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Nº 1

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Paradise Perfected

Liting Chan's
Art of Extraordinary
Celebrations

Every bride dreams of the day she will walk down the aisle—the moment that feels like the biggest day of her life. Behind those dreams are creators who know how to take love stories and turn them into breathtaking realities. For so many brides in Vancouver and beyond, that creative force is Liting Chan.

As the Creative Director and Co-Founder of Paradise Events, Liting has become the name synonymous with weddings that are not only beautiful but truly unforgettable. Brides trust her with their most cherished moments because she delivers more than décor—she creates experiences that honour love, tradition, and style in the most magical way possible.

Since joining Paradise Events in 2016, Liting has transformed the company into one of Canada's most celebrated luxury event design and planning firms. With over 500 weddings and events to her name, she is known for her fearless creativity—think towering floral centrepieces, dramatic hanging installations, and custom-built sets that turn any venue into a once-in-a-lifetime stage for love. It is no wonder Paradise Events was named Canada's Top Wedding Florist in 2020 by Weddingbells and continues to shine in features from WedLuxe, Elegant Wedding, Style Me Pretty, and Folio.YVR Luxury Lifestyle Magazine.



*Brides trust her with
their most cherished
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she delivers more
than décor—she
creates experiences
that honour love,
tradition, and style
in the most magical
way possible.*

From the dreamy arches at Hycroft Manor to grand ballroom transformations at the Fairmont Pacific Rim, Liting's touch is instantly recognizable. She is not just planning weddings—she is designing a bride's storybook beginning. Every detail matters, from the shades of a floral palette sourced from growers around the world, to the way light moves across a table set for the first dinner as husband and wife.

What makes her truly remarkable is her heart. Liting listens. She learns each couple's journey, weaving those personal threads into a wedding design that feels like it was created just for them. "Every couple deserves a wedding that feels like it was created just for them," she often says—and every glowing smile, every tear of joy, proves that she keeps her promise.

Luxury brands like Holt Renfrew and Chopard have also called on her artistry, and Vancouver's most iconic venues—the Vancouver Club, Hycroft Manor, and Fairmont Pacific Rim—become her canvas time and time again. Whether she is curating a high-profile gala or the most intimate ceremony, Liting elevates spaces into living works of art.

At Paradise Events, the vision always evolves, reaching new heights of beauty and innovation. For brides, that means stepping into a world designed entirely around their love story—an immersive, multi-sensory experience that will be remembered forever.

For Liting Chan, the greatest joy is always the same: watching a bride walk into her wedding and see her dream come to life. That is the promise she has built her career on, and it is why she remains Vancouver's most sought-after luxury wedding planner.

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The Language of Confidence & Connection

Ana Allen Leads the Beauty Live Shopping Revolution

On most days, you will find Ana Allen in front of a ring light, brushes in hand, preparing to share her latest beauty discoveries with an audience eager for her expertise. What follows is a flurry of livestreaming, strategy meetings with brand founders, and time carved out for exercise—her way of staying balanced in a world that never stops moving. It is a rhythm she has honed over decades in the industry, and now, in 2025, it has culminated in the launch of Approved to Shop.

Her newest venture is a curated live shopping platform that blends storytelling, education, and commerce, designed to help beauty, health, and wellness brands shine, connect, and convert long after the broadcast ends. Supported by Canadian media icon Dawn Chubai, Ana is positioning herself at the forefront of a movement transforming how consumers discover and experience beauty. “Live shopping brings my journey full circle,” she says. “It connects me directly with audiences again, inspiring confidence and showing women that beauty is more than surface-deep. It is about presence, power, and stepping into your story.”

That belief has guided Ana for the past twenty-five years, ever since she arrived in Canada from Europe in 2000. As a teenager in a new country, she searched for confidence and connection. She discovered both in beauty, which quickly became her universal language. By high school, she was already doing makeup for friends and grads, recognizing how even small transformations could empower women to feel more fully themselves.

By the late 2000s, Ana had completed professional training and gained experience in film and television makeup, which gave her a strong technical foundation. She soon transitioned to retail, building expertise at the counters of Chanel, Dior, and Clarins. These roles taught her not only the artistry of luxury beauty but also the impact of one-on-one connection.

In 2013, Ana founded AnaVBeauty, a pioneering beauty school that empowered women through education. The response was overwhelming: more than 1,000 classes sold out in the first week. Teaching those sessions gave Ana an epiphany: she was not only meant to teach beauty, she was meant to create it. That realization launched her into brand building.

Over the next decade, she co-created Evelina Beauty, launched Ambari—a clinically active CBD skincare brand she successfully placed in Nordstrom before exiting.



More recently, Ana has guided Skincare Junkie to placements with Nordstrom and Ipsy, supported innovation for Arnasi, built connections for Pennelli Faro, and continued to consult independently through her firm. She is now working closely with Kayura on its market entry, shaping launch strategy through influencer campaigns, press outreach, and live shopping integration.

Her influence has also extended globally. Since 2021, Ana has represented MakeUp in Los Angeles and New York, spearheading Beauty Tank, a Shark Tank–style competition for indie founders. She has produced curated activations at cultural hotspots such as Coachella and LA Holiday, elevating brands like Magic Molecule, Kinship, and Lash Therapy with PR, influencer, and experiential strategies.

Now, with Approved to Shop, she is uniting every lesson from her twenty-five-year journey into one platform. It is not just about selling products—it is about creating a space where women feel empowered, where founders find their voice, and where beauty once again becomes the language of confidence and connection. **LIV**

From Province to Plate

A Culinary Commitment to Showcasing the Best of the West Coast



ARC Restaurant at Fairmont Waterfront has introduced a dining experience that distills the essence of BC into every course. The Province to Plate menu, created by Executive Chef Harris Sakalis, is more than a seasonal celebration—it is a year-round culinary commitment to showcasing the best of the West Coast. Featuring a rotating selection of two- and three-course menus, each thoughtfully composed dish highlights peak regional ingredients, with wine pairings that elevate the journey.

Originally from Greece, Chef Harris brings a world of expertise to this local table. His culinary philosophy—“simple but sophisticated”—has been shaped by Michelin-starred kitchens, Caribbean coasts, and Middle Eastern spice markets. His passion for sustainability, sharpened through years of leading Fairmont kitchens in Bermuda, Jasper, and now Vancouver, aligns perfectly with the ethos of ARC. Inspired by the bounty of the Pacific Northwest, Chef Harris crafts menus that honour his heritage while embracing Vancouver’s diverse and evolving food culture.

The Province to Plate menu changes every six to eight weeks, allowing the freshest local harvests to shine. Working closely with regional farmers, foragers, and fishers, Chef Harris ensures each dish reflects the terroir of British Columbia.

Ocean Wise-certified seafood, herbs and honey from the hotel’s rooftop garden and apiary, and vegetables grown just kilometres away contribute to a narrative of transparency and traceability.

A recent three-course offering captures the early summer moment in every bite. Grilled asparagus arrives first, delicately dressed with preserved lemon, roasted radish, and baby lettuces—paired with Poplar Grove Pinot Gris from the Okanagan Valley for a crisp, aromatic start. The main is a stunning halibut and clams ensemble, poached in cider broth with bronze fennel, garlic scapes, rainbow Swiss chard, crème fraîche, and herb oil. Burrowing Owl Chardonnay accompanies, adding a rich yet refined complement. To finish, the cherry cobbler bursts with sun-ripened fruit, topped with lavender honey ice cream and garden flowers—harmonized with a sweet pour of Wild Goose Late Harvest Gewürztraminer.

Diners can choose between two- or three-course experiences, with expertly curated wine pairings available to enhance each dish. The setting inside ARC, with its sweeping views of the harbour and North Shore Mountains, adds a sense of place to every moment. The ambiance is modern yet warm—sophisticated without pretension.

After an unforgettable Province to Plate culinary journey, ARC Bar invites guests to linger just a little longer. With its sleek aesthetic, inviting ambience, and floor-to-ceiling views of Vancouver's shimmering harbour, ARC Bar is not merely a place to unwind—it is a destination unto itself.

This is where Vancouver's cocktail culture comes alive, stirred and shaken with creativity. The bar team curates an evolving menu of custom cocktails that blur the lines between classic and contemporary. Inspired by the seasons, the signature drinks feature infusions from rooftop herbs, house-made syrups, and botanicals that echo the local-first philosophy of the kitchen. Whether you favour a floral-forward gin blend, a bold and smoky bourbon creation, or a zero-proof option with depth and character, ARC Bar offers something nuanced for every palate.

For the traditionalist or true connoisseur, ARC Bar offers a quiet reverence for the classics—most notably, The Macallan. Three exquisite tasting experiences await those seeking a deeper connection with this iconic Scotch whisky house. Whether savouring a refined flight of limited releases, exploring the nuances of the Double Cask line, or indulging in a rare pairing of caviar and whisky, each pour is a moment of indulgence, perfectly suited to elevate the night—and the memory of dinner—just a little further.

Fairmont Waterfront, home to ARC Restaurant & Bar, is a landmark of contemporary luxury in downtown Vancouver. The hotel's dedication to sustainability, community, and hospitality is reflected not only in its LEED Gold certification and rooftop pollinator program but also in its commitment to celebrating local culture through food and drink.

In a city known for its global flavours, Province to Plate reminds diners that the finest meals can be found close to home—crafted with care, rooted in place, and meant to be savoured slowly. Whether you are visiting from afar or simply indulging in a luxurious night out in your own city, ARC offers an elevated experience that reflects the best of British Columbia from first bite to final sip.

