

# 144 Days Of Isolation

**East Shore Communities Remain Cut Off  
Due To Deteriorating Negotiations**



Above Photo Submitted by Megan Rokeby-Thomas

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## Mainstreet Meanderings The Year Of The Strike

By Dee Gilbertson  
Publisher

If this ferry strike saga continues any longer, I am not sure how the year 2025 will be able to be viewed as anything other than the “year of the strike” to the communities that surround Kootenay Lake. Covid was devastating also - but equally devastating to other regions, to the entire world in fact! It is easy to feel forgotten by the powers that be when such a complex saga unfolds on your back door step. The issues and concerns at the heart of the ferry service on Kootenay Lake did not suddenly arise in the past year. Similar to wounds left without care, the service shows evidence of festering infection that will take more than a splash of antiseptic to fix now. The damage that has been strewn across the shores of Kootenay Lake for the people of those communities to deal with like garbage left by uncaring tourists will be long lasting. The ripple effects will carry to many and for a long while.

Due to the limited and unreliable service, the number of missed health appointments, missed hours of work, missed hours of education, and deterred customers steadily increases every day - it has been 144 as of March 26, 2025 since the ferry workers issued strike notice.

Pictured on the front cover are community members gathered in Nelson this past Wednesday and plan to return weekly (Wednesdays) until the strike is resolved. While negotiations between the employer and union have come to a stalemate there has still been no glimmer of hope from government in terms of introducing binding arbitration, which many feel is the only possible answer at this point. The people pictured stand to represent the many others who are unable to take the risk of riding the ferry across the lake these days. Gambling the welfare of those that depend on them at home to venture to the other side of the lake with no guarantee of the ferry being in service for a return trip the same day is just not

an option. Thankfully, the community is resilient and caring and many people look out for each other - but even good folks can wind up having had enough.

The community may be small, not much of a sway in votes or much political pull, but every member of it deserves to be able to count on the service tax dollars pays for. People are beyond tired of the obvious inefficiencies and gaps in services and infrastructure. The situation playing out on the shores of Kootenay Lake, B.C. is heartbreaking.

Where is the Kootenay Lake Ferry Committee? This now nearly archaic collaboration was once a real thing. Could it be possible that consistent communication amongst all parties directly affected could mitigate at least some of the issues arising?

“In 1932, our new East Shore highway up Kootenay Lake was clogged by an Alberta wagon train of horses trailed by more loose horses.” - so says Tom in the article later in this issue. This lake has a rich history! Clogged by wagon trains or stalled by ferry service conundrums, there is no shortage of stories to do with crossing Kootenay Lake!

I am excited to soon interview Author Peter Smith and will share that in the June/July edition. Peter is an award-winning writer focused on the silver rush in British Columbia. His new book is called *Mining Camp Tales of the Silvery Slocan: A History of British Columbia's Silver Rush*.

I would like to send a very special

### *Happy Anniversary to Tom and Sharon Lymbery!*

If my math is correct (and I have gravitated to this industry for a reason, so please don't fault me if I am wrong!) and my sleuthing skills up to par, it is 62 years of marriage for the beloved East Shore couple. Whenever I read in Tom's articles a mention of Sharon, I can feel the genuine love flowing from his words and truly appreciate the reminder that love and marriage are not things of the past, as our current society can so loudly seem to proclaim. You are an inspiration to many and wished a very happy day of celebrating your many years of marriage.

Until June,

D

P.S. I have just seen that the government has announced a mediator to the situation. This must be a sign of things progressing in a direction of some change - let us hope!

### THE MAINSTREET IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW CONTENT!

THIS IS A UNIQUE TIME.. THERE IS MUCH TO SHARE  
AND MANY TO CONNECT WITH.

WE ENCOURAGE AND WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS, PHOTOS, QUESTIONS, ETC., FROM THE KOOTENAYS OR BEYOND.

WE THANK EVERYONE WHO RALLIES TOGETHER TO  
CREATE THIS PUBLICATION TIME AND AGAIN. IN A  
WORLD OF MUCH CHANGE AND HURRY, THE MAIN-  
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COLLABORATION

CONTACT: EDITOR@ESHORE.CA

## 2025 SUBMISSION DEADLINES

PRINT/DIGITAL NEWSPAPER

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July 25  
September 29  
November 21

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June 27  
August 29  
October 27

Email editor@eshore.ca or  
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## Letter to the Editor

### Help Save the CBC

I grew up hearing CBC radio in my home, and CBC TV as well. I was even a contestant, at age 11 on CBC Radio's 'Small Fry Frolics' Saturday AM show.

Now, more than ever, the importance of having a national broadcaster for Canada cannot be overstated. CBC is a voice that connects us all, the envy of the USA. CBC is essential to our culture, our identity, and our democracy. And Pierre Poilievre wants to kill it. He wants no voice of dissent. And he is now stating there will be no public media on his campaign flights or buses. Feels like something from the Trump playbook. Without CBC, populist politics benefit, and misinformation is bolstered, spread by bad actors on social media platforms, cheapening public discourse. And remember Elon Musk has endorsed Poilievre.

CBC is not a 'state' broadcaster, but a 'national' broadcaster, not run by the government and thus is non-partisan. In the Westernized world, we spend some of the lowest amounts per capita on this. CBC is not beholden to share holders, as private media is. CBC Radio and TV provide platforms to showcase Canadian ideas, arts, news, education and more, held to high Canadian broadcast standards.

CBC broadcasting is immensely important to northern Indigenous communities. And I love knowing that often what I am hearing and seeing broadcast is shared across our whole country, inculcating a sense of unity and togetherness.

Canadians must elect a party that chooses the CBC. The urgency could not be greater. We need trustworthy news journalism, local, national, and international, especially with the current increased geopolitical upheavals.

Go to friends.ca (Friends of Canadian Media) to help defend the CBC (“Canada's most trusted news source” – Pollara, 2024) and preserve our national identity by supporting their campaign.

Sincerely,

Mary Donald - Riondel Rd.

### THE MAINSTREET OFFICE DESK

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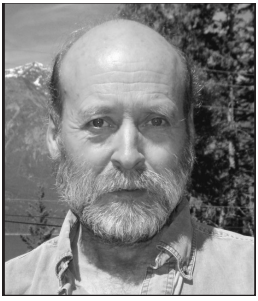
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## RDCK Area A Update Budget 2025

by Garry Jackman,  
Regional Director

As indicated previously, the RDCK fiscal year runs from January 1 through December 31, but our deadline to submit our five-year financial plan to the province aligns more with the provincial fiscal year end. We adopted our 2025 RDCK budget on March 20, 2025. There were several adjustments made up to that day, so I do not have a full set of figures to share. Below I will indicate some general trends. The amounts we adopted as the requisition (which is used by the province to calculate the amount of property taxation) for each of the individual RDCK services are what was then sent off to the provincial government. They are the entity that issues the rural property tax statements to all BC landowners who do not live in an incorporated village, town or city. The key points I want to cover here are the difference between the BC Assessment Authority and all regional districts, who is actually the taxing authority, how the taxes are influenced by relative property values versus how much money a regional district identifies it needs to operate a service. I will also touch on a more simplistic view of the “mandate” of a regional district than you may read on any particular website. These are all points where I observed confusion among the public who either attended budget review meetings or who sent in emails asking the RDCK Board members to either support

higher or lower taxation for various services.

What did not change during the March 20 RDCK Board meeting was the BC Assessment figures, which are compiled separately from our budget. Those numbers are not generated by the RDCK and we cannot challenge them. Individual landowners can challenge the numbers each year using the process outlined by the assessment authority. At public meetings leading up to the adoption of the budget, many residents held up their BC Assessment statements and provided comments around what they felt were inaccuracies or unfair amounts. The BC Assessment Authority is an independent authority which operates under a model where they gather information from all actual real estate transactions/sales in a given year for a variety of real estate categories in locations all across the province. They set their data based on the calculated value of real estate as of July 1st of any year. They compare that data to prior years. You will see over the past few years that your BC Assessment statement includes a box with some recent year comparisons for your particular property. They also publish annual reports which paint the overall picture of real estate property value trends and indicate how accurate their property valuations have been over time. During a long period of rising real estate prices, their numbers have generally been quite good for larger, urban areas where there are numerous annual property sales in each community and where the data spans across a broad representation of properties, whether they are industrial, commercial, large, medium or small residential properties, older or new units, etc. BC Assessment statements split out the value of

the land versus the value of the improvements (buildings, etc). On average you will tend to see land values appreciated and older residential buildings depreciate. When a building permit is issued for renovations, the BC Assessment team will check on the nature of the renovation and update the estimated property value, based on other similar properties which recently sold, and you will see the building values increase for these tax notices. You can see how this can be problematic in a small rural area, where very few older homes are renovated plus similar homes are sold in a given year, so the accuracy of the BC Assessment data can be lower. They are required to make the best comparison they can, so if they use data from a community further afield they may introduce unrealistic figures into the assessment roll.

I stated the RDCK is not a taxing authority. In BC, each incorporated village, town and city creates its own property tax bills plus its own utility bills and sends them out directly to property owners. The incorporated village, town or city is permitted to pull the taxation into a general fund and disburse those dollars as the council sees fit, with some limitations. In rural areas such as Electoral Area A, Wynndel/East Shore Kootenay Lake, each of the 33 individual services which apply to either all or some of Area A have individual requisition amounts calculated each year based on the best estimate of what it will cost to operate that service in that year. These are part of the overall budget for the RDCK as a whole and the money for those services is put on your rural tax notice and is collected first by the province then later passed along to the RDCK. The RDCK can

issue utility bills directly, such as for RDCK operated water systems. The province calculates the amount to add to each of your property tax notices by distributing the amount of money the RDCK requested across the value of properties which the provincially mandated BC Assessment Authority came up with. The RDCK is at arm’s length from that process. You will see some of those rural tax amounts as individual line items on your property tax notice while others are rolled up into a group. You will also see provincial rural taxes, which they keep, and hospital taxes on your notice. Note if your property value went up or down by a larger percentage than the values of other properties which share the cost of any one service, then the share of the tax burden you carry will go up or down by the same amount. If all of the assessments go up, say by 10%, that has no relationship to the requisition amount the RDCK requests. If everybody sees the same assessment change then that will not factor in their change in taxes for the year. Only differential changes become meaningful. Also, any increase in assessment is not directly adding to what the RDCK receives as a whole. Those are independent. I heard people attending the public budget sessions who did not understand this at all.

Across the RDCK as a whole, the 2025 assessments rose by an average gross change of 9.5%. That is the assessment, done by BC Assessment, and is not a measure of tax increases. Across Area A as a whole the assessments rose by an average gross change of 6.7%. That means that in 2025, on average, Area A residents will shoulder a lower portion of the tax burden than neighbouring landowners, and that is a result of two factors. The assessment totals are influenced by the market shifts (competition for

buyers in one market versus another) and by the value of new houses added, property subdivision (generally results in more taxation in total) and significant value increases due to renovations. So, if your area had a large increase due to new houses being added, those new houses take on a portion of the taxes, providing a bit of relief for the existing homeowners.

Prior to the adjustments made at the March 20 Board meeting, which were a minor part of the totals made during the numerous budget reviews during the preceding months, Area A residents were facing about a 9% increase in requisitions for services shared across the entire area, with that being offset to a degree by the growth in the tax base (discussed above) of just over 2%. Services which are not shared across the RDCK saw highly variable increased requisitions, depending on what is occurring in each service, so there is no simple way to provide those figures here. As of the time of writing, I still do not have the sheets showing all of the adjustments made on March 20 (not being the end of the month yet) but I will have them in April if you want more details.

### MORE ON CROSSING KOOTENAY LAKE

It is not getting easier, is it?! I have expressed the harm this job action is doing to residents to our MLA, through RDCK Board letters plus directly on Zoom with the Ministers of Transportation and Labour, through Zoom with top staff in both of those ministries and through many emails. We must continue to press the message of harm, which will continue to happen, putting people at risk in ways such as:

- by having to drive over the summit, provided it is even open, in conditions for which they may not be prepared

- by denying our youth full access to education
- by having people continue to miss medical examinations and procedures
- by continuing to put our local economy at serious risk of a multi month erosion of business equity
- by placing our property values at risk of depreciation due to the negative stigma of obvious isolation without government support to maintain a viable transportation corridor
- pitting neighbour against neighbour needlessly which puts individuals at rising risk of threats and physical violence, including people on this email thread
- and so on.

