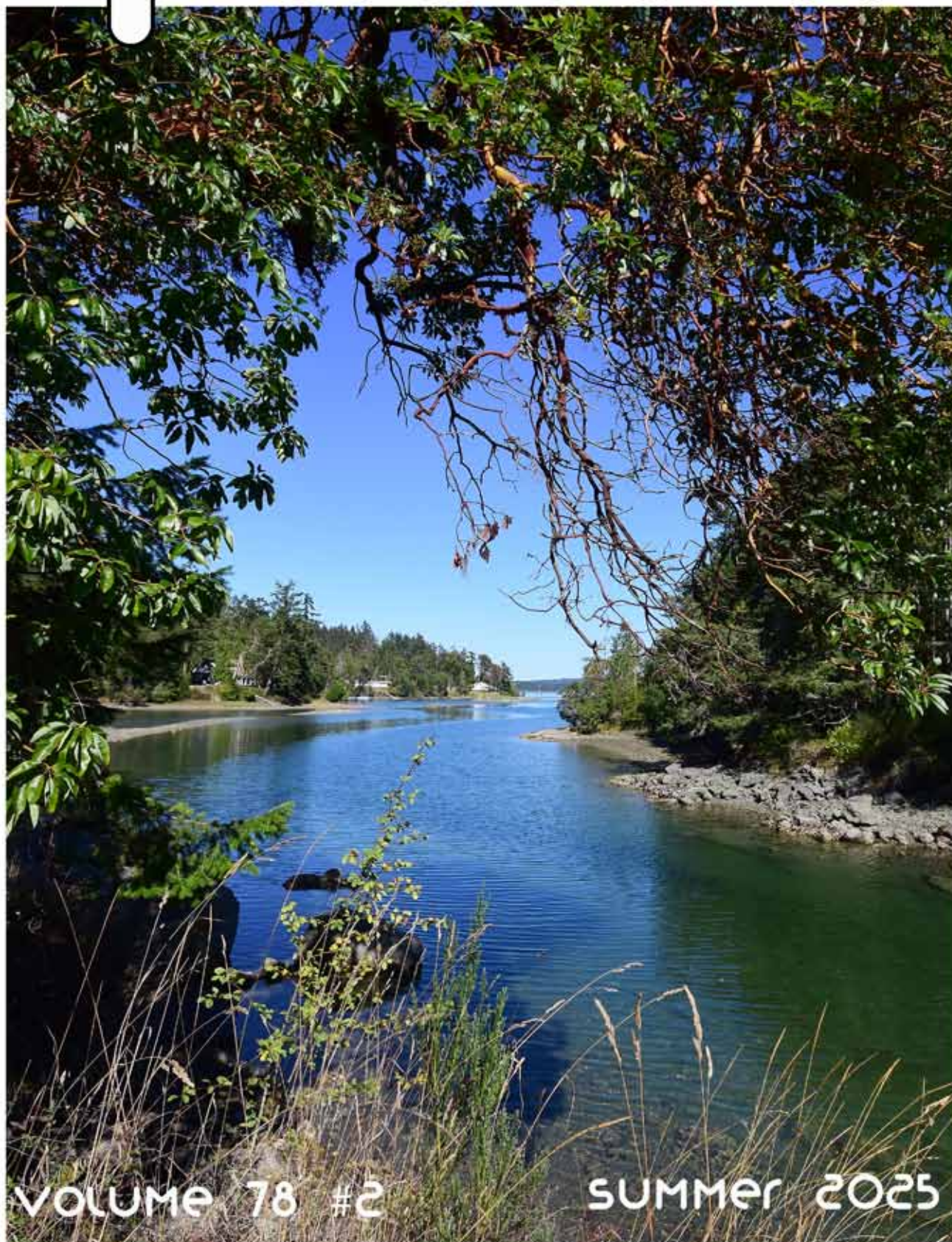


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The Thetis Island QUARTERLY



VOLUME 78 #2

SUMMER 2025

ISLAND
QUARTERLY

The Quarterly is published by the Thetis Island Community Association on the 1st of March, June, September and December of each year, to highlight the people and activities of Thetis Island.

Perspectives and opinions contained herein are not necessarily those of TICA, and the editor reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, brevity or taste. Substantial edits must be approved by the author before going to print.

The target for all submissions is roughly four weeks prior to the publication date (i.e. Feb. 1st, May 3rd, Aug. 3rd, and Nov. 2nd.)

Electronic submissions are preferred where possible, and should be sent to the Editors at quarterly@thetisland.net. Or, the mailing address is Box 615, Thetis Island, V0R 2Y0

The digital version of the Quarterly comes free with TICA membership but the print edition may also be obtained by subscription at \$30 a year. Subscriptions to the print edition can be paid for at the time of TICA membership application or renewal, or can be purchased at any time by sending an e-transfer to it@forbeshall.ca with info saying it is for a subscription, with the address to send it to. Or send a cheque to TICA, Box 140, Thetis Island, V0R2Y0 indicating it is for a subscription, or fill out the form on the website forbeshall.ca and pay by credit card.

Cover photo is a view of the Cut by Carol Sowerby.

EDITORIAL PAGE

HIGHLIGHTS OF TWO MAJOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS:
TICA - Saturday April 26, 2025

The 2025 TICA annual general meeting was held Saturday, April 26. The board of directors were elected by acclamation as follows:

President – Ann Dickie

Vice President – Jamie Hayward

Treasurer – Ron Bannister

Secretary – Teresa Moore

Directors-at-Large

Marjan Jackman (IT Services Chair)

Ellen Rush (Merchandise Chair and Co-chair Arts Committee)

Don Sinclair (Membership Chair)

Members approved changes to the Bylaws including the addition of a new category of membership, Legacy Member. This new category will allow off-island individuals who have a family member who owns a Thetis property to become a TICA member and maintain their connection to the Island even though they are not residents and do not own property on Thetis. The 2025 version of the TICA Bylaws is available at forbeshall.ca/documents-and-records.

Members also approved an increase in annual fees effective January 2026 to \$120 for Household and \$60 for Individual or Legacy members as well as an increase in board members from seven to nine. The new board positions will have portfolios in (1) Environment and (2) Child & Youth Activities. These individuals will work with community members interested in these areas and bring ideas and suggestions to the board for approval or action.

TICA Welcome Two New Board Members

Following approval of the membership to increase the size of the board, TICA now welcomes as Directors-at-Large Terry Hamilton (Environmental Chair) and Penelope Terry (Child & Youth Activities Chair).

June 14th Community Celebration

Tickets are now available for the Saturday, June 14th Community Celebration. The event starts at 5:00 with Children's activities and the BBQ dinner served from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. A concert by Vancouver-based Headlong Hearts begins at 7:30. A hosted soft bar and a no-host cash bar will be open throughout the event. Tickets may be purchased at forbeshall.ca or by contacting ellenrush@gmail.com. Ticket prices are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children ages 5-10 and are free for children 4 and under.

We hope to see you there.

TICA Board

and TIRRA - Saturday, May 24th, 2025

A just-under-the-wire update from the Annual General Meeting of our Residents' & Rate-payers' Association. Reports are online at <https://www.thetisland.net/tirra/tirra-reports.html>

The new board is as follows:

President: Lynne Smith

Vice-President: Quentin Goodbody

Secretary: Susan Unger

Treasurer: Ernie Hunter

Committee Chairs:

Cemetery: Suzanne Sarioglu

Communications: Veronica Shelford

Trails - Vicki Walker & Doug Fenton

Transportation - Julian Jackman

Solid Waste Management - Ernie Hunter

Welcome Packages: vacant

Many thanks to all who stepped up to fill the vacancies!

From the Vice-President's report: "I would like to thank the outgoing Board and all Volunteers for the love and effort they have put in over the past year for our Community."

TIRRA Executive Board

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!! THE SHOW !!

THE GREAT THETIS ISLAND HERRING SPAWN OF SPRING 2025

STARRING – PACIFIC HERRING (*Clupea pallasii*)

The Pacific herring is the ultimate, super keystone species for the environment that is the northwest coast of North America. Nearly every species of marine life is impacted/affected in some way during the herring's life history. Without it, these waters would be devoid of their spectacular diversity and abundance of life.

A member of a worldwide family of marine fishes containing at least 180 species, the Pacific herring lives in the waters of Korea, Japan and into the Arctic Ocean. Most importantly, it dwells along North America's Pacific coast, from Alaska to northern Mexico and at depths from the surface to at least 250 m (820 ft.). The Salish Sea and our own Thetis Island being in a central location.

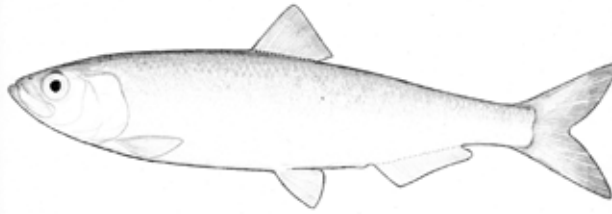
While it can attain a maximum length of 46 cm (18 in.), this silvery schooling species usually reaches more modest dimensions.

With the starring role in the upcoming SHOW, it appears as constellations in the form manifested as schools of individuals. Such gatherings can be so immense as to overwhelm any attempt to quantify numbers of individuals.

Amazingly, the Pacific herring has (and remains) vastly underappreciated and overlooked in the grandness of its presence. A sad and poignant exclamation point for the upcoming show

CO-STARRING

As often happens, a co-star may vie for top billing. Such is the case of the California sea



Sketch by the author, of *Clupea pallasii*, the Pacific Herring

lion. Weighing in at up to 408 kg (900 lb), it dwarfs any individual lead player. As seen, heard and even smelled, this most obvious cast member overtakes every scene in which it appears. Viewers tune in and initially focus on

this dominant "acting" force.