<https://www.arcdining.com/> **LIV**



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Where Luxury Cars Meet Luxury Care Redefining Craftsmanship in Automobile Repair

For car lovers, luxury ownership is more than transportation. It is a commitment to craftsmanship, design, and the pure exhilaration that comes from sitting behind the wheel of a finely engineered machine. When damage strikes, only the most exacting standards will do. That is why No.1 Collision Group continues to set the benchmark for luxury vehicle repair in North America, with facilities that feel as bespoke as the automobiles they serve.

Three years ago, the company unveiled its flagship downtown Vancouver location at the corner of Vernon Drive and Parker Street—a 30,000 square foot centre unlike anything else in the collision repair world. Even now, stepping through its doors feels less like entering a repair facility and more like arriving at a private members' club. Bocci lighting designed by Vancouver's Omer Arbel, Italian leather furniture by Fritz Hansen, and carefully curated local artwork elevate the environment into something truly extraordinary. A rooftop lounge, valet service, and on-site rentals ensure that clients are cared for as attentively as their vehicles.

This dedication to experience has defined No.1 Collision since its beginnings more than 50 years ago. Founded by a Vancouver family, the group has grown across Metro Vancouver with five locations, and today expands its vision south of the border with two equally stunning facilities in Bellingham and Newport Beach. Each space reflects the same ethos: a blend of state-of-the-art technology, world-class craftsmanship, and design that honours the artistry of the vehicles themselves.

At the heart of this success are the technicians. Fully factory-trained and certified by the world's most prestigious manufacturers, they are entrusted with marques like Porsche, Mercedes, BMW, and Tesla. No.1 Collision is now the largest Tesla collision repair centre in Western Canada, a distinction that underscores its forward-thinking embrace of the electric revolution. With exacting attention to detail, every repair restores vehicles to their original factory specifications, ensuring performance, safety, and aesthetics align with the highest standards.

Co-owner Scott Walker summarizes the philosophy: "When you look around at some of our competitors in the collision industry, it's hard to find anyone that offers this kind of an experience from a client's perspective. From the high-end craftsmanship of our facilities to our well-trained technicians who are passionate about the vehicles they repair, we really strive to provide the best overall client experience."

Driving a luxury automobile has never been about necessity. It is about passion—the thrill of acceleration, the quiet confidence of refined engineering, and the pride of knowing you are part of a legacy of innovation. No.1 Collision recognizes this truth. That is why each client leaves not only with a flawlessly restored car, but also with the renewed sensation of driving it for the first time all over again.

With seven facilities across Canada and the United States, No.1 Collision continues to prove that collision repair can be as extraordinary as the vehicles it serves. For enthusiasts, it remains the destination where luxury cars meet luxury care.

www.no1collision.com **LIV**

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A World Built in Paper

Growth and Renewal in a Unique and Humble Artistic Medium

Tara Lee Bennett has transformed paper into an extraordinary art form. Her practice is defined by meticulous patience, where every fragment is drawn, cut, and assembled into elaborate works that appear impossibly intricate. Each piece reflects not only the fragility of the material itself but also its infinite potential for reinvention.

The foundation of her work lies in the duality of paper. Accessible and humble, it is also endlessly capable of transformation. This is the paradox Bennett embraces, demonstrating how something so simple can become extravagant and layered with meaning. Her latest series employs a monochrome aesthetic, a choice that amplifies the delicacy of her cuts while allowing the viewer to focus on form, texture, and rhythm without distraction.

Originally from Zimbabwe, Bennett lived in Australia for several years before settling in Vancouver, British Columbia. Her formal training took place at the Enmore Design Centre in Sydney, where

she honed her skills and discovered her fascination with material exploration. Since 2019, she has been based at the historic 1000 Parker Street Studios, a hub for some of the city's most compelling creators.

Bennett's practice is infused with themes of growth and renewal. These motifs reflect both her personal journey and her artistic evolution, blossoming into intricate paper florals and imagined botanical worlds. Some of her creations take inspiration from real species such as irises, dahlias, and peonies, while others are entirely imagined. Together, they form gardens that celebrate abundance, lushness, and beauty.

Her vision has resonated widely, earning features in publications including *Western Living*, *ELLE Decoration* Germany, and *My Modern Met*. She has also shared her insights through Creative Mornings and PechaKucha talks, engaging audiences with her reflections on process and creativity.

Bennett's work has been collected by prominent organizations such as Aritzia, Earls, and Microsoft Vancouver. In 2023, she was invited as PiDiGiN's Artist in Residence, where her monochromatic series inspired not only the restaurant's atmosphere but also the culinary creations of Chef Wesley Young. His lychee and coconut dessert echoed Bennett's layered approach, reimagining her paper textures through taste and form.

Her collaborations extend into other cultural spaces. At Culmina Estate Winery, she created works that intertwined the natural world with refined winemaking. For Lover's Tempo's Full Circle Artist Program, she transformed recycled jewelry fragments into new creations, demonstrating how reinvention and sustainability are central to her philosophy.

Bennett's current series, titled Lush, embodies her exploration of renewal. While often rooted in floral imagery, these works go beyond petals and stems to speak to abundance, resilience, and transformation. Each piece is a meditation on possibility—how a modest sheet of paper can evolve into something monumental.

Her practice celebrates both discipline and imagination. It is not unusual for her to dedicate an entire day to constructing a single flower, the results speaking to patience and devotion. The monochrome approach highlights not only technical precision but also conceptual clarity.

As her career continues to expand, Bennett remains botanically minded, yet her chosen medium offers limitless potential. With paper as her guide, the future is open to endless interpretation. One never knows what form her next world will take, but it will certainly be cut, folded, and assembled with extraordinary care.

<https://www.taraleebennett.com/> **LIV**



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As the warmth of summer fades, British Columbia shifts into a season that feels both grounding and full of possibility. After months of lively festivals, sunlit patios, and coastal adventures, fall invites us to slow down, savour, and look closer at the beauty woven into everyday life.

This issue of LIV Magazine reflects that spirit of transition. From vibrant arts and culture to the refinement of design, dining, and travel, our stories capture the richness of the season and the creativity thriving across Vancouver, Victoria, and the Okanagan. Fall is a time of gathering—around tables, in galleries, at concerts, and along tree-lined streets painted in gold—and we invite you to join us in celebrating these moments of connection.

Whether you are discovering new destinations, indulging in thoughtful experiences, or simply embracing the quieter rhythms of autumn, LIV is here to inspire your journey. **LIV**

All my best,

Helen Siwak

Editor-in-Chief

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Victoria

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Creative Curation

Where Art Lives and Breathes
in Unexpected Ways



DO NOT ENTER
BY DEBORAH BAKOS
Oil on canvas, 36" x 36"

Every thriving arts scene has its champions, and in Victoria, one of the most passionate began as a young outsider. Joe Bembridge knows firsthand what it means to crave belonging in the art world. Today, as the owner and curator of Gallery Merrick, he has turned that personal history into a cultural landmark that uplifts artists and invites the community into meaningful dialogue with contemporary art.

Set inside a 120-year-old heritage building on Government Street, the gallery is where past and present meet. High ceilings, natural light, and thoughtful design give the space an elegance that feels at once historic and refreshingly modern. Yet, beyond the architecture, what makes Gallery Merrick special is the atmosphere of warmth and openness Joe has cultivated. The gallery is named for his late friend, Merrick Sheridan, who once offered him unwavering encouragement when he needed it most. In Joe's words, the space is "a love letter to her," carrying forward her spirit of protection and empowerment into every exhibition, every conversation, every artist welcomed through its doors.

The gallery's collection is as eclectic as it is intentional. Wandering through its rooms, visitors find themselves moving between moods, techniques, and perspectives. No two experiences are alike. This sense of discovery is what sets Gallery Merrick apart—art here is not just hung on walls, it lives and breathes in unexpected ways.

Among the artists who have found a home at the gallery are two Canadian voices who represent both range and resonance. Vancouver's Deborah Bakos creates multimedia works that move seamlessly across painting, photography, textiles, and installation. Her art is a study in dualities—hope and despair, justice and injustice, the known and the unknown. Deeply human and often vulnerable, her pieces invite reflection on the emotional landscapes we all navigate.



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COUPLING I
BY NICHOLAS TAY
Conté, Oils and
Acrylic on Mylar
48" x 36"



In a different register, Nicholas Tay brings a layered exploration of identity, migration, and cultural memory. Born in 1977 to Singaporean-Chinese parents, Tay uses figuration to probe the nuances of diaspora life. His drawings, paintings, and photographs often juxtapose stark monochrome figures with bursts of colour, floral motifs, or loose abstraction—a tension that captures the push and pull of belonging. His subjects, from migrant workers at rest to queer couples claiming visibility, embody tenderness as a radical gesture. By giving form to stories often overlooked or simplified, Tay resists stereotype and sentimentality, instead inviting viewers into a space of empathy and recognition.

Together, these artists embody the gallery's mission: to give space to diverse voices and to nurture art that is felt as much as it is seen. For visitors, a stop at Gallery Merrick is never passive—it is an exchange, a chance to engage with living artists and to leave inspired.

More than an exhibition space, Gallery Merrick is a place of belonging and conversation. It stands proudly at the intersection of heritage and innovation, helping to shape Victoria's cultural landscape with a vision rooted in authenticity, encouragement, and connection.

