

Qualicum Beach SENIORS ACTIVITIES CENTRE

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025 For the young at heart

703 Memorial Avenue
Qualicum Beach BC
Monday to Friday
9:00 am to 3:30 pm
250-752-0420
VOLUME 28 | ISSUE 12



All the best for the holiday season. May you enjoy your time with family and friends.
Thank you to all the volunteers at the centre for your time and dedication.
May the new year bring you health and happiness!

The Centre will be closed from the end of day on December 23rd and reopen on January 5th



The Dime

Bobby was getting cold sitting out in his back yard in the snow. Bobby didn't wear boots; he didn't like them and anyway he didn't own any. The thin sneakers he wore had few holes in them and they did a poor job of keeping out the cold. Bobby had been in his backyard for about an hour already. And, try as he might, he could not come up with an idea for his mother's Christmas gift. Ever since his father had passed away three years ago, the family of five had struggled. It wasn't because his mother didn't care, or try, there just never seemed to be enough. She worked nights at the hospital, but the small wage that she was earning could only be stretched so far. What the family lacked in money and material things, they more than made up for in love and family unity.

Bobby had two older and one younger sister, who ran the household in their mother's absence. All three of his sisters had already made beautiful gifts for their mother. Here it was Christmas Eve already, and he had nothing. Wiping a tear from his eye, Bobby kicked the snow and started to walk down to the street where the shops and stores were. It wasn't easy being six without a father. Bobby walked from shop to shop, looking into each decorated window. Everything seemed so beautiful and so out of reach.

It was starting to get dark and Bobby reluctantly turned to walk home when suddenly his eyes caught the glimmer of the setting sun's rays reflecting off of something along the curb. He reached down and discovered a shiny dime. As he held his new-found treasure, a warmth spread throughout his entire body and he walked into the first store he saw. His excitement quickly turned cold when the salesperson told him that he couldn't buy anything with only a dime. He saw a flower shop and went inside to wait in line.

When the shop owner asked if he could help him, Bobby presented the dime and asked if he could buy one flower for his mother's Christmas gift. The shop owner looked at Bobby and his ten-cent offering. Then he put his hand on Bobby's shoulder and said to him, "You just wait here and I'll see what I can do for you."

As Bobby waited he looked at the beautiful flowers and even though he was a boy, he could see why mothers and girls liked flowers. All alone in the shop, Bobby began to feel alone and afraid. Suddenly the shop owner came out and moved to the counter. There, before Bobby's eyes, lay twelve long stem, red roses, with leaves of green and tiny white flowers all tied together with a big silver bow. Bobby's heart sank as the owner picked them up and placed them gently into a long white box. "That will be ten cents young man," the shop owner said reaching out his hand for the dime. Slowly, Bobby moved his hand to give the man his dime.

Could this be true? No one else would give him a thing for his dime! Sensing the boy's reluctance, the shop owner added, "I just happened to have some roses on sale for ten cents a dozen. Would you like them?" – this time Bobby did not hesitate, and when the man placed the long box into his hands, he knew it was true. Walking out the door that the owner was holding for Bobby, he heard the shop keeper say, "Merry Christmas, son." As he returned inside, the shopkeeper's wife walked out. "Who were you talking to back there and where are the roses you were fixing?" Staring out the window, and blinking the tears from his own eyes, he replied, "A strange thing happened to me this morning. While I was setting up things to open the shop, I thought I heard a voice telling me to set aside a dozen of my best roses for a special gift. I wasn't sure at the time whether I had lost my mind or what, but I set them aside anyway. Then just a few minutes ago, a little boy came into the shop and wanted to buy a flower for his mother with one small dime.

"When I looked at him, I saw myself, many years ago. I too, was a poor boy with nothing to buy my mother a Christmas gift. A bearded man, whom I never knew, stopped me on the street and told me that he wanted to give me ten dollars.

"When I saw that little boy tonight, I knew who that voice was, and I put together a dozen of my very best roses." The shop owner and his wife hugged each other tightly, and as they stepped out into the bitter cold air, they somehow didn't feel cold at all.