While the Pacific herring has inhabited the Salish Sea and beyond for many centuries, its co-star is a relatively recent arrival. It is only in the early 1960s that the California sea lion arrived. Its numbers here steadily increased until leveling off in the 1980's. Driven by California's protection initiatives, this northern invasion is comprised of roaming males as females and young remain behind. Most of the wandering males return annually to assist in "making more" recruits.

ALSO FEATURED

Size, mobility and visibility, among other factors, dictate the order of appearance of many other actors – in roles from major contributors to bit players.

A long list of predatory birds and mammals (to be detailed later) undertake their most important roles, obvious to Thetisites who watched the production from vantage points along island shores.

Below the sea's surface though, an even more impressive number of "actors" play their key parts. These creatures go unnoticed by islanders mesmerized by the main event. Many species of fish, crabs, shrimps, sea stars, sea urchins, snails and octopuses are among these unsung participants. Even stationary sea anemones find a way to participate.



Patience has rewarded this great blue heron.
Neil McDaniel photo.



Watchful, a glaucous-winged gull hurriedly gulps down a herring head first.
Neil McDaniel photo.



Dodging a greedy gull, a California sea lion retains its catch. Neil McDaniel photo.



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BACK STORY

The Pacific herring has been utilized by countless generations of indigenous people coastwide. Relatively small populations along the coast were able to sustainably harvest this silvery resource. Employing seemingly primitive but ingenious technologies, including scoops, baskets and rakes (paddles lined with small, sharp pointed structures along their edges), these folks harmoniously exploited the bounty. In addition, they seasonally gathered this fish's roe (eggs) from the rich intertidal zone. Our Penelakut Tribe neighbours continue to espouse this long tradition of respecting and revering our shared Salish Sea environment.

Upon their arrival in the 1800s, European settlers discovered this opportunity and began taking advantage. At first, the effect was minimal, as they too had a small footprint and only limited access via various small scale net harvesting gear.

By the end of World War Two however, fishing methods had become more mechanized and productive with every increasing technological improvement. Large seine fleets fanned out coastwide to exploit the resource primarily for reduction. It was ground up primarily as fertilizer.

Later, starting in the 1970s, offshore demand for herring roe necessitated a fishery focused on spawning stocks of herring (at their most vulnerable and vital life history stage).

Along this temporal pathway, naivety, indifference, ignorance, mismanagement and over exploitation results in today's tragic situation. Very depressed Pacific herring populations producing very limited major spawnings at very few locations. And those vital sites under ever increasing eco-



Above: Surveying the scene, an adult bald eagle swoops in after a snack. Neil McDaniel photo.

Below: A school of yearling herring as typically seen via SCUBA mode, Neil McDaniel photo.



Above: From the Thetis Island ferry dock in November 2023, a large herring ball is obvious.

Below: Mouth wide open, a hungry harbour seal scatters part of the herring ball. Quentin Goodbody photos.



nomic pressure for continued exploitation. A HORRIFIC ULTIMATE RESULT SEEMS MOST LIKELY UNLESS THIS SITUATION IS REVERSED OR AT LEAST SEVERELY MODIFIED.

PREQUELS

The Pacific herring is easily viewed by Thetis Islanders, primarily in spring, summer and autumn. Providing water clarity is reasonable, folks observing from docks, floats and watercraft can often see yearlings in schools of various sizes. They may show by "flipping" -- just barely leaping at the surface. Alternately, these small silvery fish may "flash" as they turn sideways to feed. This is viewable by looking down into the water.

Members of the tiny, local dive club TIME (Thetis Island Marine Explorers) routinely see schools of young herring while exploring shoreline sites. By looking up into the green water, divers often are treated to a passing parade.

But the most exciting viewing option, is witnessing a "herring ball" event. Under routine mode, Pacific herring school together in various sized groups and travel in search of their small planktonic prey. As such, the participating individuals swim closely though not tightly together -- but seemingly as one "unit".

However, when stressed by predators, particularly in organized groups, these school mates pack ever more closely together and form "balls". Such extremely compact units usually appear at the surface due to predatory "round-ups" initially being from

below. Upon becoming more visible at the surface, herring balls become targets of aerial predators as well. All this action becomes noticeable for human observations, sometimes in very shallow water, and close to shore.

THE BIG SHOW

Initially as winter of 2025 was ending, all seemed quiet and normal along the shoreline of Thetis Island. Then during the week of March 17th through 24th, as spring arrived, all that changed. Unexpectedly, chaos and pandemonium erupted. Mature adult Pacific herring, the “stars in their constellations” had arrived in the billions to spawn. Ripe males spewed their sperm in abundances that turned the shallow shore waters a milky turquoise. Simultaneously, females deposited their tiny eggs on the algae that covered available rocky substrate and upon eelgrass that sprouts from the sand/mud bottom. This process continued unabated as the seemingly oblivious spawners maintained their efforts as unfettered and massive predation occurred all around.

The giant co-stars charged in barking and splashing, while swarms of often squabbling gull species attacked from above, all the while raining out a squawking cacophony. The rest of “the featured performers” and “bit players” moved in to take advantage of the bonanza. Swooping eagles, diving mergansers, cormorants and ducks selectively chose their meals. Determined and concentrating, great blue herons lined up along exposed rocks to make careful selections. In addition, and out of sight, many other underwater opportunists oriented to take advantage. While unreported, likely the stealthy and secretive harbour porpoise may have put in cameo appearances.

Versions of this display took place at sites all around Thetis Island, in small coves, rocky points and spots in between. Often such efforts lasted over several days. The only stretches of shore unutilized were those of “The Cut” and connecting Telegraph Harbour. Most likely this was because of its mostly muddy bottom habitat with little suitable seaweed/eelgrass spawning substrate.

In Clam Bay (the authors viewpoint), THE SHOW was a single day long feature on Friday, March 21st. With ring-side seats, those folks present were treated to this truly monumental event. The days on either side were relatively quiet and typical. But for that entire glorious day it all spectacularly unfolded.

In a final, scene-stealing effort, the co-star gravitated to Pilkey Point. California sea lions often gather in small rafts, with flippers held high and drift about at the surface. After the glutinous frenzies of feasting, such intervals provide intermittent resting interludes for those completely sated.

But culminating on Saturday, March 22nd, over two hundred co-stars hauled out on the rocky fingers of the Point. Among them, several “branded” (through research initiatives) individuals were even observed. This exclamation finale lasted for about a week, long after the starring Pacific herring constellations exited the stage – perhaps to reprise their role elsewhere.



Created by herring sperm is the turquoise (pale in printed version) water in a calm Fraser Point bay. Geoff Porter photo.



Taken from Capernwray Beach, this image shows a massive area of spawning activity, Sue French photo.



A casualty dropped upon a neighbouring lawn amid the mayhem. Based upon measurement, this herring was a two or three year old. Cassie McDaniel photo.

Thetisites and their guests flocked to the popular site to take advantage of the special viewing opportunity and get up close and personal with “the gang”. These impressive hulks lounged about indifferent to onlookers and occasionally having a dip to form typical rafts in the adjacent shallows. While the audio emanating from this throng added to most observer’s enjoyment, it did result in a few sleepless nights for a least one resident living too close to the source.

Another “viewer” did appear, at least once on Saturday. An ominous swim past by a pod of transient orcas/killer whales produced no casualties or even signs of panic from the lethargic potential prey.

CURTAIN CALLS

While the exiting California sea lions brought an obvious downing of the curtain, the show actually “went on” – albeit in a more subtle manner. The also featured predators continued to feast on the results of spawn – the incredible amount of Pacific herring roe. Numerous bird species feasted intertidally as the tide went in and out, while diving ducks continued to forage. A quantity even became dislodged, floated to surface and formed into tidelines. These provided easy pickings for surface feeders. Fish and invertebrate opportunists also maintained a slow but steady predation.

Members of TIME made several dives during this



Very satisfied and sated, California sea lions hauled out at Pilkey Point. Neil McDaniel photo.



Herring eggs with eyed larvae at Stephenson Point. Rick Harbo.



Like winter slush, herring roe carpets intertidal rockweed and other algae, Doug Fenton photo.

following period and found eggs in abundance (down to over 18 m or 60 ft.) near Pilkey Point and at Clam Bay. A collection of eggs on Friday, April 4th, held overnight, produced hatchlings. This verifies the approximate two-week gestation period for the Pacific herring.

The introduction of these larval herring into their surroundings provides for another cast of characters to predate upon the moveable feast as these vulnerable young continue their life cycle.

SEQUELS

As it be, Thetis Island old timers would suggest, this year’s version of THE SHOW was actually a sequel. And one of many. The last observed “release” occurred thirty years ago, in 1995, according to former long term Clam Bay resident Pete Rees. It ended in a flourish, with a “fisheries opening” and the appearance of seiners in the Salish Sea waters around Thetis Island and beyond. An entire year’s worth of the starring constellations virtually wiped out. Words cannot adequately express the author’s utter disgust at this point.

On a hopefully positive look into the future, the marvelous

March, 2025 version bodes well for the future. The survivors of this year's cohort will likely remain in the Salish Sea for a year or two before joining most of their brethren in a regular migration off shore. Maturity for Pacific herring occurs after two to three years. And so, this year's contribution should make an impact by 2027 or 2028. And unlike the much-celebrated Pacific salmon, *Clupea pallasii* is a repeat spawner and may survive the gauntlet again. Documented as living to 19 years, the potential for continuing value shines through.

CREDITS

After conceiving this article and throughout its preparation, the author was delighted by many enthusiastic islanders reporting their individual experiences. In addition, numerous photos and videos were offered. Unfortunately, limited space in the printed Quarterly required choices be made for publication.

