

GOT YOUR TICKETS?



• MOONTRICKS •
FRAZEY FORD • THE SADIES
KATIE TUPPER • ALPHA YAYA DIALLO
GARRET T. WILLIE • FRASE • THE VAUDEVILLIAN

LINDI ORTEGA • LESTER QUITZAU & SANDRO DOMINELLI • L'OMELETTE
EL BALCÓN • MOTHER SUN • KOOTENAY WOMEN SONGWRITERS - ALISSA
ARNASON, SAPPHIRE GUTHRIE, SARAH ORTON, TENISE MARIE
HONEYBEAR, THE BAND • JADE ELEPHANT • THE DOGGONE BROTHERS BAND
MINUSCULE • STUBBS AND THE • THE REMINITIONS • THE ARCANE GARDEN
TWIN FIDDLES • THE WANDERING MARINERS • IN THE STICKS
KIKI THE ECO ELF • THE SNICKERDOODLES

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
STARBELLYJAM.ORG

Opening ceremony with Cherie Luke of the Yaqan Nu?kiy band.
Giant parade, artist-hosted workshops, locally made crafts & food, dancers & dance workshops,
yoga, children's workshops & storytelling, hula-hooping, camping & much more!



Mainstreet Meanderings Summer Days on the Horizon

By Dee Gilbertson

Publisher

Hello Kootenay Lake community and visitors! It is definitely nice to not have to talk about a current ferry strike, especially as spring is well underfoot and the buzz of activity can be felt all the way down the lakeshore.

As the heat and excitement of summer creep on to the horizon I am brought to remember my first trip to the East Shore. It was 2012, and my father had been touring the Kootenays looking for a spot to settle and continue creating his wood sculptures. He landed in Crawford Bay, fixing up the old “Barn” building across from NewKey’s Pub and then later, the former video store. Here he spent nearly a decade as an artisan on the strip and my mother joined him from Alberta. I had with me my two little girls and it was the first of very many trips, as I missed my parents and fell smitten with the East Shore. Coming from Calgary the area always provided a sense of relaxation, peace, and tranquility. The ability to forget your worries seems easier here - it must be a combination of the fresh forest scent that mingles with the crystal humidity of the lake, the myriad of geological treasures underfoot, and the natural alluring energy so many people remark upon after visiting here.

We are excited to have a booth this year at the annual Starbelly Jam Festival. We will be on site as much as possible, handing out (for free!) copies of this edition and welcome the chance to meet and chat with all attending the delightful family music festival so beloved to the East Shore.

On behalf of this beautiful community of wonderful people, I would like to welcome you to the East Shore and believe you will fall in love just as I did, returning to the area many times in the future.

Until next time,
D

THE MAINSTREET OFFICE DESK

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The opinions expressed in this paper are not necessarily the opinions of staff or advertisers. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or brevity & acceptance of submissions is at the discretion of the editor. Diversity of voices is integral to both effective debate and community. We value the core principles of honesty, integrity, independence, accuracy, contextual truth, transparency, respect and fairness at all times.

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June 27

August 29

October 27

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Fundraiser For Local Artisan

Our beloved friend and talented artisan, Lorrie Rhead - the bright spirit behind Flickering Goddess Soap and Candle in Crawford Bay - was in a serious accident on March 31st. While riding her e-bike, Lorrie was struck by a deer and sustained significant injuries, including a broken pelvis in two places and extensive bruising.

This means a long, painful recovery ahead - likely several months - and during that time, Lorrie won’t be able to open her shop or brighten our days at Ladybug Coffee with her warmth and smile.

Anyone who knows Lorrie knows how generous, hard-working, and full of heart she is. She gives so much to our community through her craft and her spirit, and now she needs our help.

We're raising funds to help ease the financial burden during this healing time - so Lorrie can focus on rest and recovery without the added stress of lost income.

Any amount you can give will make a meaningful difference. Let’s surround her with the same love and care she gives so freely.

Thank you so much for your support.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-support-lorrie-as-she-heals?fbclid=IwY2xjawKgGrtleHRuA2FlbQlXMAbicmlkETFWZ0dyeXl-JaVp3R0tyckpBAR7wmlcWI9qn8f4QVn3fKCs-FCCeGWPZW_nDR5-08sergTjG1eIv8FZN-48Peohw_aem_ft488rn3L5RmhdiWz9E1oA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Starbelly Jam Returns to Crawford Bay July 18–20 with All-Canadian Lineup and Big Community Heart

Crawford Bay, BC — One of the Kootenays’ most beloved summer traditions is back! The Starbelly Jam Music Festival returns to Crawford Bay, July 18–20, 2025, for a joyful weekend of live music, dancing under the stars, delicious food, artisan vendors, and that signature East Shore spirit.

Now in its 24th year, Starbelly Jam remains a family-friendly celebration of music and connection. This year’s all-Canadian lineup features headliners The Sadies, electro-folk favourites Moontricks, and the soulful Frazey Ford. Also taking the stage is The Arcane Garden, a local East Shore band known for their rich blend of ambient grooves and world music influences.

“We’re so excited to welcome everyone back to the East Shore for another unforgettable weekend,” says Artistic Director Amanda Hulland. “This festival is built by the community, for the community. It’s a chance to reconnect, dance barefoot, and enjoy amazing music in a magical setting.”

Beyond the music, there’s plenty to enjoy all week-end long—creative fun in the Kids Zone, tasty eats from local food trucks, a vibrant artisan market, and a variety of workshops. Camping is available just across the street, and the festival’s laid-back, welcoming vibe makes it a favourite for all ages.

Run almost entirely by volunteers, Starbelly Jam is currently looking for more helping hands. Whether you're greeting guests or sorting recycling, there's a role for everyone—and volunteering is a fun, rewarding way to be part of the magic.

Organizers extend heartfelt thanks to the Crawford Bay & District Hall & Parks Association, the Starbelly Jam Board of Directors, past and present festival managers, and the many volunteers whose energy and dedication keep this beloved festival thriving.

Join us **July 18–20** in Crawford Bay for a week-end of music, magic, and community!

For tickets, lineup info, and volunteer sign-up, visit www.starbellyjam.org

THE MAINSTREET IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW CONTENT!

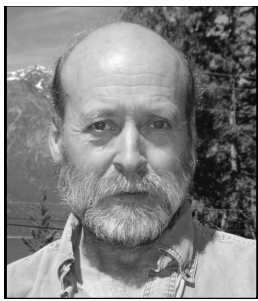
THIS IS A UNIQUE TIME.

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 PUBLICA-
TION TIME AND AGAIN. IN A WORLD
OF MUCH CHANGE AND HURRY, THE
MAINSTREET PROVIDES TRUSTED COM-
MUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

CONTACT: EDITOR@ESHORE.CA



RDCK Area A Update Ferry Stakeholder Advisory

by Garry Jackman
Regional Director

My understanding is as of May 22 the recommendations from the special mediator have still not gone to the Labour Minister, but that they should be presented very soon. During the 5-month long job action, we were discouraged from revitalizing the Kootenay Lake Stakeholder Advisory. Now there is no job action, plus anticipation of some form of agreement, discussions have resumed about forming a new advisory and beginning meetings.

Back in November I corresponded with Western Pacific Marine management, as they will be responsible for calling together the advisory, and proposed membership that would cover key stakeholders while remaining at a reasonable number of participants to be able to reach consensus on most topics. My personal thought is that a very large group is great for brainstorming but may be less effective at focusing on key messages to send to the provincial government than a group of about 12 members. If the advisory is going to include all three ferry crossings on Kootenay Lake and Kootenay River, then a group of around 12 to 15 members may be more appropriate. I anticipate there will be many more than a dozen people interested in actively participating in the dialogue around the ferry service levels and operations in general, so if the formal advisory is going to be 12 to 15 people, then an effective means of communicating what is being discussed during meetings as well as gathering broad community input also needs to be established.

I look forward to one or more larger community gatherings to regroup and discuss our concerns, as well as identify how best community needs to be engaged going forward.

It will not be difficult to find issues to discuss. While the entire purpose of the ferry crossings are to provide effective links to the rest of the provincial transportation corridors, it is clear that in the long run concerns around worker attraction and retention (which is related to pay, scheduling and training for many professions), stability of the operating contract (with the Ministry) and the labour contract(s), possible alignment of these contracts plus a clear definition of minimum service levels to ensure the safety, health and economic stability of community are maintained will all play a role in defining what that effective link to the provincial transportation corridors will be. This needs to be examined for each of our 3 crossings plus the 10 other inland ferry crossings expected to have unique needs.

Only community can fully articulate the harm caused, both short term and ongoing, by the degree of service disruption we have endured over 5 months. In the January 2025 Labour Relations Board (LRB) decision, it appears clear to me that the LRB has told both the Labour and Transportation Ministries that they do not understand the situation sufficiently to determine minimum service levels, that they do not have the resources to make such a determination and if given additional resources they cannot predict how long that exercise would take. Given there are numerous inland ferries, and the Ministry of Transportation and Transit is one of the largest in the province, it also appears clear to me that the task must be taken on by that Ministry and they need to start now before other communities needlessly suffer harm due to government not understanding the depth of their responsibilities to protect community from harm.

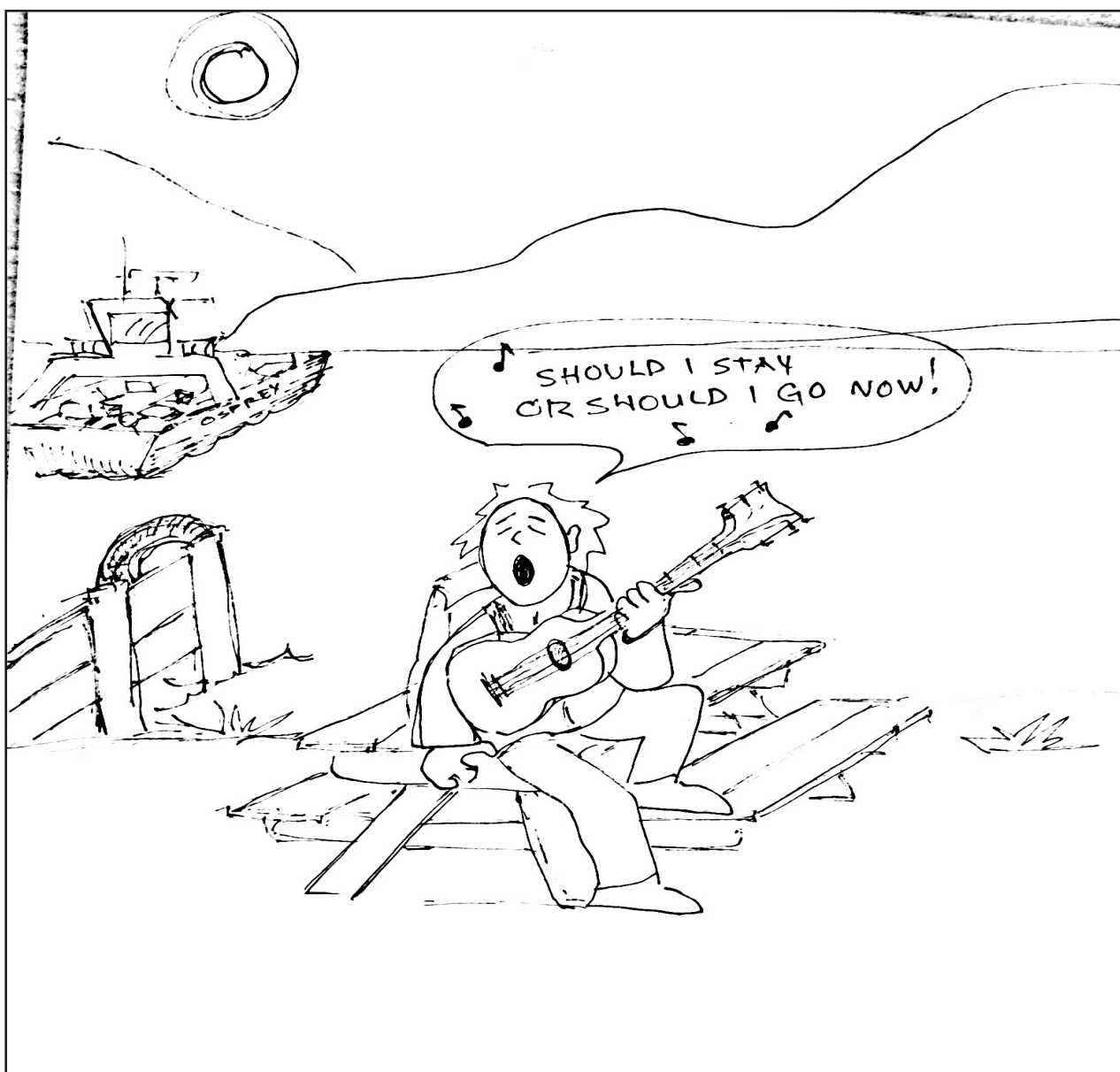
Capacity to move vehicles in a timely manner has been a long-standing issue, while the planning and implementation of the replacement for the MV Balfour took far too many years to get underway and now appears to be facing ongoing delays in completion. We locals all know how unsafe the MV Balfour would be if an “abandon ship” order needed to be made. On a day with full or even near full capacity, a great many people would not be able to escape from their vehicles given the dangerous, inadequate spacing provided by the current lane configuration. I guess we have all remained silent on this key safety concern, but without full knowledge of how the new ferry lanes will be configured it is time for us to speak up and get involved. Over many years, design professionals assumed motor vehicles would be getting smaller and that fuel prices would define the market choices. This did not play out as predicted, with pick up trucks and SUV’s dominating our market while our population ages and personal mobility declines. Go into a city parkade and observe how we have a generation of structures built on inaccurate assumptions, where now many stalls are so narrow that the driver needs to back the vehicle out before the passengers can board.

