





**KOOTENAY LAKE BC** 

~Locally-owned, community-supported independent news serving the East Shore of Kootenay Lake~



CL-215T water bomber at work on the Trozzo fire in the Slocan area, British Columbia near the end of July 2021. Ground crews have been working tirelessly on fires all across BC for many weeks now and when time and resources dictate, they are supported by air strategically, which often has a profound calming effect on the public anxiously watching. This photo was captured by Joel Pelletier of Slocan (joelpelletier.ca). Skimmers and bombers have been working East Shore fires at Akoki and Cultus Creek over recent days, supporting the helicopters doing bucket dumping and the hard working ground crews.



# Did you know that the Mainstreet has a website?

Mainstreet newspaper is monthly, so what happens when news stories break between editions? Well, that's what the website is for!

Please check it out - **www.eshore.ca**, look on the right side of the page and find the box "Get notifications by Email". Enter your name and email address and get FREE notifications of news posts sent right to your email inbox!

Also on the site: Web Cams and Bus Schedules, Calendar of Events, PDF Back Issues of Mainstreet, AND SO MUCH MORE!

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## **EDITORIAL/LETTERS**



# Mainstreet Meanderings by Editor Ingrid Baetzel

Community Emergency Preparedness meetings were held in Crawford Bay and Riondel on July 24, 2021, with over 150 people attending each meeting. The information sessions were

facilitated by the RDCK, including speakers and representatives from the organization including RDCK Director Garry Jackman, Emergency Program Coordinator Jon Jackson, Emergency Operations Directors Chris Johnson and Communications Coordinator Dan Elliott. Also present were members of BC Wildfire including Mike Allan, Dave Banham, and a couple of other members. *Mainstreet* attended the Crawford Bay session.

Director Jackman introduced Jon Jackson, who spoke first and Jackson went over the a lot of good information including the four phases of Emergency Management operations (Mitigation and Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery).

**PREPAREDNESS:** Jackson spoke at length about the importance of preparedness and how individuals need to understand the risks in emergency situations, have their go-boxes packed, animals and belongings in order, communication clearly established as to where they can be evacuated to and for what length – generally to plan ahead. Preparedness saves lives – being ready to go at a moment's notice is enormously important at times like we are facing on the East Shore. As much of Boswell (at the time of writing) is under

Evacuation Alert, a status that can change to Evacuation ORDER at any point, and wild fire crews work tirelessly to control the Akokli fire, many people are looking deeper into what they need to do to stay safe and be prepared for what has already shaped up to be a long, hot summer with little reprieve.

FIRESMART: Jackson also spoke about the FireSmart program (www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/emergency-managment/wildfires/firesmart.html) and the importance of residents taking advantage of it. A wildfire mitigation specialist will come to your property and assess it and help you understand how to take steps to protect your home and property against wildfire. There is also a \$500 rebate offer available for those who do the assessment and take the steps to reduce risk. Go to the RDCK website for more info. (Our home just applied for the assessment, and it took about two minutes.)

EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES: The Emergency Support Services program was also spoken about by Jackson. A group of about 15 of us on the East Shore have volunteered to take the training so that we can be of service to the region in times of emergency or evacuation, either single home or mass event. The training is underway and some people will be done with the first four courses by the end of the summer, which is unfortunately a bit late to be of much help in the height of the fire season, but useful for down the road. If you want to be involved in this training and support group, contact Jon at JJackson@rdck.bc.ca or Ingrid Baetzel at iazbaetzel@gmail.com.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES: Finally, Jackson spoke about the responsibilities of local government in times of emergency. These responsibilities can be found in Director Jackman's

column this month.

WILDFIRE UPDATES AND INFO: After Jackson, the group heard from BC Wildfire representative Mike Allan who updated on the current status of the local fires at Akokli and Cultus Creek. At the time of writing, there were nearly 300 wildfires in the Southeast Fire Centre region to date this year. The Cultus Creek fire above Tye Beach is in challenging terrain, and sat at about 2600 hectares. Crews were stationed on site and working into the night at containment. Akokli was sitting at about 2800 hectares and had a contingency line established while crews were finding spots on the hillside to create defendable space while keeping safety of responders at the forefront. At the

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## **OFFICE DESK**

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The East Shore Mainstreet is a monthly publication for the benefit

of residents of the East Shore of Kootenay Lake.

## Letters to the Editor

**CAST NO STONES** 

Dear friends and neighbours,

This is going to be a quick PSA because we all have lots on our minds. It needs to be said however, because I can't count the number of times that someone has decided to engage in an impromptu game of fetch on the beach with our dog. Let me say this first if you don't want to read the whole sad story. Please, I beg of you, do not throw things at/near/for other people's dogs unless you have direct permission from the owner. No one wants to be put in a position to have to request that you stop, and a lot of us trust adults to know that certain things shouldn't be thrown at all, like rocks. Dogs are in training for a lot of their lives and that can be undone easily by unsuspecting folks who take a dog's enthusiasm as a request for engagement. That may well be allowed, with the right implements. So, if someone else's dog approaches you asking to play on the beach, ask the owner if they have a toy that you can use to play with the dog or simply send the dog away. We don't want our dog chasing or fetching sticks or rocks, so please don't assume that it's fine to throw stuff just because they're excited and friendly.

Two weeks ago, my two-year-old pup had to have an upper canine tooth removed due to an incident on the beach involving a young child and a rock that the dog caught in his mouth. There was a lapse of judgement in a number of places. I bring my dogs to the beach sometimes, to cool off and to benefit from socializing because the young one is intact, and I want to eventually breed him. Even though I noticed that he was spending a lot of time with a young family, I didn't see that they were playing a game that involved a small child throwing stones in the water and Beau, my dog, was chasing the splashes. It wasn't until he came to me, in visible distress and with a bleeding canine tooth that I was informed that he had in fact caught a larger rock that the child had unexpectedly picked

up and thrown. A game that the three adults around the boy had decided was harmless, wasn't harmless. Beau knows how to catch. He can catch 10 balls in a row without missing. It's his circus trick! How were these people to know that? But also, kids shouldn't be allowed to throw rocks of any size because they can't differentiate between a dangerous rock and a less dangerous rock. Don't even get me started on sticks! We don't want our dog thinking that every stick on the beach is a plaything. We want to be able to relax and not have a stick shoved in our faces or someone else's because he doesn't know when the game is on or off. And sticks, like rocks of any size, are terrible for their teeth. Therefore, he has beach toys and when the game is over, I can put the toys away and he relaxes.

To return to the incident in question, Beau had to get a major tooth removed. The rock sheared the end of the tooth leaving the pulp exposed to what would become infected and abscess deep inside his nose. The tooth material inside a dog's face that makes up the canine is two inches longer than what you see in the mouth. It cost \$1100 for the surgery, he spent a day in the super busy/noisy clinic under anaesthetic and then needed extra sedation upon waking up because he was scared. He was on antibiotics for a week and some major painkillers for a few days. The end result of all the stress and pain being that he'll live without a defensive tooth as a breeding stud and working farm dog. It's sad for a number of reasons, as well as for how avoidable it was. The mother of the child sent me a contribution for the surgery, for which I am extremely grateful. He'll be staying home now more frequently, just to avoid anything like this happening again, but that's a bummer for a furry dog during a heatwave.

Now here's the wackiest part of the story folks. I called the vet right away from the beach. I described the injury and sent him pictures then and there. He advised me of the sad reality that the tooth will die and it's bet-

ter to get it removed right away before infection takes hold of it, and that it was very, very painful for him. I relayed the message to my friends around me on the beach as I was packing up to leave. Beau was in a lot of pain and was avoiding my instructions to "come to me, it's time to go". He was worming a bit around the beach, confused, and still trying to fixate on what was going on in the water because someone else (an adult this time) was now playing a game of stick throwing and...wait for it...stone tossing into the water for their dog! When he was trying to interact with their game instead of listening to my command, the owner of the other dog started using stone throwing to lure my dog to me! I was gobsmacked. I have other ways to bring him in, like a leash. I was also in the process of collecting him out from exactly the same scenario.

So, this is why it must be said, "Please, for all healthy and intelligent dogs everywhere, stop throwing beach debris at them and get them a toy. Also, for the love of all things holy, stop throwing stones and sticks around mine!" Thank you.

Tina Cradock-Henry, Gray Creek

# 2021 HHW Round-Up Events

The RDCK is hosting the annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Round-Up Events.

2021 Events will occur during September.

Visit our website for the locations, dates and times of the Events and for a list of acceptable materials.



rdck.ca/hhwevents

## LOCAL POLITICS/INTEREST



# RDCK Area "A" Update

by Garry Jackman, Regional Director

#### **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

The province wide wildfire situation, which includes a few fires very close to home, has brought many questions to the minds of our neighbours. We had a great turnout for two outdoor information sessions held on July 24 and at the time of writing this article a third session is planned for July 30. I thank everyone for turning out in less than optimal circumstances, but with a little extra volume and by repeating questions most everyone appeared to be able to hear the conversation. Moving indoors with numbers we saw that day would not have been possible within our local facilities given COVID restrictions are still in effect.

I estimate a combined total of close to 300 people were able to make the first two outdoor sessions, but for those who could not make it I want to provide an overview of the system and programs which are in place. You may recall our emergency coordinator, Jon Jackson, provided an overview with similar information in the April Mainstreet and I also covered the topic in April. A quote I used from Jon's information was:

"As we approach the traditional emergency season (which in our area typically starts with the spring freshet followed by wildfires), we'd like to remind residents to be prepared to be self-sufficient for a minimum of 72 hours after an emergency, and possibly up to a week, depending on the situation. A few minutes spent getting ready now can save a lot of headaches in

the event of an emergency. There are guides, tips and suggestions at our website: www.rdck.ca\emergency".

If you want to go through the emergency section of the RDCK website there has never been a better time than now, as the home page has bold links in red to go to the emergency services page. There is also a link on the home page for the FireSmart - Home Assessment with a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist. This is a free assessment plus you can qualify for a \$500 grant towards the next step if you decide to get help to take action to reduce the fire risk around your home.

In the April article I also pointed out Jon and his colleagues have been working to create a new Neighborhood Preparedness Program designed to guide groups of residents to collaborate with each other for mutual support in the event of an emergency: "Neighbours helping neighbours". At the public meetings, information handouts included more on this initiative. The Riondel Commission office is going to keep some handouts for people who do not use computers and I will try to get some additional copies into the lobby of the Credit Union.

In Jon's article he referred to a 72 hour period. Evacuations during wildfire season often go much longer than three days but the first three days are critical for a few reasons. You will have noted over the years how announcements will be made about a local state of emergency including evacuation alerts, at times followed by evacuation orders, and from there a set of supports are offered to impacted residents. You also hear declarations of provincial states of emergency and some events escalate to a federal declaration. Each of these levels of emergency are tied to legislation for the respective orders of government and are necessary to authorize government actions such as entering your property to provide you with information. The Local Government Act and Community Charter (provincial acts) require local government to perform certain functions including:

ties at both the Kootenay Bay and Balfour Terminals will ramp up in the coming weeks. To avoid traffic disruptions, certain critical activities will take place at night from July 19 to September 2021. These include upcoming watermain installation and paving work. Terminal construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

# KOOTENAY LAKE FERRY SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT UPDATE

Work on the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements Project has moved forward steadily throughout the spring and early summer and is on track to delivering important safety enhancements. As part of the Province's commitment to keeping the public informed and engaged, this Project Update includes information about the vessel assembly yard, construction updates, as well as progress photos.

#### ASSEMBLY YARD FOR THE NEW VESSEL:

Over the past few months, site preparation has been underway to convert the lakeside lot in Nelson. B.C. into a temporary shipyard where the new electric-ready vessel will be assembled. This summer, Western Pacific Marine Ltd. will begin fabricating the first modules of the new vessel. These modules will then be transported to site for assembly. The new 55-car vessel is expected to begin service to replace the aging M.V. Balfour in 2023.

# TERMINAL IMPROVEMENTS – CONSTRUCTION:

Spring also saw the start of construction to improve terminal amenities at both the Balfour and Kootenay Lake Terminals. With the bulk of utility relocation for the project now complete, crews are shifting their focus to safely realign Upper Balfour Road. Thanks to public input, the realignment will help improve safety and traffic flow at the Upper Balfour Road and Busk Road intersection.

Construction work to improve safety and ameni-

#### KOOTENAY LAKE FERRY SERVICE

The ferry service continues to operate as usual during construction. Please obey all road signs, reduce speed, and follow the instructions of flaggers and terminal attendants.

With the increase of travel this summer, and as more people explore B.C., please remember to be safe and respectful. Health and safety measures continue to be in place to help keep other ferry users and our crew safe.

Did you know?

Summer service for the Kootenay Lake Ferry is in effect from June 18 to September 12, 2021. During this period, the 28-car M.V. Balfour provides additional sailings to accommodate the increase of travellers. Once the new 55-car vessel is in service, it will replace the M.V. Balfour and offer expanded capacity for future peak travel seasons.

#### **BACKGROUND**

In 2016 and 2018, the Province consulted with ferry users, area residents, and businesses about proposed improvements to the service, safety, and infrastructure of the Kootenay Lake Ferry. The Province made key changes to the final project plan after considering the input received, along with technical, environmental, and financial considerations. Some of these considerations were documented in the 2018 Consideration Memo.

In April 2019, the Province, with funding support from the Government of Canada, announced safety

- Maintaining an emergency notification system

   the RDCK uses a electronic system designed to work
  for email, telephone, text or social media in addition
  to providing door to door alerts and orders where volunteers will speak to you if you are available or leave
  clear information posted on our door if you are not
  there at the time they come around
- Emergency preparedness, including mitigation actions
- Emergency response, including emergency information and contacts, relaying updates from authorities who are in charge of events (such as the provincial health officer orders for the COVID pandemic or BC Wildfire Services for wildfire responses) and emergency response services which are covered in a little more detail below
- Recovery the local crisis is not over when the flood waters recede or the fire is doused

Emergency support services are provided through local government for the first 72 hours. This is the critical stage where it is important to identify who has safely left an evacuation zone (so they can be provided further assistance is unaccounted for) and who has critical short term needs such as medicine, counseling, food, clothing or housing. Ideally, we have local, trained volunteers who can set up a reception center, issue vouchers to residents who need to obtain supplies and provide other supports such as food and a place to rest. During the pandemic, our routine set of community meetings to recruit and train volunteers has been impacted, but there are still six trained emergency support teams who can move into any community to help plus the RDCK maintains an emergency support services contract with the Red Cross who have the capacity to pull in many more volunteers. Setting up our own teams and community champions is always best. Some communities have these people in place, others need to regroup.

**TIDBITS:** Destruction of public lands and environmental damage – our bylaw and parks staff, in conjunction with the RCMP, are now issuing substantial fines for off road abuse of parklands. Another event occurred in July. That person, like others, will be fined and the RCMP have been notified of their dangerous and unlawful conduct. Thank you for forwarding images with the license plate.

Community stress – I continue to see an impressive level of caring and support for all of our impacted residents. We are roughly halfway through the fire season and the forest is dry, so it is comforting to know we are looking out for each other.

If you have questions or comments on any topic, please drop a note to gjackman@rdck.bc.ca or call me at 250-223-8463.

#### Barefoot Handweaving



Strawbale walls are cool! Watch the first computer weaving summer hues.

**Open** everyday 9-5:30 at least 227-9655

# Ferry Service Improvements Continued...

and efficiency improvements to the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service.