A long overdue nod must be given to the Quarterly's editors Veronica Shelford and Carol Sowerby for their customary excellent guidance for this and earlier contributions.

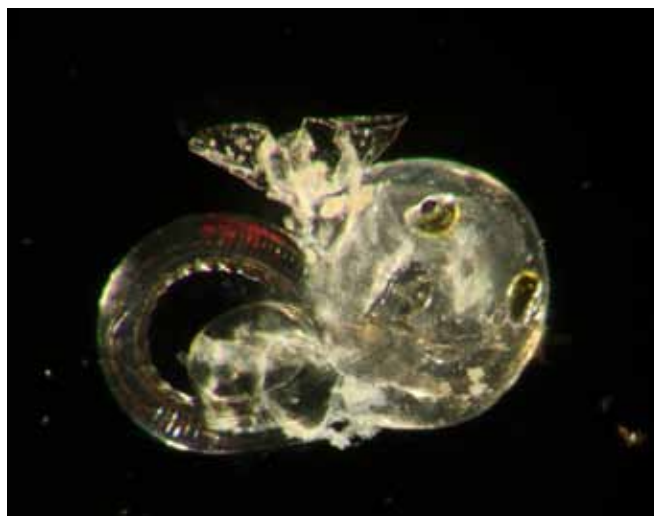
Finally, a special acknowledgement must go to Hornby Island's Grant Scott. A former commercial fisherman, Grant had devoted his retirement years to the conservation and protection of the Pacific herring. From his base, in the heart of the last remaining spawning stronghold for this super key-stone species, Grant and his colleagues work tirelessly for this most important cause. For your interest, Grant has authored or contributed to three videos about the Pacific herring:

WE ARE THE HERRING - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOWEaZ-kjJE>

CASEY AND FINNEGAN Send a Message to the Government to End the Pacific Herring Fishery - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Ufpm_eu8VU

THE SILVER HIGHWAY - <https://www.thetisland.net/quarterly/gscott-herring-highway.mp4>

Our thanks to Grant for allowing us to share these videos!



Bursting from its egg, a larval Pacific herring enters its watery home. Danny Kent photo.



Days old, a tiny herring swims in its Vancouver Aquarium rearing tank. Danny Kent photo.

Andy Lamb

**thetis came like a dream
road to my mother smooth and free
nature so lovely in its light
beauty of a spot to delight
the feeling of home at last
all the winding trails we walked
the glow stayed in my thoughts
the cats would follow
felt no fright**

**beautiful sun to warm the home
rain to water nature and the garden
growth was overwhelming
eating the berries was delicious
always feeling the beauty of surroundings
never looking back
thetis will always be a delight
forever more**

Hortensa Nawatzki

REMEMBERING

MARLENE FORDHAM

Marlene Elizabeth Fordham, wife to Charles Fordham, mother to Christopher Fordham (Susanne) and Jessica Dauphinée (Jay), grandmother to Seth, Elijah and Zoë, passed into the presence of Jesus on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at the age of 76 (57 years to the day she met Charlie) after recent health complications and a long and courageous battle with Parkinson's disease. Marlene studied and practiced nursing early in her career then later co-founded Capernwray Harbour Bible Centre on Thetis Island which she and Charlie pioneered together starting in 1979. Marlene loved Jesus, her family, her dogs and she loved to laugh. She was a friend and spiritual mentor to many, and always delighted to share the Life and Love of God in Christ Jesus, who is, in her words, "the Living Word of God, inseparable from the written Word revealing TRUTH". Marlene will be deeply missed.

"I have set the Lord continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; my flesh also will



dwell securely. For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; you will not allow your Holy One to undergo decay. You will make known to me the way of life; in Your Presence is fullness of joy: In your right hand there are pleasures forever." Ps 16: 8-11

A Celebration of Life service for Marlene took place on Saturday, May 10 at 11:00 am at Newlife Church, 839 Tzouhalem Road, Duncan, BC, with a reception following. The celebration was live-streamed at [https://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-ca/obituaries/duncan-bc/marlene-](https://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-ca/obituaries/duncan-bc/marlene-fordham-12339791)

[fordham-12339791](https://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-ca/obituaries/duncan-bc/marlene-fordham-12339791) when available.

At Marlene's request, in lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Capernwray Harbour Student Fund at capernwray.ca.

Messages for her family are also welcome and will be cherished.

The Fordham Family

REFLECTION ON OUR THETIS ISLAND HOME

There is a place of earth and sea
A place of thoughts and memories
Of trees and salt and sun and sky
Of times to come and times gone by

A place of wells and water tanks
Of unearthed broom and wasps by rank

Without the stink or sound of cars
Just tidal pools and shooting stars

This is our place, both yours and mine
To have and share, for all of time
To read this poem, you'll wonder where
Just close your eyes, and you'll be there.

Jesse Whitehead

!!! SAVE THE DATE !!!

The Community Fund's Fabulous *FAMILY FUN DAY, Saturday, AUGUST 9th. 2025*

LETTERS HOME

October 7, 1946 – June 4th 1947

Part 5

Part 5 of the letters from 18 year old Audree Sherlock (later Rees of Thetis Island), during her adventure crewing on the yacht *Reverie* as it attempted to sail from Vancouver to New York, through the Panama Canal, in the years 1946-47. Part 1 is in the Winter 2023-24 issue of the *Quarterly*, Part 2 in Spring 2024, Part 3 in Summer 2024, and Part 4 in the Winter 2024/25 issue. We have kept to her own words and spellings, as these letters were effectively her diary.

Continuing her letter of December 11th, 1946, and they have just sailed out of San Pedro and put down anchor after rounding Point La Jolla.

The next morning was beautiful and warm as we dieselized into this very picturesque Yacht Club with its huge schooners and ocean racing sailboats. The date palms along the shore sheltering the island and a lovely clubhouse – oh what a sight for sore San Pedro eyes. The boats just looked like someone had gone around the world collecting only the best boats to do justice to this wonderful club.

December 12th 1946

San Diego Yacht Club (Point Loma)

We had tied to the spacious visitor's float in front of the club and had been shown around the place with its dining room, lunch counter, bar, upper deck, powder room, fireplace, take a breath outside locker room, shower rooms, boat hoist, tennis courts, parking lot and penguin shed not to mention dates lying all over the ground under the palm trees when one of our generous hosts asked if I'd like to go sailing with them. He turned out to be Lonnie Jessop, the eldest of a tribe of 5 or 6 Jessops who own one of the finest jewellery businesses on the coast. They have 5 or 6 boats here and hire a man just to look after them. The crew consisted of his daughter Jane, two fellows and myself. We were on a double ended ketch with outboard rudder with Jane at the tiller with a sheet in one hand and bottle of American water in the other as the sun shone and the wind blew....

After a bit of the ocean, we came about and ate a huge lunch of sandwiches, beans, devilled eggs, coffee, cookies – but that was worn off some when we picked a race with a 50-ft schooner tacking across the bay. It was quite a coincidence that the skipper came over to see us 2 or 3 days afterward. He's Mr. Austin of Austin Hotel fame in Vancouver.

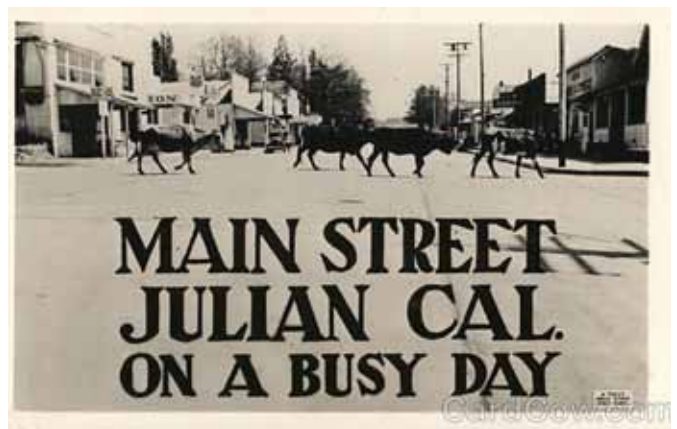
We became quite aware of the terrific hospitality of the club manager. Since eating facilities at the club are closed Mon and Tues, he has to make his own meals and wash his dishes – so Monday night Lucy and I had this gigantic new galley all to ourselves with just 4 to cook for. Everything we could ask for with a walk-in to boot. What a difference from our little noggin-notcher.

And so it goes. What with sitting in the sun waiting for our new berth, taking showers and shampoos, interviewing the press it came Sunday again and we trotted off to church. All Saints. The service is of a very high order similar to the R.C. in many ways. Communion sure drags out in a big congregation.



Point La Jolla

Then we were off for a delicious Italian dinner at the home of an ex-GI and his Italian war bride from Rome. They're rather a young couple with a sense of humour to beat anything because she's learning to speak American. Their neighbour showed us his back yard of rabbits, chickens, orange and lemon trees with fruit the size of grapefruit before we borrowed his Packard sedan and went for a drive. The natural theater on Mount Helix is quite interesting, but it doesn't compare to the sights on the way to Borrego Valley which we saw when Bill Knitz, the manager, took Lucy and I there last Friday. That was really a drive. Going and coming we stopped for a snack in the town of Julian at a place called the Maverick – what an atmosphere - coyotes, wolves, racoons pelts on the walls, chaps and stirrups – really western of course and the waitress had a French-Hungarian accent and couldn't add up the bill for beans as I prove. Try Jerry on it.



Fun postcard from the town of Julian at roughly Audree's period

We were fascinated by the desert with its variety of plants and each brought back a small cactus for a souvenir. Naturally the fact that we couldn't let go of them didn't have anything to do with it. Talk about a painful! Yipes!.

