

Summer Delights on the East Shore

Photos taken at Wedgwood Manor, Crawford Bay, B.C. July 2025

AUG /SEP 2025 Mainstreet 1



Mainstreet Meanderings Post Starbelly Once Again

By Dee Gilbertson
Publisher

August beckons as the last few weeks to enjoy the summer of 2025 sneak up quickly. I am truly grateful to have spent the July 18-20 week-end revelling in Starbelly festivities. This was the second Jam I have attended, and it absolutely checked all the boxes my kids and I needed to enjoy a music festival. It is neat to observe the quiet park venue transform into a zone of music and food for all in attendance to appreciate. The Enchanted Park truly enchants children - my own were thrilled to spend hours with old friends while also making new ones, safe in the fenced area and close enough to the goings on that they feel "on their own" while parents are nearby, taking in the scene and tapping feet to the beats. The first time I learned of Starbelly was actually from my parents backyard, around 15ish years ago, the year that Mother Mother played. They quickly took off in popularity and I was thrilled to hear them on the radio after that. I think Moontricks will be a similar story - they are new to my Spotify list but if I were to make a prediction they will be hitting charts in the coming years. And if I heard correctly, a local resident makes up a part of the band, making this a local story for this newspaper to keep tabs on! Of course, all of the remarkable talent showcased this year deserves applause and the team behind the scenes too - such a success does not happen without sincere effort and dedication. So thank you to all who entertained, planned, and attended!

I am very pleased to have received a few letters to the editor in this edition. Please keep them coming!

You will notice an advertisement posted by myself for house sitting services.I moved my permanent residence to Alberta for employment reasons but would love to spend time on the East Shore throughout the year. Please be in touch if this might be of service to you or someone you know.

Be well,
Dee

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Letters to the Editor

Open Letter to the East Shore Community

from Tara Shanti Retreat

There is a toxic and malicious rumour mill active on the East Shore that has spread lies and misinformation for years and we have been urged to confront it.

Our business, Tara Shanti and our lives personally have been the target of these lies, which have had dire consequences for our business and for our own well-being. When we purchased Tara Shanti in 2010, it was with the intention of transforming Tara Shanti and of becoming active participants in this small community. We have invested heavily in the east shore and have been active volunteers since coming here, working hard towards making it a better place to live and call home. To now experience the many adverse effects of a toxic campaign to discredit us and or business is simply beyond disheartening.

Friends who know us are quick to dismiss these lies, for they know they do not represent who we truly are. However, people who may not know us or know us very well, have been negatively impacted. People who then take these lies and pass them along to others are nothing short of complicit.

We have met many wonderful, kind and generous people here and yet it seems that some people will readily talk, passing lies on to others, without considering the consequences of their words. It further distresses us to think we are likely not the only target.

We only wish to be in harmony with everyone in this community and as such, offers of healing together have been relayed and we continue to send out our light and love to all involved and pray for healing for everyone. God bless us all.

Should you feel prompted to reach out, our contact info is below.

Sincerely, Maggie Kavanagh and Gord MacMahon,
Tara Shanti Accommodations and Retreats

Kootenay Bay, (250) 777-4868

Thank You East Shore Community

As many of you are aware a forest fire started on June 10th. just south of the Lakeview Store. Our property is one of the first properties south of the fire location.

That evening we received a phone call from our next door neighbours advising us of the fire. We live in Kimberley and use our Gray Creek cabin during the spring, summer and fall.

We drove from Kimberley that evening and arrived at our property around midnight. We were amazed and so thankful to see so many area residents on site fighting the blaze. I can't tell you how grateful we are to this group of community residents who were willing to come together and work tirelessly to get this fire under control.

It was around 4:00 am when the last of the volunteers wrapped things up with the fire basically contained. Unfortunately we do not have the names of all the individuals involved and cannot thank you personally, but by way of this letter we want to express our gratitude and acknowledge your response to this critical event.

Sincerest Thanks, Mike and Betty Dodd

Fire Truck

Ivy and Mike Jeffrey, Brian Homer, Paul Kernohan, Rand Kellock, Vim De Haas, and Klaus Plaumann are my heroes, and they should be yours as well!

They put in the last few weeks a lot of time and effort in helping me to get a used fire truck running and working again as an emergency vehicle in case of a fire on the East Shore. This was one of the old fire trucks from the Riondel Fire Department. I bought it at an online auction last November held by RDCK.

Ivy and Mike provided space, tools, equipment, work, time and food; Brian welded the rotten tank to a new one; Paul fixed engine issues and beefed the truck up; Rand paid for some parts and picked them up in Creston; Vim donated firehoses; and Klaus helped to assemble and taught how to use the pump and equipment. They put more than 100 hours into this project and they did it for free! What a team, Hallelujah!

Now the beast is running and working for the worst case scenario, but there is still some work to do on the truck and maintenance as well. It was already used at Starbelly Jam as a safety back up. It is a fire truck/tender with a PTO attached pump that holds up to 5000 l of water and can be used to fight a small or starting fire or as a water reservoir. The idea of the fire truck project is to have this equipment available in the summer fire season in case somewhere starts a grass or wildfire and to provide an additional water source for the Riondel Fire Department if needed. Since we don't have a fire hall in Crawford Bay or Gray Creek and the Riondel Fire Department comes out only if they have permission from RDCK, this fire truck might help to fight the beginning of a wildfire.

The truck will be located at a central spot in Crawford Bay with easy access to the highway. Somebody of the Riondel Fire Department has one of the keys as well in case they want to pick it up. A few people from Crawford Bay are interested in to learn how to use it and when the last small issues on the truck are fixed we will get a couple lessons from Klaus on how to use it efficiently.

If you discover a fire call Riondel Fire Department, they will get in contact with me or one of the volunteers and we'll help out if possible. Let's hope we never have to use the beast

- Mautz Kroker



SUBMISSION DEADLINES

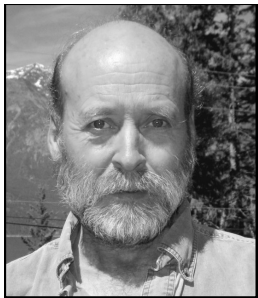
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RDCK Area A Update Ferry Stakeholder Advisory

by Garry Jackman
Regional Director

The recommendations from the special mediator, Vince Ready, have been available for several weeks now. The key points I saw are that the wages will be adjusted with some consideration of parody with Waterbridge rates, and that a day-for-day schedule would be introduced no later than Jan. 1, 2026, and the matter would be referred to an arbitrator if both sides can’t agree on how to implement it by Sept. 30.

Before, during and since the strike in 2024/25, some of us have been asking for a reinstatement of the Kootenay Lake ferry stakeholders advisory committee. I was on the earlier version of this committee, back in 2006/07 when I was the Kootenay Lake Chamber President, but as I recall the ministry and service provider reps stopped calling meetings after about a year. There will be a meeting of a renewed advisory, by invitation, on August 14th. I see a list of 12 invitees ranging from local government, business associations, SD8 and health services, in addition to reps from the transportation ministry and operator management. I have questioned why some of the invitees are on the current list while others may be more appropriate and I am waiting for a follow-up from WPM.

The agenda is mainly “introductory”, in my view, and although it allows for a 30-minute open discussion there will be need for follow up meetings soon. The advisory covers all three crossings, the main lake, Glade and Harrop/Proctor. The group does not have all the key members to fully work through some of the issues we see on the main lake crossing, so I am going to ask for a sub-committee structure with just the Balfour/East Shore reps from the advisory plus some other local voices from each side.

The two surveys conducted during the strike highlight the issues which we need to discuss early on. If you go back to 2019, you will see the Labour Relations Board (LRB) ruling BCLRB NO. B114/2019 on the level of essential service for the main lake crossing was basically the same as the ruling in 2024. Obviously that level of service did not prevent/avoid serious harm to community, so we cannot allow another contract period to lapse without a more fulsome review of essential service levels. In addition, many safety issues were raised during the strike. One very old issue, which has been addressed for the short term with consequences to capacity this summer, is the safety issue of many people taking their vehicles on the MV Balfour being unable to get out of their vehicles during the crossing. There could be comfort and/or medical reasons to leave your vehicle during the crossing, but most important is that a “abandon ship” order on that very old vessel could have resulted in a very tragic outcome. I pushed to have what appeared to be an inappropriate analysis of lane widths, which needs to be based on the actual vehicle mix and ability

to direct/align vehicles within each lane properly, reviewed for the MV Balfour this summer with the longer-term objective to ensure that the correct lane configuration is painted on the new vessel’s deck once it comes into service. We have heard that even though it has a lower capacity than the MV Osprey, the new vessel will be longer than the Osprey. If an inappropriate lane width is given to a relatively narrow, long vessel, the Ministry could be basing all its seasonal scheduling for running the new vessel versus the Osprey on the wrong data. This needs to be addressed now to facilitate planning for which vessel is on the lake from month by month.

As noted in my June article, it will not be difficult to find more local issues to discuss. The entire purpose of the ferry crossings are to provide effective links to the rest of the provincial transportation corridors. The Vince Ready report poses measures which should in the long run alleviate concerns around worker attraction and retention (which is related to pay, scheduling and training for many professions). I see a proposal to align the dates of the provincial contract with the WPM/workforce contract which may add to the stability of the operating contract since they will be looking at the same inflationary figures for both contracts. But our collective voices are still needed to support a clear definition of minimum service levels to ensure the safety, health and economic stability of each community are maintained.

RDCK BUDGET 2026

I keep a running list of issues that I am unable to respond to within a week or so. Some of the outstanding items I have on my “to do” list go back months and are related to questions around the 2025 budget, along with the BC Assessment Authority data and how local government sets its budget. I have a commitment to investigate information for a resident closer to Creston about why their taxes jumped so much on the ALR (agricultural land reserve) and I need to provide more insight as to why some Riondel residents saw disproportionate jumps in their taxation. I also saw unusually high increases for some industrial lands which peaked my curiosity. I need to get back to these and other items by the fall, as that is when we begin our 2026 budget process, as opposed to waiting until closer to the calendar year end to project the coming year budget.