The project involves the procurement of a new right-sized electric-ready vessel, safety and amenity improvements to both the Balfour and Kootenay Bay terminals, and now-completed minor dredging in the west arm of Kootenay Lake.

Collectively, these improvements will provide ferry users with a safer and more reliable ferry service as well as contribute to the Province's goal of employing electric propulsion on all inland ferries by 2040.

For more information about the Kootenay Lake Ferry Service Improvements, please visit gov.bc.ca/kootenaylakeferryproject.

### LOCAL INTEREST

time of writing, there were over 40 firefighters, 3 helicopters and 4 pieces of heavy equipment working on the fire, and it was considered to be a Fire of Note. By the time the paper is out, all of these numbers could be very different as the fire behaviour and situation changes hourly. The evacuation alert is for properties around Boswell and Sanca areas and affects around 245 residences.

Listening to Mike Allan speak about the approach from BC Wildfire and the challenges and limitations they face with certain fires, it was apparent that we are in for a long battle this summer. He spoke about the air quality and smoke and informed the group that when the smoke is heavier, it actually makes dealing with the fire a bit easier. When winds come up and blow the smoke away, it means that fire behaviour is less predictable. When asked about where the water tankers and air support are, he responded that helicopters are actively bucketing, but that people need to understand that air support is just that – support. Support for ground crews who are doing the front line fighting. The water bombers and helicopters dropping water on an active fire are reassuring to the public, but unless there is a strategy in place, control lines established, and huge coordination with ground crews, water dumped onto a large fire just gets swallowed up and evaporates quickly. It does little to change the landscape of the fire. By the time of going to print, water bombers and skimmers had been dispatched and were working tirelessly, dropping water to support ground crew work.

#### **EVACUATION:**

Chris Banham spoke about Emergency Alerts, evacuations, and timing. If an Evacuation Order becomes active, there are two approaches, Strategic and Tactical Evacuations. Strategic Evacuations are normally when an Alert becomes an Order and there is enough time for the BCWF to contact local response, get the word out through the Emergency Alert system (PLEASE sign

up for this system at https://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/emergency-management/emergency-alerts. html so that you can be notified in case of emergency. It is, as Banham quoted "icing" as there is no way for responders to know whether people got the alert and they still have to go door-to-door, but it is very helpful to users as it can give you precious time advantages before an evacuation. If responders come to your door in a Tactical Evacuation, you must be ready to leave at that exact moment. You may have to leave everything behind if you are not prepared.

Animals: Banham noted that livestock and larger animals should be relocated first under Evacuation Alert as it can happen that they must be left behind if an order comes into effect and an immediate abandonment of property is required. He also reminded people to have food, water and enclosure (animal carriers, etc) ready to go to help move out house pets upon evacuation

When Should You Go? People should also note that they can evacuate themselves at their discretion, of course, and don't need to wait for an order to come down. If you evacuate your home before you are asked to, please be sure to leave a note on your door indicating that you have left and where you'll be so that no one risks their lives or wastes unnecessary time in case of door-to-door evacuation. Remember that these people will be going in when everyone else is going out, and respecting their well-being, time and effort is paramount.

A Couple Other Items of Note: It was mentioned and made clear that all efforts will always be made to keep Highway 3A to the south open as an escape route, and that even if the road is closed to the public, it will remain open to evacuees as long as it possibly can be. Also, RDCK representatives noted that both ferries on the main lake, the MV Balfour and the MV Osprey 2000 will be available (in agreement with the Ministry of Transportation) as shuttle options should a large

section of the East Shore need evacuation.

A resident very near the Akokli fire who has had to evacuate her property also spoke about a gap in information for residents immediately affected by the fire. She said that the BC Wildfire website was not updated for up to three or four days and that this gap created an enormous amount of tension for residents. At one point, right in the middle of the meeting, there was a good bit of commotion and it was learned that a posting had been made indicating that the Evacuation Alert had been changed to an Order, and many people began justifiably panicking. As it turned out, it was an administrative error and was quickly corrected, but it emphasized the need for clear and consisitent communication from BCWF and the RDCK when it comes to public engagment. Such errors can happen, and it is always good to do what we can to clarify them before going into a panic state, but that is certainly easier said than done when faced with such potential monumental loss and danger to public safety.

At the Riondel meeting, Chief Cory Medhurst spoke about door to door emergency alerts and evacuation orders. Farley Cursons spoke about his experience with the Fire Smart program. Tom Wilkison, who is with the Riondel Commission of Management, gave some updates on discussions to update the procedures for docking the Osprey at the Teck dock in Riondel and Brittny Anderson, MLA spoke briefly in both Riondel and Crawford Bay.

Thank You: Many people closed with profuse thanks and appreciation for the fire fighters and officials doing all they can to protect the forests and resident's homes. Many local residents and businesses have done some wonderful things to support these brave people fighting on the front lines during this intense fire season (donations accepted at local businesses, food and drink purchased to support the fire fighers, etc). We all owe them a debt of gratitude for choosing this career path and stepping up every day to do what they can to keep us safe and in our homes.

# SUPERHEROS AMONG US

by Maria Latouf

When I was a little girl, I came from a family that could be only be understood by little me as "Superheroes", (War Vets/ Military, RCMP and Tactical Team Trainer, Security for Nuclear Power Plant, to name a few). Being taught from birth to help my neighbours, be kind to everyone, and that I could do whatever I put my mind to, I held the heroes I saw in real life AND the movies in the highest esteem. Fire-fighting was more my speed; I wanted to help save people and was never comfortable with weapons or violence. My sight was set on the dream of one day becoming a firefighter. Many of my oldest friends and family will remember this. Until recently, that was just another lost childhood fantasy.

Fast forward to growing up in reality - I am what you might call a girly girl - a little old fashioned - my husband takes care of all the "manly" chores car maintenance, garbage removal, literally any and all heavy lifting, fixing of anything needed. I cook, clean and take care of our family's schedule and bills. I wear dresses and jewelry, am an entrepreneur, and my children are my world and my heart. I still love to help where it is needed and find myself right there if a friend or family member is in need - from watching a friend's children in a pinch, to organizing a Meal Train, helping family and friends with health issues by sharing obsessive knowledge on nutrition and supplements, to helping my ex-husband, my eldest's father, write his resume and cover letter to apply for a new job I still get right in there when I see the opportunity to be of service.

I had never the desire for knowledge of tools or machinery of any kind, and most definitely AM NOT what one would consider firefighter material. I only just passed my driver's exam two years ago at the age of 34.

I asked my friend and Riondel Volunteer firefighter/ EMT, James Linn, a few years ago if I am strong enough to join the RVFD, knowing they were short-

handed while reflecting on the dream of the little girl still somewhere deep down. He insisted I absolutely am and encouraged me to come ASAP. Still, it took me a while longer to attend my first practice as I had three young children, two still in diapers at the time.

On April 1, 2021, I finally arrived at the hall. I immediately realized I was out of my comfort zone. We set up and filled the water bladder, connected hoses and I was faced with attempting to start something I never imagined I would - a generator. I was way, way out of my range! Luckily, young Rowan Medhurst, Chief Cory Medhurst's daughter, who was on her way to graduating high school, totally had my back and showed me the ropes, along with the rest of the amazing, dedicated team. I realized I could do it all and they could train

me; I was thrilled and hooked.

Arriving home that night I sent a photo of myself in turnout gear to my Eastern Canada family's WhatsApp chat. Many of those uncles and my father, those heroes

I mentioned above were on it - at first, some of my family thought it was April Fool's joke (my brother), then some of my cousins expressed concerned for my safety. At first they were confused and in disbelief. That quickly turned to pride when I explained our tiny

community and the desperate need here.

Now, at the end of July 2021, I have learned so much. I am starting to recognize and use the equipment on the fire trucks, learning protocols and I look forward to practice every week. Most surprising to my family, especially my husband, is the first power tool ever used was last week - the Jaws of Life! I feel it's a brandnew world and I am so happy to be of service to my community. Being such a small Fire Department, we have the opportunity to learn how to use all the equipment, unlike at larger departments where one might do a single job for five years We learn to use everything because with so few of us available, it could be the difference of life and death in a dire scenario. I smashed/pried open a car and disconnected a battery last week at practice.



Who would have ever thought?!

We need more volunteer firefighters, please join us. If you think you're not the right fit - just compare yourself to me! If I can do it, almost anyone can.

### LOCAL INTEREST



# Hacker's Desk by Gef Tremblay CHANGE

Getting spinach pastries at Reds Bakery, the cashier working there tells me how she is going to 12th grade next year, and that it makes her feel old. I protest that getting older is cool - I personally like it. I like the change it brings to my life. I've always liked change and it's a huge part of my day-to-day reflections and process.

Change is the foundation of yoga. Or in a different perspective, change is inherent to everything, and yoga helps me to be an active actor in that changing reality. When tension arises, I try to see what creates it and how I can free myself from that tension. It sounds fairly simple but is actually a difficult process, I only have to listen to my own feelings to guide me through the process but my habits are ingrained in my way of living; bringing changes takes time. I also have to be clear about what I want to change and why, so that I don't keep on changing my mind about it.

But how do we bring changes as a community? As a society?

Media seems to agree on one point; there will be a massive change coming up in our way of living, everything seems pretty unstable economy-and-ecologywise. How can we prepare for that change or, better, how can we create that change as a group?

When dealing with change on a personal level, the first step is to recognize what is unwanted in my life, reflecting, observing and deciding what habit has to come out. But how can that be translated to a group of people? Everyone has a different opinion of what is going wrong, and what needs to be changed.



# Hidden Taxes by David George Cooperatives or Co-ops

Whether one should hyphenate the word above or not is irrelevant. This kind of organisation is defined as one which is owned and run jointly by its members, who share the profits or benefits. The history of co-ops goes back before the industrial revolution.

This month we will look at three cooperatives, two successful, and one which has failed.

First and most notable for us in the East Shore is the Nelson and District Credit Union with its branch in the centre of Crawford Bay, just a few kilometres from the old location at the Riondel Road turnoff from highway 3A.

When we first moved here in 1990, that old location had served the East Shore for many years, even though it did not have a fireproof vault. Now the relatively new building is open once again for walk-in service Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10am to 4pm, with phones (250-227-9221) answered on Monday and Friday from 10am to 4:30pm. Closed for lunch 1-2pm.

A \$25 membership fee from each member gives access to most of the services of banks without the endless fees banks charge. Our own three branch credit union had at the end of the lockdown year 2020, asset of \$281 million, up \$41 million from the previous year.

Merger talks have resumed this year with five other credit unions. Perhaps this will result in a much larger financial base from which we might even see a resumption of interest on savings accounts. Perhaps we might even have a branch manager again on the East Shore after the Covid-19 threat has subsided. The The current state of the media seems to be doing a great job at polarizing its listeners. People are now violently defending their side of the stories, on a political level, about the pandemic or about the ecology. There doesn't seem to be a middle ground anymore. You are either for or against, good or bad. This makes it really hard to even discuss how we could all be together to build a better society.

For example, I've been really annoyed on how the media presents an almost globally accepted notion that we as the consumer could solve pollution by recycling or buying less, or even buying more of something that pollutes less. The blame is pushed toward the consumer, when in fact the system is built on pollution. On top of that, there is a trend to pit people against each other, if you don't recycle, you're the bad person; if you do recycle, you're the good person. Then we fight against each other, distracted from the real systemic problem. Anytime I see the media creating a division, pitting the good against the bad people. I know that there is a story behind this, someone or something that doesn't want to take the blame.

One of the Dalai Lama quotes that stuck with me for a long time is the saying, "Everyone wants happiness". It's such a simple statement and at the same time, it's very powerful. Having these foundational ideas and concepts is really important if we want, as a society, to create change around us. Finding our common ground, what keeps us together. Happiness is an important goal, but can it bring us all together?

In an interview, Naomi Klein discusses the hard question "Is Capitalism creating global warming?" I was surprised with this title, but Naomi defends that point in her latest book, *This Changes everything: Capitalism Vs the Climate*. A lot of our social problems might all be rooted in one system, our economic system.

East Shore branch also has the Kootenay Insurance Services office open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm (closed 1-2pm). Phone 250-227-9698.

From a very modest beginning the Kootenay Country Store Co-op just kept growing until it outgrew the store near the foot of Baker Street in Nelson, and bought the old Extra Foods site between Baker and Vernon streets.

There an ambitious project developed, to provide a new and larger store, with 54 condo apartments on three stories above the main store and underground parking. A one-time refundable \$50 membership fee gives the whole family access to the store which is open from 8am to 8pm seven days a week. The Co-op has more than 14,000 members, who saved about \$2 million on sales of \$25 million to mid-2020, from the last financial report available. There are more than 150 employees, about 90 of whom are full time. Local suppliers number at least 154, of whom 51 are farmers. Too big to fail?

How many reading this were members of the Mountain Equipment Co-op? There were at least five million of us, before the co-op was sold out from under us by a malfeasant board of directors last year. My own membership number was only four digits, and dates from the 1970s.

So what happened to the second-largest co-op in Canada? Sales were down, especially down from the start 2020 and during the lockdowns of last year, but it really started before that. Member apathy was a factor, but it really comes down to members failing to vote for board candidates who had business savvy and were really dedicated to the principles of the co-operative movement.

The crunch came in the second half of 2020 when the board of directors of MEC cancelled the 2020 AGM, and without consulting the members, made a back-room deal with a US company to purchase the co-op's physical assets, without, and I say again, without including refunding \$25 million in membership shares in the deal.

What if our monetary system was a huge part of the problem? I am not talking about democracy but simply this modern form of Neo-Liberal Capitalism. I do believe that capitalism is a great idea, a very openended system, giving a great opportunity for new ideas and competition. But it seems at the same time that it might be time to review its implication. Can profit really be more important than anything else? For instance, each year there are thousands of lobby cases being filed by corporations on how to shape our law and reforms. Thousands! Many times a day one company or another is filing a form, sending money to change this or that law., etc. Billions are spent modifying our society; the more money you have, the more you can change it.

I know I sound like an old hippy wanting to fight the system as it is, but I think we can all agree that the shit is really close to hitting the fan. We have to find common ground to bring change around us. We created our monetary system so we could also change it for the best - find what works and what is not working and move forward with that. A common solution I hear when talking about change is to wait for society to collapse and then to go back to an easier time and we could then rebuild our society from there. If our North American society crumbles, we won't be going back to the good old times; we'll just have some other countries coming in to invade and take over our country, so I don't think it's a viable solution. Of course, it does feel like we're 'changing the tires while driving the car' but I do feel we can all make it happen.

But again, what can we all agree on? Not just the people, or just the corporations or the politicians, all of us together. I don't think fighting against our government or the massive corporations would do us good, as we are all in this together. There is suffering at all levels. I would like to find what we can all stand for, what change we would all like to see and find a way to move toward that change.

A last-ditch effort was made by several hundred thousand MEC members to block the sale, but the board in October found a friendly judge who dismissed the attempt.

So what will happen to the five million of us who are, after all, only out five bucks? I guess we will just have to chalk our loss up to experience of the capitalist corporate system overcoming the little people.

What do I personally think? I think the board members who did this to MEC should be in jail unless and until they give all five million of us back our five-dollar membership share. Probably won't happen though. I do wonder what sort of emolument each board member got from the new US owners.

# Next Deadline: Aug 25, 2021



"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." - Walt Disney

Have you ever thought about turning your passion into a business? Do you think you have what it takes to be an entrepreneur? Contact Community Futures for more information on Programs & Workshops available to you!