As I'm trying to cut this letter short to mail it tomorrow – I'll just explain – a fellow came down one day saying he'd seen the Reverie up the BC coast when he was a Skipper for a sub-chaser. He also has mutual friends with Skipper who sailed down to Newport. Anyhow, he's a sail maker now and seeing the condition of our sails he made a generous offer. The skipper bought the material and we two godown every day, to make sails with the sun shining. Lou is much better at the electric sewing machine so I've been doing odd jobs for them as she stitches up a stay-sail for us. It's Raynard and Eckles the up-and-coming sail makers. I've been on some very beautiful boats measuring them up for nylon sails.

What I've been thinking about for the last page or so (excuse the incoherence) is this; Skipper says I have to get a passport for the West Indies. One requirement is parental consent written, so please do at once. I'll be going to L.A. later as I need Martha as witness – convenient for Xmas dinner, eh? More later.

December 21st 1946

San Diego

My dear family,

We sure got one big huge enormous wonderful surprise today. Bill Knitz the manger, called Lucy and me to the office over the PA system – he and Edith the book-keeper presented each of us with a big box full of Xmas presents wrapped as gaily as you please! We were absolutely breathless. I'm still excited but as I remember the contents were apples and oranges bananas, assorted nuts, candy, gumdrops, shampoo, bobby pins, combs, thread, thimble, hair ribbons, sea shell broach, (turtle) and the ultimate a huge red plastic purse. Can you beat people that treat their dotter like that? First Xmas away from home too – there must be a Santa Clause. Some ladies came down with gifts for Skipper today too while we were busy bending on our new stays! There were jars of strawberry jam, jelly, cheese spread, fruitcake and butterscotch wafers. Has our larder ever received a boost!

This week Lucy's been working in the galley and Skipper comes back from town one day with a new 2-hole gasoline camp cook stove, so we can start to do justice to any food coming our way now. My little effort was to paint the ceilings in the main cabin which really show we're getting somewhere when the interior gets attention for a change. That engine room takes up a lot of time because we expect to have to use it in the calms of Mexico.

The boat really is taking shape now and looks 200% better than when we left Vancouver. One of the first things we did here was to bleach the decks with oxalic acid. You should have seen the number of people that stopped to admire them.

All of this nearly came to an end yesterday when Skipper got his passport and went down to customs to clear everything up. Bill Knitz came down to us about noon saying we didn't have a boss anymore, as he was under a \$1000.00 fine for not coming in within the 48 hours of arrival. Not knowing what to think we just went on with the work hoping for the best. Luckily, he did come back about 3 and things looked like they blew over although selling the Reverie was thought of more than once. What a grim ending – just because he phoned at a club (as a club form stated) instead of going in person as some officious clerk in the office would have it.

Our troubles were more or less forgotten for the evening though as the couple in the neighbouring berth had us over to their trailer for supper. It was Dutch lunch style (he's a Hollander) with us making thick sandwiches for ourselves. They're very interesting people Jerry might like to know. They were tied alongside Humphrey Bogart at Newport last year and they own the car that Cary Grant had lately. They're going to finance a big Xmas dinner which we'll have at the home of a couple they know at Pacific Beach.

Last Sunday we had a very enjoyable time – Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett, whose 12-year-old son was confirmed among others by Bishop Gooden at the service, had us over for lunch. It was a delicious roast meal topped off with banana cake and ice cream. But the climax of it all was the Zoo which I'll describe later as it is 11:30pm already.

Awfully sorry about the sore hand but I'm desperate for your letter of permission to apply for passport.

Merry Xmas folks,

Truly Odd

January 5th 1947

San Diego

Dear family,

Surprise – we're still here. Things have been piling up a great deal lately as we're trying to get under way. Using the trip down as experience we've made a lot of little preparations that will make for a much more comfortable time. Among other things, the galley has been varnished, painted and supplied with a brand new two-hole gasoline cook stove on it. Lucy has screwed it down and she also put a frame from a former stove on it to hold the pots from sliding off. Very neat!

Another interesting addition to the boat is a collapsible rubber life-raft like the one Ric Pembraker was picked up in. The dingy proved too heavy on the stern coming down, and we haven't too much use for one anyway so there is just it. I think we will be getting a really nice pair of binoculars for the dingy. (The English ones ain't so hot but you know what I mean).

I'd like to tell you about some of the interesting things we have seen here. I keep forgetting to tell you that Lucy and I were shown around the Canadian ship Uganda when she was here. The head of a British Colony here saw to that. He also brought an officer of the New Zea-

land navy down here to meet us one night. It was no time at all before he and I were talking about the Takapunas there.

The San Diego Zoo's truly marvelous – being located in one of the numerous canyons in San Diego it gives so much natural background for the animals. Nature does the work of cages in many instances. And the warmer climate allows for a very large selection of animals. I think the giraffes and camels were most interesting. The zoo is so large that they have an open bus to make the tour in – the driver stopped in front of various bears and had them do tricks for bread. It would take more than a day to see all their animals.

One day Lucy talked me into going to see the old Spanish mission we'd heard about. From the end of the carline we kinda followed some arrows and found ourselves on the brink of a hill with the most beautiful canyon between us and the mission. A very picturesque stone ditch ran along the bottom with green grass on either side and palm trees at regular intervals with the stone picnic tables around their base. Various paths crossed the opposite hill at angles to lead up to the mission, a truly unforgettable view. The place itself was an anticlimax with its early records and souvenirs of the early California days.

It was just today that we saw the much advertised "Romance Marriage Place" as well as, Machada Chapel in what is called Old Town. This is the site of earliest settlement on the west coast and carries a very high historical significance.

And now for the events that time will allow. We had a wonderful mas dinner at the home of people in Pacific Beach. They have a living room and dining room combined, which is the length of the house, big. We were 12 at the table, badly damaging an 18lb turkey. Then I caught the 7:15 bus for Los Angeles which ar-

rived at 11 PM. Water from the rain was quite deep in places and we gave more than one poor driver a shower. I was sitting right up in the bow and enjoyed the ride, which was broken by wiping the windshield for the driver.

Martha was tired after having people in for dinner but insisted that I should try her venterta no matter how full I was. She also presented me with a nice blue and red sleeveless reindeer sweater. Has Jerry thanked her for the dresses yet?

The next morning, we had to go out to the duplex because the roof leaked. No end of expenses for that woman, is there?

January 8th. 1947

I've had to leave this letter because we've been having visitors come down to say goodbye and then we've gone over to see the Hickleys, a couple of times. Mrs. Hickley is an invalid due to a stroke and doesn't have many visitors. They live on their boat which he built and which is extremely comfortable and roomy below. He wants me to



HMS Uganda



San Diego zoo bus tour, 1946

crew for him after this trip. Wonderful people.

We're just waiting for Skipper's radio and a new anchor stock before we leave so I'm scrolling this off in fear that Skipper will want something and I won't get it off. Am very excited about the trip down because everything will be so new and different.

How's the bicycle Jerry? You might write again, you know.

*Trooly Odd
to be continued*

PHONE BOOK UPDATES:

Two discontinued phone numbers for Quentin and Ruth Goodbody - please cross these out in your books: 250-416-0550 and 403-338-1068

ANIMALS I HAVE KNOWN - PART 2

So where shall I begin? After Mike and I moved back here to Canada, we settled in a very small cabin on Florence Lake in Langford. We started what would be many years of collecting a wonderful family of critters. Of course we always had cats and Flirt was just the beginning. We added the first 2, Tigg and Fraz. Tigg would live to a mighty 19 years but sadly Fraz did not. Fraz lived in her own world, very independent and stand-offish. I'll always remember one morning waking up in the dark, stumbling to the bathroom and kicking her by accident completely across the kitchen floor; when she hit the wall, all I heard was very soft purring.



Fraz

Tigg as a kitten unfortunately had hot oil from the stove fall on her, and from then on she had a very bald nose.



Tigg

As kittens, they were a challenge when it came to getting them used to the outdoors as opposed to using the potty box. One time we decided to hide their litter box up on the roof of our woodshed, only to find that they

had figured out how to get up there to finally relieve themselves! We knew of a rather large tabby tomcat that took great interest in our girls and decided to move in. We called him Big Nuts for obvious reasons and he was, like most strays, very grateful to at last have a place to call home. Once we had him neutered though he seemed to lose his street sense and much to our horror was hit by a car.



Big Nuts

After losing Big Nuts we decided to take on a wee black kitten that someone had found in a wood pile. Monster was the sweetest cat, he loved everyone. As a kitten though, he was extremely playful, and once when Mike was working at Harrison Hot Springs, I packed myself and Monster off to visit him for a week. Because he was such an active kitten, I checked with the vet about some kind of drug that might keep him calm while I was driving. I can't remember the particular drug that I was given, but it took several doses to knock the little guy out. By the



Monster

time we arrived at our destination, Monster had finally calmed down to the point where he was literally melting in the back of the car... slipping between the window and the suitcase, absolutely wasted. I received many questioning looks from passersby.

Our next kitten came with a story of neglect. George was, as it turns out, a unique little character. He was very small for his age but made up for it in other ways!



George

He loved to swim in our little swimming pool and would chase dogs, deer or anyone else who came onto the property. Once when we were thinking of purchasing the property next door, we had the lady realtor come by-only to be literally, chased off the premises by George. Mike would often go 'fishing' for cats with his fly rod and George in particular found this the most amazing thing. He would chase and play so hard he would make himself breathless, which in the end was because he had a lung tumour. So sadly, our sweet 'Gorgeous' lived a very eventful but short life.

Mike would always tell me stories of a Cockatiel, Solo, that his parents had back in Ireland and we decided...why not? Guacamole was the first of many Cockatiels to grace us with their sweet personalities...