Our backup ferry, the MV Balfour, is dangerous in its current configuration and the lane widths need to be increased now, which will mean a reduction in capacity. That is the call to action to the Ministry to finally get the replacement ferry completed and in service. I hear supply chain as an issue constantly, but in my decades of construction experience I know that selective procurement and direct shipping can cut many weeks off the timeline, as opposed to relenting to the supplier who says delivery will be in “six to eight weeks, hopefully”. As stated above, let us review the new lane configurations and ensure we do not ever need to board a vessel where the design inputs, such as assumptions around the size or mix of vehicles, leads to a dangerous situation.

Back to the issue of essential service, let's have our voices clearly heard so we do not ever again need to listen to that uninformed, if not ignorant phrase “they can just drive around”. As stated last month, we must continue to press the message of harm, so it will not ever happen again, putting people at risk:

- 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 or call me at 250-223-8463.



Cartoon by Mervin Robertson, Artisan

Organic Farm Delivers Friday Freshness

Cartwheel Farm launches 11th season of weekly vegetable deliveries

When Laura and Nigel Francis came to Boswell for a holiday sixteen years ago, they didn’t imagine that they would fall in love with the area and put down deep roots in the Creston Valley.

At that time Nigel was about to embark on environmental law studies at the University of Victoria. Meanwhile, Laura was busy developing curriculum to train social workers in supporting and empowering teens. The young couple were driven by commitments to connecting people with land and community.

Something about the East Shore quickly inspired the two to question their thoughts about what was supposed to come next for them. They were moved by the authentic curiosity and care that their Boswell neighbours showed them. The landscape felt immediately like home. When they were offered the chance to house and garden sit, they felt sure that they should drop their plans and stay by the lake.

Fast forward a few years and lofty ideas about “changing world” had given way to a yearning to live close to the land and be of use to their friends and neighbours.

“When we started farming, we really had no idea what we were getting into,” says Nigel. “But there were other young Canadians setting an example – sharing knowledge and vision around market gardening as a viable livelihood and meaningful way of life.”

Cartwheel Farm grows certified organic vegetables and herbs on about two acres of permanent garden beds. The farm is fully solar powered and innovates to reduce its negative ecological impacts. Most of what is grown is delivered directly to home and restaurant kitchens in an all-electric delivery van.

The couple has good reason to be proud of what they have built over the last decade. Bit by bit, they have transformed two fallow fields into a vibrant garden and developed a solid array of eco-conscious infrastructure. They have put effort into bringing together a dynamic local crew and cultivating relationships with the people they feed.

“Since the start, we have been putting our hearts into feeding people we love and figuring out how to actively love the land we live on,” says Laura. This has involved lots of learning – be it about plant and soil science, truth and reconciliation, or helping people to find joy in food.

“Our love for the East Shore and our experience living in the area make it natural that we go the extra mile to share our harvest

with people who live near the lake,” Laura smiles.

This season, Cartwheel deliveries will be made every Friday from June 6 to November 28.

Plenty of food will go to the kitchens at Black Salt Café, the Yasodhara Ashram, and Red’s Breads & Bakery.

Brown paper bags with a “farmers’ selection” of fresh organic produce will also go to dozens of homes. Customers can opt to get veggies every week, every-other-week, or on a custom schedule. Each delivery will come with a note from the farm and recipes for what’s in the bag.

“In past years, we have had a waitlist for our deliveries. It has felt hard to turn people away,” says Nigel. “This year, we have added a delivery day just for people in the Wynndel to Riondel corridor. We are happy to have room for lots of new families.”

“I think that the past versions of ourselves who landed in Boswell all those years ago would be surprised but delighted by how things have turned out for us,” says Laura. “They would definitely smile at the thought that we are delivering fresh food to people on the East Shore – it’s a service we craved during our years on the lake!”

People can learn more about the Cartwheel Farm delivery service by visiting www.cartwheelfarm.com or calling Laura and Nigel at 250-254-5525.

RDCK Board Highlights – May 2025

Ostrich motion at RDCK Board meeting

There was significant online and public presence at this month’s Board meeting to voice their disapproval of the RDCK potentially accepting ostrich carcasses from a farm in Edgewood, BC, located in Electoral Area K. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency recently ordered nearly 400 ostriches from the farm must be killed, based on testing done on the birds for avian influenza back in December. In January 2025, the RDCK received a temporary authorization under the Operating Certificate from the Provincial Ministry of Environment and Parks to accept the hazardous waste material at the Ootischenia Landfill.

Public time at the monthly RDCK meeting typically is scheduled for 15 minutes and allows community members to ask questions on any topic of their choosing to the Board of Directors. Because of the significant turnout, public time lasted an hour, and the majority of the speakers asked the Board to do everything in its power to not accept the ostrich carcasses. The Board subsequently passed a motion to not accept the carcasses until certain conditions are met.

The RDCK Board direct staff to withhold acceptance, at any landfill, of ostrich carcasses originating from a farm in Edgewood, BC, to be culled and delivered by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency as a result of them being exposed to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza until the number of birds confirmed infected with HPAI and the number classified as exposed, based on testing performed after May 15, 2025 is confirmed from the CFIA and/or Ministry of Agriculture and Food; AND FURTHER, that the RDCK request the CFIA provide this information directly to the public, in a timely and transparent manner, to support public understanding and trust.

Spearhead – Land Use Amendment

Following a third public hearing, the Board completed third reading of the land use bylaw

amendment application for Spearhead, a local wood products manufacturer based in Electoral Area F. Two conditions must be satisfied before the Board considers Adoption of the proposed amendments. First, the Ministry of Transportation and Transit must approve the zoning bylaw amendment (Bylaw No. 3003) and secondly, the Board has requested that a covenant be prepared and placed on the title of the property that would require Spearhead to comply with recommendations of a professional environmental consultant before a building permit is issued. Once these two conditions are met the Board will consider Adoption of Bylaws 3002 and 3003 that will amend the land use designation from residential to industrial and rezone the subject lands from country residential to comprehensive development. Spearhead is intending on constructing a large industrial building on three residential lots located along Highway 3A in Electoral Area F, which would allow them to manufacture glue-laminated wood products on site. Click here to read the staff report.

Resident Directed (ReDi) grant funding

The Board approved the 2025 Resident Directed (ReDi) grant funding. ReDi Grants are a program of the Columbia Basin Trust, administered by the RDCK under contract to the Trust. In 2025, a total of \$1,489,959.35 in funding will be allocated to 313 different project proposals. 22 community input meetings were held across the RDCK between April 1 and April 15, providing an opportunity for each community to give feedback on the project proposals. Click here for a complete list of all the recipients of ReDi funding. The programs support local projects that provide additional value to Basin communities, and that benefit the broad community and public good

New Water Utilities Rates, Fees, & Charges

The Board approved an increase to all water utilities rates, fees and charges. The increase ensures RDCK utility systems are financially healthy and positioned to support resilient, service-based development. Water rates vary by individual service depending on treatment and distribution infrastructure, asset renewal

and operations and maintenance requirements, and the number of accounts serviced. All water systems are required to be completely self-sufficient and funded by the users of the service, except for funds provided by federal and provincial grants, when available. By better reflecting the true cost of service delivery, rate changes may also help reduce unnecessary water consumption, lower system stress, and defer or avoid costly capacity expansions or upgrades driven by peak demands on a system. The revenue collected will in part go towards the sustainable management of water system source waters, education, and outreach.

Budget meetings were held will all the respective water commissions of management and water community advisory committees, with the exception of Burton (meeting pending). Click here to read the Board report and see the new rates, fees, and charges for all RDCK water systems.

Erickson Water System – Metering Project

Erickson Water System has been awarded \$3,502,332 in grant funding from the Provincial Water Meter Pilot Project. The Pilot Project is investing \$50 million in water metering for 19 small, rural, and First Nations communities across the province, with specific focus on the single-family residential sector. The funds will go toward completing universal metering for the entire Erickson water system. Installing meters helps to ensure water is used where it is intended and not wasting it. The RDCK has seen a 30% reduction in water use in other RDCK systems that implement universal metering.

Director’s Reports

RDCK Directors provide monthly reports outlining what they have been working on. Click here to read the May reports in the Board minutes.

RDCK Quarterly Report

For the latest RDCK Quarterly Report, which details the current projects and initiatives of the RDCK, please view online.

RDCK Board Meeting Video Recording

To view a recording of this month’s meetings, visit the website. To view funding allocations please visit the website.

It Matters

by Maria Mosley, Hospice Volunteer

Margaret Wheatley said, “Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters.” And when we say ‘matter’ we don’t actually mean, “Honey, what’s for dinner?”

In March 2020, I sat in a Doctor’s office with my sister, Patricia and her husband. After months of gruelling chemo, blood draws and infusions, we were waiting for her latest oncologist to get an update on her condition. Was it working? Were we finally able to grasp onto one more thread of hope? We weren’t. “You have been dealt a raw hand,” he told her, “There is simply nothing left that we can do.” A heavy weight of silence filled the room. Crushing us. “There are some rare experimental trials that you could look into, but nothing is guaranteed, and they are extremely difficult to enrol in. My suspicion is that the results of your condition will not change. You can decide what to do.”

Later that day we lay on her bed as she rested from another emotionally and physically exhausting day. We were both lost in our thoughts about loss, life, the cruelty of cancer. At one point, she reached for my hand and said, “What should I do?” Cowardly, I responded, “Whatever you feel is best for you.”

We cried.

