

The Proline Pulse

COMMUNITY EDITION

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“And if you don't think you have anything to be grateful for, keep looking. Because you don't just receive optimism. You can't wait for things to be great and then be grateful for that. You've got to behave in a way that promotes that.”

- Michael J. Fox

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Photo by Ahmed on Unsplash

WHY COMMUNITY MATTERS TO ME

by Kathryn Squires Basson

I exist because people help each other. My parents moved to a very remote community in northwestern BC in the early 1970s from Wheaton, Illinois, just outside of Chicago. They were wildly ill-equipped for living in the north, having grown up in the suburbs. My mother's most recent job was as a telephone operator, and my father, while having spent a few summers working on a farm on the prairies, was more of a hippie scholar than a backwoods man. But armed with the confidence or naïveté of youth (or both) they moved to Telegraph Creek and lived in a one room, fish camp cabin above the banks of Stikine River. The fish camp was not insulated, warm, or plumbed, and it certainly didn't have electricity. Against the odds, they and their relationship survived that first winter and 55 more, because the community helped them. They taught them how to hunt, how to skin and debone fish, and how to garden. They learned how to build log cabins (you can live in a fish camp for only so long) and run dog sleds. By the time I came along 10 years later, life looked a little different. There were three whole rooms in the log cabin (including the kitchen/living/dining room), three older siblings and many lessons learned. And, while mom and dad put in their own time and effort, I also attribute the continued existence of their relationship and our family to their community. They had no reason to care for my parents, other than the fact that they needed care. So when I speak with passion about the importance of community and how we're in it together, I do it because I know that's why I am here.

Sticky Situation

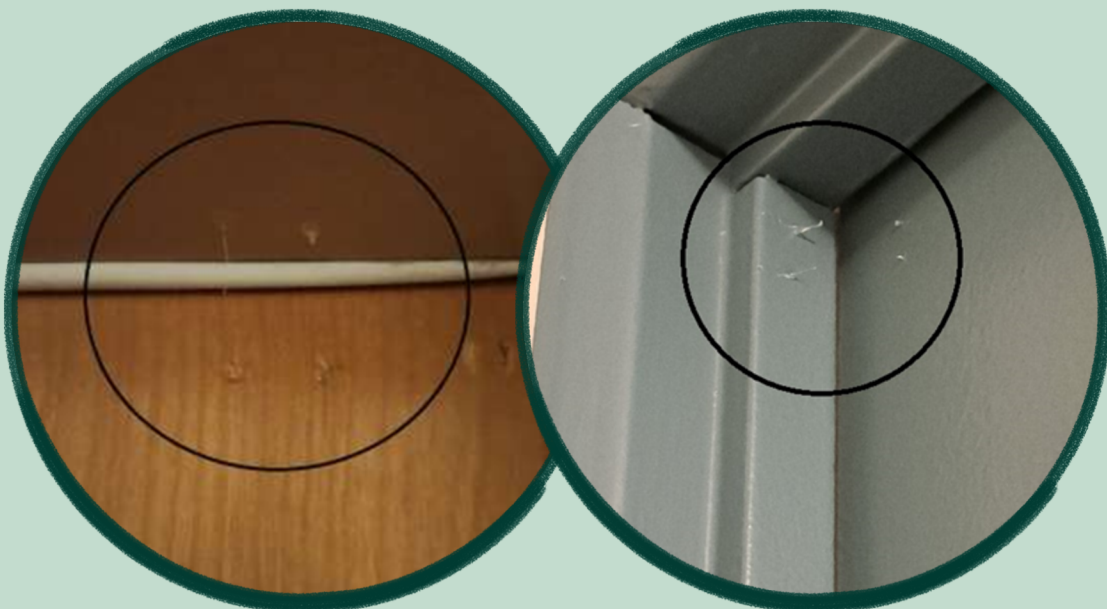
Vancouver Police are making people aware of a unique method that thieves are utilizing to break into homes.

Vancouver Police are currently investigating a string of break-and-enters to apartment buildings where the suspects are using glue. They were reported from August 9 to December 24, 2025. In total, 10 apartment units spread across five residential apartment buildings in Vancouver and one building in Burnaby were targeted and broken into.

