

A Letter from the Editor:

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the June issue of *Hanna's Happenings*! This month, I'm sharing how I spent my favourite day of the year: Summer Solstice.

On June 21 at 08:25 AM UT, Earth's axial tilt toward the sun reached its maximum in the Northern Hemisphere. This is the moment, astronomically, when the sun appears farthest north overhead, and it's the reason for the longest stretch of daylight and the shortest night of the year.

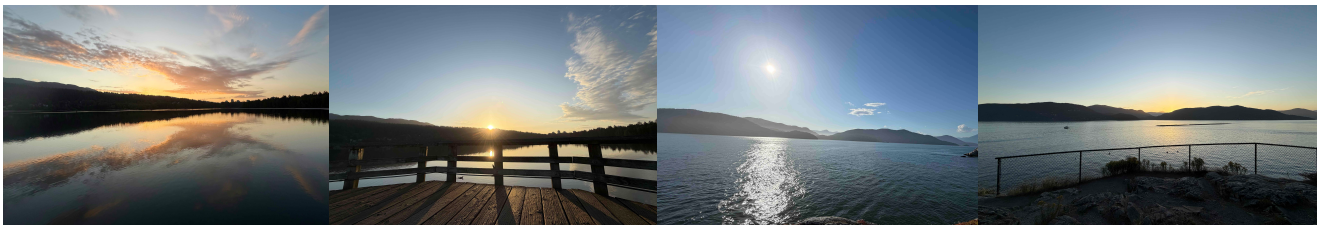
This year the Solstice fell over a weekend which gave me the opportunity to spend the entire day celebrating. I practiced many of my usual Summer Solstice traditions: connecting with nature, spending time creating, and enjoying the company of good friends. It was the perfect way to mark the start of summer, and I can only hope the rest of the season holds the same trajectory.

Thank you for reading about my Solstice celebrations; I would love to hear about how you celebrate Summer!

If you enjoy this issue, please consider sharing it with a friend!

With love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hanna Clements". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hanna" and last name "Clements" clearly distinguishable.



JUNE 2026

Summer Solstice Recap | Hanna's Happenings



The Longest Day of the Year

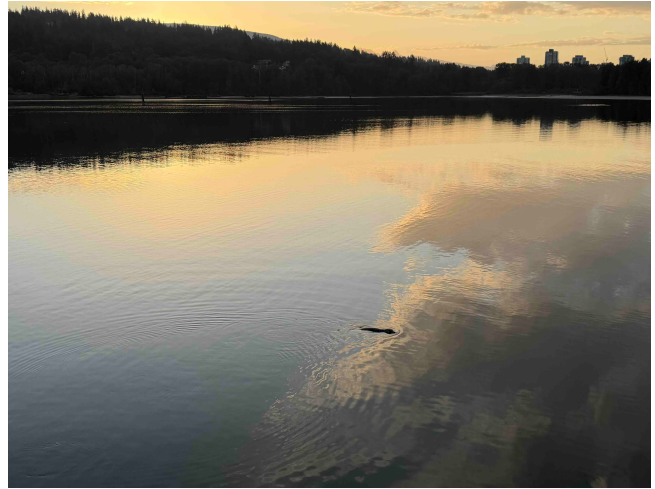
Humans have been holding festivals, feasts, and parties of all sorts to honour the longest day of the year for about as long as we have kept written records. Over the past several years I've developed my own customs to celebrate the sun and the summer season. It marks the beginning of my favourite season, and it feels to me more like the new year than January's dark day does.

I always try to celebrate by finding beautiful locations to watch the sun rise and set. This year the ritual was particularly lovely because I got to watch the sun both begin and complete its path reflected over the ocean.

First Light

A perk and a challenge of living north of the 49th parallel is how long the days stretch out near the solstice. This year, the sun rose at 5:08 AM which meant I was up well before then to get ready and

pack a thermos of coffee. I was lucky to share the morning with one of my sun-loving friends, who picked me up, and we made our way to the far east end of Burrard Inlet to sip coffee and watch the sun come up.



I expected relative solitude at the dock we'd chosen, but we had company instead: a group of teens further down the shore, and closer at hand, a young harbour seal who kept us company as night gave way to the first light of the longest day.

16 Hours 12 Minutes of Daylight

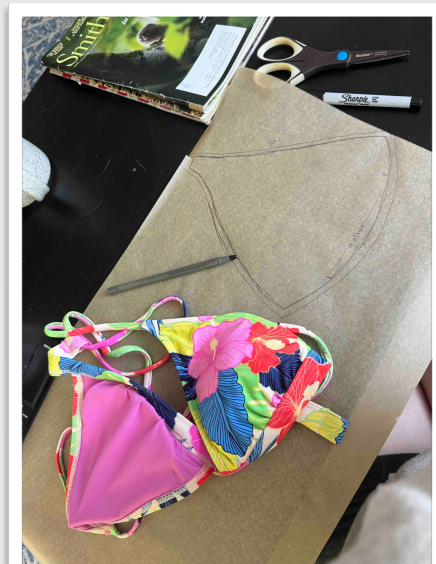
After finishing our coffee, I made my way back up the mountain for a walk through some of my favourite spots in my neighbourhood forest, including a granite boulder I've affectionately nicknamed Mossy Nook. It's a perfectly chair-shaped rock among the red alder trees. Although it's lovely in every season, it's especially good this time of year, surrounded by ripening berries and dappled sunlight.

I took a short break from the outdoor adventures for some rest and creative time indoors, then made my way back outside to spend the rest of the long day by the ocean.

Drafting "The Solstice" Bikini Pattern

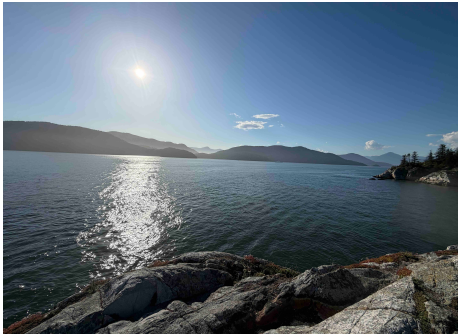
I love the shape of this swim top I got on Spring Break, but I'm thoroughly unimpressed with the construction. One swim in the SoCal surf nearly resulted in a catastrophic wardrobe malfunction, so I decided I could do better.

I've been mulling over the idea of drafting my own bikini pattern since that trip, including a stop at my favourite fabric store in Salt Lake City on another trip. (It's been a busy few months!!) I took a quick nap to recover from the early morning, then I finally sat down and started drafting the design. I'm calling it *The Solstice* bikini, in honour of the day, and started on a toile (practice version) earlier this week. With any luck, I'll be swimming in my own design by next solstice.



Dinner and a Swim

Armed with dinner supplies, a bottle of wine, and a carful of friends, I headed west in search of a nice swimming beach. We found just that,



and although the water was colder than I'd prefer, I really did enjoy the dip in the Pacific.

We sprawled out on the beach to enjoy our food, and although my plans of al fresco chocolate fondue were thwarted by cool temperatures, we still enjoyed snacking on the unmelted chocolate.

Last Light

The evening was rounded out with a trio of bird sightings: the orange-beaked and slightly dopey black oystercatcher; a majestic bald eagle soaring right over our heads; and a solitary great blue heron perched on a small rock just off the beach.

We found a spot on the west-facing cliff below the eagle, where our group settled in with several others as the sun began to dip. The descent over the Pacific moved at a creeping pace, until that last sudden rush of colour, then coolness, then dusk. And with it, the close of the longest day of the year.