Each year when we present to projected budget there are several dozen interested residents at the ‘Area A north’ presentation and a few hundred residents at the Creston Valley presentation. The core information is the same, but staff are prepared to give specific examples of budget information for services that residents see within their portion of Area A. I am thinking it would be useful to hold a few budget town halls in the fall, not to give next year projections which would have insufficient details by then, but to respond to general questions about how our regional district budget works and what differences you may see in other regional districts or in villages, towns and cities. Let me know if you have a group wanting me to hold a town hall in your community. We could plan for an hour or so for budget discussions and then open it up to “ask anything”.

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

Letters to the Editor, Cont’d

Dear Editor,

I sometimes make use of my iPad to update myself on the actions in my former Regional District ‘stomping grounds’ by reading the online Mainstreet News paper. Several items in this paper were of interest to me, a couple of which I thought I could add to and would perhaps be of interest. Here they are.

In the 1980s the Chamber of Commerce worked on the issue of long-distance phone charges on the East Shore. CBC Vancouver arranged with the Crawford Bay principal to have 2 students in his office for an on-air interview. One was male, one female, living respectively in Riondel and Crawford Bay. They were interviewed about their experience having an after-school friendship and long distance telephone costs.

Removing the long distance telephone charge between Crawford Bay and Riondel was successful largely because the petition developed by the Chamber was truly professional. It met the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs requirements to set a bylaw: 60 percent of the population signed it with written and printed signatures; the Riondel doctor and businesses signed it and included their current telephone costs; people knew their new costs because it was listed in the petition.

On an Ottawa trip the petition was given to the federal CRTC , BCTel had questions. Clarity was provided that RDCK supported the petition for the reasons given above.

BC Tel accepted and the CRTC accepted. Long distant tolls were removed.

Dr Prussin was successful in gaining permission of ferry management to allow the East Shore

Chamber members to display their brochures in the ferry’s showcases. I will add that the Chamber aided in obtaining the establishment of Lockhart Creek provincial park. This was achieved over competition from Castlegar for a park in their region.

For interest, one of the Strom brothers seeking provincial approval for a sawmill, drove the bus with the provincial Ministers and public for the Gray Creek Pass opening. That was done to facilitate direct local communication with the Ministry on a sensitive Forest issue.

I was pleased to read of Vaughan Mosher, my father-in-law, in Tom’s report.

by Larry Brierley, Former resident of Armstrong Bay

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



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.

Let’s Keep Talking

Maria Mosley
Hospice Volunteer

The hallway was cold, like hospital corridors usually are. Nurses moved about, silently focused on helping the next patient, their eyes diverting away from ours, some whispering, “I am so sorry”. Family was spotted at various locations between the walls, some hunched over on cold, plastic chairs, hugging their legs, deep in thought. Some wearing new grooves into the floor as they paced back and forth, heads low, eyes wet. Some milling about in small groups chatting about what happened to the vibrant, loving, laughing 93-year-old who was taken by the night. Everyone pondering their loss. Our loss.

The door situated at the very end of the hall, that a few short hours ago swallowed up people with cards and conversation, was closed tight; now the door was swallowing up people with tears, hugs, and goodbyes. Next to the door, there was a laminated picture of a yellow flower stuck on the wall, whispering silently to all who passed that someone had died and lays here to rest. For the stranger, please stay out.

In the middle of the hall, standing next to my sister-in-law, I rocked on my heels, trying to calm the roil in my stomach that had in a most unwelcoming way settled in just two days before. Waiting patiently, restlessly. Should I go in now? The wonder and silence broken by the twittering laughter of the seven- and five-year-old sisters dancing down the hall hanging on tightly to their mom’s

hand, and her quiet shush-shushes as she tried to tame the chatter.

“Can I see Oma?” came the cries from the curious five-year-old. Her grandma; silently and abruptly, ”no”. Her mom; “of course you can”.

I wasn’t in the room for that visit and when the girls were back, they were not scathed or scared or angry, but sad and curious. Full of inquisitively curious child questions that before we could answer them, the girls had darted off to play with cousins.

So many questions came flooding in that moment ... Who was right? Mom? Grandma? Should a seven- and five-year-old be allowed to see the body of their dead Oma?

Of course, it brought me to our 10th Myth Busting article about palliative care and hospice. How could I not write about the myth that, ‘we need to protect children from being exposed to death and dying’.

Busting this myth is particularly hard for me to write about; I am not a mother. I was an early childhood educator for 15 years and I am certified as a grief educator. I have the privilege of being a favourite auntie to 13 amazing nieces and nephews; many of whom spent years living with me. Does that make me qualified? While I think it adds some credibility, it does not make me an expert. Everything that follows is advice, ideas, and conversation starters from credible experts and I would invite you to get curious about the information and see just how it might fit for you.

There is a plethora of information out there and I have boiled it down to Five Tips that, because of my experiences described above, really resonate with me. Before I jump into them though, something I truly believe is that as humans,

young and old, in the absence of information, we make up our own stories. We need to be able to understand things; make sense of situations and emotions. If no-one gives us the full picture, if they intentionally or unintentionally withhold information, we are going to fill in the blanks. In some cases, those stories are right, in others completely wrong. Keep this in mind as you read through these tips:

Tip 1: Children are exposed to grief from an early age. This can include the loss of pets, moving to a new home, or the death of a relative or someone they know. We can help them understand the emotions of this grief by talking, writing or drawing about it. It is important when doing this to keep the language age appropriate and real. Using euphemisms can unintentionally create more confusion and trauma. For example, if a child is told that their loved one has ‘gone to sleep’ they may be afraid to go to sleep for fear of not waking up. Conversely, they may want to go to sleep to be with their loved one.

Tip 2: Children move in and out of grief. For a parent going through grief and watching a child playing happily, it is easy to believe that they are not grieving themselves; they are. Children will ask questions at random times and then simply go back to playing. This does not mean the grieving is over, it just means that they are processing this new information. Months after my mom passed away, my niece, at completely random moments, would declare that she “misses Oma” or asks a new question about her death. Don’t feel forced to push the subject. The child will engage and disengage at will.

Tip 3: Connect emotions to memories. I really love this one and this beautiful example that

was shared with me. In a conversation with a young boy, the mom asked him to remember a time when he was with grandpa. He described a day when he was really happy, on a stream, fishing. He vividly talked about all the minnows that he saw that day. Mom suggested to the child that every time he saw minnows that it was a great opportunity to think of grandpa. What memory does your child have to connect to a beautiful moment?

Tip 4: As children age, their experience with loss will change. Someone who is a teenager now, will remember the passing of a loved one in a new way. Engage in curious conversation. Ask what they remember, how they feel now about it. Keep the person’s memory alive by saying their name and celebrating milestones.

Tip 5: It’s okay for children to go to the funeral. Although the child may not completely understand the nuances of the ceremony, they will start to establish a sense of understanding about grief and mourning as they witness family and friends honouring the person who has died. In addition, they will experience how people support and comfort each other.

I am only scratching the surface of how to support children through grief. Here are some resources that can help you as you navigate this new terrain:

Website: <https://www.dougy.org>: The mission of the Dougy Center is to provide grief support in a safe place where children, teens, young adults, and their families can share their experiences before and after a death. They provide support and training locally, nationally, and internationally to individuals

and organizations seeking to assist children who are grieving.

Books:

The Invisible String by Patrice Karst:

This story is about a mother who tells her two children that they're all connected by an invisible string. "That's impossible!" the children insist, but they still want to know more: "What kind of string?" The answer is the simple truth that binds us all: An Invisible String made of love. Even though you can't see it with your eyes, you can feel it deep in your heart and know that you are always connected to the ones you love.

The Scar by Charlotte Moundlic: When the boy in this story wakes to find that his mother has died, he is overwhelmed with sadness, anger, and a fear that he will forget her. He shuts all the windows to keep in his mother’s familiar smell and scratches open the cut on his knee to remember her comforting voice when he was hurting. He doesn’t know how to speak to his grieving dad anymore, and when Grandma visits and throws open the windows, it’s more than the boy can take — until his grandmother shows him another way to feel that his mom’s love is near.

In closing; funerals, conversations, memories, experiences and emotions...it’s a journey. You, the reader, have given me the gift of reliving my journey; enhancing it along the way, remembering differently, challenging old ways. Children start the journey so young, and as David Kessler says, “Children are often the forgotten grievers.” I would invite you to not forget them, help them start the journey in a new way, supported, guided, full of conversation, experiences, love. The journey will last a lifetime. Keep talking and keep it alive.



Seldom Scene by Gerald Panio



Evil is like a shadow - it has no real substance of its own, it is simply a lack of light. You cannot cause a shadow to disappear by trying to fight it, stamp on it, by railing against it, or any other form of emotional or physical resistance. In order to cause a shadow to disappear, you must shine light on it. -Shakti Gawain

I and the public know

What all schoolchildren learn.

Those to whom evil is done

Do evil in return -W.H. Auden, “September 1, 1939”

Despite the glowing reviews I kept coming across online, it has taken me a while to decide to spend four hours with the Netflix limited series *Adolescence* (2025). My reluctance is easily explained: anyone who follows the news these days, be it online or in any other media, can be excused for hesitating to add the story of a 13-year-old boy accused of committing a horrific crime to the relentless unrolling of amorality, genocidal violence, greed, pettiness, intolerance, and environmental madness that’s our daily fare these days. It used to be that one had to bury oneself in Russian novels to get this grim a vision of humanity; now it’s just a click away.

Ultimately, however, curiosity got the better of me. Maybe, just maybe, I thought, there’s a reason all of those reviewers recommend we bring more darkness into our lives.

More than one reason, as it turns out. Adolescence is a tour de force of scripting, acting, and filmmaking. It also has a second act that I’ve no love for at all, but I’ll get to that later. Let’s begin with the unique way this story is told.

Each of the four episodes is done as a single take. That means that the camera follows the action continuously in real time. Instead of cutting and framing setpieces, the director of photography has to choreograph his camera movements to the follow actors in an unbroken chain, tracking before and behind them down streets, into homes, into schools, into kitchens & bedrooms, through hallways, into cars, into police stations and detention centres and interrogation rooms. The camera’s fluid, obsessive movement is almost predatory and, combined with the scripting, chills the viewer to the bone. It’s also incongruously beautiful, like watching a jaguar stalking its prey. One rarely sees this kind of cinematography—for the simple reason that it must be fiendishly difficult to orchestrate and execute on the part of both the crew and the actors.