Guacamole

to this day. Guacamole was our one and only 'hand trained' Cockatiel. She went everywhere with us. At the time, Mike was working in Nelson for whole summers and Guac and I would head out there to stay with him for a few weeks at a time. When Mike would head off into the woods, looking at rocks, Guac and I would either wait for him all day by the truck, exploring, or we'd drive around the Kootenays checking out Doukhobors. She'd ride along on the steering wheel of the car and watch the world go by. She never once flew off, although once when I left her with Mike when I returned home for a few days, she did take a short flight into some bushes where, after a few tense hours, he eventually found her. For such a wee grey bird, she filled an enormous place in our hearts. We sadly lost her one day as she made a dash for freedom and flew out over Florence Lake, where I found her floating dead. She probably would have come home, but she wasn't strong enough to fly so far. We told ourselves after that we would no longer keep a single bird as a pet, we would always have at least a pair for company. To this day, decades later, we've been taking in unwanted birds, of which there are many. We started the first of 5 aviaries...all inspired by Guacamole.

We ventured into larger parrots with our first African Grey, Isabo. They are so very intelligent but can be quite fickle. She never really warmed to us, but as years went on she lived with the other birds in an aviary and could mimic them all, not to mention each of our cats. She too could do an amazing version of Beethoven's 5th, while at times we couldn't tell whether it was her or our sprinkler making noises, not to mention cars and sirens as we lived



Isabo

right beside the highway in Duncan. One day I found a small perfect square cut from the aviary wire and no Isabo, she finally made her break for freedom.

One Christmas eve, we were out shopping and just happened to pass by a pet store where there was in the window a very small cage with a beautiful blue Princess of Wales parakeet with terribly deformed feet. It turns out she had lived in that cage with a very thin perch for so long that it had actually curved her feet inwards. The pet shop owner was happy to let her go as no one had

shown any interest in her and he felt she deserved a home. She fit in with the rest of our birds beautifully and at last she was no longer on her own. It turns out that she actually became the 'mate' to one of our Cockatiels, and when another pair had laid eggs she took on the role of incubator and as a result, when the young hatched, she was their mother/father and they sounded just like her. We took in many larger birds, usually because they are quite a responsibility and some owners don't realize that being so intelligent they are inherently very needy. Another African Grey that we took in was a real sweetheart and very tame. The owners loved him very much but he had respiratory issues and they were getting too old to look after him. Capi was a real gem. Such a sweet, lovable bird despite the medications we had to inject into his chest on a daily basis, as well as nose drops for several months. He couldn't fly, so he would often sit in the trees in our backyard talking to the other birds but lived in the house with us. He'd cuddle up under your chin while you preened his feathers and would purr like a cat. Having been trained by his previous owners, who were British, he liked to ring his bell always followed by a very loud 'Shop!' But Capi wasn't very healthy and one day he literally dropped off his perch, dead, and we were beside ourselves with his loss.

Because we were so devastated by the loss of Capi, my dearest friend that lived in the States decided to give us their Blue and Gold Macaw. Nikki Bird had lived in their basement for years and we would often cringe at her living conditions, always by herself. They couldn't even walk by let alone get near her without her screaming and lashing out. Once her 'immigration' papers were complete, we went over to pick her up, thinking it was going to be an eventful trip home. We were warned that she'd

have to be wrapped in a towel in order to move her and kept covered in the car so she wouldn't freak herself out or us. Well, we managed to get her in the cage, we nudged it right up against the front seats of the car and once we removed her covering, she was a different bird! We were able to keep her in our living room loose, perched on her large metal cage where she was very much a part of our everyday lives. She would occasionally

venture off the cage and we'd find her eating the back of our dining room chair or the window moldings. She preferred men, in particular bald men with whom she'd flirt with abandon. One day, I was taking her out to spend the day in the aviary and she decided to take off and visit Dinter's Nursery. Having never really flown before, I think it scared her and she was very quiet for a day or two... she never did that again. In August one year when the province was under very heavy smoke from the fires in the interior, she quietly died. We knew she had respiratory problems and I think the smoke was too much for her lungs.

Around that time we had been given a Red Napped Amazon called Paco, who was no longer wanted. Paco hated men with a passion and still does. She's very good with myself and other females and will sit on your hand quite happily. However, you can tell she has had a 'past'

and we respect that, letting her live in peace with all the other birds. She's still with us to this day....just ask our neighbours!

We soon ventured into keeping larger, four legged critters as we finally had the land and space to spread out....

Shirlee Harris
to be continued...



Capi



Nikki Bird

"You cannot share your life in a meaningful way with any animals... and not know that we are not the only sentient and sapient beings on the planet."

Jane Goodall

"Any glimpse into the life of an animal quickens our own and makes it the larger and better in every way." *John Muir*

THE FUTURE OF THETIS ISLAND'S WATER

Did you know that all of the water on Thetis Island comes from our annual rainfall? Or that all the water on the planet has been through the digestive systems of dinosaurs? Or that there are more than 300 wells on the island, all drinking from interconnected water-filled rock fractures? Or that salt water intrusion into those wells and rock fractures will happen more often with climate-change?

All of these facts and more were the topic of Thetis resident David Slade's World Water Day 2025 presentation, *Dinosaur Pee and the Future of Thetis Island's Water*. Born and raised in the Cowichan Valley, David spent his entire working life as a Water Well Driller and partner in the 3rd generation well drilling business, Drillwell Enterprises, which has drilled a great many wells on Thetis Island. He served a dozen years on the executive of the BC Groundwater Association including two years as Vice-President and two years as President. During his tenure as the President of the BCGWA, he served on advisory panels to the Province during the drafting of the Water Sustainability Act and the BC Groundwater Protection Regulation. He is a founding member of the Cowichan Watershed Board and continues to serve as the Treasurer. During his retirement, David works as a sustainability and climate change activist on behalf of his seven grandchildren. David's talk and the discussion following launched the Nature of Water Project, an initiative of Community Climate Resilience and Thetis Island Nature Conservancy intended to educate



Thetis resident David Slade

all of us about water sustainability for humans and wildlife in the face of the changing climate.

Where does our water come from? How can we protect our water supply for ourselves and other species? Models for the Gulf Islands predict summer rains will decrease by 17% and dry spells increase by 20% by 2050. Sea levels are predicted to rise, increasing the risk of salt water intrusion. Winter storms are expected to bring less snow, meaning less melt filtering down into the water table, and more intense rains that don't allow time for the precipitation to per-

colate into the ground before running off into the ocean.

Solutions to increase community water resilience are everyone's responsibility. Some examples provided at David's talk are:

- Find and fix leaks
- Harvest, store and use rainwater
- Use a low flow or composting toilet
- Flush with prudence
- Install a grey water system
- Let your lawn grow brown
- Use drip irrigation for your veggie garden
- Garden with plants that have low water needs (xeriscaping)
- Promote "slow water" movement across the land
- Be a Water Steward: Practice water conservation

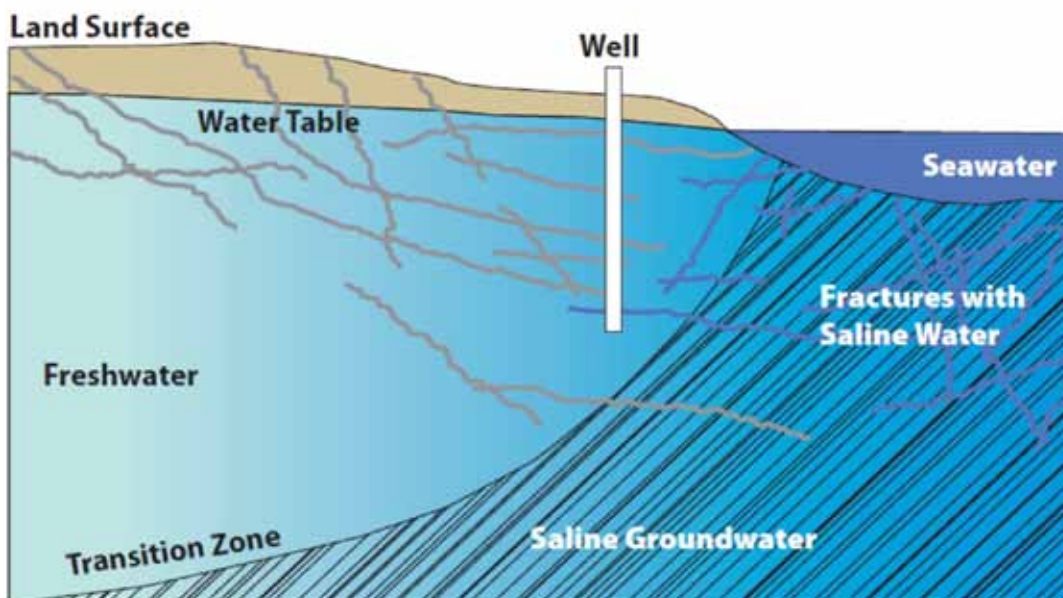
The community water survey that CCR circulated during March showed that the top three topics islanders were interested in learning about were:

Thetis Islands Geology,
Hydrology and Aquifers

Water Sustainability
and Wells

Rainwater Harvesting

The Nature of Water will offer educational opportunities over the next few months about these topics and others. A weekend long Water Fair is planned this summer and ThINC will be offering freshwater-related nature educational events. Stay tuned for dates and details. Thank you to David Slade for his expertise and knowledge and to



A fractured bedrock aquifer can deliver sea water to a well from a single fracture.

the community for your participation and input. For more information about wells and aquifers you can contact David at dslade@telus.net. You can also check out the water resources atlas information for Thetis Island at <https://maps.gov.bc.ca/ess/hm/wrbc/>

CCR & ThINC

THINC NATURE HOUSE 2025

The Nature House is back! With an exciting bonus of the new Sea Life Centre at the Telegraph Harbour Marina, where we are now housing our ever-popular Seaquarium and Touch Tank. We have a summer of fun and learning planned with art- and science-based nature activities for all ages. This year we're partnering with Community Climate Resilience on the Nature of Water Project which will bring a focus to water conservation and stewardship for wildlife, including us Homo sapiens. Watch for communications about upcoming events on Espokes, the Thetis Blog and posters around the island. If you have an idea for an event, or wish to volunteer your expertise, email us at info@thetislandnatureconservancy.org.