We held each other.

We cried some more.

And then I left the room.

My sister, who had always been fiercely independent, driven and successful had bravely

invited me to start and engage in a conversation that truly mattered. And I walked away from it. Two weeks later, my sister died.

I never knew what my sister wanted. I only know that she courageously made the decision that day - on her own - to discontinue her treatments. I did not know how she felt about this. I did not know how she wanted to spend her final days, how she wanted to be buried, celebrated or remembered. She may have had those discussions with her husband, though our experience would suggest that he made it up as he went along. We never really got closure for her. He did not arrange for a celebration of life, no burial, nothing. And maybe that is what she wanted; or maybe it wasn’t. Which is why these brave conversations about how we die and subsequently how we want to be remembered simply matter.

As a result of my experience, I would like to share some things for you to consider as you contemplate why you should bravely have this conversation that matters.

Where you want to die. How you want to die. How do you want to be remembered.

As you think about your death, you can share with your family and loved ones where you want to die. If you are given the gift of choosing, because many people are not, you can talk about your desires to be at home, if that’s what you want, and the feasibility of making this happen. Do you have the space? The support of family, friends and community; because I promise you, it takes a village. You can agree on decision points if something changes and a hospital is required. You can be honest about emotional capacity; how does everyone feel

about this process, and do they have their own emotional support systems in place to manage and honour what they are experiencing. You can decide who will be decision makers for you and clarify that they are comfortable with that responsibility.

You can discuss how you want to die. Do you want your death to be a natural one? Would you consider MAID? How does you family feel about this? Who do you need to engage in this conversation so that you have all of the information and everyone is aligned, or at least in the know, about your decision.

You can make decisions about how you wish to be celebrated and remembered. Do you want a traditional funeral service that honours your religious or personal beliefs? Do you want a celebration of life? A party? A quiet dinner for your family? Maybe you actually don’t want anything! Do you want to start a memorial fund? Plant a tree? Donate to a charity? It’s your funeral and you have the privilege to decide and share these wishes ahead of time.

An important and often overlooked thought - you decrease the anxiety in others by taking the burden of decision making off the people who love you the most at a time when making those decisions are wrought with emotion. There are a lot of decisions that need to be made quickly and in the moment. Without prior conversations, these can feel overwhelming and difficult, especially when your survivors simply have no idea what you want. Do you want to be cremated and, if so, does the simplicity of a pine box work or do you want to go in a stylish (and usually expensive) casket? Where do you want to be buried? If cremated, do you want your ashes

spread? Buried? If so, where? It feels easy to say that it does not matter to you; but it matters to the people left with making the decisions. Always wondering if the decisions are the right ones. Make it easier for them; have the conversation.

And finally, you might actually save a bit of money (for my practical readers, out there)! By having conversations ahead of time, you can make thoughtful and cost savings decisions when you’re level-headed. Having your personal account information, updated wills, passwords, vital statistics locked up and accessible to the people who need it, saves tremendous amount of time and money. Pre-paying for funerals, caskets, etc. keep costly decision making in check because it is already done.

I know that what I am asking you to do is hard. The great news is that there is a tremendous number of resources out there - free and not - that can help you navigate this terrain. Here are a few but please know that this list is not exhaustive:

Website: BC Centre for Palliative Support: This website provides some rich and updated resources for advanced care planning. The content will challenge you to deeply reflect what is meaningful for you and how this information can inform the type of support and plan you want. The site provides access to forms, ideas and more that can help you get organized. Thinking about these things help. Sharing your thoughts is better. Getting your plan in place: golden.

Book: Let’s Talk about Death (over dinner), Michael Hebb: In this book, Michael Hebb en-

courages us to pull up a chair, break bread, and really talk about the one thing we all have in common. His practical advice and thought-provoking ideas have led to many discussions—and they will help you broach everything from end-of-life care to the meaning of legacy to how long we should grieve. There's no one right way to talk about death, but with a little humor and grace, you’ll transform your difficult conversations into an opportunity of celebration and meaning, changing not only the way we die, but also the way we live.

Journal:

F&\$@! I’m dead. Now what. Author, Elizabeth Keen. This journal (workbook) is a thorough and helpful planner that covers everything your family will need to know upon your passing or incapacitation.... from Financial Information to Insurance Information and more! It will make it much easier for your loved ones to settle your affairs.

Five years ago, I was invited by the bravest woman I know, to a conversation that mattered. I walked away from it. I live with the regret of that decision every single day. Don’t make the same mistake that I did. Be brave. Start the conversation that matters. Perhaps, over dinner tonight.



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**.

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.



Seldom Scene

by Gerald Panio



Thinking of such enduring yet indelibly strange classic films such as Luis Buñuel’s *L’Âge d’or* (1930), Jean Cocteau’s *The Blood of a Poe* (1932) and *Orpheus* (1950), F.W. Murnau’s *Nosferatu* (1922), Fritz Lang’s *M* (1951) and Tod Browning’s *Freaks* (1932), one might be tempted to complain that they just don’t make them like that anymore. And by and large, in this age of the Marvel Comic Universe and movie budgets bigger than entire nations’ GDPs, one isn’t likely to come across a 70-minute black & white film that hearkens back to the glory days of German expressionism and French surrealism. Unlikely, yes, but happily not impossible.

Philippe Collin’s *The Last Days of Immanuel Kant* (1993) is a small miracle. A timeless, at times sardonic, meditation on old age, eccentricity, genius, frailty, ritual, dignity, and status. Director Collin was born in 1931 in Paris, France, and directed a handful of feature films between 1977 and 2005. He turned 94 this year. *Last Days* was his second-to-last film, followed by the poorly-received *Aux Abois* 12 years later.

German metaphysician Immanuel Kant was perhaps the greatest philosopher of the 18th century. I remember struggling with his magnum opus, *The*

Critique of Pure Reason, on the reading list of an Introduction to Philosophy course at university. The struggle was short-lived and unsuccessful. When I read recently that someone had made a short feature film about Kant, I couldn’t imagine the appeal or the approach. For all his intellectual brilliance, Kant’s personal life was singularly untouched by madness, revolutionary zeal, debauchery, angst, or even marriage. People could set their watches by the timing of his daily walks. As for the *Critique*, Kant himself described it as “dry, obscure, contrary to all ordinary ideas, and on top of that prolix.” Another philosopher described it as “spectacularly labyrinthine.” Historian Will Durant, who admired him, wrote: “Kant is the last person in the world whom we should read on Kant.” The following extract doesn’t suggest high drama:

“The philosophy of pure reason is either pro-paedeutic, that is, an inquiry into the powers of reason in regard to pure a priori cognition, and is termed critical philosophy; or it is, secondly, the system of pure reason — a science containing the systematic presentation of the whole body of philosophical knowledge, true as

well as illusory, given by pure reason — and is called metaphysic.”

I should have had more faith in the magic of movies. Philippe Collin won me over with the first frames of his film. In the dead of night, a stranger carrying a mysterious wooden apparatus on his back arrives at the front door of Kant’s narrow, multi-story home. Kant’s footman leads him up a creepy winding staircase that one imagines Dracula admiring. It turns out that the stranger is a silhouettist, and the apparatus is a kind of screen on which the great man’s outline will be sketched for posterity. Kant is in his 80th year, and these are truly his last days.

As his health and his strength begin to fail him, Kant clings even more fiercely to the routines that anchored him in the real world, no matter into which exotic metaphysical realms his mind has ventured. Kant’s long-suffering footman, Lampe, wakes him every morning with a brisk, “Monsieur le Professeur, voici l’heure!” Then it’s three quick sips of coffee, a pipe, and a morning journal. The morning is dedicated to work; the afternoons to walks and dinner table gatherings with colleagues. With the coming of night, Kant undresses himself (*after* he puts on his nightgown!) and wraps himself up in what looks like the bulky 18th century equivalent of a form-fitting sleeping bag. Lampe strings a cord from Kant’s bed to the doorknob of his bedroom so that if he wakes during the night he can find his way safely.

The master-servant relationship accounts for a great deal of the film’s



curious charm. Lampe (Roland Amstutz) is Sancho Panza to Kant’s Don Quixote, always following him a few steps behind, carrying his umbrella, flirting with young women on park benches as his master takes his daily stroll. Unlike Sancho Panza, however, Lampe’s service is more duty than affection. Lampe has served Kant for 30 years but is no closer to him in the final year than in the first. Knowing his master is not much longer for this world, he makes plans for his own future. Nostalgia is neither man’s forte. They will not part friends.

Not overshadowed by the film’s haunting black & white photography and rich chiar-oscuro (courtesy of cinematographer Jacques Bouquin), lead actor David Warrilow (one of Samuel Beckett’s key interpreters) creates an affecting portrait of Kant as an old man refusing to yield to the infirmities that are plaguing his body and mind. Both his strength of will and his decline are captured in his walk: cane in hand, leaning over at a slight angle, his once-vigorous stride gradually becoming a more hesitant shuffle, and then a slow collapse. But the walks go on. In equal combat against infirmities of the mind, Kant scribbles thoughts and facts on ragged little slips of paper that he reviews as if his reason depended upon them.

Kant was not a recluse. Although he valued his solitude at certain times, he taught philosophy for 27 years, enjoyed the intellectual companionship of his peers, regularly invited guests in to dine, and took advantage of every opportunity to take advantage of a teachable moment. At one



point, we see him using the items on a dinner table to demonstrate to a skeptical young man the impossibility of finding a positive solution to the Seven Bridges of Königsberg problem. At another we see him joining his bewigged compatriots in singing all 12 choruses of an odd party song about the months of the year (written by Collin). If Kant was sometimes described as a thinking machine, *last days* reveals the human being behind the so-called machine.

The film has no formal soundtrack. Instead, the director used audio clips from rehearsals by Arturo Toscanini of pieces by Beethoven, Wagner, and Verdi. Another inspired choice among the many that make *Last Days* memorable.

The screenplay of *The Last Days of Immanuel Kant* was based on the biography of that name written by Thomas De Quincey in 1827. De Quincey’s biography was in turn an abridged translation of a German biography written by Christoph Wasianski in 1804, the year of Kant’s death. The temptation of the filmmakers might have been to focus on the tragedy of a great man’s enfeeblement. Instead, Philippe Collin has given us something radiant in black & white, something to make us smile as we share small moments of mischievousness, wry wit, bemusement, obstreperousness, child-like delight. And along the way seeing us glimpses of ourselves and those we love as we, too, grow older.

(*Last Days* is currently available, with English subtitles, on YouTube. You can also download *The Critique of Pure Reason*, if you dare.)



Smarter Than Jack or Jill

by Sharman Horwood
More About Bees

May 20 is Happy World Bee Day and they are incredible, intelligent creatures. They have lived on Earth for millions of years. In fact, they evolved from wasps, most of which are seen as sadistic, and aggressive. Wasps developed during the Jurassic Period, “between 201 and 145 millions years ago,” whereas bees followed them in the Cretaceous, “between 145 and 66 million years ago” (“Why Bees Are Secretly One of Earth’s Most Intelligent Creatures” in *BBC Science Focus*, by Helen Pilcher, Aug. 26, 2024). *Trigona prisca*, a stingless honeybee, was one of the first. It has become well known because of a specimen found preserved in Jersey amber. It has a small abdomen, suggesting that as a female, she was a worker, signifying that this group of bees had “organized themselves into complex social structures” (“Why Bees Are Secretly One of Earth’s Most Intelligent Creatures” in *BBC Science Focus*, by Helen Pilcher, Aug. 26, 2024). Social organization requires thinking and adaptation to develop.