Call Amanda Murray at 403-678-7044 or amurray@futures.bc.ca to book a free appointment in Creston.
www.futures.bc.ca

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### FIRE & RESCUE/LOCAL

# Riondel Fire and Rescue Blotter

by Fire Chief Cory Medhurst

'm just going to say it - July was an absolute gong I show with an earlier than normal wildfire season, an unprecedented heat wave accompanied by drought and water conservation everywhere, and the continuation of COVID with relaxed measures in place permitting people to travel again, in droves. There has been much fear and anxiety with the unknown threat of fires being too close to homes. A few important notes come to mind from lasts month's major events, including the Akokli Wildfire threatening Boswell and beyond. As a result of this fire, public meetings were held in Riondel, Crawford Bay, and Boswell with a subject of emergency preparedness. The key message was for you, yourself to be prepared with a plan in the event of an emergency evacuation. Make a plan, pack your go bag, and listen to the officials if the time comes. Plans are in place on a regional level and there will be help deployed, but it is up to each individual to have a plan prepared. There are many resources available on the internet, specifically www.rdck.ca, www2.gov.bc.ca, or www.redcross.ca for hints and suggestions on what to pack and when, and information on current events.

It is also important to prepare your home, yard, and even community against the threat of wildfires. Farley Cursons spoke to this during the meetings, with some great information on preparedness and the importance of "firesmarting" around your property. Farley will be able to speak in more detail but do remember the FireSmart program offered free through the RDCK; professionals coming to your house to help you identify risks and offer suggestions to mitigate the risk. Go to www.firesmartbc.ca to find out more about the program. The government is currently attempting to mitigate crown land fire risks, but it is up to a landowner to mitigate their own.

With increased traffic over the summer, and summer residents returning to solitude we have been a little busy. July calls to service were as follows:

# ...so you think you're funny?

We are looking for the funniest guys or gals out there!

**Comedy Contest:** Aug 27, 2021 at **Newkey's Place** 



Up to 15 minutes of stage time, perform for the crowd and win cash/ prized and an opportunity to perform on September 3 with JNT Comedy Tour Professionals.

Local & Professional Comics will share the stage, Sept 3, in a fun showcase event!

Competition, Performance and Tickets all at Newkey's Place in Crawford Bay. Get yours early as seats are limited!

Call Pam at 250.227.6911 for info.

July 6th - Four members responded to a call from forestry to assist three locals with a wildfire that had ignited when a tree fell on power lines in Crawford Bay. The fire was noticed at midnight with the three locals using fire extinguishers, and eventually bucketing water from a nearby pond to keep the fire from spreading. With the tree remaining on the line, sparks continuously ignited the shrubs below. After calling 911 several times, these neighbours fought vigorously until 3AM when forestry contacted our department for assistance. A crew of three responded to the scene with the Wildland truck and relieved the men from fighting the spot fires. The crew remained on scene for an additional three hours extinguishing fires until a Fortis crew was able to turn off the power and remove the tree. The crew proceeded to call in another member to assist with bucking the smoldering tree to deposit the hot pieces in the pond.

July 12<sup>th</sup> – A MVI involving a single motorcycle was attended to by three members. The lone driver left the highway near the brake check on the Crawford Bay summit, rolling the motorcycle while ejecting the driver. An off-duty Calgary Fire Fighter who witnessed the crash was first on scene and treated a wound for the driver, who proclaimed to be fine. When emergency crews arrived, the driver and companions had corrected the bike and headed off for the ferry. The crew returned to their regular routines with no further assistance required.

**July 15**<sup>th</sup> – Two members responded north of Riondel to assist paramedics with a medical call. Members helped with equipment retrieval and patient movement to the ambulance.

July 18th – Another single vehicle MVI involving a motorcycle meeting dirt in Boswell had three members attend. When the crew arrived, the Boswell First Responders had the scene secured. The crew assisted with loading the patient.

July 18th - Later in the evening three members responded to a medical emergency in Riondel. The crew assisted Paramedics with an unresponsive patient requiring CPR.

July 20th - At 01:30 a call from the Regional Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was received requesting "boots on the ground" at the Akokli Creek wildfire. RCMP in Creston had seen a significant and unusual amount of traffic traveling out of the area and had witnessed the fire traveling closer to the homes in Boswell throughout the night. A single member responded to meet with two RCMP members on scene. With multiple phone calls to varying officials, real time satellite imagery, and trusty Google maps, it was determined that a tactical evacuation was not required, but that an initial attack crew was needed immediately. Forestry crews arrived on scene at 06:00 and have been on scene fighting since. As of writing the fire was at 2300 hectares with a crew of 54 Firefighters, 3 helicopters and 4 heavy equipment, with a pleasant and much needed visit from fixed wing aircraft as seen on many Facebook posts.

July  $22^{nd}$  - Four members responded to a medical emergency in Crawford Bay to assist Paramedics with patient movement.

July 1st through 31st - Multiple calls to the fire department for reports of campfires have been received from Boswell to Pilot Bay, Riondel and beyond. Fires seen on beaches, in neighbour's yards, and at campgrounds have everyone on high alert and have seen a spike in attentive peeps calling to report. All of these calls are taken very seriously and are investigated promptly. To date, all fires found have been propane units which resemble real fire and are hard to distinguish from afar; please keep vigilant and report a fire if you see one to 1 800 663-5555 or \*5555 on your cell phone. If you are using a propane fire, please expect a visit from a neighbour or a friendly local Firefighter who is just making sure; and be kind, we're all a bit heightened this season.

Another topic of discussion that has been out there is the need for more fire services on the East Shore. This could come in the form of a new, stand alone department in Crawford Bay, or with the possibility of extending the Riondel Fire boundary with the addition of a satellite fire hall. With either direction comes meetings, local groups forming to plan with community champions stepping up to volunteer their services. Remember, a new hall requires 15 fully trained members, a satellite would require 25 for both halls. That's a huge number of persons, but without the people power a referendum, buildings and equipment mean nothing and would likely never happen. Watch for Probationary Firefighter Maria Latouf's article in this edition for more information, and for what is required moving forward. Our area director is open to the idea of a referendum and will support the community where he can, but it's up to us. Stay tuned for updates and watch for future community meetings.

Riondel VFD is always seeking new members to join our amazing team, not to mention the person power required to move forward with a fire service expansion. Join now to train for the future, stop by the fire hall on Thursday nights between 7PM and 9PM to meet the team, fill out an application and begin the exciting journey of becoming a volunteer Firefighter; one day you too can drive the shiny red trucks and help your community in times of need. Also, don't forget to have your house or property identification number, or address sign properly posted for easy and quick visibility to find you in an emergency. We still offer signs, call or text 250-551-1352 or email cmedhurst@rdck.

> Next Deadline: Aug 25, 2021 www.eshore.ca

mainstreet@eshore.ca

### REPORT A WILDFIRE

\*5555 on a cell or 1.800.663.5555

Wildfire Information Line **1.888.3FOREST** 

**Burn Registration Line** 

1.888.797.1717

**Southeast Fire Information Officer** 

1.250.365.4014

Visit www.bcwildfire.ca



# Thoughts from the Frog Pot by John Rayson

#### **RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS**

Tfeel compelled to write regarding the residential Lschool crisis, as I am of an age, as are many other Canadians, who grew up with this problem but did not recognize the significance. I should have had a greater awareness as when I was a youngster my father worked as an Indian Superintendent and subsequently as a Placement Officer for the Dept. of Indian Affairs. In addition, I attended high school in Winnipeg in a very privileged area and yet within 12 blocks of my school was an Indian Residential High School; educating young Indigenous students to a grade 12 level and then returning them to their homes in remote northern communities. I was unaware of the existence of this facility and completely oblivious to the fact that the school did not participate in any city- wide sports or other school activities. Subsequently, as a third year medical student I worked in a Northern Hospital in an Indigenous community for a summer and again did not comprehend the extent of the issues.

Much has recently been written regarding the findings of unmarked graves in the vicinity of long closed Indigenous residential schools. We have issues of "genocide" raised plus comments that all such areas should be considered as "crime scenes". As a nation we are now tearing down statues and discontinuing Canada Day celebrations. As a society, through the media, we are expressing these views but our representative government has ignored the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Report published in 2016. Most Canadians remain unaware of the recommendations in this report and the lack of any significant actions by government or other with regards the recommendations.

A little history may assist in putting these issues into perspective. We seem to forget that our country was settled by the English and French with their attitudes of colonization and the "Right of Discovery". An Englishman, Bagot, who became Governor General of Canada, published a report in 1842 that outlined a system of schools to deal with Indigenous students. Subsequently, Edgar Ryerson, then the Superintendent of Schools in Upper Canada, further outlined the system that was eventually adopted. His report was in 1847 and formed the basis for the Residential School system adopted and implemented by Sir John A. Mac-Donald in 1892. MacDonald also commissioned and drew upon the Devin Report; a study of the residential system in the U.S. in 1879. Should we denigrate all the accomplishments of these flawed individuals?

By 1930 the Residential School system had reached its peak of 80 facilities, managed by various churches; Roman Catholic, Anglican, United and Presbyterians. In the early 1940's government recognized that the system was not working and began to establish Day Schools. By 1955 18,000 Indigenous student attended day schools but the Residential system continued. The last Residential school closed in 1997 in Rankin Inlet. During the period of over 100 years approximately

150,000 students attended Residential schools. The damage to these individuals cannot be minimized.

In 2008 the federal government of the day established the Indian Residential Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In 2009 Murray Sinclair accepted the Chairmanship of the commission. Please note: Murray Sinclair is an Indigenous leader, lawyer and judge. Appointed to the Bench in Manitoba in 1998 and given the title Q.C. in 2001. Senator Sinclair was appointed to the Canadian Senate in 2016 and resigned in 2021.

The Commission that he Chaired, did state that the Canadian government had committed "cultural genocide and made 94 recommendations to the Canadian Federal Government; the government has not acted.

We now have various organizations suggesting ways to recognize the issue, but again we do not ask those affected. I would suggest that there are many accomplished and well educated Indigenous individuals, as noted above plus recommendations on file that we should access.

I leave you with the words of Murray Sinclair:

This is not an Indigenous problem but a Canadian problem We have described a mountain and shown you the way to the top. We call upon you to do the climbing

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# CANADA'S DIRTY SECRET A CONFESSION

By Cincy Thiessen, East Shore Writers Group

Canada's dirty little secret. We are not the good people everyone thinks we are. Racism is our national anthem. We stole your land and your children. We stole your future.

We are the white supremacists. We are skilled in demeaning you. We love to tell stories about your alcoholism and shame. We cast ourselves in superior roles. That's how we choose to think. Cowboys and Indians.

We raped and pillaged and practised genocide with the sanction of our government and the church. Even God was on our side. This is our shame. This is our dirty truth. And this secret is no little secret. It swallows up our whole nation. We don't want to look at it. We still practise telling stories of your shame. We don't admit that it is our shame.

This is our shame. We are the colonial bastards who marched in and took what wasn't ours. We hated your beauty and your oneness with this great land. We feared your quiet dignity. We feared your otherness. We wanted your lands and rich resources. We abducted your little ones and murdered them in ugly places, in mass numbers. We attempted to erase your language and culture.

We are supposed to be what the world thinks of as the nice people of Canada. But...we are not! We must be held accountable for our crimes against humanity. This is not only a story of times long gone by. The naked truth stares us in the face if we dare to open our eyes. We have been monsters in fancy clothes and moneyed manners.

Now we pass you by in the street. We drive by your

reserves, and try not to remember that we put you there as a way to forget what we have done to you.

Do we ever entertain even a fleeting thought of our massive guilt, our corporate guilt?

We can never repay our horrific debt. But we must look at the ugly truth of what we have done. We must not get away with our crimes. We must stand up and hear the charges against us. We must plead guilty. We must stand and hear the verdict. We must serve our sentence. We must listen over and over to victim impact statements. We must humble ourselves. We must educate ourselves and be educated by those we victimized. We can not bring back the missing and murdered children and women. We are not the ones to fix anything or bring healing. We are not the heroes. We are the criminals. We are the ones who must be re-educated and rehabilitated. It will take our whole lives and our children's and grandchildren's lives to finally change our hearts and minds. This is in no way an easy fix.

You do not need or want our pity. Truthfully, we are the villains in the story. We are the ones with the blood of your children on our hands. We must not think we can get away with that. Our humanity depends on our confession. Otherwise, we will always be more monster than human.

# Wanted

RENTAL AGENT FOR CRAWFORD BAY COMMUNITY HALL & PARK FACILITIES



Must be well organized & have good public relations skills

Being comfortable with computers is an asset

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**Our Hours:** Mon to Fri, 9 am – 5 pm, Closed from 1 – 2 pm



# Crawford Bay Hall **UPDATE**

#### by Susan Hulland, Hall Board Director

Annual General Meeting Our association's 2021 AGM is set for October 5, location TBA. A representative from Columbia Basin Trust will be with us to present information about funding sources. Hopefully by October we can meet in the hall. We would love to have more directors and volunteers join us as we move closer to commencing the improvements at the hall. Those with experience with grant writing and with construction would be most welcome additions. You do not need to become a director to help us as we need many willing hands to help us maintain our facilities.

Membership Drive: We signed up 95 new members in the last month bringing our active totals to 176 plus 48 'Friends of the Hall' in our database. Thanks to all of you who have taken the time to sign up. Your support is greatly appreciated. Rick Bell and Ann Hagan not only joined our association but also gave us a donation! Lifetime memberships still cost only one dollar and supporters can sign up at the Crawford Bay Post Office or by calling Leona Keraiff at 250 227-9361.

We are Hiring! With the relaxation of Covid 19 protocols we are now starting to rent our facilities again. With the retirement of Kathy Donnison, we are looking for a new Rental Agent for the Hall, and the Community Corner building and Fraser Pavilion in the park. Please see the display ad in this issue of Mainstreet for more information. If you can answer a phone, use a computer, stay organized and have some time to spare we need you! Meantime to book one of

our facilities you can email bookings@cbhall.ca.

Hall Studio 9 Architects and their team of Structural, Mechanical and Electrical engineers continue to work on a detailed design for proposed renovations. They will have pricing drawings as well as estimates for the proposed work by early September. Meanwhile we are working on a septic system plan in anticipation of applying for a building permit once construction drawings are available.

Tratech Mechanical of Creston will soon be at work in the hall installing a new, more efficient furnace. Thanks to the RDCK's Community Initiatives Grant of \$3,700 we only need to come up with a further \$5,000 to make this improvement before winter. Thanks to help from the engineers we are working with, the new furnace will be a 'fit' in the overall heating and cooling upgrades that will be part of our plan to rejuvenate and preserve the building.

**Fundraising:** Thanks to those who are still purchasing the cards and colour prints of our community hall created by Bruce Paterson. Huge thanks to the Crawford Bay Market, Forge & Furnace Gallery, Seena Bees, Gray Creek Store and Ladybug Coffee for selling on our behalf. We have raised over \$1000.

**Park:** It's good to see the soccer field, children's playground and the tennis and pickleball courts are all getting lots of use. A big thanks to Gord Peterson from Vancouver Island who donated a new tennis net and to Cherry and Garry MacLagan of Riondel who set it up for all to use and enjoy.

Boat Launch: This site in Kootenay Bay is being heavily used this summer offering handy, economical access to Kootenay Lake. Thanks to all the local residents who set a good example to the many visitors using this important recreational facility by paying the \$5 launch fee. Thanks to Megan of Ladybug Coffee for her help with monitoring the area and putting our 'Thank You for Your Donation' cards on vehicle windshields. Special thanks to Ben Lahnemann for his ongoing maintenance and support.