Now to introductions from our fabulous Environmental Program Coordinators. Amelia Marshall is here from May through August. Iliana Cutten will be joining Amelia in July and August. We're thrilled to have them both.

Amelia Marshall:

Hello! My name is Amelia Marshall, and I am thrilled to be joining the Thetis Island Nature Conservancy as their Environmental Program Coordinator. This summer, I am excited to help with a variety of community science initiatives and environmental programs the conservancy is leading, including Purple Martin nest box monitoring, Western Screech Owl monitoring and Green Crab monitoring. I am very excited and grateful to be welcomed into the community here, and I'm looking forward to connecting with the land, and the many residents over these next few months!

I just completed a Bachelor of Science in Geography



Amelia Marshall



Iliana Cutten

and Environmental Studies at the University of Victoria, located on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples, as well as the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEC peoples. I also spent time working at the Goldstream Nature House and as a BC Parks Student Ranger, where I've found joy in sharing knowledge and learning about the land alongside others. I especially value environmental education, especially amongst children. I believe that when children are given the chance to explore and be curious about the natural world, it creates a long-lasting effect of stewardship and care for the future of our planet.

Iliana Cutten:

Hello! My name is Iliana and I am a current biology student at the University of British Columbia. I am very keen to bridge my adoration for biology with my five years of outdoor education experience while working at the Nature Conservancy. I have had the fortune of being an outdoor educator for four seasons along the Sunshine Coast, endearing me to the flora and fauna that make the Salish Sea and surrounding area their home. Growing up I always had wide eyes for the beautiful biodiversity of the Gulf Islands when I visited family, and immediately jumped at the chance to return and join the incredible community when the opportunity presented itself. In my free time I love to scrapbook, play music and learn, but most of all spend time with others. I am very excited to meet everyone at the Nature House this summer!

Thetis Island Nature Conservancy (ThINC)



NOTES FROM THE THETIS ISLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

For over 30 years I have had the amazing opportunity to contribute to our island community by volunteering with the Fire Department.

As I think back on those years the faces, memories, adventures come flooding back.

My introduction to firefighters began when I received my first real bicycle, a Schwinn 3-speed - the year was 1964. Where we lived, San Jose, CA required a bicycle

license. The city Fire Department was tasked with issuing these licenses which amounted to a numbered adhesive tag. Our neighbourhood Fire Station was just a city block down at the end of our street. With my \$3.00 in pocket I rode down to the station and pushed the doorbell. Being invited into the apparatus bay and seeing the trucks and equipment up close stuck with me to this day. I was amazed by how everything was so orderly, polished,

ready for the next call.

Life and school did not bring me to pursue the life of a city firefighter but the excitement of that experience back then was reawakened 30 years later when we discovered Thetis Island.

As a small community we flex to accommodate our relative isolation with creative solutions. Our Volunteer Fire Department is made up of folks of varying ages, physical ability, skills and availability. When a page goes out we never know who will be able to attend the call which makes it so key for our member numbers to be kept up.

If you spend most of your time on Thetis this might be a great fit to engage in community service. There are less time demanding options as well with the auxiliary components, like the water aux, structure protection team, traffic aux, can-teen aux...

My focus throughout my time with the fire department has been supporting communications, keeping the radio and pager equipment in working order. I enjoy working with this vibrant group of folks who genuinely embrace the challenges of operating a rural volunteer fire department. I'm proud to be part of this key piece of our community.

Tim French



Tim French at the Comms station in the Fire Hall

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT FOR 2024

to the Annual General Meeting of the Thetis Island Improvement District, May 10, 2025

These bullet points from the power point presentation to the Improvement District Annual General Meeting give a good idea of the extent and variety of Fire Department activities for the year:

EMERGENCY RESPONSES 2024

FIRE & Multi-Vehicle Incidents - 17

HYDRO LINES DOWN - 21

MEDICAL ASSIST - 71

PUBLIC ASSIST - 21

INTER-AGENCY ASSIST (RCMP, Coast Guard) - 11

TOTAL - 141 FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSES

1st Quarter: Jan, Feb, Mar 2024

- Several severe wind storms & -10° C freezing period
- Assist RCMP with 911 hangup, itinerant person investigation
- ERT (Emergency Response Team) assist for weapons stand-off (6.5 hrs) for medical back-up
- Mission Road tanks water system repair
- Comox Live Fire Training with 3 members attending
- Yellow hats awarded to FD members who have completed the basic Firefighters' course materials, initiated their NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) 1001 course exams, have completed the job performance reviews (JPRs) for Live Fire training, and have certified on that training.
- Aux member Bill Golley certifies as Compressor/SCBA technician
- Engine 1 Replacement Committee formed
- Caldbeck & Jackman attend 16 hr. Critical Incident Debrief course

- Caldbeck re-elected as President of CVFCA (Cowichan Valley Fire Chief's Association)

2nd Quarter: Apr, May, Jun 2024

- April 1 = start of wildfire season. Equipment prepped & SPU (Structure Protection Unit) training
- Hay fire and vehicle explosion. Many smoke venting complaints
- Mission Road water storage system repairs completed
- Deputy Chief Peter Luckham announces retirement from TIVFD
- Chief & new Deputy Chief Chad Kerr attend FCABC (Fire Chiefs' Association of BC) Conference
- Engine 1 Replacement team travels to view operational Fire Department vehicles
- Annual Pump Test on Engine 1 to keep UL/NFPA (Underwriters Laboratory / National Fire Protection Association) certification
- Emergency evacuation & GIS (Geographic Information Systems) mapping survey
- Tim French: Provincial Long Service Medal (30 years)
- WSPP-115 SPU training: 2 days, with Ruxton Fire Brigade attending
- TELUS Fibre Optik installed at Central Hall with assistance by Tim French

3rd Quarter: Jul, Aug, Sep 2024

- Unusual public assist for unexploded ordinance
- Kids Don't Float project
- Coast Guard assist for sailboat on rocks in Cufra Canal

- Other assists include: loose horse, elevator rescue, SPU splash pool,
- Community event traffic control, cabin cruiser aground
- 55° C reached in attic, alarms inactivated due to extreme heat
- SCBA packs (3) purchased through CEPF(Community Emergency Program Fund) grant
- TIVFS (T.I. Volunteer Firefighters Society) donations
- Hose tests, JPRs and public Extinguisher Clinic
- Global Medical Wildfire Skid Unit awarded
- Hawaii Mars water bomber fly past in August, circling Thetis Island.

WILDFIRE SEASON APRIL 1 TO OCT. 31

HIGH hazard July 5, EXTREME July 18, down to HIGH July 29 until Aug 19, MODERATE for one day then LOW for remainder of Wildfire Season.

SUMMARY FOR JULY, AUG, SEPT 2024: MODERATE (No Restrictions) 6/92 days; HIGH (Early shift) 25/92; EX-

TREME (Shutdown) 11/92; LOW (No Restrictions) 50/92 for July, Aug, Sept.

4th Quarter: Oct, Nov, Dec 2024

- Many hours prep for First Responder (FR) instruction, students: + 60 hrs FR course
- Serious windstorms, 14 more hydro lines down responses
- Appreciation Dinner – Chiefs' Award to Lt. Norm Kasting
- Remembrance Day service and fly over
- Deputy Chief Kerr & Lt. Kasting attend strenuous START course in Comox
- Fire Chief & Lt. Kasting: CBC film podcast about power outages in rural comms.
- Mission Rd blocked -trees/lines down, Eng 2 on standby at Forbes
- Backup radio by CVRD to Crofton due to cyclone bomb (extreme weather event - "explosive cyclogenesis" - a rapidly forming storm that develops over water)
- Harvest House & Thetis Pantry food drive successful

Chief Caldbeck

IMAGINE

Imagine yourself alone on your property, out for a stroll in the late afternoon. The birds are chirping, the sun is shining, the woods are alive with the green of new growth. Wow, what an awesome place to live and breathe!

Wait, what's that, an uncommon uneasiness descends upon you. Something isn't right. You have pain in your arm and your chest. Never before, and hopefully never again. What to do? Regain your calm, pull out your cell phone and call 911. The wait seems endless, but it is only moments until our professional Thetis Island First Responders arrive. They take matters in hand, and you feel relieved. However, their review of your symptoms and vitals reveals a trip to the Cowichan District Hospital is required. No time for stopping! You are on a gurney, loaded into the emergency vehicle and off to rendezvous with the marine ambulance at the Community Dock.

You would like to go home and are convinced it is nothing, but the First Responders are obligated to assess and ensure you are transported to hospital...so off you go! The transport, the medical attention and the eventual assessment are exemplary, but they take time. By 11pm or perhaps 2am, you are released from Emergency and advised you may go home. How relieved are you?

Now what? You have no wallet, no car, no money...just a cell phone, if you're lucky, and no one to contact. Besides the ferry service is over for the day! What kind of system is this to be released without any resources to support you?



Welcome to Thetis Island Community Fund's Emergency Card Program. TICF has liaised with the TIVFD to test a program designed to aid you, should this situation happen. It is at the discretion of the First responders to provide you with an Emergency Card if they feel you may require one. The card contains information on pre-paid transportation and accommodation, funded by TICF, to get you through the first 24 hours after a medical event evacuation. TICF has an expectation that most individuals will repay the fund for any expenses incurred, so that others may have the same support in time of need. If you have been given the card, whether you use it or not, we kindly ask that you return it to the TIVFD at your earliest convenience.