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

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## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2025

### BCGEU Files Complaint Against Western Pacific Marine for Bad Faith Bargaining

BURNABY, B.C. (Coast Salish Territories) – After weeks of extensive bargaining in an attempt to reach a fair agreement, the B.C. General Employees' Union (BCGEU) is filing a formal complaint of bad faith bargaining against Western Pacific Marine (WPM) with the Labour Relations Board. The complaint stems from what the union considers a significant breakdown in negotiations following the company's recent actions.

For the past several weeks, BCGEU representatives have spent countless hours at the bargaining table with WPM, hopeful that an agreement could be reached to ensure the sustainability of essential ferry services in the Kootenays. Despite these efforts, WPM's conduct throughout the process has been deeply troubling.

"After weeks of productive discussions and continued hope for a resolution, WPM's recent actions in offering a drastic cut to wage proposals demonstrate a clear lack of good faith in the bargaining process," said Paul Finch, president of the BCGEU. "The company's decision to change its position at the final hour – cutting its offer on wages by more than 60 percent from previous offers – leaves us no choice but to pursue charges of bad faith bargaining with the Labour Relations Board."

In the official complaint being filed with the Labour Relations Board, the BCGEU has stated that the Employer attempted to frustrate the bargaining process by delaying negotiations so that it could ultimately advocate for government-imposed binding interest arbitration. The BCGEU is highlighting several key issues:

**Lack of Sufficient Bargaining Authority** – For months, WPM sent individuals to the bargaining table who did not have the authority to make decisions, which severely hindered productive dialogue and the ability to reach a fair settlement

**Receding Horizon Bargaining** – The union also asserts that WPM engaged in receding horizon bargaining, by leading the union down the path of potential settlement, only to abruptly remove the settlement opportunity at the last possible moment, undermining the entire process

**Refusal to Provide Financial Information** – Another serious concern raised in the complaint is WPM's refusal to provide the union with essential financial information. This information is critical to fostering rational and informed discussions at the bargaining table and ensuring that any agreements made are based on realistic financial considerations.

The union had worked diligently through numerous meetings, including multiple Labour Board hearings, and temporarily paused plans for expanding job action in the hope of reaching an agreement. BCGEU members

had demonstrated their commitment to finding a resolution, only to be blindsided by WPM's final offer, which not only undermines workers but also threatens the future of ferry services in the region.

"The reality is that WPM has failed to live up to its obligations in these negotiations. Their actions represent a betrayal of the workers and the communities that depend on ferry services," Finch added. "It is clear that WPM is more focused on short-term profits than addressing the real issues facing ferry workers. As a result, we are left with no choice but to hold them accountable."

The complaint filed with the Labour Relations Board will address what the union perceives as a violation of fair bargaining practices, specifically citing WPM's failure to engage in meaningful negotiations in good faith.

BCGEU members have been engaged in job action since October 2024, and WPM's recent wage offer stands in stark contrast to the agreements reached by other inland ferry operators, who agreed to industry-standard contracts in November 2024.

"We've put in the time and effort to try to reach a fair deal with WPM, but their actions have made it clear to us they are not willing to negotiate in good faith," Finch said. "We will continue to advocate for the workers who are the backbone of these essential services and will pursue every avenue to ensure their rights are protected."

-30-

For more information contact: BCGEU Communications – [communications@bcgeu.ca](mailto:communications@bcgeu.ca)

## Letter to the Community From WPM:

23 March 2025

Community Members of Kootenay Lake,

The Union has provided social media correspondence in an open letter on the Save Our Service Facebook page, which we feel compelled to respond to.

Western Pacific Marine (WPM) has been in negotiations with the Union since 10 June 2024. The Company was ready to commence bargaining long before this date; however, the Union was not prepared to start earlier. In the spirit of cooperation and good faith bargaining, WPM agreed to the Union's delayed start of negotiations.

To ensure efficient use of time and resources, both parties agreed to conduct meetings via technology, reducing unnecessary costs and travel time. This was formally signed off in a protocol agreement. However, despite claiming to be available daily for up to 10 hours, the Union has consistently failed to attend meetings on time, causing repeated delays. Additionally, all Union bargaining committee members have taken time off for vacation and personal business, further prolonging negotiations, yet the Employer has not raised objections.

At the outset of negotiations, WPM suggested mediation to expedite the process, but the Union refused. They only considered mediation after initiating strike action in November 2024 – wasting valuable time while making unreasonable demands and rejecting Employer proposals.

Our employees at Kootenay Lake Ferries are among the highest-paid mariners on the West Coast, despite many officers having limited certifications that do not qualify them for roles in other marine companies. Over the past five years, our officers have received wage increases exceeding 30%, with an additional 9% increase this past year – far above other government wage adjustments and inflation rates.

The Union is attempting to dictate not only compensation levels but also hiring decisions, operational management, and workforce composition—restrictions that no business can reasonably operate under.

The Union has highlighted a 3% annual wage increase over the next five years but omitted the extensive benefit enhancements that have been agreed upon. These include higher vacation entitlements, personal leave provisions, increased dental and extended health benefits, greater clothing and safety gear allowances, and more. Employees at Kootenay Lake Ferries enjoy one of the most comprehensive benefits packages in the province, surpassing many government collective agreements. Additionally, the Union is demanding a day-for-day schedule, which imposes significant costs on the Employer with no operational benefit – meaning, no additional sailings or service.

This said, the Company expressed its willingness to adopt the day-for-day shift pattern so long as the incremental costs associated with this could be factored into the final settlement. The Union would not accept our calculations, even though we had them verified by an arm's length expert.

To further assist the Union in understanding labour costing and the significant costs associated with day-for-day operations, we gave them the working spreadsheet of the calculations.

The Employer cannot sustain the Union's excessive demands, leading to this impasse. WPM has repeatedly requested arbitration to resolve these issues, but the Union has refused.

The Union has claimed that they seek wage parity with Waterbridge Ferries. However, WPM's wages are already higher than those of Waterbridge and will remain so for the duration of Waterbridge's settled collective agreement if the Union simply accepts our offer.

We do not understand how the Union fails to comprehend this fact. Believing they may require outside assistance to grasp simple arithmetic, we suggested an interest arbitrator, as mediation had failed to advance negotiations.

The Union has accused the Employer of seeking to "line their pocketbooks" with taxpayer dollars. The reality is that, over the past five years, WPM has incurred financial losses every single year due to the excessive wage increases granted in the last contract. The successful companies that the Union points to, in our Group, have been subsidizing the Kootenay Lake operations. This situation is not sustainable for any business, nor should it be an expectation.

The Employer urges the Union to reconsider its demands and agree to arbitration to secure a fair and reasonable contract. This would allow us to manage operations effectively while continuing to provide employees with competitive compensation and benefits.



### MEDIA RELEASE

26 March 2025

## Western Pacific Marine Responds to BCGEU's Call for Special Mediator

Vancouver, B.C. — Western Pacific Marine (WPM) welcomes the BC General Employees' Union's (BCGEU) recent request for a Special Mediator as a potential path forward to resolve the ongoing labour dispute. However, WPM maintains that binding arbitration remains the most effective and impartial way to achieve a fair resolution. An independent arbitrator would examine the facts and make a balanced ruling in the best interests of all parties.

"We have addressed the union's core demands and presented fair proposals that ensure both competitive wages and long-term service reliability," said Odai Sirri, General Manager of WPM. "While we support the Special Mediation process, we still believe that binding arbitration would provide the quickest, most equitable resolution by relying on facts rather than rhetoric."

WPM is particularly concerned by the union's characterization of a "sudden reduction in wage offers." This claim is misleading. The company's wage proposals have remained consistent, and any adjustments were reflective of the negotiation process and in direct response to the union's own proposals.

"Our preference for binding arbitration remains because it offers an impartial third party the opportunity to assess both sides' positions and deliver a fair determination," Sirri continued. "Nonetheless, we are hopeful that Special Mediation will create the necessary momentum to bring this dispute to a past due, constructive conclusion."

Western Pacific Marine remains committed to constructive dialogue and urges the BCGEU to act in the best interests of ferry workers and the communities we serve. It is time to resolve this dispute and restore reliable ferry service.

### MEDIA RELEASE

March 26, 2025

## For immediate release RDCK Launches Re-Designed Website

Nelson, BC: The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is pleased to announce the launch of its newly redesigned website, [www.rdck.ca](http://www.rdck.ca), aimed at improving accessibility, transparency, and public engagement. The new platform offers residents, businesses, and visitors a user-friendly experience with improved navigation, enhanced features, and easier access to important RDCK services and information.

With a fresh, clean, modern design, the new website provides a streamlined interface that ensures quick access to essential resources such as Board meeting agendas and minutes, building permits, recreation facilities, and hours of operation for waste and recycling facilities.

"This has been a long time coming and we are excited to introduce a digital experience that better serves our community," said Stuart Horn, RDCK Chief Administrative Officer. "This new website, which is our number one communication tool, reflects our commitment to transparency, efficiency, and accessibility, ensuring residents can easily find the information and services they need. We look forward to hearing how our new website functions in this regard as well as how we can continue to improve"

Key features of the new website include:

Enhanced Navigation: improved menu structure for quick and easy access to popular services.

Responsive Design: Provides consistent viewing on any device or computer.

Meetings Calendar Capability: Users can filter by area to find meetings impacting them.

Expanded Commissions and Committees Pages: Built out content to include agendas, minutes and schedules for all commissions and committees.

Monthly Newsletter: Sign up for monthly newsletter to stay up to date on all RDCK news, projects, initiatives, and events.

Search: Improved functionality to get people where they need to go.

RDCK Branding: The new website aligns with the organization's visual identity.

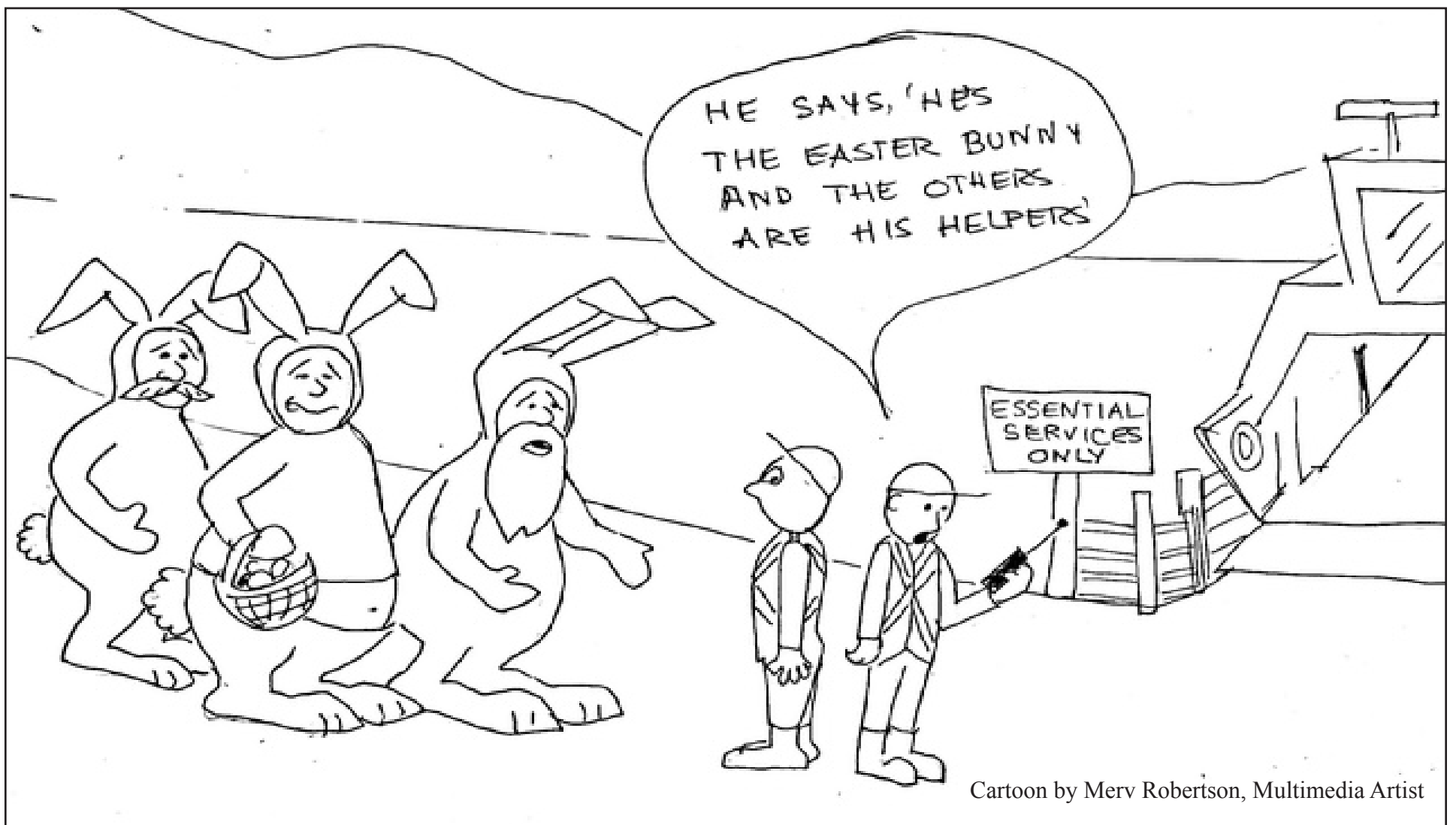
Accessibility Compliance: Adherence to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines standards to ensure inclusivity for all users.