Director Philip Barantini and cinematographer Matthew Lewis are at the top of their game here.

All that effort would be in vain without a story compelling enough to make it worthwhile. Written by Jack Thorne and Stephen Graham (who also plays one of the lead roles), the drama plays out in four acts: arrest and incarceration, high

school confidential, an interview from hell, and familial crucifixion. Although each act is tightly scripted and compelling in its own way, the third episode, with the accused being interviewed by an empathic young psychologist, is high-wire drama at its best. Unforgettable.

The first episode opens with half a dozen police vehicles and a full SWAT team rolling up to a Yorkshire home for what looks like the mother of all home invasions. The lead investigators are DI Luke Bascombe (Ashley Walters) and DS Misha Frank (Faye Marsay). Bascombe is a black, middle-aged single father (one son in high school) who doesn’t relish his role as the heavy in tearing 13-year-old Jamie Miller away from his stunned family on a homicide charge. Rubbing salt in the wound, later on he and his partner will have to carry their investigation into the alien territory of Jamie’s high school—where Bascombe’s son, Adam (Amari Bacchus) is also a student. Jamie’s entire family—his working-class father, Eddie (Stephen Grahame); his at-home mother, Manda (Christine Trimarco); his older sister, Lisa (Amelia Pease)—is understandably traumatized by their apocalyptic reversal of fortune. For all they knew, Jamie was a typical teen—decent marks at school, clever, moody, locked into social media, not big on sports, no particular ambition, hanging out with classmates, occasionally drawing the ire or concern of school staff. Nothing to set off alarms. Nothing to conjure up a killer who would stab a female classmate, Katie, seven times and leave her to bleed out on the pavement.

As the machinery of justice grinds Jamie into its gears he continues to proclaim his innocence—not only to the police but also in one-on-one

encounters with his father, whom he clearly wants on his side and chooses as his appropriate adult to be present as he’s formally charged, processed, and meets with a court-appointed lawyer. The crime Jamie is accused of may be heinous, yet the overall impression he makes on those who interact with him is of an intelligent young man—“a smart boy,” as someone comments.

Act two shifts to Jamie’s school. The police are still looking for the weapon used in the killing, and for a possible motive. Their only real leads are Jamie’s classmates Ryan and Fredo, Katie’s self-declared best friend Jade, and a string of Instagram posts. *Adolescence* nearly lost me with this episode. Three reasons. Two minor, one not so much.

In the first episode, the police are remarkably efficient in tracking down Instagram posts that may be linked to the crime. In the second episode, they’re clueless about the coded significance of those same posts and need to be clued in to the meaning of emojis by Bascombe’s son. This seems an odd vote of non-confidence in authorities that a few hours earlier had seemed internet-savvy and well-versed in the handling of juvenile criminality.

Strike two is Bascombe’s interview with Jade, who inexplicably seems much more interested in acting out and expressing her contempt for the police rather than in helping to see her best friend’s murderer brought to justice. What point are the writers trying to make with this character? Is she lying about her friendship? Is she traumatized by her own home

life? In her own way, Jade is as scary as Jamie at his worst. Why introduce a secondary character who needs her own series to explain what motivates her?

And then there’s the thing that (to use one of our language’s weirder expressions) really got my goat. I’d nominate episode two for the nastiest diss of public education I’ve seen on screen in recent memory. No teacher in Jamie’s (very large) high school is ever shown actually teaching—they’re all too busy showing up late for class, issuing meaningless reprimands to oblivious students, dealing with prank fire alarms, and not even pretending that the boring videos they’re showing in every classroom have educational value. Blatant instances of bullying that go unaddressed, asocial behavior worthy of *Lord of Flies* is everywhere, and not a glimpse of a single non-hostile, non-contemptuous interaction between students and teachers, students and police, or students and students. The writers of *Adolescence* appear to have taken Matt Groening’s satirical “School is Hell” cartoons at face value. Sure, they throw in a



Continued on next page ...

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short speech by DS Frank near the end of episode about there being a few good teachers who have a positive impact on students—but it comes across as a sop, a hypocritical afterthought after all the damage is done. With this kind of mass media imaging, it’s no wonder Donal Trump’s wrecking crew is getting away with gutting the entire U.S. federal Department of Education. Who would want to defend an educational system that’s represented by schools like the one in Adolescence, that, again in DS Frank’s words, “smell of vomit, cabbage, and masturbation”?

Normally, what I’ve written above would be more than enough for me to immediately look for something else to review. Not in this case. I’m still here. That should give you some idea of just how good episodes three and four must be. Here’s why.

The acting is spectacularly good. Owen Moore was actually 15 when Adolescence was filmed, and unbelievably this is his film debut. His verbal sparring with psychologist Briony Ariston (Erin Doherty) is as fraught as anything in Game of Thrones. If at first Briony might have believed she was dealing with a typical troubled teen, at the end of her fifth and final visit with Jamie she’s almost broken by the encounter. Sharp as she is, she’s caught completely off-guard. Part of it may be a reaction to the virulent, rage-filled, Incel-based misogyny that Jamie has absorbed online and in his interactions with his mates. I think this is the toxic ideology wanted to target. Fair enough.

Yet Owen Cooper’s performance as Jamie accomplishes something more—it forces us to wonder if we should redefine this particular troubled teen as not just a young man who has been led astray but as a true psychopathic personality. In their seminal study published in the early 60s, The Psychopath: An Essay on the Criminal Mind, William and Joan McCord described an individual who was “an asocial, aggressive, highly impulsive person, who feels little or no guilt and is unable to form lasting bonds of affection with other human beings.” Other writers have identified traits of extreme egocentricity, emotional shallowness, and superficial charm. Several case studies have highlighted intelligence and manipulation. They all fit Jamie Miller to a T. Whatever the writers may have intended, a character has been created here who blurs the line between mental illness and genuine evil.

The final episode of Adolescence deals with the debilitating long-term impact of their son’s incarceration on the Miller family, particularly Jamie’s father. How do basically decent, hard-working, loving people deal with the reality of being seen in the public eye as the family somehow responsible for raising a child like Jamie Miller? How does a loving father come to terms with the fact that all his efforts to provide a decent role model for his children have come undone in the most appalling way? Actor/writer Stephen Graham makes his character’s confusion and pain tangible in every scene in which he appears.

We think of the physical loss of a child as a parent’s worst fear. Is it perhaps an even greater loss when the child is morally lost, and the true reasons for that loss can never be understood?



Smarter Than Jack or Jill

by Sharman Horwood

Look Who’s Talking

The latest online buzz isn’t about animal intelligence. It’s about whether or not plants have a form of intelligence, and how they might show it. One of the easiest ways to approach this issue is the discovery that plants can “talk” via a chemical or hormonal signal. (Biology is wonderful and much more complicated than we ever knew.)

In May, and December, 2020, I wrote about the research work of Dr. Suzanne Simard of U.B.C. on the mycorrhizal fungi network that stretches between trees around the world. Now, what researchers are learning is that plants communicate with each other in a variety of ways. These include chemical or electrical signals, as well as the use of their root systems.

Dr. Simard and her researchers tested this by injecting nutrient isotopes (specifically Carbon 13) into trees. They later analyzed the sap content of nearby trees and seedlings. Surprisingly, the trees and seedlings near the original tree showed an increase in Carbon 13. Seedlings that were “kin” to the original tree gained more of this isotope than the other seedlings and trees nearby. Apparently, certain trees “mother” those around them, particularly those related to them. These “mother” trees pass important nutrient chemicals to them in the form of carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorous, all of which are needed for healthy growth. Dr. Simard says that trees “pass on wisdom,” a form of knowledge to each other. She thinks their root systems and their connection with the mycorrhizal fungi form a type of brain in trees. They chemically process and pass on knowledge to other trees. In other words, they communicate intentionally with each other. For them it is a chemical ability (though it could argued that, given the way human brains work, that too is a chemical process).

Discovering that plants are actually “talking” is a surprise. Some of their messages are “help!” or “conserve resources,” or even “my fruits are ready to eat!” The speakers might be a patch of moss, or a giant sequoia. They are all talking and they speak to both predators as well as pollinators (“Plants Can Talk” by Allie Yang, April 12, 2023, *National Geographic* online).

According to Simon Gilroy, Professor of Botany at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with plants, talking means using a system that is more like plumbing, instead of using a human nervous system. Communicating for plants is more complicated (“Plants Can Talk” by Allie Yang, April 12, 2023, *National Geographic* online). Courtney Jahn, a Biologist and program director, studies plant interactions. She describes them as “electrical signals [that] travel through the movement of chemicals” (“Plants Can Talk” by Allie Yang, April 12, 2023, *National Geographic* online). She goes further to add that roots, for instance, will detect drought, and tell the leaves “to limit transpiration and conserve water” (“Plants Can Talk” by Allie Yang, April 12, 2023, *National Geographic* online). She and other scientists analyze this is by putting two electrodes in different positions on a plant. They have “even made instruments . . . that can translate that electric charge into sounds we can hear” (“Plants Can Talk” by Allie Yang, April 12, 2023, *National Geographic* online). One of the examples she gives is the electric signals a damaged plant makes that emanate from a wound. Sensitive plants, for instance, will move to shake off an insect. The plant uses chemical and hormonal

signals as well. A hormone called auxin travels downward to tell a sprout which direction is up when it’s trying to break through the surface of the soil (“Plants Can Talk” by Allie Yang, April 12, 2023, *National Geographic* online). Jasmonic acid, on the other hand, lets a plant know when to start producing a toxin to defend itself (“Plants Can Talk” by Allie Yang, April 12, 2023, *National Geographic* online).

Other species can “hear” and respond to these signals. For instance, when a plant signals danger, “a mouse might ‘hear’ it,” and “an insect might ‘smell’ it” (“Plants Can Talk” by Allie Yang, April 12, 2023, *National Geographic* online). However, researchers cannot tell whether the signals or messages are intentionally directed at the mouse or insect. The signals might just happen anyway.