Donations from your generous neighbours and community, make this program possible. We hope you never need the program, but it is nice to know it is there to support Islanders. **IMAGINE!**

Wendy Hinsperger for the TICF Board

THETIS ISLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

I thought I'd take this opportunity to talk about our students, not only on Thetis Island, but across the province and country. In my 20 years teaching, education has changed considerably. Teaching methods have evolved and parenting approaches have shifted. If you're from my generation or earlier, you might have grown up with a more "because I said so" style of parenting—structured and focused on safety, but sometimes light on emotional support. This mindset extended into classrooms, where structure often took precedence over connection. On the other end of the spectrum, many teachers today are seeing more of what's often called "gentle parenting"—nurturing and responsive, but at times lacking in clear boundaries. It's an approach that, notably, has never really taken hold in schools, where a lack of structure would quickly lead to chaos. Both approaches come from a place of care, but each has its challenges. Research suggests that a balance of warmth and structure tends to be the most beneficial, helping kids feel secure, capable, and connected. This is the kind of environment we strive to create in schools. It takes intention and teamwork, but it makes a big difference.

As our understanding of child development continues to evolve, so does our awareness of what children truly need. The awareness around the increasingly complex needs of our students has grown. Educators are continually finding ways to adapt to the diverse needs of all children—including those experiencing academic challenges, mental health struggles, social-emotional difficulties, and a wide range of neurodevelopmental and cognitive differences such as autism, ADHD, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities, and

others. With this growing awareness comes a deeper understanding that these challenges are often invisible. This can lead to barriers, misunderstandings, and judgement from others. What may look like defiance, inattention, or disengagement is often a child doing the best they can in a moment of overwhelm, confusion, or distress.

We've come a long way in what we know about child development, and what it means to support one another. When you see a child "acting out" in the community—at the grocery store, on the ferry, or anywhere else—remember that what you're witnessing is just a moment in a much bigger story. It's not a sign of 'bad' or 'lazy' parenting. What you see is the behaviour--the outburst, the refusal, the struggle--what you don't see is the deep well of patience, effort, love, and resilience caregivers pour into that child. You don't see the struggles those parents have faced themselves, or the weight of the trauma they quietly carry. You do not see the countless hours of conversation, therapy, support programs, meetings, planning, and special education that go into supporting that child. You don't see how far that child has come, or how far they'll go. Working closely with kids, I get to witness the small victories—the moments of kindness, gentleness, love, thoughtfulness, strength, and creativity. Over the years, I have learned that judgement can prevent us from seeing the good that lies beyond appearances.

All this to say: Community is everything. It really does take a village. Thetis Island is just that, and it's truly something special. We are all doing our best to raise this next generation. Let's do it together by leaning on each other, lifting each other up, and supporting one another.

Sarah Lucchetti, Teacher

A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL

This spring is shaping up to be an exciting season for TIES, full of special events and memorable experiences. In May, we'll be welcoming visiting classes from Crofton and Chemainus Elementary, sending a few students to the bi-annual Young Authors' Conference in Duncan, and participating in our annual Sea Star Count and Beach Walk at the Lamb residence. Our students will take part in Track & Field at the high school, walk over to the PAG for some hands-on learning, and head to Victoria for a field trip in early June. We'll wrap up the school year with a day at Capernwray, followed by a family campout in the schoolyard on the last day of school.

You may have noticed a new structure on the schoolyard--the school board has granted us a Gazebo! We plan on using it as an outdoor learning space, and for cover during the rainy season. We're looking for donations of



Under our new gazebo! Asher Atkins, Ivan Crook, Logan DuFort (behind), Emily Ellershaw, Ryder Mohr, Ari Hartwell, Livia Black with our class pet, Dee!

log rounds to use as seats.

We are currently working hard on a drama performance and are excited to invite you to come watch us bring our play to life! Join us at Forbes Hall on Friday, June 20th for an afternoon of talent, creativity, and silliness!

This June, we'll be celebrating four graduating students who will be deeply missed but heading off on exciting new adventures. We warmly invite you to join us for our **End-of-Year Ceremony and Graduation on Monday, June 23rd at 1:00 p.m. at Forbes Hall.** Thank you,

Sarah Lucchetti & Simone Luckham

A REMINDER

Please keep sending your Country Grocer receipts in support of the Harvest House Food Bank in Chemainus. Just put them in the drop box for Box 180. Every \$5000 in receipts provides \$50 in food vouchers.

Many Thanks!

Anne-Marie Koeppen



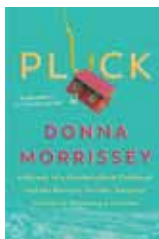
Our four soon-to-be graduates: Lily Galbraith, Jayleigh Gall, Levi Elias, and Alder McClellan

BOOK REVIEW: BOOKS BY DONNA MORRISSEY

Mike and I are planning a trip this fall to the 'Rock', Newfoundland. It has always intrigued me with its unique peoples, accents, music, geology, weather and rich culture... always set apart, joining with the rest of Canada, the newest of the 10 provinces, in 1949. Sitting out there in the North Atlantic, windswept, isolated and wild. The population is concentrated mostly along its nearly 6000 miles of coastline, and is historically a testament to the hardiness of a people dedicated and reliant upon the fishing industry, particularly cod.

Donna Morrissey has been writing since the late 1990's and is the author of six national bestsellers. She grew up in The Beaches, a small fishing village located on the great northern peninsula. Her stories all take place in Newfoundland, mostly around where she grew up, and cover historical events, mental health issues, the breakdown of the fishing industry, and one book which is autobiographical.

In our library we have four of her books. Her latest is called 'Pluck', which describes her emergence as a writer and what led to her eventually becoming an author. Her family was close knit and hard working and navigated a sometimes difficult life, at a time when the cod fishery was collapsing and when families by necessity, were driven to find work in other provinces such as the Alberta.



Her other three books, *Downhill Chance*, *Sylvanus Now*, and *Kit's Law* evocatively describe through fiction the difficulties faced by those affected by the government's efforts to change the dynamics of failing cod stocks. The eventual crash resulted from intense overfishing when larger vessels such as seiners, gill-netters, and the mighty freezer ships moved in and displaced the small family-based fishing industry that had sustained the population for so long. She accurately describes the floundering communities often forced by the government to relocate to more populous towns, often with devastating results, eventually threatening their very way of life. Change and modernization often left many without meaningful ways of making a living, leading to extreme poverty. However, at the same time she celebrates the very nature of the Newfoundland people and their great capacity for survival. As well, *Downhill Chance* takes place within neighboring fishing villages where the toll taken by the Second World War left many families without the men relied upon to make a living. The fears and sorrows of the people involved display the closeness and dependency upon one another in such isolated communities.

Shirlee Harris

2025 REPAIR FAIR RECAP

From Pilkey Point to North Cove Thetis Islanders are reporting sightings of a new spring bird. It is marked by bright patches that may appear anywhere from head to chest, on flank or wings. Lower extremities display subtle oval, square or rectangular markings that look almost woven. If you were at the Repair Fair on Saturday the 3rd of May, you'll recognize this particular bird right away as an attendee at the Repair Fair out strutting in their natty darned socks and jaunty mended duds. You may also have run into people with razor sharp axes slung over their shoulders, a fistful of sharp-bladed garden tools and big grins on their faces. In that case you might want to duck. But as you sidle on by you might reflect on all the things you could have gotten squared away at the 2nd Annual CCR Repair Fair.

Phone acting up? Computer misbehaving? Chainsaw dull? Scissors not cutting, loppers not lopping, pruners not pruning, snips not snipping? Hole in your sock? Hole in your sweater? Bigger hole in your jeans? (oh dear). Zipper not zipping? (oh my...). Scuba equipment safe — or not? Small appliances on the blink? And that's not the half of it you say? You'd have come if your bike tires weren't flat? The Repair Fair is made for you!

There were also many ideas on reusing and repurposing items. From turning old desks into beautiful night tables, to making fences from elephant grass, to turning pineapple peels and

cores into tepache, the list of ideas goes on and on.

The crowd was smaller than the first year. But all who were there seemed to have a grand time, whether helping or being helped, whether there to teach or learn. A special thing about the Repair Fair is that most people end up doing some of each. So many conversations inside and outside the hall, heads together, hands at work to repair, improve, or repurpose something, or sketching out how to tackle a repair at home: A hundred ways to restore value and utility to the neglected and cast aside. A little microcosm of our wonderful Thetis community, and of a healthy society.

There was a sense of satisfaction in the air that went beyond just getting one's own gizmo fixed up or having a good chat and a yummy, healthy lunch — though most people did all those things. With a new round (wave?) of economic uncertainty upon us, and big changes afoot in the natural world on which we all depend, small local gatherings like the Repair Fair become more important than ever. Practically speaking, we can save money, avoid waste, use fewer resources. Taking a longer range view, these small gatherings, and exchanges of knowledge make us a more resilient community.

Every public event on Thetis starts with a good idea — this one came from Vicki Walker. Then it gains a few supporters — David Reay and Ann Eriksson stepped up to join Vicki to make it happen this year. Then it gathers more volunteers — all our MacGyvers (listed below) without whom it could not hap-



Above Top: Peter Luckham electrifying us all

Middle: Rick Brown - a pretty sharp guy!

Bottom: Tess and Richard Demarco with "ask us anything"



Above: Matthias Zapletal with his amazing adaptive strategies for sustainable living

Left: Margaret Woodhouse and (invisible) Bill Dickie, for knotty problems

Right: Celine Valstrand, keeping our baubles both beautiful and firmly attached



pen, the set-up, break-down, run-around crew—Lynn DeCaire, Lynne Smith Doug Fenton, Mary Des Chene, and last but definitely not least, the kitchen crew. A big thanks to Ann Dickie, Don Sinclair, David Reay and Jim Moloney, and to Theresa Elsie for serving up drinks and goodies from the first hour.