“These suspects would gain entry into the building during the middle of the night and apply hot glue in the top corner of apartment unit doors, stretching it between the door and the frame,” says VPD Property Crime Sergeant Stan Dy. “When building residents return home and open the door, the strand of glue is broken. If the residents are away, the strand of glue stays intact, indicating that no one was home. The suspects then returned within a few days and broke into suites that had intact glue.”

It is believed that the suspects have targeted older apartment buildings with limited security measures. These may include insecure stairwell doors or buildings that lack security cameras.

Read more at <https://vpd.ca/news/2026/03/03/vpd-warns-of-sticky-break-and-enter-series/>.



News

From Your Perspective

National Volunteer Week is in April, and there are some incredible volunteers in our communities! We're highlighting a few members of strata councils in this issue who have been serving their communities for many years. These are people who step up and take on council roles and help support how things run behind the scenes. It takes time, care, and a willingness to stay engaged, even when it's not always easy.

While volunteer week is officially in April, we'd love to celebrate the people who make a positive difference in YOUR community all year round. Nominate someone by sending an email to kathryn@prolinemanagement.com with their name, email and why you think they deserve to be celebrated! Nothing will be shared without the individual's permission. 😊

I have been a strata council member at 365 Waterfront for 11 years of my 14 years as a resident. I had initially joined to reassure my curious self that my investment in my home was being managed properly, but by being on the council, that has expanded to much more than that original singular reason. After the first 4 years I took a break to encourage new members to join and believed I had contributed my fair share, but 3 years later I found I surprisingly missed the activity and positive social connections and rejoined.

My background as an architect and construction project manager has enabled me to provide knowledge on the maintenance requirements of our building and ensure we have full accountability

on our projects and of our expenditures. Being retired, I enjoy the opportunity to be active in planning and completing projects that add to the quality and ongoing value of my home. In working with the other council members, I have come to appreciate the remarkable variety of expertise in my fellow council members that has sometimes been offered as welcome help on personal daily life questions.

I appreciate that as a strata board member, you have the ability to take on other active roles of personal interest to you in addition to the basic requirements looked for in a board member. I enjoy some of the hands-on work we take on as it keeps my skills somewhat proficient and saves on the strata fees.

Being a strata board member has helped me meet most of the residents of my strata, bringing additional wonderful social connections to my life through our interactions. I gain an increased sense of personal value by having my neighbours express their appreciation for the work of the council, and I occasionally, at the right moment, use the moment to encourage someone to join the council. I enjoy being met with personal heartfelt greetings when encountering my neighbours while out in the common areas. It truly makes it a community where residents are willing to contribute to the vitality of their home.



Avery Stetski, 365 Waterfront Strata Council Vice Chair

News



We moved into Port Royale in 1990, and I joined the council somewhere before 2003, maybe a year or two earlier. Time flies! Eric Spurling was our first property manager and Proline is the only management company we've used!

I have really enjoyed working with other council members trying to ensure our strata is run efficiently. We're a "hands on" council with everyone willing to give opinions and pitch-in on projects. Fellow council members have become friends and being on council has allowed me to personally know most of the residents in our 128-unit townhouse complex.

Our council is comprised of people with a variety of background vocations; something that has made our councils interesting and, I think, effective. As a former school and district administrator, working with others was a necessity and, for me, that practice has made council work pretty easy and enjoyable. I also have had some experience in house construction which has proved helpful as our complex has experienced a few major projects. I really enjoy seeing our residents gathering together for block parties and other social events, knowing that what we do on council helps build a friendly community.

Rich LLOYD, Port Royale Council Member

I believe it's been 4 years on council, and how time flies! I enjoy working as a member of a team, and 365 has a great group of council members who all bring their unique and considerable skills to the Strata.

It is really interesting to have the benefit of people who had (and have) professions that are useful to a strata. Skills in architecture and building operations/management, electrical engineering, financial and data management, community and/public sector work, life/health safety, legal backgrounds. 365 definitely has a great depth of impressive skillsets.