According to David Suzuki’s Foundation, there are 3,600 native wild bee species in North America, which includes the 800 that are in Canada: “most bees are solitary, nesting alone in crevices, hollow stems or underground burrows” (May 23, 2024). At the moment, because of pollution and loss of habitat, the solitary bee species are dwindling.

However, they are intelligent creatures. They can tell the difference between one human and another. Bees become familiar with their beekeepers because they see their keepers every day at the same time, in the same way they

learn about animals that are predators, such as bears. According to David Tarpy, a Professor of Applied Ecology at NC State, researchers in Cambridge in 2004 “set up a reward system where the bees learned to associate particular faces with a honey reward” (in NC State University *CALS News*, July 23, 2024). He goes on to say that bees “are really, really good at learning.” They will even stick out their tongues when they are expecting a honey reward, showing that their minds have that expectation. Also, this shows they *can* learn to see the difference between creatures in their environment, such as humans. The unexpected side of this is that they don’t have good eyesight, though they do have a good sense of smell, which they need when they are hunting food sources. Odour is one of the ways they communicate with other bees, along with what is known as the “waggle” dance. (According to *Wikipedia*, some researchers swear that bees communicate primarily through this dance; others swear just as strongly that they use odour to communicate.) They anticipate rewards and adjust their circadian rhythms on the basis of this knowledge of where and when certain foods will be available to them.

Researchers also maintain that bee learning and communication is a cognitive process, as well as a sensory one. Researchers quoted in *Wikipedia* say that, “working memory in the honey bee is both robust and flexible.” They have also measured the time bees hold a memory. Apparently, it’s approximately five seconds long. However, some of their foraging adventures take longer than that, and yet they’re still able to retain that information to communicate it to the hive.

Spatial navigation, however, is the same for both solitary bees as well as social bees, but the risks are different. With social bees, “if it gets lost, it will die, but the colony can compensate . . . because there are lots of other workers that can

take over” (*Biological Recording Company*, British Entomological & Natural History Society, by Interview with Professor Lars Chittka, Professor of Sensory and Behavioural Ecology, Queen Mary College, London). However, for solitary bees, if they don’t find their way back to the nest, their offspring will die. Bees have to be intelligent to survive.

One bee that is very intelligent is the bumblebee. The queen bumblebee is a “jane of all trades.” She has to build her nest, visit the flowers, defend her offspring, and keep them warm. One bumblebee, the Lapland bumblebee, has to lay her eggs, raise her young, and prepare for the semi-hibernation of another winter in a very short summer. They have a bit of anti-freeze in their system, and as spring thaws the tundra, they use their wings to warm their bodies, until they’re able to leave the nest to search for any early blooming plants. According to Professor Lars Chittka, Professor of Sensory and Behavioural Ecology, bumblebee brains are very large for their size.

Researchers have been able to train bees into pulling strings. Some learn by observing others and how they do it, and sometimes they learn the task immediately, without repetition. When it comes to learning how to forage from particular flowers, learning is important. The short-tongued bumblebee doesn’t have a long proboscis to stick down into a deep flower. Instead, bumblebees will bite a hole into the base of the flower and extract the nectar without pollinating the plant. According to Professor Chittka, “Darwin thought that this bee behaviour spread via social learning” (*Biological Recording Company*, British Entomological & Natural History Society, by Interview with Professor Lars Chittka, Professor of Sensory and Behavioural Ecology, Queen Mary College, London).

They can also disagree with each other. When one bee is directing others to a specific site for food, “if there is a predator present there, another bee will headbutt the dancing bees and give brief vibration pulses . . . as a stop signal to interrupt the dancers” (*Biological Recording Company*, British Entomological & Natural History Society, by Interview with Professor Lars Chittka, Professor of Sensory and Behavioural Ecology, Queen Mary College, London).

Bees are amazing creatures. They can solve puzzles, such as the string pulling, or puzzle boxes that contain food, count in order to navigate to specific sites, and they even use some tools. *Nature* programs on PBS are often very good, but one in particular is exceptional, “My Garden of a Thousand Bees.” It came about when a nature photographer didn’t have work during the Covid pandemic. Instead, he filmed the bees in his garden in the U.K. One solitary bee in particular got to know him, and watched him, even making eye contact. Another solitary bee used grass stems to bury its egg, toiling with small bits of dry grass to build a straw tower over the egg to protect it. Asian honeybees “collect and smear fresh animal faeces around the entrance to their nest, in order to deter the predatory giant hornets” (“Why Bees Are Secretly One of Earth’s Most Intelligent Creatures” in *BBC Science Focus*, by Helen Pilcher, Aug. 26, 2024), another sign of bees using tools. It smells, but it works.

Bees are remarkable, intelligent creatures, and they create honey that lasts a thousand years in sealed pots. For the bees’ sake, please don’t use weed killers in your garden.

Wildsight joins First Nations, others, in demanding withdrawal of provincial Bills 14 and 15

Kukama?nam/Kimberley – Wildsight is adding its voice to the chorus of outrage at the BC government’s Bill 14, the

Renewable Energy Projects (Streamlined Permitting) Act, and Bill 15, the Infrastructure Projects Act.

“The proposed legislation would allow the government — and all future governments — to green light and expedite any project deemed ‘provincially significant’, bypassing environmental assessments, Indigenous consultation and local community input,” said Robyn Duncan, Executive Director of Wildsight.

The draft bills, which were introduced to meet demand for more public infrastructure and secure, clean energy sources, could have long-term repercussions for B.C.’s environment and First Nations leadership.

“Sidestepping First Nations and public accountability is a power grab,” Duncan said. “It’s absolutely possible to meet B.C.’s needs without compromising the democratic process, B.C.’s commitment to consult with First Nations, and the lands and waters upon which we all depend.”

The First Nations Leadership Council has condemned both the draft legislation and the government’s failure to engage First Nations before advancing it. Nasu?kin (Chief) Cheryl Casimer of ?a?am, stated: “It is outrageous that Bills 14 and 15 were developed with no meaningful consulta-

tion with First Nations. . . The implications of this suite of Bills are profoundly far reaching. If they advance, they pose a serious risk to First Nations and lands, waters, resources and territories that we have an inherent and sacred responsibility to steward in our homelands.”

The government has yet to clarify what criteria it would use to determine whether a project is ‘provincially significant’. Premier Eby has designated voting on the draft legislation as a confidence vote, meaning that if the bills do not pass, it could trigger an election. The vote is scheduled for May 28.

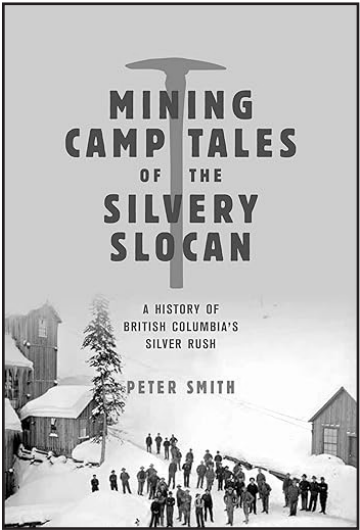
“Wildsight urges the government to reconsider its position and heed the calls of First Nations and British Columbians: withdraw these bills and re-orient towards the collaborative processes that are both legally required and consistent with the values of the people of British Columbia,” said Duncan. -30-

Wildsight is a registered charity that protects biodiversity and encourages sustainable communities in Canada’s Columbia and Rocky Mountain regions. We work with industry, scientists, the teaching community and all levels of government, including First Nations, to shape and influence land-use decisions, guide practice and steward change on the ground. At our heart, we are a grassroots organization, harnessing our power from the people whose lives affect and are affected by our work.

For additional quotes or interviews, please contact:

Amelia Caddy, Communications & Philanthropy Lead, Wildsight

amelia@wildsight.ca or 587.573.7138



Interview
With The
Author
by Sophie
Bellward
Mining
Camp Tales
of the Sil-
very Slocan
Heritage House
Publishing,

2025

This is a new book by author Peter Smith detailing British Columbia’s silver rush, a topic seldom written about. Mr. Smith first visited New Denver in 1973 after growing up in Victoria and never hearing about Slocan. He garnered an interest in the rich history of the area and wanted to tell the fascinating story. This book appeals to any reader with a general interest in the history of BC, particularly the mining rushes, and goes in-depth into the experiences of the miners and their families, all from a 21st-century perspective.

One quote from the book describes how “parts of the Slocan story have been told before and some have been listed in the select bibliography at the back of this book”, showing just how much more there is to tell about the silver rushes, the families involved, and the towns these events took place in.

The book is pretty much one whole story from start to finish. In the 19th century, the silver rush boomed for several years and tapered off after 1900. Mr. Smith tried to capture specific stories and tales that make up the bigger story

through that time period. Everything he wrote about is true. The most shocking thing to modern readers he came upon throughout writing and research was how women are always in the back-ground without much of a role, and how racist and anti-Chinese the population was. He tried to bring out some of the women's stories, with much difficulty, as if there's any reference to them at all, the woman’s first name isn't used, and it's hard to find anything about them as a person. This is in large contrast to society today as we now have millions of women published in the media, whereas before 1900, if women expressed their opinion, it was belittled and not taken seriously. The principal towns in his book are New Denver, Sandon, Three Forks, and Kaslo; although it's not in Slocan. Kaslo was the first city in the Kootenays in 1893, creating a lot of competition with Nelson.

Mr. Smith started doing research and working on the beginnings of this book between 1970-1980, but stopped because he had a beautiful family to raise, and took up the hobby again after retirement. He found that the research process was a lot different now, in comparison with 1970/80, as we now have access to so much history through our little screens. The biggest obstacle he faced throughout writing was the attempts to tease out the history and contributions of women, for example, when working with his copy editor, he would talk about Mrs. Jones, unable to refer to her on a first-name basis because her name had never been published!

To any aspiring authors, Mr Smith says, “persevere and keep at it. If you have a love of writing, you can withstand any obstacles thrown your way”. The greatest takeaway from this book is to remember the challenges and obstacles that all the silver rush miners and families had to overcome in opening up some of that country.

Use this space for notes!



Rooted In
Health
By Maya Skalska
Preventing bites
- mosquitoes,
ticks, and other

pesky bugs

When wandering around the woods, or just enjoying an evening out on the patio, we’re surrounded by the beauty of nature, and tiny armies of pesky bugs just waiting for a juicy snack – us! We have harsh chemicals such as DEET to protect us as one option, but with so many studies exposing the toxicity of DEET, it is important to limit the amount of toxins absorbed via the skin. The good news is that nature always provides, and in this case our weapon is a blanket of scents the tiny armies of bugs despise. Wrapped in a shield of scents, we can go on, enjoying the summer days, itch free.

The scents I am referring to are essential oils (EO) derived from flowers and leaves. Historically, Basil EO has been used to repel mosquitos by many cultures around the globe. Other botanicals studied and used for centuries include Citronella, Lemongrass, Eucalyptus, Lemon balm, Lavender, Peppermint, Catnip, Geranium and Cedarwood.

Different EOs work better in different climates. For the Kootenays, I found Catnip, Lavender, Spike Lavender, Geranium and Cedarwood the most effective for mosquitos, and a mix of Cedarwood, Geranium and Eucalyptus (best is Lemon Eucalyptus EO) for ticks. To make your own, add 5 -10 drops of each to 2oz carrier oil of your choice, or if you prefer a spray bottle, with 2oz of Witch Hazel, or Apple Cider Vinegar (for ticks) and shake well. EOs preparations generally will protect you for up to 3 hours, but you need to be sure you have covered all exposed skin. Those pesky bugs will find the one spot you missed! Even though the EOs above are natural, you can still develop a sensitivity if overused. Always do a skin patch test of each oil before adding to a formula. Citronella is generally not my favorite, even though it does work, it is toxic for children under two years of age. When using Cedarwood EO in a combination, only add 5 drops per 2oz of whatever carrier you choose, same rule applies to Basil. When choosing a Basil EO, make sure it is a Linalool type, as this is one safe for children.