We asked Ernie — who you can ask anything if you come to the Repair Fair — why we had a smaller crowd than the first year. He mulled that over for a moment and then he said, “Well you see, the darned socks stayed darned, the mended clothes are still going strong, the repaired tools are still working, even some of the sharpened blades may still be pretty sharp.” In other words, the Repair Fair works! It makes us think that we should offer some things every year and others every few years. If there’s something you’d like to show others how to do, or wish you could get repaired, let David or Vicki know or contact anyone in the Community Climate Resilience group.

Lastly, we’ll be doing a few repairs of our own. Mac-

Gyvers will be served their lunches before the crowd so you’re not trying to think on an empty stomach. (Thanks to Ann D. for the solution to that one!). Secondly, we may hold the event earlier in the spring before everyone’s quite so busy. Or there could be several small events with seasonally appropriate repairs on offer instead of one large annual gathering. The Repair Fair is by and for Islanders, so tell us what you’d like to see and maybe it can come to be!

Most of the MacGyvers from the 1st Repair Fair gave of their time and knowledge once again, including off islanders. Some donned new hats and revealed yet more skills. And there were new additions this year as well. We thank them all! Rick Brown, Shawn Sweetapple, Jesse Whitehead, Aimee VanDrimmelen, Shirley Harris, Celine Valestrand, Simone Luckham, Helen Bird, Petra Accipiter, Nan Beals, Margaret Woodhouse, Bill Dickie, Tim French, Marjan Jackman, Peter Luckham, Greg Gall, Ernie Hunter, Mathias Zapletal, Jutta Zapletal, Jaana Boren, Andy Lamb, Tess DeMarco and Richard DeMarco.

Mary Des Chene & David Reay

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You may send ready-for-printing finished items or we can help design them. Deadlines for new advertisements are one month ahead of publication dates.

Rates are: \$5 per column inch for a single-issue ad, or \$4 per column inch if you advertise for a year (four issues.) Within that year you can change the size or content of the ad, and the discount will still apply. Some standard sizes and rates are:

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June 2025

Day	Time	Metres	Day	Time	Metres
1	1431	0.65	16	0324	2.81
Sun	2248	3.92	Mon	0614	2.91
2	1518	1.03		1404	0.82
Mon	2325	3.81		2159	3.74
3	0650	2.26	17	0423	2.44
	0953	2.38		0758	2.65
Tue	1608	1.45	Tue	1448	1.18
	2356	3.70		2226	3.74
4	0718	1.93	18	0517	2.04
	1207	2.36		0954	2.50
Wed	1701	1.87	Wed	1536	1.58
5	0022	3.59		2255	3.75
	0747	1.59	19	0607	1.61
Thu	1405	2.55		1154	2.52
	1758	2.28	Thu	1630	1.99
6	0042	3.50		2326	3.76
	0816	1.25	20	0655	1.18
Fri	1538	2.83		1344	2.72
	1858	2.65	Fri	1734	2.39
7	0055	3.47		2358	3.78
	0846	0.93	21	0741	0.77
Sat	1649	3.12		1513	3.02
	1958	2.97	Sat	1846	2.74
8	0104	3.48	22	0033	3.78
	0917	0.64		0826	0.42
Sun	1746	3.38	Sun	1622	3.34
	2055	3.22		2002	3.01
9	0112	3.53	23	0108	3.77
	0948	0.40		0910	0.14
Mon	1833	3.58	Mon	1717	3.63
	2149	3.41		2116	3.19
10	0124	3.60	24	0146	3.73
	1021	0.21		0954	-0.06
Tue	1913	3.71	Tue	1806	3.86
	2239	3.51		2228	3.28
11	0146	3.64	25	0225	3.66
	1054	0.10		1037	-0.15
Wed	1947	3.79	Wed	1851	4.01
	2330	3.54		2336	3.29
12	0217	3.64	26	0306	3.54
	1129	0.08		1119	-0.13
Thu	2016	3.81	Thu	1933	4.09
13	0023	3.48	27	0043	3.22
	0258	3.56		0350	3.39
Fri	1206	0.14		1201	-0.00
	2043	3.81	Fri	2012	4.10
14	0120	3.33	28	0149	3.08
	0349	3.41		0439	3.20
Sat	1243	0.28		1242	0.23
	2108	3.78	Sat	2049	4.05
15	0222	3.11	29	0253	2.88
	0452	3.18		0537	2.98
Sun	1323	0.51	Sun	1323	0.54
	2133	3.76		2124	3.95
				0353	2.63
			30	0649	2.75
			Mon	1402	0.93
				2155	3.84

July 2025

Day	Time	Metres	Day	Time	Metres
1	0446	2.34	16	0326	1.98
	0819	2.53		0833	2.72
Tue	1440	1.36	Wed	1420	1.53
	2222	3.71		2126	3.78
2	0533	2.02	17	0422	1.82
	1009	2.40		1010	2.84
Wed	1516	1.82	Thu	1504	1.95
	2244	3.61		2155	3.79
3	0615	1.69	18	0519	1.26
	1220	2.44		1200	2.70
Thu	1549	2.27	Fri	1553	2.37
	2300	3.54		2228	3.79
4	0654	1.37	19	0615	0.92
	1500	2.69		1352	2.92
Fri	1607	2.68	Sat	1657	2.76
	2311	3.52		2304	3.78
5	0732	1.05	20	0709	0.81
	2320	3.55		1521	3.22
Sat	0808	0.76	Sun	1824	3.07
	2330	3.61		2343	3.75
6	0844	0.52	21	0800	0.35
	1820	3.55		1622	3.52
Mon	2009	3.53	Mon	1959	3.25
	2350	3.66		0028	3.69
7	0920	0.32	22	0849	0.16
	1837	3.69		1708	3.75
Tue	2129	3.59	Tue	2123	3.29
8	0025	3.68	23	0119	3.81
	0956	0.20		0936	0.05
Wed	1855	3.76	Wed	1749	3.92
	2229	3.55		2234	3.23
9	0116	3.64	24	0214	3.52
	1032	0.15		1021	0.05
10	1914	3.78	Thu	1826	4.00
	2319	3.43		2332	3.11
11	0218	3.56	25	0313	3.40
	1109	0.18		1104	0.14
Fri	1932	3.78	Fri	1900	4.01
12	0005	3.23	26	0023	2.93
	0325	3.42		0413	3.27
Sat	1146	0.30		1145	0.34
	1951	3.77	Sat	1932	3.95
13	0052	2.97	27	0109	2.73
	0435	3.26		0514	3.13
Sun	1223	0.50	Sun	1224	0.63
	2011	3.75		2002	3.86
14	0140	2.67	28	0154	2.50
	0548	3.07		0617	2.97
Mon	1301	0.79	Mon	1301	0.99
	2034	3.75		2028	3.74
15	0232	2.33	29	0238	2.25
	0706	2.88		0725	2.81
Tue	1340	1.13	Tue	1335	1.40
	2059	3.76		2050	3.63
			30	0324	2.00
			Wed	0842	2.68
				1406	1.83
				2108	3.54
			31	0411	1.74
			Thu	1018	2.60
				1430	2.26
				2120	3.49

August 2025

Day	Time	Metres	Day	Time	Metres
1	0500	1.48	16	0432	0.97
	1237	2.67		1201	3.01
Fri	1433	2.64	Sat	1538	2.75
	2128	3.49		2132	3.68
2	0549	1.23	17	0533	0.78
	2134	3.54		1345	3.20
Sat	0638	0.99	Sun	1658	3.04
	2145	3.58		2214	3.61
3	0724	0.78	18	0634	0.61
	2208	3.61		1501	3.44
Mon	0809	0.61	Mon	1847	3.20
	1749	3.58		2305	3.53
Tue	2022	3.53	19	0732	0.48
	2259	3.58		1552	3.65
4	0850	0.49	Tue	2024	3.18
	1750	3.63	20	0011	3.43
Wed	2131	3.43		0826	0.41
5	0019	3.51	Wed	1633	3.78
	0931	0.44		2135	3.05
Thu	1800	3.64	21	0124	3.35
	2215	3.25		0916	0.41
6	0144	3.44	Thu	1709	3.85
	1010	0.45		2226	2.87
Fri	1814	3.64	22	0237	3.30
	2254	2.99		1003	0.50
7	0302	3.37	Fri	1741	3.84
	1048	0.55		2308	2.65
Sat	1830	3.64	23	0343	3.26
	2334	2.70		1046	0.67
8	0412	3.31	Sat	1811	3.79
	1126	0.72		2346	2.42
Sun	1848	3.64	24	0445	3.22
9	0016	2.37		1126	0.92
	0519	3.23	Sun	1837	3.69
Mon	1203	0.96	25	0023	2.18
	1909	3.66		0544	3.17
10	0100	2.04	Mon	1204	1.25
	0626	3.14		1900	3.58
Tue	1241	1.27	26	0059	1.95
	1932	3.69		0644	3.10
11	0147	1.73	Tue	1239	1.62
	0735	3.04		1918	3.49
Wed	1320	1.62	27	0136	1.73
	1958	3.71		0747	3.02
12	0238	1.45	Wed	1310	2.01
	0852	2.96		1931	3.42
Thu	1400	2.00	28	0215	1.53
	2026	3.72		0858	2.95
13	0333	1.20	Thu	1336	2.39
	1019	2.93		1939	3.40
Fri	1444	2.38	29	0258	1.36
	2057	3.71		1027	2.92
			Fri	1354	2.73
				1944	3.42
			30	0346	1.21
			Sat	1947	3.47
			31	0439	1.09
			Sun	1954	3.50



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