The new website is a culmination of work between the RDCK and web developer Paper Crane. The RDCK invites residents to explore the new website and provide feedback on its functionality and features. The site will continue to evolve with ongoing updates and enhancements based on user needs and technological advancements.

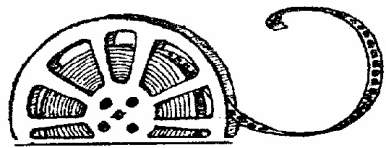
Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, water services and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit [www.rdck.ca](http://www.rdck.ca).

*Next print  
deadline  
May 23, 2025*

*Check [www.drivebc.ca](http://www.drivebc.ca)  
for the most up to date  
road conditions and  
ferry schedule.*







## Seldom Scene by Gerald Panio



*They shut me up in Prose –  
As when a little Girl  
They put me in the Closet –  
Because they liked me “still” –  
Still! Could themselves have peeped –  
And seen my Brain – go round –  
They might as wise have lodged a Bird  
For Treason – in the Pound –*  
--Emily Dickinson

I must admit, this month's film came to my attention under false pretenses. How could I ignore a movie whose title references one of Leonard Cohen's most haunting songs? It turns out, however, that *Who By Fire* is simply a translator's liberal interpretation of *Comme le feu*, the latest film by Québécois director Philippe Lesage. I get it—the literal “Like the Fire” translation leaves something to be desired. But rather than being outraged by false advertising, I'm grateful for having had my attention drawn to another fine Canadian film that that's not going to get a lot of media coverage.

I'm going to do some false advertising of my own by suggesting that *Comme le feu* is like what one might expect if Ingmar Bergman of *Winter Light* directed *Deliverance* or *The Shining*. That's no more accurate than the Leonard



Cohen reference, yet it should suggest something of the strangeness of Philippe Lesage's story about frustrated desires and ambitions.

The strangeness begins with the long opening sequence, where the camera trails behind a car in its winding passage along an empty highway through Québec's Lake country. We don't know where the car has come from, where it's going, or who is in it. The only sound in the entire sequence is a rather ominous musical pulse that hints at something grim at the end of the road. Our first glimpse of the car's occupants is two nervous pairs of hands of passengers in the back seat. Already there's tension. Not a word is spoken. Eventually, the camera pans up to give us a look at a young man and a young woman, both lost in their own thoughts.

I love the way Lesage uses his camera in this film. It never quite moves the way one might expect it to move. In a couple of key scenes, the camera doesn't move at all, and the entire scene plays out uncut. At other times, an actor speaks and the camera's eye remains focused on some-

one or something else. There's always a tension between what we as an audience have been conditioned to expect of the way that the camera will follow dialogue and actions, and Lesage's deliberate, subtle subverting of those expectations. Contrary to the frenzied editing of most popular films, Lesage is a master of the slow pan that gives the viewer time to look at the actors and weigh their words and mannerisms.

Our travelers end up on a dirt road that leads them to the float plane that is waiting to take them to a remote lodge in the Haute-Mauricie. The pilot (and owner of the luxury lodge) is Blake Cadieux (Arieh Worthalter), a famous film director. The car's passengers, Blake's guests, include his former screenwriter Albert (Paul Ahmarani), Albert's son Max (Antoine Marchand-Gagnon), Max's sister Aliosha (Aurélia Arandi Longpré), and Max's friend Jeff (Noah Parker). Seventeen-year-old Jeff is secretly in love with Aliosha. Albert's genial exterior is a cover for a pressure cooker of resentments over the downturn taken by his career. If Jeff is hoping that some time out in the country will turn his Aliosha fantasies into reality, he hasn't reckoned with Aliosha's unpredictability and adults' ----. And one might note that a log cabin well-supplied with hunting rifles and high-powered bows isn't ideal for working out dysfunctional relationships.

Aliosha is a bit of a wild child. She's sexy and intense and uncertain and mature-beyond-her-years. There's a wonderful scene where she discovers an old B-52s album and turns “Rock Lobster” into a joyful impromptu dance party that for a short time heals all the wounded egos and festering resentments. Max tells Jeff a story about catching his sister watching pornography on her computer that confuses Jeff even more about how to make his move on her. Aliosha is out of Jeff's league, and as he starts to realize this his adolescent angst drives him to midnight wanderings and towards some darker fantasies.

Aliosha's father, Albert, has two of the strongest scenes in *Comme le feu*. They're both shot from the end of the lodge's big dining table, with Albert obsessing over real and imagined sleights. We learn that his 20 years of collaborating with Blake Cadieux had ended badly three years earlier. Cadieux's reputation hadn't suffered that much, while Albert is now reduced to writing scripts for animated films for television—a medium for which he had once expressed the greatest contempt. All of Albert's resentments boil over when he thinks that Blake has refilled some of his precious grand cru wine bottles with an inferior vintage. Everyone else at the table thinks that Albert has lost it. Insults and accusations fly thick and fast. Paul Ahmarani does a superb job of capturing the state of mind of a man whose life, apparently outwardly successful, has a hollow core.





There are some attempts to relieve group tension with fly-fishing expeditions on a nearby river, a hunting party, and some whitewater canoeing. Each, however, goes awry in minor or major ways.

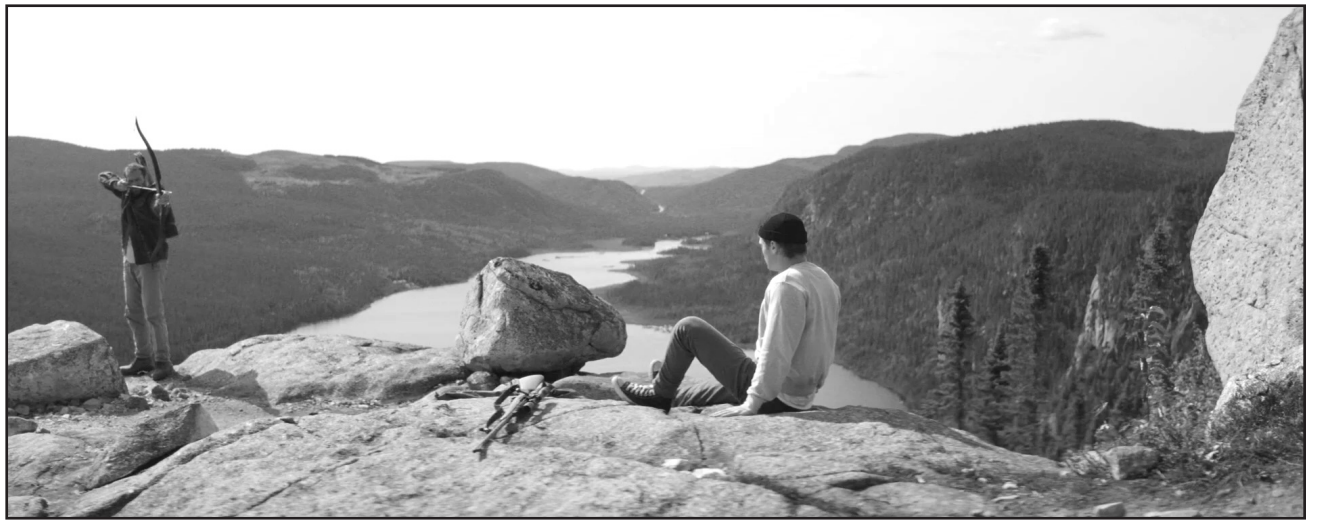
*Comme le feu* is a film that takes its time—in a good way. The setting is lovely, a spitting image of our own East Shore and its mountains, lakes, and rivers. The characters hold our interest as we discover their secrets, their wounds, their failings. A couple of brief nightmare scenes snap the movie out of its calmly realist mode and jolt the audience. It's a testimony to the quality of both the acting, the writing (Lesage did his own screenplay), and the direction that the film's 160-minute run-time seems scarcely long enough to let the dramas play themselves out.

If I missed the Leonard Cohen connection (maybe something to do with quiet despair?), I was well-compensated at the end of *Comme le feu* by the totally unexpected voice-over of Emily Dickinson's "They Shut Me Up In Prose." Dickinson's words are the last ones we hear in the film. I have no idea why Lesage chose them, other than that Dickinson, like Leonard Cohen, is pure magic. At every high and low point, she can provide the poetic soundtrack of our lives. I had never come across this particular poem of Dickinson's before, and yet I could identify the poet's voice after hearing the first line. What grand wizardry is that?

"They shut me up in prose . . .



. . . For Treason - in the Pound"



## Smarter Than Jack or Jill Let's Dance

By Sharman Horwood

This is the time of year when animals take up dancing. It's a very intelligent thing to do, considering the species' imperative to procreate. Spring is usually when this is uppermost in most animals' thoughts. However, dancing isn't actually for everyone. In scientific terms, dancing "is an untutored, spontaneous response where the animal moves on the beat, matching motion to music" (*NPR*, "The List of Animals Who Can Truly, Really Dance," by Robert Krulwich, Apr. 1, 2014). That is a very limited view of dance. For example, what if there is no music? Honeybees do a "waggle" dance, and that has no accompanying tune. Their dance is a form of communication. It tells the other bees in the hive about a new source of pollen, and where it can be found. Apparently they get very specific about direction. A lot to communicate in a short, very fast dance. Perhaps dance is, after all, about communication.

Birds are very intelligent animals. The density of neurons in their brains is greater than in other animals, and that means their skulls hold a lot of intelligence in a very small space. These are the animals, however, that do the most dancing. According to *Adore Dance* in London, dancing is an important tool for cognitive growth in children, "with its unique ability to foster memory, concentration, critical thinking skills, spatial awareness, and creativity" (*Adore Dance* online, "The Power of Dance" by Jane Costella, Dec. 13, 2023). Although this is about children's cognitive development, it could also refer to animals.

According to *Verywell Mind*, dance has five mental health or social benefits. It "keeps minds sharp, improves self-esteem, involves social skills, increase[s] endorphins, [makes it] easy to bond with others, improves your mood, reduces loneliness, and decreases anxiety and depression" ("How

Dancing Helps Your Mental Health," by Barbara Field, Jan. 23, 2024). Mating rituals among birds easily fit into these categories. When cranes dance, they are attempting to stimulate their chosen partners into mating behaviour. Cranes are "perennially monogamous breeders." They establish long-term pair bonds, that barring accident or ill health, will last a lifetime. They come together when they are two or three years old, but several years may pass before they have their first breeding season (*Wikipedia*). Then, they dance together in a beautiful, stylized dance that they don't seem to learn from others of their species. It's instinctual, and while the first time may not be their best dance, they do learn from practice.

The ability to sense rhythm "could help animals distinguish among sounds from different sources and help them synchronize their movements, which can improve perception" ("Do Animals Dance?" in *Slate* online, by Anna Newby, Feb. 18, 2014). In humans, on the other hand, according to scientist Aniruddh Patel, a cognitive neuroscientist at Tufts, "rhythmic beats activate a broad network of auditory and motor planning regions of the brain." He adds that "structures like the basal ganglia are known to be important for timing" ("Do Animals Dance?" in *Slate* online, by Anna Newby, Feb. 18, 2014). While this sounds like animals and humans have different reasons, in fact, "researchers have now specifically demonstrated the ability of cockatoos, bonobos, sea lions, and other animals to not only extract a beat from music and follow it, but to adjust their movement if the tempo is changed" ("Do Animals Dance?" in *Slate* online, by Anna Newby, Feb. 18, 2014). In the past, researchers have linked this ability to vocal abilities but with many animals, making sound isn't the same as following a beat. Some animals just don't have the vocal chords to allow it. Nonetheless, the matter of timing is important. In order to follow a beat, animals—including humans—must have the ability to perceive time. Scientists refer to "the evolutionary trajectories of perception and cognition of temporal dynamics" ("Do Animals Dance?" in *Slate* online, by Anna Newby, Feb. 18, 2014). Apparently,

humans aren't the only creatures who have a sense of time. My two cats *know* when it's 5:00 because that is their dinner time.

