

# POWELL RIVER CHAMBER CHATTER



## Chamber Business Awards Gala – Congratulations to all the Winners and Runners up!



Powell River Chamber of Commerce hosted its business awards gala on Saturday, February 28, at Dwight Hall. Winners and runners-up were recognized for services provided in 2025 in 16 different categories during the annual event.

**Business Excellence Winner:** Townsite Brewing  
**Employer of the Year Winner:** A&W Restaurant  
**Runner up:** FreshCo  
**Employee of the Year Winner:** Don Simonetta – Kal Tire  
**Runner up:** Jacob Bristow – Dogworx Pet Ranch  
**Home Based Business Winner:** Pegglish Designs  
**Runner up:** Forest & Fog  
**New Business Winner:** Gear Attic qathet  
**Runner up:** Eldr Supplements  
**Entrepreneur of the Year Winner:** Convenient Chef – Steve MacLeod  
**Runner up:** Designer Signs – Craig McCahon  
**Agriculture Winner:** Springtime Garden Centre  
**Runner up:** Terra Nostra Farm  
**Customer Service Professional Winner:** EnviroDig Contracting  
**Runner up:** Underwriters Insurance Agencies  
**Customer Service Retail Winner:** FreshCo  
**Runner up:** Armitage Mens Wear  
**Customer Service Hospitality Winner:** Monks on Marine  
**Runner-Up:** Royal Zayka  
**Not for Profit Award Winner:** Miklat Recovery Program  
**Runner up:** Powell River Salmon Society  
**Forestry Sector Winner:** Post and Purlin Forest Products  
**Runner up:** Lois Lumber  
**Aboriginal Business Winner:** Tla'amin Convenience Store  
**Runner up:** Select Sand & Gravel  
**Sustainability Award Winner:** Elemental Millwork  
**Runner up:** Blueberry Commons Farm Cooperative  
**Tourism Award Winner:** The Peak - Discover • Powell River • qathet • Tla'amin  
**Runner up:** Powell River Farmers Market  
**Small Business of the Year Winner:** Powell River Outdoors  
**Runner up:** Big O Tires



buyBC

[buybc.gov.bc.ca/](http://buybc.gov.bc.ca/)



[madeinca.ca](http://madeinca.ca)

**Information & Dates**

BC Hydro Transmission Upgrades in the Powell River Region

BC Hydro is undertaking major upgrades to the transmission system serving approximately 10,000 customers in Powell River and surrounding communities. These improvements will enhance public safety, long-term reliability, and electrical capacity for the region.

**Community Impacts**

Residents and businesses should be aware of several temporary impacts: Sunshine Coast Trail Closures  
Portions of the trail near Saltery Bay – including the upper trail at Saltery Creek and lower trail at Ahlstrom Point – will be closed March 2 to June 10, 2026. An alternate route will be available via Saltery Bay FSR Br 01 to Rainy Day Lake.

**Marine Traffic Restrictions**

The Agamemnon Channel crossing removal will take place April 20–24, 2026, with contingency dates April 25–May 1. BC Ferries service between Saltery Bay and Earls Cove will not be affected.

**Planned Power Outages**

Two planned outages are required to safely complete system upgrades:

- May 24, 2026 | 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- June 7, 2026 | 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.



These outages will affect Powell River, Lund, Cortes Island, Texada Island, and Saltery Bay.

BC Hydro crews will also complete system maintenance during these outages to help prevent future emergency outages.

For project updates or to sign up for notifications, visit [bchydro.com/jervisagamemnon](http://bchydro.com/jervisagamemnon).

For questions:

Maryanne Coules – 250-608-1885 | [maryanne.coules@bchydro.com](mailto:maryanne.coules@bchydro.com)

Nubia Budau – 604-916-8903 | [nubia.budau@bchydro.com](mailto:nubia.budau@bchydro.com)

**Major changes for Powell River Transit**



BC Transit, the City of Powell River and qathet Regional District are advising customers of a service change, effective, March 22, 2026.

To better serve the growing community of Powell River, the transit network will undergo an overhaul that will improve direct service and provide better access to important locations including the hospital, the first major route overhaul in over 40 years.

**Changes will be made to the following routes:**

- Route 1 Townsite/Grief Point
- Route 2 Wildwood Express
- Route 3 Upper Westview

This service change includes additional rural transit service to the qathet Regional District. Route 13 Texada will now run on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The schedule on Tuesday and Thursday will be the same.

Starting March 23, 2026, OnDemand service will be available in Powell River to customers traveling within the Upper and Lower Westview areas. With this new service, riders can request a transit pickup through the BC Transit OnDemand app or by phone. OnDemand service will operate Monday to Saturday from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. For more details, please visit [bctransit.com/ondemand](http://bctransit.com/ondemand).

Please see the latest [Rider's Guide](#) for new schedules and maps.

For more information about trip planning and to sign up for customer alerts, please visit [bctransit.com/powell-river](http://bctransit.com/powell-river).

**Media Contacts**

BC Transit Communications

[media@bctransit.com](mailto:media@bctransit.com)



**For information how to join, attend, or reserve your vendor spot please email: [office@powellriverchamber.com](mailto:office@powellriverchamber.com)**



**Chamber Cup  
May 30, 2026**



**Annual General Meeting  
June 22, 2026**



**Blackberry Festival  
August 21, 2026**



## Introducing: Member 2 Member Benefits

The Powell River Chamber of Commerce invites members to strengthen our business community by offering an exclusive Member-to-Member (M2M) discount or perk. By participating in this new program (Spring 2026), your business gains visibility through Chamber channels while encouraging members to shop local.