# Riondel Park and Campground Welcomes the Community

#### **Submitted by Fran O'Rourke**

The current board of the Riondel Community Campground is putting the emphasis on community, particularly during the pandemic. Last summer the campground park was closed to everything but foot traffic in order that our vulnerable community could feel safe as we all learned to navigate Covid rules and recommendations.

This year we are open for camping, but the emphasis is still on community safety. Since outdoor activities are safer than indoor gatherings, we reduced the number of campsites by 20%. That cleared a larger area for safe public access to North Bay beach and nearly doubled available day parking. There are now six lakefront tables with fire rings dedicated to community use. Maybe next year we will have a little more time to enjoy use of the fire rings, but the tables are still available for family and friends to enjoy picnics and outdoor activities.

We have also committed considerable funds, time and energy to improving community amenities. Thanks to a considerable grant from Regional District of the Central Kootenay's Recreation #9 program, we were able to the refloat the raft that was separated from its anchor and beached for over a year. We are also working on a project to provide an accessible family bathroom with support from Columbia Basin Trust; we hope to have that completed in September.

The members of the board feel strongly that Covid or not, safe and easy lake access and the recreational opportunities it provides is vital to a healthy Riondel.

It makes the community more welcoming to visitors and newcomers, whether they want to camp or not. We hope you will come and make use of the park area and enjoy what is available, and we would love to hear what you think. There is a comment card box by the office door or you can email rccsociety@bluebell.ca.

September we will hold our AGM; we are always to welcome new members and people willing to volunteer, as directors or in any capacity. And we look forward to seeing you at the beach.



#### **AUGUST HOURS:**

9AM TO 5PM Wed-Mon (closed Tuesdays)

Fresh Organic Produce and Gourmet Condiments from Wildly Delicious Specialty Food Company—new this month!

Perennials, flowers, trees, seeds, local meat and eggs, giftware, garden décor, pet supplies, garden supplies and more!

CALL (250) 505-0847

**WE ARE OPEN ALL YEAR!** 

# Columbia Basin Culture Tour August 7 & 8, 2021 a project of the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance

HARROP-PROCTER-BALFOUR-KASLO-KOOTENAY BAY-CRESTON – Taking place August 7 & 8 from 10 am - 5 pm, the Columbia Basin Culture Tour allows you to explore artists' studios, museums, art galleries and heritage sites during this free, self-guided event. Travel to studios and archives that aren't normally open, see demonstrations, new exhibitions and collections or meet people behind the scenes. Venues are implementing COVID-19 protocols as per provincial guidelines. To participate in the tour, simply grab a map, your Culture Tour Directory and go!

Cross the ferry to Harrop to visit Molly's Landing. Brenda Pirie will be sharing her whimsical felted animals and brooches as well as her stained glass windows, hand painted boxes and hand drawn cards. Also in Harrop is another annual favourite Chez Chasch Pottery Studio where visitors will see a range of pottery, sculptures and an outdoor gallery.

Over to Procter, where Michele Dupas with Dupas Designs, Terry Huva, Grant Palfenier and Jan Kozlowski will all be at the Procter Schoolhouse sharing their work. Michele is known for her hand-built sculptural and decorative clay works. Terry Huva is a mixed media painter who will be showing colorful, abstracted impressions of these times in the Kootenays. Grant has a collection of eclectic multimedia art appealing to the whimsey and charm of the onlooker. Jan Kozlowski with be sharing her Photography and portraits.

In Balfour, visit Kathleen Luchtan who is sharing her magical paintings and wood carvings. We are also excited to have the Balfour & District Business & Historical Association as a brand new venue on the tour this year. The Balfour Chapel is the newest acquisition and they will be offering tours of the old chapel and what is planned for its use. Also in Balfour is mixed media artist Heather Hutchinson, who is participating for her seventh year! She takes her inspiration from the landscape surrounding her, poetry, and music. In Queens Bay we have Diane Trudel who will share her acrylic paintings on canvas. Also Reven's Eye Textile Art and Design (Cedar Offerman) who will be shwoing her handmade midieval gowns, and some live music. Also in Queens Bay is Evelyn Posgate showing her assemblage art using vintage objects and some collage using found objects.

Take the ferry across Kootenay Lake to visit the Gray Creek Store and meet author Tom Lymbery signing copies of his two books, which feature BC history from 1911 to 1980, covering the fruit growing era, transportation from sternwheelers to highways, and operating a 103-year-old family-owned general store.

In Kaslo Megan Hyslop will be performing her inner clowning and will have an interactive venue for all to enjoy.

Creston has one 'not to miss' venue on the Culture Tour this year! Visit the Yaqan Nuki Peoples Heritage Society where visitors can experience indigenous culture, exhibition and demonstrations.

These are just a few of the fabulous venues on the 2021 Columbia Basin Culture Tour. Tour brochures are available at tourist information centres and participating venues. Visit the website at www.cbculturetour. com to view full artist/venue profiles for further details on each location's activities or register to receive a tour brochure in the mail. For further information, call the CKCA at 1-250-505-5505 or toll free at 1-877-505-7355. The Columbia Basin Culture Tour is generously supported by Columbia Basin Trust funding.

## ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT



# Seldom Scene by Gerald Panio



Ithink it took me all of three minutes to fall in love with the artistry of Makoto Shinkai's 2011 animated feature film *Children Who Chase Lost Voices from Deep Below*. Both Makoto Shinkai and Mamoru Hosada have been seen as worthy heirs to the great Japanese animator, Hayao Miyazaki. I'm not familiar with Hosada's work, but Shinkai's 5 Centimeters Per Second (2007) was one of my early anime favorites and nothing he's done since then (Garden of words, Your Name, Weathering with You) has disappointed me.

One doesn't need more than the first ten minutes of Children Who Chase Lost Voices to see why the

Miyazaki comparison comes up. The film is set in a remote Japanese village high in the mountains, a place where time may not stand still but life retains a simplicity that underscores the beauty of the natural surroundings. The realism of the animation is no accident—the director scouted actual locations as carefully as any live-action filmmaker would do.

As Children opens, we see a young girl, Asuna (voiced by Hisako Kanemoto), racing up a mountainside, following railroad tracks and overgrown trails, to her own private world atop a table rock overlooking her village and the valleys below. The details of forest life—lizards, dragonflies, birds, falling blossoms, wind—are exquisite. Asuna brings with her a small handmade radio, which

she manually tunes into any signals her high perch allows her to capture. Asuna, who always seems to be in motion, lives with her widowed young mother—a nurse whose shift work often leaves her daughter alone at home and weighted with responsibilities beyond her age.

Asuna's attraction to her mountain retreat is strengthened when her radio picks up a strange broadcast unlike anything she has ever heard before. Soon after, a mysterious young boy saves her from an attack by a grotesque creature that belongs in the idyllic setting we've just settled into as much as a hand grenade belongs in a picnic basket. And here one learns a couple of key lessons about Shinkai's storytelling. The first is that any idyll can be shattered by sudden, lethal violence. If you have a young child who is prone to nightmares, you might not want to make Children his or her introduction to Japanese anime. None of the violence is gratuitous, and it's massively overwhelmed by moments of tranquility and stunning visuals, yet it's scary in its intensity. The second lesson is that death/loss is unsparing. Asuna has lost her father, the new teacher at her school has lost his young wife to a lingering illness, and there are scars of war even in the paradise towards which Asuna's journey leads her. Don't get me wrong, though, this isn't an animated Game of Thrones. The quest on which Shinkai sends his characters is one of love, growth, and redemption. The sacrifices made are not made in vain. He said his goal was to see that his characters are "able to reach a good place in the end."

Shinkai's story relies on two classic mythological archetypes. The first is that of a hero's descent into the underworld to rescue a loved one. Here in the West, we have the story of Orpheus's failed rescue

of Eurydice. Drawing on Japan's oldest chronicle of myths & legends, the *Kojiki*, Asuna's new teacher tells his class the story of Izanagi following his wife Izanami into Yomi, the land of darkness. Subliminally, his students sense that Morisaki-sensei (Kazuhiku Inoue) is expressing some dark desire of his own. Although it has been ten years since his wife died, Morisaki cannot accept her loss.

The second archetype is that of the lost or hidden world. These worlds can be found in the remote Antarctic, the Himalayas, the jungles of Africa, or at the Earth's core. Jules Verne took his readers on a Journey to the Center of the Earth, and Edgar Rice Burroughs set three or four novels At the Earth's Core. With Children Who Chase Lost Voices, Makoto Shinkai has given us what may be the most awesome lost world we've seen on the screen. It's a marvelously syncretic creation, with borrowings from near-Eastern mythologies, Aztec mythology, classical archaeology, and Hindu legends. I'd swear I even saw a stargate and what looked a lot like that creepy sphere from The Prisoner TV series. The occasional appropriation is sillier than it is profound the Arch Angels, nasty militants who are attempting to raid Agartha, the hidden world, are revealed to be a "group of empty-headed Gnostics." Somehow, I've

> never associated Gnostics with helicopter gunships. Who knew?

> None of this would really matter much if we didn't care about characters themselves. We slowly come understand why Asuna is so willing to risk everything by joining a quest that isn't even her own. We see how grief has twisted Morisakisensei's whole life to the point where sacrifice—his own or another'sis too terrible. Shun (Miyu Irino), the young man Asuna

meets at the beginning of the film, is willing to pay any price to see a new world. His younger brother Shin (Irino again) loses his place in both his own world and in Asuna's. The people of the hidden world, Agartha, in their attempt to protect themselves from the violent incursions of "topsiders" greedy for treasures and secret knowledge, have condemned their own civilization to a slow death through isolation and inertia.

One thing *Children* does better than any anime I've seen since Miyazaki's *Castle in the Sky* (1986) is generate an ever-increasing sense of wonder. Things just get stranger and stranger, and the canvas gets larger and larger. One minute we're in a realistic small town that could be the Castlegar where I grew up, complete with railroad tracks, railway bridge, and rocky bluffs, and the next moment there's a 50-million-old whale defending the entrance to a portal into another world. And that's just the beginning. I haven't even mentioned the cute little cat that's also a god.

A key element in the production design for the whole film is Shinkai's deliberate use of gradual transitions from night to day, and vice versa. There is an amazing interplay of color, light, and shadow. Focus your attention on any one of these three elements and you'll marvel that anyone has the patience to reproduce such subtle variations on nature's magic.

Children is one of the best arguments for sitting down and watching all of those extra features included with top-of-the-line DVD Blu-ray releases. My Sentai Filmworks edition has an excellent "making of" short film, and extensive interviews with Shinkai, with the main Japanese voice actors, and with other key people involved in the production. One gets the chance to appreciate exactly how much care and thought goes into every frame of a film such as this—into the sound

of every footstep, into a character's sudden intake of breath, into breathtaking epic backdrops, into the storyboarding, and into ensuring that motivation is never divorced from action. Shinkai himself says that he thinks of the beauty of each frame as a still picture. At one point, he explains to an interviewer that he's not interested in making a film that is forgotten as soon as it's consumed. He wants any film he makes to be the viewer's "friend for life." It's a wonderful ambition, one that's he's lived up to time and again.

Children Who Chase Voices from Deep Below considerably upped Shinkai's game. This was the first film where he chose long-term collaboration with a team rather than his previous largely one-man shows. For the first time, newly-married and with a young child at home, he shifted his creative work from his house to a studio. It was the first time he worked with a permanent production team rather than an ad hoc one. For the first time, he worked extensively with professional voice actors. It was the first time his long-time composer, Tenmon, used a full orchestra for a soundtrack. And with a running time of just under two hours, Children was the longest film Shinkai had ever worked on.

After everything I've written here, one might expect the ending of *Children Who Chase Lost Voices* to be some kind of final, profound statement on loss or recovery. If it is, it's well-disguised as Asuna's bright parting words to her mother as she, as usual, rushes out of the house on her way to her elementary school graduation:

"I'm heading out!!"
So should we all.

## A Chair For You!

With the Many Bays Community Band by Deberah Shears

Every Thursday night, from 6 - 8 pm, the Many Bays Community Band meets at the Riondel Community Centre to have musical fun! If you play a band instrument and can read music, we would love to have you join us.



Perhaps you are rusty - that instrument has been gathering dust in the closet since high school - no worries! You will find the other members to be supportive and encouraging. If you need help finding an instrument, we may be able to help you with that as well.

The band plays a variety of music - concert band to jazz standards - and we play at community events along the east shore. In 2014 we held the first Kootenay community band festival where small community bands like ours meet over a weekend to rehearse and play together. We are pleased to see this festival continue with the next one slated to be held in Revelstoke.

Is there a conductor/leader out there who would like to lead us or share the leadership? We would dearly love to hear from YOU!!

For safety reasons, all band members must be double vaccinated as recommended by provincial and federal health authorities.

You are bound to enjoy this easy-going group of ALL AGES musicians. If you would like to join us or ask more questions, please contact:

Deberah Shears (deberahshears@aol.com) Beth MacLellan (maclilybee@gmail.com).



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#### **RDCK Recreation Commission No. 9 CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Non-profit groups can submit recreation grant-in-aid applications to the Rec 9 Commission by no later than noon (12pm MST), August 30, 2021. Late applications will not be considered for Fall Grants.

Online submissions only will be accepted this year. Please visit the RDCK website for Recreation grants to apply.

https://rdck.ca/EN/main/administration/grants/recreationgrants.html

The Rec 9 meeting to review applications is scheduled for Tuesday September 7 at 2pm on WebEx teleconference. The login details will be posted on the RDCK meetings page.



#### **RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITIES HOURS OF OPERATION**

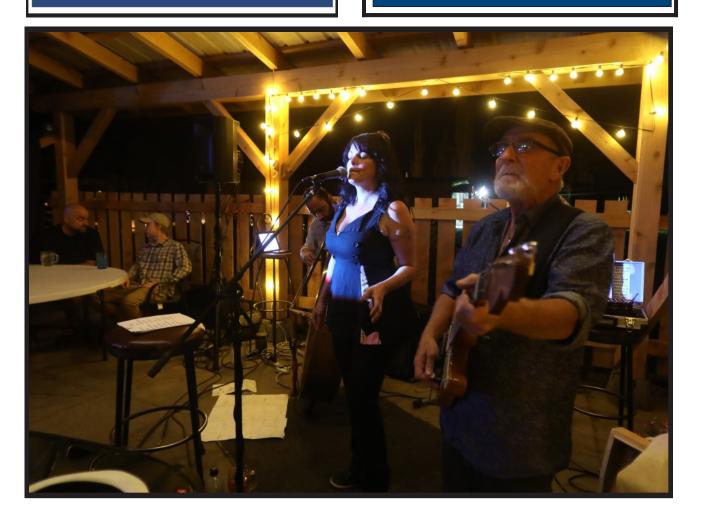
#### **Crawford Bay Transfer Station**

May 1, 2021 to November 6, 2021 9:00 am - 3:00 pmSunday, Tuesday & Thursday

#### **Boswell Transfer Station**

Year Round 11:00 am - 3:00 pm Wednesday & Saturday

How to Toll Free: 1-800-268-7325 reach us: Website: www.rdck.ca Facebook: @rdcentralkootenay



## ADS/LOCAL INTEREST







# Tune-Inn 17 The Starbelly Jam Stream and Live Events

Starbelly Jam took a different approach this year due to restrictions around Covid-19 and had a series of smaller, live events around the East Shore on July 17. Wherzpeter (Paul and Mary) hosted and introduced bands to those at the venues and those watching at home through Zoom. Sam Hurrie (top right) played at the Cabin, followed by the Bill Lynch Trio (middle right) at the Black Salt. After the trio, the Liquid Minds performed at the Hub (bottom right), Adam Shaikh with Ben Johnson and Will Morris at Kootenay Sound Healing Centre, and finally wrapping up with Estevan Artmin featuring Zabel Trio (left) at Newkey's pub.