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Step into Monarch Furniture and it feels a little like you walked through a portal into Indonesia. The air of discovery is real here, where the rich textures of solid mango wood and the sculptural beauty of reclaimed teak transport you straight to Central Java. For design lovers, a visit to Monarch is not just shopping—it is destination traveling through interiors.

At the centre of this story is mango wood, a material that has become a darling of designers for good reason. With its distinctive grain, warm golden tone, and ability to take on a range of finishes, mango wood ensures no two pieces are ever alike. Every board carries a natural fingerprint—swirls, patterns, and markings that turn dining tables, cabinets, and sideboards into one-of-a-kind art pieces. Better still, mango trees grow quickly and are farmed sustainably, so choosing this hardwood means embracing beauty without compromising the planet.

Owners Tony and Karen Martin have been bringing this vision to Victoria since 2005, working closely with a trusted partner in Central Java. Through this relationship, they secured North American exclusivity with an Australian-owned factory, giving Monarch a collection that you truly cannot find anywhere else in Canada or the United States. “As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, we take pride in having access to very unique designs not available anywhere else—not just in Victoria but in all of Canada and the US,” Karen shares.

That spirit of originality extends beyond mango wood. Monarch also features reclaimed teak and suar wood, materials that embrace raw textures and dramatic shapes. From bold dining tables to hand-carved stools, each piece feels organic and alive—worlds apart from factory-perfect furniture.

Their Hillside Avenue showroom—4,000 square feet of curated inspiration—brings all of this to life. Carefully designed vignettes show how a sculptural mango wood table can pair seamlessly with a Canadian-made sofa, or how artisan-made accessories and handwoven rugs from India can complete a room. It is a place where global flair meets local sensibility, making design feel both adventurous and attainable.



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Sustainability is woven into every decision at Monarch. By focusing on solid, responsibly sourced woods and recycled materials, the Martins prove that lasting luxury and eco-conscious living are not mutually exclusive.

What began as a small Douglas Street storefront has grown into one of Victoria's most distinctive destinations for those who crave interiors with soul. Just like the butterfly that inspired their name,

Monarch is about transformation—connecting continents, celebrating craftsmanship, and bringing artistry home.

For anyone looking to elevate their space with pieces that tell a story, Monarch Furniture—now entering its third decade of sharing extraordinary design—offers more than furniture; it offers the thrill of global discovery right here on the Island.

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Mediterranean Warmth with
a Savoury Modern Twist

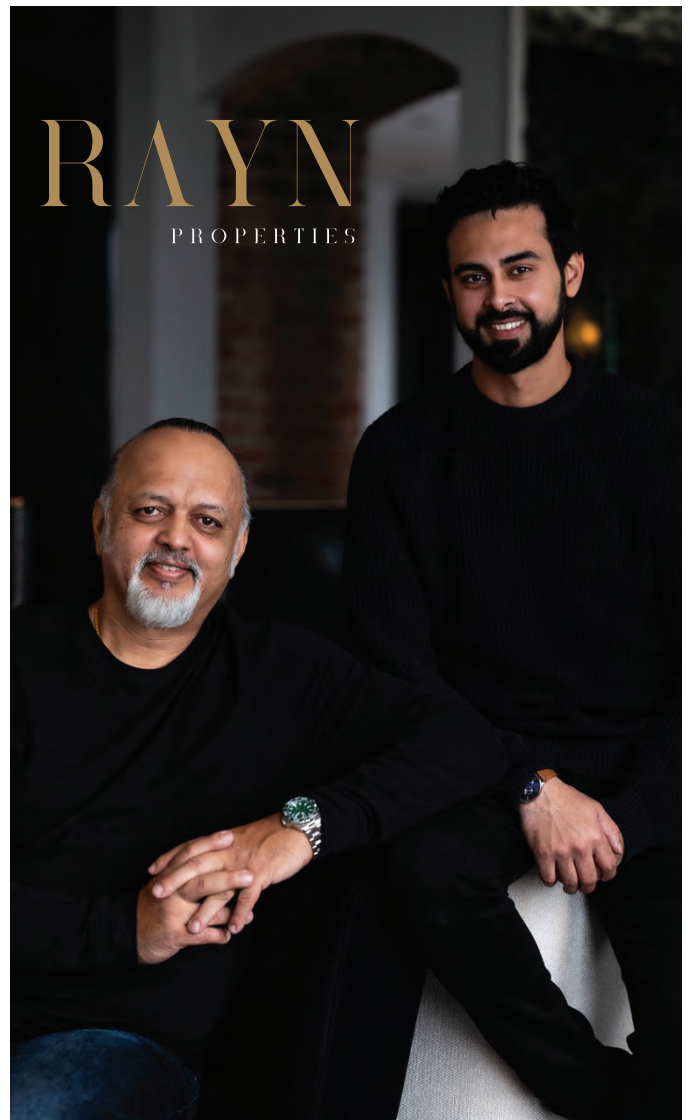


Set within the former Saanich Municipal Hall, a heritage landmark more than a century old, Med Grill Royal Oak carries with it the weight of generations, while offering an atmosphere that feels fresh, inviting, and alive. Its walls, once home to civic memories, now hold the energy of conversation, the aroma of Mediterranean-inspired cuisine, and the glow of a modern renovation that honours the past while embracing the present. Since opening in 1997, Med Grill has become a beloved part of Victoria's dining scene, cherished for its balance of tradition, community, and contemporary flair.

At the heart of this culinary experience is Executive Chef Andrew Johnson, who blends Mediterranean inspiration, comforting classics, and west coast character to create menus that evolve with the seasons. His signature Tuscan Table, a three-course dining experience, is a highlight. Starters might include a Strawberry Salad with goat cheese or a Black + Blue Caesar, followed by mains such as Braised Beef Short Ribs or Marco Polo Linguine, and ending with desserts like Berry Trifle or house-made ice cream sandwiches crafted with brown butter chocolate chip cookies. Every plate is designed to bring comfort, creativity, and a touch of delight.

Brunch is equally enticing, offering everything from Smoked Salmon Flatbread and Short Rib Hash to the Tuscan Sun Benedict or the hearty Farmers Omelette with applewood smoked bacon and chorizo. For dessert, indulgences such as crème brûlée, sticky toffee pudding with candied pecans, or classic cheesecake are crafted to satisfy every sweet craving. Paired with a thoughtful wine list, locally curated beers and ciders, or inventive zero-proof cocktails such as a refreshing Cucumber Basil Collins or a sparkling Bellini Zero, the dining experience feels complete.

The restaurant's atmosphere shifts beautifully with the seasons. In summer, guests are drawn to the expansive wrap-around patio, alive with lush greenery and flowers that create a lively outdoor escape. As the cooler months arrive, the focus turns inward, where the glow of a fireplace and soft candlelight bring warmth and intimacy. Whether under the sun or by the fire, Med Grill offers an experience that adapts to the rhythm of the year.



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What truly elevates the restaurant, however, is the service. Known for its warmth and attentiveness, the team ensures that each guest feels welcome and cared for, striking the perfect balance between professionalism and personal touch. This dedication to hospitality was recognized in 2024 when Med Grill received the OpenTable Diners' Choice Award, a reflection of the loyalty and admiration it continues to inspire.

Med Grill Royal Oak is more than a place to dine. It is a destination where history is preserved, flavours are celebrated, and every visit feels like an invitation to linger a little longer. It stands as a reminder of how a restaurant can become part of a city's story; offering not only food, but connection, atmosphere, and a sense of belonging.

<https://medgrillroyaloak.com/> 



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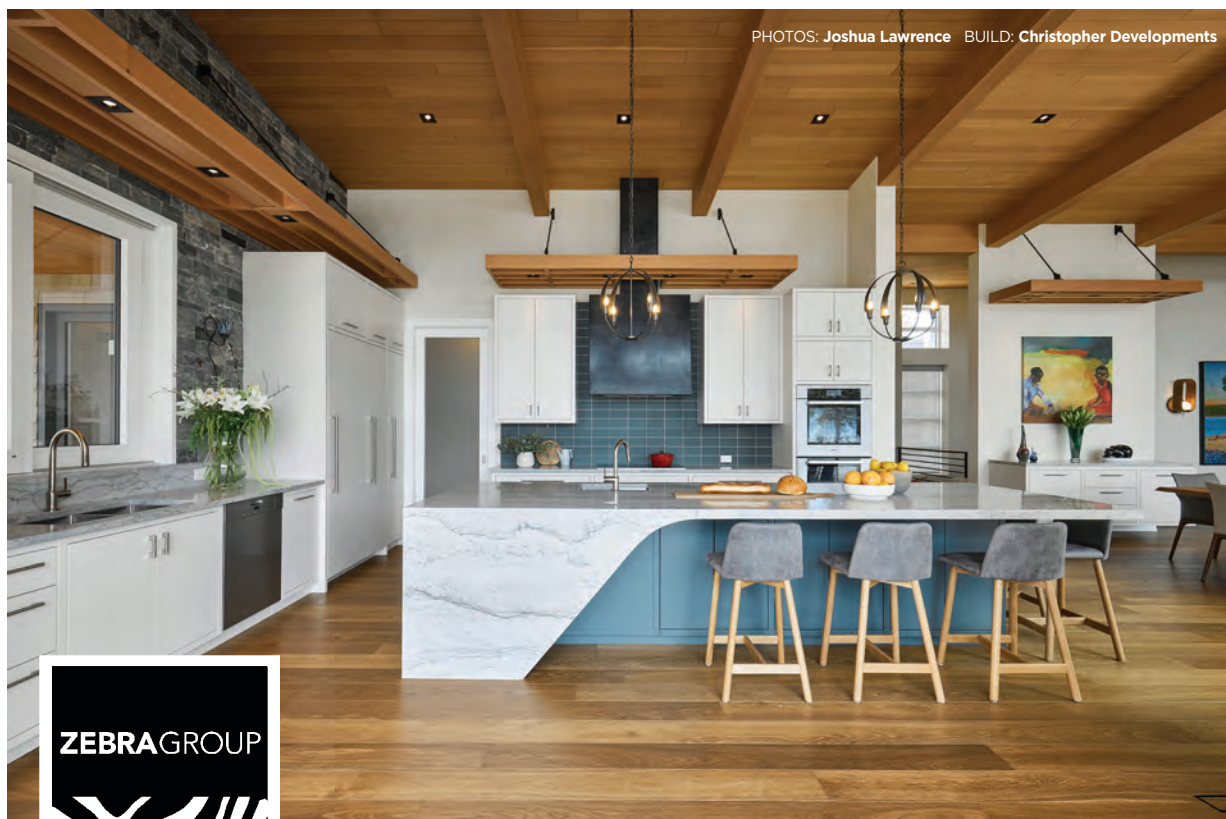
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PHOTOS: Joshua Lawrence BUILD: Christopher Developments