I also enjoy helping to make 'the work' as enjoyable as possible as we are all volunteers. It is especially important in a Strata, as we all live here. It is not a 'professional job' so much as a personal commitment to neighbours, the neighbourhood and community. One of things I think I have in my background that works well to support Strata work is a long career on working with all kinds of private sector businesses, public sector departments, at all levels of government, and broad staff areas (including engineering and operations) in all modes of transportation from the public sector side. In shorter terms, my 'career/jobs' have always required a lot of communications and diplomatic skills to get a project, or 'things' done. Project and people management – strategic planning.

What is very interesting in being on strata council to me is finding that balance between getting things done, and recognizing that, in the end, it is about making our home safe, secure, clean, and operating well on a day to day basis. All the while keeping an eye on the longer-term health of the building, listening to our neighbours and managing issues that arise from time to time without unduly upsetting the personal lives of neighbours. From small issues to big issues – It is always interesting! I do like that challenge. And I also like to help create an environment that is welcoming to more volunteers, taking on issues research, or working on the one thing that interests them, or finding activities that someone, or couple of people want to do, etc... The more the merrier...

Pippa Woods, 365 Waterfront Council President



•••• Industry Insights

Interview With an Expert

Meet Bodhi Somersun

Owner and Director of Operations at Heightsafe Fall Protection Systems Ltd. & Industrial Rope Access Building Maintenance

Q. How did you get into your field?

I got into this field through rock climbing when I was younger, which naturally led into working at height. From there, I pursued it as a career — starting with more specialized work like helicopter longline rescue operations. *A.*

Moving into rope access, I built experience across a range of high-risk and technical environments, including fall protection supervision for major film and TV productions, wind turbine rescue training and instruction, large-scale industrial maintenance projects, and infrastructure work such as the Port Mann Bridge de-icing system. I've also been involved in developing and delivering fall protection and rope access training programs.

Over time, I saw a gap between what buildings needed long-term and how maintenance was actually being approached — especially around safety and planning. That led to a stronger focus on workplace safety and regulatory compliance, particularly in fall protection systems, including anchor design in collaboration with our engineer, installation, and annual inspections to ensure buildings are set up with safe, compliant access for ongoing maintenance.

That's what drives our work today — helping buildings not just complete maintenance, but set themselves up to do it safely and efficiently for years to come.

Q. What's your favourite part of the work?

Every project presents its own set of challenges, which is something I really enjoy. No two buildings are exactly the same, so there's always a problem-solving aspect — figuring out the safest and most efficient way to access something that might seem difficult at first. *A.*

Beyond that, I really value the relationships we've built over the years. We've worked with many clients in Victoria for over 14 years, and it's been a pleasure getting to know so many people in the community. Helping clients preserve their buildings and plan ahead for maintenance is a big part of what makes the work rewarding.

Q. What's something you wish all clients knew, for their own sake?

I assumed early on that all contractors operated to the same high standards, but that's not always the case. The playing field isn't always level, and not every approach benefits the client long-term. *A.*

It really highlighted the importance of working with teams that prioritize safety, quality, and long-term thinking. Buildings benefit most when decisions are made with the future in mind — whether that's access, maintenance planning, or system design.



•••• Industry Insights

Interview With an Expert

Cont'd.

Q. What is a mistake you've made that you've learned a valuable lesson from?

One of the biggest lessons has been the importance of clear communication from the start. Even well-intentioned projects can run into challenges if expectations and scope aren't clearly defined.

A.

Taking the time upfront to align on details makes a big difference in ensuring projects run smoothly and efficiently for everyone involved.

Q. What's something you wish all clients knew, for their own sake?

That proactive maintenance is always more cost-effective than reactive repairs. Small issues — like failed sealant or minor water ingress — can turn into much larger and more expensive problems if they're left too long. Regular inspections and addressing issues early helps protect the building and makes budgeting much more predictable.

A.

It's also important to understand that maintaining fall protection systems, including completing required annual anchor inspections, is part of a building owner's responsibility. Providing a safe work environment not only protects workers, but also helps ensure work can be carried out efficiently and without added risk or cost.



Share With Us!

We love hearing how we can make a positive impact and continue to improve our services. If you've had a positive experience, please take a few minutes to leave us a review and share your experience! Simply [click here](#) to provide a review.

If you have specific feedback on things we can offer, change or improve, we REALLY want to hear about that, so we can learn and change! Please email Kathryn at kathryn@prolinemanagement.com. Thank you for helping us live and grow together.