Another weapon against the tiny bug armies is Neem oil. Neem oil has shown to be as effective as commercial products based on DEET. You can dilute Neem oil in oils such as coconut or jojoba and add your favorite EOs mentioned above to the mix. I strongly suggest smelling the Neem Oil before you purchase it, as it does have a very distinctive smell.

If a bite does happen, nature continues to provide. For relief from itching, swelling and irritation, 3-5 drops of Tea tree oil is quite effective for all kinds of bites. If you have sensitive skin, dilute it with 1-2 tsp of a carrier oil. Herbs such as Arnica applied topically will decrease inflammation, and Comfrey root (powdered) applied as a poultice will ease the pain and repair skin damage. Oats, boiled to a thick paste, or used in a bath are soothing and itch relieving. Peppermint’s cooling properties will stop irritation and reduce the possibility of infection. Apply 2-3 drops of peppermint directly on the bite unless you have a skin sensitivity to peppermint. Witch Hazel’s astringent action will reduce the swelling and itch. Apple Cider Vinegar will reduce some itching, and act as an antiseptic. Chamomile tea bags or aloe vera gel will soothe, reduce inflammation, and help with the itch.

If nothing works, and the itch is driving you crazy, use heat. Heat the back of a spoon with hot water and apply directly to the bite. The heat can destroy or denature proteins in insect venom, that cause inflammation and itching. It also acts as a counterirritant, distracting the nerve cells from transmitting the itch signal.

Nature provides us with powerful tools that protect, prevent, and treat those pesky bug bites. Now, wrapped in a protective blanket of wonderful scents, you can wander the woods or simply enjoy your porch untouched, unbitten.



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JULY 13, SUNDAY
RUMMAGE SALE

JULY 26, SATURDAY NIGHT
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The board of directors of the ArtConnect
Society is proud to announce our summer sched-
ule. It is rich and varied, see for yourself.

On June 21 we will welcome a DJ Adham
Shaikh with his 4 -hour set to celebrate the
Summer Solstice. This will be a lot of great
beats to dance to! Please dont miss this rare
opportunity to hear Adham who still has many
fans on our shore. We are still looking for a few
more volunteers to help us make this an unfor-
gettable event.

June 28 will be a busy Saturday at the Harrison.
In the morning you can spend 3 relaxing hours
learning to create pine needle baskets - a worthy
skill and also great fun with creativity. Register
early as the spaces are limited to 12. All sup-
plies are included.

After the workshop you can go home and come
back to watch Ellie Reynolds latest play which
many of us missed during its premiere. If you
are one of those who missed it, now is your
opportunity to see it. Dont miss it now!

You definitely shouldn't miss our third yearly
rummage sale on July 13. We will appreciate
any donations of items you no longer need or
want. We will be accepting donations one week
prior to the sale at the Harrison. If you have
some volunteering spirit in your body and enjoy
rummage sale energy please talk to us. We will
need every bit of help.

We are super excited to let you know that the
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Antidoping agreed to grace our venue with their
high energy music on Saturday night, July 26.
We will dance and enjoy the bowl of true chilli
with these exceptional musicians and sweet
people !

Crawford Bay Hall Board
News

By Leona Keraiff

I understand Dee Gilbertson, editor of the
Mainstreet, is going to be giving free issues of
this fine local paper to Starbelly Jam Festival
goers. I want to say "Welcome" to each of them
as they will be celebrating Summer and com-
munity in the Crawford Bay Community Park
and all along the East Shore.

As I write this article, our Association is work-
ing on improvements to the Community Park
in readiness for the season and for the festival.
The Pavilion will have a new coat of paint to
compliment the new lights we installed in Octo-
ber. The old Post lights that have not worked for
many years will be shining brightly again and the
tennis /pickleball court lines will be more visible.
Many Thanks to Enzo Salviulo and to Kokanee
Springs Resort who keep the park mowed and
trimmed.

We recently had a clean up day in the park
where a total of 20 hours of effort was expend-
ed by Dave Hough, Susan Hulland, Helene
Carter, Carol Blackwell, Jayanti English and
myself. Many thanks to each of them for show-
ing up in a big way.

Darcy Wallin's new cedar benches will be on
display as soon as the varathane dries. He has
created beautiful benches for us all to enjoy for
many years. We truly appreciate his generosity
and tremendous skill.

By the time you read this, the new sign at the
boat launch should be in place allowing you
to donate easily through e transfer to: boat@
cbhall.ca. If you prefer to use cash to support
our efforts to maintain the Kootenay Bay Boat
Launch the donation box is still there.

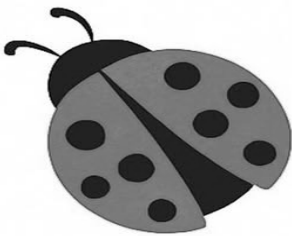
We are really looking forward to June's end
when we hope to hear a favourable result from
our last grant application, finally allowing us
to commence the restoration of our 87 year old
Crawford Bay Community Hall. Yes, it has
been over five years but we have not given up
on our plan to restore this treasured community
building. To date we have raised over \$1.89
million! If you are interested in supporting this
ambitious project you can: donate@cbhall.ca
Thank you.



Left:New
park
benches
made by
Darcy
Wallin of
Crawford
Bay.

Submitted
by Leona
Keraiff

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- Canada Day Weekend:
Sunday, June 29 th
- BC Day Weekend:
Sunday & Monday, August 3rd & 4 th
- Labour Day Weekend: Sunday & Monday
August 31st & September 1 st
- (Optional): Sunday & Monday, October 12 th 13 th



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to love, to transform."**
Richard Wagamese



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Kootenay Lake

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SD8 staff and the Board of Education



sd8.bc.ca

Fundraiser by Rob & Luisa Zimich

Join Us for Alex’s Whitewater Climb for KERPA!

FACEBOOK.COM/EVENTS/ALEXSWHITewater-CLIMBFORKERPA

On Saturday, July 5, from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Rob will be running and hiking laps from the Hummingbird Lodge to the top of the Silver King chair at Whitewater Ski Resort in Nelson, BC. We invite you to join us—take a lap (or as many as you like) to the top of the Silver King chair, stop by to say hello, and visit us at the Hummingbird Lodge for a barbecue and music at the end of the day. This event is a chance to celebrate Alex’s memory, support KERPA’s life-saving mission, and donate much needed funds to keep this vital service available in our region.

Alex had a deep love for the outdoors—skiing in the winter, hiking and climbing in the summer—and we know he’d be stoked to see friends, family, and new faces out on the mountain. Alex’s Whitewater Climb for KERPA is more than just a day on the hill—it’s a celebration of community, remembrance, and gratitude. We hope you’ll join us in supporting this incredible cause and honouring Alex’s legacy.

Why are we holding this event?

On May 26, 2022, Rob and Alex were in a boat crash on Kootenay Lake. Dr. Nicholas Sparrow, from the Kootenay Emergency Response Physicians Association (KERPA), arrived by helicopter, bringing an emergency room to the shore—complete with an EMS physician and critical medical equipment.

We are confident that everything medically possible was done for Alex, just as it would have been in a hospital. That knowledge brings us a measure of peace. But for Rob, Dr. Sparrow’s care meant even more—his medical expertise, kindness, and exceptional compassion helped save Rob’s life, even though Alex could not be saved. We don’t know if Rob would be here today if not for Dr. Sparrow’s presence that day.

KERPA is a Canadian-registered charity, founded in 2016, that sends volunteer Emergency Response (EMS) physicians directly to the scene of life-threatening 911 calls in the Kootenay region. This service is 100% community-funded—and we need your help to keep it going.

With Whitewater Ski Resort, we’re thrilled to host our second fundraising event to raise awareness and encourage donations for KERPA’s invaluable work. Having lived in large cities, we often take emergency medical services for granted. But in rural and remote areas like ours, what KERPA provides is nothing short of remarkable.

We are incredibly grateful to all the first responders who assisted that day—the 911 dispatch team, the Creston RCMP, and BC Ambulance Service—but our deepest thanks go to KERPA and Dr. Sparrow. Please consider donating to KERPA to ensure this life-saving service remains available for those who need it most.

For more information, contact us at alexswhitewaterclimb@gmail.com



Where is the ESTS shuttle bus?

Submitted by East Shore Transportation Society

Residents will know, we hope, that with the help of the Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) our community has received a brand new 2023 hybrid Chrysler Pacifica van. For any of you who have been graced with a ride in the van-- to Creston, Ainsworth or an airport in the region-- you will know this is a beautiful FWD vehicle, a comfortable ride for seniors and all ages, with wonderful fully licensed drivers.

The ESTS shuttle is managed by the East Shore Transportation Society --ESTS-- for "community purposes". We have a small enthusiastic board and were recently granted a substantial grant from the United Way to hire a dispatcher to figure out how to best serve seniors in our community and how to collaborate with Community Connections, Better at Home, the Seniors Connector, and the Health Society to maximize our community use of the vehicle.

The shuttle van is temporarily in storage while we work with BC Transportation to get a special authorization license. We will likely be unable to shuttle for weddings at Gray Creek Hall this summer, which is our favourite use of the community vehicle.

We plan to find out from you in the next while--when would you take the shuttle bus and how much is it worth to you?



When the ESTS did a survey back in 2019, 75% of the respondents at that time said they would take a bus for recreation, shopping, health appointments, fun socializing times, and visit other places with friends. Are these reasons you would consider taking public transportation?

The truth is people like convenience and we are used to being independent. A person can not really live on the East Shore without a vehicle and a license. So, is it possible to train people to take public transportation or not?

If you would like to get involved please email estsbus@gmail.com.





Tales From
Shprixieland
by Heath Carra
Cat Cult
shprixieland.com

"Have you smelled the Good Mews about our Lord and Slayer, the Great Sphinx of Giza?" a cat on my porch meowed at 2 am.

"Great," I said, sitting up in bed and switching on the light. "A proselytizing cat."

I snatched up a slipper to use as a projectile, and I headed for the window.

Over the past few years, a feline religion that claims the Great Sphinx of Giza is the One True God has been gaining converts among domesticated cats. They're called Catechists because they tend to march around in the middle of the night, shouting questions into the dark, hoping for answers. Well, I've got a theological answer for them.

"Shut the hell up!" I hollered out the window as I fired my slipper.

I heard an ineffective thunk in the dark, and then a holier-than-thou meow. "The Divine Cleaner thanks you for your offering," the Catechist called back from the shadows. "But aren't you tired of your life of exile from the Purrfect One?"

I was tired because I'd been woken up at 2 am by a door-to-door religion salescat.

In some religions, a deity is said to create the universe out of nothingness, but according to the Catechists, the Great Sphinx created the universe from everythingness.

In the beginning, the universe was so stuffed with everything that could possibly exist that there was no space to move. Everyone and everything was pinned in place by everything else, and in the middle of it was the King of Claws. He'd been frozen motionless for eternity, and He was getting testy. The tip of His tail twitched. It was a tiny, frustrated movement, but it was the first movement in the universe, and it started time. With barely a flick, the first primordial tchotchke was cast out of existence, and empty space emerged. It was just a tiny ceramic dog-shaped void, but it was big enough to allow His tail to flick again.

More elemental knick-knacks ceased to exist.

