



Thursday, March 24, 2016

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To: Axxx  
Georgia Park School  
678 Hudson Road  
Campbell River, BC  
V9H 1T4

Hello Axxx!

Very nice to receive your letter! I am most impressed at your writing skills and I'm excited to see that you are presenting a project on our behalf! We happen to really like it here in Port Alberni!

So, you're wondering what we're famous for! Well, how about Salmon Fishing! Did you know that both Port Alberni and Campbell River have this ongoing friendly battle as to who really is the Salmon Fishing Capital of the World? We think we are and you think you are, but only the fish know for sure! We should ask them one day don't you think?

Another thing that we are really famous for is our Tsunami that occurred here in Port Alberni way back in 1964. That's a long time ago but many of us, including some of your family would certainly have been around back then. The Tsunami happened late at night one day in March and it completely devastated the waterfront areas of what was at the time two cities – Port Alberni and Alberni. Fortunately no one lost their lives but there was sure a big mess to clean up! The Tsunami (a big Tidal Wave) happened as a result of a massive earthquake way up near Alaska.

We're also famous for our history in Port Alberni. We are very much like Campbell River in that we've depended on the Forestry Industry for many years but of course that's now changing. But, back then Port Alberni was the number one city in Canada for wages paid to its workers. That's right; back in the 1970's, 1980's etc., people made more money in Port Alberni than anywhere else in Canada. Cool eh!

We're famous too for our big plane that has fought many fires over the last few years. It's called the Martin Mars Bomber and it's really big! In fact, it's the biggest one of its kind in the world and it's still here. The people of Port Alberni really love it and perhaps you've even seen it fly overhead. We also have the only Steam Train on Vancouver Island and it's only one of two in all of British Columbia. Plus the train goes

out to Canada's only Steam Powered Mill that is still operational. Next month on May 1<sup>st</sup> we even have this fun running race vs. the train! It's called the No. 7 Challenge and information about that can be found here on the internet. Try this site: [www.no7challenge.ca](http://www.no7challenge.ca)

So, here's a couple of ideas for you.

If you would like for me to come to visit your class when you present on Port Alberni just give us a call here. I would do whatever I could to manage the time and come to see you and your friends.

Another idea I have is to invite you and your family to come out to visit us on Sunday, May 1 for our No. 7 Challenge. We'll give you a free ride on the train to our Mill and your family can join you. They can choose to do the run if they're so inclined or they can also ride both ways on the train. We'll even get you and your family a nice lunch or dinner at any of my favourite restaurants.

Let me know Ava. I'd love to meet you.

Thank you again for picking Port Alberni as your topic. We're impressed.

Your friend,  
ALBERNI VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Bill Collette  
Executive Director      [bill@albernichamber.ca](mailto:bill@albernichamber.ca) or 250.724.6535