SENIORS CENTRE Activities



SUNDAY

Duplicate Bridge 1:00 - 4:00 pm
\$2 per session

Wolfgang Dost 250-594-4513
wolf.dost@yahoo.ca

MONDAY

Knitting/Crochet for MANNA
9:30 - 11:30 am

Joy Strobl 250-594-4043
joystrobl@gmail.com

Yoga 9:30 - 10:30 am
Chair Yoga 11:00 am - 12 noon
\$8 per session

Jane Loney 250-228-1157
janeloney@hotmail.com

Membership Office Time
11:30 - 3:00 pm

Anne Sharp 250-752-9771
sharp44@shaw.ca

QB Ukulele Band 12:30 - 2:30 pm
Catherine Khan 250-752-9082
mckhan2@shaw.ca

Beginner Ukulele 2:30 - 3:30 pm
Henk Verkerk 250-954-9484
hcverkerkis@gmail.com

Line Dance I 3:00 - 4:00 pm
Line Dance II 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Ballroom Dance Practice
5:00 - 6:00 pm

Judy Palipowski 250-752-6837
judypalipowski@gmail.com

TUESDAY

Fun Bridge 9:00 - 12 noon
Al Gagnon 250-586-2500
algagnon006@gmail.com

Henk's Practice Group
10:00 am - 12 noon
Henk Verkerk 250-954-9484
hcverkerkis@gmail.com

Whist 12:30 - 3:00 pm
Sally Jagger 250-752-3556
sallyajagger@gmail.com

TUESDAY continued

American Mahjong 12:30 - 3:00 pm
Sonya Miller 250-752-5737
miller206@shaw.ca

Splatters Painting Art Class
3:00 - 4:30 pm
Mike Sherlock 604-815-7711
msherlockqb@gmail.com

Rambler's Practice 4:45 - 6:15 pm
Colin Craig 250-228-3349

WEDNESDAY

Hatha Yoga 9:45 - 11:00 am
\$8 per session
Bonnie Evoy 250-248-7691
tangledanddark@hotmail.com

Dominoes 10:00 am - 12 noon
Pauline Childs 250-752-2440
dave7522440@gmail.com

Beginning / Elementary Spanish
11:30 am - 12:30 pm
\$2 per session
Elena Ortiz 250-752-8803
elenaortiz23@yahoo.es

Chair Yoga 1:00 - 2:00 pm
\$8 per session
Jane Loney 250-228-1157
janeloney@hotmail.com

Book Club 2:00 - 3:00 pm
First Wednesday of the month
Gail Smith 905-808-4585
xgailsmith@gmail.com

Guitar with Chaz 2:30 - 3:45 pm
Chaz Booth 250-240-0465
chazentertains@gmail.com

QWEST Weigh-in 3:15 - 5:00 pm
Elaine MacDougall 250-594-3604 repac5@shaw.ca

Beginner Line Dance
5:30 - 6:30 pm

Dance Practice 7:00 - 9:30 pm
Judy Palipowski 250-752-6837
judypalipowski@gmail.com

THURSDAY

Darts 10:00 am - 12:15 pm
Bernie Brockway 250-757-2330
berniebrockway82@msn.com

Drop-in Bridge 12:30 - 3:00 pm
Donna Roberts 250-228-2788 robbos@telus.net

Technology Tutor 1:30 - 3:30 pm
Brian Collicott 250-947-8258
Or book your own appt: tlc@sd69.bc.ca

Line Dancing 4:00 - 5:00 pm
Ballroom Dance 5:00 - 6:00 pm
Judy Palipowski 250-752-6837
judypalipowski@gmail.com

A Cappella Choir 7:00 - 9:30 pm
Marion Clark 250-468-9280
treblemagic19@gmail.com

FRIDAY

Ukulele Friday 10:00 am - 12 noon
Thuy Bui 250-607-8448
Linhthuyca2018ca@gmail.com

Classical Guitar 10:00 am - 12 noon
Cathy MacFarlane 250-594-2260
fiona3@shaw.ca

Mahjong 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Angie Bettam 250-937-1862
angiebettam@gmail.com

Art Group 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Richard Waterfall 613-791-6425
rgwaterfall@gmail.com

SATURDAY

Hatha Yoga with Richard
9:45 - 11:00 am **\$8 per session**
Anne Sharp 250-750-9771 sharp44@shaw.ca

Qi Gong 11:15 - 12:15 pm
\$5 per session
Dr Rod LeBlanc
rod@lifelonghealth.ca

Note: Extra copies of the Activities List are available from the Greeter's desk. Please check for any changes that may have taken place.