Scientists at the University of Galway studied a number of species, from blowflies to crown-of-thorns starfish, to see how well they perceived changes in their environment. Blowflies and dragonflies were the fastest. "Salmon clocked in at 96 hertz and dogs at 75 hertz" (*Natural Habitat Adventures* online, "How Animals Perceive Time," by Candice Gaukel Andrews, Jan. 24, 2023). Humans, by the way, see at 65 hertz. This is important because how animals--and humans--see changes around them reveals their perception of time. Scientists describe this as a physical process: "constellations of impulses arising from the flesh constantly create our interoceptive perception and, in turn, the unfolding of these perceptions defines human awareness of time" ("Do Animals Dance?" in *Slate* online, by Anna Newby, Feb. 18, 2014). Aside from the subjectivity of emotions slowing down time in our perception, and how age seems to cause time to pass faster and faster, human and animal awareness of time is connected to our knowledge of what is around us, and how it is changing. Species also make a difference: "flying animals detect light changes at a faster rate than land-bound animals" ("Do Animals Dance?" in *Slate* online, by Anna Newby, Feb. 18, 2014). Coffee, by the way, can speed up our perception of time, but only a little.

Dance is all about timing. When whooping cranes make those graceful leaps and twirls, they have to have a sense of time in order to make those movements beautiful. Each species' dance rhythm is important, and thus so is time. Even birds of paradise have to have that basic perception of time passing as they dance and sing for their potential mates. "Time perception depends on how quickly the brain can process incoming information" (*BBC Science Focus* online, "Animals Can Experience Time Very Differently to Humans," by Helen Pilcher). Consequently, there are many species that dance, and no matter what the species, dancing requires intelligence.





## Hospice Society Information

East Shore Hospice volunteer care is free of charge and is available in your home, and it offers support for those living with chronic illness, some of whom might be nearing end of life, to enhance the quality of life.

Hospice care does not replace nursing care, home support, or any other professional service. A hospice volunteer can be a caring listener with an open heart and mind, who is also comfortable sitting in silence and just being present. This support can also give the caregiver(s) some respite to care for themselves. This means that the caregiver can have time away from the caretaking role.

We also offer grief support, for those who are struggling with loss and feel they need to have someone walk with them through their grief journey. If you or someone you know needs Hospice Care or you would like more information, please contact:

**Cherry MacLagan East Shore Hospice Coordinator at 250-505-4915** or by email at [info@eastshorehospice.org](mailto:info@eastshorehospice.org).

In addition, there is a free library with hospice related books and some DVDs on care, grief, and mourning. The library can be accessed at the Crawford Bay 'Reading Room' and at the Hospice office in Nelson on Tuesdays between 10-2.

## The Top 10 Myths of Hospice Continued

By Maria Mosley, Hospice Volunteer

My incredibly amazing mom, who graced this earth for 93 beautiful years, passed away on February 1. My mom was doing great; until she was not and as I shared the experience of her passing with my friend, she asked, "Why would they not hasten her death with additional pain medication?"

What an invitation to clarify Myth #3 with all of you. Yes, it is true that morphine can be administered to an actively dying patient, however, doctors only do this to keep the patient comfortable. When I saw my mom's demeanour change from restful to agitated, the administration of the medication not only gave us comfort, but her as well. It is a myth that doctors (or nurses) will ever administer higher or more doses to hasten the dying process. The goal of hospice is to neither prolong life nor hasten death.

Along this vein, it is timely to chat about Myth #4 and #5!

Myth #4 is the belief that pain is part of the dying process. While pain is not always a part of dying; it sure can be as we saw with my mom. Doctors can manage this effectively with proper medication and do so without Myth #5: taking medication at this stage can lead to addiction. While it is true that Doctors may need to increase dosages, it is because the body develops a tolerance to the medication as the body adjusts to it. By no means will this develop into an addiction.

Someone once said, "Hospice care is more about quality of life than it is about death." My wish for you is that through these busted myths, you have a

new understanding of how medication in these final moments is truly about quality of life. I know that, because of medication, I will feel forever grateful that my mom was able to spend her final moments at peace.



Photo Above : It was with much gratitude that Cherry received a cheque (on behalf of the health society) for \$800.00 from the Nelson & District Credit Union - Community Investment Program committee, to help support the purchase of hospice related resources for the Riondel and Crawford Bay libraries.

### Hospice Volunteer Training

Are you looking for an opportunity to make a meaningful difference in your community? East Shore Hospice is currently seeking compassionate volunteers to join our team on the east shore. By offering support to both caregivers and individuals suffering from chronic illness, you can help ensure that people can remain in the comfort of their own homes. We also offer grief support for those traveling the path of bereavement. Our next two-day training will be held on May 24/25. at Yasodhara Ashram. Pre-Registration is required



## Rooted In Health By Maya Skalinska Dandelion Superpowers

Dandelion season is upon us, and the shift in perspective regarding this amazing plant is finally sprouting. The "No Mow May" movement has been spreading throughout Europe, and is now taking root in Canada and the US. It's not much of a sacrifice for those who love a perfect green lawn. Just for one month, allow your lawns to go wild to help all the pollinators like bees and butterflies while their food is still sparse. Dandelions are one of the first foods for crucially important insects, particularly the bees.

But dandelions are not just food for the bees, they are also food and medicine for humans. Early spring, before the flower buds develop, is the ideal time to harvest dandelion leaves. At this time, the leaves haven't had much sun exposure, which is key if you prefer your spring salad not too bitter. Sun exposure produces glycosides, compounds that make the leaves bitter. The best leaves are found in areas unexposed to light, such as in places where the snow has just receded. And no worries, after the leaf harvest, the flowers will still bloom and feed the bees. Just take less than half from each plant.

Young dandelion leaves are full of vitamins, minerals and trace minerals. They contain more beta-carotene than carrots, more potassium than bananas, more lecithin than soybeans, more iron than spinach, and loads of Vitamins A, C,

E, thiamin and riboflavin, calcium, phosphorus and magnesium.

Besides the impressive nutritional value, the leaves are medicinal. They are diuretic, without robbing your body of potassium, therefore very useful for edema and high blood pressure. However, due to the diuretic effect, don't drink dandelion tea in the evenings, or else there will be many trips to the bathroom. Dandelions are also a wonderful alternative. Alternatives are plants that will restore proper elimination and metabolic function in the body. Traditionally, herbalists will refer them as "blood cleansers", but I think a better description is "detoxifiers". Spring happens to be the perfect time for a gentle detox, in order to remove metabolic wastes that have cumulated over the winter. Right when the young dandelion leaves are in abundance. The timing is perfect. They can be eaten raw in your salads or steamed/stir fried. Make sure to harvest your leaves away from roads, areas sprayed with insecticides or exposed to any other pollutants.

Dandelion leaves are not the only carriers of medicine. The roots are a powerhouse of medicinal constituents that will stimulate the digestive system, gallbladder and liver. The roots are specific for any liver/gallbladder inflammation, liver congestion, jaundice and chronic gastritis. They will help the liver clear any metabolic toxicity, stimulate bile secretion to help fat digestion and can be used as a general liver cleanser and tonic.

For medicinal purposes, the roots are best collected between June and August when they are at their most bitter. Split longitudinally before drying. The dried roots can be used as a tea (decoction), added to herbal vinegars and soup

stocks. For dandelion coffee, the roots can be harvested later in the fall, as they tend to be a bit sweeter.

There's one more dandelion superpower I'd like to share. This comes from the latex contained in the plant's sap. This sap removes corns and warts. Just snap the stem in half, and apply the white sap, as much as you can throughout the day. In herbal medicine we use dandelion leaves and roots for ailments including eczema, acne, arthritis, lymphatic support and much, much more.

I believe the often scorned, humble dandelion deserves much more respect. Its nutritional value, medicinal gifts, and importance as first food for our pollinators needs to be recognized, valued and honored. The Latin name for dandelion is *Taraxacum officinale*, which means "official remedy for disorders". A perfect name for such an outstanding medicinal and nutritionally significant plant.

### DANDELION COFFEE

Dry the roots first, and roast in the oven at a low temperature until golden to medium brown throughout. The roasting takes about 4 hours. To tell if they are ready, try to break a root. It should break with a snap and the interior will be dark brown. Grind the roasted roots and store in a jar. Use about a teaspoon per cup of water and serve black or with milk and sugar, like regular coffee.

**Maya is a Registered Herbal Therapist with BCHA. She offers Iridology, Herbal Medicine and Nutritional Consultations in Crawford Bay and Nelson.**





## South Kootenay Lake Art Connect Society

### Presents . . . at Harrison Memorial Cultural Centre

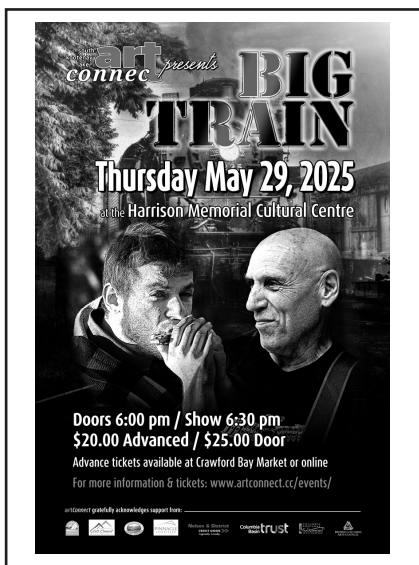
by Paul Winfield & Zora Doval

On Thursday May 29, 2025, artConnect is proud to present the highly original acoustic blues fusion of Big Train at the Harrison Memorial Cultural Centre. The concert doors open at 6:00pm, music starts at 6:30, with intermission refreshments available for a donation. These are seasoned and highly acclaimed musicians who know their way around a great story, a comfortable vibe and a hot performance.

So ... the cast of BIG TRAIN is:

#### LONNIE GLASS

Lonnie is a singer/songwriter who hails from Toronto. He moved to Vancouver Island in 2011 and has been a vital part of the Island's vibrant music scene ever since. Lonnie has been a professional musician for over six decades having performed in multiple tours across North America and Europe and has over 250 songs registered to SOCAN to his credit. As a solo artist, he is an eclectic writer whose vocals & percussive guitar rhythms have become a signature style. When Lonnie isn't writing or performing solo, he tours as the bass player with Sarah Smith Band or with Daniel Morel as Big Train, an original acoustic blues duo.



## Crawford Bay Hall Board News

By Leona Keraiff

As I sit to write this article we East Shore residents are in our 18th week of bondage! It is so untenable that the decision makers in this dispute don't seem to grasp that our ferry route across gorgeous Kootenay lake is in actuality OUR HIGHWAY! I recall two days of reporting from Kelowna when the bridge there was closed for 11 hours (about seven weeks ago) and the complaining that ensued. Why aren't we as important and our voices heard?

Okay I had my wee rant...

Our Application to the CRA has finally been sent. We patiently await receiving charitable status.

The Columbia Basin Trust dropped a wonderful opportunity in our laps recently: \$50,000 to enhance accessibility in recreational spaces for children who face barriers: physical, intellectual, developmental, cognitive and neurodiversity. The REACH Program. We are going to improve accessibility at our Enchanted Playground in the Crawford Bay Community Park.

Al Franklin, our much appreciated water filtration specialist (both at the hall and the park) has retired. We want to acknowledge how much we have appreciated his reliability and dedication. We are learning it will take a few people to do what Al did on his own!

#### DANIEL MOREL

Daniel, born in Montreal in 1990, left home at 16 to travel and busk our home and native land, honing his skills while doing so. He spent 10 years being homeless before making his way to settle in Victoria. Daniel has a tremendously unique harp style, merging many of the Blues greats. He has experience busking, playing shows, touring and recording across Canada. He brings an authenticity and rawness to his harp playing that recalls the hard reality of life on the streets of many a Canadian city.

Together, Lonnie & Daniel's performances are unique and highly original, infusing jazz and blues into quirky, rhythmic tones, with poetic lyrical stories reminiscent of John Prine & Leonard Cohen. Mix in a quart of Tom Waits, a pint of Louis Armstrong and a dash of Cookie Monster, and you'll get Lonnie's unique vocals combining with Big Train's quirky acoustic vibe.