Researchers learned that by using special microphones that will detect bat calls, they are able to hear plants, too. Tomatoes and cacti “emit ultrasonic popping sounds when they’re stressed.” These signals “can be heard by insects like moths, and mammals like bats and mice” (“Plants Can Talk” by Allie Yang, April 12, 2023, *National Geographic* online). As a result, some scientists are using the distress signals “to find new methods to diagnose, treat, and monitor plants without touching them” (“Plants Can Talk” by Allie Yang, April 12, 2023, *National Geographic* online).

Humans, on the other hand, often smell plant messages. That wonderful smell of freshly cut grass, for example, is actually a distress signal the plants are emitting. They also emit this same distress signal when being eaten by a caterpillar. Other bugs use this. They “take notice” and prey on the caterpillars as if the bugs are responding to the plants’ calls for help (“Plants Can Talk” by Allie Yang, April 12, 2023, *National Geographic* online).

This rather smelly signal is made by a group of chemicals called volatiles, and they travel far both above and below ground. Each plant species has its own unique mixture of useful volatile compounds. Volatiles attract pollinators when a plant’s flowers are ready. They seem to also direct pollinators to other non-pollinated plants. Volatiles from fruit can “attract organisms that will eat and distribute seeds” when the fruit is ripe (“Plants Can Talk” by Allie Yang, April 12, 2023, *National Geographic* online). Leaves emit this same group of compounds to “drive away predators” just as you would respond to a heavy-handed use of cheap perfume (“Plants Can Talk” by Allie Yang, April 12, 2023, *National Geographic* online). With volatiles, plants can also detect their offspring, and help them to grow, just as the “mother” trees do. According to Andrea Clavijo McCormick, Research Officer at the School of Agriculture and Environment at Massey University, these volatiles have another use. They will attract special fungi by sending them a “come here” signal. The fungi wraps itself around the root, then stretches and collects nutrients, delivering them “back to the plant in exchange for sugar the plant” has made through photosynthesis (“Plants Can Talk” by Allie Yang, April 12, 2023, *National Geographic* online).

Plants do talk. They send out signals all the time, to us as well as to other animals and flora. Through these chemical signals, plants can determine which other plants are kin, and which insect is harming them. There is an enormous amount of information that they are revealing. We’re just learning to understand it.

If you’re interested, there is a video of plants talking to each other on YouTube (Anton Petrov, Jan. 20, 2024). It’s slow but amazing.

EAST SHORE TRANSPORTATION SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

Saturday August 23, 2025

1 to 2 pm

Crawford Bay School corner room

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Where is the ESTS Shuttle Bus?

submitted by the 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.

Laverne Booth
250-551-6020

Local Business Update

Dear Current and Future Clients of East Shore Express (and community at large)

This letter is to inform you of the official change of ownership of East Shore Express Courier company and to invite you to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, comments, requests or ideas.

As of Aug 1, 2025, I am the new owner of East Shore Express and will be the person on the other end of the phone when you call or text (please note new phone number: 250-777-1432) as well as answering emails/social media queries. Email is still eastshoreexpress@gmail.com.

For those who don't know me, my name is Ingrid Baetzel and I've lived on the East Shore for over 45 years. I was the Editor/Owner of The East Shore Mainstreet newspaper for over 20 years.

Garrett Garbula has been the face and proprietor of ESE for the past five years and he has done a wonderful job through some very challenging times. Garrett is assisting me in the transition and will be driving still for the rest of August until I can step into that role in September. I am eternally grateful for his work and willingness to share his knowledge.

I primarily wanted to formalize this new ownership with our existing clients and customers and let you know that my intention is to grow the business, create new partnerships and opportunities on the East Shore and work towards this

being an even more regular and reliable service. I'm currently shopping for a bigger delivery van/truck and excited about the opportunities yet to come!

For now, we will continue with our Monday, Tuesday and Thursday trips to Nelson. Mondays are for very urgent needs only (and prescriptions). We do ask that you try to put in your orders the day before our town days. First priority goes to early orders. We also hope to be doing once per week trips to Creston (for now on Fridays), but only if we get enough orders to make it worthwhile. Please spread the word on this!

We can pick things up for you or drop things off! Cost is \$25/pick up location, size dependent. We are happy to work out pricing with you if it's a bigger pick up, or more complicated. Please see attached posters for further info. We can take electronics or other recyclables in for you as well -- just ask!

Thank you for supporting East Shore Express and watch for more changes to come. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch -- I'll do my best to respond to all. I would also ask for patience as we move forward as I am learning on the fly and the job is an impressive amalgamation of details and existing arrangements.

All the very best,
Ingrid Baetzel,
East Shore Express
250.777-1432
Eastshoreexpress@gmail.com



SUBMISSIONS

Next print deadline

FRI SEP 29

*Next email
newsletter deadline*

FRI AUG 29

*Check www.drivebc.ca
for the most up to date
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Starbelly Jam 2025
A Celebration of Community
and Music
Submitted by Amanda Hulland
Starbelly Jam Artistic Director

This year’s Starbelly Jam was one for the books — and the weather made sure we’d never forget it! Despite heavy rain and a wild windstorm on Friday, our incredible team and resilient audience helped us persevere, stay on schedule, and keep the music alive.

We’d like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this festival possible: our amazing volunteers, organizers, managers, vendors, sponsors, board of directors, the Crawford Bay & District Hall and Parks Association, and our local paramedics for keeping everyone safe. Your dedication keeps the spirit of Starbelly Jam shining bright.



We’re especially grateful to all the past Starbelly organizers whose vision and hard work laid the foundation for the festival we continue to build today.

This year’s all-Canadian lineup was one to remember — with unforgettable sets by The Sadies, Moontricks, Frazey Ford, Alpha Yaya Diallo, and so many more who filled our little valley with music and joy. We were also proud to showcase incredible Kootenay talent, including Lindi Ortega, FRASE, The Reminitions, The Arcane Garden, and The Kootenay Women Songwriters (Alissa Arnason, Sapphire Guthrie, Sarah Orton, Tenise Marie).

We’re already dreaming of next year — mark your calendars for July 10–12, 2026! If you’d like to be part of the magic, we’re always excited to welcome new faces and fresh ideas. Watch for our AGM this fall — it’s the perfect time to get involved and help shape Starbelly’s future.

Thank you for dancing in the rain with us — see you next summer!



Photos by Darren Makowichuk

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EAST SHORE KOOTENAY LAKE COMMUNITY HEALTH SOCIETY

Annual
General
Meeting



Saturday, September 20
Corner Room @ School
2:00 PM

Contact eshealthsociety@gmail.com for more information or
Anne (250-223-8510) or Christa (587-988-0477)



There are promising new opportunities to enhance health services in our community. Please consider a Board Member position or join a committee of your choosing.



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South Kootenay Lake Art Connect Society *Presents at* Harrison Memorial Cultural Centre

Galore of Art & Music Events! by Zora Doval

We are so happy to announce our rich summer offerings at the Harrison Memorial Cultural Centre. You will be able to pick among various art forms and genres according to your inclination.

To start with: have you ever wanted to learn the intricate skill of making a beautiful basket out of pine needles? If so, you can now learn it in a relaxed fashion during one of the two workshops at the Harrison.

PINE NEEDLE BASKET WEAVING WORKSHOPS

Sat, Aug 16 10 am - 1 pm Beginners(\$60)

Sun, Aug 17, 10 am - 1 pm Advanced (\$60)

You will learn all you need to know about basket making with a very experienced teacher Jacki Bruce. Take both sessions for \$ 100. Call 250 777 1856 to register.

MISERY MOUNTAIN BOYS

Friday August 29, 6.30 pm

If basketry is not your thing but you like to dance and party, you should enjoy the Misery Mountain Boys as they rock the grounds of the Harrison on Fri, Aug 29.. You will dance until you cant dance anymore, I promise ! This is a very energetic band that will lift your spirits and energy. Look for posters. Tix at the Market, Green Bubble and online.

LA CAFAMORE

Thursday September 18, 7.30 pm

On Thurs, Sept 18 we will have a rare and precious opportunity to enjoy a performance by La Cafamore, a very fine classical trio comprised of two sisters (violin & viola) and a piano player. I have heard this sweet classical ensemble in the past - it is a real musical treat, and not only for those with a penchant for classical music. This is music at its best! The theme of their performance is "sibling rivalry" - that is , music composed by siblings and music performed by siblings? This sounds interesting right ? Lets hope this will show the positive side of rivalry, nothing as dark as what transpired between Mozart and Salieri ?? I am definitely curious.....and if you are curious with me, come to hear for yourself !

There will be other things happening, such as a concert by Peach & Quiet on Sunday Sept 21. For description see the following article. We will also facilitate a series of painting workshops in September - look for posters.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all of you who have contributed to the success of our yearly Rummage Sale in July, most notably a small crew of Gray Creek rummage sale aficionados under the guidance of Mrs. Bonnie Schutter who managed the most grueling tasks - thank you ! We also thank the community members for generous donations of items and a number of local musicians who serenaded throughout the event.

Thank you all !!!

ArtConnect presents Peach and Quiet - Sun, Sept 21!

submitted by paul & mary / wherpeter

Known as "The Sweetheart Duo of the West Coast", musical pair Heather Read & Jonny Miller first appeared at the Harrison Memorial Cultural Centre with their debut "Just Beyond the Shine", an album that would top folk and roots music charts internationally. A second (sold out) artconnect show came with

their critically acclaimed 2023 album, "Beautiful Thing", produced by Steve Dawson.

In their latest originals, "Bright Side of the Road" and "One of These Days*", fans will hear a true West Coast Roots Soul vibe. Sink into an evening of Peach & Quiet - original, meaningful songs by two stellar musicians whose shows sell out all over the globe. **Sunday September 21 - 6:30 PM** at the Harrison.