••••• *Industry Insights*

Inside Strata Management

by Kristy Tamburri, Proline Property Manager

Professional strata property management encompasses a vast array of duties provided to and completed on behalf of a strata corporation. Managing expectations of a strata council, including what councils do versus what management does, can help to clarify who owners and residents should communicate with when issues arise. In addition, it is critical for a strata council to have a clear understanding of what management does to ensure that their strata corporation is well governed and effectively managed.

Let's face it, strata corporations have endured numerous challenges over the last several years as strata landscapes continue to change. The insurance market has had ups and downs, and the requirements insurance brokers have to maintain in servicing stratas has also changed, we've seen numerous regulatory and legislative changes (like the introduction of the new mandatory Electrical Planning Reports), communication between residents and strata councils has increased, and now with the rapid introduction of AI, correspondence is getting more and more tricky to handle.

At Proline, our approach to strata property management is based on collaboration. The more efficiently we work together, making the best use out of the precious time your strata council volunteers can give to your strata, the smoother your community will ultimately run. Strata property managers (SPM) are assigned to each strata corporation as the strata's authorized agent, but the contractual relationship is between the strata and Proline Management. This relationship is guided by a contract referred to as the agency agreement. Beyond your SPM, there is a whole team of individuals (from operational support to admin and accounting) that support your community.

Your SPM interacts with your strata council as a trusted advisor providing advice and guidance as it relates to the diverse issues your strata council has to manage. This guidance comes in the form of strata council meetings, onsite meetings with contractors and other vested individuals, telephone calls and emails. The majority of stratas we manage also have StrataPress which is an online portal that provides another avenue for communication – both with management and with owners and residents.

We pride ourselves on providing the advice that you may not necessarily want to hear. We are not your 'yes man'; we provide our advice based on a collective of decades of strata property management experience, regular and continuous professional education, and regular connections with industry leaders. We are professionally licensed individuals who prioritize building a positive and supportive relationship with strata councils.

Strata councils are responsible for making decisions on behalf of a strata community and that's why they are elected by the collective strata ownership. Councils then work with the SPM to carry out the decisions made by council. This can include a variety of tasks including scheduling maintenance work and notifying residents, drafting meeting minutes, correspondence and notices, receiving and paying invoices, engaging professionals for further advice (for example, an engineer or strata lawyer), and the list goes on.

Approaching strata management with kindness and curiosity is our preference. In addition, our team focusses on collaboration and professionalism, and as a result, we have built incredible relationships across Vancouver Island with clients, contractors and community groups. We value these relationships deeply and it is those relationships that keep us working hard to continue to help strata communities from the southern tip of the island all the way up to Campbell River!



..... *Industry Insights*

Strata Fees 101

An informational bulletin on what is included in strata fees, how the amounts are decided, and when they're due.

One of the most frequently asked questions we get is 'What do my strata fees cover?' It can and will be different as you move from strata to strata and will be dependent on the age of the property, the style, the amenities and even the location.

When trying to understand what your fees cover, the annual budget for your strata corporation will outline all of the income and expenses of the strata corporation. In the stratas that we manage, there will be lots of additional information on the various expenses in the AGM Notice.

Strata fees are due on the first of the month., regardless of weekends or holidays. Regular contributions allow bills to be paid on time, services to continue uninterrupted, and the building to operate smoothly. To ensure you pay on time, a tip is to set up pre-authorized payments, either through recurring online bill payments, or by signing up for the management company's pre-authorized debit withdrawals.

Strata fees are based on the yearly budget that owners review and approve together. That budget outlines what it will cost to run and maintain the building for the year ahead, from everyday expenses to setting money aside for future repairs. In other words, fees are not random. They are tied directly to what the community agrees needs to be covered. Clear budgets make for calmer communities. Here are some of the things that go into a strata fee budget:

- Most buildings will include water and sewer charges, some hydro which will normally be for the common area expenses, and you will usually have an individual meter for the electricity you use.
- Natural gas is included in some strata fees. It may be to deal with a central hot water system, or it may provide gas for the stoves and or fireplaces in your unit. In older buildings it is most common that this is a shared expense with just one meter, in some newer buildings and often in townhomes, there are individual gas meters for each unit. In general, if there is a central hot water system then gas for the hot water will be included.
- Insurance is generally included for the structure of the building(s); there are many little variables when it comes to insurance. Coverage will also include liability, earthquake, water, flood, and sewer backup coverage, along with directors and officers coverage for volunteer council members. Every strata lot owner, and tenant, should have their own insurance and should work with their own insurance broker to confirm what they need, based on the policy for the strata corporation in which they live, to ensure that there are no unnecessary gaps in coverage.
- If there are amenities in the strata corporation such as a gym, pool or other facilities the cost of operating those will be included in your fees.
- Repair and maintenance of the common property will also be included in your fees. Money should be put aside in the contingency reserve fund for major expenditures that are planned for the future and the funds in the annual operating budget should be sufficient to cover the regular maintenance costs. These might include fire alarm inspections and service, window cleaning, dryer vent cleaning, parking lot cleaning, regular janitorial, costs for site staff, if there are any, and landscape maintenance.
- Strata fees will also include a contribution for the contingency reserve fund (CRF). It is required in BC that there be an annual statement showing the proportion of the monthly strata fees that go to the operating expenses as well as to the CRF. The CRF contribution can vary widely between strata corporations and is dependent on each strata corporation's assessments of its needs and its collective goal as to how they fund future major capital projects.

Behind the Scenes

HR & IT

Human and technology resources!



Braonain Masterton

Braonain is developer for the Align project at Proline, where we strive to create an all-in-one platform to make handling all aspects of property management simplified and in one place for our team. In his free time, he is currently practicing for the Highland Games, heavy events, like caber toss, and weightlifting. He enjoys spending time with friends, being outside in the sun, golfing, and DMing for D&D!



José Ossorio

José is a developer building Align alongside the Dev team. He enjoys working on both the behind-the-scenes logic and the parts the team actually sees and interacts with. When not at work, you can find him lifting weights, hiking in nature, buying more books he hopes to read someday, or enjoying time with friends and family.



Danielle Torres

Ms. Dani may be the fourth "Dan-" of Proline but she's Align's one and only lady software developer! Beyond building and maintaining Align in her cozy corner upstairs, you can find her lending a hand as part of the social and health & safety committees here at Proline. Outside of the office, Dani is a gravel-cycling, gym-going, book-hoarding, anime-watching, Magic-the-Gathering-playing human who loves getting outside just as much as she loves a fun indoor hangout with her pals.



Juan Giraldo

Juan is our Lead Software Developer working on Align alongside the Dev team. He keeps things moving on the technical side, making sure everything works the way it should. Outside of work he enjoys hitting the gym, going for runs, and reading.



Sunil Manhas

Sunil is our Human Resources Manager. When he was a young kid, his mom bought him a t-shirt with a saying on the front that read 'Hockey is life. The rest is just details.' Some 30+ years later, he's since realized that hockey, golf, football and family are life and the rest is still just details.



Ming Wang

Ming is the IT Systems Supervisor, with a lot of hats on. As an IT professional, he takes care of anything one can turn off and on. As a member of the office, he works on anything that can make it a better place. As the "office cat", he meows around (loudly). Curiosity is his superpower. Kindness and humour are close seconds.



Dane Andersen

Dane is our junior Desktop Support Administrator. He helps to keep the emails flowing at Proline. Outside of Proline he enjoys spending time with his wife and trying out new recipes.



Behind the Scenes . . .

Friends Forever

While we celebrate our newer team members, we are also grateful to be working alongside friends that we've known for a very long time, including friendships of 38, 29, 19, 15 and 22 years!

Over the years, many people have come to us through personal referrals, and we're so grateful to grow our team with people who resonate with our story and bring their own diverse experiences and positive energy to the team.



..... *Learning Station*



Proline Academy

We've had a busy last few months in the Proline Academy. In February we held a session open to all community members on Building Community, followed with a wide-ranging discussion between Tony Gioventu of CHOA BC and Andy Spurling of Proline in March. This month we held a session about what happens when there is a flood in a strata, again open to all community members. All of these sessions and more are available to watch on our YouTube channel. Coming over the next few months, we're planning sessions focused on roofing, insurance, and understanding property management and the property manager role. Keep your eyes open for email invitations as they come out.

