

THE NEW BAMFIELDER

Make Bamfield Great Again!!

1 March 2025

www.bamfielder.ca

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Bamfield Winter Lessons. Snow and cold challenge Mediterraneanish Bamfield. Exposed pipes burst, unprotected rain gutters crash. Bulge pumps fail to bail snow and one can not remove one's boat as the boat launch access is unplowed. Road clearing unfortunately scrapes the neat little reflective cat-eyes that show the middle of the hilly road between Anacla and Bamfield. And our cherished improved Bamfield Main challenges those who would drive to Port Alberni. Oh, did I mention the *Frances Barkley* is down and on one occasion the replacement van went off the road. Not complaining, but Mexico is sounding pretty good about now. *L. Druehl*. Photo, Grappler Rae.

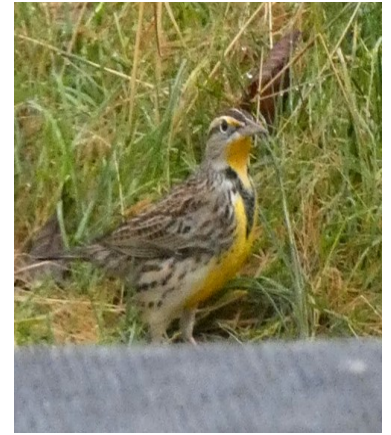
The good old days, could they return? The frozen pond just outside the Bamfield Unincorporated sign, was a novel opportunity. Cable Station time until the 1990s, locals would gather day and night and skate. **Pat Garcia** scoured secondhand shops for skates that were deposited by pond side for all to use. Families and groups would build fires for warmth, cooking and ambience. Pickup hockey was played by the likes of **Gordie Hawkins, Bob Goodwin, Bill Mathers**, the **Demontigny** father and sons, and school kids. **Marie Ostrom** and **Janet Pierce** would figure skate. **Gayle Hawkins** and others just skated and looked nice. Sometimes swans would be seen at the pond's edge. Recently, Gordie saw an old lawn chair out there. This note is derived from aging memories of Roger Demontigny and Gordie Hawkins. It would be fun to revisit those village moments. *L. Druehl*, Photo: Roger Demontigny

Know your
Bamfield Road.



Journalist(s) sought. Want to amuse your friends, piss off your enemies, attract those of your preferred sexual orientation, become a community newshound. After 13 years, *The New Bamfielder* needs an infusion. This could be an extension of its present format or something entirely different. At one time, the Bamfield rag was a for-profit. If interested, contact me. *Louis Druehl*.

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



Birds Counted! Bamfield's 38th annual Christmas bird count started on a calm December 15th morning. Seventeen birders observed over 3200 birds representing 72 species in the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Hahuuli. The data contributes to the oldest and largest citizen science project in the world. View the worldwide trends here: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/where-have-all-birds-gone> and if your interest is piqued, please join us next winter. Thank you to the **Canadian Coast Guard, Bamfield Marine Sciences Center, Breakers Marine, Inlet Express Water Taxi, and Pirate Boat Tours** who contributed transportation for the count. Bird highlights include a yellow billed loon, a western meadowlark, a white throated sparrow, and 18 Trumpeter Swans. We were thankful for the count to occur during brief period of calm in a stormy December. Thank you to **Hannah Hickli** who travelled from Victoria to assist in the Bamfield CBC and to **Stella Peters** for hosting us at the community potluck. *Daniel Zayonc*. Photos L to R: a white throated sparrow, **Paul Demontigny's Pirate Boat**, and a western meadowlark. See www.bamfielder.ca for phenomenal list of birds seen.

Dreaming of our New Community Hall after an 18



-year hall drought. **A drop-in library**, hopefully bring back Vancouver Island rotating books, where I could enjoy a non-American coffee (instant), chat and discover Max's donated DVDs, and

where loiters and reading and writers' groups could meet. **A stage** in support local theatrics (we've had *Mystery Theater* in the past where local hams (not to be confused with Hamlet) played to a boozy crowd and Bamfield once put on a very credible *Wizard of Oz*. And local and visiting musicians, poets and politicians could strut their stuff, supported by neat stage lighting and sound systems. **Volleying sports**, including pickle ball, volleyball, ping pong and badminton (tennis could be possible at the marine station's oldest court on the west coast) are within our reach. And of course there are other possibilities. Most of which are outside of the capabilities of Zoom.



When will Bamfield get e-charging?

Survival. Bamfield and Anacapa community gardens help with food security, if you are a rabbit. But protein! What Vancouver Island needs are **MOOSE**. Of course, smaller vehicles will be wasted in a moose collusion, but pick-up drivers should be able to walk away. Hey, its protein.