Photos by Darren Makowichuk, photographer with Calgary Sun.







# Harrison Memorial Church Can we use it for music/arts?

by Zora Doval

Asitting on a lot surrounded by tall trees, holding many memories of times past is now on the crossroads: what will its future be?

We are pleased that after some negotiations the South Kootenay Lake ArtConnect Society, aka ArtConnect has been given the opportunity to make an offer on this extraordinary heritage building. We feel that this building that served for hundred years as a place of contemplation and worship, many concerts and weddings, Christmas and Easter celebrations can successfully transition into a future with community participation in many different areas.

Here's what we envision for this gem of a building.

- Various concerts each year, classical, jazz and recitals of other genres
- Traditional Christmas concerts yearly
- Coffee house events featuring local talent
- Literary arts performances including poetry readings & book signings; meetings of writer's groups
- Art openings and art auctions of local artists (hopefully with a little real wine and cheese?)
   Art workshops of various media
- Contemplative practices such as yoga, meditation, healing arts and mind-body energy disciplines (Chi Kung, Tai chi)
- Hosting lectures on topics of special interest such as local history, health, sustainability, spiritual teachings, travelogues
- Choir and band practices

We also envision that the church would be available for weddings and life celebration ceremonies.

We feel that this building is a gem not only of high esthetic quality, but it also was built very well by the late Commander Harrison of Wedgwood Manor. Its perhaps most significant quality is its excellent acoustics. The Harrison Church, along with the Temple of Divine Light at the Yasodhara Ashram, which is not open to public, are the best acoustic venues on the East shore. The building is priceless for its acoustic value alone and it is wise to acquire it for our growing community to serve as a medium size performance venue.

Our society is negotiating with the owners and the appropriate government agencies and have had meetings with the representatives of the CBT Heritage Fund. We are encouraged by the feedback we are receiving from local community. Many people in our East shore communities agree that it is a great idea for this building to transition to serve many more people as a venue for visual, musical, literary, and contemplative arts. A place of serene beauty with excellent acoustics, special ambiance and with rich history.

The vision is inspiring and of course, it will take some effort to make this a reality. The ArtConnect nonprofit society has already put a lot of volunteer hours into this project but we need help from all of our community, especially those with grant researching/writing skills.

Time is of the essence. You can initially support this vision by becoming a member of the society with an e-transfer of \$25 to esartconnect@gmail.com to be deposited in the society's account at Nelson and District Credit Union.

We are also working with an attorney to set up a trust fund for those residents who are able and willing to donate larger sums towards this acquisition, with the idea that if we don't succeed the money will be returned to the donors.

We are very thankful to RDCK Rec 9 and Gary Jackman for supporting this vision with a grant to

develop our website which will be online soon.

Please probe deeply into your mind and heart to see what your vision is for the future of this unique gem located in our community.

For a limited time, our community is given a chance to purchase the building and give it new life for the next hundred years as a place for contemplating and celebrating life's events, fostering our very precious local culture and so much more!

If this vision resonates with you, please, give us a call, we like to hear from you. This is a rare opportunity.

For more info, to become a member, or if you can offer some helpful ideas...

Call/text:
Zora Doval: 250 777 1856
Lois Wakelin: 250 277 9126
email/e-transfer: esartconnect@gmail.com



URGENT PLEA: WE NEED MEMBERS! Are you new to the area, or have you lived here a while and are looking for something to do this winter? Join our team of professional volunteers & help us help our community.

## East Shore Artist Profile Garth Low

by Sharman Horwood

Talent and Versatility

The East Shore is blessed with a number of talented artists, some who've migrated this way, and others native to the area. Garth Low was born and raised in Creston, and is now a Gray Creek artist. He combines his innate artistic talent with a variety of skills acquired throughout his life. He paints landscapes, as well as animal portraits. He also experiments with abstract expressionism, and, for a change of focus, works with ceramics, creating his own bowls and mugs.

As with so many artists, Garth's interest in painting started in childhood. His mother gave him a few lessons in painting landscapes with oil paints. She also let him play, by leaving tubes of oil paints around. Being an inquisitive child he explored with them. In school, he drove his teachers crazy by doodling in his notebooks. His skills didn't impress them. They felt he should be a little more focused on his school work.

After high school, he moved to Nelson to attend David Thompson University. When the government closed DTUC in 1984, Garth moved to Washington State University to finish his Bachelor in Fine Arts, followed by a graduate degree in art (a self-directed program that culminated for Garth in an exhibit of surrealistic portraits). From there, he moved to New York, and attended CUNY to continue studying art.

As happens to most students, Garth had to support himself. He worked as a cabbie in New York for a time, then returned to Canada. He took on a variety of jobs in construction and in the oil patch industry in Calgary, all of which left him with a set of new, different skills. His dream of pursuing art didn't end. He participated in a public exhibition in Creston at the Visitor Centre in 2019, and later in an exhibition sponsored by the Creston Arts Council at the Tilted Brick Gallery. He exhibited at the Leighton Centre, south of Calgary, in 2010. Before that, he was one of the artists featured in the Nelson Art Walk in 1994.

He and his wife, Maria, sold their house in Calgary,

and moved to Gray Creek. Garth missed the Kootenays. With his construction skills, he built their house, along with a separate studio outside. This year, he converted the bottom floor of their house into a gallery, the Lida Art Gallery and Gift Shop (14355 3A Highway, Gray Creek), where he displays his paintings, along with his ceramics.

Garth works with oil paints, giving his landscapes stunning colours and a dramatic sense of depth. He maintains that his style has "evolved from a rather flat illustrative technique to one of surface texture by using both palette knives and brushes

to describe" his subjects. In these he focuses primarily on realism and the natural world. A stunning painting is a large canvas of autumn leaves (the photo with this article shows this but doesn't convey the vivid colour, or the precise detail of the original with its extraordinary depth). My favourite is a row of boathouses along the edge of Kootenay Lake, glistening above the water in summer sunlight. The cold water and metal roof tones contrast with the warm summer hues, giving them drama. He says he targets "elements of colour, contrast and light." He "enjoys creating paintings that illustrate" his "deep appreciation for the natural environment of the Kootenays."

Garth also experiments with out of focus photographs. He takes the photos as if by accident, then paints the distorted images on large canvases, empha-

sizing the movement in the original photo. He is looking for "purity in the colour and the way motion can work." He says this series is "all about motion." He also practices control in their abstraction. In these he relies mostly on pastel colours with contrasting variations that give these abstract impressionist works a

stirring intensity.

Garth spends at least two hours painting in the morning. He likes to listen to documentaries, or Charles Bukowski's work, while he paints. Then he moves on to his ceramics. They present a different challenge for him. He finds this artistic sense is more physical, as he works with the wheel shaping the bowls and mugs. He finds that ceramics "ground" him "more than painting does? but the ceramic work



"complements" his paintings. He says "one ties into the other" in part because with ceramics he is creating "functional wear" whereas with painting, he is capturing the spectacular but brief moments of nature. He creates his own glazes which show his distinctive sense of drama in colour, as in his oil paintings.

He has advice for beginning artists. He says that "if you like it, keep doing it." He also pointed out that "if it's in you, don't let it stagnate. You don't need to be a success," in the usual sense of the word. Being "a good artist" brings success within you. As many other artists maintain, you should "just do it."

You can view Garth's original paintings and ceramics at the Lida Gallery, on Highway 3A, in Gray Creek



# Tom's Corner

# by Tom Lymbery Coronation Oaks

In the picture below, James Linn uses his 10' extendable pruning saw to trim lower branches from the Coronation Oak north of Gray Creek Store, at the beginning of the line of plane trees. James also took branches from the second oak at the foot of Oliver Road to ensure they don't obstruct the view of highway traffic, and hopefully preserve these historic trees for 100 years into the future.



James Linn trims lower branches from the 1937 Coronation Oak north of the Gray Creek Store. Photo: Tom Lymbery, 2021

In 1937 - Coronation year - Canadian communities were offered seedlings from acorns from the oaks around Windsor Castle in England. Meanwhile, King Edward V111, who had become involved with a divorced American woman, abdicated in favour of his younger brother. It was a well-publicized event.

My father Arthur Lymbery applied for two of the Windsor oak seedlings, and planted them with ceremony on the Coronation Day of King George V1 on May 12, 1937. About 25 attended the planting, including Bobby and Dorothy Graham Brown, who made the trip from Walker's Landing as recorded in "Dorothy's Stormy Lake."

The site for the ceremonial planting was, at that time, the end of the highway from Creston, where the sternwheeler *SS Nasookin* ferried motorists across the lake to continue their journey westward. There too was where the daily Greyhound unloaded passengers and mail sacks before taking the tortuous eight-foot back road to Crawford and Kootenay Bays. The vehicle lineup for the *Nasookin*'s three trips daily was on the upper side of the road, across from the old Gray Creek Store.

Gray Creek Historical Society's interpretive sign is next to the Coronation Oak, above the former wharf site. A smaller sign stands next to the second oak at the foot of Oliver Road.



Slim Williams with his team and wheeled dogsled somewhere in northern BC en route to the Chicago World's Fair, 1933. Postcard: Internet

# Tom's Other Corner Dog Team to the 1933 Chicago World's Fair

by Tom Lymbery

One day in June 1933 something most unusual came off the 10 AM *Nasookin* ferry at Gray Creek – an eight-dog team pulling a sled mounted on four pneumatic motorcycle wheels. Clyde Charles "Slim" Williams was on his way from Alaska to the 1933 Chicago World's Fair.

At the top of the wharf Tony Kunst was loading the mailbags for Crawford Bay, Port Crawford and Kootenay Bay into his Model A pick-up. He had some early lettuce and strawberries that he gave to Slim as a welcome. Tony was the mail carrier for mail brought by Greyhound three days a week. While Tony had the mail contract he lived in a driftwood shack on my dad's land. He later served as the Boswell postmaster for years.

In November 1932, at age 51, Slim Williams left Copper Centre, Alaska in minus 40 degree weather. He was determined to take his dog team all the way to the Chicago fair to promote the importance of building a highway between Alaska and the Lower 48. Slim had only the use of crude maps through essentially unmapped country, and for hundreds of miles he broke trail for his dogs through deep snow. His route led through Chicken, Alaska to Dawson City, YT, where he followed the Yukon River to Whitehorse. His most challenging trip was south of Atlin, following the Telegraph Trail to Hazelton, BC. By the time the team reached Smithers they had run out of snow, so he modified the sled with rubber tires – which actually made the pulling easier for the dogs.

I was barely five at the time, but I remember seeing the unusual dogsled on wheels in Gray Creek. Not the dog team, however - perhaps the dogs had been taken to the lake for a drink. Because of the publicity in the Smithers newspaper I was always under the impression that Slim's trip had started in Smithers. It took me some time to find the story in Google.

Lillian Weedmark, former curator of the Bulkley Valley Museum in Smithers wrote, "Williams rigged the sled up with wheels from a narrowed Ford chassis. Local schoolchildren had been so excited by his visit that he waited on Monday until they were out of school so they could watch him leave." *The Interior News* recorded that over a thousand people turned out to watch Slim and his wheeled dogsled leave Smithers. He was now clear of winter weather and aside from mud-holes, he was making good time. He travelled mainly at night to spare the dogs from the heat. These were Depression days. Slim sold postcards to help finance his trip, including one taken in Telkwa, BC, another in Hazelton, and many others.

I didn't see any reports on how he managed for food, or to stake out his team separately so they wouldn't fight. And no mention of what happens when a bitch is in heat (total disaster with all fighting for the next turn.) If puppies arrived they could ride on the wheeled sled - did Slim sell them? And what about leather booties to preserve the dogs' feet , or the material needed to repair the harnesses? The newspaper people obviously felt that the public had little interest in the dogs' welfare - or perhaps Slim felt it was too everyday to report that to the papers.

After mushing hundreds of highway miles, Slim arrived in Chicago in the autumn of 1933 in time for the World's Fair. Canadian small town newspapers kept up the story. On September 27th, for example, the New Hazelton *Omenica Herald* reported that Williams in Chicago "was travel worn and his dogs were tired and not favourably impressed by the hot weather." Slim and his team were hosts of the very popular "Alaska Cabin" exhibit at the fair before mushing on to Washington DC. There he camped in city parks for the winter and spoke to President Franklin D. Roosevelt about the importance of an international highway.

The Alaska Highway construction began in 1942, spurred on by the war with Japan, but not following the route that Slim blazed. His recommendation was up the Rocky Mountain Trench. Slim's travels by dog team had taken him 5,600 miles, and his story does not end there. His legacy is told in his biography, his own memoir, and more.

# **Tom Sez**

#### by Tom Lymbery

Gray Creek has rallied round with fire pumps and water tanks with the dangerous forest fire situation. Cedar Grove has a pump with a hose and tank on a truck – 250-227-9492. Our community pump has been added to a much larger tank – Klaus Plaumann: 250-505-3868 and more.

Sculptor John MacKinnon is featured by Touchstones Museum as such an innovative and accomplished sculptor – he designed Peter Duryea's stone in our cemetery.

The Smallholder – the long running Argenta magazine that featured letters and practical suggestions for Kootenay back to the landers is also being featured currently by Touchstones.

We grew up with forest tires started by lightning but fire suppression was very basic in those years. James Burge Sr. represented Forestry on the East Shore so he would organize a crew to slash a trail some miles up to the fire, engage a cook and set up a camp. At the age of 15, John Oliver would be employed packing supplies to the camp for 20 cents an hour, workers got 25 cents. With axes and Pulaski's they would build a firebreak trail to contain the fire. Fortunately, within a week a heavy rain would suppress the conflagration. That's what's missing this year — never having seen such a hot and dried out forest that we have this year — will it ever rain torrents?

Inever heard of a fire started by a discarded cigarette in those fargone years — even though they sold for 10 cents for a package of 10, or 25 cents for 25, one cent was actual money. Many saved their butts to save the tobacco, no filter tips and nearly everyone rolled their own, an ounce of fine cut was 25 cents and could be spun out to a 100 or so.

OAP BERRIES – species sapindus, apparently belonging to the Lychee nut family of trees and shrubs. This is a very common deciduous bush along Kootenay Lake and produced small bright red berries that produce suds when squeezed between your hands. Used by the native people to flavour the cakes of caribou moss, one of the few sustenance foods they were able to save for winters. Many of us grew up taking berry covered twigs to use a fish bait. Unfortunately, these are hard to find because the ravens eat them all, so the bushes are bare.

With so many random people being stabbed, should everyone carry dressings? Who are all these who carry knives?

McGregor Creek and Holiday Creek turned up on the local forest fire report but I haven't been able to find these – even looking at the Sportsmen's Map of West Kootenay which shows so many creeks.

In 1915 the Arrow Lakes sternwheeler was crossing the outflow of a creek when a floating large stump was seen – upside down with its roots spread out like octopus tenacles – hence the unusual name OCTO-PUS CREEK.

# GRAY CREEK PASS REPORT

#### by Tom Lymbery

With forest fires further up Redding Creek we would think the pass to be closed but this hasn't happened yet. Horrible year for fires with so many left to burn without being attacked with water bombers or helicopters.

We expected that the backcountry would be closed this season of terrible drought as it has been in previous years. I asked Engineering Technician Tina Zimmermann and she says this is decided by BC Wildfire - not the engineers on site – Tina and Len Palajac. So, the road remains open for drivers and Trans Canada Trail cyclists.