If you happen to be at our office on a Monday morning, you might notice a tray of treats by the front desk. We know Mondays can be hard (or so my seven-year-old says), and we thought that having a morning treat might make them a bit easier for whoever is stopping by. So please help yourself and enjoy! We're also planning to host a monthly Coffee Connection, inviting trades people and council members to grab a coffee and a treat and connect informally, with the intention of providing opportunities for positive dialogue and information sharing.



Welcomes & Milestones

Our Operations department welcomed Sydney White to the team, and joining the accounting team in a temporary role is Farhana Afroz.

Celebrating their 5th Proline Work-aversaries are Daniel Aysals, property manager, and Allira Fenske, operations coordinator. Thanks for 5 years of laughs and fun!



..... *Learning Station*



As you may know, CHOA recently held townhalls across the province, including one held in Victoria on April 16th. These townhalls are informal opportunities for members to learn about various topics and have more dialogue and interactions with the presenters.

As always, CHOA brings a wealth of knowledge and creates opportunities for learning in a variety of ways. To see what's coming up or find recordings of previous seminars, go to <https://choa.bc.ca/seminars/>.



Read the February issue of VISOA's Bulletin magazine with articles for strata owners, councils, and industry professionals including topics such as Should Strata Council Training be Mandatory?, Allocating Expenses by Type of Strata Lot, and Protecting Fire Safety Equipment During Renos.

... *Community Corner*

Stonecliffe Strata Community Achievement

A townhome complex in View Royal is being recognized for taking proactive steps to reduce wildfire risk, becoming the first neighbourhood in Greater Victoria to achieve official status under the FireSmart Canada Neighbourhood Recognition Program. The Stonecliffe Strata, located at 2319 Chilco Road, received its FireSmart Recognized Neighbourhood designation after completing a year of coordinated wildfire risk reduction activities supported by the Town’s FireSmart program.

Read the rest of the story [*here!*](#)

Views Around Town

Check out these beautiful shots shared by a team member from a site visit! We’d love to see your best shots of, or from, your buildings. Send your pictures to kathryn@prolinemanagement.com and they could end up in the next issue of the Pulse! Feel free to share your name and your strata’s name too.



... Community Corner

Anawim Companion Society

Volunteers Wanted - Help Us Build a Foundation of Dignity

At Anawim, we know that a structure is only as good as its foundation—and that applies to both our buildings and the lives being rebuilt within them. Our homes are more than just shelter; they are substance-free sanctuaries where men and women find the stability to begin again.

The condition of a space speaks volumes. When we keep our homes well-maintained, we send a clear message to our guests: You matter, you are safe, and you are worth it.

Our high-use buildings are busy places of healing, and we need extra hands to keep them thriving. We are looking for Maintenance Volunteers to help with:

- Minor repairs & troubleshooting
- Painting, patching, and carpentry
- Outdoor maintenance and gardening
- Whether you're a skilled tradesperson or a handy DIYer, your time helps us stretch donor dollars and keep our focus on recovery and restoration.

Can you help us keep our spaces strong?

www.anawimsociety.ca/volunteer-recruitment



... Community Corner

Take a Hike Foundation

The Take a Hike Foundation is an organization that offers a program that combines counselling, land-based learning, and education for vulnerable youth in British Columbia. They shared this simple grounding technique that helps bring you back to the present moment. Practicing this regularly can help reduce anxiety and build emotional resilience over time.


 TAKEAHIKEFOUNDATION.ORG
 @takeahikefdn

FIVE SENSES

GROUNDING TECHNIQUE



NAME 5 THINGS YOU CAN SEE



NAME 4 THINGS YOU CAN FEEL



NAME 3 THINGS YOU CAN HEAR



NAME 2 THINGS YOU CAN SMELL



NAME 1 THING YOU CAN TASTE

Bouquets

Good morning. Thank you for the newsletter. I absolutely loved Mr. Spurling's letter. A life thinking change experience. Travel and adventure can be so educational and rewarding when one allows oneself to have an open mind so they can learn and apply the experience to everyday life or narrow minded ways..... Nice read. Cheers,
Carol.