This is a style of music not often heard on our fair shore, and one that is sure to be talked about long after it's over. Let's show our support for fine BC musicians with the kind of enthusiasm that our Eastshore community is famous for. Let's encourage an encore performance down the road. Make sure to check it out!

#### LUCAS MYERS BRINGS THE LAUGHS WITH "RANDY FROM CRESTON"

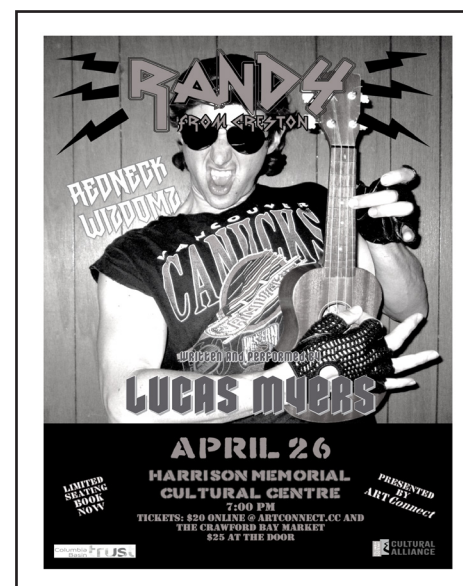
Saturday, April 26 at 7 pm

Lucas Myers wanted to have fun. Touring was ramping up after the extended hiatus due to COVID and he was trying to figure out the right show to bring to local audiences.

*"I was looking at the news every day and there was so much intensity, so much anxiety. I decided I wanted to offer a show that would really lean into people having a good time, as much for the audience as for myself!"* says Lucas.

Enter "Randy from Creston" — a fan-favorite who has been entertaining Kootenay audiences for two decades. First introduced in Myers' debut show *DRESS*, Randy has since made appearances at Backyard Booties, birthday parties, and most recently at Columbia Basin Trust symposiums in Trail, Golden, and Cranbrook. *"Randy is one of my favorite characters to play. He's always in a good mood and he just wants everyone to have a great time."* This positive approach to, well, everything informed Lucas' concept of a full length show for Randy. Billed as a "Redneck Wellness seminar" Redneck Wisdomz finds Randy offering advice and aphorisms to the audience based on some of his own life learnings, going off on tangents, singing songs, and leading the crowd through a ridiculous yet somehow effective "mindlessness" exercise. The show will also feature a guest star, as Randy's oft mentioned but elusive best friend Gopher will be making an appearance and "sharing his perspective". After the success of the recent screening the sketch comedy show *Southern Interior*, in which Myers played over 25 different characters over a 10 day shoot this summer and a tour of his latest show *ROOF* to the coast, Myers is ready for some Randy time. *"I'm all for new experiences, but something about the craziness of our current situation really makes me appreciate the value in embracing the familiar right now."* Myers says. *"Doing this show in the Kootenays really feels like hanging out with old friends, you know what you're getting into, you can kick back, relax and enjoy the ride."*

Randy from Creston will be at the Harrison Memorial Cultural Centre on April 26 at 7:00. Tickets are \$ 20 in advance at artconnect.cc and the Crawford Bay Market and \$25 at the door.



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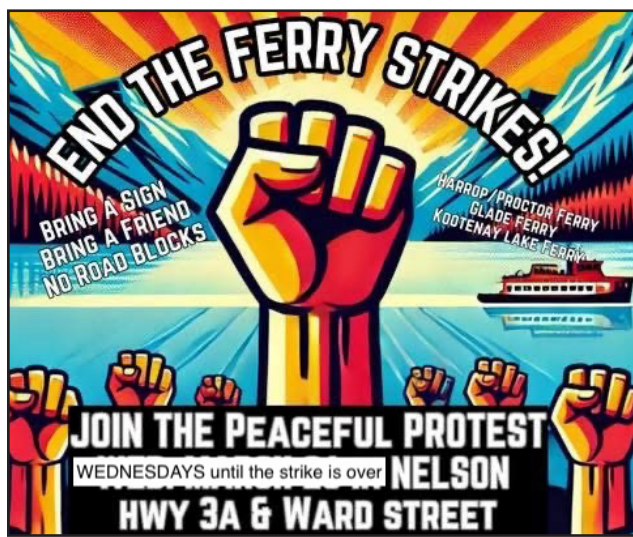
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# Trail Report & Spring Membership Drive

By: Farley Cursons

ESTBA Executive Director

*"Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt." - John Muir*



As the snows recede we begin to identify our initial trail maintenance needs and see how our newer trail enhancement projects have weathered their first winter. We have a bit more of a snowpack than last year so work in higher areas will happen when we have access.

Our Society President, Sandy Oates has been doing reconnaissance and reports that trail areas that are now clear of snow and most downfall include the Pilot Bay Provincial Park, Fraser Hill Viewpoint, Lower William Fraser & Woodlot Trails, Riondel Heritage Trail, The Trans Canada Trail off highway route and of course the Crawford Bay Wetlands Trails. There is still some significant water run-off in many areas which we will continue to address. The Historic Waterline Trail above Riondel should be open by mid April depending on winter's grip. Spring conditions for sure!

As we prepare for a full clearing of the trail networks we do still anticipate some significant wind storms which will be timed with final clearing of the more remote areas of the network. We're always happy when we have a

chance to speak with trail users when we're on the trails. If you encounter our crew operating chainsaws please use extra caution and wait a moment until we see you and can let you know it's safe. Keep dogs leashed.

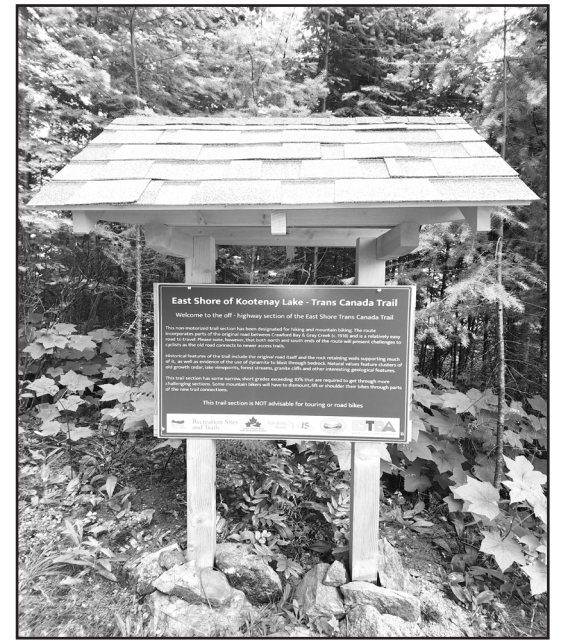
Some of our trails share overlapping partnerships with Woodlot Licensees on the Crawford Peninsula. This winter in an effort to harvest fir beetle affected areas, there has been some logging in the middle section of the Height of Land Trail. In that, we collaborated with the licensee to establish a short reroute of the trail.

We have some access changes at the south end of the Crawford Peninsula. Formal access to the trails on private land has at this time been discontinued in the Cortiana Bay/Cape Horn area. Hikers on the Upper Levels and East Shore Trails will see preemptive signage informing them of the changes. If you find yourself on a trail not indicated on our trail map, it is likely headed toward private land. ESTBA doesn't advocate use of these private land trails unless you have permission from the land owner.

Thanks to funding from Columbia Basin Trust and the Area A EDC, we have made significant improvements to our remaining crown land trail network at the south end of the peninsula with additional enhancements to the East Shore Trail. This 'in-out' trail takes you to a phenomenal viewpoint well worth the journey. We also built an access trail down to Picnic Bay across from Gray Creek. These segments are on crown land and are part of the RDCK's Official Community Plan under 'Parks and Recreation'.



Last summer we built and installed some new sign kiosks on the Trans Canada Trail. New interpretive signs can be found at either end of the 'off HWY route' and a larger covered sign kiosk with a bench has been installed near the Gray Creek Pass summit.



The East Shore Trail and Bike Association completed two Trail Enhancement projects last year and look forward to announcing our official openings for both in the coming months.

ESTBA manages and supports management of over 50 km of hiking and mountain biking trails which include; Crawford Peninsula, Pilot Peninsula, Crawford Creek Regional Park, Lockhart Creek, Trans Canada Trail, the Riondel Heritage Trail, Historic Waterline Trail and the Tam O'Shanter Trail area. A complete list of authorized trails that we manage and promote can be found on our website. Our trail map is also on the website with physical maps at the information Booth in Crawford Bay as well as many local businesses.

The East Shore Trail and Bike Association has been improving and promoting local trails for over 10 years. While we do take time to enjoy our contributions to the local recreation community, this year we will be more focused on maintenance of our existing trails with any new projects on hold. We hope to collaborate further with the Kootenay Lake Chamber of Commerce and Nelson & Kootenay Lake Tourism to promote the East Shore and how amazing it is here. We'll need all hands on deck to rebound economically from this whole ferry debacle.

Management of the East Shore trail networks would not be possible without support from the RDCK Area A Recreation 9 Commission, the RDCK Area A Economic Development Commission, the Trans Canada Trail Society, Nelson & District Credit Union, Nelson & Kootenay Lake Tourism, Recreation Sites & Trails BC, BC Parks and the Columbia Basin Trust.

Thanks also to all the local trail users who let us know about trail issues through social media.

While you can sign up for an ESTBA society membership anytime, May is our annual membership drive month. We have membership options for youth, adults, family and business/organizations.

Does your business or organization promote and/or benefit from well managed recreation trails on the East Shore? A \$50 business/organization membership goes a long way to supporting our management efforts ensuring your clients and guests have a great time exploring our beautiful area. Our website also has a super easy-to-use 'Donate' button if you're able to support this amazing community asset further. Go to [www.estba.ca](http://www.estba.ca)

See you on the trails!

## Recreation Grant Applications Electoral Area A - Recreation Commission No. 9

Non-profit recreation groups can submit their grant-in-aid applications to the Recreation No. 9 Commission by **Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 4:00pm PT.**

The Recreation No. 9 public meeting to review applications is scheduled for **Monday, April 28, 2025 at 2:00pm PT** at the Community Corner in Crawford Bay or online.

For more information and meeting details visit [rdck.ca/recgrants](http://rdck.ca/recgrants).



[rdck.ca](http://rdck.ca)





## Tales From Shpaxieland

by Heath Carra  
shpaxieland.com

### Wake, Wake

Lad - Grandpa, is there going to be a ferry sailing this afternoon?

Gramps - Don't be silly, Lad. Not even God knows the answer to that. By rights, there should be a sailing if the union doesn't just come up with a surprise excuse to cancel it.

Lad - That's called a sucker-punch sailing, Grandpa. We learned about it in self-defence class. That's when you're lured to the ferry terminal by the promise of a sailing, and just when you've finalized plans for your doctor's appointments, business meetings, and grocery shopping, they sucker-punch you in your livelihood by not running the boat.

Gramps - That's right. Listen to your self-defence instructor, Lad. Always stay on your guard when it comes to the ferry.

Lad - I will, Grandpa. But I don't understand why they want to punch kids and families and grandparents anyway. What did we ever do to them?

Gramps - It's not that we did anything. It's just that they need to punch someone, and we're the only ones they can reach.

Lad - But couldn't they just run all the sailings and not sucker punch anyone?

Gramps - Well, they used to, before the strike.

Lad - What's the strike, Grandpa?

Gramps - It's when the ferry operator and the workers' union struck out all the ferry sailings except for three on weekdays and two on week-end days.

Lad - Why did they do that?

Gramps - Well, this was way back in the mid-twenty-twenties when I was about your age. It was the beginning of the Shrinkflation Era. Inflation had gotten so out of hand that instead of constantly raising prices and drawing the ire of consumers, businesses tried to hide it by keeping the prices for things the same but giving you less for your money.

Lad - Wow. That sounds kind of shystery, Grandpa.

Gramps - Watch your language, Lad. This is free market capitalism we're talking about here. You show some respect!

Lad - Sorry, Grandpa.

Gramps - It's alright. But watch that blasphemy.

Lad - I will, Grandpa. But how did shrinkflation affect the ferry? The boat didn't get smaller, did it?