Tickets available at www.artconnect.cc

south kootenay lake **art connect** concert series presents
Peach & Quiet

Sunday, September 21, 2025
Harrison Memorial Cultural Centre,
16074 Crawford Creek Road, Crawford Bay BC
Doors 6 pm/Show 6:30 pm - \$20 Advanced/\$25 Door
Advance tickets available at Crawford Bay Market, Green Bubble Garden Centre
or online at www.artconnect.cc/events

artConnect gratefully acknowledges support from:

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La Cafamore Presents: *Sibling Rivalry:*
Piano Trios written and performed by siblings

\$20 ADVANCE
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Carolyn Cameron - violin (sibling)
Angela Snyder - viola (sibling)
Hendrik Mendes - piano (no relation)

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2025
7:30 P.M.
HARRISON MEMORIAL CULTURAL CENTRE

BRITISH COLUMBIA ARTS COUNCIL south kootenay lake **art connect** Columbia Basin trust

south kootenay lake **art connect** presents **THE MISERY MOUNTAIN BOYS**

Friday August 29, 2025
Harrison Memorial Cultural Centre
16074 Crawford Creek Road, Crawford Bay, BC
Doors 6:00 | Show 6:30 | \$20 Advanced | \$25 Door
Tickets at Crawford Bay Market & Green Bubble Garden Centre
or online www.artconnect.cc/events

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Tales From Shprieland

by Heath Carra
shprieland.com

The Quantum Cat

My cat is a void cat. She's so black, she's more absence than entity. She melts into shadows and disappears from sight. She's so quick, she's like a trick of the light as she blends with edges and corners, and weaves unnoticed through your feet. She's like a pocket of nothingness insinuating herself through the cracks in spacetime. That's how she sneaks past me and gets herself locked in places like the shed, garage, or the closet. That's how she managed to slip through security and into the Schrödinger wing of an animal testing facility.

Imagine my embarrassment bailing her out of the pound.

"But they were experimenting on cats!" she yowled from her pet carrier in the backseat.

"I don't care," I told her. "You're grounded."

She was indignant, though. And she wouldn't shut up for the entire drive home.

She told me how the Schrödinger wing is a corridor of experiments that are both happening and not happening simultaneously behind closed doors. They're in superposition limbo. They typically involve a decaying radioactive atom that triggers the release of a poison, which kills a cat in a box. But the cat is both alive and dead until someone looks inside. It's an old experiment that everyone has heard of, and it proves that curiosity is the driving force of the universe. Curiosity makes the universe exist, but it's also the thing that will kill it.

Beyond the first nine doors, the quantum immortality corridors begin branching off from the main hall. That's because cats are quantumly immortal at least nine times in all universes, so the experiment has to run ten times before you start getting results.

Quantum immortality is subjective, though. Only the cat who survives each ordeal in the box can observe it. That means that for each time my cat escapes a locked room, another version of her in a branching universe remains locked in, where she is later found dead. Getting herself locked into random laboratories would only create more branches to kill off more versions of herself in other universes. That's why she left them alone and sauntered by.

Further along, she found the Copycat Quantum Teleporters. When a cat is teleported, it's disassembled atom-by-atom and reassembled somewhere else. The question is, is it still the same cat?

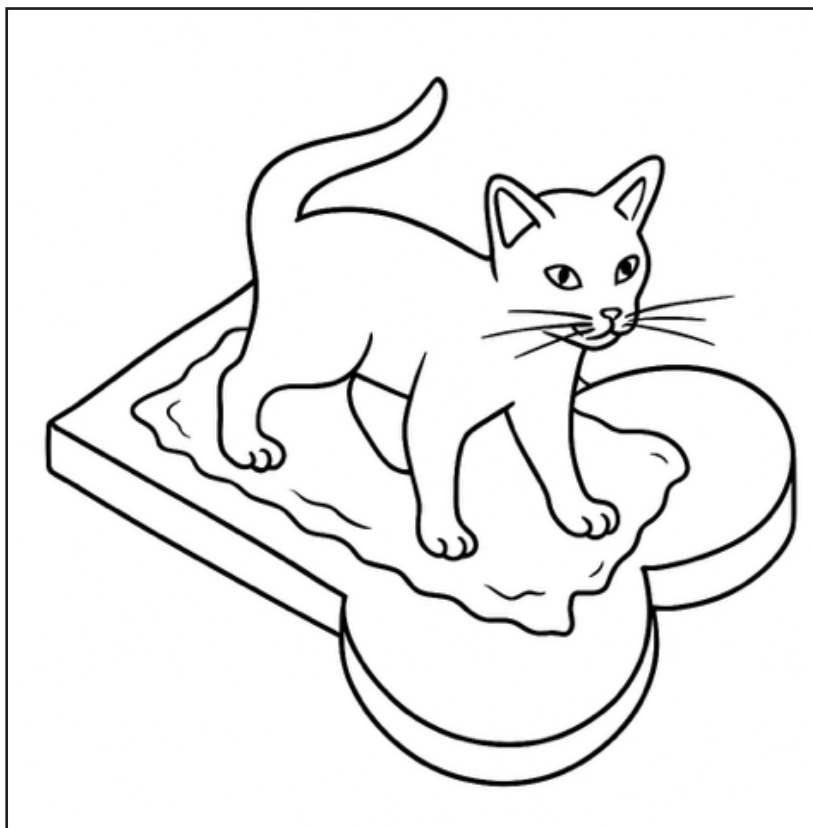
Next, she found the Chinese Cat Room experiment. If a cat can train a Person to respond to their meow in a certain way, does the Person understand the meow, or are they merely a biological automation?

Then she found the Cat Flap Freedom Experiment. Even with access to a cat flap, a cat will insist that a Person come and open the door for them. Is a cat's freedom of movement directly related to a Person's effort and inconvenience? Does a cat have free will? Can it come and go as it pleases, or is irritating People an inviolate

law of the universe that supersedes a cat's freedom of movement?

At the far end of the complex, she stumbled upon the Buttered Cat Paradox Lab, and there she found two People in white coats attempting to tie a slice of buttered toast to a resisting cat.

If a cat always lands on its feet, and buttered toast always lands butter-side down, what happens when you tie a piece of buttered toast to a



cat's back and shove them off a countertop? It was a silly experiment. A cat's feet and buttered toast's buttered sides are so strongly influenced by the magnetic field of the Earth that no matter how tightly tied together the cat and the toast are, they always break apart, so they land without violating these fundamental laws of the universe. The cat's feet and the buttered side of the toast end up on the floor where they belong.

Instead, scientist-bakers produced a 72-pound loaf from which they cut a 2-foot-by-2-foot slice of bread, toasted it in a specially designed oven, buttered it with a whole pound of butter, and then stood the cat on the buttered side before sliding the two of them off the counter.

As the unbuttered side of the bread repelled the floor, the two of them rotated together in the air, bringing the cat's back in line with the floor instead. The cat's back acted with the same repellent force, and the cat and toast pressed tightly together, squeezing melted butter up through the cat's toebeans as they started spinning in the air, hovering above the floor. They'd become an antigravity dynamo.

Apparently, the space industry was attempting to develop the technology for use in its next-generation rockets, while the military was trying to weaponize it.

To my cat, the labs were an outrage. The scientists were fiddling with the very foundations of feline existence. The very essence of cathood.

My cat has never been one to take up a cause, but she was so insulted by the whole thing that she decided to collapse the wave function on the whole place.

She slipped herself into the Quantum Cheshire Cat lab.

Cheshire Cats are feline mystics from England who smoke hookahs and then separate themselves from their smiles. In the lab, scientists were focusing a beam of Cheshire Cats through an interferometer to train neutrons to separate from their magnetic properties, and photons to separate from their polarities.

The place was full of hookahs, interferometers, smoke, and smiles. My cat leapt onto the lab bench and smacked the experiment to the floor, sending the Cheshire Cat beam wildly spraying separation suggestions throughout the entire facility. Doors separated from their property of closedness, windows separated from their transparency, walls and ceiling were containers without containment. Chaos, pandemonium, and cats ensued.

Since the incident, my cat has been under house arrest, but I'm not sure that matters. Don't forget Heisenpurr's Uncertainty Principle. You can know where your cat is, or what it is doing, but never both at the same time.

***To all the generous contributors to
our Waterline Dance Fundraiser :***
Thank-you for your generous donation towards the Riondel Golf Course waterline dance fundraiser.

We appreciate it very much.

We raised over \$4400 at the dance, and we are now at \$43,301.08 !

We are extremely grateful for your support. Your contribution has helped get us closer to achieving our goal of installing a new waterline.

Best regards,

The Board of Directors & General Manager

Riondel Golf Course





Tom's Corner

by Tom Lymbery with
Frances Roback

Making Do With Less in Wartime Gray Creek

First, a little background.

Necessity is the mother of invention - never was it truer than on the home front during the Second World War. Once gas and food rationing began in Canada in 1942, people learned creative ways to limit their travel, to stretch family food rations over the week, and to turn strange combinations of ingredients into healthy if not appetizing dishes and lunch box meals.

Food security came to the fore as never before. The government needed whole-hearted buy-in from women, so rationing goods was widely marketed as women's patriotic duty to support troops overseas, and the war industry at home. Beth Richards remembered her mother Mary Oliver sent monthly care parcels from Gray Creek to all seven Oliver men in the services, plus chocolate bars to hand out to children overseas.

Creative marketing helped with the rationing message, and so did creative names. Wartime cookbooks and free government pamphlets came up with ingenious recipes to use rationed foods sparingly, use up stale foods, and prevent food waste. For example, take stale bread and old carrots and give it a fancy name - "Duke Pudding". Make an oven dish out of a can of Spam, mashed lentils, and old bread and call it "Mock Roast."

Gray Creek women carried on farming despite fewer hands at home to help. Betty Drew and Barbara Peters in Gray Creek, and Barbara's sister Winnie Simpson in La France Creek kept their farms going on their own with help from their good friends and neighbours George Oliver, and Jernberg brothers Magnus and Henry.

As storekeepers, the Lymbery family was subject to different rules than consumers and to rigorous monitoring by the government. Storekeepers also had to deal with wartime shortages of both rationed and unrationed goods, and with customers when their orders were shorted. Here's Tom's story, from Part I of his 2013 book, *"Tom's Gray Creek, A Kootenay Lake Memoir."*

- Frances Roback, Gray Creek Historical Society

The Wartime Prices and Trade Board came into being to prevent any profiteering by effectively maintaining all prices at their Depression levels. So there were inspectors out, creating lots of paperwork. Dad got a warning letter because some items were a cent or two over the prescribed price. Later in the war, a subsidy of one cent per quart of milk was instituted to hold the price at ten cents. One month our cow was drying up, so our report showed sales of only three quarts. We received a cheque for three cents. Should we have framed it?