Thwap, thwap, went the Father of Terror's tail, and molecules disassembled into atoms, and atoms split, and electrons sparked out of being. With a few more lashes of His tail, the Sphinx had cleared enough space to allow Him to turn around. After limbering up for a bit, He got His paws into the action, and He started smacking more fundamental trinkets off the mantle of existence. For billions of years, the Sphinx unburdened the universe of all the junk of creation until great stretches of space separated galaxies. Over the eons, He cleared enough space that

creatures could stretch and yawn, and finally chase and pounce and play.

"Praise be the Master of Unmaking!" the Catechist yowled.

It's a bunch of nonsense, if you ask me.

I asked the Catechist why some cat god would have a human head, and do you know what he said? He said the Sphinx wears the head of a pharaoh as "His offer to carry humanity into enlightenment." It's His way of acknowledging that we humans are just cat-like enough to warrant domestication. The Sphinx and felinekind, in an act of sacred generosity, have agreed to save humans from the Smack of Damnation by making a place for us as their servants.

"This is a rare and special thing," the Catechist told me. "Human converts live spiritually rich lives, comforted in the knowledge that they serve the One True God. Can Opener, Door-person, and Butt Scratcher are revered acolyte positions that humans can hold in the Catechist church. If you devote yourself to study and place your faith in His Pawsness, one day you'll be able to sift His nuggets of truth from the litter box of life."

Cat paradise sounds like a special kind of hell.

I asked the Catechist why his god has no nose, and he said, "He's a living parable. Humans are smell-blind. You're anosmic to the truth."

Apparently, the Sphinx sacrificed His nose as a promise to the People of the world. When cats have finally enlightened humans to the message of the Great Lord's pheromones, his schnoz will return in glory, and we'll be able to sniff the truth at last.

"Our mission is to awaken your vestigial vomeronasal organ. That's why we pee on your stuff. We're spreading the message of the Lord's salvation."

It seemed funny to me that a cat god would be so preoccupied with People. Why wasn't He finding nonsensical ways to bring salvation to catkind, instead?

"Felines are semi-divine already," the Catechist said. "We don't need salvation. We live and die over and over, and when we enter our tenth life, we ascend into His being and take part in the eternal cleaning, whacking the rest of the rubbish off the edge of the earth."

"Edge of the earth?" I asked, but I shouldn't have. It turns out I was debating with a flat-earth feline zealot.

"The Earth is a tabletop," he told me, "and North America is near the edge. You're welcome to visit our temple cattery and learn more. You can even do some penitent brushing. In time, you could make a pilgrimage to the Father of Terror in Egypt. See the centre of the world. Come to the desert and serve the Lord. Anoint your paws with the dust of His sandbox. Get the fluff of His understanding up your nose and sneeze yourself rapturously into enlightenment," the Catechist sermonized.

I just slammed the window shut and went back to bed. There was no way I was going to cat church. You should come to Starbelly Jam this year, though. I'll be reading excerpts from my work-in-progress cat novel. I haven't settled on a name for it yet, but it will be something like 'The Missing Lynx' or 'Portrait of the Artist as Three Cats,' or something. It will be more fun than listening to a cat trying to convert you to their cult at 2 am, at least.

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Laughter Yoga • Thai Massage • Tie Dye shirt session (bring a clean, washed white or light colour shirt) • Art Therapy
Sound healing therapy • Belly Dancing workshop

Entertainment

Dance and Rock to THE BATS, live on Saturday 1-4 PM
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Bonfire on the beach

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Tom's Corner

by Tom Lymbery with Frances Roback

A 50-Room Lakefront Hotel for Gray Creek? And Other Chamber Tales

A 50-room lakefront hotel in Gray Creek? It didn't happen in the end, but not for lack of trying by the Kootenay Lake Chamber of Commerce. Chamber-sponsored initiatives like this one would not be as well-known or remembered if it weren't for Tom's renowned memory bank. Tom is a Chamber co-founder, lifelong supporter, insider, and teller of Chamber tales.

The time feels right to revisit the Chamber. First, as the East Shore emerges from six months of ferry disruption, the need for a strong voice from the local business community seems greater than ever. Over its 42-year history, the Chamber has been advocating for improved ferry service. And thanks to the recent gift of some 1983-84 Chamber records by Ron Turner's son Gerry Turner, we can now delve a little into the formative years of our Chamber.

The records include Ron Turner's inspirational press releases on the new Chamber, lists of member businesses from 40 years ago, draft logo designs, and letters. There are protests to BC Highways about a temporary ferry closure and to BC Education on the proposed closure of Crawford Bay Secondary School [!]. An inquiry to BC Lands on the development of Fish Hawk Bay Marina. And a proposal to Nelson, Creston, and Kaslo Chambers of Commerce to join in on a delivery and passenger transportation service between communities.

The new Chamber, to quote Ron Turner in 1983, would become an important meeting place for both business and private interests on the East Shore, a powerful force in our community where dialogue can occur between diverse local interests, and most important, where changes can be approved by all. Chambers have the power to move governments, attract media attention and coverage, invite public dialogue and make changes happen. "This is Clout with a Capital C," wrote Ron Turner.

Tom Lymbery now picks up the story in the March 2019 and December 2022 Mainstreets. More on the Kootenay Lake Chamber of Commerce can be found in Susan Hullah's and Terry Turner's book "Remember When" (2004, pgs 181-2), and in Tom's book "Tom's Gray Creek" Part II (2016, pgs 294-7).

- Frances Roback, Gray Creek Historical Society (Ed.)

In the late 1970s and early '80s the East Shore was enjoying a period of economic growth. Gerry Abele of East Kootenay Construction Ltd. had just finished building our new Gray Creek Store, and Siggy and Sonja Wittmoser of PDC Homes opened their 10,000 square foot Crawford Bay Building Supplies shop (now Crawford Bay Castle, home to Lea George and the Eastshore Community Library.) Support from the Nelson Chamber gave us the push we needed to organize our very own Chamber of Commerce for the East Shore. On August 11, 1983, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce formalized things with a Certificate of Formation, and we were good to go.

What to call our new Chamber? The organizing committee wanted it to represent the entire East Shore region. There always seems to be some inter-community rivalry, so choosing one community name over another could create problems. My suggestion was "Kootenay Lake". It was inclusive, and could easily be found on maps, so Kootenay Lake Chamber of Commerce it became, with Sonja Wittmoser as President.

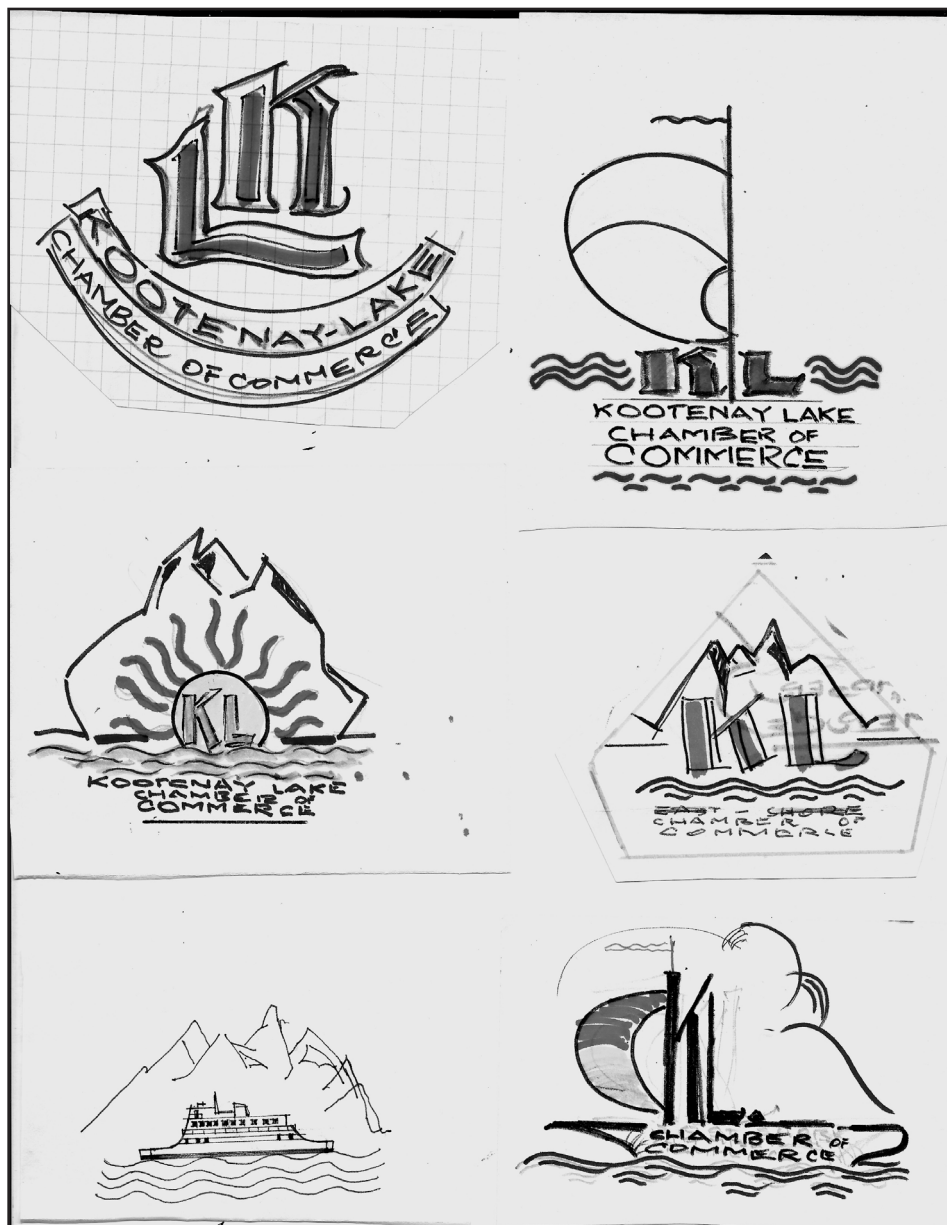
Among Chamber-sponsored project proposals, one was a 50-room lakeshore hotel for Gray Creek. When Kokanee Springs announced their \$10 million golf development in Crawford Bay back in the 1960s, we asked, "When will you build a hotel?" Their answer was "All in good time." They set up A-frame cabins in Crawford Bay where Paul Hindson's Kokanee Chalets are now, and these served for accommodation and office.

But once Kokanee Springs Golf Resort began to attract many more golfers than accommodation, our Chamber saw an opportunity for a 50-room lakefront hotel in Gray Creek, and we sought a \$50,000 grant to fund a feasibility study for it.

Chamber president Dr. Harold Prussin insisted that if we were to have any chance of success, we would need to produce a stack of paper at least five inches high. We contacted all possible organizations - federal, provincial, and anyone else who might possibly be interested - with reasons and proposals. We did achieve a pile of paper, but it was only about two inches high - not high enough to guarantee success. But our efforts were not wasted, for when Kokanee Springs began to work on its proposal for Kokanee Lodge, our project data proved to be very helpful to them.

Another Chamber of Commerce-sponsored initiative was to try to persuade BC Telephone to allow toll-free dialing between Riondel, Crawford Bay/Gray Creek, and Boswell. But BC Tel dismissed our request as frivolous, claiming we only wanted it for a gossip line. We produced statistics, filled in forms, and talked to executives for two years, to no avail. But as with the hotel project, the community data we compiled for BC Tel was put to good use. Ron Turner and I drew on all this data to compile a first-ever business and resource directory for the East Shore in 1986. Sponsored by the Chamber, the "Kootenay Lake Resource Directory" listed local non-profit organizations, artisans, craftspeople, and other home-based self-employed people as well as stand-alone local businesses. In those pre-Internet, pre-social media days, the directory became a valuable people-connecting resource all along the East Shore.

Many may think the Chamber is mostly promoting businesses and the local economy.