Beginner Bridge Drop-in Lessons

This set of 10 drop-in lessons is for both the absolute beginner and the novice player wishing to upgrade their skills. Topics covered are: vocabulary, opening suit and notrump bids and responses, scoring, leads, signals, slams, the finesse and basic play of the hand. A student textbook is available for \$10.



When Thursdays 9:30-11:30 am; starting January 15, 2026
Location Qualicum Beach Seniors' Centre Lounge
Cost \$8 per lesson
Instructor Peter Segers 250-586-5740 psegers225@gmail.com

Pre-registration is not required. For more information about the lessons contact the instructor.

The **Book Club** meets the first Wednesday of each month from 2 to 3 pm in the small room at the QB Seniors Activities Centre.

The book for discussion in December is *Time of the Child* by Niall Williams.

Due to restrictions of both space and time allotment in the small meeting room, at the moment, the book club has reached it's full membership capacity. Anyone wishing to have their name on a waiting list, please contact Gail Smith at the email address below. We will be pleased to welcome you when space is available.

Wishing everyone all the best for a safe and merry Christmas holiday. Happy reading!

Email xgail.smith@gmail.com or
 call/text 905 808 4585



Volunteer needed! Assistant Kitchen Co-Ordinator

The Qualicum Beach Seniors Activity Centre is looking for a volunteer to be the assistant to the Kitchen Volunteer Coordinator, Jan Desjardins. Duties and responsibilities include scheduling kitchen volunteers and acting as a back up for Jan when she's unavailable.



If you are interested, please contact **Jan Desjardins** by email at janicedesjardins1@gmail.com



Jan Desjardins and Leslie Kleven hold down the kitchen on Tuesdays. Come on out — because nothing brings people together like food prepared by people who promise they didn't burn anything this week!

There's a **U-pick veggies**

(& berries in spring) near Qualicum Airport, open Sundays from 10 – 2pm.

All the veggies are standing height which is great for our members.



Knit Group Manna Update

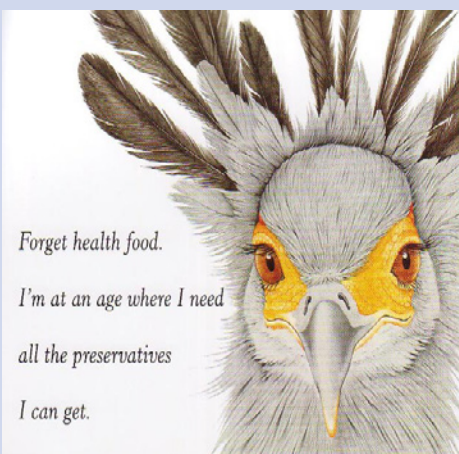
Our group has been busy over the summer knitting blankets and dish cloths for Manna. Thanks to all for purchasing dish cloths as the cash donation to Manna was much appreciated.

Now with cold wet weather coming we are knitting hats, scarves, and gloves as they are in vital need.

We would appreciate any donations of yarn and it can be dropped off at the front desk or the knitting group Monday between 9:30 and 11:30.

Thanks for your support!

Andrea Kennedy



Forget health food.

I'm at an age where I need
all the preservatives

I can get.

What's Cookin'?