Sugar, meat, butter and tea were the food items rationed with the coupon system. Sugar orders came in a 100-pound sack, and we had a spillage allowance of two pounds a sack. Virtually no soft drinks were available to sell in the store, so we made Hires Root Beer - ginger beer using the Hires packaged flavouring and directions.

Bake an eggless, sugarless cake sweetened with corn syrup, and call it "Victory Cake."

Rationed foods included sugar, coffee, tea, butter and meat, except for offal like liver and kidneys, chicken and wild game, as well as fish. Preserving food was encouraged, but extra sugar beyond the ration allowance had to be applied for. Fruits and vegetables were not restricted, but people were still urged to grow their own. As early as 1940, community Victory Gardens were being promoted, especially in urban areas. Backyards, parks, even CPR station flower gardens were dug up and planted to vegetables and small fruits. By war's end, 200,000 community gardens across Canada produced over 125,000 tons of produce. Urban community gardens, garden share and related programs persevere to this day.

Our East Shore was blessed with fish and game in abundance, and most people had home gardens and grew fruit. But farms were being impacted three times over. With so many farmers away in the war, farm labour was in acutely short supply, as the Lymberys found during Tom's absence in boarding school on the coast. Yet food production still had to increase to meet escalating demand for export overseas. Canada was providing 77% of Britain's flour and wheat as early as 1941, despite German blockades on Britain and attacks on Canadian convoys. Twenty-five percent of the cheese, 40% of the bacon, and 15% of the eggs eaten in Britain came from Canadian farms. Women and children were also busy organizing salvage drives to collect metals, rubber, and the bones and fats needed for the production of munitions. During the war, over a million pounds of fats and bones were collected in Winnipeg alone.

This was a welcome five-cent item for customers waiting for the boat, but it came with a problem. With no power and no refrigeration, we had to use extreme caution when we opened a bottle for a customer, or we had a sticky soft drink foaming out of the bottle.

It was the unrationed items that were hard to get: soap, candles, chocolate bars, hardware and more.

If a shipment came in with only three bars of soap, how to choose who to sell them to? Sales were frozen on cans of corned beef from Brazil. We had to return any full cases so they could be used to feed the troops. A partial case was left in our store for future recall, and it sat there unclaimed until about 1946.

When gas rationing came in we had strict instructions - no gas for containers, and no gas sales after hours or on Sundays. All customers tried to keep their tanks as full as possible, so they often stood at the car to shake in the last few ounces of gas. Their gas ration coupons had to match the number of gallons we received from the Imperial Oil distributor in Creston.

Since all cars were old, most used quite a bit of crankcase oil. We sold Imperial Oil 30-W oil from a big barrel with a geared pump. We usually pumped it into 26-ounce liquor bottles for customers.

Every year the Weights and Measures man came to test the store beam scale with his regulation weights. He also checked our gas pump to see that it measured out Imperial gallons correctly. This was not a free service - it cost two dollars to check the pump and \$1.75 for the scale. That was more than a day's wages.



Photo above: This British poster with its relatable images of Churchill and Hitler was enormously popular with Canadian homemakers. Internet image.

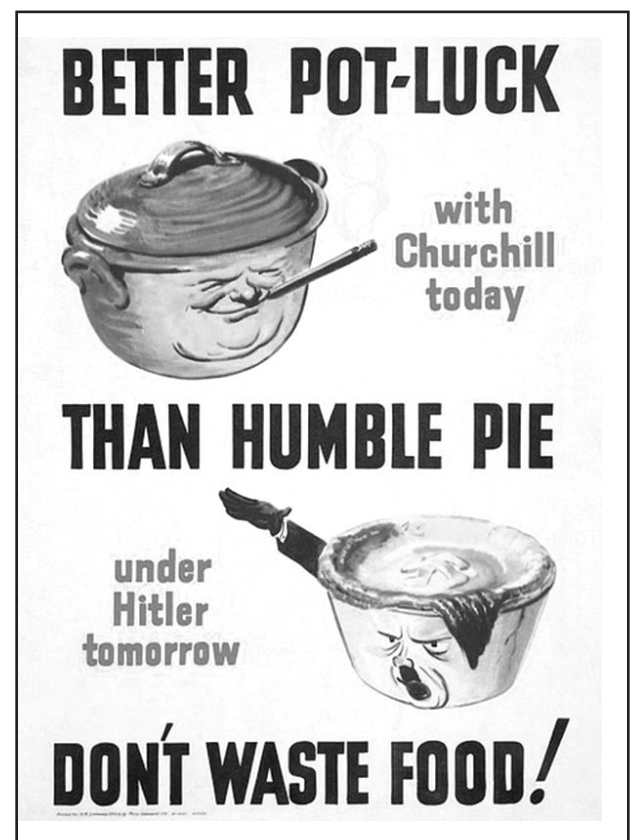


Photo Above: "You too can collect salvage like paper, cookware and housewares in style," this poster suggests. opentextbc.ca/



Photo above: "Attack on all fronts" (c.1943) drives home the message that workers on the home front such as miners and Victory gardeners are vital to the war effort.opentextbc.ca/

People waiting at the ferry came into the store hoping for Aladdin lamp parts or some other scarce item they needed. Shoes were made with close-to-cardboard soles. With leather and rubber so scarce, manufacturers could only use what they could find. Another wartime shortage was linseed oil - a basic in all exterior paint. The substitute was fish oil, and the resulting paint job on our hall kitchen door remained sticky for 40 years.

We were looking for any scrap metal to turn in, especially aluminum. Anything metal was required to be re-used for the war effort, leaky saucepans and all. We sold packages of nuts, bolts and washers to repair holes in saucepans. I

had been collecting Dinky toys since the age of six. (Three are pictured on page 185 - FR) They were made of painted lead and were very fragile. I valued them so much that I kept them out of sight if another boy visited. Dad suggested that I might want to sell these, as he had no other way to get toys for the store. Their future collectors' value could not be known, for most of my Dinky toys were sold over the counter for about 35 cents each. My balsa wood planes, which I had painstakingly cut out and glued with model plane cement, were sold as well,.

By the end of the war, we had very little stock left - searchers had purchased any items remaining on our shelves.

Tom Sez ~ Circa Aug 2013

by Tom Lymbery

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

- Shambhala has apparently purchased the Savoy Hotel on Baker Street in Nelson. I noted very varying comments on the Nelson Star article. It is unfortunate that Jim Reimer's plan of affordable housing for this hotel didn't go through.

- Before Band Aids came in it was so easy to get blood poisoning from just a small cut or scratch. If you didn't persist in soaking the cut in hot water and salt you (like Dr. Norman Bethune) might not survive.

- Former Nelson/Creston MLA Howard Dirks is now the Mayor of Vulcan, Alberta. He was elected as the MLA for Nelson Creston about 1986 with his promise to build a seasonal all vehicle road over the Gray Creek Pass... one politician who kept his promise! The road opened on August 19, 1990 with Forests Minister Claude Richmond to cut the ribbon at the summit.

- Pacific Coastal Air raised \$45,000 for BC charities with a golf tournament at Mayfair Lakes Golf Club. Have you ever heard of Air Canada supporting anything of this type?

- If you ever find a bird's nest constructed of caribou moss it will be that of a waxwing. Bet you can't find that in any bird book.

- Apparently Canadian drug dealers instead of ordering product through the US, are dealing directly with their counterparts in Mexico, so some are losing their lives in Mexico.

- At the CB Park for the July 1 celebrations I was looking at the area behind the kitchen where at Kokanee Karnival of Sports in the 1970's we had to hide the beer garden... it wasn't allowed to be visible to the public.

- Since the Trans Canada Trail attracts people from other countries to walk or cycle the Pass we have a Register at Gray Creek Store to keep track of these most interesting people. Please ask those looking for pass info to stop in and register.

- If you have trouble growing bigger heads of broccoli please clip off the small ones to eat. They will keep on appearing and you can continue to clip more. They taste even better than the large ones.

- Our Store's 100th anniversary on June 29th attracted over 1200 people, thanks to our staff and the Company Representatives who supported our once in a lifetime event. Before the show got going an early arrival from Creston asked, "How can you afford all these employees?" not realizing that eight of them were suppliers here to support the day's sales.



Photo above: Barbara Peters mows her Jolly Hill farm in Gray Creek with a team borrowed from Joe Gunther. Early 1940s photo: Topsy Peters, 2002.001