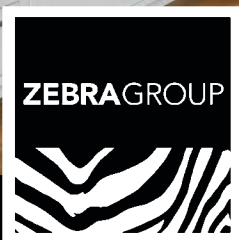


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The Beach House is more than a residence—it is a symbol of what happens when design and responsibility intersect.

When Damon Gray left school at fifteen in Orewa, New Zealand, he had no idea his tenacity for building and passion for pushing boundaries would one day transform housing design in Canada. Known as “Damo” to friends and colleagues, he spent four years in California before settling on Vancouver Island, where he confronted the realities of conventional construction. Too often, he was renovating homes that were rotten, pest-ridden, and built with little foresight. These experiences shaped his conviction: homes must be built to last, with building science and material selection guiding healthier lifestyles.

In 2004, Damon founded NZ Builders, introducing a more resilient approach to construction. He made headlines as the first in western Canada to bring a concrete tilt-up system into residential use. His own home, “Wain Road,” became a living case study, celebrated internationally as one of Vancouver Island’s first Net Zero homes. For Damon and NZ Builders, the philosophy of “build better, live better” has driven them to pioneer projects that are not only structurally sound but also integrate Passive House principles and aspects of the Living Building Challenge.

One of the most striking examples of this approach is the Beach House. Industrial in inspiration yet warm in atmosphere, the home demonstrates what is possible when durability, artistry, and efficiency come together.

The house features some of the most diverse concrete finishes. One entire exterior panel carries a life-size image of a Garry Oak tree, captured by the homeowners and permanently etched into the concrete.

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Inside, polished concrete flooring incorporates ornate wood inlays beneath the beds, while mixed-media walls add depth and character. Built-in concrete features, from a sculpted bathtub to intimate seating areas, create an unexpected sense of coziness within the minimalist frame. Doors and windows by Complete Windows enhance energy efficiency and natural light, while custom millwork by Jason Good Millwork brings warmth and craftsmanship to the interiors. Artisanal steelwork by Vancouver Island blacksmith Jake James adds striking detail, and a fully integrated automation system by Wenner Smart Home Systems elevates convenience and efficiency.

At the heart of the build is MONOLITH'S Tilt-Up CIP System. "Considering the wet climate we have on the coast, it is surprising this is the first concrete tilt-up house in Canada," says Damon. Tilt-up construction casts insulated wall panels on-site, then tilts them into position with cranes. The result is a complete wall system—interior and exterior concrete with insulation in between—that replaces conventional assemblies from drywall to cladding. Though more costly than traditional methods, it delivers superior durability, resilience, and design flexibility.

The ideals of a well-built home are straightforward: high insulation values, airtightness, and windows designed to last. Insulation must be continuous, not just in the walls but beneath footings and slab. As Damon explains, a home is like a body—you would not step outside in winter without socks or shoes.



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Airtight construction is equally vital. The old notion of a house “breathing” is outdated; uncontrolled airflow causes decay. Instead, an HRV or ERV system with 95% heat recovery refreshes all air every two and a half hours while maintaining warmth and humidity. The result is healthier indoor air and stable comfort with minimal energy demand.

Passive solar design integrates nature into performance. Orientation and overhangs let the sun warm interiors in winter and shade them in summer, lowering heating bills while enhancing well-being with natural light. Concrete’s thermal mass further stabilizes conditions, storing warmth in cooler months and holding temperatures within ± 1 degree. Inside, polished concrete floors and embedded art make the structure both functional and expressive.



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Efficiency extends to materials—Damon's waste fees decreased 92% on a timber-frame project. Leftover concrete is repurposed for details or fill, and other materials are carefully recycled. While MONOLITH'S system raises upfront costs by about seventeen percent, its long-term benefits outweigh the investment. Durability, efficiency, reduced maintenance, and inherent fire resistance ensure lasting value. Concrete can also be coloured or textured to mimic natural finishes, combining performance with beauty.

The Beach House is more than a residence—it is a symbol of what happens when design and responsibility intersect.

Guided by energy code standards, built with MONOLITH'S Tilt-Up CIP System, and finished with artisan craft, it points to the future of healthier coastal living.

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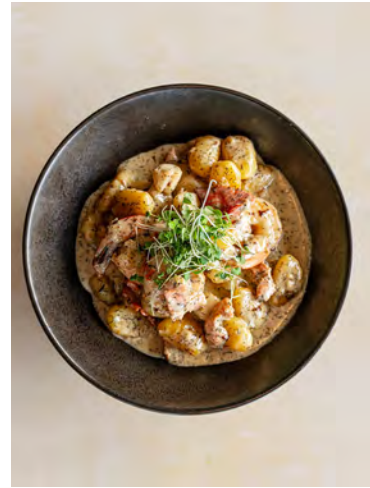
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Savouring the Flavours of a Fairwinds Getaway

With the earthy, fruity taste of a rich Chianti still on her tongue, author, editor, and nature-enthusiast Susan Lundy recalled sitting with her husband on a cushiony outdoor couch, watching the flame of a fire table dance in the dimming light. Cards and a crib board sat untouched between them, and a brewing conversation about the stunning weekend here in Nanoose Bay remained unspoken. For now, they sat silenced, captivated by the drama of the darkening sky and the activity of the Fairwinds Marina below.

The couple's accommodation was a thoughtfully curated suite in the lower level of Fairwinds Residences, complete with a full kitchen, spacious sitting area, and floor-to-ceiling windows. Yet Lundy said it was the deck that became their sanctuary. "Here, we found our happy place, watching dogwalkers, anglers, and boaters traverse the dock, while otters played in the water below them. The only sound was the soft metallic clang of halyards bouncing against masts in the marina. It was mesmerizing."

Milner Gardens
& Woodland



Fairwinds Residences offers everything guests need right at their doorstep, but it is also the perfect jumping-off spot to explore Vancouver Island's Oceanside region. Between Nanaimo and Parksville, Nanoose Bay revealed itself as an unexpected haven of rural farmland, parks, forested trails, and the expansive Fairwinds development, which includes upscale homes, a sprawling golf course, two restaurants, and a wellness centre.

"We delved into the culinary side of a Fairwinds stay, as well as exploring the 10 Amazing Places Project," she said. Over three days, they discovered waterfalls at Qualicum and Englishman rivers, strolled historic Milner Gardens, and wandered beneath tall trees at Heritage Forest and Cathedral Grove.

Food experiences were a highlight. Located street level in the Fairwinds Residences building is the family-run Nanoose Bay Café with its award-winning BC-focused Wine List and where Chef Todd Bright serves top-notch, Asian-influenced food. The evening included tangy marinated bean curd salad, a "divinely flavoured Surf and Surf" with seared albacore tuna and tiger prawns, and Bruce's seafood-stuffed gnocchi. During dinner, they met owner Eli Brennan (Water Street Café, Nanoose Bay Café, Deez Bar & Grill), whom Lundy described as "a true BC food-industry mover and shaker with the Nanoose Bay Café and the newly opened Greenview Taphouse, the latest additions to his restaurant collection."

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"Here, we found our happy place, watching dogwalkers, anglers, and boaters traverse the dock, while otters played in the water below them."

As their final evening meal unfolded at Greenview Taphouse, they sat on the multi-levelled patio facing the lush golf course, watching a deer family grazing on the greens. Reflecting on their stay, Lundy remarked: "We spent our last evening here on our peaceful, marina-facing patio, satiated and invigorated—but ultimately relaxed. We took another sip of our Chianti and toasted the end of a spectacular trip."

<https://book.fairwinds.ca/> **LIV**



Fairwinds Residences



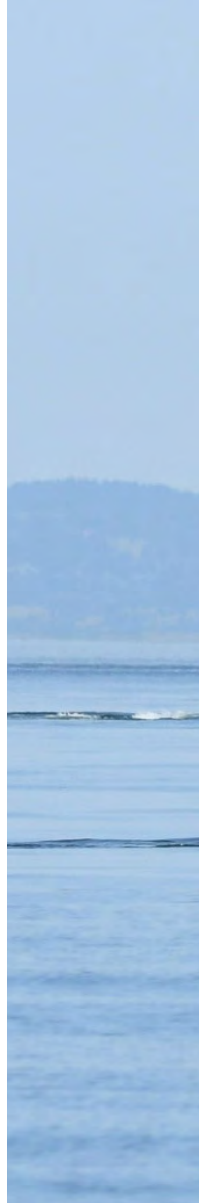
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A long Victoria's Inner Harbour, the salty air carries both history and anticipation. Within minutes, you step aboard a sleek vessel and set out across the Salish Sea—a stretch of water alive with movement and magic. This is not just whale watching. This is Victoria at its wildest and most unforgettable.