MONDAY LUNCH

BRENDA'S QUICHE with Brenda & Helen



WEDNESDAY LUNCH

2nd & 4th – Roz & Margaret
SHEPHERD'S PIE



THURSDAY LUNCH - 2nd & 4th

Cathy & Brenda's
CREAMY CLAM CHOWDER



TUESDAY DECEMBER 2 & 16

Leslie's fresh baked **CINNAMON BUNS** are a favourite with all. **Only \$1.50 and one per person – no take out.**



DECEMBER 17 – Bill & Verdelles

CHILI with Corn Meal Muffin



Seasons Greetings from the Cookie Cutters

Another year is winding up. They say time flies when you are having fun, I must have had a blast this past year! It has gone by so quickly.

If your New Year's resolution is to volunteer at the Seniors Centre, please consider joining our baking group. Our bakers provide baked treats to sell in the kitchen as well as seasonal events such as the Spring and Christmas Teas. For information give me a give me a call/text at 604-379-0290, or email me at charles.brenda@me.com.

I am also in the kitchen on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings.

This month's recipe is from one of my old Heartsmart recipe books. This is a favourite of mine to make at Christmas. Biscotti keeps so well and is a welcome gift too!

Honey Almond Biscotti

Ingredients

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup almonds, finely ground
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3/4 cup whole unblanched almonds
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1/3 cup water

Method

Combine flour, sugar ground almonds, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and whole almonds. Stir together well.

Add honey and water. Stir until stiff dough forms.



Divide dough in half. Roll each half into log about 15 inches long.

Line baking sheet with parchment paper. Place logs, well, apart, on paper. Bake in preheated 350° F oven for about 30 minutes, until well risen, firm and golden.

Cool logs slightly and place on cutting board. Cut, on a diagonal, into 1/2 inches long slices. Return to baking sheet and bake for an additional 15 minutes until dry and lightly golden.



Friendship and love we have at our Seniors Centre.

Barbara Tesluck, Gerry O'Brien, Mike Bachynski, Peachy Giacomazzi



Annual General Meeting November 2025

Thank you for this incredible recognition! Judy Palipowski

I'm deeply touched to receive a lifetime membership at the Qualicum Senior Centre — a place that has brought me much joy, connection, and purpose. Whether serving on the board, organizing activities, dancing, singing, leading ukulele groups, preparing food for events, or simply locking up the centre twice a week — every role has been a labour of love.

With the Ramblers, I'm lucky to rehearse weekly at the centre — a gift that lets us share music and joy in care homes across the community and make a donation to the Sick Children's Hospital fund.

And who could forget last year's Christmas Day lunch? The stuffing was heartfelt, the gravy was generous, and the laughter was perfectly seasoned.

Each moment has made me proud to contribute in my own way, and I look forward to many more years of volunteering, celebrating, and showing up — until my dancing shoes give out or someone hides my ukulele.

Thank you for making me feel so valued. I'm truly honoured — and still beaming!

I'm proud to have played my part and the music's not over yet!

Two members of the **Qualicum Beach Ukulele band** (who gather at the Seniors' Centre on Monday afternoons) have joined the Nanaimo Rock Choir. A few of us members were at the concert on Friday, November 14th. **Jan** and **Linda** were dressed in fantastic "Rock" costumes complete with wigs!! We could hardly recognize them!! Besides singing, Jan also played a drum for the tune Africa by Toto!! It's wonderful to see our members out and about doing such fun things!! Congratulations ladies!!

Diane Duncan



Geri Burke, Lila Greene

Judy Palipowski, Lila Greene

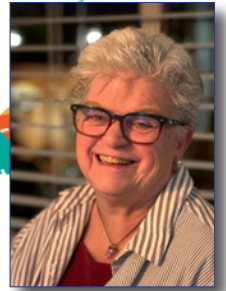


Travel Talk

Check the website qb seniors.com for updates on the trips that are being planned



Cindy Crawford



HAIDA GWAI An Exclusive Departure

Price includes:

- 9 nights accommodation including multi-night stays in Haida Gwaii
- Deluxe motorcoach transportation & baggage handling
- Return Ferry transportation, lounge seating on Port Hardy – Prince Rupert
- HIGHLIGHTS: Haida Heritage Centre, The Balanced Rock, Old Masset Naikoon Provincial Park, Jungle Beach, Agate Beach and North Beach, Golden Spruce Trail
- Traditional Haida Feast, North Pacific Cannery, Crystal Cabin Gallery, Port Clement Museum



JULY 28 – AUGUST 6, 2026 \$5299 pp double \$5999 pp single

Only 20 spots available for this trip – To avoid disappointment call Travel Agent directly 250-334-0355 to book. Deposit of \$350pp required at time of booking.