Gramps - Course not, Lad. The schedule got smaller. Folks had already paid for the service through their taxes, and the government paid that money to the ferry operator to provide the service, so the company couldn't just stop doing the job they'd been paid for. Instead, they found a loophole. They waited until the contract with

the union came up for negotiation, and instead of providing the union with wages and terms comparable to the other inland ferry workers, the company provoked the union to make the strike. The union struck seven sailings from the weekday schedule and eight from Saturday and Sunday. It was a shrinkflation master-stroke. Then, when that didn't get the union the contract they wanted, they agreed to run the sailings, but always with the threat of a sucker punch sailing thrown in. Folks like you and I have no influence on the contract or, as it turns out, the government, so we ended up being constantly victimized, and it's been that way since November 3rd, 2024

Lad - November 3rd? But that's Wake Day. It's a holiday.

Gramps - It's a day of remembrance, Lad. After the first decade of the strike, we locals started gathering to nurse our wounds from all the sucker punching and to mourn all the wakes the ferry should have been making. At one time, the ferry helped East Shore folk get to and from essential services on the other shore. It was a key factor in our livelihoods. That's why we stand for a minute of silence on that day. To remember the ferry service we once had. It's a wake for the ferry's wake and for the friendly relations we once had with its crew.

Lad - Gosh, Grandpa. Ferry schedule shrinkflation and sucker punch sailings have been around for so long, I thought it had just always been this way, like the Centennial Project.

Gramps - It's not a Centennial Project, Lad. That's the new ferry build.

Lad - A new ferry?! But they don't expect to finish it for another 60 years. I'm going to be older than you when it's done, Grandpa.

Gramps - Don't count your chickens until they're hatched. Since it was started, the deadline for the new ferry has stretched and stretched further into the future. The longer they work on it, the longer it's going to take to finish it. It's like a race where, with every step you take toward the finish line, the finish line moves two steps further away. The ferry build is a counter-balance for all the shrinkflation. Its completion date keeps inflating further into the future to compensate for the tension all that shrinkflation puts on the spacetime continuum.

Lad - When will it be finished then?

Gramps - Don't be daft, Lad. It's never going to be done. Its purpose is to keep the universe from imploding from all the shrinkflation. If prices of goods and services always go up and quantity always goes down, eventually you'll be paying an infinite price for infinite nothingness, and the quadrillionaire oligarchs who rule the world will run the risk of not being able to enjoy record profits year after year. The concept won't even make sense. The universe will turn itself inside out, and we'll all pop out of existence. It's basic econo-quantum theory.

Lad - You mean, the new ferry isn't an actual ferry?

Gramps - Nope. It's an infinitely dense singularity that keeps the universe from ending. It's vital that we work on it forever and never complete it.

Lad - That sounds like another kind of sucker punch.

Gramps - What did I say about blasphemy, Lad?

Lad - Sorry, Grandpa.

(This story is meant for entertainment purposes only, and any similarity to ferry operators or unions is entirely coincidental.)

## East Shore Kootenay Lake Community Health Society Farewell Dr. Barbour!

submitted by Taryn Stokes

We, the Board of the East Shore Kootenay Lake Community Health Society, are a little late in getting this out but we could not let the opportunity pass no matter how late we were! A BIG shout out to one of the most committed East Shore physicians on her retirement and move from the East Shore, Dr. Elizabeth Barbour-Jones.

Liz, her name of preference, was our shining star who provided health services and leadership with compassion, good humour and determination wherever she practised.

Prior to coming to the East Shore, she practiced at the medical clinic in Slocan Park from 1996 to 2013 before moving to the Kootenay Lake Medical Clinic in Nelson. To recognize her years of service there, the Lions Club of the Kootenay-Slocan Valley installed a bench in her honour on the Rails to Trails.

Dr. Barbour-Jones and her husband retired to our community in Riondel in 2014. However, after a tragic car accident that took the life of a family physician who was practising at our Crawford Bay Clinic, Liz quickly came out of retirement to provide primary care until another family physician was recruited.

She was involved in coordinating the provision of COVID-19 vaccinations locally, on the East Shore, so our residents could avoid travelling to other communities. Even Michael Jones, her husband, was also put to work at the vaccination clinic.

That was so Liz like! Always helping out when she saw a need, willing to be involved. She jumped in with both feet to learn and master electronic record keeping and encouraged others to do the same. She had a deep concern for her patients and the community, especially on rural health concerns. Her diagnostic skills were excellent as was her continued support and follow up of her patients. Everything she did was with a wonderful sense of humour and a very sharp wit.

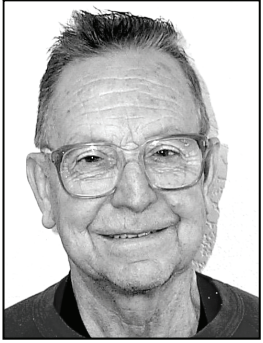
Following her retirement, she remained active in the health community, providing guidance and advice to our Board, assisting with recruitment of physicians, meeting with them, pointing out the pluses of our community and offering her support and guidance, and council in every way possible, including providing doctor specific information and even real estate listings!

In her spare time, she has a passion for gardening, she shared the fruits of her and Michael's labour with those who were not as fortunate to have their green thumbs. She and Michael also have a great love of animals, and are well read. They are a wonderful community minded duo!

To quote someone who worked with her at the clinic, Doreen Nault, ***"She is the epitome of what I consider 'a good human' with a sparkling tack-sharp intellect, a wonderful sense of humour, and a sincere love for the people in her community."***

We, at the East Shore Kootenay Lake Community Health Society couldn't agree more, and will miss having them as a vibrant part of our community! Only our ***gratitude and our best wishes go out to Liz and Michael in their next chapter of their amazing lives!!***





## 400 Sheep Through Rose Pass: The Eppards' Epic Trek

by Tom Lymbery with Frances Roback

*It always raises my spirits to read stories of strangers helping strangers in need. In these dark times, it feels like the right time to revisit the extraordinary tale of Marion Eppard, his wife (whose name isn't known), their young son Kenneth, and 400 sheep as they trekked west across the Rose Pass in search of good grazing for their flock.*

*Tom's story first appeared in the Mainstreet in September 1998, and updated in December 2010. Marguerite Beley and Brenda Dau provided photos, and Mabel McLeish and George Eccleston gave Tom valuable insights. More on the story is found in Clara Graham's "This Was The Kootenay" (1963); Lillian Corriveau's "Looking for Grass" (BC Historical News, Winter 2001-02); Terry Turner's and Susan Hulland's "Impressions from the Past" (2002); and Terry Turner's "Bluebell Memories" (1997). The previous trek over Rose Pass likely was in 1927 by the Chapman Camp Boy Scout Troop. Alf Watson's first-hand account in "No Pass Too High, No Trail Too Long" (1997) is well worth reading.*

- Frances Roback, Gray Creek Historical Society

In 1932, our new East Shore highway up Kootenay Lake was clogged by an Alberta wagon train of horses trailed by more loose horses. So when the BC Public Works Dept. learned a Saskatchewan farm family - the Eppards - were also heading our way with 400 sheep, they advised them instead to use the Rose Pass trail across the Purcell Mountains from Kimberley to Kootenay Lake.

Public Works assured the Eppards that the Rose Pass trail would be slashed (cleared) for their travel. But when the Eppards began their climb up from Marysville toward the pass, they found much too much deadfall, overgrown bush and unbridged streams blocking their route. Clearly the trail slashing crew had run out of energy, or money, or both.

Meanwhile, three adventurous Kimberley teenagers - Doris Dakin (Riddell), Mabel McKay (McLeish), and Marguerite Dakin (Beley) had also heard that the Rose Pass route was to be cleared and reopened. The girls planned to ride their horses over the Rose Pass, on to Nelson and then back home to Kimberley. Mabel, who later retired to Riondel with her husband Roy McLeish, told me of the struggle they had, along with the Eppards, on the overgrown Rose Pass trail.

Mabel didn't know the Eppards' story and neither did I. But thanks to research by George Eccleston of Kimberley, we can now fill in some of the gaps. The family had a sheep farm on the Souris River near Estevan in SE Saskatchewan, but the drought left little for their flock to feed on but Russian thistles. The Eppards decided to

move their flock west in search of better grass, with no specific destination in mind, and no inkling of the arduous trek they would endure.

In the spring of 1933, the Eppards began their epic trek west. Marion had sheared his flock to raise some money. His wife, whose name isn't known, drove the team and wagon with their five-year-old son Kenneth, while Marion and a hardworking border collie kept their 300 sheep on the move and in check. They had \$3.40 in cash, no map, no compass, no gun, and only a slingshot for small game. They lived mostly on mutton. For tea, flour, sugar and salt, Marion butchered a lamb to use for barter.

Progress was slow - no more than six miles a day. The flock had to graze along the way, and would not be hurried. But people they met along the way were generous with what they could spare. By November 1933 they were in SE Alberta near Foremost, where Joe Detterman showed them an abandoned cabin where they could winter, and a stack of straw for sheep feed. In the spring of 1934 they sheared the sheep and hauled the wool 70 miles by team and wagon to Lethbridge, where it sold for four cents a pound. The spring crop of new lambs boosted their flock to nearly 600 animals, and they were on their way again.

In Pincher Creek they traded sheep meat for a second border collie and a milk goat. They now had fresh milk to help them face - and face into - the windswept Crowsnest Pass through the Rockies, and on to Fernie and Cranbrook.

Ahead lay a shorter but much more grueling route to Kootenay Lake. That lay north to Kimberley and Marysville, west across the Purcell Mountains and Rose Pass, then dropping back down to Crawford Bay and the lake. This off-road option promised to be easier on their sheep's feet, which were sore from the rocks and sharp gravel of the highway. And besides, they had been promised a new wagon road for this leg of their journey. Nothing could have been further from the truth.

First there was St. Mary's River to cross and re-cross. They dropped trees to make a bridge across a 60 foot gorge. They were forced to leave the wagon there and continue on horseback with their belongings. The goat more than proved her worth, for she took the lead for the flock to follow, while Marion, young Kenneth, and the two dogs herded from the rear.

The final climb to the summit of Rose Pass was looking impassable until they encountered the three Kimberley girls, and what a welcome sight they were. The way ahead was completely choked with deadfall, fallen rocks and overgrown bushes, and the girls willingly joined the family's trail slashing crew. Mabel told me Doris and Marg used a crosscut saw to remove standing trees and deadfall, and got lots of practice at it. The girls could have turned back when they found the going was so tough, but Mabel told me they felt so sorry for the Eppards that they pitched in and persevered. When the girls' families in Kimberley had not heard from them in eight days, they sent a search party and found they were OK and had new muscles.

From the summit the descent down to Crawford Bay looked easier, so Marion left his wife, son and sheep to make their own way down the mountain - an elevation drop of 4400 feet over 14 miles. He meanwhile returned to the wagon, hitched up the team, and travelled all the way back to Cranbrook, over to Creston, and up the East Shore road to rendezvous with his wife in Crawford Bay.



Above: Marion Eppard, his wife and young son Kenneth on the Rose Pass trail with milk goat, two border collies, and flock of sheep, 1934. Photo: Marguerite Beley



Above: In 1934, the Eppards' 600 sheep crossed Kootenay Lake in a homemade floating sheep pen towed by a small motor launch. Photo by Bobby Graham Brown via Brenda Dau

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A. R. McGregor heard sheep bleating while he was scaling logs on Crawford Creek and thought he was dreaming. Despite incredible odds, only one sheep out of 600 died on the trek to Kootenay Lake. Four border collie pups also died when the lard pail in which they were travelling fell over and rolled down the mountain. So many questions remain unanswered. How did the sheep escape the notice of bears, wolves, coyotes, and cougars in that wild country? Sheep would be easy pickings for large predators. Border collies are not bear dogs or cougar hounds, and a slingshot would not be much of a deterrent. And what could the sheep find to feed on along the way?

Doris, Mabel and Marguerite eventually reached their destination in Nelson. But their planned three-day horseback trip had turned into ten days cutting trail for the Eppards. By the time they reached Creston they had run out of money and food, and had to phone Kimberley for help to make it home.

The Eppards had cleared the Purcell Mountains hurdle, but getting 600 sheep across Kootenay Lake seemed insurmountable, even for this remarkable family. It would have cost 50 dollars to hire a barge and tug - money they did not have. Once again, strangers came to their rescue. With help from George DeMille, Fred Watts, Bobby Graham Brown and others, a floating sheep pen was built at Walker's Landing to take 50 sheep across the lake at a time, towed by a motor launch. The sheep were packed tightly to prevent them from bunching up on one side and cause the float to tip over. Fortunately the lake was fairly calm for the three days it took to get the entire flock across to Mile Point, just south of Ainsworth. Marion paid George and Fred with the only currency he had - three sheep and some small change to cover their gas. Bobby received two sheep, and a lamb roast every Christmas for years.