With Prince of Whales, every departure feels like a voyage into another world. The sea becomes a stage for nature's most captivating performers—Orcas slicing through the waves, Humpback Whales breaching with breathtaking power, dolphins racing alongside the bow, and Bald Eagles soaring overhead. On more than 95 percent of tours, whales make their appearance, transforming expectation into exhilaration.

What makes the experience even more meaningful is the thoughtful way it is designed. Step onto a custom-built, eco-conscious catamaran with three viewing levels, cozy indoor seating, and even an on-board washroom—comfort that allows you to focus entirely on the wonder outside.

If you crave a more adventurous encounter, hop into a Zodiac and skim the waterline, feeling every splash as you draw closer to the ocean's rhythm. Private bookings, meanwhile, create a space for the most intimate and personal moments with the sea.

Yet the adventure runs deeper than sightings. Prince of Whales champions a bigger mission: protecting the marine life that inspires such awe. From their Biosphere Certification to their Climate Positive initiatives, sustainability anchors every choice. Naturalist guides bring the Salish Sea to life with stories of migrations, ecosystems, and cycles that bind the coast together, reminding you that you are part of something far greater than yourself.

This is more than a sightseeing tour—it is a chance to connect, to be transformed. You leave not just with memories of whales breaching against a backdrop of rugged coastline, but with a newfound reverence for the waters of British Columbia. Whale watching in Victoria is an invitation: come for the adventure, stay for the connection, and carry the wonder with you long after the journey ends.

<https://princeofwhales.com/> **LIV**

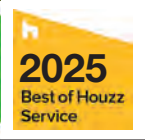


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Imagine stepping into Canada's "Castle on the Coast," overlooking Victoria's glittering Inner Harbour, where elegance and wellness intertwine. Inside the Fairmont Empress, the Fairmont Spa has unveiled a signature treatment unlike anything else—The Empress Blue Ritual—a sensory journey that feels both luxurious and deeply grounding.

Fairmont Empress has long been celebrated for its iconic afternoon tea—a tradition that has welcomed royalty, celebrities, and travellers from around the world. This fall, that legacy of tea takes on a new form at the Fairmont Spa with the debut of The Empress Blue Ritual: a treatment that transforms one of the hotel's most beloved teas into a restorative spa experience.

The inspiration for this signature treatment comes from the Blue Suede Shoes Tea, a striking blend that has become a guest favourite at the Empress. True to its name, the tea opens with smooth sweetness and finishes with delicate noisette notes. Its vivid sapphire hue comes from the butterfly pea flower, a botanical revered for its antioxidant properties and visual beauty. Blended with rosehip, hawthorn fruit, and cornflower petals, Blue Suede Shoes is both nourishing and enchanting—low in caffeine yet rich in wellness benefits, making it a perfect choice for any time of day.

It is this tea's unique character—its beauty, its healthful qualities, and its connection to the Empress's tea tradition—that inspired the creation of The Empress Blue Ritual. Designed as a sensory journey, the treatment translates the act of sipping tea into a full-body experience of renewal, reflection, and indulgence.

The 90-minute experience begins with a tea and honey body polish that gently smooths and revitalizes the skin. Guests are then invited to slip into a warm bath infused with coconut milk and Blue Suede Shoes Tea. As the butterfly pea flower transforms the water into a brilliant sapphire blue, the effect is both soothing and spectacular. The ritual encourages guests to sip the very same tea while they soak, creating a harmony of inner and outer nourishment. This is followed by a full-body massage with warm, tea-infused oils, melting away tension while grounding the body and mind in calm stillness. To extend the experience beyond the spa, each guest departs with a tea bath sachet and a pot of Empress honey harvested from the hotel's centennial garden bees.



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For those who may not have the luxury of time, the 60-minute Empress Blue Body Polish offers a streamlined version of the treatment. This includes exfoliation, hydration, and a focused back massage—perfect for glowing skin and targeted relaxation when schedules are tighter.

What makes this ritual remarkable is how seamlessly it merges tradition with innovation. The butterfly pea flower lends a dazzling visual element as the bath water turns sapphire blue, while Empress honey and coconut milk deeply nourish the skin. Every step is thoughtfully designed to honour the reflective energy of fall while elevating self-care into something extraordinary.

It is more than a spa service—it is a royal indulgence that captures the essence of the Fairmont Empress itself: heritage, beauty, and a touch of magic. Whether guests choose the full immersion of the 90-minute treatment or the tailored 60-minute option, The Empress Blue Ritual invites them to pause, reflect, and leave renewed in both body and spirit.

And it is no surprise that this storied hotel continues to set the standard for unforgettable experiences. Named the #1 Best Canadian Hotel in *Travel + Leisure's* 2025 World's Best Awards, and honoured as both Forbes Recommended and MICHELIN Key, Fairmont Empress proves once again that when tradition meets innovation, the result is nothing short of extraordinary. **LIV**

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The magazine cover features a background of overlapping, semi-transparent diamond shapes in shades of grey and white. A central dark grey square contains the word 'LIV' in a large, gold, serif font. Below it, the words 'STYLE.TASTE.SPACE' are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The word 'Okanagan' is written in a large, elegant, gold script font across the middle of the cover. At the bottom, there is a block of text in a small, black, sans-serif font providing publication details. The website 'LIVMAGAZINE.CA' is printed in a small, black, sans-serif font in the bottom right corner.

LIV

STYLE.TASTE.SPACE

Okanagan

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Artistry, Intention & Quiet Luxury

A Resort-Like Haven in Lake Country





There comes a moment when the pace of life shifts, when the focus turns to savouring beauty, investing in well-being, and surrounding oneself with the things that matter most. For those ready to embrace this next stage, 14162 Barkley Road in Lake Country offers the perfect balance of quiet luxury and natural splendour, set in one of Western Canada's most breathtaking landscapes.

This handcrafted timber frame estate is a masterpiece of artistry and intention. Built without hardware, the home's traditional joinery, vaulted rooflines, and exposed beams reflect a respect for timeless craftsmanship, while modern comforts ensure effortless living. From the moment you step into the soaring great room, floor-to-ceiling Kolbe windows reveal an ever-changing canvas of Okanagan Lake and rolling vineyards. The grand stone fireplace draws people together, whether for evenings of conversation with friends or moments of solitude enjoyed with a book and a glass of local wine.

The kitchen is equally at home with intimate dinners or entertaining visiting family. Premium appliances, granite countertops, and custom cabinetry create an elegant yet functional space, seamlessly connected to the open dining and living areas. Every detail has been considered, ensuring that daily life feels both comfortable and elevated.

The primary suite provides a private retreat, where a lofted hideaway and spa-like ensuite invite rest and renewal. Beyond the home's interiors, the property unfolds into a resort-like haven. A regulation-length pool with an oversized lounging area and a built-in water feature creates the perfect stage for summer relaxation. Mature landscaping, carefully maintained, surrounds the home, enhancing its sense of privacy and tranquillity.



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Built without hardware, the home's traditional joinery, vaulted rooflines, and exposed beams reflect a respect for timeless craftsmanship, while modern comforts ensure effortless living.

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*From the moment you step into the soaring great room,
floor-to-ceiling Kolbe windows reveal an ever-changing
canvas of Okanagan Lake and rolling vineyards*



For those with equestrian interests, the estate is ready with two horse stalls, a paddock, a round pen, and an outdoor riding arena—features that allow passions to continue or new ones to be explored. A one-bedroom guest suite offers space for visiting children, grandchildren, or lifelong friends who want to share in the Okanagan experience.

What makes this estate especially appealing is its location. Tucked away enough to provide a true sense of retreat, it is still just minutes from world-class wineries, golf courses, and the shimmering waters of the lake. The best of the Okanagan lifestyle is always within reach, yet each return to Barkley Road feels like coming home to a sanctuary.



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A property of this calibre deserves the guidance of those who understand both its uniqueness and the lifestyle it represents. Jane Hoffman has been a trusted name in Kelowna real estate since 1985, building a legacy of care, expertise, and community commitment. Their brokerage of 15 licensed professionals brings both sophistication and heart to their work, helping clients transition into homes that reflect the lives they want to live. Their belief that luxury is a legacy resonates deeply here, where every beam and every view reflects the potential for a meaningful next chapter.

This estate is not about slowing down but about redefining what life can be. It is morning swims in the pool, afternoons exploring vineyards, evenings by the fire, and weekends spent welcoming family to a place that feels extraordinary. It is the quiet comfort of knowing that everything you need is at your fingertips, paired with the joy of living in one of the most beautiful corners of Canada.

14162 Barkley Road is more than a residence. It is a promise of a life lived fully, surrounded by beauty, shaped by intention, and enriched by moments that linger long after they pass. With the guidance of Jodi of Unison Jane Hoffman Realty, this estate stands ready to become the backdrop for your next, most rewarding chapter.