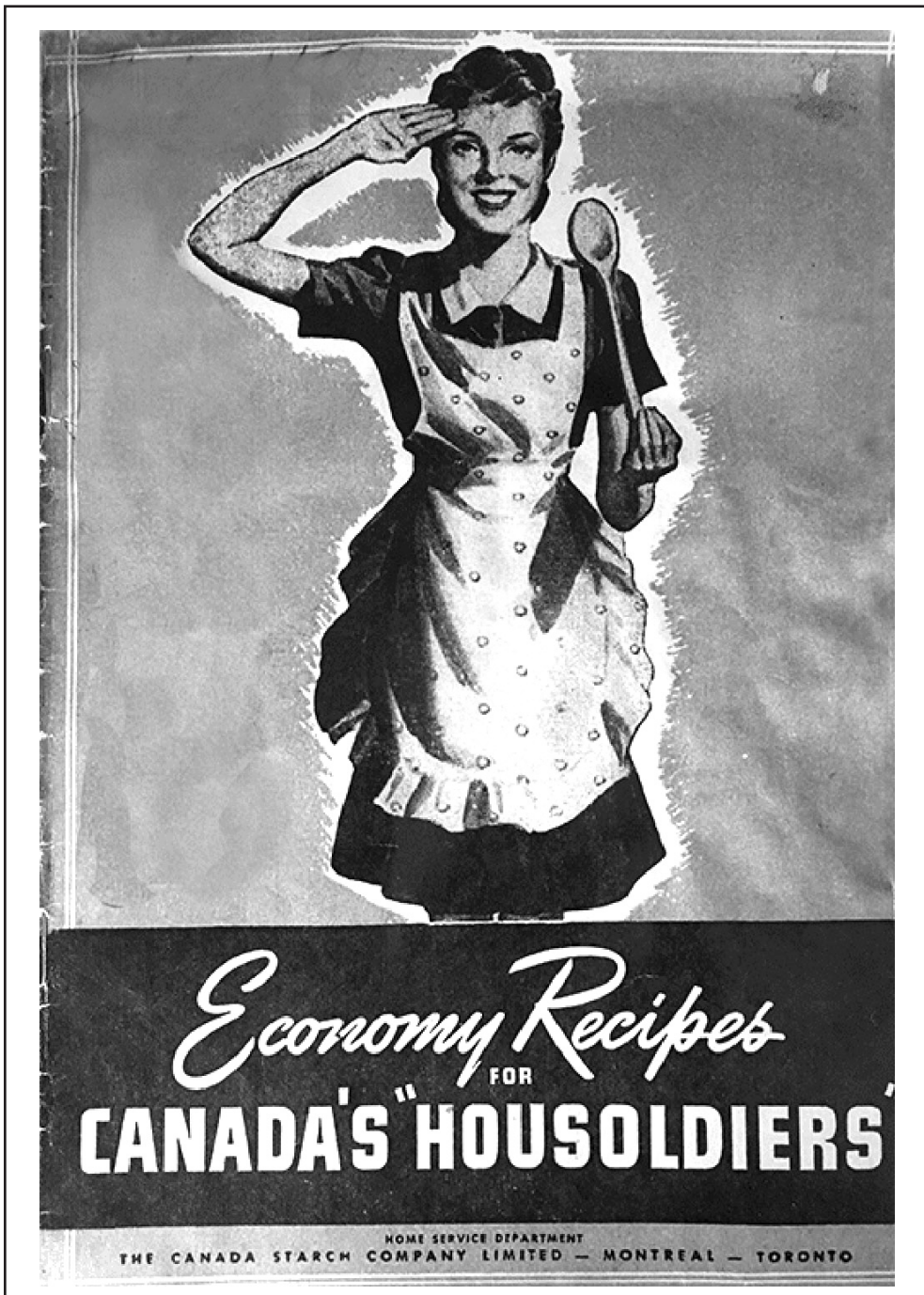


Photo Above: This 1943 recipe book plays up the patriotic spirit in Canadian kitchens. pier21.ca/blog/



Cartoon above by Merv Robertson, Artist

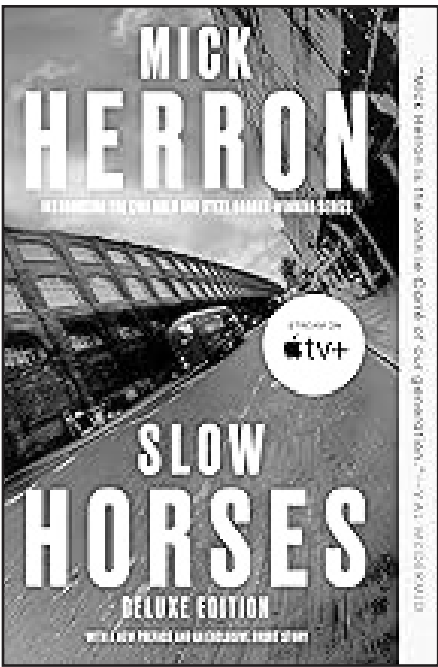
For the Love of Genre
by Sharman Horwood
Slow Surprises and Odd Spies

Slough House (2010) is not really slow so much as choppy at times, but it’s Mick Herron’s first novel. It is a very good novel, and has inspired an award-winning series on Apple+ TV. It is also an excellent read for those of you who are interested in the state of modern intelligence gathering. That has changed a great deal from the time of John Le Carré’s earlier experience. According to *Wikipedia*, Herron’s tales are “satirical, ‘rollicking subversion[s]’” of Le Carré’s stories.

Slow Horses is a character-driven story. It’s about a group of spies who have been humiliated by MI5 because of their failures in the agency, each one having made a major mistake in their work. These agents have been stationed at Slough House (which can be pronounced “Slow” House). They’re in positions that go nowhere: they are pushing papers, searching through garbage, mostly meaningless chores that do not qualify as intelligence “operations.” They are immensely frustrated with their work, and yet were quite qualified for their original jobs. Each has committed what MI5 thinks of as “sins,” actions that went entirely wrong. Working out of Slough House means they’re working in a disgraced, dead end career.

MI5 put them there because it is hoping they will either quit or retire at an early age. Jackson Lamb heads the group--they can’t be called a team since they usually don’t do anything together. Instead, they have been “thrown together by fate and poor judgement” (p. 249).

Lamb began his career during the Cold War, and he has all of the traditional skills in gathering intelligence: the keen observation of detail, the knowledge of how governments around the world function, particularly his own, how power shifts and influences politics. He desperately wants to return to the real game of the spy world at MI5, located at Regent’s Park in the novel. He deeply resents his position in Slough House, and he has no respect for his subordi-



nates. (What MI5 regards as his failure isn’t revealed until the end of the novel.) Instead it begins by detailing the operation in which young River Cartwright supposedly commits his unforgivable sin. He was qualifying for a position in MI5, but at the conclusion of his first espionage venture, he shuts down London’s King’s Cross Railway Station during rush hour, one of the city’s main subway stations. Now at Slough House he’s only permitted to search through a journalist’s rubbish to see if there’s a clue about where the journalist is getting his information. In River’s mind, Slough House has “only emptiness, and the reek of disappointment” (p. 165). They have been “exiled” now “to this damp building on the edge of nowhere important” (p. 170). Another agent, Min Harper is there because he left a disk of confidential information on the subway, where it was found and subsequently revealed by a newspaper. A third agent, Louisa Guy, simply lost the trail of an important suspect. They have all been downgraded to lower class agents, more clerks than spies. This novel is very much about second-class citizens in the real world and in the highly secretive spy world.

The first class spies are all stationed at Regent’s Park, an ideal employer handling meaningful work. Slough House is always reminded by them that Regent’s Park agents are the best, the most successful, and the most important.

Regent’s Park runs *significant* operations that gather *real* intelligence. One of Regent’s Park managers, Diana Taverner, won’t let the “slow horses” forget the reasons for their exile.

The story doesn’t actually begin until the characters have been described, along with their notable *faux pas*. However, espionage is about social conditions in the U.K., not just politics. A young man is kidnapped off the street. He is bound, gagged, and a hood placed over his head. His “snatchers” broadcast a video of him holding a newspaper to establish the date and time. The caption claims that he will be beheaded in the next 72 hours, and a large axe is ominously propped against a nearby wall. They say that the beheading will be shown on the web.

Of course, the spy agencies are scrambling to find out who he is, why he’s being held, why someone wants to cut off his head, and who the snatchers are. That is not the complicated side of this tale. The agents in Slough House are the focus of this story, with the ever-present drama of the captive’s fate running throughout the book. Of course, there is also the tension between how the upper class echelon of Regent’s Park wants to run the operation, against the gritty reality of how the “slow horses” have to run their investigation.

Mick Herron won the Crime Writers’ Association Gold Dagger award for *Dead Lions* (2013), his second novel and sequel to *Slow Horses*. He also won the CWA’s Diamond Dagger award in 2025 for lifetime achievement. The series on Apple+ TV based on the novels is well done. Gary Oldham plays the role of Jackson Lamb. He was nominated for an Emmy Award for his performance, a challenging one considering Lamb is not an appealing character. (According to *Wikipedia*, Mick Herron admitted that the characterization of Lamb was influenced by Reginald Hill’s infamous Andy Dalziel, a character renowned for his farts, bad habits, and crass comments.)

In a short time Herron has become the star of modern black comedy and the spy thriller genre with *Slough Horses* and its sequels. I am looking forward to the second book.

Have Your Say.
Notice of Public Hearing

Wednesday August 27, 2025 | 6:00 pm

Learn more about RDCK File Z2311A

Review the proposed amendments from
August 4, 2025 — August 27, 2025

Online: rdck.ca/activeapplications

In Person: RDCK Creston Office 531B 16th Ave
Mon—Fri 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Tell us what you think.

Make a verbal submission at the public hearing or send a
written submission before 4:30 pm on August 26, 2025*

Attend a public hearing.

Online: Via Zoom [https://rdck-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/91370757677?](https://rdck-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/91370757677?pwd=mYW2VQnoTzu9cs7yS5XNUtuhxHpJHh.1)

[pwd=mYW2VQnoTzu9cs7yS5XNUtuhxHpJHh.1](https://rdck-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/91370757677?pwd=mYW2VQnoTzu9cs7yS5XNUtuhxHpJHh.1)

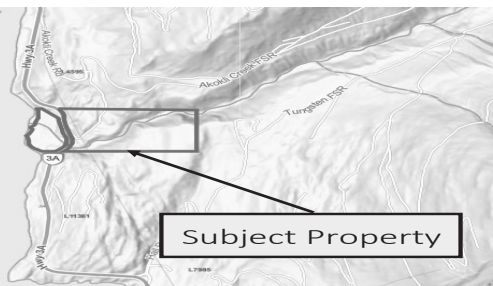
Phone: +1 778 907 2071 (Toll free: 833 955 1164)

Meeting ID: 913 7075 7677

Meeting Password: 123456

In Person: Boswell Memorial Hall (12374 Boswell
Road, Boswell, BC)

Visit rdck.ca/publicnotices for further details.



From: Tourist Commercial (TC/C3) and Resource Area (RA)

To: Multi-Unit Residential (RM/R6), Environmental Reserve (ER) and Tourist Commercial (TC/C3)

Location and Legal Description:

11727 Highway 3A, Electoral Area ‘A’
LOT A LOT 888 KOOTENAY DISTRICT PLAN
NEP90307 EXCEPT PLAN EPP7320 (PID: 028-137-477)

Bylaw 3029: Being a bylaw to amend Electoral Area ‘A’ Land Use Bylaw No. 2315, 2013 by changing the Land Use Designation from Tourist Commercial (TC) to Multi-Unit Residential (RMU) and Environmental Reserve (ER) and the Zoning from Resource Area (RA) to Tourist Commercial (C3) and Multi-Unit Residential (R6) and other portions from Tourist Commercial (C3) to Environmental Reserve (ER).