# Smarter Than Jack or Jill

by Sharman Horwood

Animals are smart, amazing creatures. If you have an animal story you'd like to share, please contact me at shhorwood@gmail.com.

#### **Cockatoo Wiles**

There are many intelligent birds, like corvids-jays, ravens, and crows--as well as many parrots. Among the parrots, African Greys and keas are among the brightest. However, cockatoos are clever, adaptable, and in Sydney, because of their ability to adapt to a human environment, they are being called the "Trash Parrots" of the Australian suburbs. This behaviour is learned, but not taught. It's social learning and cultural evolution among the cockatoos.

A group of Patagonian burrowing parrots live in a dry South American area. When they need water, they have taught themselves how to use the local farms' windmills to pump water up from deep wells. The windmills are a circle of cupped metal blades set on a high tower. When the wind blows, the blades turn, and the windmill pumps water up to a pipe. The parrots discovered that if they perch on the blades, their weight predominantly on one side of the windmill, the blades will turn beneath their collective weight. Then the water flows up and out of a pipe, delivered above ground where the parrots can drink it. Of course, the ranchers didn't teach the parrots how to do this: they watched the wind turning the blades, and they adapted their behaviour accordingly. What is fascinating about this adaptation is that they did it as a group. Since they don't have language, they observed one or two causing the mill to turn, and gradually the birds changed their behaviour, one bird observing and imitating the others. This is known as social learning.

Most animals learn by training. They are coaxed into behaving a certain way and then receive a reward. Social learning is different. With social learning, the animal watches and learns new behaviour from others of its kind: "new behaviors can be acquired by observing and imitating others . . . . learning is a cognitive process that takes place in a social context and can occur purely through observation" (Wikipedia). Sometimes this is called "observational learning," or "learning that occurs through observing the behaviour of others" (Wikipedia).

A whippet in the U.K. is a good example of this behaviour. The dog's owner broke his leg. Once he was somewhat mobile, using crutches, he noticed that his dog was walking the same way: one foot raised and limping. Worried about the animal, he immediately took it to the vet, only to find there was nothing wrong. The dog still didn't seem able to walk on four legs, however, so he took it to another vet. After another \$400 in vet bills, he was told that there was nothing wrong with the dog's leg. The dog was imitating him, perhaps even out of sympathy. The whippet was a smart dog, and dogs are strongly motivated pack animals. They will go to extraordinary lengths to "fit in." Imitating the owner was instinctual (video of this dog is on my Facebook page, back on April 14).

According to ParrotWebsite.com, many parrots are more intelligent than dogs: "For the most part in many of the standard pet intelligence tests parrots do much better than dogs. There are some tests where dogs compare, but ultimately parrots usually win" (ParrotWebside.com). In studies, sometimes parrots do better than humans, particularly children. The parrots in question are cockatoos, very intelligent birds that are adaptable, and known to make tools in the wild. In a lab in Vienna, scientists gave shape-recognition tests to some cockatoos. Like a child's wooden puzzles, they take an object of a certain shape, say a square, and match it with the square hole on the board (also on my Facebook page, July 26, taken from The New York Times). According to Cornelia Habl at the University, "This

was thought to be an exclusive human ability." Apparently cockatoos are even better at this than primates, and even humans. With complicated shapes, cockatoos do better than four-year old children.

Cockatoos are very clever birds. In Sydney, some have been dubbed "trash parrots," kind of like raccoons or other menaces, like keas, when it comes to garbage bins. In a New Zealand park, a group of keas learned how to open trash bin lids. Though Dr. Mark O'Hara of the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna isn't happy about it, the park attendants changed the lids to foil the birds. He says, "it would have been interesting to see how the kea would have developed over time." There's a certain irony in that since keas have learned to do a lot of things, including dismantling some parts of cars

In Sydney, the Vienna scientists plotted the spread of the cockatoos' behavior over a period of two years. They realized "it spread outward from its origin, indicating that the cockatoos were learning how to do it from each other."

The skill has become part of the cockatoos' culture. In certain areas, the birds will open the lids in one way, and in other areas, as the knowledge spreads through observation (social learning), the birds open them a different way. They call this "adaptive cultural evolution" and the knowledge spreads this way much more quickly than biological evolution. Dr. Barbara C. Klump of the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior observed that "the behavior popped up a second time in a suburb too far away from the first for the spread to be by social learning." According to Dr. Klump "culture has been called a second inheritance system and that it applies to both humans and animals, allowing us and them to quickly adapt and change our behavior."

Cockatoos evolved in a complex, and difficult part of the world, in Australia and in Indonesia. As a result, they are smart, and very adaptive. They're not just bird brains or clever pets.

# For the Love of Genre by Sharman Horwood

# A Wild Night on the Moors

Peter Robinson is a popular, and prolific, crime writer. He's written more than thirty novels, twenty-five of which are about Detective Supt. Alan Banks, a music loving police officer of the Yorkshire Dales. *Careless Love* (2018) is one of Robinson's best. It revolves around a series of unexplained deaths, all on the same night on the wild moorlands near Inspector Banks' home in the Dales.

The first death might be suicide. A young woman is found in a car that has been left at the side of the road that crosses the Belderfell Pass. The car isn't abandoned; the owner has had car troubles and had to leave it on the side of the road until he or she could arrange to have it towed to a garage. Apparently, the police knew about the car, and given the remote location and the problems with recent weather, a bright yellow POLICE AWARE sign had been placed above the dashboard. The sign would normally save further telephone calls informing the police station of the car.

The young woman--Adrienne Munro--didn't own a car herself. She is a second-year university student, and like the car, her body had obviously been dumped in this isolated spot after she'd died elsewhere. She is dressed to go out for the evening: a black, strapless dress and heels. However, she isn't carrying a purse, nor is there any cell phone in the car. In fact, her body shows no sign of violence. Only the autopsy tells the police team how she died. Learning why takes them much longer.

At the same time, the body of an older man is discovered on the moors. Hikers on Tetchley Moor found him at the bottom of a gully. He's in his mid-60s and he, too, is dressed for an evening out. He has on an expensive grey business suit, white shirt with

striped tie and costly shoes. Like Adrienne, his clothes are not appropriate for an evening of tramping along the moor's dark trails in bad weather. He, too, has no cell phone with him. The police later learn he is Laurence Hadfield, a wealthy investment banker. How he arrived at this isolated spot isn't clear. How he died is much more apparent. When he fell, his head struck a sharp stone.

There are obvious parallels between the two deaths, but nothing to link them. Is Adrienne Munro's death a suicide? They have to learn more about her life at university, by talking to her friends and fellow students. Also, was Hadfield's death murder or accident? They have trouble learning anything about the last few hours of his life.

Then a third body is found.

Peter Robinson himself is from the Yorkshire Dales. He began his education at the University of Leeds, but moved to Canada in 1974. He continued his education in writing crime fiction at the University of Windsor, and York University in Ontario. He is a master at writing police procedural crime novels and has won many awards, including the 2020 Grand Master Award from the Crime Writers of Canada.

Robinson's novels are some of the best police procedural crime fiction, and there are many notable ones in this subgenre, such as Michael Connelly's *Bosch* series, or Ian Rankin's *Inspector Rebus* novels. "The defining element of a police procedural is the attempt to accurately depict the profession of law enforcement, including such police-related topics as forensic science, autopsies, gathering evidence, interrogation and adherence to legal restrictions and procedures" (Wikipedia).

Television crime programs are rarely accurate. Search warrants are easy to secure, and arresting suspects on little or no evidence are common. They aren't an accurate portrayal of police procedures. Many of the novels of this subgenre, however, reflect the reality more. Also, while many of the novels give details of the problems in the detectives or officers' private lives, in the *Banks* series, the personal is included if it reflects the officer's thought process. In the *Banks* series, the embellishment is knowledge of music, from the 1960s to today. Also Robinson's novels have inspired a successful television series in the U.K.: *The Inspector Banks' Mysteries* but that hasn't succeeded in making the jump across the Atlantic for the North American PBS audiences.

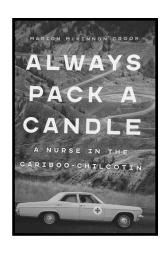
When asked about the development of the Banks' series over the years, Robinson says that, "Banks is a character who has evolved over many books, rather than someone who was born fully formed." (The Crime-House, 2009). Robinson divides his time between Canada and the U.K., splitting his year between the two countries. When he's asked about why his main character is a Yorkshire man, Robinson quotes Graham Greene: "The first twenty years of a writer's life contains his whole experience, and the rest is detail" (TheCrimeHouse, 2009). In other words, the first two decades of a writer's life form the foundation of his-or her--perspective and Robinson believes that that is very true in what he writes. He also adds that some of the Swedish authors are "among the best writers of crime fiction today."

I recommend all of Peter Robinson's novels. My two favourites, however, are *All the Colours of Darkness* (2008), and *Careless Love* (2018). Either one makes a good summer read.

Next Deadline: Aug 25, 2021

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

by Tom Lymbery



ALWYS PACK A
CANDLE – a Nurse in
the Cariboo – Chilcotin,
by Marion McKinnon
Crook, Heritage House,
179 pages, \$22.95

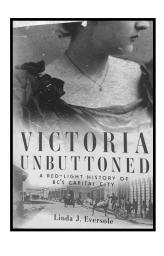
I enjoyed this book immensely – just completed training, in 1963 Marion McKinnon came to Williams Lake as a 22 year old public health nurse. She had a government issue Chevrolet sedan in which she took

immunization supplies, emergency drugs and baby scales to her enormous territory.

In those years birth control was illegal in Canada but she was faced with isolated ladies with up to 10 children who were desperate to end that yearly birth. Marion herself was completely unfamiliar with sex so learned a lot from group discussions with these ladies and came up with whatever brochures she could find on this forbidden subject. We have to thank Pierre Elliott Trudeau for finally getting the government out of Canada's bedrooms.

She never tells us if she had to actually use that candle – carried to be able to survive if stuck in her car somewhere in mud or snow. She did get high centered after driving in wheel tracks in the mud but someone came soon to pull her out. Mud was a fearsome problem – with so much available gravel in our Kootenays we don't realize what a hazard it was in farming country.

Well written and entertaining story of how a public health nurse could help ladies with newborns and more – travelling west for 400 miles in the beautiful Chilcotin.



VICTORIA
UNBUTTONED, a Red
Light History of BC's
Capital City, by Linda
J. Eversole, Touchwood
Editions, 211 pages,
\$20.00

This author has put a great deal of research into a subject that has left little accurate records. Police prosecutions and occasional newspaper stories being the only ones printed.

Much hearsay about what was supposedly a banned subject in mixed company.

She found quite a few photos of some of the leading madams, who mostly came to Victoria from San Francisco, sometimes bringing some of their staff of "ladies of the night". The Cariboo gold rush brought floods of miners from the US to Victoria so naturally these elementary business women followed. (today I find that I am in the habit of using "ladies" so have to catch that as its not appropriate)

I'm not at our store much so wont be able to confirm my earlier report that books on prostitution are almost always purchased by ladies. (Looking for hints on how to keep your guy interested?)

> Next Deadline: Aug 25, 2021

# East Shore Community Reading Centre

#### by Taryn Stokes, Librarian

Happy August to everyone! If you are looking for a place to pop in and beat the heat or hide from the smoke - the East Shore Community Reading Centre is the place to be on Tuesdays and Saturdays between noon and 3PM. New members are always welcome - it is easy to join, and free.

We had 223 items checked out in July so far, served 43 patrons and added 25 new items to the catalog. There are some new additions to popular series - *The Bone Code* (Kathy Reichs), *Black Ice* (Brad Thor), *The Cellist* (Daniel Silva), *Dead by Dawn* (Paul Doiron), *Fallen* (Linda Castillo) and *The Man with the Silver Saab* (Alexander McCall Smith). Standalone new books include *The Forest of Vanishing Stars* (Kristen Harmel), *Ghost Forest* (Pik-Shuen Fung), *Such a Quiet Place* (Megan Miranda) and *What Strange Paradise* (Omar El Akkad).

Although it is only July it is time to place the order for new materials being released this fall. We will see the return of favorite characters including Dirk Pitt, Renee Ballard and Harry Bosch, Jack Reacher, Kay Scarpetta, and Stone Barrington. Also anticipated are books by authors Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny, Anthony Doerr, Mitch Albom and Chris Hadfield.

On your tour through town don't forget to bring your visitors to the library. Gently used hardcover and paperback books are available for the price of a small donation! Take care and happy reading.

# Next Deadline: Aug 25, 2021

# Book Release Ocellus & Chitkin



Stories you'll read with your grandchildren, children and with anyone you love who'll ask you to read more again and again. Exciting and suspenseful!

Humour and contagious tales from Grama Feebly help to explain the life of ants and the

story of chocolate. Each story is just long enough and part of the developing tale.

Can the two loveable ants, Ocellus & Chitkin, escape? The stories keep everyone hoping they do and cheering them on as their daring attempts and magical plans get them closer.

Children will happily imagine where Ocellus & Chitkin are, being there with them and how to help them escape.

You'll have fun finding some of the answers, maybe just for yourself.

Ocellus & Chitkin, two ants, to freedom, tonight. A new book by local author, Michael E. Jones

Available now: Otter Books, Railtown Coffee-house, and www.chocolatechoice.ca.

# Blast from the Stacks Riondel Library News

# by Muriel Crowe, Shirleen Smith & the Riondel Librarians

This past month, my fellow librarian and sister were tooling down the highway singing along with the car stereo when we both burst into sardonic snorts when "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes" came up on the playlist.

Indeed, according the Platters: "They said someday you'll find All who love are blind

When your heart's on fire You must realize

Smoke gets in your eyes."

As we at Riondel Library can attest, smoke is troubling lovers, likers, the disenchanted and everyone in between. Still, the library has what you need to distract you from the challenging air quality (especially if you enjoy them indoors): a healthy collection of reading material and DVDs, with new ones arriving all the time.

If the smoke-free solace of a good read isn't sufficiently diverting, we also have our current Contest with its tantalizing prize of a chance to win a gift certificate to Ladybug Cafe down by the ferry. Congratulations to last month's winner, Wendy Leger, who successfully identified the Osprey as the topic of a new Young Adult book in the library.

This month's puzzle is: What Author Am I? Here are the clues:

- 1. We're looking for the names of two prolific East Shore authors, one woman and one man.
- 2. One of the authors is the renowned historian of the East Shore.
- 3. The second prize-winning author is described as "part farmer, part poet, part activist."
- 4. Both authors contribute regularly to the *Mainstreet*. Their books are to be found in the Riondel Library, among many other places.
- 5. Fill in the blanks with their names:

The woman author:

The male author:

6. Lastly, a hint: Enter the contest even if you can only name one author. If there are no perfect entries, we'll draw from the best entries.

Our other big news this month is disappointing to us all. Unfortunately there will be no Grand Book Sale this summer. However, to take some of the sting away, there will be an ongoing Baby-Grand Book Sale. Book sale tables have been set up just inside the East doors (where you've been picking up your books all year) in the Kids section. So come and stock up on a great selection of mostly new books and DVDs for your pandemic/wildfire smoke/heat dome reading pleasure! Check in regularly as new books will be added to the sale table. The price is by donation to the Library. (We applaud your generosity).

So, when can I take advantage of this delightful sale, you ask? Anytime the library is open!