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A Journey of Vision

Building Success Through Resilience and Heart

PHOTOS BY DARREN HULL

Reece Tomlinson used to believe success had a uniform. Tailored suits, designer watches, and a packed calendar were her armour. In her early days as a corporate finance executive in London, she worked long hours, earned accolades, and collected the classic markers of professional prestige. Behind the scenes, however, the lifestyle was draining, the values misaligned, and the mask exhausting.

“I had everything I thought I was supposed to want,” she said. “But none of it felt like mine.”

Now, years later, she leads RWT Growth, one of Canada’s fastest-growing boutique M&A firms, with a radically different definition of success.

For Tomlinson, success is no longer about status or appearance. It is about alignment, sustainability, and self-trust. In an age where burnout is treated like a badge of honour, she is living proof that one can scale a national business without sacrificing identity, values, or well-being.

From her farm in Kelowna to high-stakes boardrooms across the country, Tomlinson is building a life and a career that feel as good as they look. She is showing other women that they can do the same.

Tomlinson once believed that leading a company meant fitting into a rigid archetype: stoic, sharp, and always in control. Like many women in finance, she emulated the traditional models of power she saw around her, which were often masculine, hard-edged, and emotionally distant. That kind of performance came at a cost.



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"You do not need to live in chaos to close good deals. In fact, the opposite is usually true."

"I was mimicking what I thought leadership looked like," she said. "But it never brought out the best in me or anyone around me."

The turning point came when she stopped performing. Not only did she transition from the male she was born as into the woman she always knew she was, but she also chose to stop projecting control and begin cultivating connection.

She leaned into her empathy, her strategic instincts, and her ability to lead with presence rather than posture.

"When I stopped leading from ego and started leading from authenticity, everything changed," she said. "Deals improved, my team grew stronger, and my vision expanded."

That shift was not only personal, but also professional. RWT Growth is now one of the only woman-led M&A firms in Canada with a national footprint. Tomlinson's values-driven approach has proven effective. In an industry known for burnout, she has created a model that allows her to recharge between high-intensity moments and be present with her family in ways that feel grounding for them all.

Tomlinson's days still start early, but now they begin with journaling, trail running, time with her children, and routines that keep her centred.

"I built a business that fits into my life, not the other way around," she said.

That intentionality extends to her team. RWT operates with a culture rooted in psychological safety, clarity, and mutual respect.

"I do not expect my team to sacrifice their well-being for results," she said. "We value high performance, but we achieve it by prioritizing health and acting with integrity, not by compromising those principles."

This balance is especially vital in M&A, where long hours and high stress are common. Her approach focuses on clarity, preparation, and trust.

"You do not need to live in chaos to close good deals. In fact, the opposite is usually true."

She has also become vocal about challenging hustle culture, particularly for women. She does not believe being busy is the same as being effective, and credits many women and caregivers with a unique ability to focus and execute efficiently.

For Tomlinson, building a life beyond burnout is not just about balance. It is about alignment. Her own journey, coming out as a transwoman and embracing her identity, taught her the cost of living out of sync.

"I spent years masking, in life and in business. And it nearly broke me," she said. "When you live in opposition to your truth, it bleeds into everything, your relationships, your health, and your leadership."

Today, authenticity is her superpower. It shapes how she hires, how she leads, and how she shows up for clients. She does not see empathy as a soft skill, but as a business strategy rooted in self-awareness and clarity.

That mindset is especially important when working with founders navigating succession or exit planning.

"These deals are emotional. They are legacy decisions. When you show up as a real person, it builds trust and leads to better outcomes."

These days, Tomlinson splits her time between boardrooms and her small farm in the Okanagan Valley. She is equally at home negotiating eight-figure transactions as she is cooking with her kids or walking her dogs through the woods. Her wardrobe still features bold silhouettes and sleek blazers, but now they reflect the woman wearing them, not a persona she feels obligated to perform.

"I used to chase success that looked good on the outside," she said. "Now, I build success that feels good on the inside."

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The *Art* of Warmth

Timeless Elegance, Reimagined

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAMIE MANN

In a fashion world where trends flicker in and out like lightning, Black Goat Cashmere stands apart as a brand built on authenticity, craftsmanship, and a devotion to timeless style. With boutiques in Vancouver, Victoria, Calgary, and Toronto, this Canadian label has carved out a reputation for creating garments that embody both effortless elegance and deep respect for nature.



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BOLERO TOP
(\$896) in Cherise

**MARLED FRINGE
CARDIGAN**
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**CROPPED
FISHERMEN
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(\$895) in Smoke





LOOM SHAWL (\$395)
over **HIGH WAIST WIDE**
LEG PANTS (\$395) and
CLASSIC T-NECK
(\$485), all in White

A close-up photograph of a woman wearing a white turtleneck sweater. The sweater has a thick, ribbed cowl neck that folds over. The woman's face is partially visible, showing her nose and lips. Her hair is light brown and wavy. The background is a plain, light gray. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the sweater.

**COZY COWL
NECK (\$975)**
in White



RIB SCARF
(\$410) over
CREW NECK
PULLOVER
(\$535), both
in Cherise

BOLERO TOP
(\$896) in
Black





Leadership, Legacy & The Gold Seal Difference

A People-First Approach to Financial Planning

PHOTOS BY DARREN HULL

For Tanya Wilson, the heart of her work is about people first. Behind the financial strategies and professional milestones is a woman who has built her career on connection, resilience, and a passion for helping others. While her title—Senior Wealth Advisor and Portfolio Manager at Gold Seal Financial Group, Wellington-Altus Private Wealth—and credentials (BBA, CFP®, CIM, FCSI) may appear intimidating, she is known for her warmth, accessibility, and ability to make complex financial concepts feel clear.

“I am fulfilled in the knowledge that I’m making a meaningful difference in my clients’ financial lives. I treat every client as a friend and an extended part of my family, and my clients feel it,” she shared. This belief has been the cornerstone of Tanya’s career, one that spans two decades across advisory, portfolio management, and practice leadership.

Co-founding the Gold Seal Financial Group team allowed her to channel this expertise into a team-based practice serving the Okanagan and the Lower Mainland, with an additional Kelowna office for long-time clients who retired to the valley. Her clientele includes families, business owners, and professionals, many with complex retirement income and cross-border needs.

“I built Gold Seal Financial Group around a simple premise: sophisticated wealth management belongs in real life. That means planning first, coordinated execution, and a team accountable for the whole picture,” said Tanya.

Early in her career, Tanya often faced the “old boys’ club” perception, where her role was mistaken for support staff rather than a licensed advisor. Instead of discouraging her, these moments fuelled her determination to prove herself client by client.

In 2016, she left the bank channel for an independent platform, and in 2021, she moved her practice to Wellington-Altus. The decision was strategic: she sought independence, access to the full marketplace of investment solutions, and an advisor-supportive culture. “For me, independence means I can focus entirely on what’s right for the client, without a company agenda in the background. The fewer built-in conflicts, the cleaner the advice,” said Tanya.

Every relationship begins with a goals-based plan that drives portfolio design and keeps clients grounded when markets are volatile.

Her leadership reflects this client-first mindset, one that has earned recognition from Wealth Professional, including being named one of the “5-Star Leading Women in Wealth” in 2022 and inclusion on the “5-Star Advisory Teams” list in 2024.

What sets Tanya and her team apart is a disciplined approach to planning. Every relationship begins with a goals-based plan that drives portfolio design and keeps clients grounded when markets are volatile. The practice integrates tax, legal, and estate strategies, ensuring no part of a client’s financial life operates in isolation.

Her discretionary mandates, the Serenity Portfolios, deliver institutional-grade strategies tailored to families, business owners, and multi-generational clients. These portfolios blend global equities, diversified credit, and alternatives, with a disciplined quarterly process and client-level customization.

“It’s about turning big, institutional strategies into something that gives families confidence, including smoother returns, better tax outcomes and a clear legacy plan,” she explained.

Tanya’s impact extends beyond financial services. She is an active fundraiser and participant in cycling charity events, supporting causes such as BC Cancer, Mamas for Mamas, and the Willis Family Foundation. Her role as Treasurer on the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central and Southern Interior highlights her commitment to youth and community development.

She is equally dedicated to education advocacy, helping women make pivotal financial decisions and encouraging healthy money habits for children. “Bias in our industry is often quiet and procedural. It rarely stops driven women from succeeding, but it can stop them from starting,” said Tanya. She mentors women exploring careers in wealth management, offering knowledge, confidence, and real opportunities.

A low-angle photograph of a woman standing in front of a modern, multi-story glass skyscraper. The woman is wearing a white long-sleeved button-down shirt with two chest pockets, a wide blue belt with a large gold buckle, and blue high-waisted trousers. She is also wearing glasses and has her hands on her hips, looking up at the building. The building has a grid-like pattern of windows and a prominent entrance area with large glass panels. The sky is clear and blue.

"Bias in our industry is often quiet and procedural. It rarely stops driven women from succeeding, but it can stop them from starting."

Clients describe Tanya's style as direct, detail-driven, and calm in the moments that matter most. Her work is hands-on, educational, and personal. She provides clarity in an often-overwhelming financial landscape, breaking down decisions so families and entrepreneurs can move forward with confidence.

At the heart of Tanya's philosophy is a belief in the importance of a written financial plan. By creating "safety nets" and optimizing strategies for tax efficiency, she ensures her clients' lifestyles remain secure, even in uncertain markets. "Every financial goal, aspiration, and investment need is unique to each client, and their wealth plan should reflect that," she emphasized.

Tanya Wilson's career embodies resilience, innovation, and compassion. From breaking through gender biases to shaping an advisory model built on integrity, her journey reflects both professional excellence and personal conviction.