Upcoming Events



Paula Kalsi | Barbara Davidson

Christmas Tea

Monday, December 8 12:30 to 2:30 pm



Join us at the Centre as we are entertained by The Ramblers from 1 to 2 pm along with coffee & traditional baked goods.

Cash Donations for the FOOD BANK are gratefully accepted.

Wear your favourite Christmas Sweater!

THIS EVENT IS FULL! Only attend if you have signed up.

Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 20

Doors open at 5 pm

Live music with Bruce Fetham followed by a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings and dessert, at the Centre.

- Trivia / Door prizes
- Cash Bar

\$35 pp

A Sign-up Sheet will be posted at the Centre on November 18.



Christmas Day Turkey Lunch December 25 12 noon to 3 pm

Join us at the Centre for Lunch with all the trimmings, dessert and tea or coffee.

Bring your favourite beverage. Christmas giggles welcome!

****All Guests who sign up need to participate so please ensure you indicate what task you can do when you sign up.****

\$15 pp

to cover supplies



British Pub Night

Saturday, November 15

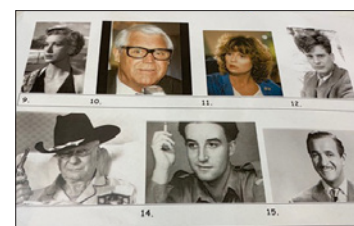
Paula Kalsi, our Special Events Director, organized another fun evening for our Senior Centre Members. The doors opened, Members enjoyed beverages from the bar, then mixed and mingled until a delicious dinner of Cottage Pie, Broccoli and Buns was served, which the group really enjoyed.

Barbara Davidson, Quizmaster, then provided Members with the first of four sheets of British Trivia to begin our game. Teams consisted of Members seated at each table. A lovely dessert of Bread Pudding with Custard and Whipped Cream was prepared and delivered to the Centre by Judy Palipowski – again totally delicious! During the evening two sets of pictorial trivia and two sets of questions of British Trivia were given to the group – which brought much enjoyment and laughter to the tables as the team solved each set of Trivia questions – what fun! The Winning Table was: *Kenny Anderson, Beverly Turick, Bill & Pam Lovegrove, Marilou Thornbury, Sandra Elliott and Judy Keeley*. Winners selected prizes from a variety of gifts placed on our Prize table – *Tartan Scarves, Pharmasave Gift Cards, Toblerone Chocolate, Belgian Biscuits and 2026 Calendars*.

A Door Prize of a lovely basket donated by *Peachy Giacomazzi* and filled with goodies by *Kathleen Kennedy* with an added *Quality Food gift card* was won by *Julie King*. On the reverse of each placemat on the tables, were red dots. When Members turned over their placemats and found a red dot, they were awarded the potted centerpieces of Poinsettias that adorned our tables. Winners were: *Judy Keeley, Julie King, Jim Davidson, Sandi Grant, Val Dyer, Beryl Hargreaves, Valerie Baker and Henrietta Penney*.



And then Paula announced that there were “green” dots on the back of some placemats. Members again searched for these dots and when found, they were surprised when Paula returned their *British Pub Buck* or the \$20.00 they had paid for the British Pub Night. Winners were *Jeanette Niet, Beryl Hargreaves (who donated her prize to the Oceanside Hospice Society) and Donna Woodward*.



What a truly entertaining evening this was thanks to all our Members who attended the event and a huge thank you to all our dedicated volunteers who worked as a team to make this an enjoyable night for all.

