

Filberg Newsletter Chat with Eden

J: Thanks for finding time to chat this morning, Eden. You've been with the association for about 12-years and Executive Director since 2018. I imagine you have seen and participated in a lot of interesting activities and events.

E: Well...there was the time an eagle spent the day on the porch.

J: Alright, let's hear that story!

E: It's true! A big eagle swooped into the porch first thing in the morning. I don't know if he had been swamped by a wave, or something else. It was a stormy day and he was absolutely drenched. He spent 24 hours sitting on the porch just drying out. The following morning - it was December - we had Santa coming by the Lodge to spend time with the kids. So I had to have the poor caretaker go out there with a broom and a garbage can lid to try to shoo a full grown bald eagle off of the porch. It was actually quite a scene – like a knight or a gladiator but with different gear, and that Eagle was the biggest one of the two. (Laughs)

J: Looking back, what would you consider your accomplishments? Perhaps one or two things that you were really pleased about?

E: Well, most importantly to me, is the fact that we're doing a much better job of getting the word out that we're here and engaging with the community. My first impression when I started here was... nobody knew we were here! Aside from the Festival, the Lodge and the Park were a “non” thing. And while I know that has to be a continual process, probably forever, I think we're in a much better place now than we were in 2010.

If this past two years with COVID is any indication, the park has been a real life saver for the community just for a place to go and walk, have a little solitude and a few quiet minutes outside without having to go very far. That needs to continue.

I am also very proud of the way that we, the association, has managed the Covid 19 pandemic! With the help of the community and our amazing volunteers we have not only survived these past 2 years with no Filberg Festival, but the Gift Shop and the Cutting Garden have thrived.

J: How did you find yourself working here?

E: Well, I'll tell you another story.

Filberg Newsletter Chat with Eden

The first time I ever visited Comox was with a friend of mine from Qualicum Beach to go to the Filberg Festival, it was amazing! My family and I fell in love with the Festival. We fell in love with the community and we fell in love with the Valley. So much so that we literally went home, sold our house and quit our jobs and moved back a month later.

From the start I've always thought of this as my happy place. But never in a million years did I envision I would be working here full time, for 12 years.

J: Did you see the ad? How did you get the job?

I saw an ad. I had been working for Vancouver Island Helicopters in Victoria and commuting back and forth ...

J: Good heavens!

E: I decided that was just silly. So I quit that job, took a few courses, and looked around at a few different things, but decided I was only going to apply for jobs that sounded fun.

This one came up and I applied for it, but I didn't hear back from them for a while. I had kind of given up on it, then about two months after I applied, the board called and asked me to come in for an interview. So ... I came in, interviewed with a couple of people from the board, and I left. An hour later they called me and said, "Can you start Friday?" That was two days later, because my interview was the day before Remembrance Day. So I started the day after Remembrance Day 2010.

J: One hour later! Wow! They knew they had a good one on the hook.

So ... what's next?

E: I'm not entirely sure. My husband has been roasting coffee for a couple of years, and would like to turn that into a business. That was part of the reason we moved to Cumberland last year. He's going to need some help to get it up and running; paperwork etc. those kinds of things. So I'll help him get that going while I look for a new adventure, I guess.

J: You mentioned a while back you might be interested in taking some classes ...

Filberg Newsletter Chat with Eden

E: Yeah, I've thought about it, I'm still thinking about it. That's definitely a possibility. There are definitely some things that interest me that I may pursue on a part time basis and just work at something else, or I may just go back to school and immerse myself ... I haven't decided yet.

J: Are you sad to be leaving this magical place?

E: It is kind of bittersweet. Obviously, I'm going to miss it and miss the people and miss the work, but I'm excited to do something new. I'm excited to see where this place can go with new people and a fresh perspective.

J: Any notion about you staying involved, or perhaps coming back in some capacity after a break?

E: Who knows? Maybe I'll come back and sit on the board. LOL

As for other great moments, I just really enjoyed the last 12 years. It is definitely never boring. Never the same day twice. It's been an honour to have been a part of this wonderful organization for all these years and I will never be more than a phone call away.