*All written submissions are public information pursuant to the
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Please direct enquiries to the Planning Department | 250.352.1536
1.800.268.7325 ext. 1536 | planning@rdck.bc.ca

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Bulletin Board Rates

\$60 Annual Listing

\$20 Monthly

4 lines. \$10 per additional line

Primary Care Provider Coverage August 2025

August 1, Fri - No coverage

August 4, Mon - BC Day, Statutory holiday

August 5, Tues - No coverage

August 6, Wed - Jayme Ingram, NP(F); Dr Piv-
er*; Jodi Ihas, SW

August 7, Thur - Dr Deans; Dr Dryden; Jayme
Ingram, NP

August 8, Fri - Jayme Ingram, NP

August 11, Mon - Jayme Ingram, NP

August 12, Tues - Jayme Ingram, NP

August 13, Wed - Jayme Ingram, NP; Dr Piv-
er*; Jodi Ihas, SW

August 14, Thur - Dr Deans; Dr Dryden;
Jayme Ingram, NP

August 15, Fri - No coverage

August 18, Mon - No coverage

August 19, Tues - No coverage

August 20, Wed - Dr Piver*; Jodi Ihas, SW

August 21, Thur - Dr Deans; Dr Dryden

August 22, Fri - No coverage

August 25, Mon - No coverage

August 26, Tues - No coverage

August 27, Wed - Dr Deans; Jodi Ihas, SW

August 28, Thur - Dr Dryden

August 29, Fri - No coverage

*Locum bridging coverage

Memorial Wall

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

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

MEETUPS

LIONS CLUB - Kootenay Lake Community
Church 7PM. 2nd and 4th Tues of the month.
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July 24, 2025. For immediate release

RDCK Board Highlights – July 2025

Strategic Priorities Fund Applications

The Board direct staff to prepare and submit four 2025 Strategic Priorities Fund applications to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM). UBCM is the administering body for the Canada Community-Building Fund, which has been allocated \$125 million to support infrastructure and capacity building projects in communities across the province not in Metro Vancouver. The RDCK can submit three applications under the Capital Infrastructure Stream and one application under the Capacity Building Stream. The three applications for the Capital Infrastructure Stream focus on the following projects:

Creston Septage Receiving Facility – For the construction and establishment of a septage receiving facility located at the Town of Creston Wastewater Treatment Plan, including required road infrastructure and buffer tanks.

Arena Refrigeration Replacement and Direct Digital Control Project – For both the Creston and District Community Complex and Nelson and District Community Complex, this project focuses on the RDCK’s commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and directly tied to its asset renewal plan.

Castlegar and District Recreation Complex Expansion Project - This application will be for the replacement of a second ice surface following the decommission of Pioneer Arena.

The application for the Capacity Building Stream will focus on enhancing asset management work that is currently in progress. All applications must be submitted by September 12, 2025.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL COMMUNITY NEEDS PROJECT

The Board supported restarting the Regional and Local Community Needs project with a revised scope. RDCK staff worked with a consultant to assess alternative approaches to meet the objectives of the provincial Complete Communities Program in a manner more suitable for our region. Instead of completing one regional assessment, this project will now undertake a fringe planning case study assessment for all partnering municipalities (Castlegar, Creston, Kaslo, Nakusp, Nelson, Salmo, and Slocan) and surrounding electoral areas (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K). Outcomes of this project will include graphic-based geospatial mapping focused on identifying potential areas suitable for growth for each case study area. In addition to the mapping, a final report with recommendations for future planning work, including a potential bank of policies, actions, and next steps will be shared. The timeline for project completion is winter 2026.

PHASE 1 ERICKSON WATER METERING

The Board awarded the Erickson Metering – Phase 1 Installation project to Valhalla Hydrovac Ltd. Phase 1 of the project involves installing meters and backflow preventers on all industrial, commercial, institutional, and agricultural properties with irrigation privileges of five acres or more. The project proposes to install 126 meters across 90 properties. Installing meters will enable better monitoring to improve understanding of water consumption patterns, enhance the ability to track water conservation efforts, reduce the need for costly capacity upgrades, and improve detection of leaks and water losses.

Water for Erickson in Electoral Area B and the Town of Creston is supplied by the Arrow Creek Water Treatment Plant. During hot, dry weather, the plant often operates at emergency capacity, and the Arrow Creek surface water source experiences low base flows during drought conditions, limiting available water capacity.

CRESTON CAR WASH RECYCLING DEPOT

The Board approved the RDCK enter into a site license agreement with Arrow Mountain Car Wash and Mini Storage Limited for the Creston Car Wash Recycling Depot, 412 Helen Street, for the period of one year commencing August 1, 2025, with the option of four one-year extensions upon mutual agreement.

The Creston Car Wash Recycling Depot is one of the core depots in the RDCK’s East Subregion and collects all five recycling categories through Recycle BC’s program, as well as Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional cardboard.

DIRECTOR’S REPORTS

RDCK Directors provide monthly reports outlining what they have been working on. Visit the website to view.

RDCK QUARTERLY REPORT

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

Editors note re: grant allocations: the only funds allocated to Area A are as follows. Other allocations to other Area’s can be found on the RDCK website.

Community Development Grant:

Fields Forward Society – Community Collaboration Seacan Project \$3,000

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Riondel R3-SET 2025

AUGUST 23,24,25 | On the beautiful east shore of Kootenay Lake.

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Events

Meet and Greet Friday • Yoga on the Beach
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
4 kayaks for your enjoyment (bring a life jacket)
Bonfire on the beach

Food

Pancake Breakfast • BBQ Dinner • Vietnamese food table
Roca Fire Baked Pizza - Friday Night

and much more
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Thoughts From The Frog Pot

by John Rayson
Changing Canada

In my last column I noted that the election had occurred, and we now have a new Prime Minister. To the distress of many, particularly in western Canada, we still have the same governing party [Liberals]. The issue now becomes; will the policies change?

At one point in the last 18 months the Conservatives had a vast lead in the polls. However, it would appear this lead was due to a desire for a change in the policies governing Canada. Canadians have always desired a middle of the road approach to politics, and it was obvious that as a population we wished to return closer to the center. I am reminded of the time many years ago when Pierre Trudeau was handed the leadership of the Liberals by the then Prime Minister, Lester Pearson. Trudeau [seniors’] hero was Harold Laskey of the London School of Economics. Laskey stated; “you don’t change a country by beginning a new political party but by taking an existing party and changing its direction”. I recall that is exactly what Pierre Trudeau did at the time. Pierre Trudeau was probably the brightest politician [that does not mean I either agreed with him or voted for him] that Canada had seen up to that point.

Unfortunately, the son, Justin Trudeau [who does not appear to have inherited his fathers’ intellect] became our Prime Minister and we, as a country, continue a very socialistic path.

As noted above, the opposition at one point had what appeared to be an insurmountable lead in the polls. The policies articulated, by the Conservatives, would take the country to the center and to the right of center. In retrospect it would appear the polls reflected an anti-Justin Trudeau vote rather than a pro Pierre Poilievre vote. The election resulted, as we know, in a return of the same governing party, but one that would appear to adopt many of the policies of the opposition.

The policies of the new Liberal government have promised: more rapid approval of major infrastructure projects [including pipelines], removal of intra-provincial trade barriers, increase in productivity, investment friendly business climate, rapid and appropriate environmental reviews, decrease in government spending, more and international trade agreements[not just the USA] plus an increase in defense spending.

Sounds to me like a very “progressive conservative” platform. Did Donald Trump do us a favour? We have ended up with an astute, experienced, mature, bright leader who appears to be taking the country in a different direction. Sound familiar but in reverse from the 1960’s. Will he succeed and indeed implement the policies? We will have to await time, and the resumption of parliament with a full budget.

Mr. Carney has stated that Canada should become a superpower with regards to energy. It is my intention to discuss this in a separate column in the next edition.

Riondel Arts
By Sharman Horwood

Hard to believe that July is gone and summer almost finished--just one month to go. Right now I’m looking forward to Riondel Daze on Aug. 2nd. The Art Room at the Riondel Community Centre will be open all day, with a Silent Auction, and regularly priced art work on display in the hall.

Summer is a busy time for our art club. We have members who join us in the summer, including their creativity as part of the summer experience. You can do this, too, just for the summer or all year round. If you think you might like to do a bit of dabbling in art, we are open Sundays and Wednesdays from 1:00 to 4:00, as well as Tuesdays, from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00. We also offer some workshops as well, courtesy of our talented Sophie Vinette. She teaches painting workshops on Thursday afternoons, twice a month. The workshops are a fun learning experience. Follow our Facebook page (Riondel Art group) for the workshop announcements.

Our club charges a \$100 per year membership fee. However, we have a \$10 drop in fee for anyone who wants to come and try a hand at painting, drawing, or whatever kind of art you’re interested in. We have art supplies you can use. This drop in fee will go towards your membership fee if you decide to join. We are a friendly group and since we’ve all been beginners at one time, we are a supportive--and helpful--group.



Enjoy the rest of the summer, and be creative!

East Shore Reading Center
By Taryn Stokes, Librarian

I hope everyone has found some great books to read lately. Over June and July we had 317 checkouts of 271 different items, while serving 47 patrons. There were also 47 items added. The check-outs have increased compared to the last report, reflecting summer residents and visitors. Some of our new books include novels by Canadian authors such as Linwood Barclay, Susan Juby, Guy Gavriel Kay and Lianna Zhang

On July 26 the library society held our annual general meeting. During our fiscal year we had two Canadian books in the list of top check-outs - books from Iona Whishaw and Louise Penny. Other books that were popular among our readers include Lee Child, Harlan Coben, Michael Connelly, Madeline Martin and Kate Quinn. As our budget for new materials is limited I strive to purchase books that will be enjoyed by our readers. I am especially proud that only five adult fiction, science fiction or non-fiction books purchased in 2024 have not yet been read by our members. In September and October we will be testing out additional hours, Thursdays from 10AM to noon, along with our regular hours. Our children’s summer program is now underway. Thank you to the generosity of the Crawford Bay Market for supporting the program with frozen treats available at the store. Let’s hear about those great books!

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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