Discounts can range from 5–20%, a service upgrade, or a special offer. As a thank you for offering a perk or discount, the Chamber will create a social media post highlighting your business and M2M offer, and your business info will be listed on our website under the [M2M Benefits page](#).

**Interested in participating to offer a perk or discount?**  
**Fill out this form: [Member 2 Member \(M2M\) Perks Program](#)**

Interested in contributing a gift card for our M2M draw for members who submit a M2M offer? The draw will take place at your business and be featured on our Chamber's social media—great exposure for your brand! Contact the Chamber for details.

All members in good standing qualify for a M2M Benefits Card. Cards will be available for pickup at the Chamber starting April 1st, 2026!

### Current M2M Offers:

#### 15% All Peak Advertising

The Peak  
<https://www.prpeak.com/>



#### 10% OFF Surgical Breast Garments and Prosthetics

Kompassion for Kups  
<http://kompassion4kups.ca>

**KOMPASSION**



**YOUR BUSINESS OFFER HERE!**  
**YOUR LOGO HERE!**

## Member Spotlights

### JDK Specialty Welding & Repair Services

Featuring: Jonathan Kapitan – Owner & Red Seal Certified Welder  
 With over 30 years of hands-on experience, Jonathan brings a rare combination of expertise, creativity, and precision craftsmanship to every project.

From everyday repairs to high-performance custom work, JDK is trusted across the qathet Regional District and the Sunshine Coast for quality welding, fabrication, and restoration that lasts.

#### SPECIALTIES

- Aluminum, stainless steel, steel & exotic metals
- Hard-to-weld metals and specialized repairs
- Custom fabrication, mods & performance upgrades
- Restoration work: vintage & antique pieces
- Motorcycle, dirt bike & ATV case repairs
- Hot rods, tuners, induction & exhaust systems

#### MOBILE SERVICES AVAILABLE

On-site repair and fabrication, emergencies, & remote projects.

**Address:** 2255 Highway 101

**Office:** (604) 414-0339

**Cell:** 403-478-1124

JDK Specialty Welding & Repair  
 Services Built on skill. Driven by passion. Trusted by the community.


**Jonathan Kapitan**



**JDK Specialty Welding and Repair Services**

**KOMPASSION**

FOR KUPS



AT THE CROSSING

*Do you know someone who has had breast surgery, breast cancer, mastectomy or lumpectomy?*

*Kompassion for Kups provides women with personal support and products to enhance healing, and maintain comfort and body image, while undergoing cancer treatments and onward through survivorship.*

April is cancer awareness month  
 Early detection saves lives!  
 Get screening done!

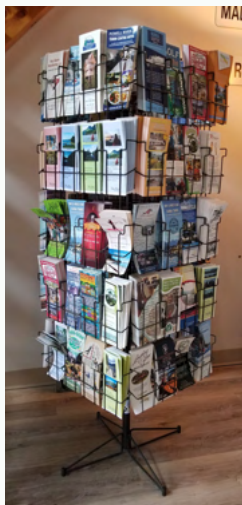
*Nanette Kapitan*

**KOMPASSION FOR KUPS**  
 AT THE CROSSING  
 mastectomy & surgical bras • breast forms

kompassion4kups@telus.net  
 KOMPASSION4KUPS.CA  
 236.845.2024

Be featured in our Quarterly Member Spotlights! We'd love to showcase your business in our next newsletter. If you'd like to be part of our Member Spotlights, reach out to Jill for details: [office@powellriverchamber.com](mailto:office@powellriverchamber.com)

## Advertising Opportunities



1. Westview Ferry Terminal Signage (annual investment)
2. Saltery Bay Ferry Terminal Signage (annual investment)
3. Business Card display wall at the Chamber (no cost)
4. Brochure rack at the Chamber (no cost)

### Terminal Signage Investment:

\$750 April 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027

Additional signs: 20% Discount



Contact our office to ask about these great opportunities to increase your business's visibility!

## Farewell from our Manager

Serving as Chamber Manager for the Powell River Chamber of Commerce has been an incredibly rewarding experience. When I stepped into this role in a post covid world, the focus was clear – to rebuild, strengthen, and refocus the Chamber so it could continue to effectively serve and advocate for our local business community.

Thanks to the support of our members, board, volunteers, and community partners, those goals have been achieved. The Chamber is now on solid operational footing, with renewed energy and momentum moving forward.

With that work accomplished, for me this transition marks the beginning of a new season - retirement and more time with family and grandchildren :)

I am very pleased and excited to welcome Jill Joslin as the new Chamber Manager. Jill brings fresh perspective, creativity, and enthusiasm, and she is well positioned to build on the progress made while leading the Chamber into its next chapter.

It has truly been an honour to work alongside such a dedicated and supportive business community.

Thank you for your collaboration, your encouragement, and for the important role each of you plays in helping our local economy and community thrive.

Please join me in welcoming Jill as she continues the momentum and success of the Powell River Chamber of Commerce.

With gratitude,  
Sheilah Denholm

## Welcome New Members



Pacific Edge  
Web Development

RE/MAX  
POWELL RIVER