On to Kaslo, New Denver, over to Nakusp, south down Arrow Lake to Fauquier, over to Needles, and west again, with still no destination in mind but to find enough grass to feed their flock. The grassy Okanagan country was the answer, they were told. The prospect of traveling the Monashee Pass road to Vernon did not seem to faze them. Built by German internees during the First World War, the Monashee Pass road across the Selkirk Mountains was rough, steep, and covered in snow, but on they went.

Near Vernon they met sheep man R. A. Davidson who let them use his pasture and a long-vacant house. The only furniture was an apple box, but Mrs. Eppard exclaimed, "Isn't it wonderful to be sitting in a real house!" Then they were allowed to winter their sheep in a large orchard. It wasn't easy, but they eventually found their own grassy acres for their flock, now grown to 1000 sheep, on the west side of Okanagan Lake. Nine years after their arrival Marion Eppard died, in 1942.

It is hard to believe that a family of three could have travelled from the flatlands of Saskatchewan across three mountain ranges to the Okanagan Valley, by wagon and on foot. Their flock was their capital on the hoof, and it had more than tripled in size at their destination. Their once sickly son, now seven, had grown strong on a diet of mutton, bushwhacking and herding. It's harder still to imagine how they made it through the impenetrable bush of the Rose Pass. But made it they did, with Mabel, Doris and Marguerite there to help. The Eppards' epic sheep trek is a story of strangers stepping up to help all along the way, and often those who had the least gave the most.



Above: Marguerite Beley fishing on St. Mary's River. The Kimberley teenager helped to make the Rose Pass trail passable for the Eppards and their sheep, 1934. Photo: Marguerite Beley



Above: Building the floating sheep pen at Walker's Landing south of Riondel, 1934. From Graham Brown album via Brenda Dau

## Tom Sez ~ circa April 2015

by Tom Lymbery

*Publishers Note - Tom has deservedly retired from writing updated columns. Enjoy blurbs from the past!*

Our lake is unlikely to rise much until early May so you still have time to repair your docks and clean your beach. We stock dipped galvanized chain and bolts to aid your dock work. Lowering the water to the zero level at the end of each March is required by the International Joint Commission. I quit smoking 52 years ago, but I still have great sympathy with those unable to escape the evil weed. Surely more effective drugs or systems can be made available. The savings from not smoking have been sufficient to pay for a lifetime of vehicles for Sharon and myself.

An early spring can see the pink cherry on the corner by the store blooming as soon as April 20. My folks made a trip from Nelson to Spokane on the Galloping Goose in 1937 where my dad bought a package of tree seeds and this cherry is the last survivor of the seeds that grew.

Appliances are becoming more power conservative. If you get a new microwave or coffee maker you may find that it no longer has a clock - only turning on when you press a button. Clocks on almost every appliance waste power and are just a problem to re-set after power failures.

The March 1, 1915 edition of the Nelson Daily News reported the arrival at Nelson Banks of 6000 one cent coins. This was the first time small coins arrived in the Kootenays. In earlier years the smallest coin was a silver 10 center.

When Sharon and I were married (52 years ago this April) we took a week's honeymoon and got as far south as San Francisco. The only place we paid more than \$5 a night was a hotel on Knob Hill in SF that was \$8. This was before Chargex or Visa but we did have an Imperial oil credit card for gas.

Those beautiful green soccer fields you saw at last summer's World Cup of Soccer in Brazil came about from perennial rye grass seed imported from Manitoba. Brazil's fields are normally brown from the summertime heat.

Springtime burning of last year's grass is always dangerous. Every year we hear of a house, shop or both burned near Creston. Let's not see this on the lake.

Census people are currently making house calls with a comprehensive list of questions in Mexico. Much different from Harper's Canadian Census that is apparently showing our lake with thousands of supposedly empty houses.

Once the bracken fern has its leaves fully open there will be no more frost. Trying to change my computer from US spelling to Canadian Multilingual Standard should remove that underline from harbour and Kootenay. How do we get it in place for those who continue to use the misspelling Grey Creek?

The 2015 Calgary Stampede auction for ads on the tarps of the chuck wagons brought a top bid of \$170,000 for one.

20,000 pounds of illegal fireworks were disposed of by being set off in the day time in Midland, Texas.

Life is like a jar of jalapeño peppers - what you do today might burn your butt tomorrow.

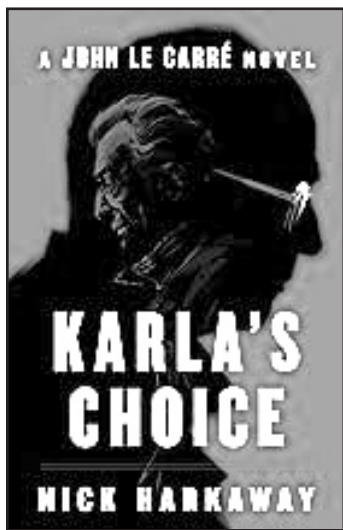
*Next print deadline*

*May 23*

*Next email news deadline*

*April 30*





## For the Love of Genre A Pocket-book Full of Ghosts

by Sharman Horwood

A novel appeared on bookstore shelves just

before Christmas that looked interesting: *Karla's Choice* (2024), by Nick Harkaway. It's a sequel to John Le Carré's *Karla/Smiley* novels: *The Spy Who Came In From The Cold* (1963), *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* (1974), and *Smiley's People* (1979). If you haven't read these, I strongly recommend them; all three are in my top ten favourite novels, and they have aged well. *Tinker Tailor* was made into a good mini-series for television (1979), and then a so-so film in 2011.

This latest installment, *Karla's Choice*, is worth reading, but it isn't genuine Le Carré. It follows the spirit of the previous novels, but doesn't quite manage the story, or in some cases, the inflection of voices that Le Carré mastered so well. Nick Harkaway is his son (John Le Carré is a pseudonym, as is the name Nick Harkaway). Harkaway is a published novelist in his own right. After Le Carré's passing in 2020, the family wanted to keep his novels in print, and his stories alive, and together they decided that another novel in the series would do the job. One of Le Carré's sons suggested that Nick should write it. The novel was an enormous undertaking. In order to copy his father's style and keep the content true to the theme, Nick re-read the books, went to sleep listening to them, and researched

the Circus operations as his father knew them, as well as trying to understand the political situation in those times.

This novel takes place in 1963, and it is a story full of ghosts, past and present. George Smiley is happily retired with his wife Ann, and she is no more faithful to him than she ever was. He keeps trying nonetheless. However, Control asks him to return for one operation. Apparently, a Hungarian literary agent located in London has disappeared.

Susanna Gero works for Mr. László Bánáti. On this particular morning, she arrives at work and he is absent. A few minutes after she discovers he's not there, someone knocks at the door. A short, heavy man is standing there. To her surprise, he tells her, "I am Miki. I am here to kill your Mr. Bánáti on the personal instruction of a senior officer of the Thirteenth Directorate of the Committee for State Security of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. But . . . God has told me I will not be a murderer any more" (p. 9).

Susanna investigates Mr. Bánáti's apartment, just down the street. There is evidence of a packed suitcase, an open window, but Mr. Bánáti isn't there. He hasn't left her a note, nor any other indication of why he's gone. He usually would be at work at this time of the day. She does find a packet of letters that she takes with her. She returns to the office and goes to a former employer, Rose Jeremy, who is the friend she needs. She also takes Miki, the reformed murderer with her. Rose Jeremy knows that this is a case for "waifs and strays" and gets in touch with her contacts at the Circus.

Control immediately contacts George Smiley and requests his help. Apparently, László Bánáti is a Soviet agent from the past, and is now "a trained operative on the run" (p. 65). He is a danger to the Circus' agents, as well as the stability of the spy networks running across Europe at that time.

There are many ghosts in this story, all of them people George Smiley once knew: Alec Leamas, Hans-Dieter Mundt, both from *A Spy Who Came In From The Cold*, along with current operatives Jim Prideaux and Peter Guillam, from *Tinker Tailor*. Smiley himself, and his marriage to Ann can also be seen as ghosts, trapped in their doomed relationship. Smiley is "the salamander [who] lives in the fire because it has forgotten how to live any other way" (p. 59). Though he wants to, he cannot change his life. He stays with Ann, and willingly accepts Control's request when a problem like this one surfaces.

Of course, one of the ghosts in the tale is Le Carré himself. This is the weak side of this novel. Harkaway does a skillful job of imitating his father's work, particularly in the beginning of this novel. Smiley's dialogues with Connie Sachs are almost as masterful as Le Carré's own creations. However, when it comes to characters like Toby Esterhase, the nuances of a second language speaker fall short of Le Carré's depiction of this as well as other characters. Also the story falls short of Le Carré's superb plotting.

*Tinker Tailor* "received critical acclaim for its complex social commentary--and, at the time, relevance" (*Wikipedia*). Le Carré used Kim Philby's defection to the Soviets, his betrayal of the British Secret Service--the Circus--for the novel's story. Unfortunately, though Harkaway is a good writer, he misses that same atmospheric event in *Karla's Choice*. He relies heavily instead on explanations of the psychology behind the characters' actions, rather than letting the characters demonstrate it. On the whole the novel reads like an introduction to the characters, and the geo-political situation behind these events, whereas most Le Carré readers would already know them.

The novel is a good read just the same, but I'd probably wait for the paperback version before buying it.

## Media Release

March 20, 2025

### Work Experience Coordinator to Connect SD8 to Local Employers

School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake) is pleased to announce that Wendy Lacroix has been contracted as Work Experience (WEX) Community Coordinator for the next three months leading into the summer job season. With an extensive background in career development and strong ties to the Kootenay region, Wendy will be working closely with local employers and organizations to secure work experience placement agreements and to build a database of employers and organizations for schools to use.

Wendy's years of expertise working extensively with Kootenay Career Development Services (KCDS) in Nelson and in other regional employment initiatives position her as a valuable resource for educators whose role includes career development. Her deep understanding of workforce needs and career pathways will allow SD8 to identify opportunities for students to gain hands-on experience in fields such as healthcare, trades, early childhood education, business, and more.

"As a mother of two daughters in highly successful careers, I understand the importance of discovering new career opportunities, and I look forward to working with employers to

connect schools and their students with experiences that match student interests," said Lacroix.

The SD8 Work Experience Program helps students gain practical skills that align with their career goals. Lacroix will connect with Kootenay businesses, non-profits, and industry leaders to identify and cultivate opportunities for students to participate in structured, safe, and inclusive work placements on their journey to realizing their career goals.

SD8 secured a Work Experience Enhancement grant from the B.C. Ministry of Education and Child Care to develop new relationships and/or enhance existing relationships with employers that will lead to in-person, paid or unpaid work experience placements. Lacroix's role is to develop relationships where work experience is accessible to all students, including those with diverse abilities. This means SD8 school and program staff can ensure student work experience suits their specific needs and allows them to participate fully in the program.

#### WHAT EMPLOYERS NEED TO KNOW

Most work experience placements are paid, though unpaid opportunities are also possible for students who want to gain experience while earning Work Experience 11 or 12 credits toward graduation. Students in unpaid placements can also count their hours toward their Career Life Connections volunteer requirements for graduation, scholarships, post-secondary

programs and more.

Some employers may be eligible for wage subsidies to help cover the cost of hiring a student through the WorkBC Wage Subsidy Program.

Businesses benefit from the program by training young workers in industry-specific skills, which is critical to developing skilled, qualified future employees, particularly in sectors like trades.

"We are excited to have Wendy's skills and knowledge available and to have her do the leg-work so that schools can quickly find placements for interested students. Her passion for student success and her deep connections in the community make her the perfect fit to expand our work experience options," said Tamara Malloff, District Principal of Innovative Learning.

Employers and community organizations interested in partnering with SD8 to offer work experience placements can contact Innovative Education. For more information, visit the SD8 Work Experience page.

#### ABOUT CAREER DEVELOPMENT IN SD8

SD8 prepares students to graduate with options for their future life and career goals. The district is committed to empowering students with diverse career pathways through hands-on learning, dual credit and trades training programs, and to community engagement. SD8 actively partners with local businesses, post-secondary institutions, and industry leaders to prepare students for success in their chosen careers.