Volunteers:

Sign-Up Sheet and Payment for the Event, Check in at the Event: *Jeri Burke*

Table and Chair Set Up: *Jim Davidson, Court Brooker*

Table Setting: *Peachy Giacomazzi, Betty Brooker, Henrietta Penney*
Kitchen: *Sandi Grant, Paula Kalsi, Leslie Kleven, Barbara Davidson, Betty Brooker*

Bartenders: *Chantal Boileau, Gordon Standish*

Quiz Master: *Barbara Davidson*

Planner, Organizer, Chief Cook and so much more: *Paula Kalsi*

Photos & Write up for Newsletter: *Cindy Crawford*



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jack Alexander	Jo-Ann Hansmeyer	Allan Munnik
Iris Armitage	Mel Hewko	Bonnie Olesko
Nalia Barkman	Julie Hykaway	Christine Robertson
Dave Bolden	Carmen Kellman	June Sadgrove
Bill Dallas	Ronald Kobe	Diana Thompson
Nancy Fath	Charles Morin	Cherilynn Toll
Bruce Fournier	Doris Mueller	Rick Williamson
John Hansmeyer		

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

For the month of November there were an additional **22** new Members and 22 renewals.

Year to date (2025-2026) as of November 30, 2025:

- 781 Regular (of which 188 were new members)
- 107 Complimentary (90 years old or over)
- 18 Life members
- 1 Honorary



PROBLEMS with your ELECTRONIC DEVICES?

Call the TECHNOLOGY TUTOR!

Brian Collicott

250 947-8258

To book an appointment, contact the OBLT Technology Learning Centre at tlc@sd69.bc.ca

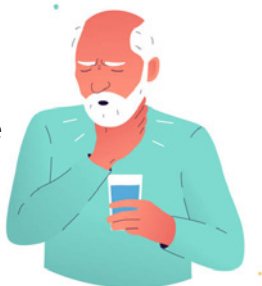


Every Thursday 1:30 to 3:30 pm in the Lounge

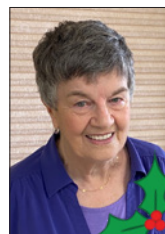
Not feeling well?

Just to remind to folks that may have a cough and / or are not feeling well please do not come to the Centre until you are feeling better.

Let's play it safe. Thank you!



The Sunshine Lady



Do you know of someone who may be feeling ill or having a difficult time over this festive season?

Please contact **Jeri Burke**, and I will send a special Christmas card or call them to try to add some cheer to their Christmas.

250-752-9320 jeriburke47@gmail.com

A note from **Judy Southern** to let everyone know that we have been successful in finding a new home (thank you to Dagmar) for **aluminum pull tabs** so, whenever you've finished that cold drink from an aluminum can, save the tab and bring your collection into the Centre!

Also, **so many thanks** to all of you who contribute to the **Food Bank** via the jar on the card table in the foyer. I am looking forward to adding those funds with all the **Christmas Tea donations** and making the trip to the office in Parksville to help out with all that is needed in the Salvation Army Food Bank these days.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026-2026



President Rob Duncan 236-544-0021
 Vice President Paula Kalsi 250-738-6020
 Secretary Bonnie Evoy 250-248-7691
 Treasurer Sandi Grant 778-987-2472
 Past President Lorne Tetarenko .. 250-951-9050

DIRECTORS

Events Paula Kalsi 250 738-6020
 Facilities Geoff Rigby 250-594-5411
 Membership Anne Sharp 250-752-9771
 Technology Barbara Davidson . 250-752-6770
 Travel Cynthia Crawford . 250-594-7701

AFFILIATES

Activities Anne Driesbach ... 604 679-1703
 History Ann Svensen 250-752-5537
 Kitchen Manager.. George Wimmer 594-7840
 Kitchen Volunteers.. Jan Desjardins 250 686-0348
 Newsletter Karen Garland 250 589-5059
 Sunshine Jeri Burke 752-9320
 Welcome Desk ... Jeri Burke 752-9320

The deadline for submissions for the **January** Newsletter is Wednesday, Dec 31

☞ The January 2026 issue will be available Saturday January 3 ☜