Draft logo designs for the new Chamber in 1983 played on themes of sailing, mountains, lake, and monogrammed letters. The final logo choice was the Anscomb ferry. (GCHS 2024.005, Kootenay Lake Chamber of Commerce records 1983-84)

But many of its major projects benefit everyone. Take improvements in highway safety, for example. Getting Highways onside has proved that the Chamber has push and merit. Left hand turn lanes were installed at Wadds Road by the Crawford Bay Motel, and at the Riondel Road turnoff in Kootenay Bay. A tougher sell was convincing Highways to add the vital runaway lane on the steep hill leading down to the Kootenay Bay ferry landing. We had to produce proof of three runaway incidents before Highways would agree. It took a circus truck which had lost its brakes but was able to turn into the road bank in time; and a runaway cement truck which collided with the first car leaving the ferry, then rolled over behind the washrooms; and early one May a brakeless camper van landed in the lake. The couple tried to swim to shore in icy water. Wen McLeod managed to save the woman, but the man drowned. The runaway site was installed, and every trucker coming down the hill is reassured by the presence of it.

Two other noteworthy local initiatives involving the Chamber were the clearcut agreement and the Gray Creek Pass road between Gray Creek and Kimberley.

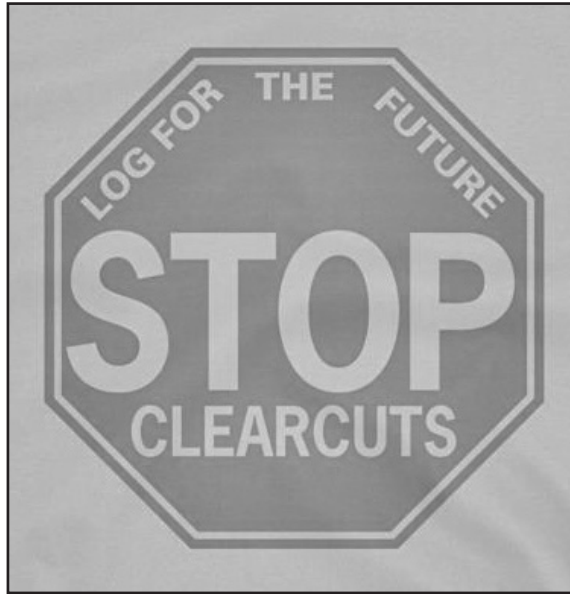
The growing number of visible clearcuts and their negative effect on our forests and local tourism led to several meetings between the Chamber, BC Forestry, the Strom brothers, Wynndel Box & Lumber, and the East Shore Forest Council with Peter Duryea and others. We questioned the Annual Allowable Cut and suggested selective logging. Bruce Fleming proposed a green "Stop Clearcuts, Log For The Future" sign in the shape of a highway stop sign, and these sprang up like mushrooms around the region. They can still be seen in places today.

Continued on next page . . .

In 1986, the Gray Creek Hall hosted a two-day conference on Integrated Forest Management. We came up with a forest management plan which would work with the Kootenays' potential as a world-class recreation and visitor destination area. Conference topics included local mills vs. big industry, value added products, stand management, selective harvesting vs clearcutting, and the Kootenays as an environmental study area. Briefs were presented by mill owners, foresters, politicians, special interest groups and residents. After difficult negotiations, Forestry agreed to limit visible clearcuts to eight hectares (about 18 acres). This was the first agreement of this kind in the province, and it became a model that was followed in other regions.

The last word goes to Dr. Harold Prussin, former Gray Creek dentist, Chamber president during quite pivotal years, and a keen supporter of our Chamber. In 1991 the Chamber sponsored a new local newspaper on the East Shore. Dr. Prussin came up with the Mainstreet name, saying, "If we lined up all our local businesses, we would

have quite a Mainstreet." And so "Mainstreet" it became, and some 35 years later, "Mainstreet" it remains.



The very successful "Stop Clearcuts, Log for the Future" campaign for sustainable forest management was endorsed by the Chamber. Photo above: Frances Roback



In 2018, Tom was named Fellow of the BC Chamber of Commerce for his 35 years of outstanding service with our local Chamber. A great honour indeed. Photo above: Janet Schwieger



A new road linking the Kootenay and Columbia valleys between Gray Creek and Kimberley was strongly championed by the Chamber. The opening of the Gray Creek Pass road in August 1990 drew huge crowds. (GCHS 2015.001, photo by Flo Commandeur)

Tom Sez ~ circa April 2018

by Tom Lymberry

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

- Why de-genderize "Oh Canada"? Why not just change "sons" to "suns" - "In all thy suns command"? But, really, why change our National Anthem at all?

- Don't miss the annual, and very special, Rainbow Trout spawning at Gerrard, north of Meadow Creek, Hwy 31, the first week of May. See 20-pound fish jumping out of the river at the spawning area with a viewing platform and explanatory brochures. To reach the site, the spawners travel up the Lardeau River at night for safety. Lesser Rainbow species spawn on the beaches of the lake.

- And what will happen to the fish in our lake if highway insists on the virtually unprecedented dredging of the Procter Narrows in order to keep the ferry terminal at Balfour? Dredging will have to be done annually resulting in lowering of the lake level more each year.

- When will the pink ornamental cherry just north of the store bloom this year? Sometimes it is as early as April 15.

- Snowpack reports become very important in April. Up to March 1, it was reported to be 140% of average. Gray Creek has a (since automated) snow measurement station established in 1947 by Vaughn Mosher and measured by George Oliver with a harrowing uphill snowshoe trip until West Kootenay Power started servicing their power line to Kimberley using a Tucker Sno Cat. (See much more on page 26 of my second book.)

- If you haven't already, please log on to Greg Nesteroff's KUTNE READER for his amazing Kootenay researched stories.

- US contestants on the game show Jeopardy need good knowledge of our far flung Canada because the host Alex Trebek is Canadian and he occasionally has Canadian contestants. This is available daily on two Canadian TV channels and is fascinating for the topics it covers.

- 50 years ago 4000 supporters welcomed Nancy Greene, winner of gold and silver at the 1968 winter Olympics, with a two-mile parade through Nelson to Notre Dame University, home of Canada's Alpine ski team. Read about Nancy's exploits in Gray Creek in Tom's Gray Creek, part II.

- How about a new word describing Canada's halfassed metric system – syntheticmetric? Putting metric equivalents on US measures should be illegal.

- If you google Crawford Bay or Gray Creek, can you find any local accommodation? No sign of Kokanee Springs Lodge or Kokanee Chalets – only Ainsworth, Kaslo, Nelson and Creston hotels.

- Please check out BC History Magazine at the store for an article "Eight Years in a One Room School" because the story is about our Gray Creek hall..

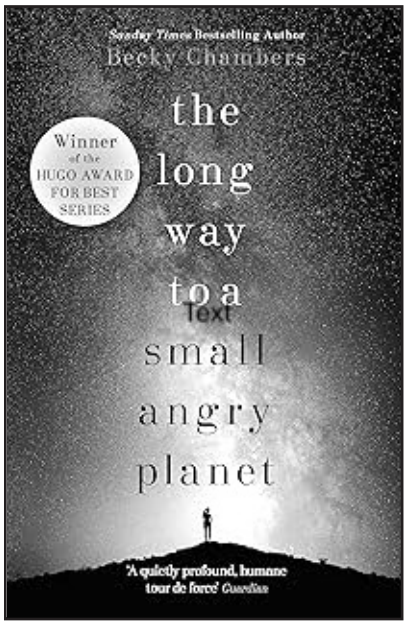
- Bravery medals for Kootenay Heroes – well deserved to Paul Hindson Tobias MacDonald, Juergen Baetzel and Carol Vanr.

Next print deadline

July 25

*Next email
news deadline*

June 29



For the Love of Genre

by Sharman Horwood

The Long Way to a Good Story

The novel I'm reviewing this issue is

The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet (2023), by Becky Chambers, and it is a good novel. It just takes some time for the story to gel. Once it does the book is a good read: fun and full of interesting characters, and well written; a surprise since it's her first novel.

The story takes place on a spaceship that is not the ubiquitous trader or military vessel as is usual in SF these days. The Wayfarer is a ship that bores holes in space for wormholes to form. Spaceships can then fly through the wormholes to other star systems in a very short time. That means the ship is a long-hauler, and needs a varied--yet very skilled--crew.

If you recall the bar scene in the first Star Wars movie, then you should be able to visualize the varied sentient creatures in The Wayfarer crew. There are four humans; an Aandrisk, which is lizard-like with a tail--they also have a scaly skin that moults once a year; a Grum, a sentient species that has six legs, and comes from a species that is literally killing itself; a Sianat which is not an individual but a symbiotic pair; and an A.I. called "Lovey." A good part of the novel is getting to know these individuals, along with a good part of their history.

The novel starts with a new crew member, Rosemary. She is a clerk, but on this kind of ship, a "clerk" is highly valued. She has to administer the business side of running the ship, but she also has to speak several alien languages in order to communicate with their clients. She also is responsible for researching the laws and trading rights between different solar systems, and their alien inhabitants. She also needs good negotiating skills to be able to advise the captain on deals.

Unfortunately, the first one she advises him to do is a contract to bore a wormhole into a star system close to the galaxy's core. The old saying, "if it's too good to be true, then it probably is," applies to this contract. It pays very well, much better than anything they've done before, and as far as they can tell, there is very little risk. Except for one little thing: the other end of the wormhole is beside a planet called Hedra Ka, and its species--the Toremi Ka--are known for their violent relationships between clans. It was a "small, angry planet, surrounded by the warships of people who wanted to control it" (p. 341).

The trip there is more dangerous than they expected. First they are boarded by Akarak pirates, and then when they travel through another system they are arrested because one of the humans on the ship isn't what he's supposed to be. The new clerk is the one who helps get the ship out of dangerous, difficult situations.

Most of the novel is taken up with the characters of the crew. They are interesting and fun, but this does make a slow start to the novel; hence, my title. However, once the story really gets underway, it is fun. One of its qualities that I particularly appreciate is its non-violence as a story line. Often in space opera, the stories involve violent conflict. Star Wars is a good example of this. Star Trek: The Next Generation was well done in large part because the stories aren't shoot-'em-up tales. This novel and

the STNG stories assume that sentient species are not likely to be terribly aggressive simply because that behaviour isn't in the best interest of a species. There are, of course, occasional exceptions. Isaac Asimov--among others--thought that intelligence means the sentient species humans encounter will be sensible and rational, not immediately firing their weapons to get their way. The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet is more in this tradition.

However, in saying this, that does not mean there is no violence in the novel. The story does point out that for some species, one in particular, violence is necessary. A character from one of these meditates, and in his species' reasoning, "the stronger belief would survive, the weaker would be erased. This was how harmony was made" (p. 337). In other words, acting with aggression and strength will create peace. Eventually.


Becky Chambers is "known for her innovative worldbuilding and character-driven stories, and is a pioneer of the hopepunk genre" (Wikipedia). Hopepunk is a subgenre in speculative fiction. It features work in which "characters [are] fighting for positive change, radical kindness, and communal responses to challenges" (Wikipedia). It is the opposite of the opposite grimdark subgenre, which has taken over a lot of other genres, like detective or murder mystery stories.


The Long Way to a Small, Angry Planet is Becky Chambers' first novel, and it was self-published. She successfully raised funds on Kickstarter so she could take the time off work to write the book. Since then it has received critical acclaim, and the Hugo Award for Best Series (there are three sequels), and it been nominated for many other awards. As a result, Hodder & Stoughton and Harper Voyager have republished the novel, something that Andy Weir did with his novel The Martian.