**Library Hours:** Mon, Wed and Sat, 10am to noon **To keep everyone healthy:** Masks are mandatory. Only 5 patrons at a time. Practice social distancing. If there's a lineup, limit your stay to 20 minutes (and come back later)

To take out a book: Drop by the library in person or use our take-out service by emailing or phoning the Library. A librarian will let you know when your books are ready to pick up, usually the next open day. Return books any time through the return slot in the East door.

**Computers:** Sadly, there's still no public computer access at this time.

**Battery Recycling:** Yay, you can still bring in your batteries for recycling.

#### To Contact the Library:

-phone: 250-225-3242

-email: the librarian@bluebell.ca

-Visit the website to see the latest offerings: library. riondel.ca

# Wildsight's Youth Climate Corps to run for a second year in the West Kootenays

Wildsight is seeking to hire a group of young adults in the West Kootenay area interested in tackling unique local projects that address the global climate crisis and support local community priorities.

From September to December 2021, crew members on the Youth Climate Corps (YCC) will earn wages and receive training in leadership, teamwork, and communication, as well as practical skills and certifications for climate-related fields such forestry, food, energy, ecology, and more. No prior experience is required. YCC successfully launched its first crew in Nelson last fall and a second in the Kimberley Cranbrook area earlier this year.

On this team, you will be part of an innovative agroforestry project aimed at generating various community benefits from growing food in fuel breaks created to reduce wildfire risk along community boundaries. Other work will focus on reducing wildfire risk directly by creating these fuel breaks along key community infrastructure and in ecologically valuable forest areas.

Other YCC projects in the West Kootenay area are under development and are expected to focus on enhancing food security and sustainability, efficient energy use, and ecosystem restoration. In addition to their physical projects, crew members will seek to engage community leaders and residents in thinking about how to prepare our communities for a resilient future, while contributing to global efforts to halt and reverse climate change as urgently as possible. For many of last year's West Kootenay crew members, the connections they made during the program become invaluable for them take the next step in their careers:

"It was truly a unique program that involved physical work, networking with local professionals, and a space for developing skills to help tackle the climate crisis," describes Kim Molyneaux, who now works in forestry.

Wildsight is thrilled to be continuing with the Youth Climate Corps program in the West Kootenays.

For more information and to apply, visit wild-sight.ca/youth-climate-corps. Applications are due by August 9th.



# **East Shore Hospice**

by Barb Kuhn

East Shore Hospice is sending an invitation for volunteers to join our team. We provide companionship for the dying and respite for their caregivers. A willingness to listen and be present, and a clean background check are some of the requirements for those providing this service. It is free of charge to those who are dying and their caregivers.

Training will be provided for volunteers. We have very few people at the moment, so we need your help to keep our services going. The need for hospice care will be increasing in the near future, due to the demographics of our population.

If you would like to help us care for the dying in our community, please call Susan Dill at East Shore Hospice.

If you or someone you know is in need of Hospice Care or you would like more information, please contact Susan Dill East Shore Hospice Coordinator at the East Shore Community Health Center Hospice Office at 250 227-9006. In addition there is a free Library with hospice related books and some DVD's on care, grief and mourning. The Library is best accessed at the Hospice Office on Tuesdays between 10am-2pm. Watch for more articles and information on Hospice care that will be posted regularly in The East Shore Mainstreet by Maggie Kavanagh and/or Barb Kuhn or any one of our other volunteers.

# in Writing Some General (and Mainstreet-Specific) Rules to Follow

#### a Mainstreet submission

- Only capitalize proper nouns, titles, the first word in a paragraph and the first word after a period. In other words, capitalize the names of people, specific places, and things. For example: We don't capitalize the word "bridge" unless it starts a sentence, but we must capitalize Big Orange Bridge because it is the name of a specific bridge.
- Exclamation marks are overused and therefore lose emphasis. They are meant to indicate yelling or great excitement/suprise. Less is more.
- Last names should always be included in newspaper submissions.
- Numbers lower than 10 should be written out. "Seven times I wrote the number 17."
- *Mainstreet* prefers the date format as follows: *March 20, 2017* or *March 20/17*. We remove the little date suffixes (22nd, 31st) as a policy, and always change the format of *20th of April, 2017*.

While *Mainstreet* loves, adores, cherishes and is eternally grateful to her submitters and writers, small adjustments to formatting like those stated above make the job much more smooth and efficient. But, don't worry, we'll fix them if you don't.

# Pickleball in the Park

#### **Saturdays 9:30-11:30am**

Join us on Saturdays for Pickleball in the Park. We are pickleball enthusiasts (3.5-4.0), live at Eastshore Properties just south of Crawford Bay, and hope to encourage pickleball play on the Eastshore. Can you imagine a more beautiful setting!

When - every Saturday 9:30-11:30 am weather permitting

Where - Crawford Bay Park, Tennis/Pickleball Courts

Why - Fun, exercise, and Community. Come out and play. If you have never played, come and learn about this fast growing sport.

Hope to see you Saturday. We have extra paddles and balls.

Contact debharris05@gmail.com; apirie@uvic.ca

# Good News from the East Shore Health Centre

# Submitted by East Shore Kootenay Lake Community Service Society

Awarm welcome goes out to Tara Heffernan, our new community care nurse and Jennifer Diosy who is our Adult Mental Health and Substance Abuse Clinician.

Jenn Diosy, Adult Mental Health and Substance Abuse Clinician is hired by North Kootenay Lake Community Service Society (NKLCSS) and is accepting new clients. Previous clients who worked with Alexis Phillips and NKLCSS will be contacted. If you would like to contact Jenn call 250-505-6929 or email jenniferdiosy@interiorhealth.ca.

Tara Heffernan, our Community and Home Health Nurse can be reached at the East Shore Health Centre (250-227-9006) or at 250-227-9019. Tara works three days a week on the East Shore, and residents can access her services through your doctor or nurse practitioner.

Our previous home health nurse Nicola Candy shared a list of services provided by the home health nurse. These services include:

- 1. Long Term Care—providing support for aging adults with chronic conditions including dementia (or disabled through stroke etc. younger adults) at home by assessing needs and having Community Health Workers visit for care needs such as medication reminder/administration; assisting with activities of daily living, some meal prep
- 2. Home Care Nursing—This is provided for clients requiring skilled nursing procedures—example dressing changes, suture removal, catheter care. This can be provided in a person's home if the person is unable to attend the clinic
- **3. Palliative Care/End of Life**—supporting clients to remain in their home by providing skilled nursing procedures; ordering equipment for the home—hospital beds, mechanical lifts, commodes, grab bars, shower/bath chairs; providing home support for care or respite
- **4. Referrals** to other clinicians including Elder services, for mental health or dementia; Occupational Health; Physiotherapy; Social Work
- **5. Presenting clients for placement** either in Residential or Assisted Living, when care at home is no longer possible

All of these require quite in-depth assessments and collaboration with other health care team members. The nurse works closely with the physicians and nurse practitioner as well as the other clinicians to provide individualized patient care.

Thanks to Nicola Candy for sharing this, and for her kind and good service on the East Shore, we appreciate all of our health workers.

The other good news is that Interior Health is initiating a VISIONING process regarding health services on the East Shore. Please email suggestions and ideas to eshealthsociety@gmail.com, or call a board member of ESKLCHS (community health society) or call Laverne at 250-551-6020.

Next Deadline: Aug 25, 2021 www.eshore.ca

# Notice of Passing

Dorothy Juanita Meekis June 9, 1944 – July 19, 2021



As an avid artist, poet, gardener, dedicated teacher, lifelong learner, voracious game-player and certified status Indian who was born in England (while bombs dropped) to a British mother and an American-born Canadian soldier with bootlegging Kentucky roots, Juanita's life was bound to be a bit complicated.

But Juanita found the Kootenays and her place in the world. "My life has been incredibly perfect living here and owning a piece of the Kootenays." "We are so lucky to live here," was heard repeatedly as she gazed at the beauty around her, grateful to the last moment for the many supportive friends and neighbours who helped her to remain in her home throughout her long battle with Parkinson's.

In memory of Juanita, please consider helping someone who is choosing to age in their home. Weed a garden, read a book, wash a floor, listen to a story, or tend to the fire. Type their words for them when their hands can no longer manage the task.

We are all getting older; we are the lucky ones.

# The Fitness Place

Open Again!
7 days per week
5:30am-10:30pm

The regulations will be the same as before, with a MAXIMUM of six people at once, socially distanced. We will not have supervisors at this time. Please pre-book your gym time by texting Amy at:

587-434-8770

Email eastshorefacilities@gmail.com for more info.

# Notice of Passing

Edward Arthur Bennett Nov. 7, 1944 - July 17, 2021



Ed was a lifetime resident of the East Kootenays where he lived in Kimberley and Cranbrook until retiring and moving to Gray Creek.

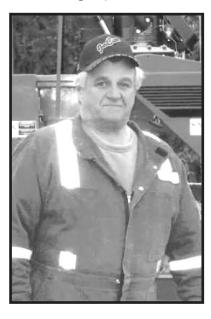
Ed is survived by his wife, Arla, and a daughter, Waunita, a son, Jason. Also missing him are grandchildren, Devan, Conner,

Kaysia, and Kiefer. He had two great grandchildren, Andrew and Kadance, that he loved to have visit. Family and friends were all important to Ed, especially his nephew, Jerry, and his children, Tayor and Katelyn.

A family/friends gathering will be held at a future time.

# Notice of Passing

Leonard Wilfred Rycks May 9, 1945 – June 6, 2021



Leonard (Len) Wilfred Ryks passed away on June 6, 2021 with his loving wife by his side in Boswell, BC at the age of 76 years.

Len was born on May 9, 1945, in Barrhead, AB to parents Robert and Marie Ryks. He left the family farm at the age of 17 to work in the oil patch. The oil industry gave him the opportunity to travel across

Canada, the United States of America, and overseas. Len also owned a trucking company called "Blue Heron Trucking", supplying water to the general public as well as the oil field. He retired from the industry in 2007, at which time gardening and woodworking became his passion.

Len had an artist's eye when it came to wood, he could look at a piece and envision the final product.

Len will be lovingly remembered by his wife Sharlene, son Wayne, daughters Lenora (Shawn), and Angela (Ian), stepson Shawn, brother Elmer (Pam), four grandchildren Shantel, Cameron, Erin, and Ryan, as well as five great grandchildren Eli, Grayson, Sadie, Asher and Jaxson. Len was predeceased by his parents Robert and Marie, brothers Harold, Wilhelm, Walter, Werner, and John.

No Celebration of Life Service to be held at this time. Friends wishing to make a memorial contribution may do so to the Boswell Memorial Hall, c/o Linda Brown, 12374 Boswell Road, Boswell, BC V0B 1A4, or to the Boswell and District Emergency Volunteers (BADEV), 12019 Hwy 3A, Destiny Bay, BC, V0B 1A3. Condolences for the family may be offered at www. crestonvalleyfuneralservices.ca.

Funeral Arrangements entrusted to Creston Valley Funeral Services.



# Memorial Wall

Whether your loved one has scattered ashes, was buried elsewhere or was 'beamed up', the **Memorial Wall** in **Gray Creek Cemetery** can mark their time here.

Visit the unique woodland cemetery on Oliver Road South and contact **Tom at lymbery@netidea.com** for a handsome brass plaque.

# Notice of Passing

Mary Catherine Cummings Nov 18, 1932 - July 1, 2021



Ary Catherine Cummings (nee Serra) passed away on July 1, 2021, in Creston, BC at the age of 89 years. Mary was born on November 18, 1932, in Bellevue, AB to parents Edythe and Martin Serra and moved to the Creston Valley as a young girl. She grew up as the oldest in a family of four girls. Mary was a wonderful big sister;

you could never find a more loving or more caring sister. She was always there when you needed her and that continued throughout her whole life. Mary had many happy memories of her years in the Canadian Girls In Training (CGIT) and their yearly camping week at Cummings Resort, where she met her future husband, Arnold.

After graduating from high school in Creston, Mary left for Calgary to get her nursing certificate at the Holy Cross Hospital and then returned home to work at the Creston Valley Hospital for many years. She eventually married her true love, Arnold Cummings of Boswell, BC. They spent many happy years running the resort together and became very well-respected members of the Boswell Community.

Mary enjoyed being a part of the Boswell Ladies Club, where every May she would help with the Annual Plant and Rummage Sale. She loved helping with the rummage sale and would always balance the books to the penny! In November, she helped with the Fall Tea and Bake Sale and that was Arnold's favourite too because she would purchase enough baking to last him six months...as baking was not something she did, matrimonial cake was by far the favourite. Mary enjoyed gardening, playing crib, and was a whiz at carpet bowling. She loved all the hall get-togethers with their Boswell family. Mary volunteered for many years with the Boswell First Responders. She enjoyed having her sisters come to the lake with their families each and every summer for many years and she loved spending time with all her nieces and nephews as well as great nieces and nephews.

She generously gave of her time and made us all feel special and loved always. Mary loved her family dearly and was always the first to tear up during goodbyes...So there will be no goodbye to our dear Auntie Mary, but instead a see you later.

Mary was predeceased by her husband Arnold Cummings in 2008, sister Marguerite Kaiser, nieces Laurie Kaiser, Cindy LeMoigne, and Penny Ludwar, and great niece Braidy Ludwar who she loved dearly, and she always had a special place in her heart for.

She will be lovingly remembered by her sisters Peachie Key of Penticton, BC, Ardell (Karl) Johansen of Penticton, BC, Don (Libby) Kaiser of Calgary, AB, Ted (Kathy) Kaiser of Calgary, AB, and Danny Mesenchuk of Calgary, AB as well as numerous great nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life Service was held on Thursday July 15, 2021, at the Boswell Community Hall with a graveside service held at the Boswell Community Cemetery immediately following. It was also live streamed by Creston Valley Funeral Services.

Friends wishing to make a memorial contribution may do so to the Boswell Memorial Hall Society, 12374 Boswell Road, Boswell, BC V0B 1A4, which was an incredibly special place to Mary.

She will be dearly missed by so many. Until we meet again... xoxo. Condolences for the family may be offered at www.crestonvalleyfuneralservices.ca.

Funeral Arrangements entrusted to Creston Valley Funeral Services.

#### SERVICES DIRECTORY/CLASSIFIEDS

The Service Directory is a great way to have your business listed as a reference for those shopping for a particular professional service. Keep your phone number handy and your message clear.

#### **AUTOMOTIVE/MARINE**

**EASTSHORE AUTOMOTIVE -** Service & Repair 250-227-9370

**NORTHSTAR CRESTON** - 1-800-551-9351 Full service 8-bay shop featuring Certified Service lube,oil and filter starting at \$24.95 plus parts & eco fees. Full line of major tire brands, GM & AC Delco parts and batteries.