## BULLETIN BOARD

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## MEETUPS

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**MOST HOLY REDEEMER CATHOLIC CHURCH** RIONDEL - Mass 2:00 PM Sunday

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## In Loving Memory



**James (Jim) Raymond Fortune**

June 21, 1939 - March 18, 2025

Jim was born in Saint John, N.B. and after graduating from High School joined the RCAF, going through basic training in St. Jean, Que. Jim chose a field in electronics and received further training at RCAF Station Clinton, Ont. Upon completion of the Com. Tech Air courses Jim was transferred to Greenwood N.S. where he met and married Air-Woman Hope Lundberg. They spent seven years in Greenwood and the family increased; a son Patrick, daughter Joanne and their youngest son Paul. Jim was transferred to the Air Nav school in Winnipeg. Jim was awarded the Centennial Medal in 1967 for Meritorious Service in the RCAF. Leaving the Air Force Jim was employed by Beckman Instruments. In June 1975 Jim was welcomed to the Hewlett-Packard Edmonton office as a Service Representative. Jim and Hope loved to golf and after spending several years of travelling to Kokanee Springs Golf Resort in Crawford Bay B.C. and having a chuckle about the sign above the cart shop - "Cart Break Hotel", Jim stated "When I retire I want to work here". His dream came true and together Hope and Jim moved to Crawford Bay, building their dream home above the 18th Tee and 17th Green. This was accomplished with the new friends and neighbors that welcomed us to the area. Jim worked at the cart shop for 19.5 years.

Between construction of their new home, working at the Cart Shop Jim found time to join the Kootenay Lions Club, serving as President several times over the 22 plus years of service to the Lions and the community.

Jim leaves to mourn his passing his wife Hope; son Patrick (Dianne), Grande Prairie, A.B.; daughter Joanne Halwa (Wayne), Leduc, A.B.; chosen brother Lloyd (Diane), Toronto; nephews Andrew and Ian Fortune; Toronto sister Margaret (Bob), Saint John, N.B.; nieces Kim and Chris, Saint John, N.B.; step-brother Father Stanislaspaulin, Saint John, N.B.

Grandchildren Shevaun Fortune, Roatan, Honduras; Bryce (Anita) Fortune; two great-grandsons - Cooper and Jett Fortune, Grande Prairie, A.B.; granddaughters Sierra Halwa (Josh), Calgary, A.B.; Brooklyn Stretch (Luke) and great-granddaughter Chloe Joanne of Calgary.

Predeceased by Son, Paul Vernon; sister, Ann; and parents Catherine and Raymond Fortune.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Gene Zwozdesky Memorial Centre at Norwood in Edmonton, and the Staff at Lifestyles in Leduc, A.B. for all their care and compassion shown to Jim.

There will be a "Wake" for Jim at a time and place to be determined and as Jim said, "No Tears are allowed.". Internment at a later date.

*Jim's ship slipped anchor and with all sails set he sailed away from us into the sunset and beyond to be welcomed by his Lord and into the arms of his loved ones waiting on the other side.*

APR/MAY 2025 Mainstreet 17



# Thoughts From The Frog Pot

by John Rayson

## World Change And Canada

Once a year, I deem it a necessity to restate the title of the column [Thoughts From the Frog Pot] and why I decided to use this title as a metaphor regarding events occurring in our environment. Like a frog in a pot is thought to remain in the pot until it boils, our society tends to do the same. Changes occur in our environment and may result in negative effects; we do not recognize or react to change or we decide that it does not affect us individually.

There has been a hiatus since the last column, necessitated by medical events. I did begin writing this column in Dec. 2024, prior to the recent drastic changes in our world. The Prime Minister resigned, a leadership race ensued, and chaos reigned south of the border. A Liberal leadership race will result in a new Prime Minister, probably with an immediate election or at the latest, an election in the fall of 2025. In the meantime, our parliament is prorogued, nothing can be decided and we are faced with the chaos from the south with potential huge tariffs affecting Canadian business and a major change in world order. What a mess.

Another hiatus: we now have a new Prime Minister, tariffs are in place for some materials, such as aluminum and steel, others pending on April 2, and Canada will have an election in the near future; i.e. late April or early May.

The polls now show the parties equal, a result indicating Canadians are looking for leadership as the world changes. Will we find it?

A fact of life is that we share a large border and a continent with an out of control bully, to whom one cannot appeal. In addition, our northern frontier borders Russia, a country that has a keen interest in the north and now appears to be in harmony with our southern lunatic. These factors coupled with our low productivity, low investment in business and infrastructure, severe intra-provincial trading barriers and total lack of commitment to military spending, places us in a precarious position. We are a trading nation and three quarters of our trade is with the U.S. Obviously, this must change but will take time. Other potential trading partners are at a distance. It appears that Trump intends to economically bankrupt Canada and make us a vassal state of the U.S. Make no mistake, he wants our minerals, oil and water; all of which we have in abundance. Signed agreements mean nothing and the "rule of law" is a non issue. Mr. Trump, with his declining mental capacity [early Alzheimer's], has stated that Canada should be the 51st state. Don't be sucked in; we are more likely to be treated like Puerto Rico or Cuba than a state with rights. As a country, we tend to be either centrist or slightly left and thus would be a threat to the present government of the U.S. In the U.S., if I identified myself as a Canadian Conservative, I would be considered a communist. This is not a joke; I have had that conversation. I did spend 10 years as a "snowbird"; a period that ended 5 years ago and I have not visited the U.S. since.

Canada has many strengths: we are the world's seventh largest economy, have abundant mineral wealth and water, are democratic, have good relations with European countries and live in a world that has 7 billion people who do not live in the U.S. If the U.S. wishes to build a fence, let's ensure that we relate to the rest of the world and build strong trading, economic and cultural relationships with nations outside the U.S.

Make no mistake, the next period will be difficult for Canadians and require sacrifice. We must build trading partnerships and cultural relations with other countries, increase our spending on investment, infrastructure and the military plus eliminate intra-provincial trade regulations. These are major challenges for us as a country, will require all to make an effort and grasp the magnitude of the challenge. However, it is imperative, as the title of this column indicates, we not wait for the pot to boil. It is boiling and change is occurring.

The next significant date is April 2, 2025, with more tariffs. Tariffs in violation of the USMCA [U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement], signed by then Pres. Donald Trump in 2019 with review in 2026. Will we see further changes and a potential reduction in the immediate threat to Canada? Possibly!! He now states: Canada cheats.

Isaac Asimov [American science fiction writer and professor]: "*in the U.S. there is a falsenotion that democracy means my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge*".

We must control our destiny and make the necessary changes. We must not remain at the whim of an unreliable partner.

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

March 24, 2025

**NDP MLAs Anderson and Morissette say more families in the Kootenays will benefit from investments in child care**

BALFOUR- NDP MLAs Brittny Anderson and Steve Morissette say that more families will benefit from \$10-a-day child care spaces and funding for new child care centres.

“Having access to child care is a game-changer for parents, and an economic development for communities” says Brittny Anderson, MLA for Kootenay Central. “Investing in new child care spaces is one more way we’re making it easier to for families to grow and thrive in rural communities.”

In Balfour, 24 brand new spaces will open that will be operated by the Balfour Recreation Commission at Cedar and Stars Early Learning Centre, and 110 new spaces will be operated by the Town of Creston (facility name is still TBD) through the New Spaces Fund.

Additionally, 25 spaces at the Castlegar & District Kids’ Club (run by Kootenay Family Place) , and 26 spaces at Sunshine Children’s Centre in Trail (run by the Trail District Day Care Society) will be converted to the \$10 a Day ChildCare BC program.

“Affordable and accessible child care is a key ingredient in thriving communities, I know that from my experience as mayor,” said Steve Morissette, MLA for Kootenay-Monashee. “It’s

amazing to know that more people across the region and the province will be able to access reliable child care for just ten dollars a day.”

Across BC, families will soon be benefiting from 770 new \$10-a-day spaces at 22 child care centres. Spaces in the \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program reduce the average cost of child care for children ages 5 and under from \$1,115 a month for full-time, centre-based care to \$200 a month for the same service, saving families an average of approximately \$915 a month per child.

More than \$62 million is being invested to create more than 750 new licensed child care spaces throughout B.C. through the accelerated space-creation programs. Once operational, these spaces will be eligible for the government’s fee reduction program, ensuring affordability for families.

These investments represent further progress in partnership with the federal government. The Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement supports the \$10 a Day ChildCare-BC program, the New Spaces Fund and additional funding through the federal Child Care Infrastructure Fund support the creation of new child care spaces.

Since 2018, the Province and Government of Canada have invested nearly \$8 billion through ChildCareBC to build a future where access to affordable, inclusive, and quality child care is a core service that families can rely on. This has resulted in more than 40,000 new child care spaces funded and more than 16,000 \$10-a-day child care spaces throughout B.C.

Learn More: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2025ECC0015-000242>

Media Contact: Devon Leathwood, 778-887-3834

**East Shore Reading Center**

By Taryn Stokes, Librarian

Happy Spring!

Over February and March we had 374 checkouts (a little more than last edition) while serving over 47 patrons with 51 items added. Thirteen of the new items are movies including a handful of musicals like Cabaret, Room with a View, and Sunset Boulevard. Seven of the new items are by Canadian authors including Kelley Armstrong, Timothy Caulfield, Sebastien de Castelle, Omar El Akkad, Roxana Spicer and Jody Wilson-Raybould. All of these new books, except for Kelley Armstrong and Sebastien de Castell’s books, are provocative and timely non-fiction reads. I much prefer buying Canadian authors, but they don’t always have the name recognition as our American neighbours. Thankfully, our most checked out book over the past thirteen years is Canadian author Louise Penny. She made some headlines recently due to her cancellation (note the British Canadian spelling) of upcoming Kennedy Centre performances.

Our children’s program, Comics, Cocoa and Cookies, has been extended into the spring and is available for kids and youth. It is similar to the kid’s ice cream program we ran over the summer - tell us about a book that is returned and we will celebrate with a coupon for hot chocolate or a cookie at the local bakeries. Thank you to generous funding from the Creston Valley Community Foundation for supporting this program. Let’s hear about those great books!

We can be contacted at 250-777-1492, via email at [escomlib@gmail.com](mailto:escomlib@gmail.com), or at the library at 16234 King Road, across from the Crawford Bay Hall. We are pleased to host the Hospice Library collection at our location as well. You can also follow us on Facebook (@escomlib) to stay current on all our new books and activities.

Take care, and happy reading.



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**Riondel Arts**

By Sharman Horwood

Nature is about to explode with its own form of art: tulips and crocuses are beginning to sprout, and last week there were pussy willows already out. So far a meadow lark dug around in my front yard for grubs, and a red-winged blackbird clung to my birdfeeder for a couple of days, enjoying the seeds as much as the cats eyeing it from inside the screened-in patio. Spring is definitely time for art.

The Riondel Art Club is due to change its display in the Riondel Community Centre. They will also be setting up a show in Cowan’s in Nelson for the month of May. Stop by to see what is new in either show.

In the meantime, every second Tuesday at 1:00 Gerald Panio gives a fascinating lecture on art history in the Community Centre. On March 25, he plans to give a lecture on The Bible and its Artists, Part One. After that, on April 8, he will be giving a lecture on Marcel Duchamp. He was a French painter and sculptor associated with Cubism, Dada, Futurism, and conceptual art. On April 22, Gerald plans on giving a lecture on Roy Henry Vickers, a Canadian First Nations artist from Tofino. Then, on May 6, Gerald will give a lecture on Doris McCarthy, a Canadian artist known for her abstracted landscapes. In a 2004 interview, she stated “I was influenced very strongly by the tradition of going out into nature and painting what was there” (*Wikipedia*). On May 20, Gerald’s lecture will focus again on The Bible and its Artists, Part Two. (These informal lectures are free for Art Club Members, with a \$5 drop-in fee for non-members. Also, the schedule may change according to circumstances--watch The Riondel Art Group page on Facebook for updates.)

If you are interested in starting--or continuing--your experience with art, we are always interested in new members, whatever their skills. A drop-in fee is \$10, which goes towards your membership fee (\$100) if you decide to join. We are a supportive group, and one of our members regularly gives workshops for anyone who is interested. These, too, are posted on the Riondel Art Group page on Facebook.

Come by and see us. Our hours are Sunday and Wednesday, 1:00 to 4:00, as well as Tuesday, from 10:00 to 1:00.

However, in the meantime, give art a chance!

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Note: paid advertisements are of course always welcome - and needed! - but we like to offer an option to collaborate and showcase what is currently available on the East Shore that is budget friendly.

**Email [editor@eshore.ca](mailto:editor@eshore.ca)**



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