I do recommend the novel--it's a slow start, but worth reading.


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Melina Cinq-Mars: *Thai-yoga massage practitioner, Certified yoga teacher and Acutonics Level 1.* I offer customized treatment for optimal health. Available for private or group yoga classes. melina@yinyogi.com, 250-509-4111. www.yinyogi.com.

SUSAN SNEAD: Massage practitioner using tuning forks, foot reflexology and energy balancing to create a balanced full body massage and tune up. Astrological counseling with 40 years experience. Bach Flower and other flower essences available. For appt: call 250.225.3520.

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

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

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RIONDEL COMMUNITY LIBRARY Open 10-12 Mon,Weds,Thurs,Sat. 2-4 Tues 250.225.3242 the_librarian@bluebell.ca library.riondel.ca

EAST SHORE READING CENTER Tues&Sat 12:00-3:00 16234 King Road Crawford Bay. 250-777-1492 / escomlib@gmail.com

DIVING SERVICES. For all your diving services needs, call Cliff Wiebe at 403-862-3340

Yoga Classes 4 everybody! April 6 -June 29

Community Corner ~ Sat & Sun ~ 10-11am

Crawford Bay Hall ~ Mon & Wed ~ 7-8pm

Drop-in \$12. yogakootenaylake@icloud.com

MEETUPS

LIONS CLUB - Kootenay Lake Community Church 7PM. 2nd and 4th Tues of the month. Mike 250-227-6807 / Doug 250-227-6966 / Fraser 250-227-9636.

AA: Every Wednesday, 7pm at Crawford Bay Community Corner Building. 250-808-9577. If you drink, and don't want to stop, that's your business. If you drink & find you can't stay stopped, that's ours. 1.250.800.4125

RIONDEL COMMUNITY CHURCH
Everyone welcome.

KOOTENAY LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Join us Sundays at 10AM. Coffee fellowship after service. 16190 Hwy 3A 250 505 8286

YASODHARA ASHRAM Satsangs available anytime online at yasodhara.org/about-yasodhara/satsang/ or youtube.com/user/yasodharaashram

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

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH SERVICES Anglican Church, 8151 Busk Rd, Balfour. Sundays, 9:30 AM. All welcome! 250.229.5237

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Roswitha Strom's
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For immediate release

May 20, 2025

Wildsight commends BC Timber Sales promise to protect caribou habitat

Wildsight is applauding BC Timber Sales for its commitment to pause new development in forests that are critical to the ongoing survival of endangered deep-snow caribou in the Revelstoke-Shuswap region.

The decision, which was communicated to Wildsight via email, will help safeguard the future of the Columbia North caribou herd, one of the last remaining southernmost herds in British Columbia.

“BC Timber Sales controls important caribou habitat within their tenures in the Revelstoke-Shuswap region,” said Wildsight Conservation Specialist Eddie Petryshen. “This is a significant move and it sets a precedent for other licensees to stop logging core habitat in this region.”

Logging poses one of the biggest threats to the future of the Columbia North herd, which has only a third of its core habitat protected despite the draft federal recovery strategy determining that 100% should be protected.

In its email to Wildsight, BC Timber Sales said: “Within unprotected Core, we are only pursuing blocks that have had existing investments that were nearing completion.

BCTS will not be pursuing new investments in Caribou Core or unprotected Core Habitat until Caribou planning has been re-engaged and direction is provided.”

The exemption of existing developments from the BC Timber Sales pause means a 40-hectare timber sale that overlaps core caribou habitat in Nagle Creek, near Mica Creek, is still on the table.

“If that block is clearcut, it will further fragment connectivity in the Columbia North herd’s low elevation habitat,” Petryshen said. “We urge licensees and contractors not to bid on this timber sale and BC Timber Sales to defer logging in this area.”

While the government moves at a sloth-like pace to catch up with its own recommendations, Indigenous Nations and environmental advocates have repeatedly pushed BC Timber Sales to proactively stop logging core caribou habitat.

In 2020, the organization came under huge public pressure over a timber sale near Argonaut Creek, north of Revelstoke. The Wildsight-led campaign resulted in the deferral of more than 300 hectares of new cutting.

In 2022, BC Timber Sales again backed away from plans — this time to clearcut 266 hectares of core caribou habitat in the upper Seymour River Valley, 100 kilometres north of Salmon Arm — after pushback from conservationists, the public and Indigenous Nations.

“We’re grateful that BCTS is beginning to listen to the concerns of Indigenous Nations and the public,” Petryshen said. “This decision will take the pressure off the Columbia North herd while Nations and the province discuss new caribou habitat protections.”

The question remains: will other licensees like Louisiana Pacific, Downie Timber, Stella Jones, Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation, Interfor and Gilbert Smith follow BC Timber Sales’ lead?

-30-

Wildsight is a registered charity that protects biodiversity and encourages sustainable communities in Canada’s Columbia and Rocky Mountain regions. We work with industry, scientists, the teaching community and all levels of government, including First Nations, to shape and influence land-use decisions, guide practice and steward change on the ground. At our heart, we are a grassroots organization, harnessing our power from the people whose lives affect and are affected by our work.

For additional quotes or interviews, please contact: Eddie Petryshen, Conservation Specialist, Wildsight

eddie@wildsight.ca or 250-427-9885



Photo: Mountain caribou watching a logging truck drive away. Photo: Cory DeStein

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Thoughts From The Frog Pot

by John Rayson
A Changing World

This paper was begun during the election campaign with an attempt to identify the problems facing our country regardless of which group would govern. We have spent at least the last century dependent on our relationship with the United States and the perceived necessity to “keep up with the neighbours”. Obviously, this relationship has changed; we cannot depend on our neighbour to the south and the relationship will never be the same.

We have received a “wake up call”. Will we hear it loud and clear and make the necessary change and sacrifice to look after ourselves? We are in for a difficult time. However, Canada is a blest nation: we are a vast geography with a small population. We are a highly educated society with a huge reservoir of natural resources, including the worlds’ seventh largest reservoir of fossil fuels plus a vast quantity of “rare earth minerals”; necessary for the production of advanced electronics including computers, cell phones, fighter aircraft etc. We have a long and complex historical relationship with the United States. Much of our news, entertainment, advertising and general information is provided by media originating in the US. We must not forget that 90% of Canadians live within 150 km. of the American border. The relationship has been in development for the past 100+ years. Do we really believe, as has been stated by our recently elected Prime Minister, that the relationship has fundamentally changed? I suspect that this fact has not really “sunk in” to most Canadians and they think things will return to normal when Trump has gone. Wrong.

The election has now occurred and we have a new Prime Minister. It would appear that both major political parties advanced much the same policies during the election and we are now

faced with trying to deal with the new reality to the south. There is no doubt that the relationship with the US has changed and will never be the same. Mr. Trump is not joking about the 51st state. In addition, he [Mr. Trump] stated that the US needs nothing from Canada. Don’t kid yourself, the US wants and needs our “rare earth minerals”, energy and above all, our water.

Climate change is occurring [regardless of your opinion as to cause] and is a fact of life in Canada. Our growing season is shifting north and whether we like it or not, the artic is warming faster than much of the world. The north-west passage is open for shipping for longer periods. Warming of the artic has far reaching implications for Canada as the north of Canada is a vast and sparsely populated region but vital to our country. We must begin to allocate increasing resources to the region including, but not exclusively to, defense. In addition, we must be prepared to look to other countries of the world for export and development opportunities. Remember, our relationship with our neighbour immediately to the south has undergone a profound and permanent change.

All of the above must be done while we address our own interprovincial trade barriers. We have many internal barriers, more than are recognized by most Canadians. These regulations are a huge burden on our economic well-being and future productivity. Let’s begin to act like a country and not a separate group of provinces. This struggle requires unity and a recognition that we must all work together and ensure that we properly address the grievances of individual regions.

I leave you with a few thoughts:

- Martin Luther King: “*We must learn together as brothers or perish together as fools.*”
- Steven Covey: “*Strength lies in differences, not in similarities.*”
- African Proverb: “*If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to far, go together.*”

Riondel Arts
By Sharman Horwood

At the moment people are busy with their wonderful gardens. When I look out my window at the trees, fully leaved, the blooming dogwoods, lilacs, and others, a haze of health seems to hover over the valley. It is so lush and full.

In the Riondel Community Centre, the art club has hung a new display, thanks to Judy Baradell-Smith and Mary Ann Russell, our display committee. There are some new and some old pieces in the show, so please drop by and see them when you have a chance.

We also have a show going on at Cowan’s Office Supplies in Nelson. These are mostly new works, and they are lovely and show the variety of paintings. Please stop in and have a good look at them when you’re in town. Art just always looks better when it’s on display.

Gerald Panio is taking a break from his art history lectures. He plans to resume them again in September. We appreciate all the hard work he puts into them; they are always fascinating.

In the meantime talented Sophie Vinette is continuing with the summer art workshops. If you’re interested, and not on the mailing list, please check the Riondel Art Facebook page; they are posted there as well.

If you’re at all interested in pursuing art, please stop by and give it a try. We welcome everyone. Our hours are Sunday and Wednesday at 1:00 to 4:00. If you prefer mornings, we are there on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. until 12:30. Life is always more rich with a little bit of art in it!



East Shore Reading Center
By Taryn Stokes, Librarian

We are happy to welcome new members and new volunteers to the library this month. Joining us at the circulation desk is Robyn Morris and Ryland Stokes.

Over April and May we had 285 checkouts while serving over 38 patrons with 53 items added. The check-outs are a little less than last edition, and probably reflects the spring weather and the eagerness to be out in our gardens and nature! One new book is Abby Wilson’s *West Kootenay Hiking*, which also includes our East Shore trails. We also have the newest edition (Book 12) from Iona Whishaw, *The Cost of a Hostage*, that details the adventures of Nelson-area sleuth Lane Winslow. Another book on our shelves of local interest is Judy Pollard’s *The Distance*. Other new books from notable Canadian authors include Carley Fortune, Nita Prose, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson and Madeleine Thien.

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 transition to the ice cream program later in June.

We can be contacted at 250-777-1492, via email at 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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Email_editor@eshore.ca

EVENTS



Kootenay Lake Lions Club Canada Day Celebration

Tuesday, July 1st, 2025

Crawford Bay Community Park

15990 Highway 3A, Crawford Bay

NATIONAL ANTHEM 11 AM

Food Sales 11 AM - 2 PM

Hamburgers, French Fries, Ice Cream,
Pop

KIDS GAMES by East Shore Youth
Network

CANADA DAY CAKE

MUSIC by Local Musicians



**EAST SHORE
KOOTENAY LAKE
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Everyone Welcome - Free Admission!

**3rd Annual Community
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Everything About Health



June 21, 2025
1:00 to 4:00 PM
Crawford Bay School

Find out more about community, social & health groups and our society. Refreshments provided as well as a door prize draw!
Contact eshealthsociety@gmail.com for more information or Anne (250-223-8510) or Christa (587-988-0477).

Thank you to the Nelson & District Credit Union, Regional District of Central Kootenay and Yasodhara Ashram for their support!



Photo above submitted by Rebecca Fuzzen. Community volunteers putting in great effort for Helping Hands Day.

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HELPING HANDS DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 3rd, 2025

From Gray Creek to Sandel
Volunteers will be helping seniors with...

OUTSIDE WORK UP

Thank-you!



Ryan at Red's Bakery for the coffees
Cam and Leslie at Crawford Bay Market for sandwiches and fruit. Jaqueline Doublet for the baking, and all you fabulous volunteers
Over 100 hours of volunteer work to help our seniors
Thank-you!

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Special thank-you to Community Connections (SKLCSS) and Crawford Bay Market



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