The Gold Seal Difference is more than a business model—it is a promise of thoughtful planning, accountability, and authentic care. Tanya's legacy is defined not only by financial success, but by the lives she has enriched through her practice, mentorship, and philanthropic work.

"What inspires me each day is making the financial part of life simpler, so clients can spend their time and energy on what gives them joy and meaning," said Tanya.

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Elevating Charcuterie

Stories of Local Flavour and Abundance

PHOTOS BY DARREN HULL



It is a perfect Okanagan afternoon in a sun-dappled garden, where friends gather under the shade of flowering trees, glasses of chilled rosé in hand, and laughter floating through the air. At the centre of it all sits a graze board that looks more like art than food—overflowing with vibrant colours, delicate textures, and flavours that beg to be savoured. This is the magic of Curated Kelowna, where the humble charcuterie board has been transformed into the ultimate way to celebrate togetherness.



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What began as a fleeting trend has become a lifestyle essential. Weddings, corporate soirées, or cozy nights in with friends—Curated brings the wow factor every single time. Their spreads are never ordinary; instead, they are layered with intention. Think farm-picked produce, jewel-toned seasonal fruits, handcrafted dips, wild-fermented sourdough, and an array of vegan-friendly delights that showcase the best of the Okanagan. Each board tells a story of local flavour, often featuring collaborations with small businesses like Taste of the Okanagan for jams and The Sinful Slice for unforgettable bread.

It is not just food—it is an experience. Curated's graze tables become living centrepieces, lush and abundant, perfectly paired with a crisp Riesling, a hoppy craft beer, or bubbles that sparkle in the late afternoon light. Birthdays, reunions, and anniversaries instantly feel elevated when guests are greeted by a board brimming with beauty and flavour in equal measure.

Convenience is also part of the charm. Their picnic boxes are made for lake days, wine tours, or spontaneous garden gatherings that stretch into golden hour. With every bite thoughtfully chosen, all that remains is to lay out a blanket, pour the wine, and indulge.

Curated has taken charcuterie far beyond a trend—it is the Okanagan's signature way to gather, graze, and create lasting memories.

<https://curatedkelowna.com/> 



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Seize the Day

Create Lasting Memories, Sip by Sip

As the sun dips low over the Okanagan, the vineyards glow in shades of amber and gold. Glasses clink softly against the backdrop of rolling hills, and the air is filled with the fragrance of ripe grapes and late-summer blossoms. It is golden hour in wine country—one of those perfect moments when time slows, and the only thing that matters is the sip in your glass. This is the essence of Carpe Diem Tours.

Based in Kelowna, Carpe Diem has become the insider's way to explore the valley's most celebrated wine regions. From the West Side Wine Trail and Lakeshore Wine Route to Summerland's Bottleneck Drive and Lake Country's vineyard gems, each curated journey reveals the true heart of the Okanagan, one beautiful pour at a time.



"It was the social aspect, the sophistication, and the flavours that drew me in every day."



Founder Sanela Sehovac knows this landscape intimately. Originally from Montenegro, she settled in Kelowna in 2003 and quickly fell in love with the scenery, the people, and the flourishing wine culture. “Every day, I am reminded of how lucky I am to call Kelowna and the Okanagan my home,” she shares. Inspired by her Balkan roots and her background in hospitality, she built Carpe Diem Tours to reflect that same sense of wonder for every guest.

For Sanela, the wine industry is about more than the glass—it is about the people, the ambiance, and the connection. “It was the social aspect, the sophistication, and the flavours that drew me in every day,” she reflects. That passion shines through in every tour, whether it is a leisurely afternoon of tastings in Lake Country or a vineyard lunch overlooking the panoramic views of West Kelowna.

Carpe Diem Tours has been honoured with Tripadvisor’s Travelers’ Choice Award three years in a row—2023, 2024, and 2025—a true nod to its commitment to creating unforgettable experiences. And it goes beyond classic wine tours. From bespoke bachelorette weekends and wedding parties to corporate team-building and festive ski-season shuttles to Big White, every experience is tailored to leave guests with stories worth sharing.

The adventures extend across the Okanagan, from the charming slopes of Naramata to the sun-soaked vineyards of Osoyoos. Each itinerary is designed with intention, where every glass poured becomes part of a bigger memory.

At Carpe Diem Tours, the details are never overlooked, ensuring that long after the golden light fades, the warmth of the experience lingers.

<https://carpediemtours.ca/> **LIV**

Channeling a Spirit of Authenticity

Family, Community, and a Life Surrounded by Beauty

PHOTOS BY DARREN HULL



Life in the Okanagan is defined by more than the homes people buy or sell—it is about family, community, and creating a life surrounded by beauty. For Blaine Vernon-Jarvis, Kelowna is where his story intertwines with the legacy of one of Canada's most trusted real estate names: Judy Lindsay.

Living in Kelowna with his wife Wyn and their young son Kingsford, Blaine knows firsthand the pull of this region. "Being able to start and grow my family in the Okanagan has made me realize what an incredible place we live in," he said. "We have a fantastic ski resort nearby and one of the best lakes in B.C. right at our doorstep. The Okanagan has opened up so many opportunities for my family, and it is a privilege to be able to share those with others."

That sense of family and community is at the heart of Judy Lindsay Real Estate's story. Founded in Winnipeg in 1994, Judy Lindsay pioneered the idea of a team-based approach to real estate—something virtually unheard of at the time. She believed clients deserved more: better service, stronger marketing, and a collaborative model that put people first. "I made a decision to drastically change and improve the way I sell homes," Judy once said. "I wanted to create a method of marketing your home that was extremely effective and would prove to be better than ever before."

Her innovative thinking quickly took hold. By 1996, the Judy Lindsay Team had become Manitoba's number one real estate group, a title it continues to hold. Even after Judy's passing in 2001, her philosophy of compassion, teamwork, and innovation remained the foundation of the company's success. Today, her son, Allan Asplin, proudly carries forward her vision. Licensed since 2000 and with more than 5,000 homes sold, Allan has built on his mother's legacy by embracing cutting-edge marketing, advanced systems, and client-first strategies.

It was Allan's belief in the brand's potential that led him to the Okanagan. In 2020, he partnered with Blaine to bring the Judy Lindsay name to British Columbia. What began with only a couple of agents quickly grew to more than 15, fuelled by their no-nonsense approach: support agents, focus on the deal, and keep the client experience seamless.

"From the start, our goal was to create an agency that made sense for agents," Blaine explained. "No unnecessary meetings, no big splits—just a group of people working hand in hand to take care of clients. Judy Lindsay Okanagan has succeeded in that. Whether you are doing 50 deals a year or working on your very first, our family approach has a place for everyone. I think agents see that we are genuine, and as a result, they want to be part of something great."

That spirit of authenticity is exactly what Judy envisioned when she first launched her team three decades ago. "Judy's vision is simple: looking after clients not just as clients, but as family. Having people return after ten years because they know and trust what we do means everything," Blaine shared.

It is also what binds Blaine and Allan together as business partners. "I could not ask for a better partner to work alongside," Blaine said. "Allan's expertise in negotiating and client care is the best in the industry. His experience and skills have helped shape our success in the Okanagan."

For clients, the benefits of this partnership are clear. Buyers gain access to the firm's Smart Buyer Program, which opens doors to listings before they hit the market. Sellers benefit from advanced marketing strategies that maximize exposure and results. And above all, every client is treated as family—valued, supported, and cared for throughout one of life's biggest decisions.




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Looking ahead, Blaine remains committed to keeping Judy's legacy alive in BC. "We will continue to move our vision forward by doing what we do best: looking after our clients as if they are family—because at the end of the day, they are."

With Blaine Vernon-Jarvis at the helm, Judy Lindsay Okanagan is more than a real estate brokerage.

It is a reflection of a lifestyle, a community, and a legacy built on trust. For those who call the Okanagan home—or dream of doing so—it is a brand that represents not only results, but also the values of family and belonging that Judy Lindsay championed from the very beginning.

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3045 McAnally Road
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South-facing oceanfront masterpiece, originally built in 1938 and exquisitely updated throughout, set on 1.3 acres in prestigious 10 Mile Point. This grand residence offers a guest cottage, boathouse, and private beach, with expansive lawns leading to the water. A sun-drenched private patio provides the ultimate setting for outdoor entertaining. Combining timeless elegance with modern comforts, this exceptional estate captures breathtaking ocean views and unparalleled coastal living.



8853 Park Pacific Terrace
North Saanich, BC | \$2,088,000

An architecturally stunning home in Dean Park with uninterrupted views of the Haro Strait, the Gulf Islands and glorious Mount Baker. Proudly featuring a spacious open concept layout over 4,500 sq ft, with 4 beds, 5 baths, a sleek fireplace, rubber driveway, walk-in wine room, a separate 1-bed suite, plus multiple decks and infinite vistas, this home has it all!



675 Towner Park Road
North Saanich, BC | \$2,495,000

Welcome to Towner Bay Country Club—an exclusive oceanfront sanctuary. Nestled on a flat 1 acre lot in sought-after Towner Bay, this rare low-bank property features breathtaking west-facing ocean views & private access to a serene, sandy cove. This 3 bed, 3 bath home is surrounded by mature trees & coastal beauty, offering unmatched peace & privacy. Direct access to your own protected beach - perfect for paddle boarding or swimming!