Thank you for your email. Enjoyed the news letter 🍷😊 - Jim

One of our clients graciously donated some furniture to Threshold Housing recently, and we received a wonderful note back!

"Hello! The furniture has arrived and our youth are so excited. This youth had a much needed upgrade from his old pink floral couch. Thanks for getting this to us!"

Learn more about Threshold Housing [here!](#)



Help us promote positivity and bring brightness to our community! Send your bouquet for a company or community member to kathryn@prolinemanagement.com and we'll include it in the next Proline Pulse.

For more inspiration, watch our [Building Community session of the Proline Academy on YouTube here](#) for ways to create positive experiences in your community.



The Heart of the Business

Muddy Faces by Andy Spurling, Proline Property Management President

As many of you know, my family spends a lot of time at our other home in Sointula. We head there for at least one weekend a month and spend all of the school holidays there. Except for Christmas, as our kids would kill us if we took them away from their cousins for that big day. This year was no different. We packed up all of Christmas at home on Boxing Day and then headed North through a Winter Wonderland on December 27th.

One of the reasons we love being up there over the winter holidays is a chance to really relax and reset in a place that moves to a very different rhythm than Victoria. And the New Years Eve dance is an immense amount of fun. And this year was no different. Well, a little different. For us, it was the first time that we hosted any sort of social event at our home there, as we are relative newcomers. Though we have started to build our own little community there and decided to have a little pre-dance open house. It worked out so well, with a diverse group of people hanging out in our tiny living area before the big dance.

Many of you also know that I'm not much of a hugger. You may also know I am even less of a dancer. There is almost nothing that can produce more anxiety in me than the thought of dancing in public. The only dancing I did growing up was the old pogo stick at punk and ska shows. But that's it. And maybe a little bopping up and down at concerts. But not too much bopping...that could be considered dancing.

Sointula managed to change that for me as the community dances there are super weird. At least to me. They are probably rather normal if you grew up in a small community. A dance there involves a local band playing cover songs that most people know and doing it very, very well. A couple of hundred people show up and they all...dance. All of them. Those with no sense of rhythm or time. The 19 years olds. The 90 year olds. The first time I went to one of these dances I tried to resist and not dance, as I would normally do. But I felt drawn to the community spirit of it all and went for it. And it was awesome. I loved dancing there. And maybe only there.

So our posse from the open house all headed to the dance together and had an incredible time dancing like fools and loving it. It was super fun. But what does any of this have to do with muddy faces? We'll get there. It was an experience the next day that had me thinking about the difference between play and fun. The dance was fun. There was happiness. Joy, even. But I'm not sure that I could describe it as playful.

The Heart of the Business

Muddy Faces by Andy Spurling, Proline Property Management President, cont'd.

The next day we were invited to go quadding with some friends, and so I managed to borrow a quad from a local that would allow Levi and I to join in on the fun. We headed out from a friend's place through muddy trails, logging roads and old fire roads to arrive at a beautiful beach on the Queen Charlotte Strait. We went through countless deep puddles and beautiful forests at what felt like pretty fast speeds. It was fun.

When we arrived at the beach, a friend's oldest son pulled up beside Levi and me and his face was covered in mud. Levi thought it was awesome and asked if his face was covered in mud. It wasn't. We had slowed down for all of the puddles and been conservative through the muddy sections. Quadding is new to both of us. And my urges towards danger are greatly limited when I have a kid on board. But I also felt like I had failed us a little bit.

So on the journey back from the beach, we hit all the puddles at full speed. We were met with massive walls of water and mud. And got soaked. It filled up our boots and shoes and chilled us to the bone. When we got back to the main road, we stopped to regroup with everyone, and I was able to let Levi know that he was now absolutely covered in mud. And he was beaming. And so was I. And we had been laughing the whole way back. That sense of unbridled joy and daring, for me, made the journey back more play than fun. Don't get me wrong. It was also fun. But exponential fun, because play was involved. In a world where everything feels like it is getting more and more serious, the opportunity to take advantage of play felt like a real gift. Something to seek in activities that had always been fun before, but not playful. And maybe to find play in activities that had felt hopelessly serious but maybe do not need to be...