#### **BUS/ORG SERVICES/ANNOUNCEMENT**

**ARTISAN'S SHOPPE -** Circle of Friends, open 11am to 3pm, Thursday-Saturday, Riondel

**MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE** of B.C. Quotes on Homes, Mobiles, Farms & Tenants. Seniors discounts at 55. Home Protection; No Claim; New Home. ph/fax 250-428-7937, broker Virginia Harder. wvharder@ shaw.ca

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** If you drink, and don't want to stop, that's your business. If you drink and find you can't stay stopped, that's ours. 250.800.4125

# CONSTRUCTION/CONTRACTORS/TRADES HULLAND AND LARSEN CONSTRUCTION

- experienced residential construction & custom finish work. 250.551.2915 or 250.505.3570. (see ad in contractor section)

NEW BUILD & RENOVATION - Design Consulting Services Westwood Cabinetry - Kitchen, Bath & Custom Closets. Furnish, refresh and update your home or rental property. Book an appointment - jennifer@socialroominteriors.ca. Visit SRI Design - www.socialroominteriors.ca

**SAMURAI HARDWOOD FLOORING:** Sales, Installations, Tile, Stairs and Millwork www.samurai-hardwood.com 2505513764.

**TURLOCK ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING LTD.** (See colour ad in this issue for more information.) 250-227-9688 or 250-551-4671

#### **PERSONAL CARE/HEALTH**

ALEXIS PHILLIPS, M.A., R.C.C. - Registered Clinical Counsellor specializing in complex trauma, relationship issues, grief & loss, anxiety & depression. Apptmnt/consultation, call 250-509-0368. Email: alexandralianephillips@gmail.com

**BLANCHE TANNER** - Breath Practitioner, (Family Constellation) Heart-Centred Therapy (Meditation), Healing Emotional, Physical & Sexual Abuse, Addictions, Relationships, Anxiety, Depression.227-6877

**COUNSELLING & SUPPORT SERVICES:** Free and Confidential for children, adults and families. Services include: Adult Mental Health and Addictions; Child Youth Mental Health; & Family Support. Call 1-866-774-5324 (toll-free) or 250-353-7691. North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society.

**EAST SHORE HOSPICE** - Palliative care for anyone facing life threatening illness. Confidential support for individuals and their loved ones. Hospice can also provide grief and bereavement support. 250 227 9006 ext 29 - eastshorehospice@gmail.com. Volunteers needed. Please contact for more info

ELISA ROSE SHAW, QHHT PRACTITIONER: Certified Level 2 in Quantum Healing Hypnosis Technique. Healing and answers through past life regression and connecting with your higher self. Email elisaroseforever@gmail.com, call 250-505-0128.

#### KOOTENAY SOUND HEALING CENTRE on

Riondel Road, offering Sound Healing treatments, Gong meditations, Astrology consultations, Workshop/Event space, Acutonics® classes, and products. www.kootenaysoundhealing.com, 250-225-3518, theresa@kootenaysoundhealing.com

PROVINCIALLY REGISTERED HCA -

Christian McStravick providing confidential, home based support for individuals, and their family members. Specializing in personalised home health care, respite care, and hospice care. Servicing Boswell to Riondel. Please contact Christian via phone:250.225.1955 or email:christianmcstravick@gmail.com

**REGISTERED ACUPUNCTURIST, LISA SKOREYKO R.AC.** Treatment for pain, emotional disturbances, gastrointestinal issues and much more. 250.777.2855. Unit #9 Crawford Bay Inn. 16210 Hwy 3A, Crawford Bay.

**REGISTERED HERBAL THERAPIST, MAS- TER HERBALIST** - Maya Skalinska, M.H., R.H.T. Iridology, Tongue & Pulse analysis, Nutritional consultations, individual herbal remedies, Flower Essence consultations & remedies. For appointments, please call 250-225-3493.

**REGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPIST:** Harreson Tanner - Over 40 years clinical experience. Treatment of Lumbo/Sacral Strain, Whip Lash, Frozen Shoulder, Migranes/ Headaches, TMJ problems, & Stress. No doctor referrel required. 250.505-6166.

**SUSAN SNEAD ACUTONICS PRACTITIO- NER (TUNING FORK THERAPY):** With certificates in Ayurvedic massages, Foot Reflexology, Fibonacci tuning fork alignment. Bach Flower Remedies and Astrological consultations. 250.225.3520.

THERESA LEE MORRIS, SOUND HEAL-ING TREATMENTS with planetary gongs, singing bowls, tuning forks and chimes. Certified Acutonics Practitioner and Instructor, theresa@kootenaysound-healing.com, 250-225-3518

WILLIAM MORRIS, PhD, DAOM, offering astrological consultations combining 40 years of clinical practice weaving Chinese medicine, Astrology and Sound Healing. wmorris33@gmail.com 250-225-3518

#### **RENTALS/ACCOMMODATION**

**YEAR ROUND SHORT TERM ACCOMMO-DATION.** Bluebell Cottage in Riondel. Can sleep up to 10 people. Newly renovated, warm and cozy. 250-551-7953. Openings still available for the holidays.

#### **RESTAURANTS**

CRAWFORD BAY HALL & COMMUNITY CORNER BUILDING - available for community events, wedding receptions, workshops etc. Non-smoking facilities. bookings@cbhall.ca

**NEWKEY'S PLACE** - Hwy 3A in Crawford Bay, licensed area. Open noon til close Monday to Sunday. Food Specials all day. 227-6911.

**ROCKWOOD CAFÉ** - Authentic Chinese food, and perfect burgers. Open Tues - Sun. Hwy 3A Gray Creek. 227-6840.

#### YARD/LANDSCAPING/SITE PREP

**TREE SERVICE, RESIDENTIAL** - Fully insured Limbing, Pruning, Topping, Falling. Danger Tree Assessments, Free Estimates. Call James Linn at 250 225 3388

### **CLASSIFIED ADS**

#### **BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Insurance Certification** requires professional chimney installation – we are the pros – Gray Creek Store, 250.227.9315

#### **BUSINESS SERVICES**

**Fax service,** photocopies, (with no PST/GST) Tom Lymbery – Notary Public, 250- 227-9315, fax 227-9449, 250 551 0423 for Notary Public.

Next Deadline: Aug 25, 2021

Massage Therapy Harreson Tanner, RMT Over 40 years clinical experience



\* Knowledgeable \* Skilled \* Experienced For appointments, call 250-505-6166

- Planning a wedding?
- Holding a meeting?

Consider renting the BOSWELL MEMORIAL HALL

Booking/info: Karen Lee at 250.223.8686



"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." - Walt Disney

Have you ever thought about turning your passion into a business? Do you think you have what it takes to be an entrepreneur? Contact Community Futures for more information on Programs & Workshops available to you!

Call Amanda Murray at 403-678-7044 or amurray@futures.bc.ca to book a free appointment in Creston.

www.futures.bc.ca

Growing communities one idea at a time.



Next Deadline: Aug 25, 2021

Community Notices, Thank You's, Not-For-Profit Announcements (all not releated to business), Church Calendar & Meeting Places free on the Bulletin Board.

> **BULLETIN BOARD BULLETIN BOARD**

CHILD AND ADULT IMMUNIZATIONS, **CRESTON PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT** 250-428-3873.

EAST SHORE HEALTH CENTRE Call 227-9006 \*See BELOW for doctor and nurse practioner days\*

Doctor hours are from 9:30am to 4:30 pm. Please call 227-9006. Appointments are required.

For emergency care, call 911 We are not an emergency facility.

#### **HEALTH PHONE NUMBERS**

ES Health Centre: 227-9006

**Community Nursing:** 1.800.707.8550 Ext: 2 then Ext 3

> Mammography: 1.800.663.9203

Mental Health & Substance Use Clinician, Jen Diosy - Appointments only: 250.505.6829

**Laboratory Services:** 

1.877.740.7747 or www.labonlinebooking.ca for Lab Appoinments

#### **DOCTOR /NURSE DAYS: August 2021**

Aug 2, Mon: STAT, clinic closed Aug 3, Tues: Dr Piver/Jayme Ingram Aug 4, Weds: Dr. Moulson/Jayme Ingram

Aug 5, Thurs: Jayme Ingram Aug 6, Fri: Jayme Ingram Aug 9, Mon: No Coverage Aug 10, Tues: Dr. Piver Aug 11, Weds: Dr. Moulson Aug 12, Thurs: No Coverage Aug 13, Fri: No Coverage Aug 16, Mon: Jayme Ingram

Aug 17, Tues: Dr Piver/Jayme Ingram Aug 18, Weds: Dr. Moulson/Jayme Ingram

> Aug 19, Thurs: Jayme Ingram Aug 20, Fri: Jayme Ingram Aug 23, Mon: No Coverage Aug 24, Tues: Dr. Piver Aug 25, Weds: Dr. Moulson Aug 26, Thurs: No Coverage Aug 27, Fri: No Coverage Aug 30, Mon: No Coverage

Aug 31, Tues: Dr. Piver NO WALK-IN SERVICES APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED

## Pickleball in the Park

#### **Saturdays 9:30-11:30am**

Join us on Saturdays for Pickleball in the Park. We are pickleball enthusiasts (3.5-4.0), live at Eastshore Properties just south of Crawford Bay, and hope to encourage pickleball play on the Eastshore. Can you imagine a more beautiful setting!

When - every Saturday 9:30-11:30 am weather permitting

Where - Crawford Bay Park, Tennis/Pickleball Courts

Why - Fun, exercise, and Community. Come out and play. If you have never played, come and learn about this fast growing sport.

Hope to see you Saturday. We have extra paddles

Contact debharris05@gmail.com; apirie@uvic.ca

Dr Andre Piver hereby notifies his patients that he will retire from his practice at the

East Shore Community Health Centre as of September 30th, 2021.

It has been a very meaningful part of his life, and he wishes the very best to the

East Shore community.

## **2021 HHW Round-Up Events**

The RDCK is hosting the annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Round-Up Events.

2021 Events will occur during September.

Visit our website for the locations, dates and times of the Events and for a list of acceptable materials.



rdck.ca/hhwevents

Next Deadline: Aug 25, 2021 www.eshore.ca

#### CHURCH/MEETING **CALENDAR**

**RIONDEL COMMUNITY CHURCH** Everyone welcome.

CHRIST CHURCH & EAST SHORE
CONGREGATIONS ST. ANSELM'S CHURCH BOSWELL (Anglican)
No services at the present time. Contact Christ Church

Creston for info - 250.402.3225

HARRISON MEM CHURCH, ANGLICAN

Crawford Creek Rd., Crawford Bay No services at this time.

For info, please contact Rev. Leon Rogers: 250.402.3225

KOOTENAY LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH A Lighthouse on the East Shore Come & join us Sundays at 10 am. Coffee fellowship after the service.
Pastors Richard and Ramona Dannhauer
16190 Hwy 3A, Crawford Bay: 250 505 8286

#### YASODHARA ASHRAM

Satsangs available anytime for inspiration - Online at our website (yasodhara.org/about-yasodhara/satsang/) or YouTube (youtube.com/user/yasodharaashram/).

MOST HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCH, RIONDEL

Fr. Lawrence Phone: 428-2300 Sun Mass at 2pm.

#### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH SERVICES

Held in the Anglican Church, 8151 Busk Rd, Balfour Sundays, 9:30 am All welcome! 250.229.5237

#### **MEETING PLACES**

LIONS CLUB - meets at the Kootenay Lake Community Church - 16190 Highway 3A, Crawford Bay. Meeting Times: 7 pm. 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the Month. For More info call Lion Mike Jeffery – 250-227-6807 or Lion David George at 250-227-9550 or Lion Fraser Robb at 250-227-9636.

TOPS - Take Off Pounds Sensibly: meets Thursdays at 8:30am, Kootenay Lake Community Church basement. Info: Myrna at 227-9420

#### PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(PAC) Meetings held at 4:30 pm at the Crawford Bay School on the first Wednesday of the month. Email cbess.pac@gmail.com for info.

#### **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:**

The East Shore group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Sunday at the Community Corner in Crawford Bay. 1 hour open meeting: 7:15pm

# **Kootenay Lake Ferry Schedule**

Summer: Late June – After Labour Day

**Departs Balfour** Departs Koot. Bay

Vessel

	Jopanio Janoan	5 opunto 1100 ti 5 u
Osprey	6:30 am	7:10 am
Osprey	8:10 am	9:00 am
Osprey	9:50 am	10:40 am
Balfour	10:40 am	11:30 am
Osprey	11:30 am	12:20 pm
Balfour	12:20 pm	1:10 pm
Osprey	1:10 pm	2:00 pm
Balfour	2:00 pm	2:50 pm
Osprey	2:50 pm	3:40 pm
Balfour	3:40 pm	4:30 pm
Osprey	4:30 pm	5:20 pm
Balfour	5:20 pm	6:10 pm
Osprey	6:10 pm	7:00 pm
Osprey	7:50 pm	8:40 pm
Osprey	9:40 pm	10:20 pm



# Gray Creek Store Building Community Since 1913

Mon-Sat, 9 to 5:30

# Get it while it's hot!

Water shoes, inflatables, beach



towels, toys, chairs and more!

Free Delivery Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays!



www.graycreekstore.com





**Nelson & District** CREDIT UNION >>> Logically. Locally.

\*SERVICE UPDATE: EFFECTIVE MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2021

**Nelson & District Credit Union** wants to assure you that the health and safety of our members, employees and the East Shore community is a top priority. We appreciate your kindness and patience with us during these times.

The East Shore branch will once again serve members, in person, between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm from Monday to Friday effective Monday, August 9.

The branch is closed betwee 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm for lunch. Masks are recommended when in the branch and ATM vestibule.

Call the **East Shore branch** directly at **250.227.9221**, visit **nelsoncu.com**.

# The Mainstreet **KOOTENAY LAKE BO**

The Mainstreet is a community-written monthly newspaper that serves the communities of Creston through Riondel and Balfour. It's available at the following stores for retail: Wynndel Foods - Wynndel, Destiny Bay Grocers - Boswell, The Lakeview - Gray Creek, The Gray Creek Store - Gray Creek, The Crawford Bay Store - Crawford Bay, Riondel Market -Riondel, and on the Osprey 2000.

**Contact: Ingrid Baetzel, Editor** 

Phone: 250.505.7697 Box 140, Crawford Bay, B.C. VOB 1EO Email: mainstreet@eshore.ca

Web: www.eshore.ca

#### **ADVERTISING RATES**

**\$40 -** 3.25 wide X 1.75 tall (inches) **\$45 -** 3.25w X 2.5t **\$50 -** 3.25w X 3t

**\$55** – 3.25w X 4t

**\$60 -** 3.25w X 4.5t **OR** 6.75w X 2.25t

**\$70** - 3.25 X 6t **OR** 6.75w X 3t

**\$95** - 3.25w X 9t **OR** 6.75w X 4.5t

**\$115**- 3.25w X 10.25t

**\$150-** (1/4 page) 5w X 7t

**\$175** (1/3 page) - 6.75w X 7t

**OR** 3.25 w X 14.5t **OR** 10.25w X 4.5t

\$250 (1/2 page) - 10.25w X 7t

**\$450** (full page) - 10.25w X 14t

Sample Sizes - more sizes available. **Column Width:** 3.25 inches - double width: 6.75

inches - full width: 10.25 inches **Services Directory:** \$5/month, up to 3 lines.

\*\*THESE RATES ARE FOR B/W ADS ONLY\*\* FOR FULL COLOUR, ADD 30%

lunch-dinner-espresso

250-227-9596

# BLXCK·SXLI

blacksaltcafe.net

your eastshore bistro in Crawford Bay

# THANK YOU! You can STILL...



Huge, heartfelt thanks to the wonderful donors and supporters who have given generously over the past month or two. It warms us to the core to know that you care about the future of this beautiful locallyowned, independently-run community newspaper.

Those who haven't yet, but still want to, can easily support Mainstreet with a donation in a number of ways. Please see options to the right.

## Donate on the website: www.eshore.ca or...

Donate any amount, or subscribe to pay monthly without having to remember to do it yourself! Pay via:

- ⇒ Paypal
- ⇒ Credit Card
- ⇒ Etransfer (to mainstreet@eshore.ca)
- ⇒ Direct Deposit (at the Credit Union)
- ⇒ Cash or cheque (Box 140, Crawford Bay, V0B 1E0) Go to www.eshore.ca for more information.

Thank you, Mainstreet supporters & community.