3525 Upper Terrace Road
Victoria, BC | \$4,498,000

This beautifully updated 6 bed, 7 bath home sits on over half an acre in the highly desirable Uplands neighborhood. Surrounded by mature trees and well-maintained gardens, it offers a unique blend of classic character and modern comfort, ideal for family living. Located within walking distance to the University of Victoria, Uplands Golf Club, Royal Victoria Yacht Club, and Gyro Beach, this home offers timeless charm, modern updates, and an ideal setting for family life.



11406 Sycamore Drive
North Saanich, BC | \$3,599,000

Set in the prestigious Lands End area, this 6,000 sq ft architectural gem offers 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, and exceptional privacy and tranquility. Designed to blend natural beauty with timeless design, this bright & spacious home offers panoramic views of the ocean, valley & mountains from multiple patios that promote indoor/outdoor living. A separate 1-bedroom suite offers space for family, friends or rental opportunities.



928 Claremont Avenue
Cordova Bay, BC | \$3,398,000

Discover refined coastal living in this 3,700 sq ft, 3-level masterpiece with stunning ocean & mountain views. A semi-circular driveway & sculpted rock-wall gardens welcome you. Inside, grand windows & glass doors fill the space with light & frame panoramas from front & rear decks, offering seamless indoor/outdoor living. The back deck opens to a private fenced yard & tranquil garden. A legal 1-bedroom suite with ocean views & a covered deck adds flexibility.



2464 Tryon Road
North Saanich, BC | \$4,450,000

This stunning oceanfront, custom-designed estate embodies West Coast style and architecture. With an open floor plan and soaring ceilings, the interior exudes sophistication. The home offers 4 bedrooms and 5 bathrooms crafted to highlight sweeping ocean, mountains, and island views. The easy-care yard, triple car garage, and landscaped grounds offer direct access to the waterfront, making this a boaters' and kayakers' dream property.



2555 Newman Road
Central Saanich, BC | \$2,995,000

Custom-designed waterfront gem! Timeless elegance meets modern luxury in this stunning 3 bed, 3 bath home with walls of glass showcasing panoramic views of James Island & Mt. Baker. The exterior space is meticulously landscaped, incorporating stone pathways, designated seating areas, and low-maintenance gardens. A private pathway grants direct access to 81 feet of shoreline, ideal for intertidal exploration, kayaking, or tranquil relaxation with the ambient sounds of the ocean.



5605 Parker Avenue
Cordova Bay, BC | \$6,450,000

Experience unparalleled beachfront living on prestigious Parker Avenue, where sweeping views of Mount Baker and stunning sunrises define this exceptional 2.85-acre waterfront estate. Completely updated in 2012, the residence boasts 7 bedrooms, 5 1/2 bathrooms, and breathtaking ocean vistas from every principal room. A private 1-bedroom studio provides versatile living options. Expansive rolling lawns lead to 250 feet of private beachfront.

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382 Judges Row

Qualicum Beach, BC | \$14,800,000

Nestled on the sandy shores of iconic Judges Row in Qualicum Beach, this extraordinary estate captures the essence of refined coastal luxury. Reimagined by designer Juli Hodgson, the 4,000 sq ft main home showcases wood-clad cathedral ceilings, double glass doors, and open-plan interiors. The living room flows into a formal dining area with a striking fireplace shared with the chef's kitchen, opening to a sunlit patio and pool. A bright conservatory leads to a grand ocean-view veranda. The 1,600 sq ft Carriage House offers 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and charming deep-gabled rooflines. A private oceanfront pavilion provides access to one of Vancouver Island's finest beaches. Manicured grounds feature a pool with cabana, tennis courts, 4-car garage, workshop, and flagstone walkways. Dine al fresco as the sun sets over the Georgia Strait—once enjoyed by the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh in 1959. A rare opportunity to own a true West Coast legacy.



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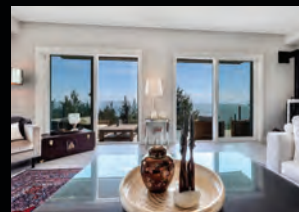
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Modern Masterpiece with Suite Appeal

This Ryan Hoyt Custom Design embodies contemporary sophistication on a .4 acre lot in beautiful Dean Park. A spacious living room features vaulted ceiling and expansive window wall and Douglas fir elements. Open-concept dining is perfect for hosting large gatherings. The kitchen delights with sleek gloss-white & rift-cut oak cabinetry, waterfall island, and custom nook. The main level provides an office, guest bedroom, music room, chic mudroom, & 3-pc bath. Here You will find the epitome of exclusive Executive living! MLS 997159. \$2,698,000



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11176 Chalet Road, North Saanich | **\$4,999,000**



5009 Cordova Bay Road, Saanich | **\$3,495,000**



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906 MT. NEWTON X-RD \$2,550,000



3160 RIPON RD COMING SOON!



1267 OCEANWOOD LN \$2,188,000



2950 PHYLLIS ST \$7,850,000



1708 WOODSEND DR \$9,200,000



5177 AGATE LN \$3,498,000

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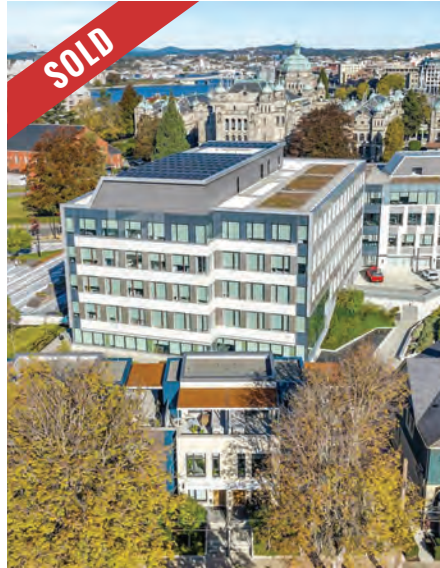
Lisa Williams

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1329 CARNSEW STREET
\$1,599,000



570 MICHIGAN STREET
\$1,750,000



4101 RIDGELINE DRIVE
\$1,649,000 | MLS# 1009389



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2473 PLUMER ST | SOUTH OAK BAY
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1,927 SF | 5,720 SF LOT | 1011701



1959 HAMPSHIRE RD | NORTH OAK BAY
OFFERED AT \$1,700,000
5 BEDS | 2 BATHS
2,929 SF | 7,500 SF LOT | MLS 1010553



2773 ARBUTUS RD | TEN MILE POINT
OFFERED AT \$3,500,000
3 BEDS | 4 BATHS
3,448 SF | 15,313 SF LOT | MLS 1003986



2535 DALHOUSIE ST | OAK BAY, ESTEVAN
OFFERED AT \$1,999,999
4 BEDS | 2 BATHS
2,826 SF | 8,750 SF LOT | MLS 1010842



518-10 PAUL KANE PL | VIC WEST, SONGHEES
OFFERED AT \$1,425,000
2 BEDS | 2 BATHS
1,571 SF | MLS 1012608



2832 CADBORO BAY RD | OAK BAY, HENDERSON
OFFERED AT \$1,995,000
4 BEDS | 3 BATHS
3,198 SF | 19,158 SF LOT | MLS 1014895



Sarah Binab

PERSONAL REAL ESTATE CORPORATION

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Ryan Messer

Real Estate Advisor

Engel & Volkers Vancouver Island

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7302 OLD STAMP MILL ROAD, VERNON, BC

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MLS 10359418 | \$2,400,000



11 BAYVIEW HEIGHTS, COLDSTREAM, BC

MIDDLETON MOUNTAIN - 4 bed, 3.5 bath executive home with stunning 270-degree views of Kalamalka Lake.
Custom concrete pool & sundeck/patio - this property is designed to celebrate its indoor/outdoor setting.

MLS 10359306 | \$1,625,000



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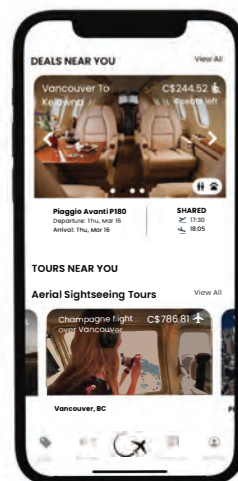
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Breathtaking Views of Okanagan Lake

5291 Bradbury Street, Peachland, BC \$1,249,000

This stunning 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom home is set on a private and spacious 0.49-acre lot with breathtaking views of Okanagan Lake and the surrounding orchards. Built in 1993, the home has been tastefully updated throughout and features modern finishes while maintaining its original charm. MLS 10357159



Custom Home in Kettle Valley

374 Trumpeter Court, Kelowna, BC \$1,199,000

Exceptional 6-Bed, 4-Bath Custom Home with Legal Suite in Kettle Valley. Nestled in a quiet cul-de-sac in the highly desirable Kettle Valley neighborhood, this exquisite 3,129 sq. ft. custom-built home combines timeless design, modern amenities, and versatile living spaces. MLS 10360035



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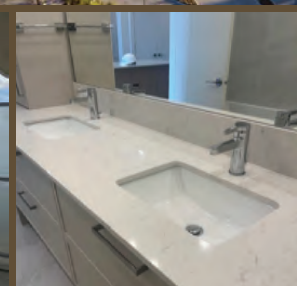
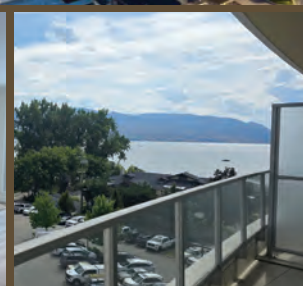
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